

2006 World Cup Special

# German Poles threaten old nation's hopes

BERLIN

Poland face the cruel threat of being knocked out of the World Cup by the best two Polish-born strikers in the tournament when they face Germany in their Group A match in Dortmund today.

Miroslav Klose, who scored twice for Germany in their opening day 4-2 win over Costa Rica, and his precocious sidekick Lukas Podolski, 21, were born in Poland and came to Germany when they were children. "We're glad they're on our side because they are exceptional players," Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann said at a news conference ahead of the game. Poland, beaten 2-0 by Ecuador in their first game, need a win to get back in contention for a place in the last 16. For Germany, a second victory would all but guarantee their progress.

From the statistics, it does not look good for the Poles.

**Line-ups**

Germany (4-4-2): 1-Jens Lehmann; 3-Arne Friedrich, 21-Christoph Metzelder, 17-Per Mertesacker, 16-Philipp Lahm; 18-Bernd Schneider, 8-Torsten Frings, 13-Michael Ballack, 7-Bastian Schweinsteiger; 20-Lukas Podolski, 11-Miroslav Klose. Coach: Juergen Klinsmann.

Poland (4-5-1 or 4-4-2): 1-Artur Boruc; 6-Jacek Bak, 2-Mariusz Jop, 14-Michal Zewiakow, 4-Marcin Baszczyński; 8-Jacek Krzynowek, 21-Ireneusz Jelen (or 16-Arkadiusz Radomski), 10-Miroslaw Szymkowiak, 7-Radoslaw Sobolewski, 15-Euzebiusz Smolarek; 9-Maciej Zurawski. Coach: Pawel Janas. — Reuters



Photo/AP

Tunisia's goal keeper Boumnijel Aliduring catches a ball during his team's training session in Munich yesterday. Tunisia will play Saudi Arabia in a Group H match today in Munich. The other teams in Group H are Spain and Ukraine.

# Tension ahead of Arabic derby

MUNICH

Fear of defeat and an early World Cup exit has dominated the mood of Tunisia and Saudi Arabia ahead of today's Arabic derby in Group H.

Tunisia's French coach Roger Lemerre, may uniquely have won successive continental championships in Europe and Africa but, after overseeing holders France's first round exit at the 2002 finals, hopes to erase bad memories of the global tournament.

Saudi Arabia, in their fourth consecutive World Cup, also want to wipe out a nightmare -- they were thrashed 8-0 by Germany in their first outing at the 2002 finals in Japan and departed without scoring a goal.

So it is no surprise that Lemerre, 65 this month, and his Saudi counterpart, Brazilian Marcos Paqueta, are approaching the tense clash at the Allianz Arena with some trepidation.

"This is going to be the most important and the most difficult match for us," said Tunisia's highly-rated attacking right-back Hatem Trabelsi, who is seeking a move from Ajax Amsterdam after the finals. "And it is also a derby! "I

think both teams have a chance to win because both want a good start to the group. We are in our third consecutive finals and it is our aim to reach the second round this time."

Tunisia are the only African nation with previous experience at the finals. After losing on penalties to Nigeria in this year's Nations Cup quarter-finals, Trabelsi said the 2004 African champions must learn to avoid costly errors.

Tunisia will be without leading striker, Brazilian-born Francileudo dos Santos, top scorer in the qualifiers with six goals, and have made two injury-enforced changes to their squad. Their preferred 4-4-2 formation is likely to find midfield space at a premium against Saudi Arabia's 4-5-1, intricate approach work and dangerous counter-attacking.

**Probable teams**

Tunisia (4-4-2): 1-Ali Boumnijel; 6-Hatem Trabelsi, 15-Radhi Jaïdi, 3-Karim Hagui, 18-David Jemali; 20-Hamed Namouchi, 12-Joahar Mnari, 14-Adel Cheddi, 13-Riadh Bouazizi; 5-Ziad Jaziri, 9-Yassine Chikhaoui. Coach: Roger Lemerre.

Saudi Arabia (4-5-1): 1-Mohamed Al Deayea; 3-Redha Taker, 13-Hussein Sulaimani, 4-Hamad Al Montashari, 2-Ahmed Dokhi; 14-Saud Al Khari, 7-Mohamed Ameen, 8-Mohamed Noor, 10-Mohammad Al Shalhoub, 9-Sami Al Jaber; 20-Yassir Al Qahtani. Coach: Marcos Paqueta.

Referee: Mark Shield (Australia), Linesmen: Nathan Gibson (Australia), Ben Wilson (Australia)

# Socceroos were quite impressive

For anyone who has followed Australia in other sporting contests like cricket, Monday's late 3-1 win over Japan after trailing for 84 minutes should not be a surprise. As one English journalist put it, the Aussies never know when they are beaten. They have a propensity for digging themselves out a hole, no matter how deep, and losing is never an option for them. In the final of the gold medal basketball match against New Zealand at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, they were six points adrift with less than a minute to go but still managed to pull off a memorable win. In Australia, sports is not a matter of life and death, it is more than that. Rohit Brijanath of the Indian sports weekly magazine, *Sportstar*, has described the attitude of Australian sport as "combative machismo, eat-pie-with-opponent's-blood-as-sauce". Be afraid! To an Australian sportsman, kicking a fallen opponent in the teeth is very much acceptable. With only Mark Viduka of Middlesbrough, Tim Cahil (Everton) John Aloisi (Osasuna) Harry Kewel of Liverpool and goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer as players of note, Australia were very much the underdogs in this Group F tie in Kaiserslautern. Making only their second appearance in the World Cup finals, it was immensely thrilling to see them come storming back from the dead to beat a more experienced Japan. Their attitude is one that other teams could borrow.

**ANALYSIS**

**Chris Tsuma**

**Angola beaten but not cowed**

After restricting group favourites Portugal to just one goal, first-timers Angola should go into their next fixture against Mexico on Friday with less fear, despite the Americans' authoritative 3-1 win over Iran. It was only 12 seconds into the second Group D match on Sunday night when Portuguese striker Pauletta's shot from the left rolled perilously close to the Angolan far post. Three minutes later, Portugal had the lead, Pauletta with the goal from an accurate pull-back from Luis Figo. The expected slaughter of the Angolans that had been envisaged by many was underway, or so it seemed. Once the Southern Africans had got rid of their jitters, they settled down into their rhythm and matched their former colonial masters blow-for-blow. Despite their unflattering performances at the African Cup of Nations, the Angolans looked solid enough to resist any form of bullying. Lacking any outstanding ball player in the mould of Brazil's Ronaldinho or Arjen Robben of Holland, who can single-handedly make things happen, the Angolans made good use of the little

resources available to them, — their sheer physical presence, tenacity and teamwork. Apart from the lack of pace that afflicts Jamba at right back, the Angolan defence, which also has Kali, Loco and Delgado, all big men, stood up well to the Portuguese threat and looked especially good in the air. Coach Luis Goncalves knew his back four could not afford to wait for Cristiano Ronaldo to run at them and assigned a man to mind him. So the Manchester United winger had the huge frame of Delgado shadowing him everywhere he went. It is an ugly tactic, but it worked perfectly. Ronaldo was hounded out of the game and finally taken off in the second half. Mendonca, Macanga, Figuerido and Mateus threw their weight around the midfield and did a good job destroying the Portuguese forward play. Once they find a player who can take them forward from the middle, Angola can look forward to getting their first World Cup goal. They have such a player in Ze Kalanga. He is the closest Angola comes to a good ball player. Once he gets into his stride well, he should create openings for Fabrice Akwa or Pedro Mantorras at the point of the Angolan attack. Cote d'Ivoire deserved to take a point from Argentina. The two goals they conceded were not a result of endemic defensive frailties but rather from being caught out in fifty-fifty situations. With their solid defence backed by an unyielding midfield, they carved out numerous chances of their own.

Group A						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	0	0	4	2	3
Ecuador	1	0	0	2	0	3
Costa Rica	0	0	1	2	4	0
Poland	1	0	1	0	2	0

Goalscorers: M.Klose, P. Wanchop (2), P.Lahm (1), T.Frings (1), C.Tenorio, A.Delgado (1)

Group E						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Republic	1	0	0	3	0	3
Italy	1	0	0	2	0	3
Ghana	0	0	1	0	2	0
USA	0	0	1	0	3	0

Goalscorers: T.Rosicky (2), J. Koller, A.Pirlo, V.laquinta (1)

Group B						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	0	0	1	0	3
Sweden	0	1	0	0	0	1
Trinidad/Tobago	0	1	0	0	0	1
Paraguay	0	0	1	0	1	0

Goalscorers: Xxxxxxx (0), Xxxxxxx (0), Xxxxxxxx (0), Xxxxxxxx (0)

Group F						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	1	0	0	3	1	3
Japan	0	0	1	1	3	0

Goalscorers: A. Cahill (2), S. Nakamura, J.Aloisi (1)

Group C						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	1	0	0	2	1	3
Netherlands	1	0	0	1	0	3
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	1	1	2	0
Serbia/Montenegro	0	0	1	0	1	0

Goalscorers: H.Crespo, J.Saviola D. Drogba, A.Robben (1)

Group G						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	1	0	0	2	1	3
Togo	0	0	1	1	2	0
France	0	0	0	00	0	0
Switzerland	0	0	0	00	0	0

Goalscorers: L. Chuu-Soo, A. Jung-Hwan, A. Coobadja (1)

Group D						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	1	0	0	3	1	3
Iran	0	0	1	1	3	0
Angola	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0

Goalscorers: O.Bravo (2), Zinha, Y. Gholmohammadi (1)

Group H						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	0	0	0	00	00	0
Ukraine	0	0	0	00	00	0
Tunisia	0	0	0	00	00	0
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	00	00	0

Goalscorers: Xxxxxxx (0), Xxxxxxx (0), Xxxxxxxx (0), Xxxxxxxx (0)

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