

WORLD CUP ITALY 1990 / Semi-  
finals Turin, Stadio Delle Alpi, 4 July 1990

## WEST GERMANY - ENGLAND

*5-4 d.c.r.*

### THE TEARS OF GAZZA GASCOIGNE

Great tension for this semi-final that brings to mind great clashes of the past, footballing and otherwise. The feared English hooligans are kept at bay by the strong deployment of police forces, and despite some clashes outside the stadium, all is quiet at the Delle Alpi in Turin.

Beckenbauer surprised with two last-minute line-up changes: Haessler on for Littbarski and Olaf Thon in place of Bein. Bobby Robson reintroduces the team that has changed gear since the round of 16, reaching the semi-finals for the first time since 1966, the year of the home triumph. England got off to a great start and played some good football, keeping the ball in their court. Paul "Gazza" Gascoigne, who was immediately dangerous in the first minute with a left-footed shot from outside the box that Illgner deflected into the corner. Germany looked tired, after a sparkling start to the World Cup they had reached the semifinals, barely beating Czechoslovakia 1-0 on a penalty kick: they played a game of containment, hoping for the play of their forwards, while the English dominated with a qualitatively superior midfield and appreciable speed of manoeuvre. Among other things, Rudy Voeller was also injured in the 35th minute (perhaps on the first ball he touched) and was replaced by Lazio newcomer Kalle Riedle. A few minutes earlier Chris Waddle had made the whole stadium stand up with a fantastic left-footed shot from 40 metres, seeing Illgner off the posts: the goalkeeper had swung in an angel's flight to deflect the ball over the crossbar. But Brazilian referee Wright had interrupted play for an earlier foul on Thon, invalidating the Englishman's great technical gesture. In the 40th minute there was the first chance for the Germans: Brehme took a surprise free-kick from outside the box, unleashing Augenthaler, who fired a right-footed volley that was punched away by Shilton. In the second half Germany appeared reinvigorated and made themselves dangerous with a quick counter-attack by Thon, who made his way across the field, aimed at Parker, skipped past him and kicked left-footed into the box, but Shilton was well placed and repelled. In the 59th minute Haessler won an excellent free kick from the edge of the box: Matthaus touched it to Brehme who unleashed the proverbial left-footer, the ball caromed off Parker who was trying to thwart him from a few paces, took on an unnatural parabola and plummeted into the net behind Shilton, who in all this made a pachyderm of himself trying to get to the ball with embarrassing slowness. A resounding German lead after an English domination. Soon after Pierce grazed the post with a header from Gascoigne's free kick, England continued to push with the Germans trying to close the game down on the counter-attack. The deserved equalizer arrived 10 minutes from the end: Parker fired in from the right, Kohler miscontrolled and Lineker controlled with his right thigh and volleyed a left-footed volley between three opponents, putting in a diagonal shot that Illgner could not miss. Fantastic goal from a thoroughbred centre forward. The extra time was one of the most exciting in living memory: in the 4th minute, Brehme's great cross from the left and Klinsmann's majestic shot was blocked by Shilton. Two minutes later Klinsmann again grazed the post with his left foot on Augenthaler's delightful assist. Gazza Gascoigne intervenes late in midfield on Berthold, mowing him down in a rough manner. The referee thought about it and then cautioned him. Gazza, warned, realised he had lost the eventual final, and burst into tears amid unrepeatable insults directed at the Brazilian referee. In the last minute of the first half Steven recovered a ball on a German defensive clearance, unleashing Waddle in the area, a great diagonal left-footer that hit the post! A sensational chance for England! In the 4th minute of the second half England also took the lead: from Waddle's free-kick from the right, Platt headed the ball in, but the linesman had

the flag was raised and the goal was cancelled. No one protested but the replay showed how Platt's position was perfectly in line with the last German defender! Brehme grazed the crossbar with a flick from outside the area and Buchwald evened the score by hitting the one to Shilton's left with a low right-footed shot from 30 yards. Nothing doing, the tie was absolute. Both teams deserved the final, rather than the drab Argentina that awaits them at the Olimpico in Rome. The penalties are tremendously ruthless: Lineker, Brehme, Beardsley, Matthaus, Platt and Riedle are flawless and the balance persists. Pierce, known as Psycho because of his unsavoury look, on the other hand, failed to frighten Illgner, who rejected his penalty to the jubilation of the German fans. Olaf Thon, the youngest of the panzers, was cool as he scored the 5-4 penalty. The last chance was at the feet of Waddle, capable of exceptional numbers during the match, but also of kicking the most important ball of his life into the stars, well over the crossbar. The English dream ended, thus repeating the Mexico '86 final, with West Germany clear favourite for the final victory. But Argentina would sell their skins dearly, playing a game of containment for what would be the ugliest World Cup final in history. Germany will only manage to win it with a dubious penalty a few minutes from the end, scored by Andy Brehme.

WEST GERMANY: Illgner 7.5, Berthold 6, Brehme 7.5, Kohler 5.5, Augenthaler 7, Buchwald 6.5, Thon 7, Haessler 6 (*from 68' Reuter 6*), Voeller 5 (*from 38' Riedle 5.5*), Matthaeus 6, Klinsmann 6.5. Manager: Franz Beckenbauer.

ENGLAND: Shilton 6.5, Parker 6, Pearce 5.5, Wright 6, Walker 6, Butcher 5.5 (*from 72' Steven 6.5*), Gascoigne 7, Waddle 6.5, Beardsley 5.5, Lineker 7, Platt 6.5. All. Bobby Robson. Referee: Wright (BRA) 5.5

At 60' Brehme 1-0; at 80' Lineker 1-1.

On penalties: Lineker 1-2; Brehme 2-2; Beardsley 2-3; Matthaeus 3-3; Platt 3-4; Riedle 4-4; Thon 5-4.



*Gazza Gascoigne great protagonist of the 1990 World Cup*