

LUIS ENRIQUE BOYATI & 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 "We are going back to our coun-

try with our pride and prestige

Chilavert, whose career has been characterised by his smart one-handed saves and ferocious

"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 freekicks, 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

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-uarn, 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 Kaewklangmuang. Yai, a 20-year-old motorcycle taxi

driver, confessed to the shooting but claimed it was an accident, Jittikul

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

left-footed dead ball strikes, said Ronaldo relaxed

Ronaldo said Brazil have nothing to spell ravaged by injury, said the fear from second round opponents three-time world champions had Belgium when the two teams clash studied Belgium closely and were for a quarter-final berth on Monday.

Ronaldo, back to goal-scoring with Brazil after a miserable four-year



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.

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 confident of reaching the last eight.

"We watched the Belgium-Russia match on Friday and we studied the video today (Śaturday)," 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 SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

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

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

> Maldini was considered brave, to SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

IRELAND VS SPAIN

Grit faces grace

REUTERS, Suwon

thing in their favour when they play competing with Europe's best. Ireland in the World Cup second round on Sunday

group B -- their best start to a World Ulsan. Cup finals campaign since 1950.

from group E, a win over Saudi Arabia to stop us." finally sealing their place after draws against Cameroon and Germany.

thrown up so many surprises, Spain A Spanish side playing with increas- insist they will not underestimate the ing swagger and with enviable threat of a tenacious Irish team who strength in depth should have every- have shown they are capable of

"In the past Spanish sides haven't shown respect for smaller nations Spain scored nine goals, three and we've come unstuck," coach from an inspirational Raul, and Jose Antonio Camacho said before racked up a maximum nine points in the squad left their training base in

"We've made a great start to the Ireland lost captain Roy Keane on competition but all we've done is the eve of the finals after a row with achieve our first goal. We're playing coach Mick McCarthy and had to well but the opposing team are also in sweat to reach the knockout phase form and they'll be doing everything

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

DLUS-MINUS

Following is an analysis of the comparative strengths and weaknesses of 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 tourna-

ment, they will be taking nothing for granted. SPAIN STRENGHTHS: Their forward play has been excellent, inspired by threegoal Raul. Fernando Morientes also weighed in with two goals and looked

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

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.

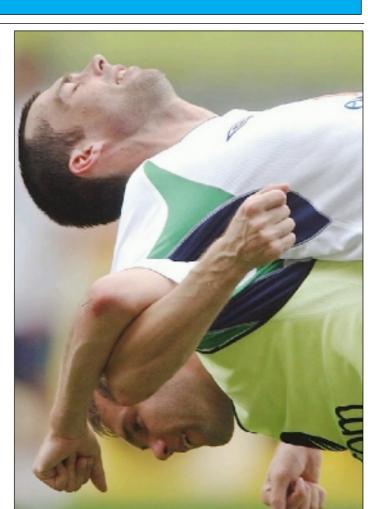
"People didn't think we could get where we are now," McCarthy recalled after the win over the Saudis. "People thought we'd get beaten in the first two games.

"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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

aren't there to chase long balls,



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



NO BLITZKRIEG SO WHAT? A German supporter pulls for her team at Jeju

TVangle

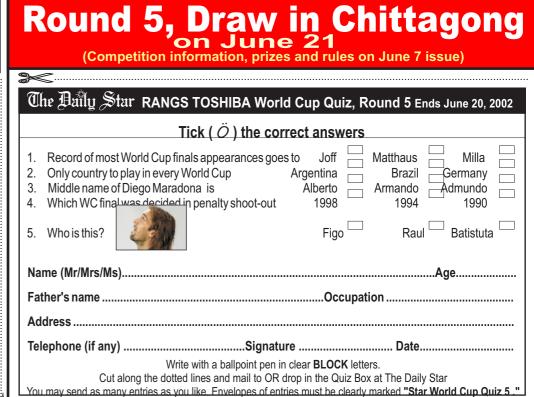
SHAYAN KHAN

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

SEEPAGE 15 COL 4



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