



YET ANOTHER TUMBLE: French mid-fielder Zinedine Zidane looks at the ball as he tries to regain balance on the pitch during the game against South Korea at Leipzig Stadium on Sunday.

Superstars cutting it fine



INTERNET, undated

The 2006 FIFA World Cup has burst emphatically into life, with football's finest laying on a sumptuous feast of many dribbles, heroic defending, and spectacular goals. But for fans of the beautiful game across the globe, it is not just the technical ability of the world's footballing elite that they have come to admire. In fact, it would not be the FIFA World Cup without odd hair-raising moments.

Following in the footsteps of FIFA World Cup icons of the past, such as former USA defender Alexi Lalas or Colombian mid-field general Carlos Valderrama, the class of 2006 have taken the field sporting a variety of hairstyles.

As FIFAworldcup.com found out, the Germany 2006 catwalk has provided us with some real talking points. But for some players, it is simply a case of 'hair today, gone tomorrow'.

It seems that the most common tonsure amongst the top dogs of football is the shaved look. And this is where tournament newcomers Côte d'Ivoire stand out.

Take the peroxide blond crop of striker Arouna Kone, the tribal designs belonging to pugnacious

midfielder Romaric, or the natty

rasta style of Bakary Kone. And the fashion parade does not stop there.

Regardless of Totti's last-minute climb-down, desert-island chic has certainly made its mark among the Latin American players. Another star who is causing a hairy hullabaloo is Mexico's marauding mid-fielder Gerardo Torrado. His tangled locks fall squarely into the 'Carlos Valderrama jnr' category. All he needs is a little more time with his crimping irons in the morning.

Tournament favourites

Argentina are turning into the

Samsons of the competition,

drawing their strength from their

long-haired libertines Hernan Crespo and Juan Sorin.

Meanwhile, curly Carles Puyol was

so excited to be named in the

Spain squad that he clearly forgot

to pack that essential item for

today's well-groomed defensive

hardman, a comb.

As we continue with our play-

ers' pantomime, there are two outstanding candidates for the coveted role of Prince Charming. Any Cinderella would love to be swept off her feet by Czech icon Pavel Nedved, or even Serbia and Montenegro's dashing young wing-back Dusan Basta.

Vintage sights and sounds have also provided some inspiration for our image-conscious competitors. Serbia and Montenegro goal-poacher Mateja Kezman and the Czech Republic's reserve keeper Jaromir Blazek have both gone punk, with their Sex Pistols-style mohicans. Ecuador's mid-field prodigy Luis Saritama has looked to the 1980s for his hairstyle, with a mullet typical of cinematic legends Steven Seagal and Chuck Norris. England's Rio Ferdinand, meanwhile, has gone all Studio 54 on us, with his one-man afro-fuelled disco revival.

In the 'dyed-in-the-wool' category, the first nomination goes to Japan's blond bombshell Junichi Inamoto. He is hoping to see off the challenge of his colourful counterparts, Korea Republic's Lee Chun-Soo and Spain's veteran shot-stopper Santiago Canizares. Worthy of mention too is Serbia and Montenegro striker Danijel Ljuboja, who will be hoping that his badger-inspired central stripe can end his team's losing streak.

But among the Afros, the mullets and the badgers, one thing is for sure -- the FIFA World Cup finals are a chance for many players to make their mark on world football's biggest stage. The fact that many choose to do so while committing heinous fashion crimes only adds to the fun.

'We will do it for Zidane'



AFP, Leipzig

in their final group match in Cologne on Friday.

They will have to do it without Zinedine Zidane, who will be suspended after picking up his second booking of the tournament against the Koreans.

His teammates said they had the added motivation of ensuring that he would be pulling on the France shirt again in the second round.

"I don't think this was my last match. I'm looking further ahead," he said after the South Korea stalemate.

Willy Sagnol said many people forgot that Zidane was suspended for two matches during France's charge to the title eight years ago.

"There is no real replacement for Zidane, but perhaps we can play differently without him," said the Bayen Munich stalwart.

"When Zidane was suspended after a red card in 1998 the team went a long way without him."

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, a key part of the 1998 side, said it was time France proved they had more

determination than four years ago when they crashed out in the first round in South Korea.

"Nothing is said and done yet. We have to show we have guts because we can get out of this situation ourselves."

Thierry Henry -- who scored his country's first World Cup goal in eight years when he found the net on Sunday -- said there was no chance the team would freeze when it mattered most.

"There is no tension and no annoyance among the players. It's up to us now. Providing we beat Togo by at least two clear goals we're safe."

If France fail to win the group, they will have to face the winners of Group H, which includes Spain and Ukraine.

in their final group match in Cologne on Friday.

Zidane himself was confident he would be pulling on the France shirt again in the second round.

"I don't think this was my last match. I'm looking further ahead," he said after the South Korea stalemate.

Willy Sagnol said many people forgot that Zidane was suspended for two matches during France's charge to the title eight years ago.

"There is no real replacement for Zidane, but perhaps we can play differently without him," said the Bayen Munich stalwart.

"When Zidane was suspended after a red card in 1998 the team went a long way without him."

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, a key part of the 1998 side, said it was time France proved they had more

determination than four years ago when they crashed out in the first round in South Korea.

"Nothing is said and done yet. We have to show we have guts because we can get out of this situation ourselves."

Thierry Henry -- who scored his country's first World Cup goal in eight years when he found the net on Sunday -- said there was no chance the team would freeze when it mattered most.

"There is no tension and no annoyance among the players. It's up to us now. Providing we beat Togo by at least two clear goals we're safe."

If France fail to win the group, they will have to face the winners of Group H, which includes Spain and Ukraine.

in their final group match in Cologne on Friday.

Zidane himself was confident he would be pulling on the France shirt again in the second round.

"I don't think this was my last match. I'm looking further ahead," he said after the South Korea stalemate.

Willy Sagnol said many people forgot that Zidane was suspended for two matches during France's charge to the title eight years ago.

"There is no real replacement for Zidane, but perhaps we can play differently without him," said the Bayen Munich stalwart.

"When Zidane was suspended after a red card in 1998 the team went a long way without him."

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, a key part of the 1998 side, said it was time France proved they had more

determination than four years ago when they crashed out in the first round in South Korea.

"Nothing is said and done yet. We have to show we have guts because we can get out of this situation ourselves."

Thierry Henry -- who scored his country's first World Cup goal in eight years when he found the net on Sunday -- said there was no chance the team would freeze when it mattered most.

"There is no tension and no annoyance among the players. It's up to us now. Providing we beat Togo by at least two clear goals we're safe."

If France fail to win the group, they will have to face the winners of Group H, which includes Spain and Ukraine.

in their final group match in Cologne on Friday.

Zidane himself was confident he would be pulling on the France shirt again in the second round.

"I don't think this was my last match. I'm looking further ahead," he said after the South Korea stalemate.

Willy Sagnol said many people forgot that Zidane was suspended for two matches during France's charge to the title eight years ago.

"There is no real replacement for Zidane, but perhaps we can play differently without him," said the Bayen Munich stalwart.

"When Zidane was suspended after a red card in 1998 the team went a long way without him."

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, a key part of the 1998 side, said it was time France proved they had more

determination than four years ago when they crashed out in the first round in South Korea.

"Nothing is said and done yet. We have to show we have guts because we can get out of this situation ourselves."

Thierry Henry -- who scored his country's first World Cup goal in eight years when he found the net on Sunday -- said there was no chance the team would freeze when it mattered most.

"There is no tension and no annoyance among the players. It's up to us now. Providing we beat Togo by at least two clear goals we're safe."

If France fail to win the group, they will have to face the winners of Group H, which includes Spain and Ukraine.

in their final group match in Cologne on Friday.

Zidane himself was confident he would be pulling on the France shirt again in the second round.

"I don't think this was my last match. I'm looking further ahead," he said after the South Korea stalemate.

Willy Sagnol said many people forgot that Zidane was suspended for two matches during France's charge to the title eight years ago.

"There is no real replacement for Zidane, but perhaps we can play differently without him," said the Bayen Munich stalwart.

"When Zidane was suspended after a red card in 1998 the team went a long way without him."

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, a key part of the 1998 side, said it was time France proved they had more

determination than four years ago when they crashed out in the first round in South Korea.

"Nothing is said and done yet. We have to show we have guts because we can get out of this situation ourselves."

Thierry Henry -- who scored his country's first World Cup goal in eight years when he found the net on Sunday -- said there was no chance the team would freeze when it mattered most.

"There is no tension and no annoyance among the players. It's up to us now. Providing we beat Togo by at least two clear goals we're safe."

If France fail to win the group, they will have to face the winners of Group H, which includes Spain and Ukraine.

in their final group match in Cologne on Friday.

Zidane himself was confident he would be pulling on the France shirt again in the second round.

"I don't think this was my last match. I'm looking further ahead," he said after the South Korea stalemate.

Willy Sagnol said many people forgot that Zidane was suspended for two matches during France's charge to the title eight years ago.

"There is no real replacement for Zidane, but perhaps we can play differently without him," said the Bayen Munich stalwart.

"When Zidane was suspended after a red card in 1998 the team went a long way without him."

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, a key part of the 1998 side, said it was time France proved they had more

determination than four years ago when they crashed out in the first round in South Korea.

"Nothing is said and done yet. We have to show we have guts because we can get out of this situation ourselves."

Thierry Henry -- who scored his country's first World Cup goal in eight years when he found the net on Sunday -- said there was no chance the team would freeze when it mattered most.

"There is no tension and no annoyance among the players. It's up to us now. Providing we beat Togo by at least two clear goals we're safe."

If France fail to win the group, they will have to face the winners of Group H, which includes Spain and Ukraine.

in their final group match in Cologne on Friday.

Zidane himself was confident he would be pulling on the France shirt again in the second round.

"I don't think this was my last match. I'm looking further ahead," he said after the South Korea stalemate.

Willy Sagnol said many people forgot that Zidane was suspended for two matches during France's charge to the title eight years ago.

"There is no real replacement for Zidane, but perhaps we can play differently without him," said the Bayen Munich stalwart.

"When Zidane was suspended after a red card in 1998 the team went a long way without him."

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, a key part of the 1998 side, said it was time France proved they had more

determination than four years ago when they crashed out in the first round in South Korea.

"Nothing is said and done yet. We have to show we have guts because we can get out of this situation ourselves."

Thierry Henry -- who scored his country's first World Cup goal in eight years when he found the net on Sunday -- said there was no chance the team would freeze when it mattered most.

"There is no tension and no annoyance among the players. It's up to us now. Providing we beat Togo by at least two clear goals we're safe."

If France fail to win the group, they will have to face the winners of Group H, which includes Spain and Ukraine.

in their final group match in Cologne on Friday.

Zidane himself was confident he would be pulling on the France shirt again in the second round.

"I don't think this was my last match. I'm looking further ahead," he said after the South Korea stalemate.

Willy Sagnol said many people forgot that Zidane was suspended for two matches during France's charge to the title eight years ago.

"There is no real replacement for Zidane, but perhaps we can play differently without him," said the Bayen Munich stalwart.

"When Zidane was suspended after a red card in 1998 the team went a long way without him."

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, a key part of the 1998 side, said it was time France proved they had more

determination than four years ago when they crashed out in the first round in South Korea.

"Nothing is said and done yet. We have to show we have guts because we can get out of this situation ourselves."

Thierry Henry -- who scored his country's first World Cup goal in eight years when he found the net on Sunday -- said