PHOTO: INTERNE



VIVA VOELLER: German coach Rudi Voeller and his charges on the bench celebrate as the final whistle is blown in Seoul on June 25.

Best not always best

AFP, Seoul

German coach Rudi Voller issued a stark warning to his World Cup final opponents on Wednesday, reminding them that "the best team doesn't always win."

Voller has turned around the German side in recent months since taking over midway through 2000 and now, despite coming here shorn of several injured first-choice stars, his team are on the threshold of a fourth world title after beating South Korea 1-0 in the semifinal on Tuesday.

"But we've come a long way together. We've grasped our oppor-

tunity by the horns. Voller won the competition as a player under Franz Beckenbauer in 1990 and is now a game away from emulating his former mentor as a World Cup winner as both player

and coach. "Whoever we play in the final it will be tough," added Voller. "But it's not necessarily the best

Gone full circle

AP/AFP, Seoul

Germany's drive to recapture past glory was nearly completed Tuesday when the three-time champion beat co-host South Korea 1-0 to reach the World Cup final for the seventh time.

The Germans are now one step away from winning their fourth title, an achievement that would match Brazil's World Cup record. Brazil will be Germany's opponents in the semifinal.

For the second game in a row, midfielder Michael Ballack scored the winner, firing in a rebound in the 75th minute. But Ballack, booked shortly before scoring, won't be in the final because of two yellow cards.

Playing some of their most convincing soccer of the tournament, the Germans shrugged off a deafen-

Michael Ballack experienced the

highs and the lows in Germany's 1-0

semifinal victory over South Korea,

hitting the winner after having ruled

himself out of the final with a

bookable offence, which may have

"Even though he knew that with another yellow card he would miss the final, he still committed that tactical foul which was utterly necessary," coach Rudi Voeller said of his

"He sacrificed himself for the

The Bayer Leverkusen midfielder, who had sent Germany

sake of the team, so we will try to win

into the last four by scoring in their hard-fought 1-0 guarterfinal win over the United States, proved decisive again, finding the net in the 75th minute after knocking in a deflection

by South Korean goalkeeper Lee

But the 25-year-old East

German-born player will have to

watch from the stands when his team

face either Brazil or Turkey in the

second of the knock-out phase of the

tournament -- for bringing down Lee

Chun-soo on the edge of his own

Four minutes before he scored he had picked up a yellow card -- his

final in Yokohama on Sunday.

saved his team on Tuesday.

REUTERS, Seoul

playmaker.

Woon-jae

the Cup for him."

ing home crowd of 65,000 and produced a mature performance to subdue the giant-killing South Koreans, the first Asian side to reach a World Cup semifinal.

SPORT

Minutes after the final whistle, coach Rudi Voeller received a call on his cellphone from German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder congratulating the team.

"I think we are going to have a beer or two," said 21-year-old defender Christoph Metzelder, one of the revelations in the German team. "We fought with everything we had.

"The better fitness of the Germans decided the match," Beckenbauer said. "It was again a team victory, that's the strength of the German team. It was just a matter of time until we scored.

"The team has so much self-

"Nothing can throw us off bal-

"We can make the best of what

confidence and so I think they will

ance," he said, who stands to be

replaced either by Jens Jeremies or

Bad luck Ballack

come through.

Lars Ricken

Voller knows what it feels like to be a champion, having starred on Franz Beckenbauer's squad 12 years ago.

But he also knows what it feels like to be tossed on a stormy sea of criticism as the German media and sporting establishment indulges in their favourite hobby of chucking brickbats at whoever is in charge of Die Mannschaft.

Now Voller can throw a few back at his detractors, showing that, just as with Beckenbauer, you don't need club management experience to coach a team to the biggest prize in sport.

Yet ten short months ago the Germans were on their knees after a Michael Owen-inspired England SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

we have available." he added

World Cup-winning recipe.

Voller agreed, telling reporters

that in a tournament, which has not

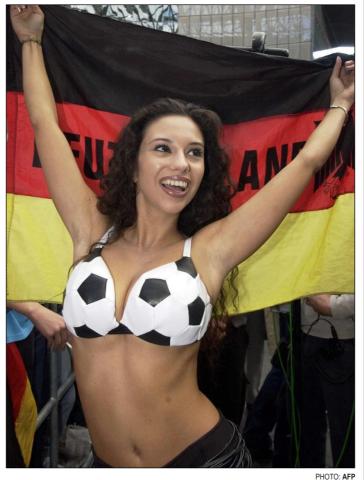
produced a real star teamwork is the

most important ingredient for a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



WHAT WOULD GERMANY HAVE DONE WITHOUT THEM? Michael Ballack (L) is congratulated by skipper Oliver Kahn after the semifinal at Seoul on June 25.



"A few months ago we could never have expected to get through all the way to the final," he said on Wednesday ahead of the other semifinal between Brazil and surprise package Turkey in Saitama, Japan.

"We were under a lot of pressure with two play-off games against Ukraine to qualify and whoever has been around me the past couple of years knows things haven't always been easy.

teams which wins. If it were then penalty area as the Korean forward headed for goal. Brazil would have won the World

Cup 14 times." Germany will nevertheless go into the final showdown with something approaching a ghost team.

They come to Asia with the heart of their defence ripped out having lost stalwarts Jens Nowotny and Christian Worns to injury.

They also lost midfielder and potential world superstar Sebastian Deisler to a damaged knee while the experienced Mehmet Scholl elected SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Ballack said the realisation he would miss the World Cup final through suspension was almost too much to bear.

But after receiving a deadly yellow card just prior to his matchwinning goal, Ballack said he would be right behind the team as a fan.

"I'll be there out on the pitch in my heart. I wish the team every success." said the 25-year-old

Although Voller described his star playmaker as irreplaceable Ballack savs all is not lost for the final on Sunday against either Brazil or

FOOTBALL HER HEART & SOUL: A German young lady is ecstatic after the national booters made it to the final on June 25.



COACH FANTASTIC: South Korean coach Guus Hiddink watching from the sidelines at Seoul on June 25.

What's up Guus? REUTERS/AP, Seoul

South Korea's Guus Hiddink is a hero to his adoring Red Devil fans and after securing a place in history now finds himself the most marketable

coach in the game. Hiddink's team may have lost their hard-fought World Cup semifinal 1-0 to Germany on Tuesday but the disappointing result has had little impact on his soaring reputation within football.

He is the only coach to have taken two different nations to the last four at the World Cup and the only one to have guided an Asian team to those exalted heights.

But the amiable Dutchman's contract with the Koreans is up after Saturday's third-place playoff in Daegu and he will become a free agent should he decide, as expected, against an extension.

While there will no doubt be huge pressure on him to stay from a grateful Korean public, the man who took the Netherlands to the semifinals in France four years ago has given no SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

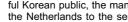


PHOTO: INTERNET



SHAYAN KHAN

We should have known. You underestimate Germany at your own peril. Especially during the World Cup. Experts said it was doubtful whether they would make it out of their group. Few gave them a chance of making the final. Their money was on lesser footballing nations like France, Argentina, and even Spain and Portugal. But when the pressure is on, it is the greats who rise to the occasion, and the upstarts fall by the wayside. And it would be difficult to argue there is a greater footballing nation than Germany, except maybe Brazil

In a tournament going against the script at almost every turn, mental toughness was always going to be at a premium. The Italians and the Spanish cried about bad luck and conspiracies, and dropped their heads whenever something went against them. The Germans decided come what may they would find a way to win. And that is what they did

against South Korea Tuesday. The Koreans played very well again. At the start, they matched Germany in every department, and took care of everything the Germans threw at them. Rudi Voeller had obviously instructed his side to bombard the Korean penalty box with crosses, and they did. Schneider on the right was seeing a lot of the ball, but his final balls were invariably poor, or well dealt with by the Hong Myung-Bo and Lee Tae-Young, who completely marked Miroslav Klose out of the game. The Koreans probably created the best chance of the tightly fought first half, but Lee Chun-Soo's low pile-driver was saved brilliantly by the flawless Oliver Kahn. If Germany go all the way and win the World Cup, there will be a strong case to award Kahn with the Golden

Ball, which would be the first time for a goalkeeper. In the second half, Germany were clearly stronger.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Bumper Round, Draw in Dhaka (Competition information, prizes and rules on June 21 issue) * The Đaily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Bumper Round Ends June 27, 2002 Tick (O) the correct answers 1. The first player to be sent off in 2002 World Cup Eto Totti Zivkovic Milutonovic Metsu Coach of Senegal team in 2002 World Cup Claude 2. 3. First hattrick in 2002 World Cup scored by Klose Pauleta Crespo 2006 World Cup will be beld in Brazil Germany 4. Spain Totti 🗔 Inamoto 🗌 Who is this? Vieri 5 Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....Age..Occupation Father's name 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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