

# WORLD CUP USA





THE IRRETRIEVABLE: One that pipped US goalie Meola and a prostrate defender Alexie Lalas to the post. Brazilian forward Bebeto showing signs of delight in anticipation put paid to hosts' ambition of the greatest upset in the history of the World Cup with this strike on at the Stanford Stadium on July 4.

### Brazil still on top of Sprint Soccer Poll

KANSAS CITY, Mo. July 5: Brazil stayed on top of the Sprint Soccer Poll for the eighth straight week, but Germany were close behind in the weekly survey of international soccer journalists, poll organisers said Tuesday, reports AP.

Brazil, who advanced to the World Cup quarter finals with a 1-0 victory over the United States on Monday, received 41 out of a possible 51 first-place votes for 500 points.

Germany had 10 first-place votes and 468 points. The Netherlands fell back into third place with 383 points. Nigeria were in fourth with 6 points, followed by Italy with

Romania were voted sixth with 264 points, while Spain were seventh with 164. Mexico were close behind in eight with 160 points. Rounding out the top 10 were Bulgaria with 69 points and Sweden with 58.

Argentina, in second place last week, dropped all the way down to the 11th spot with 31 points after being eliminated from the World Cup by Romania on Sunday.

#### Asian snooker semifinals today

Sports Reporter Somporn Kantawang and

Preecha Sae Be of Thailand. Chan Wa-Tat of Hong Kong and Oot Chin-Kay of Malaysia advanced to the semifinals of the 11th Asian snooker championship after recording victories in their respective quar terfinal matches at the ball room of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. Kantawang, who set a new

Asian record for the highest break of 139, had to rally from 1-3 down before finally clinching the best-of-nine frames match 5-3 against Yong Kien-Foot Malaysia. Kantawang, who lost his final preliminary group match to Sri Lankan Indika Dodangoda on Monday, produced some of his best in the last four frames to stop Yong running away with a shocking victory. Kantawang's compatriot

Preecha Sae Be, a silver medallist in the Manila Southeast Asian (SEA) Games. overcame Filipino Marion Manalo-5-2.

Wai-Tat stifled Dodangoda's spirited charge with some solid showing and booked his place in the last four with a 5-

Dodangoda, who caught the pundits by surprise when he beat Kantawang in his last group match, began the day with a clear intention of pulling off another sensational win but his determined efforts fell a bit short against the cool

Hong Kong cueist. Chin-Kay, meanwhile, had the easiest ride to the semifinals against Chan Kwok-Min of Hong Kong with the Malaysian racing to 5-1 victory.

The best-of-11 frames semifinals will be played today. starting at 2 pm.

Bangladesh Television will cover tomorrow's final live.

The best-of-15 frames match will begin at 10 o'clock It took Brazil 74 minutes to in the morning. break through against a US

### Brazil free US from WC

PALO ALTO, July 5: Brazil, reduced to 10 men for the entire second half, beat the

United States 1-0 on Monday, to reach the World Cup quarter-finals and spoil the Americans' Independence Day celebrations, reports Reuter.

Bebeto coolly drove the ball home in the 74th minute after Romario split open the defence with a darting run and found his striking partner in

Brazil will now play the Netherlands in Dallas on Saturday.

Disaster had appeared to be beckoning for the Brazilians after defender Leonardo was sent off in the 43rd minute for elbowing American midfielder Tab Ramos in the face. Ramos was concussed and had to be replaced by Eric Wynalda at halftime.

But the dismissal jerked the Brazilians into life after a goalless first half in which the Americans packed their defence and kept the South Americans at bay.

The United States backed by a partisan crowd of more than 84,000 on their national holiday went close on only one occasion.

Thomas Dooley's low shot drifted just past the post in the 12th minute after Ramos sliced a pass through the Brazilian defence.

But they can be pleased with reaching the second round, their aim at the start of the tournament. The Americans also had a

player sent off — but by then their cause was almost lost. Defender Fernando Clavijo

received his marching orders for a second bookable offence in the 85th minute after he brought down Romario.

At the final whistle the Brazilian players threw up their arms in relief while the Americans hung their heads in despair knowing that their dream - alive for three quarters of the match — had died.

Romario failed to get on the scoring sheet for the first time in four matches at these finals but gave an inspirational performance in which he went close several times.

PALO ALTO, July

5: Artistry came

a poor second to

nation as Brazil \*

grit and determi

were forced to

slog their way to a 1-0 win

over the United States on

Parreirra was delighted with

the result after his team

slugged it out with opposition

who packed their defence

with the clear intention of

holding on for a 0-0 draw and

taking the match to a penalty

they did it playing the second

half with 10 men after left

back Leonardo, normally one of

the most level headed players

on the team, was shown the

red card in the 43rd minute

for elbowing US midfielder

Brazilian midfield, added

"The US played hoping for a

0-0 draw and they hoped we

would get nervous as time

went by, but that didn't hap-

Dunga, the hard man of the

Tab Ramos in the face.

He was even more satisfied

shoot out.

Coach Carlos Alberto

Monday, reports Reuter.

He hit the post in the last minute of the first half and provoked a superb diving save from goalkeeper Tony Meola at the end of the second after dancing his way through the US defence.

Brazil started to put some good moves together only after a nervous first 20 minutes. Defender Aldair went close

after beating the Americans' offside trap in the 23rd minute



ROMARIO

but, sliding in on a pass in front of goal, stabbed the ball

Bebeto drove a volley fractionally wide from a corner four minutes later and Romario drilled a low shot wide after controlling the ball and turning in one movement.

The Americans relied on packing their defence and hoping for a goal on the counter attack. Marcelo Balboa, playing a record 94th international, ably marshalled the defence with the bearded Alexi Lalas.

Their hopes were raised when French referee Joel Quiniou had no hesitation in producing a red card after Leonardo had sent Ramos reeling. The two players had tangled near the touchline.

But the Brazilians led by captain Dunga in midfield and Romario in attack, continued to come at the Americans and gave their forwards hardly a sniff of goal

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said he had always expected a difficult match.

team that was gritty but woe-

a home crowd and one man

advantage for half the game.

to be a repeat of Brazil's 1990

nated their second-round

game against Argentina, hit the

woodwork three times and

were eliminated by a late goal

by Claudio Caniggia in

Argentina's only serious attack

Romario hit the post, had an

other shot cleared off the line

and then shot wide from a

narrow angle with US goal-

keeper Tony Meola beaten be-

they scored was so great that

Bebeto was still celebrating

with the Brazilian substitutes

when the Americans restarted

had clenched his fists in frus

tration when Mazinho failed to

pass him the ball during an at-

sisted the team had not be-

come nervous. "Our defence

Despite this, Parreira in

Only minutes earlier, he

The Brazilian relief when

fore Bebeto's late goal.

Against the United States

nightmare when they domi-

At times the game appeared

ambition

of the game.

the game.

tack

fully short of skill and despite

TEAMS: BRAZIL: 1 Taffarel. -2 Jorginho, 13-Aldair, 16-

Cup.

"The US

bonus for them.

incident, he said:

ever make mistakes.

in Europe.

merit. They have nine players

who took part in the last

World Cup and eight who play

them, in this game. Anything

that happened would be a

keeping their cool after the

dismissal of Leonardo. "We did

not lose our heads and even

with one man less we created

more chances than the

Americans. We played to qual-

always control their reactions.

If they could the world would

be perfect and nobody would

said he was sad to go out of the

tournament but happy with the

efforts put in by his players.

one man down has beaten us.

in a great atmosphere and I

think the players have done

Meola said that if the

Americans do half as much in

the next four years as they did

this time we will be in the last

four - we'll win the World

Upbeat US goalkeeper Tony

something truly spectacular."

"It's not the first time a team

"But we said our goodbyes

US coach Bora Milutinovic

beaking of the Leonardo

"Unfortunately people can't

ify and that's what we did."

"There was no pressure on

He praised his team for

qualified on

Leonardo, 15-Marcio Santos 5-Mauro Silva, 8-Dunga, 9-Zinho(14-Cafu 69), 17 Mazinho, 7-Bebeto. Romario. UNITED STATES: 1-Tony

Meola, 5-Thomas Dooley, 17 Marcelo Balboa. 20 Paul Caligiuri, 21-Fernando Clavijo, 22 Alexi Lalas, 9 Tab Ramos (11-Eric Wynalda 46), 16-Mike Sorber, 7-Hugo Perez (10-Roy Wegerle 66), 8-Ernie Stewart, 13-Cobi Jones. Referee- loef Quiniou (Fra-

nce). Red-cards:

Brazil — Leonardo (43) United States - Fernando Clavijo (86) Yellow cards: Brazil - Mazinho (9)

Jorginho (17): United States Tab Ramos (44), Paul Caligiuri (50), Fernando Clavijo (65). Thomas Dooley (81). Existence precedes essence

did splendidly. Taffarel was

Parreira's problem is that

Brazil are not expected simply

to win. Fans -both in Brazil

and all over the world -- ex

pect them to do it with style.

Monday's blood-and-guts

Although Brazil's defence

display is unlikely to cut much

ice with the public back home.

has looked almost impregnable

and midfielders Dunga and

Mauro Silva win nearly every

challenge, only the striking

duo of Bebeto and Romario

gave the fans glimpses of the

Zagalo has blamed Brazil's op

show off their technique when

opponents come out and play.

Assistant trainer Mario

However, outspoken striker

"We showed guts and do

Romario who never minces his

words, admitted that the ad-

artistry and panache.

true Brazilian game

as we're capable of

he said.

more

just a spectator on the field.

#### High stakes!

TIRANA, July 5: An Albanian short of cash for gambling lost his wife after betting her on the outcome of a World Cup soccer match, the daily newspaper Koha Jone (Our Time) said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The unidentified gambler was so sure that Argentina' would beat Bulgaria that the staked his spouse, who disappeared with the winner when Bulgaria won 3-2. The loser complained to police.

#### Zagalo predicts **Brazil-Germany** final

PALO ALTO, July 5: Brazil will meet champions Germany in the World Cup final, Brazil's assistant coach Mario Zagalo predicted on Monday, reports Reuter.

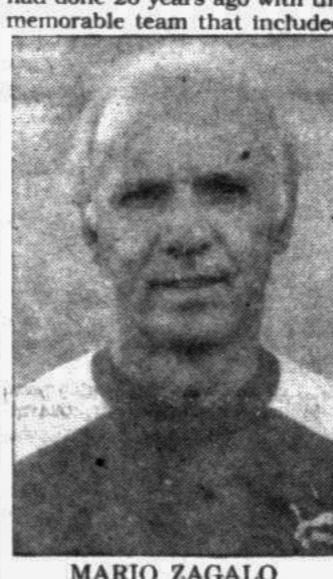
Zagalo, who on Saturday will face a rematch with the Netherlands, the side who knocked his team out of the World Cup 20 years ago, said "I have maintained all along that Brazil will win the World Cup for the fourth time.

"I don't have a crystal ball but my tip is that the final will be between Brazil and Germany." The two countries have never met in the World

Monday's quarter-final will be the first meeting of the two countries in the World Cup since the game in 1974 when the Dutch dumped Brazil out of the competition with a 2-0

Zagalo was Brazil coach at the time.

He said he hoped the Dutch would attack Brazil just as they had done 20 years ago with the memorable team that included



MARIO ZAGALO

players of the calibre of Johann Cruyff, Johann Neeskens Ruud Krol. Wim van Hangegem.

Johnny Rep and Arie Haan. "If they want to win the World Cup, they'll have to come out and attack.

"The Dutch have never repeated their performance of 1974. Even with the same trainer (Rinus Michels) they couldn't repeat it. It was a generation of players who moved on the field as if they were using the same brain.

This time it will be different. You can't compare the two teams," Zagalo said. Belgians back

#### home early BRUSSELS, July 5: Belgian

players returned from the World Cup on Tuesday, complaining they were home a week early, reports Reuter. "We had hoped to play at

least the guarter-finals. So I think we're back home one week too soon," goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme said. "Personally and as a team we've had some good mo-

ments, but unfortunately one bad game against Saudi Arabia cost us dearly." the goalkeeper Belgium lost 1-0 to Saudi Arabia, a crushing psychologi-

cal blow after its 1-0 victory over much tougher opponent, the Netherlands.

We were a bit unlucky to finish only third in our group. despite our six points, and to get current world champions Germany as an opponent," Preud'homme added. Germany beat Belgium 3-2 last Saturday.

#### After all immortal

MADRID. July 5: The miss ing arm of a landmark Madrid statue, ripped off by soccer fans during wild celebrations to mark a weekend World Cup wtn by Spain, was found on Monday, reports Reuter,

ponents. "Our players can only Police said a young couple found the left arm of the 212 year-old statue of the goddess Cibeles in a plastic bag in a city centre street Around 2.500 soccer fans

mitted that the team has to do which dominates a fountain in the tree-lined Paseo De La Castellana, after Spain beat termination, he said But Switzerland on Saturday to se we're not playing half as well cure a place in the World Cup quarter finals

swarmed around the statue.

## Heralding doom of an era



PASADENA, Calif. July 5: Argentina enter a new era after their early elimination from the World Cup and they face a difficult road

without their top player, reports AP. For 17 years Diego Maradona was the central figure of an Argentine squad that won several tournaments around

the world. Maradona made his mark early. He led Argentina to the World Under-20 title in 1979 and later to the World Cup title in Mexico in 1986, and to a second-place finish in Italy in

During that time Argentina developed a notorious "Diegodependency" and had little success without him, except when they finished second in the Copa America in Chile in 1991 and Ecuador in 1993. "The Maradona era is

over...Now we'll have to reshuffle the deck," said Julio Grondona, president of the Argentine Football Association shortly after Argentina lost to Romania 3-2 on Sunday.

"Someone like Maradona comes along only once in a blue moon. It'll be decades before Argentina and the world will see his like again." he said.

The 33-year-old player announced his retirement from soccer soon after being suspended by the Argentine association Wednesday for failing a drug test.

Maradona has done retirement-return routine several times, but this time his retirement may be for good. AFA was severely criticized back home for allowing an unruly Maradona back in the team in the first place.

And FIFA has yet to announce its own punishment, but it's expected to be severe considering Maradona was suspended once already for testing positive for cocaine.

Argentina became so dependent on Maradona that even during his 15-month suspension for a positive drug test for cocaine they didn't' seek an adequate replacement. Instead, it came to rely on two first-rate strikers- Claudio Caniggia and Gabriel Batistuta - but neither has Maradona's extraordinary ability to take control of a match.

Leonardo Rodriguez and Joss Basualdo replaced Maradona for Argentina's last two matches in the World Cup, but both were little more than

spectators in those losses. Meanwhile, an AFP report from Buenos Aires said: Argentine Football Association president Grondona, coach Basile and Maradoná are not expected to survive the double world champions' worst World Cup for 20 years.

Grondona and Basile have been blamed for lack of discipline in the squad, which led at one point to some players fighting, and for not keeping a closer watch on Maradona.

Daniel Passarella, Argentina's captain when they won in 1978, is already being talked of as Basile's successor.

Argentine President Carlos Menem, who denied he had tried to persuade FIFA to let Maradona off his drugs charge. said problems of management and team selection would have

to be looked at. He added that Italian referee Pierluiggi Pairetto's failure to give a penalty for a foul on Diego Simeone could have proved decisive in Sunday's 3-2 defeat to Romania.

An Argentine Football Association source said: "It would be better if he (Basile) went now so his successor can get on with the job."

Basile, who took over after the 1990 World Cup, won two South American Championships and for his first 33 matches in charge Argentina were unbeaten.

But a humiliating 5-0 World Cup qualifying defeat at home to Colombia forced him to rethink and an unfit Maradona was brought back. Argentina survived a play-off against Australia and for the first two matches in the United States they looked possible finalists.

Then Maradona was banned. Claudio Caniggia was sidelined by a broken toe and everything seemed to fall

Passarella was a tough defender when Argentina triumphed in 1978 and is an even tougher coach with Buenos Aires club River Plate. Carlos Bianchi, a former international forward and now Velez Sarsfield coach, is another candidate.

on it, because I only had a

fraction of a second to make

was a world-class team and

Brazil had to take the game

very seriously, but coach Carlos

Alberto Parreira said the

scoreline did not reflect

"One-nil does not reflect

US manager Bora

Milutinovic, who was delighted

with the way his inexperi-

enced side met the Brazilian

challenge, said: "The winners

always have the right answers."

He added the United States

the goal. I was lucky,"

Brazil's dominance.

our supremacy," he said.

#### Delight of a timely duet SAN FRANCISCO. And I had to be very quick



July 5: Brazil's attacking artists Romario and Bebeto complemented each oth-

which beat the United States and put Brazil into the World Cup quarter-finals, reports Romario, who had scored in all three of Brazil's group

er perfectly as they created

and scored the single goal

matches, said he did not mind that his streak had ended. "I feel so happy, as if scored the goal myself," he said, "That Bebeto did it makes no difference to me. When we embraced; the words that he

uttered to me were like those

from one brother to another."

Romario showed continual flashes of genius, mainly in the second half, providing his potency in attack. He missed at least four other chances to Just one ball went in to

with Holland. "With a little luck, two or three others could have too," Romario said. I'm so proud and happy to have contributed to the victory

earn the quarter-final match

of the Brazilian team." Bebeto also spoke with emotion of his embrace with Romario following the goal. 'I ran to Romario and gave

him a hug and said, "Thank you for giving me that pass." He added he also needed a bit of luck to get the ball in the

The peripatetic Milutinovic also quelled speculation that he would be off the shepherd another country into the World Cup finals, saying he did not plan to resign as US manager. The festive atmosphere at Stanford Stadium was marred by a 43rd-minute incident in

which Brazil's Leonardo elbowed Tab Ramos in the face. Ramos was unconscious for a couple of seconds, and later was found to have a small skull

fracture above his left ear. Bebeto defended his sent off colleague. "You get frustrated and you

don't mean to hurt anybody. He caught his arm and just caught Ramos in the face, but there was no intention to hurt him. "After that, we all had to re-

ally outdo ourselves because we were 10 against 11," he said. Coach Parreira said of Leonardo's dismissal: "Losing a player was not really a trauma.

but it created a difficult situa-Brazil's victory made them the first non-European team so far to qualify for the quarter 3nals, alongside Holland, Spain, Germany, Romania and

Parreira said the narrow result - Brazil were the lowest scoring second-round winners did not matter.

Sweden.

"1-0, 2-0, is not really important," he 'said. "What's important is the way we over-, came the home team on Independence Day and showed Brazil was ready to go this far."

### For Charlton, that's life

Brazilian striker Bebeto (L) is warmly embraced by Mazinho

after he scored the all-important goal against hosts United

States during a World Cup second round game at Stanford

Stadium on Monday. The three-times world champions play

Holland in the quarter-finals in Dallas on July 9.



Florida, July 5: reports AFP.

ORLANDO.

year old makes the perfect figurehead for the Republic of Ireland's national team, even if he is English. It is probably his success

with the Irish squad that made " him the most popular man in Ireland in a recent poll But when the Republic's World Cup run ended with a 2 0 defeat by Holland here on

Monday, Charlton's grace in

defeat showed another reason

the irish have taken him to

heir hearts. He even got a rare ovation from the hard to-charm foot ball press corps after his postmatch conference, held against the backdrop of chant ing Irish supporters who were

still inside the Citrus Bowl singing an hour after the



JACK CHARLTON

up by Irish errors. "We're going home. We're

lot here. It's sad that we couldn't have gone out in a different way. Charlton, who along with his footballer brother Bobby formed part of England's victo-

rious 1966 World Cup team, has less affection for World Cup hype as seen from the touchline. His carping about the heat and humidity of Orlando and New York, followed by some intemperate remarks to a FIFA

official over a player substitu

tion, earned him a ban from

the touchline for Ireland's final

group game. Looking back on the twoand half weeks in the United States, divided between New York and Orlando, Charlton said: "We've enjoyed it ... well,

they did. I didn't."

#### Jack Charlton is enjoyed the tournament, it's not your typical Standing on the podium, been very exciting for us, and World Cup coach, puffing intermittently on a fat the lads have learned a helluva cigar. Charlton was rueful The straight shooting, 59about the end of Ireland's campaign, regretting that Holland's goals were both set

- AFP photo