

1954 WORLD CUP IN SWITZERLAND: Quarter-finals
Lausanne, Stade Olympique de la Pontaise, 26 June 1954

SWITZERLAND – AUSTRIA

5-7

THE FIERY CHALLENGE IN LAUSANNE

In unusually hot weather for the Swiss summer, with temperatures reaching 40°C in the shade and humidity close to 100%, the hosts took to the field against Austria in the quarter-finals of the 1954 World Cup. Switzerland had just eliminated none other than Italy in the first round, and the crowd firmly believed that they would reach the semi-finals in this match against their neighbours Austria. What they could not have imagined was that they were about to witness, if not the most incredible match in the history of football, then certainly the most incredible match in the history of the World Cup. It set a record for the most goals scored in a World Cup final tournament match, which remains unbeaten to this day, with a crazy first half full of dramatic twists and turns. At 15 minutes, the score was still 0-0, with Switzerland slightly dominating. Spurred on by the crowd, the home team scored three goals in three minutes to take a 3-0 lead. It was something never seen before: a phenomenal right-footed shot from outside the box by Ballaman and a brace from Hügi. The crowd went wild for 10 minutes, then Austria managed to do even better, scoring four goals in seven minutes and completely turning the result around! Among other things, with remarkable ballistic feats: two rockets from Wagner, a spectacular left-footed volley from Alfred Körner and the signature of captain Ocwirk, who silenced the stadium with a right-footed shot into the corner. For those who lost count, the score was now 3-4 to Austria. The heat probably melted the defences, because two minutes later, from a perfect cross by Robert Körner, his brother Alfred intervened to make it 3-5, anticipating the goalkeeper with his left foot (five goals in nine minutes for Austria). Switzerland refused to give up and reduced the deficit once again thanks to centre forward Ballaman, who collected a long ball and surprised Schmied with a beautiful left-footed lob. But it was Austria who played better, in fact, after the first 20 minutes of blackout (the reports at the time spoke of 'sunstroke' for the Austrian goalkeeper and some players), it re-emerged from the underworld with devastating power, always with first-time plays or sharp incursions on the wings, but above all with crazy shots from outside the area, of which this match has an almost unrepeatable collection. The Austrian Stojaspal broke free in Bocquet's area with a spectacular move (heel and nutmeg on the defender), who brought him down, resulting in a clear penalty for Austria. But Robert Körner kicked wide with his right foot and the score remained unchanged... 5-4 to Austria at the end of the first half. The excitement is not over, with the teams attacking and counterattacking continuously in the second half: Austria takes a 6-4 lead after 8 minutes; captain Ocwirk puts the ball back into the box, Bocquet and Probst miss, Wagner bursts in and scores with his right foot. Five minutes later, Switzerland pulls back with a left-footed shot from the edge of the box by Hügi that Schmied fails to hold, 6-5, and the match seems like it will never end. Switzerland threw everything forward in search of an equaliser, with the Lausanne crowd on their feet cheering them on, but the Austrian defence finally found its footing and fatigue took its toll on the Swiss: on the counterattack, Probst flew away alone, beat Parlier with a left-footed touch and finally closed the scoring at 7-5. Austria are through to the semi-finals against West Germany, while Switzerland are eliminated but receive thunderous applause from the crowd who witnessed an unforgettable match with 12 goals!

SWITZERLAND: Parlier 4, Kernen 5, Casali 5, Neury 4.5, Bocquet 4, Eggimann 6, Vonlanthen 6.5, Antenen 6.5, Ballaman 7.5, Hügi 7.5, Fatton 6.5. Coach: Walter Nausch.

AUSTRIA: Schmied 5, Hanappi 6, Happel 5.5, Barschandt 5.5, Koller 5.5, Ocwirk 7.5, R. Körner 7, Stojaspal 7, Wagner 8, Probst 7, A. Körner 7.5. Coach: Karl Rappan. Referee: Faultless (SCO) 6.5

In the 16th minute, Ballaman scored to make it 1-0, in the 17th minute, Hügi scored to make it 2-0, in the 19th minute, Hügi scored again to make it 3-0, in the 25th minute, Wagner scored to make it 3-1, in the 26th minute, R.Körner scored to make it 3-2, in the

27' Wagner 3-3, 32' Ocwirk 3-4, 34' R. Körner 3-5, 39' Ballaman 4-5.

In the 53rd minute, Wagner scored to make it 4-6, in the 58th minute, Hügi scored to make it 5-6, and in the 76th minute, Probst scored to make it 5-7.