

Blistering Brazil shatter USA dream

AP, Johannesburg



Clint Dempsey sobbed as the Americans walked up to get their second-place medals, unable to hide the pain and the disappointment any longer.

The euphoria of knocking off Spain last week dissolved Sunday in the Confederations Cup final when Brazil unleashed its "Beautiful Game."

After dominating the five-time World Cup champions in the first half, the Americans were powerless as Brazil scored three goals in the final 45 minutes to rally for a 3-2 win.

"We're at the point where we don't want respect, we want to win," said Landon Donovan, whose goal in the 27th minute gave the United States a 2-0 lead. "There's no guarantee we ever get back to

a final game like this, so it's disappointing."

Luis Fabiano scored twice for Brazil, and Lucio added the third in the 84th minute to give Brazil its second straight Confederations Cup title and third overall. The American men fell short in their first final of a FIFA tournament, but the experience was invaluable.

Almost sure to qualify for next year's World Cup, also in South Africa, the Americans certainly saw the benefits of playing this game. What hurt was the way they lost it.

"We continue to try and move ourselves forward, and playing these kind of games only helps," U.S. coach Bob Bradley said. "But it still feels pretty lousy to let this one get away."

In the third-place match, Spain fought back to beat host South Africa 3-2 after extra time in Rustenburg.

The United States have beaten Brazil once in 15 games, and it was just 10 days ago that the Brazilians hung a 3-0 rout on the Americans in group play of the tournament that had the critics piling on and some calling for Bradley's job.

In the first 45 minutes Sunday, though, it was Brazil that looked like the beaten team. Its usually fluid offense created few opportunities and was constantly stymied by the U.S. defense and goalkeeper Tim Howard. Meanwhile, the Americans were relentless in their attack on a nervous-looking Brazil defense, with Donovan working hard to give his team several scoring chances.



PHOTO: AFP

BRAZILLIANT: The Brazilian team celebrate with the Confederations Cup after an enthralling come-from-behind 3-2 victory against USA in the final at Ellis Park in Johannesburg on Sunday.

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PAST WINNERS

1997	-	Brazil
1999	-	Mexico
2001	-	France
2003	-	France
2005	-	Brazil

TOP SCORERS

5 - Luis Fabiano (BRA)
3 - Fernando Torres and David Villa (ESP), Clint Dempsey (USA)
2 - Kallegho Mphela and Bernard Parker (RSA), Landon Donovan (USA), Daniel Guiza (ESP), Kaka (BRA), Giuseppe Rossi (ITA), Mohamed Zidan (EGY)

BANGABANDHU GOLD CUP

Algerian club mooted

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is thinking of including an Algerian club in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup in late October in the form of Chabab Riadhi (CR) Belouizdad who have shown a keen interest to participate in the meet.

"We have been considering the inclusion of Algerian club CR Belouizdad in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup after the club president through a FIFA agent told us that they are interested in participating in the meet," said BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi to reporters yesterday.

Sadi also added that the BFF were looking to secure the participation of a marquee club in the competition with whispers stating that it could be the Luiz Felipe Scolari led Bunyodkor

FC from Uzbekistan, which also features Brazilian legend Rivaldo.

Sadi said that the BFF would arrange accommodation, airfare, food as well as local hospitality for the Algerian side and provide the match fee as there might be no participation fees in the tournament.

The African club was initially trying to play a couple of friendly matches in Bangladesh through the agent, through whom the club were offered to play in the tournament.

CR Belouizdad who have been six-time Algerian league winners, have earned the right to play in the African Confederation Cup after emerging champions in the Algerian Cup in 2009. They also finished fourth in the league this season.

Top clubs from India, Myanmar, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Iran, Iraq, Vietnam, South Korea, Malaysia and Uzbekistan are expected to join the country's

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Morton draws level

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

Hosts West Indies levelled their four match one-day international series with India here on Sunday with an emphatic eight-wicket victory, despite a magnificent 95 runs by Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Dhoni struck six fours and two sixes from 130 balls, as he almost single-handedly led an Indian revival, but West Indies' final target of 189 in 50 overs was never going to be treacherous.

India bowled steadily, but West Indies reached the target with 95 balls to spare, follow-

ing a workmanlike 85 from 102 balls from Runako Morton, and a typically robust 64 from 46 balls from Chris Gayle.

India had won the high-scoring, opening match last Friday by 20 runs at the same venue. The series concludes with a pair of ODIs -- this coming Friday and Sunday -- at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in St. Lucia.

India have only themselves to blame for their defeat, after they plunged to 82 for eight in the 22nd over after choosing to bat.

But Dhoni staged a rearguard action in the form of a 101-run, ninth-wicket stand with Rudra Pratap Singh before they both fell in the space of six balls as India were dismissed for 188 in 48.2 overs.

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh cricket team's new captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) shares a light moment with his teammates at the Zia International Airport prior to the departure for West Indies yesterday.

U-19 team leaves for England today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 Cricket team led by Mahmudul Hasan leaves for England today on a month-long tour.

During the tour, the youth team will play one two-day match, two four-day matches, five ODI's and two Twenty20 internationals.

The visiting Bangladesh side will play the first four-day game against England U-19 team on July 6-9 at the North Marine Road ground in Scarborough and the second four-day match on July 12-15 at the Derbyshire County Club ground.

After the four-day matches, the 1st ODI match between Bangladesh U-19 and England U-19 teams will be held on July 18 at Grace Road in Leicester and the second ODI match July 19 at the same venue.

The third ODI will take place on July 21 at Northampton County Club ground while the fourth and fifth ODI matches on July 23 and 24 at the Hove County

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GRAMEEN-DANONE NATIONS CUP Hatrick fest on 2nd day

SPORTS REPORTER

The Grameen-Danone Nations Cup football tournament witnessed three hattricks on the second day of the three-day meet at different venues yesterday.

Of them, two hattricks came against Naogaon, who first lost to Chapainawabganj 5-0 and then 7-0 to Joypurhat at the Sirajganj Stadium.

Rokonuzzaman struck thrice while Rasel and Ali Ahmed netted one goal each for Chapainawabganj while Piyas slotted a hattrick and Sourav and Rokibul struck two goals each for Joypurhat.

At the Niphamari Stadium, the hosts outplayed Kurigram 5-0, thanks to a hattrick from Morshedul and one each from Suman and Shahin.

On the second day, a total of 39 matches were held at seven venues.

Federer in last eight

AFP, London



Roger Federer thrived in 35-degree temperatures to clinch an 11th win in 11 meetings against big-serving Swede Robin Soderling on Monday and reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

quaterfinals.

In a repeat of the French Open final, where the great Swiss clinched a record-equalling 14th Grand Slam title, Federer won 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/5) over the man who dramatically ended Rafael Nadal's Roland Garros reign.

Federer, chasing a sixth Wimbledon title, will be appearing in his 25th Grand Slam quarterfinal where he'll face Croatia's Ivo Karlovic, who has fired 102 aces in three rounds, or Spanish left-hander Fernando Verdasco.

Soderling, who also lost in straight sets in the second round here in 2008 to Federer, paid heavily for a sloppy service game when he cracked to trail 4-5 courtesy of a netted forehand.

Federer clinched the opener when the Swede went long with a second service return.

The Swede dropped just three points on serve in the second set, but Federer was the more composed in the tie-breaker, refusing to give Soderling the pace on which he thrives.

Soderling finally carved out his first break points of the match in the ninth game of the third set, but Federer stood firm to lead 5-4.

The Swedish 13th seed glanced a chance at 5/4 in the tie-breaker, but Federer went to 5/5 and then match point when his opponent served a third double fault.

The match was Federer's when the Swede went wide with a dispirited drive.

Germany's rejuvenated Tommy Haas, the oldest man left in the draw at 31, reached his first Wimbledon quarter-final with a 7-6 (10/8), 6-4, 6-4 win over Russian 29th seed Igor Andreev.

Haas, seeded 24, and who saved two match points in his third round marathon victory over Croatia's Marin Cilic, next faces either Serbian fourth seed Novak Djokovic or Israel's Dudi Sela.

Djokovic was a semifinalist in 2007 while Sela is the first Israeli in the last 16 here in 20 years.

A win for the world number 46 would make him the first Israeli man or woman to make a Grand Slam quarterfinal in the Open era.

In the women event, Venus and Serena Williams hardly broke sweat in the sizzling heat Monday as they cruised into the quarterfinals.

Defending champion Venus easily won the first set against former world number one Ana Ivanovic, who retired hurt in floods of tears, as temperatures shot past 30 degrees at the All England Club.

Serena strolled through against Daniela Hantuchova, while Elena Dementieva also had a comfortable ride into the last eight against Elena Vesnina.

Five-time champion Venus is bidding to

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England's Ashes preps Team visits WWI battlefield in Belgium

Cricket

AFP, London

The England team have paid a two-day visit to Flanders Field in Belgium, scene of one of World War One's most bloody battles, as part of their preparations for the upcoming Ashes series against Australia.

Sunday's announcement by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) following the squad's return to Britain, came following newspaper reports they could be headed to Belgium to coincide with Armed Forces Day on Saturday.

The trip appeared to have the hallmarks of John Buchanan, the ECB's new coaching consultant.

As Australia coach he organised squad trips to World War I battlefields at Gallipoli in 2001 and the Somme in 2005 ahead of previous Ashes series in England.

England's 16-strong Ashes squad and management team visited war graves, laid wreaths at the famous Menin Gate in Ypres and took part in a memorial service to commemorate those servicemen who lost their lives in World War One.

As part of the service, England fast bowler Stuart Broad laid a specially made stone cricket ball at the graveside of former Kent and England spinner Colin Blythe who died at the

Battle of Passchendaele in 1917.

The two-day visit concluded with players seeing trenches preserved from World War One before they took part in a team meeting to discuss tactics and strategy ahead of the Ashes.

"It's important to take a step back from cricket at times and this visit was a deeply moving and humbling experience for all of the players and management," said England captain Andrew Strauss in an ECB statement.

England coach Andy Flower added: "This visit was part of ongoing efforts designed to broaden horizons and learn more about the role of leadership and team ethics."

"Everyone came away from the visit with a greater understanding of what it really means to stand shoulder to shoulder and fight for your country."

"We hope it will help strengthen our own bonds within the team as we prepare for what should be a very exciting Ashes series."

Richard Kellaway, Director General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, said: "The Commission is delighted that the England cricket team has taken the time to remember the sacrifice of Colin Blythe and countless other Commonwealth sportsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice."

"People can learn more by visiting the Commission's cricket exhibitions at Ypres and at the Old Library in Cardiff."

The first Ashes Test starts in Cardiff on July 8.



Steve Harmison

(England fast bowler)

"He was a great leader on the field. He knew how to get the best out of me, by telling me I was the best bowler in the world. Maybe he was lying, maybe it was kidology but he knew how to press the buttons and we all wanted to play for him."

On Michael Vaughan.



STAR Sports

Wimbledon Championships

Round 16

Live from 6:00pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live at 9:30pm

Teletalk cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

Masterpara Cricket Club secured an eight wicket victory over Monpara Star Club in the Tele talk cricket tournament at the Khagrachari Government High School ground yesterday.

Monpara Star Club were bundled out for 126 runs in 24 over. Mohammad Iqbal top scored with 26 and Mohammad Nazim scored 20 runs.

Mujahid Ahmmed of Masterpara Cricket Club did most of the damage by picking up 4 wickets for 13 runs while Jonny snared 3 wickets.

In reply, Masterpara Cricket Club secured an 87 wickets win after scoring 127 runs in 14 overs with opening

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