

WORLD CUP USA '94

CUP HIGHLIGHTS

UNDATED. (AP): Wednesday's semifinals — Italy 2, Bulgaria 1; Brazil 1, Sweden 0.

Stars of the day — Roberto Baggio, who had two goals for Italy; Romario, who had one goal for Brazil.

Quotes of the day — "Tactically, physically, we controlled the game in all aspects. The only difficulty was to get the ball in the net." — Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

"God was on our side but the referee was French," Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov, on the officiating of Joel Quiniou of France.

Injuries — Italy's Roberto Baggio (right hamstring) and Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov, (right hamstring).

Suspensions — Brazil's Leonardo and Italy's Alessandro Costacurta and Mauro Tassotti are ineligible for the title game.

History — Bulgaria were the first World Cup semifinalist from Eastern Europe since 1982. In that tournament, Italy beat Poland 2-0 on two goals by Paolo Rossi before going on to win the title.

Saturday's Game — Third place: Bulgaria vs. Sweden at Pasadena, Calif. (1935 GMT).

Sunday's Game — Championship: Brazil vs. Italy at Pasadena, Calif. (1935 GMT).

WC STATS

LOS ANGELES, California, July 14 (AP): World Cup statistics after the semifinals:

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).

Semi-finals: 161,663. (Average 80,832).

Total (after 50 of 52 matches): 3,390,657 (Average 67,813).

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

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

Lowest: 44,132 (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: 2.58.

Second Round: 25 (Average 3.12).

Quarterfinals: 15 (Average 3.75).

Semi-finals: 4 (Average 2).

Biggest win: Russia 6

Cameroon 1 (Group B).

Top scoring team: Sweden 11, Brazil 11.

Best defence: Brazil 3 goals.

Leading scorer: Oleg Salenko (Russia) 6.

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

Penalties: 15 (all converted).

Red and yellow cards after Second Round.

Sendings-off: 15. Bookings: 22.

Italian carnival in Australia

SYDNEY, July 14: Hundreds of flag-waving Italian soccer fans celebrated in the streets of Sydney and Melbourne Thursday after Italy qualified for the World Cup final, reports AP.

Australians of Italian descent jumped in and out of fountains in the Leichhardt district in Sydney's inner suburbs. The area is known as "Little Italy" and has a high proportion of migrant Italian residents.

The celebrations followed Italy's 2-1 semifinal victory over Bulgaria at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. Italy now will play Brazil in the World Cup final.

People danced in the streets and several Italian restaurants opened early. Police said in a statement that the fans were exuberant but that no trouble had been reported.

In Melbourne, Victorian state Premier Jeff Kennett was mobbed by Italian fans when he made an appearance in North Carlton, the heart of the city's Italian quarter.

Fans draped an Italian flag over Kennett and at least two kissed him.

The suburb was alive to the sounds of trumpets blowing and car horns being sounded to celebrate Italy's win.

— AFP photo

Costacurta misses the bus

EAST RUTHERFORD, July 14: Alessandro Costacurta refused to linger for the celebrations on Wednesday after Italy reached the World Cup final reports Reuter.

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— AFP photo

Jubilant Italian fans beat on drums before the start of the World Cup semi-final between Italy and Bulgaria at the Giants Stadium on July 13. Italy won the match by the odd goal in three to set up a final against Brazil at the Rose Bowl on July 17.

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