



PHOTO: INTERNET

SENIORS SALUTE JUNIOR: Brazil superstars Ronaldo (Top) and Rivaldo (C) are delighted with Junior's (No 6) goal at Suwon yesterday.

Carlos clone!

REUTERS, Suwon

Roberto Carlos, who has held Brazil's left-back position virtually unchallenged since 1995, was given something to think about Thursday by the performance of his understudy Junior.

Playing in his first World Cup match, Junior was arguably the best player on the pitch as he provided the passes for two goals and scored one himself in Brazil's 5-2 win over Costa Rica.

But Junior said he expected to be back on the substitutes' bench for Brazil's second match as Roberto Carlos, who was rested as a precautionary measure after complaining of a pain in his calf muscle, returns to

full fitness.

"No, as I've said before, Roberto Carlos is the owner of the position, thanks to everything he has done for the team," said Junior when asked if he thought he might have pushed the Real Madrid player out of the side.

"But I'm here and I'm working hard."

Roberto Carlos is having an excellent World Cup but has been accused in the past of not pulling his weight when he plays for his country.

He appeared to be given a warning by coach Luiz Felipe Scolari after Junior performed well in a friendly against a Catalan XI in May. "It's

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Brazil's backache

REUTERS, Suwon

Brazil's 5-2 victory over Costa Rica on Thursday sent them cruising into the last 16 as the new World Cup favourites and, with 11 goals in three first round victories, the joint leading scorers in the competition.

It was the first time they had scored five in the tournament since beating Sweden 5-2 in the 1958 final and with Ronaldo maintaining his record of scoring a goal in every game, they look well-placed to launch a powerful bid for a fifth title.

Some exhilarating attacking and deadly finishing produced goals for Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Edmilson -- a spectacular overhead effort -- and Junior, with Ronaldo still hopeful that FIFA will also award him the opener which appeared to be a Luis Marin own-goal. However, it was far from all good news against a battling Costa Rica team who repeatedly exposed Brazil at the back. Paulo Wanchope and Ronald Gomez each scored well-created goals and Costa Rica could easily have scored five themselves in a remarkably open and entertaining group C game.

Coming after the first match against Turkey when Brazil were also often embarrassed at the back before scraping a 2-1 win, it is a worry for coach Luiz Felipe Scolari.

"We did show some problems in our defence but we are aware of them and will work hard to correct

them," he said.

Scolari has something of an excuse for Thursday's failures as first-choice defenders Roberto Carlos and Roque Junior were rested, but he has already told the players that they need to improve.

"We will make them watch a video of the last 15 minutes of the first half and the first 15 of the second," he said.

Scolari, more concerned about defence than many Brazilians believe he should be, explained the lapses, particularly the poor marking in their own penalty area, as a lack of concentration.

"There are some moments of the game, maybe because of the scoreline, when we are very relaxed," he said.

"We lose a bit of our marking and we're not as tough in the tackle. When we do what we've practised in training we are fine."

The players are also taking the problem seriously, well aware that similar lapses from now on could mean a sudden exit from the tournament.

"Our attack was excellent but we had a lot of problems at the back," said the impressive Junior, who replaced Roberto Carlos and set up two goals.

"Costa Rica created a lot of chances. We have to correct these mistakes."

Rivaldo, who again failed to impose himself on the game and

was substituted after 72 minutes, said the defensive problems were a cause for concern but that team morale was high.

"Of course we are a bit worried. The coach has to analyse this but obviously we gave Costa Rica a lot of goalscoring chances. He is going to talk to the players and make sure it doesn't happen again.

"But we have had three games and three wins so our morale is good."

Asked if the surprise exit of France and Argentina had improved Brazil's chances, he said:

"We have to be confident because of what we've done and not because of what other teams didn't do."

Germany, who thumped eight goals past Saudi Arabia and are also through to the second round, are the joint leading scorers of the competition with Brazil.

The two teams will only meet if both reach the final.

In the meantime, Ronaldo agrees that Brazil have "a few little problems to sort out," but he is more interested in the sorting out FIFA will be doing over Brazil's opening goal against Costa Rica.

They will decide on Friday whether to give it to the striker, who looked sharp in the first half as he continues his game-by-game

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Trailblazing Turks

AFP, Seoul

Turkey powered into the second round of the World Cup after a 3-0 victory over China here Thursday was enough to give them a place in the last 16 on goal difference ahead of Group C rivals Costa Rica.

Turkey had started the match needing a win to have any chance of going through after a defeat to Brazil and a draw with the Costa Ricans had left them with only one point from their first two games.

Goals from Hasan Sas, Bulent Korkmaz and a late volley from Umit Davala secured the win for Turkey, who finished level on four points with Costa Rica - beaten 5-2 by Brazil in Suwon.

The win delighted Turkish coach Senol Gunes, whose side recovered from the disappointment of losing their opening match against Brazil to reach the second phase.

"We made a promise to the Turkish nation that first we would qualify for the World Cup, and that we would reach the next round - we kept our promise," Gunes said.

"Today we got a deserved victory. Particularly the beginning of the

game - we controlled the game and played well, creating several chances," he said. "We're relieved to have got through the first round. I think it will be better for us now," said Gunes, whose side face the winners of Group H - either Japan, Belgium or Russia. Gunes said any of the three would be difficult.

"Playing against the host nation would be hard," Gunes added.

China coach Bora Milutinovic - in his last game in charge - said he was satisfied with China's campaign overall, which saw them finish bottom of the group in their first World Cup. /p

"When you go 2-0 down after 10

minutes it's almost impossible," Milutinovic said. "I'm happy with the way we played, and the fighting spirit shown by our players. They have learned a lot from playing here."

Milutinovic, the only man to coach five teams at different World Cups, said he plans to take some time away from football before making a decision about his future.

"I'm finished with China, and it was a great experience, the people have been very kind," the veteran Serb said.

Turkey's victory had effectively

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



PHOTO: INTERNET

YOU BEAUTY! A Brazilian fan shows her appreciation of the team's dazzling display against Costa Rica at Suwon yesterday.

PORTUGAL VS SOUTH KOREA Moment of truth

REUTERS/AFP, Incheon

South Korea will throw everything they have at Portugal on Friday as they seek to avoid becoming the first World Cup hosts not to reach the second round.

While co-hosts Japan can go through with a draw against Tunisia or even a one-goal defeat, South Korea need a draw against group favourites Portugal to ensure they do the same.

Coach Guus Hiddink has honed a fast, attacking brand of football that has won South Korea new respect, but in Portugal he sees one of the world's top teams recovering from a shaky start.

"The Portuguese team regained their power after the first shock in the first game in which they were sleeping," Hiddink told reporters, referring to Portugal's 3-2 defeat by the United

States.

"They are very dangerous," he said. "It's very obvious we have to stop their powerful attack."

Portugal were Europe's most prolific team in qualifying, scoring 33 goals in 10 matches.

Still, Hiddink said the South Koreans would not settle for playing

a defensive game.

"We adapt...but we also try to take the initiative," he said, promising "a controlled attack, not blind attack."

The one mistake South Korea will

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



PHOTO: AFP

THE ONLY WAY IS UP: South Korea's Lee-Chun-Soo looks upwards at the ball during a training session at Incheon yesterday.



PHOTO: INTERNET

WE'RE AMONG WORLD'S BEST 16: Euphoric Turks party on the streets of their capital Istanbul yesterday after Turkey moved into round two.

CUP CORNER

AFP, Paris

The strip Zinedine Zidane wore in France's 5-0 win in a World Cup warm-up over Scotland in March fetched 3,800 dollars at an auction on Wednesday night, despite his country's shock first-round World Cup exit.

All proceeds for Zizou's jersey, who dominated that match after scoring the opening goal, will go to charity.

"It's a happy and victorious strip, with good memories," said auc

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

TODAY'S MATCHES

Tunisia vs Japan Venue: Osaka Time: 12:30 pm	Belgium vs Russia Venue: Shizuoka Time: 12:30 pm	Portugal vs Rep of Korea Venue: Incheon Time: 5:30 pm	Poland vs USA Venue: Daejeon Time: 5:30 pm
--	--	---	--

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5