

SWITZERLAND V SOUTH KOREA

All to play for

AFP, Hanover

South Korea will have to conjure up more of their 2002 magic to pull a last 16 place out of the hat with victory over Switzerland in their Group G crunch match here on Friday.

A comeback 2-1 win over Togo and a much-acclaimed 1-1 draw with 1998 world champions France could be to no avail because of Switzerland's marginally better goal difference which gives them the luxury of just needing a point from the final group fixture.

If the Koreans lose to the powerful, clockwork-like Swiss and France beat trouble-plagued Togo by two clear goals, the surprise 2002 semi-finalists will go out. But a win will see them top the group such are the muddling permutations.

South Korea, who humbled European powerhouses Portugal, Italy and Spain during their glory run four years ago, could still qualify in second place if they draw with Switzerland but the players are refusing to dream that Togo can achieve a result against the fading but still flair-filled French.

Other final-day scenarios could result in the drawing of lots to determine whether France or South Korea progress to the second round but neither side want to rely on lady luck for their World Cup survival.

The first ever encounter between the two countries may develop into a battle of wits between South Korea's coach Dick Advocaat and his opposite number Kobi Kuhn, who have been hailed as tactical geniuses for their match-altering substitutions.

Advocaat gambled by playing

with four forwards when South Korea were 1-0 down against Togo and was rewarded when substitute Ahn Jung-Hwan grabbed the winning goal and the much-travelled Dutchman's introduction of winger Seol Ki-Hyeon at half-time when trailing 1-0 to France turned the tide in Korea's favour.

"It is important that we get the tactics right again," said Advocaat, a firm believer in 'total football' who took Holland to the quarter-finals of the 1994 World Cup.

"Switzerland are well organised and place many players behind the ball. But whenever they have a chance, they like to attack, whether they play England or Korea. That is their style of play.

"It's important for us that we know them well and we're well prepared for their style. If we play the way we have up to now, get together as a team, there is a good chance we can get a result."

Kuhn brought on midfield dynamo Hakan Yakin followed by

striker Marco Streller and Mauro Lustrinelli as Switzerland pressed forward for the vital second goal against Togo and the switches paid off handsomely with Tranquillo Barnetta's 88th minute strike.

"It didn't actually matter if we had let in a goal at that point (the last 15 minutes) because drawing 1-1 or winning 1-0 would have had the same effect - either way we would have had to beat South Korea in the final game," said the astute Kuhn, whose popularity skyrocketed when he master-minded Switzerland's successful qualification campaign.

The Asian flagbearers are hoping that Switzerland might adopt a defensive approach which would play into their hands but their opponents insist they are not crazy enough to set out their stall for a draw.

"We are determined to defeat Switzerland and go through (to the last 16)," said striker Cho Jae-jin, whose header across goal set up Park Ji-Sung's dramatic 81st minute equaliser against France.

"The Swiss might relax, thinking they just need a draw. It could give us a chance to put them under pressure.

"We will not need to look at the result of the France-Togo game."

Yakin made a big impact when he came on as a replacement in the 2-0 triumph over Togo and the attacking midfielder is confident that Switzerland will not underestimate South Korea or play for the draw.

"It's definitely an advantage for us now that we don't have to beat South Korea," said Yakin, who is

TEAMS

- Switzerland (4-4-2)**
1-Pascal Zuberbuehler; 3-Ludovic Magnin, 4-Philippe Senderos, 20-Patrick Mueller, 23-Philipp Degen; 8-Raphael Wicky, 6-Johann Vogel, 7-Ricardo Cabanas, 16-Tranquillo Barnetta; 9-Alex Frei, 11-Marco Streller
- South Korea (3-4-3)**
1-Lee Woon-jae; 4-Choi Jin-cheul, 2-Kim Young-chul, 3-Kim Dong-jin; 22-Song Chong-gug, 5-Kim Nam-il, 17-Lee Ho, 12-Lee Young-pyo; 7-Park Ji-sung, 19-Cho Jae-jin, 11-Seol Ki-hyeon

SEE PAGE 24 COL 1



CENTRE OF ATTENTION: South Korean midfielder Park Ji-sung (C) gathers with his teammates at a training session in Leverkusen on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Braving the monsoon

AFP, Seoul

More than a million South Koreans were expected to ignore a monsoon downpour and take to the streets early Saturday for the World Cup soccer showdown with Switzerland.

Weather forecasts say most of South Korea will get a monsoon soaking between late Friday and early Saturday when the national team play Switzerland in Group G in a match which starts at 4:00 am (1900 GMT Friday).

"Rain or not, we are bracing for huge crowds. That's because it is likely to be a make-or-break game and the game is taking place on an off-day," a senior police officer in charge of security in Seoul told AFP.

South Korea came from behind to beat Togo 2-1 in their opening match on June 13 and drew 1-1 with 1998 world champions France on June 18.

A win would see Korea top their group and qualify for the second round of the tournament but a defeat to the Swiss would probably ensure that the surprise 2002 semi-finalists go out.

More than 70 percent of fans said their team would beat

Switzerland, according to an Internet survey of 2,915 South Koreans by Yahoo! Korea. A mere 24 percent predicted South Korea would lose 0-1, while the remaining four percent forecast a scoreless draw.

For the game against France on Monday, also a 4:00 am kick-off, more than 700,000 supporters spent the night on the streets to cheer on their team in front of big-screen TVs.

"We expect a lot more people to come to the street this time," said the police officer, adding some 5,000 riot police would be mobilized in Seoul to control the crowds.

"It's like a hell for us. We are all tired out. I wonder how long it will last," he lamented.

Millions more will watch the game in the privacy of their own homes where football may go hand-in-hand with more intimate fun.

G-Market, an Internet shopping mall, said its sales of condoms had more than tripled to 3,000 a week since the World Cup kicked off.

"Because of the World Cup, people feel happier than usual and they tend to engage in night-time

activities to keep themselves awake for the games," said Ju Kyung-ja, a G-Market spokeswoman.

Business is also booming for on-call 24-hour home delivery food services and, "Jimjilbang," South Korea's unique 24-hour saunas, where clients can take baths, rest and relax all night.

Seoul Leisure, a seven-storey Jimjilbang complex in Seoul's eastern district of Songpa, said its clientele doubled to 5,000 for the France game.

With shorts and T-shirts provided for comfort, people can watch TVs, have a chat over snacks, take a nap or even play PC games at Jimjilbangs.

"We expect to receive more clients this time because of the wet weather," said manager Kim Sung-Hee.

It would be a "great disappointment" for her and her company should South Korea fail to reach the next round, she added.

Mexicana, a chicken delivery franchise, reported a 120-percent increase in sales on the night of South Korea versus Togo on June 13. Some delivery firms ran out of

SEE PAGE 24 COL 1

Food is the secret!

AFP, Bensberg

Like a conquering army, South Korea are marching towards the knock-out stages of the 2006 World Cup on their stomachs.

Their secret weapon in their quest for glory is chef Jung Ji-Choon who has been whipping up traditional Korean dishes on request at the team's luxurious lodgings here.

Even healthy, toned South Korean footballers can be fussy eaters and Jung's job is to keep them happy with staples like kimchi (fermented cabbage) and pap (boiled rice).

While the team dieticians have outlawed some of the more savoury Korean dishes, the players are content with the menu.

"We have our own chef and can eat Korean food," said winger Seol Ki-Hyeon, who plays for Wolves in England. "But we also eat Western food, we can choose."

The Western food is gourmet standard with hotel chef Joachim Wissler having three stars in the prestigious Michelin Guide and being named "2005 Cook of the

SEE PAGE 24 COL 1

Century-maker wants to stop Swiss

AFP, Hanover

Goalkeeper Lee Woon-jae will literally put his body on the line to ensure his 100th appearance for South Korea ends with a victory over Switzerland in delicately balanced Group G here on Friday.

The ace shot-stopper and talismanic team captain said that the 2002 semi-finalists were thinking of nothing else but winning the match and heading into the last 16.

"We are all concentrating our minds only on the match against Switzerland," said Lee, whose heroic performances between the

posts were vital for Korea in 2002.

"As I said before the match against France, if I cannot save balls with my hands, then I will use my feet, my legs and all different parts of my body."

"My 100th game for Korea will be meaningless if we lose."

Switzerland, South Korea and France, who play already-eliminated Togo in their final match, can all still qualify via a dizzying array of avenues but the Koreans have dialled in route one on their GPS trackers.

"We want the win - we raise our fighting spirit even more in hard

times," defender Kim Young-Chul told reporters. "We know the shortcomings of the Swiss players and will try and exploit them."

Kim added that winger Seol Ki-Hyeon, a revelation in the second half against France, and Lee Chun-Soo could get behind the Swiss defence and set up chances for the strikers.

Switzerland's influential midfielder Daniel Gyax has been ruled out of the clash with badly bruised stomach muscles. He was replaced at half-time in the 2-0 win over Togo.

Swiss accuse Domenech

INTERNET, undated

Switzerland have accused French coach Raymond Domenech of playing mind games following his comments that the Swiss have benefited from favourable World Cup refereeing.

The Swiss were fortunate not to concede penalties in their first two Group G matches against France and Togo, but assistant coach Michel Pont insisted that there was nothing unusual about the incidents.

"In the long history of Swiss football we have also had plenty of decisions that have not gone our way, so I guess it's equal for all teams," Pont said.

"I think Domenech is maybe

SEE PAGE 24 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP

WHO'S FASTER? Switzerland's midfielder David Degen (R) and defender Christopher Spycher sprint during a practice session at Bad Bertrich on Tuesday.

'We can surprise again'

INTERNET, undated

South Korea's coach, Dick Advocaat, said Wednesday his footballers can surprise Switzerland again in this World Cup if individuals play as a team.

The South Korean players square off against Switzerland in Hanover on Friday in their last group match, which will decide their fate for the second round of 16.

"The good thing is, the South team really understands well the quality of their opponents and they can do the job if they work hard as a team," the Dutch coach said in a news conference held at Schloss Bensberg Hotel, where the squad is staying.

"But, you have to be realistic. If you really work hard, you can surprise again."

Asked about his strategy for the upcoming match, he simply said: "Scoring one more goal than Switzerland."

"The game will be interesting and there is still promise for the Korean team, and everything looks exciting."

"Switzerland team - 10 players of the team have played in the European league and they are a strong team," he said.

"But, if we play the way we have played, there is also a good chance to get a good result and we have a very exciting match."

Looking back on the 1-1 draw with France, he noted, "If you play a team like France, you have to be defensive because they're the better side. We're still realistic on that matter. South Korea is a very small football country compared to France."

He predicted his team can make history again, since everything is possible in football, even though Switzerland is a hard-working team with high-quality players.

"To be honest, I don't think there is big difference between Switzerland and Korea.

"They (Switzerland) are well organized, many players are

SEE PAGE 24 COL 1

ICE CREAM FESTIVAL
Igloo
A world of sweet delight!

Enjoy as much Igloo ice cream as you want for Tk. 200* only at Dhaka Sheraton Lobby Cafe.

21st to 25th June. Between 11am to 9pm.

Win an Entry Ticket to free with every coupon. Take part in a Lucky Draw and win existing prizes. Share your experiences with celebrities in an exclusive "Celebrity Adds".

*Offer valid for certain designated flavors only. On every ticket, only one person will be eligible to enjoy as many ice creams as he chooses at the rate of a single visit. Availability and Igloo locations may change the date, time, and rules of this program at any time at their sole discretion.