



PHOTO: INTERNET

THE GREATEST PRIZE ON EARTH: Brooklyn gives superstar dad David Beckham a kiss before a Manchester United game.

Brooklyn the healer

INTERNET, Manchester

In his first interview since the World Cup quarterfinal loss to Brazil, England captain David Beckham narrated how six heartfelt words from his little son helped him to shake off his despair.

Becks and his teammates returned home from Japan with the hurt and disappointment of the 2-1 defeat by Brazil still burning deep inside them.

But the pain lessened the minute Becks was reunited with his overjoyed three-year-old son Brooklyn.

"Brooklyn gave me a really marvellous moment when I saw him for the first time after getting back.

"Like the rest of the lads, I was still feeling totally gutted and empty about being knocked out of a World Cup. I honestly thought we could win.

"But when Brooklyn saw me, he rushed up and said, 'I love you so much, Daddy'.

"Then he gave me the strongest hug I have ever had in my life.

"It was fantastic, so special and it meant so much to me after all we had been through out in Japan and South Korea," Beckham told an English tabloid on Monday.

Beckham's despair was also eased by his wife Victoria.

Posh Spice who is seven months pregnant reassured her husband he had returned to England a hero, along with the rest of Sven Goran Eriksson's squad.

"Victoria said to me, 'I am so very proud of you, David and so is everybody else in the country. The whole of England knows you all did the best you could.'

"Of course, it is going to take time for the wounds of not winning the World Cup to heal.

"A disappointment like that is something I won't get over quickly.

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Champion underachievers

REUTERS, Madrid

A dejected Spanish national team were given an enthusiastic reception by close to a thousand cheering fans when they returned home after their dramatic exit from the World Cup on Monday.

Waving Spanish flags, chanting the players' names and holding up placards of encouragement, fans waiting at Madrid's Barajas airport did their best to bring smiles to the faces of the disappointed team after their 14-hour flight from South Korea.

Airport security guards were swamped by the crowd who surged forward to greet the players as they made their way through the arrival

lounge to the waiting team bus which was due take them directly to an official reception with King Juan Carlos.

A chorus of "Campeones, campeones" (champions, champions) accompanied the players as they boarded the bus.

Skipper Fernando Hierro and midfielder Luis Enrique, who have both announced their retirement from international football, were given a special cheer as was young winger Joaquin who missed the crucial spot-kick in the penalty shoot-out defeat by South Korea.

The reception by the team was a reflection of the general feeling in Spain that the national side were desperately unfortunate to be

knocked out of the tournament at the quarter-final stage.

Spain cruised through the first group phase with comfortable victories over Slovenia, Paraguay and South Africa, becoming the only team in the tournament apart from Brazil to take a maximum nine points from their three matches.

But they made hard work of their second-round match against Ireland and managed to overcome their unfancied opponents only after a superb display by young Real Madrid keeper Iker Casillas in a penalty shoot-out.

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Thank you Red Tide

AFP, Seoul

Germany ended South Korea's World Cup dream on Tuesday but the party by the army of fans goes on.

The fireworks and roars of encouragement that rang around South Korea when everything was going right turned to stunned silence when Michael Ballack scored Germany's winning goal in the World Cup semi-final.

This time the fire from the Red Devils, the official South Korean supporters club, could not carry the team to another upset to match those against Portugal, Italy and Spain.

But as the final whistle went, the estimated 1.6 million fans packed into a few blocks of central Seoul stood, clapped and then started dancing again.

"They did well, we are happy," said Lee Young-Mee, 20-year-old student, proudly wearing her bright red T-shirt bearing the slogan "Be The Reds." "It's alright even if they lose," she added before joining in the national anthem proudly sung from a stage set up in the Gwanghwamun district.

Na Yu-Jung, 15, from Seoul, said "I am a bit disappointed but I think our players did their best. We may have expected too much."

Fans wearing the national flag slowly started marching away still chanting "Daehan Minguk" (Republic of Korea).

Germany were not just taking on the giant-killing South Korean team. There were the 60,000 fanatical supporters in the Seoul stadium and more than five million Koreans packing the streets around the country.

Police said it was another record crowd in red T-shirts crushed into

central Seoul and other cities praying for another upset win by South Korea that might have given them a fairy-tale place in the World Cup final in Yokohama, Japan on Sunday.

The National Police Agency said there were more than 2.1 million fans gathered around giant television screens in Seoul alone.

Inside the Seoul World Cup stadium, thousands of South Korean fans put up a giant slogan that spelled out "Dreams Come True" in Korean. But this time it was not to be.

And stadium officials were also

embarrassed when a flag sized banner was put up showing a German Nazi swastika and the words "No Entry".

They rushed to confiscate the banner before the German team came on to inspect the pitch before the match.

South Korean supporters also dropped a plan to unfurl a giant flag symbolising a unified Korea during the semi-final because of fears it

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PHOTO: INTERNET

'IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT': Spanish King Juan Carlos (C) and Queen Sofia (R) meet superstar Raul during a reception of Spain's World Cup squad at Zarzuela Palace on June 24.



PHOTO: AFP

THEY FOUGHT FOR HER AND MILLIONS OF OTHERS: A South Korean young lady at the stands of Seoul World Cup Stadium yesterday.

Euphoric Berlin

AFP, Berlin

Thousands of Germans following the World Cup semi-final match against South Korea on huge screens in the streets of Berlin exploded with joy when their side won 1-0 on Tuesday.

In Potsdamer Platz in central Berlin, some 3,000 fans yelled, whooped and clapped when German midfielder Michael Ballack scored the lone goal of the match in the 75th minute in Seoul, sealing South Korea's exit from the World Cup.

The Germans will now play in the final Sunday against either Brazil or Turkey, the first time they have made the final since 1990, when they won the World Cup.

In the former communist east of the capital, in Treptow Park, some 2,000-3,000 fans, many wearing the football jerseys of the German team, chanted "Ollie, Ollie" to urge on the German goalkeeper Oliver "Ollie" Kahn.

German politicians had urged employers to let workers watch the match on television but some companies, such as Daimler-Chrysler, had refused to allow this.

Oliver Santen, spokesman for the huge insurance company Allianz, had said Monday that "in response to great demand, several

conference

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World's apart

AFP, Seoul

Perceptions of the World Cup finals are diverging rapidly from an enthralled Asia to an increasingly sceptical Europe and South America as the competition draws to its conclusion.

The traditional footballing powerhouses in Europe are bemoaning what they see as a lack of real quality, poor refereeing and are slinging around vague charges of collusion and match-rigging.

Spain, South Korea's victims on their way to Tuesday's semi-final with Germany, pointed to two disallowed goals in their quarter-final as clear proof that refereeing decisions were the main reason an Asian team reached the last four for the last time.

"What happened here was robbery," insisted Spanish player Ivan Helguera.

"This isn't good for football," said

Spanish coach Jose Antonio Camacho.

The most powerful man in football, FIFA president Sepp Blatter, disagrees, believing that the essence of sport is its ability to surprise.

"What strikes me most about this World Cup is that even the greatest of teams can be humbled if they are not ideally prepared," said Blatter, who is Swiss.

"I do not want to lay myself open again to charges of being anti-European, but I find that a good thing."

"It just goes to show that all the developmental work started by Joao Havelange (former FIFA chief) and then taken up by myself is bearing fruit."

But he also felt the need to state that "any allegations of a conspiracy in favour of the Korea Republic are

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PHOTO: INTERNET


DEUTSCHLAND IN NO DOUBT: German fans in Berlin know which way their team is heading while watching the semifinal on a giant screen 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)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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