COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-99 ✓ Tick the correct answers Post to The Derily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm

on July 24, 1998 1 How many goals has Del Piero scored at France '98?

2 How many times have Uruguay won the World Cup? Twice Who was the highest scorer

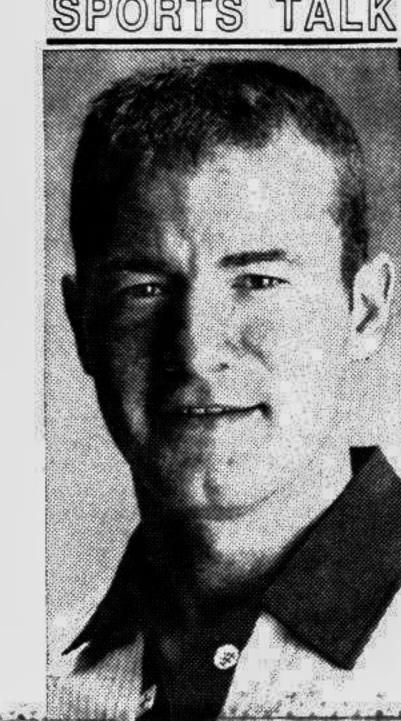
in Italia '90? Schilachi Cannigia Who scored highest number of goals for Holland in France '98?

Kluivert Davids Bergkamp 5 How many Off centuries has Tendulkar scored so

...........

Class Roll No. School Address

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS



Alan Shearer

(England soccer captain) "To score 40-odd goals in 60odd appearances is a great

On the feat of Gabriel Batis-

Britons didn t miss it

LONDON, July 13 (AFP/ Internet): France's thrilling World Cup final victory over Brazil attracted more British television viewers than England's firstround group matches against Romania and Colombia.

And it was only beaten into second place in the World Cup viewing league by England's epic confrontation with Argentina, which attracted an average of 23.7 million viewers.

An average of 22.3 million British viewers -- over a third of the nation -- tuned in to watch France clinch their first-ever World Cup, peaking at 17.1 million shortly before the final whistle -- just two million fewer than the number who saw the game on French TV.

Viewing was up compared to the last World Cup Final, 1994's Italy v Brazil contest, which saw 17.5 million viewers.

Paes pockets Hall of Fame

NEWPORT, July 13: India's Leander Paes, 25, beat Neville Godwin of South Africa 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday to win the Hall of Fame tennis championships, reports Reuters.

Paes, in control most of the way, needed only 72 minutes to beat Godwin and become the first Indian to win the tournament since Vijay Amritraj in 1984. He pocketed 39,000 dollars for his week's work on the grass courts of Newport Casino.

Dunlop ploughs in sands

DUBLIN, July 13: Ireland captain Angus Dunlop smashed 101 from 102 balls but still ended on the losing side against South Africa on Sunday, reports Reuters.

South Africa won the onedayer by 63 runs, making 289 for five and restricting the Irish to 226 for nine.

Dunlop, who came in with Ireland struggling at 41 for four. batted with common sense and caution at first but blossomed towards the end of the innings to reach three figures in the fi-

nal over. He finished 101 not out, which included seven fours and

four sixes. Daryll Cullinan hammered an unbeaten 117 from just 94 balls to provide the foundation for South Africa's total, and he shared a fifth wicket stand of 141 with captain Hansie Cronje



Models parade during the Yves Saint Laurent fashion show prior to the World Cup final at Stade de France, Saint Denis on July 12. -AFP photo

Ever-lasting scenes

From Nizamuddin Ahmed

PARIS, July 13: Imagine all of France at half time. But, the cars of Paris on its streets. Imagine them all blowing their horns. Imagine people shouting and singing at one in the morning. Imagine them changing their household utensils. Imagine loud fireworks. That was Paris after France, as complete outsiders, lifted the World Cup '98. More so, because it did it at the cost of Brazil being reduced to mediocrity. Arch de Triumph of 1806. Deep

More than ten lakh people. all in a mood to make it a night to remember, assembled at the nearly two hundred years old triumphal arch at Champs-Elysees. Half of them were there even before the Moroccan referee Said Belgola blew the final whistle. Thousands were there even this morning. And late in the afternoon.

There were ominous signs for FIFA's first boys before yesterday's match, which even the most optimist of France supporters thought would be a cakewalk for Brazil. In the depth of their heart they hoped for the distant alternative. Several hours before the match Paris came to life. And, going by television reports, so did the rest of France. It was as if France had finally awoken to the realisation that they were in the final. Sign number two the Brazilian fans, some dressed bizarrely, were uncharacteristically quiet. For the first time in the tournament. the "Samba" dancers were resting their feet. Hor the first time there was someone else making

more noise. The French had their war paint on, young and old alike. Dancing to the music, thousands of ticketless fans paid homage to football's newest temple, the Stade de France. They gathered there from the morning. Nearly the cathedral of Saint Dennis, the mother of Gothic architecture, basked in

the bright afternoon sun as if it had the premonition of things As the drama unfolded, it became clear that great players

alone do not make a champion team. France proved by their collective game yesterday that football is a team sport. So much so that captain Didier Deschamps and red-carded Laurent Blanc remembered, even amidst the mad fanfare, to credit the six reserve players who did not play in any of France's seven matches.

The final began and concluded in the spirit of sportsmanship. Speaking after the match, Brazil coach Mario Zagallo revealed that they wanted to Limit the score 1-0 in favour

France was exceptional, he said. On his part, the France manager Aime Jacquet was generous. Praising Zagallo he said. "You need two lives to achieve what Zagallo has done for Brazil." Responded the only man to win two World Cup as player, one as manager and another as assistant, "... today it's your victory, go to your victory memorial" with reference to the

There is not much consolation that you can siphon from a 3-0 defeat. But, the Brazilian president last night tried to dress their wounds by reminding its fans that France may have won this one, but Brazil had done so four times this century. France can also bracket the past with the present. They scored the first World Cup goal on its inauguration in 1930 and the last one this century.

inside, Zagallo appeared devas-

The first assembly of the third millennium will be held in Japan and South Korea. Big drums and dancers in traditional Japanese and Korean dresses made their presence at Stade de France in last night's closing ceremony to provide an glimpse of the vibrations to come. To the accompaniment of resounding music that included "tabla", children and stift walkers in futuristic attire took part in a dazzling performance of light sound and fireworks. It

was the French way of saying. "Au revoir." The voice on the PA system thanked everyone for the love and support to make France '98 a success. He talked of "fantastic memories" of the past one month and, although the World Cup has ended, "the beautiful game of football goes

It was mesmerising. Cup aloft the French players did a town of honour, perhaps more than once, with hundreds of photographers chasing them. They cheered, they applauded they cried to the music of We are the champions" and "Let's go dancing, Ooh La La.

The Brazilians, known for their love of a good time anytime, were taken aback by Zidane's first, shell-shocked by his second, and by the time a ten-man France scored the third, courtesy Emmanuel Petit, Brazil were good and buried.

As it were, Brazil's support at the stadium was merely specks of yellow and green, interspersed amid the vastness of blue, white and red. Even president Jacques Chirac and organising committee boss Michel

Platini were wearing the French colours. Both had the good humour to get on the presentation table to joint the French team as the captain held aloft the prized trophy.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter gave the silver medals away to the Brazil players. Honourary FIFA president Joao Havelange had the honour with the gold And, Jacques Chirac handed over the cup. Each player kissed and held the Cup, and lived their moment of glory to the

No previous World Cup final had ended in 3-0. The French players were almost apologetic to Ronaldo, the heralded hero who was made to stoop, as they came one by one to console him. It took the Brazilian fans in the stadium twenty minutes after the end to thaw from their frozen state. Half an hour after the final whistle, the entire stadium began to chant, "Bra-zil, Bra-zil" in a bid to cheer the fallen and to acknowledge their greatness.

Brazil can blame no one but themselves for their debacle. Some of their players hardly existed on the ground. So poor was their form that the French fans dared to boo the Brazilian players. More so after Marcel Dessailly was sent off, forcing France to defend the last twenty minutes with a man short. They did one better. France scored against Brazil's eleven:

France was the better team in the first half and scored twice. Brazil had the advantage in the second but could not. Time and again a Frenchman found himself flatteringly alone with Taffarel with the Brazil defence cut to pieces, yet caught napping. Sure they did not need any more goals but the scoreline should have been at least 6-0 for France. Brazil can rue only for the

bravery evoked in Fabien Barthez after Ronaldo's powerful, but only, shot of the day. Otherwise the French read each and every Brazilian move like the back of their palm. The French in many ways played like Brazil. They had complete control of the midfield. The supremacy of the French and their failure to do anything about it forced Edmundo, Sampaio and Bebeto to lose their

As the time ticked closer to the final whistle, one looked again and again at the 3-0 scoreline on the giant stadium monitor. It was unbelievable. Brazilian fans turned to stone as waves of joy rippled through the stands.

Third match rained off

Sports Reporter Bangladesh lost the threematch Cairns Trophy one-day series against Scotland 0-2 af-ter the third game was washed out without a ball being bowled due to heavy rain in Edinburgh on 'Sunday, according to a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)

source. Bangladesh lost first two matches of the series against the home side whom they are due to meet in a World Cup group match next year. Scot-land won the first encounter by 39 runs in Glasgow on July 4 and then handed the visitors a seven-wicket defeat in the next in Edinburgh last Saturday. Bangladesh, who began their

45-day tour of the British Isles early last month, are now left with a three-day affair against Scotland which begins in Lincithgow today.

The team is expected to re-turn home on July 20.

Fans scurry in Vietnam

HANOI, July 13: A power blackout in Hanoi 20 minutes after the start of the World Cup final sent thousands of fans scurrying to friends' homes to watch the match in the wee hours Monday morning, reports AP.

A substation that provides electricity to nearly 20,000 people in the capital's Cua Nam district broke down at 2:20 am, a few minutes before France scored its first goal en route to a 3-0 victory over Brazil.

Many people began rushing around to find other alternatives, which wasn't too difficult with so many residents staying up late to watch the match.

Others went to bed in hopes of watching the rebroadcast at 6:30 am, only to discover that the power still was off when they got up. It was expected to be restored later Monday.

THE SCORERS

PARIS, July 13 (AFP): World Cup scorers after Sunday's final: Six goals: Davor Suker

(Croatia) Five goals: Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), Christian Vieri (Italy).

Four goals: Luis Hernandez (Mexico), Ronaldo (Brazil), Marcelo Salas (Chile).

Three goals: Bebeto (Brazil). Dennis Bergkamp (Holland), Oliver Bierhoff (Germany), Cesar Sampaio (Brazil), Theirry Henry (France). Jurgen Klinsmann (Germany), Rivaldo (Brazil).

Two goals: Roberto Baggio (Italy), Shaun Bartlett (South Africal. Salaheddine Bassir (Morocco), Phillip Cocu (Holland), Ronald de Boer (Holland). Abdelil Hadda (Morocco), Fernando Hierro (Spain), Kiko (Spain), Patrick Kluivert (Holland), Slobodan Komljenovic (Yugoslavia), Brain Laudrup (Denmark). Viorel Moldovan (Romania). Fernando Morientes (Spain) Ariel Ortega (Argentina). Michael Owen (England), Ricardo Pelaez (Mexico), Emmanuel Petit (France), Robert Prosinecki (Croatia), Alan Shearer (England), Lilian Thuram (France). Theodore Whitmore (Jamaica), Marc Wilmots (Belgium), Zinedine Zidane (France). One goal: Mutiu Adepoju

(Nigeria), Sami al Jaber (Saudi

Arabia), Yossef Al Thyniyan

(Saudi Arabia), Darren Anderton (England), Celso Ayala (Paraguay). Tijani Babangida (Nigeria). David Beckham (England), Miguel Angel Benitez (Paraguay), Laurent Blanc (France), Cuauhtemoc Blanco Burley (Mexico), Craig (Scotland), Jose Cardoso John Collins (Paraguay). (Scotland), Edgar Davids (Holland), Luigi di Biagio (Italy), Pierre Djaka Njanka Beyaka (Cameroon), Youri Djorkaef (France), Christophe Dugarry (France). Robbie Earle (Jamaica), Dan Eggen (Norway), Hamid Reza Estili (Iran), Tore Andre Flo (Norway), Haavard Flo (Norway), Alberto Garcia Aspe (Mexico). Seok Ju Ha (South Korea). El Moustafa Hadji (Morocco), Thomas Helveg (Denmark), Andreas Herzog (Austria), Viktor Ikpeba (Nigeria). Adrian Ilie (Romania), Robert Jarni (Croatia), Martin Joergensen (Denmark), Emil Kostadinov (Bulgaria), Michael Laudrup (Denmark), Garba Lawal (Nigeria), Bixente Lizarazu (France). Claudio Lopez (Argentina), Luis Enrique (Spain), Medhi Mahdavikia Patrick Mboma (Cameroon), Brian McBride (United States), Benedict Mc-Carthy (South Africa), Sinisa Mihajlovic (Yugoslavia). Predrag Mijatovic (Yugoslavia) Andreas Moller (Germany), Peter Moller (Denmark), Masashi Nakayama (Japan). Allan Nielsen (Denmark), Luc Nilis (Belgium), Sunday Oliseh (Nigeria), Wilson Oruma (Nigeria). Marc Overmars Dan Petrescu (Holland). (Romania), Hector Mauricio Pineda (Argentina), Anton Polster (Austria), Leider Preciado (Colombia), Raul (Spain), Kietil Rekdal (Norway). Marc Riper (Denmark), Ebbe Sand (Denmark). Paul Scholes (England). Jose Luis Sierra (Chile), Skander Souayah (Tunisia). Mario Stanic (Croatia). Dragan Stoikovic (Yugoslavia), David Trezeguet (France), Pierre van Hoojdonk (Holland), Ivica Vastic (Austria), Goran Vlaovic (Croatia), Sang Chul Yoo (South Korea), Javier Zanetti (Argentina), Boudewijn Zenden (Holland). Own goals: Tommy Boyd

(SCO), Youssef Chippo (MAR), Pierre Issa (RSA), Sinisa Mihajlovic (Yug).

Fitting tribute.

PARIS, July 13 (Reuters): For Emmanuel Petit things could

just not get any better. "The icing on the cake" barely begins to convey what his last-minute goal for France in Sunday's World Cup final means after a season that could not even be dreamt of.

After winning the French championship with Monaco last year he moved to Arsenal to become part of coach Arsene Wenger's French brigade. In his first season the 27-

year-old helped the London club to a rarely-achieved league and cup double and was one of the most impressive midfielders in the Premier league.

His performance helped secure his place in the French side, and he missed only the group game against Saudi Ara-bia in a tournament which considerable enhanced his international reputation. On Sunday he was magnifi-

cent, covering an incredible amount of ground, making countless tackles and interceptions and using the ball intelligently. Then, in time added-on, when most midfielders would

have been happy to sit back and watch as Patrick Vieira galloped forward. Petit set off on a long-bursting 80-metre run to support his Arsenal colleague. His reward was the ball rolled into his path and he duly tucked it into the corner to put a

glorious seal on France's first World Cup triumph. was very surprised, it's very rare for me to score," he said. "I only took the chance to make the run because I knew it was so late in the game.

"But my goal was not impor-

PARTING HUG: Out going French national coach Aime

Jacquet (R) and his Brazilian counterpart Mario Zagallo

THE ORDANDERS

embrace each other after the final.

PARIS, July 13 (AFP): Red

David Beckham (England) v

and yellow cards from the sec-

ond round onwards at the

Argentina: Arthur Numan

(Netherlands) v Argentina;

Ariel Ortega (Argentina) v

Netherlands: Christian Woerns

(Germany) v Croatia; Laurent

Blanc (France) v Croatia; Mar-

Francesco Moriero (Italy) v

Norway; Luigi Di Biagio (Italy) v

Norway: Paolo Maldini (Italy) v

Norway: Havard Flo (Norway) v

Italy: Erik Mykland (Norway) v

Italy: Kjetil Rekdal (Norway) v

Cafu (Brazil) v Chile; v Den-

mark; Ronald Fuentes (Chile) v

Brazil; Nelson Tapia (Chile) v Brazil; Jose Luis Chilavert

(Paraguay) v France; Miguel

Benitez (Paraguay) v France:

Julio Cesar Enciso (Paraguay) v

France: Francisco Arce

(Paraguay) v France; Roberto

Acuna (Paraguay) v France:

Jay-Jay Okocha (Nigeria) v

Denmark; Marc Rieper

(Denmark) v Nigeria; Markus

Babbel (Germany) v Mexico;

Lothar Matthaeus (Germany) v

Mexico; Michael Tarnat

(Germany) v Mexico; v Croatia;

Dietmar Hamann (Germany) v

Mexico; Duilio Davino (Mexico)

v Germany: Cauauhtemoc

Blanco (Mexico) v Germany;

Dragan Stojkovic (Yugoslavia)

v Netherlands; Zoran Mirkovic

(Yugoslavia) v Netherlands;

Goran Djorovic (Yugoslavia) v

Netherlands: Gheorghe Popescu

(Romania) v Croatia; Dan Pe-

trescu (Romania) v Croatia; Ilie

Adrian (Romania) v Croatia;

Zvonimir Boban (Croatia) v

Italy; Leonardo (Brazil) v Chile;

cel Desailly (France) v Brazil.

World Cup finals:

Red:

Yellow:

-AFP photo

Romania: Slaven Bilic (Croatia)

v Romania: Juan Veron

(Argentina) v England; Diego

Simeone (Argentina) v England;

Matias Almeyda (Argentina) v

England: Carlos Roa

(Argentina) v England; David

Seaman (England) v Argentina;

Paul Ince (England) v Ar-

gentina: Alessandro del Piero

(Italy) v France: Giuseppe

Bergomi (Italy) v France;

Alessandro Costacurta (Italy) v

France: Stephane Guivarc'h

(France) v Italy; Didier De-

schamps (France) v Italy; v

Brazil: Aldair (Brazil) v Den-

mark: Roberto Carlos (Brazil) v

Denmark: Thomas Helveg

(Denmark) v Brazil; Soren

Colding (Denmark) v Brazil;

Stig Tofting (Denmark) v

(Netherlands) v Argentina; Jose

Chamot (Argentina) v Nether-

lands; Nestor Sensini

(Argentina) v Netherlands;

Ariel Ortega (Argentina) v

Netherlands; Dario Simic

(Croatia) v Germany; v France;

Davor Suker (Croatia) v Ger-

many: Joerg Heinrich

(Germany) v Croatia; Ze Carlos

Sampaio (Brazil) v Nether-

lands: Michael Reiziger

(Netherlands) v Brazil: Edgar

Davids (Netherlands) v Brazil; v

Croatia: Pierre van Hooijdonk

(Netherlands) v Brazil; Clarence

Seedorf (Netherlands) v Brazil;

Aljosa Asanovic (Croatia) v

France; v Netherlands; Mario

Stanic (Croatia) v France; v

Netherlands: Krunoslav Jurcic

(Croatia) v Netherlands; Igor

Stimac (Croatia) v Netherlands;

Wim Jonk (Netherlands) v

Croatia: Junior Baiano (Brazil)

v France: Christian Karembeu

(France) v Brazil.

(Brazil) v Netherlands; Cesar

Brazil:

Jaap Stam



tant, what is, is our victory," Petit's goal was also sweet recompense for the one that got away in 1993 when France failed to qualify for the 1994 finals after conceding a last-minute goal to Bulgaria, who won 2-1 at the Parc des Princes.

The goal was scored by Emil Kostadinov, the player Petit was marking, and the Frenchman took much of the blame for the French failure. But that is all behind him

now and Petit said that he fin-

ished the English season on a high and was delighted to find the spirit that served Arsenal so well also present in the French squad.

He said all the players were lifted by the support from the French public, which grew and grew as the tournament pro-

gressed "It's a fantastic feeling when you are supported, when you are given love it gives you wings,"

"When I saw all the people lining the roads from (French training base) Calirefontaine I was really moved. I was close to

"Before the match I was very relaxed, very confident. We believed in ourselves but also had respect for our opponents and tried not to put too much pressure on ourselves. "The win hasn't sunk in but with time when I think back it will remain as the most beautiful

moment of my life." And Petit knows the value of such moments, having suffered the agonising pain of losing his beloved elder brother, who died on a soccer pitch seven years

Petit, by his own admission. went off the rails for a couple of years after that tragedy, but eventually came to terms with it and vowed to make a success of his own career. Now, before every game he

plays he plucks four blades of grass and throws them to the four corners of the compass in a gesture to his late brother's memory.

His goal and his superb performance in his country's finest sporting hour, will now stand as a longer lasting memorial.

shootout: 1 (1994).

time: 4 (1934, 1966, 1978, 1994).

Finals decided on penalty

Hattricks: 1 (Geoff Hurst of

GLIMPSE AT WORLD CUPS

UNDATED, July 13 (Reuters): Following are some interesting statistics on World Cups:

Winners: Brazil 4, Italy 3. West Germany 3, Uruguay 2, Argentina 2, England 1, France 1. Finalists: West Germany 6. Brazil 6, Italy 5, Argentina 4, Uruguay 2, Hungary 2, Czechoslovakia 2. Netherlands 2

Sweden 1, England 1, France 1.

Finalists by continent: Europe 20. South America 12.

Winners by continent: South America 8, Europe 8. Goals in finals: 65 (4.06 per

Host nation winners: Uruguay 1930, Italy 1934, England 1966, West Germany 1974.

Italy 1938, Brazil 1962.

Highest score in final: Brazil England 1966). Two goals in final: 7 (Gino Sweden 2, 1958. Colaussi of Italy 1938, Silvio Piola of Italy 1938, Helmut Rahn of West Germany 1954, Argentina 1978, France 1998. Vava of Brazil 1958, Pele of Champions retaining title: Brazil 1958, Mario Kempes of Argentina 1978, Zinedine Zi-Finals finishing after extra dane of France 1998). Players who have scored in two finals: 3 (Vava 1958 and 1962, Pele 1958 and 1970, Paul Breither of Germany 1974 and

1982). Red cards in final: 3 (Pedro Mozon of Argentina 1990 and Gustavo Deztti of Argentina 1990, Marcel Desailly of France

Penalties scored in final: 3 (Johan Neeskens of Netherlands 1974. Paul Breither of West Germany 1974 and Andreas Breheme of West Germany

Penalties missed in final: 1 (Antonio Cabrini of Italy 1982) Penalty missed in shoot-out in final: 4 (Franco Baresi, Daniele Massaro and Roberto Baggio of Italy 1994. Marcio Santos of Brazil 1994). Played for two winning

teams: 11 (Giovanni Ferrari and Giuseppe Mewzza of Italy 1934/38, Didi, Garrincha, Gilmar, Djalma Santos, Nilton Santos, Vava, Mario Zagallo, Zito of Brazil 1958/62, Pele of Brazil 1958/70).

Won as player and coach: 2 (Mario Zagallo of Brazil as player 1958 and 1962, as coach 1970. Franz Beckenbauer of West Germany as player 1974. as coach 1990).

Won twice as coach: 1

(Victorio Pozzo of Italy 1934 and 1938) Cities to have staged two fi-

nals: 3 (Mexico City 1970 and 1986, Rome 1934 and 1990, Paris 1938 and 1998). Curious facts about finals:

one goal. Argentina were the first to fail to find the net in 1990, in 1994 the finals finished goalless for the first time. Only four penalties have been awarded in finals and all

For the first 13 finals, every

team taking part scored at least

involved West Germany the Germans had penalties awarded for and against them in the 1974 final, against them in the 1982 final and for them in Brazil are the only team

from outside the continent to win the World Cup in Europe (1958 in Sweden). No European nations has won the title outside its own continent.

Sino solidarity

BEIJING, July 13 (AFP/ Internet): Tens of millions of Chinese stayed up all night to shared in France's joy at beating Brazil in the World Cup fi-

While most watched at home, more than 1,000 headed to the Sports Plaza in the capital, where Beijing television does live sports broadcasts, for the 3:00 a.m. kickoff.

"People were totally excited

over France, with everyone switching to the winning side even if they were die-hard Brazil supporters," said one of the crowd who watched the 20 big screens across the entertaiments centre.

The evening, full of revelry. started with a jazz band in the huge venue, which was formerly a warehouse and was opened for the start of the World Cup matches. The first minutes of the

match were received with bated

breath, and then each of the three French goals was greeted with growing cheers until the final whistle. Even without their team in

the finals, the Chinese have been avid spectators throughout the World Cup. Sales of colour televisions have more than doubled in Beijing and other large cities such as Shanghai and Guangdong.

Europe evens the score

ST DENIS, France, July 13 (AFP): Europe have gained parity with South American after their eighth World Cup win in the 16 finals since the first

tournament in 1930.

Aime Jacquet's France were only the second European side to earn a final victory over a South American, side following Germany's victory against Argentina in Italy in 1990. Brazil equalled Germany as

only the second side to play in six finals, though Brazil have now won four titles to Germany's three. Africa, Asia and North and Central America had no sides

in the quarterfinals to prove

the top two continents still reigned supreme. Much progress has been made in those supposedly lesser continents but the six European teams and two South American sides in the last eight proved there is still work to do amongst the weaker confedera-

tions of world football. France '98, with 32 nations for the first time, saw five African sides, four Asian sides and three from Central and North American, including the Caribbeans, competing in the finals.

But the minnows remained the minnows while the big fish swam the oceans of world football with their usual domi-Blatter said just over two weeks ago that Africa would

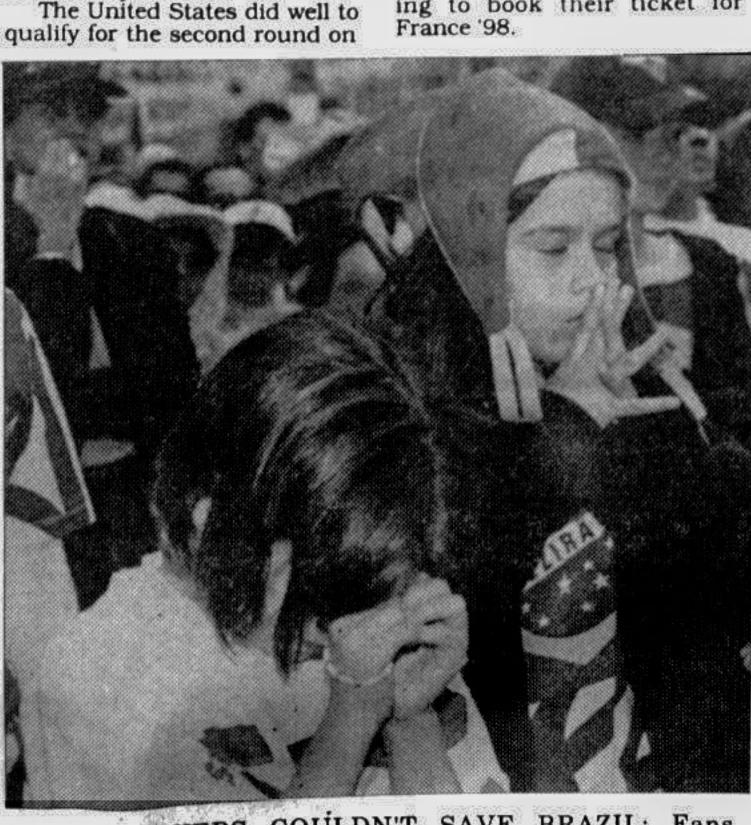
have to wait beyond 2006 before staging the continent's first World Cup. Once again, this year's World Cup has seen a first round cull of African sides with just Nigeria reaching the second phase from a total African entry of five teams. Asia, in Japan and

South Korea, will be organising the 2002 finals. Japan has already admitted their players will need to play in strong European leagues if they want to compete with the leading na-

Mexico is a perennial quali-fier for the world's biggest football bonanza but their best performance is a quarterfinal loss to Germany in 1986.

home soil in 1994 but they were thrashed with three consecutive defeats this time.

And Oceania didn't even have one candidate in the 32nation finals though Australia led Iran 2-0 in a play-off before two late goals for a 2-2 draw at the Melbourne Cricket Ground was enough to ensure Terry Venables. Aussies were not going to book their ticket for



EVEN PRAYERS COULDN'T SAVE BRAZIL: Fans hoping against hope while watching the final on TV at ·Rio de Janeiro on July 12. —AFP photo