

## Germany takes heart from Asia

AP, Miyazaki

German organisers of the next World Cup are impressed by this tournament and some achievements will be hard to beat, 2006 Organising Committee chairman Franz Beckenbauer said Saturday.

"And in terms of politeness and hospitality, Asia is unbeatable," Beckenbauer said at a news conference at the German base camp.

Beckenbauer said there had been doubters before the World Cup because it was the first time soccer's premier event was being staged in Asia and the first time it was hosted by two nations "that had anything but a long tradition in soccer."

"But the infrastructure, the 20 new stadiums, it's unbelievable," said Beckenbauer, who captained Germany to the title in 1974 and coached the 1990 champion team.

"The quality of grass is such that you almost don't want to step on it so as not to spoil it. Even players seem reluctant to damage it," he said.

"The conditions are perfect. Maybe the security is a bit too much, but I'd rather have too much than too little security. It's been a great tournament despite all the nay-sayers before."

Horst R. Schmidt, executive vice president of the 2006 organising committee, who is also involved in the 2002 tournament with FIFA, singled out the quality of the stadiums as well.

"The stadiums and the infrastructure are of a such a standard that we'll struggle to match it or improve it. We are challenged," he said.

Officials from the 12 German cities that have been chosen to stage the 2006 matches have been visiting the venues in Japan and South Korea.

Speaking about ticketing problems, Schmidt said it was still unclear what went wrong. "We are still investigating."

"It's not easy to discover at the end where the tickets are," Schmidt said. He said delays were caused by having names printed on the tickets.

Wolfgang Niersbach, press officer of the 2006 organising committee, said German stadiums will have to do a lot to match the facilities offered to the media in South Korea and Japan.

## Penalty

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"I don't think he touched him," said Klinsmann, who retired in 1998.

"I don't think it was a penalty. But it doesn't matter. England deserved to win. They had the better scoring chances. There was enormous pressure on them. Congratulations to David Beckham for holding his nerve."

Klinsmann, who scored 47 goals in 108 internationals, helped Germany win the 1990 World Cup in Italy and the 1996 European Championship in England. He was English footballer-of-the-year in 1994-95 after scoring 29 Cup and League goals.

Famous himself for diving, he managed to disarm critics in England for falling too easily during the 1994 World Cup by starting his first news conference in London without waiting for the first question from reporters.

"Maybe I can ask you the first question. Are there any diving schools in London?"

After the laughter had subsided, he became one of the most popular players that season and was lauded everywhere he played with huge crowds all over the country appreciative of his skills and his sense of fair play.

On Friday, Klinsmann said England's victory over Argentina should raise their chances in the tournament.

"I believe England should now be counted among the favourites," he said.



PHOTO: INTERNET

A group of Turkish players jog during practice in Incheon yesterday before their World Cup clash against Costa Rica.

## COSTA RICA VS TURKEY

# Turks' another Latino threat

REUTERS, Seoul

Turkey must rescue their World Cup campaign in Sunday's Group C clash with a win over Costa Rica after their controversial opening defeat by four times champions Brazil.

For coach Senol Gunes, the game in the South Korean port of Incheon has always been central to Turkey's hopes of making the second round.

His plan from the start was to beat Costa Rica and China to go through with favourites Brazil. But his side take on the Costa Ricans, who beat China 2-0 in their first game, without defender Alpay Ozalan and left-sided midfielder Hakan Unsal, both suspended after being sent off in Monday's heated 2-1 defeat by the Brazilians.

Hakan Unsal was dismissed after kicking the ball at Rivaldo, who was later fined by world governing body

FIFA for play-acting which incensed the Turks.

"Even if we had won the Brazil game, we had always looked at Costa Rica as the most critical match. Even if Costa Rica aren't Brazil, they are an experienced and good team," Gunes said.

"They are in a better position than us in terms of fixtures. They started against a weak side and gained morale and points."

Gunes has singled out forward Paulo Wanchope as the biggest threat to his side.

He said the Latin American side had several outstanding players in both attack and defence, adding that Wanchope "from an international perspective is a bit ahead of the others."

Emre Asik looks set to step in to take Alpay's place in defence, while Ergun Penbe can cover for Hakan Unsal as a left back who can also

room forward.

Brazil marked lone Turkish striker Hakan Sukur out of the Ulsan clash. Gunes seems likely to rely on the attacking midfield trio of Yildiray Basturk, Hasan Sas and Emre Belozoglu again to support Hakan Sukur in Incheon, the birthplace of Korean football. "We are strong enough to beat Costa Rica and China," Hakan Sukur said.

Costa Rica defender Harold Wallace is likely to start in an unchanged defence after training with the rest of the team on Friday. He had cut short a session on Thursday with a leg injury.

Costa Rica coach Alexander Guimaraes described Turkey as difficult opponents who will be determined to win.

"I expect the match will be fierce and aggressive," he said. Guimaraes believes his side are the strongest in Costa Rica's history.

"Tomorrow we have to write a new page of history," he said.

Guimaraes has been experimenting in training in midfield, where Wilmer Lopez could start with Costa Rica's all-time top goalscorer Rolando Fonseca going back to the bench.

This would effectively leave Costa Rica with a 5-3-2 formation rather than the 5-2-3 which they used against China.

Wanchope is still receiving treatment for a knee injury that plagued him all last season. But he is likely to start alongside Ronald Gomez, who scored the first goal and set up the other against China.

## SCORING CHART

AFP, Seoul

World Cup scorers after Saturday's matches:

4 - Miroslav Klose (Ger)  
3 - Jon Dahl Tomasson (Den), Christian Vieri (Ita)  
2 - Fernando Hierro (Spa), Henrik Larsson (Swe), Fernando Morientes (Spa), Rivaldo (Bra), Ronaldo (Bra)

1 - Julius Aghahowa (Ngr), Niclas Alexandersson (Swe), Francisco Arce (Par), Michael Ballack (Ger), Gabriel Batistuta (Arg), David Beckham (Eng), Beto (Por), Oliver Bierhoff (Ger), Cuauhtemoc Blanco (Mex), Sol Campbell (Eng), Sebastjan Ciroviti (Slo), Salif Diao (Sen), Pape Bouba Diop (Sen), Samuel Eto'o (Cmr), Quinton Fortune (Rsa), Ronald Gomez (Crc), Hasan Sas (Tur), Matt Holland (Iri), Hwang Sun-Hong (Kor), Junichi Inamoto (Jpn), Carsten Jancker (Ger), Valery Karpin (Rus), Robbie Keane (Irl), Thomas Linke (Ger), Brian McBride (USA), Teboho Mokoena (Rsa), Siyabonga Nomvethe (Rsa), John O'Brien (USA), Ivica Olic (Cro), Patrick Mboma (Cmr), Milan Rapac (Cro), Raul (Spa), Roberto Carlos (Bra), Dario Rodriguez (Uru), Ronaldinho (Par), Roque Santa Cruz (Par), Bernd Schneider (Ger), Takayuki Suzuki (Jpn), Egor Titov (Rus), Valerion (Spa), Peter Van der Heyden (Bel), Marc Wilmots (Bel), Mauricio Wright (Crc), Yoo Sang-Chul (Kor).

## MEXICO VS ECUADOR

# Mistakes unaffordable

REUTERS, Miyagi

Mexico coach Javier Aguirre has warned his players against complacency when they bid to secure early passage to the World Cup's second round by beating Ecuador in an all-Latin American group G clash on Sunday.

Aguirre, the former midfielder who played in the 1986 finals and inspired Mexico's recovery midway through a previously-dismal qualifying campaign, knows Ecuador will be determined to recover from their 2-0 opening loss to Italy.

Mexico beat Croatia 1-0 in their first game thanks to a penalty by Cuauhtemoc Blanco awarded after their opponents were reduced to 10 men following the dismissal of Boris Zivkovic.

"That win gave everyone a good feeling," he said. "But it did not earn us automatic qualification to the second round. But if we can win against Ecuador, then we can talk about the second round."

Aguirre, who is expected to select an unchanged starting line-up, also urged his players to heed the lessons learned from the precision of some of the Croatian set pieces.

"They caused us a lot of problems with their corners and free kicks. With dead ball situations, they were dangerous. We must learn from that. It will be difficult for us against Ecuador, but we know as much about them as they know about us."

Ecuador's Colombian coach Hernan Dario Gomez will bring in Ivan Kaviedes for his injured captain and playmaker Alex Aguinaga, who picked up a thigh strain during the first half in the defeat by Italy.

"He deserves his chance," said Gomez. "He is an important player for us. He scored the goal that ensured our qualification for the World Cup."

Gomez is expected to use him in a secondary striking role, withdrawn slightly behind Agustin Delgado, in a team reshaped to a 4-4-2 system to provide a more attacking edge without sacrificing an ability to retain possession in what promises to be a tight affair.

Aguinaga, 33, dearly wants to recover and play against players he knows well, said on Friday that he still hoped to regain fitness in time to play some part in the game, but Ecuador's doctor Patricio Maldonado said this was unlikely.

"He is much better, but not ready

to play yet," he said.

Gomez may also bring in Marlon Ayovi, who was a second half substitute against Italy, from the start in midfield in place of Edwin Tenorio and Walter Ayovi for Raul Guerron at left back.

Gomez said he was fully aware of the need to adjust Ecuador's tactics slightly to a more offensive style, but also wary of losing possession frequently against the equally dangerous counter-attacking Mexicans.

"We are working very hard and we believe we should go into this game believing we are on equal terms to Mexico and we can beat them," said midfielder Alfonso Obregon.

"Mexico are a very difficult team to play against, but we did well in the second half against Italy and that has given us motivation."

## PROBABLE TEAMS

Mexico: (Formation 3-5-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Oscar Perez; 4-Rafael Marquez, 5-Manuel Vidrio, 16-Salvador Carmona; 6-Gerardo Torrado, 7-Ramon Morales, 11-Braulio Luna, 13-Sigifredo Mercado, 19-Gabriel Caballero; 9-Jared Borgetti, 10-Cuauhtemoc Blanco. Ecuador: (Formation 4-4-2; Jersey numbers in the numbers): 1-Jose Cevallos; 4-Ulises De la Cruz, 3-Ivan Hurtado, 2-Augusto Porozo, 23-Walter Ayovi; 15-Marlon Ayovi, 5-Alfonso Obregon, 19-Edison Mendez, 16-Cleber Chala; 18-Carlos Tenorio, 11-Agustin Delgado. Referee: Mourad Daami (Tunisia).

## Simeone tried that old trick

REUTERS, Sapporo

England captain David Beckham said Argentina's Diego Simeone, his nemesis in the 1998 World Cup, had tried to distract him when he was preparing to take the match-winning penalty in Friday's game.

Before the match Beckham had warned his teammates to beware of the "cunning" of the Argentine players. After Michael Owen was tripped in the area, Beckham said Simeone made it hard for him to concentrate as he prepared to take the 44th minute penalty.

"As soon as Michael went over, I knew it was a penalty," he said. "And I went up to him and he said 'do you want it or shall I?' And I wanted it, so I took it. We had not decided it before the game."

"Before I took the penalty, I took a few deep breaths. I needed to - at one point, I had nearly stopped breathing. I needed some breaths badly then."

"I don't know what Diego (Simeone) was trying to do or to say. I didn't look at him. He was literally trying to shake my hand. I didn't want any eye contact because I was concentrating on what I had to do."

REUTERS, Sapporo

"Sorry Saviola" read a banner displayed by Argentina fans during their World Cup group F clash with England under the Sapporo Dome on Friday.

This sentiment, directed at the talented youngster who was left out of the squad for the tournament, has taken on added meaning after the 1-0 defeat to a country they had

become accustomed to beating through craft and guile.

England's transformation of their footballing relationship with Argentina has been many months, even years in the making.

David Beckham's team were fired up for the group F clash, overcoming a well-drilled Argentina side that failed to find the magic spark of past.

England have acquired under

Sven-Goran Eriksson a sophistication they lacked to deal effectively with Diego Maradona's side in 1986 and Daniel Passarella's two years ago.

At the same time, Argentina have shed some of their South American trickery -- the good variety on the ball as well as the gamesmanship -- in pursuing perhaps too far their quest for European organisation.

World Cup-winning coaches Cesar Luis Menotti and Carlos Bilardo managed the blend, the former through a number of key players in an attractive team, the latter building a launchpad for the inimitable Maradona.

The key to a new era in the Argentina-England rivalry perhaps is that the two countries' players have come closer together.

Juan Sebastian Veron plays his club football in England, where an ever increasing number of his compatriots also go to pursue their profession.

A professional camaraderie crossed the national team boundaries that had not previously existed and was palpable in the pre and post-match greetings between opponents, notably the large Manchester United contingent in both teams.

The 20-year-old Saviola, inspiration of Argentina's third World Youth Cup title in six years in 2001, was overlooked by coach Marcelo Bielsa for the World Cup finals.

Bielsa opted for experience, to the point of bringing 35-year-old Claudio Caniggia back into the fold in a squad with quite a number of aging players.

But in leaving out Saviola, a tricky, skilful striker, Bielsa has turned his back on the tradition embodied by Maradona of the gifted, match-winning "pibe", or kid, that Argentina seems able to produce in never-ending reams.

## TV angle

FROM PAGE 16

behind the ball. Spain penetrated on quite a few occasions, but tight marking from the Paraguayan defenders thwarted their attempts to get the equaliser. Tristan in particular was very quiet, held on a tight leash by Ayala. Morientes replaced him at halftime, and quickly got two goals, both assisted by the impressive De Pedro. There was an element of luck attached to it, but Morientes' positioning sense has always been very good and this is where he has an advantage over Tristan. Hierro added a third later in the game from the spot. It was a controversial decision though, as even the Spanish players didn't appeal for the penalty. Anyway, in the end, Spain held on to record their second successive victory, and made Chilavert eat his own words.

Argentina are blessed with many players of immense quality in the forward positions. However, so far they have all failed to impress, running out of ideas at crucial moments. England looked very sound, and credit must be given to Eriksson. His decision to play Butt was a masterstroke as the Manchester United midfielder

nullified the threat of Veron to such an extent that he was taken off at halftime. Owen held the line up front brilliantly for England, constantly troubling the Argentines with his pace. He won the penalty of-course, and although there wasn't a great deal of contact, it did look a fair decision as Pochettino certainly left his foot in.

Argentina predictably had more of the ball in the second half, but the English defence, led by Ferdinand, held strong. England also looked dangerous on the break. Batistuta was taken off and replaced by Crespo midway through the half, but in hindsight, Bielsa would probably regret this decision. With 2 centerforwards, Argentina may just have capitalised on some of the balls being delivered into the box. Crespo on himself was largely ineffective. England deservedly held on for the win, and must fancy their chances of topping group F now. Argentina, pre-tournament favourites, are struggling, and face a must win game against Sweden. If the South Americans don't find their scoring boots before that game, we may well be in for a huge upset.

## PROBABLE TEAMS

Costa Rica: (Formation 5-3-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Erick Lonnis; 15-Harold Wallace, 3-Luis Marin, 4-Mauricio Wright, 5-Gilberto Martinez, 22-Carlos Castro; 6-Wilmer Lopez, 8-Mauricio Solis, 10-Walter Centeno; 9-Paulo Wanchope, 11-Ronald Gomez. Turkey: (Formation 4-5-1; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Rustu Recber; 4-Fatih Akyel, 16-Umit Ozat, 2-Emre Asik, 18-Ergun Penbe; 22-Umit Davala, 8-Tugay Kerimoglu, 10-Yildiray Basturk, 21-Emre Belozoglu, 11-Hasan Sas; 9-Hakan Sukur. Referee: Coffi Codjia (Benin)

## Bye Slovenia

FROM PAGE 16

African player of the year, did not feature in the draw against Paraguay but he reaped almost instant rewards here, twisting away from his markers to give Slovenian goalkeeper Marko Simeonovic no chance.

In the second half, the Bafana Bafana (The Boys) could have extended their lead on several occasions as Benni McCarthy blasted against a post and later headed the ball straight at the goal-keeper when perfectly placed on the edge of the six-yard box.

The Slovenian keeper managed to deflect a Delron Buckley shot on the break to give his side some hope, but his team-mates failed to respond to the challenge.

Slovenia had almost equalised with their very first effort on target, Nastja Ceh's powerful header forcing South African keeper Andre Arendse into a good save after 70 minutes.

Amir Karic's drive skimmed just over the South African goal with five minutes to play as they pushed in vain for an equaliser to stay alive in the tournament.

McCarthy was substituted and

needed treatment after a clash with ten minutes remaining, a concern for the South Africans who face Spain on Wednesday.

Sebastjan Ciroviti, the burly Slovenian forward who scored against Spain, was replaced by Milan Osterc just before half-time. Three players on each side were booked but the match was not bad-tempered.

**TEAMS**  
**South Africa:** Andre Arendse, Cyril Nzama, Lucas Radebe, Aaron Mokoena, Bradley Carnell, Sibusiso Zuma, MacBeth Sibaya, Tebeho Mokoena, Quinton Fortune (Jabu Pule 84), Siyabonga Nomvethe (Delron Buckley 71), Benni McCarthy (George Koumantarakis 80).

**Slovenia:** Marko Simeonovic, Zeljko Milinovic, Muamer Vugdalic, Aleksander Knavs (Spasoje Bulajic 60), Djoni Novak, Ales Ceh, Miran Pavlin, Amir Karic, Milenko Acimovic (Nastja Ceh 60), Mladen Rudonja, Sebastjan Ciroviti (Milan Osterc 41).

**Referee:** Angel Sanchez Ruzafa (Argentina).

## CUP CORNER

FROM PAGE 13

Saturday, though.

"Football's a great game when you win, isn't it?" joked Camacho, before blowing out the candles on his birthday cake and spraying cava over the assembled journalists.

"I hope this good mood continues when things are not going so well."

Camacho was also presented with a traditional Korean "hanbok" outfit, which he refused to try on.

"I think this is something to wear in private," he said. "Thank you all very much, though."

## CARE FOR A PIZZA?

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japanese pizza delivery services are licking their lips in glee ahead of Sunday's Japan-Russia World Cup match, anticipating a flood of orders from fans riveted to their televisions by the game.

Kyodo news agency reported on Saturday that Domino's Pizza Japan, one of the nation's largest pizza delivery chains, said it will double the number of staff at outlets on Sunday evening.

The Japan-Russia group H match starts at 8:30 p.m. local time (11:30 GMT).  
On Tuesday, when Japan and Belgium kicked off, sales at Domino's Pizza were 2.2 times higher than usual.

"More people were staying at home, and that had a direct impact on sales," a Domino's official was quoted as saying.

"With soccer, you can't turn your eyes away even for a second, and so there were probably more people who decided not to cook."

Japan's ubiquitous 24-hour convenience stores are also hoping for great things, noting many people were spotted buying drinks and snacks an hour before the thrilling game in which Japan drew 2-2 with Belgium to secure their first ever World Cup point.

However, restaurants are not faring so well, Kyodo said. Royal Co, which operates the popular chain of Royal Host family restaurants, said it saw sales fall 7 percent compared to an ordinary weekday.

"Sunday evenings are when we have the most customers, but this Sunday sales will probably drop by about 10 percent," a spokesman at the company's office in Tokyo was quoted by Kyodo as saying.

## 'RENT-A-CROWD' TACTICS

REUTERS, Seoul

World Cup organisers in South Korea have decided to use "rent-a-crowd" tactics to fill the thousands of empty seats at first-round games, packing them with schoolchildren and civil servants.

Korean organisers (KOWOC), concerned that the empty seats spoiled the backdrop of soccer's most prestigious stage, said on Saturday the crowd-filling was being done on a "voluntary basis."

"It is being done. It involves school students taking up unoccupied seats," KOWOC spokesman Chun Young-il told a news conference. South Korea's government has told organisers it is very concerned about the problems which frustrate broadcasters because they make for bad television pictures and sound.

But they also reflect on the success of the event, which is being co-hosted by Japan. Korea is well aware of how the country's image in the world was boosted by the success of the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Korea also used schoolchildren to boost crowds in 1988, bringing in thousands of locals to sit on the banks of the first stage of the rowing course, for example.

The Korean Herald newspaper reported on Saturday that the city government in Taegu hurriedly assembled about 1,900 volunteers to fill seats for Senegal's group A game with Denmark last Thursday when more than 10,000 tickets were not sold.

The volunteers were students, civil servants and members of civic organisations based in the industrial city south of Seoul, the paper said.

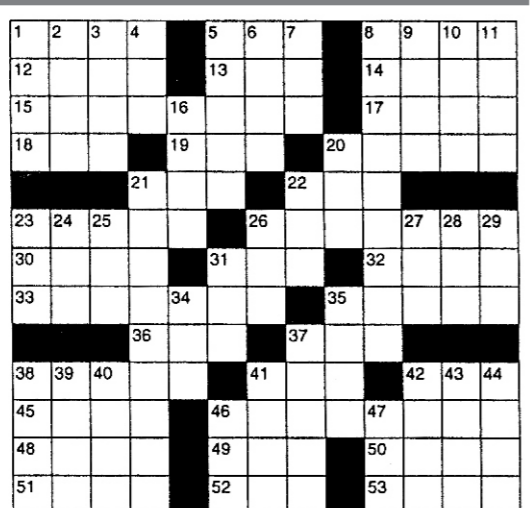
## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Guy  
5 Whatever number  
8 "Xanadu" river  
12 Nile bird  
13 Anon-ymous  
14 Exhaust  
15 Highly tasty  
17 Picnic problem  
18 LAX info  
19 "Survivor" network  
20 Nestling's diet  
21 Churchill's gesture  
22 "semper tyrannus"  
23 Thespian  
26 Emeritus  
30 Sow's mate  
31 Crafty one  
32 Charlie's widow  
33 Uniformly  
35 Pal  
36 Coquet-ish  
37 Two, in Tijuana

**DOWN**  
1 Marathon fraction  
2 Touch  
3 Bart's sister  
4 Computer button  
5 Pueblo material  
6 We? Ouil  
7 "Of course!"  
8 Horrible  
9 Fibber  
10 — and proper  
11 Coop group  
16 Champagne bucket  
20 Humor  
21 Greedy

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

**LAIP** **POW** **OPAL**  
**ONES** **TWO** **LAVIA**  
**OKRIA** **GNIU** **DREW**  
**THU** **IVE** **DRAPES**  
**CLAROUSE** **SCAPRE**  
**OXEN** **PAM** **DINE**  
**BLEAT** **TUOTORED**  
**BELL** **BLOW** **GUN**  
**STARS** **DEAF** **BARKS**  
**STING** **LOW** **TONI**  
**OLIGO** **TRIL** **DOER**  
**STIG** **ZEN** **FEE**



## CRYPTOQUIP

Q G R C B W I M H E B M W B O F  
B O J O Q W M N O B M E O N  
X E T V C G W B M G V C O J X G I C O  
C W F B U U Q W S T C W S R H X E ?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TRAFFIC WAS SO BAD TODAY, MY FAST CAR BECAME NOTHING MORE THAN A STATIONARY WAGON.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals H  
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.