

WORLD CUP USA '94



Swiss Dominique Herr and Spaniard Luis Enrique Martinez in a run for the possession of the ball during their second round match at the RFK Memorial Stadium, Washington DC on Saturday. Spain qualified for the round of eight with 3-0 triumph.

Today's World Cup Fixtures

Holland vs Ireland
Brazil vs USA

(For details see page 1)

Angelenos not really thrilled

LOS ANGELES, July 3: Nearly two in three residents of the Los Angeles area, where the World Cup final will be played on July 17, said they were largely uninterested in the tournament, the Los Angeles Times reported on Saturday, reports Reuter.

A Times poll, conducted last Sunday when the United States lost to Romania 1-0, revealed that almost 60 per cent of Angelenos did not care much about the Cup.

Younger people showed a touch more interest, however.

Spain show Swiss way out



WASHINGTON, July 3: Spain, playing with a mixture of brutality and spasm-like moment of skills, secured a place in the World Cup quarter-finals on Saturday when they overcame Switzerland 3-0, report agencies.

Goals from long-striding midfielder Fernando Hierro after 15 minutes, Luis Enrique Martinez after 74 and an 87th minute penalty by substitute Aitor Beguiristain clinched a deserved, if artless, triumph.

On a day overshadowed by the murder of Colombian player Andres Escobar, there was little of beauty or excitement to lift the spirits. But Spain ground out the result they needed to reach the last eight for the first time since 1986.

They will meet the winners of Tuesday's Italy-Nigeria second round clash in Boston next Saturday. On the evidence of their 15th victory in 18 unbeaten meetings with the Swiss they look strong enough to reach the last four.

Their physical strength and more vibrant combination play, coupled with more flexible tactics, gives them an edge which Switzerland were unable to overcome despite spells of possession and several half-chances.

It was a measure of the ugly nature of the match that seven players were cautioned and that even the Swiss resorted at times to rugged rather than creative football.

Switzerland sorely missed midfield playmaker Alain Sutter, forced to skip the most important game of his career because of a broken toe suffered in the opening match against the United States.

The Swiss had the first scoring chance in the 12th minute when Stephane Chapuisat stole the ball from defender Miguel Nadal at the left rim of the penalty area and crossed to Bickel, whose twisting header Andoni Zubizarreta fisted over the Spanish goal.

But the Spaniards went ahead three minutes later when the Swiss froze up on a breakthrough by playmaker Hierro, who rounded four defenders to recapture his own pass and smacked a perfect rolling shot past advancing keeper Marco Pascolo from 25 metres.

Switzerland pressed forward trying to erase the early deficit and three Spaniards were cautioned for rough play within five minutes — Andoni Goikoetxea, Albert Ferrer and Francisco Camarasa.

Even while letting the Swiss take the game into its half, Spain rarely counter-attacked during the first half. But Spain, seeking to wrap the game up, came out of the break with more offensive tactics.

It almost worked as Ferrer broke into the Swiss penalty area in the 50th minute and served Goikoetxea in the goalmouth but his unhampered blast struck the left post. Sergi forced Pascolo into a flying save on a similar move six minutes later.

Zubizarreta spoiled Switzerland's best chance in the 66th, swatting wide a right-footed stab by Adrian Knup from point-blank range.

Sergi set up Spain's decisive second goal, leading the Swiss defence on a chase at the edge of the area before

slipping a perfect feed to Luis Enrique, who nailed the ball from near the spot. Spain got several spectacular scoring chances late in the game as Swiss resistance virtually disappeared. Second-half substitute Jorge Otero blasted a shot at Pascolo in the 84th and sent a curling shot just past the high corner off the rebound.

When Ferrer went down in the Swiss area on a challenge by Pascolo, Beguiristain sent home the penalty kick with ease.

Spain did without Jose Luis Caminero, who scored to goals in a 3-1 first-round win over Bolivia but was suspended for the second round after receiving his second yellow card.

Stephane Chapuisat sent a cross into the goalmouth in injury time and Nestor Subiat's header just missed giving Switzerland the consolation goal.

LINE-UPS

SPAIN: Andoni Zubizarreta, Albert Ferrer, Francisco Camarasa, Sergi Barjuan, Abelardo Fernandez, Miguel Nadal, Fernando Hierro (Jorge Otero, 77th minute), Rafael Alkorta, Jose Maria Bakero, Andoni Goikoetxea (Aitor Beguiristain, 62nd), Luis Enrique.

SWITZERLAND: Marco Pascolo, Marc Hottiger, Yvan Quentin (Juerg Studer, 57th), Dominique Herr, Alain Geiger, Georges Brey, Christophe Ohrel (Nestor Subiat, 74th), Thomas Bickel, Ciriaco Sforza, Adria Knup, Stephane Chapuisat.

Referee: Mario Van Der Ende, Netherlands.

MATCH STATS

Match statistics for Saturday's Spain vs Switzerland World Cup, second round game:

	Spain	Switzerland
Goal	3	0
Shots on goal	12	19
Fouls	18	18
Corners	3	12
Offsides	7	1
Yellow cards	4	4
Red Cards	0	0

The Swiss referee did not show much sign of neutrality in a second half marked by a clear foul by Helmer against Weber," said Le Soir, a leading French language daily.

The players and team officials have had a series of meetings since Friday over cash bonuses and players' access to wives.

The players, who meet Italy in Boston July 5, have accused the Dutchman of felding his favourites on the team so they alone will get a \$5,000 game-winning bonus.

The coach, they say, decided only 16 of the 22-man squad would receive a bonus.

Westerhof also ordered the team out of their hotel, claiming the players had gone to their wives and girlfriends's rooms Thursday against his wishes.

"I agreed that they should come with their wives to the World Cup but I didn't say they should come to their rooms," said Nigerian Football Association chairman Emeka Omeruah.

"They broke a gentlemen's agreement and Westerhof was furious. He truly wanted the players to move but the players do not want that," Omeruah said.

"So, we have reached a compromise. We expect the wives to start moving out of the hotel and we expect the players to keep to their rooms."



Spain's Luis Enrique (21) beats a sliding tackle from Switzerland's Juerg Studer to guide the ball home for his country's second goal of the second round match at the RFK Memorial Stadium in Washington on July 2. The Spaniards won 3-0.

— AFP photo

FIFA promises to be lenient to Maradona

DALLAS, Texas, July 3: Diego Maradona could return to international football, despite his exclusion from the World Cup for the use of banned drugs, FIFA president Joao Havelange said here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Maradona, who was thrown out of the Cup on Thursday, blasted FIFA and again denied he had taken any performance enhancing drugs.

"They killed me, just when I wanted to prove to my two daughters that I can play with 20-year-olds," the 33-year-old Argentine star said.

FIFA, world football's governing body, suspended Maradona indefinitely, pending further official action.

"I do not want to destroy Diego Maradona's career," Havelange said. "There will be a suspension, but it won't be 10 years. This does not have to be the end of Maradona's career."

FIFA's World Cup organizing committee could take further action against Maradona as early as July 16, when they meet in Los Angeles on the eve of the World Cup final.

"I cannot say for sure if a decision will be made then, but Maradona's case will be discussed," Havelange said.

The Argentine squad trained Saturday in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, where they will play Romania in the second round on Sunday.

It was not clear if Maradona would travel to California to be close to them.

Spaniards have a fiesta

MADRID, July 3: Spain's second-round victory over Switzerland at the World Cup sent Spaniards into the streets Sunday, dancing under the Cibeles fountain in central Madrid and spraying others with "cava" — the Spanish answer to champagne, reports AP.

"This is a great day for Spanish Sport," said a jubilant Alfredo Ballesteros. "No one likes (Spanish coach Javier) Clemente, but we made it to the quarterfinals."

Conchita Martinez won the championship at Wimbledon and Miguel Indurain came in second on the opening day of the Tour de France. It's just too bad the Spanish economy can't do as well.

Minutes after Spain's 3-0 victory in Washington — which ended at 12:30 am Spanish time, hundreds of delirious Spanish fans converged on Cibeles fountain.

Entire families — fathers with small children on their shoulders and mothers holding the hands of young daughters — waded into the fountain or jumped up and down with delight under the spray.

The crowd grew to several thousand, wrapped in red and yellow Spanish flags, tooting horns, spraying everyone with cava.

It was the third time in the last four World Cups that Spain has reached the quarterfinals, where they will play the winner of the Italy-Nigeria match on Tuesday, July 9 in Foxboro, Mass.

It's all for money and sex

BOSTON, July 3: Nigeria have made it to the second round of the World Cup on their debut but coach Clemens Westerhof has fallen out with his players, reports AP.

The reasons? Money and sex.

The players and team officials have had a series of meetings since Friday over cash bonuses and players' access to wives.

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"So, we have reached a compromise. We expect the wives to start moving out of the hotel and we expect the players to keep to their rooms."

Brazil tense, US relaxed

SANTA CLARA, Calif., July 3: It's hard being No. 1, unless you're Brazil. Then it becomes impossible.

The pressure is intense on the three-time world champions to show their stuff against the United States when they meet Monday in a World Cup game at Stanford Stadium, reports AP.

"There's no cause for despair," defender Marcio Santos said after practice Saturday.

Despair? The other teams would love to have Brazil's problems.

Brazil are No. 1 in FIFA's monthly rankings and the favourite to win the World Cup. The breeze through the first round with a 2-1-0 record, and their brilliant forwards Bebeto and Romario are playing by music.

So why aren't they happy?

For one thing, Brazil were less than overwhelming in a 1-1 tie against Sweden last Tuesday, even though it enabled them to win Group B. And for the country that gave

fender Leonardo and adding Muller to the attack.

"Brazil can't play any worse," said Pele, the star of Brazil's World Cup champion team in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

"The pressure gets stronger each time," said backup goalkeeper Zetti. "That may be our greatest adversary."

The sniping mystifies outsiders.

"Isn't this supposed to be a happy press conference?" asked one foreign journalist after Brazil guaranteed first place in their group.

Parreira, a cautious tactician, said any changes would be minimal. He was to announce the lineup late Sunday. But in Saturday's scrimmage, he tried out a new formation with Mazinho and Leonardo in place of Rai and Zinho. The team improved markedly on offence.

A sign of things to come? Parreira wasn't saying.

"We have been good and very good," he said. "I have options, and the team can improve. We're on the right road and absolutely confident."

with two yellow cards, is an extra motivation.

"What a time in our lives," Lallas marvelled. "We believe in ourselves. We believe we can beat any team in the world."

The US players already have accomplished their goals, reaching the second round for the first time since 1930. The best is a bonus.

"We play better as underdogs. We showed that against Colombia," US defender Marcelo Balboa said. "We're going to have a good time on the Fourth of July (US Independence Day)."

Many have speculated that the Americans will try to hold on for a draw and try to win the game on penalties.

"If we go into penalty kicks it will be in our favour," Balboa said.

"That's what Brazil want to avoid. We don't want to take it to penalties," Brazilian goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel said. "Then everything is equal, and a lucky shot could decide it."

But the Brazilians know they have to turn it up a notch.



American soccer players Roy Wegerle (L) and John Harkes pose with 'Striker' the World Cup mascot, shortly after the team's arrival at San Jose Airport in California.

the world Pele, anything less than overwhelming is unacceptable.

It's also because soccer supremacy is virtually the only solace for millions in a nation bereft of heroes and wracked by inflation, violence, and corruption.

All week, fans have lashed out at coach Carlos Alberto Parreira and demanded immediate change in the lineup. One of the nicer things the press called him was "incompetent."

"People ask me why I don't ask to be benched," said Zinho, one of the main targets of criticism. "It's a total lack of respect."

Even Pele got into the act. In a commentary Friday in the newspaper USA Today, Pele proposed yanking "slow and careless" midfielders Rai and Zinho, moving up de-

And the United States could feel the heat.

"Things will change now," Brazilian defender Ronaldao said. "No more ties. Brazil are playing for their berth and have to win. And we have learned to be humble and respect our adversary."

"There's no euphoria on our part," added Zetti. "We know it's a big holiday for the Americans, but unfortunately we have to win."

PROBABLE TEAMS

UNITED STATES: Tony Meola; Tom Dooley, Marcelo Balboa, Paul Caligiuri, Fernando Calvillo, Alexi Lallas; Cobi Jones, Tab Ramos, Mike Sorber; Ernie Stewart, Eric Wynalda.

BRAZIL: Claudio Taffarel; Jorginho, Aldair, Marcio Santos, Leonardo; Dunga, Mauro Silva (Mazinho), Rai, Zinho; Bebeto, Romario.

Schism in Nigerian camp

BOSTON, Massachusetts, July 3: The Nigerian Football Association have been forced to step in to quell a player revolt in the country's World Cup squad, reports AP.

Player discontent with coach Clemens Westerhof reached a peak when he ordered the team to move out of their hotel 30 miles south of Boston, to escape "an invasion" of journalists, sources close to the team said.

The players refused and won the backing of senior officials forcing Dutch-born Westerhof to withdraw his demand.

Nigerian FA spokesman Augustine Mbolu denied there had been a mutiny but said: "We are still here — we have not moved yet."

A row over bonuses and discontent over team selection have also beleaguered the African champions, the sources said.

Westerhof has come under increasing pressure from the players and FA officials to change his selection process.

Senior FA officials are said to be angered that the team has failed to play to their full potential here.

"They blame the players," said an informed source. "And the players tell them it is all Westerhof's fault."

He said Westerhof had his personal favourites and they would play "even if they only had one leg."

"Some players in the side are refusing to pass the ball to other players, because they don't think they should have

was a second-half substitute against Greece in Nigeria's final group game.

Westerhof said after the Greece game: "When he trains well and is on time for training he may play."

Players of the calibre of Efan Ekoku, the England-born forward who plays for Norwich City, and Monaco star Victor Ikpeba have been surplus to Westerhof's requirements.

"Certain players will never get a place in the team because they don't get on with Westerhof," said the source. "They stand up to him."

Players want a bigger say in team selection for the crucial second round tie against Italy here on Tuesday.

Ikpeba, the 1993 Belgian player-of-the-year before his move from Liege to Monaco, admitted there had been problems.

"There have been settled now," he said, refusing to elaborate. "There are certain players who want to have a bigger say in selection, but I am not one of them."

No player would ever criticise team captain Stephen Keshi, but many feel at 32 the man they call "Big Boss" should not be selected in central defence. Mike Emenalo, who played left back against Greece, is another players' teammate who has deep misgivings about.

Players are said to be ready to draw up their own team list for the Italy fixture. They did so two years ago when they were unhappy with the official team list for the World Cup qualifier against Ivory Coast.

CLEMENS WESTERHOF

