

# Brits keen to make more history

BRITAIN WINS SHOOTOUT TO UPSET BRAZIL IN SEMIFINALS



CUI MENG / CHINA DAILY

Gary Warren celebrates after scoring in a penalty shootout in the Universiade men's soccer semifinal last night. England upset Brazil 4-3.

By QIU QUANLIN  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Britain advanced to the Universiade's men's soccer tournament final yesterday with a 4-3 penalty shootout win over Brazil after the score was knotted at 0-0 after fulltime.



FOOTBALL

The semifinal victory marked Britain's best performance at the event, but the coaches and players have a loftier goal.

Britain will meet Japan in the final tomorrow. Japan beat Russia

4-1 in its semifinal yesterday.

James Ellis, head coach of Britain, said his side had the ability to win that showdown.

"Winning the semifinal means we have at least guaranteed a silver medal. But in the final, we will take the opportunity to win gold," he said.

Britain's previous best performance at the event was fourth in 2009 in Belgrade, losing to Japan in the bronze-medal playoff.

Brazil dominated the first half of the semifinal at the Shenzhen Stadium, but found it hard to break the tight defense of Britain.

"This was the fifth game of the tournament, which means every-

one is tired. Like all British teams, when it came to a penalty shootout everyone expected us to lose. But now we've broken that tradition," the coach said.

Ellis said the hot weather and tight schedule had affected the team's performances in previous matches.

"We set up defensively very strong and our shape was hard to play against. However, we struggled with the heat more than some of the teams from Asia and South America," he said.

Gemma Grainger, head coach of Britain's women's soccer team at the Universiade, also harbors high hopes

for the men's team in the final.

"Winning against traditional giant Brazil will surely inspire the boys to do the job in the final. I am confident that they can win gold," she said.

British striker Peter Moses said: "We are confident we can win each game if we keep our spirits up and believe we can do it."

Moses scored the first goal in the penalty shootout, which inspired his teammates.

"Before I scored the penalty I tried to block out the crowd and calm myself down," he said.

British goalkeeper James Alcock was in superb form during the shootout, and pulled off a brilliant

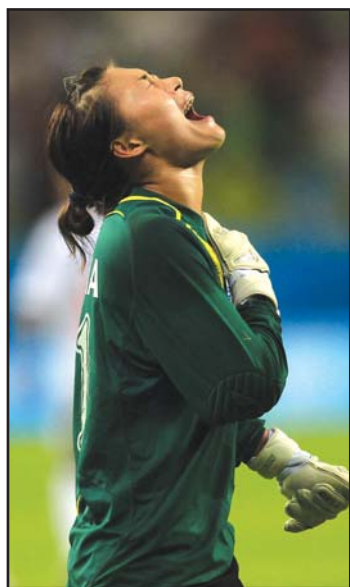
save against Brazilian striker Jefferson Berger.

"I was really stressed but at the same time I was full of confidence. I just calmed myself down and focused on playing. I tried my best and I did it," Alcock said.

The goalkeeper, 27, will go to English Premier League club of Stoke City for coaching after he finishes school next year.

Alcock studies physical education at the Manchester Metropolitan University and plays for a fifth-tier club, Nuneaton Town.

Britain won 1-0 against one-time champion South Korea in the quarterfinals on Thursday.



EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY

Wang Fei celebrates after China beat Brazil on Friday night.

## Wang saves the day for China

By QIU QUANLIN  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Wang Fei was very much in the background until she came into the Chinese side on Friday in the women's soccer semifinal between host China and Brazil at the Universiade.

After a serious injury to regular starter Wang Shimeng early in the team's quarterfinal, China had only one choice for the goalkeeping position — Wang.

The 22-year-old goalkeeper, a student at the Beijing Normal University, showed superb form and fitness in the semifinal — she made two

brilliant saves, from Brazil's Thais Guedes and Giovanna Oliverira — in the penalty shootout after the teams finished regulation 1-1.

"After Wang Shimeng's injury, Wang Fei has become a treasure for us. Every time she fell on the ground, I was nervous," China's head coach, Wang Changquan, said.

"And she has surprised us."

The goalkeeper had not played a minute in the group stage. Her first appearance was as a replacement for Wang Shimeng in the 26th minute in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

"She was very skilled in saving penalties when we trained. After

Brazil's equalizer in the last second, I didn't believe our campaign would stop here because Wang Fei was in goal," said Chinese captain Bi Yan.

"She encouraged us before the penalty shootout saying that she would do the job. If it was not for her, we would not have won the match."

The replacement goalkeeper also made several outstanding saves during the match.

Her efforts helped China beat traditional giant Brazil 4-3 in the penalty shootout at the Shenzhen Bao'an Stadium.

"I looked at my teammates and wanted to give them confidence

(for the penalty shootout). I told them to forget the pressure and that I would try my best to save every shot," she said.

After each shot from Brazil, Wang buried her head on the grass.

"It was so wonderful, but I was nervous. Each time a Brazilian finished shooting, I told myself to be calm and remain confident," she said.

Wang received a slip of paper from the coach about which way the Brazilians liked to shoot penalties before the shootout.

"I thought I had an 80 percent chance of saving the last penalty because of the notes," she said.