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Germany, Ecuador into last sixteen

Germany and Ecuador are the first teams through to the Round of 16 at the FIFA World Cup™ following the South American team's 3-0 defeat of Costa Rica in Hamburg.

Goals from Carlos Tenorio, Agustín Delgado and Ivan Kaviedes took Ecuador onto six points in Group A, the same as Germany after their 1-0 victory over Poland on Wednesday night. Ecuador lead the section with a goal difference of 5-0 with the host nation on 5-2. The teams meet in their final group fixture in Berlin on 20 June.

Carlos Tenorio gave Ecuador an eighth-minute lead with a powerful header from Luis Valencia's cross.

The advantage was doubled when Agustín Delgado lashed home from a tight angle shortly after half-time.

Ecuador finished with a flourish when Ivan Kaviedes capped a flowing move by volleying home from six yards.

Knowing defeat would end their hopes of reaching the second round, Costa Rica could not have made a worse start as they fell behind after just eight minutes.

Delgado's shot was charged down, but the rebound fell kindly, allowing him to feed Valencia whose whipped cross was powerfully headed home by Carlos Tenorio.

Segundo Castillo then tested Costa Rica keeper Jose Porras from a free-kick which earned Luis Marin a yellow card for his foul on Carlos Tenorio.

Much of the football was pretty but with no real purpose as Ecuador formed around the imposing central pairing of Ivan Hurtado and Geovanny Espinoza and allowed Costa Rica to pass the ball square in front of them.

It took Costa Rica 39 minutes to muster their first on-target shot, with Mauricio Solís firing straight into

Cristian Mora's midriff from 25 yards.

At the other end, Porras reacted brilliantly as Valencia's cross deflected goalwards off Marin.

Costa Rica opened Ecuador up for the first time but Douglas Sequeira's free header was disappointing after Leonardo González's cross picked him out at the far post.

Costa Rica needed a sharper cutting edge to stay alive in the competition but former Premiership striker Paolo Wanchope was a disappointment.

Los Ticos were facing a mountain to climb when another former Premiership striker, Delgado, doubled Ecuador's lead.

Kaviedes flicked the ball inside where Delgado, once of Southampton, chested it down to lash a ferocious shot inside Porras's near post.

Ecuador keeper Mora was at last called into action, palming away a stinging effort from Solís.

Costa Rica were denied a goal which might have sparked a late rally when Alvaro Saborio curled a shot against the bar.

Ecuador scored a third when former Crystal Palace striker Kaviedes rounded off a flowing move by volleying home Edison Méndez's cross.

For a team that took 35 years to win an international outside their high-altitude capital Quito, Ecuador showed they will be no pushovers.

With a superior goal difference, a draw in their final game against hosts Germany will see Ecuador top their group.

With Poland and Costa Rica having lost both their games they are heading out of the FIFA World Cup. Their clash in Hanover on Tuesday will precede their departure home.

- See World View page VII for more World Cup news



GERMANY, Hamburg: Ecuadorian goalkeeper Cristian Mora (foreground) stops a shoot during the 2006 World Cup Group A football match between Ecuador and Costa Rica, in Hamburg, Germany, yesterday. Ecuador won 3-0.



Match results	Today (SL time)
Spain 4-0 Ukraine (2:0)	Argentina vs Serbia 6:30
Tunisia 2-2 Saudi Arabia(1:0)	Netherlands vs Ivory Coast 9:30
Germany 1-0 Poland (0:0)	Mexico vs Angola 12:30

Maharroof confident of World Cup success

Ahead of their one-day series against England at Lords on Saturday, Farveez Maharroof, the Sri Lanka allrounder, believes his team will be a serious threat in the 2007 World Cup, despite a recent slip in their one-day form.

Ten years after their famous World Cup triumph, Sri Lanka have fallen to sixth in the one-day rankings; Tom Moody, the Sri Lanka coach, has attempted to blend young talent with



more established performers like Muttiah Muralitharan, Mahela Jayawardene and Chaminda Vaas, with mixed success.

"We are all aware that we are in this rebuilding phase and we have to be patient," Maharroof admitted. "But there is a lot of young talent in our squad and we know we are working towards the World Cup. With the experience we can pick up between now and then there is every reason to believe we will be a threat in that tournament."

Sri Lanka's dogged, fighting performance to win the final Test against England - drawing the series 1-1 - has given them an understandable boost in confidence, however.

"That draw in the first Test made the people at home very happy. We were not expected to do anything against a side that won the Ashes and it gave us confidence," he said.

"We say in Sri Lanka that we have a lion's heart and that is the way this side plays. It likes a fight and never gives up. [sic]"

Before the first one-dayer on Saturday, Sri Lanka were scheduled to face England at the Rose Bowl yesterday evening in their first Twenty20.

Holcim FA Cup soccer semis

Jayasuriya hat-trick helps Ratnam, Negombo Youth sink Navy

by Champika Fernando

A hat-trick of goals by national cap Kasun Jayasuriya saw once celebrated Saunders SC succumb to a 3-nil defeat at the hands of mighty Ratnam SC in the second semi-final of Holcim FA Cup tournament worked off at the Sugathadasa Stadium yesterday.

Earlier in the first semi-final, Negombo Youth came from behind to sink Navy by 5 goals to 4 to enter the final which will be worked off on June 24 (Saturday) at the same venue.

Jayasuriya started his goal scoring spree as early as in the 3rd minute of the game and gave his side a 1-nil advantage at lemon.

After the restart Jayasuriya was quiet for a while but he got himself into action in the 63rd minute as he scored

from a brilliant pass from Chathura Madunranga. It was soon followed by his third in the 73rd minute.

Saunders who fought back desperately to score was reduced to nine when two of their players were sent off due to foul play in the latter part of the game.

Meanwhile, in the first semi-final, Navy suffered the biggest disappointment after leading 3-1 in the first session to go down fighting 5-4.

Negombo Youth skipper Duddley Stainwall and G.P.C Karunaratne scored two goals apiece while E.B Channa hit the fifth goal for the winners.

Prasad Lakshitha scored two goals for sailors while K. Athukorale and Dhammika Ratnayake contributed a goal apiece.

Anura Silva refereed.

Weightlifters selected for South Asian Games

Sri Lanka weightlifting team for the forthcoming South Asian Games was selected at Reid Avenue yesterday.

While Ransilu Jayathilaka was the top ranked lifter, Chintana Widanage, who is currently in Australia, was ranked number two according to the points he gained in the last trials. Emil Nishantha was placed third in the rankings.

The top eight lifters who will represent Sri Lanka in eight weight categories were identified yesterday and two reserve lifters will join them.

The top eight lifters:

M.G. Emil Nishantha (56 kgs), Chinthana Vidanage (62kgs), K. Peiris (69kgs), P. Dayan (77 kgs), P.M. Jayathilaka (85 kgs), P.S. Wijeratne (94 kgs), Ransilu Jayathilaka (105 kgs), M.M. Irshad (Over 105 kgs)

(-RF)

Lara helps Windies cling on to a draw

Brian Lara scored his second Test century against India, his second slowest innings ever for a score of 50 or more, and though it was not typically brilliant and free-flowing, it was an innings that typified his character and showed just how good a batsman he is under any circumstances. He gave up the big drive for failsafe defence, blunted rather than bludgeoned the bowling into submission and ensured that West Indies pulled off a rousing draw as the tall hung on at the death. They finished on 283 for 7, and garnered a result that they can well be proud of.

If Lara was the epitome of control, some of his less illustrious colleagues were quite the opposite. Daren Ganga failed to pick a googly and shouldered arms, losing his off stump. Then Munaf Patel, bowling a superb line and length,



pitched one up for the drive and got it to deviate just enough to take the outside edge of Ramnaresh Sarwan's bat. Sarwan, who faced 10 nervous balls including two close lbw shouts, made just 1, completing a forgettable match where he picked up a first-ball duck in the first innings.


At 52 for 3 West Indies were in deep trouble, when Lara was joined by Shivnarine Chandernaul.

About an hour into the second session India finally separated Lara and Chandernaul. The two had added 129 and were together for almost three hours, seeing off 43.4 overs. Chandernaul made 54.

But Lara had made his mind up about what he wanted to do, and his powers of concentration in playing long innings are second to none in world cricket. - cricinfo.com

Scoreboard

India first innings 588	
West Indies first innings 215	
West Indies second innings	
CH Gayle c Dhoni b Pathan	2
D Ganga b Kumble	26
BC Lara lbw b Sehwaag	120
RR Sarwan c Dhoni b Patel	1
S Chandernaul c Pathan b Kumble	54
DJ Bravo c Yuvraj Singh b Kumble	47
R Ramdin not out	19
IDR Bradshaw lbw b Patel	1
JE Taylor not out	0
Extras (lb 4, nb 15, pen 5)	24
Total (7 wickets; 119 overs)	284
Did not bat: PT Collins, CD Collymore	
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-51, 3-52, 4-181, 5-252, 6-276, 7-291	
Bowling:	
Pathan 15-2-50-1, Patel 21-7-50-2, VR Singh 11-0-39-0, A Kumble 42-10-98-3, V Sehwaag 30-9-48-1	



Sri Lanka vs England

Catch all the action Tomorrow

LIVE from 3.00 p.m. onwards

