

WORLD CUP SPAIN 1982 / Final Madrid,
Estadio Bernabeu, 11 July 1982

ITALY - WEST GERMANY

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THE SCREAM OF MARCO TARDELLI

Of the 90,000 spectators present at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, the vast majority were Italian and the enthusiasm for the Azzurri's feat was sky-high. The two coaches' approaches to the final were opposite: Bearzot was prudent and, forced to renounce the injured Antognoni, the lighthouse of the Azzurri midfield, replaced him with a defender such as Bergomi, deploying an unbreakable defence with Zoff, Gentile, Cabrini, Collovati, Bergomi and Scirea, and advancing Oriali in the control room. Derwall, on the other hand, risked Kalle Rummenigge from the first minute after the excellent remnant of the match played in the semi-final, deploying a three-pronged attack with Rummenigge, Littbarski and Fischer. Germany went on the attack trying to surprise the Azzurri, but Italy was well covered and did not suffer. After only 7 minutes Graziani hurt his shoulder in a clash and was forced to abandon the final and make way for Altobelli. As the minutes passed, Italy gained ground, having taken the measures against the Germans by placing 3 perfect marks on the forwards: Gentile on Littbarski, Collovati on Fischer and Bergomi on Rummenigge. In the 24th minute, Tardelli skipped past Stielike with an elegant lob on the three-quarter line, then the ball reached Cabrini on the left who left it to Altobelli for the cross, Conti inserted himself at the second post but before receiving the ball he was run over by Briegel: it was a penalty. Cabrini went to strike with his left but he closed the angle too much and clumsily put the ball out. The opportunity wasted sent Italy into a crisis that for more than 10 minutes was absent from the field and was crushed by the German midfield, but the defense risked little: only on 31' was there a great defensive intervention by Collovati who anticipated Fischer alone in front of Zoff. Italy struggled to give speed to its restarts and seemed to lack lucidity. In the second half, Germany started strongly again, playing great up until the Italian penalty area, then finding no space to break through; but the German domination lasted little and Italy began to grind out the game with a superlative Bruno Conti and a Lele Oriali man everywhere, who the Germans only contained with repeated fouls. In the 12th minute of the second half, Oriali himself earned yet another free kick, Tardelli took a surprise right-footed shot on Gentile, a cross into the middle of the area where several players catapulted in: Altobelli smoothed the ball but not Pablito Rossi who, diving header, anticipated Cabrini and 2 German defenders and put it into the net. 1-0 for the Azzurri. Now Italy could wait for Germany and strike on the counter-attack, the Germans removed midfielder Dremmler and inserted fourth point Hoeness and Bearzot began to see the prairies for his counter-attackers. In the 66th minute Briegel went off on the left and put in a beautiful cross, Zoff got there but did not hold it back and once again Collovati was sensational in anticipating Rummenigge at the empty goal. Three minutes later Germany were attacking en masse and Scirea with a majestic anticipation came out of the area with the ball at the foot and started a masterful counter attack with 6 Italian men who launched themselves into the German half of the field defended by only 3 men: Conti left to Rossi, the ball in the area to Scirea who with a backheel passed to Bergomi, a touch again to Scirea who unleashed Tardelli, a fantastic left-footed shot that went into the corner. Marco Tardelli's unbridled run starts, it is the outburst of a nation that had been waiting for this joy for 44 years and his run becomes one of the icons of world football; in the tribune of honour, the 86-year-old President of the Italian Republic Sandro Pertini is on his feet shouting with Tardelli, his arms in the air, among the astonished gazes of the Spanish Royalty sitting next to him. Germany suffered the psychological backlash and could no longer see the ball, the Azzurri began their domination at the olè of the

the public with every pass, a crushing possession of the ball that leads to punishing offensive actions that are never trivial, thanks to an irrepressible Bruno Conti.

never trivial offensive actions thanks to the flair of an irrepressible Bruno Conti. The Germans were forced to break up the Azzurri's plots with repeated fouls, and as soon as they discovered themselves in search of the comeback goal, they were punished by devastating counter-attacks. In the 81st minute, Bergomi launched Conti who went off alone on the right flank in a counter-attack at the speed of light, 60 metres with the ball at the foot and then an assist for Spillo Altobelli in the middle of the area who, alone in front of Schumacher, controlled, passed him and scored the 3-0 goal with glacial coldness. The German pride was realised two minutes later:

Hansi Müller, who had replaced an unprepossessing Rummenigge, took a free kick from the left, Gentile's rebound was short and Breitner beat Zoff with an unstoppable right-footed volley. The final German siege was broken by a few dangerous Italian counter-attacks but nothing else changed. In the last minute Bearzot sent Causio, a great champion on his twilight path, onto the field for a well-deserved final passerelle. Italy crushed the Germans by raising the pace in the second half, taking advantage of the tiredness of the long semi-final played by Germany against the French and always striking at the right moment with an almost mechanical cadence (a goal every 12 minutes). Dino Zoff, who almost acted as a spectator in this match thanks to an impeccable defence, perhaps the strongest of all time, lifts the World Cup at 40 years of age, becoming a Legend in the flesh. "World Champions! World Champions! World Champions!" The shout of commentator Martellini has remained in the memory of all Italians. And it will remain so forever.

ITALY: Zoff 6, Bergomi 7, Cabrini 6.5, Collovati 7.5, Gentile 7.5, Scirea 8, Conti 8, Oriali 7.5, Rossi 7.5, Tardelli 8, Graziani sv (*from 7' Altobelli 7.5; from 89' Causio sv*). Coach Enzo Bearzot.

WEST GERMANY: Schumacher 5.5, Kaltz 5.5, Briegel 5.5, Karl-Heinz Förster 5.5, Bernd Förster 6, Stielike 5, Breitner 7, Dremmler 5.5 (*from 62' Hrubesch 5.5*), Fischer 5, Littbarski 5, Rummenigge 4.5 (*from 70' Hansi Müller sv*). Manager: Jupp Derwall.

Referee: Coelho (BRA) 7

At 57' Rossi 1-0; at 69' Tardelli 2-0; at 81' Altobelli 3-0; at 83' Breitner 3-1.



Marco Tardelli's wild scream after the 2-0 goal against West Germany



The famous World Cup broomstick match on the return from Madrid between Zoff, Causio, President of the Republic Sandro Pertini and coach Bearzot