

Around-the-clock coverage

Between live games and rebroadcasts, fans can look forward to night-and-day World Cup action

BY MIKE WOITALLA

American World Cup viewers, it's time to prepare your gear. At least one VCR and scores of videotapes are a must. An extra television will come in useful if you want to keep track of the final first-round games, which are played simultaneously to avoid collusion. A Spanish-English dictionary could come in handy. And coffee. Lots and lots of coffee.

An Asia-hosted World Cup means games take place while the Western Hemisphere should be sleeping. On the West Coast, the average World Cup day starts with a game at 11:30 p.m. and ends with a match at 4:30 a.m. East Coast early-risers have the benefit of a game at 7:30 a.m. (See *World Cup schedule on Page 32.*)

Jack Edwards (play-by-play) and Ty Keough (color commentary) will be on the scene in Asia for ABC, ESPN and ESPN2.

World Cup 2002 consists of 64 games. English-language TV will air 58 live. Each and every one will be available *en vivo* on Spanish-language television. There will

be more than 120 rebroadcasts of games during the daylight hours. We're talking World Cup soccer around the clock for a month. (Add to your to-do list: inform family and boss you may be unavailable in June.)

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TV. Only one live game will appear on a non-cable English-language channel: the June 30 final on ABC, which will air nine games on delay. ESPN and ESPN2

will combine for 57 live broadcasts.

The games not available live in English will be Ireland-Cameroon (June 1), England-Sweden (June 2), two round-of-16 games, one quarterfinal, and the third-place game. Most of the English-language rebroadcasts will be aired on ESPN2 and ESPN Classic.

ESPN2 will offer a 30-minute studio show — "World Cup 2Night" — review-

TELEVISION

presence among non-cable stations in the United States.

It will air every game live, except for eight of the final 16 first-round games, which it is splitting with affiliate Telefutura.

Univision launched Telefutura (non-cable) earlier this year. It is available in most major markets around the nation. Telefutura will rebroadcast 32 first-round games and all of the knockout-stage games. In addition, 25 matches —



TONY QUINN/SOCCERPIXUSA

ing and previewing World Cup action, each night before a game day, generally at 11:30 p.m. ET. It will air 15-minute versions of "World Cup 2Night" between its live game telecasts.

On the talent front, Jack Edwards (play-by-play) and Ty Keough (color) will call games from Asia — including the three U.S. games and the final.

SPANISH-LANGUAGE. As usual, Univision will have the greatest soccer

as "Game of the Day" — will be rebroadcast on Univision's cable affiliate, Galavision, at 7:30 PT/ET the evening following Univision's live airing.

KEEPING TRACK. For complete schedules of programming on the seven stations airing World Cup games, go to www.socceramerica.com. See page 4 for information on *Soccer America Daily*, which also will include TV information. ■