

WORLD CUP ITALY 1990 / Round of 16 Milan,
San Siro Meazza Stadium, 24 June 1990

WEST GERMANY - HOLLAND

2-1

A KATA-KLINSMANN BEATS HOLLAND

Sunday 24th June 1990 presented to the fans 2 incredible matches for the round of 16: in the afternoon the reigning champions Argentina surprisingly beat Brazil 1-0, after having suffered the carioca game for the whole match, a magic of Maradona triggered Caniggia who punished the wasteful Brazilians. In the evening at the San Siro, two other big favourites of the eve, Germany and Holland, take the field. The Germans got off to a great start by destroying the very strong Yugoslavia 4-1 and the Arab Emirates 5-1, only to draw 1-1 with Colombia after qualification had already been achieved. The Dutch European champions, on the other hand, had struggled mightily with three draws against Egypt, England and Ireland, only to pass the round as the third repechagee. There is a big crowd in Milan for what looks like an Inter-Milan derby: in fact, Germany's three most representative players (Matthaus, Brehme, Klinsmann) play for Inter and Holland's three star players (Van Basten, Gullit, Rijkaard) play for Milan. Germany were the favourites, but the Netherlands got off to a better start, Gullit uprooted a ball to Berthold on the left and put it in the middle for Winter's incursion, who was anticipated in the corner by Buchwald. Soon after, Van't Schip crossed from the right and Winter himself, alone in front of Illgner, clumsily put over the crossbar with his header. In the 20th minute Rijkaard foully stopped Voeller on the three-quarter line, the Roma striker accentuated his fall and the referee cautioned the Milan player. A squabble broke out between the two with mutual spitting and Voeller was also cautioned. As the action unfolded Voeller clashed with Van Breukelen and another brawl broke out between Rijkaard and Voeller, Argentine referee Loustau kicked them both out and Rijkaard again spat in Voeller's face in full view. In the 31st minute Van Tiggelen gave a beautiful ball in the middle of the area to Gullit who arrived to touch the ball but could not find the goal. Germany also made themselves dangerous with Klinsmann on a couple of occasions: in ten against ten the teams found a free field and the match became scintillating. Littbarski intercepted a back pass from Wouters to Van Breukelen and immediately centred for Buchwald's volley, which found a miraculous intervention by Van Breukelen in time to deny the goal. The match exploded in the second half: on 4 minutes Matthaus' bursting counter-attack then launched Klinsmann on the right, cross for Matthaus himself who seemed to head the ball past Van Breukelen but with a stroke of the kidneys the Dutch goalkeeper got there. But the goal was only postponed: Buchwald escaped to the left and put in a fine cross to the first post, on which Klinsmann ventured to anticipate Van Aerle and Van Breukelen with a left-footed touch that gave Germany the lead. The Netherlands reacted and in the 8th minute Van't Schip made a perfect assist for Wouters, who had excellent control, Brehme was taken out, found himself in front of Illgner but kicked sensationally wide. Matthaus and Klinsmann seemed undemonized on every ball while Gullit and Van Basten seemed far from their best form. Gullit woke up in the 66th minute with a great play on the left, a perfect assist for Van Basten, but the prodigious intervention of Kohler in slip avoided a certain goal. Beenhaker put Kieft in for Van Aerle and the Netherlands moved forward in search of the equalizer: Brehme recovered the ball and unleashed a long ball into the opponent's half of the field on which Klinsmann catapulted it past Van Tiggelen on the sprint and hit the post with a masterful volley from outside the box. One of the most spectacular plays of the entire World Cup. Beckenbauer inserted Riedle for the tired Klinsmann, the evening's star player, and the newly acquired Lazio player flew into the prairie of the Dutch half of the field, by then totally uncovered.

uncovered, he put through for Littbarski who smoked Wouters with a feint but found the spectacular rebound of a fantastic Van Breukelen. Germany were devastating, Buchwald touched back to Brehme who, from the left corner of the area, sent a right-footed parabola past Van Breukelen and into the far corner: 2-0 and the game was over. However, in the 88th minute Loustau awarded a rather generous penalty to the Dutch, for a hold by Kohler on Van Basten, who had been flicked on by the very active Van't Schip. Rambo Koeman dispatched Illgner from the penalty spot with a strangely non-violent shot. Match reopened? Not by a long shot, the end was all German: in the 90th minute Riedle beat Van Tiggelen and entered the area to fire a beautiful right-footer which was brilliantly repelled by Van Breukelen. In the 91st minute Van Breukelen again starred to deflect a free kick from the edge of the box by Matthaus. Holland at home without ever having won, it was the big disappointment of Italia'90 after the spectacle given at the European Championships'88. Great impression again of Germany, who, with the premature exit of Brazil, were candidates with Italy as great favourites for the final victory.

WEST GERMANY: Illgner 6, Reuter 6.5, Brehme 7.5, Kohler 6.5, Augenthaler 6.5, Buchwald 7.5, Berthold 6, Matthaus 7.5, Littbarski 7, Voeller 4.5, Klinsmann 8 (*from 77' Riedle 6.5*). Coach Franz Beckenbauer.

HOLLAND: Van Breukelen 7.5, Van Tiggelen 5.5, Van Aerle 5 (*from 65' Kieft 5.5*), Ronald Koeman 6.5, Rijkaard 4.5, Wouters 5, Witschge 5.5 (*from 78' Gillhaus sv*), Winter 6, Van Basten 5.5, Gullit 6, Van't Schip 7. Manager: Rinus Michels.

Referee: Loustau (ARG) 6.5

On 51' Klinsmann 1-0; on 82' Brehme 2-0; on 89' Ronald Koeman (Rig.) 2-1.