

Brazil 1-7 Germany match report: Hosts humiliated as Germany inflict misery in record defeat

A barely believable match in Belo Horizonte saw Germany take a 5-0 half-time lead as they destroyed the host nation

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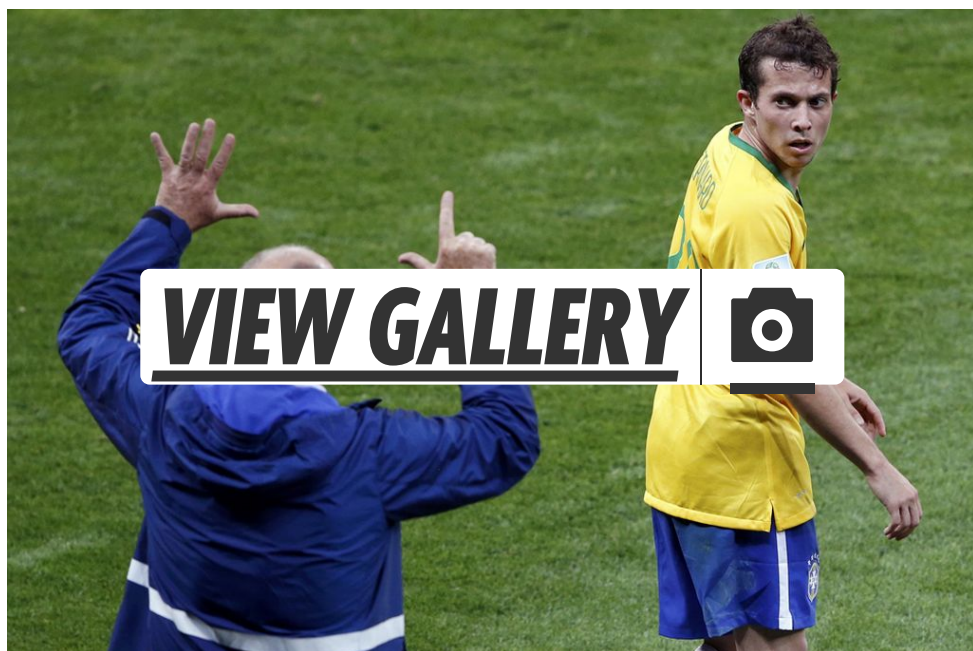
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It was not meant to end like this.

In shame. In humiliation. In tears of utter shock, disbelief, disrepair, records rewritten for all the wrong reasons.

The hearts of a nation **of 200 million people** were not just broken here **in the Estadio Mineirao last night.**

They were smashed into a billion tiny pieces. Irreparably.

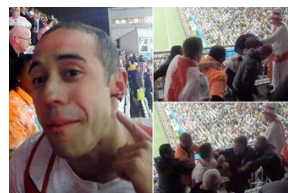
Before last night, only England were haunted by the name of Belo Horizonte.

Not now. For Brazil, this was not just a defeat, not just a brutal, horrible, soul-destroyer of an evening.

It was a demolition job. Unimaginable. Inconceivable. Brazil, we were told, were still traumatised by the "Maracanazo", the 1950 "final" defeat by Uruguay.

Now, there is a new, greater, spectre, one that will follow Luiz Felipe Scolari and his shell-shocked troops for the rest of their lives.

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One that was, truly, beyond their worst possible fears. But one that will never relent.

Ripped to shreds. Clinically dissected.

Before the game, the focus had been on the absence of Neymar, the man who was not here.

Neymar face-masks and banners everywhere, "Forca Neymar" baseball caps worn by Scolari and his squad as they entered the Estadio Mineirao.

And a wave of emotion carrying them, the 60,000 inside focusing the ambitions of this vast country, hoping local boy Bernard could fill the void. But Scolari's side had skated on the edge of disaster to even reach this point. When it mattered, the absence of Thiago Silva, suspended because of his own stupidity, was more critical.

Without the skipper, missing the brains of the operation, Brazil looked for leadership from David Luiz, Fernandinho, Luis Gustavo and Oscar.



Shambles: Marcelo reacts after another Germany goal

Instead, the men who had to be strongest proved the weakest links. And Germany took the ultimate advantage. Just 11 minutes had elapsed when the thin yellow wall parted.

Toni Kroos delivered a corner, Thomas Muller was allowed to peel away from six defenders and volleyed in unmarked from the six yard box.

The crowd, shocked, tried to respond. But it was as if the air had gone out of the Brazilian balloon. They had no answer to the calm, penetrative intelligence of Sami Khedira, the vision of Kroos, the perceptive movement of Muller out on the right.

And as they collapsed, conceding four more goals in the space of six minutes before the half-hour had elapsed, you felt an unwelcome guest at a funeral.

Germany's second was down to Fernandinho, failing to cut out Muller's crossfield ball, but it was the rest of the defence which stood and watched. Muller darted off the flank, beyond Marcelo, and while Miroslav Klose's first effort was parried, his second found the target, his 16th World Cup goal to claim for himself the record he had shared with Ronaldo.

Almost before the striker could celebrate, it was all over.

Philipp Lahm sped down the right and Muller's miskick fell perfectly for Kroos to

[boss Joachim Low](#)



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slam home left-footed. It got worse – or better if you were a German. Fernandinho coughed up the ball to Kroos outside his own box, and was just a spectator as a one-two with Khedira allowed the Real Madrid-bound schemer to pick his spot.

And the fifth followed, with Brazil statues as Germany danced round them, inside the box, Mesut Ozil pulling back for Khedira to steer home. The tears flowed all around. The faces of the fans were ashen. They had come to a party and found themselves grieving.

Boos at the break, Scolari's men trudging off like zombies, the Living Dead.

Off went Fernandinho – a mercy killing – and Hulk, on came Paulinho and Ramires, Manuel Neuer finally extended to foil Oscar and the Spurs midfielder.

But it no longer mattered. Andre Schurrle made it six and the jeers came again. With 11 minutes to go he added a seventh

Oscar at least got Brazil off the mark in injury time.

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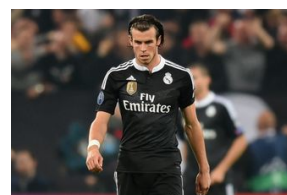
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