

# USA beats Germany! Is this the 'American Dream'?

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LIGHTS

## ABSORBING ANECDOTES

PARIS, Jun 14 (Reuters): Facts and figures from World Cup matches played on Saturday:

Ha Seok-Ju of South Korea became the first player in 36 years to be sent off in World Cup finals match after scoring a goal the last player to suffer the same fate was the late great Garrincha of Brazil, who was dismissed after scoring in Brazil's 4-2 semifinal win over Chile in 1962.

Nigeria's 3-2 win over Spain was their third in four confrontations with European teams at World Cup finals. The Super Eagles beat Bulgaria and Greece in the 1994 tournament but lost to Italy.

European teams have lost to Africa ones only six times at World Cup finals. Apart from Nigeria's three triumphs, Algeria beat (West) Germany in 1982, Morocco beat Portugal in 1986 and Cameroon beat Romania in 1990.

The Netherlands have still to beat or score against Belgium at World Cup finals. Before the 0-0 draw in Paris on Saturday, the two neighbours met at the 1994 finals with Belgium winning 1-0.

Belgium had not drawn a match at the finals since the 1986 quarter finals when they tied 1-1 with Spain before winning on penalties.

Mexico's 3-1 win over South Korea was their first at a World Cup finals in Europe. The Mexicans have won seven games before but all were at tournaments in the Americas.

South Korea have qualified five times for the finals but are still waiting for their first win. Saturday's defeat was their ninth loss in 12 games with just three draws to their credit.

## English hooligans

MARSEILLE, France, June 14: Clashes erupted between several hundred English football fans and riot police in the centre of this southern French city late on Saturday, eyewitnesses said, and three supporters were arrested.

A Reuters correspondent said the clashes, involving several hundred fans in Marseille for England's World Cup match against Tunisia on Monday, erupted after a car accident involving an England fan.

Angry England fans said that other motorists were endangering the injured Briton as he was being treated by doctors and showered cars with bottles and glasses in the old port area of Marseille.

Police with dogs moved in to disperse small groups of hooligans and the square where the clashes took place was left littered with broken glass.

Three English supporters were arrested during "violent incidents," police sources said. One policeman was injured. "We are determined to restore calm to the area and maintain it," one source said. "But tension remains high and we cannot exclude further arrests."



RED HOT CHILLI CHICAS: Mexican fans cheer their team to victory over South Korea on June 13. —AFP photo

# Dutch, Belgians disappoint

PARIS, June 14 (Reuters): A World Cup match which started so brightly for the much-fancied Dutch ended in bitter disappointment on Saturday when they had striker Patrick Kluijert sent off and could only draw 0-0 with Belgium.

Kluijert was shown the red card by Italian referee Pierluigi Collina 11 minutes from the end after the Dutch elbowed Lorenzo Staelens in the chest after clashing with him seconds earlier.

Belgium, who lost to the Dutch twice in the Cup qualifying competition, were delighted to have secured a point at the end of a fiercely contested match at a rainswept Stade de France.

The Dutch had far the better of the match and saw two shots cleared off the line by Belgian substitute Eric Deflandre.

But Belgium hung on well after surviving early pressure and could have scored them-

selves late in the first half when Marc Wilmots was able only to chest the ball into keeper Edwin van der Sar's arms from eight metres out.

"It was not a good result for us," said Dutch captain Frank de Boer. "For the first half-hour we played very well, but after we went down to 10 men, they put seven men behind the ball and we could not get the goal we had deserved."

Collina booked two other players — Lorenzo Staelens and Deflandre early in the game — both for fouls on Dutch winger Marc Overmars who looked like winning it for the Dutch on his own for the first 45 minutes.

With Overmars sprinting down the left-wing leaving Bertrand Crasson marooned in his slipstream, the Netherlands forced Belgium onto the back-foot almost for the whole of the first half.

Crasson lasted just 22 minutes before being mercifully

spared further torment when he was replaced by Deflandre, who headed away a wayward punch by his own goalie Filip de Wilde from the line, and in the closing stages kicked away a volley from Philip Cocu.

Deflandre also neutralised the threat from Overmars as the game wore on, and helped Belgium gain in confidence and finish the match far stronger than they started it.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink could have scored with an angled shot after seven minutes but sent it across the face of the Belgian goal, while Dutch substitute Dennis Bergkamp Miscalced a left-foot shot soon after replacing Hasselbaink with 25 minutes to go.

Central defender Jaap Stam tested De Wilde late in the game with a fiercely struck 30-metre drive while Belgian striker Luc Nilis was also desperately unlucky with a rasping long-range shot which went just over the

Dutch bar. While the Dutch played the better football, the Belgian defence worked hard to thwart their raids, with Mike Verstraeten in particular having a fine match.

Of the 120 matches played between the two, the Dutch have won 55, Belgium 39 and 26 have now been drawn, but it is doubtful whether any of the previous draws have given Belgium as much satisfaction as this one.

### MATCH STATS

	NED	BEL
Goals	0	0
Shots on target	7	2
Shots off target	16	4
Corners	9	1
Fouls	16	23
Offsides	4	0
Red Cards	1	0
Yellow cards	0	2
Netherlands: Red card — Patrick Kluijert 79		
Belgium: Yellow cards — Lorenzo Staelens 20, Eric Deflandre 29		
Official attendance: 75,000		

## Moroccans hope for the best

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France, June 14 (AP): The long arm of the law came through for 5-year-old soccer fan Karim Mohammed.

Too shy to approach Moroccan forward Salaheddine Bassir for an autograph, the boy was led hand-in-hand through a throng of team supporters by a French policeman.

"I can't believe it," said Mohammed, excitedly skipping away with an autographed poster of team. "I've finally met a real, live professional football player. It's always been my dream."

If Morocco have their way against Brazil in their Group A match Tuesday in Nantes, the boy won't be the only one who sees his dreams come true.

"I dream, I hope that we can show our skills, the abilities of Moroccan football, and come away with a good result," said team coach Henri Michel Saturday. "At the very least, I hope to create problems for the Brazilian team."

But with two star players still recovering from injuries, it may be Morocco that have the problems.

Atlas Lions team captain Noureddine Naybet's leg is swollen and Deportivo La Coruna midfielder El-Moustafa Hadji's right toe is slightly fractured and swollen. Doctors say it will take about three weeks for these injuries to heal.

"There is a danger in placing him (Naybet) on the official lineup, but I have to accept that danger," Michel told The Associated Press.

"Morocco... is not Brazil. We have 11 excellent players and I can't replace any of them," he said.

He adding that if Brazil did not play up to their usual standard against Scotland last Wednesday, "this doesn't mean anything. They should always be feared."

If the team is worried, they're not showing it. After a rigorous training session Saturday morning, some of the players, decked out in sandals and track suits wandered out of their hotel to mingle with about 100 excited supporters.

# Germans await a different America

PARIS, June 14 (AFP): Germany's bid for a fourth World Cup triumph with a squad that many critics claim is already over the hill faces a tough opening test against the United States here on Monday.

If history and tradition count for anything it should be a stroll in the Parc des Princes for the European champions against an American side that has lost seven of the last 10 games, it has played in Europe.

The reality however is likely to be a little tougher for Bert Vogts men.

Since reaching the second round of the last World Cup, the Americans have acquired much greater strength in depth and under coach Steve Sampson have developed a playing system that is extremely effective at stifling more talented opposition.

A 1-0 win over Brazil in the Gold Cup in February stands as warning to Germany or any other members of football's aristocracy that Sampson's young squad is not to be underestimated.

Not that the US coach is complaining about his men being treated as the underdogs. "That suits me fine because it means that all the pressure is on Germany," he said. "They are the ones who have got everything to lose."

Neither Vogts nor Sampson were planning to announce

their teams until the last possible minute.

But Sampson has not made any secret of his intention to deploy a 3-6-1 formation in a bid to pack the midfield and ensure that the likes of Andreas Moller and Thomas Hassler are not allowed to play their deadly trade.

His biggest selection dilemma is over who to deploy as the solitary front-man.

Eric Wynalda, the top international scorer in US soccer history, is still not fully fit after a knee operation in April. But he still represents the Americans best chance of snatching a goal and could well start.

Alternatively Sampson has the option of fielding Roy Wegerle or Brian McBride in the role. Both the better than Wynalda at helping out defensively but they lack his capacity to turn a match with a spark of genius.

Despite being rivals for the same jersey, the three strikers remain firm friends — a fact that underlines the strength of the American team spirit which Sampson feels could help them spring a surprise.

In contrast, Vogts has had to issue a formal edict banning his players from feuding with each other, internal squabbling was seen as a key reason for Germany's failure to advance beyond the quarter-finals four

years ago.

"We had the best players in 1994 but not the best team and for this tournament I have told them I don't want to read in the press players having a go at each other," Vogts said.

The biggest culprit in recent years has been former captain Lothar Matthaeus, now 37, whom Vogts has recalled for what will be his fifth World Cup finals.

"He's a strong personality but he's the sort of player you need in pressure-situations like the World Cup," Vogts said. Matthaeus was booted out of the Germany team acrimoniously just before Euro '96 in England after attacking Vogts and former Bayern Munich teammate Jurgen Klinsmann.

If Matthaeus plays, he will beat the record of 21 World Cup matches held by compatriot Uwe Seeler. Poland's Wladyslaw Zmuda and Argentina's Diego Maradona.

He will also be only the second player to have played in five finals after Mexican goalkeeper Antonio Carbajal, who played 11 games between 1950 and 1966.

Close watchers of the German camp however were expecting another veteran Olaf Thon to start in the libero role that Matthaeus, the midfield powerhouse in the 1990 Cup winning side, now occupies.



Chancellor Helmut Kohl (C) holds the ball that German skipper Juergen Klinsmann (L) and defender Juergen Kohler presented to him during a visit to the squad's base at Nice on June 12. —AP/UNB photo

# Problems and Patrick go together

SAINT-DENIS, Jun 14: (AP, Reuters): Three years ago, it seemed no other soccer prodigy had as bright a future as Patrick Kluijert. For three years, he has taken a course in self-destruction.

And it continues at the World Cup.

Near the end of a frustrating, goalless draw against Belgium, Kluijert elbowed Belgian defender Lorenzo Staelens in the chest after a brief but heated discussion in the 81st minute.

The elbow was more of a shove, but Staelens fell to the ground and Italian referee Pierluigi Collina gave Kluijert his marching orders.

"He said something that really affected me. I can't say what but it was a stupid thing for me to do," he said.

Kluijert would only say Staelens had made some reference to a matter in Kluijert's past, describing the comments as "way below the belt."

The incident which led to Kluijert receiving the third red card of the tournament, began with a seemingly innocuous tumble involving the two.

Staelens was first up and offered his hand to Kluijert who ignored the Belgian. There was then an exchange between the two which culminated in Kluijert lightly barging Staelens in the chest and the Belgian falling to the ground as if pole-axed.

The elbowing was spotted by the linesman and the Italian referee Pierluigi Collina gave Kluijert the dreaded order.

The dismissal means Kluijert will be suspended from the next two matches against South Korea and Mexico and will not be able to partner Dennis Bergkamp up front.

The Netherlands' key striker had been out of action for six weeks with a strained hamstring, but was declared fit this week and finally came on in the 65th minute as a substitute.



THAT DREADED RED: Dutch striker Patrick Kluijert (No 9) seemingly questioning the legitimacy of his sending-off to referee Pierluigi Collina while Dennis Bergkamp looks on during the June 13 match against Belgium at Saint Denis. —AFP photo

# Divided loyalties

SAINT-JEAN D'ARDIERES, France, June 14 (AFP): Defender David Regis is expected to make his World Cup debut against Germany here on Monday for the United States but maintains he will be forever French.

Regis has learned to sing the US national anthem with a thick Gallic accent and that's about as far as his English takes him.

Teammates use sign-language to communicate with the player who was born in Martinique and drafted into the US World Cup roster for France.

"Playing in my country but not for my country will be very ironic," Regis said at the time. "The colours I will defend are American but I'm still French."

Regis sparked no interest from the French World Cup squad, but his agent Michael Becker contacted US coach Steve Sampson and told him about Regis's American wife.

They celebrate their third anniversary during the World Cup and have a one-year-old daughter.

Most people must wait three years after marrying a US citizen to apply for citizenship. But the process can be hastened if the US spouse works abroad. So US Soccer Federation helped Nikki land a job in France — with the same travel firm that has a business deal with US soccer to sell World Cup tickets in the United States.

His late inclusion in the squad sparked a heated debate about the direction of US soccer, whether to nurture homegrown talent or buy it ready-made from abroad.

Regis knows he is denying a World Cup spot to a native-born American.

"It's unfortunate, but it's the law of sport," Regis said. "I know there are lots of players who want to get to this level. They have to understand. It's the law of sport."

Regis is the seventh US player born in another land, Yugoslavian-born Preki Radosavljevic and South African-born Roy Wegerle play for the US team as a result of marrying American women.

German-born US captain Thomas Dooley and Dutchman Bernie Stewart were naturalised because each had an American serviceman for a parent. Dooley said his own adjustment was much easier than that of Regis so far.

"It's much worse for David," Dooley said. "He speaks French and a little German, but it's almost impossible to have a conversation with him."

US midfielder Tab Ramos and his family migrated from Uruguay when he was 10. He does not worry that US talent development has been slow.

"We should have the best players we can have," Ramos said.

Regis, 29, was the youngest of 10 children of a retired French Navy veteran and a teacher. Before becoming a citizen, he had only twice been in the United States.

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