



DYING WITH FOOTBALL: (1) Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe (L) blocks a header from Colombian captain Ivan Cordoba during his last minutes on a football field. (2) Referee Markus Merk (L) and Colombian defender Mario Yepes (R) call medics as Foe lies on the field at the Gerland Stadium in Lyon on June 26.

World unite in mourning



AFP, Paris

The soccer world was in mourning Friday following the death of Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe who collapsed during the Confederations Cup semi-final against Colombia in Lyon on Thursday. He was the first footballer to die during an official tournament and the first to die in a full international since Nigeria's Samuel Okwaraji collapsed on the pitch in a World Cup qualifier against Angola in 1989. French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin paid tribute to the 28-year-old midfielder. "His death will give the Cameroon-France final an especially poignant dimension in his memory," Raffarin said in a statement. He added that Foe had been "greatly appreciated" by all his teammates and passed on his "deepest regrets" to Foe's family, his fellow players and the Cameroon

community. Foe, who played in the tough English Premiership for Manchester City last season, was stretchered from the field after he collapsed while alone in the centre of the pitch. Cameroon's 1-0 win in the semi-final was their fourth match since June 19. But Foe had played only 153 minutes of a possible 270 and sat out Monday's game against the United States. The tragedy totally overshadowed Cameroon's win over Colombia and qualification for Sunday's final. A minute's silence was observed in Paris before the other semi-final between France and Turkey which France won 3-2. France coach Jacques Santini, who was Foe's coach at Lyon up to last year, wept openly. Foe played at Cameroon's Canon Yaounde, France's Lens, England's West Ham United, Lyon and Manchester City. He died in the stadium where he played for Lyon from 2000/02. "Foe leaves us the memory of a charming boy, who incarnated the joy of life," Lyon said in a statement on its website. "We will remember his laugh, music floating from the locker rooms and his kindness off the field." City fans laid mementoes at Manchester's Maine Road ground in England and paid tribute to the

player on the club's fansite. "I am sure we all will join in passing on our deepest sympathies to his young family at this very sad time, our thoughts are with you all," one wrote. Foe's former boss at West Ham, Harry Redknapp, described him as "a special boy". "You couldn't meet a nicer, more fantastic person than Marc Foe," added Redknapp who bought him for four million pounds (6 million dollars) in 1999. West Ham spokesman Peter Stewart said Foe had been a popular figure at Upton Park. In the West African nation where soccer provides an escape from poverty, crowds that had gathered to celebrate Cameroon's victory went home weeping. Foe was playing his 64th international for Cameroon. He was a typically strong African player measuring 1.90 metres and 87 kilograms, but in the summer of 2000 he went down with malaria before recovering to become a key member of the Lyon side that won the French title in 2001/02. At last year's World Cup, Foe played in all three of Cameroon's games, but the African champions went out in the first round. Foe, known as 'Marco' at Lyon, was married with three children, the last child having been born in the French city just a few weeks ago.



A father and daughter look at floral tributes to Marc Vivien Foe outside Manchester City's Maine Road ground in Manchester yesterday. Foe was on loan at the English Premier League club last season.

Keegan pays tribute

Manchester City manager Kevin Keegan has said he will do everything he can to bring comfort to the distraught family of Marc-Vivien Foe who died while playing in the Confederations Cup. Keegan was too upset by Foe's death to comment on Thursday night as he attempted to come to terms with the loss of a player who inspired City to ninth place in the Premiership last season during his season-long loan from Lyon. "Marc was not only a special footballer but a very special person. Our hearts go out to Marco's young family and Manchester City will do

all we can for them at this terrible time." City are considering a number of ways of paying tribute to Foe, who was 28 when he collapsed due to a suspected heart attack during Cameroon's Confederations Cup semi-final with Colombia. The club have announced they will 'retire' his number 23 shirt and there is also the possibility of a friendly with West Ham, the other Premiership side Foe played for during a career in which a broken leg denied him a dream move to Manchester United in 1998. "I felt it was a privilege to work with him for the past year and we were still in the process of trying to negotiate a deal that would have made him a City player," added Keegan. "You perhaps had to get to know

Marco a bit to fully enjoy his personality - certainly his dress sense - but he was universally liked. Everyone knows what a wonderful player he was but more than that he was a fine human being. "I think the warmth of his fellow professionals, as witnessed by the reaction of the French players on Thursday night, says more than anything I can say about the love that surrounded Marco. "I will never forget the day I blasted him for not looking me in the eye when I was telling him something and the knock on the door that followed a few minutes later when he informed me that where he came from if you respected someone you didn't look them in the eye. "He had the ability to make us all smile and feel better. We will miss him."



Referee Markus Merk (L) and Colombian defender Mario Yepes (R) call medics as Foe lies on the field at the Gerland Stadium in Lyon on June 26.

FOE FACTS

- Factfile of Marc Vivien Foe who died on Thursday after playing for Cameroon against Colombia in the semi-finals of the Confederations Cup in Lyon.

- Name: MARC VIVEN FOE
Born: May 1, 1975 at Nkolo, Cameroon
Height: 190cm
Weight: 87kg
Club: Manchester City, England
Position: Midfielder
\* The dynamic midfielder signed on loan for Manchester City from Lyon in June 2002. He started his European career in France, playing under current Liverpool coach Gerard Houllier at Lens, helping the northern outfit to the French title for the first time in 1996.
\* Foe was expected to move to Manchester United in 1998 but broke his leg ahead of the 1998 World Cup finals and saw the transfer called off.
\* He eventually signed for West Ham, but lasted only a season making 25 appearances before returning to France in a switch that involved Frederic Kanoute.
\* In the summer of 2000 he went down with malaria before recovering to become a key member of the Lyon side that won the French title in 2001/02, another first for the club. While at the 2002 World Cup, he played all three games before Cameroon's exit.
\* Foe, known as 'Marco' at Lyon, was married with three children, the last child having been born in the French city just a few weeks ago.
YEAR BY YEAR
1993 - Wins Cameroon Cup with his first club Canon Yaounde
September: Makes international debut for Cameroon against Mexico, the first of 65 caps (eight goals)
1994 - Plays for Cameroon in the World Cup finals in the United States
August: Joins French club RC Lens, where he stays for almost five seasons
1998 - Helps Lens win the French league title for the first time and reach French Cup final
June - Misses World Cup finals in France due to broken leg which also scuppered possible transfer to Manchester United
1999 - Joins West Ham United for 4.2 million pounds (\$6.99 million), making 38 league appearances, scoring one goal
2000 - Wins African Nations Cup with Cameroon, with victory over co-hosts Nigeria on penalties after 2-2 draw in the final in Lagos
Moves to French club Olympique Lyon for 6 million pounds, playing 61 matches in all competitions and scoring four goals
2001 - Helps Lyon win French League Cup
2002 - Retains African Nations Cup in Mali when Cameroon beat Senegal on penalties after 0-0 draw in the final in Bamako
Helps Lyon win their first French league title
June: Plays for Cameroon in all three of their matches in the Korea/Japan World Cup finals August: Signs for English premier league club Manchester City on loan, making 35 league appearances, scoring nine goals, but was due to return to Lyon for the 2003-04 season.

Real'tour start July

Football AFP, Beijing
Real Madrid, under new manager Carlos Queiroz and with new boy David Beckham in town, will tour Asia from July 24, playing in China, Japan, Hong Kong and Malaysia, the Xinhua news agency reported, quoting the club. The star-studded Spanish giants, who unveiled Queiroz as their new coach on Wednesday, will fly to Kunming, in China's southwestern Yunnan province on July 24 and train for a week at China's national team training ground before taking on a Chinese XI in Beijing on August 2. The match, at the Workers' Stadium, is likely to be Beckham's Real Madrid debut following his 25 million pound move from Manchester United earlier this month. Xinhua said the team would then meet FC Tokyo in Tokyo on August 5, play the Chinese national team in Hong Kong on August 8, before wrapping up their trip with a show-down against Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on August 10. The tour itinerary was confirmed by Real Madrid in a statement on the club's website.

Ortega banned

Football AFP, Paris
Football's world ruling body FIFA has banned Ariel Ortega from playing any club football until December 30, 2003 and will force the Argentine international to repay former club Fenerbahce 11 million dollars. Ortega failed to respect his contractual obligations to the Turkish first division giants, who he left midway through his contract, according to a statement released by FIFA Thursday. A FIFA spokesman said Ortega has

France thank Arsenal trio



AFP, Paris

A trio of Arsenal players, and a missed late penalty kick, eased France into the Confederations Cup final with a 3-2 win over Turkey at a sombre Stade de France on Thursday. The game went ahead in the shadow of the death of Marc-Vivien Foe during Cameroon's victory over Colombia in the other semi-final in Lyon. A number of players including Thierry Henry were in tears as a minute's silence was observed for the stricken on-loan Manchester City star before the game. It was the Arsenal striker who was to put the defending titleholders ahead, with his English Premiership club teammates Robert Pires and Sylvain Wiltord adding to the haul. Turkey's goals came either side of the break from the rising stars of coach Senol Gunes' squad, Gokdeniz Karadeniz and Tuncay Sanli, but Okan Yilmaz was left clutching his head in despair when missing an 88th-minute penalty. Despite the thrilling victory France coach Jacques Santini's first thoughts after the match were for the death of the player he had managed in his former job as boss of Lyon. "The entire dressing room was a long way off thinking about this semi-final after we'd heard the news," he said. "After the first goal the players came together not only to celebrate but also as a sign that they were thinking about 'Marco'." "When I heard the score from the other semi-final I was thinking about coming up against him in the final." Of the win, Santini said: "Turkey confirmed their excellent performance in the group stage. Our slight tiredness weighed on our legs in the last quarter of an hour." His Turkish counterpart said: "In the first half we made a lot of mistakes and found ourselves 3-1 behind. After the interval we played how Turkey knows how to play and we could have won." He added: "We haven't won the Cup but my players have learned a great deal, especially the young ones." He then passed on his condolences to Foe's family and disclosed that he had only informed his side about the tragic news at the last minute.

Henry opened the scoring in the 11th minute after a delightful move involving four players. Lilian Thuram sprinted down the right wing before offloading to Pires who in turn knocked the ball onto Wiltord to feed Henry. His quick close range shot gave Turkey keeper Rustu Recber no chance at all. This was Henry's third goal of the competition making him joint top scorer with Japan's Shunsuke Nakamura. Wiltord then had a low shot edge wide of the Barcelona-bound Rustu's goal. Henry was in the thick of things again in the 26th minute when picking up Sydney Govou's cross from the right and neatly flicking the ball on to the waiting Pires who slotted past Rustu for his third goal. Turkey reduced the deficit in the 43rd minute after Ergun Penbe's cross from the left found Gokdeniz whose header hit the right post, the rebound bouncing back to him and his second attempt had Coupet flummoxed. France wasted no time counter attacking and they restored their superiority two minutes later through Wiltord, his first shot ricocheting off the right post only for the ball to fall kindly back at his feet - he needed no second invitation. Tuncay, who only made his debut last week, was unlucky not to have got another for Turkey in a pulsating end to the first period, yet the second half was only three minutes old before he would make amends. The 21-year-old Fernebahce ace stuck his right foot high into the air to connect with a hopeful pass from



IT'S FOR YOU! French striker Thierry Henry points to the heavens to dedicate his goal to Marc Vivien Foe during their match against Turkey at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis on June 26.

to press his case for the golden boot award. Gunes was forced to bring off the injured Rustu ten minutes from the break, replacing the departing Fernebahce stopper with Murat Sahin who was immediately tested with a curling shot from the omnipresent Henry. Moments earlier Turkey defender Fatih Akyel had been booked for a nasty tackle on Pires.

A country in shock

FIFA logo and text: FRANCE 2003
AFP, Yaounde
him fame and honour. The Cameroon side -- popularly known here in French as the Indomitable Lions -- won the Confederations Cup semi-final in Lyon, France, against Colombia. But nobody here was in any mood to celebrate anything. Men, women and children gathered in bars and other spots to watch the match stood dumbstruck as national television interrupted coverage to announce the tragedy. Overwhelmed, many burst into tears. Television told a grieving nation that a Colombian player had hit Foe on the neck during a clash for the ball, though these reports have not been confirmed.