

1954 SWISS WORLD CUP: Semi-finals  
Lausanne, Stade Olympique de la Pontaise, 30 June 1954

## HUNGARY - URUGUAY

4-2 *d.t.s.*

### THE "GOLDEN HEADER" OF SANDOR KOCSIS

Three days after the battle with Brazil, Aranycsapat must clash with reigning World Champions Uruguay to play for access to the final in Bern. Ferenc Puskas is still unavailable in the Hungarian ranks, while the absence of the 'black boss' Obdulio Varela, the legendary 37-year-old captain who was injured in the quarter-final 4-2 win over England, is a heavy burden on the Uruguayans. Also missing through injury is centre forward Oscar Miguez, replaced by Juan Holberg, making his World Cup debut in this very semi-final. The Hungarian technical level is certainly superior, but Uruguay took the field with aggressiveness (the proverbial 'garra') and the match was tonic from the very first bars, with continuous frontal reversals. In the 13th minute, however, Hidegkuti threw for Kocsis, his header acting as a tower for the insertion of Czibor, who scored with a perfect diagonal left-footed shot. Aranycsapat took the lead and Uruguay played the game, but without being able to penetrate the Hungarian defence, mainly due to a poor push on the flanks, content to shoot at goal from outside the area, without bothering Grosics. In the 37th minute on the left, Hungary's Zakarias made a cross for a great elevated header by Kocsis, a specialist in headers, but goalkeeper Maspoli deflected it into the corner. The second half opened with the spectacular Hungarian double: Budai's magnificent slalom on the right of the pitch put a ball into the centre, Maspoli and stopper Santamaria judged the cross too long and let it slip, but behind them, Hidegkuti intervened and with a memorable dive, struck a header and put it in. Uruguay continued to keep possession of the ball, Schiaffino looking for openings for the forwards but it was Hungary who hit back with great danger. In the 18th minute of the second half, centre-forward Holberg finally woke up with a good exchange on the right flank with Ambrois and then a breakaway towards the area pursued by Lorant: a great exit by Grosics was needed to repel his shot, then on the rebound the ball ended up over the crossbar. It was a rehearsal for the goal, which came 10 minutes later when, on Schiaffino's splendid assist, Holberg took off on the edge of the offside line and beat Grosics with his right-footed shot on the way out: 2-1 and the game was still alive. In the 82nd minute Kocsis won a clash in the box with Andrade, perhaps helping himself with a push, he also jumped over the goalkeeper and hit a shot on target, but the unbeatable Santamaria came up from behind the goalkeeper and cleared on the line! At the other end there was a corner for Uruguay, Grosics kept it short and Schiaffino in the break anticipated everyone by hitting the ball towards the unguarded goal, but the defender Lorant was placed on the line and repelled with his body. A minute later Holberg received the ball in the box, Grosics got to his feet to stop him but the rebound was in favour of the Uruguayan who recovered the ball and threw it in. It was the unbelievable equaliser with just four minutes to go: to the disbelief of the Hungarians and the excitement of the crowd it went into extra time. Aranycsapat looked in shock and threatened to capitulate: again Holberg in the first minute clumsily squandered the advantage ball, kicking badly wide, alone in front of the goalkeeper. Again the unleashed Holberg, served up by Borges, shot from outside the box and hit the base of the post, the ball was back in play and Lorant fumbled, Ambrois broke through but Grosics was a hawk to pounce on his feet and deflect for a corner. Towards the end of the first period of extra time, Hungary also came into the picture: Budai crossed into the middle, Kocsis controlled, with a back-heel got rid of his opponent and his shot grazed the post. In the 6th minute of the second half, Budai lunged down the right, cross and Kocsis' imperious header surprised Maspoli: 3-2 to Hungary. Five minutes later Sandor Kocsis, not for

not by chance called 'Golden Head', conceded the encore, with another perfectly angled header that sealed a memorable match.

HUNGARY: Grosics 7, Buzansky 6, Lorant 5.5, Lantos 6, Bozsik 6.5, Zakarias 6.5, Budai 7, Kocsis 8, Hidegkuti 7.5, Palotas 6, Czibor 7. All. Gusztav Sebes.

URUGUAY: Maspoli 5.5, Santamaria 7, Martinez 6, Andrade 6.5, Carballo 6, Cruz 6, Sauto 6, Holberg 8, Ambrois 6, Schiaffino 7, Borges 6. All. Juan Lopez. Referee: Griffiths (GAL) 6.5

At 13' Czibor 1-0.

On 46' Hidegkuti 2-0; on 75' Holberg 2-1; on 86' Holberg 2-2.

On 111' Kocsis 3-2; on 116' Kocsis 4-2.