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## U.S. Makes Confederations Cup Semifinals as Brazil Beats Italy

By Tariq Panja - Jun 22, 2009

June 22 (Bloomberg) -- The U.S. soccer team will play Spain in the semifinals of the [Confederations Cup](#) after beating Egypt 3-0 and Brazil defeated world champion Italy by the same score.

Brazil scored its goals in the last eight minutes of the first half to leave Italy facing its biggest halftime deficit in 52 years. [The U.S. finished second](#) in the group -- after beginning the day in last place -- because it scored one more goal than Italy. The two teams finished with three points each and the same goal difference.

Group B winner Brazil, which has now won six straight matches, will meet host South Africa on June 25. A day earlier, the U.S., which lost its opening two games, will face the European champion, which is unbeaten in a record-tying 35 games and has won 15 straight matches, the longest winning streak in international soccer. The final is scheduled for June 28.

The eight-team competition gives South Africa the opportunity to stage a tournament ahead of next year's World Cup, when it will become the first African nation to stage soccer's biggest event.

Italy's 1-0 loss to Egypt in its second match left it needing a win against record five-time world champion Brazil at Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria yesterday to be sure of progressing.

[Luis Fabiano](#) struck twice, in the 37th and 43rd minutes, and [Andrea Dossena](#) turned the ball into his own net after 45 minutes to seal the win for Brazil.

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Sevilla striker Fabiano controlled Maicon's shot before turning it past [Gianluigi Buffon](#) for the opener. He then added the final touch to a move involving [Kaka](#) and [Robinho](#) for the second goal. Kaka and Robinho then attacked down the left flank and [Andrea Dossena](#) turned the ball in as Fabiano waited to tap in for his third.

The last time Italy trailed 3-0 halfway through a match was against Yugoslavia in 1957.

In Rustenburg, [Charlie Davies](#) opened the scoring after 21 minutes for the U.S. against Egypt, which would have reached the last four with a draw. Mohamed Zidan missed the match because of a

hamstring injury, and Ahmed Abdel-Ghani failed to convert several chances, giving the U.S. a chance.

Davies was able to control the ball in a goal mouth scramble and slam it past Essam Al Hadari after the Egyptian failed to catch Jozy Altidore's cross.

Michael Bradley added a second half strike and [Clint Dempsey](#) headed in the third goal to seal the win and move the U.S. into the semifinals.

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