



CyberSoccerNews



| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Home | US Soccer | MLS | WUSA | Over There | Search | About CSN |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|

In-depth coverage of American soccer
Check Fridays and Mondays for weekly team updates and match reports

Wednesday, October 01, 2003

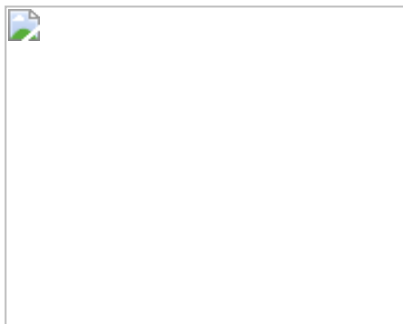
Sweden, North Korea prepare to battle in Philadelphia

Sweden faces a must-win game against a strong North Korean team

by Brian J. Hegarty

Philadelphia, September 23, 2003 (CSA) -- Sweden and North Korea meet in what can only be described as a must-win game for the Swedes Thursday at Lincoln Financial Field.

Sweden come into this game following a 3-1 defeat to the U.S. last Sunday in Washington, D.C., while North Korea enter the game following their comfortable and comprehensive 3-0 dismantling of Nigeria last Saturday afternoon in Philadelphia.



As only two teams from each group advance to the quarterfinals, the Swedes cannot afford any more mistakes and must gain a favorable result against the Koreans. Easier said than done, though. The Koreans brought a style and skill, along with a defensive bite, which wasn't seen from any other teams in the first round of matches.

Adding to the difficulties for the Swedes, star player Hanna Ljungberg injured her back in a collision with American keeper Brianna Scurry and is questionable for this match. Ljungberg, a target of men's Serie A team Perugia, claims she will be ready for the match against the Koreans.

"The scoreline really doesn't do justice to the Ljungberg showed her class on the few opportunities she was allowed space against the Americans, including when she was given an inch by Cat Reddick in the second half and

U.S. Women's National Team

Upcoming games

2003 Women's World Cup - Group A

All times ET

Wednesday, October 1
Quarterfinals
U.S. vs. Norway - 7:30 (ESPN2)
Gillette Stadium - Foxboro, MA

Results

U.S. Women's National Team

Sunday, September 28
2003 Women's World Cup - Group A
U.S. 3 - North Korea 0
Crew Stadium - Columbus, OH

Thursday, September 25
2003 Women's World Cup - Group A
U.S. 5 - Nigeria 0
Lincoln Financial Field - Philadelphia, PA

Sunday, September 21
2003 Women's World Cup - Group A
U.S. 3 - Sweden 1
RFK Stadium - Washington, D.C.

September 7
International Friendly
U.S. 5 - Mexico 0
Spartan Stadium - San Jose, CA

September 1
International Friendly
U.S. 5 - Costa Rica 0
Carson, CA

July 13
International friendly
U.S. 1 Brazil 0
New Orleans, LA.

June 14
International friendly
U.S. 5 Ireland 0
Salt Lake City, UT.

http://www.cybersoccernews.com/Women's World Cup/firstround/Group A/

Go

SEP OCT DEC

01

2002 2003 2004



About this capture

3 captures

1 Oct 2003 - 26 Mar 2004

against their highly touted opponents..." and another from Ri Un Gyong to thrash Nigeria last weekend. The scoreline really doesn't do justice to the dominance the Koreans showed against their highly touted opponents, and the aggression of the Korean defense was impressive, taking star striker Mercy Akide out of the game from the beginning of the match.

The keys for this battle will certainly be the Swedes' ability to deal with the defense of the Koreans, as well as the ability of the Swedes to handle the strong counterattacks of their North Korean counterparts. Look for Sweden to stay with their rigid 4-4-2 formation and hope that their back four can handle the onslaught of the Korean counterattack.

Not much was known about the North Koreans going into the World Cup except that the team had won the past two Asian Championships over the favored Chinese. Assuming the Nigeria match wasn't a fluke - and it certainly doesn't appear to be - expect the same fit, dynamic and disciplined display from the North Koreans, which would certainly put the Swedes on the ropes in terms of their chances of getting to the quarterfinals of this tournament.

Prior to the start of the tournament Sweden were seen as one of the teams with a legitimate chance of ending the reign of the U.S.

This match should tell us whether the tide has turned even further and whether North Korea will be a dominant force in this Women's World Cup tournament.

Brian J. Hegarty can be reached at bhegarty@cybersoccernews.com.
© Hegarty/Cyber Soccer Associates, LLC 2003

April 26
International friendly
U.S. 6 Canada 1,
RFK Stadium, Washington DC

2003 Algarve Cup - Portugal

March 20 U.S. 2 China 0 - Final - Loule
March 14 U.S. 1 Canada 1- Olhao
March 16 U.S. 1 Norway 0- Ferreiras
March 18 U.S. 1 Sweden 1 Vila Real San Antonio

International friendly
February 16
U.S. 1 Iceland 0
Blackbaud Stadium , Charleston, S.C.

Four Nations Tournament
January 29
U.S. 1 Germany 0
Shanghai, China

January 26
U.S. 0 China 2
Wuhan, China

January 23
U.S. 3 Norway 1
Yiwu, China

U.S. Women's National Team
International Friendly
January 12
U.S. 0 Japan 0
Torero Stadium, San Diego, CA

2002 Results Archive

Links

USSoccer.com
National Team_player_pool



[Home](#) • [US Men](#) • [US Women](#) • [MLS](#) • [WUSA](#) • [Over There](#) • [Search](#) • [About CSN](#)

[Advertising Information](#)

Entire contents copyright 2001-2003 Cyber Soccer Associates LLC
All rights reserved.