

# WORLD CUP USA '94

## Today's World Cup Fixtures

Germany vs Bulgaria  
Sweden vs Romania  
(For details see Page 1)

## WC DIARY

LOS ANGELES, California, July 9 (AFP): Saturday's World Cup diary:

### STILL GOT IT

Michel Platini, former French star now chairman of the Organising Committee for the 1998 World Cup in France, just can't stop playing.

He found a football pitch near the Cotton Bowl in Dallas on Thursday and organised a pick-up game.

### BURDEN OF HISTORY

German reporters say coach Bert Vogts is intimidated by the presence at the World Cup of football demigod Franz Beckenbauer, who coached the 1990 team to the championship.

Beckenbauer, strictly a spectator here, replies "I can't evaporate in smoke."

Brazil manager Carlos Alberto Parreira, on the other hand, lured former coach Mario Zagalo to be his assistant.

"To have Zagalo available and to not use him would be criminal," Parreira said of the man who coached the 1970 Brazil team, who were arguably the greatest World Cup champions ever.

### AT THE MATCH

Dallas City Council members Glenn Box and Domingo Garcia have caught World Cup fever.

They skipped a budget meeting to go to a first round match at the Cotton Bowl in June. The meeting was cancelled, and the council will have to deal with Dallas' \$8 million-dollar deficit some other time.

### THEY CAN'T DO EVERYTHING

FIFA president Joao Havelange said it was unfair to expect football's world governing body to stop the kind of fanaticism that ended with the murder of Colombian footballer Andres Escobar, apparently killed for scoring an own goal in the World Cup.

"You cannot expect FIFA to be in every country legislate what is occurring," Havelange said. "You cannot expect FIFA to send troops to try to bring about a type of clam to this disorder."

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter added: "If the United Nations are not able to stop assassinations, how can FIFA, with only its spoken power, stop such cases."

### DUTCH CONNECTION

Officials at the Dallas World Cup venue were puzzled when New York yankees shortstop Robert Eenhoorn asked them to pass on his regards to Dutch goalkeeper Ed de Goey.

Turns out the baseball player is from Rotterdam, where De Goey plays for Feyenoord. Eenhoorn works out with the club in baseball's off season.

### PRIVATE MATTER

Bulgarian goalkeeper Boris Mihalov is so proud of his new head of hair he has even been appearing free in commercials for the French specialist who inserted the implants.

But Mihalov has stopped short of suggesting a similar remedy for his teammate Yordan Letchkov, who sports a pate almost as shiny as Mihalov's was a couple of months ago. "I thought about it but I did not dare raise the subject," Mihalov admitted. It's a very personal thing."

### BEBETO'S SMALLEST FAN

Brazilian forward Bebeto became a father for the third time on Thursday, when his wife, Denise, gave birth to 3.42kg Matheus Andrade Gomes de Oliveira in Rio de Janeiro.

Mother and child were both fine, and little Matheus has already been given a pint-sized version of his father's number seven Brazil jersey.

### SOCCER SENTIMENTS

It seems soccer scribblers can't resist the giant inflatable football tethered near the Rose Bowl Stadium.

Among the sometimes scatological graffiti: "Go Jackie's army," "Forza Italia, St. Louis." And from one forward-thinker "Go Scotland '96."

### EDSTROM: WATCH THOSE BREAKS

Ralf Edstrom, a forward with Sweden's 1974 and 1978 World Cup teams, warned the current team to watch out for Romania's counter-attacking capabilities. He recalled playing Romania in a European Championship qualifier in 1993, which Sweden lost 1-0. "Romania only had one attack in 90 minutes and scored a goal," Edstrom said.



Germany's prolific goal scorer Juergen Klinsmann goes through his paces during a practice session in Morristown, New Jersey on July 8.

## Hedonism suits Bulgarians

PRINCETON, New York, July 9: Vice-lovers the world over can take heart: Smoking, drinking and having sex have not stopped Bulgaria's football team enjoying unprecedented World Cup success, reports AFP.

Staying up late and not overdoing it on the training field also seem to be key elements of the refreshing recipe that has taken the Bulgarians into Sunday's quarter-final clash with Germany.

Swiss manager Roy Hodgson, who was convinced that pre-match canoodling would be fatal to his team's chances, might have done better to take a leaf out of the Bulgarian coaching manual.

While the Swiss, seen by many as potential semifinalists, went home after the second round, the Bulgarians have not better with every match, unfettered by the almost constant presence of their wives and girlfriends.

The Swiss team's thigh muscles might have been in marginally better shape thanks to their enforced abstinence, but a relaxed mind is just as important in football.

When it came to the crunch, the Bulgarians stayed cool in a nerve-wracking penalty shoot-out against Mexico while the frustrated Swiss were sent packing by three lapses of concentration against Spain.

Sex is not the only area in which the Bulgarians have rejected theories based on the virtues of self-denial.

Staff at the squad's Princeton hotel — which they tried to change for something nearer to New York's bright lights — report that the Bulgarians have been closing their bar every night and interviews with players are frequently shrouded in a cloud of smoke.

"About half the squad smoke," said midfielder Gueorgi Gueorgiev, cigarette in one hand, beer in the other. "The coach doesn't mind, but even if he tried to ban it they would only do it secret, so it would be pointless."

"We're all adults, we're not going to do anything stupid the night before a match, but it is also important to relax."

The Bulgarians have certainly been doing plenty of that this week.

Extra-time against Mexico took its toll, but it was the night on the town that followed that made coach Dimitar Penev decide to give his side the Wednesday off.

It was hardly back to work on Thursday either. Plans for a midday session were shelved because it was too hot and the players headed for the pool.

Penev finally managed to muster a majority of the squad for a token early evening jog round the block, but even that was a bit too strenuous for star striker Hristo Stoichkov, who declined to join in.

By this time, the Italian squad, who also played extra-time on Tuesday, had been through two full training sessions and a closed-doors tactical workout.

Little wonder then that the Italians are all complaining about being tired while the Bulgarians, who did finally get down to business on Friday, say they are fresh and eager for a crack at Germany.

Berti Vogts, the German coach, has been warned. If he wants his side to be in the right condition to face the Bulgarians, he said better start organising some parties.

## Inter boss under house arrest

MILAN, Italy, July 9: The president of top Italian football club Inter Milan, Ernesto Pellegrini, was under house arrest here on Friday on corruption charges, police said, reports AFP.

Pellegrini, 54, had been arrested on Thursday on the orders of Sicilian magistrates following allegations involving a catering company he owns.

He is accused, along with three others, of rigging an invitation to tender, enabling his company to get a three-year catering contract worth 30 million dollars to supply a hospital in Catania, Sicily.

Pellegrini is believed to have bribed his way to the contracts between 1985 and 1990.

Inter-Milan have won the Italian Championship (1989), the UEFA Cup twice (1991 and 1994) and the Italian Super Cup (1989) during Pellegrini's 10-year reign at the top, although they flirted with relegation last season.

Team captain Giuseppe Bergomi said he was shattered by the news of his president's arrest.

## Of the 'golden boot' hunters

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, July 9: Two of the deadliest strikers in the world will be chasing the same target when Bulgaria face Germany at Giants Stadium on Sunday, reports Reuter.

For Hristo Stoichkov and Juergen Klinsmann, the race is already on for soccer's "Golden Boot," awarded to the player who scores most goals in the tournament.

So far Klinsmann has five, one ahead of Stoichkov and one behind Russia's Oleg Salenko, whose team have gone home. No player has scored more than six goals at a World Cup for 20 years, since Grzegorz Lato hit seven for Poland in the 1974 finals.

In the intervening years, Argentina's Marjo Kempes, Italians Paolo Rossi and Salvatore Schillaci, and England's Gary Linekar have top-scored respectively with six, far short of the record 13 by France's Just Fontaine in 1958.

Stoichkov and Klinsmann are unlikely to eclipse that mark but, in a tournament brimming with ace marksmen, both seem to have scented an opportunity to crown outstanding careers.

Stoichkov, now 28, has been the striking force behind Barcelona's four consecutive Spanish league titles and their 1992 European Cup triumph.

The arrival of Brazilian Romario has required him to offer more as a provider in club football, but for his coun-

try he remains the focal point of attack alongside Emil Kostadinov.

The goal he scored in the second-round match against Mexico, a rasping left-foot shot into the roof of the net after latching on to a clever through ball, was in many ways a classic Stoichkov effort, combining power and sharp instincts.



STOICHKOV Klinsmann, who will turn 30 two weeks after the World Cup final, has also been exhibiting his trademark strengths in the finals where he has scored at least once in every game.

Before he and his colleagues ran out of steam in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas against South Korea, Klinsmann's pace and appetite for goals threatened to swamp the Koreans, and he

remains a player who relishes the big occasion.

Sunday's match offers him a chance to run at a suspect Bulgarian back four while Stoichkov is likely to have fewer chances at the other end, but many believe the pair are impossible to separate.

In a good position to judge is Bulgaria's captain and goalkeeper Borislav Mihalov, who has known Stoichkov in particular for years.

Both men have resurrected careers which looked to be over when they were banned for life by the national federation in 1985 for their involvement in a punch-up that overshadowed a Bulgarian Cup final between CSKA Sofia and rivals Levski.

Mihalov has also been playing his club football in France where Klinsmann is based with Monaco, yet he is still unsure which player he would prefer in his side.

"It would be great to have them both in the same team," he said diplomatically. "They are both great strikers, although I have to say Klinsmann in the World Cup is nothing like the Klinsmann who plays in France in front of 2,000 people."

Both men have enjoyed chequered public images at times. Klinsmann for his past gamesmanship and Stoichkov for a disciplinary record that includes a suspension for stamping on a referee foot.

Yet both remain among the most charismatic players in Europe and have the awards to prove it. A "Golden Boot" would fit either of them perfectly.

## Success ushers in secrecy

PRINCETON, N.J., July 9: Underdogs Bulgaria, suddenly three victories from winning the World Cup, are the team to watch and talk to: The only problem is that it ejects reporters from its workouts and seldom talks, reports AP.

Before coming to this tournament, the Bulgarians had not won a World Cup game in six visits. Now they are in the quarterfinals, the team is shrouded in secrecy with the trademarks of a primadonna.

"We did not expect this at the beginning," said goalkeeper Borislav Mihalov, who saved two penalties in the shootout with Mexico in the previous round and led his team to a 3-1 victory.

"But we realise that we were better than we thought."

That, perhaps, explains why the Bulgarians were twenty minutes late at their practice at Princeton University Friday. They granted journalists and camera crews less than ten minutes of media exposure after which Emil Verbosky, the team liaison officer, urged the two dozen reporters to leave the grassy field.

US police guards, who usually listen to team officials and not to reporters, quickly car-

ried out the Bulgarian's wishes — and out went the media representatives, behind a three-metre (9-foot) tall iron fence.

But wait, then the good news, impressed by so much attention, coach Dimitar Penev said the players would answer reporters' questions after practice.

And the photographers and cameramen were allowed to take pictures and shoot from a pre-World War I pavilion on a little hill overlooking the practice field, some 200 metres (600 feet) away.

A victory over defending champions Germany at Giants Stadium Sunday would propel the Bulgarians into the semifinal round against the winner of Saturday's match between Italy and Spain in Foxboro, Mass.

Does this explain their secrecy? As seen from the pavilion, the Bulgarians didn't show anything unusual. But by practicing penalty kicks they left an impression that they would favour a draw, and let the outcome be decided in the shootout. The tactic worked out splendidly in the Mexico game.

"Germany had better worry about us," Penev said after a one-hour practice that included stretching and scrimmaging. "We aren't afraid of them, because we know them

well."

Two of the Bulgarian's, midfielder Jordan Letchkov and defender Peter Houbtchev, play for Hamburg in the German Bundesliga.

"Whatever will happen, we are not losing anything, we are winning," said Letchkov.

Bulgaria will be without full-back Emil Kremlev, who received two yellow cards in the victory over Mexico and, most sit out Sunday's game. All players are reported fit.

In the end, Penev opened up and let out some precious strategy.

"Play defensively? Of course, we'll be careful about defence because Germany has good attackers ... but we also have good scorers like Hristo Stoichkov."

How about the Bulgarian lineup? Penev didn't divulge his biggest secret.

"I will not announce my lineup until Saturday, when Germany has to tell theirs," he said.

But apart from their penchant for secrecy, which has a long Balkan tradition, the Bulgarians are otherwise amusing. After the Mexico victory, the team reportedly celebrated so long into the night that they had to skip everything on their agenda the next day.

## Voeller, a desperate remedy

CHICAGO, Illinois, July 9: A chronic lack of international-class strikers in the Bundesliga led German coach Bert Vogts to send an SOS World Cup call to Rudi Voeller, reports AFP.

The veteran needed only five minutes of the first game he started — the second round tie against Belgium — to show Vogts he should have been in their team from the tournament's kick-off on June 17.

A further 33 minutes into the game Voeller, winning his 89th cap, had put Vogts' USA '94 campaign back on the road to the final at the Pasadena Rose Bowl on July 17.

Voeller made fellow striker Jurgen Klinsmann's second goal to restore Germany's lead and then his 47th international goal proved to be the winner.

Voeller, at 34 the oldest player in Germany's squad, had time to rest his legs before their quarter-final against Bulgaria Sunday.

Voeller had known he might have to bide his time on the substitute's bench at these finals. However, the call had to come when bickering began to split the squad after three poor displays in the first round — during which Voeller appeared for only 29 minutes — and the media stuck the knife in back home.

Vogts said: "I told Rudi his chance would come and he used it. He showed what he can do and that he is not ready for the scrapheap."

Back home they were a little more excited. His first goal was world class, his involve-

ment in Klinsmann's goal was marvellous and his second goal grandiose," said one paper.

Vogts asked Voeller to come out of international retirement after a Bundesliga season in which seven of the top ten scorers were foreign. Kaiserslautern's Stefan Kuntz, who is in Germany's squad here, led the scoring charts with Ghanaian Anthony Yeboah but Kuntz has never made the



RUDI VOELLER

grade at international level.

Two months ago, after a meeting in France, Voeller's presence at his third World Cup finals was decided. He had retired from international football in October, 1992 with 85 caps and 44 goals after scoring in 1-1 draw with Mexico in Dresden.

As if to ensure his presence could not go unnoticed in the US, Voeller also asked to wear the number 13 shirt made fa-

mous by Gerd Muller, the finest of all his country's centre forwards, when West Germany won the 1974 World Cup.

Voeller's brace of goals against the Belgians took his tally to 47 for his country, above Karl-Heinz Runnenigge into second place behind Muller's 68.

"There is no excitement comparable to goalscoring," said Voeller. "People were saying my career was finished but I'm alive again now."

Voeller has regularly cofounded his critics.

He was an unrated choice for the 1986 tournament but it was his persistence which brought the first of two goals in an eight minute spell which pulled West Germany back into the final against Argentina.

Until Diego Maradona released Jorge Burruchaga for a glorious winner.

And it was Voeller who collapsed under a challenge from Argentina's Roberto Sensi to win the penalty which Andreas Brehme converted to win the 1990 final.

This World Cup has also given Voeller the chance to play for his future. The striker is almost certain to leave Marseille after the French club were relegated to the Second Division in the wake of last year's match-fixing scandal.

At the back end of the season there were persistent rumours in Germany concerning a move to Munich 1860, just back in the top flight, but Voeller said: "I'm keeping my options open."

A couple more goals at the World Cup and he will land a lucrative contract with which to sign off his playing career.

## Injured Sammer paves Moeller's way

## Matthaeus ready for history

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., July 9: Bulgaria already made history when they finally won a game earlier in the World Cup. Lothar Matthaeus is ready to claim his personal share, reports AP.

Matthaeus, the 33-year-old German captain, is playing fourth World Cup.

When he takes the field Sunday against Bulgaria in the quarterfinals, it will be his 21st World Cup game, equalling the record set by fellow German Uwe Seeler, Wladislav Zmuda of Poland and Argentine captain Diego Maradona.

Maradona would have held the record by himself had he not been banished for doping after two games.

If Germany advance and Matthaeus stays healthy, he will break the record in the semifinals.

Matthaeus, whose right foot had inflamed after he suffered a deep gash, has resumed training and will play Sunday.

To break the record, Germany will have to get to the semifinals, and to do that they will have to overcome the loss of Matthias Sammer.

The only East German to become a starter for the defending World Cup champions, Sammer suffered a muscle injury in his left calf in practice and has been idle three days.

"The chance of me playing is lower than 0.1 per cent," Sammer said Friday as the German team bade farewell to Chicago and moved to New Jersey.

Sammer said he could end up missing the rest of the World Cup if Germany advance.

"The muscle has to loosen up," he said.

Coach Bert Vogts has declined to say who will replace

Sammer, but impressions left in practice indicate that Andreas Moeller could return to the starting lineup.

Moeller was one of Vogts' favourite players before the World Cup. But after two unsat-

isfactory performances here, Vogts dropped him from the starting 11.

While the Germans travelled to New Jersey Friday, the Bulgarians relaxed at their camp in Princeton.

Bulgaria came into the World Cup without a victory in 16 games in five previous appearances.

The Balkan team bounced back from an opening loss to Nigeria, went on to beat Argentina and knocked out Mexico in a penalty shootout following extra time in the



LOTHAR MATTHAEUS

second round.

The Bulgarians were taking it easy after the gruelling match against Mexico, sleeping late, horsing around the pool and having light workouts in late afternoon, when heat and humidity would let up a bit.

"We have to recoup our strength, the extra time was very tough for our players," said coach Dimitar Penev.

Bulgaria's top star Hristo Stoichkov, who pleaded a light calf injury to escape some of the practice, said Bulgaria had nothing to lose.

"We are going into the game very calmly. It is the Germans who have to win and the pressure is on them," said the Barcelona striker.

Other Bulgarian players were also confident, although they recognised that beating Germany is tough.

"I play against Germans every week. I know how strong they are," said midfielder Yordan Letchkov, who plays for Hamburg SV in the Bundesliga. Familiarity, the Bulgarians feel, helps them.

"Germany should better worry about us," coach Dimitar Penev said Friday. "We aren't afraid of them, because we know them well."

"Whatever will happen, we are not losing anything, we are winning," Letchkov said.

Letchkov, who scored the decisive penalty goal against Mexico, said Bulgaria had their best offensive front ever with Stoichkov, Emil Kostadinov and Nasko Sirakov.

"We are going to attack because that's our game. And the German defence is vulnerable," Letchkov said.

Bulgaria won't have suspended defender Emil Kremlev, but Trifon Ivanov, Tsanko Tsvetanov and Zlatko Yankov are available again after sitting out the Mexico game.

## PROBABLE TEAMS

GERMANY: Bodo Illgner; Lothar Matthaeus, Thomas Berthold, Juergen Kohler, Thomas Helmer; Thomas Haessler, Guido Buchwald, Martin Wagner, Andreas Moeller, Rudi Voeller, Juergen Klinsmann.

BULGARIA: Borislav Mihalov; Iljan Kirjakov, Petar Houbtchev, Tsanko Tsvetanov, Trifon Ivanov, Yordan Letchkov, Nasko Sirakov, Krasimir Balakov, Zlatko Yankov, Emil Kostadinov, Hristo Stoichkov.

## WC COMPARATIVE STATS

NEW YORK, July 9 (Xinhua): Following are the statistical comparisons of the current World Cup finals and the 1990 tournament held in Italy (stats after 44 games):

	USA '94	Italy '90
Number of goals	118	100
Number of draws	9	9
Penalty shootouts	1	1
Number of 1-0 scores	9	12
Number of scoreless ties	2	4
Average attendance	67,162	50,420
Actual playing time	60:34	55:05
Yellow cards	195	131
Red cards	13	11
Highest scores	6-1	5-1