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Ukraine ride on Sheva penalty

Ukraine 1 Tunisia 0

AFP, Berlin

A dubious penalty won and taken by Andriy Shevchenko was enough to see Ukraine through to the next round of the World Cup at their first attempt as they beat 10-man Tunisia 1-0 here on Friday.

Shevchenko appeared to trip as he tussled for the ball with Tunisian defender Karim Haggui but Paraguayan referee Carlos Amarilla pointed straight to the spot and Shevchenko sent Tunisia goalkeeper Ali Boumnijel the wrong way with the kick after 70 minutes.

It was rough justice on the 2004 African Nations champions who should have been awarded one of their own minutes before when Andriy Voronin blatantly handled a goabound freekick from Anis Ayari but Amarilla was having none of it.

However their exit meant that they still haven't reached the second round of the competition in their history and more woe for coach Roger Lemerre, who is winless in six matches at two successive World Cups, having been in charge of France in 2002.

Voronin was also at fault the other end as he could have doubled Ukraine's advantage seconds before the whistle but misfired.

Ukraine will now face the winners of Group G -- which could be France, South Korea or Switzerland depending on results later in the

day -- in Cologne on Monday. The Ukrainians' breakthrough came after Ukraine had looked the most threatening in an untidy match littered with yellow cards in front of another 72,000 sellout crowd in the Olympic Stadium.

Tunisia's slim hopes of progressing suffered a body blow when striker Zied Jaziri was sent off just before half-time for a second yellow card after tripping Anatoliy Tymoschuk.

It had always looked as if Shevchenko would be the difference between the teams as his darting runs pulled the Tunisia defence apart.

He showed his class with a delightful backheader on the half-way line in the closing stages that left the Tunisian defence flat-footed but Oleg Shelayev shot harmlessly over the crossbar despite having time to control the ball and take aim.

Tunisia toiled but created few genuine goalscoring chances, although impressive defender Hatem Trabelsi drilled a shot wide in the 85th minute with their best opportunity of the second half.

STANDINGS						
GROUP H						
Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA
Spain	3	3	0	0	8	1
Ukraine	3	2	0	1	5	4
Tunisia	3	0	1	2	3	6
Saudi Arabia	3	0	1	2	2	7

The error-strewn first half saw few chances.

On 20 minutes, Tymoschuk forced Tunisia keeper Ali Boumnijel into a reflex save and Shevchenko badly miskicked with an attempted volley.

Shevchenko thrust forward on the half-hour mark after exchanging a neat one-two but he was bundled off the ball before he could shoot.

Ukraine will have to play their next match without Andriy Rusol and Vyacheslav Sviderskyi who earned suspensions for bookings.

TEAMS
 Ukraine: Oleksandr Shovkovskiy; Oleg Gusiev, Andriy Rusol, Vyacheslav Sviderskyi, Andriy Nesmachnyi; Sergei Rebrov (Andriy Vorobyey 54), Oleg Shelayev, Anatoliy Tymoschuk, Maksym Kalinichenko (Andriy Gusin 75); Andriy Shevchenko (Artem Milevskiy 88), Andriy Voronin.
 Yellow card: Sviderskyi (18), Shelayev (47), Tymoschuk (61), Rusol (65)
 Tunisia: Ali Boumnijel; Hatem Trabelsi, Radhi Jaïdi, Karim Haggui, Anis Ayari; Hamed Namouchi, Jawhar Mnari, Adel Cheddi (Santos 79), Medhi Nafti (Kaies Ghodhbane 90+1), Riadh Bouazizi (Chaouki Ben Saada 79); Ziad Jaziri.
 Yellow card: Jaziri (9), Bouazizi (43), Jaïdi (90)
 Red card: Ziad Jaziri (45+1)
 Referee: C Amarilla (Paraguay)
 Attendance: 72,000

All-win Spain

Spain 1 Saudi Arabia 0

AFP, Kaiserslautern

World Cup hopefuls Spain secured their objective of finishing top of Group H with a stuttering 1-0 win over whipping boys Saudi Arabia here on Friday.

Real Betis defender Juanito's header in the 37th minute was enough for Luis Aragones' side to seal their third win of the campaign and secure a second round match with the runner-up in Group G.

However after making three changes in the second half, Spain

coach Luis Aragones was left hanging his head in frustration by a second half in which the Saudis came close to levelling on several occasions.

Fielding a 'second string' starting lineup, it took a while for Spain to get into their stride before finishing the first half unlucky not to have scored more goals.

In the first half hour alone the lively Joaquin, Raul, David Albelda and Cesc Fabregas all had shots stopped by impressive Saudi keeper Mabrouk Zaid.

Arsenal forward Jose Antonio Reyes, who was substituted in the second half having made his World

Cup debut, then sent in a freekick which Juanito headed past the Al Ittihad keeper.

That opened up the floodgates, and despite a brief scare for Spain when Saudi legend Sami Al-Jaber saw his rare, and softly-hit shooting chance easily collected by Santiago Canizares, Spain were never really in trouble.

Raul, starting his 98th appearance in the starting lineup for the first time in the campaign, was replaced by David Villa for the second half.

The Valencia striker scored two goals in the 4-0 rout of Ukraine and his presence was felt almost immediately, although he stumbled after being sent through on the left and his cut-back for Lopez was shot was wide.

Saudi Arabia had a rare chance at goal moments later, but Canizares easily collected Hussein Sulimani's well-struck shot despite at first spilling it.

An angled shot from Joaquin then crept wide of Zaid's post after a string of passes around the Saudi area had the desert kingdom side's defence in tatters.

Saudi Arabia were beginning to find more space up front, however they were given little quarter by the Spanish defence.

Aragones then decided it was time for change, but after he replaced Fabregas with Barcelona's Xavi and, minutes later, Atletico Madrid's Fernando Torres for Reyes the fans were left wondering why.

Spain lost all shape, and the

banglalink g8al **banglalink picture of the day**



SORRY, YOU'VE TO GO: Paraguayan referee Carlos Amarilla (R) issues a card to Tunisian forward Ziad Jaziri (not in picture) as Ukraine's Andriy Rusol looks on during their final World Cup Group H match at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on Friday.

TODAY'S MATCHES
 ALL MATCHES LIVE ON ESPN.
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TEAM	TIME	VENUE
Germany v Sweden*	8:50 pm	Munich
Argentina v Mexico	12:50 am (Sunday)	Leipzig

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LEADING SCORERS
 AFP, Berlin

World Cup leading scorers after Friday's Group-H matches:

- 4 - Klose (Germany)
- 3 - Fernando Torres (Spain)
- 2 - Bosacki (Poland), Bravo (Mexico), T Cahilli (Australia), Crespo (Argentina), Delgado (Ecuador), Dindane (Ivory Coast), Gerrard (England), Maxi Rodriguez (Argentina), Ronaldo (Brazil), Rosicky (Czech Republic), Shevchenko (Ukraine), C Tenorio (Ecuador), Villa (Spain), Wanchope (Costa Rica)
- 1 - Adriano (Brazil), Ahn Jung-hwan (South Korea), Al Jaber (Saudi Arabia),

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'Japan have a long way to go'

AFP, Dortmund

before the lopsided game against unscathed Brazil.

"Japan did not lose out today. We already stumbled in the Australia game," said Zico, who played in three World Cups but never won the title.

"Brazil played with a calm frame of mind and at ease after qualifying. They were so fast that it was hard for us to mark them," said Zico, who served as a technical adviser to Brazil when they lost to France in the 1998 World Cup title showdown.

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, an old friend of Zico's, praised Japan for their "quick game."

He said: "They were fast on counterattacks. They had a strong right side and their midfield pressed up front."

Zico, 53, said he had installed "continuity" in Japan's national team since taking over from French firebrand Philippe Troussier, who guided the Asians to the round of 16 in 2002 in their second World Cup finals.

"They have defects and dreams as well. They have tasted both victories and defeats. They have reached the World Cup finals on their own. I have given all I have," he said.

"Japan have been growing all along and must grow further to become a great team," said Zico, who has been involved in Japanese football for 15 years, firstly as a player.

He saw the birth of the country's first professional league J-League in 1993 and served as technical director of Kashima Antlers.

"In a decade after their professional league started, Japan have become a team to attract attention

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THIRD EYE

AL MUSABBIR SADI

The trademark twists and turns are back. So is the Phenomenon. Good news for Brazil. The way Ronaldo's teammates have showed patience to get him in shape and return as the real Ronaldo -- now all-time top scorer in World Cup finals alongside Germany's Gerd Muller with 14 goals -- has paid dividends. His two goals helped the world champions come from a goal down and beat their own Zico's Japan 4-1. The Asians, needing a win, were eliminated to a side that looked on way to change gears after off-day victories against Croatia and Australia.

Brazil, without the likes of Cafu, Roberto Carlos, Emerson, Ze Roberto and Adriano in the starting lineup, had yet to unravel their best but hit back after Keiji Tamada's spectacular goal with Ronaldo's headed equaliser and three stunners by World Cup debutants

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FIFA World Cup 2006 Quiz

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