



## Everywhere oranje

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, June 17: The Dutch went in an orange frenzy this weekend after the Euro 2000 co-hosts won their second game in a row and qualified for the quarterfinals, reports AP.

"At last, the lion is on the loose," De Telegraaf headlined after Friday 3-0 win over Denmark made sure the Dutch would go through into the knockout phase of the competition.

"At last Oranje wakes up," said Het Algemeen Dagblad, highlighting how the team mood had changed following a lucky but disappointing 1-0 opening win over the Czech Republic.

"Finally there was passion, finally there was anger, finally a victory that means something," it continued.

The 50,000 capacity De Kuip was already a sea of orange during the match and afterwards it seemed the colour was poured over the whole nation, with parties in all towns going late into the night.

"An orange party," headlined the local paper on top of pictures showing dancing and celebrating fans.

The next match for the Netherlands is against world champion France, with both sides already assured of advancing. Wednesday's match has already been billed as an early final.

## France's injury list lengthens

BRUGES, Belgium, June 17: France are feeling the after-effects of a bruising 2-1 win against the Czech Republic but is delighted to have booked a place in the quarterfinals of Euro 2000 with a match to spare, reports AP.

The physical nature of the match took its toll and France have three injury worries for their game against the Dutch in Amsterdam on Wednesday.

Midfielder Emmanuel Petit, who injured his left knee, was forced off at halftime.

"After five minutes I was tackled by Poborsky and felt my left knee go," the Arsenal midfielder said. "I hope that it is just a pulled ligament."

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez is also nursing a sore left thigh after the match and might be rested by coach Roger Lemerre in preparation for the quarterfinals, while left back Bixente Lizarazu injured a thigh while sprinting during a pre-match warmup.

Yet the so-called Group of Death — which pitted the world champions against co-hosts and tournament favourites the Netherlands, Euro 96 runners-up Czech Republic and Denmark — never lived up to its pre-tournament billing.

## UEFA upset

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, June 17: UEFA Chief Executive Gerhard Aigner on Saturday condemned the hooligan riots in Brussels, Belgium and strongly condemned the "small minority who are trying to undermine this celebration" of soccer at Euro 2000, reports AP.

## Charleroi police arrest 131 fans

CHARLEROI, Belgium, June 17: (Reuters/DS) - Belgian police have arrested 131 hooligans after using water cannon to break up groups of rival England and Germany soccer fans ahead of Saturday's European Championship match, reports Reuters.

Supporters began throwing chairs and tables before the police, who had maintained a heavy presence in the centre of the southern Belgian town, intervened.

The trouble then died down and the police sealed off the Charles II square where up to 4,000 fans had gathered.

About 20 police in riot gear positioned themselves at the head of each of 10 streets leading into the square, each group backed by a water cannon, other police vehicles and horses.

Fans continued to taunt and shout abuse at each other but the police succeeded in segregating the two factions on different sides of the square.

Reuters reporters estimated about 2,500 England fans were there with around 1,500 Germans opposite them.

One local woman said: "This is not football, this is not sport. They should play these matches behind closed doors."

Police, who have vowed to take a "zero-tolerance" attitude towards hooliganism, have mounted a huge security operation for the game which has long been seen as a flash-point at the three-week European championship.

They said 374 England hooligans were arrested in Brussels after trouble on Friday night and the first of them were being deported about five hours before the game started.

Two military aircraft were being used to fly fans out of a military airbase, local news service Belga reported. Ministry spokesman Laurent Pannels said some fans would also return on the Channel Tunnel rail service Eurostar.

# EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2000



Ronald de Boer starts celebrating after scoring against Denmark at Rotterdam on June 16. —AFP photo

## Barca trio banish Danes

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, June 17: Dutch coach Frank Rijkaard on Friday took a direct approach to break down Danish resistance as the Euro 2000 co-hosts booked their place in the quarterfinals of the tournament with a 3-0 victory at a packed De Kuip Stadium, reports AP.

Three goals in 20 minutes — all scored by Barcelona players — were enough to sink the Danes after a goalless first period, with Patrick Kluijert slotting home the first on 57 minutes after keeper Peter Schmeichel had blocked Dennis Bergkamp's shot.

Ronald De Boer got the second from close range nine minutes later by prodding home Boudewijn Zenden's low cross and Zenden then helped himself to the third 13 minutes from time after a barnstorming run by another Barca player Michael Reiziger.

To compound the Danes misery Michael Schjoneberg missed a penalty after 80 minutes when Ebbe Sand was fouled in the box by Dutch goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar.

The upshot is that the 'Oranje' progress alongside France to the quarter-finals with the Danes and the Czech Republic eliminated even though all the teams have a Group D match still to play.

"We were finding very little space in midfield because the Danes were closing us down so quickly so we had to adopt a different approach," said Rijkaard, a former Dutch international who won 73 caps for his country.

"At half time we discussed ways to break down their defence and we decided to be more direct and get the ball down the wings as quickly as possible because we knew we could cause them problems by stretching the game."

Marc Overmars was delighted his team turned things around in the second half after a difficult first 45 minutes against Bo Johansson's men.

"We were not at our best for the first half but we knew we could do better and talked during the break about how we could get past them, said the Arsenal winger.

"It's good that we showed everybody we could play good football but to do that we had to pick up the pace of the game and Denmark eventually tried allowing us to take control."

Overmars' club team mate Dennis Bergkamp said Rijkaard's pep talk during the interval inspired the team to see off the stubborn Danes.

"We were told at half time what was expected of us and we were motivated after we were told about where we were going wrong, said Bergkamp, replaced by Aaron Winter 14 minutes from time.

Victory for the Dutch ensured their place in the last eight along with group rivals France who earlier beat the Czech Republic 2-1. The Danes got out of the competition with the Czechs.

The Dutch, playing in an unfamiliar blue strip, started aggressively and showed the kind of enthusiasm that coach Rijkaard criticised his team for lacking in Holland's uninspiring 1-0 opening match win against the Czech Republic at the Amsterdam Arena.

Roared on by a partisan home crowd the Dutch almost took the lead on the half hour when a thunderous shot by Kluijert was spilled by Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel only for Overmars to hit the rebound past the post.

Six minutes later Holland went close again. Kluijert and Bergkamp worked an opening for Edgar Davids, whose shot was blocked by Schmeichel's gigantic frame.

The Danes almost took the lead three minutes before the interval when Jesper Gronkjaer found Thomas Gravesen in space on the edge of the area and his chip sailed over van der Sar but bounced off the crossbar.

Holland were having problems stringing two passes together and they appeared to sense the anxiety of the crowd who were now voicing their displeasure at the performance of the tournament favourites.

But after 57 minutes the crowd had something to cheer about. Bergkamp found an opening after delicately flicking the ball past two Danish defenders and he stabbed the ball goalwards only for Schmeichel to block the shot.

However, the ball broke kindly for Kluijert who was on hand to slot the ball past the former Manchester United keeper and into the empty net.

Eight minutes later the Dutch were in raptures as Zenden went storming down the left wing and his low centre slide across the Danish goal before reaching Ronald De Boer who side-footed the ball home with Schmeichel stranded.

The best was yet to come 13 minutes from time when Reiziger went rampaging through the Danish half with defenders back-peddling furiously and as Schmeichel came out to defend his goal, the pacy defender laid the ball off for Zenden to thump home.

Denmark went straight up the other end and Sand was brought down in the box but when Schjoneberg had the chance to reduce the deficit from the penalty spot he fired wide.

"We were exhausted after the defending we had to do in the first-half and just couldn't play as we wanted to in the second-half," lamented Johansson.

"In the second-half the players were tired in fact more tired than they should have been."

"After the second goal we completely lost our formation and were lucky just to concede another goal," said Johansson who will be replaced by Morten Olsen after Euro 2000.

Kluijert, delighted to get off the mark for the tournament, told Eurosport: "It's fantastic for the whole country and now the party can start. It was better tonight because we played with fast wingers. But it's not only good football that counts but the result."

Holland next play France in a match that will determine who finishes top of the pool and therefore which opponents both teams will face in the last eight.

But Denmark and the Czech Republic will contest a fixture where only the honour of not finishing the bottom of the group — and in Denmark's case possibly without scoring any goals — is left as an incentive.

## Westerveld knows the feeling

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, June 17: Dutch goalkeeper Sander Westerveld believes the Euro 2000 co-hosts have finally got the home crowd behind them after a 20 minute blitz saw Holland score three goals to sink Denmark Friday and book their place in the quarterfinals, reports AP.

"The song 'you only sing when you're winning' is very appropriate for the fans in this country and after our second half performance I think we have them on our side," said Westerveld, a late replacement for the injured Edwin Van Der Sar.

"The Dutch fans are very demanding and when they are not happy they let you know," said the proud keeper, after winning only his second cap.

Westerveld came on for Van Der Sar who was injured in a collision which led to the Danes 80th minute penalty missed by Michael Schjoneberg.

The 25-year-old Liverpool keeper said the opening goal scored by Patrick Kluijert lifted the pressure on the tournament favourites and from then on they were able to play the kind of football we have come to expect from the flying Dutchmen.

## Lemerre's father passes away

GENVAL, Belgium, June 17: The father of French coach Roger Lemerre died overnight, shortly after his son had guided France into the quarterfinals of Euro 2000, team officials said Saturday, reports AP.

Lemerre drove to his father's bedside from Bruges after attending the obligatory post-match press conference that followed the 2-1 win over the Czech Republic.

But by the time he arrived at his father's home in the northern French town of Cherbourg, he had died, the officials said.

Lemerre will be back with the French team here late Saturday with a training session planned for the evening.

The world champions next play against the Netherlands in Amsterdam on Wednesday.

## Totti can stand ever so tall

GEEL, Belgium, June 17 (AFP): Francesco Totti may be Italy's new hero after helping Italy to reach the quarterfinals at Euro 2000, but the AS Roma playmaker claimed on Friday that he can do even better.



FRANCESCO TOTTI

Voted man-of-the-match after scoring early in Italy's 2-0 win over Belgium, Totti has been replaced midway through the second half in both his matches so far, both times by Alessandro Del Piero.

Struggling to last the full 90 minutes, Totti is convinced that he has more to give at this tournament.

"I'm having a good European Championship so far and I hope that I can continue like this," he said at their training ground here.

"What counts, though, is always showing it on the pitch. Totti claimed that he wasn't physically tired, but that there was room for improvement."

"I could be better at coping with the 90 minutes," he said. "In the first match, I started out guns blazing and then after half an hour, it's only to be expected that I slowed up. As did the rest of the team."

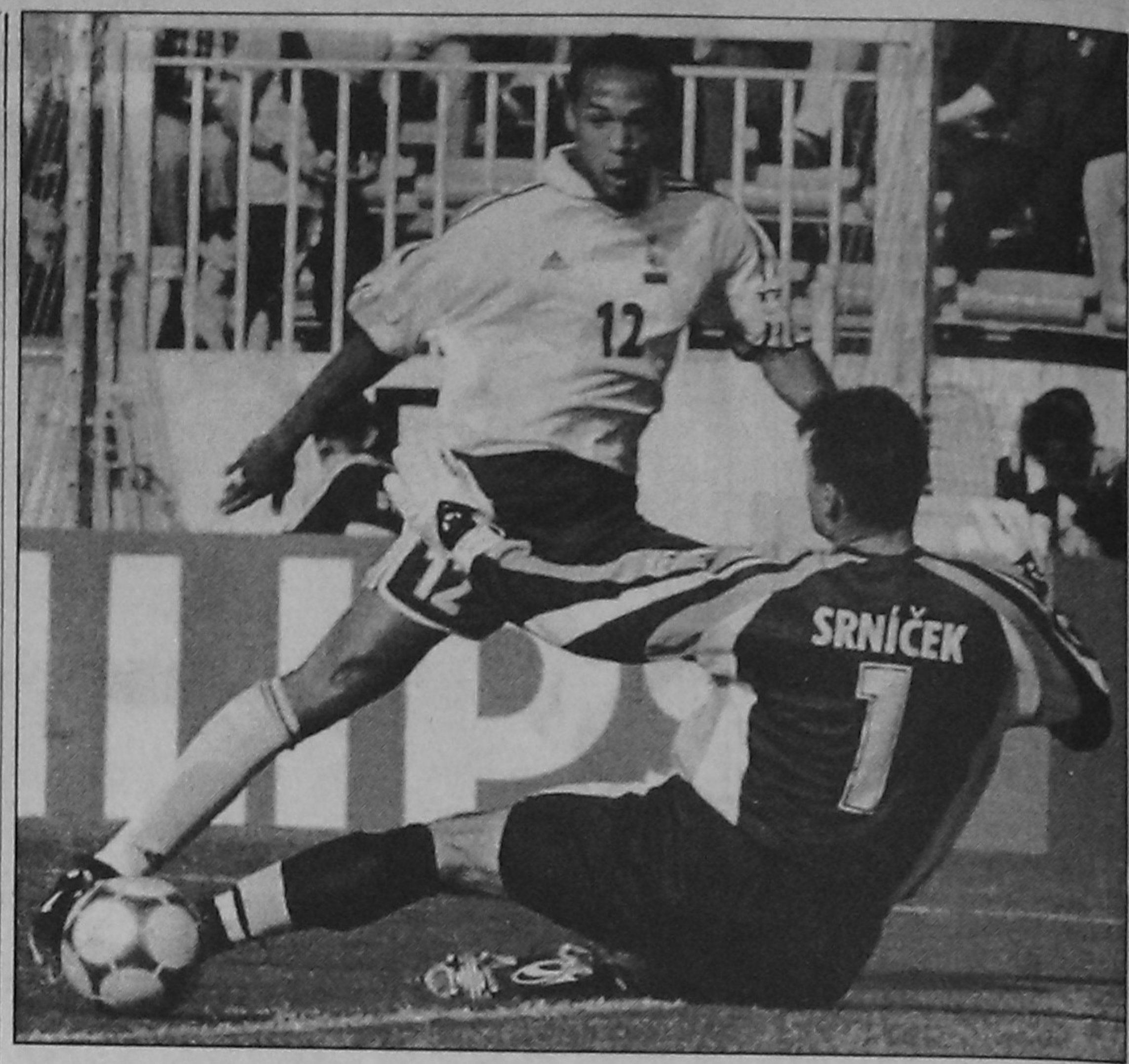
"I was less lucid than I expected to be, that was the main thing." Asked about the euphoria surrounding him, and what's been dubbed Totti's Italy, he said: "It's a wonderful feeling."

"But it's not Totti's national team, because there are other teammates and they're helping me to develop and to gradually fit in with the team. The credit is above all theirs."

"The strength of this Italy side is their team spirit. At the beginning, people claimed that we weren't getting on with each other and that there were a few cliques. But it wasn't true at all."

He also played down a recent Italian newspaper poll which voted the handsome 23-year-old as the best-looking looking man at the tournament.

"It's nice, and I'd like to thank those who voted for me," he said. "The only problem is that I have a very jealous girlfriend."



French striker Thierry Henry (L) placing the ball past Czech Republic custodian Pavel Srnec to score during their Euro 2000 clash at Bruges on June 16. —AFP photo

## Czechs checkmated

BRUGES, Belgium, June 17: Youri Djorkaeff, dropped from the starting line-up, came off the bench to score the winner as France booked quarterfinals with a 2-1 revenge win over the Czech Republic on Friday, reports AP.

The victory, dooming the Czechs to an early exit, puts the world champions in the knockout stages along with Italy and co-hosts Holland, who beat Denmark 3-0 in Friday's other Group D match.

Holland and France, the two pre-tournament favourites, will now meet in Amsterdam next Wednesday in a match to determine who finishes top of the pool and which teams they face from group C.

At the same time in Liege, the Czech Republic, runners-up to Germany four years ago after knocking France out in a semi-final penalty shoot-out, will play 1992 champions Denmark in a now meaningless contest for both sides.

Kaiserslautern midfielder Djorkaeff, dropped by coach Roger Lemerre after an indifferent display in France's 3-0 win over Denmark, was sent on for the second half and produced a neat finish on the hour to seal victory for Les Bleus.

Thierry Henry, voted 'Man of the Match', had given Lemerre's side a seventh minute lead before a 35th minute penalty by Karel Poborsky brought the east Europeans level.

Lemerre said: "Congratulations to the team and the manager of the match. France will go through to the last eight, it's good. Our objective has been reached."

Henry was also delighted after scoring his second goal in two games to draw level with Yugoslavia's Savo Milosevic and Slovenia's Zlatko Zahovic as tournament top scorer.

"We conquered our nerves and showed that we can battle. The team worked very hard but

I was disappointed I did not make it 2-0," said Henry who squandered a first-half chance after a sublime pass from Zinedine Zidane when the score was 1-0.

"I must learn to kill off matches and I am annoyed that I put my teammates in difficulty."

"But the important thing is that we are in the next round. This group is no cakewalk. Now I am really looking forward to a great game with Holland," said France's top scorer in the 1998 World Cup.

France took the lead after a terrible defensive mistake by Petr Gabriel presented Arsenal striker Henry with the softest of goals.

The Sparta Prague defender scuffed an attempted back pass from 30 yards out, allowing Henry to set off on a free run on goal and slide the ball between the legs of the advancing Pavel Srnec.

The goal followed a bright start by the Czechs who had twice threatened the French goal in the opening exchanges.

A smart shot on the turn by Pavel Nedved — who had passed a late fitness test after injuring his ankle against the Dutch — forced a good save from Fabien Barthez.

Soon afterwards giant centre forward Jan Koller went close with a header which clipped a bar as the lively Czechs took the game to the world champions with good movement and quick passing.

Gabriel's disappointing match continued when he was shown the yellow card by English referee Graham Poll for dumping Henry on his back with a clumsy challenge. He was later replaced at half-time by Milan Fukal.

His 15th minute caution came while the Czechs were still protesting Poll's decision not to award a penalty when Vladimir Smicer went down heavily just inside the area.

Henry had a glorious chance

to score France's second when he placed his shot agonisingly wide of the far post after brilliant work by Zidane to release him on the left of the area.

But the Czechs, winners in 1976, levelled the scores 10 minutes from the interval when Nedved went down under a challenge from France captain Didier Deschamps right on the edge of the area.

Tomas Rosicky dispossessed Emmanuel Petit in the midfield and found Smicer whose slide rule pass sent Nedved tearing towards goal only to collapse under Deschamps' challenge — albeit just outside the area.

Poll pointed to the spot, waving away French protests, before Benfica winger Poborsky clipped the penalty into the centre of the net with Barthez diving in vain.

Nedved wasted a golden chance to put the Czechs in front early in the second half, when he raced clear only to see his shot blocked by Barthez.

The miss proved all the more costly as France struck the fatal blow on the hour.

Djorkaeff, who was sent on in place of Petit, wasted little time in making his presence felt as he started and finished the move for the decisive goal.

His pass found Henry who held the ball up on the left of the area before sliding across a pass towards Vincent Candela, called into the side at the last minute after Bixente Lizarazu injured himself in the warm-up.

Left back Candela let the ball run for Djorkaeff to dispatch a crisp low shot into the Czech net, taking a slight deflection off Karel Rada on its way past Srnec.

Koller, who had vowed to score against the French, came within inches of fulfilling his promise with 20 minutes to go when his header — from a Nedved free-kick — rebounded off the crossbar.

## PREVIEW

# Norway v Yugoslavia: A no holds barred contest

LIEGE, Belgium, June 17: Norway will be calling on another dose of the 'Brazil spirit' here on Sunday night when they take on Group C rivals Yugoslavia with a place in the Euro 2000 quarter-finals at stake, reports AP.

The unfancied Norwegians caused the first major upset of the tournament when they scored a 1-0 victory over Spain, supposedly one of the favourites to win these championships.

A delicious press in Oslo harked back to a historic night in the 1998 World Cup finals, when Norway came back to beat defending champions Brazil 2-1 in the group phase, booking their place in the second round against all expectations.

At Euro 2000, one more victory will ensure they reach the last eight. And given Yugoslavia's sloppy performance against no-hopers Slovenia, the objective is well within reach.

Yugoslavia may have a better side on paper, with half their team at the top clubs in Italy and Spain. But the way they conceded three goals to Slovenia underlined the sluggishness of Vujadin Boskov's back four.

Add to that the suspension of Lazio defender Sinisa Mihajlovic after his sending off last Tuesday, and there's every reason for Norway coach Nils Johan Semb to be optimistic.

Yugoslavia's Euro 2000 campaign was saved by the sheer inexperience and indiscipline of

GOALSCORERS  
BRUSSELS, June 17 (AFP): Euro 2000 finals scorers after Friday's matches:

2 - Zlatko Zahovic (Slo), Savo Milosevic (Yug), Thierry Henry (Fra)

1 - Bart Goor (Bel), Emile Mpenza (Bel), Johan Mjallby (Swe), Filippo Inzaghi (Ital), Antonio Conte (Ital), Okan Buruk (Tur), Laurent Blanc (Fra), Sylvain Wiltord (Fra), Frank de Boer (Ned), Viorel Moldovan (Rom), Mehmet Scholl (Ger), Paul Scholes (Eng), Steve McManaman (Eng), Luis Figo (Por), Joao Pinto (Por), Nuno Gomes (Por), Steffen Iversen (Nor), Miran Pavlin (Slo), Ljubinko Drulovic (Yug), Francesco Totti (Ital), Stefano Fiore (Ital), Karel

Poborsky (Cze), Youri Djorkaeff (Fra), Patrick Kluijert (Ned), Ronald de Boer (Ned), Boudewijn Zenden (Ned)

the Slovenians, who conceded three goals in six minutes.

Having convincingly locked out the stars of the *Primera Liga*, Norway's well-organised side are clearly not going to suffer the same impromptu collapse as the Slovenians. In short, Yugoslavia won't get out of jail a second time.

Erik Mykland, Norway's 'Man-of-the-Match' against Spain, hammered the point home, saying: "We have a wonderful spirit and we play as a very solid unit making it difficult for teams to break us down. We are hard to play against."

Semb has meanwhile made it clear that the euphoria that followed the victory over the Spanish would soon evaporate, to be replaced by a determination to take three more points.

"We know that this victory means nothing unless we qualify from the group and we have a very difficult game coming up against Yugoslavia," he said.

But he is convinced his team can rise to the occasion, saying: "Our team is capable of beating anyone."

Goalscorer Steffen Iversen went even further, claiming: "The atmosphere is excellent and if we reach the quarterfinals we can go all the way."



CAN'T KEEP THEM OUT OF IT: English thugs throwing chairs at German supporters during a fight at Charleroi yesterday. —Internet photo