



PHOTO: AFP

SAMBA RULES: The colourful Brazilian contingent dressed for the occasion at Shizuoka Stadium yesterday during the quarterfinal match against England.

SENEGAL VS TURKEY

History either way

AP/REUTERS, Osaka

Both countries have already surprised everyone at the World Cup, including themselves. Turkey or Senegal will make history again no matter who wins their quarterfinal match-up.

The Turks have already gone well beyond their first-round elimination in 1954, while World Cup newcomer Senegal is seeking to become the first African nation to reach the semifinals.

If that is not momentous enough, Saturday's game was spiced up

further by comments between the teams' camps.

"They denigrated us," Senegal's coach Bruno Metsu said, after he read some Turkish comments. "They were already talking about meeting Brazil or England. We must prove them wrong."

The winner will play Brazil or England in the semifinal on Wednesday.

Metsu said Turkey coach Senol Gunes was "doing my work for me because it awakens the players'

pride."

Gunes, meanwhile, warned his players to watch out for flying elbows and kicks from the Senegalese players.

"They play hard," he said.

Midfielder Tugay Kerimoglu said Turkey would not be denied.

"If we fight like them, I think we will beat them," he said.

The game pits African player of the year El Hadji Diouf against Turkey's 6-foot-3 forward Hakan Sukur. But no matter who wins that fight, nothing

daunts Turkey.

"We're aiming for the semifinals first, and then the final," Gunes said. "If it's in our destiny, we will reach the final in our first World Cup after a 48-year break."

A disciplined Turkish team dashed Japan's hopes on Tuesday in the second round when Umit Davala used his Mohawk head to score the only goal.

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No voodoo!

AFP, Osaka

Raw talent combined with hard work rather than any kind of African magic are the keys to Senegal's success at this World Cup, according to their French coach Bruno Metsu.

On the eve of his side's quarter-final meeting with Senegal, Metsu made it clear he was thoroughly fed up with some of the myths surrounding the Lions of Teranga, particularly those concerning the influence of witchdoctors on the team.

"Our only magic is work, rigour and discipline. Its nothing to do with voodoo."

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PHOTO: AFP

YOU JUST DO AS I TELL YOU: Senegal coach Bruno Metsu (R) gives direction while Amara Traoro listens at Osaka yesterday.

Samba breakfast

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

It was samba soccer for breakfast in Brazil on Friday after the country's national team came up trumps to reach the World Cup semi-finals with a 2-1 win over England.

The shouts from thousands of delirious fans weren't - quite - loud enough to be heard by their favourites half a world away in Shizuoka, Japan.

But they would have been enough to wake the neighbours - had any of them actually been asleep rather than watching the action unfold on television.

There was a veritable explosion of joy at the final whistle - only mildly tempered by sympathy for the sent off Ronaldinho, whose freekick won the game and kept alive hopes of a fifth world title.

In the Pelourinho, the historic centre of Salvador de Bahia, as well as in Rio de Janeiro, the cradle of the sensual samba beat, the bands of drummers were out and the pupils of the samba 'schools' were enjoying their lessons as residents took to the streets to dance a tribute to the 'auriverde'.

In Salvador, which has a strongly African culture, there is also a groundswell of support for Senegal -

whom Brazil could face in the semi-finals if the Senegalese can first oust Turkey.

Meanwhile in Paulista, from where the scorer of their first goal Rivaldo hails, hundreds of people celebrated in the town square, singing local folksongs to the local dance rhythm of 'coco'.

It was a dawn chorus to light up even the most jaded of locals, for whom soccer is the outlet which can give the whole country a real shot in the arm.

Sweden in 1958, Chile in 1962, Mexico in 1970, the United States in 1994 - and now, the people dream, a fifth World Cup heading for the national mantelpiece after a hoped-for final appearance in Yokohama, Japan, on June 30.

The cacophony of noise abated only as long as it took Michael Owen to fire England into the lead. But the Brazilian bands' beat was right back on track in harmony with the team after Rivaldo's nonchalant finish for the equaliser seconds before the interval.

The drummers drilled out an even faster beat with Ronaldinho's majestic freekick which proved to be

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Moreno's was a mistake

AFP, Seoul

The Italian-South Korea referee was wrong to send off Italian captain Francesco Totti for diving FIFA admitted on Friday.

Edgardo Codesal, a member of FIFA's referee committee, said television replays proved that Byron Moreno, who has been branded public enemy number one in Italy for expelling Totti, had blundered.

Moreno had claimed there had been no contact with a Korean defender and that Totti had dived.

"Totti dived. I was 15-20 metres away. I had a very clear view. The right decision," he insisted.

But Codesal, who refereed the 1990 World Cup final, said television had proved Moreno was wrong.

"If you freeze the screen you see contact between Totti and a Korean player," said Codesal.

But he refused to criticise the Ecuadorian referee.

"It was a very difficult situation for the referee," said Codesal. "At the speed of the game today mistakes can happen. It is impossible to see everything."

Codesal refuted claims from Italy

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Hats off to winners

AFP/REUTERS, Shizuoka

Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari warned his detractors 'you ain't seen nothing yet' after his team fought back from a goal down to beat England 2-1 and reach the World Cup semi-finals here Friday.

The Brazilians were stunned by Michael Owen's opener midway through the first half but roared back to win with goals either side of the break through Rivaldo and Ronaldinho and Scolari said the team had showed tremendous spirit.

"I feel happiness. It's a job well

done and enables us to give something to the Brazilian people. I have a personal feeling of great satisfaction," said Scolari, who has fended off months of criticism for his dour approach to the job he took on midway through a poor qualifying campaign.

Scolari, nicknamed "Big Phil," said he had given his side a simple message beforehand.

"My only thought was to be alive, not to die. That's what I said to the players before the match."

Scolari said he believed Ronaldinho's sending off just before the hour mark for a foul on Danny

Mills was unjustified.

"Ronaldinho was fouled by an England player just before it. He didn't intend to foul anyone. Afterwards I changed the system a little," added Scolari, who pushed his defence out a little wider to smother England's attempts to make progress down the flanks with Rivaldo going a little deeper to link defence and attack.

"The lads did a great job. We never gave up," said Scolari, who was able to shed light on a conundrum which had been obsessing the

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Wow, oh no!

AFP, Shizuoka

Ronaldinho's ecstasy at conjuring up two moments of magic to sink England on Friday will be tempered by the fact that he could well have played his last game of Brazil's World Cup.

The mercurial Paris Saint Germain attacker set up one goal with an electrifying burst through the English defence and then scored the winner in a gripping quarter-final with a curling free-kick which caught England keeper David Seaman off his line.

But a joyful afternoon for the gifted 22-year-old turned into a

nightmare in the 57th minute when he was given a straight red card for a rash challenge on Danny Mills that left the England defender writing in agony.

Unless Brazil successfully appeal Mexican referee Felipe Rizo Ramos' decision, Ronaldinho will be given a one-match suspension - ruling him out of the semifinals.

If the suspension stays, Brazil will be deprived of one of their potent weapons in an already formidable arsenal. Against England in the minutes either side of half-time he

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PHOTO: AFP

ONLY TEARS LEFT: A devastated England fan in tears while her partner tries to console her at Shizuoka after England's World Cup exit yesterday.

Dead-land

AFP/AP, London

From stunned pubs to a sea of red and white ebbing away from Trafalgar Square, England was a nation in mourning on Friday after its World Cup quarterfinal defeat to Brazil.

Disconsolate fans trudged away after the final whistle of a match that had brought the country to a near standstill and promised so much.

It had all started so well, millions of fans cheering and punching the air in delight when Michael Owen put England ahead early in the match.

But an equalising goal by Brazil shortly before half time, then the winner just after the restart, first stifled the cheers, then left fans in agony.

By the time the final whistle blew in faraway Shizuoka, Japan, many in the crowds had already been to trail off.

"I'm absolutely gutted," said Brian Davies, 40, who had watched the game in a pub opposite Manchester United's legendary Old Trafford ground.

Perhaps more than anywhere, Manchester felt the pain of defeat. The city's top club provides the heart of the England midfield, with captain David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt.

"I feel for Beckham," said Davies.

"If anyone deserved to win it was him. He put us there."

More than 5 million fans made early morning visits to about 25,000 pubs to watch the match from Shizuoka, Japan, which kicked off at 7:30 a.m. in England. Trains and roads were packed at dawn.

The scene in central London's Trafalgar Square -- where some 10,000 people crowded in to watch the match on a giant screen -- was replicated across the country.

Two opera singers led the crowd in the square in the national anthem before the kick-off. Despite a damp start, many had arrived hours before to secure a prime spot under Nelson's Column.

But an hour after the match ended, a few hundred die-hard fans sat in one corner of the beer-can littered Trafalgar Square singing "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life."

Police stood nearby monitoring the crowd, but there was no signs of trouble.

A few Brazilian fans in the crowd celebrated quietly by waving flags before leaving with the other supporters.

Anna Magalhaes, 31, Portuguese

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CUP CORNER

REUTERS, Tokyo

Pele has said the level of refereeing in the World Cup has been very poor so far and that FIFA should take measures to improve it for future games.

"Referees make mistakes. We all make mistakes. Sometimes as a player we try to trick and create problems for the referees on the field. This is not fair but it's part of the game," the three-time winner for Brazil said.

"But...I think the refereeing has been very, very poor. FIFA should pay attention in the future and in the next games."

Pele was asked about the controversial calls in Tuesday's second round match between co-hosts South Korea and Italy which sent the three-time World Cup winners packing.

"You can't say (the referee) is unfair. Maybe it was a mistake. But...the

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TODAY'S MATCHES

<p>Spain vs Rep of Korea Venue: Gwangju Time: 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Senegal vs Turkey Venue: Osaka Time: 5:30 pm</p>
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PHOTO: AFP

PLEASE SIR, HE WON'T DO IT AGAIN! Ronaldo (R) pleads while Ronaldinho (C) is stunned as referee Ramos Rizo gives him the marching orders yesterday.