

Will the Scottish Bagpipes be heard tonight?

JOHN PLAYER GOLD LEAF LIGHTS



THE UGLY SIDE OF FRANCE '98: Rowdy English fans being chased and beaten by French policemen at Marseille on hours before the England-Tunisia match on Monday. — AFP photo

# An utter disgrace

PARIS, June 15: Rioting English soccer hooligans scarred the World Cup on Sunday and turned the French port of Marseille into a city under siege, reports Reuters.

While sport reigned supreme throughout the rest of France, English hooligans turned Marseille into a city under siege, reports Reuters.

Sepp not amused

LENS, France, June 15: FIFA president Sepp Blatter condemned the ugly scenes between police and World Cup fans in Marseille on Sunday, reports AFP.

However he added it was not possible to control everything that comes with football.

A total of 37 people were hurt, two seriously, as English football fans battled Tunisian supporters. An Algerian and a policeman had both kneecaps broken.

Those arrested included 30 Britons, six Tunisians and a number of French citizens.

The English fans ran riot ahead of their team's first match of the 1998 World Cup.

seille into an ugly battle ground as they fought with Tunisian supporters, local youths and police.

Cars were set ablaze, innocent bystanders attacked with bottles and dozens of canisters of tear gas fired as police appeared swamped by vicious assaults from hundreds of English hooligans.

The relatively minor skirmishes around midnight on Saturday turned into a full-scale riot on Sunday afternoon as English fans poured into this south coast city for today's World Cup match against Tunisia.

One correspondent saw a Frenchman in his 40s attacked by English hooligans with bottles. The man collapsed, blood spurting from his head, and crawled away as hooligans kicked him.

The fighting spread early in the evening from the old port area to nearby side streets. By nightfall, regular running battles were still erupting between English fans and local French youths of North African descent.

British Sports Minister Tony Banks condemned the hooligans as "Drunken, brain-dead louts," and a "moronic minority."

Dozens of English hooligans were arrested.

A young Englishman was slashed across the throat with a bottle. He was bundled into an ambulance, as crowds of local youths began to outnumber the English. Forty-four people were injured and more than 50 arrested.

Earlier on Sunday Sir Brian Hayes, head of security at the English Football Association, tried to play down the seriousness of the Saturday night violence, but praised the way it had been hurled by French police.

"Don't blame the French, blame the fans," he told a news conference.

Late at Saturday night, local youths drove the hooligans away and wandered the streets with baseball bats and iron bars. English fans continued to arrive at Marseille railway station.

## 'Kick out English brats'

PARIS, June 15 (AFP): French sports minister Marie-Georges Buffet has called for the English soccer hooligans, who ran riot in Marseille on Sunday, to be kicked out of the country.

"I want action taken very rapidly that we apply the emergency measures we had decided on, which means that trouble-makers face courts today and those who do not respect calm and sporting spirit be expelled," she told French television.

She said police authorities had strengthened security for today's match between England and Tunisia in Marseille.

"This shows the hooligan problem has not been solved, it's a pity because since the World Cup started the fans have been fantastic," she added.

Fifty fans were arrested and 37 hurt as fans fought running battles with police through the streets of Marseille.

Special courts are sitting at every venue throughout France '98 with orders to hand out instant punishment to any one found guilty of hooliganism.

Trouble-makers at the Brazil-Scotland game which got the tournament underway last week were sentenced within two days.

Four fans were given short prison sentences and banned from football matches for three years.

## ABSORBING ANECDOTES

PARIS, June 15 (Reuters): Facts and figures from World Cup matches played on Sunday: Robert Prosinecki became the first player to score for two different countries when he netted for Croatia against Jamaica. Prosinecki scored for Yugoslavia against the United Arab Emirates at the 1990 finals.

Robert Jarni, who appeared for Croatia, also played for Yugoslavia in the 1990 finals. He and Prosinecki become part of a select band of seven players who have appeared for two different countries in World Cup finals. The others are: Luis Monti (Argentina 1930 and Italy 1934), Attilio Demaria (Argentina 1930 and Italy 1934), Jose Santamaria (Uruguay 1954 and Spain 1962), Ferenc Puskas (Hungary 1954 and Spain 1962), Jose Altafini (Brazil 1958 and Italy 1962).

Japan's 1-0 loss to Argentina and Iran's 1-0 defeat to Yugoslavia left all four Asian teams at the finals empty-handed after their opening match. South Korea and Saudi Arabia were beaten earlier by Mexico and Denmark respectively.

Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta, who scored in his country's last three warm-up matches, continued the sequence by hitting the only goal of the match against Japan and has scored six goals for Argentina in their last four games.

Of the four nations taking part in the finals for the first time, only Croatia managed a win. The other three — Jamaica, Japan and South Africa, beaten by hosts France on Friday — all lost.

South America's four representatives at the finals remain unbeaten after their first matches. Apart from Argentina's win over Japan, Brazil also won and Chile and Paraguay drew.

Yugoslavia's win was their first in their opening World Cup match since 1954 when they beat France 1-0, the same score as their victory over Iran on Sunday.



CALYPSO CARNIVAL: Jamaican fans partying at the Felix Bollaert Stadium, Lens after the 'reggae boyz' had equalised against mighty Croatia on June 14. — AFP photo

# Defeat didn't dampen reggae rhythm

LENS, France, June 15 (AP/Reuters): Beating drums, dancing and waving a sea of colourful national flags, Jamaican fans turned their nation's World Cup debut into a Caribbean carnival.

About 10,000 Jamaican supporters, many with their faces painted in the national colours, packed into Felix Bollaert Stadium to cheer on the underdog "Reggae Boyz" against Croatia.

For most, the biggest thrill was simply being there Sunday night for a party that even Croatia's 3-1 win couldn't spoil.

"We're here to have fun," said Trevor Bird, 34, who had driven from Amsterdam to watch his team. "We know we won't win the World Cup. But we don't even have a professional league and we qualified. That's reason enough to celebrate."

Sympathies among the 40,000 spectators clearly were on the Jamaicans' side. When Rob Earle knocked in his team's first World Cup final goal to tie the score 1-1 at the stroke of halftime, most of the stadium exploded into frenzy.

Many European soccer fans with a soft spot for the outsiders also converged on this northern French mining town to join in the fun.

Stuart Fraser, 24, came from the London area with two friends. "We like the underdogs," he said, fishing a whistle out of the car before adjusting his yellow and green Jamaican fan scarf.

For hours before the game, fans from both sides turned the small city centre into a street party — Croatians decked out in the checkerboard red and white colour of their nation mingling peacefully with Jamaicans on the sidewalks and in cafes.

As the first English-speaking Caribbean nation to reach the World Cup, the nation best known for languid reggae rhythms also had a serious task, for which Brazilian coach Rene Simoes had disciplined the Jamaican squad.

"We are a small country and on the world stage, we have something to prove," said Dennis Brown, 46, a Jamaican fan from London attending the game.

However, Jamaica fare, he would never miss the chance to see them in soccer's greatest tournament.

"This occasion may never come again," said Brown.

Jamaica's Brazilian coach Rene Simoes had no doubts Croatia earned their victory. "I think today the best team won," he said.

Blair too busy!

CARDIFF, Wales, June 15: British Prime Minister Tony Blair's heart may be elsewhere when he chairs a working lunch of European Union leaders, reports Reuters.

The meal clashes with England's first World Cup soccer match and Blair, a keen football fan, will miss the clash against Tunisia in Marseille.

But he was still pleased. "I thought the result was OK. Jamaica never lose. Jamaica are always the winners because we learn, so that's very good," he added.

"We tried to win the game, but we conceded two bad goals. The second goal was really tough for us because it came so early in the half. But I'm proud of what the team did. There are two more games — let's play those and try and qualify," Simoes added.

The Brazilian coach also praised the way Croatians demonstrated the proceedings. "The Croatians played like the Brazilians and they have great skill and talent. They play well as a team and have a good sense of when to counter attack," Simoes said. "They are simply a great side and it is not a real setback to lose to a better team," he added.

Croatia coach Miroslav Blazevic said: "We won tonight because we were a bit more experienced and I know this might sound a little pretentious, but with all due respect to Jamaica, we were just the better side. There were four very good goals and on both sides a lot of constructive play. I'm very happy about the result because I was worried about the game against Jamaica."

Of Jamaica's equaliser on the stroke of half-time, he added: "Obviously it was a really big psychological shock. What I asked them to do was to push up more because our counter attacks were not quick enough to take them by surprise. And when I sent them out of the dressing room for the second half, I said they might as well not come back in if they haven't earned all three points."

## Wow!

BONN, June 15 (Reuters): Germany's best-selling daily today published a photograph of a blonde model in soccer kit who said she would strip off a garment with each win by the country's World Cup team.

"I'll take my clothes off for Bert's boys," said Annina, a 22-year-old from Bremen, next to a front page photo in Bild newspaper.

"Give it all boys, then I'll show you it all. With every victory I'll take something off," she said in a message to German coach Bert Vogts' squad.

In the spot on page one normally reserved for scantily-clad women, Annina was wearing a German team jersey, shorts, soccer stockings and soccer boots.

The German team has already been promised 150,000 marks (82,900 dollars) from the German soccer federation (DFD) if they win the World Cup, 125,000 marks if they reach the final and 100,000 marks if they reach the semifinals.

## Aime's men stay focused

CLAIREFONTAINE, France, June 15: The brief respite from the World Cup, spending time with the wife and family, is over, and the French know they must be wary of a motivated Saudi Arabia on Thursday, reports AP.

"We have to be on guard. It's like this that the worst accidents happen," coach Aime Jacquet said Monday.

On top of that, starting striker Stephane Guivarch is certain to miss the game with a knee injury.

France are coming off a comfortable and confidence-building 3-0 victory over South Africa while Saudi Arabia already have their back against the wall following an opening 1-0 loss to Denmark. Two of four teams advance from Group C.

"We shouldn't have the idea that the match against the Saudis is already won," defender Laurent Blanc said.

The Saudis know about coming back. Four years ago at the World Cup in the United States — after allowing two second-half goals in a 2-1 loss to the Netherlands, they surprised the world and Belgium with a 1-0 victory that allowed them to reach the second round in their World Cup debut.

So France have to the stay at their physical peak throughout the first round, said Jacquet.

"If you're below your best, you can get a slap in the face from anyone," said the coach.

So it's up to Jacquet to keep the team alert — and insisting on running in the driving rain, and cold at their training camp certainly has kept everybody awake.

"The value of training can make the difference here. This weather is good for us," he said.

Tactical preparations for the Saudi game will start Tuesday, two days ahead of the clash at the 80,000-seat Stade France.

While Jacquet considered the two days since Friday's victory over South Africa a nice break to meet up with family and friends, his players begged to disagree.

"We were training the next day. That's no break, we hardly had time to catch our breath," Blanc said.

## THE SCORERS

PARIS, June 15 (AP): Goalscorers in the 16th World Cup after Sunday's games:

Two goals: Luis Hernandez, Mexico and Marcelo Salas, Chile.

One goal: Mutiu Adepolu, Nigeria; Roberto Baggio, Italy (penalty); Gabriel Batistuta, Argentina; Cesar Sampaio, Brazil; John Collins, Scotland (penalty); Christophe Dugarry, France; Robbie Earle, Jamaica; Dan Enggen, Norway; Moustafa El Hadji, Morocco; Ha Seok-ju, South Korea; Thierry Henry, France; Fernando Hierro, Spain; Garba Lawal, Nigeria; Sinisa Mihajlovic, Yugoslavia; Pierre Njanku, Cameroon; Sunday Olish, Nigeria; Ricardo Pelaez, Mexico; Anton Polster, Austria; Roberto Prosinecki, Croatia; Raul Gonzalez, Spain; Marc Rieper, Denmark; Mario Stancic, Croatia; Davor Suker, Croatia; Christian Vieri, Italy.

Own goals: Tommy Boyd, Scotland; Youssef Chippo, Morocco; Pierre Issa, South Africa.

SUKER HAS LANDED: Davor Suker, Croatia's ace marksman, celebrating his first World Cup goal in the match against Jamaica on June 14 at Lens. — AFP photo

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