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# Brazil need Rai at helm

SAN FRANCISCO, California, June 19: Rai Souza Viera de Oliveira has been ordered to behave like Socrates. Not the Greek philosopher, but his elder brother who lorded it over Brazil's adversaries in the 1982 and 1986 World Cups, reports AFP.

"He's not arrogant enough. It's time he began treating the opposition like second-class citizens," said assistant coach Mario Zagalo who won the World Cup with Brazil as a player and manager.

Since moving to Paris from World Club champions Sao Paulo in a 3-million-dollar deal last year, Rai's confidence has taken a battering.

"He's had a terrible year. He just couldn't fit in and the fans got to him," Zagalo said.

"But a great footballer doesn't lose his talent overnight, and we've spent our time building up his confidence," Zagalo said.

The 28-year-old gets to wear Pele's No. 10 shirt and Tele Santana, who was his coach at Sao Paulo, believes he could do a similar job for Brazil if he plays to his potential.

"He doesn't make the same breath-taking impact but he probably contributes more all-round," Santana said.

Romario, who needs no lessons in one-upmanship, missed training for three days, but he looked healthy Saturday in a match between likely starters and substitutes as Brazil wrapped up their prepara-

tions for their opening Group B match against Russia at Stanford Stadium.

"He'll be fit," said his striking partner Bebeto.

Brazil may be the bookmakers' favourites for a record fourth title but injured defender Ricardo Gomes has sounded a warning.

The Paris St Germain player, ruled out of the tournament after tearing a hamstring in a friendly with El Salvador on June 12, said: "We have been favourites in the last three tournaments and Rai the price for being over confident; no one believes he will miss their opening Group B match against Russia at Stanford Stadium."

Sloppy defence cost Brazil dearly in 1982 when they failed to mark Italy's Paolo Rossi, in 1986 when they allowed Michel Platini to sneak up unnoticed behind their de-

fence and in 1990 when Diego Maradona's through pass allowed Claudio Caniggia to knock them out.

Brazil have a tradition of great right backs going back to Djalma Santos in 1958 and 1962 and Carlos Alberto in 1970.

Jorginho, who plays alongside German captain Lothar Matthaus in the Bayern Munich club side, is more in the Carlos Alberto mould. He is the prototype wing-back.

"But I don't intend to neglect my defensive duties," he said. "In the old days of Pele and Garrincha they knew they could always score twice for every goal they conceded. Modern football doesn't bear comparison. Goals are rare commodities," he said.

Russia came to America without half their first-choice side, who had refused to play under coach Pavel Sadyrin. And key defender Viktor Onopko is suspended.

"It's going to be hard but we're optimistic," said Sadyrin probable teams.



RAI

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US keeper and captain Tony Meola leaps high to collect the ball with teammate Alexi Lalas and Swiss forward Nestor Subiat watching with different purposes during a World Cup Group A match between hosts United States and Switzerland at the Pontiac Silverdome in Detroit on Saturday.

# Holland's date with unknown

WASHINGTON, June 19: The Netherlands, bristling with fitness and seemingly in good form, step into the unknown on Monday when they meet Saudi Arabia in their opening World Cup Group F encounter at the RFK Memorial Stadium, reports Reuter.

For both teams it will be a novel meeting.

The Dutch, on their own admission, know virtually nothing about the Saudi team while the Saudis, despite approaching the game with a confidence bordering on arrogance, will be playing in their first World Cup finals match.

"All we, the players, have seen of them is half of their qualifying match against Japan, on a video," said Dennis Bergkamp, who is expected to play in a withdrawn striking role on Monday evening. "It is not too much of a problem for us, though, as we have been concentrating on our own game."

According to those who have seen Saudi Arabia play, a tight slow and difficult match may be in prospect for the Dutch who could be reminded of the difficulties posed by Egypt in similar circumstances in Italy four years ago.

"We shall be attacking and looking for goals, as that is our style," said Bergkamp.

"I know it is hot and they may be more familiar with playing in high temperatures, but we feel we can cope with both the heat and the opposition if we play well."

After losing two World Cup finals, in 1974 and 1978, when they were beaten by the hosts each time, and failing to live up to their reputation as pre-tournament favourites in

Italy in 1990. The Dutch are long overdue another good World Cup.

To judge from their mood after settling into the sumptuous Ritz-Carlton Hotel at Tyson's corner, some 20 miles (30 km) West of Washington, on Saturday, there is also plenty of optimism among the players.

"I am motivated by our past falling but not completely," said Ronald Koeman, the Barcelona libero whose long-range shooting maybe a particularly potent weapon against the physically smaller Saudi team. "We know what we are capable of and our real motivation is to fulfill that potential."

Dutch coach Dick Advocaat gave little away about his team's likely tactics or line-up, but admitted he was considering various possibilities which suggested defensive midfielder Frank Rijkaard could start in a right-back position with an aggressive attacking brief.

Advocaat said he was concerned the Saudis may play with only one striker and



DICK ADVOCAT

break into space on the flanks, a tactic which could be stopped by using an extra player at the back.

But it is likely the Dutch will play their normal free wheeling 3-4-3 formation with two wingers and it will be a surprise if, as the outstanding team in the group, they cannot enjoy a comfortable victory.

The Saudis, for whom Mohammed Abdul-Jawad is a dependable captain and defensive force, will rely on defence in depth, possession when possible in midfield and counter-attacks led by Majed Abdullah, 34, dubbed the "Desert Pele."

According to statistics distributed by the Saudi Federation, he has scored 118 goals in 166 internationals.

The effect of their attacks is likely to be limited, as Abdullah is understood to be less than fully fit, having done less training than most of his teammates.

Neither squad has significant injuries and the coaches are expected to name their teams only shortly before kickoff.

### PROBABLE TEAMS

**NETHERLANDS:** 1-Ed de Goeij, 4-Ronald Koeman, 14-Ulrich van Gobbel, 2-Frank de Boer, 3-Frank Rijkaard, 8-Wim Jonk, 10-Dennis Bergkamp, 6-Jan Wouters, 7-Marc Overmars, 9-Ronald De Boer, 11-Bryan Roy.

**SAUDI ARABIA:** 1-Mohammad Al-Deayea, 2-Abdullah Al-Dossari, 3-Mohammad Al-Khlawi, 5-Ahmed Jamil Madani, 13-Mohammad Abdul-Jawad, 16-Fuad Anwar Amin, 8-Fahad Al-Bishi, 14-Khalid Al-Muallid, 16-Talal Jabrin, 10-Majed Abdullah, 10-Saeed Owjan.

Referee: Manuel Vega Diaz (Spain).  
Kickoff: 2330 GMT.

# Brazilians in carnival mood

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 19: When Brazil plays their first World Cup soccer match Monday at Stanford University, and during every Brazilian game thereafter for a month, the population of an entire nation will remain glued to their televisions, reports Reuter.

Each victory will be celebrated to the rhythm of samba drums on streets throughout the country, and as their team is a favourite to win the World Cup this year, Brazilians are promising an even more euphoric celebration than the pre-tenten carnival held every February.

"If Brazil wins, we will have three days straight of partying. No one will work," said Jorge Luis, a street vendor.

Entire neighbourhoods are awash in green, yellow and blue, the colours of the flag. Children have stopped, traffic to paint the streets with the images of their favourite players.

Firecrackers have been go-

ing off since the cup finals began Friday, and cities like Rio and Sao Paulo have set up giant screens in major squares for crowds to watch the games.

Car workers at two big factories have agreed to give up part of their lunch breaks and days off so they can watch Brazil's games during work hours.

"We want to commemorate every goal with our friends and family. After all, the World Cup only happens once in four years and soccer runs in the veins of Brazilians," metal workers' union secretary Carlos Alberto Grana said.

Stockmarkets, normally open from 9:30 to 1:00 and from 3:00 to 4:30 will skip lunch hour and end trading at 2:30 on days of Brazilian games.

Hospital workers will change the schedule for distributing meals so as not to interfere with Brazil's games.

Stores, schools — even congress — will shut down early. "There is no way I could concentrate on my work if I

could not see Brazil play," computer analyst Nilson Queiroz said.

Sao Paulo will step up security at state jails to foil possible escape bids while inmates and guards watch the games.

No nation is more passionate about soccer than three-time world champion Brazil, the only country to participate in all World Cup finals. But they last won in 1970.

"I'm very confident Brazil this year has the team to win," said salesman Rolhemberg Linhares.

The World Cup has overshadowed campaigning for presidential elections, to be held in October, as well as the expected introduction of a new currency on July 1.

But those who admit the possibility that Brazil might actually lose fear the legdown could be too much to handle.

"I don't want to get caught up in this World Cup," said beautician Adma Dias da Silva Duarte. "I have had too many disappointments this year and I don't want to handle another. If Brazil loses it will be traumatic."

# Super take-off for novelty

PONTIAC, Mich., June 19: The giant Swiss banner was so big it took two tall cranes to support it. The caption under the familiar white cross on a red field read: "Go for it, Switzerland."

Nothing unusual about that. This is World Cup soccer, where rampant national pride is expected, reports AP.

What made this special was the banner was in the United States, across the street from the Pontiac Silverdome. Welcome to the World Cup in Motown.

And welcome to the World Cup indoors.

The United States and Switzerland played to a 1-1 tie Saturday in the first World Cup game ever played inside a dome. It was steamy hot on the field and even hotter in the stands, closer to the stadium's Teflon roof.

It reached 27 degrees Celsius (80 Fahrenheit) and 71 per cent humidity on the field. It got to 34 degrees (92 Fahrenheit) in the stands. Yet few were complaining.

"This was a fantastic atmosphere," said Georges Bregy, who scored the Swiss goal. "It was really a gorgeous place. It was hot, but I'm sure it was even worse outside. I think it was just great to play in here and I enjoyed it very much."

Swiss coach Roy Hodgson was more restrained. But that's how coaches are, especially when they feel — as Hodgson does — that his team let one get away.

"You don't have the sun beating down on your head, but you have the same heat and the same humidity. It's very different to play in, because all the sounds and smells are magnified. It's like playing in a hot dog stand."

A team of experts from Michigan State University made the Silverdome game possible by growing grass indoors.

Showing off American ingenuity, a grass field of 1,850 hexagons, 100 triangles and 44 trapezoids was trucked into the Silverdome to temporarily replace the artificial turf, which isn't allowed by FIFA, soccer's governing body.

"The turf was not bad," Bregy said. "It was really fun playing in there."

All the scoring came in the final six minutes of the first half. Bregy scored in the 39th minute, but Eric Wynalda pulled the United States even in the 45th minute. Both goals came on free kicks.

The Swiss appeared to have a little more talent, but the Americans were a tad quicker. It wasn't until late in the second half that players began to show fatigue.

A crowd of 73,425 began showing up four hours before the 11:30 am kickoff. The fans were treated to a 30-minute pregame extravaganza with a distinct Motown flavor.

The ceremonies focused on the uniquely American Silverdome and the revolutionary natural grass playing surface inside it.

"I was generally pleased with the turf," said Trey Rogers, the agronomist who made the grass grow. "It's been a tough week to prepare the field, considering the high heat and humidity. But, generally, we're pleased. It looked good."

"The No. 1 grass is player reaction. They liked it."

What the American players liked most was the pro-American crowd. Most places they have played, like the Rose Bowl, the opponent has far more fans than the US team.

"That was probably the greatest feeling I've ever had playing soccer in this country," said Ramos, whose parents live within a few miles of Giants Stadium near New York City. "When we play in Pasadena, it's like we're in a foreign country."

# Vogts on no idealistic trip

CHICAGO, June 19: Responding to opinions that the opening game was a disappointment, German coach Bert Vogts says soccer authorities and the American public would be wrong to expect the World Cup to be a showcase for the game, reports AP.

"Anyone who expects the World Cup to be an offensive spectacle lives on another planet," Vogts said Saturday, a day after his team kicked off the tournament with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over underdog Bolivia.

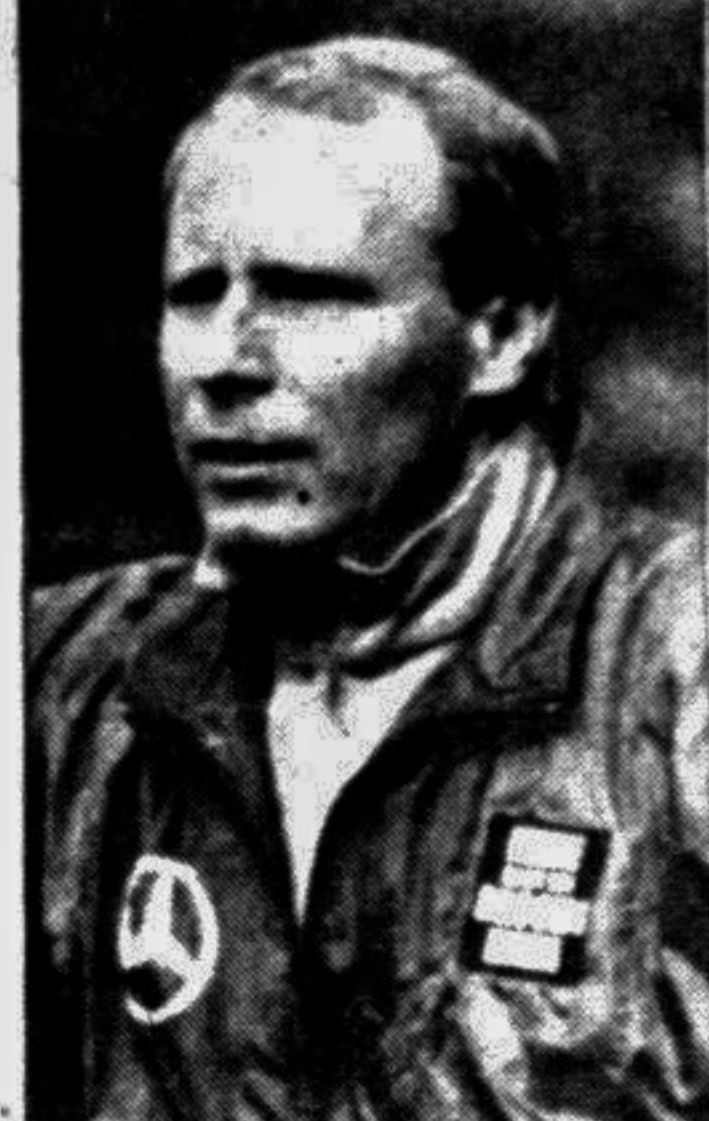
"If FIFA wanted to use the World Cup to advertise the game in the United States, this is not the time to do it," said Vogts, whose team is defending the title and seeking to become the first to win four titles.

"The time to advertise the game would have been last year. Now we have tactical priorities."

"It's a long tournament, it's very hot and we have to think about tactics," Vogts said.

"If FIFA thought the three-point rule and other changes would make the games more offensive at the World Cup, I don't think it will work," he said.

Vogts also had a few words



BERTI VOGTS

about the organization of the opening game at Soldier Field in Chicago.

"Sometimes you get the impression the opening game disturbs the opening ceremony," Vogts said in an ironic remark.

The German coach complained that neither of the two teams had been able to warm up before the game because of the opening ceremony.

"We were honoured to play the opening game and we want to play the opening game again in four years, but FIFA should think about these things," Vogts said.

Vogts and his players also criticized the state of the pitch at Soldier Field.

"The ground was very hard and your cleats wouldn't grip. But on top, the grass was slippery. They also should not have watered the grass at halftime," said German striker Jurgen Klinsmann.

"At times I just didn't know which way to move," said Klinsmann, who scored Germany's only goal.

Klinsmann also had some advice for fans. "Someone should tell them that they can't keep the ball like they do in baseball."

# Germany strike no fear into Nigerians

DALLAS, June 19: World champions Germany are predictable, unexciting and do not strike any fear into Nigeria, the Africans' assistant coach said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

"Having seen them on television in the first game, I can say we certainly don't have anything to fear from Germany," said Dutchman Jo Bonfrere a day after Germany beat Bolivia 1-0 in the first game of the World Cup.

"There was nothing surprising about the Germans. There was no creative football, the just go straight ahead," he said.

"Their way of playing is nothing new, and nothing special. You know exactly what they are going to do."

"Their stronghold is they work as a team 100 per cent, they work at not conceding goals they stop others scoring and try to score one themselves. It's not nice football."

Bonfrere, who coached clubs in the Netherlands and Belgium and is now assistant to compatriot Clemens Westerhof, said none of the four teams who played on the opening day worried the Nigerians.

# From ejection to ecstasy

PONTIAC, Mich., June 19: Eric Wynalda's World Cup experience changed from ejection to exultation, reports AP.

Four years after he was tossed out of his team's World Cup opener, Wynalda scored the goal that gave the United States a 1-1 tie with Switzerland on Saturday.

"It was the greatest goal of my life," he said.

Two years ago, Wynalda was kicked off the US team. First, he forgot his passport for an exhibition game against Brazil on Feb. 26, 1992. Three months later, he elbowed and punched teammate Mark Chung during practice in Denver and was cut for the US Cup games against Ireland, Portugal and Italy.

Wynalda then signed with Saarbruecken in Germany and scored eight goals in his first eight games. Becoming a bit of a sensation. He scored 12 goals in 29 games in the second division last season before transferring to first division VfL Bochum last month for \$1.8 million.

"I let my emotions run away with me sometimes," he recalled a two weeks ago. "I've learned to channel them."

In the 1990 World Cup

game against Czechoslovakia, referee Kurt Rothlisberger ejected Wynalda after he pushed an opponent in front of a linesman seven minutes into the second half. US coach Bob Gansler said his play was due to "inexperience" and



ERRIC WYNALDA

"stupidity."

In addition to more maturity, the 25-year-old striker has a lot more skill and speed. And, as fans saw Saturday, he has quite a shot.

When the United States was awarded a free kick about 30 metres from the goal, it ap-

peared Tab Ramos would take it.

"I told him to take it," Ramos said. "I can't shoot from there. I have no accuracy."

Wynalda smacked the ball into the upper-left corner. Goalkeeper Marco Pascolo had no chance.

"To be honest, I was almost in disbelief," Wynalda said. "I remember looking at Tab and John(Harkes). I did not know how to react when it when in."

And he almost didn't even play.

On Friday, he began to feel a rash and was given some over-the-counter medicine but didn't sleep all night. He appeared to have an allergic reaction to the grass during the game and Roy Wegerle replaced him 10 minutes into the second half.

"I had hives all over my body," Wynalda said.

Wynalda, wearing a Detroit Tigers baseball cap with sunglasses hooked on the center on his T-shirt, was trying to look "cool." Trainer Andrew Rudawsky said there he might have added a little melodrama added, too.

According to Rudawsky, There wasn't much doubt that Wynalda would play against Switzerland.

"Eric never sleeps before game," he said.

# Lure for Lions

YAOUNDE, June 19: Every player and coach in Cameroon's World Cup squad will earn 10,000 dollars for playing in the United States, plus another 5,000 dollars for each win, their government said on Saturday night, reports AFP.

Communications Minister Augustin Kountchou Koumegni said the initial payment will cost the state 150 million CFA francs (250,000 dollars).

# Spanish morale remains high

CHICAGO, June 19: Spanish morale remains high despite the team giving away a 2-0 lead in the final six minutes to draw 2-2 with South Korea in their opening World Cup match, coach Javier Clemente said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Clemente said Spain had played poorly in the first half and he had thought at halftime that South Korea might win.

1974 AND THE WORLD CUP BANDWAGON ROLLS ON TO WEST GERMANY. A FLEET OF LAVISHLY DECORATED BUSES FERRIES THE COMPETING TEAMS BETWEEN NINE CITIES.

NOTABLE ABSENTEES ARE ENGLAND, CUSTED IN THE QUALIFYING COMPETITION BY POLAND. THE POLES ARE POTENTIAL DARK HORSES.

ONLY AN AGONISING MISS BY BREMNER ALLOWS BRAZIL TO AVOID DEFEAT BY SCOTLAND - BRITAIN'S SOLE REPRESENTATIVES. THE SCOTS BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY TO BE ELIMINATED WITHOUT LOSING A MATCH.

DOWN IN MUNICH, IT TAKES A LATE COMEBACK TO SPARE ITALY'S BLUSHES. SAMON HAD EARLIER FIRED THE UNKNOWN OF HAITI INTO A SHOCK LEAD - MUCH TO THE DELIGHT TO THEIR SUBS BENCH.

MEANWHILE IN HAMBURG, HISTORY IS MADE AS WEST AND EAST GERMANY MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME.

SPAIN'S LATE STRIKE SECURES AN UNEXPECTED TRIUMPH FOR THE DOUBT BOTH COUNTRIES PROGRESS TO THE SECOND PHASE GROUPS.