



IRELAND VS SPAIN

Grit faces grace

REUTERS, Suwon

A Spanish side playing with increasing swagger and with enviable strength in depth should have everything in their favour when they play Ireland in the World Cup second round on Sunday.

Spain scored nine goals, three from an inspirational Raul, and racked up a maximum nine points in group B -- their best start to a World Cup finals campaign since 1950.

Ireland lost captain Roy Keane on the eve of the finals after a row with coach Mick McCarthy and had to sweat to reach the knockout phase from group E, a win over Saudi Arabia finally sealing their place after draws against Cameroon and Germany.

But in a competition that has thrown up so many surprises, Spain insist they will not underestimate the threat of a tenacious Irish team who have shown they are capable of competing with Europe's best.

"In the past Spanish sides haven't shown respect for smaller nations and we've come unstuck," coach Jose Antonio Camacho said before the squad left their training base in Ulsan.

"We've made a great start to the competition but all we've done is achieve our first goal. We're playing well but the opposing team are also in form and they'll be doing everything to stop us."

Ireland reached the quarter-finals on their first appearance in the finals

in Italy in 1990 and made the second round four years later.

Under McCarthy they qualified for these finals from a group that included Portugal and the Netherlands.

They put the potentially crippling loss of midfielder Keane behind them to come back and clinch draws against Cameroon and Germany before their confident victory over Saudi Arabia.

"People didn't think we could get where we are now," McCarthy recalled after the win over the Saudis. "People thought we'd get beaten in the first two games."

"We fight against doubters and critics all the time. We do it very well."

McCarthy is likely to stick with the team that started their final group game, assuming Damien Duff and in-form striker Robbie Keane recover from minor knocks.

The speed of Duff and Keane could be crucial as they come up against the somewhat static partnership of Miguel Angel Nadal, 35, and Fernando Hierro, 34, at the heart of the Spanish defence.

"The players they have up front aren't there to chase long balls."

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ALL FOR ONE & ONE FOR ALL: Ireland teammates Jason McAteer and Gary Breen in training at Suwon yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP  
LUIS ENRIQUE BOYATTI & RAUL BAUL! Spanish star Luis Enrique Martinez (L) cracks a joke as teammates Raul (C) and Carles Puyol join in during practice at Suwon yesterday.

Proud Paraguayans

AFP, Seogwipo

The Paraguayan team are national heroes, eccentric goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert said Saturday after their narrow 1-0 second round loss to Germany.

"We lost as heroes, national heroes," the 36-year-old said as his own World Cup career came to an end.

"We are going back to our country with our pride and prestige intact."

Chilavert, whose career has been characterised by his smart one-handed saves and ferocious left-footed dead ball strikes, said

Germany were lucky to win.

"Germany were not superior to us today," he said. "We played eagle to eagle. Germany were lucky today - we were their equals."

The volatile shot-stopper with eight international goals to his name and more than 50 goals overall, mainly from penalties and free-kicks, paid tribute to the Japanese and Korean fans who cheered on his side in their quest for a first ever World Cup quarter-final place.

"I want to cheer all Koreans and Japanese for the way they welcomed us," said Chilavert, who confirmed this was his last World Cup.

Mad!

AP, Bangkok

A Thai man killed his wife after the two quarrelled over the TV remote control during a World Cup match, police said Saturday.

Chartkaew Yam-uam, 18, was found lying in the pool of blood in their apartment where she was shot by her husband, who was arrested while trying to flee, said police Capt. Jittikul Kaewklungmuang.

Yai, a 20-year-old motorcycle taxi driver, confessed to the shooting but claimed it was an accident, Jittikul said.

The suspect said the fight started Thursday when his wife kept nagging him about his laziness since

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**PLUS-MINUS**

Following is an analysis of the comparative strengths and weaknesses of Spain and Ireland:

Spain stormed through the first round with nine points and nine goals and look too strong for Ireland, but there have been so many upsets in this tournament, they will be taking nothing for granted.

SPAIN STRENGTHS: Their forward play has been excellent, inspired by three-goal Raul. Fernando Morientes also weighed in with two goals and looked sharp whenever he was called upon.

The excellent delivery of Javi de Pedro from the left of midfield has been a

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PHOTO: AFP  
NO BLITZKRIEG SO WHAT? A German supporter pulls for her team at Jeju yesterday.

Ronaldo relaxed

AFP, Kobe

Ronaldo said Brazil have nothing to fear from second round opponents Belgium when the two teams clash for a quarter-final berth on Monday.

Ronaldo, back to goal-scoring with Brazil after a miserable four-year spell ravaged by injury, said the three-time world champions had studied Belgium closely and were confident of reaching the last eight.

Belgium qualified for the second round as Group H runners-up after clinching a dramatic 3-2 win over Russia on Friday, while Brazil romped into the knockout phase with ease.

"We watched the Belgium-Russia match on Friday and we studied the video today (Saturday)," he said. "We have nothing to fear from this team and there's no cause for alarm."

"All we have to do is concentrate on playing our game everything depends on us. "The important thing is to know that we can play the way we did in the group stage," Ronaldo said, adding that he was expecting an entertaining game.

"It's going to be a great match for

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PHOTO: AFP  
COULD YOU LEND ME YOUR LEFT FOOT FOR A FEW GAMES? Brazil super-star Ronaldo helps Rivaldo stretch in a swimming pool in Kobe on June 14.

Maldini resigns

AFP, Seogwipo

Paraguay's veteran Italian coach Cesare Maldini will move to a scouting job in Italy after his team's defeat by Germany on Saturday in the World Cup second round.

"I'll go back to Milan because I have a job as an observer," said Maldini, who at 70 is the oldest coach at the World Cup.

He was only unveiled as the team coach just months before the tournament started and succeeded in introducing a stiffer spine to the team.

He was only ever on a six-month contract and was always going to leave after the Cup, but feels his short time in charge has left a legacy to be built on.

"Paraguay has great unity and there are many young players so I think they have a bright future," he said.

Maldini was considered brave, to

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TV angle

SHAYAN KHAN

At the start of the World Cup, Japan and Korea would have been happy to just make it out of their preliminary groups. But the football both teams have played suggests that they may have much more to offer. The exit of some of the traditional superpowers has opened the way for the 'developing' nations of world football. Japan are certainly in with a good chance of making it to the very late phases of the tournament, as half of their draw has been thrown wide open. They have no reason to fear Turkey in the second round, although they obviously cannot afford to take it easy. If they can get through the Turks, they would most probably face Sweden. Tougher proposition, yes, but not impossible. Let's just say, for the first time ever, it could make sense to bet on an Asian team making it through to the last four. Japan have sorted out their problems in defence, and

with the midfield functioning well, they are sure to enjoy their fair share of possession in most games they play. It is converting the possession to chances, and those chances to goals, that will be the challenge facing this team. Troussier will certainly want more from Nakata, who has been by and large disappointing, but has shown flashes of brilliance. Perhaps the goal he scored Friday against Tunisia is the fillip he needed.

Korea's hopes of progressing to the late stages are not so bright, though. Their problem is they face mighty Italy in the next round. The Italians have struggled against teams like Mexico and Croatia though, and this will give the Koreans hope. Driven on by the cries of 'we love you, Korea', Hiddink's side have looked extremely confi

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Round 5, Draw in Chittagong on June 21

(Competition information, prizes and rules on June 7 issue)

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 5 Ends June 20, 2002

Tick (Ö) the correct answers

- Record of most World Cup finals appearances goes to Joff  Matthaus  Milla
- Only country to play in every World Cup Argentina  Brazil  Germany
- Middle name of Diego Maradona is Alberto  Armando  Admundo
- Which WC final was decided in penalty shoot-out 1998  1994  1990
- Who is this?  Figo  Raul  Batistuta

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....Age.....  
 Father's name .....Occupation .....  
 Address .....  
 Telephone (if any) .....Signature ..... Date.....

Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters. Cut along the dotted lines and mail to OR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star. You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 5."

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