

# WORLD CUP USA '94

## Brazilians dance to samba beat

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil. July 10: After the 3-2 victory over the Netherlands, Brazilians on Saturday flocked to the streets to celebrate the quarterfinal result of the World Cup soccer championship, reports AP.

The cold weather kept many fans home in Rio, though fireworks could be heard all over town.

In Brazil's northeastern city of Recife, TV cameras showed thousands of people dancing in the streets.

After the team's disappointing performance against the United States last Monday, many people feared a loss. And despite the winning score, most people still thought Brazil are not playing as well as they should.

"We are trying to play soccer like the Europeans and not in our tradition," said a soccer fan in the Copacabana district of Rio.

## GOAL SCORERS

UNDATED (Reuters): Following are the World Cup '94 goal scorers after Saturday's quarter-final matches:

**6 goals** — Ioleg Salenko (Russia).

**5 goals** — Juergen Klinsmann (Germany).

**4 goals** — Martin Dahlin (Sweden), Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria), Romario (Brazil).

**3 goals** — Kennet Andersson (Sweden), Bebeto (Brazil), Gheorghe Hagi (Romania), Roberto Baggio (Italy), Jose Caminero (Spain), Dennis Bergkamp (Netherlands).

**2 goals** — Florin Raducioiu (Romania), Juan Gorkoetxea (Spain), Ilie Dumitrescu (Romania), Georges Bregy (Switzerland), Adolfo Valencia (Colombia), Luis Garcia (Mexico), Fuad Anwar Amin (Saudi Arabia), Claudio Caniggia (Argentina), Hong Myong-Bo (South Korea), Daniel Amokachi (Nigeria), Rudi Voeller (Germany), Philippe Albert (Belgium), Wim Jonk (Netherlands), Dino Baggio (Italy), Emmanuel Amunike (Nigeria).

**1 goal** — Julio Salinas (Spain), Hwang Sun-Hong (South Korea), Soe Jung-Won (South Korea), Eric Wynalda (United States), Hugh Houghton (Ireland), Marc Degryse (Belgium), Kjetil Rekdal (Norway), Roger Ljung (Sweden), David Embe (Cameroon), Francois Omam-Biyik (Cameroon), Rai (Brazil), Gaston Taument (Netherlands), Diego Maradona (Argentina), Bryan Roy (Netherlands), Rashidi Yekini (Nigeria), Finidi George (Nigeria), Alberto Garcia (Mexico), Alain Sutter (Switzerland), Stephane Chapuisat (Switzerland), Adrian Knup (Switzerland), Ernie Stewart (United States), John Aldridge (Ireland), Marcio Santos (Brazil), Dmitri Radchenko (Russia), Tomas Borlin (Sweden), Sami Al-Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Georges Grua (Belgium), Mohamed Chaouch (Morocco), Samson Stasia (Nigeria), Yordan Lechkov (Bulgaria), Daniel Borimirov (Bulgaria), Dan Perescu (Romania), Harold Lozano (Colombia), Herman Gaviria (Colombia), Karlheinz Riedle (Germany), Erwin Sanchez (Bolivia), Josep Guardiola (Spain), Daniele Massro (Italy), Marcelino Bernal (Mexico), Fahd Al-Ghshyan (Saudi Arabia), Saeed Owairan (Saudi Arabia), Hassan Nader (Morocco), Naso Sirakov (Bulgaria), Fernando Hierro (Spain), Luis Enrique (Spain), Aitor Beguiristain (Spain), Abel Balbo (Argentina), Branco (Brazil), Aron Winter (Netherlands).

**Dutch fans run riot**

THE HAGUE, July 10: Police arrested 30 soccer fans early on Sunday after clashes in two Dutch towns following the Netherlands' defeat by Brazil in the World Cup quarter-finals, reports Reuters.

Mounted police charged a mob of several hundred angry supporters in the Hague City Centre after some fans lit fireworks and set garbage bins alight.

Some 20 people were arrested while one policeman was slightly injured after being hit with a bottle.

Four mounted policemen charged (the fans) and that prevented them from getting out of hand," a police spokesman said, adding that no riot police were drafted in as the trouble was brought under control within an hour.

Police arrested 10 fans in the northern Dutch town of Groningen after hooligans started throwing stones and bottles.

Also in the early hours, police in the southern town of Eindhoven put out a small fire caused by a molotov cocktail thrown into a Brazilian restaurant, which was closed at the time.



Brazilian superstar Romario sets on customary ecstatic run after tucking the ball into the net to give Brazil the lead against Holland in a quarter-final tie at the Cotton Bowl Stadium on July 9. — AFP photo

## A connoisseur's delight

DALLAS, July 10: Dutch coach Dick Advocaat described Saturday's 3-2 loss to Brazil as "containing everything a football game should."

He also said it had one thing a game shouldn't have: a blown call, report agencies.

It happened early in the second half, when Brazilian attacker Bebeto put his team ahead 2-0 with a goal the Dutch defence stood around watching while they awaited an offside call from referee Rodrigo Badilla on striker Romario.

Jan Wouters, who covered Bebeto all game, stopped when he saw the Brazilian take a pass because no other Dutch player was ahead of Romario except goalkeeper Ed De Goey.

De Goey also seemed stunned when Bebeto danced around him and casually tapped the ball into the net.

"Everybody could see that it was offside," Advocaat said. "This shouldn't happen at such a level."

The Netherlands disputed the second goal, and some players brooded about it.

"It's terrible," Rob Witschge said. "I think the linesman is absolutely blind; he was three yards offside. It's a terrible way to get a second goal."

"It is something we will never get over. It's one of the saddest things in my career."

But two minutes later, the Dutchmen's wondrous comeback began with a goal by Dennis Bergkamp. In the 76th minute, they tied the game on Aron Winter's header off a corner kick.

"They scored their first goal because we lost our concentration," said Brazil's Jorginho. "Then we lost order and organisation, and tried just to hang on and stay calm."

The excitement dimmed for the Dutch five minutes later on Branco's game-winning free-kick, although their second-half accomplishment should not be considered to have been in vain.

"They're to be congratulated for their efforts," said Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, whose team had allowed only one goal in all of their four previous Cup matches.

Although Advocaat was disappointed his team won't get a chance to improve on runners-up finishes in 1974 and 1978, he was not upset with the Netherlands performance Saturday.

that's a compliment to us. "I leave this World Cup with a good feeling. The Dutch team played well and I regret that we have to leave."

Holland's World Cup demise to Brazil signalled the final disintegration of the great European Championship side that captivated the football world six years ago.

A new era of Dutch football will emerge from USA '94 where Holland reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup for the first time since they lost to Argentina in the 1978 final.

Stay-away Ruud Gullit and long-term injured Marco van Basten have age against them to play in the 1998 World Cup in France, but Saturday's loss should also be the last fans see Ronald Koeman, Frank Rijkaard and Jan Wouters appear at another World Cup.

Koeman, who took over as team captain after piqued Gullit's late withdrawal from the Dutch team, is 31, Rijkaard will be 32 in September and Wouters is 34 on the day of the Rose Bowl final.

Holland won the final of the 1988 European Championships, beating the former Soviet Union 2-0 in Munich with Van Basten scoring a classic goal from a seemingly impossible angle.

Symptomatic of Dutch football, their exit from the World Cup was acrimonious.

On the positive side, the Dutch have solid team-building foundations based on star striker Dennis Bergkamp, who finished the tournament with three goals, wingers Peter van Vossen, Marc Overmars and Bryan Roy, midfielder Wim Jonk and defender Stan Valckx.

The Dutch dressing-room was deathly quiet as the players reflected on how close they came to staging one of the greatest World Cup comebacks against Brazil.

"You couldn't hear a thing," said Rob Witschge.

"We all had to deal with it in our own way. But it will take a long time," added the Dutch midfielder.

"The praise for their stirring fight back from 2-0 down to 2-2 in the second half of the most dramatic match of the USA '94 finals was scant comfort to a team knocked out by a killer punch nine minutes from time."

"The players are all too disappointed to talk about the game," said Dutch coach Dick Advocaat. "They are down and out."

"You can imagine how disappointed they were sitting in the dressing-room. After coming back from 2-0 down and then losing, I am emotionally wasted."

Advocaat sought a positive view as some of the older players like Frank Rijkaard, Ronald Koeman and Jan Wouters came to terms with the fact they would never appear in a World Cup final after Branco's late free-kick earned Brazil a 3-2 victory and a semifinal berth.

"We can leave America with our heads high. I am very proud of my boys," the coach said.

"Brazil are world-class and I think I should compliment my team for the way they played against them."

Brazil's biggest problem in the competition has been a lack of creativity in midfield, which was once again all too clear against the Dutch.

Parreira has taken Brazil further than they have gone in the tournament since 1978 but has constantly found himself fending off criticism and questions about their style.

"Naturally, like all the other teams who came here, we want to win the World Cup and we can't do this unless we have strong marking when our opponents have the ball. Our team is balanced, that's all."

"We're not playing ugly football and we have gone out to attack in every game."

Parreira's controversial choice to start veteran forward Branco, who scored the game winner, was applauded by critics and a nation of back-seat soccer coaches.

All week TV opinion polls had queried analysts and fans on who should start in place of forward Leonardo, suspended from World Cup action for rough play against the United States Monday.

Polls showed Cafu, considered the team's most complete athlete, to be the people's choice to join the starting roster.

Parreira had even been criticised for Branco's presence on the team, much less as a starter.

The veteran of the 1986 and 1990 World Cups had back pains since the beginning of last month's training and many felt he would not be able to keep up the pace defending against Holland's main playmaker Overmars.

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## Pathetic!

BANGKOK, July 10: A Thai Buddhist monk died and a 10-year-old novice was injured late Saturday when they scaled a water tower to adjust a TV antenna for a World Cup play-off game, Thai television reported, reports AFP.

Phra Suvit Wangka and the boy, Prasit Boonmee, volunteered to climb the 15 metre (yard) tower when the television signal at Tai temple deteriorated shortly before the Italy-Spain match, military-run Channel 7 said Sunday.

The antenna collapsed, struck a power line and exploded, knocking both Phra Suvit and Prasit to the ground. Both were rushed to a local hospital in Kanchanaburi province, 128 kilometres (80 miles) west of here.

Phra Suvit died of head injuries, the report said, adding that Prasit was still in the hospital with severe burns.

## Conceptual constipation?

DALLAS, July 10: Ask Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira if his team have imitated the European style of play and a look of exasperation appears on his face.

Parreira was faced with the inevitable question once again after his team's thrilling 3-2 World Cup victory over the Netherlands on Saturday, reports Reuters.

"There's an enormous misunderstanding here. We have never played or even tried to play European style. We play with a flat back four, we keep the ball on the ground, we don't use a sweeper, we avoid long kicks upfield," he said.

"I can't understand why people can't grasp this."

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But Branco shut up his critics on the field, nullifying Overmars and scoring the game winner on a booming

free-kick in the 81st minute.

"Brazilian team cleans the souls of soccer fans," blared the headline of Sunday's Jornal dos Sports.

"Brazil have finally proven that they can also win by playing artistic soccer," wrote its sports writer Edison Campos.

"Brazilian team shines in reaching semifinals," was the Jornal do Brasil's front-page headline.

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## Branco, back with a bang

DALLAS, July 10: Branco came up with the perfect riposte to his critics on Saturday by scoring the goal which took Brazil into the World Cup semifinals, reports Reuters.

"This was for those people who didn't believe in me," he said. "They said I was no good, that I shouldn't be playing in the national team."

But God gave me this chance to repay the confidence that my teammates, the management and the medical staff have placed in me. This was the most important goal of my life."

Branco, brought in at left back for the suspended Leonardo, scored Brazil's winner in the quarter-final against the Netherlands with a blistering 30-metre free kick.

The ball flew low past the Dutch wall and into the right-hand corner of the net.

The goal came in the 81st minute and carried Brazil to a 3-2 win after they had just surrendered a two-goal lead.

"I looked up at the clock, saw there were 10 minutes left and said to myself: 'It has to be now'" Branco said.

Branco was playing his first game for a month and many Brazilians had feared he would be torn apart by Dutch winger Marc Overmars who had destroyed the Irish defence with his pace in a second-round match.

"This is my third World Cup and people should have had more respect. A big thing was made of my presence in the team — a lot of people were putting pressure on me," he said.

The Dutch right winger (Overmars) is the best player in the team but I kept him under control."

Branco, who has previously played for Portuguese club Porto and Italian side Genoa, said the month that followed was one of the most difficult of his career.

"I've worked very hard. I was training by myself but I never gave up," said the fiery full-back who has suffered several sendings off in his career.

He is intensely passionate when playing for his country but his enthusiasm boiled over last year when he scored for Brazil in a friendly against Paraguay in Rio de Janeiro.

Branco ran to fans who had been jeering the team's performance, pointing defiantly at the Brazil badge on his shirt but the gesture made the fans even more angry.

Other Brazilian players said they felt his frustration showed in another aggressive celebration, following his goal against the Netherlands.

To some extent, he was getting something off his chest," say Maruo Silva, he's been through a lot, he's suffered but he's always had our backing."

Parreira's insistence on only using two strikers, and not three, was also considered by experts to be "admissible" after weeks-long criticism of the team manager's tactics.

"Brazil showed that when Romario and Bebeto are fine-tuned, their on-field play carries the force of three or even four attackers" editorialised the Rio daily O Globo.

Brazil's dynamic duo gave their team a 2-0 lead before Holland stormed back to tie, setting the stage for Branco's heroics.

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Bebeto's third child, son Matheus, was born Thursday in Rio, and the Brazilian striker had promised a goal in honor of the team's new mascot.

Castro watches it too

HAVANA, July 10: Brazil's Foreign Minister Celso Amorim took time off work during a visit to Cuba on Saturday to watch Brazil sweep into the World Cup semifinals alongside an enthusiastic fan — President Fidel Castro, reports Reuters.

The evening television news showed Castro and Amorim watching the five-goal thriller against the Netherlands on television at the Brazilian embassy, with Amorim leaping to his feet and applauding at a Brazil goal. Castro also rose to his feet to clap.

Castro's gala performance against Holland was this World Cup's best soccer to date," wrote analyst Armando Nogueira.

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## Parreira wins over critics

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 10: Sports writers and commentators have finally joined, the world in praising the Brazilian soccer team after Saturday's thrilling 3-2 victory over Holland, reports AP.

Despite Brazil's unbeaten World Cup record of 3 victories and 1 tie going into the match, sports critics had condemned what they called "ugly and artless" soccer and manager Carlos Alberto Parreira was singled out for criticism.

Brazil, ranked first by FIFA, were the odds makers choice from London to Las Vegas to win the 1994 World Cup, but sports analysts refused to join in the fanfare over the Brazilian team.

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