



# EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2000



## Food for success

ERMELO, Netherlands, June 19 (AP): When Napoleon realised an army marches on its stomach, he conquered Europe.

Now battalions of coaches, medics, chefs and nutritionists are applying the same logic to their plans to conquer Euro 2000, with a blend of vitamins, proteins and homestyle cooking to produce the recipe for success.

"Of course we have to be careful what they eat. It's fish rather than meat, lots of fruit and vegetables, but I really like to give them food they like, food like they get back home, food like they get back home," said Helio Loureiro, one of two top chefs accompanying the Portuguese team.

"Basically they're getting Portuguese food with a Mediterranean twist," Loureiro added during dinner at the team's hotel where his backed, salt-cod and a traditional egg-and-cinnamon dessert called "num's belly" took pride of place.

A giant truck in the hotel parking lot bore witness to Portugal's determination to give the 22 players the sun-soaked cuisine of their homeland.

As well as carrying the team's shirts and other equipment the truck brought creamy ewe's cheeses, spicy chorizo sausages and 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of salt cod — a much-loved staple of Portuguese cuisine.

The Portuguese are not the only ones taking such care.

In addition to 350 kilograms (770 pounds) of pasta, Italy's Azzurri used two trucks to bring 26 prosciutto hams, each weighing 12 kilograms (26 pounds), six types of parmesan cheese, 360 kilograms (792 pounds) of tomatoes, 75 kilograms (165 pounds) of olive oil, 70 kilograms (154 pounds) of corn oil, also flour, sugar, and cookies.

The team also brought 130 bottles of Sangiovese red wine, though most of that is destined for guests of the team.

Italy's hand-pork- and potato-based delicacies. Even the cook of the French team is deep into pasta.

Alcohol intake is carefully regulated. Loureiro says the Portuguese players are allowed a glass of wine over dinner most evenings, but for three days ahead of every match, they must go dry, pretty much cutting out the whole tournament.

Slovenia playing their first major championship, neglected to bring over their own specialised food intake as was relying on the chefs at its luxurious team hotel — an oversight the players were finding hard to digest.

"Our players want simple food," said team press officer Rok Sinkovec.

The food may be good here, but it's not what we want.

## Vieira defends Deschamps

WAVRE, France, June 19: French midfielder Patrick Vieira has come to the defence of his skipper Didier Deschamps who many say should be dropped in favour of the Arsenal stalwart, reports AFP.

"What has been written about him is a disgrace," Vieira said. "Blaming Didier is dishonest. It is the wrong time to have such a debate, because the atmosphere is great in the French team."

"In any case, he is much better defensively than me. With his experience he understands the game so well. He knows how to dictate the pace better than me," he added.

Deschamps, who captained France to World Cup glory in July 1998, has been in poor form recently both for his English side Chelsea and for France and the calls have been growing for him to be replaced with a younger, more creative player.

Vieira, a long-time substitute for the French team, was in the starting line-up for the 2-1 win over the Czech Republic and played well.

But he said he would have no problem reverting to the bench if coach Roger Lemerre so decided for the rest of the Euro 2000 finals.

"If I am not in the team at the start, it is because I do not deserve it. It is difficult to change a team that wins," he said.

## GOALSCORERS

ROTTERDAM, June 19: Zinedine Zidane's France are looking even clearer favourites to win Euro 2000 after the second round of matches, reports Reuters.

3 — Zlatko Zahovic (Slovenia), Savo Milosevic (Yugoslavia), Thierry Henry (France).

1 — Bart Goor (Belgium), Emile Mpenza (Belgium), Johan Mjallby (Sweden), Antonio Conte (Italy), Filippo Inzaghi (Italy), Okan Buruk (Turkey), Laurent Blanc (France), Sylvain Wolord (France), Frank de Boer (Netherlands), Viorel Moldovan (Romania), Mehmet Scholl (Germany), Paul Scholes (England), Steve McManaman (England), Luis Figo (Portugal), Joao Pinto (Portugal), Nuno Gomes (Portugal), Steffen Iversen (Norway), Ljubinko Drulovic (Yugoslavia), Miran Pavlin (Slovenia), Francesco Totti (Italy), Stefano Fiore (Italy), Younis Djorkaeff (France), Karel Poborsky (Czech Republic), Patrick Kluivert (Netherlands), Ronald De Boer (Netherlands), Boudewijn Zenden (Netherlands), Costinha (Portugal), Alan Shearer (England), Raul (Spain), Joseba Etxeberria (Spain).



SAVO THE SAVIOUR: Yugoslav forward Savo Milosevic roars for joy after scoring the lone goal against Norway at Liege on June 18.

## Blair vows to fight hooligans

LONDON, June 19: Prime Minister Tony Blair promised Monday to review the measures the government could take to prevent a repeat of the Euro 2000 football violence, but said the "vast majority" of those English fans so far arrested were not known to police records, reports AFP.

Blair, speaking in Portugal hours before Home Secretary Jack Straw was due to make a statement to the House of Commons on the issue, said: "I deeply regret the behaviour of a small group of people who aren't football fans at all, they are hooligans."

Police in Charleroi, Belgium, arrested 450 fans before and after England's 1-0 group win over Germany. Those arrested came from both countries but much of the violence that ensued appeared to be caused by England supporters.

Now UEFA, European football's governing body, has threatened to expel England from the tournament if its followers create more trouble.

Blair, who is attending a European Union summit, told Sky News: "We have to look and see what we can do for the future but it's important to emphasise that the vast majority of these people weren't on any intelligence records at all."

Blair went on: "But you have got to understand people's anger at what is a series of appalling acts of vandalism for which there's no excuse."

Blair is expected to meet his Belgian counterpart Guy Bertholet at the European summit later Monday to express his regret over the fans' behaviour.

The match threatened to boil over in the second half as Jugovic and Drulovic were both cautioned for fouls.

Jugovic had two good chances to stretch Yugoslavia's lead with drives from 25 yards but both efforts flew straight to Myhre.

With 15 minutes to Milosevic was inches wide but Norway almost snatched a late equaliser.

John Carew - a substitute for Steffen Iversen who had taken a blow to the nose in an aerial challenge moments earlier - saw his shot whistle past the upright after a fine pass from Solskjær.



HIS STAY SHORTLIVED: Yugoslav forward Mateja Kezman, who came on as a substitute, being shown the red card by Scottish referee Hugh Dallas during their fixture against Norway at Liege on June 18.

whose measured shot was well saved by Ivica Kralj.

But Kralj's counterpart in the Norwegian goal was also distinguishing himself, notably with a flying save from Predrag Mijatovic.

Three times he was asked whether he thought Yugoslavia had played the match in the right spirit and three times he answered with comments about the technical skills of his players.

Yugoslavia, who recalled veteran Dragutin Stojkovic to the side but left out Lazio midfielder Dejan Stankovic, went in front in the eighth minute.

Ljubinko Drulovic fired over a freekick from the right and Milosevic, fighting off his marker Dan Eggen and with his back to the dismissal of Mateja Kezman in the 88th minute for an ugly foul on Erik Myhre, precisely 44 seconds after he came off the bench.

At the end of an increasingly bitter confrontation six players had been booked and one expelled.

Myhre and Eirik Bakke were shown yellows for Norway while Scottish referee Hugh Dallas also took the Yugoslav names of Slavisa Jokanovic, Vladimir Jugovic, Ljubinko Drulovic and Albert Nad.

"I think the ball was only in play for about 15 minutes in the second period which is probably a new world record," fumed Semb.

"I am very upset - as are my players - by the Yugoslav tactics. This is not my idea of football, watching players rolling around on the ground for minute after minute, after minute, after minute."

Semb said Dallas should have stamped his authority on the game from the outset. Dallas was involved in controversy earlier in the tournament when he awarded a questionable penalty for Italy against Turkey.

"It is the first time I have experienced tactics like that," said Semb. "I have seen it on television but the referee needs to show a yellow and then a red card if it happens again to put a stop to these incidents."

"We couldn't find our rhythm because of the antics of the Yugoslavs. I thought the referee got tricked by them too much but it's not his fault we lost 1-0 and I am very disappointed."

Yugoslavia, showing six changes from the starting line-up in the 3-3 draw with Slovenia, now top the group on four points above Spain and Norway who both have three.

Yugoslavia now face Spain - who beat Slovenia 2-1 earlier in the day - in their final group match on Wednesday while Norway will qualify if they beat the Slovenes on the same day.

Yugoslav coach Boskov, the most experienced of all the managers at Euro 2000, pro-

tackled one of the top-ranked sides at this tournament and they are still prone to the occasional defensive blackout that lets an opponent clean through.

Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved missed his chance to beat Fabien Barthez, with the French keeper at his mercy. But the likes of Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp, Italy's Francesco Totti or Portugal's Luis Figo are unlikely to be so forgiving.

It would only need a dour, physical encounter to end with a soft goal and France may yet find themselves on the scrapheap.

For the moment, France are qualified for the quarter-finals - as are their next opponents in Group D, Holland.

After a squeaking a lucky 1-0 win over the Czechs with a late penalty, Frank Rijkaard's side looked a good deal more convincing in their 3-0 win over the Danes, despite a faltering start.

Their football may often have been a poor copy of the exhilarating performances at the World Cup two years ago, but three quick goals in the second half lifted the team just when it

needed it.

Spain performed the same exercise against Norway, playing well below the level expected after Valencia and Real Madrid's displays in the Champions League - but still doing enough to beat minnows Slovenia 2-1 after a 1-0 defeat to Norway.

Yugoslavia should also reach the last eight from Group C, while Italy's two straight wins have already earned them top slot in Group B.

Dino Zoff has found a very promising partnership between creative midfielder Stefano Fiore and striker Francesco Totti.

All he needs to do now is per-

suade striker Filippo Inzaghi to kick the ball within the three wooden poles - and nowhere else.

Like France though, Italy will not face a real test until the quarter-finals - where a questionmark hangs over who will join Group A winners Portugal.

From a sporting viewpoint, the smart money has to be on England, who only need a draw against Romania to qualify.



Spanish superstar Raul (C) being congratulated by teammates Josep Guardiola (R) and Agustin Aranzabal after his strike against Slovenia at Amsterdam on June 18.

— AFP photo

## Span squeeze past Slovenia

AMSTERDAM, June 19: Spain got their faltering Euro 2000 campaign back on course here Sunday with a 2-1 win over rank outsiders Slovenia, reports AFP.

A fourth-minute strike from Raul gave Spain, who would have been eliminated if they had lost this match with the smallest country ever to play at this level, the perfect start in this Group C encounter.

Blair is expected to meet his Belgian counterpart Guy Bertholet at the European summit later Monday to express his regret over the fans' behaviour.

The game quickly became a fractions affair and first Jokanovic was cautioned for a strong challenge on Ole Gunnar Solskjær and then Myhre too was yellow carded for a robust challenge.

The match threatened to boil over in the second half as Jugovic and Drulovic were both cautioned for fouls.

Jugovic had two good chances to stretch Yugoslavia's lead with drives from 25 yards but both efforts flew straight to Myhre.

With 15 minutes to Milosevic was inches wide but Norway almost snatched a late equaliser.

They bring a disgrace to our country. They are not representative of the English or the British people. We are a decent people.

"And these people who engage in these appalling acts of hooliganism and violence - they have no place in our national way of life at all."

"They disgrace our national way of life."

Meanwhile Blair said the government had done everything in its power to contain football hooliganism, and urged fans still in Belgium to end their violent spree so as not to jeopardise England's participation in the tournament.

"You will bear a very heavy responsibility in the end for the consequences of your mindless actions and the most patriotic thing you can do is to stay away," Blair said in a radio interview.

"After our equaliser we did not succeed in controlling the situation," lamented the former Sampdoria player.

But Katanec was adamant the minnows could still progress, saying: "In this group everything is possible. There are problems for everybody. It is difficult to say who are the favourites."

The pressure had been on the Spanish after the opening 1-0 defeat by Norway but after only four minutes Spanish nerves were settled by an early goal.

The goal had a Real Madrid flavour to it with Michel Salgado crashing a shot goalwards that was blocked by a Slovenian defender.

But the ball sat up nicely at the edge of the penalty area and Salgado's team-mate for club and country Raul lashed a ferocious shot into the right-hand corner of Mladen Rudonja's net with his preferred left foot.

"I am very happy," said Raul, who earlier this week committed himself to Real Madrid for the rest of his career. "We can sleep easily now. I was confident. We need six points. Slovenia played very well, and satisfied with my goal and I hope it is not my last one of the tournament. Spain played well because we won."

But some argue that the overt threat will give England's opponents a second way of ousting the national side from the tournament -- by provoking its fans on the streets.

After Raul's goal it was all Spain in the early stages and Alfonso spurned a glorious chance to make it 2-0 after being played in by Juan Carlos Valeron with the ball drifting just wide as Alfonso scuffed his shot under pressure by Zeljko Milinovic.

Slovenia were hardly getting a look-in and their desperation in the opening 30 minutes was best summed up by a hopeful dive by Zahovic in the vain hope of winning a penalty.

After 58 minutes Slovenia's Zlatko Zahovic squared the match with his third goal of the tournament.

But just two minutes later Spain's Josep Etxeberria hit back for Spain with what proved to be the winning goal after good work by Gaizka Mendieta.

Spain coach Jose Antonio Cauchado had a dig at the journalists who have given him a torrid time since his side lost their opening match 1-0 to Norway.

Spain dominated the first half hour but Slovenia came into the game in the final 15 minutes of the opening period.

On the half hour mark Slovenia produced their first real raid of the match when Djoni Novak centred, and Mladen Rudonja shot was deflected behind for a corner. Then a move involving Ales Cek set up Rudonja again but this time he failed to get his shot on target.

But at the other end Raul missed a good chance to make it 2-0 just before the interval, screwing his shot wide.

But Slovenia nearly got on terms when Canizares twice deflected Rudonja in injury time at the end of the first period.

Spain dominated the opening minutes of the second half just as they had the first period and Raul went close after 50 minutes.

Slovenia, whose striker Saso Udovic had been replaced by Milan Osteric at the break, seemed to be running out of steam.

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