

# WORLD CUP USA '94

## Today's World Cup Fixtures

**Group E**  
Italy vs Norway

**Group C**  
South Korea vs Bolivia  
(For details see page 1)

## Players can drink on touchline

DALLAS, Texas, June 22: Team officials will be allowed to throw plastic bags full of water onto the pitch, so their players can drink at any time during World Cup games, reports AFP.

That is FIFA's solution to a problem raised by Republic of Ireland manager Jack Charlton. General secretary Sepp Blatter said players could seek drinks on all sides of the pitch providing it did not interfere with play.

"Players are most certainly allowed to drink," added Blatter. "We don't want to affect their health but at the same time we don't want bottles thrown on to the pitch."

FIFA's solution was explained by the Football Association of Ireland chief executive Sean Connolly. "We'll now be allowed to throw plastic bags of water to the players from all sides of the pitch at practically any time," he said.

"It is not exactly a directive but I've been in touch with the local FIFA guy in Orlando and he has confirmed it. It is encouraging, at least, that they have at last taken notice of the concern we've been expressing."

"I also believe referees have had a strong word about it, having suffered the effects of the heat themselves. I noticed the guy in charge of the Norway-Mexico game in Washington on Sunday actually stopped the game twice so people could have a drink."

Charlton's request for American football-style timeouts for drinks to avoid dehydration, has been rejected. Charlton acted after seeing his striker Tommy Coyne become violently ill after Saturday's win over Italy.

## WC DIARY

LOS ANGELES, California, June 22: Tuesday's World Cup diary.

### HE BEGS TO DIFFER

Holland's Ronald Koeman called the two-match ban on Bolivian midfielder Marco Etcheverry for kicking German captain Lothar Mathaus idiotic. Etcheverry was sent off in Bolivia's 1-0 defeat on Friday, and the subsequent two-match ban may mean he won't play another match in the 1994 World Cup.

### OVER-PREPARED

US defender Thomas Dooley said he and teammates were warned to drink as much water as possible before their World Cup opener against Switzerland last Saturday to counter dehydration in the steamy Silverdome.

For Dooley and roommate Mike Sorber, the advice backfired. They were so bloated they couldn't fall asleep. When they finally did, they kept waking each other up with repeated trips to the toilet.

### SADYRIN SHRUGS IT OFF

Russian coach Pavel Sadyrin was untruffed, at least on the surface, by his team's 2-0 loss to Brazil in their World Cup Group B opener on Monday.

"Of course, it's always important not to lose a game, but the loss was more or less explainable," he said. "We are going on with the original plan for preparation for the next game, we are not going to change it."

### VALUE ADDED

Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira was so pleased with his team's stylish 2-0 victory over Russia, he thought it deserved something extra.

"This game was worth more than two points," he said, and indeed it was, since new FIFA regulations award three points for a win instead of the two points earned for a win in previous World Cups.



Rai, the Brazilian captain, is caught in a pose of levitation as the midfield maestro leaps in joy after slotting in the penalty that completed Brazil's 2-0 win over Russia at the Stanford University ground on June 20.

## Romario rafters Russia

PALO ALTO, California, June 22: Romario scored one goal and played a vital part in another to earn Brazil a deserved 2-0 win over Russia in World Cup Group B on Monday, reports Reuters.

The Barcelona striker stabbed home a corner from close range in the 27th minute and was felled after a darting run on goal to earn a penalty converted by captain Rai in the 53rd minute.

Spurred on by thousands of drum-beating fans in brilliant sunshine, Brazil never quite moved into top gear, but their skills were more than a match for a physical Russian team weakened by a players' rebellion before the tournament.

The Brazilian fans even started to whistle their players briefly before the second goal set the Stanford Stadium ablaze and launched Brazil into their best soccer of the match.

Brazil, seeking their fourth World Cup crown but their first since 1970, dominated the first half but squandered several chances before Romario came to life.

He beat his marker Vladimir Ternavsky to a corner from the left by Bebeto and nudged the ball into the net.

Romario, who forms one of the most feared strike partnerships in the world with Bebeto, then beat two men before Ternavsky dragged him down just inside the penalty area.

early in the second half. Rai sent Russian goalkeeper Dmitry Kharin the wrong way from the penalty spot, comfortably pushing the ball to his left.

In between the goals, Brazil dominated and Russia rarely threatened Taffarel in the net.

Bebeto went close midway through the second half, forcing a good save from close range by Kharin. Romario also threatened several times but failed to test Kharin further.

The Russians, outpaced and outclassed, resorted to physical challenges which earned them three yellow cards — for Dmitry Khlestov, Dmitry Kuznetsov and Yuri Nitkiforov.

Russia, who lost six players in a pre-tournament rebellion against coach Pavel Sadyrin and over a money dispute, now face a tough task to qualify from a group which also includes Sweden and Cameroon.

Russian coach Sadyrin, visibly upset but unwilling to criticise his side, singled out Bebeto and Romario for praise.

"If we had strikers like Bebeto and Romario, we be we could have won," he said.

Kharin also praised Romario. Asked if he could have kept out Romario's goal, he said: "There was a chance but because Romario is a Brazilian, he went for one corner of the goal."

"A European would have gone for the other corner. He's a great footballer."

In the 10th minute but failed to get in a shot after latching on to a through ball by Bebeto, and Bebeto volleyed over the bar from close range in the next attack.

Brazil appealed for a penalty when Romario was up ended in the penalty area in the 31st minute, but referee An-Yan Lim Kee Chon of the Mauritius ignored their pleas.

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Romario

Brazilian goal. Ilya Tsymbalar forced one save from Taffarel after shooting from wide on the left in the 17th minute and defender Sergei Gorlukovich tried two long-range shots.

But the Russian attack was all too easily snuffed out by a well-marshalled defence. Both Russian strikers Sergei Yuran and Dmitry Radchenko, were substituted after failing to make any impression. Romario might have scored

## Record audience

ROTTERDAM, June 22: A record three million Dutch television viewers watched the Netherlands open their World Cup campaign on Monday night and many people arrived at work late and tired on Tuesday morning, reports Reuters.

The Netherlands verses Saudi Arabia match, which the Dutch scraped through to win 2-1, was screened live here at 1.30 am Tuesday (2330 GMT Monday).

Many Dutch people had expected a goal fest against the so-called soccer minnows from Saudi Arabia but the Netherlands struggled to overcome spirited opposition from the 500-1 rank outsiders.

One in every 10 children aged between six and 10 sat up into the small hours to cheer on their national side, Dutch satellite television figures showed.

The previous record Dutch television audience for a sporting event televise at night was in 1988, when 1.6 million viewers watched the 1,500 metre speed skating finals at the Calgary Winter Olympics.

## Brazil over the moon

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 22: It was carnival once again on the streets in Brazil Monday as thousands of soccer fans celebrated their team's 2-0 victory over Russia in their first game of the 1994 World Cup, reports Reuters.

People flocked to the beaches where women dressed in yellow and green bikinis — the colours of the Brazilian flag — danced to the rhythm of a victory samba.

Caravans of honking cars jammed the Rio De Janeiro's streets and from the apartment windows above women and children called out the name of players Romario and Rai, who scored the two goals.

"At long last we have a winning team," said Tiao Silva, one of thousands who watched the game on an oversize TV screen in central Sao Paulo.

Excitement over the soccer championship has swept double inflation figures and the presidential election campaign off newspapers' front pages.

Schools and businesses have rescheduled their working hours to allow students and workers to go home early and watch the championship games.

According to one newspaper poll, 66 per cent of the people interviewed said they believed Brazil would win the 1994 soccer championship.

## Klinsmann pumped up

CHICAGO, Illinois, June 22: Jurgen Klinsmann, his confidence fired by scoring both Germany's goals so far in the World Cup, is back on the warpath after an in-and-out club season with Monaco, reports AFP.

"Scoring the winner against Bolivia in the opening game really lifted me," said the striker, who followed up with a headed equaliser in a 1-1 draw against Spain here on Tuesday.

"The Spaniards are very difficult to play against and that makes me even more satisfied to have scored today."

Klinsmann, 29, has already announced he will be leaving Monaco a year ahead of schedule and has therefore put himself in the shop window during the World Cup.

German champions Bayern Munich have already expressed along with a couple of Italian clubs.

He certainly needs an outstanding campaign in the US with Monaco having put an asking price of four million dollars on him.

However, he is not letting the question of finding a new club interfere with his World Cup campaign.

"What really matters out here for the moment is the national team. I am at their service," he said. "I still reckon I am as quick as I was even if I need to run less because I have gained in experience over the years."

## Argentina rout debutants as 'Archangel' announces

FOXBORO, Massachusetts, June 22: The "Archangel" Gabriel Batistuta blessed Argentina's soccer rebirth with a World Cup hatrick on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The Fiorentina striker, tipped as a possible top scorer before the tournament began, made a brilliant start in Argentina's 4-0 rout of Greece in their opening Group D match. "Batigol", as he is also known after notching up nearly a goal a game in his early appearances for Argentina, had fallen on hard times, partly due to his languishing in the Italian Second Division with Fiorentina.

Leading scorer with six goals in six games when he burst onto the international stage in the 1991 South American championship in Chile, he only managed three when Argentina retained their Copa America title in Ecuador last year.

His strikes against Greece redressed the balance somewhat. The player whose childhood hero was Argentina's 1978 World Cup star Mario Kempes now has 23 goals in 33 internationals.

Batistuta scored less than two minutes into his World Cup debut and, after his second dealt another psychological blow to the Greeks just before the interval, completed the hatrick with a 90th minute penalty.

Coach Alfio Basile said his main worry before the match was that players, like Batistuta, making their World Cup debuts might be overcome by

nerves, as happened when then holders Argentina lost the opening match to Cameroon in 1990.

That defeat set Argentina on a defensive course that saw them eke out meagre results, including two victories through penalty shootouts, on their way to a second successive final.

"The early goal helped us a lot," said Basile, who has restored Argentina to a more attacking mode after his side

lost their way in the World Cup qualifiers last year.

Batistuta put the team's performance down to concentration. "Today we showed clearly the concentration that a match of these characteristics requires," said the long-haired 25-year-old striker.

When Batistuta was relegated with Fiorentina last year, many feared he might lose his fine goal instinct at top inter-

national level.

But he plugged away, helping Fiorentina bounce straight back into the Serie A with 16 goals, an occasionally scoring for Argentina.

His most crucial goal was the rather fortunate one — that the ball was deflected home — that put Argentina through to the US finals in a playoff against Australia in November.

Batistuta joined Fiorentina from Boca Juniors after his Copa America exploits in 1991. He began his career with Newell's Old Boys and also had a brief, unsettled spell with River Plate.

### TEAMS:

**ARGENTINA:** 12-Luis Islas, 4-Roberto Sensi, 13-Fernando Caceres, 6-Oscar Ruggeri, 3-Jose Chamot, 14-Diego Simeone, 5-Fernando Redondo, 10-Diego Maradona (17-Ariel Ortega, 82), 19-Abel Balbo (21-Alejandro Mancuso, 79), 7-Claudio Caniggia, 9-Gabriel Batistuta.

**GREECE:** 1-Antonis Minou, 4-Stelios Manolias, 2-Stratos Apostolakis, 5-Yannis Kalitakis, 3-Thanasios Kolitsidakis, 6-Panayotis Tsalouhides, 8-Nikos Nioplias, 19-Savvas Kofides, 11-Nikos Tziantakis (12-Spiridon Maragos, 46), 7-Omitris Saravakos, 9-Nikos Machilas (10-Tassos Mitropoulos, 58).

### MATCH STAT

Match statistics for Tuesday's Argentina v Greece World Cup, Group D game.

	Argentina	Greece
Goal	4	0
Shots on goal	21	8
Fouls	15	14
Corners	2	5
Offsides	4	4
Yellow Cards	1	2
Red Cards	0	0

## When a dream turns sour

ATHENS, June 22: A deadly silence settled over the streets of Athens as Argentina routed Greece 4-0 Tuesday in the Greeks' debut at the World Cup, reports AP.

"The dream which Greek soccer had awaited for 64 years turned into a nightmare," the Communist daily Rizospastis commented on Wednesday.

It was the biggest defeat by any team so far at the tournament, and the frequent attacks by Argentina suggested that it could have been far worse for the Greeks, had not several shots gone wide.

Streets were nearly deserted as the whole nation sat watching state television's live broadcast of the match from the Foxboro Stadium in Boston. Afterwards there was none of the flag waving and horn blaring that had greeted each Greek triumph in the march towards the World Cup.

Greece was the only European team not to lose a match

in qualifying rounds. But a goal in the 83rd second of the match by Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta, taking advantage of huge opening in the defence, pointed the way to certain defeat Tuesday.

"Greek tragedy in just 83 seconds," the English-language Athens News said on its front page. Batistuta went on to score another two goals, one from a penalty in the game's final minute.

Newspapers tried to analyse the cause of the defeat.

"Nerves brought on the four goals in our national team's debut," the conservative Apogevmatini wrote, in the day's most generous title to coach and players.

This echoed the comments of Greek coach Alkettas "Alkis" Panagoulas, who said that he had expected his team to lose against the superior Argentinians but not by such a margin.

"I thought at least we would not be afraid of these big-name players. I was mistaken," he said.

Several newspapers cast blame on the coach rather than the players.

"Tragic debut with four goals. He put the blame for defeat on the players," the socialist Ethnos wrote on its front page.

"Alketas ... Go Home," it blared on its back page, echoing past anti-American slogans in an indirect reference to Panagoulas' dual Greek-American citizenship.

"Alketas, Why?" demanded the right-wing Eleftheros Typos. "Catastrophe! We went down with our hands up."

Greek goalie Antonis Minou, who was stunned by Batistuta's three goals and spectacular shot by Diego Maradona, appeared more cool headed than his coach and newspaper commentators.

"We were not overawed. We tried and we lost. That's all. A World Cup game, and especially against Argentina, is much more difficult than you expect it to be. We are learning," Eleftherotipia newspaper quoted him saying.

## Cameroon, nonconformists

LOS ANGELES, June 22: Cameroon continue to confound the accepted norms of modern-day soccer, producing sparkling on-field performances against a backdrop of serious off-field problems, reports Reuters.

The African team, who have been enveloped in controversy since qualifying last October, overcame a patchy build up to the World Cup finals to hold highly-regarded Sweden to 2-2 draw in their opening match in Pasadena on Sunday.

Their preparations for the tournament in the US were characterised by fighting over administrative posts, money squabbles and a hastily arranged practice programme.

Cameroon overcame similar obstacles at the last World Cup finals in Italy four years ago to become the first African side to reach the quarter-finals.

"It was bad then," said veteran goalkeeper Joseph An-

toine Bell. "But it's been worse chaos this time round."

The "Indomitable Lions," in stark contrast to most of the other finalists in the US, played just five international warm-up matches ahead of the tournament and did not begin their preparations until mid-March.

First a row over the control of the country's football federation delayed plans set up by former French national coach Henri Michel, who was appointed to the Cameroonian position at the start of the year.

Then a FIFA ban on the country's main stadium in Yaounde ruled out any preparation matches at home and a telephone had to be hosted on state television, late last month, to raise money for last-minute training trips to France, Italy, South Korea, Greece and the Caribbean.

Payment for the players remains unresolved with controversy still raging hours before the team played their first match in Group B on Sunday.

"We must be blessed with something special because there is no other team that could have gone through what we have been through and play as well as we did," Bell said after the drawn game with Sweden. "It's something we can't explain."

"The preparation have been a nightmare," added Michel. "But the players showed great strength and morale in the match."

Captain Stephen Tataw, who last month appealed to President Paul Biya to intervene, predicted the team would improve on their quarter-final placing in 1990.

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