

El Loco's perfect reply



Nelson Vivas, who plays for English side Arsenal, was red carded for illegal use of the elbow.

Another well worked freekick saw Riquelme force Carini into a fine save.

With 12 minutes left Bielsa brought Palermo out of the fray and the player was applauded by the Argentinean fans as he left the field.

With the second placed team in the group certain to meet Brazil in the last eight many had suspected that neither team would have much motivation to win this game.

But that overlooked the history between the two River Plate countries. Two of the oldest rivals in world football they have a joint record 14 Copa America titles each.

Extra spice to the historic rivalry was added in May when former Argentinean national hero — 1978 World Cup winning skipper and their France 98 coach Daniel Passarella — became Uruguay's new manager.

Although he is in Paraguay he has left team selection and tactics in the hands of youth coach Victor Pua while he prepares Uruguay's World Cup qualifying campaign.

Colombia boss Javier Alvarez saw his side keep up their winning habit despite making several changes with a view to avoiding suspensions or injuries to his key men for the quarter-finals.

Among the recalled players was goalkeeper Rene Higuita, the 1990 World Cup veteran with the famed scorpion kick.

The first real effort on goal came from Colombia striker Hamilton Ricard, who plays his club football for English Premiership side Middlesbrough. Ricard forced a save from

Ecuador goalkeeper Jose Cevallos.

But then Ecuador's Ariel Graziani had the best chance yet but delayed his shot, allowing it to be deflected behind for a corner.

Then a brilliant Colombian move involving Ricard saw Henry Zambrano force another save from Cevallos.

Ecuador then latched onto some sloppy defending from Colombia with Ivan Kaviedes, who scored in his side's defeats against Argentina and Uruguay, forcing a good save from Higuita.

This seemed to stir the underdogs and in the next minute Graziani produced more heroics from Higuita.

Finally Colombia took the lead after 36 minutes when Ricard played the ball through to Zambrano, who backheeled to Neider Morantes, who fired home off Cevallo's right-hand post.

Just three minutes later Ri-

ARGENTINA-URUGUAY

Palermo's strike — from open play — put his side 2-0 ahead and restored his own reputation after he had become the first man to miss three penalties in one match at this level in his country's previous game with Colombia.

The Boca Juniors striker, dubbed El Loco (the crazy one), celebrated his goal with gusto and was mobbed by his teammates as he screamed his delight into the zoom lens of a pitchside photographer before briefly leaving the field for treatment to a black eye.

Argentina were much criticised after the showing against Colombia and — clearly stung — made a storming start.

It only took 67 seconds for them to take the lead with Cristian Gonzalez striking a brilliant freekick past Uruguay goalkeeper Hector Carini with his left foot after Juan Riquelme had changed the angle with a backheel.

Then Palermo screwed the ball wide of Carini's post from the vicinity of the penalty spot — although this time the ball had been in open play.

All the penetrating football was coming from Argentina with Uruguay's only first-half effort of goal coming from long-range shots from Walter Coelho, Andres Fleury and Marcelo Zalayeta.

Palermo was then booked for diving as the game started to lose its edge.

Argentinean coach Marcelo Bielsa was relaying instructions to his team from an executive box having been banned from the touchline after being sent off against Colombia.

The first real chance of the second half fell to Uruguay — and it was their best chance yet.

Federico Magallanes floated the ball into Liber Vespa who headed over from close range.

But after 56 minutes Palermo took his cue to notch his third goal of the tournament. His Boca teammate Riquelme led the spade work drawing the defenders and setting up Palermo to score with a rising shot with his favoured left foot.

Another Boca player Guillermo Barros Schelotto nearly made it three with a delightful chip.

Then Argentina defender



THE 'MADMAN' GOES CRAZY: Martin Palermo, the Argentine striker, is ecstatic after scoring against Uruguay on July 7.

STANDINGS

ASUNCION, July 8 (AFP): Final group standings in Copa America Wednesday:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Paraguay	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
Peru	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Bolivia	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Japan	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

Paraguay and Peru qualify for quarter-finals; Bolivia and Japan are eliminated.

Group B:

Brazil	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
Mexico	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Chile	3	1	0	2	3	2	3
Venezuela	3	0	0	3	1	13	0

Brazil, Mexico and Chile qualify for quarter-finals; Venezuela eliminated.

Group C:

Colombia	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Argentina	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Uruguay	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Ecuador	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

Colombia, Argentina and Uruguay qualify; Ecuador eliminated.

QUARTERFINALS

July 10: Peru v Mexico; Paraguay v Uruguay

July 11: Colombia v Chile; Brazil v Argentina

card made it two, shrugging off two challenges before firing home.

The forward, who has missed a host of chances during the Copa including one from the penalty spot against Argentina, was mobbed by his colleagues.

Colombia continued to look for goals after the interval and Zambrano forced the save of the night from Cevallos after 47 minutes.

But after 50 minutes Ecuador reduced arrears when Graziani raced from the halfway line before beating Higuita with a low left foot shot.

It was the first goal Colombia had conceded in the tournament so far.

That seemed to encourage the minnows and Graziani forced Higuita into action again just two minutes later.

Although Colombia continued to threaten on the break Ecuador stepped up the search for an equaliser with Higuita several times under pressure.

But it was not to be as Colombia go into their quarter-final with a 100 per cent record.

Goalscorers

ASUNCION, July 8 (AFP): Leading goalscorers in Copa America after conclusion of group matches Wednesday:

Three goals: Martin Palermo (Argentina), Amoroso (Brazil), Ronaldo (Brazil), Roque Santa Cruz (Paraguay).

Two goals: Ivan Kaviedes (Ecuador), Wagner Lopes (Japan), Cuauhtemoc Blanco (Mexico), Miguel Benitez (Paraguay), Roberto Holsen (Peru), Marcelo Zalayeta (Uruguay).

One goal: Cristian Gonzalez (Argentina), Diego Simeone (Argentina), Erwin Sanchez (Bolivia), Alex (Brazil), Emerson (Brazil), Rivaldo (Brazil), Ronaldinho (Brazil), Victor Bonilla (Colombia), Edwin Cordeiro (Colombia), Ivan Cordoba (Colombia), Neider Morantes (Colombia), Hamilton Ricard (Colombia), Johnier Montano (Colombia), Jose Sierra (Chile), Ivan Zamorano (Chile), Ariel Graziani (Ecuador), Atsuhiko Miura (Japan), Luis Hernandez (Mexico), Daniel Osorno (Mexico), Isaac Terrazas (Mexico), Jorge Soto (Peru), Israel Zuniga (Peru), Edson Torolero (Venezuela-own goal), Gabriel Urdaneta (Venezuela).

Serie A on Saturdays

ROME, July 8 (AP): For decades, Italian soccer fans have devoted their Sundays to watching their favorite teams. Now they have set aside Saturday, too.

Under a new calendar approved by the 18 presidents of Serie A clubs Wednesday, two matches will be played on Saturdays, one at 3 pm and the other one at 8:30 pm.

Of the remaining seven games, six will be played as usual, Sunday afternoon, and one on Sunday night at 8:30 pm.

Teams playing in European cups can also decide to move up their games to Saturday to allow an extra day of rest.

The new calendar takes effect with the start of the season August 28.

The move was seen as a response to the demands of television, which is now bringing in total revenue of around 930 billion lire (490 million dollar, euros 480 million) a year.

Recently, digital pay TV Stream, partially owned by media magnate Rupert Murdoch, has acquired soccer rights, in competition with Telepiu, Italy's leading pay-TV unit.

Bid to woo MU back

LONDON, July 8: The sponsors of the FA Cup are still determined to keep reigning champions Manchester United in the competition, reports AP.

United withdrew from next season's edition of the 127-year-old tournament in order to play in the inaugural World Club Championship in Brazil.

The decision to compete in the FIFA-backed club tournament in January was intended to boost England's bid for the 2006 World Cup.

United accepted a Football Association offer of an exemption from the FA Cup next season.

The Cup sponsors, insurance company AXA, offered to fly United's fourth-round opponents to Brazil but the idea was immediately rejected by the FA.

The FA said flying another English team to Brazil to play against United, which was already participating in another

tournament, was "complete and utter nonsense."

AXA Assurance spokesman Phil Hickley said the Brazilian Cup venue was just one of a number of ideas to enable United to defend the FA Cup. Others haven't been discussed with the FA.

"We have not even attempted to consider their feasibility, and of course, Manchester United would have to take part in any decision," he said. "What we are trying to do is to think of ways round the issue. We're trying to offer a solution."

United's decision to skip the FA Cup outraged grass roots fans, who say the oldest, most prestigious cup competition in the World has been devalued.

Responding to the initial AXA offer, FA spokesman Steve Double said it was "unworkable."

"It ignores the fact that United are committed to play a number of games in Brazil, and it would mean the competition would be taken out of English football's jurisdiction," he said.

Manchester United Chief Martin Edwards said the club decided to play in Brazil to bolster England's chances of winning the right to host the 2006 World Cup.

But Professional Players' Association spokesman Gordon Taylor on Thursday said that United was "hiding behind the Union Jack."

"They're not going to Brazil because the government want them to, they're going because they want to," he said.

"I don't think that it would have been any different had we not been bidding for the World Cup."

And FIFA president Sepp Blatter said soccer's world governing body had no influence on United's decision.

"I understand and support the fans who are unhappy with their club's decision not to participate in a competition that is a real highlight of the English football calendar," he was quoted saying in Thursday's tabloid Daily Star.



Jubilant Argentine fans enjoying the proceedings against Uruguay at Luque on July 7.

9-million-dollar Berkovic

LONDON, July 8 (Reuters/Internet): West Ham United's Israeli international midfielder Eyal Berkovic has agreed to join Scotland's Celtic for 5.75 million pounds (\$8.9 million), the London club said on Thursday.

The transfer will be finalised after a medical. Neither club would reveal details of the contract.

The 27-year-old put in a transfer request last month but West Ham initially told Celtic that they did not want to sell the player.

Berkovic, who scored twice for Israel in June in a 5-0 Euro 2000 qualifying defeat of Austria, suffered a controversial last season with West Ham.

In October, he was kicked in the head by team mate John Hartson during training.

At the time, Berkovic said he was considering his future at the club but he later made his peace with Hartson, who subsequently left for Wimbledon.

The Israeli went on to become one of West Ham's most impressive players during the campaign and was a major factor in their fifth place finish.



HE IS SMILING AGAIN: Superstar Ronaldo (L) sharing a joke with teammate Odvan during practice at Foz de Eguazu yesterday.

Dauids on way to Old Trafford?

MANCHESTER, July 8: Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids is reportedly negotiating a 10-million-pound (15.8 million dollars) transfer to Manchester United from Italian club Juventus, reports AP.

A Manchester United spokesman on Thursday said the deal was "purely speculation" and that "nobody at the club knows anything about it."

But the club's telephone hotline said the 26-year-old international flew into London's Heathrow Airport on Wednesday.

There is no official word from within as yet but the Davids claims continue regarding a possible purchase of the Dutch international, "the supporters' telephone service said."

First-round play in the world's oldest competition of national teams, the Copa America, ended Wednesday night with Colombia's 2-1 defeat of Ecuador and Argentina's 2-0 victory over Uruguay.

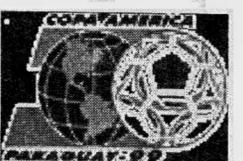
Of the 12 teams that opened the Copa, eight remain. There are no surprises among the quarterfinalists, led by first-place finishers Paraguay, Brazil, and Colombia.

A struggling Argentina advanced, as did Chile and Mexico, along with Peru and upstart Uruguay. In quarterfinal matches set to begin Saturday, Argentina meets Brazil, Peru plays Mexico, Colombia faces Chile, and Paraguay meets Uruguay.

Brazil's title defense got off to a rousing seven goal start against Venezuela, showcasing a Brazilian offense that appeared both dominating and relentless. While Brazil cooled somewhat against Mexico and Chile, the results were the same.

The heavily favoured Brazilians finished atop a very competitive Group A. Just as important, they appear loose, relaxing on off days with karaoke

Cup of zest and thrills



and poolside rambunctiousness.

Ronaldo's famous gap-tooth smile is on display more and more now that his knee injury seems a thing of the past. His trademark explosiveness has returned.

"I am very happy with my play," the 22-year-old Inter forward said. "I've lost some goals but that happens."

It hasn't hurt that he's paired with Italian league leading scorer Amoroso, the lesser-known half of the "AmRo" combination. Together they have scored six goals and share the lead with several others for tournament top scorer with three apiece.

Colombian coach Javier Alvarez emerged from the first round as the tournament prognosticator, glaring into the future and boldly predicting the outcome of his team's matches. His team is extremely confident and has every reason to be.

Colombia wrapped up first place in Group C Wednesday night. With lightning quick strikers and a clever midfield, Alvarez's team will be the odds-on favourite to unseat Brazil, should any team be up to the task.

After a sluggish start marred by Roberto Acuna's protest of a fish-only team diet and 0-0 tie with Bolivia, Paraguay regrouped to finish out in the Group A top spot.

A lack of offensive punch caused an early ouster for an experienced Bolivian team. Japan heads home with what they came for: experience. Venezuela departed empty-handed, still without a tourna-

ment win in over 30 years. Ecuador left equally frustrated.

The lasting image of the opening round is bound to be a tussle-up between Brazil's Ronaldinho and Argentina's Martin Palermo.

Palermo's duff of three penalty kicks in Argentina's 3-0 loss to Colombia garnered worldwide attention and earned him the dubious historical distinction as the first player to do so in an international match.

Meanwhile, it was all praise for Brazil's 19-year-old Ronaldinho, who drew comparisons to Pele with a magnificent goal in Brazil's opening match against Venezuela. Touching the ball over a defender's head and blowing past him to recollect it, Ronaldinho arrived on the international scene with raves from as far away as Italy.

He wasn't the only youngster to make an impression.

Again, the Copa offered glimpses at possible future stars as it did in 1989 with Brazil's Romario-Bebeto tandem and again in 1991 with Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta.

Paraguay's Roque Santa Cruz, Uruguay's Marcelo Zalayeta and Colombian Johnier Montano all left fans wondering about what's to come.

The 17-year-old Santa Cruz shares the top spot for goal scorers with Ronaldinho, Amoroso, and Palermo. The 20-year-old Zalayeta scored an impressive two goals in two minutes in Uruguay's 2-1 win over Ecuador.

And the baby of the bunch, 16-year-old Montano, scored on a lengthy blast in Colombia's 3-0 rout of Argentina.

Effenberg to captain Bavarians

BONN, July 8 (Reuters/Internet): Stefan Effenberg will captain Bayern Munich next season, taking over from the departed Thomas Helmer, the German champions said on Thursday.

The row at the Bavarians' training camp over the future of his fellow midfielder Mario Basler rumbled on, with the 30-year-old slamming manager Uli Hoeness for saying he was not worth as much as Effenberg and threatening to quit.

"I want to be treated like Effenberg," said Basler, who has so far turned down the new contract Bayern offered and is holding out for a deal closer to what the new captain earns.

"I could go right now to England or Spain or elsewhere in the Bundesliga," he said.

But coach Ottmar Hitzfeld retorted that there would be no new offer. "It's up to Mario to make the next move," he said.

Bayern are still trying to pick themselves up after their dreams of a historic treble were shattered when they lost to a last-gasp Manchester United rally in the European Cup final and then handed the German Cup to Werder Bremen on penalties.

They have since been beset by a renewed outbreak of the bickering that earned them the nickname "FC Hollywood."

Goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, who was named vice-captain on Thursday, criticised

Juve zero in on Anelka



MILAN, July 8: Juventus are about to snatch Arsenal's Nicolas Anelka from under the noses of the Serie A rivals Lazio in a mega-deal worth around 50 million dollars, the Italian press reported Thursday, reports AP.

Anelka, a 20-year-old striker rated as one of the brightest prospects in the European game, is determined to leave Highbury and has insisted that he will only join Lazio.

But Juventus have trumped the Rome club's best offer in style, offering the Gunners 60 billion lira (32.5 million dollars) plus their French international winger Thierry Henry, rated by the club at 30 billion lira (16 million dollars).

The Turin bid dwarfs the first offer from Lazio of 63 billion lira in cash (34 million dollars), and even beats an improved one made on Wednesday by club Sergio Cragnotti of 57 billion lira (30.8 million dollars) in cash, plus Croatian striker Alen Boksic, valued at 18 billion lira (9.7 million dollars).

Juventus have even topped the salary offer from Lazio — seven billion lira (3.7 million

dollars) a year net of income tax for five years, instead of six billion lira (3.2 million dollars).

Roger told TuttoSport: "It's all true. I met Bettega. He told me that there's more sun in Rome, but that his club is more famous."

Bettega, who was in Milan for a Football League meeting, returned to Turin is now waiting for an answer from Anelka and the Premier's club, although the Corriere dello Sport claimed that the offer had been accepted in principle and that all that was required was the signatures.

Anelka's deal with Juventus would match the 90 billion lire which Inter have just paid Lazio for his predecessor, Christian Vieri, albeit including Lazio's purchase of Argentinian midfielder Diego Simeone from Inter, rated at 21 billion lira (11 million dollars).

MOSCOW, July 8: Russian champions Spartak Moscow suffered a shocking 3-1 defeat at lowly Krylya Sovietov Samara in their Premier Division match on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Spartak stumble

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wt. units

4 Mata —

8 Hirt hit

12 Cartesian conclusion

13 Computer symbol

14 Pinnacle

15 Processes 51

17 Folk-singer

18 Lure

19 "Mad About You" role

21 Slender

22 Forceful

25 Inomiac's pets?

29 Sharp turn

30 Carnival locale

31 Service-women

32 Succor

33 11th president

34 Melody

35 Cleopatra

36 Slayer

37 TV source

38 Sunday restaurant offering

39 "— Rosenkavalier"

40 Greek vowel

41 Give in

42 Talon

43 Oz resident

44 Art medium

45 "Como usted?"

46 Environmentally friendly

47 Challenge

48 DJ Rick

49 Morn'g moisture

50 Grown-up

51 "Com — base used?"

52 Environmentally friendly territory

53 Challenge

54 DJ Rick

55 Morn'g moisture

56 "ill eagle"

57 Dull

58 Environmentally friendly territory

59 Challenge

60 DJ Rick

61 Morn'g moisture

62 "ill eagle"

63 Grown-up

64 Hatchet

65 French

66 Cow palace?

67 Bad hairpiece

68 Farm output

69 "King of the —"

70 Oxen's link

71 Mop

72 '60s musical

73 Wall-paint shade

74 Pizazz

75 Embarrased, plus

76 Involved in

77 Dry out

78 Pretense

79 Gathering places, maybe

80 Full of gossip

81 "Inferno" man

82 Scratched (out)

83 Galloping dominoes

84 Sufficient, in verse

85 Food fish

86 Whopper

87 TV alien

89 Put to work

Solution time: 28 mins.

POPE CATS DON
ALEX OLEO IDA
RICHIE LIEU EN
KARARA TETRA
SAGE TRUSHER
OBI WIN CPA
SUNG ACE SHEM
GNASH DE
SYRUP TASH ATLS
MELODY TASH ATLS
DIC OCH GENT
ASH NEEED HATS

Yesterday's answer

12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
54	55												

CRYPTOQUIP

P M I E K W L M D P L P P F
P I G N F M P F M D W R E M P L A
T G K T W R N K Y L A P M Y L

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M CERTAIN THAT PLENTY OF BABY BIRDS CALL THEIR PARENTS MOTHER AND FEATHER.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals C

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.