

Ronaldo readies for England

REUTERS, Kobe

Brazil striker Ronaldo was a happy man after scoring the second goal to seal his team's 2-0 victory over Belgium and set up a World Cup quarterfinal against England.

"It was great to see the whole stadium full of yellow," the striker said. "It was something marvellous."

"The Cup starts now, every match is going to be a final. Now we must think about England."

Ronaldo's late goal was his fifth in four matches in the tournament, making him the joint leading scorer with Germany's Miroslav Klose.

"Playing England is going to be like a great final. We're going to have to analyse their best points and we're going to have to wait up to the last minute (for a result) like today," he said.

Ronaldo said the pressure had been on the Brazilians to beat the Belgians, but that now they would be able to relax and play more flowing football.

"I think the match against England is going to be better because they play better football," he said. "We will be very evenly matched."

Portugal poor everywhere

REUTERS, Lisbon

Portugal's failed World Cup squad came home to jeers and scuffles on Sunday amid soul-searching on what its foul-marred performance said about the national character.

The soccer team, its status as a World Cup favourite shattered by its first-round exit, arrived at Lisbon's airport lobby to a noisy welcome from hundreds of fans.

Most cheered the squad with chants of "Por-tu-gal" But many whistled in derision or shouted insults at players, coaches and soccer officials who passed through a corridor of police.

"You pimp!" one fan shouted at Gilberto Madail, chairman of the Portuguese Football Federation.

"Mental and physical cripples," a sign carried by one fan said.

Valentim Loureiro, the head of Portugal's club league, was at the centre of a scuffle when his driver had to shove unhappy fans away from his car.

Coach Antonio Oliveira, widely criticised by analysts over his team's performance, disembarked in the northern city of Oporto along with about six players, Lusa news agency reported.

"You're a disgrace, you should quit!" a fan screamed at Oliveira, Lusa said.

The coach's eldest son got into a shouting match with two or three angry fans who were shouting insults at him. Police quickly broke up the scuffle.

Les Lions stay

FROM PAGE 16 from Senegal. Even if we go no further than that's not a problem because we have represented Africa well," Sylva said.

"I think that if we're here (in the last eight) it's because all of Africa must have been watching us this afternoon and we just couldn't not go through."

"We all had it in our minds to do something for Africa," said Sylva.

Sylva said Senegal's easygoing attitude to team discipline off the field has helped cement their camaraderie.

"We've managed to (get this far) because this is how we do things. Even if we get back late, if we go to bed late, and it's true that we do, we don't overdo it," he said.

"We're together in the hotel, we see each other, we talk until one or two in the morning before going to bed, that's our way of handling (the tension)."



PHOTO: AFP

TIME TO PARTY: Spaniards roar for joy in anticipation of a victory over Ireland as they enjoy the World Cup game at a square in Madrid on June 16.

It's a fiesta time

AFP, Madrid

Spain on Sunday greeted the advance of its national football team into the World Cup quarterfinals - after a tense victory over Ireland - with an explosion of joy and a concert of car horns.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said he was overcome with emotion.

"I am very happy and full of emotion - happier than ever," Aznar told Spanish radio station Onda Cero.

"Spain played very well and deserved to win because they were the better side in this game."

"I hope that luck continues to smile on us as it has done with other sides."

But Aznar, a self-confessed Real Madrid fan, was guarded about Spain's prospects in the remainder of the tournament.

"We have to take it a step at a

time," he added. "We have a great coach, but Spain have never achieved anything and we have to be very cautious."

Aznar also admitted he would find it difficult to watch Spain's quarter-final next Saturday because it clashes with a European summit in Seville.

Millions gathered to watch the match at home or in bars, while the streets of the capital Madrid and other major cities were deserted as attention focussed on possibly the world's greatest sporting event.

But after the nail-biting win revellers jammed the streets to celebrate, waving Spanish flags and cheering the national heroes.

At the Fountain of Cibeles in the centre of the capital, where supporters traditionally gather to celebrate the exploits of the city's Real Madrid club, jubilant crowds sang the traditional "Que viva Espana" in a blazing summer sun and tempera-

tures close to 40 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit).

Some of the liveliest spots were the many Irish pubs across the country, where fans of both nations had come together in friendly rivalry to drink beer and watch on television the match in the South Korean city of Suwon.

With faces painted the red and yellow of the Spanish flag, fans were on tenterhooks right up till the last second of the game, which Spain won with a 3-2 victory on penalties after the match had ended 1-1 after extra-time.

"It was a very equal game," said one disappointed Irish fan after watching the game in an Irish bar.

Spanish thoughts quickly turned to victory in the final.

"I think we can do it," said one Spanish fan with a painted face. "Don't ask me why. France, Argentina, Portugal have all fallen. I think we have a good chance."

Pleased about Zambrotta

REUTERS, Chonan

World Cups can make or break a player's reputation but there is one Italian player who has certainly come of age in South Korea and Japan in a misfiring squad -- midfielder Gianluca Zambrotta.

Although he made his debut in 1999 while still playing for Bari and went on to be part of Dino Zoff's side that finished runners-up in Euro 2000, the past weeks have seen Juventus midfielder Zambrotta transformed from a useful member of the squad into a player whose position in the side is beyond discussion.

His largely faultless performances in Italy's three group games follow a domestic campaign where he was a key part of Juventus' title-winning side.

"I have developed a lot in the past year in every possible way," the quietly-spoken Zambrotta told Reuters. "I think I have improved in terms of both my technique and my tactical awareness."

The 25-year-old explains his rise from a 'bits and pieces' player into the man who has responsibility for defending and creating on Italy's right flank, as a natural process.

"I have matured. I think it is normal that when you reach a certain point as a footballer you mature," he says.

Some of the credit for Zambrotta's development must go to his club coach Marcello Lippi who last season used him in a variety of roles and crucially gave him more licence to get forward.

Previously Zambrotta, never a flashy player nor a high-profile individual off the field, had been

viewed as a safe option on the right, a player who would not give the ball away easily and who could eliminate the threats down Italy's flanks.

Trapattoni was known to be looking for a more attack-minded



GIANLUCA ZAMBROTTA

alternative to Zambrotta for his squad, trying out Torino's Antonino Asta in February's friendly match against the United States.

But during Juve's impressive title run-in it became clear that Zambrotta had the ability to go past people, to cross and to shoot on goal and those newly-honed qualities have made him an essential part of the Italy side.

With Trapattoni always ready to alter his tactical formation on a game-by-game basis, Zambrotta has the advantage of being able to operate comfortably as either a classic right-sided midfielder, a wing-back or slot inside and be part of a three-man midfield.

Zambrotta says he is equally at home in either of the two systems used by the Italy coach so far in this

World Cup.

"I think we can play both ways. With three at the back it is a more offensive line-up while 4-4-2 gives us more cover," he says.

Whatever the formation, Zambrotta has a large amount of space to cover on the right.

"I am going up and down that flank and covering 80 metres at a time. It is hard work. I am getting forward more and getting shots in but I still need to improve my shooting," adds the midfielder.

The maturity Zambrotta refers to is one of the qualities Italy will need in their tough second round game against co-hosts South Korea on Tuesday and the player says the entire team needs to take a measured approach.

"We need to stay calm. When you start to lose your head that is when you get into trouble."

SCORING CHART

AFP, Seoul

World Cup scorers after Monday's matches: 5 - Miroslav Klose (GER), Ronaldo (BRA).

4 - Rivaldo (BRA), Jon Dahl Tomasson (DEN), 3 - Pape Bouba Diop (SEN), Robbie Keane (IRL), Henrik Larsson (SWE), Fernando Morientes (SPA), Pauleta (POR), Raul (SPA), Christian Vieri (ITA), Marc Wilmots (BEL).

2 - Jared Borgetti (MEX), Henri Camara (SEN), Nelson Cuevas (PAR), Landon Donovan (USA), Fernando Hierro (SPA), Ronald Gomez (CRC), Hasan Sas (TUR), Junichi Inamoto (JPN), Brian McBride (USA).

1 - Milenko Acimovic (SLO), Julius Aghahowa (NGR), Ahn Jung-hwan (KOR), Niclas Alexandersson (SWE), Francisco Arce (PAR), Michael Ballack (GER), Gabriel Batistuta (ARG), David Beckham (ENG), Vladimir Beschastnykh (RUS), Beto (POR), Oliver Bierhoff (GER), Cuauhtemoc Blanco (MEX), Marco Bode (GER), Raouf Bouzaine (TUN), Gary Breen (IRL), Bulent (TUR), Sol Campbell (ENG), Jorge Campos (PAR), Sebastjan Cirovitic (SLO), Hernan Crespo (ARG), Alessandro Del Piero (ITA), Agustin Delgado (ECU), Salif Diao (SEN), Damien Duff (IRL), Edmilson (BRA), Emre Belozoglu (TUR), Samuel Eto'o (CMR), Khalilou Fadiga (SEN), Rio Ferdinand (ENG), Diego Forlan (URU), Quinton Fortune (RSA), Emile Heskey (ENG), Matt Holland (IRL), Hwang Sun-hong (KOR), Carsten Jancker (GER), Junior (BRA), Valery Karpin (RUS), Pawel Kryszalowicz (POL), Thomas Linke (GER), Clint Mathis (USA), Benedict McCarthy (RSA), Edison Mendez (ECU), Gaizka Mendietia (SPA), Teboho Mokoena (RSA), Richard Morales (URU), Hiroaki Morishima (JPN), Hidetoshi Nakata (JPN), Oliver Neuville (GER), Siyabonga Nomvethe (RSA), John O'Brien (USA), Ivica Olic (CRO), Emmanuel Olisadebe (POL), Michael Owen (ENG), Ji-Sung Park (KOR), Winston Parks (CRC), Patrick Mboma (CMR), Lucas Radebe (RSA), Milan Rapacic (CRO), Alvaro Recoba (URU), Roberto Carlos (BRA), Dario Rodriguez (URU), Dennis Rommedahl (DEN), Ronaldinho (BRA), Rui Costa (POR), Roque Santa Cruz (PAR), Bernd Schneider (GER), Wesley Sonck (BEL), Takayuki Suzuki (JPN), Anders Svensson (SWE), Dmitri Sychev (RUS), Egor Titov (RUS), Gerardo Torrado (MEX), Umit Davala (TUR), Valerion (SPA), Peter Van der Heyden (BEL), Johan Walem (BEL), Paulo Cesar Wanchope (CRC), Mauricio Wright (CRC), Sang-Chul Yu (KOR), Marcin Zewlajakow (POL).

Man in the Batman mask

AFP, Miyagi

Behind Japan's unusually spirited foray into the World Cup knockout stage lurks a man with a gruesome black "batman" mask, which has caught the fancy of football fans around the globe.

In the World Cup limelight centre back Tsuneyasu Miyamoto has shone brightly as he joined gutsy goalkeeper Seigo Narazaki to battle back a flurry of attacks by Belgium, Russia and Tunisia in the first-round Group H.

Japan reached the second round with two wins and one draw and a goal difference of 5-2 -- battling the much feared prospect of becoming the first World Cup hosts to crash out in the first round.

The 25-year-old Gamba Osaka defender needed a medical face-guard to strap his nose which was broken in a training match a few days before Japan's 2-2 draw with Belgium in their World Cup opener.

The new fame has put him under the microscope of European scouts again, two years after an offer from West Ham went nowhere as he had too few international appearances to meet English Premiership standards.

"As long as I am active as a player, I will be willing to play at such a high stage," Miyamoto, who has worn 15 caps, commented about a career abroad. "I cannot comment further unless there is any offer."

Gamba Osaka coach Akira Nishino said: "His rating must have

soared. If there is a concrete offer, I will personally support him."

Miyamoto painted the mask black to make it look more frighten-



TSUNEYASU MIYAMOTO

ing. Fortunes then turned as Miyamoto came on as substitute for first-choice but injury-prone centre back Ryuzo Morioka in the 71st minute of the Belgian match when he bruised his left knee and ankle.

"I am getting used to how it feels while playing," Miyamoto said of the mask, which has become a hot World Cup fashion item matching England captain David Beckham's Mohican hair-style.

In response to growing enquiries about the mask, sportsgear maker Adidas, which sponsors Miyamoto, has produced hundreds of replica copies. They distributed them to supporters in Tokyo and Osaka on

the Japan-Tunisia match day Friday.

Miyamoto has scored one goal in his 172 J-League matches since he moved to Osaka's senior side from their youth farm in 1995. He made his international debut in 2000, against Bolivia, a few months before taking part in the Sydney Olympics.

Until 2000, he doubled as a labour economics student at Osaka's Doshishiya University, a background unique among J-Leaguers.

He once said: "What I do first after I wake up in the morning is to read an economic daily."

Miyamoto's grandfather and mother are English-language teachers. With his fluency in English and French, he has little difficulty in communicating with Japanese coach, Frenchman Philippe Troussier.

Staunton to call it a day

AFP, Seoul

Ireland skipper Steve Staunton is set to retire from the international scene following Ireland's defeat to Spain in the second round of the World Cup here Sunday.

The 33-year-old defender, talking to Irish radio station RTE, said: "I'm going to hang up my boots on this scene."

Drug-free so far

REUTERS, Seoul

The World Cup has been drug-free so far with no positive findings among the 204 players tested, world governing body FIFA said on Monday.

The tests involving blood and urine covered all 52 matches played until the end of competition on Sunday, said the tournament's chief medical officer Jiri Dvorak.

He said six players had been tested twice. There had only been one "suspicious" case that required further testing before the player was cleared completely.

"I am proud to say there have been no positive tests after 52 matches," Dvorak told a news conference.

At the World Cup, medical testers have been especially on the lookout for use of the blood-boosting drug EPO (erythropoietin), which enhances stamina.

Dvorak said coaching staff could claim a lot of credit for the drug-free finals due to the careful attention they had paid to players' diets to ensure there were no banned substances in their food.

The Casillas fort

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in the fifth penalty kick sealed the 3-2 scoreline.

"From when I was small I have been always been fortunate with penalties," he said. "But that doesn't mean anything. I was lucky and that's it."

He attributed it to patience. "I always wait that extra second and don't jump too early," he said.

"We know we didn't rise to the occasion but we had luck with the penalties and in the end we are fortunate to go forward, which is a result that we deserve," said Casillas.

However, when his blood pressure subsides, Casillas will also reflect on how his own personal luck has changed in the last few weeks.

One month and one day ago exactly, he was out in the cold at Real Madrid after a row with the Spanish club's coach Vicente Del Bosque.

Many critics were asking how Spanish coach Jose Antonio Camacho could pick a player then on the bench at Real.

Camacho defended his decision, saying: "What happens at Real doesn't concern me."

Casillas then came on in the second half as substitute for the injured Cesar Sanchez and pulled out four outstanding saves to help Real win 2-1 over Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League final on May 15.

Five days later he was elevated to Spanish number one goalkeeper after Valencia's Santiago Canizares seriously cut his foot in an accident with an aftershave bottle.

"It has been a strange few days," mused Casillas at the time.

On Sunday, luck was again one of his watchwords.

"This game was all about luck. We had some bad luck during the game but some good luck at the end. After all, penalties are a lottery, and luck was on our side," added Casillas on Sunday.

"Things didn't go well, but we are still in quarterfinals. Who do I want, Italy or South Korea? Well, to be world champions we have to beat everybody, so it doesn't matter," he said, describing out Spain's ultimate ambition.

After Spain's below-par performance, Casillas - who is known to be neither superstitious or religious - will be praying his luck holds if Spain are to fulfil many pundits' predictions and make the final in Yokohama on June 30.

Croatia's coach to step down

AFP, Zagreb

Croatian coach Mirko Jozic said Sunday he will step down when he returns from the World Cup where his team failed to qualify for the second round.

Croatia, who finished third at France 98, missed out on the last 16 after crashing 1-0 to Ecuador, missing a golden chance to qualify for the second phase at the expense of Group G rivals Italy.

CUP CORNER

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Palma, both of West Columbia, were arrested near the scene and charged with murder. They are being held at the Lexington County Detention Centre.

BECK HINTS AT STINT IN JAPAN

REUTERS, London

England captain David Beckham has hinted he might end his career in Japan and then open soccer schools for children, according to a report in Monday's Independent newspaper.

He said he would like to establish similar soccer schools to those set up by 1966 England World Cup winner Bobby Charlton.

"When I've finished playing I'd like to set up some soccer schools because I like going to them when I was younger."

"It's an option here because my popularity is amazing."

BOOKIES PAY OUT TWICE

REUTERS, London

Bookmakers William Hill have reversed an earlier decision and are now paying out punters who backed Rio Ferdinand at 40-1 to score the first goal in England's 3-0 World Cup defeat of Denmark on Saturday. The company has already paid out on Michael Owen and the about-turn will cost a six-figure sum (in excess of 100,000 pounds), company spokesman Graham Sharpe said on Sunday.

After the match those backing Owen received an unexpected bonus as Ferdinand's effort was declared an own goal by leading bookmakers, acting on the decision of the Press Association (PA), Britain's national news agency.

That meant the bookies paid out on 7-2 chance Owen, scorer of the second goal, and not Ferdinand, to the dismay of those who had backed him at big odds.

But on Sunday, Hill's said the PA had changed their verdict and given the first goal to Ferdinand, in line with the FIFA official website.

DIPLOMACY!

AP, Mexico City

U.S. President George W. Bush and Vicente Fox of Mexico wished each other luck ahead of the second-round World Cup game Monday between their two countries.

"May the best team win," Bush told Fox, according to a press statement from Fox's office. Fox also wished the U.S. squad luck.

A wave of nationalist fervor and dreams of soccer greatness swept Mexico before the second-round game.

Mexico has been through three U.S. invasions and lost half its territory to its northern neighbour. Monday's match represented a chance for some psychological payback.

"This is war!" announced a headline in the Mexico City newspaper Reforma, describing a match between countries "who are neighbours, and bitter rivals."

Few Mexicans even contemplated the possibility of defeat, despite the improvement of U.S. teams in recent years. Winning has become a near national obsession.

"We have to beat the United States," Fox said during his weekly Saturday radio program.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Cryptquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP

HI O X B Y Q O C H M I T C I Q H B G T D I Q A D O X A V Z Z Q D X D H A G V C X M Z X B V C X D W G B B X M Y I D D X W G H D Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE ECCENTRIC GANGSTERS ONLY ROB AIR-CONDITIONED BANKS. THEY LIKE COLD CASH. Today's Cryptquip Clue: Z equals F