

# U.S. pulls off monumental upset over red-hot Spain

By RAHUL VAIDYANATH  
Epoch Times Staff

The U.S. men's national soccer team was not even supposed to be in the semifinal of the Confederations Cup after being drawn in a group with Brazil and Italy and losing their first two games convincingly.

But on Wednesday, in Bloemfontein, South Africa, the U.S. recorded its most memorable victory in years, knocking off FIFA's top ranked team and Euro 2008 champion Spain 2-0.

U.S. head coach Bob Bradley was quoted on www.fifa.com saying, "We made a special effort to try to control their midfield and not let them get comfortable."

A key to controlling the midfield was his son, Michael Bradley, shutting down the Spain's Xavi. Unfortunately, Bradley picked up a red card for a two-footed lunge at a Spanish player late in the game. He will have to miss the final.

Spain had been on an unbelievable streak of 15 straight victories prior to Wednesday's shocker.

Spanish head coach Vicente del Bosque said, "We were surprised by how well they played and we have to take our hats off to them."

Spain gave up their first goal of the tournament in the 25th minute to a player who plays professionally in Spain, Jozy Altidore. The U.S. goal came on an effective counter-attack as Altidore held off the Spanish defender to fire a ball which Spanish goalie Iker Casillas could barely get a hand on.

The burly striker got a yellow card for taking off his shirt in his goal celebration. But the size and strength of Altidore gave



VICTORY IS OURS: Clint Dempsey (right) celebrates after giving the U.S. a two-goal lead.  
CHRISTOF KOEPEL/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

the Spanish defense problems and may give other teams ideas on how to attack the heart of the Spanish defense.

Altidore, 19, from New Jersey, described his goal: "Clint Dempsey gave me a great pass for the first goal, and I'm a big boy so I was able to hold the defender off."

The Spanish attack kept the U.S. on their heels for the rest of the

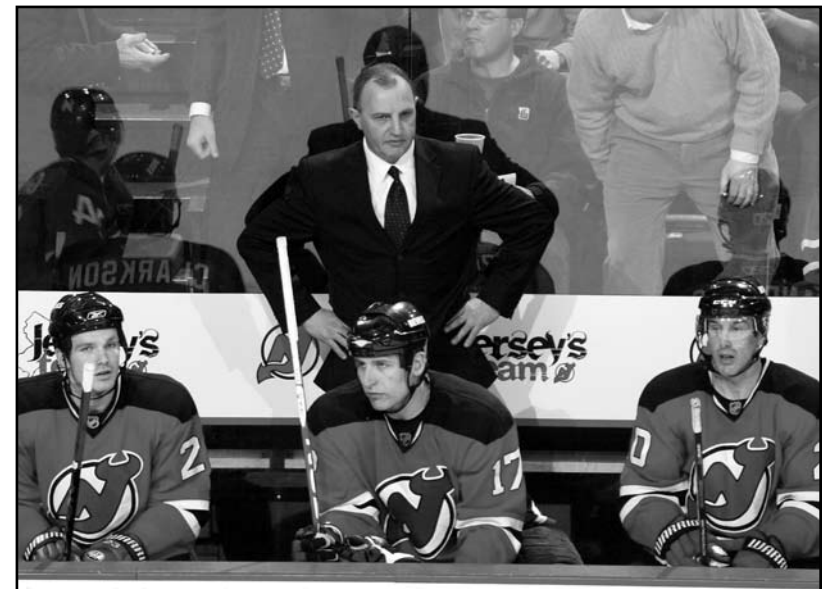
game. But the U.S. defended resolutely with Oguchi Onyewu, Jonathan Spector, Jay DeMerit, and Carlos Bocanegra all having outstanding performances.

The U.S. counterattack sealed the victory in the 73rd minute as Clint Dempsey swept home a loose ball in the six-yard box that the Spanish defense failed to deal with adequately.

"We just beat the best team in

the world, so we're going to be very fired up no matter who we meet in the final," said striker Landon Donovan

This is a truly historic victory for the U.S. Nobody gave them a chance against the hottest team in the world. Bob Bradley and company executed the perfect game plan—soak up the Spanish pressure and make the most of your counterattacks.



BENCH BOSS: Brent Sutter enjoyed success behind the Devils bench but now he's closer to home in Calgary. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

## GM Darryl Sutter hires brother Brent to coach Flames

TORONTO (Reuters)—Calgary Flames general manager Darryl Sutter named his brother Brent as the team's head coach on Tuesday.

Brent, who left the New Jersey Devils earlier this month, takes over from Mike Keenan who was fired in May after losing in the first round of the playoffs for the fourth successive season.

His appointment brings the number of Sutters working in the Flames organization to five but Darryl said Brent's last name had nothing to do with him landing the job.

"They [the new coaching staff] were the very best people available," Darryl told reporters.

"It didn't really matter what their last name was," he added while also referring to assistants Ryan McGill, Jamie McLennan, and Dave Lowry.

A member of the hockey family that had six brothers playing in the

NHL, Brent coached the Devils for two seasons. He posted a 97-56-11 record, leading New Jersey to consecutive playoff appearances and an Atlantic Division title.

During an 18-year playing career Brent recorded 363 goals, 829 points, and 1,054 penalty minutes in 1,111 regular-season games. He won two Stanley Cups with the New York Islanders.

He also spent seven seasons with the Chicago Blackhawks including three playing for his brother Darryl.

"We've been involved in this business long enough to know how it works," said Brent when asked if it was wise to mix family and business.

"Darryl is the general manager of the hockey team and I'm the head coach. That's the way it is.

"I played for Darryl when Darryl was the coach and that was our relationship then and it's no different now."

## Yzerman, Hull, Robitaille, and Leetch voted to hockey Hall of Fame

Rivals 2007's class which included Mark Messier, Ron Francis, Al MacInnis, and Scott Stevens

TORONTO (Reuters)—Steve Yzerman, Brett Hull, and Luc Robitaille, who won a Stanley Cup together with the Detroit Red Wings in 2002, were reunited on Tuesday when they were voted into the NHL Hall of Fame.

The 2009 class also included Brian Leetch, the first U.S.-born player to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as the Stanley Cup's Most Valuable Player (MVP), and New Jersey Devils president and general manager Lou Lamoriello.

The Red Wings trio will be led into the Hall by Yzerman, who spent his entire career in the Motor City. He guided Detroit to three Stanley Cups before retiring after 22 seasons as the sixth all-time leading scorer with 1,755 points.

Regarded as one of the best leaders to play in the NHL, Yzerman

was the team's longest-serving captain (1986-2006).

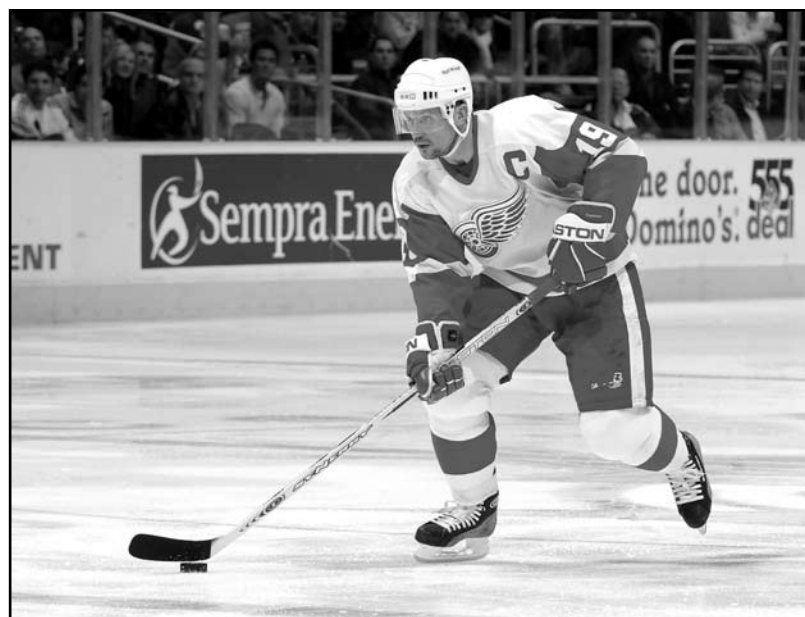
He also won a Conn Smythe trophy and the Frank Selke Trophy as the top defensive forward.

Yzerman was a member of Canada's gold-medal winning team at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics and now, as general manager, has the task of assembling Team Canada for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games.

### FATHER AND SON

Hull joins his father, "Golden Jet" Bobby Hull, in the Hall. They are the only NHL father-son duo to record 600 goals and 1,000 points apiece.

Brett, like Bobby, was one of the league's most feared snipers, his total of 741 goals is third behind the "Great One" Wayne Gretzky (894) and Gordie Howe (801).



RED WINGS LEADER: Steve Yzerman, long-time Detroit captain, is a no-brainer for the NHL Hall of Fame. NOAH GRAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

During a career that spanned 21 seasons, Brett also had stints with the Calgary Flames, St Louis Blues, Dallas Stars, and Phoenix Coyotes. He won two Stanley Cups and a Hart Trophy as NHL MVP.

"It is hard to put into words what this means to me especially since I'm joining my father in the Hockey Hall of Fame," said Hull.

"Simply getting to the NHL was a challenge for me and I would like to thank all my supporters who made many sacrifices on my behalf."

Greatness was not predicted for Robitaille when he was taken with

the 171st pick of the 1984 draft by the Los Angeles Kings. However he played 19 seasons, retiring as the highest scoring left winger of all-time.

Leetch, an offensively gifted player, won the Calder Trophy as NHL rookie of the year in 1989 and the Norris Trophy twice as the league's top defenseman.

He is best remembered for helping the New York Rangers end a 54-year Stanley Cup drought in 1994.

Induction ceremonies for the 2009 class are scheduled for Nov. 9 at the Hall of Fame in Toronto.

## Red Bull sweeps Formula One British Grand Prix

Vettel wins, Webber second, best Brawn third

By JAMES FISH  
Epoch Times Staff

For only the second time this season, a team other than Brawn and a driver other than Jenson Button won a Formula One Grand Prix race.

As they did in the rain in China, Red Bull drivers Sebastian Vettel and Mark Webber finished one-two in the Formula One Santander British Grand Prix at Silverstone. They beat the Brawns in the dry last Sunday as convincingly as they did in the wet in China.

Sebastian Vettel, who started on the pole, was simply uncatchable, while behind him teammate Mark Webber opened up a huge gap over the first Brawn car of Rubens Barrichello.

Sebastian Vettel drove the fastest lap of all the cars on the course on every lap of the first 30, save for one lap where Webber drove faster.

Vettel, at 21, is the youngest driver to win the British Grand Prix.

"The start was very important, then in the first stint I tried to push as hard as I could to pull away and make a gap which I knew would be crucial," Vettel said after the race.

"The second stint wasn't easy at all. I had a lot of traffic and a lot of lapped cars at that stage and they were battling each other, so it was quite tricky.

"This is what I was dreaming of when I saw the first grand prix here in Silverstone in the era of [Nigel] Mansell, so it is kind of unreal now to think I am here and I have made it. I am very, very pleased with the result."

Series leader Jenson Button, hoping to win in front of his home crowd, spent the race fighting high-

speed understeer, unable to enter the top five.

"The car feels like it's skating," he complained to his crew. On the whole it was a very uncharacteristic day for Brawn, who had won effortlessly in most of the previous races.

### CLASS OF THE FIELD

Red Bull was the only team to really nail the set-up in qualifying. Several teams—including Brawn—complained that they couldn't get good tire temperature; they couldn't find the right balance of wing, shocks, and wheel angle to get the tires really working.

The Red Bull cars were certainly the class of the field. Vettel led Weber by 15 seconds at the end. Weber led Barrichello by 26 seconds, and the Brawn driver was not even in the hunt.

With ten laps to go, Button came in for softer-compound tires, hoping the extra grip would give him an advantage over cars using older, harder tires.

However, he lost three places in the pits, and the tires did not give him enough of an edge to get anything back. On the softer tires, the Brawn came to life, and it seemed Button might at least get into the top five, but there simply wasn't enough time.

Felipe Massa brought his Ferrari home in fourth place, while Nico Rosberg gave Williams-Toyota some much needed points, finishing fifth.

Defending champion Lewis Hamilton in the Mercedes-McLaren had a miserable drive in front of his home crowd, finishing 16th one lap down—the worst finish of his career.

Button retained a 23-point lead in the drivers' championship, but the championship, which had seemed a sure thing for Button, is now within reach of the Red Bull drivers.

The next race in the series will be the German Grand Prix at Nürburgring, on July 12.

## High-speed autograph line a hit at Wimbledon

LONDON (Reuters)—World number one Dinara Safina loves doing it because "after all, we are playing for the fans."

Teenage schoolgirl Helen Racki is thrilled about it since "they are giving something back to us."

Daily autograph sessions are all the rage at Wimbledon and, in true British fashion, excited fans form an orderly queue to get the signatures of their favourites.

It makes a refreshing change for the top players who can be isolated from the public by their globe-trotting lifestyle as they fly around the

world from one five-star hotel to another.

Nothing beats the high-speed production line at Wimbledon where the organizers whip the fans through in double-quick time.

Famous authors at book signings could learn from All England Club officials who can martial through 100 fans in 10 minutes.

The autograph hunters queue up grasping Centre Court tickets, Wimbledon programs, giant tennis balls, baseball hats—pretty much anything they can get their hands on.

For the fans it is well worth waiting for in the baking sunshine at the world's most famous tennis tournament.

"It is very difficult to meet the players. We are very excited," said 15-year-old schoolgirl Racki. "It makes you respect them more as they are giving their time for us."

Top seed Safina strides in and reaches for a felt pen so she can scribble her name, offering a quick smile and a "You're welcome" before the next delighted fan is ushered forward.

This is no contractual obliga-

tion. The players agree willingly to do it.

For Safina, it is a chance to give something back.

Afterwards the Russian told Reuters: "Sometimes when we walk through the fans we don't have enough time. We are always rushing either to practice or after practice."

"Here we have time to sit down, relax and spend some time with the fans. We are playing for them. The more time they spend with us, the more they like us. It is better for us."