



MARADONA'S HANDY FOR ARGENTINA

World Cup Special

Yesterday, the world drew a collective gasp as replays showed one of the most shocking incidents in football history. It appears that when Argentine forward Diego Maradona put his nation into the lead during their World Cup quarter-final with England, he scored with his hand.

Before the match, most conversations around the game were centred on the bitter **rivalry** which has recently enveloped both Argentina and England. This has been due to the impact of the quick, yet brutal, Falklands War. The war only lasted a few months of 1982, yet it still leaves **resentment** on both sides of the Atlantic.

The stage was set in Mexico City's Azteca Stadium for an incredible match of football. Both sides had world class players throughout their ranks, and with over 114,000 fans in attendance, it was sure to go down in history, whatever happened.

Despite the remarkable setting, the first half was a rather dull affair. Both teams struggled to take control of the match and star men Maradona and Lineker were subdued by some

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excellent defending. At half-time the score was 0-0.

At the start of the second half, Argentina grew into the game with the little magician, Maradona, making his presence known. A quick move forward into the English defence saw the ball **ricochet** into the air with England midfielder Steve Hodge attempting a lofted clearance.

Unfortunately for Hodge, the ball looped towards the goalkeeper, Peter Shilton. Out of nowhere, Maradona leapt up and headed it past the England no.1 and into the Azteca net. The stadium erupted! Was this Argentina's year?

Immediately after the goal was scored, English players crowded around the referee, appealing for handball. Replays then showed that the player had indeed used his hand (raised close to his head) to power the ball into the goal.

Speaking about the goal, Maradona said he had scored, "A little with his head, and a little with the Hand of God".



If his first goal had angered millions, his second would bring joy to all who watched. Picking up the ball inside his own half, Maradona dribbled past five English players and even went around Peter Shilton before scoring. Many are describing the strike as the ‘goal of the century’.

These two moments epitomise the man, a **controversial** genius. For all his flaws, there is no mistaking his sheer and utter quality. There has seldom been a player like him and questions will be asked if there ever will be again.

England pulled one back late in the second half as Gary Lineker headed in John Barnes’ cross. With six goals at this year’s World Cup, he is the favourite to win the Golden Boot.

After the game, players from both sides shook hands and avoided a repeat of the antics when the two sides met in 1966. The disappointment was etched on the faces of the English players as they came so close to the semi-finals.

When questioned about Maradona’s first goal, Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo vehemently denied it, “He headed it in. I think it was alright.

I saw him jump and head it.”

England manager Bryan Robson disagreed, “It was handball, and it was a dreadful mistake.” However, Robson was full of praise for Maradona’s second goal, **hailing** it as a miracle and one of the most brilliant he had ever seen.

Argentina will face Belgium in the semi-finals in a game which they will be expected to win. Can they add to their triumph in 1978? With Diego Maradona on their side, we wouldn’t bet against it!



VOCABULARY FOCUS

Draw a line to match the word to its correct definition. You can use a dictionary to help you if needed.

Word	Definition
rivalry	to praise enthusiastically
resentment	when an object hits a surface and bounces off
ricochet	something that people have strong differing opinions about.
hailing	when people, groups or teams try to do better or get more things than others.
controversial	feeling angry or upset about something or someone

VIPERS QUESTIONS

S

Choose two words from the second paragraph to summarise the Falklands War.

R

In which stadium was the game played? How many people were in attendance?

I

How does a player win 'the Golden Boot'?

S

Can you come up with your own headline for this news story?

E

Explain how the writer of this piece acknowledges the great skills of Maradona through the language used to describe him. (Your answer should refer to the text)

Answers:

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S: quick brutal

R: Azteca Stadium 114,000 people

I: They score the most goals in the tournament.

S: Accept any appropriate answers.

E: Accept any answers which refer to him as a 'magician' and use of positive language to describe his skills such as 'goal of the century,' 'utter quality' etc