

WORLD CUP USA '94

Today's World Cup Fixtures

Group F
Belgium vs Holland
Saudi Arabia vs Morocco

Group D
Argentina vs Nigeria
(For details see page 1)

An apology for smoking

DALLAS, June 24: Bulgarian coach Dimitar Penev broke the law during his team's first match against Nigeria — he had a cigarette, reports Reuter.

In fact, a nervous Penev smoked more than one as his team collapsed in a 3-0 defeat to Nigeria, but no one tried to stop him although an American television commentator criticised him for breaking city anti-smoking laws.

The Cotton Bowl Stadium is a no-smoking area under a Dallas city ordinance and brings a maximum 200 dollars fine if an offender refuses to put out the cigarette.

Penev, when told on Thursday, said: "We know that in the United States smoking is not very popular. But can you imagine a coach sitting on the bench not smoking?"

"I am playing the game in my mind and smoking is my expression of temper," added Penev. "I will try not to smoke next time, and maybe we will win."

WC snippets

UNDATED, June 24: Thursday's results — Italy 1, Norway 0; South Korea 0, Bolivia 0.

Star of the Day — Dino Baggio, whose 69th-minute header gave Italy their victory over Norway.

Quote of the Day — "It was a game that we will certainly remember for some years." — Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi, whose team played with 10 men from the 22nd minute on.

History — Had Italy not beaten Norway, they would have been in grave danger of not advancing to the second round. The last time the Italians failed to make the second round of the World Cup was in 1974, when they were beaten out in their group by Argentina and Poland.

Expulsions — Italian goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca, for intentionally trying to stop a shot with his hands outside the penalty area, the first keeper to ever be red carded in a World Cup game; Bolivian midfielder Luis Cristaldo for a hard tackle.

Zeroes — The South Korea-Bolivia game was the first of the tournament without a goal.

Strike — Cameroon's players called off a threatened strike for Friday's game against Brazil. The players reportedly have not been paid for two months. There was no word if they settled their dispute with their soccer federation.

Poor Vladoiu

DALLAS, June 24: Romanian forward Ion Vladoiu received a three-match ban from FIFA's disciplinary committee on Thursday — the harshest punishment meted out at the 1994 World Cup finals to date, reports Reuter.

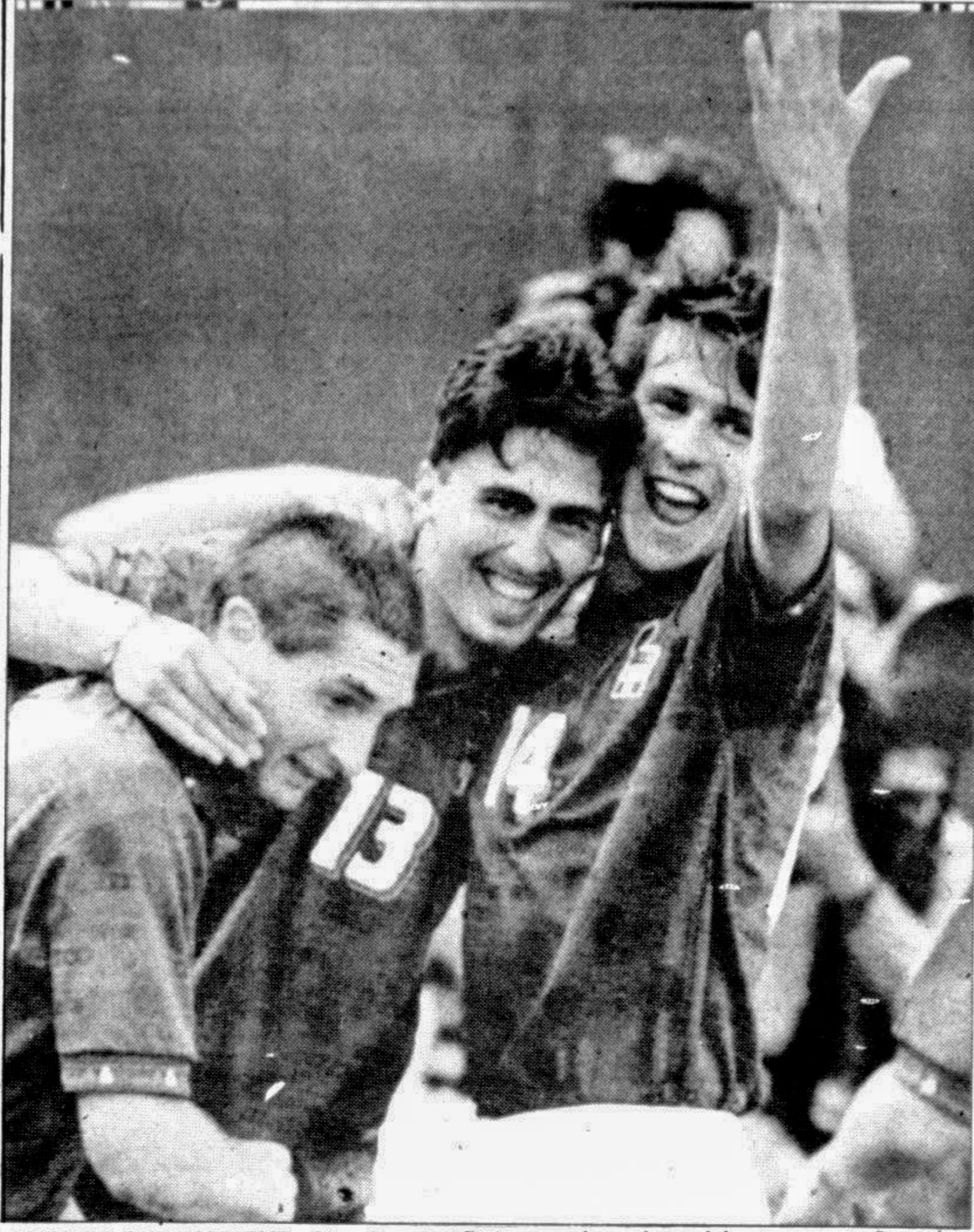
Vladoiu was sent off for a wild tackle in Romania's 4-1 defeat by Switzerland and Portugal on Wednesday, four minutes after going on as substitute.

The Romanian, the third player shown a red card at the finals, will not be able to play again at the tournament unless Romania reaches the semifinals.

FIFA, which has ruled that all players sent off will be banned for at least two games, has said it aims to tighten up on violent conduct by imposing tough sanctions.

Vladoiu was fined 7,500 Swiss francs (5,500 dollars) for this offence.

The other two players sent off earlier in the competition, Bolivia's Marco Etcheverry and Miguel Angel Nadal of Spain, were both suspended for two matches.



MAN OF THE MOMENT: Dino Baggio (C) is warmly embraced by teammates Daniele Massaro (L) and Nicola Bertoni (R) after scoring Italy's only goal against Norway during a World Cup Group E match at the Giants Stadium in New Jersey on Thursday. — AFP photo

Pagliuca's dubious distinction Italy's great escape act

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, June 24: Triple champions Italy, forced to play almost 70 minutes with 10 men after goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca was sent off, grabbed a dramatic 1-0 win over Norway in World Cup Group E on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Midfielder Dino Baggio powered a header beyond Norwegian goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt in the 69th minute from a left wing free kick by Giuseppe Signori.

The result made up for Italy's shock 1-0 defeat by Ireland here in Giants Stadium and left them with a great chance of qualifying for the last 16.

Norway and Italy have three points from two games while Ireland have three from one match.

Under huge pressure after that defeat by Ireland, disaster struck Italy in the 21st minute when Pagliuca was shown the red card for handling the ball outside his penalty area.

Pagliuca had sprinted from his line to confront the on-rushing Oyvind Leonhardsen after Norway sprang the Italian offense trap.

Pagliuca clearly played the ball with his hand as Leonhardsen tried to round him and German referee Hellmut Krug had no option but to dismiss him.

Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi immediately pulled off European footballer-of-the-year Roberto Baggio and sent on reserve goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani.

Baggio had been struggling with an Achilles injury but the decision to remove his star player was a puzzling one.

It looked bleak for Italy when captain Franco Baresi limped off three minutes into the second half but Dino Baggio, who has a knack of scoring at vital times, headed his fifth goal for his country to delight the Italo-Americans in the 70,000-plus crowd.

It was a superb win for 10-man Italy, a team accused by

their critics of lacking character, and a triumph sealed when their two biggest names — Roberto Baggio and Baresi — had been forced to leave the field.

Italo-Americans have had few kind words for Sacchi and his team but they gave them a standing ovation for this win.

Norway, in their first World Cup finals since 1938, paid the penalty for laying for the point which would have virtually ensured them a place in the second round.

The Norwegians mounted a series of desperate attacks in

the closing stages but Lazio goalkeeper Marchegiani kept his cool, clinging on to a sharp volley from substitute Jahn Ivar Jakobsen in the 85th minute and generally handling well.

Italy had opened sharply with Thorstvedt having to produce a fine plunging save to keep out a Nicola Bertoni header in the 14th minute.

But the red card altered the course of the match and left Italy to rely on breakthroughs to lone striker Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Jakobsen, a second half substitute, squandered Norway's best chance when he missed the target with a clear header in the 45th minute.

Italy came into the game more as time went on, Signori posing problems down the left flank.

"This result doesn't guarantee us qualification and we have problems for Mexico. Pagliuca will be suspended, it looks like Baresi may not be able to play and we have doubts over (Paolo) Maldini."

Baresi has a knee injury, the extent of which will be known only today Maldini was hobbling near the end with ankle trouble, although his knock in thought to be less serious.

Norwegian coach Egill Olsen was unhappy with his team.

"It was a very disappointing performance. We didn't create very much ourselves," he said.

Italy were much more direct than in other matches I have seen. We just didn't get enough players forward."

The goal came after defender Alf Inge Haaland had again fouled Signori. The Lazio man got up an swung over a fine free kick which Dino Baggio met perfectly some 10 metres from goal.

A point against Mexico in Washington on June 28 should guarantee that Italy avoid the ignominy of first round elimination.

Norway have the tricky task of taking something from their game with fellow long-ball purveyors Ireland here on the same day.

Pagliuca, blamed for the goal which condemned Italy to defeat by Ireland, is the first goalkeeper to be sent off in the finals since Belgian Jean Marie Pfaff got the red card in the 1986 third place playoff against France.

"We definitely deserved to win. Norway seemed to be playing for a draw," said Sacchi.

"I took off Roberto Baggio for the sake of him and the team. We had to play virtually a whole game with just 10 men and that would have put too much of a physical strain on him," he said, referring to Baggio's Achilles injury.

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On the dismissal of Pagliuca, he said: "We would have preferred a goal rather than a sending off."

Soccer's sacrifice

STOCKHOLM, June 24: A woman stabbed her partner dead with a pair of scissors after he forced her to stay awake in the early hours for a World Cup soccer match, a Swedish newspaper reported on Friday, reports Reuter.

Aftonbladet said the killing happened during Sweden's opening game against Cameroon on Monday night.

The couple went to a friend's house in Stockholm to watch the match on television. It did not start until 1.30 am Swedish time and the 53-year-old woman fell asleep in a kitchen while her partner, also 53, and two other men watched the match and drank spirits.

When Sweden scored a goal, Aftonbladet said, the man woke his partner up and told her she should not be asleep during the game. The man refused to let her leave the house and the woman became increasingly irritated.

After an argument, the woman stabbed her partner with a pair of scissors. "I knew I wouldn't see him again, I'd had enough," the daily quoted her as telling police.

After the killing, the woman fell asleep. The two other football fans did not notice what had happened and continued watching the match, falling asleep after the game.

Police said the woman has been charged with murder.

Koreans fail to break jinx

FOXBORO, Massachusetts, June 24: Bolivia and South Korea fought out the first goalless draw of the World Cup finals on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The 17th match of the tournament, played in front of a 53,000 capacity crowd, produced plenty of end-to-end action but the finishing was mostly hurried and poor by both sides.

The Bolivians, beaten 1-0 by champions Germany in the opening match of the finals, were forced to play with 10 men for the final seven minutes of the Group C encounter.

Defender Luis Cristaldo was sent off for bringing down South Korean defender Kim Pan-Keun.

Cristaldo was dismissed for a second bookable offence after he was shown the yellow card in the first half for protesting when teammate Miguel Rimba was booked.

The draw gave Bolivia their first point in the finals after four defeats spanning three tournaments.

The Koreans are also still looking for their first win after 10 attempts.

Both sides had chances to break the stalemate in a frantic finale which included a remarkable eight minutes of injury time.

First, Bolivia midfielder Julio Cesar Baldivieso fluffed one with only goalkeeper Choi

In-Young to beat and substitute Alvaro Pena screaming for the ball in front of an open goal.

Baldivieso was brought down a minute later as he ran clear. Surprisingly, referee Leslie Mottram waved play on.

At the other end an absorbing duel between Bolivian goalkeeper Carlos Trucco and Hwang Sun-Hong ended in Trucco's favour after he made three crucial late saves.

In the 81st minute he dived to his left to push away a close range effort from the tall Korean striker.

A minute later Trucco raced out of his box to clear from Hwang who had broken clear.

And three minutes into injury time Trucco again foiled Hwang with a fine save from a well struck drive.

Both the president of the Bolivian Football Federation, Guido Loayza, and coach Zabier Askargorta implied they were unhappy with some of the referee's decisions, including Cristaldo's dismissal.

But they said resignedly they would have to accept them.

Askargorta said: "We won't get anywhere by complaining. We adhere to FIFA's fair play campaign, but let others do so too."

Cristaldo said he was not even aware he had been booked in the first half and that is why he protested against the red card. He also claimed he had played the ball.

Asked how Bolivia would feel about facing Spain in their remaining group game, needing to win to stay in the tournament and without three suspended players, including Baldivieso, who has been booked in two matches, Cristaldo said:

"The squad has 22 players who are all ready to play. We just have to go out and win."

South Korea coach Kim Ho said: "We had more scoring opportunities in the second half. I wish our players had played calmly. I wish they had not rushed."

"I think our players felt a lot of pressure and that's why we didn't score."

TEAMS

SOUTH KOREA: Choi In-Young (capt), Hong Myung-Bo, Park Jung-Bae, Shin Hong-Gi, Kim Pan-Keu, Kim Joo-Sung, Lee Young-Jin, Noh Jeong-Yoon (Choi Young-II 70), Ko Jeong-Won, Hwang Sun-Hong, Seo Jung-Won (Ha Seok-Ju 65).

BOLIVIA: Carlos Trucco, Miguel Rimba, Gustavo Quinteros, Marco Sandy, Carlos Borja, Luis Cristaldo, Milton Melgar (capt), Vladimir Soria, Erwin Sanchez, Julio Baldivieso, William Ramallo (Alvaro Pena 67).

Referee: Leslie Mottram (Scotland)

Bookings: South Korea — Ko Jeong-Won (39), Shin Hong-Gi (63), Park Jung-Bae (90).
Bolivia — Rimba (23), Baldivieso (32)

Sending-off: Bolivia — Cristaldo (83).

Mistaken identity!

PONTIAC, Michigan, June 24: Swedish coach Tommy Svensson hit the roof on Thursday when a Brazilian journalist mistook him for Sweden's goalkeeper in the 1950 World Cup, reports Reuter.

The balding Svensson, 49, was first bewildered and then outraged after the reporter congratulated him on his performance in goal in 1950.

Sweden's goalkeeper in that tournament — and in 1958 when Brazil beat Sweden 5-2 in the final — was Karl Svensson, no relation to Tommy.

"What do you mean?" stormed Svensson, who played as a winger for Sweden in the 1970 World Cup. "Do you think I look 70?"

ROK rue their luck

FOXBORO, Mass, June 24: South Korea lamented their missed opportunities Thursday, especially since they realise that they now need to beat defending champions Germany to assure themselves of advancing in the World Cup, reports AP.

Their 0-0 draw with Bolivia in Foxboro Stadium left them with an 0-2-0 record and two points, keeping them without a victory in four trips to soccer's showcase event.

"Today they could have been the best moment in Korean soccer history, but we lost at least two sure goals," said Assistant Coach Huh Jung Moo.

South Korea made their debut in the World Cup disastrously in 1954 when they lost 9-0 to Hungary and 7-0 to Turkey.

The two humiliating defeats sent the Koreans home and kept them there for 32 years.

Their only moments of glory — if a draw is glory — came in the 1986 World Cup, three decades later, when they drew 1-1 with Bulgaria. Korea matched that in their opener, rallying for two goals in the last five minutes for a 2-2 draw with Spain last Friday.

But a victory has eluded the South Koreans.

In recent years the Koreans have progressed and scored better results.

Since the 1990 World Cup, the Koreans have played 56 international games, mostly in Asia, winning 29, drawing 20 and losing 7.

They gets their next chance for a World Cup victory in Dallas Monday — against three-time and defending World Cup champions Germany.



Ko Jeong Woo (R) of South Korea is hot on the heels of Bolivian Carlos Borja during their World Cup Group C encounter at the Foxboro Stadium in Boston on June 23. The match ended in a goalless draw. — AFP photo

Turmoil in German camp

CHICAGO, June 24: German coach Berti Vogts is thundering. His players are pointing fingers at each other. The temperature is certainly rising in the camp of the World Cup champion, reports AP.

Vogts thinks hotter tempers and some excitement may be good for the German team, which has failed to convince in its first two games although it collected four points and is virtually sure of advancing to the second round.

After giving them 24 hours off following Tuesday's 1-1 draw against Spain, Vogts called his players together Thursday for a stormy meeting.

"I told them I was happy with the four points but not with the spiritless performances," said Vogts whose team edged Bolivia 1-0 in the World Cup opener.

"I want more from every player. I was very clear about that."

The team watched a video tape of the game against Spain and then had a discussion using locker room language, said captain Lothar Matthaus.

It was a nice discussion, Vogts said. "I told them what I didn't like, the players themselves talked about their mistakes. I was loud. It was like a thunderstorm."

It was a thunderstorm without rain, Matthaus said. "The players are unhappy with their performance and that's positive," Vogts said.

At the afternoon practice session, the frustrations were taken out during an intra-squad game. The starters beat the reserves 4-2 after trailing 2-0, and no one was holding back.

Vogts said there would be "personnel consequences" following the "lifeless" performances in the first two games.

"Surely the team will have a different face," Vogts said about the last Group C game against South Korea in Dallas on Monday.

This may not necessarily mean new players, but perhaps a new character," Matthaus said. "It means that we will do from the very beginning what we were told to do."

Defender Thomas Berthold began the turmoil when he said Wednesday that the German team will not repeat as champion if it doesn't improve dramatically. He also called for Matthaus to return to the midfield.

Lothar is the sweeper and he stays the sweeper," Vogts stressed. "But he should go more forward when we have possession."

Andreas Brehme, the veteran defender who scored converted the penalty to give Germany the 1-0 victory over Argentina and the 1990 title in Italy, added fuel to the fire when he reportedly criticised Matthaus Sammer by name.

Brehme 33 had trouble keeping pace with faster Spanish forwards and complained that Sammer didn't provide support as agreed.

Matthaus, also 33 and good friends with Brehme, reportedly voiced the same opinion.

Both Matthaus and Brehme denied having named names.

Sammer said he had discussed the dispute with Brehme, but declined to give details of their talk. He said Matthaus was "very angry" with the team's performance.

There was a "certain harmony" missing between the team's back line and the forwards, said Sammer, who also had a "private discussion" with Matthaus.

Matthaus, obviously with Sammer in mind, said the team had to be "more disciplined."

"We can't blame the coach, we must blame ourselves. We didn't follow his instructions. We can't be egoists, we have to sacrifice for the team, that's how we became champions in 1990," said the captain, who is playing his fourth World Cup.

"They should look at their own mistakes first and not start naming names," Vogts said.

Juergen Klinsmann, the only player who fulfilled his duties by scoring both German goals in the first two games, sounded a more optimistic note.

There is no crisis in the team. First we want to win our group and stay in Chicago for the second round and then we want to stay in the tournament until the end. And I am optimistic that we can do it," Klinsmann said.

REACTING TO PRESSURE FROM THIRD WORLD MEMBERS, FIFA EXPAND THE 1992 FINALS TO TAKE IN 24 TEAMS. THE DRAW HOWEVER IS A FARCE. SCOTLAND ARE PULLED OUT TO PLAY ARGENTINA AND THEN RE-LOCATED INTO BRAZIL'S GROUP



IT'S BELGIUM WHO EVENTUALLY FACE THE CUP HOLDERS IN THE OPENING GAME IN BARCELONA. THE MATCH BUICKS THE TREND FOR 0-0 DRAWS WITH VANDENBERGH'S SOLITARY GOAL ENOUGH TO BEAT THE ARGENTINIANS

BOTH THESE TEAMS QUALIFY FROM THEIR GROUP. HUNGARY GO OUT DESPITE THEIR 10-1 MAULING OF EL SALVADOR. A NEW RECORD SCORE IN THE FINALS



OF THE FIRST-TIME PARTICIPANTS, ALGERIA MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT. THEY HUMBLE 1974 WINNERS WEST GERMANY

FRUSTRATINGLY FOR THE ALGERIANS, THEY ARE ELIMINATED BY WHAT LOOKS LIKE AN UNSPORTING PIECE OF COLLUSION. THE GERMANS AND AUSTRIA TAMELY PLAY OUT THEIR MATCH AFTER A MUTUALLY-SUITABLE SCORELINE IS ESTABLISHED



OTHER NEW BOYS CAMEROON BRIGHTEN UP PROCEEDINGS WITH SOME EXPRESSIVE FOOTBALL AND LIVELY ANTIKS

ULTIMATELY THE UNDEFEATED AFRICANS ARE ONLY REMOVED BECAUSE ITALY HAVE SCORED MORE GOALS WITH THREE STRAIGHT DRAWS. THE AZURENS HAVE MADE AN INAUSPICIOUS START TO THE CAMPAIGN



UP IN BILBAO. ENGLAND TAKE JUST 27 SECONDS TO NOTCH THEIR FIRST FINALS GOAL FOR 12 YEARS. BYRON ROBSON CATCHES FRANCE ON THE HOOP

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