

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 unruffled, 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.

— AFP photo

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 Reuter.

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 and Russia rarely threatened 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 after failing to make any impression.

Romario might have scored

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

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

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

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 Yury Nitikov.

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, may 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."

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.

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