

WORLD CUP 2002

U.S. OPPONENTS

Feb. 13 was a busy night for World Cup finalists. All three U.S. opponents were in action on the road:



PORTUGAL. The

Torcida Verde was outstanding in the first half of its 1-1 tie with Spain in Barcelona, but the game deteriorated after a flood of second-half substitutions.

The Portuguese displayed the weapons that will pose problems for the United States in the World Cup opener June 5 in Suwon.

Luis Figo and Sergio Conceicao were dangerous on the wings.

Jorge Costa scored on a header off a Figo free kick.

Sporting Lisbon playmaker Hugo Viana, 19, got his second start in place of the injured Rui Costa.



SOUTH KOREA. The

Koreans returned home winless after its 38-day tour of the United States and Uruguay.

A 2-1 loss to Uruguay was South Korea's third straight loss and its sixth straight game without a win.

Coach Guus Hiddink was again without most of his foreign-based stars. Eintracht Frankfurt defender Sim Jae Won was recalled for the Montevideo match but had a nightmare, coughing up the ball on Uruguay's winning goal.

"Some of the players who took part in these training session will not be part of the Korean squad later," said Hiddink.

Next up: a 23-day camp in La Manga, Spain, and friendlies with Tunisia, Finland and Turkey.



POLAND. The Poles

won two games in three days with different teams during its trip to Cyprus.

A team dominated by Polish League players beat the Faeroe Islands, 2-1. Poland's "A" team trounced Northern Ireland, 4-1, three days later.

The Poles made quick work of Northern Ireland, scoring twice in the first 11 minutes.

Three starters — goalie Jerzy Dudek (Liverpool), defender Tomasz Hajto (Schalke 04) and midfielder Bartosz Karwan (Legia Warsaw) — were out with injuries.