



Brazilian defender Evanilsson (C) is challenged by a Japanese player in their warm-up game.

Brazil right on target



REUTERS, Tokyo

Brazil warmed up for the Confederations Cup with a 2-0 win over J-League side Tokyo Verdy on Saturday thanks to second-half goals from Washington and Julio Batista.

Washington opened the scoring

in the 51st minute as he latched on to a through ball from substitute Ramon and blasted past Verdy goalkeeper Kenji Honnami to the relief of the Brazilian fans among a crowd 27,436 at Tokyo Stadium.

Brazil, looking sharper after the interval following a sluggish first-half display, could have added to their lead, but striker Anderson wasted two chances in quick succession midway through the second half.

However, Julio Batista, who replaced Washington in the 68th minute, profited from a schoolboy mistake by substitute keeper Shinichi Kikuchi to head in Brazil's second five minutes from time after good work on the right from Leandro.

Brazil, who open their

Confederations Cup campaign against Cameroon in Kashima on Thursday, struggled to contain a Verdy side missing Japan internationals Yuji Nakazawa and Atsuhiko Miura in the first half.

AC Milan keeper Dida was forced to make a smart stop from forward Nobuhiro Takeda as early as the fourth minute, before midfielder Wagner struck the post with a right-foot shot in the 12th minute which was as close as Brazil came before the break.

Ramon's introduction at the restart added an extra dimension to the Brazilian midfield, but the four-times world champions were still unconvincing against Verdy, the club Brazil manager Emerson Leao coached the early 1990s.

"We accomplished most of what we set out to do in today's game. One or two players still have jet-lag and some have never played an Asian team," said Leao when asked why his team could only score twice.

"I was more worried about how we played than scoring four or five goals today. We worked harder for each other and played better in the second half."

Asked to predict how Brazil would do against Cameroon, Canada and co-hosts Japan in Group B of the Confederations Cup, Leao said, "I'll think about that starting from tonight."

back

and wait for the cash to roll in.

"When the (Spanish) league ends I will go over a few things with Valdano (Jorge Valdano, managing director of the Madrid club)," Perez said in an interview with Spanish daily *El País* Saturday.

"Our strategy is clear: the best players have to play at Real Madrid. Why? Because they are the ones who will generate the most money, and not only on the sports front."

"If I have to, I will do it because I'm sure it will be a sound financial move for Real Madrid," affirmed Perez.

"I'm one of those people who believes that a club should make as much money as possible, and a club's value increases as it buys

added Perez.

Perez said he is prepared to spend as much on acquiring Zidane as he did on buying Portugal midfielder Luis Figo. Sales of Figo jerseys alone bring in astronomical amounts of cash for the 2000 European champions.

"After being elected president of Real in July 2000, Perez scored a real winner by going all out to snatch Figo from bitter rivals Barcelona for a record transfer fee of 60 million euros.

bigger stars, who are always money-spinners," Perez said.

"Figo sells hundreds of thousands of shirts, and at 60 euros a shot, that adds up to millions of euros. It's as simple as that. Figo makes good business sense," concluded Perez.

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that the club's name will become known all over the world, therefore allowing us to benefit financially,"

he said.

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