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There's no sin in dreaming

BOGOTA, Colombia, June 7: Colombia, who hadn't played in the World Cup for 28 years, made it to the second round in 1990. Four years later, some give the Colombians a chance of winning, reports AP.

"There's no sin in dreaming," coach Francisco Matuana said.

With Faustino Asprilla, who scored 10 goals for Parma in Italy, and Adolfo Valencia, who scored 11 for Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich, Colombia should have one of the top attacks in the tournament.

"The key to the World Cup is playing each game as though it were the championship," Valencia said.

Goalkeeper Rene Higuita, his career sidelined by a stay in prison, isn't on the team. The focus then will be on the centre of the field, on Carlos Valderrama, the one with the floppy blond hair.

Bu the undisputed star is Asprilla, considered one of the top forwards in the world.

"He has everything to become No 1 in the world," says Eusebio, who led the 1966 World Cup in scoring with nine goals for Portugal. "He is a phenomenon."

Valderrama played in France for Montpellier and in Spain for Valladolid, but is now back home. Freddy Rincon plays for Palmeiras in Brazil.

"My going to Brazil was important," Rincon said. "I earned a lot of experience on an athletic and personal level."

Players on Colombia's bench include forwards Ivan Valencia, Anthony Avila and Victor Hugo Arizabal. Goalkeeper Farid Mondragon will back up Oscar Cordoba, who replaced Higuita.

"Colombia is going to go far in the World Cup," Cordoba predicted.

Luis Carlos Perea, recuperating from surgery on the right knee, and Andres Escobar are considered the heart of the

defence. Luis Fernando Herrera and Wilson Prez play on the wings and often move forward.

"I have a lot of expectations for the World Cup," Asprilla said, "because I know what the team is capable of doing."

It was capable enough to beat Argentina 5-0 at Buenos Aires to clinch a spot in the 24-team field. Colombia at one point had a 28-game unbeaten streak, most of it against top quality international opposition.

Maturana, a dentist, is considered the best coach Colombia ever has produced. He smiles when pondering the success of the soccer team.

Colombia often are criticised for their drug cartels, which reportedly have controlled various elite teams in the country. But the coach tries to stay above that, and keep the team above that, too.

"Colombia needed this," he said. "This country has suffered a lot. Soccer helps relieve the pain."

Bangladesh lose again

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh suffered their second successive defeat in the 29th Asian Youth football championship when they went down 0-2 to Syria in the Saudi city of Al Khassim on Monday.

Bangladesh who were thrashed by hosts Saudi Arabia 0-5 in their opening Group A round robin league match on Saturday, held their fancied opponents to a goalless first half before conceding two goals in a span of ten minutes during the second session.

Pakistan's SL tour itinerary

COLOMBO, June 7: Pakistan will play three Tests and three one-day internationals during their five-week tour of Sri Lanka beginning in July, the Cricket Board announced here Tuesday, reports AFP.

In addition to the main encounters, the visitors will also play two three-day games.

ITINERARY

July 21: Arrival July 23 to 25: Three-day match against Galle District Cricket Association in Galle.

July 28 to 30: Three-day match against Kurunegala District Cricket Association in Kurunegala.

Aug 1: Limited overs match against Gampaha District Cricket Association in Gampaha.

Aug 3: 1st one-day international (day-night) at Khetarama Stadium in Colombo.

Aug 6: 2nd one-day international at Khetarama Stadium in Colombo.

Aug 7: 3rd one-day international at Tyronne Fernando Stadium in Moratuwa.

Aug 9 to 14: 1st Test at P Sara Stadium in Colombo.

Aug 16 to 21: 2nd Test at Singhalese Sports Club Grounds in Colombo.

Aug 24 to 29: 3rd Test at Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy.

LARA — TRANSCENDENTAL TRINIDADIAN



LONDON, June 7: Brian Lara wrote the cricket record books on Monday with the world's highest first-class innings of 501 not out, reports Reuter.

Playing for Warwickshire in their county championship match against Durham at Edgbaston, Birmingham, West Indies batsman Lara beat the previous mark of 499 by Pakistani Hanif Mohammad for Karachi against Bahawalpur in the 1958-59 season.

Dropped by Durham wicketkeeper Chris Scott when he had scored only 18 on the second day of the rain-hit game on Friday, Lara reached the landmark by cover driving occasional bowler John Morris for four.

Trinidadian left-hander Lara, who holds the world's highest Test score of 375 has now hit seven centuries in his last eight first-class innings.

That sequence started with his 375 in the fifth and final Test against England in Antigua in April and continued when he came to Warwickshire shortly afterwards.

In his first county season Lara has championship scores of 147 v Glamorgan, 106 and 120 not out v Leicestershire, 136 v Somerset, 26 and 140 v Middlesex and 501 not out v Durham.

Lara, characteristically, was down to earth when he spoke about his innings. "It's nice to have records and be on top but I've still got a lot of cricket ahead of me and I need to be more consistent," he said.

There were only two deliveries of the match remaining when Lara faced Morris with his score 497, but he needed

just one to make cricket history.

"I didn't realise we were in the last over until four balls had been bowled," said Lara. "(Non-striker) Keith (Piper) came up to me and said there were only two deliveries left."

The Trinidadian, who batted in total for nearly eight hours and struck 10 sixes and 62 fours, added: "Records are there to be broken and I'm happy to be the one doing it."

"If the records I have set are broken I hope I am the one doing it. It's hard to compare my Test 375 with 501 here... you just have to cherish both of them."

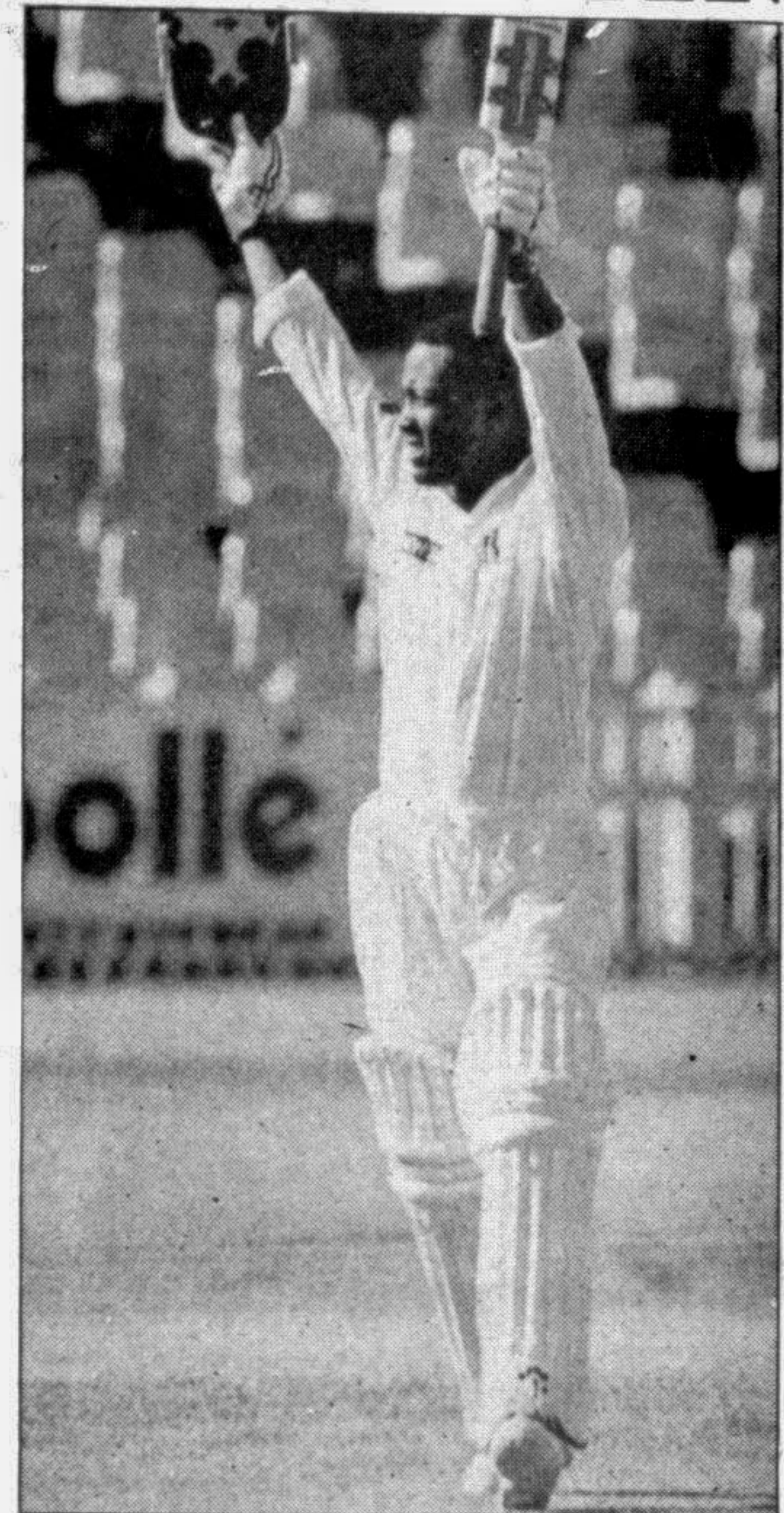
Lara's performance transcended all else in Monday's county cricket, though his West Indies teammate Desmond Haynes would have taken a measure of satisfaction from his first first-class century for almost a year.

Opener Haynes completed his 55th career hundred in 129 balls for Middlesex as they pursued 349 in a minimum 80 overs to beat Worcestershire at Lord's.

Haynes has struggled this season, scoring 73 runs in six innings, but struck three sixes and 15 fours in his return to form. Even so, Middlesex ended on 304 for eight and the game was drawn.

Dutch-born pace bowler Andre van Troost seized three wickets for no runs in nine deliveries as Somerset snatched their first championship win of the season after four consecutive defeats.

They beat Hampshire by 87 runs at Taunton, having set a target of 333 after two innings were forfeited in a rain-hit match.



REX OF RECORD'S REALM: Would you mind if anyone tags this agnomen to this exulting youngman's name? Most batsmen have to go through motions like that to acknowledge the applause from the stands on reaching three figure marks. But West Indian Brian Lara has of late developed the habit of resorting to such ecstatic expressionism for feats of much higher significance. Here he celebrates his latest exploit — the highest individual score in first class cricket.

— AFP photo

Dream for men, not for US eves



WASHINGTON, June 7: A World Championship may be a pipe dream for the US men's football team, but for America's women it's an accomplished fact, reports AFP.

The women's team became the only US football team ever to win a global tournament when they took out the inaugural FIFA Women's World Championships in 1991.

And coach Anson Dorrance believes the arrival of the World Cup on American shores will boost the women's game right along with the men's as US fans gain a better understanding of the passions of football.

"What it's going to do is give

America a very positive image of the world game," Dorrance said. "In America, unfortunately, the image of the World cup isn't very vivid."

With little fanfare, the US women stormed through CONCACAF qualifying for the 1991 World Championships, outscoring opponents 49-0.

At the finals in China, the United States beat Sweden, Brazil and Japan in the first round, then pounded Taiwan 7-0 in the second round.

They beat Germany 5-2 in the semi-finals, and won the championship match against Norway 2-1.

While the men's squad struggles to gain international respect, the women are leading the way in a worldwide explosion in the women's soccer.

"Unlike in the men's game, where we don't have a high level of competition, on the women's side the NCAA (University) tournament has the best teams in the world," Dorrance said.

"So our women get a change to compete at the highest level, which our men lack. The highest level for men here doesn't compare with the Italian First Division or the English Premiership."

The very fact that soccer is not the premier men's sport in the United States may help the women's game, said Shawn Ladda, coach of Columbia University's team.

In many countries, soccer traditionalists have scoffed at the idea of women playing football.

FACTS AND FIGURES OF PAST SOCCER WORLD CUPS

1930 URUGUAY

| | |
|--|---|
| Played in Montevideo Official Name of the Competition: I FIFA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP The Trophy: called FIFA WORLD CUP later called (as from 1946): JULES RIMET CUP | |
| At that time FIFA had 46 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS FIFA President was JULES RIMET (France) Number of entries for the Preliminary Competition NIL (Tournament by invitation) The 13 Participants of the Final Competition | |
| ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY, BELGIUM, PERU, BOLIVIA, ROMANIA, BRAZIL, URUGUAY, CHILE, USA, FRANCE, YUGOSLAVIA, MEXICO | |
| FINAL COMPETITION—13.30.7.1930 | |
| Group 1 France v Mexico.....4:1 Argentina v France.....1:0 Chile v Mexico.....3:0 Chile v France.....1:0 Argentina v Mexico.....6:3 Argentina v Chile.....3:1 | Group 2 Yugoslavia v Brazil.....2:1 Yugoslavia v Bolivia.....4:0 Brazil v Bolivia.....4:0 |
| Group 3 Romania v Peru.....3:1 Uruguay v Peru.....1:0 Uruguay v Romania.....4:0 | Group 4 USAv Belgium.....3:0 USA v Paraguay.....3:0 Paraguay v Belgium.....1:0 |
| Standings after Group Matches: | |
| Group 1 1 Argentina 3 3 0 0 10:4 6 2 Chile 3 2 0 1 5:3 4 3 France 3 1 0 2 4:3 2 4 Mexico 3 0 0 3 4:13 0 | Group 2 1 Yugoslavia 2 2 0 0 6:1 4 2 Brazil 2 1 0 1 5:2 2 3 Bolivia 2 0 0 2 0:8 0 |
| Group 3 1 Uruguay 2 2 0 0 5:0 4 2 Romania 2 1 0 1 3:5 2 3 Peru 2 0 0 2 1:4 0 | Group 4 1 USA 2 2 0 0 6:0 4 2 Paraguay 2 1 0 1 1:3 2 3 Belgium 2 0 0 2 0:4 0 |
| 1/2 Finals Argentina v USA.....6:1 Uruguay v Yugoslavia.....6:1 | |
| Final Uruguay v Argentina.....4:2 Goals: 1:0, 1:1, 1:2, 2:2, 3:2, 4:2 Goalscorers: Dorado, Cea, Iriarte, Castro for Uruguay; Peucelle, Stabile for Argentina | |
| The World Champion Team Ballesteros; Nasazzi (captain), Mascheroni, Andrade, Fernandez, Gestido, Dorado, Scarone, Castro, Cea, Iriarte | |
| The Runner-up Team Botasso; Della Torre, Paternoster, Evaristo J. Monti, Suarez, Peucelle, Varallo, Stabile, Ferreyra (captain), Evaristo M. | |
| Referee of the Final Match: JOHN LANGENUS (Belgium) | |
| Best Goalscorer: STABILE (Argentina) 8 goals | |
| Total Number of Spectators 547,308 in 18 matches | |
| First World Champion 1930 URUGUAY | |

1934 ITALY

| | |
|---|--|
| Played in Rome (3 matches), Florence (3), Milan (3), Bologna (2), Naples (2), Turin (2), Genova (1), Trieste (1) | |
| Official Name of the Competition I FIFA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP The Trophy: called FIFA WORLD CUP later called (as from 1946): JULES RIMET CUP | |
| At that time, FIFA had 53 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS FIFA President was JULES RIMET (France) Number of entries for the Preliminary Competition 31 | |
| The 16 Participants of the Final Competition ARGENTINA, HUNGARY, AUSTRIA, ITALY, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, BRAZIL, ROMANIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SPAIN, EGYPT, SWEDEN, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, GERMANY, USA | |
| 1/8 Finals Austria v France.....3:2 Hungary v Egypt.....4:2 Spain v Brazil.....3:1 Italy v USA.....7:1 Germany v Belgium.....5:2 Sweden v Argentina.....3:2 Switzerland v Netherlands.....3:2 Czechoslovakia v Romania.....2:1 | |
| 1/4 Finals Austria v Hungary.....2:1 Spain v Italy.....1:1 Italy v Spain (repetition).....1:0 Germany v Sweden.....2:1 Czechoslovakia v Switzerland.....3:2 | |
| 1/2 Finals Italy v Austria.....1:0 Czechoslovakia v Germany.....3:1 | |
| 3rd Place Match Germany v Austria.....3:2 | |
| Final Italy v Czechoslovakia.....2:1 after extra-time | |
| Goals: 0:1, 1:1, 2:1 Goalscorers: Orsi, Schiavo for Italy; Puc for Czechoslovakia | |
| Total Number of Spectators 408,602 in 17 matches | |
| The World Champions so far 1930—URUGUAY 1934—ITALY | |

Size matters in batting, says Hanif



LONDON, June 7: Hanif Mohammad, who knows a thing or two about batting records, says the secret of Brian Lara's success is all down to his size, reports Reuter.

West Indies Test batsman Lara smashed Hanif's world record first-class score of 499 on Monday, plundering an unbeaten 501 for Warwickshire in their county championship match against Durham at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Hanif known as Pakistan's "Little Master" during his heady years of high scoring in the 1950s and 1960s, said after being told his record had fallen to Lara: "It's all in the height, I believe."

Former Pakistan captain Hanif, speaking in an interview on British radio, said: "Lara is very short and many other short Test players have scored lots of runs, like me, Sir Don



HANIF MOHAMMAD

Bradman and Sir Len Hutton. "It is a magnificent achievement to score 501 in first-class cricket. I knew he was capable of it because he broke the world record in Test cricket. I've been watching him for the last three years and he's a magnificent cricketer."

Hanif was not surprised that his record, for Karachi against Bahawalpur in the 1958-59 season, had been beaten.

Records are meant to be broken," he said. "That is my belief. When I got 499, people started saying that nobody could break that. But I said 'I

broke the world record of Sir Don Bradman after so many years so records are meant to be broken."

While the cricket world marvelled at Lara's latest feat, it apparently came as no surprise to his 63-year-old mother Pearl in Trinidad.

"I'm happy for him and I expect him to do great things but it doesn't surprise me. He always lived up to the expectations," she said from her home in the eastern Cantaro village.

"He likes to make runs and when he gets out there (on the pitch), he just wants to make runs and he makes quite a lot."

The mother of 11 children and 21 grandchildren, Pearl said her only regret was that his father Bunty, who died in 1989, was not around to see his performance and share in the happiness.

Left-hander Lara, who made the world's highest Test score of 375 against England in Antigua last April, has now struck

seven centuries in his last eight first-class innings.

The speed with which Lara has risen to power prompted former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd to say: "He's done it all in such a short time."

"None of the other great players achieved so much so quickly. If he plays for another 15 years it is difficult to imagine what he might achieve."

Lara, whose unbeaten 501 was made out of Warwickshire's first innings of 810 for four declared in a drawn four-day match accepts the plaudits with grace and modesty.

"It's nice to have records and be on top but I've still got a lot of cricket ahead of me and I need to be more consistent. I don't think I'm a great cricketer," he said.

Lara plans a short break back home in the Caribbean later this week.

"I'll try to slip into Trinidad quietly," he said. Now that would be an achievement.



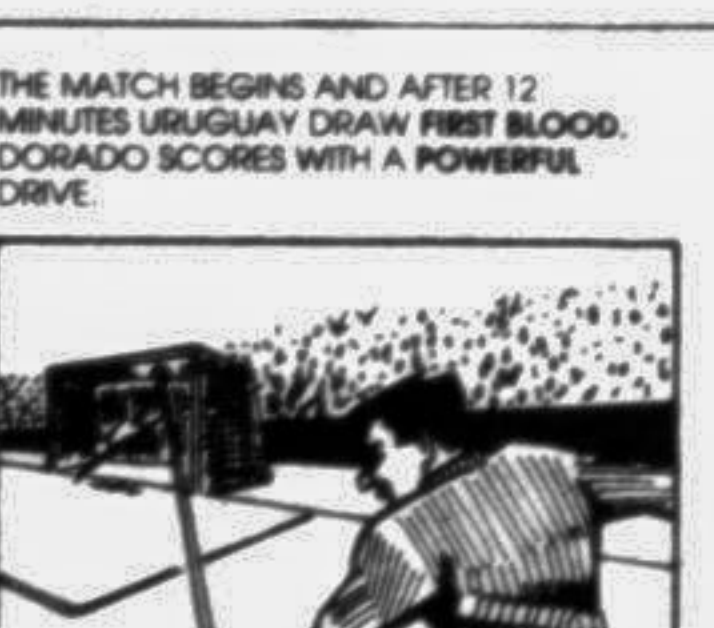
BUT THE AMERICANS' LIMITATIONS ARE EXPOSED IN THE SEMI-FINAL AND THEY CRASH 6-1 TO THE EXPERIENCED ARGENTINIAN SIDE. HOSTS URUGUAY WIN THEIR SEMI BY THE SAME SCORE TO SET UP A CRUCIAL MATCH BETWEEN THE TWO ARCH-ENEMIES.



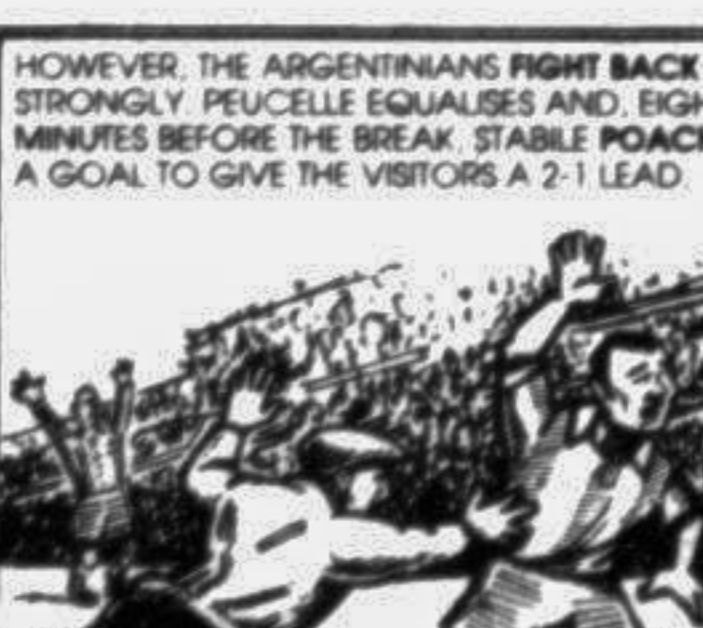
ON THE EVE OF THE FINAL, BOATLOADS OF ARGENTINIAN FANS CROSS THE RIVER PLATE AND THERE IS TENSION AS THE POLICE SEARCH THEM FOR WEAPONS.



BEFORE THE KICK-OFF THERE IS MORE DRAMA. BOTH SIDES WANT TO USE THEIR OWN BALL. THE REFEREE, COMPLETE WITH PLUS-FOURS, ARBITRATES BY TOSsing A COIN.



THE MATCH BEGINS AND AFTER 12 MINUTES URUGUAY DRAW FIRST BLOOD. DORADO SCORES WITH A POWERFUL DRIVE.



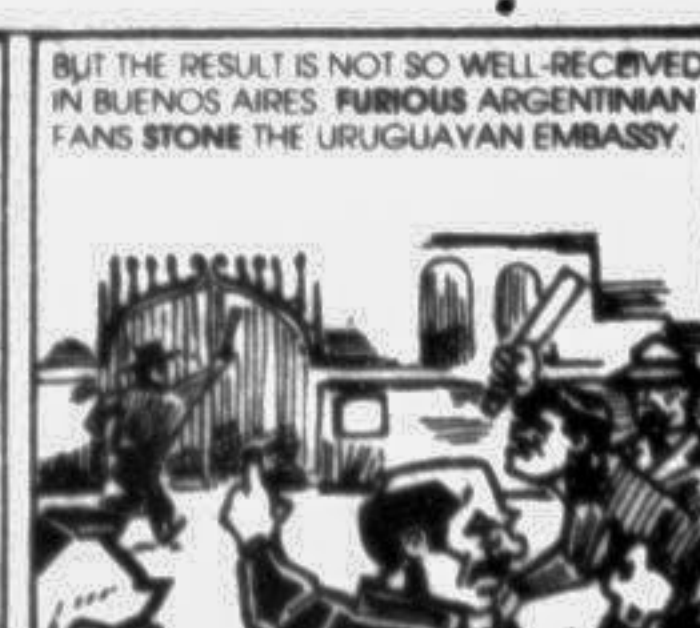
HOWEVER, THE ARGENTINIANS FIGHT BACK. STRONGLY PEUCELLE EQUALISES AND EIGHT MINUTES BEFORE THE BREAK, STABILE POACHES A GOAL TO GIVE THE VISITORS A 2-1 LEAD.



IN THE SECOND HALF, URUGUAY'S TECHNICAL SUPERIORITY SEES THEM DOMINATE ONCE MORE. THEY SCORE TWICE TO GO AHEAD AND, IN THE FINAL MINUTE, THE ONE-HANDED CASTRO SEALS VICTORY.



THE HOME TEAM ARE WORTHY CHAMPIONS. MONTevideo GOES WILD.



BUT THE RESULT IS NOT SO WELL-RECEIVED IN BUENOS AIRES. FURIOUS ARGENTINIAN FANS STONE THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY.

THE WORLD CUP HAS WELL AND TRULY ARRIVED!