

SUPER FLOPS

AFP, Seoul

Major World Cup upsets following South Korea's 2-1 golden goal win over Italy in a second round tie in Daejeon, South Korea on Tuesday: 2002

SOUTH KOREA - 2 ITALY - 1 South Korea become only the second Asian nation to reach the World Cup quarter-finals by topping the giants of Italy. The South Koreans equalise 1-1 with just two minutes to go in regulation time and Ahn Jung-Hwan heads home the golden goal winner with three minutes to go in extra-time.

FRANCE - 0 SENEGAL - 1 Reigning champions France are undone by African minnows and tournament debutants Senegal as midfielder Pape Bouba Diop hits the only goal on the half hour in Seoul.

ARGENTINA - 0 CAMEROON - 1 Argentina faced the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon as reigning champions in the tournament opener in Italy but slumped 1-0 to an Omam Blyik goal - even though the Africans finished with only nine men.

ARGENTINA - 0 BELGIUM - 1 Again the Argentinians flop as defending champions on day one, losing 1-0 to Belgium in Spain on a goal from Erwin Vandenberg, the first goal in the opening match for 20 years.

ALGERIA - 2 GERMANY - 1 The Algerians stunned the Germans in a first-round group match with Rabah Madjer and Lakhdar Balloumi both on target - but the Germans went through eventually after and neighbours Austria contrived to produce a narrow German win in a later encounter - enough to take both through the opening phase.

NORTH KOREA - 1 ITALY - 0 The North Koreans were given no hope whatsoever against the Azzurri but Pak Doo Ik scored a sensational goal on a cross-shot to floor the Italians at Ayresome Park, Middlesbrough, whose fans cheered the goal to the rafters.

UNITED STATES - 1 ENGLAND - 0 England had previously not bothered with the World Cup assuming they were the best team on the planet - but the Americans had other ideas and Joe Gaetjens - actually from Haiti - hit a late winner to stun the watching crowd at Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Made for each

French leagues for players of Senegalese origin and almost everything he has touched since has turned to gold.

Senegal qualified for their first World Cup and reached the final of this year's African Nations Cup, where they lost to Cameroon on penalties.

All that pales into comparison with Senegal's wonderful displays in South Korea and Japan, where their combination of European know-how and African flair has set them apart.

At the moment 22 of Metsu's 23 players earn their club wages in France. That won't be the case for long after the World Cup, with Europe's top clubs already circling the squad.

Striker El Hadji Diouf and midfielder Salif Diaore are both bound for English club Liverpool, while Henri Camara, the two-goal hero of the Sweden victory, seems unlikely to remain at Sedan for long either.

That leaves Metsu himself, of course.

European coaches in Africa have always been open to charges that they are there to exploit the local talent in order to better their careers.

Media reports have suggested Metsu, who has married a Senegalese woman and has a contract until November 2003, may take up a lucrative coaching post in, of all places, Turkey, after the World Cup.

He rejected the suggestion, though not without a degree of qualification. "Not true" he said. "I'm remaining in Senegal at this stage."



Midfielder Cobi Jones (C), sporting a new short haircut, leads a pack of US players in jogging before their training session in Seoul yesterday.

Ahn pays the price!

REUTERS, Rome

Italian soccer club Perugia has cut its ties with South Korea's Ahn Jung-hwan after he scored the goal which knocked Italy out of the World Cup, Perugia's chairman has been quoted as saying.

"That gentleman will never set foot in Perugia again," Luciano Gaucci told sports' daily La Gazzetta dello Sport on Wednesday.

Italy has reacted with fury to Tuesday's shock 2-1 defeat to South Korea, accusing the referee and soccer's ruling body FIFA of fixing the match.

Ahn, who missed a penalty earlier in the match, was hailed as a national hero when he headed home the golden goal winner in the 116th minute.

But his goal was viewed in a different light at Perugia in central Italy, where he has been viewed as an under-achiever during his stay at the club.

"He was a phenomenon only when he played against Italy. I am a nationalist and I regard such behaviour not only as an affront to Italian pride but also an offence to a country which two years ago opened its doors to him," Gaucci was quoted as saying.

"I have no intention of paying a salary to someone who has ruined Italian soccer."

Ahn joined Perugia on loan from the South Korean team Pusan Icons in the summer of 2000. He scored five goals in 29 appearances.



AHN JUNG-HWAN

A Perugia spokesman said on Wednesday the club had virtually decided to release Ahn even before the World Cup tie.

Troussier bids

FROM PAGE 16

Germany. "Maybe you could say Japan hit the wall against Turkey. We felt we had reached our limit. But Japan can close the gap with the top European teams with a little more experience of big international matches," he said.

Troussier bristled at suggestions that he had got his tactics wrong in Miyagi on Tuesday, when he unexpectedly dropped strikers Atsushi Yanagisawa and Takayuki Suzuki and took the puzzling decision to take off Brazilian-born midfielder Alex at halftime.

"I was hoping for the element of surprise and Alex definitely caused Turkey problems. If we hadn't gone behind early then there could have been no complaints about the team selection," he said.

The 47-year-old also refused to accept that Japan could have taken the same risks co-host South Korea took later Tuesday when it came back to beat Italy 2-1 in extra time after Umit Davala had given Turkey a 12th minute lead.

"Korea play a more direct style. It's in their nature. One or two small details here and there can change the flow of a game and Korea had their share of luck," said Troussier.

"If we'd had the same luck perhaps we could've gone on to win in extra time too. I didn't feel Turkey were better than Japan but we just came up a bit short. The players have nothing to be ashamed of."

Japan drew 2-2 with Belgium in its opening match before beating Russia 1-0 and Tunisia 2-0 to clinch top spot in group H.

Troussier, who has had his run-ins with the Japanese press since taking over in September 1998, could not resist a final dig at journalists Wednesday.

"I have always read your articles with great interest. All I can say is that they have given me extra energy to do my job. All adventures come to an end but for Japan maybe it has just started," he said.

After winning second Asian Cup triumph in Lebanon in 2000 and reaching the final of the Confederations Cup last summer, Japan fully deserved its place in the last 16 of the World Cup, insisted Troussier.

"The players should be proud of what they have done in the World Cup. They have every right to feel they are among the top 20 teams in the world," he said.

Refs defended

FROM PAGE 16

Cup exit was improper. "I do know that co-operation with the Italian team after the game was - and I will be diplomatic and say it was extremely difficult," Cooper said.

"We understand that to a large degree. The disappointment of elimination is always huge. Some nationalities, some cultures can bear that more easily than others."

"Having said that, we do regard the professional as having a sense of obligation towards the media to enable you to do your work."

"We try to stress to the players that they are not actually talking to you, they are talking to your readers, listeners and viewers."

"And so by refusing to talk to the media, they are refusing to talk to the fans, which is very regrettable."

Ronaldo plan

FROM PAGE 16

"I think it looks like being a very open game and as for me what matters is that the team scores not that I finish as top scorer."

Ronaldo has scored in every game so far and is progressively looking more like the player he was two years ago before he ran into a succession of injuries that sidelined him.

Ultimate challenge

FROM PAGE 16

caring rhythms again in Shizuoka on Friday when Brazil met England. "It should be the final," says Adriano Olivieri, a 40-year-old supporter from Rio de Janeiro.

"Tradition is very important. And Brazil have never been beaten by England in their three World Cup games."

Children of a lesser god

REUTERS, Yokohama

The succession of shocks that have sent tremors rippling through soccer's established order at the World Cup may turn into an earthquake when the tournament enters its closing stages on Friday.

The quarterfinals may start with a traditional classic - England v Brazil - but any search for the tournament's epicentre should look in the direction of the four rank outsiders defying all odds to stay in contention for sport's greatest prize.

If soccer's earth moves, how will it be for South Korea, Senegal, Turkey and the United States, all so unaccustomed to the dizzy heights to which they have soared?

As the so-called lesser lights of world football continue to cut swathes through the tournament, the unthinkable - can one of them actually win it? - is starting to germinate in the mind as something other than a wild fantasy.

One team at least will take a step closer as Senegal and Turkey, both already further in the tournament than they had dared hope, meet each other with a semi-final place at stake.

South Korea must feel like hosts who have gatecrashed their own party. Like the other co-hosts Japan, they were supposed to have bowed out gracefully by now and left the guests to enjoy their hospitality unhindered by their presence.

But the Koreans have revelled as never before. Having seen off Portugal, Poland and Italy, unleashing a tidal wave of patriotic fervour in the process, why should they not usher their next opponents Spain out of the door? The doorkeepers may be checking out the United States' invitation too. While the other guests are whispering "what on earth are they doing here?," the relatively muted reaction to their success from across the Pacific Ocean suggests few Americans were even aware the team had left home.

That would doubtless change if they went on to beat Germany, a result that would have a seismic effect on world football.

The countdown to the final in Yokohama on June 30 starts on Friday in Shizuoka when England face Brazil in a match guaranteed to generate cliches like there's no tomorrow.

They can start with Latin fantasy v British realism and the irresistible force meeting the immovable object.

Brazil have flourished at the tournament by returning to the artistry that has long endeared them to all lovers of the game. With Ronaldo and Rivaldo conjuring their magic, and each scoring in every game so far, they have been a pure delight.

The Brazilians, four times World Cup winners and seeking a place in their third successive final, have scored 13 times, more than any other team in the tournament.

They have never lost to England in the World Cup.

in the World Cup and have gone on to win the title every time they have played the English in the past -- in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

But this time they face a dogged England team who have conceded just one goal in four games and none in the last three and who have in Rio Ferdinand one of the tournament's outstanding defenders.

Brazil's defence looked vulnerable against Belgium in the second round and England have world class players in David Beckham and Michael Owen who could do them damage.

Logic says the winner of this encounter should win the World Cup but logic left the tournament with defending champions France and pre-tournament favourites Argentina in the first round.

The winner of this game would play Senegal or Turkey, who meet on Friday in Osaka.

The Senegalese, gracing their first World Cup with joyously uninhibited attacking football, could become the first African team ever to reach the semi-finals if they can overcome a resilient Turkish side who have flair players of their own.

Whether Spain can quell South Korea's momentum and the force of will of 48 million Koreans clad in red may depend, prosaically enough, on the state of striker Raul's groin.

If Raul gets over his strain and plays in Kwangju on Saturday, his finishing touches may silence the drumbeats and put paid to the Korean dream.

Germany, the third former World Cup winners still standing, go to

FACTFILE

Here is a brief outline of the teams' passages to the last eight:

GERMANY First round Germany-8 Saudi Arabia-0 Germany-1 Ireland-1 Germany-2 Cameroon-0 Second round Germany-1 Paraguay-0 Germany registered the highest win at any finals for 20 years against the outclassed Saudis but then had to beat Cameroon after conceding a late equaliser against the Irish.

But in Miroslav Klose they had found their most potent weapon since Gerd Muller and his five goals helped them through.

Against Paraguay it was Oliver Neuville who struck at the death after a workmanlike performance.

UNITED STATES First round United States-3 Portugal-2 United States-1 South Korea-1 United States-1 Poland-3 Second round United States-2 Mexico-0 The Americans shocked Portugal, whom they led 3-0 after half an hour. They held on for the win and a point with the South Koreans proved enough as despite a loss to Poland the Koreans' win over Portugal eliminated the Portuguese and sent the Americans through.

Against regional rivals Mexico Brian McBride and Landon Donovan hit the target in a famous win. The story even made the front pages of US newspapers.

ENGLAND First round England-1 Sweden-1 England-1 Argentina-0 England-0 Nigeria-0 Second round England-3 Denmark-0 England looked as if they might have blown their chances with two dropped points against the Swedes in the 'Group of Death'. Instead, they saw off Argentina, who eventually crashed out, then took the point they needed from Nigeria. Against the Danes three first-half goals, Michael Owen getting off the mark,

made for a stroll and now Brazil await. The two former champions have not met since Brazil's famous 1-0 win in the 1970 group phase.

BRAZIL First round Brazil-2 Turkey-1 Brazil-4 China-0 Brazil-5 Costa Rica-2 Second round Brazil-2 Belgium-0 The perennial favourites struggled in qualifying - and they laboured to see off Turkey, going a goal down before a late Rivaldo penalty - and two red cards for their opponents - brought a narrow win. China were packed off easily and finally the attack clicked against Costa Rica - though the defence looked feeble. A disallowed goal for Belgium helped in round two as Rivaldo and Ronaldo found the net.

SPAIN First round Spain-3 Slovenia-1 Spain-3 Paraguay-1 Spain-3 South Africa-2 Second round Spain-1 Ireland-1 (after extra-time; Spain won 3-2 on penalties) Fernando Morientes and Raul kept the goals coming in the first phase, to make up for some lapses in defence. But in the second-round elimination was just a shootout spooked away. Ireland missed, Iker Casillas pulled off a trio of saves and Gaizka Mendietua tucked away the winner. Spain were through to the last eight by the skin of their teeth.

SOUTH KOREA First round South Korea-2 Poland-0 South Korea-1 USA-1 South Korea-1 Portugal-0 Second round South Korea -2 Italy -1 (golden goal) The co-hosts were desperate to out-do Japan and gained their first ever win in six appearances at the finals over the Poles. A draw and several missed chances against the United States might have

Ulsan on Friday for what would have seemed a mismatch before the tournament started.

But the U.S. team, shrewdly coached by Bruce Arena, have played a neat counter-attacking game that has proved successful so far. The Americans are athletic, hard-working and well drilled and are unlikely to let Germany roll over them.

In normal times, one might expect Brazil, Senegal, Spain and Germany in the last four.

But the tectonic plates under the surface of world football are shifting. So don't be surprised if it's England, Turkey, South Korea and the U.S.

proved fatal - however, a rousing finish saw Portugal despatched. But the drama was even greater for a 2-1 golden goal win over Italy. The Koreans missed a spotkick, went a goal down to Christian Vieri and then roared back with Seol Ki-Hyeon levelling two minutes shy of extra-time.

Ahn Jung-Hwan missed a penalty but then headed the golden goal winner and sparked a gigantic nationwide celebration.

SENEGAL First round Senegal-1 France-0 Senegal-1 Denmark-1 Senegal-3 Uruguay-3 Second round Senegal -2 Sweden -1 (golden goal) After Pape Bouba Diop shocked defending champions France in the opener the problem for Bruno Metsu's men was how to follow that. The answer was to hold the Danes and then survive a Uruguayan fightback from 3-0 down as the eventual draw proved just enough.

But against the Swedes there was even more drama as Henri Camara hit a double, including the extra-time golden goal winner. He dedicated both goals to his mother.

TURKEY First round Turkey-1 Brazil-2 Turkey-1 Costa Rica-1 Turkey-3 China-0 Second round Turkey-1 Japan-0

The Turks were furious after two red cards and a controversial penalty saw them begin with a loss to Brazil.

But they bounced back to hold Costa Rica and breezed past China. It was enough to advance on goal difference.

Umit Davala then came up trumps in a rain-sodden Miyagi, his header ending the dreams of co-hosts Japan. Now Turkey, in their first finals since 1954, are in the quarter-finals for the first time.

German secret

FROM PAGE 13

Few observers had expected such a campaign after Germany reached a depressing low with a 5-1 thrashing by old rival England last September in Munich - its worst home defeat in 70 years and only its second in a World Cup qualifier.

But that defeat and the dismal draw with Finland that followed left it facing playoffs against Ukraine which proved to be the turning point.

At risk of failing to qualify for a World Cup for the first time, Germany salvaged a 1-1 draw in Kiev before sealing victory with a brilliant 4-1 win in the return leg in Dortmund.

Unify has ruled since and the internal squabbling that hampered Germany at previous major tournaments has been absent so far, as

striker Oliver Neuville noted.

Team spirit alone does not win matches and the contribution of Miroslav Klose, the tournament's revelation with five goals so far, has been crucial.

Voeller, who had no coaching experience when he took charge two years but was immediately accepted because of his pedigree and calm authority, also played a decisive role with several clever training moves.

Having no genuine world class player except Ballack at the heart of its team and no true leader has not stopped Germany from surviving while several teams blessed with more talent are already home.

On heaven's track

FROM PAGE 16

qualifying game for the European Championship finals.

His main qualification seemed to be the fact that he was ready and willing to take it, after the respected Luis Aragonas had turned the Spanish federation down.

As a player, Camacho won nine league titles and two UEFA Cups as an uncompromising left-back at Real Madrid but his coaching record before taking over the national team was modest to say the least.

After a spell working with the youth team and later as assistant coach at Real Madrid he moved the short distance across the capital to take over at Rayo Vallecano.

There, he guided the side to promotion from the second division before moving on to Espanyol in Barcelona and repeating the trick, taking them up in 1994.

He then took charge at Sevilla for a season before moving back to Espanyol and then on to his dream job as head coach at Real Madrid.

Camacho lasted just 22 days of the pre-season at Real, walking out

after a row with then president Lorenzo Sanz.

Shortly afterwards, the offer to replace Clemente came in and Camacho found himself with the plum job in Spanish football.

He immediately inspired an improvement and the team went on to qualify for Euro 2000 in style, winning all their remaining games.

Up to that time Camacho's relationship with the media had been sweetness and light but defeat to Norway in their first game signalled a definitive end to the honeymoon period.

Shortly after the squad's arrival in South Korea he lost his temper with reporters following the team, accusing them of looking for trouble and making fatuous criticism of his tactics.

In an attempt at détente, he invited the media into the team hotel for an insight into how the World Cup campaign would be plotted.

Most of those present were impressed by the coach's attention to detail as he gave a demonstration of how Spain's formation would

work during the competition

While opinions may have changed about Camacho's grasp of tactics, there remains something of a scattergun approach to his selection policy, though.

Since taking over the national team he has given international debuts to 50 players and while in South Korea he has brushed aside any questions about his line-up.

"It's not important to me who plays in the team," Camacho said as Spain prepared for their second round game against Ireland. "The important thing is how the ones who are in the team play."

What Camacho wants to see is a team playing in his own likeness and image, with dogged determination and unflinching commitment to the cause.

Whether that will be enough to win the World Cup remains to be seen.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Initial chip 36 Outlaw (Abbr.) 8 Lovers' quarrel 12 Not so good 14 Mexican money 15 Newfoundland air base 16 Choir member 17 LPs' successors 18 Cold breakfast 20 Two-faced doorkeeper 23 Model Macpherson 24 Garfield's pal 25 Prolific whodunit author John 28 Prohibit 29 TV's O'Brien 30 Used a shovel 32 Skin pigment 34 Pop 2 Lennon's lady 3 Venusian vessel? 4 Save 5 Some of the kin 6 One-customer link 7 One way to take out stains 8 Shows leniency 9 Soccer star 10 Hammett pooch 11 Implement 13 Cincinnati team 19 Verve amount 20 Chore 21 First man 22 Just shy of 50- Street "Muppet" 25 Scorn 26 Gulf of Aqaba kingdom 27 Year-end period 29 Lacks the skill 31 Antacid target 33 Bacall or Hutton 34 Funt's concealed item 36 Equitable 37 Weeps 38 Acknowledge 39 Musical Home 40 Wolfman's concern 43 Raw rock 44 Moonshine holder 45 Citric quaff 46 Become one

Cryptogram grid with numbers 1-31 and letters.

CRYPTOQUIP R N N V B P Z T X Z F T P T H N V P T H H G V Z N P X T R F Y T Z J T L T V Z F T Y B R B F B X I T V T I J X G L G V B H

Saturday's Cryptquip: THE EMBARRASSED GUY SUDDENLY REALIZED HE HAD TAKEN HIS DOG INTO A NO-BARKING ZONE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals L

The Cryptquip 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.

CUP CORNER

FROM PAGE 13

World Cup. Fergie is backing our boys even though glory for Sven Goran Eriksson's heroes will scupper his own wager on the event.

The Manchester United boss declared: "My cash is on Brazil to win the tournament but, now, I honestly believe that England will beat them."

"This England side will get better and better. The team spirit seems to be first class.

"The most important thing behind England's chances of winning is the behaviour of the fans.

"When the fans behave themselves properly, it takes enormous pressure off the players.

"I really believe England have a chance of winning the World Cup."

Fergie is getting special pleasure from watching the solid performances of his Old Trafford stars David Beckham, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes.

TVangle

FROM PAGE 16

was poorly placed. Ono and Nakata were continuing their disappointing form, while Inamoto no longer looked the player he was a week ago.

Japan were enjoying all the possession, but did not create any openings, and Turkey were quite happy to let the game progress like that.

The Turks' experience of having played more big games at club and international level told, as they held out for the win. And Japan's dreams were washed away in the rain.

Korea's dream is far from over. With every game they play, the Koreans seem to realise one dream and give birth to a new one.

Their win against Italy is surely the greatest result in the history of Asian football. And they deserved it. The Koreans dominated the game whichever way you look at it. They had more possession, and used the

possession effectively to put the Italians under pressure. They created as many chances as Italy, but Buffon was having a very good game.

They even missed a penalty! That is a measure of the confidence in this Korean side. When a small side misses a penalty early on like they did, and then concede a goal soon after, you would expect them to roll over and play dead.

But Korea are not a small team. At least, they do not believe they are. It is this self-belief that separates them from so many Asian sides of the past.

Korea believe they have what it takes to go head-to-head with the big boys, and if it takes them 12 rounds to deliver the knockout punch, they have the skill, the energy, and the resolve to go those 12 rounds.

And most of all, they have pace to burn in their ranks. Modern football games are often decided by which team has

more pace. And this Korean side has shown in this World Cup that it has more pace than most.

The Italians may grumble about the refereeing, which was not that bad really, but the fact of the matter is, except for Vierl and Zambrotta, no Italian player has lived up to their billing in their short time at the World Cup, and as a team, they looked like potential champions for only 45 minutes, that too in their very first game.

The best player from Italy on the pitch was on the Korean side in fact. Ahn Jung-Hwan, of Perugia, constantly threatened Buffon's goal and scored the golden goal that will live forever in the minds of anyone who saw it.

He could so easily have been the villain, after having missed that early penalty. But this is what the World Cup is all about. Heroes who rise to the occasion and win the day.