

SCORING CHART

AFP, Seoul

World Cup scorers after Saturday's matches: 5 - Miroslav Klose (GER). 4 - Ronaldo (BRA), Jon Dahl Tomasson (DEN). 3 - Pape Bouba Diop (SEN), Pauleta (POR), Raul (SPA), Rivaldo (BRA), Christian Vieri (ITA), Marc Wilmots (BEL). 2 - Jared Borgetti (MEX), Nelson Cuevas (PAR), Fernando Hierro (SPA), Ronald Gomez (CRC), Hasan Sas (TUR), Junichi Inamoto (JPN), Robbie Keane (IRL), Henrik Larsson (SWE), Fernando Morientes (SPA).



PHOTO: AFP

DOES HE KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN? A Paraguayan fan watches his country play against Germany in the Round of 16 of the World Cup on a big screen in capital Asuncion yesterday. Paraguay lost and got out of the tournament.

Big beautiful Phil

REUTERS, Kobe

Last September, Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari declared the Beautiful Game dead and buried. Modern football, he said, had no place for the all-out and apparently carefree style with which Brazil won their first three world titles.

"There's no more Beautiful Game," he declared, referring to the term often used to describe Brazil's style in the past and the title Pele gave his autobiography. "You are not going to see the Brazil of 1958, 1962 or 1970 again. We are in 2001."

Less than one year later, the man known as Big Phil, famous for ordering his team to foul the opposition and chastising them for not doing enough time-wasting, is overseeing possibly the most exciting Brazilian campaign since Tele Santana's 1982 team.

The four times champions scored 11 goals and conceded three on their way to winning every first round game, and with the other challengers such as Argentina and France falling by the wayside, are now firm favourites for an unprecedented fifth title.

It is an amazing turnaround. This time last year, Argentina were cruising through the World Cup qualifiers while Brazil were deep in crisis on and off the field.

A series of humiliating defeats left them in danger of missing out on the World Cup for the first time. At the same time, they were knocked out of the Copa America by Honduras and dumped out of the Sydney Olympics by nine-man Cameroon.

Scolari became the country's fourth coach in a year when he took over last June and seemed to be heading for the same fate as his predecessors as he lost three of his first five games in charge.

Slowly but surely, however, Scolari settled down, built a settled team and pulled Brazil out of the rut. It was not pretty to watch, as Brazil

fielded up to eight defensive players in their team, but it did the job.

Brazilians had accepted that their World Cup would be tough, competitive but certainly not entertaining.

Everything changed, however, on the eve of their first game when Scolari, to general consternation, replaced one of his two tackling specialists in midfield with an attacking player.

With full-backs Roberto Carlos and Oliver Neuville down the flanks, Juninho in midfield and the so-called "Three R" attack of Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho firing on all cylinders, Brazil became a transformed team.

The return of the injury-plagued Ronaldo, who has scored four goals in three outings, has been fundamental.

The World Cup has come just at the right time for The Phenomenon, who, having barely played for this season, is returning to full fitness just as opposing defenders are wiling after a long year club football.

Their 5-2 win over Costa Rica seemed to belong to a bygone age as both teams attacked in cavalier fashion. Costa Rica coach, Brazilian-born Alexander Guimaraes, compared it to Brazil's famous 4-2 win over Peru in the 1970 quarter-final.

"I've heard a lot of commentaries from abroad speaking very well of Brazil and this makes us proud, and the best way to honour these words is by winning the World Cup," said full back Roberto Carlos on Saturday.

"It's the sort of football which everyone likes to see, of course we can improve still but the results so far are good."

The question now is whether it will end in glory as in 1970 or in tears as in 1982.

On the first occasion, the attack led by Pele, Jairzinho and Tostao was good enough to overcome the defensive deficiencies.

Twelve years later, one of the best Brazil teams of all time was undermined by almost kamikaze defending in a 3-2 defeat by Italy as Brazil crashed out of the competition.

This time, it is again a question of whether the attack can score enough goals to make up for the problems at the back.

While Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho have looked unstoppable up front, Brazilians have been alarmed by the gaping holes at the back which allowed the unsung Costa Ricans to carve out at least half a dozen clear-cut chances on Thursday.

STRIKING STATS

REUTERS, Yokohama

Statistics after the 48 group matches at the World Cup finals:

Matches: 48 Wins: 34 Draws: 14 Goals: 130

Average goals per match: 2.71 Goals in first half: 53 Goals in second half: 77

Fastest goal: Emmanuel Olsadebe of Poland 3rd minute v United States

Most goals scored by team: Brazil/Germany 11

Most goals scored by player: Miroslav Klose (Germany) 5

Most shots by team: Germany 46 (Portugal/Alvaro Recoba (Uruguay)/Ronaldo (Brazil) 14

Most shots on target by team: Brazil 27

Most shots on target by player: Ronaldo (Brazil) 10

Fewest shots by team: China 19

Fewest shots on target by team: Tunisia 6

Most fouls in match: Japan v Russia 62

Most fouls by player: Clever Chala (Ecuador) 17

Most fouled player: El Hadji Diouf (Senegal) 17

Fewest fouls in match: Nigeria v England 19

Fewest fouls by team: Spain 35

Red cards: 13

Most red cards in match: Brazil v Turkey 2, Cameroon v Germany 2, Slovenia v Paraguay 2, Portugal v South Korea 2

Most red cards by team: Portugal/Turkey 2

Yellow cards: 196 (note does not include yellow cards to players who were shown red cards in same match)

Most yellow/red cards in match: Cameroon v Germany 14 (two reds/12 yellows)

Fewest yellow/red cards in match: Germany v Ireland/Nigeria v England 0

Most yellow/red cards by team: Slovenia 11 (10 yellow/one red)

Fewest yellow/red cards by team: Mexico/Nigeria/Spain 2

Penalties awarded: 15

Penalties converted: 12

Own goals: 3

Most possession: Argentina 66 per cent v Sweden

Most corners: Argentina 33

Fewest corners: Saudi Arabia 4

Most offsides: Brazil/Senegal 17

Fewest offsides: Japan 2

Highest score: Germany 8 Saudi Arabia 0

Goalless draws: 2

A spill-thrill start

REUTERS, Niigata

The greatest opening round in World Cup history started with one of the biggest upsets ever -- and they never stopped coming after that.

Now, two weeks 130 goals and 48 matches later Asia's first World Cup stands poised to top the 1970 tournament in Mexico as the best ever.

World champions France, hot pre-tournament favourites Argentina and strongly-fancied dark horses Portugal have all packed their bags and gone home.

The unheralded Mexicans, Senegalese, United States and Turkish teams are still there, as are the English, the Danes, the Spanish and the Irish.

Traditional World Cup powerhouses Brazil, Italy and Germany all survived the cull -- and so too of course, did both co-hosts.

Scenes of almost unrivalled jubilation have engulfed South Korea and Japan as the Asian countries have reached the second round for the first time ever.

The Koreans have won in the World Cup after five previous tournaments that produced four draws and 10 defeats over 48 years. Japan have won twice after losing all three matches on their debut appearance in France four years ago. Incredibly both won their qualifying groups.

Global doubt was expressed before the tournament began about whether either would win a match and many thought one or the other would become the first World Cup hosts ever to fail to get past the opening round.

They have exceeded expectations to an unlikely degree, and Japanese midfielder Junichi Inamoto, who spent almost all of last season in the reserves at English premier league club Arsenal, has emerged like a butterfly from a cocoon to be lauded as the player of the round.

The ticketing scandal that blighted the opening games appears to be on the wane with far fewer empty seats in the stadiums at later first round games.

The threat of hooliganism, whipped up by tabloid journalists, local politicians and excitable police commanders has failed to materialise.

The deputy mayor of Taegu in Korea who last year pleaded for English hooligans to visit his city so

his police force could teach them a lesson or two, must be one of the few disappointed men in Korea. The fight on the streets hasn't happened.

The conflict was on the field where it belonged. If the remaining 16 games of the knockout stage produce even half as many upsets as the first round then, who knows, South Korea might even meet Japan in the final in Yokohama on June 30.

Unlikely, but possible. The same was said of Senegal beating France, of the United States defeating Portugal, of Denmark overcoming France, of Ireland drawing with Germany or even of England, so often overburdened by a false sense of expectation, beating Argentina.

The tone was set in the very first match in Seoul on May 31. World and European champions France, all sunglasses and hair gel at the airport, waffled into the tournament with 90 percent of their countrymen telling a Paris pollster they fully expected France to retain the trophy.

But Pape Bouba Diop and his Senegalese team mates had other ideas. All but two of their 23-man squad play for French clubs and were simply not overawed by their opponents' reputation and achievement. Diop got the only goal after 30 minutes.

France did not score in three matches, drawing 0-0 with Uruguay and losing 2-0 to Denmark. They went home with the worst record of any defending champion in history without a goal or a win. They were the first holders since Brazil in 1966 to go out in the first round.

The only other countries who failed to score were debutants China and the weak Saudi Arabians -- and France will now be ranked 28th out of the 32 finalists at the end of the tournament with only Tunisia, Slovenia, the Chinese and Saudis beneath them.

One day later Argentina followed France to the departure lounge at Narita Airport outside Tokyo.

Argentina cruised through the qualifiers, winning the tough South American competition by 10 points and scoring 42 goals. With the national economy in crisis, the likes of Ariel Ortega, Gabriel Batistuta and Diego Simeone promised their countrymen a World Cup victory to alleviate their suffering.

But after beating Nigeria 1-0,

Argentina stumbled out, losing to old rivals England 1-0 and then drawing 1-1 with Sweden.

Batistuta was in tears at the end, his international career over. Captain Juan Sebastian Veron was poor, Simeone a shadow of his former self. The only tiny consolation was that Batistuta joined a select band of only six men to score 10 or more goals in the finals. He might savour that achievement one day.

The end also beckons now for Portugal's 'golden generation' -- the men who as boys won world junior championships a decade or so ago. For World Player of the Year Luis Figo, Rui Costa, Joao Pinto, Jorge Costa and Vitor Baia the moment had come.

But not as they hoped. They were 3-0 down to the U.S. in their opening match before bouncing back but still lost 3-2, beat Poland 4-0 thanks to a Pauleta hat-trick and finally went out on Friday after losing 1-0 to South Korea with nine men.

At least they left their mark with the worst foul of the tournament to date when Joao Pinto made a dangerous two-footed lunge at Park Ji-sung and was shown the red card. Beto Severo was also dismissed, as were Portugal. A sad end indeed.

So 16 survivors remain. Brazil, with 11 goals and nine points seem back to something like their best -- but have not yet been tested and face Belgium in the next round. Italy take on co-hosts South Korea and Germany meet Paraguay for the first time ever. Any of them could yet reach the final. But so too could South Korea or Japan, who next play Turkey. Unlikely, but possible. It has been that kind of tournament.

Heady Hedman

REUTERS, Oita

Sweden's Magnus Hedman showed what a fine goalkeeper he has become when he used all his experience to psyche out midfielder Ariel Ortega and save the Argentine's penalty in the World Cup group stage.

The 29-year-old's calmness under pressure owes much to his interest in the Korean martial art of taekwondo, which he believes has improved both his goalkeeping and inner peace.

It is no surprise, therefore, that he has no fears about playing debutants Senegal in the second round on Sunday in Oita, even though he does not underestimate the in-form Africans.

"We can go a long way. After winning the 'Group of Death' we shouldn't fear anything," Hedman said, referring to group F opponents England, Nigeria and Argentina.

"But it's dangerous to make predictions -- Nigeria said they were going to win the World Cup before they played us -- so it's quite good to stay humble before the game."

Sweden beat Nigeria 2-1 to send them out of the tournament after the Africans had already lost to Argentina.

But Senegal, who beat France in the opening match of the World Cup, have not got this far on luck.

"Senegal have a good team. They are very strong, very physical and very dangerous going forward. But we know we can harm them in certain areas," Hedman said.

"We're up for a tough game." Hedman, who gave up alcohol to prepare for the World Cup but still chews tobacco, plays for modest English First Division club Coventry City but is hoping for a return to top flight football on the back of his fine international pedigree.

Mad!

World Cup tournament began two weeks ago. She then snatched a remote control from him and switched to a soap opera in middle of the game between Mexico and Italy.

After failing to grab the gadget, Yai slapped her in the face. The fight died down after a visit to the police station.

But the following morning, Yai lost his temper and shot his wife when she started nagging him about previous night's incident, police said.

Maldini resigns

FROM PAGE 16 say the least, in abandoning the comfort of life in retirement in his native Italy to take over the reins of one of South American football's perennial also-rans.

And in his first months in charge, players and the public made it clear they were unimpressed with him.

But he says it has been a worthwhile experience. "It was a great job and a very professional team," he said. "I'm happy to get to the second round and to have such a balanced and strong team," he said.

Maldini, assistant to Enzo Bearzot in Italy's victorious 1982 World Cup campaign, is best remembered for being in charge of Italy's less than inspiring performances at France 98.

PROBABLE TEAMS

Spain (Formation 4-4-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Iker Casillas; 5-Carlos 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, 9-Fernando Morientes

Ireland: (4-4-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Shay Given; 2-Steve Finnan, 14-Gary Breen, 5-Steve Staunton, 3-Ian Harte; 18-Gary Kelly, 8-Matt Holland, 12-Mark Kinsella, 11-Kevin Kilbane; 9-Damien Duff, 10-Robbie Keane

Referee: Anders Frisk (Sweden)

PLUS-MINUS

FROM PAGE 16 highlight, while on the right Jose Antonio Camacho can choose from the energetic Luis Enrique or youngster Joaquin, who impressed in the 3-2 win over South Africa.

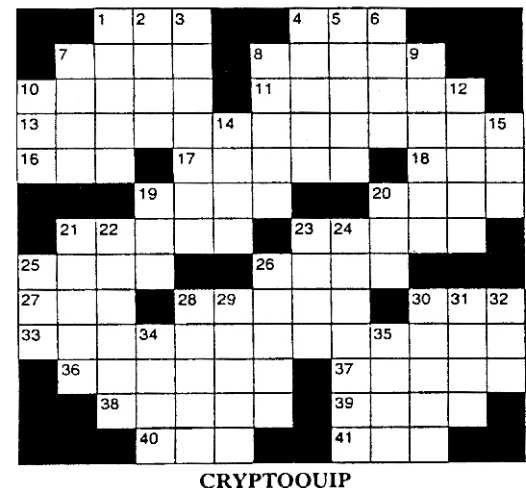
SPAIN WEAKNESSES: In defence, centre-backs Miguel Angel Nadal, 35, and Fernando Hierro, 34, both read the game well but they are vulnerable when confronted with real pace, meaning a lot of covering work for the full backs. Goalkeeper Iker Casillas is good shot-stopper but sometimes flaps on crosses and does not command the area like Santiago Canizares, who was ruled out before the tournament started when he dropped a bottle of after-shave on his foot and severed a tendon.

IRELAND STRENGTHS: A feisty determination to show they can get by without skipper Roy Keane who quit the squad before the tournament started appears to be driving Ireland forward. His namesake Robbie Keane has taken up the mantle as the side's engine-driver, proving with his injury time equaliser against Germany that Ireland's collective team spirit is second to none.

IRELAND WEAKNESSES: The lack of a real top-class player means Ireland often lack direction in both midfield and attack. To compensate for that, they often utilise a counter-attack to launch their own raids -- but that is a dangerous game. However, Ireland are adept at soaking up pressure -- but a lack of real creativity reduces their options.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 28 French school 30 Grecian vessel 33 Expression of inevitability 36 Trig term 37 Drab hue 38 Puts on the line? 39 Kegler's path 40 Einstein's birthplace (Abbr.) 41 Chang's closest relative



CRYPTOQUIP

U A X J T F F G U M X X E Y I X T M K Q X T F F D I K X Y E X D Q M N M D D I A D U F A U A " D K U P P I K A F Y I D K N " J G M X X Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HUNTING FOR SHREDS OF EVIDENCE, A BARBER-TURNED-DETECTIVE MIGHT COMB THE AREA. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals S 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.

Tvangle

FROM PAGE 16 dent. They do not play like a team trying to find their feet, they play like a team trying to shape its own destiny. Against Portugal Friday, they knew a draw would be enough to take them through, but never played for a draw. They were playing to win from the moment the game started. Yes, Korea were helped by Portugal losing two players to red cards, but frankly, they looked the better side even for the 25 minutes when there were twenty-two players on the pitch. Portugal's Golden Generation are gone, having left a minimal mark on the World Cup. Perhaps it is for the good of football. If Portugal had held on for a draw passing the ball around their defenders after getting news of how the Poland versus USA game was going, it would once again have made a mockery of the spirit of football. Resorting to such measures reflects a lack of self-belief, even when you're down to ten men, and the lack of passion, drive and determination has typified this Portuguese side.

Russia too saw their most talented group of players in many years make its exit Friday. They can

hold their heads up high though, as they fought till the end in a group which did not turn out to be as easy as many people thought. Don't forget, the Russians were without their inspirational playmaker Mostovoi, who could have made a difference. Russia certainly had their chances in a pulsating game against the Belgians, who finally got their act together to win their first game and advance. Both teams played a patient passing game in the first half, but the pace picked up in the second. Russia looked set to advance with the game tied at a goal apiece for a long time, but then two goals in quick succession from Sonck and Wilmots put paid to their hopes. Russia did fight back though, and even got a goal. They needed two however, and that proved beyond them. Belgium continued to show frailties in defence, and in the second round, they face the last team you would want to play when you have a dodgy defence. Yes, it is Brazil, and unless we see Robert Waseige come up with a solution to Belgium's problems at the back, it will be the end of the road for his team.

FROM PAGE 13 Sweden had been practising penalties, just in case the tie goes to spot-kicks after extra time.

Svensson added, however, that

PROBABLE TEAMS

Sweden: (Formation 4-4-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Magnus Hedman; 2-Olof Mellberg, 4-Johan Mjallby, 15-Andreas Jakobsson, 16-Teddy Lucic; 7-Niclas Alexandersson, 8-Anders Svensson, 6-Tobias Linderoth, 9-Fredrik Ljungberg; 10-Marcus Allback, 11-Henrik Larsson

Senegal (Formation 4-4-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Tony Sylva; 21-Habib Beye, 13-Lamine Diatta, 4-Pape Malick Diop, 2-Omar Daf; 14-Moussa Ndoye, 3-Pape Sarr, 19-Pape Bouba Diop, 5-Alassane Ndour; 11-El Hadji Diouf, 7-Henri Camara

Referee: Ubaldo Aquino (Paraguay)

PLUS-MINUS

FROM PAGE 13 Senegalese team has been a revelation, and despite this being their first World Cup, they have no-one to fear after beating world champions France in the opening game.

SENEGAL WEAKNESSES: Senegal, however, do have some real handicaps now. Key players Khalidou Fadiaga and Salif Diao are both suspended, while Ferdinand Coly is doubtful with an injury to the back of his right knee. They also showed against Uruguay a worrying failure to hold a commanding lead, letting slip a 3-0 halftime advantage and finishing with just a point from a 3-3 draw.

CUP CORNER

FROM PAGE 13 the team stayed during the first-round matches of World Cup 2002. Gimenez said the team left South Korea so quickly that the proper customs documents were not completed.

IN HONOUR OF BATIGOL

AFP, Buenos Aires

The Argentine government wants to stage a friendly match in honour of Gabriel Batistuta who announced his retirement from international football on Wednesday after the national team's World Cup failure.

Veteran striker Batistuta, Argentina's top scorer with 56 goals to his name, quit the national team after the 1-1 draw with Sweden, which sent the tournament favourites spinning out of the World Cup at the first round stage.

"I will telephone Batistuta to propose the idea to him," said tourism and sports minister Daniel Scioli.

"He deserves all the recognition of the Argentinian people." The AS Roma striker scored the winning goal in Argentina's 1-0 win over Nigeria in the first match of the finals, but then the South Americans' campaign went badly off the rails when they lost 1-0 to England and could only draw their final match with the Swedes.

It was the 33-year-old Batistuta's third World Cup finals. On Friday, Mauricio Macri, the president of the striker's first club Boca Juniors, said he would make the team's stadium available for the match.

A similar tribute game was staged in November last year to honour Argentinian legend Diego Maradona.

PELE'S JERSEY HITS JACKPOT

AFP, London

Brazilian football legend Pele's first-ever World Cup jersey was sold for more than 9,000 pounds (13,100 dollars) at an auction here on Friday.

The famous number 10 shirt from Brazil's clash against the Soviet Union in the 1958 tournament in Sweden went under the hammer at a sale of sporting memorabilia at Bonham's auction house in Cheshire, north-west England.

A Bonham's spokesman refused to name the British-based collector who paid 9,400 pounds for the yellow-and-green jersey that Pele wore as a teenager. The auction house was expecting the shirt to fetch just 8,000 pounds (11,000 dollars) and said the current World Cup fever had inflated the price. A mud-stained shirt worn by Pele in Brazil's 4-1 World Cup final win against Italy in 1970, was sold in March this year to a telephone bidder for 140,000 pounds (203,000 dollars) while the jersey worn by England's 1966 hero Sir Geoff Hurst fetched 80,000 (116,000).