



CAN YOU MAKE IT? Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho (L) talks to superstar Raul during practice at Gwangju yesterday.

Spain vs South Korea: Matadors vs Adventurers

REUTERS, KWANGJU

All-conquering South Korea will cross swords with a Spanish side equally intent on making history on Saturday in a World Cup quarter-final that will be a test of nerves for all concerned.

European favourites Portugal and Italy have already fallen victim to the strength, stamina and skill of a South Korean side living the sort of World Cup adventure that before the tournament would have seemed a wild fantasy.

The co-hosts had not won a World Cup match in five previous appearances. Yet three wins and one draw later they find themselves two matches away from the final.

For Spain, Saturday will provide a fourth opportunity to win a quarter-final, after defeats to Italy in 1934 and 1994 and to Belgium in 1986.

Spain, the great under-achievers of the international game, have looked as good as they ever have done in this tournament, scoring nine goals in three wins in the group stage and then edging past Ireland on a penalty shootout after the second round match finished 1-1 after extra-time.

With leading striker Raul

extremely doubtful with a groin injury, though, South Korea - backed by a near-hysterical crowd - will feel there is room in this Cup for at least one more upset.

"I hope the result comes from playing attractive football," South Korea's Dutch coach Guus Hiddink said. "I like to have grip on the opponent, and from there on, I like to take the initiative."

Against Italy in the second round the co-hosts managed to get a grip only in the second half before grabbing an equaliser two minutes from time. They then downed the Italians with a golden goal four minutes from the end of extra time.

Hiddink is not reading too much into reports on Raul's injury.

"Most of the time those top players want to play the big games so he might be fit in time," Hiddink said. "In any case, Spain have some good attacking midfielders as substitutes."

South Korean hopes of continuing in the competition may come down to how well they recover from a victory over Italy that was physically and emotionally draining.

Defender Kim Tae-young sustained a broken nose in that game while defensive midfielder Kim

Nam-il twisted his ankle. Both are doubtful for a game against Spanish side that have had two extra days to prepare.

Spanish coach Jose Antonio Camacho has used much of that time drilling into his players the need to keep possession after a ragged performance against the Irish.

"We have to move the ball around and take advantage of our opportunities," Camacho said. "Korea as a team are all over you. They're always looking to take the ball from you."

Spain could field three players who will remember the Koreans from the last time the two teams met in the World Cup in 1994.

Luis Enrique, Fernando Hierro and Miguel Angel Nadal were all part of a side that were shocked as South Korea found reserves of strength from somewhere in the searing Dallas heat to score twice in the last five minutes and earn a 2-2 draw.

Spain managed their best World Cup performance in 10 previous attempts back in 1950, when they finished fourth in a final group stage

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ELVIS, AMERICAN BEAUTY & FAT BOY SLIM WERE THERE! Three United States fans make their presence felt at Ulsan during the quarterfinal against Germany yesterday.

Raul 50-50

REUTERS, Kwangju

Spain's leading striker Raul has a chance of being fit for Saturday's World Cup quarter-final against South Korea, team doctor Genaro Borras said after the squad's training session on the eve of the game.

Raul, who suffered a groin injury in Spain's second round win over Ireland, was unable to join his team mates again as they practised on the pitch at Kwangju on Friday.

He did at least return to the field, though, doing some light jogging and stretching exercises and Borras has not given up hope.

"Raul is not ruled out for Saturday," Borras told reporters at

pitchside after the squad's training session.

"He had his first training session today and it was satisfactory. He had no pain specifically in his groin, although he did feel general discomfort in his right leg.

"He could play or start on the bench and come on for a few minutes. It will be for the coach to decide."

Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho said on Thursday that Raul would not play unless completely fit but Borras appeared to leave room for some discretion.

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Red Mexican!

AFP, Shizuoka

Mexican referee Felipe Ramos Rizo's reputation as the hardman of the 2002 World Cup was underlined here on Friday when he controversially red carded Brazil's Ronaldo in the quarterfinal showdown against England.

The 39-year-old from Mexico City had already sent off three players in this tournament including French star Thierry Henry.

There was disbelief from Ronaldo and the Brazilian team when Ramos Rizo reached for the red card after he clashed with

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SOMEDAY I WILL WATCH THEM WIN THE WORLD CUP: A six-week-old American baby Erin watches the USA-Germany game with her mother at Ulsan yesterday.

Don't blame Seaman

REUTERS, Shizuoka

England captain David Beckham said it would be a disgrace if goalkeeper David Seaman was blamed

for their World Cup quarter-final loss to Brazil.

Seaman was caught off his line by Ronaldo's 50th minute free kick on Friday which sealed a 2-1 victory for the Brazilians.

It was the second time in his career that a long-range shot had beaten the England number one keeper in an important match. In the 1995 European Cup Winners' Cup final, Nayim scored a last minute winner for Real Zaragoza against Arsenal from close to the halfway line.

"If anyone tries to make a scapegoat out of David Seaman I think it would be an absolute disgrace because I think he's been the best goalkeeper in this tournament," Beckham told reporters.

"The goal wasn't his fault. It was a fluke goal that was a cross that ended up being a goal."

Beckham, who was made a scapegoat for England's second round exit at the 1998 World Cup after being red-carded against Argentina, said: "I think it will be a disgrace if David Seaman is made a scapegoat because he's had a world-class tournament."

But Beckham conceded England had not made the most of Ronaldo's 57th minute red card for a challenge on Danny Mills.

"We didn't take advantage of the situation as we should have done," Beckham said.

"But that's the way things go. We're all proud of ourselves and as a captain I'm proud of the team. This is a very young team and it's come a long way in a short space of time."

Denying there was a skills gap between the two sides, Beckham said: "Technically, Brazilians have always been brilliant -- that's been proved over so many years."

"But I feel every player in this team is comfortable on the ball just like every one of their players."

"It just wasn't to be our day."

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WC messiah

AFP, Seoul

Football frenzy will reach a new peak on Saturday when South Korea clash with Spain in the World Cup quarter finals, but the millions on the streets are expressing more than their joy at the country's new found soccer prowess.

Korea is suddenly cool and, after decades of war followed by economic and social strife, the country's leaders say the World Cup and the mass pride being shown is like a coming of age for the nation.

South Korea will again come to a noisy standstill for Saturday's game in the southern city of Gwangju. Police expect millions on the streets.

Tickets are being sold for 10 times their face value on the black market, central Seoul will be closed off to traffic for the match as more than three million red shirted fans

take over, and several hundred thousand people are expected in Gwangju just to be near the stadium.

Fans have already decked out the stadium with a giant banner declaring "pride" for the match.

The crowds have grown as South Korea has won its first match in six appearances at the World Cup and then reached its target of the second round.

There was near hysteria after the team beat Italy on Tuesday with teenagers sat on the back of trucks waving the national flag and shouting well into the night.

Team coach Guus Hiddink, a Dutchman, has become the most popular foreigner in South Korea's history.

Home fans always get the most

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WE ALL PLAYED BADLY: England captain David Beckham (L) comforts custodian David Seaman after the match against Brazil yesterday.

Bumper Round, Draw in Dhaka on June 28

(Competition information, prizes and rules on June 21 issue)

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 hat-trick 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)SignatureDate.....

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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