

DOWN THE WORLD CUP LANE

Johan Cruyff: The King without a crown

AGENCIES, undated

Very few players have earned the right to be mentioned in the same breath as Pele, Beckenbauer and Diego Maradona. Although he never won an international

title at country level and played in only one World Cup, Johan Cruyff is one of them. Such was his natural talent, the Dutch Master enjoys an undisputed reputation as one of the game's all-time greats.

The Dutchman was the lynchpin of the Holland side, the driving force at the heart of his nation's push to the World Cup final in 1974, when the idea of "total football" first attracted attention.

Cruyff had it all - vision, speed, passing ability and the knack of getting into attacking positions, a genius that resulted in 33 goals in 48 games at national level, despite his midfield role.

Cruyff was brought up in the shadow of Ajax Amsterdam's stadium and training ground, where his mother worked. His father died from a heart attack when Johan was 12. From a very early age, the young Cruyff set his sights on one thing alone: becoming a professional footballer. He began formal training when he was seven years old, and to his mother's horror, left school at 13 to concentrate exclusively on sport.

Coaching legend Rinus Michels spotted the slightly-built youth's talent, and designed an exercise programme aimed at developing his frail physique to withstand the rigours of a professional career. Cruyff quickly won a place in Ajax's first team, and in 1966, at the age of 19, picked up the first of nine Dutch league titles destined to come his way.

He soon rose to international prominence as a fleet-footed, elegant and technically gifted footballer, who never bottled a tackle. Cruyff was a playmaker, ammunition provider and marksman rolled into one, with an ability to time a pass that has hardly been equalled before or since.

He was a leading figure off the field as well, confident and opinionated, and never one to mince his words in order to avoid making enemies.

As well as skirting the boundary between honesty and arrogance, Cruyff's quotes are also widely known for walking the fine line linguistically. In addition to his inimitably mangled grammar, which has been the subject of articles in

language journals, he is also famous for the meandering logic of his longer monologues, which invariably lead him to the conclusion that he was right about something, while leaving his adversary baffled. "Essays in their purest form", a noted literary critic called them. In the Netherlands his quotes have been published in book form, and are used in management seminars.

For one of the greatest players of all time, Cruyff's international career

was relatively short. He made his debut for the Dutch national side against Hungary in September 1966, and would go on to make 48 appearances for the "Oranjes" before calling time in October 1977. His last feat as an international was to help Holland qualify for the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, though even then he was only called up for the important games.

His greatest achievement as an international came in the 1974 FIFA

World Cup finals in Germany. Holland went into the tournament with few expectations, having only barely qualified and with the team giving little indication that they were comfortable with coach Rinus Michels' tactics. The pieces of the puzzle fell into place just in time however, and, after the first round, Holland were unanimously

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Holland legend Johan Cruyff dribbles past Argentinian goalkeeper Carnevali to score his team's second goal on 26 June 1974 in Gelsenkirchen during their World Cup quarterfinal match. Holland beat Argentina 4-0.

BITS AND BOBS

No divisions
 AP, Serbia-Montenegro

Montenegrins will play for Serbia-Montenegro's World Cup team despite the tiny Balkan republic's secession from its larger neighbour.

"First, I'll support Montenegro as I always did," Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic, a former basketball player, said Monday. "Next, I always support our neighbours."

Serbia-Montenegro play in Group C with Argentina, the Netherlands and Ivory Coast.

Formerly known as Yugoslavia, the team last qualified for the World Cup in 1998, reaching the round of 16 before being beaten by the Netherlands.

Serbia-Montenegro earned their eighth trip to soccer's biggest event, but the first -- and the last -- under the new name. Montenegro, which has one player on the World Cup

roster, split from Serbia in an independence referendum on Sunday.

The only declared Montenegrin on Serbia-Montenegro's roster is Mirko Vucinic, a talented forward who plays for Lecce in Italy. He will also play in Serbia-Montenegro's under-21 team at the European Championship later this month.

Vogts attacks German players
 INTERNET, undated

Former Germany coach Berti Vogts has accused his country's footballers of being poor trainers.

Each nation participating at this summer's World Cup have stepped up their preparations, but Vogts, who led Germany to victory at the 1996 European Championships, believes German players are not committed enough to training.

"German footballers do not need

regeneration," he told 11 Freunde magazine.

"No German footballer is too sore or over-tired. On the contrary, we train too little. Other athletes train six hours a day.

"The guys pay a lot of money to improve their golfing game, but individual training after training officially ends they consider an impertinence. That I cannot comprehend."

Hosts Germany play in the opening game of the World Cup against Costa Rica, but Vogts regards this as a disadvantage.

"This game is always loaded with intense pressure," added Vogts, who most recently had an unsuccessful spell in charge of Scotland.

"As world champions, the Brazilians could handle that, but if the inexperienced German team can do that, I don't know."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

Raul dons forbidden colour!

AFP, Madrid

Spanish striker Raul was torn off a strip by coach Luis Aragonés when the country's World Cup squad gathered to begin preparations for next month's finals after arriving in a yellow surfer-style t-shirt, a colour his manager deems unlucky.

"Raul, with the forbidden colour," noted El Pais newspaper on Tuesday, showing Real Madrid striker Raul arriving at Las Rozas in the Madrid suburbs for the squad get-together on Tuesday. "Apparently Raul does not know, or else is not worried, about the fact that the colour yellow is an object of vexation to his coach."

"Luis Aragonés, who practises kabbalah, considers it a colour which brings bad luck," according to El Pais.

The paper claimed such is Aragonés' aversion to the colour that he even once asked for dribbling exercise cones to be replaced as they were the offending colour. Instead, he asked for red ones.

On seeing Raul arrive, according to El Pais, Aragonés barked: "Raul, take it off, take it off!"

Fortunately for Aragonés, Spain traditionally do not play in the red and yellow of their national flag but red and blue.

But if Spain get past opening round opponents Ukraine, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia in Group H and reach the quarter-finals, Aragonés may have to close his eyes or suffer on the touchline as they could be facing canary-yellow-clad holders Brazil.

Ljungberg might miss group stages

REUTERS, Stockholm

Sweden midfielder Freddie Ljungberg would be better off resting during the group stage of the World Cup to fully recover from a foot injury, says national team doctor Anders Valentin.

"He would need to rest for four weeks to completely recover," Valentin told Swedish public television SVT on Monday. "He might not be completely without symptoms (at the finals)."

The speedy Ljungberg, one of Sweden's most important players, is likely to play through the pain of the injury which he has battled for six weeks.

The Arsenal player will be sidelined for Sweden's friendly against Finland on Thursday and is also likely to miss the warm-up match with Chile on June 2.

At the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan, where Sweden reached the second round, Ljungberg played only two of their four matches because of injury.

Sweden have been drawn with England, Paraguay and Trinidad & Tobago at the finals in Germany which begin on June 9.

Ronaldo in shape

AP, Switzerland

Ronaldo is expected to be in good physical condition when Brazil begin their pre-World Cup training this week.

"Ronaldo is not injured anymore," Brazilian team doctor Jose Luis Runcio said. "He has been practising normally for the past two weeks. He is in good condition, just as the other players."

Ronaldo had several injuries this year, and he scored only five goals in Real Madrid's first 19 matches.

His latest injury, a muscle ailment picked up during Spanish league play, kept him sidelined for most of April.

"Ronaldo is fine now," Runcio said after Brazil arrived in the lakeside resort town for its two-week training camp. "He will be able to practise normally."

All Brazilian players will undergo routine physical examinations on Tuesday and Wednesday. The team's first practice session is scheduled for Wednesday.

Runcio said he expects Brazil's players to be in better shape this year than before the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan, when Brazil won its fifth title.

"Before that World Cup we had problems with some players, including Ronaldo and Rivaldo. They needed more attention than other players at the time," Runcio said. "This time, everyone is set to begin training on time."

Brazil will play two friendlies in Switzerland before the World Cup -- against FC Lucerne on May 30 in Basel and against New Zealand in Geneva on June 4. The team will debut in Germany against Croatia on June 13.

Trumpeter for Elephants

INTERNET, undated

Germany beware, the Ivory Coast are coming.

And when the World Cup action kicks off, Chelsea striker Didier Drogba is sure to be leading the Elephants' charge.

After so long in the international wilderness a wind of change is blowing through African football and next summer Togo, Ghana and Angola will all have the chance to make their World Cup bow.

It is their fellow debutants, however, who are being widely tipped to provide the biggest surprise of all and with a striker like Drogba in their ranks it is not hard to see why.

The Chelsea hot-shot made a £24million move from Marseille to the Barclays Premiership in the summer of 2004.

Since that switch an average just short of a goal every other game has made him one of the most feared forwards in European football.

He played a key role in guiding the Blues to the Premiership title in 2005 - ending their 50-year wait - and has also scored prolifically in

the Champions League. The world stage, though, has yet to witness the full force of his talents and the 28-year-old admits he has already fulfilled a dream simply by reaching the finals.

"I'm so proud for the whole team and for the Ivorian people who deserve to be represented in Germany," he said.

"It was very moving to see people congratulate us in the street. I'd

never seen anything like it." And those who think that qualification is as good as it is going to get for the former French colony would do well to think again.

Back in November three-time World Cup winners Italy provided the opposition in Geneva as both teams began their warm-up campaign.

A 1-1 draw that night provided clear evidence that the Ivory Coast will not simply be heading to Europe to make up the numbers - as well as convincing Italian coach Marcello Lippi that Drogba, who grabbed his country's goal that night, has what it takes to be one of the tournament's biggest stars.

"Drogba is an outstanding player," said the Azzurri chief. "When you find yourself facing players like him, it means that you are playing at the highest level and this is a good thing."

If Drogba has his way, Italy will not be the only team able to testify just how good he really is by the time the World Cup is over.



Didier Drogba

2006 Round 2, Draw in Khulna
 Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

Information

- The **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.

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 "**Star World Cup Quiz 2**".
- Entries may be hand delivered or posted to **The Daily Star**, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
- Entries will be placed 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/s 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.

2006 Round 2, Draw in Khulna
 Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

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-8000	YOU
5th	Twenty Toshin Irons		and YOU

QUIZ SCHEDULE

Round & Draw	Starts	Answers must reach by 8pm	Lucky Draw for prizes
1 Rangpur	May 05	May 18	May 23
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

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 2 Ends June 01, 2006

Tick () the correct answers

- The only player to have appeared in three World Cup final matches is: Matthaus Maradona Cafu
 Munich Frankfurt Berlin
- The 2006 World Cup final will be held in: 5 3 0
- How many goals did France score in the 2002 World Cup? South Korea Saudi Arabia
- Which Asian nation made highest number of appearances in World Cup finals? Iran Ronaldinho Drogba Ronaldo
- Who is this player? 

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
 You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "**Star World Cup Quiz 2**".

READ The Daily Star CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER

From beyond the boundary

AP, Tehran

Like others who come to watch Iran's national soccer team prepare for the World Cup in July, they join in the chants and wave their flags. But these fans are cheering from outside the fence surrounding the field, barred by law from entering because they are women.

On Monday, more than 50 female soccer fans -- from girls to mothers with baby strollers -- pressed against the wobbling chain-link fence, screaming, whistling, and trying to make sense of their exile.

"We're out here like beggars in our own country trying to support our own nation's team," said 20-year-old Mina Tehrani, who was taking photos of the team with her cell phone. "Are we not Iranians? Are our cheers less important?"

It's just the latest in the ever-shifting -- and seemingly arbitrary -- messages sent to women by Iran's Islamic establishment.

Women work side by side men in nearly every setting, from state offices to passport control booths to parliament. In recent years, women have made headlines by taking places in police and fire departments. A few women cabbies cruise the streets of Tehran.

But it appears a firm line is drawn around the soccer field.

In April, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad surprised his conservative backers by deciding that women could attend soccer games, but

restricted them to a separate section of the stadium. Ahmadinejad -- an ardent soccer fan who once donned a jersey and kicked some balls with the national team -- said the women's

presence would "improve soccer-watching manners and promote a healthy atmosphere."

But Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, didn't

agree. He has the final say on all matters in Iran, and his view on this one held: No women in the stands, even in a segregated section.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



PHOTO: AFP

An Iranian female soccer fan takes pictures of the national football players during a concert at the prestigious Revolution Sports Club in the northern suburbs of Tehran, on Monday.