



Dunga disputes 'myth' of the past

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Brazil's 1970 World Cup-winning team is fondly remembered as one of the best to have graced the competition but current coach Dunga says it may not have been as good as it looks in television replays.

Dunga, whose team is often criticised for a perceived lack of style, said the team featuring Pele, Rivelino and Tostao may have been flattered by television because the public only see the best bits.

"In 1970, we didn't have a television in my home," said Dunga. "When they show highlights from 1970, all you see are the good parts."

"Nobody repeats 1966 because Brazil didn't do well. From 1958, they just show the good parts, and from 1962, they also just show the good parts."

"If we take the current Brazilian team and just show the best bits, fans will think it's a spectacular team."

"But today, they show as many negative moments as good ones."

Brazilian critics often hark back to the old days, complaining that the modern team lacks the artistic touch of the sides who won the World Cup in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

Even today, Brazilian television fre-

quently repeats the famous goal Pele scored in the 1958 final against Sweden, his near miss from the centre circle in the 1970 and the flowing move which ended with Carlos Alberto Torres slamming the ball into the net at the end of the 1970 final



DUNGA

against Italy.

"Another thing is that the 1970 team had four months to prepare," said Dunga, adding it was human nature to think things were better in the past.

"My grandfather always told my father it was better in his day and my father told me the same," he said.

"I tell my son it was better in my day and I'm sure he'll say the same to his son."

"It's difficult. Back in 1958, football was just about technique. Then they added physical preparation, then they brought in tactics, then they added the pressure and the emotional side."

"If you have a close look at the teams from the past, they committed the same mistakes as the teams of today."

Dunga added that some people were just never satisfied.

"The pressure gets greater and greater," he said.

"We always have to win but even when we win, they are not happy because we didn't put on a show. If we put on a show, they are not happy because we didn't score six or seven goals."

"If we score six or seven goals, then they say that the opposition was no good."

It all started in that notorious island

AFP, Cape Town

Among the tourist attractions in South Africa on World Cup football fans' 'must-do' lists, one of the most notorious penal colonies of the last century is right up there.

Robben Island, a barren outcrop off the Cape Town coast, is best known for being home to political prisoners jailed by the old apartheid government, most famously former leader Nelson Mandela and current president Jacob Zuma.

But what few realise is the role football played in shaping resistance at the prison.

Many of the inmates were passionate about the game and used it to help find relief from their grim existence.

It is a little-known story outside of South Africa that has come into focus with the country hosting the continent's first World Cup.

The island fortress, now a World Heritage site, was meant to break the men's spirits as well as their bodies, but football helped keep them sane.

Zuma was a referee, but Mandela, later to become South Africa's first black leader, was kept in isolation with other high-risk prisoners and was not allowed to play.

"He used to watch us from his cell window, standing on a chair or a box," said Mark Shinnars, who served a combined 23 years on the island

between 1963 and 1990 for conspiring to overthrow the erstwhile whites-only regime.

"But eventually even that was taken away from him."

Warders wouldn't allow inmates a football at first so they tied rags together and played "matches" in their cells, but these were quickly broken up.

Several prisoners started writing letters of complaint, knowing it was within their rights to be allowed to exercise, but it took three long years before authorities finally caved in and let them have a ball.

They soon created a league and it became so serious that the warring factions at the time, the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress, put aside their differences.

It culminated in the formation of the Makana Football Association in 1967, named after a prophet banned to the island in 1819.

They put in place the same structures that would apply to any league, based on FIFA

frameworks, publishing tables, fixture lists and detailed minutes of meetings.

There were even authorised transfers, often written on tiny scraps of paper.

With Cape Town attracting tens of thousands of foreign visitors during the World Cup, trips to the island have been in big demand, with tourists often having to wait several days to secure their passage on the ferry.

A group of England fans who visited planted their flag in Mandela's old garden as a sign of respect, and even the teams playing at the city's impressive Green Point Stadium have made the pilgrimage.

Dutch coach Bert van Marwijk scrapped a morning training session ahead of their match with Cameroon so his players could go.

"It really was appreciated by the players. We had time for it, and then you have to be able to offer the players something like that," he said.

They were shown the cells and the sandy football pitch

where the prisoners played, and it was a moving experience.

"When you walk through the gate and you know everything that happened there, you saw the players get real quiet," midfielder Mark van Bommel said.

In an historic move, FIFA held an executive committee meeting on Robben Island in December in a symbolic gesture highlighting the part soccer played.

President Sepp Blatter said: "Robben Island has written a part of the story of humanity and a very important one."

"One thing that helped them withstand Robben Island was the creation of the Makana Football Association."

Football's world governing body banned the South African Football Association on the grounds of racism in 1964. It was only reinstated in 1992 before being named 2010 World Cup 12 years later.

In 2007, FIFA officially recognised the Makana Football Association.

Easy ride for Federer

AFP, London



Roger Federer strolled into the quarterfinals at Wimbledon with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 win over Austrian 16th seed Jurgen Melzer on Monday.

After dropping three sets during unusually sloppy displays against Alejandro Falla and Ilija Bozoljac in the first two rounds, Federer is back in the groove in time for the business end of the tournament.

The 28-year-old top seed had crushed Arnaud Clement in the third round and he swept Melzer aside with the kind of dominant display which has been his trademark at the All England Club since he first won the title here in 2003.

Federer will face Tomas Berdych, the Czech 12th seed, or unseeded German Daniel Brands in the last eight.

"I felt great. I knew it could be a very tricky match and the start was vital. I found my range quickly and was playing well," Federer said.

"Jurgen is a great player and played well in Paris so this is a good win for me."

"My form is good now, that is what I really care about. It doesn't matter how I got to this stage."

"Opponents are getting more and more difficult but I know how to win here and that is a great advantage for me."

By his own high standards 2010 has been a disappointing year for Federer, who has failed to win any of his seven tournaments since beating Andy Murray in the Australian Open final in January.

Federer's run of 23 successive Grand Slam semi-final appearances was snapped at the French Open and he even lost for just the second time in 78 matches on grass when Lleyton Hewitt beat him in the final at Halle earlier this month.

But those struggles have been consigned to history now Federer is starting to hit peak form at his favourite grand slam.

With Rafael Nadal -- his main rival here -- struggling with a knee injury after two gruelling five-set wins, Federer must be confident of equaling Pete Sampras's record of seven Wimbledon men's singles titles.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful rally in connection with The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz was brought out in Khulna yesterday. The fourth round draw of the quiz takes place at the Zia Hall in Khulna city at 3:30pm today.

Venus thru', Jankovic out

AFP, London

Venus Williams battled her way into the Wimbledon quarterfinals on Monday as her younger sister Serena squared up against Maria Sharapova and fourth seed Jelena Jankovic crashed out.

Venus Williams, a five-time Wimbledon champion, saw off a gritty fightback from Australia's Jarmila Groth to go through to the last eight.

But while the world number two progressed, former world number one Jankovic was the first big name to tumble out of the championships as she pulled out of her clash with Russian 21st seed Vera Zvonareva.

Jankovic, who has now fallen at the fourth round here four times in five years, was 6-1, 3-0 down when she withdrew.

The Williams sisters had had a fairly easy ride to the round of 16, dropping no sets and few games.

But Venus was given a rough ride by the determined, unseeded Australian number three in a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) win on Court Two.

Slovak-born Groth entered the match in good form, having reached a Grand Slam fourth round for the first time at the French Open and followed up her exploits on clay by doing the same here on grass.

Williams was twice broken in the second set and had to dig deep to take it to a tie break and then win it.

Mashrafe captain for UK tour



SPORTS REPORTER

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has been appointed captain for the one-day matches against England, Scotland and Ireland with Shakib Al Hasan as his deputy.

It is a return to the top job for the Narail Express after he had a very short stint when appointed last year.

Mashrafe was handed the

board wants Shakib to perform at his best and as he's been captaining for a long time, he needs to feel fresh," added the BCB director.

The left-handed all-rounder led from the front and won Bangladesh the Test and one-day series in West Indies as well as some sterling performances both home and abroad in the ensuing months.

But Shakib scored just 42 runs and took five wickets in the recently-concluded Asia Cup and has failed to score a half-century since his 96 against England at home in March.

It is an interesting move to say the least since Mashrafe himself hasn't settled back to international cricket after a long injury layoff and with the World Cup eight months away, the cricket board has to make sure a permanent leader is in place.

ITINERARY

July 3: Warm-up match v Sussex at Hove
July 5: Warm-up match v Middlesex at Trent Bridge
July 8: 1st ODI v England at Trent Bridge
July 10: 2nd ODI v England at Bristol
July 12: 3rd ODI v England at Edgbaston
July 16: 1st ODI v Ireland at Belfast
July 16: 2nd ODI v Ireland at Belfast
July 19: ODI v Scotland at Glasgow
July 20: ODI v The Netherlands at Glasgow

MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA
captaincy after Mohammad Ashraful's dismal failures in last year's World Twenty20s in England but the fast bowler injured his knee badly while bowling in his first Test as captain in West Indies and the rein was swiftly given to then deputy Shakib.

Proteas in driving seat

AFP, Bridgetown

A record sixth-wicket stand between AB de Villiers and Ashwell Prince put South Africa on top in the third and final Test against West Indies on Sunday.

De Villiers fell in the final half-hour for 73, and Prince was unbeaten on 55, as the South Africans reached 285 for six, replying to West Indies' first innings total of 231, at the close on the second day at Kensington Oval.

South Africa captain Graeme Smith supported with 70, and Jacques Kallis made 43 to prop up the visitors' batting.

De Villiers and Prince batted resolutely for nearly four hours in humid conditions to defy the West Indies attack, and put the Proteas back on track, after they slipped to 145 for five early in the afternoon session.

Midfielders

FROM PAGE 17

Persie, with the Dutch looking very dangerous on the ball.

Having spent the first hour not having made a save of note, Stekelenburg produced two fine efforts in quick succession to keep out efforts from Miroslav Stoch and Vittek.

Kuyt went close with a header from a Sneijder free-kick and then forced Mucha into a good save with a low 25-yard shot.

England's first mistake was

to play a 4-4-2, which meant that Germany playing their usual 4-2-3-1 automatically had a man up in midfield. And crucially for England, that man was often Mesut Oezil.

The German playmaker is a

captivating youngster, full of intelligent movement and imaginative passing. Given room to exploit, he did not disappoint, consistently proving the thorn in the English side. But he was still not the best German on show.

That honour belonged to Thomas Mueller. The Bayern Munich talent has had a meteoric rise to fame. Just last season he was playing in the lower echelons of the German third division. And on Sunday

in the day's last game, Carlos Tevez's illegitimate goal seemed to knock the stuffing out of the World Cup Stratos.

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It will be a fascinating clash as both sides are packed with attacking talent but look somewhat suspect in defence, Germany slightly more so than Argentina. Goals are likely to be on the menu; which probably means it will not be for the dubious

linesman call.

At the end though, despite the could haves, most in England were united in their belief, that they had been thoroughly outplayed. Inquiries for Fabio Capello are forthcoming, after a listless England showing devoid of any cohesion.

In the day's last game, Carlos Tevez bombed in his second, there was little doubt as to the winner despite Manchester United recruit Javi Martinez's late strike.

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