

# WORLD CUP USA '94

## Today's World Cup Fixtures

Italy vs Spain  
Brazil vs Holland  
(For details see page 1)

## Spaniards carry no grudge

CONCORD, Massachusetts, July 8: Barcelona players in the Spanish team denied on Thursday they would seek to avenge the defeat when they play Italy in the quarter-finals, reports Reuter.

"If we beat Italy some people will say we got our revenge, but I don't see it that way," goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta said after a practice for the match at the Foxboro Stadium south of Boston.

Spanish midfielder Jose-Maria Bakero said: "The conditions are quite different, the country, the climate. I hope that for us the result is also different."

Bakero said Spain were in good shape for the match against three times World Cup winners Italy.

But he added that Italy would be a tough nut to crack.

"They have suffered a lot and that means they are a very competitive and professional team."

"They have considerable control in defence and midfield, then depend on individual skill up front," Bakero said. "We work more as a team."

"It should be a nice match for us and the crowd."

Striker Julio Salinas of Barcelona, kept out of the European Cup side by Brazil's Romario and Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov, said: "Italy had the luck of champions when they looked out of it."

Salinas, vying with Luis Enrique of Real Madrid for a place in Spain's attack, said if the quarter-final went to a penalty shootout, their chief penalty taker is Real Madrid midfielder Fernando Herro.

"But we'll probably decide who else takes the penalties depending on how they feel at that moment."

## WC DIARY

LOS ANGELES, California, July 8 (AP): Thursday's World Cup diary:

### BRAZIL'S LUCKY 13

According to former coach Mario Jorge Zagalo, a believer in the lucky powers of the number 13, everything adds up to a Brazilian World Cup victory this year.

Zagalo, who led Brazil to their third title in 1970 and is now assistant coach, points out that *Estados Unidos*, United States in Portuguese, has 13 letters. *Tetracampeões*, or four-time champions, also has 13 letters.

The last two digits of 1994 added together made 13, as happened in 1958, the first year Brazil won the Cup. He said the team's two sponsors, Coca-Cola and Umbro, had a combined total of 13 letters.

Bebeto scored the 113th goal of this World Cup in their 1-0 second round win over USA on the fourth of July. Even the substitute in that match, Cafu, wore the number 13 shirt.

### NOT FORGOTTEN

Luboslav Penev, the Bulgarian player who missed the final after surgery for a testicular tumour, has not been forgotten. After their second round win over Mexico, his teammates sent him a telegram dedicating the victory to him.

Penev, who has resumed training with his Spanish club Valencia following post-operative chemotherapy, was a key player in the qualifying campaign. His tumour was discovered by chance in January when it took him several days to recover from being struck in the groin by a ball.

### DANGER MAN

Striker Martin Dahlin says he and his Sweden teammates will have to be careful not to expend all their energy containing Romania's Gheorghe Hagi in the quarter-finals.

He sees striker Florin Radu as a one-match ban, as just as great a danger.

"People are always talking about Gheorghe Hagi, but Radu is a great player," Dahlin said.

### STANFORD SARDINES

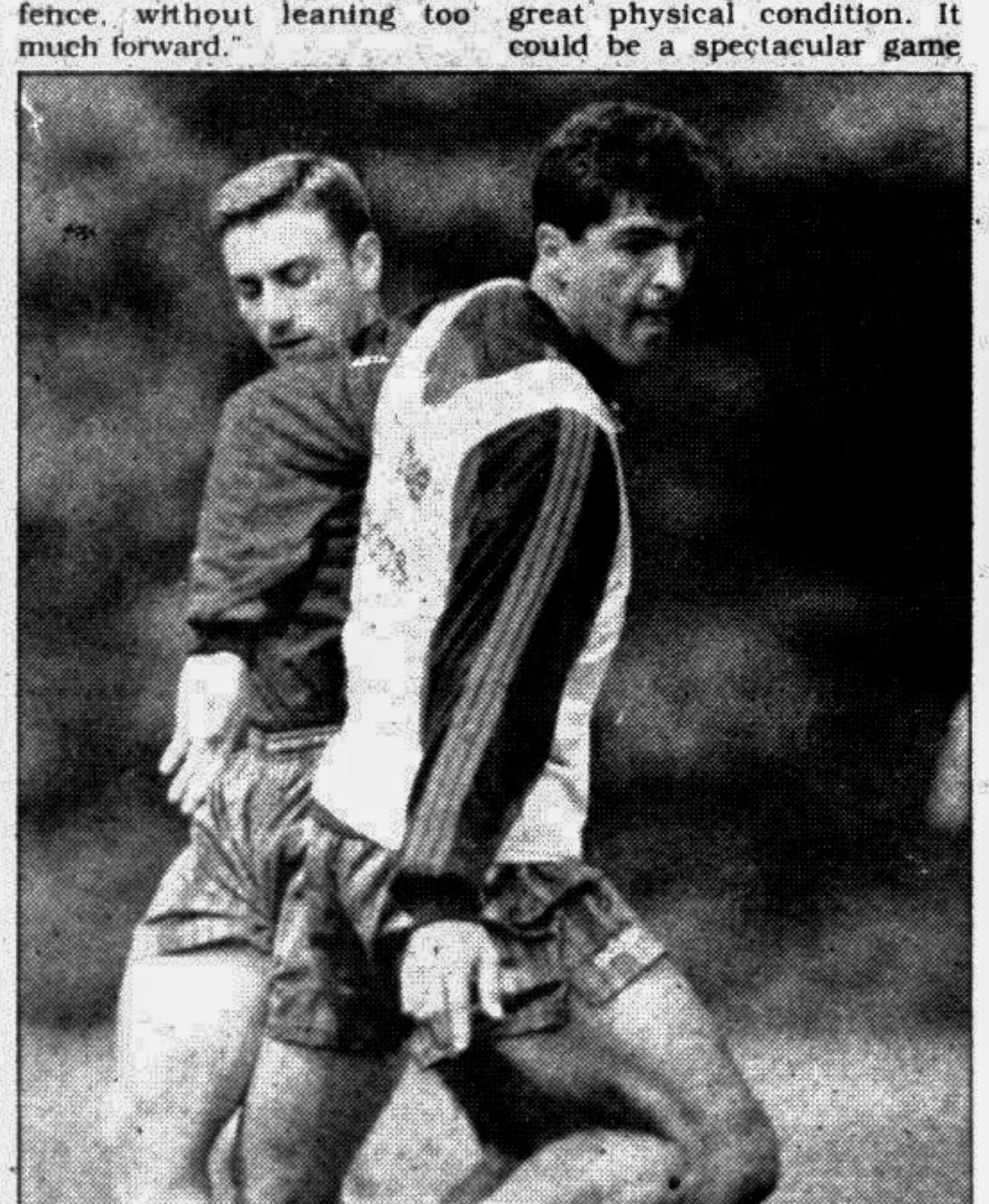
The crowd of 84,147 at Stanford Stadium for the United States v Brazil second round World Cup match Monday beat by 88 people the crowd of 84,059 at Stanford for the 1985 Super Bowl between the San Francisco 49ers and the Miami Dolphins.

It was also 3,000 more than the stadium's published World Cup capacity.

## Italy in for titanic tussle



MARTINSVILLE, N.J., July 8: They've battled through four defensive struggles already, and the Italians are bracing for another. "Our destiny, in this World Cup, is to play opponents who just wait for our moves, to possibly strike back," said midfielder Demetrio Albertini. "We must try to play an offensive match without forgetting defense, without leaning too much forward."



Spanish midfielder Miguel Angel Nadal looks onward after surging off a tackle from teammate Felipe Minambres during a practice session at Middletown School in Concord on July 7. Spain will play Italy in the World Cup quarter-finals at Foxboro Stadium on July 9.

— AFP photo

After losing their opener to a very defensive Ireland team, Norway were worse and then came Mexico. Nigeria played for the counter-attack, especially after getting the early lead, and now come Spain in Saturday's quarterfinal in the second round.

The pride, or ego, of the 1993 FIFA player of the year was bruised when he was replaced against Norway. Baggio, at the time hobbled by an inflamed Achilles' tendon and in the midst of an eight-game scoreless slump, was pulled for goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani.

"I'm sure that Roberto's crisis is over. He was another man, another player, after scoring against Nigeria," Albertini said.

Spain qualified for the quarterfinals by beating the Swiss 3-0.

Neither Albertini nor Maldini, both of whom play for AC Milan, see Saturday's game as a sort of rematch of the European Champions Cup final.

"Spain fields just one forward, a sort of 9-1 tactic. But they can be very dangerous in counter-attacks. They proved it against Switzerland."

Spain qualified for the quarterfinals by beating the Swiss 3-0.

Neither Albertini nor Maldini, both of whom play for AC Milan, see Saturday's game as a sort of rematch of the European Champions Cup final.

The game will mean a team record 90th cap for the 32-year-old Zubizarreta, one of the tournament's few veterans from the finals in Mexico and Italy.

Yet it was the same Zubizarreta who almost ended Spain's hopes of getting to the United States when he was sent off for pulling down Barcelona club teammate Michael Laudrup in the opening minutes of the crucial final qualifying game against Denmark No. 17.

"It was like a nightmare. I felt I'd let the whole side down," he said. "All I wanted to do was wake up from this terrible sensation of guilt."

The ejection and the subsequent superb performance by young substitute keeper Santiago Canizares in Spain's 1-0 victory immediately created pressure for coach Javier Clemente to dump Zubizarreta.

The criticism grew louder in May when Zubizarreta allowed a humiliating four goals as heavily favoured Barcelona team a chance to avenge its Champion Cup loss to Italy, which has a half dozen members of AC Milan on their roster.

Even within the national team he was aware that times had changed, admitting that he had few friends and no longer enjoyed the camaraderie he shared with former national team stars such as Miguel "Michel" González and Emilio Butragueno.

But if the divine forces appeared to have abandoned the quiet spoken and introverted keeper, Clemente was adamant he wouldn't

where Milan beat Spanish league champions FC Barcelona 4-0.

Five players from AC Milan and six from Barcelona are likely to start in Saturday's starting lineup.

"Different teams, different coaches and different tactics are involved," Maldini said. "Barcelona played with three defenders in Athens. Spain fields seven defenders. It's a team with a high morale and a great physical condition. It could be a spectacular game

front line."

Lazio's diminutive striker Giuseppe Signori said he could not believe reports that he may be dropped from Saturday's starting lineup.

"I would be surprised, if I'm left out," said the Lazio forward who led the Italian league in scoring last season. "I'm fit, rested, ready to play. I gave it all in the previous games, playing the way Sacchi asked me to play, at midfield."

"Sacchi always asks us to sacrifice for the team. I always did it," added Signori, who said he was surprised to be replaced in the second half against Nigeria. "When a player is removed, you always hope that your number is not displayed."

Italian doctors said Signori and midfielder Nicola Berti showed the most fatigue after both games in which Italy had to play a man short, plus the 30 minutes of extra time against Nigeria.

Berti, who had a lackluster performance against Nigeria, may be replaced by Antonio Conte of Juventus, while the defense would be left unchanged with Antonio Benarrivo and Rober to Mussi starting as backs and Maldini and Alessandro Costacurta in the center of the defense.

Pagliuca is available after serving an automatic two-game suspension for his red card, but Marchegiani has played very well in his absence.

"Luca does not deserve to be kicked out," Pagliuca said.

"Certainly Sacchi is going to take a difficult decision, because I think to deserve my place back."

Whatever the decisions, they had better work because Sacchi and the rest of the Azzurri have no limit to their critics.

Three-time Olympic Alpine skier Alberto Tomba on Italian radio Thursday called Sacchi a "very lucky coach," and that he relies on a saint who makes wonders. St. Roberto (Baggio).

During the final half against Nigeria, television repeatedly showed an agitated Sacchi, standing and barking instructions to his players. It became worse until Baggio tied the game in the 89th minute and then scored the game winner in extra time.

"For sure, Sacchi is facing a severe pressure," Albertini said. "I still feel shivers when I think of the risks he took against Nigeria. At one moment we all felt that elimination from the World Cup was impending."

The pride, or ego, of the 1993 FIFA player of the year was bruised when he was replaced against Norway. Baggio, at the time hobbled by an inflamed Achilles' tendon and in the midst of an eight-game scoreless slump, was pulled for goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani.

"I'm sure that Roberto's crisis is over. He was another man, another player, after scoring against Nigeria," Albertini said.

We have also had more actual football played. In Italy we had an average of 55 minutes per game. Here the total is up to 61.37 minutes so the fans are getting six minutes more football per game," said Blatter.

The number of fans is also up, added Blatter.

The average attendance here is 67,000 a game. In Italy the figure was 50,000 people per match. Altogether we have had three million people who have watched the 44 matches," said the general secretary.

Havelange suggested that the addition of eight teams in the finals of the next World Cup in France in 1998 would see a drop in football standards.

"FIFA will assure quality over quantity," he stressed.

## No conspiracy against Maradona

DALLAS, Texas, July 8: FIFA president Joao Havelange denied today there had been a conspiracy against expelled Argentinian star Diego Maradona after he failed a dope test, reports AFP.

Last week Maradona accused FIFA and Havelange of ganging up against him and trying to wreck his career.

"I understand his personal attacks. It is only normal that he is upset," said Havelange.

"But we are all saddened by his loss from the World Cup. I consider him like a son, or a grandson. FIFA has always tried to help Maradona," he added.

A special FIFA committee will meet in Geneva before the end of August to consider what further action should be taken against Maradona who has been banned from football until the hearing.

Havelange said the case against Maradona was clear, and he praised FIFA medical experts for their handling of the case.

His comments came during a wide ranging press conference in which Havelange and FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said the decision to let the World Cup be hosted by the United States had been fully justified.

Blatter said FIFA's new rules to referees to clamp down on foul play had paid off, with 18 more goals being scored in the 44 matches played to date compared to Italy four years

ago.

"Our bid to have more attacking football has paid off," said Blatter.

"We have also had more actual football played. In Italy we had an average of 55 minutes per game. Here the total is up to 61.37 minutes so the fans are getting six minutes more football per game," said Blatter.

The number of fans is also up, added Blatter.

"We never entirely forgave Uruguay for beating them — in Rio de Janeiro, no less — in the final of the 1950 Cup."

Don't even mention the Argentines. There is a feud for the ages, although the last Cup encounter was particularly aggravating: a 1-0 Argentine win that eliminated Brazil in 1990.

So it seems logical that Brazilians would look forward to their quarter-final game with the Netherlands on Saturday as a chance to avenge their defeat in the 1974 Cup at the hands of the Dutch.

But here was a connoisseur of the sport rendering homage to one of the finest expressions of "art-soccer."

"It was Cruyff's generation," he recalled wistfully, referring

## A classic contest of style



DALLAS, July 8: The Brazil-Netherlands match in Saturday's quarterfinal has all the markings of a World Cup classic: Romario vs. Dennis Bergkamp, and two teams that vow to live or die with open, attacking play.

The Netherlands are the best team we've faced so far," said Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira. "Excellent forwards, good skills and we expect a frank, open game — if they come at us."

Brazil had better count on them, because despite the respect for their opponent, Advocaat refuses to back down from his attacking strategy.

"We will try to develop our own play and keep Brazil from developing theirs," said Advocaat.

Allowing Brazil to develop their intricate play has proved a recipe for disaster.

Brazil will enter the game without key defender Leonardo, who is suspended the rest of the tournament for elbowing an opponent, the US midfielder Tab Ramos, fracturing his skull. Parreira is expected to replace him with veteran Branco.

But any change in the backfield comes at a crucial stage since the defense is expected to face the toughest pressure so far in the tournament.

Only the Swedes have tired to take the game into Brazil's half and for the opening half in their first-round clash, Sweden dominated and took a 1-0 lead.

And they took another

sterling effort from Romario to let Brazil escape with a 1-1 draw and keep their unbeaten record intact.

Now the Dutch will try to play like Sweden did, but pay more attention to Romario by having either Stan Valckx or Aron Winter shadow the Barcelona striker.

Brazil, still chasing their first World Cup title since 1970, are facing the pressure of a soccer-mad nation that finds it hard to accept defeat.

The Dutch seem relaxed, having reached their first quarter-final since 1978 despite setbacks.

Brazil are also the last non-European team in the competition.

Both sides will attack, with Brazil counting on the brilliant

ROMARIO

proved in the tournament and Bergkamp has come alive at the right moment.

"The whole world is longing for this game," said Dutch coach Dick Advocaat, not a hint of exaggeration in his voice.

Brazil, still chasing their first World Cup title since 1970, are facing the pressure of a soccer-mad nation that finds it hard to accept defeat.

The Dutch seem relaxed, having reached their first quarter-final since 1978 despite setbacks.

Brazil are also the last non-

European team in the competition.

Both sides will attack, with

Brazil counting on the brilliant

ROMARIO

proved in the tournament and Bergkamp has come alive at the right moment.

"The whole world is longing for this game," said Dutch coach Dick Advocaat, not a hint of exaggeration in his voice.

Brazil, still chasing their first

World Cup title since 1970, are facing the pressure of a soccer-mad nation that finds it hard to accept defeat.