



PANDO! or GORDO? **2010 FIFA World Cup**

BBC TICKER: *Reports from ENG camp is that they never seen the WC ball until arriving*

Match 12: NEW ZEALAND v SLOVAKIA

Date: TUE 15Jun10

Venue: Rustenburg ROYAL BAFOKENG STADIUM



PANDO! or GORDO? GORDO?

+ The surprise of the morning was that NEW ZEALAND has kept a clean sheet in the first half and actually controlled play early on by simply not giving the ball away Former friend SIMON ELLIOTT, who had been training with the Galaxy to maintain his fitness, was running the show early on with his crosses, set pieces and slide-tackles

Eventually SLOVAKIA came into the match a bit more and had the better chances at goal as the half wound to an end, but by then the half turned into a battle of turnovers

Both sides didn't have quality chances until the second half when SVK drew blood first when ROBERT VITTEK snapped home his header but enigmatic WINSTON REID headed home the equalizer with seconds left in stoppage time

On a bitterly-cold afternoon, the quality of both sides was equally as frigid and the draw was more than fair for both sides Got a feeling that everyone else in their group are not shaking in fear for these two sides

NZL MoM: WINSTON REID

Former member of the Denmark U-21 side, his personality was thought to be too immature to be a major factor in the festival > Think Again!

SVK MoM: ROBERT VITTEK

Talisman for the National side had been battling injuries but finally broke through today!

Match 13: IVORY COAST v PORTUGAL

Date: TUE 15Jun10

Venue: Port Elizabeth NELSON MANDELA BAY STADIUM



PANDO! or GORDO? GORDO?

+ The bad thing about the group openers is that no one wants to lose, although this match was cherry-ripe to be a spectacle, but it became a snore in the first half

Both sides probed but just watched what the other did and really didn't threaten each other's goal The only quality chance was a quite good one by RONALDO who shook off his marker cutting back to the middle and unleashed a diving bomb that shook the L/post Ronaldo has unrivaled technique when over the ball as he does just that > get over the ball with a downward spin, rather than upward

The second half proved a bit better but no quality chances for either side and both teams looked like they were happy with a draw The only real excitement in the half was the entrance of DIDIER DROGBA who was lively once he came on

Hard to separate the two at the final whistle although CIV clearly had the pace advantage and the POR backline was not able to keep up

CIV MoM: RONALDO

Nothing new here - His bomb was pure class early on and was a marked man throughout Amazingly, he did not score a single goal in POR's World Cup qualifying run

POR MoM: SIAKA TIENE

Skillful lefty defender is only 28YO but has been a fixture for his country for the last decade Now playing for Valenciennes-FRA, was zipping the ball from all over pitch – sending in crosses from the left and taking the set-pieces on the right Sent in hard, challenging balls all day

Match 14: BRAZIL v NORTH KOREA

Date: TUE 15Jun10

Venue: Johannesburg ELLIS PARK STADIUM



PANDO! or GORDO? PANDO!

+ 0-0 @ HALF!! STOP THE PRESSES!!

Oh wait, there are no presses in North Korea

Besides, they've won every WC played thus far, huh? Then why did they have to vulture the South Korean feed of the WC Opener last Friday and show the bootleg copy of it throughout the country? Another reason (this week) that the South is not very happy with them

And, if one is to believe everything they hear, ABCs Martin Tyler quipped that the North Korea fans are actually hand-picked Chinese actors who are being paid to be seen in the stands They may not be too far from the truth as they all were well-dressed and showing off their PDAs hmmm

BRAZIL just wasn't able to connect despite 10+ crosses and 3 CKs in the first half They kept trying to thread the North defense with short, cute passes but they did not connect When the North had the ball, they tried to get forward with just one striker and they did have the first shot of the match in the 11th minute by JONG TAE-SE

The second half was much more of the same but eventually the BRA talent just overwhelmed PRK MAICON came raiding down the R/Flank and crushed home his cross/shot and it found the L/Left of the net ELANO put the match out of site when he took a killer through-ball from ROBINHO in the R/Box and he deftly slotted the ball home with his first-time touch

But, credit to North Korea, when defender JI YUN-NAM came forward, he took his chance for a few more meal tickets when he crushed home his L/Footer past CESAR to the joy of the Dear Leader and his 42 Norwegian concubines

BRA MoM: ROBINHO

The Paris Hilton of world football – The high-maintenance live wire was running all over the left and creating a threat everywhere he went He sent ELANO through for the insurance goal with his terrific pass unlocked the PRK defense A prolific partier, he was sent home from Manchester City this winter and told he didn't have to come back!

PRK MoM: JONG TAE-SE

Would have been MoM regardless of the match just for his water-show during the National Anthems The 26YO showed how important the WC is as he openly wept during the anthems – Perhaps the 'Dear Leader' told him if he didn't score that he will be "sleeping with da fishies" Or maybe he was just a bit confused – he was also eligible to play for JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA and all three federations recruited him hard

WORLD CUP WINNERS BY CONTINENT

Where they play their club futbol

EUROPE > 86

Belgium, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia (Moscow), Scotland, Spain,

ASIA > 23

Israel, Japan, Korea, Russia (Tom Tomsk), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey

AMERICAS > 2

Argentina. Brazil

AFRICA > 1

Ghana

OCEANA > 0

Every player who appears for a winning side is counted



PANDO! or GORDO? SIDE OF THE TOURNAMENT

GK: Tim HOWARD (USA)

D: Steve CHERUNDOLO (USA) - Diego GODIN (URU) – MAICON (BRA)

M: Lionel MESSI (ARG) – Thomas MULLER (GER)
PARK Ji-Sung (KOR) - Siphwi TSHABALALA (RSA)

F: Lukas Podolski (GER) – ROBINHO (BRA)

Bench: none