



# WORLD CUP USA '94



## Azzurris fail to impress

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, June 12: In-form striker Giuseppe Signori netted his third goal in as many games to give World Cup finalists Italy a laboured 1-0 win over Costa Rica in a friendly international on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi will doubtless have been hoping for a more convincing performance than his team produced in their final test ahead of the eagerly anticipated World Cup opener with Ireland in New York on June 18.

But he can have no complaints about Signori, who is relishing the striking role he has been given after previously being forced to play out of position in midfield for Italy.

Top scorer in Italian soccer in the past two seasons, the Lazio man swivelled and struck home a low shot with his trusty left-foot in the 65th minute after a dribble by European footballer-of-the-year Roberto Baggio had set him up.

Baggio should have scored a second two minutes later against a team which is not among the World Cup qualifiers but he side-footed over the bar after substitute Daniele Massaro had created a gilt-edged chance.

### MEXICANS GLIDE

In Miami, Marksman Luis Garcia struck twice in the first half as World Cup qualifiers Mexico bounced back from an upset defeat by the United States and trounced Northern Ireland 3-0 in their final warm-up.

A second-half strike from Carlos Hermosillo completed the victory that helped to restore Mexican confidence after they slumped 1-0 to the World Cup final hosts in Los Angeles seven days previously.

Garcia, who plays for Spanish league side Athletic Madrid, fired Mexico in front

after 18 minutes from a spot-kick awarded after a foul by Northern Irish Goalie Alan Fettis well inside the penalty box.

Mexico extended their lead in the 30th minute from a free kick by Ignacio Ambriz 25 metres out, Garcia deflecting the ball home.

Hermosillo how came on for Hugo Sanchez in the 69th minute, took only eight minutes to make an impact, scoring from close range following a deft pass by Luis Alves.

### ROK RELAXED

In Dallas, South Korea, whose players switched shirts to fool any World Cup opposition spies, warmed up for the finals with a relaxed 3-0 victory over Honduras.

The Koreans never looked remotely like emulating Brazil, who thrashed the Honduras 8-2 on Wednesday, but were clearly a class above their opponents in a match played on a bumpy high school pitch in

### Aussies sweep series

SYDNEY, June 12: Australia midfielder Jason Polak scored a superb individual goal to sink South Africa 1-0 on Sunday and wrap up the two-match series 2-0, reports Reuter.

After receiving the ball inside his own half, Polak ran 60 metres, weaving past two defenders, before smashing his shot past South African keeper Steve Crowley from 15 metres.

His 38th minute goal was the highlight of a lacklustre game which highlighted South Africa's inexperience at this level.

The scoreline was a repeat of the first meeting between the sides in Adelaide on Wednesday.

South African midfielder Doctor Khumalo returned after a one-match suspension but failed to inspire his team-mates.

Duncansville.

Goals from Ko Jeong-Woon, Hwang Sun-Hong and Kim Joo-Sung in the 7th, 37th and 77th minutes earned South Korea an essential victory ahead of their opening Group C game against Spain on June 17.

But they rarely lifted their game above the ordinary and struggled to create enough openings to suggest they can improve on their record of one draw and seven defeats in their three previous World Cup final appearances.

### DULL DRAW

Away in Montreal, Bolivia moved toward one of the most difficult games of their history against world champions Germany in the World Cup opening game with a far from convincing performance against Switzerland.

In a goalless draw in their last friendly before the finals, Switzerland exposed several holes in the Bolivian defence.

Bolivia will need to address the problems before they face Germany in Chicago in the opening match of first round Group C next Friday.

The Swiss, who play in Group A in the first round with host the United States, Romania and the widely-tipped Colombia, should have come away from the game with a victory. German-based striker Stephane Chapuisat had two superb chances to score in the first half.

The Bolivians were not at full strength and are likely to make a few changes before the Germany test. They showed they had some creative midfield players and can look dangerous in attack.

But at times their defence certainly looked suspect against a Swiss side that is nowhere near as classy as the world champions.

In Logos, Nigeria beat Georgia 5-1 (halftime 3-1) in a soccer friendly played in Ibadan, western Nigeria.



Costa Rica's Mauricio Montero (20) rides on top of an Italian player during a World Cup warm up match at Yale University, New Haven on Saturday. Italy beat Costa Rica 1-0. — AFP photo

## PROFILES : SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM, June 12: Following are brief profiles of Sweden's World Cup squad:

### GOALKEEPERS:

**Thomas Ravelli.** Age 34. Club IFK Gothenburg; 109 caps; second most-capped Swedish player, chasing Bjorn Nordqvist's 1963-78 115 game record; former high jumper, he may retire to be full time electronic goods salesman after finals; team motivator, self-appointed spokesman; ball handling sometimes nervous; Austrian parents.

**Lars Eriksson.** 28. IFK Norrkoping; 15; coach Tommy Svensson's first choice substitute has waited five years to prove he is as able as Ravelli; still waiting; talk of move to Turkeys Galatay next season has come to nothing.

**Magnus Hedman.** 21. AIK; 0: Svensson calls him his only possible alternative; good under-21 performance means seen as big future prospect; tall (193cm) part-timer who lists profession as product developer.

### DEFENDERS:

**Roland Nilsson.** 31. If Helsingborg; 60; veteran back; he players favourite players; seldom has a bad game for Sweden; family disliked England so he got early release from Sheffield Wednesday and free transfer back to Swedish league.

**Patrik Andersson.** 22. Borussia Moenchengladbach; 22; most prominent of new young backs; already public favourites; safe, active and good prospects for move to midfield.

**Joachim Bjorklund.** 23. IFK Gothenburg; 21; fast, aggressive lynchpin of the IFK Gothenburg defence which often fielded en masse for Sweden; can get moody and pass badly.

**Roger Ljung.** 28. Galatasaray; 46; played in strong Malmö FF side with Schwarz then and Dahl in late 1980s; injured face in may friendly and may not want to use head much.

**Mikael Nilsson.** 25. IFK Gothenburg; 13; late name in squad, much-criticised by Swedish press; unreliable in recent friendlies; was promising golfer, still plays with low (seven) handicap; works as tobacco dealer; loves eating meatballs.

**Pontus Kaamark.** 25. IFK Gothenburg; 11; reliable substitute who always willing to stand in if first choices not available or injured; will probably replace Ljung initially.

**Jan Eriksson.** 26. Kaiserslautern; 33; fast libero-type; dogged by injury, but a Svensson favourite who has struck four goals for Sweden; out of contract and looking for new club.

### MIDFIELDERS:

**Stefan Schwarz.** 25. Benfica; 28; sharp, swift and tough; with an accurate pass and a huge

left foot. Schwarz is teams "hard man"; five international goals but yellow cards include four in the 10 World Cup qualifiers; joining Arsenal.

**Klas Ingesson.** 25. PSV Eindhoven; 41; a lumbering giant like the elk that smashed into his car and gave him whiplash in May; not fully fit; mild-mannered but no beauty; works hard to push game forward; many of 10 goals headed.

**Jonas Thern.** 27. Napoli; 46; strong and silent, a typecast Swedish captain; playmaking most effective when paired with his former Malmo striking partner Dahlin; six goals.

**Anders Limpar.** 28. Evertton; 50; injury-prone near-elder who grumbles about sitting on bench; at best a light, agile sprinter who can save a game; at worst, nervous and volatile.

**Stefan Rehn.** 27. IFK Gothenburg; 39; unexciting but technically strong so solid backup when Sweden under pressure with calm temperament and good vision.

**Haakan Mild.** 22 (on June 14). Servette; 12; in first season at Servette the work-horse from IFK Gothenburg hit the pro jackpot as club won Swiss league; experienced substitute.

**Jesper Blomqvist.** 20. IFK Gothenburg; 7; Sweden's youngest player is joker in the pack; fast-rising star at home after first season in first division; still doing national service.

**FOWARDS:**

**Henrik Larsson.** 22. Feyenoord; 7; fast attacking right winger has made strong six-month debut in national side with four goals already; voted top player in Joe Robbie friendly tournament in Miami in February; not yet fully battle-tested.

**Martin Dahlin.** 26. Borussia Moenchengladbach; 28; pure striker has topped Brolin as Swedish publics pin-up idol; scored six of 19 goals in Sweden's 10 qualifiers and is squads equal top scorer with Brolin on 16.

**Tomas Brolin.** 24. Parma; 30; 16 goals; baby-face but mature playmaker who moves smoothly from midfield to attack found success with rising Italian stars Parma after debut in 1990 World Cup; owns trotting horse and loves meatballs.

**Kennet Andersson.** 26. Lille; 23; heaviest (91 kg) and tallest (93 cm) Swede on the field; veteran of 1990 World Cup nightmare; brought back to squad deliberately for US as solid sub; god header, less reliable passing; 11 goals.

**Magnus Erlingmark.** 25 (26 on July 7). IFK Gothenburg; 24; started football career as a back and now a regular and exciting goal scorer for his club; may be Svensson's super-sub.

IN STOCKHOLM, WALES PIP A HUNGARY SIDE SADLY DEPLETED BY DEFECTS FOLLOWING THE 1986 UPRISING.

MEANWHILE, WORLD CUP NEWCOMERS SOVIET UNION COME UP AGAINST ANOTHER DEBUTANT IN THEIR POOL MATCH AGAINST BRAZIL - 17-YEAR-OLD PELE.

IN THE QUARTER-FINALS, THE MINNOWS FAIRYTALE ENDS: A BATTLE-WEARY NORTHERN IRELAND DEFENCE HAS NO ANSWER TO THE FLAMBOYANT FRENCH FORWARDS.

BUT WALES COME CLOSE TO PULLING OFF A SHOCK: THEY HOLD BRAZIL FOR 75 MINUTES BEFORE BLINK-KED BY PELE'S FIRST-EVER WORLD CUP GOAL.

SURPRISINGLY, SWEDISH FANS HAD BEEN SLOW TO RESPOND TO THEIR OWN TEAM'S PROGRESS, UNTIL THE SEMI-FINAL, WHEN, EGGED ON BY CHEERLEADERS, THE CROWD SPUR THEM TO A 3-1 VICTORY OVER GERMANY.

## Fortune in FIFA's favour

CHICAGO, June 12: After a tumultuous year, FIFA calls its 49th Congress to order on Wednesday with its long reigning president chastised but secure. It's bankbook bulging and its biggest star once again a welcome guest, reports AP.

Havelange also took care of the Pele matter.

The one player recognised by almost everybody, including Americans, was barred from the draw in Las Vegas after suing Havelange's son-in-law. American organisers were angry and bitter words were exchanged.

But in recent months, soccer's boss and its ambassador

at-large have had a rapprochement. They even sat together at a tournament in Trinidad and Havelange let it be known that Pele was OK.

Lingering opposition to Havelange vanished. He will run unopposed in Thursday's balloting, the highlight of a relatively light and friction-free agenda.

"Any congress will serve that purpose, to bring the entire membership together," said Keith Cooper, a FIFA spokesman in Zurich, Switzerland. "It's the only time when all delegates come together in one room, as one big happy family."

This congress will have more delegates than ever before, since for the first time FIFA is paying expenses. Fifteen new members will be installed, including seven from the former Soviet Union. A vice president's seat formerly reserved for a Soviet delegate will be abolished.

Further restructuring of the executive board is expected, with an African proposal to add members from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. A proposal from the board itself recommends only an additional European member.

Wherever the members come from, they'll have much more money to spend.

The congress will consider a budget for the next four years of drs 73.3 million, an 11.3 per cent increase from 1990-93. The new budget includes a surplus of drs 5.1 million, compared with drs 1.6 million in the previous plan. The biggest increase in revenue comes from women's soccer sponsorships — from zero in the previous budget to drs 1.8 million this time.

The delegates also are expected to be lobbied heavily by countries bidding to host the 2002 World Cup. China and Japan are considered the front-runners.

## PROFILES : RUSSIA

MOSCOW, June 12: Following are brief profiles of Russia's World Cup squad:

### GOALKEEPERS:

**Dmitry Kharin.** Age 25. Club Chelsea; 22 caps, inspired keeping helped Chelsea to England's FA Cup final this year, made debut at age of 16 and signed for Chelsea from CSKA Moscow in 1992, member of 1988 Olympic gold medal team.

**Stanislav Cherchesov.** 30. Dynamo Dresden; 20; the bulky mustachioed Cherchesov is the only foreign goalkeeper in the Bundesliga and was voted best keeper after first half of season; spent several years in shadow of Soviet keeper Rinat Dasayev at Spartak Moscow before Dasayev went to Spain.

### DEFENDERS:

**Dmitry Galyamin.** 31. Espanol; 19; one of Russia's best defenders; known for his explosive acceleration from a standing start; could play the role of sweeper in World Cup; played for CSKA Moscow before his transfer.

**Dmitry Khlestov.** 23. Spartak Moscow; 12; rugged, fleet-footed right-winger nicknamed Baresi after famed AC Milan defender; brimming with talent but criticised by Spartak Moscow manager Oleg Romantsev for not doing more in centre of field and not supporting attacks.

**Yuri Nikiforov.** 23. Spartak Moscow; 8; a tough player who began his career in Ukraine, Nikiforov is most comfortable in the centre of defence; also packs a strong shot.

**Sergei Gorlovich.** 32. Bayer Uerdingen; 32; the hard-tackling Gorlovich is the most experienced player in the squad and the one with most yellow cards.

**Viktor Onopko.** 24. Spartak Moscow; 21; Ukrainian-born all-rounder who has been voted Russian player-of-the-year for last two years despite some under-par performances and a chequered disciplinary record.

**Vladislav Ternavsky.** 25. Spartak Moscow; 2; former figure skater and gymnast who is now a penalty and free kick specialist; also known as a good marker; player for Ukrainian sides Dynamo Kiev and Niva Ternopol before joining Spartak.

### MIDFIELDERS:

**Dmitry Popov.** 25. Racing Santander; 11; flexible winger who is comfortable on both sides of the pitch and can also play left-back; scored seven goals in Spain this season, all from the left wing; signed from Spartak Moscow before his transfer.

**Omari Teradze.** 24. Dynamo Moscow; 9; Georgian-born all-rounder with fierce shot who prefers centre of field; recovered from mysterious and as yet unsolved assault in

Moscow bar last year in which his jaw was broken.

**Andrei Pyatnitsky.** 26. Spartak Moscow; 10; one of the undoubted stars of the side; a skilled passer and header of the ball; has a thunderous shot and is virtually impossible to pin down on his day.

**Dmitry Kuznetsov.** 28. Espanol; 27; prefers defensive midfield role; not always on best terms with national trainer Pavel Sadyrin, who accused him of throwing a match in 1992 when both were at Russian club CSKA Moscow.

**Ilya Tsybalar.** 24 (25 on June 17). Spartak Moscow; 2; natural winger with fine understanding of the game; moved to Spartak from Ukrainian side Chernomorets Odessa.

**Alexander Boroduk.** 31. Freiburg; 13; took advantage of players' rebellion to score fine hat-trick against Mexico in friendly earlier this year; first Soviet player sold to Germany and recently scored 30,000th goal in history of Bundesliga; member of 1988 Olympic gold medal team.

**Igor Kornevyy.** 26. Espanol; 13; former Spartak Moscow player who has been at Espanol for three years where he is featuring more and more in an attacking role; extremely difficult to get off the ball.

**Igor Ledyakov.** 26. Spartak Moscow; 14; in theory Ledyakov is a skilled all-rounder but has been suffering from a serious