



DESTINATION GOAL! Superstar Ronaldo (Number 9) firing the ball past Bolivian goalkeeper Leonardo Fernandez (L) and a desperate defender Juan Peña (R) at the Morumbi stadium in Sao Paulo on September 5.

Reggae Boyz star killed

REUTERS, Kingston

Former Jamaica midfielder Winston Anglin was among a group of ex-footballers killed in a road accident on the way home from watching their country's World Cup qualifier against Panama, police said on Sunday.

The 39-year-old Anglin, a gritty player with a sharp temper, won 83 caps for the Reggae Boyz between 1986 and 1996.

A police spokesman said Anglin and four local club players were returning to their home in Montego Bay from Saturday night's CONCACAF game in Kingston, which Panama won 2-1, when their car overturned, hit a rock and landed upside down.

Anglin died in hospital shortly afterwards while the other four died on the spot, police said.

The crash occurred close to the scene of an accident that claimed the life of former Reggae Boy Clive 'Shorty' Malcolm in January 2001.

The controversial Anglin spent three years in a United States prison between 1997 and 2000 for cocaine trafficking and possession after Miami police found him with 16 condoms stuffed with the drug in his stomach.

He returned to Jamaica shortly after being released on parole and continued to play club football, doing so well that his supporters waged numerous calls for his return to the national team.

But his drug conviction and numerous battles with match officials forced national coaches to ignore his claims for a recall.

Uruguay back in the race

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro



Uruguay put their World Cup qualifying campaign back on course with a controversial 1-0 win over Ecuador on Sunday while Chile and Colombia shared four red cards and no goals in a grim encounter.

Brazil eased past Bolivia 3-1 while Paraguay defender Carlos Gamarra added to his Olympic silver medal by scoring the winner against Venezuela.

Brazil lead the ten-nation South American group with 16 points from eight games as the marathon tournament nears its halfway stage.

Argentina, 3-1 winners over Peru on Saturday, follow with 15 and Paraguay on 14.

Chile are next with 12 and only four points separates them from ninth-placed Colombia (8), with Ecuador, Venezuela and Uruguay (all 10) and Peru (9) sandwiched in between.

Bolivia (6) prop up the table.

The top four qualify directly for Germany and the fifth plays off against the Oceania region winners -- either Australia or the Solomon Islands -- for another place.

Uruguay, beaten in their last three qualifiers, bounced back in Montevideo to win with a 58th minute Carlos Bueno header which was palmed away by goalkeeper Edwin Villafuerte only for the referee to rule the ball had crossed the line.

Chile and Colombia were involved in arguably the worst of the more than 40 qualifiers played worldwide this weekend as their Santiago stalemate produced more red cards than scoring chances.

Colombia midfielder John

Viafara was given a straight red for clattering into Claudio Maldonado after the ball had gone in the 17th minute, while the Chilean was also dismissed though it was not clear why.

Chile fullback Rodrigo Perez and Colombia substitute Jairo Patino followed for a second-half off-the-ball clash while constant bickering and playacting by both sides also marred the game.

The teams were jeered off by the 63,000 crowd.

Paraguay kept up their challenge for a third successive World Cup appearance by beating Venezuela,

STANDINGS									
AFP, Montevideo									
Standings after the weekend's games in the South American zone qualifier for the 2006 World Cup finals:-									
(Tabulate under: played, won, drawn, lost, for, against)									
Brazil	8	4	4	0	14	8	16		
Argentina	8	4	3	1	14	7	15		
Paraguay	8	4	2	2	10	8	14		
Chile	8	3	3	2	9	7	12		
Ecuador	8	3	1	4	8	8	10		
Venezuela	8	3	1	4	6	8	10		
Uruguay	8	3	1	4	13	19	10		
Peru	8	2	3	3	10	10	9		
Colombia	8	2	2	4	10	10	8		
Bolivia	8	2	0	6	10	19	6		
(The first two teams will qualify directly for the World Cup finals with the fifth team going into a two-leg play-off against the winner of the Oceania Zone (Final is between Australia v New Zealand))									
Next games (October 9 and 10)									
At Bogota: Colombia - Paraguay									
At La Paz: Bolivia - Peru									
At Quito: Ecuador - Chile									
At Maracaibo: Venezuela - Brazil									
At Buenos Aires: Argentina - Uruguay									

'Forget Zidane and Co'

AFP, Clairefontaine

France's Arsenal attacker Thierry Henry urged his teammates and fans to forget about retired stars like Zinedine Zidane and concentrate on the future.

Henry was speaking 24 hours after France's stuttering first step on the road to qualifying for the 2006 World Cup - a goalless draw against Israel on home turf at the Stade de France.

The 1998 world champions struggled in their first competitive match since key players like Zidane, Marcel Desailly, Bixente Lizarazu and Lilian Thuram stepped back from the international spotlight to concentrate on their club careers.

Henry said: "It's true they're missed but we have to start again and go forward. One generation has passed, people have to get that into their heads.

"Now there are players who need to take a step up the ladder to gain promotion. It's not easy, I had to do that.

"But we can't talk about the retired players each time - if we do that we'd still be saying that we missed (Michel) Platini too."

Henry expressed concern that coach Raymond Domenech may not have the time he needs to rebuild a team from the ashes of their failed Euro 2004 campaign.

"Tactically we have to adjust to the 3-5-2 system, not many of us play with this system at club level.

"It doesn't just come like that. But the problem is we don't have the time - we've already lost two points."

Reflecting on Saturday's first night nerves Henry added: "No one was happy with the result, far from it. We should have scored, but we couldn't get the win."

France, who face the Faroe Islands on Wednesday, are placed third behind Switzerland and the Republic of Ireland in Group Four.

Beautiful Brazil

AFP, Sao Paulo



Reigning champions Brazil turned on the style to beat outclassed Bolivia 3-1 here to stay firmly on course for the 2006 World Cup finals.

Ronaldo, Ronaldinho and Adriano all found the net in the first half with only some inspired goalkeeping from Leonardo Fernandez preventing Brazil from racking up a hatful of goals.

The three points also put Brazil back on top of the South American qualifying table with 16 points from eight matches while Argentina, who had gone top on Saturday after beating Peru 3-1, are second, just a point behind.

Despite missing the collective talents of Cafu, Kaka, Dida, Lucio and Ze Roberto, who were all dropped for missing last month's friendly in Haiti, Brazil made sure the match was as good as over by the 13th minute as they raced into a 2-0 lead.

Ronaldo gave Carlos Alberto Parreira's side the perfect start when he opened the scoring after just a minute on the clock.

Arsenal midfielder Edu met a corner from the right with a powerful downward header which fell to the unmarked Ronaldo and the Real Madrid star scored easily from six yards to register his seventh goal of the qualifying campaign.

It was 2-0 after 13 minutes when Roque Junior, picking up a Roberto Carlos free-kick, was chopped down in the penalty area and Ronaldinho coolly slotted the penalty into the corner of Leonardo Fernandez's

goal.

Ronaldinho almost made it 3-0 after 29 minutes when he played a neat one-two with Juninho before hitting a sweet, right-footed chip which Fernandez tipped smartly over the bar.

One minute before half-time, and with the capacity crowd greeting every Brazilian pass, the third goal arrived.

Ronaldinho played a wonderfully-flighted ball into the area where Inter Milan's Adriano nipped in between two defenders as well as Fernandez to head into an empty net.

Bolivia, who had struggled throughout the first half to make any impression, surprisingly found themselves back in the match three minutes after the break when Edmilson diverted Luis Cristaldo's shot into his own net.

Despite that setback, Brazil continued to pour forward and Adriano was unlucky to see a shot saved by Fernandez while the Bolivia goalkeeper was again alert to stop Ronaldo at point-blank range in the 74th minute from a Roberto Carlos cross.

Two minutes later, Fernandez was again flinging himself across the goal to deny Alex, who had replaced Ronaldinho, from scoring with a curling free-kick.

Ronaldo then burst away from two defenders but instead of crossing to an unmarked Adriano, he opted to go for glory but lost control of the ball.

Two minutes from the final whistle, only some desperate defending from Bolivia managed to keep the Real Madrid striker out.

Gilberto Silva did have the ball in the net in injury time, heading in from a corner, but the goal was ruled out for a foul by Roque Junior.

"It was a good result and an excellent performance," said Ronaldo.

"We have every reason to be happy. It was marvelous. We played excellent soccer and we're the leaders."

Ronaldo earlier had promised fans a gala in his first match ever for Brazil in Latin America's biggest city. And he took less than a minute to deliver.

"We trained all week expecting a defensive blockade, and that eliminated any blockade," Ronaldo said.

Ronaldo's early strike turned an expected war of attrition into an comfortable stroll, coach Parreira said after the game.

Parreira had anticipated a long, frustrating wait to break down a Bolivia team fielding four defenders and four defensive midfielders.

"I've no doubt that the goal in the first minute changed the face of the game," Parreira told reporters.

"If we'd taken a long time to score, the crowd could have become irritated and the game could have got complicated."

Brazil raced to a 3-0 lead by halftime but failed to add to the total in the second half and allowed their opponents to pull one goal back. But Parreira denied his team had let up.

"We missed nine good chances in the second half," he said. "We could have opened up a good goal difference."

Not the loveable type!



AFP, Munich

Just four competitive games into the new season Bayern Munich coach Felix Magath faces a real power struggle as his gruelling training ground regimes and outspoken comments anger big-name players.

Magath, 51, took over from Ottmar Hitzfeld in June with Bayern looking to inject some iron discipline into an under-performing squad.

He responded by introducing medicine balls and extra fitness training leaving Bayern stars nursing their aching muscles.

While VfB Stuttgart's youngsters were willing to run up hills on Thursday mornings Bayern's assembly of multi-millionaires seem more reluctant.

"I've never had harder training sessions than under Magath, not in the (Brazil) national team nor at (Bayer) Leverkusen," bemoaned Brazilian World Cup winner Lucio.

"Training is tough and we are doing a lot more running than last season," confirmed Frenchman Willy Sagnol.

Paraguayan international Roque Santa Cruz recently lambasted Magath for turning Bayern into a workhorse outfit.

"I'm not going to change my attitude," stated Santa Cruz. "I'm not going to start kicking opponents or throwing myself to the ground just to please this person (Magath)."

Silence is not golden in Magath's eyes either and the Munich chief has responded with some hard-hitting comments of his own.

"Some players are too busy rubbing gel into their hair and neglect the football," raged Magath

after a 4-1 defeat by Bayer Leverkusen.

Lucio, a 12 million euro signing from Bayer, was dragged off after an hour of that match and



FELIX MAGATH

Souness takes over Magpies

AFP, London

Graeme Souness was appointed as the new manager of Newcastle United after his shock resignation at Blackburn Rovers.

The Scot informed his players on Monday morning that he had resigned the post he had held at Ewood Park since March 2000 and would be appointed as successor to Sir Bobby Robson before the end of the day.

A statement issued by Newcastle read: "Graeme Souness leaves Blackburn Rovers today to take up the position as team manager of Newcastle United.

"Souness, who has been in talks with Blackburn and Newcastle over the weekend, will take up his post next Monday, September 13, after a week's gardening leave."

Newcastle meet Blackburn in the Premiership at St James' Park this weekend and the delay before taking up his new post was agreed between the clubs during weekend talks.

Blackburn chief executive John Williams confirmed: "It has all been very amicable. We will be issuing a statement shortly."

Souness, 51, led Blackburn to success in the League Cup in 2002 and promotion to the Premiership while, in his three years with his former club Liverpool, he enjoyed a solitary F.A. Cup success in 1992.

It is now believed that Blackburn's search for a new manager will centre on their former striker Mark Hughes, currently in charge of the Welsh national team.

Newcastle moved for Souness after being heavily linked with Steve Bruce, David O'Leary, Terry Venables, Gerard Houllier and Steve McClaren since Robson's dismissal seven days ago.



YOU WIN SOME, YOU DRAW SOME! England manager Sven Goran Eriksson gestures during the match against Austria in Vienna on September 4.

Eriksson adamant

AFP, Vienna



England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said Sunday he had no intention of resigning and denied that Wednesday's World Cup qualifier in Poland could be his last match in charge.

The Swede's rough ride at the top since England crashed out of Euro 2004 to Portugal took another twist in Vienna Saturday night when they let slip a 2-0 lead in their opening World Cup qualifier against Austria.

Defeat in Katowice against a lively Poland side which defeated Northern Ireland 3-0 would seriously undermine England's chances of qualifying, but Eriksson insisted he would be staying on.

"I have never thought of resignation, no never, ever. I said it before and I hope I don't need to repeat it, but the only way I will leave is if we do not qualify for the World Cup," he told an early morning news conference.

"I can't see any reason why we should lose to Poland. If we play as we did in the first half in

Vienna we will not lose many games or many points."

"It was disappointing not winning a game as we played so well for so long. We should have won and deserved to win. From today we have to think about Poland, we start today and tomorrow to prepare for that game."

Eriksson also had words of comfort for goalkeeper David James, who let a low shot from Andreas Ivanschitz squeeze under his body for the equaliser.

Asked if James would play against the Poles, Eriksson said: "I said yesterday I was quite sure he will play on Wednesday and so far nothing has changed. The line-up will be done on Wednesday."

In the injury department, Eriksson said that Chelsea's Wayne Bridge had taken a knock on the heel, but should be fit in time for the Poles.

Eriksson still believes England can be top of Group Six come Wednesday night.

"We have to win to be top of the group and if we can do that it will not be too bad to have four points from two away games," he said.

Ronaldo has an engagement!

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

Brazil set off for the midweek friendly in Germany without Ronaldo on Sunday after he was given permission to stay behind for an engagement dinner with his girlfriend.

"He has an engagement dinner," Ronaldo's spokesman Rodrigo Paiva told reporters.

"He asked the coaching staff for permission, the coaching staff thought the players would not mind and they gave him the night off," Paiva added.

Brazil headed straight for Sao Paulo airport after their 3-1 World Cup qualifying win over Bolivia on Sunday. They face Germany in a friendly in Berlin on Wednesday.

Ronaldo will leave on Monday.

The striker took his girlfriend, model Daniella Cicarelli, to Brazil training last week, where he introduced her to coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

The Real Madrid forward split up from his first wife Milene Domingues last year, four years after getting married.



DANIELLA CICARELLI