



**OCEANIA
FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION**

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BEBEU TRICKERY PUTS SOLOMONS IN SEMI FINALS

Saturday, 01 September 07, 08:29 PM

Solomon Islands sealed their semi-final berth thanks to an extravagant 60th minute backheel by youngster Godwin Bebeu that left Vanuatu in stunned silence in a pulsating encounter at Toleafoa J.S.Blatter Football Field in Apia this afternoon.

image courtesy of Geoff Dickinson Photography



The sheer audacity of Bebeu's goal could not contrast more powerfully with the fact that Bebeu spent most of the 2006-07 New Zealand Football Championship (NZFC) season kicking his heels on the bench for Waikato FC, unable to get a match for the NZFC strugglers.

For Vanuatu it was a tame surrender in a match where the option of a semi-final against the runner-up or winner of Group A was very much at stake. For Solomon Islands this match taught coach Airton Andrioli much about the structural integrity of his back four comprising George Suri, Samson Takayama, David Taro and Gideon Omokirio - in short, they're looking good, far removed from the Solomon Islands defensive unit that shopped goals almost at will throughout an at times unconvincing preparatory campaign at home and in Australia.

For Vanuatu Seule Soromon carried the greatest goal threat and he almost brought the house down with a stinging volley from 25 yards out that forced Fred Hale after 25 minutes. Soromon exited the match on the hour mark and within seconds Solomon Islands took the lead. Commins Menapi - another New Zealand-based Solomon Islander - got to the byline and hit a cross to the near post where Bebeu looked as if he had over run the ball, any chance of a shot on goal long gone.

That was until the youngster allowed the ball to hit the inside of his left instep which he then flicked past the heel of his right at a pace and trajectory that left goalkeeper Chikau Mansale and defender utterly beaten after just 60 minutes. Vanuatu were still reeling when Henry Fa'arodo burst through and put the match beyond doubt when he slammed an unstoppable shot past Mansale after 64 minutes.

Solomon Islands final match is against host nation Samoa who must record a sizeable victory against Airton Andrioli's men than hope Tonga can do them a favour and beat Vanuatu.

Monday 3rd September, 2007

1230hrs GMT-13 Samoa v Solomon Islands

1230hrs GMT-13 Tonga v Vanuatu

LIVE UPDATES:

- 0' - overcast conditions greet the players for their mid-afternoon kick-off in this contentious fixture
- 1' - regular Vanuatu goalkeeper David Chilia's deputy Maki Haitong gets an early touch with a goal kick
- 2' - a lengthy goalmouth scramble results in Henry Fa'arodo blazing over top with a left foot volley from 12 yards
- 4' - Godwin Bebeu produces a well-held Haitong save from close range on the right
- 6' - a curling Judd Molea free kick is well met and held again by Haitong
- 8' - the game is being played at an impressive pace and standard, with the Vanuatu defense up to the challenge of Menapi and Bebeu
- 11' - Vanuatu defend with arrogance, playing the ball across the face of goal following another spell of pressure for the Solomons
- 14' - George Suri does well to clear a Vanuatu free kick with his head, then clear the rebound upfield
- 15'** - Solomon Islands #17. Gideon Omokorio receives a yellow card for delaying a Vanuatu free kick
- 17' - Freddy Vava commands the Vanuatu defence well to extinguish any threat from the oncoming Bebeu
- 18' - Fred Hale ventures far from the Solomon Islands goalmouth to clear a diagonal ball to safety
- 20' - Judd Molea fires a speculative skidding drive from distance, which Haitong steps to collect
- 22' - Bebeu has a similar attempt on his left foot, with an identical result
- 23' - Solomon Islands seem to have the run of play, with the Vanuatu rearguard scrambling on occasions
- 25' - Seule Soromon gets his first strike on goal with a dipping volley from 25 yards that is easily collected by Hale, who calms play by holding the ball at his feet
- 26' - Suri and David Taro combine well to dispossess Soromon bearing down on goal
- 29' - Fa'arodo dribbles well but fails to find Menapi with a through ball
- 30' - Taro receives a switched ball and fires well wide from wide on the right
- 31' - Samson Takayama blocks a Jean Nako Naprapol shot on the edge of the D
- 33' - Ken Masauvakalo is caught in possession by Fa'arodo, but escapes with a goal kick
- 36' - Vava tracks well to block a left-footed Menapi strike
- 37' - Masauvakalo covers across field to clear a loose ball from the onrushing Bebeu
- 40' - Vanuatu captain Moise Poida hits a dipping and curling left foot free kick from 35 yards fractionally over the crossbar, to Hale's relief
- 42' - Geoffrey Lego GETE misses a headed clearance over Bebeu, but is rescued by Vava in style as he runs the ball out of defence
- 44'** - yellow card to #13. George LUI
- 2 minutes added time --
- 45'+1 - Fa'arodo shows nice skill to beat three players and create a good opportunity for Lui, who stretches Haitong to his left for the save

HALF TIME: VAN 0 SOL 0

- 46'** - #11. Etienne MERMER takes the field in place of #16. Richard IWAI for the second half
- 47' - Hale collapses well on a Naprapol speculator from the angle
- 51' - Molea crosses from deep for Fa'arodo to meet spectacularly, but narrowly miss his aerial flick
- 52'** - #13. George LUI makes way for #16. Stanley WAITA, who immediately registers a shot on goal

55' - Omokorio meets a Taro free kick from deep, but heads across goal and wide

56' - #10. Seule SOROMON is substituted by #8. Tom Philip TOMAKE

60' - GOAL!

#9. Godwin BEBEU finishes a Menapi cross with an extravagant back heel

61' - Menapi keeps the pressure on Vanuatu, drawing a hurried save from Haitong

62' - Waita clips Maki to prevent a Vanuatu break, incurring the ire of the Vanuatu supporters, but allowing his side to set on defence and escaping with only a warning

64' - GOAL!

#18. Henry Fa'arodo is given space to shoot and duly obliges to put it past Haitong's outstretched left hand

65' - Haitong scrambles to prevent a corner from a deflection, but can not control the bouncing ball

67' - #13. Francois SAKAMA is finally injected into the fixture, replacing #14. Pita David MAKI

71' - Takayama and Taro combine well to control Napropol and concede a corner

72' - Poida looks for the top right corner from distance, but it brilliantly prevented by Hale, who unbelievably manages to hold the save at full stretch

73' - #8. Tom Philip TOMAKE picks up a card for a hard challenge on Fa'arodo

74' - Fa'arodo has a go from wide right, but clears the goal by metres

76' - #14. Benjamin TOTORI appears in the tournament for the first time, replacing #9. Godwin BEBEU

76' - a Poida free kick is met and headed clear by Takayama

77' - Mermer crosses for Naprapol, but Suri heads down into traffic and Hale collects

78' - Suri again rises above the pack to clear a Poida corner

80' - Jacques MAFIL NAWAN covers well to clear a fast Solomon Islands break

83' - Solomon Islands look to wrap up the game by retaining possession, patiently awaiting opportunities to venture into their attacking third

84' - Vanuatu win a corner and enjoy a short spell of possession, but Solomon Islands press well to regain a territorial advantage

85' - Molea hits the side netting from a narrowing angle

88' - Sakama strikes a free kick with the outside of his boot, momentarily deceiving Hale, who recovers well to hold

-- 2 minutes added time --

90'+1 - Solomon Islands hold the ball in their attacking corner to soak up time

90'+1 - Waita tracks from midfield to bundle a clearance into Sakama, and Solomon Islands escape a Vanuatu counter attack with a goal kick

FULL TIME: VAN 0 SOL 2

XIII SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES – SAMOA 2007

Men's Group B

Match Day 4 – 1430 – 1 September 2007

Toleaofo J.S. Blatter Football Fields – Apia – Samoa

VANUATU: 3. Ken MASAUVAKALO; 6. Fedy VAVA; 7. Moise POIDA [c]; 9. Jean Nako NAPRAPOL; 10. Seule SOROMON; 12. Fenedy MASAUVAKALO; 14. Pita David MAKI; 16. Richard IWAI; 17. Geoffrey Lego GETE; 18. Jacques MAFIL NAWAN; 20. Chikau MANSALE [gk].

Coach: Alwyn JOB

Substitutes not used: 1. David CHILIA [gk]; 2. Samson OBED; 4. Rexley TARIVUTI; 5. Andrew CHICHIRUA; 8. Tom Philip TOMAKE; 11. Etienne MERMER; 13. Francois SAKAMA; 15. Victor MALEB; 19. Derek MALAS; 21. Maki HAITONG.

Injured:

Suspended:

Not available:

Cautions:

Red cards:

SOLOMON ISLANDS: 1. Fred HALE [gk]; 2. David TARO; 4. Samson TAKAYAMA; 5. George SURI; 7. Alick MAEMAE; 9. Godwin BEBEU; 10. Judd MOLEA; 11. Commins MENAPI [c]; 13. George LUI; 17. Gideon OMOKORIO; 18. Henry FAARODO.

Coach: Airton ANDRIOLI

Substitutes not used: 3. Marlon HOUKARAWA; 6. Tome FAISI; 8. Jacob PEKAU; 12. James NAKA; 14. Benjamin TOTORI; 15. Mostyn BEUI; 16. Stanley WAITA; 19. George ABA; 20. John MORGAN [gk]; Arnold KENI.

Injured:

Suspended:

Not available:

Cautions:

Red cards:

Referee: Jacques AVERII (TAH)

Assistant Referee: Raimana TAUOTAHA (TAH)

Assistant Referee: Teariki GOODWIN (COK)

Fourth Official: Fiti AIMAASU (SAM)