

# rules To kiCk ArOund:

## rule Members:

**#1** Each team consists of 11 players, 3 substitutes and one trainer who is required to chew his nails, spit, chain smoke and scream from the sidelines!

### Shop dances to the samba

FRANCE, June 10 (AFP/Internet): Located at 97, Avenue des Champs Elysees, the Official France 98 Shop is beginning to overflow with customers as the World Cup opening match gets ever closer.

Around 5,000 visitors come by each day to buy football manuals, T-shirts and roller blades, and they can also consult Internet via 3 computers at the entrance to the shop.

With the samba setting the tone in the background, it's a place where supporters from all over the world can easily get to meet each other.

On 7 June, a number of referees dropped in for a friendly visit. The shop is open until August 31.

### Fans still fraternising

FRANCE, June 10 (AFP/Internet): Brazilian and Scottish supporters have been cheerfully fraternising for three days now, drinking beer together on the Champ de Mars, at the Trocadéro, on the Champs-Elysees and even in the metro.

An estimated 20,000 Brazilian supporters have made the journey to Paris. The lucky fans have six matches on the menu, three of them involving Brazil.

Their journeys to Nantes and Marseille are being taken care of by tour operators. Already in party mood, the group of Brazilian supporters calling itself 'La Torcida' meets up every evening at the 'Atmosphere' club in the north of Paris.

As far as the Scots are concerned, 20,000 fans, including 12,000 from the Scottish Football Association, arrived in Paris on Sunday 7 June - having followed their team to Sweden, BELGIUM and Monaco - and descended on the 'Old Lions' pub near the Place Vendôme.

Their accommodation: inexpensive hotels, camp sites, rented apartments, friends' places, and the homes of families participating in cultural exchange schemes - and they'll be staying right through the World Cup.

All the fans are providing their own musical accompaniment: bagpipes, and various traditional instruments from Chile and Brazil.

Roller-park in Bordeaux to be funded by Coca-Cola

FRANCE, June 10 (AFP/Internet): Thanks to Coca-Cola, the city of Bordeaux will build a roller-park after the World Cup.

The official sponsor of the tournament will donate to the City all proceeds from the sale of its canned drinks, which cost only one franc each at the Bordeaux site.

The City Council will, in turn, use this money to finance the construction of a roller-park on the site presently occupied by the Mondial Cafe. This Cafe is organised by the Bordeaux media and town hall and will end on Sunday 12 July, after the final. The roller-park will be located at Hangar 14, Quai des Chartrons, by the cruiser L Colbert.

### Henry's target second round

MONTEILMAR, France, June 10: Tunisia coach Henry Kasparczak said Tuesday his team who face England in their opening World Cup match were hoping to reach the second round but would settle for putting on "a good show", reports AFP.

"We are in a difficult group with strong opposition," he said.

Tunisia, in Group G with Colombia, England and Romania, arrived here Tuesday on a flight from Tunis ahead of their opening match in Marseille on June 15.

After arriving at their headquarters, the squad played a 30-minute practice match followed by a light physical workout.

Defender Sirajeddine Chihi had to leave training early suffering from a slight fever but another defender, Mounir Boukadda, is fully fit after a groin strain kept him out of the warm-up match with Wales.

"Our rivals in the group all have well-established footballing traditions," said Kasparczak. "The important thing for us is to put on a good show and try to reach the second round."

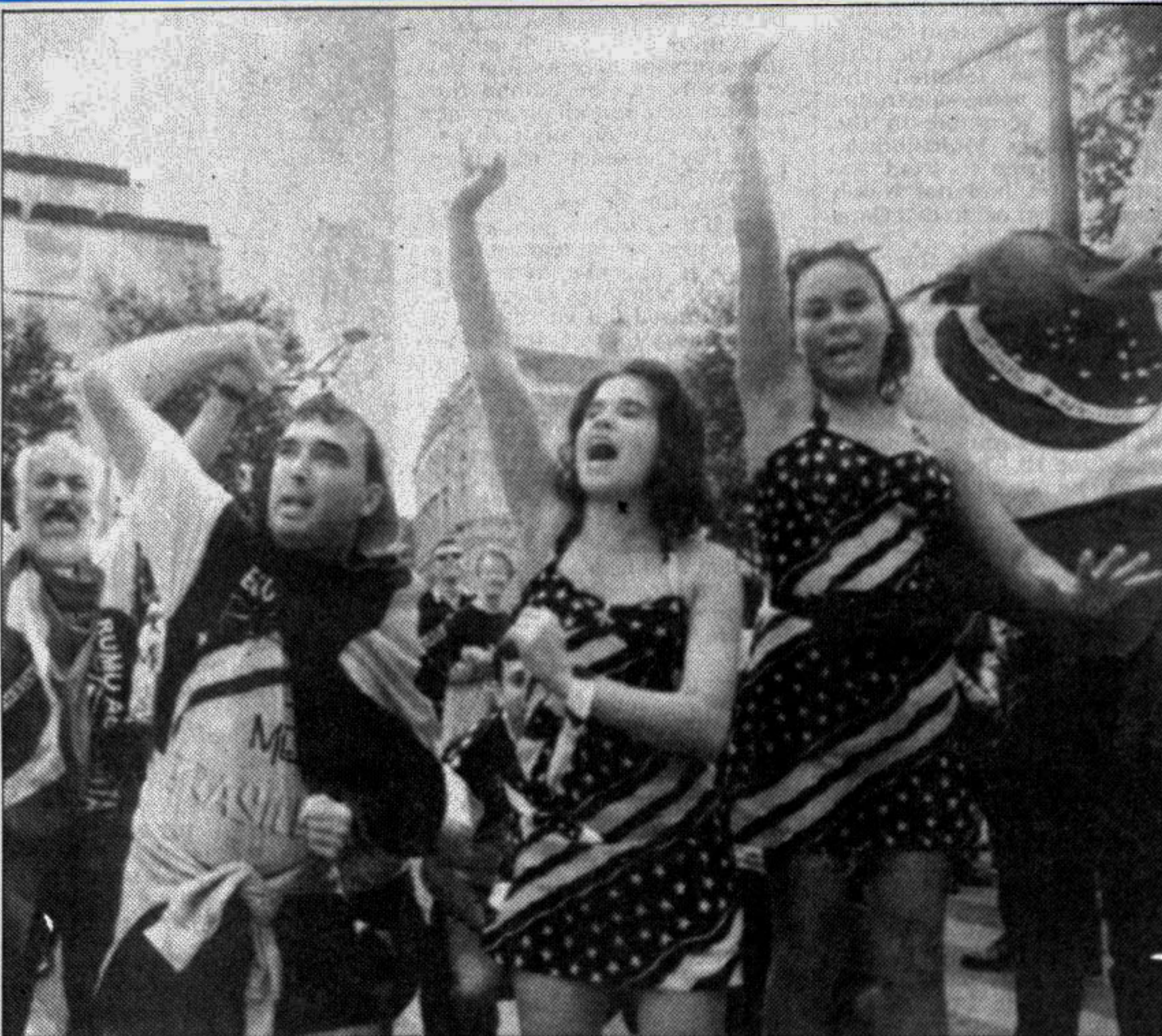
"England," he said, "have a squad of players who are physically and technically very strong and are one of the favourites to win the World Cup."

Colombia, he said, can beat anyone on their day "but tend to be inconsistent".

The Polish-born French citizen said Romania had already proved themselves internationally with their performances in World Cup qualifying matches.

As for Tunisia, he said Saturday's 4-0 win in Tunis against Wales was a pre-World Cup boost.

"It shows the team has found an effective pattern in attack and is tactically ready."



SAMBA IN TOWN: Brazilian supporters liven up the Paris streets yesterday on the eve of the World Cup opener. — AP photo

## Ravanelli out, Chiesa in

PARIS, June 10 (AFP/Internet): Enrico Chiesa, the man called up to replace ailing Fabrizio Ravanelli in Italy's World Cup squad, is the classic example of the local boy who made good after hitting the headlines with Sampdoria.

Born and bred in Genoa, Chiesa signed on with the port city's famous club as a gangly 16-year-old. But eight years went by before he finally hit the big time with an explosive season in 1995-96.

Chiesa, who is extraordinarily fast and has a lethal shot with either foot, learned his trade in second, third and fourth division football before his first real break came in 1994.

Coming off a good season in the Serie B with Modena (14 goals), he was signed up by Cremonese, then in the Serie A. Another 14 goals there won him a return to Sampdoria the following season, where he teamed up with veteran striker Roberto Mancini.

It was to be a marriage made in heaven. Chiesa banged in 22 goals and finished up as the Serie A's second highest-scoring marksman, enough for a place in Italy's ill-fated expedition to England for Euro 96.

The only positive note for Chiesa was scoring Italy's equaliser in what went on to be

a fatal 2-1 defeat to eventual finalists, the Czech Republic. The other major event in the summer of 1996 was signing on at Parma, where he paired up with the gifted but erratic Argentine striker Hernan Crespo. Despite play which made Crespo the target man, he managed to score 14 league goals in his first season and another 10 in the one just ended.

His ability is beyond doubt, but what is less clear is how smoothly he will integrate with his fellow attackers.

When Roberto Baggio was due to sign for Parma last summer, Chiesa was among the dissenting voices, hinting he would be looking for another club if the pony-tailed ace joined the team. Though it was nothing personal - Chiesa pointed out that he would effectively be redundant with Baggio as playmaker - it could make for some interesting exchanges in the dressing rooms.

More recently, Chiesa has been linked with a move to either AC Milan or AS Roma next season, and seems excited by the prospect of a fresh start, although he appreciates what Parma has achieved.

"At Sampdoria, it was a different kind of football," he said. "Ancelotti wants us to make sacrifices for the benefit of the team, so you don't get so many scoring opportunities. But then I have to say that the 22 goals that I scored for Sampdoria didn't get us into the UEFA Cup, but the 14 I scored for Parma helped us into the European Champions League."



RAVANELLI injury, and coach Carlo Ancelotti's ponderous system of

## Chilavert irks Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, June 10 (AFP/Internet): Two-time champions Argentina were in a lather Tuesday after media reports that Paraguayan's eccentric keeper Jose Luis Chilavert had been giving their group rivals Japan tips for Sunday's showdown in Toulouse.

"I am going to give the Japanese some secrets - the Argentines, they won't see," Chilavert told a Japanese television station, blissfully unaware that Argentinian station Telefe Noticias had picked up his comments and broadcast them.

Buenos Aires newspaper Cronica hit out at the Paraguayan, claiming he was "doing everything to make things tough for our team."

Cronica said: "Not content with showing his boxing skills off to reporters, it appears he is now enrolling as a spy."

The hot-tempered Chilavert was in trouble recently for an altercation with an Argentinian television journalist.

In fact the Paraguayan only told the Japanese what they probably already know.

"I would say to the Japanese they should look out for (Ariel) Ortega, because he loves to shoot as soon as he gets into the penalty box. They must be careful because he's a guy who shoots a lot." He added: "Argentina's problem is in the midfield. Their players don't go for pressing much and they don't like it when opponents stick too close to them. Japan

has good players and should put them under pressure."

Chilavert, who sees himself as one of the best in the world, said he was not impressed with Argentina's keepers either.

"They always give rebounds - not like Chilavert. They allow rebounds but I don't allow otherwise the strikers would score goals against me." Argentine sports daily Ole ticked Chilavert off and said he must be dreaming if he had thought his words wouldn't be seen in Argentina.

"Come off it Chila, it's almost 2000. Internet, fibre optics, teleconferences, satellites..." the paper commented.

Clarin's sports editor Nestor Straimel warned the Japanese that Chilavert was renowned for speaking with a forked tongue and remarked acridly that he was possibly trying to impress the Japanese as "his dream is to go to this country to top up his bank account." And Straimel told the Japanese to look out.

"They shouldn't get too enthusiastic about what Chilavert says - tomorrow he might start advising the Argentinians about Japan's supposed weaknesses. Things can change that easily."



Gabriel Batistuta keeps the ball in possession while compatriot Pablo Paz follows closely during a training session at L'Etrat, France on June 9. — AFP photo

### Mandela greets Blatter

JOHANNESBURG, June 10: President Nelson Mandela declared himself delighted with the election of Sepp Blatter as FIFA president, reports AFP.

In a letter of congratulations on Tuesday Mandela wrote: "In expressing my delight, I am certain I speak not only for myself and the people of South Africa, but for the entire African continent and the people of the developing and under-developed countries."

"I admire the efforts you and the outgoing president Joao Havelange made to improve the standing of poorer nations in world football."

### Million-dollar boost

PARIS, June 10: A player scoring a hat-trick in the World Cup final will win a million dollars for a charity project in his own country, reports AFP.

FIFA are backing an unofficial award project being run by fast-food giants McDonalds which rewards players scoring three goals or more in a match. Donations of between 10,000 US dollars, in the first round, and one million dollars will be made to the SOS Children's villages in the successful players' countries.

FIFA have also added a new award to the established Adidas Golden Shoe, Adidas Golden Ball, Fair Play Award, the Most Entertaining Team Award and Best Goalkeeper. During France '98 there will be a fastest goal award to spark attacking play.

Frenchman Just Fontaine still holds the record for the number of goals scored in the World Cup with his 13 strikes in Sweden 40 years ago. The golden ball, which goes to the most outstanding player, has been won by Italy's Paolo Rossi, Diego Maradona of Argentina, Salvatore Schillaci of Italy and Brazil's Romario.

The Fair Play Award went to Brazil for the third time at USA '94 and World Cup winners were also judged to be the most entertaining team four years ago.



The giant robots signifying four continents walk around the place de la Concorde in Paris during the gala 'Fete du Football' programme on June 9. — AFP photo

### Blair drops in on the Scots

PARIS, June 10: British Prime Minister Tony Blair visited Scotland's World Cup players in their hotel on Tuesday, the day before they kick off the tournament against Brazil, reports Reuters.

Later he and French president Jacques Chirac, meeting at the Elysee Palace, agreed a final between either England or Scotland and France on July 12 would be ideal for both of them.

Blair was in Paris to discuss next week's European Union summit in Cardiff but he went to see the Scots first. Chirac visited the French squad at Clairefontaine.

"Maybe we can meet side by side on July 12, a British team and the French one," Chirac suggested as he and Blair exchanged a few words in front of reporters.

"I hope so, it's quite possible with England or Scotland, it's not certain, but..." replied Blair.

### Scholes gives Glenn notice

CAEN, France, June 10: England completed their warm-up matches for the World Cup finals with a 1-0 victory in steady rain against a local select team at Caen on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

In a fixture played at a gentle pace behind closed doors, the only goal came after 85 minutes from midfielder Paul Scholes.

Scholes taking his chance to claim a permanent place in the side, scored after a breakaway led by substitute Steve McManaman.

England's team contained several surprises and suggested that coach Glenn Hoddle is considering starting his campaign with Liverpool's 18 years old striker Michael Owen in attack.

Owen partnered captain Alan Shearer up front from the start and was only withdrawn in the later stages to give Teddy Sheringham some sanction.

According to spectators and one member of the Caen selection Owen's pace was England's best attacking weapon and Scholes was the most energetic player.

Hoddle also created a surprise by picking winger Darren Anderton whose season has been blighted by injury, and bringing in Rio Ferdinand at left wing-back for influential Graeme Le Saux.

The modern Stade Michel D'Ornano a 20,000 seater completed only five years ago, was circled by armed police with dogs to prevent any unauthorised entry of by uninvited spectators.

Groups of reporters and local fans stood in the rain hoping to find a way in but were not allowed to see, or speak to the England squad.

### Carlos the jinx

BUENOS AIRES, June 10: President Carlos Menem horrified Argentines on Tuesday when he said Argentina were one of the World Cup favourites and striker Gabriel Batistuta would be the tournament's top scorer, reports Reuters.

Menem is unofficially banned from watching the national team due to a widespread belief that his presence is an omen of sporting catastrophe.

When Menem watched the World Cup qualifier against Colombia in 1993 at River Plate, Argentina lost 5-0, convincing millions of fans he was jinxed.

Menem defied the gods on Tuesday, telling Argentine reporters in Paris that Argentina was a sure bet to make at least the semifinals and Batistuta would score most goals.

"We are certain to lose now," said one taxi driver in Buenos Aires.

Menem is a keen fan of soccer, rally driving, golf and tennis, is in France to see Brazil and Scotland kick off the World Cup today but he will fly home before Argentina meet Japan in their first game on June 14.

### Smart move

SOFIA, Bulgaria, June 10: In an attempt to keep army discipline high during the World Cup, Bulgaria's Defence Ministry has ordered television sets removed from the offices of commanders to soldiers' barracks, private Nova TV reported Monday, reports AP.

Over the weekend, the TV station broadcast the removal of several television sets from offices in the ministry building in Sofia. A duty officer was quoted as saying 130 television sets would be removed from the capital alone.

### BRISK BETTING

Not surprisingly, the money

More than one in four men in Britain will take time off from work to watch the World Cup, with some admitting they are already planning to call in sick, according to a survey.

The survey of 1,200 people by the Institute of Personnel and Development revealed that 28 per cent of men and 8 per cent of women in England, Wales and Scotland plan to take time off work to watch World Cup matches on TV.

Over half of those who take paid leave, one in four will take advantage of flexible hours and 16 per cent will take unpaid leave.

Around 3 per cent admit they will take a sick day to watch games.

Some employers are taking steps to allow their staff to follow the action.

At the Cadbury's Factory in Bourneville, near Birmingham, live radio coverage will be piped in for the 4,000 employees to keep up to date.

In Scotland, shifts have been changed and television screens are being brought into some offices.

Production at the Coca-Cola and Schweppes plant in East Kilbride will be stopped during each of Scotland's first round games against Brazil, Norway and Morocco.

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## FRANCE '98 SIDELINES

UNDATED, June 10 (AP): It took only 94 years to do it, but the people who run soccer have finally come up with a definite way to tell time during a match.

For the first time at a World Cup, FIFA is introducing a standardised system of timing goals, fouls and substitutions.

For decades, there have been two generally accepted ways of marking such incidents.

For example, if Ronaldo had scored a goal 26 minutes, 15 seconds into a match, some scorekeepers would say it came "after 26 minutes" and record it as "Ronaldo (26)".

Others would say it was "in the 27th minute," writing it as "Ronaldo (27)." FIFA says this is the system that will be used at the World Cup.

### USA TRAIN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Attendance for Tuesday's US soccer scrimmage: 0.

The US Soccer Federation barred reporters, fans and everyone other than staff from Stade de Fetan in Trevois for its 4-0 victory over Gueugnon 4-0.

Why all the secrecy? After all, the stadium was open Monday in Nice when Germany defeated a Cote d'Azur selection of young professionals 2-1.

"I want to have the ability to determine what I say after the game, so I make the conclusions, not everyone else," US coach Steve Sampson said. "If I open it to the American press, I have to open it to all press. We all know there are certain connections in the German press to the German national team coach."

Brian McBride, Cobi Jones, Brian Maisonneuve and Ernie Stewart scored for the Americans, who hadn't played a game since a scoreless tie against Scotland on May 30 in Washington.

Each goalkeeper played 30 minutes, with Brad Friedel starting, Kasey Keller finishing, and Juergen Sommer finishing.

Marcelo Balboa (infected foot) and Chad Deering (ankle pain) were the only players who didn't get in.

### HAITI'S AUSTERITY FOR WORLD CUP

To bring World Cup matches live to soccer-crazed Haitians, the state electricity company plans to boost power to the capital that suffers 12-hour-a-day blackouts.

It comes at a price, however. The Nouvelliste newspaper reported Tuesday that residents are being asked to turn off their refrigerators, air conditioners and electric water pumps during soccer matches.

Haitians have adopted the teams of Argentina and Brazil, the defending champions who open the World Cup finals in France on Wednesday. While Haitians have started flying Argentine and Brazilian flags from their homes and cars, they appear indifferent to Jamaica, only the second Caribbean team to make it to the finals since Haiti broke the barrier in 1974.

Tuesday's Nouvelliste quoted Electricity of Haiti officials as saying that they would boost power to Port-au-Prince from 55 to 100 megawatts during the World Cup. Even that will not guarantee unbroken coverage. Since the city needs 115 megawatts daily, according to officials who appealed to residents to turn off other electrical appliances.

Probably fewer than a third of Port-au-Prince's 2 million residents own television sets.

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## Hagi says highly of Ilie

ALBI, France, June 10 (AFP/Internet): Inspirational midfielder Gheorghe Hagi, whose reign over Romanian football is drawing to a close, believes striker Adrian Ilie will take over his mantle as the nation's most talented player.

Ilie has already shown what he can do as an attacker and goal scorer in the Spanish league," Hagi said. "He's already made a name for himself in Europe.

Romanians are hoping Ilie's fame will spread even wider when he flaunts his skills on the World Cup stage. Romania are in Group G along with England, Colombia and Tunisia and open their campaign against Colombia in Lyon on June 15.

"We are expecting a lot from Ilie and we are sure he can deliver," said Hagi, 34, of the Valencia star 10 years his junior.

Coach Anghel Iordanescu said he had no doubt about the young player's talents, and he was counting on Ilie, who scored twice in a recent World Cup warm-up game against Paraguay, to shine during the tournament. "He has been good all season," he said. "It's important that he keeps it up now."

As for Hagi, France '98 will

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### Arendse may miss WC

VICHY, France, June 10: South Africa goalkeeper Andre Arendse could be out of the World Cup after picking up an ankle ligaments injury in training, reports AFP.

Arendse hurt his ankle during shooting practice on Monday and was unable to join fellow stoppers Hans Vonk and Bryan Balyoi for a separate goalkeeper session on Tuesday.

A team spokesman confirmed the 30-year-old Fulham player, who is currently the South Africans' third choice "keeper, had gone to see a doctor in Vichy to discover the extent of the injury and said a decision on Arendse's fitness would be announced today.

Skipper Lucas Radebe of Leeds, suffering a bruised heel sustained on Saturday against Iceland in a friendly, underwent light training on Tuesday evening in a behind closed doors session.

### Yugoslavs on a mission

ST-GALMIER, France, June 10: Yugoslavia's World Cup squad arrived in France Tuesday vowing to make up for six years in the international wilderness, reports AFP.

Yugoslavia returned to the World Cup two years ago after the lifting of an international ban on sporting contacts with the country following the end of the war in Bosnia.

The sanctions meant the Yugoslavs were not allowed to play in the finals of the 1992 European championships. For which they had qualified, or the qualifying tournament for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

"What happened to us was highway robbery," said Milan Milanic, the former Real Madrid coach who is now president of the Yugoslav federation.

"But I have lived a lot longer than the six years that we have been robbed of and now we want to make up for lost time."