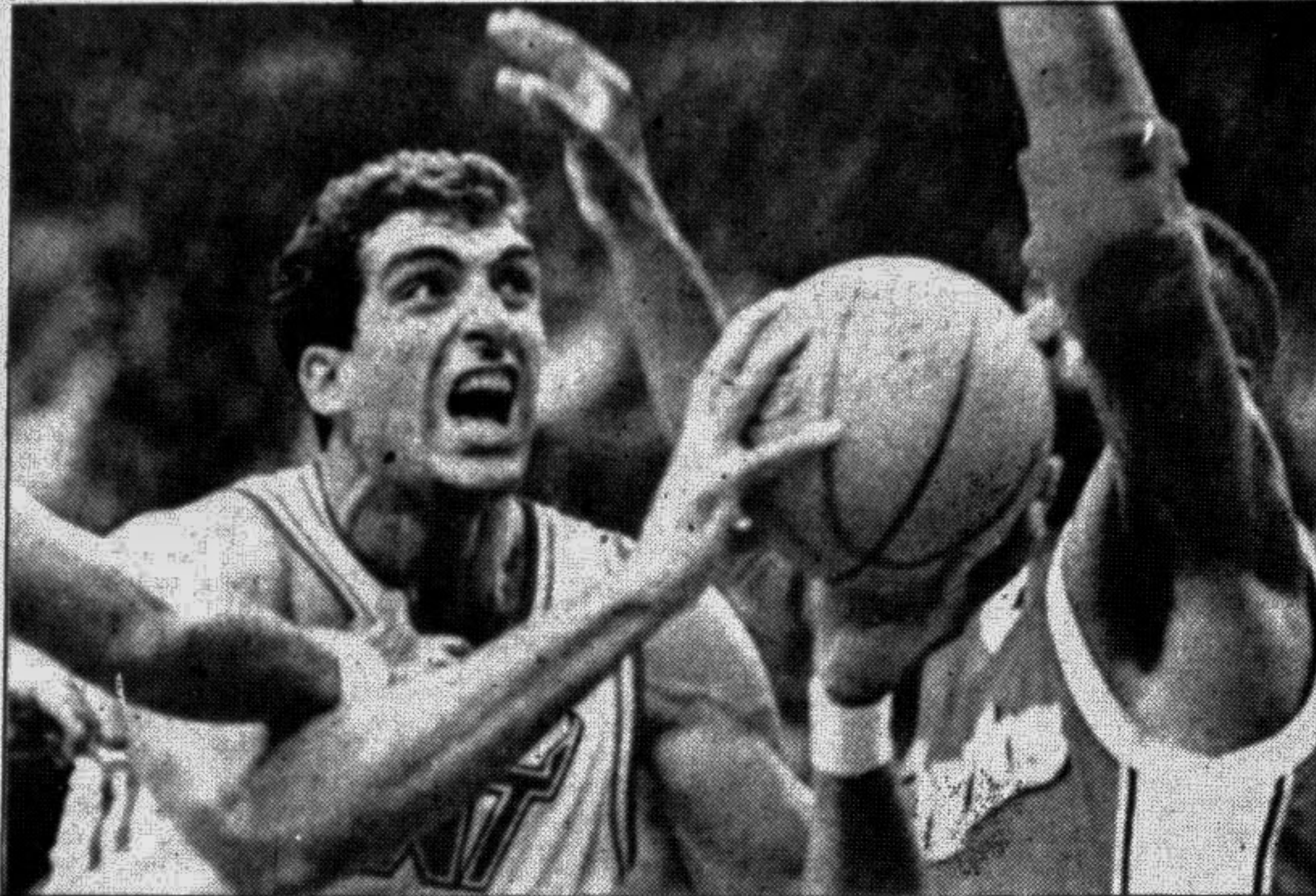


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Miami Heat centre Rony Seikaly (L) drives past Atlanta Hawks centre Kevin Willis during their third game in the NBA playoff series in Miami on Tuesday. The Heat won 90-86.

Dispute over bid to host 2002 finals

Havelange offers to mediate

HONG KONG, May 4: FIFA president Joao Havelange will attempt to make peace between World Cup rivals Japan and South Korea at the Asian Football Confederation congress next week, reports AFP.

South Korea has stepped up its bid. Seoul has a lot of support even though FIFA officials have insisted that South and North Korea would have to jointly host the finals.

Velappan fears a split vote over the nomination which could let a non-Asian candidate sneak in. He is now counting on the joint bid idea patching over divisions within the Confederation behind the rival countries.

"Certainly this has tremendous potential, and I know that Havelange will be able to see this and play a leading role," said Velappan.

"This would help establish forever the popularity of football in Japan and help lead to the reunification of the two Koreas."

"Even if the peace bid succeeds, the World Cup rivalry will dominate the five-day meeting. Japan and South Korea are involved in a separate battle over who becomes Asia's FIFA vice-president."

The heads of the Japanese and South Korean World Cup bids — Tadao Murata and Chung moon-Jung — are standing for the post. Sheikh Ahmad Fahad of Kuwait and Mohammed Bin Hammam from Qatar are also in the fray.



JOAO HAVELANGE

Bayern bury Nuremberg

BONN, May 4: Bayern Munich produced the perfect response to the controversial order to replay a league match against Nuremberg by crushing their opponents 5-0 on Tuesday to seize back control of the German championship race, reports Reuter.

The tide turned two minutes after the break when Mehmet Schol, bidding for a place in Germany's World Cup squad, drove home a cross from the edge of the penalty area.

He followed up by curling in a free kick in the 59th minute as Nuremberg were still reeling from the sending-off of

Kubik for a professional foul on Marcel Witzcek. Nuremberg's defence crumbled, opening the way for substitute Bruno Labadie to notch two goals in the 76th and 88th minute, separated by a first Bundesliga goal from Dieter Hamann.

Bayern's only remaining title rivals, Kaiserslautern, must now win at Hamburg on Saturday to have any chance of repeating their surprise 1991 title success — and hope for an unlikely Bayern defeat.

Bayern's crushing victory gave them a three-goal advantage over Kaiserslautern, meaning that even a draw on Saturday could be enough to give them the championship.

"I've said all along we needed to win both home matches. Now we want to make sure we beat Schalke to become champions, regardless of what Kaiserslautern do in Hamburg," Beckenbauer said.

Tough sentences

PARIS, May 4: Under-scoring France's get-tough attitude toward an upsurge of soccer hooliganism, a court Tuesday sentenced 10 young men to prison terms for attacking police during riots at a match last year, reports AP.

Boston braces for WC fever

BOSTON, May 4: It's the biggest international sports event ever to hit the area, and boosters already are sweating the details coming World Cup soccer games, reports AP.

For one thing, bookings for what is expected to be an economic windfall are 50 per cent below projections.

For another, planners are fretting about coaxing restaurants to keep European hours and finding places for foreign visitors to smoke.

"This event hasn't sunk in with a lot of people yet," said Terry Driscoll, a former professional basketball player who is coordinating the six World Cup games that will be played at Foxboro Stadium from June 21 to July 9.

An estimated 70,000 visitors, many of them foreign, are expected for the games. Argentina, Greece, South Korea, Bolivia and Nigeria will play in Foxboro.

Organisers pulled out all the stops in a news conference Tuesday, timed to coincide with National Tourism Week. A World Cup mascot, looking like the cartoon character Deputy Dawg, was called in. Continuous videotape of soccer highlights was shown. And welcome messages in the languages of the visiting teams were displayed. There even was an ice sculpture in the shape of a soccer trophy.

"Come for soccer, stay for the city," is the message



World Cup enthusiasts are expected to bring \$43 million to Massachusetts, where international visitors spent \$750 million in all of last year.

"Seventy-thousand visitors will provide a real shot in the arm," said Lt. Gov Paul Cellucci. "There's no telling what the impact will be in the future, when people who liked what they saw and did here come back for another visit."

About 100,000 hotel rooms

Valderrama Colombia's hero

MIAMI, May 4: Colombian star midfielder Carlos Valderrama was in top form on Tuesday as he helped spark his team to a 1-0 victory over Peru in the four-nation Copa Miami soccer tournament, reports Reuter.

Valderrama, a two-time South American player-of-the-year, suffered a serious knee injury the last time he played in Miami in February.

But in his first full international match since returning from the injury, Valderrama assisted on the games' only goal, which came in the 61st minute.

Harold Lozano took a pass from Valderrama near the top of the penalty area and chipped the ball over the head of charging Peruvian goalkeeper Miguel Miranda and into the net.

Several minutes later Valderrama nearly scored an unassisted goal from the same area, but the left-footed shot was blocked.

Afterwards, Colombian midfielder Gabriel Gomez said Valderrama's presence "helped a lot."

"He's not 100 per cent yet, having played only three or four games, but he's getting better with each game."

Peru, playing a man short after Carlos Basombrio was sent off in the 28th minute, nearly tied the match in the 77th minute. Ronald Baroni's header off a cross from Roberto Palacios was batted away by Colombian goalie Oscar Cordoba. Another header by Baroni bounced off the left goal post in the 52nd minute.

"I thought we did enough to get a tie, but playing with 10 men against Colombia is very difficult," Baroni said.

Colombia, considered a strong contender for this year's World Cup, played without top strikers Faustino Asprilla, Freddy Rincon, and Jose Valencia. Their absence contributed to the low score, but Colombia still dominated play.

"When the team is complete, it will be different," Gomez said. "There will be more goals scored. We're on the right path."

Colombia will play El Salvador in the championship match on Thursday.

El Salvador beat Honduras 3-1 in the night's first match, with all three goals scored by Raul Ignacio Diaz Arce in the first half.

Big bucks for Bulgarians

SOFIA, May 4: Bulgaria's national soccer players can earn bonuses of up to 100,000 dollar each if they have a good run in the World Cup finals, a senior official said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Christo Yosphov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Football Union, said the size of the bonuses would depend on the Union's share of the World Cup profits from the International Football Federation (FIFA).

"In any case our footballers will receive up to 100,000 dollar," Yosphov said.

He said Bulgaria would play a friendly in the United Arab Emirates on May 26 as part of their World Cup warm-up.

Ajax beaten

AMSTERDAM, May 4: Relegation-threatened FC Groningen ruined newly-crowned Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam's celebration party when they beat them 2-0 at their De Meer Stadium on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Ajax won their 24th Dutch title on Sunday when they beat Heerenveen, but they failed to live up to their new status against a Groningen side still battling to avoid the relegation play-offs.

Harris Huizing opened the scoring when he fired past recalled Ajax goalkeeper Stanley Menzo in the 28th minute. Menzo, who had not played in the first team for over a year, had to pick the ball out of the net for a second time 15 minutes after halftime when Ronald Hamming made it 2-0.

Groningen could have turned Ajax's night and Swede Stefan Pettersson's farewell in front of a 17,500 crowd even more depressing, had Ulrich Wilson not missed a penalty. Pettersson leaves Ajax at the end of the season to return home to play for IFK Gothenburg.

Feyenoord Rotterdam ensured they will finish runners-up after beating third-placed PSV Eindhoven 2-1 in front of 26,860 spectators in Rotterdam.

Winger Peter Hoekstra gave PSV the lead in the 23rd minute, but two headers by Feyenoord defender John de Wolf in the 60th and 85th minute gave his team victory.

Bolivia back with a vengeance

LAPAZ, May 4: As far as their critics are concerned, Bolivia's best player is invisible, makes the opposition feel breathless and dizzy and won't be available to play in the United States, reports Reuter.

Detractors say Bolivia would never have reached the finals without the advantage of playing their home games 3,600 metres above sea level in the rarified air of Lapaz.

How else, they argue, could one of South America's least successful nations reach the finals, eliminating much-fancied Uruguay in the process?

Of course, the other side of the argument is that Bolivia have always had the advantage — but failed to reach the finals since 1950.

The answer is, that this time, Bolivia have a team worthy of being involved and the Bolivians will have no greater opportunity to prove their doubters' wrong than in their first game, when they will take centre stage.

Last December's draw put Bolivia into the same first round group as South Korea, Spain and champions Germany — and pitched them straight into the spotlight.

It is traditional at the World Cup for the defending champions to play the first match of the tournament following their title success — and Germany and Bolivia will get the 1994 World Cup underway when they meet each other on the afternoon of Friday, June 17, in Chicago.

With the eyes of the world on them, Bolivia will be all the

more eager to avoid a repeat of their last match in the finals on July 2, 1950 when they were thrashed 8-0 by Uruguay at Belo Horizonte in Brazil.

Forty-four years have passed since, during which the un-sung Bolivians have repeatedly failed to qualify for the tournament.

Their only other appearance in the finals was in the inaugural 1930 competition when no qualifying was required and they were ham-

pered 4-0 in both their games by Yugoslavia and Brazil.

Consequently, Bolivia have often been considered 'the weakest South American soccer nation apart from Venezuela and their qualification was a major surprise.

Their record in reaching the finals adds ammunition to those who think the abundance of oxygen in the United States will hinder their progress.

"They won all four games in Lapaz and in doing so handed Brazil their first ever defeat in a World Cup qualifying match. But in away games they could

beat only the lowly Venezuelans.

"I'm not going to watch them in Lapaz because their style there is completely different from what it will be at the World Cup," said Germany trainer Berti Vogts after the draw was made.

The Bolivians have other ideas, claiming there has been a genuine improvement in playing standards in a country which has won only one international title — the 1963 South American Championship played in Bolivia.

The evidence in their favour: — until recently, Bolivia were not capable of beating the likes of Brazil even when playing in Lapaz.

— in last year's Copa America, playing all three games at sea level, Bolivia held Colombia and Mexico to draws and were unlucky to lose 1-0 to eventual Copa America winners Argentina.

— in the qualifying matches, they were beaten 2-1 away by Uruguay only after conceding two highly controversial goals which led to an official protest to the International Football Federation.

Their Spanish coach Xabier Azkargorta, whose playing career in Spain was cut short by injury, and the youth training academy Tahuichi share the credit with the attitude for taking Bolivia to the World Cup.

The 42-year-old Basque, appointed in 1992, has drilled some tactical awareness into the previously undisciplined

players and helped them overcome a chronic lack of confidence.

"Our opponents are human just like us. We won't be beaten by a negative attitude," he said on taking over. "We used to take the field losing 1-0."

The Tahuichi youth academy, set up in the lowland city of Sant Cruz de La Sierra to give training to children, is known in coaching circles worldwide for its ability to turn out talented players.

Bolivia's top player, attacking midfielder Marco 'the devil' Etcheverry, learnt is trade at Tahuichi, as did striker Erwin 'Platini' Sanchez, who is nicknamed 'after the former French international.

Bolivia's other key men are striker William Ramallo, who has become used to playing alone in attack, veteran midfielder Milton Melgar and 38-year-old Carlos Borja.

Etcheverry has yet to fully recover from an injury suffered in November while playing in a Chilean League match for his club side Colo Colo but is still expected to make the World Cup.

Azkargorta will take his team on a month-long training camp in Spain interspersed with a series of touch friendlies away to Romania, Greece and France, plus matches against Cameroon and Saudi Arabia on neutral ground.

And that would represent very tangible reward indeed after almost half-a-century's absence from soccer's showpiece tournament.

PHILIPS WorldCupUSA94 Quiz Competition. The Daily Star logo. Winner: a trip to the World Cup Final at Los Angeles.

Prizes: Powervision CTV 21" (1st Prize) Tk.26,950; Philips BW TV 17" (2nd Prize) Tk.7,200; Turbo Stereo Recorder (3rd Prize) Tk.5,500; 4 Dozens of Philips Bulbs (4th Prize) Tk.1,200 X 5 Prizes.

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COMPETITION RULES. INTRODUCTION: The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94 is a series of 60 quiz competitions... RULES: Residents of Bangladesh, subject to these rules, will be eligible to participate...

Quiz 4. Entries close on 16-5-94. Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (✓) the answer which you think is correct. 1. Who scored Holland's goal in the 1974 final? Neeskens, Cruyff, Resenbrink... 2. When did Brazil first win the World Cup? 1954, 1958, 1970... 3. Which Asian country played in the 1966 World Cup? DPR Korea, Iran, Israel... 4. Which African country played in the 1970 World Cup? Zaire, Morocco, Tunisia... 5. How many goals did the Hungarian team score in the 1954 World Cup? 9, 18, 27... 6. Which Brazilian scored in every round of the 1970 World Cup? Pele, Tostao, Jairzinho... 7. How many players did France use in the 1978 World Cup? 11, 18, 22... 8. How many goals did England score in the 1986 World Cup? 7, 9, 11... 9. Who was Brazil's Cup-winning captain in 1962? Zito, Mauro, Alberto... 10. Which famous player was called the 'Little Bird'? Boniek, Zico, Garrincha... NAME: _____ AGE: _____ ADDRESS: _____ FATHER'S NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____ OCCUPATION: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ Write with a ball-point pen in clear, CAPITAL LETTERS. Cut along the dotted lines and mail it to us FAST!