



FIFA World Cup – Mexico '86

Official Report









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Preface

For two months the world was filled with football's passion: during the final preparations and the impatient wait for the 1986 World Cup, and then during the 52 duels in the world's most beautiful stadium, the "Estadio Azteca" in Mexico-City.

As President of FIFA, I had the opportunity to see all 24 teams, to watch the decisive games, and to be a witness to an exceptional World Cup. To the delight of the spectators, the games were of high quality, full of passion and suspense, exuding "the joy of football".

The whole world was held in suspense in front of the television screen. This World Cup, that so fascinated us, was more than a simple media event. For the inhabitants of Mexico, who for years have made important sacrifices, it represented a social and cultural phenomenon. The Mexican people proved to the world that they were capable of surmounting their problems. Their enthusiasm, their spontaneity, and their joy during the games of their national team reflected their passion for football, which continued even after their favorite was eliminated.

What warmth in the stadia, what a knowledgeable and enthusiastic public. What a joy for living there was as the chant "ola verde" echoed through the stands. The Mexican people, proud of their heritage, proved through football that they could maintain a zest for life and forget certain miseries and difficult living conditions.

In our world where violence is ordinary, the 52 games took place without a single incident; the fact that all the stadia were comfortable and all spectators had seats contributed to the calm.

I was especially pleased with the good sportsmanship on the field. Furthermore, in spite of what is at stake in a World Cup, the spirit of fair-play was remarkable. It was evident on various occasions, mani-

fested through gestures of respect and solidarity for the opponent and by attitudes of friendship after the game's final whistle had sounded.

I would also like to thank the referees on this occasion of "The Year of the Referees" as proclaimed by FIFA. After a brief period of adjustment, certain problems at the beginning of the tournament were resolved and instructions were more precisely followed. In two instances the players had to accept difficult decisions. Given the climatic conditions in Mexico, the referees' job was not the easiest. Moreover, games at the highest level are becoming increasingly rapid and physical. Overall the referees were good. I categorically disapprove of using technical devices in an effort to clarify referees' decisions. Football wouldn't survive.

I'm happy to say that the fact of having 24 teams in the final tournament was enriching for football. Who would have wanted to miss witnessing the contagious enthusiasm of the Rep. of Korea, the competitiveness and discipline of the Canadians, or the teamwork of the Iraqi squad, to cite just a few examples? The qualifying round, full of suspense to the last of the 36 games, was followed by the brutal, but proven Cup system.

The teams were now faced with an "all or nothing" situation, and were forced to take chances. Given the overall equal strength of the teams, we must accept the fact that penalty kicks were necessary to determine three of the four quarterfinal winners. The rules call for the shoot-out as in the Cup system there must be a victorious team. The quality of the games, the final included, was impressive and the intensity immense. Mexico's World Cup was a resounding success for football.

My sincere thanks are extended to all those who contributed to this exceptional display of football. To Mexico as host and organizer and to Guillermo Cañedo, President of the

Organising Committee, and Dr. Rafael del Castillo Ruiz, President of the Mexican Football Association, I give thanks for their remarkable work. After the withdrawal of Colombia they only had three years to prepare. The terrible earthquake nine months before the World Cup was an additional obstacle. The FIFA Organising Committee, under the direction of Hermann Neuberger, made its own "account of the organization" in the report. The General Secretary of FIFA and his team were in total control at all critical moments in Mexico-City. Relations with the press were, in general, very positive.

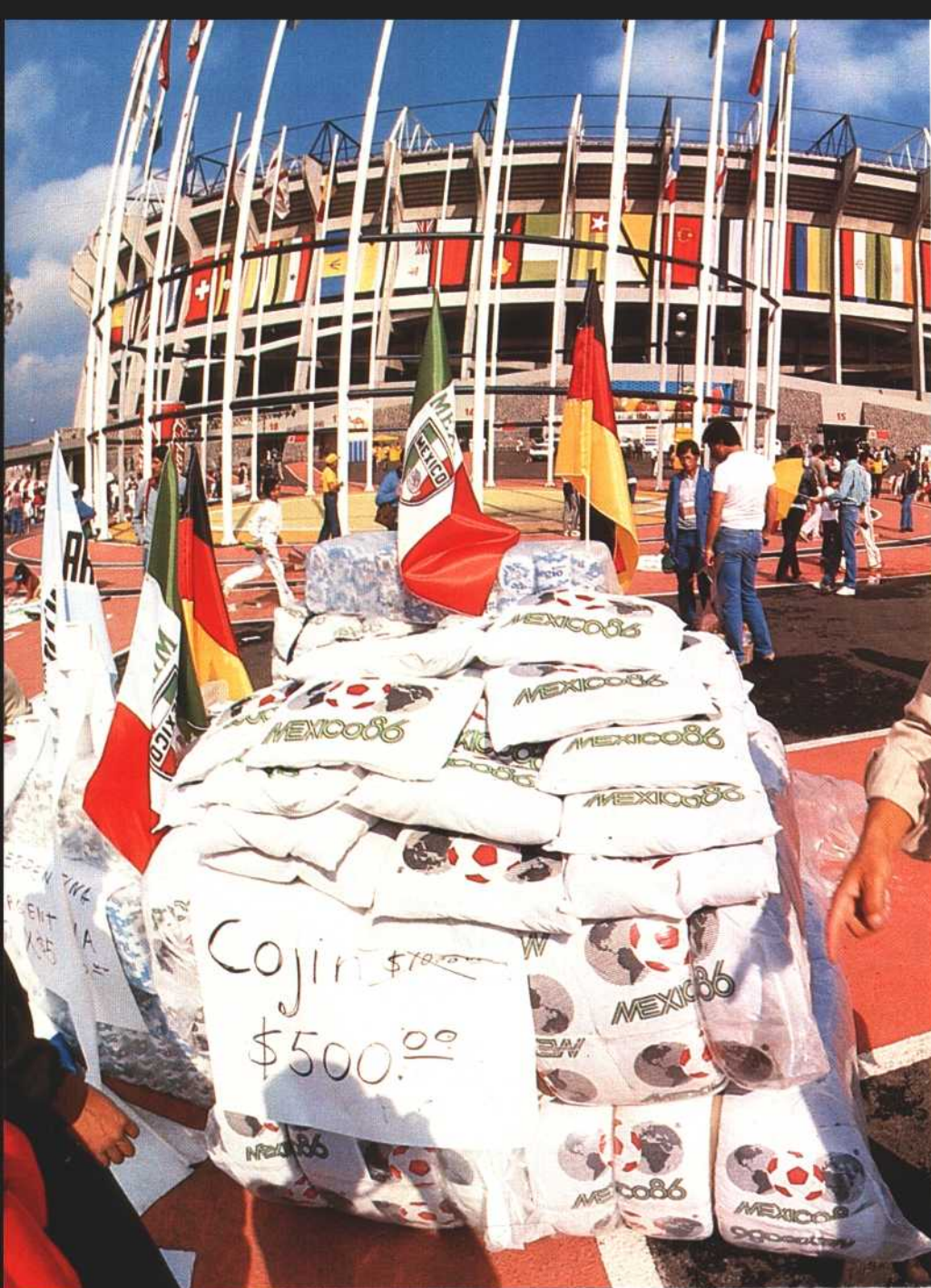
I would also like to thank the Instances of the Mexican Government for their cordial and constant help.

We must not forget to thank the sponsors. Without them an event such as the 1986 World Cup is unthinkable. The FIFA should be run like a company with interested backers. No problems were posed by this collaboration.

Mexico is privileged to be the only country to host the World Cup twice. Both occasions were successful. The experiences acquired in Mexico have already been analyzed and are presented in this report by the Technical Study Group in the analysis of the performance of the 24 teams and of the present state of football.

João Havelange

The President of FIFA congratulates Maradona, Captain of Argentina, the World Champion.



Mexico Was Ready

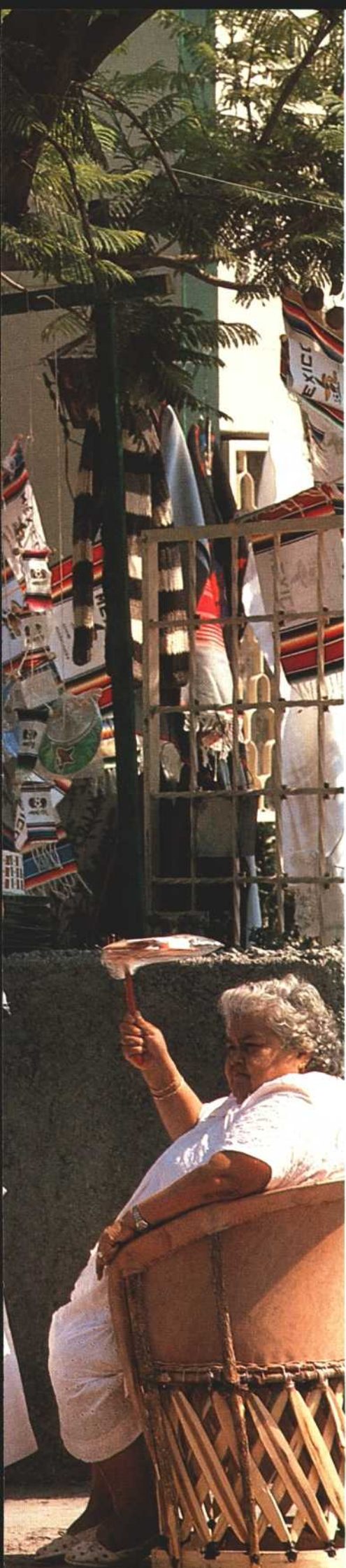
Mexico was the first country ever to organise its second World Cup after its last one in 1970. This had to be carried out in extremely difficult conditions. The Mexicans only had three years to set up this major event. And the earthquake just nine months before the start was a tough handicap. But everything was ready on time. After all, this involved the country's pride and honour. It wanted to show what it was capable of in spite of the world's scepticism. And Mexico was successful. Under these conditions the World Cup was a celebration of a proud and charming people known for its readiness to help and always aware of its traditions.

The stadia were modernized or built at an incredible speed. An enormous TV

centre was built in one year and a Press Centre which left nothing to be desired was ready within half a year. Moreover, the Mexicans were and remain the champions of improvisation. They knew the risks when they took on the World Cup and were realistic enough to know what they were in for. And the difficulties were masterfully overcome.

Mexico gave the World Cup the best possible setting, kept violence away from the stadia and transferred its enthusiasm and happiness about the accomplishments of its own team to football in general. And so the World Cup turned out to be a real football festivity which will stay alive in everyone's memory for a long time to come.

Guillermo Cañedo



Mexico: Host of the World Cup for the Second Time

In 1974 the FIFA Executive Committee designated Colombia as host for the 1986 World Cup. In 1979, FIFA decided to accept 24 teams (instead of 16) for the World Cup. For this reason Colombia was unable to organize the tournament and officially renounced the task in the fall of 1982. FIFA found itself in a novel situation. According to its statutes, a FIFA World Cup cannot be organized on the same continent twice in a row. So the FIFA opened candidature to North and South America. Four National Associations were interested in the 1986 World Cup: Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the United States. Each received the necessary documents. The official candidacy had to be filed with all guarantees to FIFA by March 10, 1983.

Brazil was first eliminated in February 1983, given that it was unable to meet certain of the FIFA conditions. Of the three other candidates, Mexico was the only one to file a complete dossier. The selection committee under the direction of Hermann Neuberger seriously examined the Mexican dossier and recommended to the FIFA Executive Committee the approval of Mexico as the host for the 1986 World Cup. The Executive Committee designated Mexico as the host country in

a unanimous decision on May 20, 1983 in Stockholm. In making their decision, FIFA strongly took into consideration the report of the selection committee. But they were also influenced by the fact that Mexico had hosted other international sporting events (Olympic Games 1968, WC 1970). Given the limit on time, Mexico's past experience was seen as invaluable. Also important: the 12 stadia used for the World Cup, with one exception, were already fully constructed and needed only a few modifications.

The New Formula

In 1982, in Spain, the World Cup was played with 24 teams. The new system—particularly the second round of four groups with three teams in each—was found to be unsatisfactory. One team always had a bye and the teams took few, if any, chances.

Hence, the organizers tried to work out a more suitable formula without increasing the total number of games played (52).

Their solution: the first round was played like a league championship in which not only were the first two teams advanced from each of the

six groups, but the four best third place teams as well.

This rendered the first round more intense, and the qualifiers were not known until the last of the 36 games was played. In the second round the teams played a "Cup" system (single elimination), and in so doing returned to original World Cup formula. The FIFA President, Jules Rimet, had the idea following the Olympic Games in Amsterdam in 1928: "To create the World Cup of Football." Today the tournament is still called "World-Cup—Copa Mundial—Welpokal".

In Every Match a Winner

In the second round of the new formula, there is a winner in every match which greatly increases spectator interest both in the stadium and in front of the living room television. The decision to use penalty shoot-out to break ties has engendered a lot of discussion. It should be known, however, that this is the method prescribed by the rules of FIFA, and it's definitely fairer than "drawing straws". Time does not allow that the game be replayed.

Football has an advantage over other sports in that the time is fixed (2×45 minutes,

15 minute half-time, 2×15 minutes in the event of a tie) and thus fits neatly into television programming. It should be noted that only three of the sixteen second round games were decided by penalty kicks after the overtime period resulted in a tie. Unfortunately, this occurred in three of the quarter-final games. Overall, the new formula was perceived to be positive and will be maintained in the future.

Joseph S. Blatter



Fourth Tenure of Office for President Dr. João Havelange

On May 29 the 45th ordinary FIFA-Congress was held in Mexico-City, in the large hall of the hotel «Presidente Chapultepec». The Congress was attended by delegates from 111 National Associations. With a «standing ovation» they expressed their thanks and confidence to President Dr. João Havelange and elected him unanimously for the fourth tenure of office until 1990.

The Congress, at which was – much heeded – also present the 91 years old FIFA Honorary President Sir Stanley Rous, confirmed the admission of eight National Associations:

Federação Cabo-Verdiana de Futebol, Praia, Federação de Futebol de Guiné-Bissau, Bissau, Football Association of Maldives, Malé, Federação Santomense de Futebol, São Tomé, Belize National Foot-

ball Association, Belize City, Federación Ecuatoguineana de Fútbol, Malabo, Seychelles Football Federation, Victoria, Western Samoa Football (Soccer) Association, Apia.

This means that now 158 National Associations are affiliated to FIFA.

A Committee was set up for the revision of the statutes and the regulations of FIFA. This was done with regard to the fact that the last total revision of the statutes and the regulations was carried out more than 30 years ago, that at almost each Congress modifications were decided upon and that the conditions which affect the Game have changed considerably in the past years. The Committee is composed of the chairman and two members, who are appointed by the Executive Committee, one member

from each Confederation (appointed by the respective Confederation) and the General Secretary of FIFA. The Committee is charged to work on the motions for amendment entered by the Executive Committee and the National Associations, with the exception of those motions which were considered to be urgent and were accepted by the Congress already in this year. The conclusions and the recommendations of the Committee as well as the motions will be submitted to the Congress in 1988. Only the Congress is entitled to pass final resolutions as defined by article 15 of the FIFA statutes.

There were some discussions on the subject of the eligibility of the players at the Olympic Football Tournament. From 1992 onwards only

those players of the European and South American Associations are not eligible in qualification games and at the Olympic Tournament who previously played at any World Cup Finals. Furthermore a motion was accepted claiming that one should enter into negotiations with the IOC in order to achieve the eligibility – up to the age limit of 23 – of all players and so to bring about a completely new definition of the Olympic football player.

In 1987 the second World Tournament of the players Under-16 (pupils) will be staged in Canada. The Tournament is organized on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Football Association. In October 1987 the boys of the category Under-20 will compete for the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup in Chile.

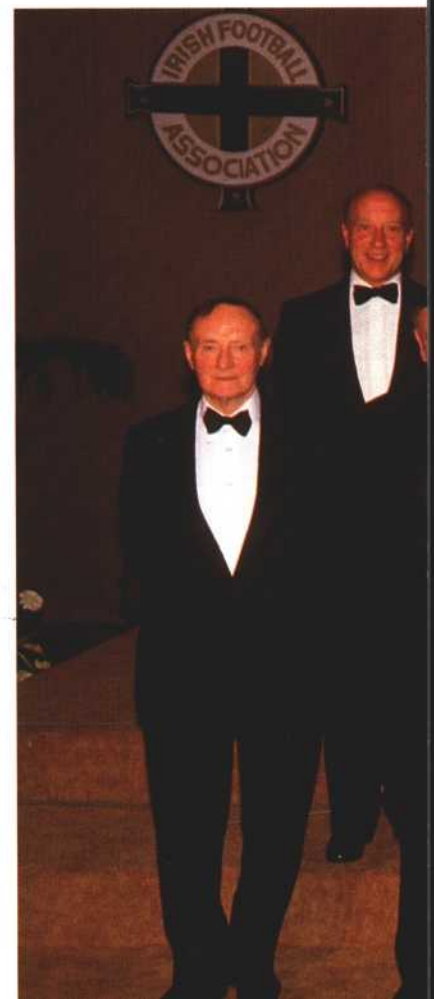
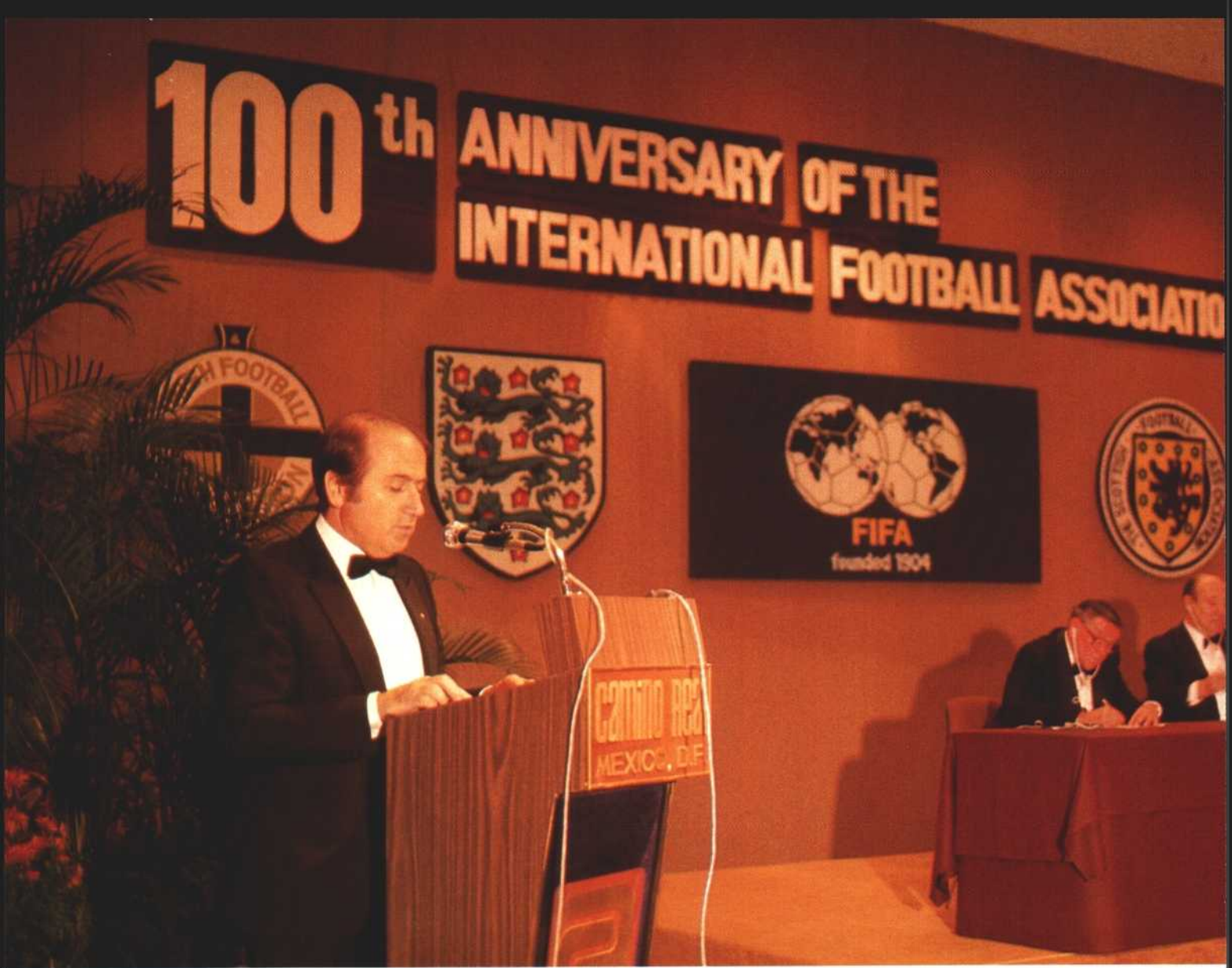


At the 45th Ordinary FIFA Congress in Mexico-City, 111 National Associations were represented. Eight new members were admitted so that now 158 National Associations are affiliated to FIFA.

The outstanding event was the unanimous election of President Dr. João Havelange for the fourth tenure of office until 1990. The result was received with a standing ovation. The first congratulator was Senior Vice-President Harry H. Cavan (right).

The most celebrated guest of the Congress was FIFA Honorary President Sir Stanley Rous (below), who despite his 91 years insisted on flying to Mexico-City.





Ceremony in the Presence of Sir Stanley Rous

Immediately before the beginning of the World Cup Finals the 100th anniversary of the International Football Association Board was celebrated, at the Hotel Camino Real in Mexico-City. In 1886, the four British Associations had founded the BOARD. From the beginning it was a body which have been active of their own initiative, have established the regulations and controlled them. For now one century the BOARD have independently and responsibly solved the problems which occurred at the interpretation of a regulation. FIFA were admitted in 1913. During a distinguished ceremony the British pioneers and their astonishingly far-

sighted advocates were honoured. From the hands of FIFA President João Havelange the representatives of the four British Associations received the marvellous diplomas. In a retrospective view, FIFA General Secretary Joseph S. Blatter mentioned the landmarks of this "Supreme Football-Court". With particular gratification the 91-year-old FIFA Honorary President Sir Stanley Rous was welcomed. He played a substantial role also as a member of the BOARD and in 1937—at that time he was still Secretary of the Football Association—he rewrote the 17 regulations and brought them into a sensible order.

FIFA General Secretary Joseph S. Blatter (left) on the occasion of the retrospective view on 100 years of the BOARD. The diplomas for the four British Associations were handed over by President João Havelange (below left). And then the BOARD-family around Sir Stanley Rous posed for a commemorative picture.







Mexico Greets the World

Over 100,000 spectators in the Estadio Azteca and a milliard viewers in 142 countries experienced a fascinating spectacle which was part of this thrilling football opera. In the ranks of the stadium, Mexico portrayed its national character which was patriotically welcomed by the spectators. Like waves breaking on the shore, whole sectors

of spectators—mainly in Mexico's national colours—stood up crying out their enthusiasm and sat down again to let the next sector have its turn. Thus, the "ola verde" (or green wave) symbolizing shared experience and joy of life rippled through the whole stadium. Pictures recalling the entire Mexican culture were depicted on a 100 metre

long carpet of fresh flowers in bloom. Colourful folkloric dances were performed to the beat of the Mariachis' music. Then, the 100,000 spectators fervently sang their national anthem. The stadium was filled with immense rejoicing which led to the start of the games, the "Fiesta Mexicana".



The box of honour in the Estadio Azteca with Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid, FIFA President João Havelange and the president of the local Organizing Committee, Guillermo Cañedo.

The "ola verde" (the green wave) goes round the huge oval of the stadium, as the expression of a fellow feeling. And the roaring "Mexico, Mexico" choruses led over to the opening game.

The celebration of colours, banners, joy and folklore found a superb setting in the marvellous Azteca Stadium. The swing of the folklore dances produced high spirits on the terraces.

Organisation-Taking Stock

It's with great pleasure that I relate my experience as President of the FIFA Organising Committee for the 1986 World Cup. Before addressing more specific points, I would like to give my overall impression of the event.

To begin with, I would like to refer in part to a short article I wrote upon my return from the hospitable country of the Aztecs while my memories were still fresh in my mind.

"Mexico '86" was a happy reunion for Mexico who had previously hosted the 1970 World Cup. As head of the delegation of the West German team, and member of the FIFA Committee, I had dubbed this Cup the "exciting" World Championship.

Mexico, the country and its people, above all the thousands who enthusiastically worked to assemble the pieces in the cities, media and elsewhere that made this World Cup a mosaic masterpiece, truly deserved the repeated designation as host country. And this I say in all sincerity. Their work is all the more admirable when one takes into account the short notice which the promoters, Guillermo Cañedo, Dr. Rafael Castillo and their close staff disposed of after Colombia's tardy resignation. The devastating 1985 earthquake and Mexico's growing economic problems due in large part to the oil crisis and the weakening dollar, did not facilitate their task.

It's therefore with heartfelt gratitude that I thank those responsible for the Mexican Organising Committee, not forgetting the Mexican people for their warm hospitality.



Expectations Were Surpassed

As far as the matches themselves are concerned, the 13th World Cup not only met, but surpassed my expectations. The first round of 24 teams was more interesting and of a better calibre than the preceding World Cup, the first to host 24 teams.

From the eighth-final on, the matches were veritable battles. As it turned out, returning to the system of direct elimination was a good decision. The matches, lasting for more than 90 or 120 minutes, were no longer based on tactic, but showed a total investment on the players' behalf.

The excitement of the quarter-finals was even further heightened when three of the

matches ended in penalty-kicks.

Unjust as it may seem to resort to penalty-kicks, a procedure which especially affected Mexico, Spain and Brazil, it was at the same time an undeniable attraction, and the outcome was nevertheless fair. The President, Dr. João Havelange, has already declared himself in favor of retaining this system for the 1990 World Cup in Italy. I share his opinion and will support this procedure in the future.

An Extraordinary Public

Participation of the Mexican public was very supportive. A total of 2.4 million tickets were sold in the nine cities that hosted the World Cup, averaging 46,000 spectators per match. Once again, I was impressed by the captivating

atmosphere of the "Estadio Azteca", certainly one of the most beautiful stadiums in the world, so fascinating it leaves me searching for words.

The interest of the general public, as was demonstrated by the enormous TV audiences recorded by the television stations, was spectacular. The semi-final between France and West Germany, for example, was transmitted live to over 150 countries worldwide, proving once and for all the popularity of the sport we all love.

The World Cup's absence of violence in a problem-ridden Mexico, especially in light of the tragic incident in Brussels, is but one of its many positive aspects. There's no doubt in my mind that "Mexico '86" will long live as an excellent memory for us all.

Teamwork is the Key

I would have liked to continue this article by describing in detail how such a huge enterprise as the World Cup is brought about from its first careful plans to the culmination of the minutely executed matches; how in the beginning, the World Cup is as unsteady as a toddler taking its first steps, then develops in confidence and strength until at last taking on its final form. This perspective however would be too indepth for this article. So rather than trying to compile an inexhaustible list of each commission's contributions, I shall limit myself to key points.

The overall success of the World Cup depends on cooperation and a judicious system of control. It is essential that the Organising Committee and FIFA work together in mutual trust to oversee the entire project. As experience shows, four eyes are better than two, especially since those working in the mist of the organisation may find their perception suffers due to the diversity of their tasks.

During the opening discussions of the World Cup, the FIFA Committee meets with representatives of FIFA and the local Organising Committee. In a relaxed, friendly atmosphere each party has a vote in laying down the foundation. The small office which holds the FIFA Committee, diplomatically handles problems by serving as an advisor.

Although both Committees did not always agree on certain details, I must congratulate them on their exemplary cooperation in the planning of the '86 World Cup. In retrospect, I can cite only one area

where FIFA might have been a little weak, and that was in the sale and the pricing of tickets. Naturally, the Committee is not indifferent to criticism, and each critique will be meticulously reviewed by the new Organising Committee for the 1990 Cup. In general, however, criticism was slanted due to local reporting. Beside the problem of marketing the tickets, there is a need to review the rules, the system of arbitrage and the media's participation. These matters are summed up by the Secretary General, Joseph S. Blatter, in the August issue of *FIFA News*:

1. "One should always be wary of modifying the rules of the game. Contrary to what one might think, having 24 teams creates a much bigger problem. In my opinion, the mixed system based on points in the first round and direct elimination in the second was better than the compromise adopted in 1982. As I have already stated, each second-round match was like a final. This was the case in 1970 in the match between Germany FR and England, and Italy-Germany FR, games which are still enthusiastically spoken about today. Penalty-kicks are certainly preferable to arbitrarily picking a winner, however the ideal solution would be to replay the matches if time and the element of luck didn't interfere.

2. As subjective calls are hard to rule out, the referee is inevitably blamed in doubtful cases. Personally, I am in favour of other options such as a 'trio' of well-seasoned referees. It was clear at the Mexican World Cup that the best referee is not necessarily a competent linesman.



Consolation for the runners-up: Hermann Neuberger, President of the FIFA Organising Committee, hands the silver medals to the German team.

3. Concerning the media, it was obvious that the acquisition of press cards is still being abused. A strict and judicious collaboration between FIFA and AIPS could resolve this problem. As it stands, anyone can be granted journalistic status at the World Cup."

These points, as well as others, should be looked into during the planning of the next World Cup. The work plan and check-lists established by the Coordination Committee have been approved. With just a few additions, they will be the basis on which the two Committees will work in planning the 1990 World Cup. With the new television contract ready to be signed by the consortium of the World Cup, their work can commence by evaluating the question of marketing which in the past has been subjected to contract.

Having previously thanked my Mexican friends who made up the local FIFA Committee, I would equally like to extend my thanks to the FIFA Organising Committee and the collaborators of the local FIFA, and last but not least, to the entire FIFA crew headed by Secretary General, Joseph S. Blatter. It was due to their united effort, with the unfailing support of the FIFA Executive Committee, directed by Dr. João Havelange, that "Mexico '86" was such a success.

Hermann Neuberger



Bulgaria-Italy 1:1 (0:1)

0:1 Altobelli (43'); 1:1 Sirakov (85')

Kostadinov/Iskrenov (64'),
Jeliazkov/Gospodinov (74')
Vialli/Conti (65')

E. Fredriksson, Sweden

Both teams started cautiously in this opening match, anxious to defend in numerical superiority and with a real sweeper. The high grass made passes more difficult than usual and might have been one of the causes that on several occasions good scoring chances were missed on both sides. Just before half-time Altobelli opened the score. He anticipated the trajectory of a free-kick and, coming from behind, took the cross volley, leaving goalkeeper Mikhailov without a chance.

In the second-half Bulgaria kept up with Italy and forced them also to some defensive work. On the whole, however, the World Champions were more dangerous with their counter-attacks and would have deserved a second goal. Goalkeeper Mikhailov in such moments kept Bulgaria's hopes alive.

The Italians seemed to bring home the narrow victory, when five minutes before time Sirakov headed home a cross from Kostadinov, equalising to the surprise of everyone the Italian lead. The first surprise of the World Cup 86 was settled.

Argentina-Korea Rep. 3:1 (2:0)

1:0 Valdano (6'); 2:0 Ruggeri (18');
3:0 Valdano (46'); 3:1 Park Chang (50')

Tapia/Pasculli (75'); Olarticoechea/Batista (76')
Cho Kwang/Kim Pyung (22'); Yoo/Kim Yong (46')

V. Sanchez Arminio, Spain

It was a match in which Argentina's victory was never really endangered, after Valdano had given the South Americans the lead in the 5th minute already. After the 2:0 by Ruggeri in the 17th minute, the Argentines slowed down the pace and left the industrious and untiring Koreans more room, but without ever losing control of the game.

In the second-half, after the early decision through Valdano's second goal in the 46th minute, the Koreans scored their first goal at this World Cup when Park Chang-Sun was successful with a superb long-range effort.

It was a comfortable victory for Argentina and the score might have easily been higher if the World Cup winners of 78 had kept up their rhythm. Worth mentioning is the fact that the South Americans scored two goals after crosses which took the Korean defence by surprise. The Asiatics impressed with their never waning fighting spirit: a "team with heart".

Italy-Argentina 1:1 (1:1)

1:0 Altobelli (Pen.: 6'); 1:1 Maradona (34')

Vialli/Conti (65'); Baresi/De Napoli (81')
Olarticoechea/Batista (59'); Enrique/Borghi (74')
J. Keizer, Netherlands

A game between two strong teams, which, however, only partly displayed the football the spectators would have liked to see, despite an early goal for Italy. In the 7th minute Italy were awarded a penalty after Garre had touched the ball with his hand. Altobelli sent keeper Pumpido to the wrong side and scored his second goal at this World Cup.

Italy then were pushed back into the defence, with their number 10 Bagni who tried to mark his Naples teammate Maradona. But in the 33rd minute he couldn't prevent Maradona from taking over a pass by Valdano and scoring for his team a spectacular and at the same time deserved equalizer. In the second-half it was obvious that neither team wanted to risk a great deal. Both seemed to be satisfied with one point and concentrated on counter-attacks. Playing in that manner the Italians had two excellent chances: Conti hit the post and Cabrini saw his shot stopped by Pumpido. But on the whole, it was not a very exciting game: there were plenty of interruptions due to fouls and neither side were willing to run great risks.



Korea Rep. - Bulgaria 1:1 (0:1)

0:1 Getov (11'); 1:1 Kim Jong (70')

Kim Jong/No (46'); Cho Min/Cho Kwang (72')
Kostadinov/Iskrenov (46'); Jeliakov/Getov (58')

F. Al-Shanar, Saudi Arabia

In the course of the match, the torrential showers turned the pitch into a big water pool. Despite these unfavourable circumstances the spectators saw an entertaining game with many good scenes in front of the goals.

Bulgaria opened the score already in the first minutes: A high cross from the right wing was turned away by the Korean Rep. goalkeeper directly to Getov, who lobbed the ball into the deserted goal. Being down one goal so early arose the fighting spirit of the Asiatics and the game became quicker. The light-footed South Koreans took command of the match and the Bulgarians, despite their physical superiority, were lucky to be still in the lead at half-time.

Attacks and counter-attacks alternated also in the second-half at a high pace. After 70 minutes the tremendous efforts of the South Koreans were rewarded. An Asiatic player headed back a rebounding ball into the penalty area, Kim controlled the ball with much skill and scooped it into the angle. The South Koreans defended their first World Cup point with much commitment.



Korea Rep. - Italy 2:3 (0:1)

0:1 Altobelli (17'); 1:1 Choi Soon-Ho (62')

1:2 Altobelli (73'); 1:3 own goal (82')
2:3 Huh Jung-Moo (89')
Chung/Kim Joo (46'); Kim Jong/Byun (70')

Baresi/Bagni (67'); Vialli/Galderisi (88')
D. Socha, USA

In the last match of Group A Italy were forced to give their best against a Korean team who played with much determination and punch. On both sides various chances were missed or thwarted by an opponent.

In the 17th minute Di Gennaro set up for Altobelli who opened the score. Some minutes later the Italian striker was given charge of a penalty but failed to convert. In the second-half Korea continued to attack and therefore merited their 62nd minute equalizer, when Choi was successful with a superb long-range effort.

But 20 minutes later they were two goals down again. Altobelli scored his second goal, the third one was an unfortunate own goal. Two minutes from time Huh shortened the scoreline to 2:3. Italy always seemed capable, however, to increase the rhythm, if necessary. With this victory Italy were definitely in the second round, but the Koreans could be proud of their first World Cup performances since 1954. They displayed a football with heart and enthusiasm.



Argentina - Bulgaria 2:0 (1:0)

1:0 Valdano (3'); 2:0 Burchuchaga (79')

Olarticoechea/Batista (46'); Enrique/Borghi (46')
Velitchkov/Mladenov (54'); Zdravkov/Sirakov (72')

B. Ulloa Morera, Costa Rica

In a disappointing game Argentina deserved their 2:0 victory, but their performance was not convincing. Both teams applied a close marking on the forwards of the opposite team. In the dense midfield most players confined themselves to defensive tasks. In consequence only few impulses remained for the attacking play. The majority of the attacks were stopped before reaching the actual danger area.

While Bulgaria had not a single scoring chance, Argentina became dangerous whenever Maradona was involved in their offensive actions.

Both goals of Argentina were scored in a similar manner. The first one was prepared by Garre who took away the ball from the Bulgarian full-back, centred to the far post where Valdano emerged and headed in. Before the second goal Maradona turned several opponents on the left wing and centred at top speed to the far post. Burchuchaga nodded in. The Bulgarians, even now, showed no reactions and did not really try to turn the match.

1. Argentina	3	2	1	0	6:2	5
2. Italy	3	1	2	0	5:4	4
3. Bulgaria	3	0	2	1	2:4	2
4. Korea Rep.	3	0	1	2	4:7	1

Group Analysis: Group A

There was only one upset in this Group: the draw between Italy and Bulgaria in the opening game of this World Cup. Argentina and Italy proved to be the best teams and achieved the Second Round without having to perform at their best.

In their first match against Korea Rep., the Argentines profited by the lacking international experience of the Asiatics. The Korean players seemed to be so impressed by the large crowd in the Olympic stadium that they performed far beneath their possibilities. Already shortly after the interval, the game was definitely decided.

During the match against Italy, it soon became apparent that Argentina were satisfied with a draw. After they had evened the score, the Argentines played without any risk, and since Italy, too, seemed to be content with their second Group place, the game lost much of its initial quality. Against the completely demoralized Bulgars, Argentina realized a never endangered victory in their third game.

Italy managed to take the lead in all three Group games, but three times they had to concede the equalization. Only in the encounter with Korea Rep., they were ahead for a second time, winning the game with great difficulty.

Bulgaria began the World Cup Final Competition with a remarkable draw against Italy. In the course of the tournament, however, the team became always weaker. Against Korea Rep., the Bulgars were completely dominated in the second half and eventually had to be satisfied with the draw. Against Argentina, the Bulgars were without a chance.

The team from Korea Rep.

performed better from game to game. In their first match, they were still completely dominated by Argentina. Under miserable weather conditions they achieved a remarkable draw against Bulgaria. In their third game, they managed to bring World Cup holders Italy into real difficulties. Thanks to their offensive style of play Korea Rep. were a true enrichment for this World Cup.



The team from Korea Republic improved from game to game. The spectators were delighted with the tremendous commitment and the catching enthusiasm of the Asiatics. In their first match against Argentina they often guarded Maradona (above) with three men.



Korea's best performance was to be seen in the game against Italy. The 2:3 defeat was indeed honourable. The goal-getter qualities of Altobelli (No. 18) - he scored two goals (left) - were decisive.

The highly deserved 1:1 draw against Bulgaria gave the Korean side their first World Cup point. The determination of the Koreans is best illustrated by their dynamic start from the wall towards the ball (right).



Group B

FIRST PHASE



Belgium-Mexico 1:2 (1:2)

0:1 Quirarte (23'); 0:2 Sanchez (39') 1:2 Vandenberg (45')
64' Claesen/Desmeth; 66' De Mol/Vandenberg
69' España/Boy; 79' J. Cruz/Flores
C. Esposito, Argentina

The opening match in this group was characterized by a great nervousness. From the kick-off Mexico tried to put pressure on their opponents. The Belgians showed considerable respect for this expected offensive: Therefore they tried to slow down the pace by plenty of short passes in their back lines and so to bring the game under their control. The Belgians succeeded in doing so since Mexico played without any forechecking. But lacking courage, the Europeans never came to their well-known and dreaded counter-attacks.

After Mexico had taken a 2:0 lead by a free-kick and a corner goal, the Belgians had to give up their defensive way of playing. In the closing minutes of the first-half Vandenberg managed to shorten the score, sending in a long throw-in from Gerats.

Despite all their efforts Belgium had no more real scoring chances after the interval. Once again it was proved how difficult it is to change one's tactics in the course of a match!

Paraguay-Iraq 1:0 (1:0)

1:0 Romero (35')
Guasch/Mendoza (88')
Abdul/Haris (67'); Basim/Basil (81')
E. Picon-Ackong, Mauritius

Both teams hardly knew anything of each other and so started their opening game quite cautiously. After a quarter of an hour it was Iraq who surprisingly took the initiative. Despite their territorial superiority they didn't come to many scoring chances. The attacks of the outsiders were not aggressive enough to catch the individually strong defence of the South Americans.

After 35 minutes Paraguay took the lead: Cañete surprised Iraq's defence by a long pass, aimed at Romero who beat the advanced goalkeeper by an astute lob.

In the second-half the lads from Iraq seemed even more determined to give a turn to their first World Cup encounter. They fought for every ball, played aggressively and took now control of the game. But they couldn't exploit their only scoring chance. Paraguay's rare attacks remained dangerous, as illustrated by two shots on the woodwork.

Mexico-Paraguay 1:1 (1:0)

1:0 Flores (3'); 1:1 Romero (85')
57' España/Boy; 77' J. Cruz/Flores 62' Guasch/
Mendoza; 75' Hicks/Torales
G. Courtney, England

Also in this match the Mexicans tried to put their opponents under pressure from the start. In the 3rd minute they already opened the score. After a move on the left side the Mexican back centred. Sanchez missed the ball, but Flores, Mexico's second skipper, put the hosts 1:0 ahead.

Surprisingly Mexico then retired to their own half, only speculating on counter-attacks. Paraguay took over the initiative and determined the rhythm. But apart from numerous corners Paraguay's assault had no effects. After the interval the Paraguayans continued to control the game. Mexico's attacks rarely progressed over the halfway-line. But only five minutes from time Romero equalized, heading home a high cross from Cañete.

In their desperate finish Mexico were awarded a penalty in the last minute. Sanchez, who had been fouled, saw his precise and sharp strike stopped by Fernandez, whose fantastic reflex saved his team the draw. The patchy and confused match ended justly without a winner. All in all, it was a disappointing game.



Iraq-Belgium 1:2 (0:2)

0:1 Scifo (16'); 0:2 Claesen (19'; Pen.);
1:2 Radhi (59')

Abdul/Saddam (81')
Clijsters/Scifo (66'), Grun/De Mol (68')
J. Diaz Palacio, Colombia

Iraq tried to surprise the Belgians with an aggressive style of play. Yet after a quarter of an hour the Europeans already took control of the game and within five minutes they scored two goals. At first Ceulemans set up for Scifo who beat the goalkeeper with a precise and unstoppable shot. The second goal was scored by Claesen through penalty, after Vercauteren had been attacked improperly in the penalty area. Until halftime Belgium had at any time a firm grip on their opponents.

Shortly after halftime the final decision seemed to have come: the Iraqi Basil saw the red card after having clapped his hands in protest after a decision by the referee. But this expulsion provoked a real act of defiance on the part of the World Cup newcomers. With ten men they beleaguered the goal of the much more experienced Belgians. First the Iraqis only hit the post but after one of the following attacks they scored their first World Cup goal: Radhi's powerful strike into the left angle was unstoppable for Belgium's keeper Pfaff.



Iraq-Mexico 0:1 (0:0)

0:1 Quirarte (54')

Abdul/Natic (60'), Shaker/Ainid (68')
Dominguez/Amador (61'), J. Cruz/DelosCobos (79')
Z. Petrovic, Yugoslavia

Mexico as the clear favourites took considerable pains to defeat the Iraqis who defended themselves with great commitment. It became apparent again that Mexico's team are supported by some few key players. Due to the suspension of their star Hugo Sanchez the Mexican attack completely lacked ideas.

Once again it was a defender who had to score the winner. Negrete lifted a free-kick over Iraq's wall, the Iraqis tried to provoke an off-side, running ahead. But Quirarte, dashing on from behind, surprised the goalkeeper with a precise shot from a very acute angle.

Iraq, who had developed little initiative during the first-half, finally changed their tactics and tried to attack more vigorously. They displayed some promising attacks, but hardly managed to create scoring chances. Mexico's victory was highly deserved and the scoreline could have been clearer. But the fact that his team were only dangerous through free-kicks and corners might have caused some frowning on the part of Mexico's manager Milutinovic.



Paraguay-Belgium 2:2 (0:1)

0:1 Vercauteren (30'); 1:1 Cabañas (50'); 1:2 Veyt (59'); 2:2 Cabañas (76')

67' Hicks/Mendoza 89'; Van der Elst L./Grun
B. Dotschev, Bulgaria

Paraguay and Belgium, having both already assured their qualification for round two, played an excellent match, characterized by an astonishing pace and the dramatic course of events. In the second-half both teams would have had enough scoring chances to decide the game - bit in fact this match would not have deserved a loser.

From the very first minute both sides tried to attack; the Belgians performed well and came to several good scoring chances. After half an hour they took the lead: Ceulemans set up for Vercauteren with an astute pass and the latter surprised Paraguay's keeper with a superb lob. Some minutes later Romero wanted to imitate the Belgian midfielder player, but Renquin could save on the line with an overhead kick.

Immediately after the interval Cabañas took advantage of an uncertainty in the Belgian defence. After Veyt had put ahead his side for the second time, it was again Cabañas who profited by a Belgian blunderer and sent in, realizing the highly deserved draw.

1. Mexico	3	2	1	0	4:2	5
2. Paraguay	3	1	2	0	4:3	4
3. Belgium	3	1	1	1	5:5	3
4. Iraq	3	0	0	3	1:4	0

Group Analysis: Group B

In this probably easiest Group three teams succeeded in qualifying for the Second Round: Mexico, Paraguay and Belgium. Although Iraq could not win a single point and scored but one goal, they did not fall off and would have had enough opportunities to score other goals. But they were lacking in cold-bloodedness in front of goal.

During their three Group games, hosts Mexico could of course count on the unrestricted support of the huge crowd—more than 100,000 each time. But it seemed as if the very high expectations of the Mexican fans weighed on the home team more than it was expected. Although Mexico took the lead in all three matches, they never managed to calm the game and so to be in control of it. On the contrary, they often brought into play an unnecessary hectic pace. Consequently, the Mexicans were put under strong pressure toward the close of the matches. Against Belgium and Iraq they could just save a narrow victory, but against Paraguay the Mexicans had to concede the equalizer five minutes from time.

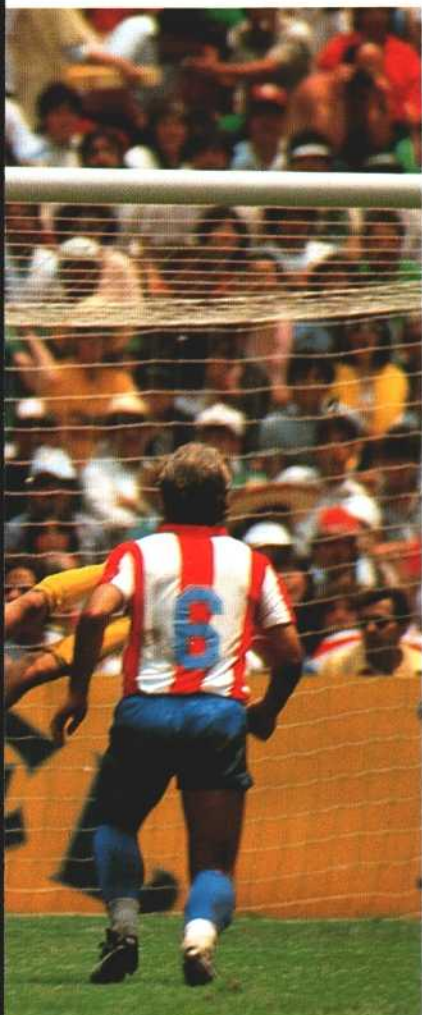
In their opening game, Paraguay had some difficulties to break down Iraq's fierce resistance. During the two following games (against Mexico and Belgium), the Paraguayan side impressed the experts by their offensive style of play and achieved two well-deserved draws. Belgium performed rather badly in their first match—Guy Thys' experienced team were overrun by Mexico and were two down after only 38 minutes. Just before half-time Vandenberg managed to shorten the score, but that

was all the Belgians brought off on that day.

In the encounter with Iraq, the Belgians—facing a team reduced to ten men—could not convince their supporters either.

For the last Group match against Paraguay, team manager Guy Thys introduced some younger players into his side and instructed his men to take the offensive unconditionally. It was only now that the Belgians revealed their true value and qualified as third of their Group for the Second Round after a 2:2 draw.

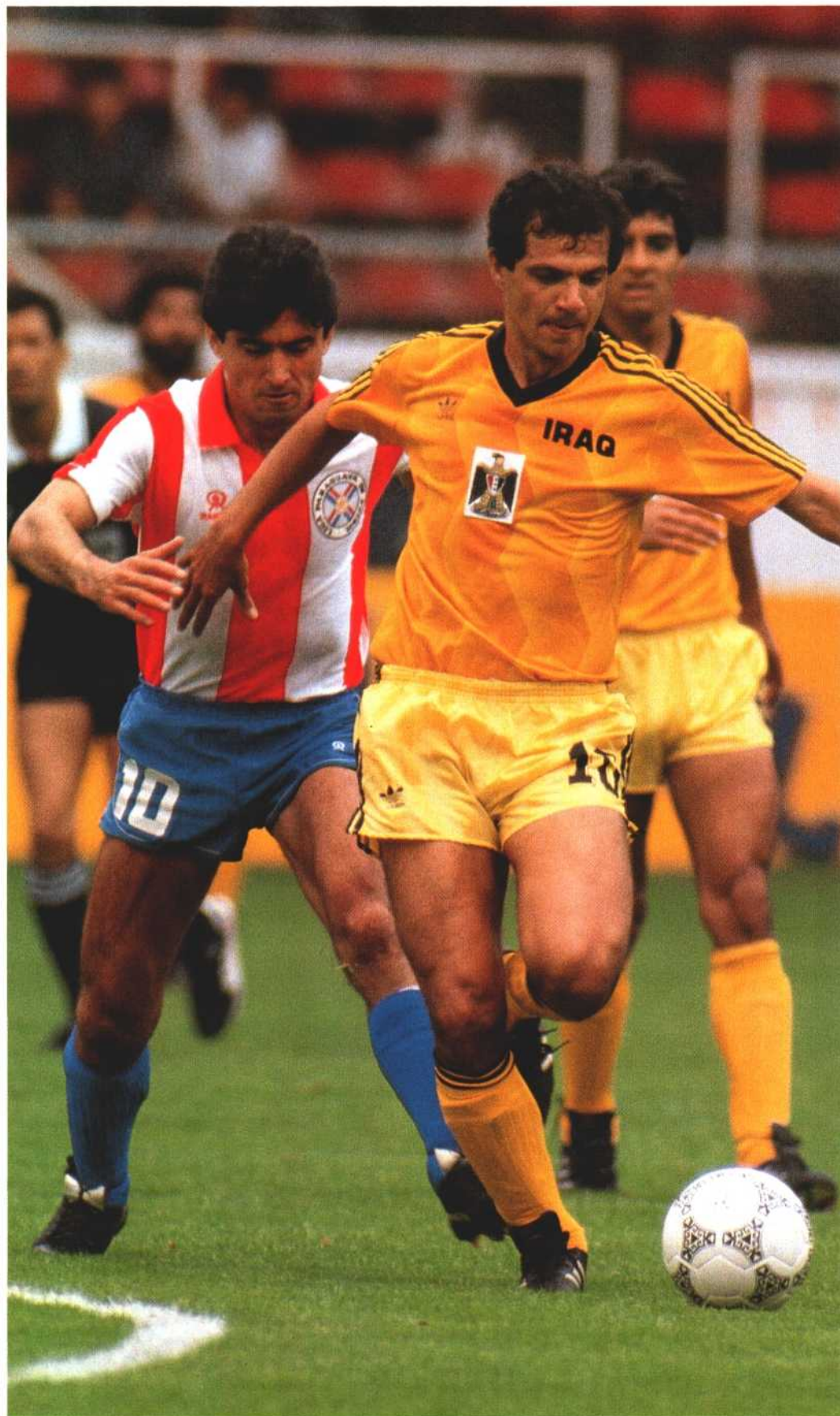




In the Group Matches, Mexico's goalkeeper Larios (above) was for the first time under pressure against Paraguay. Until five minutes from time he managed to keep the close advantage, but then he had to concede the equalization.

The Iraqi squad (in yellow) were eliminated in the First Round. Although they could not win a single point, their displays were not bad at all. The close 1:0 victory of Paraguay was endangered until the final whistle.

A gripping duel between the two numbers 10: the Iraqi Mohammed and the South American Cañete, who proved to be a key player of Paraguay (right).



Group C

FIRST PHASE



Canada-France 0:1 (0:0)

0:1 Papin (79')

Lowery/Sweeney (54'); Segota/James (82')
Stopyra/Rocheteau (70')

H. Silva Arce, Chile

There are many roads to success and not only a single one; this is also true with football. Canada and France demonstrated this in their opening game of Group C quite clearly.

As it was to be expected the Canadians played rather "British". Starting with much self-confidence they were very strong in their tackles, superior in the air and tried to demonstrate a simple attacking play. The French seemed to be surprised by this resistance.

The European Champions, being undoubtedly superior with regard to skill and international experience, were not able to determine the rhythm of the game for a longer time. The resolute tackleings of the Canadian athletes, their long passes from the solid defence, the swift moves on the wing, the sharp crosses and shots from all positions and distances disconcerted the French time and again. At the end, however, Papin's goal gave France a highly deserved 1:0 victory, due to the fact that Fernandez, Platini, Giresse, Tigana and Papin had definitely more scoring chances than their opponents Norman, Wilson, Bridge, Valentine and Vrablic!

USSR-Hungary 6:0 (3:0)

1:0 Yakovenko (2'); 2:0 Aleinikov (4')
3:0 Belanov (Pen., 24'); 4:0 Yaremchuk (66')
5:0 Yaremchuk (75'); 6:0 Rodionov (80')
Rodionov/Belanov (69'); Yevtushenko/Yakov. (72')
Bursca/Roth (13'); Dajka/Peter (62')
L. Agnolin, Italy

After only four minutes Yakovenko and Aleinikov had given the USSR and early 2:0 lead. The Hungarian tactics, aiming at a cautious start and the control of the pace, had already failed. The necessary tactical modifications were on that day beyond the means of the Hungarians: Neither in the first nor in the second-half they found to their normal performance.

The Russians seemed to be superior in all respects: above all with regard to the pace and the play without ball. Besides, the USSR team succeeded in almost everything while the Hungarians were quite unlucky in their actions. Despite 30°C in the shade the USSR demonstrated modern football at a high pace and with only some short breathers in the second-half.

The team were in constant movement and in attack and defence had always more players around the ball than the opponent. One, two and sometimes three players were unmarked and in a good position to receive the ball. At the end, therefore, the score could have been even more brutal than 6:0. Hungary had caught in fact a most unlucky day.

France-USSR 1:1 (0:0)

0:1 Rats (53'); 1:1 Fernandez (60')

Bellone/Papin (76'); Verduyze/Giresse (83')
Blokhin/Zavarov (59'); Rodionov/Yakovenko (68')

R. Arppi Filho, Brazil

The French team had seen the Russians' 6:0 thrashing of Hungary on TV and therefore were able to choose the adequate tactics against the Russian assaults.

The always dangerous Russian skippers Yaremchuk, Belanov and Rats were marked tightly by Amoros, Bossis, Ayache and tackled whenever they received the ball. Behind his defenders Battiston distinguished himself as a circus-spect sweeper. In midfield Fernandez, Platini, Tigana and Giresse took over and gave over the Russian midfield players Zavarov, Yakovenko, Aleinikov and Kuznetsov, who displayed all their offensive qualities.

Up front on the wings Stopyra and Papin waited for long passes, changed positions and were a constant danger, holding back the defenders Larionov, Bessonov, Kuznetsov and Demianenko. But only after the 1:0 lead of the Soviets France put on real pressure and deserved their equalization, scored by the quicksilver midfielder Fernandez.



Hungary-Canada 2:0 (1:0)

1:0 Esterhazi (2'); 2:0 Detari (75')

Roth/Burcsa (28'); Dajka/Nagy (62')
Sweeney/Wilson (40'); Segota/James (53')

J. Al-Sharif, Syria

Anxiety is a bad precondition for success. The shock of the high defeat against USSR had obviously developed into a nightmare in the Hungarian team.

Even after an early 2nd minute lead by Esterhazi the players at times seemed to be paralysed, anxious and helpless.

The Canadians played recklessly and embarrassed the Hungarian defence time and again. Hungary were lucky that the Canadians showed poor finishing abilities and gave away all their chances. If they had succeeded in equalizing, the Canadians could have even won the game.

When Hungary were close to a breakdown, Detari launched with a well-timed pass Kiprich whose shot bounced back from the goalkeeper but Detari, having followed the action, sent it in scoring the decisive 2:0. Now the Hungarians finally lost all their anxiety. They showed flowing combinations and proved to be excellent football players.



Hungary-France 0:3 (0:1)

0:1 Stopyra (29'); 0:2 Tigana (62')
0:3 Rocheteau (84')

Nagy/Hannich (46'); Bognar/Kovacs (65')
Rocheteau/Papin (61'); Ferreri/Stopyra (70')

C. Silva Valente, Portugal

For Hungary it was the last chance to qualify for the second round. Coach Mezey had changed the team; according to his ideas his team should try to monopolize the ball, to be in motion and then to operate with running passes. At first this seemed to work quite well – but it just did not lead to a goal.

France at first concentrated on the organization of the defence and confined themselves to dangerous counter-attacks. Such a situation led to the first goal. After 30 minutes, Ayache at last profited by the free room on his (right) side, centred precisely for Stopyra who headed home. The last 15 minutes of the first-half were then dominated by the French who came to two other excellent scoring chances.

After the interval Hungary, with the courage of despair, tried it once again and had really bad luck when Dajka's shot crashed off the underside of the bar.

After another ten minutes France took control of the game again and scored two magnificent goals through Tigana and Rocheteau. The discouraged Hungarians were now easily dominated by the European Champions.



USSR-Canada 2:0 (0:0)

1:0 Blokhin (58'); 2:0 Zavarov (74')

Belanov/Protasov (57'); Zavarov/Blokhin (61')
Segota/James (64'); Pakos/Gray (69')

I. Traoré, Mali

In their third game, the Russians gave Blokhin and Protasov an opportunity to play. Some players from Dynamo Kiev, who have had a very hard season, could so enjoy a welcome rest. The changes in the line-up had some effects on the performance of the Sovjets. Canada were a difficult opponent, displaying a great deal of determination, willpower and concentration. They also contributed to a good and fair atmosphere.

The maturity in the game of USSR was shown in the second-half by flowing combinations and superior individual performances. The effectiveness of the Russian attacks was increased in particular after Belanov had replaced Protasov. It was Belanov who prepared the first goal scored by Blokhin (58th minute). Immediately afterwards Blokhin had to be replaced. His substitute, Zavarov, scored the second goal, which meant at the same time that USSR had won their group. Canada's brave performances in all their games should actually be a big additional motivation for the further improvement of football in this country.

1. USSR	3	2	1	0	9:1	5
2. France	3	2	1	0	5:1	5
3. Hungary	3	1	0	2	2:9	2
4. Canada	3	0	0	3	0:5	0

Group Analysis: Group C

Canada started as rank outsiders to the tournament, Hungary had it their own way and the favourites—the USSR and France—asserted themselves.

All four teams had difficulties with the fields of play. At first the lawn was too high in both stadia. After having been cut time and again, it still proved to be too thick and too soft. Low passes lost speed and players who tried to dribble not rarely tripped over the ball. It impaired the quality of the games and for those players provided with brilliant skills it was an obvious handicap.

The Soviet side impressed the spectators by their pace, toughness in tackling, skill, tactical flexibility and determined putting away of chances.

Owing to an excellent skill of all team members, France displayed an elegant style of play and excelled by a great mutual understanding and their flair for a variable play. Against Canada and Hungary, the French seemed to play in third gear. In the encounter with the USSR, they proved to have tactical discipline and maturity.

Hungary disappointed all amateurs of football and could never recover from their 0:6 defeat against the Soviets. The Hungarian team performed far beneath their actual value, had forgotten all their virtues and made a depressed impression.

From the beginning, Canada had nothing to lose, ran and fought bravely and sold their skin dearly. But their abilities were clearly limited. Their finishing was insufficient. In return, they proved to be a real enrichment for the tournament thanks to their enthusiasm and their very refreshing style of play.



The 6:0 victory of the USSR over Hungary was the shocker in Group C (above and below). Again Belanov (No. 19) cannot be prevented from scoring. Garaba (No. 6) comes too late and goalkeeper Disztl has not the least chance. Hungary did not recover from this crushing defeat and was eliminated in the First Round.

Canada surprised the experts. Particularly in the game against France they exceeded the expectations and only lost 0:1. Bridge and Samuel (right against Rocheteau) distinguished themselves especially by their excellent tackling. The participation of Canada proved to be a benefit to the World Cup Finals and will undoubtedly help to make soccer more popular in this country.





Group D

FIRST PHASE



Spain-Brazil 0:1 (0:0)

0:1 Socrates (62')

Señor/Francisco (82')
Muller/Casagrande (67'), Falcao/Junior (79')

C. Bambridge, Australia

The teams observed each other like two armies, only now and then risking an attack onto the opponent's ground. The players advanced rather hesitatingly, thus leaving the forwards isolated. In the course of the game, Socrates proved to be the key player in Brazil's midfield, despite Camacho's tight marking. The shortcomings of the Spanish team were the missing courage and wit in their attacking play, a certain lack of determination and their slow pace. Brazil showed more initiative, had excellent moments in the development of the play, but their finishing was unsatisfactory. In the second-half two shots on the crossbar led to the decision: After a corner for Spain Michel's 20m-shot hit the underside of the bar and crashed down: on or behind the line? The referee let the game go on. In the 63rd minute Socrates was luckier. After a pass by Junior and Careca's shot on the bar he was unmarked and could head the ball over the line. Muller impressed with solos and shots. Spain's efforts to equalize were stopped by the good Brazilian defence in which Julio Cesar and Elzo showed all their qualities.

Algeria-Northern Ireland 1:1 (0:1)

0:1 Whiteside (6'), 1:1 Zidane (59')

Harkouk/Madjer (27'), Belloumi/Zidane (72')
Stewart/Penney (67'), Clarke/Whiteside (81')

V. Butenko, USSR

The match began dramatically by a 5th minute lead of Northern Ireland.

Whiteside's shot from the angle of the penalty area was deflected by the Algerian wall and went into the net. Northern Ireland maintained their pressure in the first-half, founded on well-harmonizing blocks in defence and midfield. After 27 minutes, Algeria lost their dangerous skipper Madjer due to injury. It was obvious that the African team lacked self-confidence and organization. The British, with McIlroy as playmaker and McCreery as his assistant, showed a fluent and disciplined football, yet they couldn't score the decisive second goal.

In the second-half the Algerians showed more initiative and tried with long passes to confuse their opponent's defence. This tactical change caused problems to the Irish. The Algerians, taking advantage of the resulting flaws in the British defence, began to menace Pat Jennings's goal. A free-kick, carried out by three players, gave the Africans a merited 1:1 draw which seemed to satisfy both teams.

Brazil-Algeria 1:0 (0:0)

1:0 Careca (66')

Falcao/Edson (10'), Muller/Casagrande (59')
Bensaoula/Assad (67'), Zidane/Belloumi (79')

R. Mendez Molina, Guatemala

In the first-half, Brazil dominated the game. Algeria only came to few attacks, but showed some nice combinations. In the 33rd minute a goal by Socrates was disallowed due to obstruction of the goalkeeper. With their outstanding midfield, consisting of Elzo, Junior, Socrates and Falcao (he came on as a substitute for Edson), Brazil clearly dominated the course of the game. But they couldn't beat Drid, the excellent Algerian keeper. Five free-kicks and five corners (against none for Algeria) illustrated the vast superiority of the South Americans.

In the second-half Algeria gained in self-confidence and displayed some promising attacks, in a game which was affected by the heat and the humidity. Then Muller, Brazil's precious substitute, came on the pitch and set up for Careca who profited by two blunders of the Algerian defence and scored the crucial goal. Now Socrates and Junior controlled the midfield and the defence proved to be quite firm. Algeria won friends, but Brazil the game. With regard to skill both teams proved that they are superior to most sides seen before.



Northern Ireland-Spain 1:2 (0:2)

0:1 Butragueño (1'); 0:2 Salinas (18');
1:2 Clarke (46')

Stewart/Penney (53'); Hamilton/Worthing (68')
Caldere/Gordillo (53'); Rincon/Salinas (78')
H. Brummeier, Austria

Not even one minute was played when Spain opened the score by Butragueño. Spain's centre forward took on the first pass and beat Jennings with a 12m-shot. The weak spot of the British was their left side: particularly Gordillo, often unmarked, was a constant worry, launching one attack after the other. Northern Ireland didn't find their usual rhythm. The long passes were mostly intercepted by the Spaniards. When Northern Ireland began to recover from the initial shock, Spain caught the British defence on the hop and Salinas scored the second goal. After only 18 minutes Spain had a reassuring 2:0 lead.

The fighting spirit of the Irish team was admirable. In the first minutes of the second-half it was Clarke who shortened the score to 1:2. Driven on by McIlroy Northern Ireland now went for the equalization. However, Spain were extremely dangerous with their counter-attacks, one of which – shortly before time – should have led to the 3:1. – Spain deserved their narrow victory. Northern Ireland showed an excellent morale after an unfortunate start.



Northern Ireland-Brazil 0:3 (0:2)

0:1 Careca (15'); 0:2 Josimar (42')
0:3 Careca (87')

Hamilton/Whiteside (68'), Armstrong/Campb. (70')
Casagrande/Muller (26'), Zico/Socrates (68')
S. Kirschen, German Democratic Republic

Northern Ireland's tactics primarily aimed at holding the Brazilians in check and at surprising them by occasional counter-attacks. In front of the 4-men zone defence McCreery played as an advanced sweeper. The other four midfielders were supposed to support alternately the only forward of the Irish team, Colin Clarke.

In spite of their defensive attitude and their numerical superiority in midfield Northern Ireland did not manage to disturb decisively the Brazilian's attacking strategy. Up front the British were harmless; McIlroy squandered their only opportunity.

Brazil took control of the game from the very first minute. Their vast superiority with regard to skills allowed them to monopolize the ball and to force their opponents to run a great deal. The South Americans deliberately kept down the pace of the game, lulling the Irish, accustomed to the fast British game, into a sense of false security. Suddenly they changed the rhythm with a cut ball, a subtle double pass, or a surprising run with the ball into the opponents defence.



Algeria-Spain 0:3 (0:1)

0:1 Caldere (15'); 0:2 Caldere (68')
0:3 Eloy (70')

Larbi/Drid (20'), Menad/Zidane (58')
Eloy/Butragueño (46'), Señor/Michel (61')
S. Takada, Japan

Both teams began cautiously and concentrated above all on a good organization at the back. Nevertheless Spain took an early 16th minute lead: after a quick counter-attack Salinas laid on for Caldere who was unmarked and fired in.

After this goal Spain kept the game under control until the interval and had even some more chances to score. The Algerians were kept busy avoiding greater mischief. Yet their rare counter-attacks were always quite dangerous.

In the second-half the game turned into a "battle" and the players spared nothing on their tackles. The aggressive Algerians aimed with all their might at the equalization, but their efforts were stopped through Caldere's second goal – after an error at the back – in the 68th minute. Three minutes later the match was definitely decided when Eloy, who had come on as a substitute for Butragueño, hit Spain's third goal. Spain had progressed to round two, whereas Algeria – being only third of Group D – were eliminated.

1. Brazil	3	3	0	0	5:0	6
2. Spain	3	2	0	1	5:2	4
3. Northern Ireland	3	0	1	2	2:6	1
4. Algeria	3	0	1	2	1:5	1

Group Analysis: Group D

In Guadalajara, Brazil won their Group in style with maximum points, a feat only matched by Denmark in Group E. Moreover, Brazil's goalkeeper Carlos remained unbeaten during the three Group games. Nevertheless, the Brazilians could not fully convince their numerous fans at the beginning of the tournament.

In their opening match against Spain, Socrates scored the winning goal when the game was just on the razor's edge. From this moment Brazil played much better. The Spanish team were quite unfortunate when Michel's shot crashed against the underside of the crossbar and probably crossed the line before bouncing back into play.

When they played Algeria, Brazil dominated the course of the game from the first minute, but wasted all their opportunities during the first half. After the interval the Algerians all of a sudden opened up and embarrassed the South Americans seriously. Yet, a blunder by the Algerian defence allowed Careca to score the clincher and so to prevent his side from a disagreeable experience.

Northern Ireland did not find a remedy for the Brazilian art of playing. The 3:0 reflected quite well the South American superiority.

The Spanish team became better and better from game to game. After having lost unfortunately to Brazil, they achieved a narrow victory over the desperately fighting Northern Ireland. In the last Group game, Algeria were no longer able to put up a strong resistance to the Spaniards and were outclassed 0:3. During these games Spain proved here and there that they must be regarded as one

of the leading footballing countries in Europe.

Northern Ireland began the World Cup with a 1:1 draw against Algeria. Despite the exemplary commitment of all players and an exceptional fighting strength they were beaten by Spain and Brazil. Northern Ireland were placed third with only one point and had to leave Mexico early on.

The Algerians were provided with a remarkable skill, but they were not able to make use of these individual abilities. Thus, it was not granted to the African squad to repeat their surprising successes of the World Cup 1982 in Spain.

The all-decisive goal that Algeria had to concede against Brazil. Goalscorer Careca is jumping up, Socrates jubiliates in the background. Goalkeeper Drid, Medjadi (No. 5) and Kaci (No. 6) look aghast.

Socrates (No. 18) heads in Brazil's winner in the controversial game against Spain (above right). Casagrande (No. 8) already celebrates the goal, the Spaniards, however, seem to be paralyzed with consternation.

Spanish protests at the Australian referee Bambridge. In the match against Brazil, Michel's shot bounced off the underside of the crossbar and fell to the ground (on or behind the line?). The referee's verdict was "no goal" (bottom right).

A running duel between McIlroy, captain of Northern Ireland, and the Brazilian Junior. Brazil also won this Group match, outclassing the British 3:0 (right).





Group E

FIRST PHASE



Uruguay-Germany FR 1:1 (1:0)

1:0 Alzamendi (4'); 1:1 Allofs (84')
Saralegui/Barrios (56'), Ramos/Alzamendi (82')
Littbarski/Brehme (46')
Rummenigge/Matthäus (71')
V. Christov, Czechoslovakia

The great determination and the aggressive attitude of both teams were visible already in the opening minutes. The two sides obviously had different concepts of play. Uruguay made their mark by short passes and individual performances, supported by excellent technical and tactical abilities. One could see amazing movements and dribbles, performed by Francescoli, Da Silva and Barrios. Already in the 4th minute Uruguay opened the score: Through an unfortunate back pass Matthäus checkmated his own defence and Alzamendi accepted this gift to give his side an early lead.

Despite the powerful advances by the German full backs Briegel and Berthold, Uruguay managed to control the Germans and to keep them under psychological pressure, using each opportunity to launch their counter-attacks. Germany revealed once more an excellent fighting spirit and wanted by all means the equalization. After Rummenigge's substitution they had good scoring chances, one of which led to a late but well-deserved equalization, brought about by Klaus Allofs.

Scotland-Denmark 0:1 (0:0)

0:1 Elkjaer
McAvennie/Sturrock (61'), Bannon/Strachan (75')
Sivebaek/Arnesen (75'), Mølby/J. Olsen (80')
L. Nemeth, Hungary

Both teams displayed an offensive football, characterized by an astonishingly high pace. Denmark lined up with a 3-5-2 system, Scotland played their usual 4-4-2.

By intelligent changes of position, the clever Danish tandem Laudrup-Elkjaer succeeded in keeping the four Scottish backs so busy that they rarely found an opportunity to turn up in front of the Danish goal.

After Scotland's starting offensive the match became more and more balanced. It was mainly Captain Souness who tried noticeably to slow down the pace of the Scottish attacks.

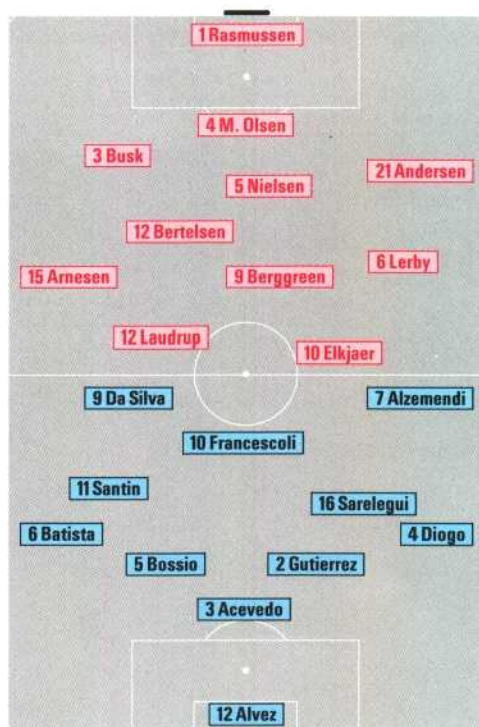
The Danes were not unlucky with this way of playing, atypical of a British team. Denmark built up their attacks carefully across the whole breadth of the field and thereby tried to open the Scottish defence. The decisive goal resulted from such a situation. Arnesen cut in from the right wing and set up for Elkjaer-Larsen with a superb diagonal pass. Denmark's world-famous star player held his own powerfully against two Scots and clinched this match by hitting exactly the far goal angle.

Germany FR-Scotland 2:1 (1:1)

0:1 Strachan (18'); 1:1 Völler (23'); 2:1 Allofs (49')
Jakobs/Briegel (63'), Rummenigge/Littbarski (76')
McAvennie/Nicol (60'), Cooper/Bannon (75')
I. Igna, Romania

The Germans had again a bad start and were one goal down after only some minutes. In the 18th minute Strachan received the ball on the right wing and surprised West Germany's 'keeper Schumacher with a shot deflected off by Augenthaler. But the Germans soon proved that their front pairing Völler and Allofs were more dangerous than on the other side Archibald, who was all on his own up front. Within four minutes Germany had equalized through a Völler goal. Only five minutes were played after the interval when Allofs put Germany 2:1 ahead.

Now the Scots had no choice but to show more initiative and to run more risks. They gave all their best but the German defence seemed to have no flaws on that day. In the last minutes Scotland were close to the equalizer: Gough's header went over the bar and then Strachan's try missed its target. For the first time at this tournament a team had won which had to come from behind. Compared to their opening game the Germans were in much better form already.



Denmark-Uruguay 6:1 (2:1)

1:0 Elkjaer (11'); 2:0 Lerby (41')
2:1 Francescoli (45'; Pen.); 3:1 Laudrup (52')
4:1 und 5:1 Elkjaer (67' und 80'); 6:1 J. Olsen (89')
Mølby/Bertelsen (56'); J. Olsen/Laudrup (82')
Zalazar/Santin (56'); Ramos/Alzamendi (57')
A. Marquez Ramirez, Mexico

In a match of high quality Uruguay were totally outclassed by Denmark. Individually the Europeans were superior on most positions, but also with regard to the collective there was – surprisingly – a difference in class.

In the first-half the Danes controlled the game at any time. It was remarkable how they built up their attacks, using the whole breadth of the field and chasing around their opponents until there was a gap in the defence and a Dane unmarked for a moment. The first two Danish goals by Elkjaer-Larsen and Lerby were real masterpieces. Uruguay's goal was scored by Francescoli through a controversial foul-penalty.

After the interval Denmark changed their tactics: they deliberately left the initiative to Uruguay. The Danes speculated on counter-attacks, a style of attacking of which they have complete command. Time and again Laudrup and Elkjaer-Larsen were quicker than their opponents. And they scored four other goals, thus proving their finishing abilities. In the end, Uruguay's defeat could have even been higher.



Denmark-GFR 2:0 (1:0)

1:0 J. Olsen (43'; Pen.); 2:0 Eriksen (62')
Eriksen/Elkjaer (46'); Simonsen/J. Olsen (71')
Littbarski/Rolff (46'); Rummenigge/Förster (71')
A. Ponnet, Belgium

At the beginning of the game Germany were slightly in command, but the Danish counter-attacks proved to be very dangerous. The Germans had bad luck when Brehme's violent shot bounced off the post.

Shortly before half-time, Denmark surprisingly took the lead: Morten Olsen made a brilliant run, penetrated into the German penalty area, passed Rolff who tripped him from behind. The penalty was converted by Jesper Olsen.

For the second half Littbarski substituted for Rolff and Eriksen replaced Elkjaer-Larsen. The high pace was maintained. Characteristic of both teams were lots of diagonal moves and confusing changes of position. Denmark were clearly in command now, with Sören Lerby and Frank Arnesen as their key players in midfield. Arnesen, the best man on the field, prepared the second goal with a breakthrough on the right wing. His sharp center to the near post offered Eriksen the chance to score the decisive 2:0. After Rummenigge had come on, GFR played with four strikers. But even that could not change the scoreline.



Scotland-Uruguay 0:0

Cooper/Nicol (70'); Nicholas/Sturrock (70')
Saralegui/Ramos (70')
Alzamendi/Francescoli (84')
J. Quiniou, France

After just 52 seconds Uruguay's midfielder Batista committed an awful foul on Strachan and was sent-off by the referee. With only ten men Uruguay's tactics were obvious now: they tried to avoid a goal by all means. All players helped to bar the penalty area, only Francescoli stayed up front. At the beginning Scotland tried to build up their attacks calmly. In doing so they also wanted to avoid the hard and often unfair tackles of the Uruguayans. But the slow development of play made it easy for Uruguay to organize their defence in time. Therefore the Scots failed to turn their numerical superiority into scoring chances. In the second-half the British reinforced their pressure and at last increased the pace of the game. The Scottish offensive, however, suited Uruguay's style of play and they launched some dangerous counter-attacks. Francescoli and Ramos only failed to score because goalkeeper Leighton showed some big saves. Nicholas and Cooper came on as substitutes for Sturrock and Nicol, but Scotland's helplessness up front remained. The goalless draw meant the final out for the disappointing Scots.

1. Denmark	3	3	0	0	9:1	6
2. Germany FR	3	1	1	1	3:4	3
3. Uruguay	3	0	2	1	2:7	2
4. Scotland	3	0	1	2	1:3	1

Group Analysis: Group E

Before the World Cup, this Group was generally regarded as the most difficult one. Therefore, the clear dominance of the Danish team came unexpectedly for most experts. Denmark won this Group in style with maximum points and scored more goals (9) than all their three opponents together. But not only the results were impressive, the displayed attacking play fascinated all amateurs of football and made the Danes become one of the most popular teams of this World Cup.

The team from Germany FR had a difficult start. It was astonishing that the Germans were behind at first in all three matches. During their first game against Uruguay, they managed to equalize only five minutes from time. Völler and Allofs could transform the Scottish lead—scored by Strachan—into a 2:1 victory.

After this victory, Germany FR were already qualified for the Second Round. In the last Group game between Denmark and GFR, both teams wanted to win, knowing that the winner of the Group had the privilege to play their Second Round encounter in Queretaro. The Germans lined-up with several substitutes, partly due to injuries. They lost to Denmark 0:2, but kept their second place unchallenged.

Uruguay revealed in their opening game against GFR that the team disposed of several outstanding players. With a bit more luck the South Americans would have left the field as winners. In their second match against Denmark, the Uruguayans brought into play an unnecessary toughness. After Bossio was sent-off, Borrás' men were done for. Denmark outclassed the remaining ten op-

ponents and Uruguay suffered one of the highest defeats of their successful football history.

Uruguay's last Group game against Scotland was the absolute low of this World Cup. The Uruguayans committed a multitude of unfair actions and made worst propaganda for soccer.

Scotland had bad luck because they had to play Denmark in their very first game. After their defeat the Scots were already under pressure to succeed. They managed to take the lead against Germany FR, but already four mi-

nutes later they had to concede the equalizer. The prompt equalizer broke the rhythm of the Scottish side. After the 1:2 the Scots were no longer able to fight back.

After a goalless draw against only ten Uruguayans (Batista was sent-off in the first minute!), Scotland were eliminated as last of this Group.

The Danes were the outstanding team of Group E. Their back with goalkeeper Høgh, Andersen (21), Sivebaek (2) and Busk (3) kept the Germans in check without trouble (right).

Lerby scores the second goal during Denmark's 6:1 victory over Uruguay, goalkeeper Alvez is left stranded (below right). With six points and a goal average of 9.1 the Danes were the kings of their Group.

In their last Group match Scotland failed to win against an Uruguay team reduced to ten men. The Scots were eliminated. One of Uruguay's few counter-attacks: Francescoli (No. 10) involved in a tackling with Gough (No. 2).





Group F

FIRST PHASE



Morocco-Poland 0:0

Souleymani/El Haddaoui (87')
Khairi/Timoumi (88')
Przybys/Kubicki (46')
Urban/Dziekanowski (55')
J. Martinez, Uruguay

The first match of Group F brought together two sides with quite a different World Cup experience. But soon it became obvious that both teams primarily wanted to avoid a defeat in their opening game.

Neither team was in real command; the counter-attacks of the Moroccans, however, seemed to be more dangerous and better organized. Boniek and Smolarek were the Polish players who tried to start the attacks on the other side, but without great success. The Moroccans had always enough time to organize their defensive work, to which all players contributed.

In the second-half Poland, with two new men, came up which was proved by a shot on the post by Buncol. The same player gave away another big scoring chance in the very last minute. The 0:0 draw was quite a deception for Poland while the Moroccans deserved the point owing to their excellent midfield work, their compact defence and quick counter-attacks. They impressed the observers by their refined style.

Portugal-England 1:0 (0:0)

1:0 Carlos Manuel (76')
Futre/Gomes (69'); José Antonio/Diamantino (83')
Beardsley/Waddle (78'); Hodge/Robson (79')
V. Roth, Germany FR

This match brought together two teams with a different concept of play. On the Portuguese side plenty of short passes, a neat control of the ball, and up front astute double passes. England, too, paid attention to the control of the ball, but tried to feed their forwards with long passes. At first the Portuguese dominated, owing to a better organized midfield, driven on by the intelligent Carlos Manuel. The scoring chances, however, could not be exploited.

In the course of the game England took over the command and created some very dangerous situations in front of Bento's goal. Also in the second-half the English team seemed to dominate their opposition. With long passes they tried to bring Hateley and Lineker in a good finishing position.

The Portuguese seemed to succumb to the constantly increasing pressure. But it was Diamantino who prepared the decision. His pass allowed Carlos Manuel - 15 minutes before the end - to realize the 1:0 winner goal.

England-Morocco 0:0

Hodge/Robson (41'); Stevens G.A./Hateley (75')
Quadani/Lamriss (72'); Souleymani/Merry (86')
G. Gonzalez Roa, Paraguay

As compared with their opening matches, both teams changed their tactics for this game of vital importance. England began with long passes, intended for Lineker and Hateley. But the forwards were marked closely and were mostly too isolated for causing much trouble to Morocco's attentive defence. On the other side Morocco controlled the midfield with short passes, trying to keep the ball as long as possible. The few scoring chances were missed. England - being forced to act after their defeat against Portugal - became nervous. And in the 41st minute Wilkins, after having been booked for the second time, was sent off the field. England had to play the whole second-half with only ten men.

In the second-half nothing changed much. The Moroccans monopolized the ball and seemed to be satisfied with the draw. With only ten players England had to be content with the draw, too. Corresponding to the lifeless and boring game, the final score was 0:0, which paved the way for Morocco to reach the second round.



Poland-Portugal 1:0 (0:0)

1:0 Smolarek (68')
 Karas/Komornicki (56')
 Zgutczyński/Smolarek (75')
 Jaime/André (73'); Futre/Gomes (46')
 A. Bennaceur, Tunisia

Both teams began very cautiously, on both sides the defences were the strongest parts and there were few scoring chances. Smolarek had the best opportunity when he missed the empty goal. On the other side the Portuguese were quite dangerous with their counter-attacks, particularly through Gomes and Sousa.

In the second-half the match became more animated. Poland dominated slightly, yet there were chances on both sides now. It was not until the 68th minute, however, that Poland took the lead. A cross from the right flank flew over the whole Portuguese defence and Smolarek, being unmarked, scored from an acute angle.

Now Portugal took all risks and intensified their pressure. So goalkeeper Mlynarczyk could distinguish himself on several occasions. Seven minutes from time, he seemed to be beaten but the ball bounced off the post. Having gained two points Poland made a crucial step towards reaching the second round.



Portugal-Morocco 1:3 (0:2)

0:1 Khairi (19'); 0:2 Khairi (26')
 0:3 Krimau (62'); 1:3 Diamantino (80')
 Aguas/Alvaro (55'), Diamantino/Sousa (65')
 Souleymani/El Haddaoui (67')
 A. Snoddy, Northern Ireland

Morocco played a spectacular game, characterized by their technical brilliance. The team was very well organized and knew how to circulate the ball in midfield, often breaking through the Portuguese defence with sudden dribbles or direct combinations. Moreover, the Moroccans distinguished themselves in this game by their extraordinary finishing qualities.

Portugal's offensive actions were at first built on counter-attacks, involving only few players. After having lost the ball, eight or nine Portuguese retired to their own defence zone and tried to take the Moroccan 4-men-defence by surprise with quick raids. These attacks, however, would usually end in a deadlock; to many technical mistakes and a lack of imagination allowed the Moroccan defence to intervene and to come into possession of the ball.

Only after being 0:3 down did Portugal attack with more style, verve and vigor. The two forwards were now supported effectively from behind. Flowing movements led to numerous scoring chances and to Portugal's face-saving goal, scored by Diamantino.



England-Poland 3:0 (3:0)

1:0 Lineker (9'); 2:0 Lineker (14')
 3:0 Lineker (34')
 Waddle/Beardsley (74'), Dixon/Lineker (84')
 Karas/Komornicki (23'), Buncol/Matysik (46')
 A. Daina, Switzerland

After the unexpected defeat against Portugal in the opening match and the disappointing draw against Morocco, only a victory over Poland could save England from being eliminated in the first round. To be or not to be – that was the motto for one of the favourites of the tournament. And at last one saw the true face of this team. From the beginning they assaulted the Polish goal and had complete control of the game. An Everton combination led to England's first goal: Steven played the ball wide for Stevens whose cross was sent over the line by Gary Lineker. Six minutes later Hodge and Beardsley made a swift move on the left side and Lineker scored his second goal. His third goal in the 36th minute meant at the same time a hat-trick, enabled by a gross fault of keeper Mlynarczyk. In the second-half Poland rediscovered their fighting spirit and launched numerous attacks, but were unlucky with their attempts. Moreover England's keeper Shilton was in excellent form on that day. In the best game of Group F England showed an astonishing morale, seizing their last opportunity to progress to the second round.

1. Morocco	3	1	2	0	3:1	4
2. England	3	1	1	1	3:1	3
3. Poland	3	1	1	1	1:3	3
4. Portugal	3	1	0	2	2:4	2

Group Analysis: Group F

In the "Group of Death" with Monterrey as venue there were no problems with regard to altitude adaptation. In return, heat and humidity were of great importance here. With temperatures of more than 40 °C in the shade, even the best-trained teams were not capable of making use of all their physical qualities and of showing an excellent display.

Therefore, all games were played at a rather low rhythm. Caution was the first principle for all teams. The managers and players knew very well that in the heat of Monterrey it would be all the more difficult to come back from behind. This fear of a goal against proved to be well-founded; in all cases, the team that scored the first goal also won the game!

The careful style of play of all four teams did of course not allow a spectacular display. The most striking characteristic of the games was often boredom. In 36 Group games altogether only three matches ended in a 0:0 draw. The spectators in Monterrey saw two of these games. And it was certainly no accident that only nine goals were scored in this Group!

The condition of the fields in Monterrey's two stadia did not help to facilitate the players their already difficult task. The grounds were so bumpy that the ball bounced up surprisingly time and again. Many bad passes and failed actions had to be attributed to the miserable condition of the ground.

Morocco got along best with these unfavourable exterior conditions. Since the League games usually take place on Sunday afternoons in this country, the Moroccans were used to the heat.

England seemed to suffer most from the extreme climatic conditions. Although they

remained true to their typical British style of play with long balls onto the strikers, their game was almost completely inefficient, because the players did not move enough.

Portugal believed themselves already in the Second Round after their starting victory over England. But the constant trouble in the team's surroundings rubbed presumably off on the performances of the players. In the two games against Poland and Morocco, the Portuguese performed quite badly although there were some excellent men in this team.

Poland did not come up to the high expectations at all. The whole game of the team was oriented on Boniek who, however, was not in form in Mexico. The mediocre performances of the Polish star man could not be made up by his team-mates. As third of their Group with a negative goal average of 1:3 they were



lucky to sneak into the second Round.

The lawn slowed down the ball, the heat paralysed the players. The promised football spectacle took place in all stadia of this World Cup—but not in Monterrey. It was a pity about the enthusiastic spectators.

The Portuguese, who here are stopping World Cup top scorer Lineker (above), only won two points—victory over England—and were eliminated.

The Moroccans caused quite a sensation in topping Group F. El-Haddaoui (right) sidesteps two opponents during their 3:1 victory over Portugal. Against England and Poland the Africans achieved two goalless draws.

England only awoke in their last Group game against Poland (below), when Lineker managed to score a hattrick and gave his side a 3:0 victory. The Poles placed third in their Group and also qualified for the Second Round.



From the Qualifying Round to Single Elimination

On June 13, after 36 games of six groups, the qualifying round was completed. The eight teams that had been eliminated had done their part in contributing to the success of the World Cup.

The team from the Rep. of Korea enchanted the public with its cohesion, enthusiasm, and enormous physical effort. The Asians improved with every game, hardly intimidated by their rivals: they lost to Argentina by one goal, they won their first WC point against Bulgaria, and they scored two goals against the 1982 Champion, Italy. Their tactical ability allowed them to play on equal ground with any team at any given moment. Everybody is looking forward to seeing the Korean team in 1990.

The Canadians, in demonstrating discipline and combativity, played excellent games against France, the European Champion, and Russia. They proved that through hard work and enthusiasm a team can go a long way, even if it doesn't have a national league in its own country!

Algeria did not reach the same heights as in Spain in 1982 when it defeated Germany. The players, though technically skillful, lacked cohesion on defense. Their only point came against Northern Ireland, who, along with Algeria, was eliminated after the first round in Group D.

Portugal, a technically solid team, thought itself to be qualified after beating England 1:0 in its first game. Then it lost its next two contests. Scotland missed qualifying for the second round by one goal, losing out to Uruguay. Hungary had trouble getting over its loss to the USSR. Iran looked good in its three games, losing each time by one goal.

The teams playing for the first time in the World Cup certainly learned from the experience and gave football a boost in their native countries.

On June 15, 16 teams began what was essentially a new tournament, given that the scores from the first round were of no importance. Now each had to defeat its oppo-

nent. A tie was worth nothing. It was necessary to take risks in order to avoid a penalty shoot-out. Each game was like a final. The period of adaptation was over. "The Real Thing" was set to begin. Those qualified included: ten European teams, four South American squads, the host team from Mexico, and the surprising eleven from Morocco.

The results of this spectacular elimination system are now well known. England was "reborn". The Russians and the Danes, crowd favorites in the first round, were ousted in their second game. Belgium, a team that had a difficult time finishing third in its group, made it to the semi-finals. The West German squad, which had lost three points in the qualifying round, reached the finals for the fifth time in World Cup history. The opponent this time: Argentina, the eventual 1986 World Champion.

And there was the "Final Before the Final" between France and Brazil which, in all likelihood, was the greatest game ever played in World Cup history.

Such were the thrills of the direct elimination system. The tie was useless. Above, Maradona clashed with five Uruguayan players and tumbled. On the left, the spectacular duel between Mexico and Bulgaria for a ticket to the quarter finals.

The Final Standings After the Group Matches

A	1. Argentina	3	2	1	0	6:2	5
	2. Italy	3	1	2	0	5:4	4
	3. Bulgaria	3	0	2	1	2:4	2
	4. Korea Rep.	3	0	1	2	4:7	1

B	1. Mexico	3	2	1	0	4:2	5
	2. Paraguay	3	1	2	0	4:3	4
	3. Belgium	3	1	1	1	5:5	3
	4. Iraq	3	0	0	3	1:4	0

C	1. USSR	3	2	1	0	9:1	5
	2. France	3	2	1	0	5:1	5
	3. Hungary	3	1	0	2	2:9	2
	4. Canada	3	0	0	3	0:5	0

D	1. Brazil	3	3	0	0	5:0	6
	2. Spain	3	2	0	1	5:2	4
	3. N. Ireland	3	0	1	2	2:6	1
	4. Algeria	3	0	1	2	1:5	1

E	1. Denmark	3	3	0	0	9:1	6
	2. Germ. FR	3	1	1	1	3:4	3
	3. Uruguay	3	0	2	1	2:7	2
	4. Scotland	3	0	1	2	1:3	1

F	1. Morocco	3	1	2	0	3:1	4
	2. England	3	1	1	1	3:1	3
	3. Poland	3	1	1	1	1:3	3
	4. Portugal	3	1	0	2	2:4	2





Mexico-Bulgaria 2:0 (1:0)

1:0 Negrete (35'); 2:0 Servin (61')

De los Cobos/Boy (79')

Sirakov/Getov (59'), Iskrenov/Pashev (70')

R. Arppi Filho, Brazil

Mexico's manager Milutinovic had slightly changed his side for this game: the hosts lined-up with only one forward (Sanchez) and Negrete, who in the previous matches had played on the left wing, was given a new role in the offensive midfield where he could bring to bear his excellent skills. This modification had positive effects: for the first time, the performance of the Mexicans was really convincing. Through quick moves in midfield and surprising running passes for Sanchez or the offensive midfielders they dominated the Bulgars and created several scoring chances.

Mexico's opening goal was a little masterpiece: at the border of the penalty area Negrete played a double pass with Aguirre, the ball came back higher than expected, but the Mexican midfielder scooped it with an acrobatic scissors kick into the far goal angle. Mexico's narrow lead at half-time did not reflect at all their actual superiority.

To the surprise of everybody, Bulgaria did not change their defensive style of play in the second half. Mexico continued their assault at the opposite goal. Once again the hosts scored after a standard situation: Negrete's sharp corner-kick was headed in by defender Servin. It was only now that Bulgaria attacked with more vigor. Gospodinov and Dimitrov pushed their teammates ahead and tried with all their might to shorten the scoreline. In doing so the Bulgars revealed astonishing flaws in the Mexican defence, and only some great saves of goalkeeper Larios prevented the hosts from conceding a goal. On the whole, however, Mexico deserved their victory.

USSR-Belgium 3:4 a. e. -t. (2:2, 1:0)

1:0 Belanov (27'); 1:1 Scifo (56'); 2:1 Belanov (70')

2:2 Ceulemans (77'); 2:3 De Mol (102'); 2:4 Claesen (110')

3:4 Belanov (111': Pen.)

Clijsters/Grun (99'), L. Van der Elst/Gerets (111') Rodionov/Zavarov (72'), Yevtushenko/Yakovenko (79')

E. Fredriksson, Sweden

A dramatic game for the spectators, an avoidable defeat for the Russian team and an unexpected Belgian victory. As it was to be expected, USSR began at a high pace and beleaguered the Belgian goal. But Belgium narrowed the open space and tempted the Russians into playing crossways. The quick Belgian counter-attacks were extremely dangerous and demanded the full attention of the Russian defence. For the expert it was obvious that the USSR team tried in vain to find their rhythm. Their attacking play lacked the usual security and mobility, in midfield there were too many short passes and the distribution of the space seemed to be imperfect. And Coach Lobanovski was obviously not very satisfied with his defenders who neglected on several occasions their defensive tasks.

In the 27th minute the lightning quick Belanov put his team ahead. Now Belgium attacked more energetically and tried to equalize before the interval. They did not manage to do so yet the mere attempt forced the Russians to slow down the pace and to keep the ball carefully: a style of play which does not suit them, opening and drawing asunder the defence.

Thus, shortly after the interval (55th minute) Belgium managed to equalize, which shocked the Russians at first. But after having taken the lead again in the 70th minute by Belanov's second goal, USSR, being so close to the victory, became careless so that only six minutes later the Belgians equalized again. And in extra-time Belgium showed better nerves, eliminating an unlucky Russian team after a thrilling game.



Brazil-Poland 4:0 (1:0)

1:0 Socrates (30'; Pen.); 2:0 Josimar (55');
3:0 Edinho (79'); 4:0 Careca (83'; Pen.)

Zico/Socrates (69'), Silas/Muller (73')
Furtok/Przybys (57')

V. Roth, Germany FR

Poland took the offensive from the start and—owing to a strong midfield—pushed Brazil back before they could organize their game. The tactics proved to be successful but Poland were quite unlucky not being able to take advantage of their opportunities: within the first 12 minutes they struck the woodwork twice.

At first the South Americans tried to construct their game with long passes but without much effect. They made frequently the fault to keep the ball too long. Thus Poland surprisingly controlled the match.

The situation changed dramatically after 30 minutes when Brazil were awarded a questionable penalty. It appeared to be merely a collision between Careca and Przybys. The penalty, converted by Socrates, inspired the Brazilians and frustrated the Polish side who lost completely the thread of their game.

In the second-half Brazil had the match under firm control. In the 55th minute a brilliant solo and a stunning strike by full-back Josimar put Brazil 2:0 ahead. 20 minutes before the end Brazil's midfield star Zico replaced Socrates. The expectations of the crowd were fulfilled when in the 78th minute Edinho scored a magnificent goal. The central defender advanced from his own half of field, dribbled through with Careca and scored the all deciding 3:0. Eight minutes from time Brazil were awarded their second penalty after a Zico solo and Careca converted. At the end, Brazil displayed "magic" football—on the other side a cruel result for Poland who were badly paid for their performance.

Argentina-Uruguay 1:0 (1:0)

1:0 Pasculli (42')

Olarticoechea/Batista (85')

Da Silva/Cabrera (46'), Paz/Acevedo (61')

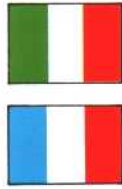
L. Agnolin, Italy

A game which was largely dominated by Argentina, whose superior football, however, was never confirmed in front of goal. Uruguay were encumbered with their preceding disciplinary problems, paid for two red cards and manager Borrás was banned from the coaches' bench to the terraces. So the team from Montevideo never looked like embarrassing the favourites, apart from the last minutes when Paz had come on as an additional striker.

Argentina missed some early scoring chances: Neither Valdano's close-range header nor Maradona's free-kick on the crossbar gave the Argentinians the merited lead.

Despite Maradona's outstanding performance, Argentina had to wait until the 41st minute before opening the score. Even that was only possible through a black-out by Uruguay's defender Acevedo. Pasculli took advantage of his misunderstanding with Pereira and gave Argentina the overdue 1:0 lead.

Maradona was also in the second-half the dominating figure. A goal scored by himself was disallowed and time and again he laid on chances for his teammates, who on that day, however, showed poor finishing abilities. Towards the end of the match heavy showers affected the quality of the game. When Paz came on it was already too late for a turn. On the contrary: In the last minute Pasculli—being alone in front of the goalkeeper—missed the opportunity to score his second goal after Uruguay's defence had ceased to exist. By and large, both teams showed a correct behaviour. Nevertheless seven players were booked—four because of foul play, two for complaining and one for time wasting.



Italy-France 0:2 (0:1)

0:1 Platini (15'), 0:2 Stopyra (57')
 Di Gennaro/Baresi (46'), Vialli/Galderisi (58')
 Tusseau/Fernandez (75'), Ferreri/Platini (85')
 C. Esposito, Argentina

The French played their usual zonal marking and had well studied their opponents: Bossis mostly guarded Altobelli and Ayache marked Galderisi. In the first half Tigana played very cautiously and was often seen in the zone of the right fullback.

Italy applied a strict man-to-man marking on the French skipper and had pulled forward Cabrini to the midfield. By playing without Di Gennaro, manager Bearzot tried to form a defensively strong midfield and thus to put up resistance to the outstanding French midfield.

At the beginning of the game neither team dominated, but after 15 minutes France opened the scoreline: Amoros intercepted a pass from the Italians, played at once to Fernandez who launched Rocheteau with a running pass. Playing the ball through Bergomi's legs, the French forward set up for Platini who lifted the ball over the advancing Galli.

After having taken the lead so early, France were clearly in control of the game: they were superior to their Italian opponents in every respect. As the French midfield aces Platini and Giresse were particularly well marked, Tigana, Fernandez and Amoros took over the command. In contrast to the Italians who very often kept the ball too long, France let the ball circulate in an exemplary way and thereby chased around the World Cup holders badly.

But it was not until the second half that France's superiority paid off: Tigana, in his inimitable manner, made a powerful run down the left flank, turned Scirea, passed to Rocheteau who skillfully laid on for Stopyra. The violent strike from the French forward was really unstoppable for Galli.



Morocco-Germany FR 0:1 (0:0)

0:1 Matthäus (87')
 Littbarski/Völler (46')
 Z. Petrovic, Yugoslavia

A decisive game between two teams with the same ambitions, but with different concepts of play. Morocco, after having surprisingly topped their Group (F), remained faithful to their tactics. Most actions took place in the midfield zone. They tried to keep the ball under control as long as possible which caused plenty of short passes. In doing so the Moroccans hoped to catch sight of a gap for launching their light-footed and skillful skippers. But the weak point of the North Africans was undoubtedly their poor finishing.

On the other side, the Germans produced more pressure, played more directly but the majority of their transparent actions ended through mistakes of their own. It was Rummenigge who had the best chances, so for example in the last minute of the first-half.

The Moroccans showed slightly more initiative in the second half. But their only advantage was the better organized midfield. Yet all their movements were carried out without serious attempts to endanger Schumacher's goal. They obviously waited for extra-time, knowing that Germany suffered considerably from the heat (34 °C in the shade). The few opportunities of the Germans were thwarted by the Moroccan keeper. The disappointing and boring match was decided in the 87th minute: the Germans were awarded a free-kick and Matthäus realized that the Moroccan wall stood extremely bad. The goalkeeper saw the ball too late and Germany FR had qualified for the Quarter Finals.



Denmark–Spain 1:5 (1:1)

1.0 J. Olsen (33'; Pen.); 1.1 Butragueño (43'); 1.2 Butragueño (56');
1.3 Goicoechea (68'; Pen.); 1.4 Butragueño (80');
1.5 Butragueño (88')

Eriksen/Andersen (60'), Mølby/J. Olsen (70')
Eloy/Salinas (46'), Francisco/Michel (83')

J. Keizer, Netherlands

Since Arnesen was suspended for this match, the Danes had to line up without one of their key players. As usual they tried to control the course of the game from the start. Through plenty of direct passes and quick moves they forced the Spaniards to much running. Spain, however, began the game quite cautiously. Elkjaer and Laudrup were closely marked by Goicoechea and Camacho.

In midfield they played with a zonal marking. Already here they attacked and tackled the Danes aggressively, but never against the rules. The Spaniards obviously tried to contain the extremely dangerous attacking play of their opponents. In the first half Denmark controlled the game. Their attacks were carried out with more wit. They created several opportunities and took the lead through a penalty scored by Jesper Olsen.

But the same Jesper Olsen, committing an incredible blunder, was responsible for the equalization. From the touch-line he played back into his own penalty area, just into the feet of Butragueño who had no pains to fire home.

After the interval Denmark seemed determined to decide the game. Elkjaer had three good chances, but did not manage to score. The unconditional offensives of the Danes gave the Spanish side room to launch their dangerous counter-attacks.

Butragueño, taking advantage of a corner, Goicoechea on penalty and again Butragueño after a quick counter put Spain 4:1 ahead. A second penalty, scored by the fourfold goalscorer Butragueño, made the result even more brutal for the Danes.



England–Paraguay 3:0 (1:0)

1.0 Lineker (31'); 2.0 Beardsley (56'); 3.0 Lineker (73')

G.A. Stevens/Reid (57'); Hateley/Beardsley (81')
Guasch/Torales (64')

J. Al-Sharif, Syria

England called to mind their own force and strength, pushed aside all thoughts of the particular conditions in Mexico. Against Paraguay the team played typically "British"—regardless of the altitude and the heat. England won the major part of the duels on the ground and in the air, attacked vigorously and energetically, with the support of the midfielders, the full-backs and two excellent strikers. Playing a 4-4-2 system, the English put Paraguay under heavy pressure so that the South Americans—despite their outstanding skill—had neither time nor space to develop their game. Moreover, England were superior in the air and in shooting.

Paraguay played with a sweeper and marked the English forwards closely. England lined up with two central defenders who complemented each other and therefore had one man more, either—according to the situation—at the back or in midfield. On many occasions, England's experienced players took advantage of this numerical superiority and managed to wear down the Paraguayans. In the first-half Paraguay could still resist the English assault. And after England had taken the lead by their quality striker Lineker, the match even turned into an open battle.

After the interval the game became more hectic. Paraguay had some good opportunities now. But their shots missed the target or were handled by the attentive Shilton. The second English goal in the 55th minute, scored by Beardsley, was the decision. The 3:0 was just an extra then.





This scissors kick by Negrete in the Second Round tie between Mexico and Bulgaria was generally considered to be the goal of the tournament. Goalkeeper Mikhailov (who covers the striker) had no chance (above).



The surprise of the Second Round was Belgium's victory over the USSR. Here, a shot by the Belgian captain Ceulemans (left) passes through the Soviet defence, formed by Yakovenko (No. 8), Kuznetsov (No. 10) and Bessonov.



The first goal scored by Platini in the game France-Italy, which already meant the elimination of the World Champions 1982. Sweeper Scirea, disappointed, is lying on the ground, goalkeeper Galli is beaten (above right).

Also this superb overhead kick by Rummenigge (right) did not bring the decision in the game between FRG and Morocco. For that it took a free-kick by Matthäus three minutes before the end.



Through this goal by Pasculli, Argentina defeated Uruguay (above left). The reaction by goalkeeper Alvez cannot avert the mishap.



In the Second Round tie Paraguay-England (above right) goalgetter Linaker (No. 10) showed all his qualities as a top striker. He scored two goals, leading England to their 3:0 victory.

Socrates (left) is jubilating during the high 4:0 victory of Brazil over Poland. The Poles had a very good start but failed to take advantage of their opportunities.

The hero of the Second Round was the Spaniard Butragueño (right, No. 9). He could never be controlled by the Danish defenders (Bertelsen No. 12 and Busk No. 3) and contributed four goals to the 5:1 victory of his side!



Quarter Finals



Brazil-France 1:1 a.e.-t. (1:1, 1:1)

1:0 Careca (17'); 1:1 Platini (40')
Zico/Muller (72'), Silas/Junior (91')
Ferreri/Giresse (84'), Bellone/Rocheteau (95')
I. Igna, Romania

3:4 on pen.

Germany FR-Mexico 0:0 a.e.-t.

Hoeness/Rummenigge (58'), Littbarski/Eder (115')
De los Cobos/Boy (32'), Javier Cruz/Amador (70')
J. Diaz Palacio, Colombia

pen. 4:1

In the first 20 minutes, Brazil dominated their opponents in all respects. Therefore, the French manager Michel changed his side and ordered Fernandez from the position of the right full back to his usual midfield role. The encounter became more balanced then, delighting the crowd with its quality, skill and dramatic course of events. After the Brazilians had narrowly missed a couple of chances, they merited to take the lead: No less than eight players participated in an attack on the right wing, after two double passes Junior played clear Careca whose screwed shot was unstoppable for goalkeeper Bats.

France responded at once, increased the rhythm of the game and came to several chances. Shortly before half-time, France equalized: Amoros made a run down the right flank, Giresse passed on to Rocheteau whose sharp center was missed by Edinho, Stopyra and Carlos. Platini emerged from behind and, being completely unguarded, sent the ball into the net. Also in the second half the quality of the game was outstanding and there were exciting situations in front of both goals. Brazil were unfortunate when Careca's header hit the cross-bar and when Zico who had come on some minutes before, saw his penalty saved by Bats.

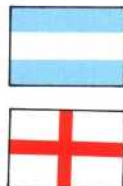
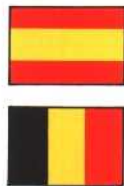
In extra-time there was frantic activity, both teams had enough opportunities to decide the dramatic encounter. The biggest chance was prepared by Platini with a refined pass on Bellone, who, outside the penalty area, could be stopped by Carlos only with a rugby-like foul. In the shoot-out Socrates, Platini and Julio Cesar failed to score. France won 4:3. This game really did not merit a loser - both sides showed top-quality football.

Germany's defensive intentions became apparent when they began this decisive game with three nominal central defenders: Förster, Eder and Jakobs. In addition to that, the German team were excellently organized and did not want to run any risks so that it was extremely difficult for Mexico to break through this bulwark.

Surprisingly Mexico did not rely on their technical superiority, but tried to bring their opponents into trouble with fighting strength and hard tackles. This style of play suited the Germans; their experienced defence never lost control.

Mexico took from the start the initiative of the game, assaulted the German goal and tried to shoot from all positions. Germany rode out some dangerous situations thanks to their outstanding goalkeeper Schumacher. In the course of the match GFR managed to calm the game: with plenty of short and diagonal passes they slowed down the pace. After one of their rare counter-attacks it was Allofs who had, shortly before halftime, the chance to put Germany ahead.

Mexico were also in command in the second half, but GFR defended themselves with much skill. The game became rougher now: eight players were cautioned and two were sent-off. In the last minutes the hosts beleaguered the German goal continuously, but GFR saved themselves into extra-time. As even then no goals were scored, a shoot-out had to decide the game: After the Mexicans Quirarte and Servin had failed their penalties, Germany, with the fourth successful shot, qualified for the Semi-Finals.



Spain-Belgium 1:1 a.e.-t. (1:1, 0:1)

0:1 Ceulemans (35'); 1:1 Señor (85')

Broos/Veyt (83'), L. Van der Elst/Vercauteren (106')
Señor/Tomas (46'), Eloy/Salinas (63')

S. Kirschen, German Democratic Republic

Against the strong Spanish team the tactical dictates of Guy Thys proved to be very clever. In front of Belgium's sweeper Renquin, the two Spanish forwards Butragueño and Salinas were marked closely by Grun and De Mol, the room out on the touch-lines was covered by Gerets and Vervoort, in midfield Scifo, Veyt, Ceulemans and Vercauteren tried to stop the Spanish attacks and up front Claesen watched for running passes. The Belgian skipper, endowed with great running-power and excellent tackling abilities, was a constant worry to Spain's defence. As in midfield Veyt stayed behind most of the time, Ceulemans was largely freed from defensive tasks and so had all liberties. Spain failed to notice this tactical move, which allowed the Belgians to take the lead: a cross from Vercauteren was headed in by Ceulemans.

Spain took the offensive and their pace was just astonishing. Many actions, however, were over-hasty and therefore ineffective. A fast attacking game inspires the spectators, but it can also overtax the players; primarily those who cannot play and control the ball at a high pace.

Changes of pace is the better recipe for success. The knowledge at what moment one has to slow down or to speed up the game has always been a major cause of the superiority of the best players and teams. Owing to the outstanding goalkeeper Pfaff, the experienced defenders and last but not least their always working offside game, Belgium were able to block the Spanish assaults and to counter dangerously.

Spain showed a marvellous game - Belgium were luckier and tactically clever.

4:5 on pen.

Argentina-England 2:1 (0:0)

1:0 Maradona (51'); 2:0 Maradona (54'); 2:1 Lineker (80')

Tapia/Burruchaga (75')

Waddle/Reid (69'), Barnes/Steven (74')

A. Bennaceur, Tunisia

A contrast in styles provided a fascinating contest: England, playing with a classic 4-4-2, tried to launch their two forwards Lineker and Beardsley in most cases with long passes. As both strikers were marked closely by Ruggeri and Cuciuffo, they could hardly ever be brought into play.

By way of contrast, Argentina played a system that was much more variable: In front of the English goal, Valdano, Burruchaga and Maradona, being freed from a special role, constantly changed their positions. Through swift passing runs the English defence was embarrassed on many occasions. Argentina's superiority paid off only in the second half: Maradona turned elegantly Huddle and tried to play a double pass with Valdano at the line of the penalty area. Hodge intercepted the ball and wanted to clear the danger, giving a high back pass for Shilton. Maradona anticipated this pass, went for the ball and was faster than the advancing Shilton. With an instinctive flick of his hand he pushed the ball into the net.

There were no more discussions after Maradona's second goal. After having skilfully turned Reid and Beardsley at the halfway-line, he passed Huddle at full speed, evaded the desperate tackling of Butcher and finally slid the ball past Shilton into the net.

After Lineker had shortened down the score, taking advantage of a left wing cross from Barnes (who had come on as a substitute some minutes before), the game became dramatic again, and two minutes from time the very same action would have almost led to another goal: Lineker was only centimetres away from a late equalizer.



One of the opportunities of Germany FR in their Quarter-Final match against Mexico (above left). Goal-keeper Larrios turns the ball over the crossbar with his finger-tips, to the displeasure of Hoeness (No. 20).

Maradona's (above right) controversial opening goal in the Quarter-Final Argentina-England. The hand of the Argentine captain goes clearly to the ball. His second goal, however, was a masterpiece (right). Here he is in the last phase of his stunning dribble, brushing aside the challenge of Butcher and 'keeper Shilton.



Only the penalty shoot-out gave Belgium the victory in the encounter with Spain (left). Here, Spain's captain Camacho (No. 3) fairly jumps the Belgians Pfaff and Gerets. In the background, Butragueño has already turned away.



The best match of the World Cup Final Competition was definitely the Quarter-Final France-Brazil. Three French players (Fernandez No. 9, Stopyra No. 19 and Battiston No. 4) guard goalkeeper Bats against the Brazilian attack (above left).

Later on, however, they could not prevent the South Americans from taking the lead by Careca (below left).

After Platini's leveller and a goalless extra-time, the penalty shoot-out had to decide the game. After Socrates and Platini had failed their shots, Fernandez' penalty (above) meant the winner: France was in the Semi-Final, Brazil was out of the World Cup. Penalty-scorer Fernandez (No. 9) is celebrated exuberantly by Stopyra (No. 19) and Ferreri (No. 11).

Semi-Finals



Argentina-Belgium 2:0 (0:0)

1:0 Maradona (51'); 2:0 Maradona (63')

Bochini/Burchaga (85')

Desmet/Renquin (53')

A. Marquez Ramirez, Mexico

Argentina started this Semi-Final with much self-confidence and with an offensive style of play. Valdano, Maradona and Burchaga, playing up front, let themselves drop back alternately in order to escape the Belgian zonal marking. Through fast moves and surprising dribbles they created plenty of opportunities. The brilliant skills of the players, who have complete command of all kinds of difficult passes, allowed the Argentine midfield a quick and imaginative switching over from midfield to attack.

Belgium began cautiously as usual: All players contributed to the defensive work and through an excellent organization at the back they limited the room of the Argentines. They did not apply a special man-to-man marking on Maradona, but tried to encircle him as soon as he received the ball and thus to prevent his defence-splitting passes. Belgium's attacking play was completely aimed at quick counter-attacks. As Argentina knew of this particular style of play, they were very attentive at the back: advancing team-mates were covered behind at once. Therefore the Belgian midfielders and forwards were always faced with a numerical superiority of Argentine defenders.

Until the first goal the Belgian defence had Maradona under control: it took a fault by Pfaff, who left his goal prematurely, to enable Maradona to shoot his side ahead. After that he could no longer be contained. With a superb dribble, making several changes of pace and direction, he left behind the whole Belgian defence and scored the decisive 2:0.

The Belgians, too, did not manage to stop Argentina's captain Maradona in the Semi-Final in Mexico-City. Spellbound Renquin (No. 5) and De Mol (No. 21) watch the Argentine who scored both goals for his team's 2:0 victory.







This was Argentina's second goal, scored after a brilliant solo run by Maradona. The Belgians Veyt (left), De Mol and goalkeeper Pfaff (covered by the post) are the losers (picture above left).

Goalscorer Maradona receives the tempestuous congratulations of Buruchaga (No. 7) and Valdano. The qualification for the Final was achieved (above right).

No less than three Belgians are out-foxed by Maradona (picture left). The Semi-Final was characterized by a magnificent display of the Argentine skipper who also scored both goals.

The Belgian 'keeper Pfaff (right, in a duel with Ruggeri) saved his exhausted side from an even higher defeat.





France-Germany FR 0:2 (0:1)

0:1 Brehme (9'); 0:2 Völler (89')

Xuereb/Bellone (69'), Vercauteren/Giresse (79')
Völler/Rummenigge (58')

L. Agnolin, Italy

Skill and imagination against strength and discipline – the latter got the upper hand. German efficiency and experience overran French flair and creativity. The physical and the emotional stress from the Brazil game had left their marks on the French team. The European Champions did not manage to develop the same ideas and the same aggressiveness as in their previous games.

Before France found their own rhythm Germany had already taken the lead. At the right angle of the penalty area Magath played a free-kick over to Brehme whose shot appeared to be harmless, but slipped through the hands of goalkeeper Bats into the net.

France reacted at once and had several scoring chances, but Giresse and Platini failed to take advantage of them. The Germans' disciplined marking at their back – Rolff marked Platini, Brehme Stopyra and Förster Bellone – caused great troubles to the French. Tigana tried time and again to give ideas to their offensive efforts, but almost all his running passes and breakthroughs were stopped by the Germans. Platini, who mostly played in an advanced position, had no great impact on the French game. By binding back his direct opponent he made the German defence even more compact!

The second half began in the same way as the first one had finished: France seemed to control the game, but they created only few chances. The German counter-attacks proved to be very dangerous. Völler's last minute strike resulted from such a situation.

The performance of Germany FR deserves our respect – France's inability to display their normal game deserves our sympathy.



In the Semi-Final Germany FR-France, Platini is encircled by three Germans and loses the ball (above). From left: Magath, Rolff and Förster. This way of controlling the French midfield star proved to be a good recipe during the whole game.

When France could take one of their dangerous free-kicks, the German players in the wall jumped up in order to reduce the angle. This particular precaution, too, contributed to the surprising German success.





The pictures illustrate how France was eliminated in the Semi-Final. Brehme's screwed free-kick (above left) passed the French wall. Goalkeeper Bats (below left), the hero in the game against Brazil, let the ball slip through his hands, to the horror of his team-mates.

Even Platini (No. 10) missed an excellent chance to equalize and can hardly believe it (top). Goalkeeper Schumacher, Jakobs and Briegel can breathe again. After the match, Germany could celebrate its victory Völler having scored the second goal in the last minute. From left: Briegel, Rummenigge, Förster, Jakobs, Allofs, Matthäus and Brehme (above).