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February 1994

SAO PAULO DO IT AGAIN

Report from the World Club Cup

EXCLUSIVE:

DAVID
PLATT

our man in Italy



HAVELANGE CRISIS -

special report from the World Cup draw

World Soccer review of

1993

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Brian Glanville's
tribute to

DANNY BLANCHFLOWER

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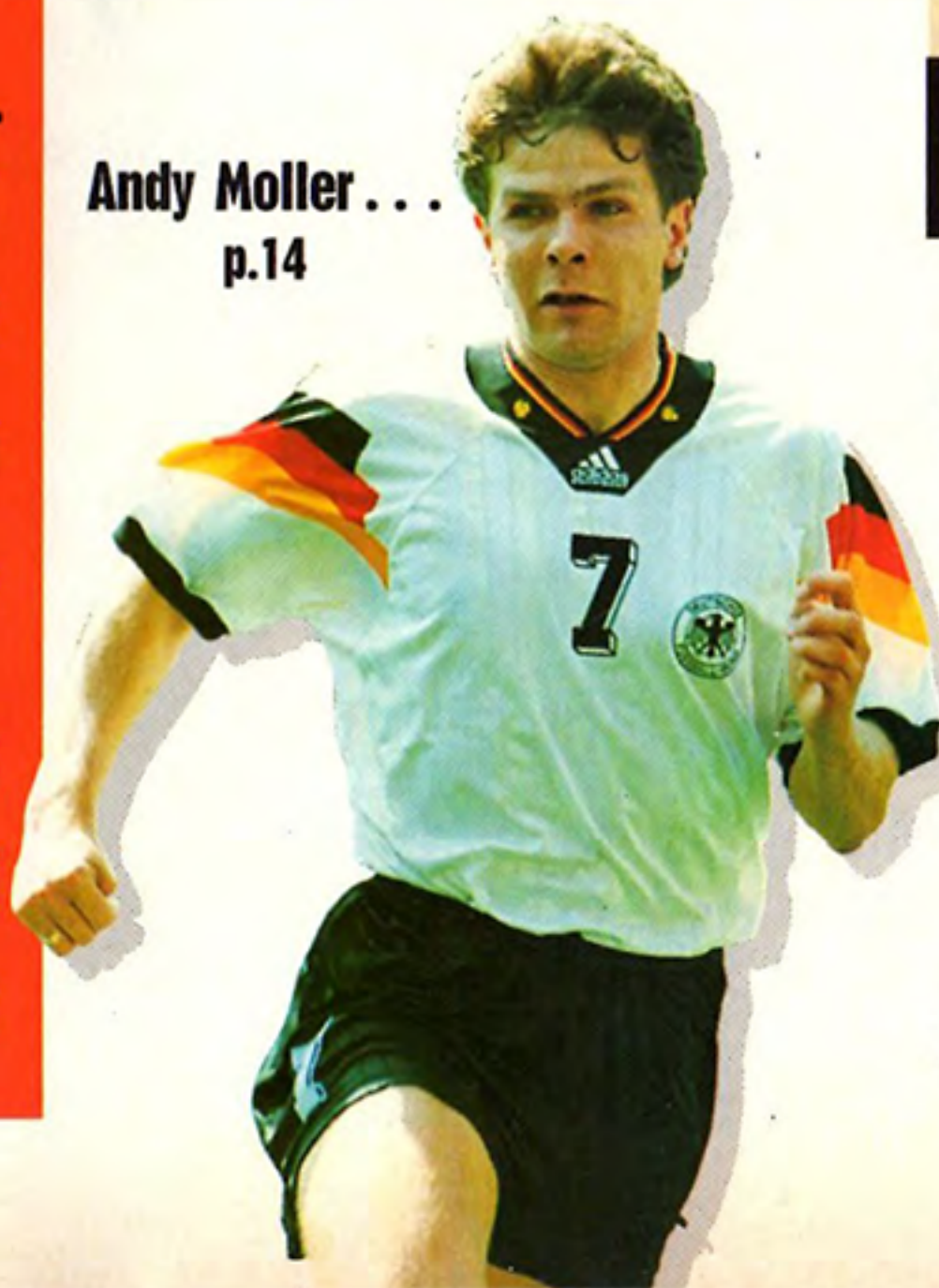
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TOYOTA
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1993 WORLD CLUB CUP

(Tokyo)



MILAN 2

(Massaro 48, Papin 82)



SAO PAULO 3

(Palhinha 20, Cerezo 59, Muller 86).

SAO

PAULO AGAIN

Milan: Rossi, Panucci, Costacurta, Baresi, Maldini, Donadoni, Desailly, Albertini (Tassotti 79), Massaro, Raducioiu (Orlando 79), Papin.

Sao Paulo: Zetti, Cafu, Valber, Ronaldo, Andre, Cerezo, Doriva, Leonardo, Dinho, Palhinha (Juninho 64), Muller.

Man of the match: Cerezo (Sao Paulo).



A GOALKEEPING error by Sebastiano Rossi cost Milan their third Toyota Cup and enabled Sao Paulo to emulate their opponents as the only team to score two consecutive victories in Tokyo.

With four minutes to go, the Brazilians launched only their fifth real attack of the game. Toninho Cerezo's through ball did not appear particularly penetrating and Franco Baresi seemed to have it covered — but then veered away to let the giant Rossi come out and smoother at Muller's feet. But at the last second, Rossi turned away and lost his grasp of the ball, which bounced off Muller's ankle

and into the net for a winner which even the scorer did not realise had happened.

So ended a match so one-sided that the statistics tell it best: Sao Paulo three goals from five efforts; Milan two from 20. And it widened the gap in the Tokyo series to a safe 9-5 for the South Americans.

If there is a Japanese version of "We was robbed", no doubt Milan had learnt it before returning empty-handed to Europe. Twice the stand-in European representatives came back from being a goal behind and each time they looked as though they would take over. Each time, the fine touch and the good fortune of the Brazilians foiled them.

First blood in an enthralling game in crisp December sunshine should have gone to Milan. Daniele Massaro fired a spectacular 25-yard volley against the underside of the crossbar, the ball bounced down to hit keeper Zetti on the back of the head and he grabbed it before it crossed the line.

Rossi slip helps Brazilians retain trophy

It was only the first fine move of many from Massaro, running wide on the left of midfield, and the choice of most neutral observers as Best Player, rather than Cerezo.

Sao Paulo's first attack after 20 minutes produced a goal. The young and at times immature Andrew found Cafu on the right with a long cross-field pass and the full-back's centre was turned in by Palhinha.

Milan continued to make the running, with Roberto Donadoni, in particular, industrious in

midfield, and shortly before half-time Jean-Pierre Papin shot straight at Zetti when Florin Radicioiu would have had an open target, in the best of the Italians' chances. But the equalizer came just after the break, the Brazilian defence caught static by Marcel Desailly's speculative high ball and Massaro sneaking around the blind side to slide it in through Zetti's legs.

Within 11 minutes, Sao Paulo had regained the lead, a rebound header putting the excellent Leonardo away on the left and his cross was

missed by three Milan defenders before the veteran Cerezo turned it in at the far post.

Milan coach Fabio Capello, cruelly deprived of many injured stars including Brian Laudrup, Marco Van Basten, Zvonimir Boban, Gigi Lentini, Stefano Eranio and Marco Simone, and choosing not to field Dejan Savicevic after UEFA changed its mind whether or not the Montenegrin was suspended after his red card for Red Star Belgrade in the 1991 Toyota Cup, made a strange double substitution with ten minutes remaining, introducing defenders Mauro Tassotti and Alessandro Orlando for the limping Demetrio Albertini and the totally ineffective Radicioiu.

By coincidence, within a minute Milan were level. Massaro cleverly back-heading Donadoni's pass for Papin to nod home. It looked this time as though Milan would take over completely — until Rossi's moment of indecision and Muller's goal which staked Sao Paulo's undeniable claim as the best club side in the world.

The Brazilians' success is remarkable, coming as it does at the end of a year in which they played no less than 95 matches. It certainly raised the chances of Tele Santana landing the Japan national team job, which was the main subject for the Japanese media.

The South American champions were admittedly not the same attractive outfit without Rai, and may now lose their other jewel, Cafu, to Real Madrid, where his former club-mate Vitor is said to be very unsettled.

For Milan, it was almost as if justice would not allow them, as replacements for the disgraced European Champions Marseille, to claim a third Toyota Cup.

Maybe football does have its own form of justice after all.

KEITH COOPER



Double top . . . Sao Paulo's Ronaldo and Zetti savour their victory (left).

Two up . . . Toninho Cerezo beats Milan's Rossi for Sao Paulo's second goal (above).

Stand off . . . Cerezo stops Milan new boy Marcel Desailly in a midfield duel (below).

Flat out . . . Milan's Jean-Pierre Papin after the final whistle (below right).



WHAT THEY SAID

FABIO CAPELLO: Sao Paulo played well but we were better. It was Rossi's mistake that cost us the game — I'm sure we would have won in extra time. I'm sure everyone will wonder if we would have won if Savicevic had played, as UEFA finally said he could; but I had chosen the team without him, and was hoping that Papin and Radicioiu would do better.

LEONARDO: Milan made it hard for us in the first half, but we had more room in the second. I don't think we were lucky to win, even if the last goal was a little strange. I'm delighted Cerezo was Man of the Match — he's a really special guy, even if we're all convinced he's five years older than he says!

JEAN-PIERRE PAPIN: It's another huge personal disappointment for me. First the Bari Final in 1991, then this year's Munich Final, then the Bulgarian World Cup match, and now this . . . I'm counting the days for 1993 to end!



RICH PICKINGS FOR SANTANA

THE contrast between the rich talent of Brazil's footballers and the poverty of the country's football administrators have never been clearer.

While 1994 ended on the worst imaginable note off the field, the players provided the best possible climax on it.

Over in Tokyo, Sao Paulo proved to Silvio Berlusconi that having a large bank balance does not always guarantee world club success as they beat Milan 3-2 to win the Cup for the second year running.

Before that, Tele Santana's team had become the first to achieve the Libertadores Cup/South American Supercup double when they beat Flamengo in a thrilling final to the latter competition. The Supercup may be a daft competition, with the same clubs taking part every year, but the all-Brazilian final made it nearly worthwhile with both legs ending 2-2 and Sao Paulo winning on penalties.

Having picked verbal fights with Corinthians manager Mario Sergio, Brazil assistant manager Mario Zagalo and referees in general, the rancorous Santana (above right) then found a new target for his regular tongue-lashings: pop star Michael Jackson.

Santana was livid when his team were forced to play a derby with Corinthians in the 40,000-capacity Paceambu stadium because Jackson was giving a concert at the 110,000 capacity Morumbi. "Football grounds are for playing football," he complained.

Palmeiras won the Brazilian championship, beating surprise team Vitoria, from Salvador in the North-East, 3-0 on aggregate in a one-sided final.

Though the final itself was not a memorable affair, the two



semi-final groups (four teams in each) had provided some more absorbing battles, and Palmeiras were worthy winners. In Edmundo and Edilson, they have two of Brazil's most precious individual talents.

Vitoria had produced a major upset by winning group E ahead of Corinthians, Flamengo and Santos. They did it the hard way, throwing away two goal leads in three games before securing their place with a 1-1 draw away to Flamengo.

Flamengo, who have played in seven competitions in 1993 and disputed 98 games, fought heroically against fatigue, especially in the 2-2 draw away to Corinthians when they led twice. Renato, who has had a miserable year, ran himself into the ground and scored Flamengo's second goal.

Corinthians lost only one game in the whole competition, but it was a crucial one away to Vitoria. In the return, they were two behind after ten minutes, fought back to level the scores with 30 minutes to go but were unable to finish off their upstart opponents.

Group F turned into a two-horse race between Palmeiras and Sao Paulo. The former won the crucial game 2-0 after Sao Paulo's striker Palhinha had been sent off for attempting to repeat Diego Maradona's "hand of God" trick. But Palhinha was spotted and, having already been booked, saw red.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

URUGUAY

Big 30 for Penarol

ALTHOUGH faltering over the final weeks, Penarol won their 30th First Division title since the start of professional soccer in 1932 (and 41st counting the amateur era) but their first since 1986.

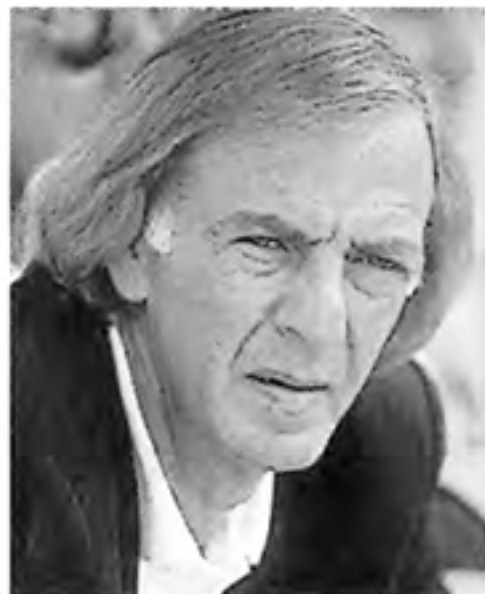
Penarol, leading for most of the season, had a seven-point lead at one stage, but it was touch and go on the final day when they could only draw 1-1 with Cerro and their closest rivals, Defensor Sporting, lost.

Penarol's final margin was two points while their striker, Marcelo Otero, shared top place in the scorers' table with veteran international Wilmar Cabrera (Huracan Buceo) on 12 goals, followed by Pablo Bengoecha (Penarol) 11 and Pablo Correa (Defensor) 10.

Celebrations following Penarol's championship win unfortunately finished

ARGENTINA

Menotti returns to Boca



CESAR MENOTTI, who coached Argentina to their first World Cup in 1978, is back at Boca Juniors.

The club had earlier signed him at the start of 1987 and he brought about an amazing transformation in the team, but he left suddenly after six months to join Spain's Barcelona.

It was said Menotti (above) was lured away by a bigger offer, but he left for family reasons and there were no hard feelings. (His son was on drugs and he was advised to change his habitat as a possible cure.)

Now, on his return to replace Jorge Habegger —

under whom Boca Juniors had been getting some poor results — he made his mark after only one week, playing goalkeeper Navarro Montoya as a sort of "libero". In his first two games Boca won at home and drew away and are still within striking distance in the National A Division's opening championship — in 10th place but only three points behind joint leaders Lanus and Velez Sarsfield with six games to go.

In 1987 I said Menotti was not the man for Boca Juniors because they did not have the players he needed for his style of play and he proved me wrong. Now they have many class

players who had not been showing their potential. Meanwhile River Plate, who a month ago seemed to be the best bet for the title, have shown erratic form in recent weeks and dropped to a point behind the leaders.

At the other end of the table Newell's Old Boys have not been able to get away from the bottom in spite of having Diego Maradona in their line-up. He has only played a few matches because of international calls and injuries, and a muscle strain put him out of the last three games of the year.

Maradona still sprays some beautiful passes but rarely breaks into more than a trot. He is still an immense crowd puller and there was a rumour — quickly denied — that he would return to Boca Juniors at the end of the opening championship. Maradona has always said that his great wish was to end his playing days with Boca Juniors of which he is a fan.

"I will stay with Newell's even if they are relegated," Maradona said.

ERIC WEIL

ECUADOR

JOINT leaders Barcelona and Nacional, and Emelec, a point behind, had title chances with one match to go.

Paraguayan striker Roberto Cabanas (right), who has the reputation of being the dirtiest player in South America, had his contract with Barcelona (up to August 1994) cancelled and

was banned from leaving the country until he returned £30,000 of the £45,000 signing-on fee he received.

Cabanas, who joined Barcelona on loan from Boca Juniors last September, only played six games for the Ecuadorian champions due to his continual suspensions, the latest being for one year for attacking a referee.



VENEZUELA

TRUJILLANOS went down to their first defeat in their ninth First Division game to be caught up at the top by Caracas FC.

Two games were decided in unusual ways... Mineros got a "walkover" when the state's sports department would not let rival players of Zamora into the stadium as their club owed the department money.

Maritimo, leading 3-0 at the time, got the points in a match suspended 20 minutes before time when rivals Valencia were left with only six men on the field, three having been sent off and two injured after the two substitutions had been made.

TRATAMENTO, EDIÇÃO E MONTAGEM
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