

AUSTRALIA V SPAIN  
Nothing but pride at stake

REUTERS, Curitiba

Only pride is at stake when defending champions Spain meet Australia in the World Cup on Monday but the Australians want to inflict more pain on their demoralised rivals before they head home.

Both teams have no points and have been eliminated but the mood in the two camps is very different, reflecting their contrasting expectations coming to the tournament.

Spain cannot wait to leave Brazil behind after the European and world champions were humbled by a 5-1 thrashing by the Dutch and a 2-0 loss to Chile.

The Australians want to show that their spirited display in a 3-2 defeat by the Dutch was not just a flash in the pan.

"We might look back and be happy with parts of the performance, but it's a results business and we didn't get the result we wanted," defender Alex Wilkinson said.

Spain coach Vicente del Bosque has said there will be consequences from their World Cup flop and has refused to be drawn on his own future while there is still a game to be played.

The Spanish soccer federation wants him to remain in the job despite the team's collapse in Brazil.

Once the World Cup is over, Spain are likely to call on veterans instead of captain Iker Casillas who has had a miserable two games in goal.

Del Bosque confirmed that neither Casillas nor Xavi Hernandez will start his side's final game.

"For Xavi will not play tomorrow (Monday) because he has a slight muscular problem," said the former Real Madrid boss on Sunday. "Reina will definitely play."

"I don't think one game more or less is going to give him more recognition than he already has," Del Bosque said on Xavi missing out on a final World Cup appearance after 133 caps.

Niko Kovac's Croatia, a point behind, will almost certainly need to win, although a draw would suffice if the already-eliminated Cameroon can produce one of the biggest shocks of all time against Brazil in a match played simultaneously in Brasilia.

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Kovac is unlikely to ring too many changes to his side but attacking midfielder Mato Kovacic could return for Brazilian-born Sammir, one of the few players who failed to impress against Cameroon.

Mexico are a quick and skilled side, Ochoa had a great game against Brazil but if we repeat the Cameroon performance I think we have a fair chance of coming out on top," Kovac added.

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United next season, to opt for the more defensive 5-3-2 formation which he adopted at times in both the Spanish and Australian games.

But the neutrals will be hoping to see the more attacking 4-3-3 set-up that has produced breathtaking soccer at times reminiscent of the national side in its 1970s pomp.

For Chile, the main concern going into the match is the Charles Aranguiz and Arturo Vidal.

Aranguiz, who Wednesday, was substitute, and Vidal, who month, came off near

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stated in the 64th minute had knee surgery last

the end.

Gyan, whose goal saw him join Cameroon legend Roger Milla as the leading all-time African World Cup scorer with five, said that they had played much better than in the 2-1 defeat to the United States.

"We believed in ourselves today," the 28-year-old told the BBC.

"I think tactically we were perfect today."

"Now we definitely have to beat Portugal. We will have to focus but we believe we can beat them."

Ghana coach Akwasi Appiah praised his side's never-say-die spirit.

"I always believed in us, because we fought until the end," said Appiah, whose side play Portugal in Brasilia on Thursday.

"It won't be easy to reach the last 16, we only have a point, but it's not impossible."

"For us to contain Cristiano Ronaldo, who is the best player in the world, will be a team effort, we can't allow him the space to play his game."

"With the aim of allowing the bus to access to the stadium, Arjen Robben (R) and Daley Blind can afford to smile ahead of their World Cup Group B match against Chile today."

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



Will goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa (C) lead Mexico into the final 16 of the World Cup as he did during the team's training session at Rei Pele Training Center in Santos on Friday?

## CROATIA V MEXICO

## Mandzukic v Ochoa

REUTERS, Recife



GPH ispat

shot from the forward in the second half and stopped a thumping Thiago Silva header on the line late on to leave Brazil facing their own final game decider against Cameroon.

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PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

## BRAZILIAN BAURU

## INTERNET

DIEGO WATCHES MATCH WITH DAUGHTER

Argentine football icon Diego Armando Maradona was able to enter the Mineirao arena in Belo Horizonte to watch Argentina beat Iran, after having been denied access to see the Argentinean team in Rio de Janeiro last Sunday.

Diego watched Messi and co together with his daughter Giannina -- former wife of national team attacker Sergio Aguero, who didn't play a good game.

At 10 minutes of the first half, the stadium camera spied Diego and fans started to chant the classic "Maradoooooo," Maradoooooo" from every stand.

Then as a tease towards Brazilians, Argentine fans compared Diego with local Pele, saying the former Boca star is better than the Brazilian star: "Brasileiro, brasileiro, que amargado se te ve, Maradona es mas grande, es mas grande que Pele" [Brazilian, Brazilian, you look so bitter, Maradona is greater, he is greater than Pele].

SECURITY BREACH NEAR ARGENTINA TEAM BUS

Brazilian police used non-lethal munitions on Saturday to disperse a group of World Cup fans who breached a security line protecting the Argentina team bus.

Four Brazilians, three Argentines and one Colombian were slightly wounded in the incident near the stadium in the southeastern city of Belo Horizonte, the military police said.

"With the aim of allowing the bus to access to the stadium,

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## Song seeks forgiveness

REUTERS, Salvador

police had to use non-lethal munitions to disperse the fans who passed the security perimeter," the military police said in a statement.

The statement did not say what sort of security was around the bus.

It also failed to indicate the type of munitions used, though Brazilian police tend to use rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades in protests.

The security breach took place before Argentina defeated Iran 1-0 at Mineirao Stadium.

ENGLAND NEED TO GET 'NASTY'

England striker Wayne Rooney believes his country's players need to acquire more "nastiness" if they are to arrest 48 years of underachievement at major international tournaments.

The 1966 world champions were dumped out of the World Cup on Friday, halfway through the competition's group phase, after losing 2-1 to both Italy and Uruguay in their first two Group D matches.

Rooney has now tasted disappointment at five major competitions and having seen England flop in Brazil despite preparations that were widely considered to be ideal, he feels the problem is one of mentality.

"I think you look at teams who have won the tournament over previous years and you can see that nastiness in them. I think we need to get that in us," he told a group of journalists in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday.

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## Dutch without a Van for first time since '96

REUTERS, Salvador

The suspension of captain Robin van Persie for Monday's World Cup Group B decider against Chile means the Netherlands will play an international without a player whose surname begins with 'Van' for the first time in almost two decades.

The last time it happened was in 1996 in a friendly against China, some 221 matches ago, the Algemeen Dagblad reported on Saturday.

Since then the Dutch had at least one 'Van' on the field but ironically in the reign of coach Louis van Gaal that run is about to end.

Van Persie is suspended after being booked in the opening two wins over Spain and Australia.

Messi however lamented that the Albiceleste have not been able to show all their potential in the World Cup so far.

"It's very difficult to play against a team that hand you the ball and just wait in their field. We created several chances but we couldn't score," he explained.

The Barcelona star recognised the team have not played their best football yet, but said the qualification gives time to Argentina to "improve towards the final stages of the tournament."

"We got what we came for: we made it to the last 16. Now we have time to concentrate and improve our game," he concluded.

## Goal appeases 'Welcome to the club' Messi, not the performance

AGENCIES, Belo Horizonte

AP, Fortaleza

Brazilian legend Ronaldo was quick to congratulate Miroslav Klose after the German equalled his record of 15 World Cup goals on Saturday.

The 36-year-old Klose -- appearing in his fourth World Cup finals -- slid in at the far post to equalise in the 71st minute.

The classic poacher's strike earned Germany a 2-2 draw -- and put Klose in the history books alongside Ronaldo.

Ronaldo, 37, was quick to offer his congratulations, having scored his 15th World Cup goal at Germany 2006 before retiring.

## TOP SCORERS

15 - Ronaldo (BRA), Miroslav Klose (GER)

13 - Just Fontaine (FRA)

12 - Pele (BRA)

11 - Sandor Kocsis (HUN), Jurgen Klinsmann (GER)

"Welcome to the club," he wrote on his Twitter account in German and English.

Klose had sat out Germany's 4-0 thumping of Portugal on Monday when Thomas Mueller claimed a hat-trick in his place, but the veteran came off the bench to spare Germany's blushes.

"You really want to come in when the team is winning," admitted Klose.

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The Barcelona star recognised the team have not played their best football yet, but said the qualification gives time to Argentina to "improve towards the final stages of the tournament."

"We got what we came for: we made it to the last 16. Now we have time to concentrate and improve our game," he concluded.

"It's not been an easy season for him, but he has done it again and got himself in top shape for a tournament.

"For a coach it is of course great to have options like him on the bench."

Klose has said next year will be his last in the famous white shirt of Germany, but he could yet break Lothar Matthaeus' record of 150 caps for his country.

He signed a contract extension in May with his Italian side Lazio until June 2015, with an extra year's option, but expects next season to be his last.

"At the moment, I assume that 2015 will be the end, but it depends on my fitness and any injuries," he told German daily Bild.

important and 15 goals in 20 World Cup games isn't bad.

Klose claimed a goal record even before flying to Brazil when he became Germany's all-time top scorer and his goal against Ghana extended his tally to 70 goals in 133 internationals.

He bettered the previous record set by Gerd Mueller, who scored in the 1974 World Cup final to claim his 68th goal in 62 appearances for West Germany.

Klose was the top-scorer at the 2006 World Cup in Germany with five goals, having finished second with another five at the 2002 tournament, while he scored four in South Africa four years ago.

His longevity -- he has been a constant presence since making his debut in 2001 -- is remarkable and saw him celebrate his 36th birthday the day the Germans arrived at their World Cup base.

"I'm incredibly pleased for him, that is another high point in his unparalleled career," Germany coach Joachim Low said Saturday after Klose's latest milestone.

"It has not been an easy season for him, but he has done it again and got himself in top shape for a tournament.

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## Van Gaal blasts media

AFP, Sao Paulo

Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal hit out at Dutch media on Sunday after details of a closed training session leaked out ahead of their World Cup game with Chile.

Van Gaal said the breaches, which included indications that Dirk Kuyt may depose for suspended striker Robin van Persie, were not helping the Dutch World Cup campaign.

"If we have a closed training session, somehow or other Dutch media find out about something and I don't like it because it doesn't help, it works against us," he told reporters.

"I really don't understand that because I really think all of us should be singing from the same hymn sheet here, but apparently we can't do that."

While some training is done in front of the cameras, much of it is closed to media to allow teams to work on tactics and formations in private.

Van Gaal said he would not discuss possible personnel changes, to avoid giving Chile any possible edge ahead of Monday's game in Sao Paulo.