

Brazil blow Bolivia away



AFP, Goiania, Brazil

Brazil got their World Cup build-up campaign off to a flying start here on Thursday night crushing Bolivia 6-0 in the first of their seven warm-up matches prior to the finals in Asia next June.

On front of 31,800 spectators in Goiania, in the central state of Goias, the four-time world champions went on a goal spree with five of their six strikes coming off headers.

Bolivia fielded a young side with many changes from the team which easily beat Brazil 3-1 during the World Cup qualifiers in November at La Paz and their inexperience showed.

After a slow first half the Brazilians got off the mark just before the break with defender Cris heading into the net.

The rout got into full swing after the break with midfielder Gilberto Silva putting the home side 2-0 up after 47 minutes while, six minutes later, he added a second for good measure.

After that it was all one way traffic with midfielder Kleberon netting clinically into the right side of the net on 62 minutes, and nine minutes later second-half substitute Washington made it 5-0 with defender Anderson Polga heading in the final goal eight minutes from time.

"Really this result surprised me by being so large," said a visibly relieved Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Scolari said that he was particu-

larly satisfied with the performance of new midfield lineup of Kaka and Kleberon.

But the Brazilian success was largely due to the inexperienced Bolivian line-up chosen by coach Carlos Trucco with only 18-year-old striker Jose Alfredo Castillo shining.

Brazil, the 1997 World Cup finalists, will be fine-tuning their World Cup preparation on February 6 against Saudi Arabia.

The under-pressure side have much to prove at the May 31 to June 30 finals in Korea and Japan after suffering an unprecedented struggle to reach the finals, being beaten six times in the qualifiers.

Bolivia failed to qualify for the finals after finishing seventh out of ten teams in the South American qualifying group.

Premiership preview Magpies looking great



AFP, London

Newcastle United, so often overlooked as genuine title contenders, host third-from-bottom Bolton Wanderers on Saturday, aiming to stay among the chasing pack as the race for the Premiership gathers pace.

Two points behind leaders Manchester United and with a game in hand, the Magpies are very much in with a shout - whatever their manager might say.

"I still don't think we'll win the title but we are certainly in the hunt," said Newcastle's former England boss Bobby Robson after Wednesday's impressive 3-1 win at Tottenham.

"The way we are going, and the position we are in, has exceeded our wildest dreams.

"Back in August, we didn't think we would be here. I thought we might be in the top eight, but we continue to push on. It's exciting for the league and it's exciting for us."

With eight of their remaining 14 matches at home, and only two of those against sides in the current top five, odds of 14-1 look incredibly attractive.

He may be dismissive about his team's title hopes, but the way in which his players came from behind to win at White Hart Lane in mid-week would have been enough to prompt even Robson to go in search of the nearest bookmaker.

Particularly pleasing for the much-travelled manager was the blossoming strike partnership of speedy Welsh youngster Craig Bellamy and evergreen Alan Shearer.

"Shearer and Bellamy are a great foil for each other and they enjoy playing together - I don't think there is there anyone quicker than Bellamy, including Michael Owen," Robson added.

"Alan holds the ball up and is a great positional player. He is good in the air and he can knock it off."

"Shearer is a great player to play with. Anyone would enjoy Shearer because he is predictable, you know what he is going to do. You know he is going to hold the ball up, take centre halves away and let you in."

Newcastle's form is all the more remarkable given the amount of players they have on the treatment table.

Exciting England midfielder Kieron Dyer is expected to be out for six weeks with a fractured foot while veteran Robert Lee and Wales midfielder Gary Speed are still nursing injuries.

Former Liverpool idol Robbie Fowler will line-up against his for-

mer club on Sunday as Leeds take on the Merseysiders at Elland Road.

Fowler ended his 15-year association with Liverpool in November after failing to hold down a regular first-team place at Anfield.

David O'Leary's indiscipline stars will have to be on their best behaviour against their title with suspensions to key players threatening to undermine Leeds' hopes of a Champions League place.

O'Leary and chairman Peter Ridsdale have consistently stated that a top-four place is the objective come May.

But with suspensions piling up and the team suffering a dip in form, the Elland Road club stand to lose out on a 20 million pounds (28 million dollars windfall) should they fail to finish the current campaign

| FIXTURES | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1500GMT unless stated) | |
| Saturday: | Arsenal v Southampton, Derby v Tottenham (1200GMT), Everton v Ipswich, Fulham v Aston Villa, Leicester v Chelsea, Manchester United v Sunderland, Newcastle v Bolton, West Ham v Blackburn |
| Sunday: | Leeds v Liverpool (1200GMT), Middlesbrough v Charlton (1600GMT) |

with a flourish. At a time when Leeds need to mount a championship charge, the Yorkshire club have picked up just one point from their last three matches against fellow title rivals Newcastle, Arsenal and Chelsea to fall six points off the pace being set by Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United.

And with several key players including Alan Smith, Mark Viduka, Lee Bowyer and Danny Mills set for a spell on the sidelines, Leeds are in danger of shooting themselves in the foot and ending the season empty-handed.

To compound O'Leary's worries, winger Jason Wilcox will serve a one-match ban for picking up his fifth yellow card of the season in Wednesday's 2-0 defeat at Chelsea.

Manchester United, 4-0 winners at Bolton on Tuesday, host ailing Sunderland on Saturday, whose alarming slump has led to calls for Peter Reid's resignation from certain sections of the Stadium of Light faithful.

Second-placed Arsenal, meanwhile, entertain improving Southampton, whose 10-point haul from five matches has seen them

Primera Liga preview Coaches on the edge



AFP, Madrid

Saturday will be a crucial day in the lives of Barcelona coach Charly Rexach and his Real Sociedad counterpart John Toshack.

Both men know that their jobs are on the line and losses could signal their departures from two clubs.

Rexach's Barcelona travel to Tenerife with a shadow hanging over them after successive losses to strugglers Rayo Vallecano and Osasuna while Toshack, who took over at the San Sebastian club in the middle of last season when they were bottom of the Spanish First Division and guided them to salvation, now finds himself back where he started for the visit of Villarreal.

For Barcelona's passionate fans, ninth place in the Spanish First Division is not good enough. The club has not finished the season in such a lowly position for 60 years.

Rexach appears to be going greayer by the minute this season and it is not only the 55 year-old coach who is feeling the pressure. Last Sunday the players' left the field after going down 1-0 to Osasuna, with the Nou Camp ringing with howls of derision and the white handkerchiefs - a Catalan sign of disapproval - being waved.

"This has become the most important game of the season. We don't want to lose any more and only the players can sort out this situation. I'm not going to name names but against Osasuna some players didn't play at the level expected if you are in this team," said Barcelona's Dutch international striker Patrick Kluivert earlier this week.

Kluivert will play on Saturday, after missing the Osasuna debacle through suspension. He received a one-match ban after the Rayo match two weeks ago for insulting the referee, a game that has now entered Catalan folklore after the antics of five, still unnamed, Barca players who had a "drunken orgy" with a number of women in a Madrid hotel the night before.

Much to the fans' disgust, Rexach announced this week that the matter was now closed and that nobody was going to be punished, a sharp contrast to his treatment of the Brazilian duo of Geovanni and Fabio Rochemback, who were both heavily fined after they came back late following the New Year break.

According to many pundits, the two incidents demonstrate how much Rexach - a hero in his own

playing days for the club during the 1970s - has lost the respect and control of his players.

Rexach will have to replace the suspended Dutch midfielder Philip Cocu and his injured Italian near-namesake Francesco Coco against Tenerife but Spanish international defender Abelardo Fernandez has been given the green light to play again and may return, after nearly 11 months out with a serious knee injury.

Tenerife are expected to name the same side that was unlucky to lose 2-1 at Villarreal but the relegation-threatened Canary islanders have worries of their own, with the worst goal scoring record in the Spanish First Division, and their coach Pepe Mel may precede

perched just one place above the relegation zone and must play league leaders Real Madrid on Sunday, a demanding prospect even without their suspended French midfielder Claude Makelele.

Real are ahead of the chasing pack by three points, with 40 points from 22 games, and the defending champions have amassed a 10-game unbeaten streak in the league.

Behind them, Celta and Deportivo La Coruna are in second and third place respectively, both on 37 points. Celta go to Real Mallorca on Saturday while the same night Deportivo play host to fifth-placed Alaves.

Serie A preview Inter's tricky outing



AFP, Milan

Inter Milan face a test of courage when they host Torino at the San Siro Stadium on Saturday.

Inter, locked with AS Roma and Juventus in what now looks like a three-way fight for the Scudetto, lost top spot last week to Roma, drawing 1-1 with bottom club Venezia.

Inter's dependence on striker Christian Vieri, who has bagged 14 goals in just 12 matches of an injury-hit season, has been put into starker perspective with the news that Brazilian Ronaldo is still out of contention.

Torino, who were looking relegation fodder at Christmas, have surged up the table on the back of three consecutive wins.

While their recent history has been unimpressive Torino were once one of the biggest clubs in Italy and that sense of history tends to motivate them when they the present-day fat cats as their fightback from 3-0 down to draw 3-3 with Juventus earlier this season proves.

Roma and Juve, in contrast, have what on paper should be easier tasks.

Defending champions Roma defend their single-point lead at Fiorentina where a warm reception

is guaranteed for Argentinian forward Gabriel Batistuta who scored a club record 152 Serie A goals in nine seasons at the Florence club.

The pitiful decline of Fiorentina continues apace and although in the equivalent fixture last season the 'violet' inflicted one of only three defeats on Roma all season anything other than a Roma win would be an upset.

Portuguese striker Nuno Gomes,

| FIXTURES | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1400 GMT unless stated) | |
| Saturday: | Inter Milan v Torino (1930 GMT) |
| Sunday: | Bologna v Venezia, Brescia v Parma, Fiorentina v AS Roma, Juventus v Lecce, Piacenza v Chievo, Udinese v Perugia, Verona v Atalanta, Lazio v AC Milan (1930 GMT) |

who is seeking to have his contract cancelled by the club, has declared himself available for Fiorentina although - if picked - he is likely to get a hostile reception from home supporters.

Juventus are the form team in Serie A and are hunting a sixth consecutive win at home to Lecce who are guided for the first time by Delio Rossi who replaced the sacked Alberto Cavasin on Tuesday.

Lecce managed to pull off a 1-1 draw last season in the equivalent fixture at the Stadio Delle Alpi, a result that delivered a near-fatal blow to Juve's title challenge.

Rossi is confident that his new charges can defy the odds and said: "We must believe in ourselves - it will be a very tough match but we have the necessary cards to do well."

Chievo are still just about touch with the leading pack and they visit Piacenza hoping to cement their hold on fourth spot which keeps them in line for Champions League football.

Lazio host AC Milan in a battle of two crisis clubs whose respective coaches Alberto Zaccheroni and Carlo Ancelotti have both received the dreaded vote of confidence in the past week - in Zaccheroni's case that was before Wednesday's 3-1 defeat at Chievo.

Verona host Atalanta while bottom club Venezia visit Bologna. Udinese, buoyed by their first win over AC Milan at the San Siro in 20 years, host Perugia who have also climbed away from the relegation zone in recent weeks.

Brescia meet Parma after losing 2-0 to them in their rearranged Italian Cup semi-final first leg match on Thursday.

TV GUIDE

EKUSHEY TV

- 12:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 12:05 Ajker Potrikay
- 12:20 Mukto Khabor
- 12:50 Bolte Chai
- 1:20 Classic Cartoons
- 2:00 Toyota World of Wildlife
- 2:30 Ei Shoptaho
- 3:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 3:05 Jatra Pala
- 5:30 Shoptaho Ghura Deshjure
- 6:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 6:05 Serial: Alif Laila
- 6:55 Ekushey Headlines
- 7:00 Kena Kata
- 7:30 Ekushey News
- 8:30 Bangla Film: Chalbaz
- 9:00 Ekushey News
- 9:05 Bangla Film: Chalbaz
- 10:00 News: Simulcast from BTV
- 10:30 Bangla Film: Chalbaz
- 11:00 Ekushey Late Night News

ATN

- 5:30 Islamic prog:
- 7:00 Children Cholo Gan Gai
- 7:35 Motamot
- 8:00 ATN Bangla News
- 8:25 Musical prog.
- 9:00 Film Songs Prog: Meril Tumar Janne Gan
- 9:35 Manazine prog: Mukto Katha
- 10:10 Drama Serial Goenda Kaheni
- 10:50 Bengali feature film: Bhat Dey
- 12:00pm ATN Bangla News
- 6:07 Children Magazine Prog Shapla Saluk
- 6:45 Viewers request film songs prog: Anurodher Assor
- 7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
- 7:35 Musical prog.
- 8:10 Weekly News Highlights: Ghotona Probbah
- 8:45 Drama Serial: Chomok Vila
- 9:20 Musical Prog: Sreter Pata Theke
- 10:00 ATN Bangla News
- 10:35 Film Magazine Bolwooder Khabor
- 11:15 Bengali feature film: Geggasha
- 11:30 ATN Bangla News

BBC WORLD

- 6:00 BBC News
- 6:30 World Business Report
- 7:00 BBC News
- 7:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
- 8:00 BBC News
- 8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
- 9:00 BBC News
- 9:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
- 10:00 BBC News
- 10:30 Talking Movies
- 11:00 BBC News
- 11:30 Hospital
- 12:00 BBC News
- 12:30 Click Online
- 1:00 BBC News
- 1:30 Correspondent
- 2:00 BBC News
- 2:30 Road to Riches
- 3:00 BBC News
- 3:30 People's Century
- 4:00 BBC News
- 4:30 Holiday
- 5:00 BBC News
- 5:30 This Week
- HBO**
- 6:30 Hexed
- 8:15 Psycho II
- 10:30 Blackmail
- 12:15 Last Rites
- 2:00 Chameleon

- 3:45 Raising Cain
- 5:45 Christina's House
- 7:45 The Saint
- 10:00 Autumn in New York
- 12:15 ED
- 2:15 Interpid
- 4:15 Psycho II

STAR GOLD

- 7:00 Bachpan (Sanjeev Kumar, Tanuja)
- 10:30 Amul Bollywood News
- 11:00 Geet Bahar
- 11:30 Anand Ashram (Uttam Kumar, Sharmila Tagore)
- 3:00 Bollywood News
- 3:30 Vijaypath (Ajay Devhan, Tabu)
- 7:00 Geet Bahar
- 7:30 Saturday Special Parvanish (Amitabh Bachchan, Vind Khanna)
- 11:00 Rahein Na Rahein Hum
- 11:30 Ek Din Achanak (Shabana Azmi, Dr Shriram Lagoo)
- 12:30 Ek Din Achanak (contd)
- 3:00 Geet Bahar
- 3:30 Vijaypath (Ajay Devgan Tabu)

STAR WORLD

- 6:00 Water Rats
- 11:30 The Lost World

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

SONY:8.00 pm. *Tridev.*

Starring Sunny Deol, Jackie Shroff, Naseerudin Shah, Madhuri, Sonam.

STAR SPORT: 12:00 pm.

1st Cricket Test Pakistan VS West Indies

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 7:00 The Simpsons | 12:30 Xena | 3:00 Key of David | 4:30 Small Wonder |
| 7:30 3 rd Rock From the Sun | 1:00 Hercules | 3:30 Morris Cerullo | 5:00 Mr Belvedere |
| 8:00 The Bold & The Beautiful | 2:30 Cops | 4:00 Benny Hinn | 5:30 Doogie Howser MD |
| 10:00 Rendezvous with Simi Garewal | | | |
| 10:30 Travel Asia | | | |
| 11:00 Fox Kids Starn | | | |
| 1:00 World's Wildest Police Videos | | | |
| 2:00 Mission Impossible | | | |
| 3:00 Baywatch | | | |
| 4:00 Hercules | | | |
| 5:00 Xena | | | |
| 6:00 The lost World | | | |
| 7:00 First Wave | | | |
| 8:00 Water Rates | | | |
| 9:00 3 rd Rock from the Sun | | | |
| 9:30 Baywach Hawaii | | | |
| 10:30 First Wave | | | |
| 11:30 The Lost World | | | |

PICK OF THE DAY

Autumn in New York

On HBO at 10:00 pm Will (Richard Gere, An Officer And A Gentleman, Pretty Woman) is a New York restaurateur who has a thing for romances on hot wheels. He can't seem to commit himself for the whole nine yards. But his knack for leaving his romantic conquests dangling in midair will be tested when he meets his flavour of the month Charlotte (Wynona Rider, Girl Interrupted, Lost Souls), a very different girl with a very short time to give. Fact is, he's never known real love, until now.

STAR PLUS

- 6:30 Geet Bahar
- 7:30 Chupa Rustam
- 8:00 Aatma
- 9:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
- 9:30 Fox Kids
- 10:30 Family Fortune
- 11:00 Amul Best of Surobi
- 11:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshairi
- 12:30 Eena Meena Deeka
- 1:00 Tu Tu Main Main
- 1:30 Gharwali Uparwali
- 2:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
- 2:30 Bol Baby Bol
- 3:00 The Price is Right
- 3:30 Tea Time Cinema:

STAR MOVIES

- Bhawani Junction (Shashi Kapoor, Zeenat Aman)
- 6:30 Fox Kids
- 7:30 Jannat
- 8:30 Star Superhit Pyar Kiya to Darna Kya (Salman Khan, Kajol)
- 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat
- 12:05 Pyar Kiya to Darna Kya (contd.)
- 12:30 Kundali
- 1:00 Kalash
- 1:30 Kundali
- 2:00 Gharwali Uparwali
- 2:30 Tu Tu Main Main
- 3:00 Kahani Jurm K
- 3:30 Jannat
- 4:30 Musafir Hoon Yaron
- 5:00 Ssshhh ... Koi Hai
- 6:30 Just a Little Harmless Sex
- 8:00 Rambo 3
- 9:45 Robin Hood Prince of Thieves
- 12:00 Mighty Ducks, the
- 11:15 Hostile Hostages
- 3:30 Freejack
- 5:15 Fish Called Wanda, A
- 7:00 Thomas Crown Affair
- 8:45 Radical Jack
- 10:30 Rambo 3
- 12:30 Terminal Velocity

DISCOVERY

- 2:30 X-Men, The
- 4:30 Just a little Harmless Sex
- 7:30am Wild Discovery
- 8:30 Lonely Planet IV
- 9:30 Discovery Sunday
- 12:30 Ultimate Guide
- 1:30 Crime Night
- 2:30 Wild Discovery
- 3:30 Discovery Kids
- 4:30 Wings
- 5:30 Lonely Planet VI
- 6:30 Understanding
- 7:30 Wild Discovery
- 8:30 Science Frontiers
- 9:30 Terra X
- 10:30 Deadline Discovery
- 11:30 Wings
- 9:30 Star News English
- 10:00 Star News Hindi
- 11:30 Star News English
- 12:00 Star News Hindi
- 7:30 Saat Bajee
- 8:00 Limelight Hindi
- 8:30 The Big Fight
- 9:30 Star News English
- 10:00 Reality Bites
- 10:30 Star Business Week
- 11:00 Limelight (Eng)
- 11:30 Star News English
- 12:00 Star News Hindi
- 12:30 The Big Fight

STAR NEWS

- 9:30 Star News English
- 10:00 Star News Hindi
- 11:30 Star News English
- 12:00 Star News Hindi
- 12:30 The Big Fight