

SPORT

The Daily Star

France roar into finals

Sweden, Bulgaria, Czech Republic also through



AFP, Paris

France may have surrendered their world champions' mantle tamely but on Wednesday they won their seventh successive Euro 2004 qualifier and indicated they would defend their continental title in stouter fashion in Portugal next year

While France underachieved last year Germany surprised many by reaching the World Cup final, but the criticism of coach Rudi Voller since the 0-0 draw with Iceland last Saturday showed that 14 months is a long time in football.

The Germans' 2-1 victory over Scotland in Dortmund, however, while not ensuring they topped the group saw them take a huge step to doing so and provided a perfect riposte to the attacks.

France's 2-0 away victory over Slovenia wrapped up their place at the finals with the losers having the consolation of a play-off to qualify for a second successive Euro finals.

The French were joined by Sweden, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic, whose 3-1 victory over 10-man Holland after Edgar Davids was sent off in the 13th minute leaves the Dutch chances hanging on a victory in the play-offs.

They could be joined in the do or die play-offs by other European heavyweights.

Spain will have to rely on the unlikely scenario of tabletoppers Greece coming unstuck in their final match at home to Northern Ireland, whose 1-0 home defeat by Armenia made it 12 games without a goal.

England too face a tough task after an uninspiring 2-0 home victory over Liechtenstein. To get the point they need for automatic gualification they must face World Cup semi-finalists Turkey in the Istanbul stadium where supporters greet

visitors with 'Welcome to Hell' banners. Italy are not yet through automatically after they were held to a 1-1 draw by a revitalised Serbia and Montenegro in Belgrade, but the home side's resurgence has come too late as early pacesetters Wales' home 1-1 draw with Finland ensured them at least a play-off place.

France began life after Emmanuel Petit's petulant resignation from the international scene with a stroll against their Balkan



PHOTO: AF OH NO! England ace Michael Owen holds his head after putting the ball across Leichtenstein's open goal at Old Trafford in Manchester on September 10.

opponents

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PIL

Goals from David Trezeguet, his 25th in 46 appearances, and second-half substitute Oliver Dacourt, his first for his country in 12 matches, more than sufficed for the sending-off of Claude Makelele, the player who Petit believed manager Jacques Santini had wrongly replaced him with.

spot

Voller

"I rejoice in my role as the coach

that we have won tonight," said

Turkev at the top of their group.

"After tinkering with two or three things at half-time we got the victory we deserved," said Santini.

"There are still ways of improving and we will see how far that process is going when we play Israel in our last match." German goals from Fredi Bobic

and a second half penalty from talisman Michael Ballack made Neil McCann's strike irrelevant with second half substitute Maurice

Ross completing a miserable night within a minute of the restart and for the Scots when he was sent off. Rooney, who became his country's Germany need just a point to youngest ever scorer against qualify, while Berti Vogts needs a Macedonia on Saturday, removed favour from his homeland against any doubt about the outcome six Iceland if his adopted nation of minutes later. Scotland are to clinch a play-off

"It was a professional performance," England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson said afterwards. "We could have scored more goals but the job has been done."

"But I haven't felt like a winner The Swede admitted 17-yearover the last few days. It has been old Rooney's performance made it a very difficult time which has left difficult to leave him out of the an indelible impression on me." Turkey match, despite what is Wayne Rooney capped another likely to be an intimidating environdemonstration of his precocious ment for a player with limited expe-

talent with his second international rience. But Liechtenstein's coach goal as England leapfrogged Walter Hormann warned Turkey's Michael Owen settled English superior creative powers will nerves by heading England ahead ensure the task is not easily com-

pleted

"I wish England the best but I think it is going to be very difficult for them to get that point in Istanbul."

Filippo Inzaghi put Italy ahead with a neat first-half finish only for Sasa Ilic to equalise nine minutes from time for the hosts

A home tie against Azerbaijan on October 11 is unlikely to pose Italy too many problems, but coach Giovanni Trapattoni was taking nothing for granted.

"There'll be no celebrations yet," said the 64-year-old.

Azerbaijan.

STANDINGS

Euro 2004 qualifying tables and remaining fixtures after Wednesday's games (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

GROUP	1							GROUP	6				
France	7	7	0	0	26	2	21	Greece	7	5	0	2	7
Slovenia	7	4	1	2	13	10	13	Spain	7	4	2	1	12
Israel	7	2	3	2	9	8	9	Ukraine	8	2	4	2	1
Cyprus	7	2	1	4	7	16	7	Armenia	7	2	1	4	7
Malta	8	0	1	7	5	24	1	N. Ireland	7	0	3	4	0
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Romania 8 4 England 7 6 1 0 14 5 19 Denmark 7 4 2 1 14 8 14 Turkey 7 6 0 11 Bosnia 7 4 0 3 6 7 12 Slovakia 7214 7 3 2 2 8 5 11 Norway Macedonia 8 1 3 4 11 14 Luxm'brg 7 0 0 7 0 20 0 L'stein 7 0 1 6 2 20 Remaining fixtures **Remaining fixtures** 11/10/03: Norway v Luxembourg, 11/10/03: Turkey v England, Bosnia-Herzegovina v Denmark Liechtenstein v Slovakia

GROUP 3

GROUP	2							GROUP 8	
Czech Re								Bulgaria 7 5 2 0 13	3 17
Holland		-				-	16	Croatia 7 4 1 2 11	4 13
Austria		-	-				9	Belgium 7 4 1 2 9	9 13
Moldova			-	-	-		-	Estonia 72234	4 8
Belarus	-		-	7	4	20	3	Andorra 8 0 0 8 11	8 0
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11/10/03							ech	11/10/03: Croatia v E	ulgaria.
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GROUP 4 Sweden 7 5 2 0 19 2 17 74129 6 13 Latvia
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San Marino 8 0 0 8 0 30 0

Azerbaijan 7 1 1 5 5 Remaining fixtures Remaining fixtures 11/10/03: Sweden v Latvia, Hungary v Poland v Serbia and Montenegro **GROUP 5**

	-							GROUP 10	
Germany	7	4	3	0	10	4	15	Switzerland 7 3 3 1 13 11 12	
Iceland	7	4	1	2	11	6	13		
Scotland	7	3	2	2	11	8	11	Russia 7 3 2 2 16 11 11	
Lithuania								Ireland Rep 7 3 2 2 10 9 11	
Faroe Isles								Albania 8 2 2 4 11 15 8	
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								ownzonana v republic of fieland	

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Results in Euro 2004 qualifying matches on Wednesday:

Group 1

At Antalya, Turkey Israel 2 (Revivo 16, Balili 78) Malta 2 (Mic. Mifsud 51-pen, Carabott 52) At Ljubljana Slovenia 0 France 2 (Trezeguet 10, Dacourt 71)

Group 2

At Copenhagen Denmark 2 (Tomasson 35pen, Laursen 90) Romania 2 (Mutu 62, Pancu 72) At Luxembourg Former teammates of Pele said

> Group 3 At Tiraspol, Molodova Moldova 2 (Dadu 26, Covalciuc 88) Belarus 1 (Vasilyuk 90-pen) t Prag

Henin accusers back down

AFP, Brussels

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GROUP9

Italy

Wales

Accusations levelled by Kim Clijsters' camp that US Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne used performance enhancing drugs were retracted on Thursday.

Former French Open semifinalist Filip De Wulf apologised unreservedly for the claims which Henin-Hardenne on Wednesday

had dismissed as "ridiculous". De Wulf, in an open letter to Henin-Hardenne in the Belgian media, said: "Justine, I want to apologise to you. I never wanted my comments to cast a shadow on your

fantastic win in New York. "The notion of doping never crossed my mind, rather I was referring to energy supplements like creatine to explain your spectacular muscular development.

Asia tour didn't help

AFP, Lisbon

Finland 8 3 1 4 9 10 10 Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz Serb/M'ngro 7 2 3 2 8 9 9 conceded Wednesday that the 16 4 club's pre-season tour of the Far East had hurt preparations for the 11/10/03: Italy v Azerbaijan, Wales new season.

"The tour of Asia brought conseguences that cannot be ignored," he said in an interview published in

Portuguese sports daily A Bola. "But the team has been improving, as has the yield of individual players like Michel Salgado or Luis

Figo," he added. The nine-time European champions spent three weeks in August

in China, Japan and Thailand in an attempt to win over new fans. The squad played four matches

in nine days during its crowddrawing tour, but many Real fans complained this was not the right preparation for the Spanish champi-

in the country's history that a sports

club has been raided by police

accompanied by members of a rival

"The drama involving players is a normal thing ahead of transfers.

This is part and parcel of football.

But last night's attack was shameful

He also termed it as a bad exam-

interference of police in club affairs,"

said Abahani's football manager

FROM PAGE 13

club." said Chunnu.

Abahani raided

and an unprecedented act against a club with a glorious past," said Abahani's chief co-ordinator Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul. ple and feared that it could lead to Luxembourg 0 Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Barbarez 36) sports organisers leaving the scene because of insecurity.

"There is no place for mastans in sports. Muktijoddha should remember that in terms of popularity they are nowhere near Abahani. This is a club supported by the majority of the people of this country. We are not afraid but we are concerned with the

eight goals," Ronaldo said. "Unfortunately for me, these matches against regional teams no longer exist." Pele scored 95 goals for Brazil, while Ronaldo currently has 49.

"We're not counting our chick-

ens before they've hatched and we face another battle against

the 28th, 49th and 58th minutes

after Julio Baldivieso had opened

the scoring with a 12th minute

penalty.

Mendez.

Ronaldo was insulting the man widely considered the greatest

player of all time. "Ronaldo knows that there are light years between him and Pele," said former Brazil striker Dario "Dada Maravilha". "Pele is God, he's the king."

by suggesting that Pele only scored so many goals because Brazil's opponents in his era were weaker than modern-day teams. "Brazil used to play against teams of regional level players and would win 10-0 with Pele scoring

World Footballer of the Year

Ronaldo has sparked controversy

'Pele scored

easy goals!'

AFP, Manaus



Brazil's Ronaldinho (L) starts celebrating his goal against Ecuador as teammate Ronaldo approaches to congratulate at the Vivaldo Lima stadium in Manaus on Septembe

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The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Brazil made to work



REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Bolivia and Paraguay, both thrashed in their opening World Cup qualifiers at the weekend, hit back by scoring four goals each on Wednesday in an astonishing start to the marathon South American tournament.

World champions Brazil beat Ecuador by a modest 1-0 in Manaus, which lies in the heart of the Amazon rain forest, and are the only team with maximum points from two games.

Ronaldinho bundled in an early goal but it was not enough for the crowd who jeered the five-times World Cup winners.

Bolivia, hammered 5-0 by Uruguay on Sunday in a performance which their own coach Nelson Acosta described as naive, bounced back to thump Colombia 4-0 in La Paz.

Uruguay, for their part, crashed to a 4-1 defeat in Asuncion against Paraguay -- who had lost their opening match by the same scoreline to Peru.

With two of the 18 rounds of matches in the marathon South American competition complete. Argentina and Chile have four points each followed by Uruguay, Peru, Paraguay, Bolivia and Ecuador with three. Colombia and Venezuela have vet to get off the mark.

Record-breaking strikers Joaquin Botero and Jose Cardozo both hit hat-tricks for Bolivia and Paraguay respectively.

Botero, who scored 49 goals for Bolivar in the Bolivian championship two years ago, helped sink Colombia in La Paz with goals in

Ronaldo, 27, said this month he wanted to beat Pele's international goal haul.

The Real Madrid striker played but did not score in the 1-0 victory over Ecuador here on Wednesday, giving the Brazilians two wins out of two in their 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign.

It was a miserable evening for Time to show Colombia's Ivan Ramiro Cordoba

as the Inter Milan player gave FROM PAGE 13 away the penalty with a handball chase anything above 300. Statistics say that to be successful, you have to take risks in order keep up at the 15 or 20-over mark. But

> Though Whatmore agreed that Bangladesh's one-day record had been poor since the 1999 World Cup, but he wouldn't comment on

2003.

Javier Chevanton fired

In the second half, Carlos two more. "We were angry," said

Cardozo. Carrasco remained surprisingly upbeat. an advantage to their opponents.

ups," he said. "I'm not worried

Ecuador were unlucky not to be awarded a penalty in the second half after Reasco was bundled over in the penalty area.

start with two wins," said left-back Roberto Carlos. "They defended for the whole 90 minutes, that's why it wasn't a good game.

Czech Republic 3 (Koller 15pen, Poborsky 38, Baros 90) Holland 1 (Van der Vaart 61)

Group 5

Group 4 At Chorzow, Poland Poland 0 Sweden 2 (Nilsson 3, Mellberg 37) At Riga Latvia 3 (Verpakovskis 38, 51, Bleidelis 42) Hungary 1 (Lisztesz 53)

At Toftir, Faroe Islands

At Dortmund, Germany

Vencevicius 88)

(McCann 60)

(Karamian 27)

Group 6

At Belfast

At Elche

Group 7

Faroe Islands 1 (Olsen 43)

Lithuania 3 (Morinas 23, 57,

Germany 2 (Bobic 25,

Ballack 50-pen) Scotland 1

Northern Ireland 0 Armenia 1

Spain 2 (Raul 59, 72)

Ukraine 1 (Shevchenko 83)

Monem Munna. Abahani officials also emphasised that a player is free to choose his own destiny. "You can not force a player to play against his desire. I have also

gone through the same situation during my playing career", said Munna, a former national captain

and an Abahani stalwart. Abahani has decided to take up the issue with the State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman and will also lodge a complaint to the Bangladesh Football Federation

(BFF) president SA Sultan. "We also want government action against the police attack", said Chunnu adding that the club directors will meet soon to decide whether to participate in the transfers or not.

At Zilina, Slovakia Slovakia 1 (Nemeth Macedonia 1 (Dimitrovski At Manchester England 2 (Owen 46, Roo 52) Liechtenstein 0

Group 8

At Andorra-La-Vella "It is simply a lack self-belief. Andorra 0 Bulgaria Even before the game starts the (Berbatov 11, 24, Hristov 5 players seem to resign to the fact At Brussels they will lose and that is really giving Belgium 2 (Sonck 35, Croatia 1 (Simic 36)

Unfortunately our most experienced Group 9 batsman Habibul Bashar averages At Cardiff below 20. Compare that to Pakistani Wales 1 (Davies 3) Finlan (Forssell 80) young players Mohammad Hafeez

At Belgrade Serbia and Montenegro (llic 81) Italy 1 (Inzaghi 22) Group 10

At Moscow Russia 4 (Bulykin 20, 33, Mostovoi 72) Switzerland (Karyaka 13-og) At Tirana Albania 3 (Hasa 51, Tare Bushi 80) Georgia 1 Arveladze 63)

25) 62)	Tick the correct answers, post to The Baily Star
ney	Win attractive prizes
	Competition closes at 8 pm Sept 12, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards
ı 3 59)	1. Who won the Champions Trophy hockey title?
43)	Netherlands Australia Pakistan
43)	2. Who clinched the Europa college basketball.crown? Khulna College Mastermind Notre Dame
	3. Bangladesh lost the first Test
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<i>`</i>	Kirsten Ntini Flintoff
	5. Who won the Spanish Super Cup?
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place (at the World Cup)." Uruguay's eccentric coach Juan Ramon Carrasco could find himself under fire after making six changes to the team which hammered Bolivia. He dropped his entire midfield, including captain Alvaro Recoba who was the inspiration in Montevideo.

Uruguay ahead with rocketing long-range free kick in the 24th minute but Cardozo, who scored 36 goals in 25 games for Toluca in the Mexican championship in 2001, headed the equaliser three minutes later.

Paredes gave Paraguay the lead and Cardozo helped himself to

"We can learn from these slip-

about losing in this manner." Brazil's players had brashly promised a footballing feast in Manaus but instead served up an unappetising display, with nothing to show except one scrambled goal which was awarded to Ronaldinho even though it seemed to go in off defender

Neicer Reasco.

"The important thing was to

and was sent off in the second half for hacking down Limberg Acosta, who had publicly they didn't." he added. mauled his players after the Montevideo debacle, hailed the victory, saying: "We have the capability and football to fight for a

> results that happened before June "I started working with the Tigers from the first of June. So whatever happened before is history. And you cannot change that. Going 40 matches without a victory is not good

"But we want to change that as quickly as possible. It will take time to become a good one-day and Test team

Asked to identify the root cause for the Tigers' being unable to win in the instant version, the former Australian Test cap said it was happening well before he came along

"We need role models.

and Yasir Hameed. They hey can

look to the experience of Yousuf

Youhana and Inzamamul-Haq to

He even confessed that some-

"The process of building good

players is never easy. But when the

team doesn't do well it's good in a

way to be a bit angry. But if you dig a

little bit deeper, there are issues on

the field that make the difference,'

times he felt displaying his own

emotions could help get his mes-

guide them through."

sage across.

said Whatmore.