

WORLD CUP USA '94

Today's World Cup Fixtures

Group D
Bulgaria vs Greece
Group A
USA vs Romania
Switzerland vs Colombia
(For details see page 1)

Milla's pleasure in pain

PALO ALTO, June 25: Roger Milla, who on Friday became the oldest player to compete in the World Cup finals, said he was thankful for the chance to set a new record, reports Reuter.

The 42-year-old Cameroon striker came on as a second-half substitute in his country's 3-0 loss to Brazil in a Group B match at Stanford Stadium, south of San Francisco.

He beat the previous mark set by Italian goalkeeper Dino Zoff, then 40 years old, at the 1982 finals in Spain.

"I was very thankful I was able to play, even if it was for just 37 minutes," Milla told reporters after the match.

"It felt good to set a new record but I was not happy it came in a match in which we got a dismal result."

Milla, who has now played in all three of Cameroon's World Cup finals campaigns over the last 12 years, had just one chance on goal, firing a left-footed shot into the hands of Brazilian goalkeeper Taffarel.

WORLD CUP TOP SCORERS

DALLAS, June 25: World Cup goalscorers after matches played on Friday.

3—Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), Martin Dahlin (Sweden)
2—Florin Raduciotu (Romania), Juergen Klinsmann (Germany), Juan Golkoetxea (Spain), Gheorghe Hagi (Romania), Georges Bregy (Switzerland), Adolfo Valencia (Colombia), Luis Garcia (Mexico), Romario (Brazil)

1—Julio Salinas (Spain), Hong Myong-Bo (South Korea), Soe Jung-Won (South Korea), Eric Wynalda (United States), Ray Houghton (Ireland), Marc Degryse (Belgium), Kjetil Rekdal (Norway), Roger Ljung (Sweden), David Embe (Cameroon), Francois Omar-Byik (Cameroon), Rai (Brazil), Wim John (Netherlands), Gaston Taument (Netherlands), Fuad Anwar Amin (Saudi Arabia), Diego Maradona (Argentina), Rashidi Yekini (Nigeria), Daniel Amokachi (Nigeria), Emmanuel Amunike (Nigeria), Alain Sutter (Switzerland), Stephane Chapuisat (Switzerland), Adrianm Knup (Switzerland), Ernie Stewart (United States), Dino Baggio (Italy), John Aldridge (Ireland), Bebeto (Brazil), Marcio Santos (Brazil), Oleg Salenko (Russia), Thomas Brodin (Sweden).

WC snippets

UNDATED, June 25: Thursday's results — Mexico 2, Ireland 1; Brazil 3, Cameroon 0; Sweden 3, Russia 1.

Stars of the Day — Luis Garcia scored both goals in Mexico's win over Ireland; Martin Dahlin had two goals on headers for Sweden against Russia.

Quote of the Day — "Brazil are on the right track but we haven't won anything yet," said Brazilian striker Bebeto. "There's a lot still to do but we certainly will improve."

History — Cameroon's Roger Milla became the oldest player in World Cup history when the 42-year-old came on as a substitute in the second half of a 3-0 loss to Brazil.

Expulsions — Cameroon defender Rigobert Song for a hard tackle on Bebeto of Brazil in the 64th minute; Russia's Sergei Gorlukovich for getting two yellow cards against Sweden.

Secrecy — Nigeria closed their practice at Foxboro Stadium on Friday, one day before a game with Argentina.

"We are mysterious," said Samson Emeka Omeruah, the president of the Nigerian Football Association. "It's good to be mysterious."

Samba sends 'lions' in swoon

PALO ALTO, June 25: Brazil, inspired by goals from Romario, Bebeto and Marcio Santos, tamed

Cameroon's 'Idomitable Lions' with a 3-0 victory in World Cup Group B on Friday and clinched a place in the second round, reports Reuter.

After a cautious start, the Brazilians turned on the style with a display of fluent and skillful soccer which tore the Cameroon defence to shreds after 17-year-old defender Rigobert Song was sent off for a scything second half tackle on Rai.

The victory took Brazil to six points following Monday's 2-0 defeat of Russia, making them certain of a berth in the second round.

Even 42-year-old Roger Milla, who came off the substitutes' bench in the 65th minute to become the oldest

Romario's goal put him further on the way to fulfilling his promise that this will be remembered as his World Cup.

Although ineffective in the early stages, his first glimpse of brilliance prevented what could have been a frustrating start for Brazil and set them alight.

It was his second goal of the finals.

Cameroon hustled hard in midfield and made several promising moves in the first half hour but failed to create any real chances.

The Brazilians began to get into their stride after the goal, with Rai starting to link up well with striker Bebeto and the Cameroon defence coming under almost constant pressure at the end of the first half.

The second half was all Brazil. Bell was forced into several good saves while his opposite number Taffarel was untroubled.

"As in our first match there were some problems with the referee and some things which we did not understand," Michel said without going into details.

"We accept the defeat but I was not very happy with the referee," Tataw said. "He spoiled the game."

Tataw said the dismissal of Song was too severe and criticised several other decisions.

Michel said he did not believe a row over unpaid bonuses, which badly disrupted Cameroon's preparations for the match and made it hard for them to concentrate during training, had a major effect on their performance.

"That did not directly affect the team's performance. In the second half we tried to pull ourselves together and keep more possession of the ball. But at the end of the day it was not enough," he said.

Brazil getting into groove

UNDATED, June 25: The good news for the World Cup is that the Brazilians are scoring goals and upholding their tradition of putting flair before method. The bad news for their rivals is that they are capable of improving, reports AP.

The South Americans, who are aiming for a record fourth World Cup triumph, handed out a soccer lesson to Cameroon Friday, winning 3-0 in Stanford, Calif., and playing in style.

At least in the second half. "During the first half we were nervous, it was very even and we had a lot of trouble," coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said.

"In the second half we improved a lot, playing with Bebeto more open on the right. Brazil improved a lot technically and tactically."

If they continue to make improvements, the other teams had better watch out.

"If Brazil continue to play their own brand of soccer it's hard to see that we won't win the competition," striker Romario said.

"Brazil are starting to look like champions." Bebeto, his strike partner, is a little more cautious.

"Brazil are on the right track but we haven't won anything yet," he said. "There's a lot still to do but we certainly will improve."

With two wins from two games, Brazil became the first team definitely in the second round. Several others, including the United States, are virtually there and can only miss out if the results go crazy.



Romario, the Brazilian superstar tries to lunge into the heart of the Cameroon defence during a Group B match at the Stanford Stadium on June 24. Romario scored his second goal in the 15th World Cup as the hot favourites tamed the African lions 3-0 in a heady display of typical Brazilian magic touch.

Attendance: 83,401
Referee: Arturo Pablo Brizio (Mexico)

Yellow cards:
Brazil — Mauro Silva (45)
Cameroon — Stephen Tataw (8), Raymond Kalla (38)

Red card:
Cameroon — Regobert Bohanang Song (63)

TEAMS

Brazil: 1-Taffarel, 2-Jorginho, 13-Aldair, 15-Marcio Santos, 16-Leonardo, 5-Mauro Silva, 8-Dunga, 9-Zinho (18), Paulo Sergio, 74-10-Rai (19), Muller 80, 7-Bebeto, 11-Romario.

Cameroon: 1-Joseph Antonine-Bell, 6-Thomas Libih, 3-Rigobert Song, 13-Raymond Kalla, 15-Hans Agbo, 14-Stephen Tataw, 10-Louis Mfede (11)-Emmanuel Kessack Mabouang 70, 8-Ernle Mbouh, 17-Marc Vivien Foe, 19-David Embe (9-Roger Milla 63), 7-Francois Omam-Biyik.

MATCH STATS

	Brazil	Cameroon
Goals	3	0
Shots on goal	15	8
Fouls	11	16
Corners	3	2
Offsides	4	2
Yellow cards	1	2
Red cards	0	1

FIFA bars Irish coach Charlton from touchline

DALLAS, June 25: Ireland coach Jack Charlton was banned by FIFA today from sitting on the touchline for their final first-round World Cup game against Norway on Tuesday for misbehaving during the first two matches, reports Reuter.

FIFA's disciplinary committee banned Charlton from sitting on the bench for the next game as a result of his constant misbehaviour during the first two games, FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni told Reuters.

FIFA consider that Charlton has been shouting too much abuse at referees and linesmen during the matches against Italy and Mexico from the team's touchline bench.

Tognoni did not say whether the ban would continue if Ireland qualified for the second round of the World Cup.

Charlton, an Englishman who has taken Ireland to two successive World Cup finals, has also complained several times to the world soccer body about the hot conditions and time available for players to drink during games.

Sweden's Dahlin to miss Brazil clash

DETROIT, Michigan, June 25: Martin Dahlin pushed Russia to the World Cup precipice with two knockout headers but will miss Sweden's showdown with Brazil to decide who wins Group B, reports AP.

He picked up his second booking in Sweden's first World Cup win for 20 years and is automatically suspended for one game.

The 26-year-old Dahlin is now the equal top scorer in the tournament with three goals with Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta.

"I picked up my second yellow card so I will miss the Brazilian match... Of course I am sad, but I know my team can do it without me," Dahlin said.

Svensson said: "It was an awful start to the start for us conceding the penalty, but I had a good feeling about the game, the players were very motivated and they looked sharp in the last few training sessions."



NOT SLEEPING BUT SCORING: Swedish striker Martin Dahlin nods the ball into Russian net to seal the fate of the Group B match at the Pontiac Silverdome Stadium. Sweden won comfortably 3-1. — AFP photo

Dahlin double dumps Russia

PONTIAC, June 25: Striker Martin Dahlin kept Sweden's World Cup hopes alive on Friday by scoring two goals in a 3-1 victory against a makeshift Russian side reduced to 10 men for most of the second half, reports Reuter.

The turning point in the Group B match came in the 47th minute, when Russian defender Sergei Gorlukovich was sent off after receiving his second yellow card for a foul on Dahlin.

Eleven minutes later Dahlin stooped low to direct home a close-range header from three metres out to put his team 2-1 ahead and well on the way to three points.

Eight minutes from time Dahlin added his second goal with another close-range header after a superb cross by Kennet Andersson.

The defeat was disastrous for the troubled Russians, riven by a player mutiny and showing wholesale changes from the side beaten 2-0 by Brazil.

Team coach Pavel Sadyrian dropped five players, including main striker Sergei Yuran and three experienced midfielders, and the daring move seemed to have worked after his side went ahead after just four minutes.

Striker Oleg Salenko, one of the five replacements, scored easily from the penalty spot after defender Roger Ljung dragged Alexander Borodyuk to the ground.

Sweden looked sluggish for much of the first half but Tomas Brodin equalised for Sweden in the 39th minute from another penalty after Gorlukovich fouled Dahlin in side the area.

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson said he had had no doubts his team would win despite the early penalty.

"I think they were a little tired at the end of the first half. We made them run a lot," he said.

The win was Sweden's first in the World Cup since July 3, 1974, when the side beat the former Yugoslavia 2-1.

Referee: Joel Quinio (France)

Yellow cards:
Sweden — Kennet Andersson (42), Stefan Schwarz (52), Martin Dahlin (58)

Russia — Sergei Gorlukovich (2), Dmitry Kharin (34)

Red Card:
Russia — Sergei Gorlukovich (50)

TEAMS
Sweden: 1-Thomas Ravelli, 2-Roland Nilsson, 3-Patrik Andersson, 4-Joachim Björklund, 5-Yuri Nikiforov, 18-Viktor Onopko, 21-Dmitry Khlestov, 8-Dmitry Popov (10-Valery Karpin 41), 19-Alexander Mostovoi, 13-Alexander Borodyuk (4-Dmitry Galyamin 51), 15-Dmitry Radchenko, 9-Oleg Salenko.

MATCH STATS

	Sweden	Russia
Goals	3	1
Shots on goal	24	11
Fouls	10	14
Corners	1	5
Offsides	8	3
Yellow cards	3	2
Red cards	0	1

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CRUCIALLY, THE SOUTH AMERICANS REARGUARD FAILS THEM ONCE MORE. THEY STRUGGLE TO CLEAR A CORNER AND ROSSI POUNCES TO TURN THE BALL PAST PERES THE CARNIVAL IS OVER.



MEANWHILE IN MADRID, ENGLAND MUST BEAT SPAIN TO STAY ALIVE IN THE TOURNAMENT. KEEGAN'S CLUMSY MISS ALLOWS WEST GERMANY TO QUALIFY FROM THAT GROUP.



WITH THE SCORES LEVEL AT 1-1, GERMAN KEEPER SCHUMACHER COMMITS AN ATROCIOUS FOUL ON FRANCE'S BATISTON INCREDIBLY, THE REFEREE TAKES NO ACTION.



BUT THE GERMANS DEIFY THE ODDS YET AGAIN. SUBSTITUTE PLUMENEGGE PULLS ONE BACK AND FISCHER'S ACROBATIC EFFORT MAKES IT 3-3.



FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, A PENALTY SHOOT-OUT WILL DECIDE THE FINALISTS' SOCCER'S VERSION OF TARGET BASSIE AND BEASTLY FOR HILFESCH WHO CONVERTS GERMANY'S WINNING KICK.



THE HIGH-OCTANE ACTION ROLLS ON INTO EXTRA TIME. FRANCE STRIKE TWICE THROUGH TICIANA AND GRIESE, AND NATURALLY THEY SENNE VICTORY.



THE SEVILLE SEMI-FINAL PITCHES GERMAN GRIE AGAINST FRENCH WIT. IN 18 MINUTES, LITIBARSI THREADS HOME THE OPENER.



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