



PHOTO: AFP
FOUR MUSKETEERS: American players (L-R) Brian Mc Bride, Earnie Stewart, Eddie Lewis and Claudio Reyna jog during a training session at Ulsan yesterday.

GERMANY VS USA Revisiting World War Two?

REUTERS, Pusan

After a series of stunning World Cup shocks, three-times champions Germany will hope for a return to normality when they face the United States in the quarter-finals on Friday.

While many of their major rivals have gone tumbling out in the early rounds, Germany have eased relatively smoothly into the last eight for the 14th time in the 15 finals tournaments they have played in.

However, after going out at this stage in the last two tournaments in shock defeats to Bulgaria (1994) and Croatia (1998), they will be desperate to avoid an unwelcome hat-trick.

The United States have already surpassed expectations but now, with absolutely nothing to lose, they have the opportunity to reach undreamed of heights by claiming the scalp of the most consistent country in World Cup history.

Germany, however, go into the game in better shape than they have been for several years, with confidence oozing all over the squad.

After blitzing Saudi Arabia 8-0 in their first game, they drew 1-1 with Ireland, produced a battling display to beat Cameroon 2-0 with 10 men and then ground out a 1-0 win over Paraguay in the second round.

The confidence and the performances have been in marked contrast to two years ago when they crashed out of the European championship in the first round and last September when they were thrashed 5-1 at home by England in a qualifying match.

"I've never seen such a good atmosphere in my entire career," said striker Oliver Neuville.

Much of the credit for the change goes to coach Rudi Voeller, who is universally popular with the players and was in Germany's World Cup winning team in 1990.

Voeller accepts that his side will have to step up a level from their performance against Paraguay but should be helped by the return of defender Carsten Ramelow and midfielders Dietmar Hamann and Christian Ziege from suspension.

U.S. coach Bruce Arena is banking on the lack of expectation to help his under-rated team pull off a shock that would massively eclipse their already impressive victories over Portugal and Mexico.

"The team that have to win this game is the Germans," Arena said on Wednesday. "If we don't win we'll do fine. We'll be home and everyone will be happy with us."

The Americans' only previous venture into the latter stages came in 1930 when they reached the

semi-finals by playing just two games, and, despite Arena's chilled approach, he and his team have real confidence that they can match that achievement.

"We enter the game with the belief that we can win," the coach said. "We know that on any given day we can beat anyone in the world."

To achieve that Arena is likely to employ the counter-attacking tactics that worked so well in the 2-0 second round win over Mexico.

The coach is wary of Germany's aerial threat and may stick with the three centre backs he deployed against Mexico. He also has to decide if there is a place for full back Frank Hejduk, back from suspension.

Jeff Agoos is doubtful with a calf injury, so Eddie Pope, Pablo Mastroeni and Gregg Berhalter will probably have the difficult task of trying to neutralise playmaker Michael Ballack and five-goal striker Miroslav Klose.

Lively 20-year-old midfielder Landon Donovan, described by Arena as "oblivious to pressure," and big striker Brian McBride have two goals each and will carry much of the responsibility of beating

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PHOTO: AFP
ASK KLOSE HOW HE IS DOING IT! German midfielder ace Michael Ballack (R) showing veteran striker Oliver Bierhoff something during practice at Ulsan yesterday.

Of contrasting two

REUTERS, Seoul/Sogwipo

On one side of the pitch in Friday's World Cup quarterfinal showdown will be a German soccer hero with brief coaching experience. Opposing him will be the United States' most successful coach ever, but whose international playing career was fleeting and unnoticed.

Both Germany's Rudi Voeller, 42, and American coach Bruce Arena, 50, are easy-going and friendly, have lifted their national teams from the ashes of disastrous defeats and have made some deft tactical moves to set up Friday's match.

But the similarities stop there.

Voeller, one of the most popular characters in German soccer, has scored 47 goals in 90 internationals and taken part in three World Cups, lifting the coveted trophy in 1990.

He had no coaching experience when he took over from Erich Ribbeck as a caretaker in the wake of Germany's disastrous first-round exit from Euro 2000 but he was immediately accepted.

A distinguished college lacrosse and soccer player, Arena has just one international cap, as a substitute goalkeeper in the U.S. team that lost 2-0 to Israel in 1973.

But he had 17 winning seasons as a University of Virginia coach, led D.C. United to two Major League Soccer cups, and has a 0.623 win-

ning percentage since taking over the American team in late 1998, the best record of any U.S. national coach.

Voeller has agreed to guide his team until after the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany, and his decision has won approval from all those who count in German soccer, including World Cup-winning captain and coach Franz Beckenbauer.

Arena has far surpassed his modest goal of rebuilding U.S. soccer from a disastrous 32nd-out-of-32 showing at the 1998 World Cup, but shrugs off questions about his future, insisting he is thinking only of Friday night's match in Ulsan, South Korea.

Voeller does not let anybody dictate what he should do, making line-up changes that helped seal Germany's 2-0 first-round win over Cameroon and their 1-0 defeat of Paraguay.

He ignored suggestions that Miroslav Klose had too little experience to play at this level, the Kaiserslautern striker paying him back with five goals.

"The coach has done everything right," said playmaker Michael Ballack.

Tactically astute, Arena has defied convention with frequent

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PHOTO: AFP
GOOD LOOKS NO GOOD! Members of the Italian team (L-R) Filippo Inzaghi, Gianluigi Buffon, Alessandro Nesta, Christian Abbiati and Francesco Toldo arrive at Incheon airport yesterday to catch a flight home.

Controversial refs get chop

INTERNET/REUTERS, undated

Italy and South Korea match ref Byron Moreno hits back the latest criticism received from Giovanni Trapattoni, Italy national team and the whole Italian nation.

"I am not the right person to be blamed for Italy's World Cup failure. The players are to be blamed as they failed to score the necessary amount of goals," said the ref, underscoring FIFA had earlier contacted him and expressed gratification at his refereeing.

"I don't understand the Italians who feel so angry with me. I didn't have any problems with them. The main problem is the following: everyone considered Italy national team to be the favourites, while the team failed to overcome the rivals' challenges from the very beginning."

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WC syndrome

OMAR KHASRU

World Cup, the greatest show on earth, held in four-year intervals, is not merely a sporting event. It is a phenomenon and a momentous occasion. The power of a soccer game to sway the emotions of hundreds of millions of fans in much of the world is quite incredible. No other sporting event, including the Olympics and cricket World Cup, has so magical, mystical and mesmerising impact on so many people.

The chances of Bangladesh ever playing in the World Cup in our lifetime range between prohibitively remote to non-existent. Yet the interest in the games is incessant and unbelievable. There are significant numbers of supporters for popular teams. The natural and long simmering rivalry between neighbouring Brazil and Argentina, South American quintessential football powerhouses, is matched by the

boisterous and acrimonious discord and arguments between the Bangladeshi fans of the two teams. The competing sentiments are manifested in colourful flags, festoons, posters and even processions in support of the teams. The elimination of Argentina in the first round put a real damper in its faithful and staunch backers. It brought equal amount of pleasure and contentment to the large contingent of Brazilian supporters. Overnight, like magic, all Argentinean flags of different sizes and shapes disappeared and the number of Brazilian flags replenished. Air was heavy with heartache, pain, suffering and tears of Argentina fans. The helium gas seems to have escaped from their festive, optimistic and colourful highflying balloon. Two young women even tried to commit sui-

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PHOTO: AFP
REFS' RESOLVE TESTED: Slovakian referee Igor Sramka (C) and fellow FIFA Referees' Committee members at a press conference in Tokyo yesterday.

Bumper Round, Draw in Dhaka on June 28

(Competition information, prizes and rules on page 15)

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Bumper Round Ends June 27, 2002

Tick (Ö) the correct answers

1. The first player to be sent off in 2002 World Cup	Totti <input type="checkbox"/>	Zivkovic <input type="checkbox"/>	Eto <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Coach of Senegal team in 2002 World Cup	Milutinovic <input type="checkbox"/>	Metsu <input type="checkbox"/>	Claude <input type="checkbox"/>
3. First hattrick in 2002 World Cup scored by	Pauleta <input type="checkbox"/>	Klose <input type="checkbox"/>	Crespo <input type="checkbox"/>
4. 2006 World Cup will be held in	Brazil <input type="checkbox"/>	Germany <input type="checkbox"/>	Spain <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Who is this? 	Inamoto <input type="checkbox"/>	Totti <input type="checkbox"/>	Vieri <input type="checkbox"/>

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 6."

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