

Ancelotti targets World Cup history

Italian coach hopes to become first foreign-born manager to win the World Cup

● Ancelotti is Brazil's first foreign coach in decades

● Brazil beat South Korea 5-0

● Team improve defence

AFP | Brasilia

No country has ever won the World Cup with a foreign-born coach but Carlo Ancelotti said yesterday that there was "always a first time" as he eyes glory with Brazil.

The Italian became Brazil's first overseas coach in six decades when he took over in May and he helped the five-times champions punch their ticket for next summer's World Cup.

Brazil face Japan in a friendly in Tokyo on Tuesday, fresh from a 5-0 hammering of South Korea in Seoul last week.

Ancelotti said he is aiming to create history for himself and his team at the World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

"My goal is to give my best for the Brazil national team, to try



Brazil's Italian head coach Carlo Ancelotti talks with his players during a training season

to get them to perform at their best and to win the World Cup," he said.

"Of course, no foreign-born coach has ever won the World Cup but there is always a first time in life."

Brazil made hard work of qualifying, finishing fifth in the South American table.

Ancelotti is their fourth coach since Tite stepped down following the quarter-final loss to Croatia at the 2022 World Cup in

Qatar.

Brazil sparkled against South Korea, with 18-year-old starlet Estevao scoring twice and Real Madrid pair Rodrygo and Vinicius Jr. also among the goals.

'Jogo bonito'

Brazilian fans hailed the win as a return to "jogo bonito" but Ancelotti said there was more to his team than that.

"Brazilian players have the quality to play beautiful football

but you have to think about what you mean by beautiful football," he said.

"Brazilian players have individual quality but that is combined with teamwork and movement off the ball, and that's very important in football."

Brazil travelled to Asia without forward Neymar, 33, who was ruled out of action until at least November with a thigh injury.

Time is running out for Bra-

My goal is to give my best for the Brazil national team, to try to get them to perform at their best and to win the World Cup. Of course, no foreign-born coach has ever won the World Cup but there is always a first time in life

CARLO ANCELOTTI



Since Ancelotti took over, Brazil has kept four clean sheets in five games, a stark contrast to their previously porous defense

zil's record goalscorer to force his way back into the squad before the World Cup.

Ancelotti said there were no questions over Neymar's quality.

"If Neymar is in good condition then of course he can fit into the national team," he said.

"If Neymar is fit then he can play in any team in the world."

Brazil have kept four clean sheets in their five games since Ancelotti took over, having been porous at the back before then.

"He's Italian, so he likes his team to defend well," said their Newcastle midfielder Bruno Guimaraes.

"Especially at the World Cup, the teams that don't concede goals win the title, so it's essential that we defend well."

Japan were the first team to book their place at next year's tournament after cruising through Asian qualifying.

They have never beaten Brazil in 13 attempts and are without several injured players including Brighton winger Kaoru Mitoma and Liverpool midfielder Wataru Endo.

Coach Hajime Moriyasu said defeating Brazil would give them the confidence to make an impact in North America.

"We want to win and to grow as a team and give everything for this challenge," he said.

"Brazil are one of the top teams in the world and we respect them, but we have players who are playing in Europe and getting experience there."

Australia's Cummins admits he may not be fit for first Ashes Test



Pat Cummins reacts after a session (file photo)

AFP | Sydney

Injured Australia captain Pat Cummins said yesterday that he was "probably less likely than likely" to be fit for the first Ashes Test next month, but was still clinging to a shred of hope.

Pace spearhead Cummins has not played since picking up a lower back injury in a Test match against the West Indies in July.

Cummins admitted time was running out to get his body ready for the opening Ashes Test beginning in Perth on November 21.

"I'd say probably less likely than likely, but still got a bit of time," Cummins told reporters, adding that he felt a "bit stiff".

Cummins said he was still two weeks away from bowling again in the nets and then it would take time to rebuild

I know I'm running today and running every second day, and each run is a bit longer, and then we get into bowling prep next week. Probably a couple of weeks to go before I'm putting on the spikes and bowling out on turf

PAT CUMMINS

his fitness to a level where he could play a full part in a Test.

"You want at least a month in the nets, getting used to it," said Cummins.

"If you're going to play a Test match you want to make sure you're right to bowl 20 overs a day and you don't have to really think about it.

Noman derails South Africa to 216-6 in first Pakistan Test

AFP | Lahore

Spinner Noman Ali grabbed four wickets to restrict South Africa to 216-6 at the close of play on day two of the first Test in Lahore yesterday, despite a fighting half century from Tony de Zorzi.

Spinners dominated on a turning Gaddafi Stadium pitch as all the day's 11 wickets went to slow bowlers, with South African left-armer Senuran Muthusamy taking a career-best 6-117 to dismiss Pakistan for 378.

Zorzi was holding the fort at the close with 81 not out and Muthusamy on six as South Africa trail by 162 runs in the first innings.

Zorzi batted with guts, knocking nine boundaries and a six, combating Noman who claimed 4-85.

South Africa started off well with 45-0 on the board when Noman removed touring skip-



Pakistan's Noman Ali (L) celebrates with teammate Mohammad Rizwan after taking a wicket

per Aiden Markram for 20 and Wiaan Mulder for 17 -- both caught behind by wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan.

Ryan Rickelton, who scored a punishing 71 with two sixes and nine boundaries, and Zorzi added 94 for the third wick-

et, taking on the spinners with some aggressive shots.

It was part-timer Salman Agha who broke the stand by forcing an edge from Rickelton with Babar Azam taking a smart low catch in the slips.

Noman returned for his third

Scorecard

South Africa 216 for 6 (De Zorzi 81*, Rickelton 71, Noman 4-85) trail Pakistan 378 (Agha 93, Imam 93, Masood 76, Muthusamy 6-117) by 162 runs

spell to get Tristan Stubbs caught behind for eight and Kyle Kyle Verreynne leg-before for two while Sajid Khan removed Dewald Brevis for a golden duck.

"We need to get them out as early as possible and a 120-run lead would help us win this Test," said Noman.

"This pitch will further help spinners in the coming days so it's good for us."

Earlier, it was Noman's like-for-like left-armer Muthusamy who destroyed Pakistan after they resumed on 313-5, losing their last five wickets for just 16 runs.

Marc Marquez undergoes 'successful' shoulder surgery: Ducati

AFP | Rome

Marc Marquez has had successful surgery on his right shoulder following the world champion's crash at the Indonesia MotoGP, his team Ducati said yesterday.

The Spaniard, who secured his seventh top-class title in Japan last month, suffered a fracture and injured ligaments in a crash in Lombok the following week.



Marc Marquez

"Marquez has undergone a successful operation at the Ruber Internacional Hospital in Madrid, Spain," said Ducati.

"The same medical team who had examined him seven days earlier found that the coracoid fracture and ligament damage were not showing sufficient signs of stabilisation after a week of being immobilised.

"Given the risk of residual instability, it was decided to go ahead with surgical stabilisation

and repair the acromioclavicular ligaments."

The Italian team added that Marc Marquez "will continue his recovery process, and his progress will determine the timing of his return to racing competition".

Marquez had originally been ruled out of this month's Australia and Malaysia MotoGPs, with the Portugal and Valencia races completing the season in November.