



An ecstatic Zimbabwe team run off on a celebratory lap after their sensational victory over Australia in their Twenty20 match at Newlands in Cape Town on Wednesday.

Have respect for it: Ricky

We managed to do it again: Robin

AFP, Cape Town



Australia captain Ricky Ponting said his team's top batsmen had not shown enough respect for cricket when they crashed to a shock five-wicket defeat against minnows Zimbabwe in an ICC World Twenty20 Championship match at Newlands Wednesday.

Victorious Zimbabwe coach Robin Brown, meanwhile, said he had reminded his players of a historic day 24 years ago before they took on the World Cup and Test champions.

"In our first World Cup in 1983 our first game was against Australia and we managed to beat them," said Brown.

"I reminded them of that and told the guys to go out and express themselves in our first World Cup Twenty20 game."

Australia limped to 138 for nine in their 20 overs after Ponting became the first captain in the tournament to choose to bat. Man of the match Brendan Taylor scored 60 not out as Zimbabwe won with a ball to spare.

The Australians paid the penalty for trying to attack from the start of their innings, losing their all-star top three of Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden and captain Ricky Ponting for 19 runs inside the first four overs. All fell to rash strokes.

"That was where the game was lost," admitted Ponting. "The top three batters didn't respect their own game enough. When you don't respect this game it gets up and bites you."

Ponting said the fact that was Australia's first competitive game since they won the World Cup in the West Indies in April was no excuse.

"They outplayed us," he said of the Zimbabweans. "They did most things in the game better than us."

The defeat left the tournament favourites needing to win their remaining group game against England at Newlands Friday if they are not to go home early.

Ponting singled out Taylor as an example to the Australians for sticking to cricket basics and building his innings.

Told of Ponting's comment, Taylor said: "That's a great compliment because we try to model ourselves on them."

It meant no time for celebration. "I told them to keep the celebrations until tomorrow night when we have beaten England. Then we can have a full go."

Zimbabwe's innings was interrupted by rain when they were on 74 for four after 11.5 overs. At that stage Australia were five runs ahead according to the Duckworth/Lewis method.

When play resumed half an hour later Taylor slammed two sixes in an over off part-time spinner Brad Hodge as he and Hamilton Masakadza shared a 53-run stand.

Brett Lee trapped Masakadza leg before for 27 and Zimbabwe needed 12 off the last over.

A final glance for four by Taylor off the first ball and four leg byes off the fifth ball got Zimbabwe home with a ball to spare.

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Brazil end Mexico jinx

Football

AP, Foxborough

Kaka's goal in the 80th minute off a poor clearance by Mexican captain Rafael Marquez helped Brazil to a 3-1 victory Wednesday night before a Gillette Stadium crowd of yellow-clad Brazil fans.

The hard-fought victory was Brazil's first over Mexico in more than three years. The two ejections, including Brazil coach Dunga, and five yellow cards were proof that the teams treated the game as the latest in a rivalry rather than the friendly it was.

Brazil could have scored more goals - Ronaldinho's dazzling playmaking providing the chances - only to be frustrated by Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, who made several brilliant saves - 11 for the match - to keep his team in the game.

Andres Guardado set up Juan

Carlos Cacho's goal in the 43rd minute, taking a pass from Nery Castillo on the left wing and drawing Brazil goalkeeper Cesar Julio to the right corner of the net before passing to a wide-open Cacho, who finished from 10 yards in front.

The lead lasted just two minutes. Ronaldinho's corner kick to the short side of the goal was met by a charging Kleber, who jumped and put his left foot on the ball, sending it to the corner past a leaping Ochoa.

The teams appeared headed for a draw when Maicon streaked down the right side and sent a cross toward the net. Marquez, called in for the game from his club Barcelona, blocked it but failed to clear the ball, leaving it nearly stationary for Kaka to slam home.

Kaka had earlier misfired twice, and was smothered by Ochoa early in the first half when Ronaldinho lofted a pass over the defence and onto Kaka's feet.

But after scoring, he looked relieved as his teammates cele-

Barry aims for regular place

INTERNET, undated

Gareth Barry is keeping his fingers crossed he will remain an integral part of England coach Steve McClaren's plans after another superb display during the demolition of Russia.

The Aston Villa skipper would have been a strong contender for the man-of-the-match award but for two superb goals from Michael Owen which set England on the way to a 3-0 win in the Euro 2008 qualifier at Wembley.

Barry was only given his chance against Israel and the Russians because of injuries to Owen Hargreaves and Frank Lampard but he seized it impressively.

He slotted perfectly into the holding midfield role and, after being quietly efficient against Israel, moved his game up to another gear in the triumph over Guus Hiddink's side.

Hargreaves and Lampard will almost certainly have recovered

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Press grills Les Blues

AFP, Paris

 F

French newspapers

scorn on the national football team after it fell to a "hammer blow" goal by Scotland that leaves the World Cup finalist facing a worrying campaign to reach the European Championship finals.

While thousands of Scottish fans awoke to a victory hangover after a night of reliving James McFadden's wonder goal that secured the 1-0 their country's first win on French soil for 57 years.

Scotland are now top of Group B. World Cup winners Italy are second after they beat Ukraine and France are third and needing to

win all their last three games to stand a chance of reaching next year's finals.

"The position of les Bleus in their group is now worrying after the incredible defeat given away

last night," commented the sports daily L'Equipe which ran a front page headline calling McFadden's 64th minute long range shot a "hammer blow."

L'Equipe blamed French coach Raymond Domenech's "stubborn" insistence on keeping to a 4-4-2 formation with David Trezeguet and Nicolas Anelka up front and highlighting how this has cost the third defeat of the year for France.

"Scotland were infinitely more intelligent last night, and that is one way of saying that this was missing from the French game plan."

Nearly every French newspaper highlighted defender Lilian Thuram's comment that the night had been "a catastrophe."

"What a Nightmare!" declared the front page headline in Le Parisien daily, which also declared that France's hopes of reaching the finals could be under threat.

Le Figaro also said that the Trezeguet and Anelka partnership

had been a "duo of attackers in a minor key."

Liberation daily said that Scotland won with "an intense discipline and a fabulous goal - a 25 metre left foot shot right in the corner - in the 64th minute - by James McFadden."

It added: "The Euro is still a long way away for France."

Domenech meanwhile refused to blame Trezeguet or the system he used.

"When it turns out badly it's not just him (Trezeguet) but ten other players who have lost as well," said Domenech.

The French coach joked that the team now found themselves in the same situation as their rugby counterparts who lost their World Cup opener to minnows Argentina.

"We're in the same situation, we're declared dead at the first match lost, but like us I haven't heard them say they are going to give up, so we're going to hang in there until the bitter end."

McFadden looks to qualification

INTERNET, undated

Scotland hero James McFadden admitted only qualification for next summer's European Championship finals would beat the feeling of scoring a remarkable winner against France in the Parc des Princes last night.

The Everton striker, who netted the third goal in the 3-1 win over Lithuania at Hampden on Saturday after coming on as a substitute, was employed as a lone striker by manager Alex McLeish against the World Cup runners-up.

Scotland failed to create any clear cut chances but McFadden's second-half strike sent them top of Group B, one point ahead of Italy, who won in Ukraine, and two ahead of the French.

Asked if the feeling could be bettered, McFadden said: "Not at the moment, but hopefully it will be. If we qualify then I'm sure that I'm

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WINS FOR BIG GUNS

Scot shocker for France

AFP, Paris

 James McFadden's long-range goal earned Scotland a

landmark 1-0 victory over France on Wednesday night to put them firmly on course for the Euro 2008 finals on a winning night for Britain.

McFadden turned and shot with less than half an hour to go at the Parc des Princes to propel Scotland to the top of Group B and within sight of their first major finals in a decade, while England beat Russia 3-0 at Wembley and Wales claimed a deserved 5-2 victory in Slovakia.

Irish teams had a rough night however with Northern Ireland falling 2-1 in Iceland to dent their hopes of qualifying from Group F and the Republic of Ireland lost 1-0 in the Czech Republic in Group D.

But for Scotland, it was an unforgettable night.

Goal scorer McFadden said afterwards to Sky Sports: "It's something else. To beat them at Hampden was an upset but to come to France and beat them was wonderful. They are one of the best teams in the world and we have got the win."

McFadden said his chance

simply came down to the striker's instinct.

"We trained here last night and balls were flying everywhere," he said.

"It was just one of those things. I got a touch, turned and there was no one there so I decided to have a

striker taking two touches before unleashing a 25-yard drive which Mickael Landreau could only palm into his net.

It is only the third victory for Scotland in France in the post-war period.

But more importantly, it is a huge boost to the qualifying hopes of Scotland, who go top of group B with overnight leaders France dropping to third behind second-placed Italy after their victory against Ukraine.

The hosts created chance after chance at the Parc des Princes - where the thousands of tartan-clad Scots fans helped create a 'home' atmosphere for the visitors.

In the closing stages France coach Raymond Domenech grew increasingly desperate, taking off France defensive midfielder Patrick Vieira in place of attacking midfielder Samir Nasri.

Another defensive midfielder, Eric Abidal, also came off in place of forward Karim Benzema.

Bolton striker Nicolas Anelka, Nasri and Bayern Munich striker Franck Ribery were consistent in keeping the Scots' defence under pressure in the closing stages.

But in the end, France ran out of ideas as cross after cross, and several shots on goal, were repelled by the visitors' defence.

Scotland lead Group B with 21 points, a point ahead of Italy who

Group tables following Wednesday's Euro 2008 qualifiers (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

GROUP A	Poland	11	6	3	2	17	9	21
	Finland	11	5	4	2	11	6	19
	Portugal	10	4	5	1	9	17	
	Serbia	10	4	4	2	13	8	16
	Belgium	10	3	2	5	10	14	11
	Armenia	8	2	2	4	4	8	8
	Kazakhstan	10	1	4	5	8	15	7
	Azerbaijan	8	1	2	5	4	17	5
GROUP B	Scotland	9	7	0	2	17	7	21
	Italy	9	6	2	1	15	7	20
	France	9	6	1	2	15	3	19
	Ukraine	8	4	1	3	10	9	13
	Lithuania	9	3	1	5	7	11	10
	Georgia	9	2	1	6	14	15	7
	Faroe Islands	9	0	9	3	29	0	
GROUP C	Greece	8	6	1	1	14	7	19
	Turkey	8	5	2	1	21	8	17
	Norway	9	5	2	2	20	8	17
	Bosnia	9	4	1	4	14	16	13
	Hungary	9	3	0	6	8	17	9
	Malta	8	1	2	5	7	17	5
	Moldova	9	1	2	6	5	16	5
GROUP D	Germany	8	7					