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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 Vladoloi, 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 Raducioiu (Romania), Jose Caminero (Spain), Juan Goikoetxea (Spain), Gheorghe Hagi (Romania), Georges Breyg (Switzerland), Adolfo Valencia (Colombia), Luis Garcia (Mexico), Fuad Anwar Amin (Saudi Arabia), Claudio Caniggia (Argentina), Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria), Hong-Myoung-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 Embi (Cameroon), Francois Oumar-Biyik (Cameroun), Rai (Brazil), Wim Jonk (Netherlands), Gaston Taument (Netherlands), Diego Maradona (Argentina), Rashidi Yekini (Nigeria), Daniel Amokachie (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), Dmitry Radchenko (Russia), Tomas Brolin (Sweden), Sami Al-Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Philippe Albert (Belgium), Mohamed Chaouch (Morocco), Samson Siasia (Nigeria), Yordan Lechkov (Bulgaria), Daniel Bormirov (Bulgaria), Dan Petrescu (Romania), Harold Lozano (Colombia), Herman Gavira (Colombia), Karthikeyan Riedel (Germany), Erwin Sanchez (Bolivia), Josep Guardiola (Spain), Osmetro Alberini (Italy), Marcelino Bernal (Mexico), Kennet Andersson (Sweden), Roger Milia (Cameroon), Saeed Owairan (Saudi Arabia), Hassan Nader (Morocco), Bryan Roy (Netherlands), Dennis Bergkamp (Netherlands).

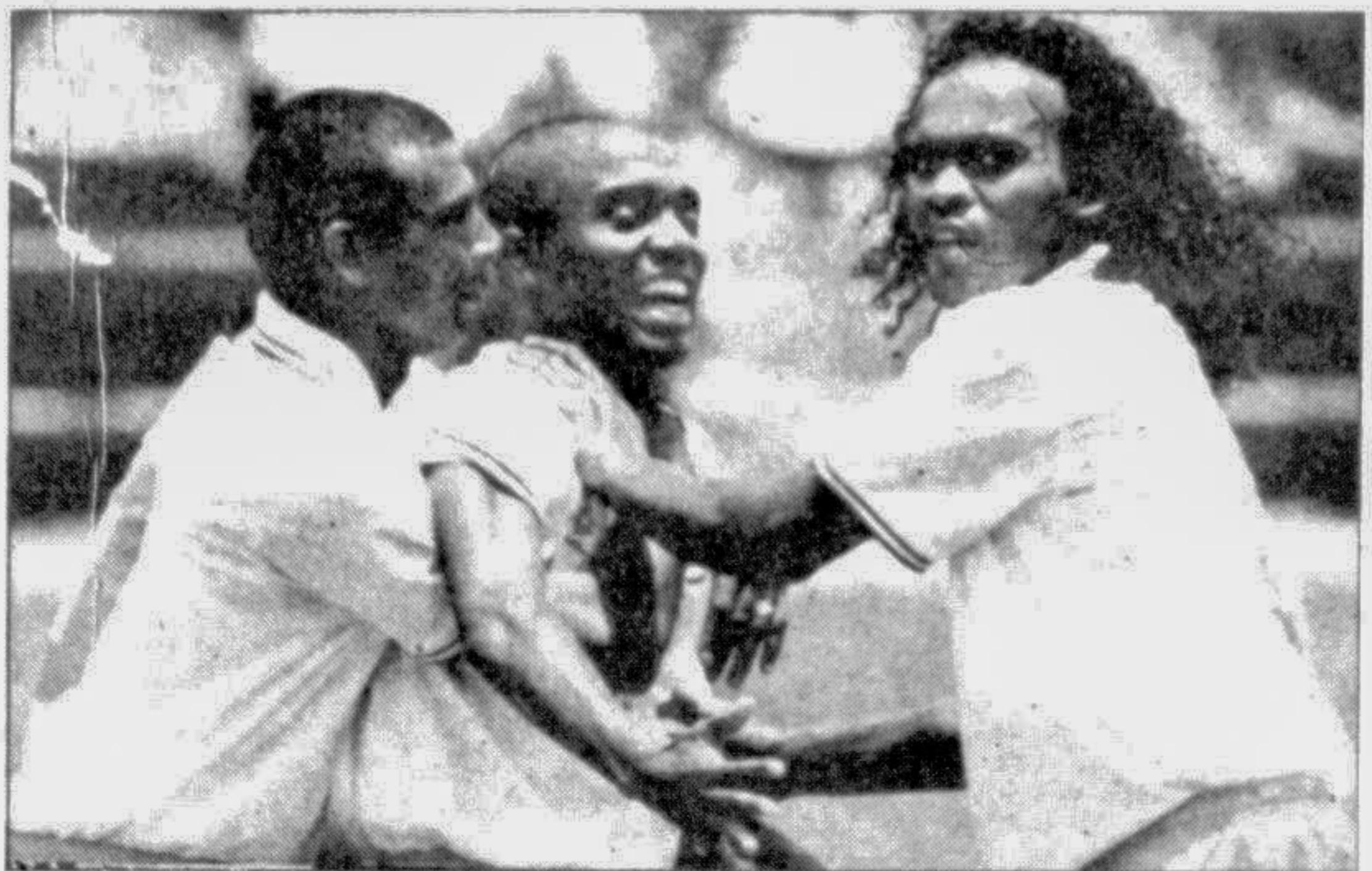
Coincidence?

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 Reuter.

The Dutch dined 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 out 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 *deja 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.

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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



DENNIS BERGKAMP

Martina, Martinez in final

LONDON, June 30: Conchita Martinez became the first Spaniard to reach the Wimbledon singles final 46 years when she outlasted American Lori McNeil 3-6, 6-2, 10-8 in a tense 2 hrs 34 mins Centre Court confrontation.

The 22-year-old third-seed now faces Martina Navratilova for the title on Saturday.

Earlier AP adds: Martina Navratilova moved to within one victory of her 12th

Wimbledon title Thursday when she beat Gigi Fernandez 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) in the semi-finals, reports AP.

The 37-year-old Navratilova, playing in her 22nd and final Wimbledon, saved two set points in the second set to hold off her friend and practice partner in an entertaining match on Centre Court.

The fourth-seeded Navratilova looked sharp in all aspects of her grass-court game — serve and volley, returns and passing shots — as she beat Fernandez for the eighth time in eight matches.

The two are close friends and neighbours in Aspen, Colo., and both clearly enjoyed themselves on Centre Court, smiling and laughing throughout the match.

For awhile, it looked like Navratilova might win in a rout as she took the first eight points for a 2-0 lead. She kept

up the pace and moved out quickly to a 5-1 lead, hitting a series to passing shots serve returns past a lunging Fernandez.

Fernandez settled down and won three straight games, but Navratilova then served out the set.

Fernandez picked up her game another notch in the second set, keeping Navratilova under pressure and going up a break at 4-2 — winning on her seventh break point in a game that went to deuce eight times.

Serving at 5-3, Fernandez got to set point — but she blew a simple forehand volley, hitting it into the net. Navratilova broke with a running backhand pass, and a few games later the two headed into the tiebreaker.

Navratilova was up 5-2, but Fernandez won four straight points to earn another set point at 6-5. This time, Navratilova cracked a backhand return down the line.

Navratilova won the next point with another backhand return to give her match point. She hit a floating forehand volley and Fernandez let it go, thinking it would go long. Instead, the ball dropped in close to the baseline.

After the two hugged and kissed at the net, Navratilova slumped in her chair with her head in her arms.

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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 Lev 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 wife," she said.

Lev 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.

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's 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 opener 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.

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 far, 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

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.

"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,

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 strikers, something especially useful when the Dutch face off with Ireland on Monday.

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.

It might not be as pretty as

WASHINGON, 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.