

# WORLD CUP USA '94

## Jules Rimet Cup thief caught

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 13: After an 11-year search, police have arrested the ring-leader of a gang that stole Brazil's World Cup trophy, a senior official said on Wednesday — the day Brazil play Sweden in the 1994 semifinal, reports Reuters.

Brazil earned the right to keep the coveted Jules Rimet trophy after they won the World Cup for the third time in 1970. But it was stolen in 1983 and never found.

Rio de Janeiro state attorney general Antonio Carlos Biscaino said in a telephone interview that Sergio Pereira Ayres, 50, was arrested on Tuesday in the beach resort of Cabo Frio where he was looking after a villa. The arrest followed a tip-off.

The gang stole the golden-winged Jules Rimet trophy from the headquarters of the Brazilian Football Federation in 1983 and are thought to have melted it down.

Ayres, a former bank employee, was sentenced in absentia to nine years for his part in the crime but was never arrested.

An Argentine citizen went to jail for receiving the trophy, another member of the gang was murdered in 1989 while on the run and a fourth man wanted in connection with the crime has never been found, according to the *Jornal Do Brasil* newspaper.

The trophy was also once stolen from a shop window in London shortly before the 1966 World Cup tournament in England but was found by a dog shortly afterwards.

Brazil play Sweden on Wednesday for a place in the final of USA '94 and a chance to win the World Cup for a record fourth time. The trophy now presented to the winners depicts a golden globe, being held aloft by four hands.

## WC STATS

LOS ANGELES, California, July 13 (AFP): World Cup statistics after the quarter-finals.

### ATTENDANCES

**First Round:** Group A: 497,541 (average 82,924). Group B: 472,080 (78,680). Group C: 364,020 (60,670). Group D: 332,230 (55,372). Group E: 392,573 (65,429). Group F: 361,653 (60,276).

**Total** (after 36 of 52 matches): 2,420,097 (average 67,225).

**Second Round:** 535,012 (average 66,876).

**Total** (after 44 of 52 matches): 2,955,108 (average 67,162).

**Quarter-finals:** 273,886 (average 68,472).

**Total** (after 48 of 52 matches): 3,228,994 (average 67,271).

Previous World Cup record for whole tournament: 60,772 for the 22 games at the 1950 tournament in Brazil.

Final total in 1990: 2,517,348 (average 48,411).

**Highest attendance:** 93,869 (Romania v USA, Los Angeles, First Round)

**Lowest:** 44,332 (Bulgaria v Nigeria, Dallas, First Round).

### GOALS

**First Round:** Group A: 17 (Average 2.83). Group B: 22 (3.66). Group C: 16 (2.66). Group D: 18 (3.00). Group E: 8 (1.33). Group F: 12 (2.00). Total: 93 (82 in 1990). Average per match: 2.56.

**Second Round:** 25 (average 3.12).

**Quarter-finals:** 15 (average 3.75).

**Biggest win:** Russia 6 Cameroon 1 (Group B).

**Top-scoring team:** Sweden 11 goals.

**Best defence:** Brazil 3 goals. Leading scorer: Oleg Salenko (Russia) 6.

**Best individual performance:** Salenko 5 v Cameroon (World Cup record).

**Penalties:** 14 (all converted).

**Red and yellow cards after second round:**

**Sendings-off:** 14. **Bookings:** 213.

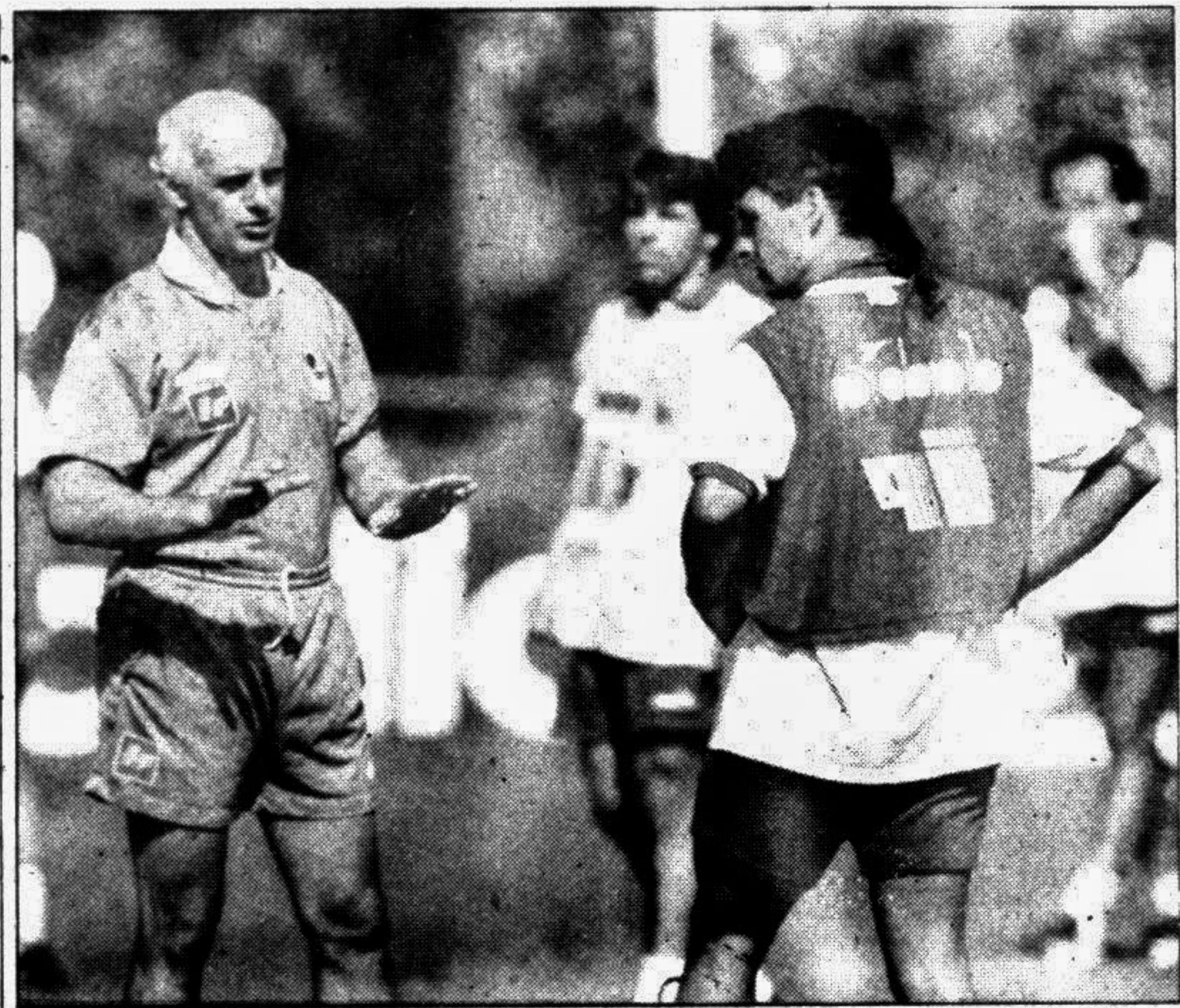
## Leeds sign Skuhravy

LONDON, July 13: English Premier Division club Leeds United, hit last season by injuries, said on Wednesday they had signed Czech international striker Tomas Skuhravy, reports Reuters.

Skuhravy, 28, is to join Leeds from Italian club Genoa in a three-million-pound sterling (4.68 million dollars) deal.

"We have agreed personal terms with Tomas," said Leeds managing director Bill Fetherby. "He has now gone back to Genoa to sort out some private matters."

He will come back within 48 hours and have his medical and, if everything goes smoothly, he will then formally sign for the club.



Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi (L) has a word with Roberto Baggio during training at the Pingry school on July 12.

## Maradona turns away from soccer

BUENOS AIRES, July 13: Diego Maradona, still angry and depressed about being thrown out of the World Cup for doping, has stopped watching the soccer altogether, reports Reuters.

"As far as I'm concerned, soccer has come to an end," the disgraced Argentine star said on Tuesday. "I can't stand watching it and I don't even want to play anymore."

His comments to a local radio station were published by the daily newspaper *La Nacion* on Wednesday, the day the World Cup semifinals were being played in the United States.

"I'm not watching the World Cup anymore. It depresses me," the former national captain said, maintaining his belief that Argentina were robbed of victory in the World Cup by an off-field conspiracy.

"It wouldn't have been easy but Argentina could have gone all the way," he said. "I'm sure we would have won our matches without having to go to penalties, like many are doing."

FIFA, soccer's governing body, kicked Maradona out of the finals after a doping test showed traces of performance-enhancing drugs in his urine.

"I accept the blame and I'm not going to point the finger at anyone. But this has nothing to do with my first ban," the 33-year-old Maradona said, referring to a 1991 ban for cocaine abuse while playing in Italy.

Argentina, who put in two impressive performances against Greece and Nigeria with Maradona at the helm, fell apart after the midfielder was banned, losing 2-0 to Bulgaria and crashing out of the tournament in the second round against Romania.

FIFA has said it will meet to decide on Maradona's fate in August. In the meantime the star is suspended indefinitely.

Maradona, suspended just as he was preparing to set a record of 22 World Cup appearances, said he would not flinch when he appears in the FIFA dock.

"I've never snatched on anybody, nor do I intend doing so," he said. "We're now up against FIFA and I've never been afraid of a fight nor of what people say."

The national idol, who orchestrated Argentina's 1986 World Cup triumph, said that regardless of FIFA's verdict, he had achieved enough in his career to retire without regrets. He has already said he was quitting the game now.

"I've done enough," he said. "(My wife) Claudio thought I looked good on the pitch. Personally I felt great and proud in the two matches played in the finals."

The former international defender, who stepped up from under-21 coach to replace Franz Beckenbauer after Germany won the 1990 World Cup, was given unequivocal backing by the president of the German Federation, Egidius Braun.

"I've discussed it with my vice presidents and the entire board is 100 per cent behind Berti and we will give him all conceivable support in his preparations for the European Championships in England in 1996," Braun said.

"Even if Berti came and offered his resignation I would try to convince him to stay. I want to expel any doubt he might have had about the federation's position."

Vogts, whose leadership was bitterly criticised in the German press, added: "I know many people are demanding that I resign but it is for the federation to decide not the press."

Vogts rejected suggestions that he had committed a tactical blunder by taking Jürgen Kohler out of the back four to make room for Hrvoje Stoichkov.

"Nobody could have done a better job of neutralising Stoichkov," Vogts said. "That is not an excuse for the other defensive errors."

"I warned the team to be careful on cross-field balls and on set pieces. My advice was not heeded."

The only error Vogts would admit to was in not dropping Bodo Illgner, the goalkeeper who announced his retirement on Sunday after the first round match with South Korea.

"With hindsight I should have brought in Andreas Koepke then, but as we won the match, Sepp Maier and I decided not to make the change."

Illgner's decision came in for some fierce criticism from Vogts and his teammates, who questioned his commitment to the national cause.

But 24 hours after the defeat, Vogts' tone was one of sadness rather than anger.

"Bodo is only 27. What he has done won't hit him until later and in a few days time I think he will be very sorry."

Vogts, who is staying in the United States for a holiday, also said tough times lay ahead for German soccer and that he wanted to carry on as team

## FIFA infuriates Italians

ROME, July 13: Italian newspapers attacked today FIFA's decision to suspend defender Mauro Tassotti for eight games, saying the decision smacked of anti-Italian bias, reports Reuters.

"A mad decision by the FIFA mafia," the respected daily *Corriere della Sera* said in its headline.

Tassotti was given the ban, which commentators say will effectively end the 34-year-old player's international career after he struck an opponent in the face with his elbow in Italy's quarter-final clash with Spain.

The match referee did not see the incident, which broke Spaniard Luis Enrique's nose, but in a landmark case, FIFA used video evidence for the first time before giving Tassotti one of the heaviest bans in World Cup history.

Earlier in the tournament, FIFA's secretary general Sepp Blatter refused to look at video evidence to examine the harsh sending-off of Italian striker Gianfranco Zola.

This unconstrained use of laws could ruin the World Cup, which up until now has been a great show," *La Repubblica* daily said.

*La Voce* newspaper echoed these sentiments.

"This ugly mess over Tassotti has shaken the national team, in a World Cup ruined by the mad omnipotence of (FIFA secretary general Sepp) Blatter," the paper said.

Argentina, who put in two

impressive performances against Greece and Nigeria with Maradona at the helm, fell apart after the midfielder was banned, losing 2-0 to Bulgaria and crashing out of the tournament in the second round against Romania.

"We decided we had to make an example of him," said Marcel Mathier of Switzerland, who chaired the disciplinary committee meeting.

It was the first time in World Cup history that FIFA used video playbacks for an off-the-ball incident to decide Tassotti's punishment for hitting the Spanish player in Saturday's quarter-final.

The disciplinary committee described the assault as "severe."



LUIS ENRIQUE

apologises.

The suspension effectively means the 34-year-old AC Milan right-back's international career is over.

Ramos was left with a fractured bone in his skull and will be out of soccer for at least three months. Leonardo was sent off for the blow and banned for the next four games.

The Tassotti case has upset the Italian squad on the eve of their semifinal with Bulgaria.

"The players feel very bad about it and rightly so," said coach Arrigo Sacchi.

Tassotti knows he did

wrong but did not expect such a heavy punishment. We are very sorry for him."

Tassotti, who has no history of disciplinary problems, became Italy's oldest debutant when he won the first of his seven Italian caps in October 1992.

## Vogts agrees to soldier on



SHORT HILLS, New Jersey, July 13: Berti Vogts will carry on as German coach despite his team's shock elimination by Bulgaria in Sunday's World Cup quarter-final, report agencies.

"As long as I'm having fun, and even now I'm having fun, and as long as I like my work, I will continue," Vogts said on Monday just before the German party left their New Jersey hotel.

The former international defender, who stepped up from under-21 coach to replace Franz Beckenbauer after Germany won the 1990 World Cup, was given unequivocal backing by the president of the German Federation, Egidius Braun.

"I've discussed it with my vice presidents and the entire board is 100 per cent behind Berti and we will give him all conceivable support in his preparations for the European Championships in England in 1996," Braun said.

"Even if Berti came and offered his resignation I would try to convince him to stay. I want to expel any doubt he might have had about the federation's position."

Vogts, whose leadership was bitterly criticised in the German press, added: "I know many people are demanding that I resign but it is for the federation to decide not the press."

Vogts rejected suggestions that he had committed a tactical blunder by taking Jürgen Kohler out of the back four to make room for Hrvoje Stoichkov.

"Nobody could have done a better job of neutralising Stoichkov," Vogts said. "That is not an excuse for the other defensive errors."

"I warned the team to be careful on cross-field balls and on set pieces. My advice was not heeded."

The only error Vogts would admit to was in not dropping Bodo Illgner, the goalkeeper who announced his retirement on Sunday after the first round match with South Korea.

"With hindsight I should have brought in Andreas Koepke then, but as we won the match, Sepp Maier and I decided not to make the change."

Illgner's decision came in for some fierce criticism from Vogts and his teammates, who questioned his commitment to the national cause.

But 24 hours after the defeat, Vogts' tone was one of sadness rather than anger.

"Bodo is only 27. What he has done won't hit him until later and in a few days time I think he will be very sorry."

Vogts, who is staying in the United States for a holiday, also said tough times lay ahead for German soccer and that he wanted to carry on as team

## TOOTS TAKE A FALL

Ticket scalpers at Stanford Stadium were stuck unloading tickets to Sunday's quarter-final between Sweden and Romania for less than face value.

But toots with tickets for Wednesday's semifinal between Sweden and Brazil at the Rose Bowl are getting 150 dollars for 90 dollar seats.

## DOESN'T TRANSLATE

Bulgaria's upset of three-times champions Germany had World Cup organisers struggling to find Bulgarian translators.

"We pretty much figured they wouldn't be here," admitted Alison Leigh Hoffsch, head of World Cup language services for Giants Stadium in New York.

Hoffsch found three Bulgarian students at New York's Columbia University and drafted them.

"They don't even get a T-shirt, but they'll have this experience for the rest of their lives," she said.

Bulgarians cost US organisers a fortune.

Bulgarians World Cup giant killing act has upset the budget plans of the American organisers of the tournament. World Cup USA '94 had been hoping to cash in on the success of Mexico and Germany by selling all sorts of merchandise at inflated prices to their supporters.

But Bulgaria put paid to that idea with their two stunning victories.

"I wonder how much money they have cost us" mused World Cup USA '94 chairman Alan Rothenberg.

"From a spectator's point of view it's great that they've knocked off one giant after another. But I can't imagine