Brazil's attack against the French defence

by **Zoltán Marczinka**

(Photos: Stéphane Pillaud)

The fourth round of the competition in Group A presented a difficult task for the Brazilian team: to play against group favourite France. However, the mission was completed: after a low-scoring first half (5:12) they managed to come back strongly and won the second one by two goals (17:15), achieving a respectable 22:27 final result against the defending champion. Apart from their solid open defence, they applied a lots of position changes in the back court (with single crossing - **picture row I.** and with double crossing - **picture row II.**) in order to set up their line player No. 17 Pozzer. For example:

Picture I/1 **#17 Pivot is locked between the two CH defenders when CB passes to the RB.**

Picture I/2. **CB runs towards the side of the passing, while RB changes direction to the centre.**

Picture I/3. With the ball received back from RB, then CB attacks the space between OL and CH.

Picture I/4. OL and LH defenders frustrate CB's attack, while #3 keeps the Pivot under control.

Picture I/5. RB continues to move toward the centre, while LH takes on the Pivot from CH.

Picture I/6. With an attack attempt, RB forces CH and LH to move out, thus opens an area for P.

Picture I/7. Instead of passing to #7LB, the RB plays the ball unexpectedly to P moving off LH.

Picture I/8. The Pivot catches the ball over the goal-area and shoots at the goal with a dive.

Picture II/1. **#17 Pivot takes position between the two CH defenders when CB passes to the RB.**

Picture II/2. **With the ball received back from RB, then CB initiates a position change with RB.**

Picture II/3. **RB moves to the centre with the ball, while Pivot occupies the two CH defenders.**

Picture II/4. Out of scoring position, CB initiates another position change, now with the LB.

Picture II/5. Realising the double blocking of RB and P, the LB prepares for a jump shot.

Picture II/6. To avoid being stopped by the CH defender falling out, LB moves to the centre.

Picture II/7. After faking a jump shot, LB sets up the Pivot breaking free, with a bounced pass.

Picture II/8. #17 Pivot catches the ball and turns toward the goal amongst CH and LH defenders.

Picture II/9. Then, executes a long jump shot over the goal-area line, in a clear scoring chance.