

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Tuesday, June 18, 2001

U.S. beats Mexico, advances to quarterfinals

JEONJU, South Korea (AP) - Brian McBride and Landon Donovan scored on counterattacks to lead the United States to a 2-0 upset of Mexico on Monday and into the World Cup quarterfinals.

It is the best showing for the U.S. team since the first World Cup in 1930.

The United States next plays on Friday against Germany, which easily pushed around the Americans during a 2-0 victory in the first round of the 1998 World Cup, when the U.S. team finished last in the 32-nation field.

It was a shattering loss for Mexico, which dominated its North American neighbor on the soccer field until recent years.

While Mexico held the ball for much of the game, it could not get the ball past U.S. goalkeeper Brad Friedel, who had another brilliant game and got his first World Cup shutout.

McBride connected from 12 yards out in the eighth minute off a pass from Josh Wolff after a fine run upfield by U.S. captain Claudio Reyna.

With Mexico maintaining the ball nearly 70 percent of the time and pressing for the tying goal, Donovan scored in the 65th minute on a header from just inside the 6-yard box off a cross from Eddie Lewis, who had sped upfield.

The Americans, playing on just two days' rest, bounced back from Friday's 3-1 loss to Poland, their final first-round game. They only advanced to the second round because South Korea upset Portugal 1-0, allowing the United States to finish second in its group.

These Americans are far different from the U.S. teams of the past, in talent and temperament. Even the fans showed a marked difference, taunting Mexico with chants of "Adios, amigos."

While the Mexicans usually have the home-field advantage, even in the United States where Mexican-Americans dominate the stands, there were several thousands of Americans at Jeonju World Cup Stadium, a half-world from home.

The last time the United States did this well was in the first World Cup, when it beat Belgium and Paraguay in the first round, then lost to Argentina 6-1 in the semifinals. The first goal was the work of Reyna, who

2002 WORLD CUP HIGHLIGHTS

Match 53 - June 17
at Jeonju, South Korea
Round of 16

United States 2, Mexico 0

Goals

First half

United States
Brian McBride
(2), 8th minute

Second half

United States
Landon
Donovan (2),
65th



McBride

Stats	Mexico	U.S.
Shots at goal	12	10
Shots on goal	6	6
Fouls	17	18
Offsides	5	1

Summary

The United States beat cross-border rival Mexico to reach the quarterfinals and face Germany on Friday in Ulsan, South Korea.

SOURCE: Associated Press

AP

made a long run up the right side of the field faking out a defender along the way and Wolff, who was near the goal and flicked the ball back to a wide-open McBride.

Goalkeeper Oscar Perez had virtually no chance on McBride's hard drive into the left side of the net, his second goal of the tournament.

He became the first American to score twice in one World Cup since Bert Patenaude had four goals in the first tournament in 1930.

Friedel, meanwhile, made a pair of point-blank saves on Cuauhtemoc Blanco in the 35th minute. Ramon Morales had an open net to shoot at from the middle in the 15th minute, but hooked the shot just wide. Morales left in the 28th minute after hurting his right leg on a tackle by John O'Brien.

The other good U.S. chance of the first half came in the 37th minute, when Donovan flicked a pass to Wolff, whose shot was stopped by a diving Perez.

Donovan's goal, which seemed to break the spirit of the Mexicans, also was his second of the tournament. The game got scrappy, and Mexican captain Rafael Marquez was ejected in the 88th minute for banging his head into

Cobi Jones. There were 10 yellow cards, five for each team.

President Bush telephoned U.S. coach Bruce Arena about 4 1/2 hours before kick-off for a pregame pep talk, and the players listened on a speaker phone.

"The country is really proud of the team," Bush said. "A lot of people that don't know anything about soccer, like me, are all excited and pulling for you."

Earlier, Bush and Mexico President Vicente Fox wished each other luck.

"I just hung up the phone a little earlier with the president of Mexico," Bush told Arena. "He was very gracious. I didn't declare victory yet, but I feel pretty confident."

Mexico, in the first World Cup meeting between the neighboring nations, controlled the ball for most of the first half and pressed at the start of the second, with Friedel knocking Braulio Luna's tough angled shot off the crossbar and over. Mexico had four corner kicks in one three-minute span, including one that appeared to have been punched out by O'Brien.

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Reactions mixed along U.S.-Mexico border

McALLEN, Texas (AP) - German Garcia, a photographer from Mexico City, was clearly disgusted with the United States' 2-0 victory over Mexico in a World Cup soccer match that he stayed up late to watch.

Garcia, wearing an autographed Mexican soccer jersey, joined other soccer fans in bars for televised cable coverage of the game in Jeonju, South Korea, that didn't begin until 1:30 a.m. CDT.

"This is the worst thing in the world that could happen," he said. "You don't understand. Mexico's not supposed to lose with the U.S."

Garcia said he could understand if Mexico lost to anyone else, he said, but not the United States.

Soccer, he said, "is one of the few things that Mexico can feel superior with the U.S."

Along the Texas-Mexico border, where population is more than 85 percent Hispanic, World Cup allegiances were tilted toward Mexico.

"I don't think anybody's in a quandary down here," Cameron County Judge Gilberto Hinojosa of Brownsville chuckled before the match. "Everybody's going to be supporting Mexico. For them, it's 'those are my mother's and father's countrymen.'"

Like other cities in the four-county Rio Grande Valley, McAllen is a place where sentences are begun in English and finished in Spanish. Red lights present a blur of music - Tejano here, country and western there. Families have some children that are U.S. citizens, others Mexican.

"This is a pretty important game here, this being a border town," said David Lozano, 44, who drove around frantically in McAllen after the bars closed while the soccer game was still in progress. He finally found a television set at a 24-hour taqueria. "There's a lot of rivalry around here," Lozano said.

Lozano supported the United States, saying he was a U.S. citizen and a veteran.

His sympathies put him in the minority.

Mexican team jerseys sold out at the sports stores while U.S. jerseys went untouched. Cars sported Mexican flags. Some families made plans to watch the match with relatives on the other side of the border, where victory parties were sure to be spilling out into the streets.

"Tradition, I guess, the roots ..." said Ana Flores, who was watching the game before beginning her shift in a hospital lab at

See **Reaction** on page 6

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