SPORT

SPAIN VS SLOVENIA

A different Spain?

REUTERS, Kwangju

Serial under-achievers Spain begin their 11th World Cup campaign against newcomers Slovenia on Sunday needing a commanding victory to settle their nerves and break a 52-year jinx.

A Spanish side based around the assured defending of Fernando Hierro and the guicksilver attacking skills of Raul should be nearcertainties to win group B, also containing Paraguay and South Africa.

Coach Jose Antonio Camacho has a full squad available, after Fernando Morientes recovered from an ankle sprain this week, and the team have recent history on their side, having clinched a 2-1 victory over Slovenia in the group stage at Euro 2000.

But Spain are notoriously slow starters in major tournaments, having won their opening match at the World Cup just twice, the last time back in 1950 when they had their best finish of fourth.

Since then, Spain have managed no better than a couple of appearances in the guarter-finals. Their last World Cup bid in France four years ago was one of their worst as they lost their opening game 3-2 to Nigeria and failed to reach the second

The talk in the Spanish camp is of different mentality this time, a belief that they are going to make something happen. "We're going to go out believing

we can win every game," Camacho said. "We know there will be obstacles in our way but we can't afford to be anxious when we take to the field

"We know about Slovenia from the last time we played them," said Raul, who is set to play up front between Deportivo Coruna pair Diego Tristan and Juan Carlos Valeron.

"Maybe they're not well known, Zlatko Zahovic apart, but we know they're a good, strong side and are going to cause problems. "I expect them to pack the midfield and look to hit on the coun-

PROBABLE TEAMS

Spain (Formation 4-4-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-lker Casillas; 5-Carles Puyol, 6-Fernando Hierro, 20-Miguel Angel Nadal, 3-Juanfran: 21-Luis Enrique, 8-Ruben Baraja, 17-Juan Carlos Valeron, 11-Javi de Pedro: 7-Raul. 10-Diego Tristan

ter-attack

watched.

though

through.'

Benfica midfielder Zahovic is the

The Slovenians, the surprise

key figure in the side and the former

Valencia player will be carefully

team of the 2000 European champi-

onship, are well aware of Spain's

difficulties in winning World Cup

opening games but coach Srecko

Katanec is not reading too much into

"Let's hope that record contin-

"Winning the first match gives you

ues," he said. "It's not as if we've won

any opening games ourselves,

more energy, more motivation ...

(but) if we lose and win the other two

t's also very possible that we'd go

Slovenia (Formation 4-5-1 Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Marko Simeunovic; 2-Goran Sankovic, 4-Muamer Vugdalic, 6-Aleksander Knavs, 3-Zeljko Milinovic; 7-Doni Novak, 8-Ales Ceh, 10-Zlatko Zahovic, 11-Miran Pavlin, 18-Milenko Acimovic; 13-Mladen Rudonja Referee: Mohamed Guezzaz (Morocco)

CUP CORNER

FROM PAGE 13

"It's incredible, it's football," wrote Sud-quotidien. "A nation blighted by internal problems needed what you (the players) gave yesterday. A fierce pride and a something to believe in for everyone in the country. "More than two billion people worldwide watched the Lions brush France

aside with a carnivorous appetite for the game."

Walfadjri newspaper declared: "The Lions put themselves on the map vesterday and showed it was their moment.'

4 BOOKIES NABBED

AP, Hong Kong Police have arrested four bookmakers and seized slips amounting to 20 million Hong Kong dollars (2.6 million dollars) in illegal bets on World Cup soccer, officers said Saturday.

They also seized 11 mobile phones and two computers in raids Friday evening, part of an intensified crackdown on World Cup gambling, spokeswoman Suzanne Lee said

Gambling is popular among Hong Kong Chinese, but for decades the only legal betting in the territory has been on lotteries and horse races.

New laws took effect Friday -- opening day of the 32-nation tournament to ban placing bets by telephone or the Internet with overseas bookmakers.

"We should be seeing fewer illegal betting activities in the following few days, but if they persist, police will take further action," Hong Kong's police commissioner, Tsang Yam-pui, told reporters Saturday.

Lawyer Jerry Chung said, however, "It's hard to stop betting by those who think soccer gambling is decent, even with strict laws and punishments."

Despite warnings over the years, police said that during the last World Cup in 1998, police arrested 49 people for illegal gambling and seized 57.9 million Hong dollars (7.42 million dollars) in wagered cash.

Many people interviewed by The Associated Press Saturday said their friends are still placing bets ranging from 100 to 5,000 Hong Kong dollars (13 to 640 dollars) by telephone and the Internet on the World Cup, which ends June 30

"Soccer gambling is so attractive," said 27-year-old engineer Alan Tang. The only way to curb the illegal gambling trend is to legalize soccer betting here

David Wong, a university student, said he was continually interrupted by his mobile phone ringing as he tried to watch on television at a local pub Friday when Senegal beat France in the World Cup opener.

"One friend after another called me, asking me to place bets," Wong said.

Brazilians reflect

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

opening match in Seoul.

champions.

FROM PAGE 13

Gleeful Brazilian fans were ecstatic

on Friday after watching their 1998

World Cup final conquerors France

slump 1-0 to Senegal in this year's

traumatised ever since their 3-0

thrashing by the French at the Stade

de France in Paris but this time they

were gloating over the sweet taste

of, albeit proxy, revenge as the

Senegalese debutants, nicknamed

the Teranga Lions, mauled the world

French" was how the Folha de Sao

Paulo daily trumpeted the shock

result, while calling on its readers to

"The Senegalese humiliate the

Fans of the "selecao" have been

AFP. Ulsan

For at least the first 20 minutes of Denmark's 2-1 World Cup win over Uruguay here on Saturday there was almost a sense that a new world order had crept unnoticed into football

Once upon a time everyone knew what to expect from Uruguayan teams - a bunch of wellbuilt, unshaven men with a preference for kicking the man rather than the ball.

So who were these imposters in sky-blue shirts being given more than a dose of their own medecine by the Danes?

Because it was Denmark who were resorting to the rough stuff and

TVangle FROM PAGE 16

many deserve a slap on the wrist for having thought that.

But despite their football, for us, the celebration of the Senegalese players after their goal was worth more than anything in the game itself. Absolutely priceless.

Diouf going FROM PAGE 16

in a statement on the club's website. "The Senegal striker will join up with his new team-mates when the squad report back for pre-season Martin Laursen in particular was lucky to escape punishment at all, let alone still be on the pitch after his early X-rated challenge (for tackle read scything down in full-flight) on

Dario Silva. Not only that, but in the heart of their midfield Denmark were harbouring two of the most unlikelylooking footballers since notorious former Welsh international Vinny Jones last stalked a pitch, in Stig Tofting and Thomas Gravesen. Almost indistinguishable apart

Frightening Danes!

with their shaven heads, looking for all the world as if a pair of nightclub bouncers had gatecrashed the World Cup party, they make a frightening combination just to look at,

never mind challenge. They look like uncompromising hardmen of the old school - just the kind of player the Uruguayans used to turn out by the team-load, and they lost no time in showing what they could do, a little clip here, a knock-down there and even the gruesome sight of Tofting screaming right into the face of the Kuwaiti referee over a decision he did not

happen to like. But it could hardly last, and so it proved as Gustavo Mendez opened the bookings for Uruguay after a lunge on Jesper Gronkjaer and

suddenly things looked altogether more familiar, although honours were even nine minutes later when Heintze followed for a horrible challenge on Gustavo Varela.

Then, as Jon Dahl Tomasson scored for Denmark just before halftime, there was a buzz of expectation that the second half could just develop into a war of the tattooes for Tofting bears the legendary inscription "No Regrets" somewhere about his person while Mendez appears to have an ugly two or three of his own, in Oriental characters on the inside of his forearms

Yet it was not to be, as Dario Rodriguez's scorching left-foot volley squared things immediatelly after the break and seemed some how to draw all the sting out of the game, although Mendez had a moment or two to savour as he sent Danish forwards tumbling, though witbout real malice, while Laursen also made it into the book early in the half.

And, as a sign of just how much things have changed, even Tomasson's winner could not provoke the South Americans into retaliation

on 89 minutes.

Kanu, tricky playmaker Jay Jay Okocha, veteran centre-back Taribo West and speedy left back Celestine Babayaro were in their country's gold medal-winning side. Batistuta has better memories of Argentina's only other meeting with Nigeria, a 2-1 victory in Boston

Nigeria's lanky striker Nwankwo

in the group stage of the 1994 World Cup finals. Ortega has the kind of ball tricks

from the first minute.' Bielsa's side will need to break

PARAGUAY VS SOUTH AFRICA

Jostling for second

believing again.

Santa Cruz.

Sono.

damage to morale.

performances in friendlies, notably

a woeful 4-0 defeat in England. But

a 2-1 victory over Sweden last time

out has got the South Americans

with the players who got Paraguay

to the finals, many of whom have

played together for 10 years, and

Tireless midfielder Roberto

Acuna, vital to their chances, has

recovered from a slight knee injury

and will start, as will striker Roque

famous player, 36-year-old goal-

keeper, free kick specialist and

general inspiration Jose Luis

Chilavert, who is suspended.

Chilavert, who returns for next

week's game against Spain, will be

through qualifying, sacked coach

Carlos Queiroz earlier this year

after a poor showing at the African

Nations Cup and appointed Jomo

South Africa, after cruising

replaced by Ricardo Tavarelli.

Missing, however, is their most

they remain hard to break down.

Maldini has largely kept faith

REUTERS, Pusan

Paraguay and South Africa meet for the first time on Sunday and the match could hinge on which of the two teams can rediscover the superb form that got them to the World Cup finals.

With Spain and Slovenia completing the group B line-up, Sunday's game in Pusan already looks to be crucial in deciding the most likely second-placed team behind favourites Spain.

Both countries have changed their coach since qualification and the new men have found it hard to impose their ideas.

Paraguay, so unlucky to lose to France via Laurent Blanc's golden goal four years ago having advanced at the expense of Spain in the group stage, have a real belief they can reach the second round again after a terrific qualifying campaign.

A draw and a famous victory against Brazil and two draws with Argentina enabled them to secure their finals place with two games to spare, but defeats in the last two matches convinced the authorities to sack Uruguayan coach Sergio Markarian.

In came former Italy boss Cesare Maldini with barely enough time to meet the players, let alone impose any of the tactical nous he has collected during three previous World Cups.

The confidence built up during qualifying was undermined by poor

PROBABLE TEAMS

Paraguay (Formation 4-4-2, Jersey numbers in the beginning): 22-Ricardo Tavarelli; 2-Franciso Arce, 4-Carlos Gamarra, 5-Celso Ayala, 21-Denis Caniza; 14-Diego Gavilan, 13-Carlos Paredes, 10-Roberto Acuna, 11-Jorge Campos; 20-Jose Cardozo, 9-Roque Santa Cruz South Africa (Formation 4-4-2, Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Hans Vonk; 2-Cyril Nzama, 19-Lucas Radebe, 13-Pierre Issa, 3-Bradley Carnell; 15-Sibusiso Zuma, 6-MacBeth Sibaya, 7-Quinton Fortune, 18-Delron Buckley; 17-Benni McCarthy, 14-Syabonga Nomvete. Referee: Michel Lubos (Slovakia)

A defence led again by Lucas Radebe, who missed almost the entire season at Leeds United through injury, is solid enough and a midfield likely to contain Sibusiso Zuma, Quinton Fortune and Delron Buckley, while somewhat lightweight, is not short of creativitv

However, there are likely to be few chances in what will be a tense occasion and the decisive factor for South Africa could be whether forwards Siyabonga Nomvete and Benni McCarthy can finally turn years of promise into meaningful

Inzaghi to start on bench **REUTERS**, Sendai

Sono, in his second spell in Italy striker Filippo Inzaghi will be on charge, set about shaking up the the bench for his team's World Cup squad, trying out a host of new group G opener against Ecuador on Monday, coach Giovanni Trapattoni faces, but it led only to a series of said on Saturday. poor results that have done untold

doals

Inzaghi was injured in Sunday's riendly win over Kashima Antlers South Africa's first World Cup and had been rated highly doubtful appearance four years ago ended for the game in Sapporo, but he has in huge disappointment with a first made a quicker than expected round exit and if they are to recovery

improve on that showing it is vital they get at least a draw on Sunday. Yes, no on

FROM PAGE13 element in his return to the training

"The psychological element is

very important -- his state of mind as a player is key to his recovery. The challenge for us is to support him to the maximum."

In addition to the match Thursday, France also faces Denmark on June 11 in its final qualifying round game.

Two-hot Tomasson

FORM PAGE 13 after half an hour we got going and our hands and right at the end we this important win gives us a breathing space.

"But I still make France group favourites," he warned.

The Danes had a trump card in fired-up Tomasson -- but their opponents lost theirs when Inter Milan star Alvaro Recoba, who had been carrying a leg muscle injury all week but reported fit enough to start, went off with 20 minutes remaining having been at the hub of most of his side's best moves.

The Uruguayans, playing their

By the time coach Victor Pua

But Pua was defiant afterwards.

3.7 million -- a tenth of Argentina's and roughly one fiftieth of Brazil's. They were the last team to qual-

But it was Tomasson who ended up stealing the limelight.

Chelsea flier Gronkjaer was proving a thorn in Uruguay's flesh and Gustavo Mendez was booked on 25 minutes for bringing down the Dane -- who withdrew from the fray midway through the second hal

som as he did in 1998, when they reached the quarters before an unlucky loss to Brazil. And Sand was desperately

unlucky in the 12th minute when he saw a diving header bounce up and hit the bar with keeper Fabian Carini beaten

ify for this summer's finals, defeating Australia in a playoff. Denmark's main footballing

claim to fame was winning the European Championship in Sweden in 1992 after being called in

to replace Yugoslavia

TEAMS Uruguay: Fabian Carini, Gustavo Mendez, Gonzalo Sorondo, Paolo Montero (captain). Dario Rodriguez (Federico Magallanes 87), Gianni Guigou, Pablo Garcia, Gustavo Varela, Alvaro Recoba (Mario Requiero 80), Dario Silva, Sebastian Abreu (Richard Morales

French played better and deserved to win (in 1998) but when I think back to that final the only word which comes to mind is - uuugh!' The writer admitted that he liked French culture from cartoon cult hero Asterix, to wine and actress Catherine Deneuve and author

But when it comes to football the

"But that was another story and

"Nigeria, physically, are very

now there's a nicer one which is a

World Cup and let's hope it's our

good, they have their game, they're

very fast, but we have to think of the

players we have and try to do what

we've always done, which is to go

out and put pressure (on them)

Nigeria's coach of a few

French are clearly not to Brazilian

support not just African lions but

"tigers, zebras, gnus ... " and any

"doing what Brazil didn't do in 1998 -

it would be elegant to say that the

And it saluted the Senegalese for

One commentator wrote: "I know

other animal it could think of.

humiliate the French!"

Rabelais

lost." Ortega said.

turn," he said.

taste.

Banking on Batigol

training in July.

Diouf, who looks set to become one of the World Cup's finds after his part in Senegal's 1-0 win over France, said he was looking forward to his Anfield move

"I'm delighted to be joining Liverpool, Liverpool are a club that expects to be one of the best in Europe," the 21-year-old Diouf said.

"I want to be one of the best players in the world and I'm sure that at Liverpool and with a great coach like Gerard Houllier I can do that.

It was Diouf's work that helped set up team-mate Pape Bouba Diop for the famous 1-0 scoreline in Friday's opening upset win.

scored eight goals in the 2000-2001 season, and was the second top scorer with the French runners-up this season.

Diouf started his career at French club Sochaux, where he played for a season before joining Brittany outfit Rennes in 1999. He was loaned to Lens and

ndomitable Irish

FROM PAGE 13 into the area, nutmegged Steve Staunton and crossed for Mboma to strike home from close range. Yet Ireland almost equalised on

the cusp of half-time. lan Harte's powerful free-kick was nearly diverted by Rigobert Song into his own net, but Boukar Alioum was alert to the danger and

saved well. Ireland came out in the second half all ouns blazing.

And when Geremi failed to extend Cameroon's lead in the 51st minute, blazing his shot wide, Ireland grabbed their chance. A poor clearance by Cameroon defender Raymond Kalla fell kindly

to Holland, who struck a powerful accurate shot past the outstretched Alioum. Robbie Keane almost grabbed ered in a thunderous drive, which

Alioum just tipped over the crossbar However, Ireland have made an excellent start to their World Cup campaign and, with this result, are

well-placed to progress from Group

TEAMS

Ireland: Shay Given, Gary Kelly, Steve Staunton, Ian Harte(Stephen Reid. 78). Garv Breen. Jason McAteer(Steve Finnan, 46), Matt Holland, Kevin Kilbane, Mark Kinsella, Damien Duff, Robbie Keane

Cameroon: Alioum Boukar, football players. Raymond Kalla, Rigobert Song, Bill Tchato, Geremi Njitap, Pierrå think we can do very well." Wome, Marc-Vivien Foe, Salomon Olembe, Lauren Etame Mayer, tional day for Eriksson but the 53-Samuel Etoo, Patrick year-old Swede insisted his loyal-Mboma(Patrick Suffo, 69) ties would not be divided. Yellow card: Kalla

Referee: Toru Kamikawa (Japan).

down a strong, athletic defence. "Some of us were left a bit hurt

(by the Olympic defeat) because we had the gold medal almost in

Faced with FROM PAGE 16

the meanest defences in world football

"But I'm very optimistic and

Sunday is likely to be an emo-

"When the game starts I won't be

thinking about who we are playing,

just focusing on getting the right

"To have a specialist like Beckham is very good, it's a weapon," he said. "I think he is one of the best in the world.

"Sweden are a very difficult opponent. They are very well organised, disciplined, hard-working and of course they have very good

months. Festus Onigbinde, has to prove that his post-African Nations Cup cleanout after Nigeria's semifinal elimination this year was worth

Forward Julius Aghahowa said Uruguay through to the finals at they would not be intimidated by Australia's expense last November. the big names in Argentina's side when they meet in Ibaraki. sent Morales on for Abreu in the "I don't want to know what name 88th minute it was too late.

or face is behind the football. We don't go out to look for big names or big stars in football," he said. "We can see that there are other

teams in this group...What we are after is victory in all games.

first finals since 1990 and looking to be replaced by Jorgensen of Italian avenge a 6-1 beating in the 1986 outfit Udinese competition against the Danes Martin Laursen crunched into risked leaving Richard Morales on

Abreu as Kuwaiti referee Saad the bench despite the striker's two Mane added his name to his notegoals in the playoff win which sent book.

Saturday's encounter was a battle of two of the world game's small fry -- if only in terms of population

But both have proud past records

"The Danes deserved to win --The South Americans, who but we didn't play badly. Despite this replaced injured midfield star loss we're not dead yet," he insisted. Fabian O'Neill with Gianni Guigou, The Danes were relying on were world champions in 1930 and Schalke striker Ebbe Sand to blos-1950, despite a population of just 89), Coach: Victor Pua Yellow card: Mendez (25)

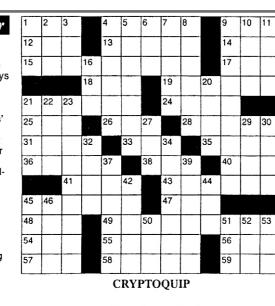
Denmark: Thomas Sorensen, Thomas Helveg, Rene Henriksen, Martin Laursen, Jan Heintze (captain) (Niclas Jensen 58), Thomas Gravesen, Stig Tofting, Jon Dahl Tomasson, Ebbe Sand (Christian Poulsen 89), Jesper Gronkjaer (Martin Jorgensen 70), Dennis Rommedahl. Coach: Morten Olsen. Yellow cards: Heintz (34), Laursen

Referee: Saad Mane (Kuw)

the winner for Ireland in the closing stages but his shot rebounded off the post and out of harm's way. And substitute Steve Reid pow-

By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD

ACROSS 41 Somme-DOWN 21 Throw 1 Billy Ray 1 Societ lier's 22 Lotion newcome offering Cvrus additive 4 Baffle 43 Attractive 23 Sideways series 9 Regis 45 Command 2 Listening somer 47 Arcing sault employer device 12 Kayaker's 3 Monokini 27 Outdo shot 48 Pindaric lack 29 Gordius' prop 13 Soft-4 Pollenpuzzler piece 30 Cabinet 49 Axle-tobearing boiling membe axle organ 14 Chum measure 5 Tout (Abbr.) 54 Candle 32 Pennsyl-15 Tart fruit 6 King of used in diamonds? vania preserves 55 On Mom's 7 Honeydew port 17 Expert 34 Use side for one 8 Intern-to-56 DuPont 18 Early up hrs. be's study 37 "Jeoprival 9 Upset 19 Brunch 57 Either of ardy! AT&T's Ts the -entree clue 58 Memori-21 Seal of (mess up) 39 Working 10 Naked approva zation stiffs 11 Coagulate 42 Race 24 Actress methods Campbell 59 Dump 16 "Humbug (Pref.) 44 Period 25 So from the 20 Satan's specialtv payroll as to of decline emulate Solution time: 21 mins 45 Gravy 26 Bottom line vesse 28 Sleuths, 46 Move slangily cautiously 31 Angry 50 Pack 33 Staff away 35 Highway Oklaho division city 36 Aquarium 52 Fenway favorite squad, 38 Energy 40 "Arabian for short Nights" flier 53 Merino mama



BMEJS ZCG HNZNQUJG WJGQLP HNFHGLP FER BCM QJJ SQR UG WMLPNSGXGS

Q PZR PWXQHGX? Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE ORCHESTRA NEEDS A LEADER FOR SURE. IT DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO CONDUCT ITSELF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals I 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.

Manchester United's Paul Scholes. With Beckham taking his place balanced look across the middle are to nullify the threat posed by Ljungberg's runs from midfield. The Swede was outstanding for

Arsenal last season and his knack of scoring goals in important matches played a massive part in helping the London side clinch the English Premiership title and FA Cup.

But Ljungberg is not the only player who could ruin the Golden Jubilee holiday weekend for England. Celtic marksman Henrik Larsson is prolific at club level and although not consistent on the international stage is a handful for any defender.

result for England," he said. Eriksson has a full squad from which to choose from after Kieron Dyer came through a make-orbreak fitness test on Friday. Dyer was written off as a non-starter when he suffered knee ligament damage in Newcastle's final Premiership in early May. Dyer is unlikely to start against

the Swedes due to a lack of match fitness but could feature at some stage of the game.

Eriksson has indicated that he will start Bayern Munich midfielder Owen Hargreaves in the holding role in midfield alongside on the right flank England have a but their work will be cut out if they