

WORLD CUP CHILE 1962: Final Santiago
de Chile, Estadio Nacional, 17 June 1962

BRAZIL - CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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THE GREAT DAY OF AMARILDO, THE VICE-PELE'

It was an announced triumph for Brazil, who faced Vytacil's surprising Czechoslovakia in the final, a tactically impeccable team whose strong points were their physical preparation, goalkeeper Schroif and centre-half Masopust. Growing from match to match, it was literally dragged to the final by the feats of its goalkeeper, who both in the quarter-finals against Hungary (1-0) and in the semi-finals against Yugoslavia (3-1) had closed the shutter with exceptional saves. Brazil, for their part, had experienced a troubled eve: O'Rey Pelé, the authentic number one star of world football, had been laid low by a thigh strain in the very first match between Brazil and Czechoslovakia in the first round (which ended 0-0) and was determined to return to the pitch for the final, despite his precarious physical condition. But coach Moreira, in agreement with the medical staff, had informed him that Amarildo would still be on the pitch, unleashing the wrath of the Black Pearl and the entire Brazilian press. Moreira in fact probably won the World Cup with this move, because he was mindful of the resounding defeat of the underdog Hungary in 1954 with Puskas on the pitch lame, He preferred not to take risks and put his faith in the eleven that had not disappointed up to that point. And Amarildo repaid the trust with perhaps his best performance of his career. Czechoslovakia took to the pitch in a tight cover, with practically no forwards, as the centre forward Kadraba moved along the midfielders' line and depth was only provided by the sudden extensions of the quick wings Pospichal and Jelinek. The dense Czech midfield posed a serious problem for the Brazilians, who were in turn forced into a game of throw-ins, with long throws for the head of Vava and the sprints of Garrincha and Amarildo. Garrincha tried in the 5th minute not to make Pelé regret it, and with a proverbial feint he thundered past Popluhar and crossed from the right, but Vava's volley smashed against the post. It was only a flare-up, Czechoslovakia kept the game in their grasp with almost astonishing ball possession. And what happened on 15 minutes was even more surprising: Pospichal started on the right wing and made a horizontal progression that disoriented both Nilton Santos and Didi, then filtered the ball with a fantastic assist for the lethal insertion of Masopust, who found himself face to face with Gilmar and coolly slotted it in. Czechoslovakia took the lead, a chill fell over the Santiago stadium filled with Brazilian fans. In a matter of seconds, Amarildo invented the play of his life: he received a throw-in from Zagalo and, with an amazing feint, skipped past three opponents in one go to the back of the net, but instead of crossing, he fired a left-footed shot at the first post that surprised the guilty Schroif, who had already advanced to neutralise the supposed cross. The goal was resounding and providential; if Czechoslovakia had put the game to sleep for Brazil it would have been pain. In fact Brazil were unable to gain the upper hand and only made themselves dangerous in the 28th minute with a treacherous free-kick by Didi, with a great response from Schroif. Masopust, Kvasnak and Scherer dominated the midfield and Czechoslovakia even came close to taking the lead again with a header by the tall Kvasnak on a perfect cross by Tichy that ended up unbelievably out of a very favourable position. In the second half, the teams stretched out a little, a little tiredness prevailed, which helped to bring out the undisputed technical superiority of the Brazilians, but the plays of Amarildo, Garrincha and Zagalo broke against a very attentive defence, which had in the central colossus Pluskal the real bulwark. Breathlessness remained until twenty minutes from the end, when

Zito with a central percussion jumped over the Czech midfield wall made up of Masopust and Kvasnak and opened up on the left for Amarildo's sprint, a feint back and a long right-footed cross past the bewildered Schroif, Vava didn't get there but out of nowhere came the same Zito who had started the action and headed the ball into the net. The Brazilian public went into delirium, but the match was not over. Czechoslovakia moved their centre of gravity forward and in the 74th minute there was a blatant handball in the penalty area by Djalma Santos on Jelinek's spot-kick. With today's rules it would be an indisputable penalty. Four minutes passed, Brazil, in difficulty, tried a lightening action with Garrincha, the ball ended up with Djalma Santos who threw in a seemingly innocuous cross, but Schroif, on a nightmare day, clumsily lost the ball on his way out, betrayed by the sun in his eyes, and Vava was very ready, thanked and scored the safety goal on an empty goal. The last ten minutes did not offer anything more, if not the consecration of the Great Brazil, which repeated the success of four years earlier with full merit in a World Cup decidedly underwhelming in terms of quality (and the presence in the final of the technically modest Czechoslovakia, however admirable for its determination, confirmed it), not having found an opponent of its level even without the magical Pelé.

BRAZIL: Gilmar 6.5, Djalma Santos 7, Mauro 7, Zito 7, Zozimo 6, Nilton Santos 6.5, Garrincha 7, Didi 6.5, Vava 7, Amarildo 7.5, Zagalo 6.5. All. Aymore Moreira.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Schroif 4.5, Tichy 6.5, Popluhar 5.5, Novak 6, Pluskal 6.5, Masopust 7, Pospichal 7, Scherer 6.5, Kadraba 5.5, Kvasnak 6.5, Jelinek 6. All. Rudolf Vytlacil. Referee: Latychev (URS) 6

At 15' Masopust 0-1; at 17' Amarildo 1-1;
on 69' Zito 2-1; on 78' Vava 3-1.



Brazil's line-up on the day of the final against Czechoslovakia.