

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEXICO 1970 -  
Semifinal Guadalajara, Estadio Jalisco, 17 June  
1970

## **BRAZIL - URUGUAY**

**3-1**

### **PELE'S FEINT TO MAZURKIEVICZ**

At the same time as Italy-West Germany the other World Cup semi-final took place: the real news was that for the first time Brazil went down. After four perfect matches, played and won with goals and spectacle, the Brazil of the five number 10s finds itself facing the most hostile team of the World Cup, the black beast Uruguay, exactly 20 years after the resounding thud at the Maracanã in 1950. Uruguay, decidedly inferior on a technical level, took the field relying entirely on running, pressing and a masculine game, with entrances on the legs of the Brazilian jugglers to make them dribble. Spanish referee Ortiz de Mendibil drew numerous yellow cards for the Uruguayans without, however, protecting the Rioja stars to any great extent, who suffered Uruguay's aggressiveness in the first few minutes, so much so that they almost did not manage to go beyond their own half of the field. The coup de grace came in the 19th minute: Morales intercepted a pass from Brito to Carlos Alberto and sent Cubilla on the right, who controlled the ball on the run from a great position.

He hit a perfect diagonal shot that beat Felix. Uruguay closed in defensively with 11 men and Brazil were unable to react, with the spectre of a resounding elimination weighing on the shoulders of the players: Pelé himself touched only one ball in the entire first half, and in the 25th minute, on a throw into the box by Everaldo, he made an exceptional stop that took out Montero, who was forced to harpoon him from behind. Pelé fell but the referee did not whistle, and for the Brazilians the nightmare continued. Moreover, Uruguay were always frightening on the counter-attack, Morales and Cubilla were two splinters and Carlos Alberto was forced into a bad foul in the 33rd minute to stop Morales. The only one to shake up the Greenoros was Rivelino: the ingenious little moustache pulled off a couple of serpentine moves with feints that had to be watched in slow motion to appreciate their beauty, and showed his team-mates that the opponent was not exactly insurmountable. Rivelino himself, on an off-centre free-kick on the left, went over the barrier but found Mazurkievitz ready to deflect. Towards the end of the first half, Brazil found the equaliser with the first action worthy of the name, which showed that great teams are often helped by luck. Clodoaldo, usually a tidy, if technically gifted, midfielder player, became a phenomenon with an effective triangle with Tostao, who returned the ball to him in the box, a fantastic outside-right volley towards the far post that caught the Uruguayan goalkeeper off-guard. The first half ended and the match was tied and wide open. But in the second half, the Uruguayan players' athleticism waned, and they were left with no other option but to play hard to limit the growing Brazilian dominance: Ubinas' entrance on Jairzinho in the 55th minute was penal code. In the 58th minute Pelé woke up: a marvellous progression, starting from his own half of the pitch he leapt over the entire Uruguayan defence until entering the area he was tackled by Ancheta, the last defender. Pelé's speed on impact made him roll almost as far as the goal, but the referee incredibly whistled for a free kick from the edge of the area amid protests from the Brazilians. Pelé himself kicked the free kick badly, but on Mazurkievitz's wrong clearance, the ball spilled right into the three-quarter of the field in the vicinity of Pelé who, without thinking twice, hit the ball on the volley towards the goal at half height with a perfect technical gesture: the Albicelestial goalkeeper promptly returned to the goal and parried it amid the roar of the public enraptured by the play of the Brazilian number 10. The match was decided in the 76th minute when Pelé's backheel served Tostao, who sent Jairzinho off on the run. The Brazilian sprinted past the slow Matosas and, as the goalkeeper came out, struck him with a diagonal touch. Uruguayan misconduct escalated, so much so that it was surprising the referee hadn't thrown anyone out yet.

no one yet, but while Brazil seemed to manage the scoreline with ease, the finale became fiery. In the 87th minute, Mujica advanced down the left and sent in a long cross that caught Cubilla unmarked and free to head in front of goal: Felix was prodigious in his save. Two minutes later, on Uruguay's final forcing, the Brazilian counter-attack began with Pelé unstoppable, who advanced with the ball on his feet, entered the area and then touched out to the onrushing Rivelino, who fired a powerful left-footer that beat Mazurkievitz. 3-1. There was still time for a legendary action: with Uruguay demoralised Jairzinho stole the ball in midfield and passed to Tostao, who with a fantastic assist changed the play on the opposite side where Pelé was galloping solo. When the ball was about to reach him, and with the goalkeeper coming towards him, Pelé pretended to touch the ball but let it slip past him, deceiving the goalkeeper who was surprised, then returned to the ball and with a flying turn tried to score the goal of the century, but the diagonal shot grazed the post by a few centimetres. Immediately afterwards the referee whistled the end and this action remains another legendary magic from the unparalleled career of Edson Arantes do Nascimento, the Black Pearl.

BRAZIL: Felix 7, Brito 6, Piazza 6.5, Carlos Alberto 6, Clodoaldo 7, Everaldo 7, Jairzinho 7.5, Gerson 6.5, Tostao 7, Pelé 8, Rivelino 7. Coach Mario Zagallo.

URUGUAY: Mazurkiewicz 5.5, Ancheta 5.5, Matosas 5, Ubinas 5, Montero 5.5, Mujica 5.5, Cubilla 7, Fontes 5.5, Cortez 6, Maneiro 5.5 (*from 77' Esparrago sv*), Morales 6.5. Manager: Juan Holberg.

Referee: Ortiz de Mendibil (SPA) 5

On 19' Cubilla 0-1; on 44' Clodoaldo 1-1.

On 76' Jairzinho 2-1; on 89' Rivelino 3-1.