



PHOTO: AFP

STRETCH TO THIRD! The South Korean team stretch during practice at their training camp in Gyeongju yesterday.

Hero's farewell planned

AFP, Seoul

South Korean fans will pay their own tribute to coach Guus Hiddink when the Dutchman takes charge of the national team for what will probably be the last time in Saturday's World Cup consolation final.

Hiddink's contract runs out when the third place playoff against Turkey ends in Daegu.

And his adoring fans are determined to make it a day to remember for the coach who transformed the South Korean team in a few months and made himself the most popular foreigner in South Korea's history.

He will be made an honorary member of the Red Devils, the fanatical official supporters club, before the match and the banners inside the Daegu stadium are expected to be a wall-to-wall tribute

to Hiddink.

The Dutchman is keeping his future plans a mystery. The Korean Football Association is still desperately trying to persuade Hiddink to stay, at least for the Asian Games which the country will host in October.

But reports say Hiddink now wants the glamour of the English Premiership or another top European league.

He could also be a candidate to take charge of Portugal, which will host the European Champions in 2004. Portugal sacked coach Antonio Oliveira this week after failing to get past the first round at the World Cup.

Hiddink was in charge of the Dutch team that whacked South Korea 5-0 at the 1998 World Cup before going out in the semi-finals.

This time Hiddink's South Korea beat Portugal in the group stages before they were beaten in the semi-final.

Hiddink has been asked by PSV Eindhoven to return to Holland, the club said.

When last in charge there, PSV Eindhoven won four straight league titles and in 1988 completed the league, Dutch FA Cup and European Cup treble.

Eindhoven spokesman Frederico Salazar told AFP however that Hiddink had replied that he would only make a decision after the World Cup.

And Korean football officials quoted by Seoul media said the Dutch league is not big enough for

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

SOUTH KOREA VS TURKEY Everything to play for

AP, Seoul

The usual blues of the World Cup third-place game will be pepped up with red as South Korea plays Turkey on Saturday.

Losing in the semis is a downer, but a World Cup full of upsets gives the third-place match a different perspective.

Co-host South Korea got something positive from its 1-0 semifinal loss to Germany - a chance to bow out a winner at home. South Korea wound up with the third-place game in Daegu as part of a series of trade-offs with the other host, Japan. Yokohama is site of the championship game on Sunday between Germany and Brazil.

South Korea held the opening game May 31 and also had its name first on FIFA's official advertising: the Korea-Japan World Cup.

Guus Hiddink's squad gained millions of fans during its unlikely charge to the semifinals and will use Saturday's game to bid farewell to legions of flag-waving, chanting "Red Devils" supporters.

Turkey's colours are also red and white, so its small band of fans is likely to be vocal, but nearly invisible.

South Korea, 0-10-4 in five previous World Cup campaigns, is 4-1-1 on home soil this time.

It's likely to be Hiddink's last game in charge and, regardless of the outcome, he'll be sent out a hero.

"We were disappointed to lose the semifinal," he said, even if reaching the last four "was very unrealistic and very unexpected four, five weeks ago."

He added that victories over Portugal, Italy and Spain proved the South Koreans were capable of beating anyone.

Hiddink was fine-tuning his squad Thursday at the ancient Korean capital of Gyeongju.

The Turks also had unexpected success in their first trip to the World Cup since 1954, and were unbeaten - except against Brazil.

A Ronaldo burst in the 49th minute gave Brazil the only goal in Wednesday's semifinal at Saitama, Japan. Four-time champion Brazil beat Turkey 2-1 in the first round, as well.

Coach Senol Gunes said his Turkish squad succeeded in "making an impact."

"Being one of the teams in the semifinal is still a good thing," Gunes said. "Maybe we will get to the final next time. For now we have another match against South Korea and we could still finish as the third-best team in the world."

The Turkish squad arrived Thursday at Daegu and wasn't planning to practice until the eve of the game.

At the last three World Cups, the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



PHOTO: AFP

BUSINESS AS USUAL: The Turkish squad warm-up during a training session at Daegu World Cup Stadium yesterday.

Turks tired

AFP, Daegu

Turkey coach Senol Gunes warned Friday that his players were tired after their run to the World Cup semi-final and might struggle against South Korea in Saturday's third-place playoff match here.

Turkey reached the semis for the first time in their history in only their second ever appearance at the finals and were unlucky to bow out to Brazil by the only goal, scored by Ronaldo, last Wednesday.

The Turks have had to pack up and head from Japan to South Korea and therefore have had

less time to recover from their six matches and prepare to meet the tournament co-hosts, who lost to Germany on Tuesday.

"Korea have far more World Cup experience compared to us and their standards are increasing daily," said Gunes.

Gunes also pointed out that a 65,000-strong home crowd would also benefit the South Koreans.

But he said that the Turks were happy to have come so far in the tournament and would use the experience to fire their campaign to make an impression at the 2004 European Championship finals in Portugal.

Take no chances

AFP, Yokohama

The perimeter fence of Yokohama's International Stadium, the venue of Sunday's World Cup final between Brazil and Germany, has been raised against gate-crashers, organisers said Thursday.

An eastern portion of the wire fence, which was erected before the month-long tournament kicked off, has been given an additional 60 centimetres (24 inches) to stand three metres (10 feet) tall.

"It is a measure to prevent a recurrence of trespassing cases," said Hitoshi Kobayashi, a security official at the Japanese organising committee (JAWOC).

One Japanese and two Irish men have been arrested for sneaking into the stadium over the portion ahead of two previous matches involving

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



PHOTO: AFP

KUNG-FU FIGHTING! (L-R) Roberto Carlos, coach Luis Felipe Scolari, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho protect themselves from the ball during free-kick practice at Yokohama yesterday.

From hell and back

REUTERS, Yokohama

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who has taken his team from the doldrums to the final of the World Cup in only one year, admitted that his first three months in charge were "hell".

Scolari was a successful club coach with Belo Horizonte's Cruzeiro when he was suddenly invited to become his country's fourth national team coach in a year last June.

But the man known as Big Phil (Felipao) said that he was not prepared for the change and quickly found himself in danger of making history for the wrong reasons.

A 1-0 World Cup qualifying defeat to Uruguay in his first game left Brazil in danger of missing out on the World Cup for the first time.

"One year ago, when I took over the Brazil team there were many difficulties. We really only got to

terms with the job after two or three months," he said.

"The first three months were really difficult. I was not ready. I was prepared to work at Cruzeiro, my life was Cruzeiro and the Libertadores Cup (the South American equivalent of the Champions League).

"Suddenly, I was coach of Brazil, I had to pick the team, then we lost to Uruguay. It was hell.

"We were in danger of not qualifying. I was coach of the only country to have played at every World Cup and I could have been in charge when we failed for the first time.

"It was also very difficult for the players."

Scolari said that he already considered his players champions - even if they lose to Germany on Sunday - and said that the tournament had confirmed he was correct to leave temperamental veteran

striker Romario at home in Brazil.

"A final is everything and of course we want to win but I don't want pressure on the players," said Scolari, who had said before the tournament that he would be "dead meat" in a country where anything other than winning in style is labelled as failure.

"But even if they do not win on Sunday, they will be champions in my eyes because only I know what they went through to get this far.

"For me they are already champions. I want them to feel at ease to play football."

Scolari withstood a huge wave of popular pressure this year as he

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

R-powered All-Stars

REUTERS, Yokohama

The underdogs have triumphed again as two South Koreans, three Turks and one player from Senegal were named by FIFA in their All-Star Team of the 2002 World Cup.

A 10-man FIFA committee, headed by former Czechoslovakia coach Josef Venglos, rewarded South Korea's historic run to the semi-finals by naming veteran defender and captain Hong Myung-bo and midfielder Yoo Sang-chul in the 16 man list.

It is the first time that South Korean players have been included in such a selection and the recognition follows an outstanding tournament for the co-hosts who beat Portugal, Italy and Spain before a 1-0 defeat to Germany in the semifinal.

"They were both strong in the overall performance of the team. One as a leader and the other as an organiser the man linking defence and attack," said Venglos.

"They had an important influence on the spirit, determination and organisation of their team," added the Slovak.

Centre-half Hong was playing in his fourth World Cup while Yoo was the kingpin in coach Guus Hiddink's impressive midfield unit.

Turkey were represented by goalkeeper Rustu Recber, defender Alpay Ozalan and lively forward Hasan Sas - all key members of the team that produced their country's best ever showing by reaching the last four before falling to Brazil.

Venglos said that only players

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

CUP CORNER

REUTERS, Tokyo

The English soccer team checked out of their hotel in Japan almost a week ago after being knocked out of the World Cup but their rooms aren't going begging. The remote hotel where the squad stayed during the tournament has been inundated with calls from Japanese fans, most of them wanting to sleep in the bed vacated by captain David Beckham.

"We are getting around 80 calls a day along those lines," said a spokeswoman for the Westin Awaji Island Resort on the small island of Awaji, some 435 km (270 miles) southwest of Tokyo and near the city of Kobe.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

TODAY'S MATCH

Turkey vs Rep of Korea
Venue: Daegu
Time: 5:00 pm

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

King v Kaiser

AFP, Yokohama

The King backs Brazil - but Der Kaiser backs Germany.

Brazilian legend Pele is backing his country to win a record fifth World Cup here on Sunday.

But former World Cup-winning German libero and coach Franz Beckenbauer is backing his own compatriots to pull off a shock.

Pele said the final would be a contrast in styles between the free-flowing football of Brazil and the defensive excellence of Germany - and he said the final line-up had made a mockery of both teams' problems in qualifying.

"Four months ago nobody would have thought these two teams would make the final," he said on Friday.

"However, for me the two strongest teams are here. This will be a match of attackers versus the defence, as Brazil has the best scorers and Germany has the best defenders.

"Brazil could do it, I trust Brazil. But I don't want to say Brazil is the favourite, as all the favourites have gone home," he added.

Beckenbauer flatly disagreed with Pele's conclusion.

"I will stick my neck out and say Germany will win 1-0 after extra-time - with a golden goal from Miroslav Klose," said Beckenbauer, who will spearhead Germany's 2006 organising campaign.

"We have in Oliver Kahn easily the world's best keeper and Germany have unbreakable team spirit," he added.

Pele picked out midfielder Ronaldinho as the outstanding player of the tournament after the 22-year-old made a stunning breakthrough in these finals which he is expected to cap with a return to Brazil's starting line-up for the final against Germany after missing the semi-final through suspension.

"Ronaldinho has been the most impressive player," said Pele. "He is a player who surprises me."

Ruud Gullit, who never played in a final but won the 1988 European Championships with Holland, has no clear favourite - but says the Germans deserve credit for making

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



PHOTO: INTERNET

SUMO SUPERSTAR? A totally out of shape Diego Maradona on arrival at Tokyo's Narita Airport yesterday.

Diego at last!

AFP, Tokyo

Argentine football legend Diego Maradona flew into Tokyo on Friday to attend the World Cup final and could not resist a dig at Japan's long-standing ban on his visit due to his past drug conviction.

Maradona, exceptionally admitted by Tokyo as a special Argentine government envoy of tourism and sports, is scheduled to watch the showdown between Brazil and Germany in Yokohama on Sunday.

It was too late for the 41-year-old, the hero of Argentina's 1986 World

Cup triumph, to cheer his countrymen on in their latest campaign which ended prematurely in the first round.

"I am in a calm state of mind because I have not killed any one. I feel fine," a chubby Maradona told reporters in Spanish with a smile upon arrival at Tokyo's Narita Airport when asked how he felt now that he was here.

The comment appeared to be a sarcastic reference to Japan's initial refusal to grant Maradona an entry visa which he earlier said he could

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6