

WORLD CUP GERMANY 1974 / Second Round Dortmund,
Westfalenstadion, July 3, 1974

HOLLAND - BRAZIL

2-0

SOCCER LESSON TO BRAZIL

Holland and Brazil arrive at the third and final match of the second round of the 1974 World Cup with full points, but thanks to a bombastic 4-0 victory over Argentina, Holland has 2 out of 3 results at its disposal to reach the final. Brazil had greatly disappointed soccer fans; after thrilling the world with the spectacle it offered in Mexico in '70, this national team had severe problems with generational turnover. Of the "magnificent 5 number 10s" of four years earlier, only Jairzinho and Rivelino were left, with the former in clear involution from a physical point of view (in Mexico he looked like a Martian, in Germany unfortunately he had become human again) and the latter placed in the control booth, with the inclusion of two unconvincing forwards like Paulo Cesar and Valdomiro and two midfielders with good feet like Dirceu and Carpegiani. A good team but a thousand miles away from Pelé's Brazil. In the first round it had debuted with two dreary zero-zeroes with Scotland and Yugoslavia and then achieved qualification in the second round by winning the only game against Zaire. Better in the second round where Rivelino had given first a narrow success over East Germany and then the first of two goals that beat Argentina (Jairzinho's decisive goal) 2-1. After annihilating Argentina, the Netherlands had also nimbly beaten East Germany 2-0 but to reach the final they would have to withstand the assaults of the

Brazil, in a challenge that promised to be very spectacular. Right from the start the Dutch took the ball in their hands with their characteristic tactic of ball possession and continuous movement, always with seven players setting up and as many falling back as soon as the ball passed into the opponent's feet: in particular, the very high tempo pressing put the slow Brazilians in trouble and they were unable to set up any action. The Netherlands can manage the result but soon pushes forward and in the 7th minute Rep is served on the run by a sumptuous outside throw from Van Hanegem, cross into the middle where Ze Maria goes into confusion and miscontrols serving Crujff, immediate left from the Dutch star and an instinct miracle from Leao who deflects into the corner. Brazil grows as the minutes go by trying to make the most of the few balls available with long throws to the forwards: in the 14th minute on one of these throws, Valdomiro makes a great play and with a dribble header skips past Krol, then sombrero's Haan and finds himself in front of Jongbloed in a reckless exit, but instead of looking for the conclusion he lets himself fall looking for the penalty but the referee does not bite. In the 25th minute Rivelino makes a space feint of his own and then touches on Dirceu, a filtering assist for Paulo Cesar on suspicion of being offside who kicks out from an excellent position. When the Dutch realize that the linesman has not raised his flag they breathe a big sigh of relief. The Netherlands does not stand idly by, again Van Hanegem with his velvety left-footed shot launches Suurbier who has surprisingly infiltrated on the left flank, the full-back penetrates the box and promptly shoots but Leao punches it away. The match turns edgy, Krol comes in hard on Ze Maria, who a minute later retaliates with a blatant tackle on Crujff borrowed from a rugby match. The referee cautions the Brazilian but it was probably a red card intervention. In the 40th minute Neeskens gets a headbutt with the ball away, the referee (and the cameras) do not see and Brazil takes advantage of the moment of confusion to unleash a very dangerous counterattack: Valdomiro crosses from the right, the ball reaches Dirceu but his shot bounces off Jairzinho, who in turn tries to put it in but Rijsbergen slips over him to deflect the conclusion that rolls, rolls, rolls slowly to an unmarked goalkeeper and

grazing the post ends up on the bottom. The Dutch are furious with the referee for not stopping the game, and it takes a couple of minutes before Neeskens is back on his feet with a black eye, which he evidently did not do to himself. The last minutes of the game are a real manhunt, every intervention is a foul, on either side, and referee Tschenscher struggles to keep the game in his grasp and hands out yellow cards. At 0-0 we go to rest to calm tempers. Brazil restarts on the attack and at the first opportunity the Dutch counter-attack is decisive: Van Hanegem launches Neeskens who exchanges with Crujiff, who closes the long triangle by launching the ball into the box, where Neeskens slides in and acrobatically arrives on the ball inventing a mocking lob that beats Leao. Fantastic goal and Holland takes the lead. The minutes pass and Brazil's frustration increases, forced to submit to Dutch play and unable to take possession of the ball. In the 65th minute Krol escapes down the left and crosses for Crujiff, who with a magnificent split anticipates Mario Marinho and puts in the net. The Brazilians protest a suspected offside by Rensenbrink early in the action; Rensenbrink himself leaves the field shortly afterwards due to a strain and De Jong enters. Brazil threw themselves forward with the force of desperation and the Netherlands struck on the counterattack: Mario Marinho was pardoned by the referee after a last-man foul on Rep thrown into the net (he was already cautioned). Brazil's only opportunity comes in the 82nd minute but Valdomiro's free kick from the edge grazes the post. Immediately afterwards there is a killer intervention by Luis Pereira on Neeskens in midfield: already cautioned, he is rightly sent off. Leaving the field he responds to the insults of the Dutch public by showing all the frustration of the Brazilians, who in Dortmund not only lose the title of world champions, but also that of the most spectacular. In front of the Holland of the fabulous Crujiff they suffered a more modern, more concrete, more beautiful soccer.

HOLLAND: Jongbloed 6.5, Suurbier 7, Krol 7, Rijsbergen 7, Haan 6.5, Jansen 6.5, Van Hanegem 7, Neeskens 7 (*from 86' Israel sv*), Rep 6.5, Crujiff 8, Rensenbrink 6 (*from 68' De Jong sv*). Coach Rinus Michels.

BRAZIL: Leao 6, Ze Maria 5, Mario Marinho 5, Luis Pereira 5, Francisco Marinho 5.5, Carpegiani 5.5, Valdomiro 6, Dirceu 6, Paulo Cesar 4.5 (*from 62' Mirandinha 5*), Rivelino 6, Jairzinho 5. Coach Mario Zagallo.

Referee: Tschenscher (GER) 6

On 50 minutes Neeskens 1-0; on 65 minutes Crujiff 2-0.

In the 83rd minute Luis Pereira was sent off.



Rep, Crujiff and Neeskens celebrate getting into the final.