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# WORLD SOCCER

**World Club Cup report from Tokyo**

# Sao Paulo

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**TOYOTA**  
EUROPEAN/SOUTH AMERICAN  
**CUP**



FROM  
**JONATHAN SHALLARD**  
IN TOKYO



**1992 WORLD CLUB CUP**

**Dec 12, National Stadium, Tokyo.**  
**BARCELONA 1 (1) SAO PAULO (1) 2**  
Stoichkov 13      Rai 26, 79

**Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Juan Carlos Loustau (Arg).  
**Man of the match:** Rai (Sao Paulo).

BARCELONA	v	SAO PAULO
Zubizarreta	1	Zetti
Ferrer	2	Victor
Guardiola	3	Adilson
Koeman	4	Ronaldo
Eusebio	5	Pintado
Bakero▼	6	Ronaldo Luiz
Amor	7	Muller
Stoichkov	8	Toninho Cerezo▼
Laudrup	9	Palinha
Witschge	10	Rai
Beguiristain▲	11	Cafu
<b>SUBS</b>		
Alexanco	12	Marcos
Busquets	13	Valber
Nadal▲ (79)	14	Dinho▼ (83)
Juan Carlos	15	Cate
Goicoechea▼ (51)	16	Elivelton



# Hot-shot Rai

## leads Sao Paulo

**S**AO PAULO'S midfielder and captain Rai used the international stage of the World Club Cup to demonstrate why he is currently the hottest property in Brazilian football.

Rai scored both goals to take the intercontinental cup back to South America after a three-year break and shattered another of Barcelona's dreams for domination of the

neo-Japanese star Gary Lineker, the Catalans took a 13th minute lead as Guardiola created an opening through the middle for Stoichkov and the Bulgarian delivered a perfectly weighted shot into goalkeeper Zetti's top right-hand corner.

At that moment, the Spaniards looked well on course for a certain measure of consolation for their unexpectedly early exit from the Champions' Cup. That elimination had left Barcelona's schedule clear for an earlier than anticipated departure to

couple of crosses from the left found nobody in red and blue within miles of a well-guarded Brazilian goalmouth, where the lanky sweeper Ronaldo reigned supreme.

And any intention of Barca's leftist look producing a corridor of space down the right for exploitation by Guardiola, Amor or the mobile Ferrer certainly never paid off either.

Instead of augmenting their lead, Barcelona lost it. A marvellous dummy on the left by Muller made a fool of Ferrer and his waist-high cross evaded Zubizarreta and Rai, charging in with the predator's eye, contrived to knock it into the net off his midriff.

To be back on level terms after 26

## More misery for Barcelona

international club scene. It was an impressive display by Sao Paulo — but a disappointing one by Barcelona.

This further fuels the rift between coach Johan Cruyff and president Josep Nunez, who had confirmed before leaving for Japan that he intended to stand for another term as club president, despite the consequences this may have for Cruyff's further career at the Nou Camp.

However, the game did not start out that way. The European champions settled first, contrary to the usual trend in the 13 Toyota Cup matches to date.

In superb sunshine and facing a gusting wind, on an immaculate playing surface (even if Cruyff was later to complain puzzlingly that the grass was "too dry") and watched from the royal box by Barcelona Old Boy and

Tokyo but they surprisingly disdained the opportunity, arriving only three days before the match and three days later than Sao Paulo.

Inevitably perhaps, the difference began to show as the match progressed. Although Cruyff made no express comment to that extent (due, maybe, to the Dutchman's habitual reluctance to admire any errors), his team seemed to have the effects of the trip in their legs as they opted for a cautious pattern of painstakingly constructed triangles rather than a full-blooded commitment to substantiate their advantage.

With the bullish Stoichkov operating effectively as a left-winger and the other front men, Beguiristain and the more pivotal Laudrup, also staying left, the build-up had a lop-sided look which was made more obvious when a







Turning . . . Sao Paulo captain Rai wins possession from Barcelona's Witschge (above).

Battling . . . Amor is crowded out by Ronaldo Luiz and Ronaldo (below).



Struggling . . . Cafu and Witschge tussle for the ball.

## to the top

minutes was maybe a little more than the Brazilians deserved, but the understanding between Rai, Muller and Ronaldo Luiz was always evident and Cafu, intriguingly wearing number 11, was always good for showing pace and creating openings on the right.

Zubizarreta needed to be alert to race out of his area and beat Rai to a ball as the tall Brazilian burst through a sudden gap in a Barcelona defence otherwise well administered by Koeman, but the half ended with two good chances for Barcelona.

Two crosses went begging and Bakero fired back across an empty goalmouth, then right on the break Stoichkov worked Beguiristain clear on

the left, but having cleverly committed Zetti the striker hit a feeble shot straight at Ronaldo Luiz covering on the goal line to squander an excellent opportunity to regain the lead.

The power shifted after the interval. More relaxed and growing in confidence, Sao Paulo made the running to the extent that Barcelona mustered only two decent goal attempts in the second period, Zetti touching over Laudrup's drive and Koeman striking a 25-yard free-kick just over the bar.

The pick of the chances were made by Sao Paulo. Zubizarreta needed his wits about him not to pick up a short Ferrer back-pass under pressure then the unhappy keeper hesitated to go for a 50/50 ball with Rai and was saved only by some brilliant defensive covering by Witschge, operating as a regular left-back.

But the Barca captain did better on two other occasions, smothering Muller's cross in a crowded goal area, and racing out to block Cerezo as another Muller cross from the left caused more panic, and Zubizarreta was there again after a disastrous square pass from the rapidly tiring Guardiola left Palhinha free to send Muller away.

Despite all this, the winning goal still came as a surprise. Ferrer fouled Palhinha 23 yards out with 10 minutes to go, Rai took command, touching the ball to Ronaldo Luiz before receiving the short return and launching an inch-perfect shot past a static Barcelona

wall and high into the top right hand corner of Zubizarreta's net.

Shortly after, another Rai free-kick just cleared the bar and time ran out with Barcelona's composure going the same way, an expression maybe of frustration at having let a match slip when it could and should have been kept under tighter control.

For Sao Paulo, it was a deserved victory. The Copa Libertadores which entitled them to the Tokyo trip was the proud club's first and the intercontinental title was more than merely cream on the cake, ample reward for a club whose class was evident off the pitch as well as on it.

The influence of Tele Santana was never to be missed either. The maestro's belief in enjoyable, offensive football radiated through his players, none more so than the 37 year-old Cerezo, signed in July and finding in Tokyo the honour which Barcelona had denied him at Wembley last May while still wearing the colours of Sampdoria.

Barcelona, for their part, with a bundle of goals behind them at home (including 15 in the previous three games), found their sophisticated opponents a different proposition than the domestic diet of Tenerife, Cadiz and Zaragoza.

A 4-1 defeat by Sao Paulo in an August friendly should have served as a more serious warning. It went unheeded, and the South Americans now lead the series 18-13 overall and 8-5 since the fixture moved to Tokyo in 1980.

## WHAT THEY SAID



**SANTANA:** Barcelona were better in the first half but our attack was more effective in the second and I was pleased with our defence throughout the game. Generally it was a good game. I'm glad to see how the Japanese fans seemed to be mostly on our side and I believe we have shown that we deserved their support and can justifiably consider ourselves the best club side in the world. What will happen if our best players get big offers from Europe? If you ask me, they should accept and go. But it will be a shame to lose them.



**CRUYFF:** We got into a very good rhythm in the first ten minutes but then Sao Paulo managed to slow us down and play a more controlled game. There was no problem with our mental or physical approach to the game, but a few of our key players — I won't say which ones — did not play to their potential.

**RAI:** We deserved to win. We felt Barcelona were trying to put us under pressure even before the game, but we're used to that and have a good spirit in the team. When I scored the winner, I went to Tele Santana to show what I think of him: a great coach and a great man.

● RAI spotlight on pages 48-49.





# South America

**C**OMPLIMENTS from Tele Santana (right) are as common as friendly immigration officers. He is rarely satisfied and routinely criticises his team even when they have won a match.

So when he does make a compliment, it is worth listening to.

The last compliment of which *WORLD SOCCER* has note was bestowed on Rai, captain of Santana's all-conquering Sao Paulo team: "The best player in Brazil at the moment — intelligent, skilful, a fighter and a leader."

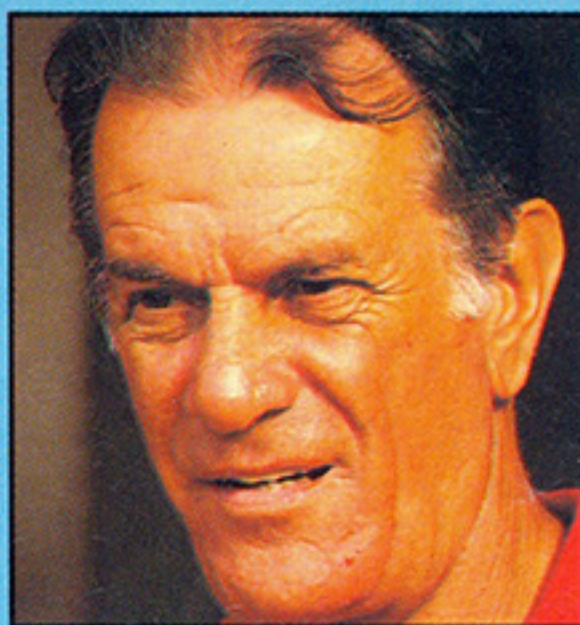
Rai de Souza Oliveira would be the man to lead Brazil's 1994 World Cup challenge and follow in the footsteps of his older brother, Socrates. His touch and vision are reminiscent of the "doctor".

His career had taken off in

the past year, during which he has lifted three trophies — the Sao Paulo Championship, the Brazilian Championship and the Libertadores Cup — and been made captain of Brazil.

Yet Rai's talents are still largely unknown outside Brazil. He has played 17 times for his country but only has been outside South America in 1987, when he made his debut against England at Wembley.

He did not display his true colours, having flown in from Brazil the day before the game. But it can only be a matter of time before he becomes more widely known. Basically,



he displays the same gifted, unhurried style as his brother, fulfils the same creative midfield role, and has the same ability to pop up in the penalty area and score goals.

"There is a similarity," he says. "We play in the same style. He liked to create moves and come through to finish them off."

But there are differences. Rai does not drink or smoke and, in the striking contrast to

his older brother, never misses training sessions. He is usually one of the first to arrive and one of the last to leave.

He lacks some of the Socrates magic, but can also be seen, as Santana pointed out, fighting for possession.

Rai prefers to avoid comparisons, because they nearly brought his career to a premature end.

"I thought about abandoning the game because I couldn't stand the pressure and the demands from the press and the supporters who wanted me to play like my brother," he said.

"The press were very demanding. They said I only played because of Socrates. I was young and took it seriously.

"It was a weight which I slowly overcame. Today, I have an independent image, and there is just a bit of curiosity."

Like Socrates, Rai began his

career with the Botafogo club (the other Botafogo) in Riberao Preto, Sao Paulo state. To begin with, he displayed the same laid-back attitude as his brother.

"I played for fun and never thought about becoming a professional," he said.

"I played at school and at an amateur club, then I wanted to play in championships so I joined Botafogo's youth team and it was a natural sequence . . . even though at Botafogo I never took it seriously and trained only once or twice a week, when I felt like it."

Rai recognises that his upbringing was comfortable in comparison with most Brazilians.

"I come from an upper middle-class family in a city that has one of the highest incomes per head in the country. I had a good educational background, private school, a good family background, which is something I value, especially



## Brazil's best

But the routine is driving Santana's star away



Muller (left) and Rai celebrate Sao Paulo's 1991 Rio State Championship success.



# Renato bounces back

**He's still shining as the chaos worsens**

**HE'S BACK.** Less than six months after being hounded out of Botafogo by furious supporters, Renato Gaúcho, Brazil's ever-controversial winger, is the hero of Cruzeiro after helping them to win the South American Supercup.

Back in July, Renato organised a barbecue at his house. The guests included some of the Flamengo players who had beaten Botafogo 3-0 the day before, in the first leg of the Brazilian championship final.

Renato, as active as a hibernating hedgehog during the game, had barely touched the ball and was the main target of the Botafogo fans' wrath.

After a performance like that, hobnobbing with "the enemy" was nothing less than an act of high treason in the eyes of the Botafogo faithful. So when Renato turned up for training the next day, he was greeted with "Traitor" and "Get out Renato" sprayed on the walls of the ground.

The then manager, Gil, did not even have a say in the matter. Club president Emil Pinheiro intervened directly, announcing that Renato was



dropped from the second leg and would never play for Botafogo again. Three weeks later Cruzeiro of Belo Horizonte came in with an offer to sign the player on loan, and Renato was off.

He settled down quickly and was soon back on form, but reserved his best performances for the South American Supercup.

He scored five goals, one while on the ground, as Cruzeiro destroyed Nacional of Colombia 8-0 in a first-round match, and was instrumental as they thrashed Racing Club 4-0 in the first leg of the final in Belo Horizonte.

In the second leg, he showed both sides of his character, tormenting the Argentine defence while constantly arguing with the referee and the Racing Club players.

Cruzeiro fans ignore his failings and treat him like a hero.

"When I go out in Belo Horizonte I can't move," he says.

"Everyone wants autographs. Although I can't go to the beach, I like it there. I would only leave to rejoin Flamengo. Otherwise there's no reason to go."

Cruzeiro were more than worthy winners of the Supercup, for the second year running, after the

hacking they suffered against River Plate in the quarter-final and then Racing.

The real "final" was the semi, against Olimpia of Paraguay. Cruzeiro scraped through 3-2 on aggregate against a team who at least played some neat football and took Sao Paulo's scalp in the previous round.

Back in Rio, Vasco da Gama won the state championship — possibly one of history's easiest victories in what was possibly one of history's worst competitions.

Vasco won the first stage unbeaten and took the second stage with two rounds to spare.

## Cruzeiro fans treat Renato like a hero

So the traditional final, in which the winners of the first meet the winners of the second did not take place.

Vasco were helped by the resurgence of Roberto, at 38, and the incompetence of their main rivals, Flamengo, Fluminense and Botafogo.

In the second stage Flamengo lost to Madureira, Botafogo were outclassed by Olaria and Fluminense lost to America/Tres Rios.

So Vasco had only to despatch the small teams, which they duly did, beat Botafogo, watch the others continually slip up, and they were champions before they had even played either Flamengo or Fluminense.



Socrates takes on Scotland's Wark at the 1982 World Cup.

nowadays, and this gave me security.

"For this reason I consider myself privileged, a person who is an exception in Brazil."

His outlook on football changed when he married and realised he had to find a way of making a living quickly. Football was the answer.

"I could still be playing football for fun, which is something I always liked and something I miss," he says. "Getting married helped. It pushed me into becoming more professional, and made me more responsible."

To begin with, he had little contact with Socrates. "When I was 11, he was playing for Corinthians. Afterwards he went abroad. He was a long

dropped after being on the losing side against Colombia.

Enter Carlos Alberto Parreira as Brazil manager, and Rai's international career resumed.

Parreira determined to put the skill and attacking grace back into the national side and saw Rai as the ideal man to lead the mission. Rai was made captain for Parreira's first game, a friendly against Yugoslavia, and responded with a 25-yard half-volley.

"It has been a good start," said Rai of Parreira's reign.

"We're on the right road. He is right to value what Brazil does best, which is skill and the attacking game, and he has put this into practice."

Unfortunately for Parreira, Rai intends to join the long list

**'It's a professional challenge for me — all the best players play in Europe,' he says.**

way away but I always thought he was very intelligent. But now we have more contact. Every time I have a day off I go to Riberao and we talk about football."

Rai left Botafogo in 1987 to join Sao Paulo, but after 10 caps his international career suffered a setback in the Copa America, when Brazil went out in the first round after a disastrous 4-0 defeat by Chile.

After a predictable reaction at home, the Brazilians cleared out their team and Rai was among those who got the chop, and took four years to get back.

Paulo Roberto Falcao picked him for the 1991 Copa America, but again, it was not a happy tournament for him. He missed an open goal against Bolivia and was

of Brazilian exiles abroad. The chance of giving his family financial security combine with the difficult situation in Brazil to make him a likely candidate for a move. Already he has turned down a £12,000-a-month offer from Spanish club Albacete.

"It's a professional challenge for me — all the best players play in Europe", he says.



Renato in action for Brazil (top) and Botafogo (above).

## IT'LL BE ALL WHITE . . .

One of the daftest examples of the chaos in Brazil was before the start of the game between Vasco Da Gama and Olaria. Both teams went on to the pitch wearing all-white strips . . . and the kick-off was delayed for HALF AN HOUR while officials argued over which team should change.



# REVISTA WORLD SOCCER

JANEIRO DE 1993

DIGITALIZAÇÃO, TRATAMENTO E MONTAGEM:

**MICHAEL SERRA**

## ARQUIVO HISTÓRICO DO SÃO PAULO FUTEBOL CLUBE

2022



**ONDE A MOEDA CAI DE PÉ**