

Spain wins World Cup in tense final over Netherlands

By RAHUL VAIDYANATH
Epoch Times Staff

Spain claimed their first ever World Cup last Sunday in a scrappy 1-0 extra time victory over Netherlands at Soccer City Stadium in Johannesburg.

Spain became the eighth team to win soccer's greatest prize in the 19th time the tournament has been held. Netherlands now has lost in the final match three times (1974, 1978, 2010).

The match-winner was Man of the Match Andres Iniesta. The superb midfielder put the finishing touch on a counterattack led by substitute Jesus Navas who took the ball down the right wing and into the heart of the Dutch defense. Another substitute Cesc Fabregas then threaded the pass to Iniesta who fired a right-footer past Maarten Stekelenburg in the Dutch goal in the 116th minute.

"I'm just happy I managed to do my bit and score such an important goal for the national side. It's a game to remember and to celebrate," said Iniesta on FIFA.com.

Spain is now the holder of the European championship and World Cup. There can be no doubt that they are the best soccer nation in the world. They also became the first team to ever win the World Cup after losing their opening game (1-0 to Switzerland).

"It's hard to put it all into words and the way the players feel goes way beyond words. The satisfaction people feel goes way beyond sport and this is a reward that's richly deserved," said Spain coach Vicente del Bosque.

"Obviously, we're devastated by the result. We were down to 10 men but almost made it to penalties. You have to say the better team won, but losing the World Cup Final is hard to take," said Dutch coach Bert van Marwijk.

MATCH IN REVIEW

The first half was disappointing. English referee Howard Webb handed out five yellow cards, four of which came in the first 22 minutes. Spain and Netherlands did not bring their "A-game." Instead, they combined for 20 fouls.

Both teams did effective jobs at closing down spaces, pressuring the goalkeeper and defenses who seemed to have no answer for the pressure.

Nigel De Jong could have easily been sent off for a studs-to-the-chest foul on Xabi Alonso just before the half-hour mark.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Spain's goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas celebrates with the FIFA World Cup trophy and his teammates after a nervy victory over Netherlands last Sunday. JAVIER SORIANO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The best scoring chance of the first half came in the fifth minute as Spanish full back Sergio Ramos got a point blank header on target but Maarten Stekelenburg came up with a great reaction save.

Arjen Robben was the main threat for the Dutch. His speed was the key to unlocking the Spanish defense. But he was unable to finish his chances and never hesitated to complain bitterly to referee Webb.

"Spain created far more chances, but Arjen Robben twice came within inches of scoring for us. If he had, I think we'd have been world champions," said van Marwijk.

Spain goalie Iker Casillas capped a terrific tournament with his fourth straight shutout. His denial of Robben on a breakaway early in the second half was enormous. Stekelenburg was also outstanding all tournament long but he could not be faulted for Iniesta's goal.

The match actually became quite scrappy as the fouls continued into the second half. In the end, Netherlands accumulated seven yellow cards and Spain racked up six. John Heitinga also saw red for getting two yellow cards.

The plan for the Dutch seemed to be to stifle the Spanish possession game. They attempted to break it up with fouls and physical play. This threw off Spain who were unable to play the way they wanted to and they became guilty of some foul play as well.

The introduction of diminutive winger Jesus Navas on the hour mark gave Spain an additional attacking

edge and it was his counterattacking run in the end that settled the score.

Fernando Torres made his appearance at the start of the second extra time. He had a small part to play in the game-winning goal but unfortunately, the snake-bitten striker pulled up with a leg injury late in the game.

The 84,490 fans in attendance may not have enjoyed the best display of soccer but the monumental nature of this game won't be forgotten by anybody.

GERMANY WINS THIRD PLACE

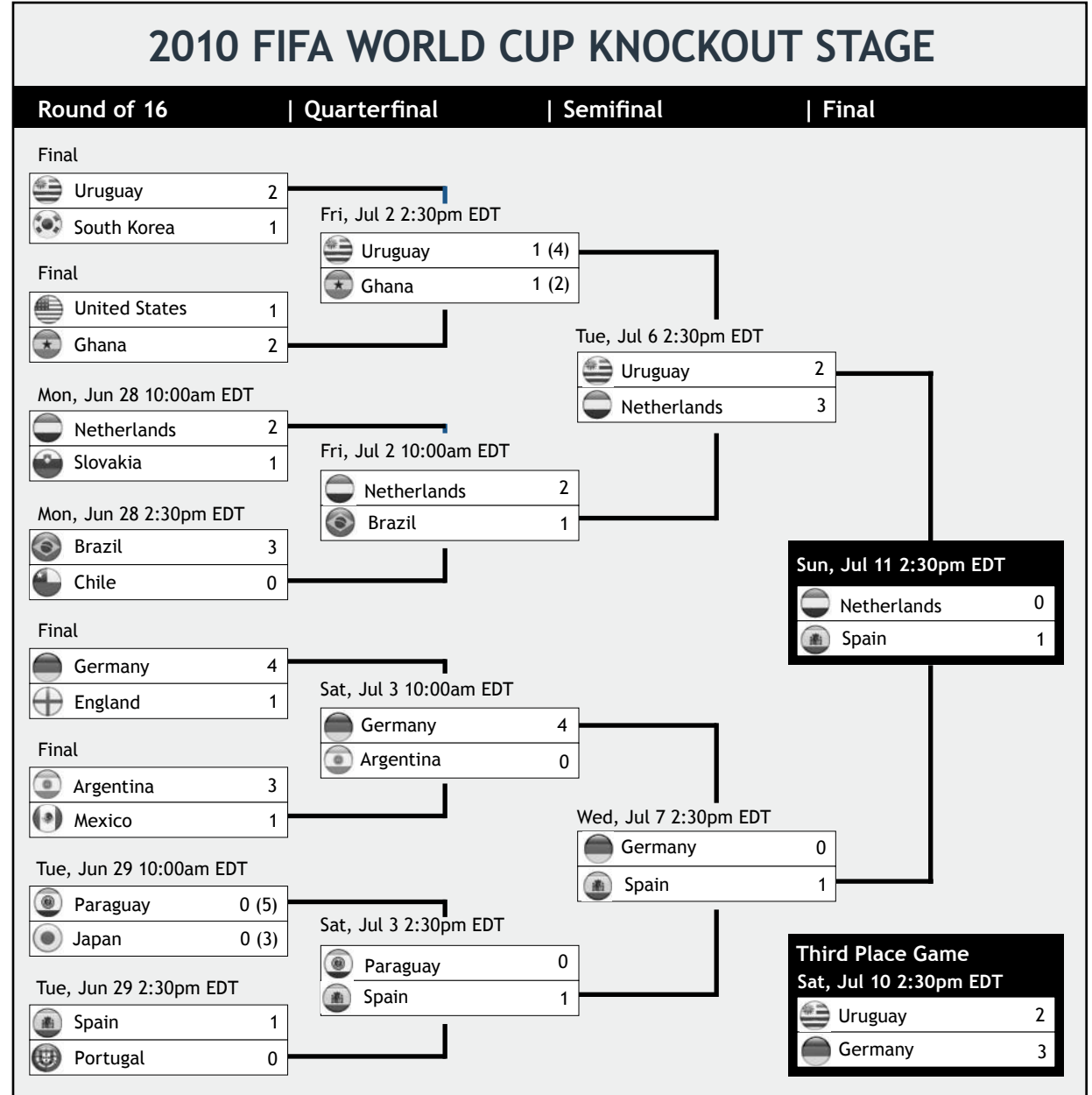
Germany won third place at the World Cup after a thrilling 3-2 victory over Uruguay last Saturday at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth.

Despite a depleted squad—no captain Philipp Lahm, Miroslav Klose, Lukas Podolski—the pouring rain didn't prevent Germany from putting on another show.

And Uruguay was pretty good too. Diego Forlan put on another classy performance with a terrific volley goal, his fifth of the tournament, while the rest of his team plugged away tirelessly to contain the German attack.

This was an exciting game as both teams played with freedom, knowing they had nothing to lose.

In the 82nd minute, Sami Khedira headed home a loose ball in the six-yard box to give Germany the win. Off a corner, Uruguay's defense was unable to clear and goalkeeper Fernando Muslera was in no man's land as Khedira's header found the top corner. Khedira might not have been



included in the squad had Michael Ballack not been injured, but he was one of the young German stars that emerged.

The third place finish for Germany matched their finish in the 2006 World Cup. It was the fourth third place finish for Germany in their long history of World Cup excellence.

For Uruguay, their fourth place finish certainly exceeded most pundits' expectations. Known as a hard-nosed side with a handful of talented players, their team showed quality players at every position and the magic of Diego Forlan, the Golden Ball winner as player of the tournament, took them places they weren't expected to reach.

Michael Bradley Autographed Soccer Jersey Raffle

Hey soccer fans, The Epoch Times would like to thank the numerous readers who submitted their entries. We always appreciate hearing from you.

We have conducted our random draw and the winner is:

Andrea Yeung from Fremont, California

Pretty soon Andrea, you'll have your Michael Bradley autographed



Borussia Monchengladbach jersey.

We hope you enjoyed the World Cup along with us.

2010 Chrysler 300C Hemi RWD

By DURHL CAUSSEY

When you look at the Chrysler 300, you want to use words that the ancients used to describe their royalty—words like noble, strong, powerful, graceful, and ageless. If you combine those words of old with those of today like accessible, poised, efficiency, sophisticated, and technology, you would have the description of the 2010 Chrysler 300C.

The Chrysler 300C has high performance, yet a fuel-efficient engine

that delivers a stunningly potent driving experience (13.5 L/8.0 L per 100 km city/highway). The multi-displacement system allows the 5.7-litre HEMI V8 engine to operate with the efficiency of a four cylinder or the power of eight, depending on driving habits and conditions.

The 300C is spacious, with great headroom and legroom. Yet the cabin is made for extended comfort with the arrangement of interior features. The instrument cluster features an electronic vehicle information centre that can access



2010 Chrysler 300C Hemi COURTESY OF CHRYSLER MEDIA

up to 128 vehicle functions. The instrument cluster even boasts a race-inspired 260-km/h speedometer and a reconfigurable perfor-

mance display. Leather-trimmed seats; genuine California walnut accents on the door pulls, console, and steering wheel; and satin silver trim

throughout sets the tone for sophistication. Power-heated seats, front reading map lamps, and rear reading courtesy lamps meet the needs of the navigator as well as those in the back, who may be trying to conclude the latest novel or finish up some class or office homework.

You can tell the Chrysler 300C by its signature front grille, bold proportions, and chrome-clad aluminum 18-inch wheels. Dual rear exhaust, fog lamps, and automatic headlamps add even more eye-pleasing features to the outside spectactor.

I wanted to take a minute and mention some of the safety features. All-wheel drive with automatic disconnect provides optimal traction and cornering stability in nearly all conditions, especially on wet, slippery roads like we experienced this week in Texas as a Gulf/Mexican border hurricane dumped several inches of inland rain over

the western and northern parts of the state.

A five-star crash test rating for front and side impact from the U.S. National Highway Traffic Administration, and multistage front airbags with supplemental front and rear side-curtain airbags offer additional protection.

Sirius Radio service for a year is standard along with 6 Boston Acoustics speakers and a 276-watt digital amplifier.

The standard price is \$41,495. In Canada a \$1,500 package is available for the 5.7L 300C Hemi, which includes luxury leather-trimmed bucket seats, 18-inch aluminum wheels and tires, monotone paint, and a Media Centre 430 upgrade for the audio system.

Durhl Caussey writes a car column read around the world. He may be reached at this paper or dcaussey@sbcglobal.net.

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