



DOWN THE WORLD CUP LANE



Brazil 1950: The Weight Of Shadows

AGENCIES, undated



The first truly peacetime World Cup in twenty years had its parallels with the previous one. Held in South America, only thirteen teams taking part, a league system and a strong host team.

This time the idea of four mini leagues was in place from the start, presumably because FIFA decided knockout matches were an arbitrary way of deciding the best in the world. To emphasise their thinking, the four group winners would qualify for yet another group, the champions to be decided on points. There was no provision for an actual Final - but one materialised all the same, and perhaps the most eviscerating of all.

The run up to the tournament was full of farce however which was pitiful considering the fact that throughout the Second World War the Italian Vice-President of FIFA, Dr. Ottorino Barassi, hid the World Cup trophy in a shoe-box under his bed and thus saved it from falling into the hands of occupying troops. Such acts of bravado deserved better results but in the beginning it did not seem like that it would be so.

The qualifying competition turned into something of a travesty with teams qualifying then withdrawing - and teams already eliminated being offered places. India withdrew because FIFA would not let them play in bare feet. So only 13 teams participated in the final tournament.

The South Americans Uruguay were back in the fold but having a mixed year, and Argentina pulled out yet again. Yugoslavia looked the strongest of the Europeans,

Olympic runners-up and packed with world-class players - but the most intriguing entry was from the mother country, taking part for the first time with the inside-forward trio of Zizinho, Ademir and Jair looking set to dazzle.

This edition came a few years too late for England, who'd lost Frank Swift, Tommy Lawton and the incomparable Raich Carter from their team of the immediate post-war years. But Tom Finney was still there, with Billy Wright and Stan Mortensen and (eventually) Stanley Matthews. At the very least, they were expected to qualify for the final pool.

Places had been left open for the top two teams in the Home Championship, but Scotland decided they'd go as champions or not at all. They lost 1-0 to England at Hampden, where Willie Bauld hit the

bar - and stayed behind, a mystery to this day.

France too turned down an invitation, as did Turkey, but neither of them was a strong contender. The Germans, on the other hand, still banned by FIFA, might have been an intriguing entry. Although they hadn't played an international match since 1942, some of their building blocks were already there (Turek, Morlock, the Walter brothers) and would be firmly in place four years later.

Instead of re-drawing the competition after this rash of late withdrawals, the organisers left things as they stood. So while two groups consisted of four teams each, Uruguay had only Bolivia to beat. And there was no zoning, which forced teams in the same group to travel hundreds of miles between cities.

Brazil had built a new stadium,

the biggest in history, with a capacity of 220,000 in the suburbs of Rio de Janeiro. On the first day of the tournament, it still wasn't ready. But the Brazilian public didn't mind too much.

England who arrived as one of the favourites were stunned 1-0 by the United States and never recovered, losing again to Spain and exiting the tournament in miserable fashion.

Another first round surprise was the failure of holders Italy to progress, although they had been crippled by the loss of 18 players from the great Torino team killed when their plane, travelling from Lisbon, ploughed into the Superga church near Turin.

The hosts satisfied their eager supporters and finished top of a challenging group that featured

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

Heartbreak for Vidmar

AFP, Sydney

Australia defender Tony Vidmar announced Tuesday that he will play no part in the World Cup finals in Germany after being diagnosed with heart problems.

The 35-year-old, a 90-cap veteran who was part of the squad which beat Uruguay in November's World Cup playoff, said tests conducted after he broke his ribs during a match earlier this season found that he suffered from an irregular heart rhythm.

"It's something that has come as a real shock, but due to the seriousness of the situation I had no other choice in the interests of my own health and the team that I withdraw from being considered for the World Cup squad," Vidmar said in a statement.

Vidmar, who plays with Dutch club NAC Breda, will return to Australia at the end of the week for further examinations before deciding whether he will continue his playing career.

Vidmar has been part of Australia's past four World Cup campaigns, but has never played in the final tournament because the Socceroos had not previously qualified since 1974.

"When I return to Australia I'll have some further examinations and once I have that information I'll decide if I will play on but in the short term it would be too much of a risk," he said.

"Of course I would love to play in the World Cup, it's been a dream of mine and I have been in four campaigns but until I am fully aware of my health situation I can't risk playing."

During his 15-year international career, Vidmar scored a vital goal during the penalty shoot out against Uruguay which put Australia into the World Cup finals for the first time in 32 years.

The Football Federation Australia said it was assisting Vidmar with his medical examinations and expressed its regret he won't be joining the Socceroos in Germany next month.

"It is disappointing that Tony will not be in the World Cup squad, especially considering he has been part of four campaigns," said the federation's coach, John Boulton.



PHOTO: AFP FILE

SILENCE IN THE MARACANA: Uruguayan forward Juan Alberto Schiaffino (C) kicks the ball past Brazilian goalkeeper Moacyr Barbosa to tie the score during the World Cup final round match between Uruguay and Brazil 1950 in Rio de Janeiro.

A serious joke for Walcott

AFP, London

England starlet Theo Walcott thought his dad was pulling his leg when he called him to tell him he had been included in England's World Cup squad.

"I was taking my driving test in Southgate and had switched off my phone and put it in my locker," the 17-year-old Arsenal striker told Sky TV.

"I turned it back on at 3pm, phoned by dad and could not believe it was true. I thought he was having me on. I was shocked and surprised as everyone was."

"My first thoughts were that I can't believe this is true. First the move to Arsenal and then this. It's unbelievable."

Walcott's selection was the biggest surprise in the 23-strong

squad announced by manager Sven-Goran Eriksson to take part in the finals which get underway on June 9. England's first game is against Paraguay in Frankfurt the following day.

Having signed for Arsenal from Southampton for 12 million pounds in January he has yet to play a first team game for the Gunners and has made only three appearances for the club's reserve team.

But his manager Arsene Wenger is believed to have assured Eriksson that his charge was an old hand on young shoulders and could comfortably handle the pressure.

Walcott said he agreed with that assessment saying that he had played in front of big crowds on big occasions already in his fledgling career.

"I've played before big crowds

and I've played on the tele," he said. "It's going to be different, but I think I can handle it. I'm just going to give it all my best."

"There is something different I can give to England maybe. I worked hard at Southampton and at Arsenal I've been training with world-class players like Thierry Henry and Dennis Bergkamp every day and getting better."

Walcott said he had been aware that Eriksson had attended Arsenal training sessions to run an eye over him but he had not considered that the Swede had him in mind for World Cup selection.

He said he did not know what Eriksson had in mind for him in Germany or whether he would even get a game but he said he was

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



BITS AND BOBS

'Every team fear Brazil'

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

Brazil's veteran technical director Mario Zagallo believes all the other World Cup teams fear facing the world champions.

"Everyone is afraid to play Brazil, that's the reality and I'm sure of it," the 74-year-old said on Monday.

"I certainly wouldn't want to be on the other side," he said during an event in Sao Paulo.

"The ones who say that Brazil are favourites are fearful, they're trying to shirk their responsibilities," he added.

Brazil have won the World Cup five times and Zagallo, who coached them to success in 1970 and was also at the helm in 1974 and 1998, said nobody wants them to win again in Germany.

"Of course, they don't want us to win. We're the only country who could become six-times champions and that would put a great distance between us and the rest."

"A win against Brazil is as good as winning the whole tournament," he added.

Adidas raises sales target

AFP, Berlin

German sports equipment manufacturer Adidas has raised its target for sales of football merchandise this year to 1.2 billion euros (1.5 billion dollars) owing to strong demand for its World Cup 2006 products, its chief executive said on Tuesday.

The group, locked in a fierce battle for supremacy with US rival Nike, is the sponsor of the official World Cup 2006 ball and is providing kit for six national teams in the competition.

It had previously expected sales of football equipment to total 1.0 billion euros this year.

"Demand for this ball and other World Cup products is very big," said chief executive Herbert Hainer. "We've scored on all product categories."

"Not many goals"

AFP, Berlin

Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari believes goals will be in short supply at next month's World Cup finals in Germany as teams prefer to defend rather than attack in numbers.

"Attack with six players and defend with eight when you lose the ball. That is football at the moment," Scolari said in an interview with Kicker magazine.

"For that reason I do not think this World Cup will be a goals fest. There will not be as many goals as at previous World Cups."

At the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea the 64 matches produced 161 goals at a ratio of 2.5 goals per game.

The 57-year-old Scolari, who led Brazil to World Cup glory four years ago, guides Portugal at the finals and believes his side have improved since Euro 2004 when they reached the final as hosts.

"I think our team are better than at Euro 2004," Scolari said. "We had to go through qualifying this time and that was an advantage as we coped with the pressure."

"I would say that we are one of

the best eight teams in the world at the moment."

Portugal are pooled with Mexico, Iran and Angola in World Cup Group D with their first match against debutants Angola in Cologne on June 11.

Referee list unveiled

INTERNET, Hamburg

Three referees have been dropped from the World Cup list due to injury or a failed fitness test of their designated linesmen, the ruling football body FIFA said late Monday.

FIFA presented its final list of 23 referees from 21 countries for the June 9-July 9 finals in Germany. Guatemala referee Carlos Batres

hasn't regained fitness after rupturing the cruciate ligament in his knee last December. Greek match official Kyros Vassaras and Manuel Mejuto Gonzalez of Spain failed to make the cut because their linesmen were not deemed fit for the event.

The new men are Roberto Rosetti of Italy, Luis Medina Cantalejo of Spain and Marco Rodriguez of Mexico. In addition, Belgian Frank De Bleckere joined the list by passing the required fitness test in April after being sidelined with injury at the original March date.

All referees and their designated linesmen had to undergo the test

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Hollywood braces for World Cup TV

REUTERS, Cologne

The Hollywood studios have already steeled themselves for the quadrennial box office slump that the rest of the world calls the football World Cup.

The international releases of most major studio releases have been front-loaded into the weeks before the World Cup opens June 9 or are being held back until after the July 9 final.

It's easy to see why. TV ratings for World Cup matches are expected to best the record highs of 2002, in part because the 2006 championships will be held in Europe, where the World Cup is closer to a religion than a sporting event.

In Germany - this year's host and ground zero for World Cup madness - that means upwards of 18 million-20 million viewers, or a quarter of the entire German population, will be sitting on their couches screaming at the TV. This doesn't take into account the millions more watching in bars, restaurants or on live streaming over the Internet or mobile devices.

There will be more football on German TV in that monthlong period than ever before. Public broadcasters ARD and ZDF, which split the rights to the bulk of the World Cup matches, plan to air at least 80 hours of live coverage with 48 of the 64 matches. That's not including the pre- and postgame analysis and interviews with coaches and players that add two hours to the broadcast of any 90-minute game.

RTL, which this year will become the first-ever commercial free-to-air broadcaster to carry World Cup matches in Germany, is following suit. RTL has rights for up to eight World Cup matches all taking place on Sunday: June 11, 18 and 25. The channel is planning walk-to-wall coverage on all three days - kicking off with a pregame show at 11 a.m. and signing off at 11 p.m. with a look back at the day's matches.

But Germany's football fans don't have to wait until the official kickoff. Across the TV dial, "football" has already taken over. From game shows to comedy, from miniseries to documentaries, the World Cup is all anyone is talking about.

On the other hand, Sat.1 sister channel Pro7 is launching a "World Cup for the Girls" schedule boasting romantic features and reruns of "Sex and the City."

"We hope women will also exercise some control over the remote during the championships," a Pro7 spokeswoman says.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 7



PHOTO: AFP

Four-time World Cup winner Mario Zagallo poses in front of a panel showing Cafu lifting the coveted trophy at the headquarters of the Brazilian Football Confederation in Rio de Janeiro on May 3, 2006.

2006 Round 1, Draw in Rangpur

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

Information

- The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2006 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in Germany from June 9 to July 9.
- There will be FIVE rounds of competition.
- Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of RANGS TOSHIBA as per announcement.
- Participants of all the FIVE rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes.
- For each round, a set of questions including a photographic quiz will be published in The Daily Star.
- Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in The Daily Star.
- Winners will have to collect their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.
- Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS

Prize	Item	Model	Winner
1st	One 21" Toshiba Bomba Flat TV	21CZ8DE	YOU
2nd	One Toshiba Refrigerator	GRM-19BPT	YOU
3rd	One Toshiba Washing Machine	VH-7200	YOU
4th	Ten Canon Cameras	BF-800	YOU
5th	Twenty Toshi Irons		and YOU

QUIZ SCHEDULE

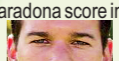
Round & Draw	Starts	Answers must reach by noon	Lucky Draw for prizes
1 Rangpur	May 05	May 18	May 19
2 Khulna	May 19	June 01	June 02
3 Sylhet	June 2	June 15	June 16
4 Chittagong	June 16	June 29	June 30
5 Dhaka (Bumper)	June 30	July 09	TBA

Rules

- Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2006. Employees of and Rangs Toshiba and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.
- All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- Forms will have to be cut along the dotted lines.
- Participants are to put a tick () mark in the box alongside their answer to each question.
- A person may send numerous entries for each round. Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.
- Name, address, father's name and particulars of participants must be clearly written. Each entry form must also bear the signature of the participant and date.
- Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
- Entries must reach the office of The Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "The World Cup Quiz 2006".
- Entries may be hand delivered or posted to The Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
- Entries will be held in a sealed box for the draw to be held on a notified date in public in presence of invited guests and Quiz participants, if any.
- Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.
- Entering this Quiz competition shall be construed as the respective agreement by each participant to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines as may be issued by The Daily Star.
- Any decision of The Daily Star in the conduct of the Quiz competition/including the answers selected as correct shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.
- The Daily Star management, in their absolute discretion, reserves the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of the Quiz competitions under any circumstances.

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 1 Ends May 18, 2006

Tick () the correct answers

- How many teams will make their World Cup debut in Germany? 10 6 8
- Which team finished third in the 2002 World Cup? Turkey Senegal Spain
Vieri Batistuta Suker
- Who won the golden boot in the 1998 World Cup? 1 2 0
- How many goals did Maradona score in the 1986 World Cup final? 1 2 0
- Who is this player:  Morientes Ballack Shevchenko

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....Age.....
 Father's name.....Occupation.....
 Address.....
 Telephone (if any).....Signature.....Date.....

Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters.
 Cut along the dotted lines and mail to OR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star

READ The Daily Star CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER