



EATS WHATEVER COMES HIS WAY: Star Brazilian striker Ronaldo jokingly bites the ball after the training session at the Belkaw Arena in Bergish Gladbach on Thursday. Brazil faces France in Frankfurt in the quarterfinals today.

## Juninho, Silva set for start

AFP, Bergisch Gladbach

Brazil are set to start with Juninho and Gilberto Silva in midfield in their quarterfinal with France with Kaka and Emerson both carrying injuries, following Thursday training.

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira normally indulges in small-scale practice matches but instead he sent out his first team in a full-scale practice as per a proper match.

With Emerson struggling with a knee problem and Kaka battling ankle and knee injuries Parreira, seeking to emulate his 1994 win in charge of the auriverde, is likely to draft Arsenal's Gilberto Silva, an ever present when Emerson missed the 2002 campaign with a shoulder strain.

Juninho has been pushing hard for a start since he came in for the

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# Down memory lane

AFP, Hamelin

If Thierry Henry only plays one second of France's quarterfinal with Brazil it will be longer than he managed in the two countries last World Cup meeting in the 1998 final.

Henry, only 20 for that Stade de France clash, was put on the bench by then manager Aime Jacquet but was all set to make an appearance in the second half when suddenly the complexion of the game changed dramatically.

"Aime had told me I was going on in five minutes. I started warming up then Marcel Desailly was sent off (in the 68th minute) and that changed everything," the Arsenal attacker recalled here Thursday 48 hours before Saturday's rematch in Frankfurt. Henry admitted to being upset at not having been given the

chance to feature in French football's crowning moment.

"I can't lie, I did feel put out but it only lasted for a split second and then my only thoughts were for the team which was much more important," Henry's teammate Lilian Thuram remembers the night from a completely different perspective.

"For me it had a dream-like quality, from start to finish," said the Juventus defender and les Bleus' most capped player.

"From the moment we got on the bus at Clairefontaine (France's training headquarters) to the final whistle, to having friends in the stands, for the game to be in Paris, and then win the title.

"At the end I said to myself 'it's not possible that this is actually happening'.

"I don't have any concrete memo-

ries of the game itself because it remains something incredible."

Thuram, Zinedine Zidane and Henry and the other two members of the Class of '98 starring in Germany -- Claude Makelele and Fabian Barthez -- are renewing rivalry with a trio of Brazilians in action eight years ago -- Ronaldo, Cafu and Roberto Carlos.

France had a distinctly less enjoyable time of it defending their title four years later when they got no further than the first round, and Thuram said that embarrassment was in the forefront of his mind when the current World Cup began.

"When I arrived in Germany I was thinking I just hope it's not going to be the same story as 2002. For if it was I was going to find it

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## Adriano attacks press

INTERNET, undated

The Brazilian attacker also attacked the press for being too harsh with him.

Adriano vented all of his frustration towards the press for attacking him in recent weeks.

"I'm angry because I always get hammered by the press. I suffered a lot to arrive here. I don't know why they attack me, but I say who laughs last laughs best."

The Inter player denied the rumours that he might leave the Nerazzurri for Real Madrid.

"I'm staying at Inter to win the Scudetto."

## BRAZIL V FRANCE

# Old score to settle

AFP, Berlin

Brazil have been far from the consummate defending champions at the Germany World Cup but should they rediscover their missing spark against France here Saturday their chase for a record sixth world crown will be on in earnest.

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira is demanding more consistency from his exotically-talented team as Brazil face up to Zinedine Zidane's recharged Les Bleus for a place in the last four against England or Portugal.

Also underscoring Brazil's quest for the 'Hexa' or sixth world title is that no South American team has won the World Cup in Europe, stretching back to young Pele's Brazil in Sweden in 1958.

Parreira, who once vowed never to coach Brazil again after the 1994 title victory over Italy after the personal abuse he received for the way the team played, wants a more patient build-up rather than throwing away possession.

"We lack consistency with our moves. It's one thing to have speed. It's another thing to be in a hurry. We confused speed with hurry. We have been in a hurry too often and we have made a lot of mistakes,"

Parreira said ahead of the Frankfurt quarterfinal.

"What we have to do is work the ball around the pitch more before we make the move."

Brazil face a recharged France coming off their 3-1 spanking of Spain in the round of 16 in Hanover and memories of their 1998 final humbling in Paris when Zidane scored twice in a 3-0 World Cup bolover.

Gilberto Silva, likely to play in the midfield in place of Emerson who has a knee problem, rates France highly.

"France are a spectacular team full of great players and we will have to be at our best to get a result against them," he said.

"I really believe that we are not playing to the best of our ability right now," the Arsenal player said.

"We can play much, much better than this and we will need to if we want to go to the final."

France played their best football for years to beat Spain, but defender Lilian Thuram believes they will have to improve further if they are to have any chance of derailing Brazil's title defence.

The Juventus defender, who passed Marcel Desailly's record as France's most capped player last week against Togo, said: "It was good to come up against a talented team in Spain in the second round, we had to raise our game."

"Now we have to raise it again for Brazil, not only in terms of quality of play but also our level of concentration."

Thuram, who will be winning his 119th cap having passed Desailly's benchmark of 116 appearances, knows what lies ahead of his team in Frankfurt.

"When you look at Brazil's players it's extraordinary the talent they've got, two Footballers of the Year in Ronaldo and Ronaldinho, Kaka, Adriano, Cafu and a very good keeper."

"They're favourites but the beauty about football is that favourites don't always win."

Thuram, along with Zidane, are playing in their last major tournament for France after being coaxed out of retirement during last year's qualifiers to help get the team to Germany.

Brazil striker Ronaldo goes into the Frankfurt showdown as the top scorer in World Cup history.

His goal against Ghana gave him 15 goals to pass West German Gerd Muller's previous top haul of 14 goals.

The Real Madrid striker, criticised for a lethargic start to the tournament and apparent weight problems, has now made it three goals in his last two games.

## HEAD-TO-HEAD

**Brazil v France head-to-head record (FIFA records)**  
**Brazil and France are level 2-2 with three draws**  
1958: Brazil 5 France 2 (Stockholm)  
1986: France 1 Brazil 1 (France won 4-3 on penalties) Guadalajara  
1992: Brazil 2 France 0 (Paris)  
1997: France 1 Brazil 1 (Lyon)  
1998: France 3 Brazil 0 (Paris)  
2001: France 2 Brazil 1 (Suwon)  
2004: France 0 Brazil 0 (Paris)

## KEY QUOTES

**Brazil midfielder Juninho:** "I can't call it a test but France is definitely the best team that we've had to face."  
**French striker Henry:** "When you are playing Brazil... you know they have five stars on their shirt. They always reach the final. We are going to go there with the right spirit."

## TEAMS

**Brazil (4-4-2)**  
1-Dida, 2-Cafu, 3-Lucio, 4-Juan, 6-Roberto Carlos, 17-Gilberto Silva, 11-Ze Roberto, 8-Kaka, 10-Ronaldinho, 9-Ronaldo, 23-Robinho.  
**France (4-2-3-1)**  
16-Fabien Barthez, 19-Willy Sagnol, 15-Lilian Thuram, 5-William Gallas, 3-Eric Abidal, 4-Patrick Vieira, 6-Claude Makelele, 22-Franck Ribery, 10-Zinedine Zidane, 7-Florent Malouda, 12-Thierry Henry.

# 'It's more than a Zizou-Ron show'

AFP, Bergisch Gladbach

The Brazil and France World Cup quarterfinal is not just about the clash between former Real Madrid teammates Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane claimed Brazilian midfielder Juninho on Thursday.

The Lyon playmaker added that, unlike 34-year-old Zidane, who is retiring from football at the end of the campaign, Ronaldo still had another World Cup in him as he is only 29.

"It is not the Zidane-Ronaldo match, it is France-Brazil," insisted 31-year-old Juninho, who could well start Saturday's match if Kaka does not recover from a right ankle injury in time.

"The Zidane generation is playing in its last World Cup."

"That is normal as it is their third. Ronaldo (who is playing in his third World Cup -- he was in the 1994 squad but did not play) still has time to play in another as he is younger."

However, Juninho admitted that despite Zidane's age he was the

man most capable of turning the match as Brazil seek to avenge the 1986 quarterfinal defeat and the 1998 final humbling by the French.

"Zidane has announced he is retiring, which is a shame," said Juninho, who has played in two of the matches so far, starting and scoring in the 4-1 victory over Japan and coming on as a substitute in the 3-0 second round victory over Ghana.

"He is a player we must follow closely. It is imperative that someone closes him down when he has the ball. He is capable of making the difference either on his own or in finding a striker."

For Juninho, whose clubmates Florent Malouda and Eric Abidal are likely starters for France, said he thought the two teams had different thoughts about what winning the match might mean.

"For France at the moment it would be a huge result to be in the last four whereas for Brazil it would be an under-achievement."

## Brazil's injured trio improving

REUTERS, Bergisch Gladbach

Brazilian midfielders Emerson and Kaka, who are being treated for pain in their right knees, improved significantly on Thursday, team doctor Jose Luis Runco said.

Striker Robinho, who missed Tuesday's 3-0 win over Ghana after feeling a twinge in his right thigh, also continued to make progress ahead of Saturday's World Cup quarterfinal with France.

"Kaka and Emerson both stayed in the team hotel, they've improved very well although there is still some pain," Runco told reporters.

"If the improvement continues, the idea is that tomorrow (Friday) they can train with the ball."

"Today they worked on the bicycle with strength and speed," he added.

Emerson was replaced by Gilberto Silva at halftime in Tuesday's match while Kaka went off in the 83rd minute.

"The big test will be when they start kicking the ball," said Runco.

"If they can do all the necessary movements without feeling any

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## TACTICS

Brazil play 4-4-2, a formation they have used in every match since Carlos Alberto Parreira took over as coach at the start of 2003. Parreira, preparing for Saturday's quarterfinal with France, likes to keep things simple and rarely changes his team, invariably making his first substitution in the 70th minute. France coach Raymond Domenech is expected to opt for his preferred 4-2-3-1 formation with Zinedine Zidane orchestrating play in midfield and Thierry Henry on his own up front.



CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA



RAYMOND DOMENECH

**DEFENCE:** Lucio, who managed to go through Brazil's first four games without committing a foul, and Juan form the heart of the defence with Cafu and Roberto Carlos on the flanks.

The full backs, with a combined age of 69, usually like to get forward but so far they have been less adventurous than usual. Parreira replaced them with the more sprightly Cicinho and Gilberto for the group game against Japan, when the Brazil attack looked livelier in a 4-1 victory.

**Midfield:** One player, either

Emerson or Gilberto Silva, does most of the dirty work in midfield and protects the back four with Ze Roberto helping out.

Ronaldinho, who plays much deeper than for Barcelona, and Kaka play attacking roles. Ronaldinho usually attacks down the left and Kaka along the right, although this can change. Kaka's pace, strength and vision make him the lungs of the midfield.

**Forwards:** Brazil field Ronaldo and one other player in attack. Adriano has started three of the

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## No qualms over ref

AFP, Hamelin

The quality of the refereeing has been a hot topic at this World Cup and further fuel was added to the flames, for conspiracy theorists at any rate, with the appointment of a Spanish referee for France's quarterfinal with Brazil.

Eyebrows were raised by some Gallic supporters at the decision to assign Luis Medina Cantalejo the match after France knocked his fellow countrymen out of the competition in Tuesday's 3-1 last 16 win in Hanover.

Yet French veteran defender Lilian Thuram said he had faith in the ability of the 42-year-old, who awarded Italy a stoppage time penalty against Australia, to be completely impartial in Saturday's game.

"I trust the referee to be the guardian of the game's integrity," the 34-year-old cornerstone of France's experienced backline said here on Thursday.

"I don't think it's necessary to question the work of the referees," the Juventus player added.

FIFA's decision to hand the match to Mediona Cantalejo comes after heavy criticism by France coach Raymond Domenech over what he deemed unfair rulings by referees against France in the first round matches.

France had a solid appeal for a penalty against Switzerland turned down and a goal from Patrick Vieira against South Korea disallowed.

Domenech had also questioned the brace of yellow cards picked up by captain Zinedine Zidane and Eric Abidal in those games which ruled the duo out of their last group tie with Togo.



SEE YOU IN MUNICH: French midfielder maestro Patrick Vieira (2nd from L) gives a thumbs up as he jogs with his teammates prior to a training session in Weserbergland Stadium in Hameln on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP