

# WORLD CUP USA '94



**TWO IS A CROWD** ... Sweden's Henrik Larsson, who replaced injured Martin Dahlin, gets in the way of his striking partner Kennet Andersson as the French-based forward heads the ball wide off target during the third-place decider against Bulgaria at the Pasadena Rose Bowl on July 16. It didn't matter much at the end as the Swedes trounced the giant-slayers of the tournament 4-0. — AFP photo.

## WC DIARY

LOS ANGELES, July 17 (AFP): Saturday's World Cup diary:

### PRICES SOAR

World Cup final tickets are selling at nearly two and a half times their face value over the counter while touts are asking four-times the price for the most expensive 475 dollar seats.

Ticket agency owner David Brodeur said he was being flooded with calls but most people wanted to haggle. "We think we'll end up selling the tickets at our prices," he added. Brodeur is selling 180 dollar seats in the end zones, for 450 dollars and 450 dollar centre-field seats for 1,500 dollars.

### TAKE A TICKET

Saturday's third place match between Sweden and Bulgaria has not captured the imagination of California sports fans. Tickets have been so tough to sell that any one who bought an adult ticket to the Soccerfest exhibition in Los Angeles on Friday got a ticket to the match free. The same tickets were selling for 60 dollars last week, and the match was listed in advertising as sold out.

### ATTENTION GRABBER

Alcedes Andrade is an arresting sight greeting fans at Brazil matches dressed as a 10-foot tall chicken. The 45-year-old Brazilian says the get-up is just another way of supporting the team.

### EXTRA INCENTIVE

Italian car maker Bugatti say they will present the outstanding player in the national team with an EB110 GT — provided Italy beat Brazil in Sunday's final.

### HIGH LIFE

Scandinavian Airlines are planning an airborne party for the Swedish World Cup team when they fly home on Sunday, one day after playing the third-place match against Bulgaria.

### Ljung joins Duisburg

STOCKHOLM, July 17: Swedish World Cup defender Roger Ljung has signed for German club Duisburg in a 600,000 pounds move from Turkish club Galatasaray, reports AFP.

## Sweden toy with Bulgaria

PASADENA, Calif., July 17: Sweden made the best of the consolation game. Hristo Stoichkov could not.

Sweden produced their best soccer of the tournament to claim third place in the World Cup with a 4-0 drubbing of Bulgaria Saturday, although Swedish players had been unenthusiastic about the match before the game.

"It was a fantastic feeling to go this far. The bronze medal is the best thing that's ever happened to me as a player or as a coach. It's a great memory," said Swedish coach Tommy Svensson.

The Swedes, some of whom said after the semifinal that the third place game was unnecessary, struck early with a goal from Tomas Brodin, and scored three more in a 10-minute span before halftime to complete their best World Cup showing since finishing runners up to Brazil on home soil in 1958.

Bulgaria were a pale shadow of the team that had beaten past champions Argentina and defending titlist Germany earlier in the tournament, but they still recorded their best World Cup finish.

The Bulgarians had never won in 16 World Cup games until this year's tournament.

Stoichkov, Bulgaria's superstar, was frustrated in his attempts to make sure of winning the scoring title.

The Barcelona forward had two weak penalty claims denied, missed narrowly with two free kicks, and came close late in the game. But he stayed with six goals, tied with Russia's Oleg Salenko.

"Stoichkov made great efforts to score but luck was not on his side. They tried to play for Stoichkov but it didn't work out," said Bulgaria's coach Dimitar Penev.

Stoichkov will have to wait until Sunday's final between Italy and Brazil to find out if he will remain the scoring co-champion.

Italy's Roberto Baggio and Brazil's Romario have five goals each.

In blistering noon heat before nearly 90,000 fans in the Rose Bowl, Sweden played fast, up-to-date soccer, covering the field in well-rehearsed and perfectly executed moves and using their athletic edge to the full.

Sweden's next three goals came during a 10-minute sparkling display of modern, fast-paced soccer and Brodin was heavily involved.

In the 30th, he sent a quick free kick pass into the free space for Hakan Mild. The ball caught the Bulgarians' defence completely by surprise. Mild chipped the ball over a diving Mihailov.

Six minutes later, Brodin again began the move by feeding a brilliant through ball for Henrik Larsson, who turned around Trifon Ivanov and raced toward the Bulgarian goal.

Mihailov rushed to advance but Larsson sidestepped him easily and as Ivanov tried to get back and tripped, the Swede slotted the ball into the empty net.

The brilliant Swedish offensive was crowned in the 39th minute. Ingesson sent a perfect cross from the right. Zlatko Janjok watched the ball float instead of trying to clear it, the lanky forward Kennet Andersson rose and beat Mihailov to the ball to head it home as the Bulgarian goalkeeper dreadfully misjudged his advance.

It was Andersson's fifth goal of the tournament and it finished off Mihailov. He had been one of the best World Cup

goalkeepers coming into the game, but was replaced at the start of the second half by Plamen Nilolov.

Bulgaria had a score disallowed in the 67th when referee Ali Buj Salem of the United Arab Emirates ruled that Emil Kostadinov was guilty of foul play before he prodded the ball in. A free kick by Stoichkov went wide as Bulgaria made more attempts to score at least a consolation goal in the consolation game.

Five minutes from time, Stoichkov came tantalisingly close after a brilliant through pass from Krasimir Balakov. But Swedish goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli stuck out his right foot to deny him. Stoichkov too admired the save, giving Ravelli a thumbs-up sign of congratulations.

Referee: Ali Mohamed Buj Salem (United Arab Emirates). Yellow cards: Sweden — Kennet Andersson (82). Bulgaria — Zlatko Yankov (73).

### TEAMS

**SWEDEN:** 1-Thomas Ravelli, 2-Roland Nilsson, 3-Patrik Andersson, 4-Joachim Bjorklund, 5-Pontus Kaamark, 6-Stefan Schwarz, 7-Henrik Larsson (16-Anders Limpar 79), 8-Klas Ingesson, 18-Hakan Mild, 11-Tomas Brodin, 19-Kennet Andersson.

**BULGARIA:** 1-Borislav Mihailov (12-Plamen Nikolov 46), 3-Trifon Ivanov (2-Emil Kremenliev 42), 4-Tzanko Tzvetanov, 5-Peter Hubchev, 6-Zlatko Yankov, 9-Yordan Lechkov, 16-Ilian Kiryakov, 20-Krasimir Balakov, 10-Nasko Sirakov (13-Ivailo Yordanov 46), 7-Emil Kostadinov, 8-Hristo Stoichkov.



Tomas Brodin, who designed Bulgaria's downfall in the third-place deciding play-off at the Pasadena Rose Bowl on July 16, rejoices after scoring Sweden's first goal in the eighth minute of the first half. — AFP photo.

## Italians happy with Puhl

PASADENA, Calif., July 17: World Cup finalists Italy said on Saturday they were happy with the choice of Hungarian Sandor Puhl to referee Sunday's showdown with the Brazil, reports Reuter.

Puhl was in charge of Italy's quarter-final win over Spain failing to sport the now notorious incident in which Italian defender Mauro Tassotti broke Luis Enrique's nose.

Puhl is a very good referee and we have the greatest respect for him. We don't expect the referee to affect the outcome of the final," said Italian delegation head Raffaele Ranucci.

## GOAL SCORERS

UNDATED, (Reuter): Following are the World Cup '94 goal scorers after Saturday's third-place play-off:

6 goals—Oleg Salenko (Russia), Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria).

5 goals—Juergen Klinsmann (Germany), Roberto Baggio (Italy), Romario (Brazil), Kennet Andersson (Sweden).

4 goals—Martin Dahlin (Sweden), Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), Florin Raducioiu (Romania).

3 goals—Bebeto (Brazil), Gheorghe Hagi (Romania), Jose Caminero (Spain), Dennis Bergkamp (Netherlands), Tomas Brodin (Sweden).

2 goals—Juan Goicoetxea (Spain), Ilie Dumitrescu (Romania), 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), Dino Baggio (Italy), Emmanuel Amunike (Nigeria), Yordan Letchov (Bulgaria), Georges Bregy (Switzerland).

1 goal—Julio Salinas (Spain), Hwang Sun-Hong (South Korea), Soe Jung-Won (South Korea), Eric Wynalda (United States), Ray Houghton (Ireland), Marc Degryse (Belgium), Kjetil Rekdal (Norway), Roger Ljung (Sweden), David Embe (Cameroon), Francois Omam-Biyik (Cameroon), Raf (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), Rene Stewart (United States), John Aldridge (Ireland), Marco Santos (Brazil), Dmitry Radchenko (Russia), Sami Al-Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Georges Grun (Belgium), Mohamed Chaouch (Morocco), Samson Siasta (Nigeria), Daniel Borimirov (Bulgaria), Harold Lozano (Colombia), Herman Gavrira (Colombia), Karlheinz Riedle (Germany), Erwin Sanchez (Bolivia), Josep Guardiola (Spain), Daniele Massaro (Italy), Marcelino Bernal (Mexico), Fahd Al-Ghshayan (Saudi Arabia), Roger Milla (Cameroon), Saeed Owairan (Saudi Arabia), Hassan Nader (Morocco), Nasko Sirakov (Bulgaria), Fernando Herro (Spain), Luis Enrique (Spain), Altor Beguiristain (Spain), Abel Balbo (Argentina), Branco (Brazil), Aron Winter (Netherlands), Lothar Matthaeus (Germany), Dan Petrescu (Romania), Henrik Larsson (Sweden), Hakan Mild (Sweden).

## Stoichkov & elusive seventh

PASADENA, Calif., July 17: Thomas Ravelli made yet another save to stop Hristo Stoichkov becoming the highest World Cup scorer since 1974, reports AP.

The disappointed Bulgarian striker got up and Swedish goalkeeper Ravelli reached out his hand in a gesture of consolation.

Stoichkov refused it. The Bulgarian, stuck on six goals for the tournament and striving to reach a figure not reached since Grzegorz Lato of Poland scored seven 20 years ago, ran back towards the halfway line.

The crowd jeered him for failing to acknowledge Ravelli's gesture of good will.

Then he stopped, turned and held up his right thumb as if to say "Thanks and, by the way, good save."

It was that sort of game for Stoichkov. And for Ravelli.

The Swedes could do little wrong as they powered to a 4-0 victory over Bulgaria Saturday to clinch third place in the World Cup.

In the traditional meeting of two teams beaten in the semifinals, Sweden had the game wrapped up by half time through goals from Tomas Brodin (8 minutes), Hakan Mild (30), Henrik Larsson (87) and Kennet Andersson (40).

By that stage, Stoichkov, apart from having a penalty appeal turned down in the 14th minute, had done little to worry the Swedish defence.

A minute before halftime, he curled a left-footed free kick — one of his specialties — just past the post. Early in the second half he did the same at the other end.

In the 67th minute, the talented Barcelona striker cleverly turned a Swedish de-

fender and wrong way and picked out Emil Kostadinov with a precise centre, even though his Bulgarian colleague has Swedes on either side.

Kostadinov controlled the ball with his chest, prodded it home from close range and ran off to celebrate.

Referee: Ali Mohammed



HRISTO STOICHKOV

Buj Salem of the United Arab Emirates had spotted something he didn't like and disallowed the goal. Stoichkov couldn't believe it.

Six minutes from the end, he had his best chance yet to score that elusive seventh goal.

He wriggled past a defender and found himself one-on-one with Ravelli and only a six meters from goal. He tried to push the ball past the keeper but Ravelli managed to block the ball and it bounced clear.

The Swedish goalkeeper with the wide, staring eyes and flamboyant behaviour on and off the ball, also made spectacular stops from Nasko

Sirakov, Krasimir Balakov and Yordan Letchov.

But he remembered the moment he offered his hand to Stoichkov.

"I wanted to help him up and he ran away," the keeper said. "I don't speak Spanish or Bulgarian, he doesn't speak English or Swedish. But at least he gave the thumb up sign, although I think he was very angry with himself."

Stoichkov smiled wryly about his missed opportunities.

"I think we should have had two or three penalties," he said, knowing he would have taken them.

"But I shouldn't complain about the chances I had."

"I don't know," he sighed. "When you're at the end of the tournament, it's very very difficult to find the energy."

## Bulgarians muted

SOFIA, July 17: Gloom washed over the Bulgarian capital after the footballers who had made this small Balkan nation shine on the international stage lost to Sweden for third place in the World Cup, reports Reuter.

Only a handful of fans braved a summer drizzle after the 4-0 defeat, compared with hundreds of thousands who had poured onto the streets to celebrate banishing reigning champions Germany in the quarter-finals a week ago.

President Zhelyu Zhelev said that irrespective of the result, the team had scored a huge success for Bulgaria, raising its international profile and boosting self confidence and morale at home.

In an interview for state television, he combined his praise for the footballers with condemnation of the country's slow transition from communism to capitalism.

Zhelev, a former anti-communist dissident and firm advocate of market reform said the morale boost brought by the World Cup would make Bulgarians less tolerant of the sluggish change and rising crime which have characterised the years since 1989.

"I think the huge wave our footballing success has created in the country will undoubtedly affect the whole spiritual climate and will most of all sharpen criticism towards the existing situation."

But fans wandering despondently around the streets after the match were not so sure.

"It will just be a good memory," he said.

## Swedes ecstatic

STOCKHOLM, July 17: Swedish fans, singing and dancing in the rain, celebrated their team's World Cup third place as if they had won the final, reports Reuter.

"Four-zero, four-zero" chanted fans in Stockholm after Sweden beat Bulgaria on Saturday night in the third place play-off.

The most enthusiastic and confused, fans yelled out: "World Cup gold, World Cup gold."

"It feels that that," a young man said. "It's a bronze, but it feels like a gold."

Five thousand people joined an all-night party at a square in central Stockholm, jumping into fountains or getting drenched just standing in the rain.

They sang Sweden's national anthem and discos played "We are the champions."



Jubilant Swedish players pose for the photographers after their 4-0 rout of Bulgaria at the Pasadena Rose Bowl on July 16. — AFP photo

## Berlusconi stays back home

ROME, July 17: For soccer-crazed fans who weren't among those flying to Los Angeles aboard a special Alitalia flight Saturday, the next best thing was a new TV set to watch Italy in the World Cup final, reports AP.

Appliance stores reported a sharp jump in sales, of both small portable sets that can be used outdoors as well as large-screen models. Sales, compared to usual business for this time of year, were up 25 per cent, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

ANSA's survey found that police and taxi drivers, likely to work during Sunday's game, were among the frequent buyers. It didn't say how taxi drivers planned to navigate Italy's already chaotic traffic if they kept an eye on the tube.

The luckier ones headed for Los Angeles aboard a plane specially provided by Alitalia, the state carrier.

They included film director and senator Franco Zeffirelli; Gianfranco Fini, leader of the "post-fascist" National Alliance

in Silvio Berlusconi's government, and until a few months ago, also leader of a neo-fascist party; and Irene Pivetti, president of the Chamber of Deputies and a leader of the Northern League, a coalition party that professes admiration for the US federalist system of government.

Staying home was Premier Silvio Berlusconi, who also



SILVIO BERLUSCONI

owns AC Milan, Italy's soccer champion with seven players on the national team. Under attack at home for a controversial Cabinet decree related to Italy's corruption scandals and with international appointments on his calendar, Berlusconi said Saturday that he couldn't go.

Throughout Italy, towns were setting up giant screens in piazzas and stadium. One of the squares that will turn into a giant living room for soccer fans will be Rome's Piazza del Popolo.

Italy's slow mail system was quick to come up with a limited edition World Cup postal stamp, and will open some of its windows on Sunday so fans can have their letters stamped the day no the game.

For some, Italy's World Cup success has meant business is bad.

"On the nights of the games, no one goes out and we lose a lot of business," said Gilberto Natalini, owner of a Rome pizzeria, La Bruschetta. Natalini decided to close shop for Sunday night's game.