

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEXICO 1970 - Quarter-finals
Guadalajara, Estadio Jalisco, 14 June 1970

BRAZIL - PERU

4-2

THE BRAZIL OF THE FIVE NUMBER 10S

If Italy was divided on the choice of which "number 10" to field between Mazzola and Rivera, giving rise to the famous "relay", there was a team that did not consider this problem, and with extraordinary results: Brazil. The coach, Mario Zagallo, former left wing of the great Brazil in 1958 and 1962, brought to Mexico no less than 5 'number 10s', choosing the strongest players in circulation without regard to role or shirt number, and then put them all on the field: Jairzinho, Botafogo's number 10, took the 7 and went as a striker along with Cruzeiro's number 10, Tostao, who wore the number 9 jersey, while Sao Paulo's number 10, Gerson, played as a back director with the 8 and Corinthians' number 10, Rivelino, played as a finisher with the 11. The fifth number 10, needless to say Pelé, took the jersey that was his in Santos and made it a legend. The Brazilians passed the first round with full points and met in the first knockout round (the quarter-finals) the tournament's revelation, the surprising Peru led by the young fantasist Teofilo Cubillas. After beating Bulgaria and Morocco, the Peruvians had been beaten 3-1 by West Germany after qualifying, losing the first place in the group, but they remained a formidable opponent for Brazil, not only because of the extraordinary and perhaps unrepeatable generation of talent they fielded, but also because of the altitude habit they could boast compared to the Cariocas. In fact, to avoid going into

In the fourth minute, Gerson illuminated with an inviting assist for Pelé, who, on the run, first controlled the ball with his chest, then with his knee, penetrated the area and beat Rubinos with his right foot, but the ball ended up on the post. The Brazilians' spectacular back-heel shots sent the crowd into raptures, Peru tried to defend but never saw the ball. In the 11th minute, Campos missed a throw-in, Tostao recovered and served Rivelino, who hit a great low left-footed shot from outside the box and scored Brazil's 1-0 goal: the return effect of the Brazilian's left-footed shot would only be equalled 25 years later by another Brazilian national, Roberto Carlos. Shortly afterwards, a tightrope walk between Pelé and Tostao on the edge of the area is seen all in heels, then Pelé is brutally mown down to prevent him from heading the ball into the goal. On the corner kick following the free-kick, Rivelino served Tostao who, from a very angled position, almost on the left-hand side, invented an impossible diagonal at the first post, surprising Rubinos and making it 2-0. In the 17th minute, Rivelino scored again on a lightning free kick from 40 metres, but the referee cancelled because it was an indirect free kick. Brazil caught their breath and it was Peru's turn to put on a show, and they were not to be outdone: on 21 minutes Cubillas, Mifflin and Leon triangulated at speed with quick touches, then Cubillas went for a shot but it was parried with some difficulty by Felix. In the 28th minute captain Chumpitaz made a long run down the left flank, where the powerful Gallardo was tackled by Carlos Alberto, skipped past him and exploded with a powerful left-footed diagonal that surprised the uncertain Felix at the first post: 2-1 and the game was still open. Peru pressed for an equaliser, but it was Brazil who were most dangerous with lightning-fast counter-attacks: in the 34th minute Tostao slalomed past three opponents but was stopped by the Peruvian goalkeeper. Shortly afterwards Pelé hit another clamorous post with a sudden left-footed shot from outside the area that the goalkeeper could not hold, but was saved by the upright on his right. Rivelino also came close to scoring before the end but the result remained in the balance. In the second half Brazil continued the show, managing to score 3-1 after

7 minutes with Tostao, who was quick to tap into the net on an assist from Pelé with the complicity of poor defender Fernandez, who had already risked two own goals in an attempt to stop the Greenoro juggernaut. But just when the game seemed to be over, Cubillas opened it again with a beautiful right-footed volley on a defensive rebound by Marco Antonio. It was a festival of goals and great football: newcomer Paulo Cesar found the crossbar on a free kick but Rubinos flew in to deflect. And so it was Jairzinho's turn again (his fifth goal at the World Cup) to close the scoring, on a delightful assist from the inspired Rivelino, he even skipped past the outgoing goalkeeper before depositing into the net. Brazil could not stop having fun and entertaining, and still found a couple of good chances inspired by the other newcomer Roberto, but Pelé and Tostao were unlucky in their conclusions. For Peru, Cubillas again committed Felix with a fine left-footed shot, and by the 90th minute the crowd were ecstatic with the dozens of spectacular actions they had witnessed, and Brazil, even before they had won the title, were already in the hearts of football lovers all over the world.

BRAZIL: Felix 6.5, Brito 6, Piazza 6, Carlos Alberto 6, Clodoaldo 6, Marco Antonio 6, Jairzinho 7.5 (from 80' Roberto 6.5), Gerson 7 (from 67' Paulo Cesar 7), Tostao 8, Pelé 8, Rivelino 8. Coach Mario Zagallo.

PERU: Rubinos 6, Campos 4.5, Fernandez 4, Chumpitaz 5.5, Fuentes 5, Mifflin 6.5, Challe 6, Baylon 5.5 (from 54' Sotil 6.5), Leon 5.5 (from 61' Reyes 5.5), Cubillas 7, Gallardo 6. Referee: Loraux (BEL) 7

On 11' Rivelino 1-0; on 15' Tostao 2-0; on 28' Gallardo 2-1.

On 52' Tostao 3-1; on 70' Cubillas 3-2; on 75' Jairzinho 4-2.



The formidable Brazil 1970 won by showmanship.