



GOLD DIGGER! Senegal's inspirational coach Bruno Metsu talking to journalists at Osaka on June 18.

Made for each other

REUTERS, Osaka

Frenchman Bruno Metsu was following a well-trodden path when he became the latest European coach to go searching for soccer jewels on the African continent.

In Senegal, he appears to have unearthed an entire squad full.

Under the relaxed gaze of their long-locked French guru, Senegal have dazzled the 2002 World Cup with a series of stunning results.

Undaunted by an opening match against holders France, Metsu's enterprising but disciplined side shocked the soccer world by winning 1-0.

Since then, the World Cup debutants have proved that result was no fluke, holding experienced Denmark and Uruguay to draws and then beating Sweden in the second round.

Blue-eyed Metsu is now staring

at a place in African football history, if he can inspire his players to beat Turkey in the quarterfinals.

"Turkey could be very difficult but we are fighting for Africa," the 48-year-old said. "We will do everything to become the first African team to reach the World Cup semifinals."

Metsu played for, among others, Belgian side Anderlecht and French team Lille before taking up coaching in 1988.

Following spells at Beauvais, Lille and Sedan in France, took over as Senegal coach in October 2000.

A host of European trainers have steered the fortunes of African national sides over the years, among them co-host Japan's coach, Philippe Troussier.

Metsu set about raiding the

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On heaven's track

REUTERS, Ulsan

Spain's World Cup coach Jose Antonio Camacho, who came into the job without a major title to his name, is now just three matches away from landing the biggest prize of them all.

The 47-year-old has never been renowned for his tactical exploits and he has had to put up with criticism about what appeared to be questionable substitutions in the side's penalty shootout win over Ireland in the last round.

What he does possess is an infectious enthusiasm for the game as well as a patriotic streak so blatant he is repeatedly held up for ridicule on TV because of it.

Those may just be the qualities Spain need to take them past the

indefatigable South Koreans when they meet in their quarter-final in Kwangju on Saturday.

"Look, I'd love to win every game 5-0 but there's another team out there on the pitch as well, you know," Camacho said when confronted by questions about the side's tactics in the Ireland game.

"We got through to the quarter-finals with that performance and I do exactly the same again if I had to."

"God help us if we actually lose a match."

Camacho took over the Spanish national team in 1998, replacing Javier Clemente after a first round exit at the World Cup in France and 3-2 defeat to Cyprus in the side's first

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YOUR FLATTERING WON'T HELP! Spain Coach Jose Camacho (R) makes his point to players Carlos Valeron (L) and Ivan Helguera at Ulsan yesterday.

Ultimate challenge

REUTERS, Yokohama

They are the opponents of every footballer's dreams.

Sharing the pitch with Brazil is comparable to climbing into the ring to spar with Muhammad Ali, playing 18 holes with Tiger Woods or receiving serve from Pete Sampras.

"We all feel the same, it's like a dream to play Brazil in the World Cup finals," said Belgium defender Daniel van Buyten before Monday's second round match, won 2-0 by the Brazilians.

"It will be a privilege and a pleasure. This is why we all came to the World Cup, to have a chance like this. It's what every player wants to do."

Coach Robert Waseige said the current Brazil team were recapturing the true thrill of soccer, personified in past tournaments by Pele, Tostao, Garrincha and Zico.

Striker Wesley Sonck said playing against the four times champions was "a dream come true."

Costa Rica coach Alexander Guimaraes felt similarly privileged before his side's first round match against the country of his birth.

"It will be a special game," he said. "Playing against Brazil is what every player wants to do in his career."

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson realises Friday's quarter-

final could be a match for the ages, inevitably evoking memories of the epic 1970 World Cup encounter, won 1-0 by Brazil.

"They are two different types of football," he said. "One is the samba style, which is beautiful to see as they seem to be born with the ball close to their feet. The other is more European."

Defender Sol Campbell added: "Brazil, that's the ultimate reality."

Brazilian soccer moves to the samba beat, a mixture of music and dance.

"At its best it exudes a skill, flamboyance and romantic pull like nothing else on earth," wrote Alex Bellos in "Futebol. The Brazilian Way of Life."

"Football is how the world sees Brazil and how Brazilians see themselves. The game symbolises racial harmony, flamboyance, youth, innovation and skill and yet football is also a microcosm of Latin America's largest country and contains all its contradictions."

On the pitch, socio-economic overtones fade as the golden-shirted Brazilians display their bewitching mixture of languid skills, intricate combinations and explosive finishing.

The drums will pulse their introxi

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Troussier bids bye to Nippon

REUTERS, Mori

Philippe Troussier formally stepped down as Japan coach Wednesday and declared his mission accomplished after taking the co-host to the last 16 of the World Cup.

The Frenchman said Japan deserved credit for reaching the second round, despite bowing out of the tournament after a hugely disappointing 1-0 defeat to Turkey on Tuesday.

But he warned that the next four years could be even more difficult for Japan, which created history for itself by finishing top of group H with seven points after losing all three matches in its World Cup debut in 1998.

"Japanese football has taken a giant step forward and by reaching the knockout stage this side has created a legacy for the future," said Troussier.

"But the road ahead will get even tougher and Japan have a lot of work to do if they want to repeat this achievement in four years time."

Troussier, who wants to take six months off before evaluating his future, insisted that Japan was capable of building on its results at the World Cup at the 2006 finals in

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Ronaldo plan

AFP, Shizuoka

Brazil must play their natural attacking game against England in the World Cup quarter-finals here on Friday, star striker Ronaldo said Wednesday.

The tournament's joint top-scorer with five goals said that it would be a mistake to adapt the way they play to counter the main English threat from David Beckham or Michael Owen.

"We shouldn't worry ourselves too much about how the English are going to play against us," he said.

"At the end of the day it's up to us to go out there and win the match on the field."

"We must go on to the attack and keep them under pressure and not get too concerned about the players that are on the other side and what they are going to do to us," said the Inter Milan forward.

"England have made a lot of progress in the last few years. They have a talented midfield with good ball-winners and they are capable of quickly moving from one end of the field to the other."

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SUPERSTAR KIT-BOY! Ronaldo (C) distributing bibs to teammates during practice at Miyakoda Honda training camp in Hamamatsu yesterday.

TV angle

SHAYAN KHAN

It was effectively South Korea versus Japan at the World Cup Tuesday. The two host nations were desperate to outdo each other in every aspect. In terms of who have been the better hosts, well, that will always remain a subjective matter. But nobody could argue with the results of their teams on the pitch. And that is where the rivalry between the two nations was going to manifest itself.

Japan had the easier task on paper at least. They faced Turkey to kick off what had the makings of an historic day for Asian football. You could see they were nervous from the very start. They conceded a corner early on, after a terrible series of misplaced passes in their third of

the pitch. And on the resulting corner, the weight of the expectations of a nation seemed to prevent any Japanese defender from rising with Umit Davala, as he headed the ball emphatically into the Japanese goal. It was a stunning blow, and Turkey looked by far the better side. They ran hard in midfield, Basturk and Sas in particular, and combining that with their neat one touch passing, made sure most of the game was played in the Japanese half. In the last ten minutes of the first half though, Japan did start to get some good moves going, regularly working the ball to their wingers. But time and again, the cross

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ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING? Italians Angelo Di Livio (C) and Christian Vieri (L) question referee Byron Moreno's decision to red card Francesco Totti at Daejeon on June 18.

Refs defended

REUTERS, Yokohama

World governing body FIFA defended the refereeing at the World Cup finals on Wednesday after Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni complained bitterly about officials' decisions in Tuesday's 2-1 defeat by South Korea.

"I have said on many occasions that referees are subject to making errors like coaches, players and journalists," FIFA communications director Keith Cooper told a news conference.

"It is always going to happen. The inaccuracies have been kept to a minimum."

The Italians were furious that forward Francesco Totti was sent off in extra time and Damiano Tommasi had a goal ruled out controversially for offside.

Trapattoni said: "It was obvious from the start which way the wind was blowing. I don't want to talk about conspiracies, but there were negative situations."

"They talk about fair play and then on the pitch you see things like this. You can't play a World Cup with incompetent linesmen. I've never experienced such a negative moment in my career."

FIFA has levelled furious criticism on the Italian team for their behaviour after the defeat, the BBC reported.

The FIFA spokesman stressed that the attitude of the Italian national team following their World


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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 nameOccupation

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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