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CUP HIGHLIGHTS

UNDATED, June 30: Wednesday's Results — Saudi Arabia 1, Belgium 0; Netherlands 2, Morocco 1.

**Stars of the Day** — Saudi Arabia's Saeed Owairan, whose superb solo effort led to the only goal of the game against Belgium; Dennis Bergkamp, who had a goal and an assist in the Dutch win over Morocco.

**Quote of the Day** — "This is the best goal I've ever scored in my life. But this goal means nothing to me. I scored it for every Saudi and every Arab person." — Saeed Owairan, whose goal gave his team the 1-0 victory that moved them into the second round.

**Moving On** — The Netherlands won Group F and Saudi Arabia finished second, joining the United States, Mexico, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Belgium, Romania and Switzerland in the next round.

**Moving Out** — Morocco finished 0-3 and was eliminated, joining Norway, Cameroon, South Korea, Bolivia and Colombia.

**Sent Home** — Ioan Vladoiu, already banned from three games for a vicious tackle, was sent home by the Romania team because of foul behaviour on and off the field.

**History** — Saudi Arabia, in the World Cup for the first time, not only made them to the second round, they came in second in Group F and beat top-rated Belgium in the group finale. The Saudis are the first team from the Persian Gulf to qualify for the second round.

GOAL SCORERS

UNDATED, June 30: Following are the World Cup '94 goal scorers after Wednesday's matches:

**6 goals** — Oleg Salenko (Russia).

**4 goals** — Juergen Klinsmann (Germany).

**3 goals** — Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), Martin Dahlin (Sweden), Romario (Brazil).

**2 goals** — Lorin Raduciu (Romania), Jose Caminero (Spain), Juan Goicoetxea (Spain), Gheorghe Hagi (Romania), Georges Bregy (Switzerland), Adolfo Valencia (Colombia), Luis Garcia (Mexico), Fuad Anwar Amin (Saudi Arabia), Claudio Caniggia (Argentina), Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria), Hong-Myong-Bo (South Korea).

**1 goal** — Julio Salinas (Spain), Hwang Sun-Hong (South Korea), Soe-Jung-Won (South Korea), Eric Wynalda (United States), Ray Houghton (Ireland), Marc Degryse (Belgium), Kjetil Rekdal (Norway), Roger Ljung (Sweden), David Embley (Cameroon), Francois Omam-Biyik (Cameroon), Ral (Brazil), Wim Jonk (Netherlands), Diego Maradona (Argentina), Rashidi Yekini (Nigeria), Daniel Amokachi (Nigeria), Emmanuel Amunike (Nigeria), Alain Sutter (Switzerland), Stephane Chapuisat (Switzerland), Adrian Knup (Switzerland), Ernie Stewart (United States), Dino Baggio (Italy), Johan Aldridge (Ireland), Bebeto (Brazil), Marcio Santos (Brazil), Dmitri Radchenko (Russia), Tomas Brodin (Sweden), Sami Al-Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Philippe Albert (Belgium), Mohamed Chouch (Morocco), Samson Siasia (Nigeria), Yordan Lechkov (Bulgaria), Dan Petrescu (Romania), Harold Lozano (Colombia), Herman Gaviria (Colombia), Karlheinz Riedle (Germany), Erwin Sanchez (Bolivia), Josep Guardiola (Spain), Ometrio Alberini (Italy), Marcelino Berna (Mexico), Kennet Andersson (Sweden), Roger Milla (Cameroon), Saeed Owairan (Saudi Arabia), Hassan Nader (Morocco), Bryan Roy (Netherlands), Dennis Bergkamp (Netherlands).

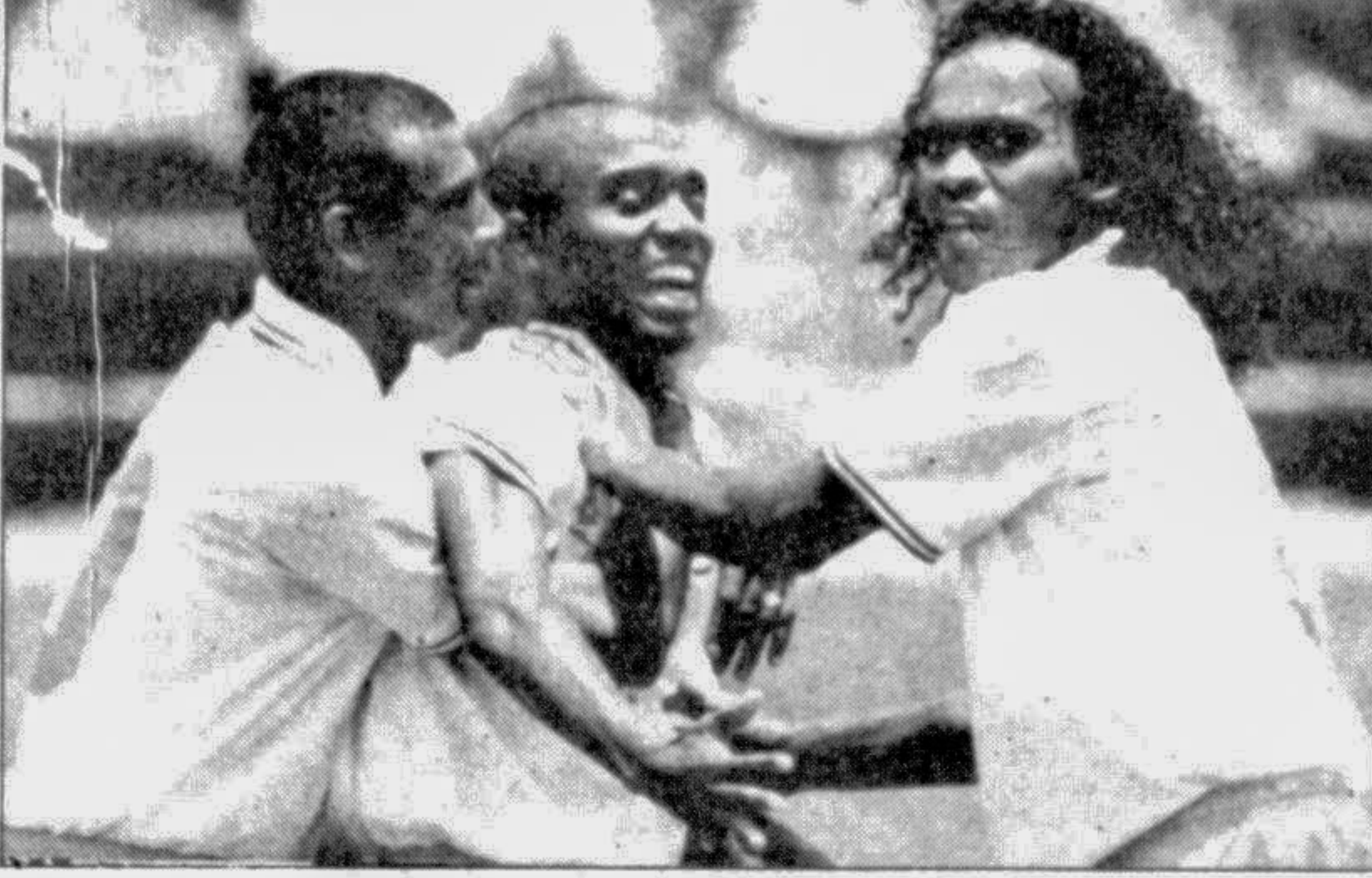
Coincidence?

MARTINSVILLE, New Jersey, June 30: Arrigo Sacchi conducted an hour-long press conference in darkness on Wednesday after a violent thunderstorm caused a power cut at Italy's training base here, reports AFP.

The Italian coach declined to comment on whether not being able to see his tormentors in the press came as a relief. "I know them all by voice. I don't need to see their faces," he said.

Despite the virulent attacks on his management, Sacchi insists his relations with the Fourth Estate are cordial. "They are objective. They criticise when we lose, celebrate when we win. I have very good relations with the press," he said.

Sacchi's rosy portrait was promptly contradicted by an Italian reporter getting up and denouncing the coach for letting the country down before stomping out in disgust.



A grinning Bryan Roy (C) is congratulated by teammates — Gaston Taument (R) and Aron Winter — after netting the match winner for the Netherlands against Morocco at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando on June 29, Roy's goal gave the Dutch the top slot in Group F. — AFP photo

Holland on dead-end road?

ORLANDO, June 30: Victory over Morocco on Wednesday provided relief to many but conviction to few that the Dutch can mount a serious challenge for the World Cup, reports Reuters.

The Dutch dived with disaster after Morocco equalised early in the second half on Wednesday and endured an anxious 30 minutes when a second goal for the Africans could have spelled defeat and elimination.

Instead, Bryan Roy's late goal gave them a 2-1 win which carried them to the top of Group F thanks to Saudi Arabia's surprise win over Belgium.

Far from convincing their critics that they can rise to the great heights of their glory days of the 1970s when they reached two successive World Cup finals, the Dutch seemed to be following the same dead-end road they took in 1990.

A late goal for a 2-1 win after training to the Saudis and a 1-0 defeat to Belgium had

not suggested great things were round the corner and the hard-fought win over Morocco, has not enhanced Dutch reputations.

But trainer Dick Advocaat was pleased — and with some reasons. "At least we've won two matches and not many teams at these finals have done that," he said.

Four years ago the fancied Dutch failed to win a single match at the finals and went on to Germany in a bad-tempered second round encounter.

Then, player dissatisfaction with coach Leo Beenhakker's tactics and training methods hampered their preparations and an ugly mood reigned in the team camp.

This time there was a feeling of déjà vu when another squabble broke out over coaching. The players were not happy that their idol Johan Cruyff was turned down for the job, supposedly because he demanded too much money.

But Advocaat, apart from the exit of a disgruntled Ruud Gullit, has not had to contend

with the same player revolt that Beenhakker had on his hands.

He even allowed himself the luxury of dropping midfield stalwart Frank Rijkaard for the match against Morocco, bringing in Aron Winter instead.

"I expected Morocco to play fast in midfield and I thought Winter would be more comfortable coping with that than Rijkaard," Advocaat explained.

The trainer could also take encouragement from the performance of his younger star Dennis Bergkamp, who scored his first goal of the tournament and set up the second for Roy.

"I thought Bergkamp played well," he said. "He scored a goal when we really needed it — but he always does."

The Dutch took less comfort in defence where Ronald Koeman and company looked particularly slow in the stifling heat of Orlando, where they must play their second round match against Ireland on Monday.

"But they're a European team too so they will have the same problems we have," Advocaat added.

Bergkamp bursts on big stage

ORLANDO, Fla., June 30: In a match the Dutch could not lose, star striker Dennis Bergkamp

would not let them.

A change in the team's formation, pushing him upfield and making him the only striker, worked wonders as Bergkamp scored the first goal and assisted on Bryan Roy's winner in the Netherlands' 2-1 Group F victory Wednesday over Morocco at the Citrus Bowl, reports AP.

The win enabled Orange to capture first place in the group and stay in Orlando when they meet Ireland on Monday in a second-round game.

Roy, who scored the winner in the 78th minute, marveled at his teammate's ability.

"Dennis is one of the best in the world," the winger said. "He is elegant in his play, he scores goals, he has excellent technique. He has got everything to be one of the greatest players in the world."

It was the stylish play of Bergkamp in a mostly sluggish match that kept the Dutch alive.

"He scored a fantastic goal

and just at the right moment," Dutch coach Dick Advocaat said. "That's one of his best qualities."

The high temperature seemed to affect the Dutch offense from the beginning, as it was sloppy for the first 43 minutes.

Then a burst of energy by first-time starter Peter van Vossen and the delicate touch

of Bergkamp produced a 1-0 Dutch lead.

Van Vossen eluded two Moroccan defenders on the left wing and cut toward the goal. As keeper Zakaria Alaoui came out to play him, Van Vossen slipped a pass over to Bergkamp in front. Two defenders became tangled, and with Alaoui halfway out of his net, Bergkamp's deft chip found the right side of the net.

"It was a good action by Peter van Vossen," he said. "I got the ball in front of the goal and I just managed to score."

After Morocco equalized in the 47th minute, the Dutch were desperate to score again.

In the 78th minute, a failed Moroccan clearance bounced to Bergkamp on the left side. He drew Alaoui out of his net and found Roy at the top of the 6-meter box, who easily scored into the right side of the net.

"It was a high ball on the right side going to the left," Roy said. "I jumped up for the ball and Dennis yelled 'Let it go!' He penetrated to the box and he put the ball in front of the goal and I played it in."

DENNIS BERGKAMP



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

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DENNIS BERGKAMP

World Cup — respite for Israeli women

JERUSALEM, June 30: Calls from battered Israeli women have dropped dramatically since the World Cup began in the United States, according to the head of the country's family violence prevention unit, reports AFP.

In the two weeks since live broadcasts of group matches started complaints have dropped by 50 per cent, said Ronit Levi Ari.

"Apparently many husbands with violent tendencies have been glued to their television sets and have simply been too busy watching the games to beat up on their wives," she said.

Levi Ari speculated that soccer could serve as an outlet for male violence.

The unit, called Naamat in Hebrew, receives about 5,000 calls a year from battered wives, but daily calls have dropped to 15 during the soccer festival.

The number of calls tends to increase during Jewish Holidays, she said.

Zagalo shocked

SAN JOSE, California, June 30: Mario Zagalo, assistant coach to World Cup favourites Brazil, said on Wednesday he was shocked by Diego Maradona's positive dope test, reports Reuters.

The Argentine captain faced the prospect of being thrown out of the World Cup for using ephedrine, a banned stimulant. "I'm shocked. He had done extremely well to get back into form, he was making a tremendous comeback and now this happens."

Zagalo said he could not make any comparisons between Maradona and the case of Brazil reserve goalkeeper Zetti, who was reinstated by FIFA after a positive dope test last July.

Zetti was suspended after traces of cocaine were found in his urine following Brazil's World Cup qualifier against Bolivia in La Paz.

But four days later FIFA lifted the ban on the grounds that Zetti and Bolivia defender Miguel Rimba had unwittingly drunk a local tea made from coca leaves.

Baggio will be fit in time

MARTINSVILLE, New Jersey, June 30: A leg injury suffered by Roberto Baggio in Tuesday's World Cup Group E 1-1 draw with Mexico has eased, a spokeswoman for the Italian Soccer Federation said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

"There has been a clear improvement in his condition and doctor (Andrea) Ferretti decided it was not necessary to X-ray his leg," the spokeswoman said.

Baggio suffered bruising around the fibula on his left leg after taking a knock and Ferretti had said an X-ray might be necessary as a precautionary measure.

Cascarino keen to continue

PARISIPANY, N.J., June 30: Ireland's striker Tony Cascarino is hopeful he will be in the team for Monday's World Cup second round match against Holland at the Citrus Bowl in Florida, reports AP.

Cascarino pulled a calf muscle in the right leg on the second day of training at Seminole County Sports Center and has yet to make a starting lineup.

"I'm awaiting the result of a scan but the prospects look good," said the 31-year-old.

"It has been frustrating for me. A lot of players come to a World Cup and know their chances of being selected are not good."

"I knew I'd be in the team at some stage," said Cascarino, who has been given a free transfer by London club Chelsea. His name has been linked with Middlesbrough in northeast England.

If Cascarino gets the green light he will start training when the squad returns to Orlando from New Jersey on Thursday.

Coach Jack Charlton, who watched the Belgium-Saudi Arabia Group F first round game at RFK Stadium in Washington, has decided to sit back and analyse over the next few days the composition of his team.

Ireland's midfielder Andy Townsend twitched his knee in the scoreless tie with Norway but said he would be fit. There are no other injury problems, and players previously yellow carded are now available — the slate cleaned after the first round.

The squad was given the day off Wednesday. Most watched games on television, others played golf or visited New York on shopping missions.

Advocaat's timely adaption

ORLANDO, Fla., June 30: Less is more for the Dutch offense.

Down to a slightly more traditional three-man offense, star Dennis Bergkamp got the room to manoeuvre Wednesday and led his team into the second round of the World Cup, reports AP.

"Based on the way we've played the last two years, this tournament has shown we have to change our tactics a little bit," admitted coach Dick Advocaat after a 2-1 win over Morocco made sure the Dutch finished top of Group F.

Instead of a stubborn coach, Advocaat is now a successful one.

In the searing heat where constant movement is difficult, Advocaat's favoured four-man offense seemed to be running — or mostly standing — too much in each other's way early in the tournament. More space opened room for some individual initiative.

Dutch star Bergkamp scored his first World Cup goal in the 43rd minute and provided the vital pass for fellow-striker Bryan Roy, who clinched the decider in the 78th minute.

"We have a better balance now," said Advocaat.

The Citrus Bowl furnace reached 118 degrees F (47.7

degrees C) Wednesday and in the stifling heat a few flashes of individual brilliance made the difference.

Forward Petr van Vossen.



DICK ADVOCAT

who couldn't get a place on the flashy four-man offense over the last year, used his individual, iconoclast style just before halftime to scramble his way past two defenders and set up Bergkamp for the strike, a delicate chip over the goalie.

Twelve minutes from time, Bergkamp again made the difference. He made a run on the left and his perfect, angled low cross was met by Roy, who shot in between two defenders to score.

It might not be as pretty as

seeing those flowing motions between four talented forwards but it's a lot more effective. The four-man offense had already been criticized by Ruud Gullit as folly and was seen by some as his main reason for quitting the team only weeks ahead of the World Cup.

"We played maybe a bad game but we scored twice and won — that's all that's important," said midfielder Wim Jonk of the new attitude.

Earlier when the starting lineup included four forwards, the Dutch were lucky to win the first game against Saudi Arabia 2-1 on a goalkeeping error and were blanked in Saturday's 1-0 loss to Belgium.

Cutting one striker also allows Advocaat to beef up his midfield, something especially useful when the Dutch face off with Ireland on Monday.

Coach Jack Charlton plays with a five-man midfield and a solitary striker and has already proved what that can do to a four-man offense.

In May, Ireland went to the Netherlands and confidently beat them there 1-0, smothering all offensive impulses with early forechecking and lots of running to seal off the forwards.

"They like to run, but we have to wait and see if they can run for a full game in this heat," said Advocaat.

Of a motivational marvel

WASHINGTON, June 30: Most soccer experts figured Saudi Arabia would be hard-pressed to register even a single victory in their first foray into the World Cup, reports AP.

Yet the upstart Saudis are on their way to the second round after winning two of three games to finish second in Group F.

Despite reported big paychecks, including luxury cars, the Saudis and coach Jorge Sola insist that their main motivation is winning for their country.

"These three games are for the Saudi people," Solari said. "I think all of them for their support. We are happy to be staying here."

So are their backers in America, who have been outnumbered in the stands but unmatched in their collective enthusiasm. Long after Saudi Arabia shocked Belgium 1-0 on Wednesday, thousands of

green-clad fans stood cheering in the lower deck of RFK Stadium.

They were soon joined by several members of the victorious Saudi team, many of whom exchanged hugs with their fans.

Saeed Owairan, who scored the game-winning goal, said, "This goal means nothing to me. I scored it for every Saudi and every Arab person."

Soccer is a relatively new phenomenon in Saudi Arabia, where religious and cultural beliefs have long been a top priority. The country did not begin to participate in international competition until the mid-1970s, and soccer took off when King Fahd poured big bucks into the development of the sport.

Fahd built a \$1.5 billion stadium and paid for the import of high-profile coaches from Europe and South America. His investment is now paying off in a big way.

"They are very aggressive and very fast," Belgium's Vital

Borkelmans said of the Saudis. "We knew they were very good, and indeed they are."

Saudi Arabia knew it all the time, even if no one would believe them. After the game against Belgium, Mohammed was asked by reporters to explain his feelings about the momentous victory.

"It just means we move to the next round," Mohammed said, matter-of-factly.

The Saudis open the second round on Sunday against Sweden in Dallas.

"Sweden are a good team," Solari said. "We hope the future is better for us."

"It's the World Cup, and every team is tough," Borkelmans said. "But really, no one thought they would get this far."

It can't get too much better. Saudi Arabia have already established themselves as the most surprising team in the tournament, regardless of what happens next.

A battle of 'boom boom' today

WIMBLEDON, June 30: Four heavy hitters equipped with serves that have soared as high as 136

mph (218 kph) face off in Friday's men's semifinals at Wimbledon, reports AP.

Defending champion Pete Sampras, enjoying a straight-sets cruise through the championships, meets Todd Martin, who beat him in the pre-Wimbledon warmup at Queens Club, and three-time champion Boris Becker, the centre of controversy, goes against Goran Ivanisevic.

All have serves that regularly rip over the net at better than 100 mph (162 kph) and at Wimbledon, Ivanisevic has hit 136 (218 kph) and Becker 130 (209 kph).

Sampras, seeking a second straight Wimbledon crown, has yet to drop a set and only rarely been threatened in his first five matches.

"I feel that if I play my best, I'm very tough to beat," he said. "I have really filled some holes in my game. I still make an error, a stupid error some-

times, but I've kind of cut that out of my game."

If there are gaps in Sampras' game, they are well hidden. His serves have hit a maximum of 128 mph (206 kph) and he comes in to the match against Martin with 87 aces. In the quarterfinals against Michael Chang, he was nearly flawless.

This is Sampras' third straight trip to the Wimbledon semis. He lost to Ivanisevic here in 1992 and then beat Becker on his way to the title last year. Overall, his record on the grass courts of the All England Club is 18-4.

Sampras is seeking to become the first Wimbledon winner to repeat since Becker in 1985-86 and the first since Bjorn Borg in 1976 to sail through The Championships without dropping a set.

Conversely, Martin has become Wimbledon's marathon man, winning four five-set matches, an Open era record for Wimbledon. Only in the second round, when he beat Patrik Kuhnen in straight sets, has Martin not taken a match to the limit.

His semifinal against Sampras is a rematch of the final at Queens where Martin won the Wimbledon warmup 7-6, 7-6. "I'm excited," Martin said. "I'm going to be playing the defending champion, the No. 1 player in the world, on Centre Court at Wimbledon. That's like my second favorite dream come true. Maybe a few days after that, I'll have my first one come true."

Becker, who was fined \$15,000 for getting treatment from his trainer during a bathroom break, has angered his last two opponents with delaying tactics on the court. Both Andrei Medvedev and Christian Bergstrom complained bitterly after losing to him.

But Becker defended himself. "I'm doing the same things for the past 10 years," he said. "All of a sudden, this is not supposed to be fair play. I'm within the rules. Everybody has their way of doing things on the court."

You know maybe the main reason why they speak up is because they lost. Nobody's happy when they lose."



American Todd Martin stretches to play a forehand return against South African Wayne Ferreira during his quarter-final match at Wimbledon tennis championships in London on Wednesday. Martin won the marathon five-setter 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 5-7, 7-5. — AFP photo