

Spain wins first major in 44 years

By Barry Wilner

YahooNews:A championship 44 years in the waiting is worth a special celebration. Spain made sure it didn't disappoint any of its fans, both during its 1-0 victory over Germany to win the European Championship, and after it. Fernando Torres scored in the 33rd minute and the Spaniards never backed down against such a formidable opponent. Their last significant title came in the 1964 Euros at home. "It is to me the most important day in Spanish football in many, many years," Torres said. Against the highly accomplished Germans, the Spaniards weren't intimidated. They got the one goal they needed — from a slumping striker, no less — and set off chants of "ES-PANA!" and "Ole, Ole Ole!" at the final whistle. The entire Spanish squad ran over to the huge rooting section of red and gold, exchanging hugs, while many of the spent Germans collapsed to the turf. When Spain goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas accepted the trophy on a stage, the Spanish fans began chanting the melody to their national anthem, which has no words. Thousands of camera flashes went off as the players jumped in place, then headed onto the field to show off their prize. The Spaniards weren't close to finished with their celebra-



tion that was so long in the making. They marched to their rooting section, hoisting the cup and saluting their flag-waving, firecracker-exploding fans. "We have won in a brilliant way," coach Luis Aragones said. "We will be able to start saying we can win, a European championship as well as any other thing." In beating a team that makes a habit of appearing in championship finals, the Spaniards put to rest a reputation for underachieving. Always loaded with talented players, Spain has spent four decades falling short of expectations. That all changed at these Euros, where the Spaniards swept their first-round games, eliminated World Cup champion Italy in a penalty-kicks shootout in the quarterfinals, then routed Russia 3-0 in the semi-

finals. "We played the best for the entire tournament and we beat some great teams," Torres said. "We beat Italy, the World Cup champion, and we beat Russia and now Germany. That is how you become champion." Germany has won three Euros and three World Cups, but was no match in this final. Captain Michael Ballack, questionable before the game with a calf injury, started, but hardly was noticeable — except when he left for several minutes to have a bloody right eye treated. "We had a great tournament, but made one mistake too many," Ballack said. "We were lacking of power against a great Spanish team. We couldn't keep up with them." Torres, who had 33 goals for Liverpool this season but has been invisible in Euros, came through off a brilliant feed from Xavi Hernandez. Germany goalkeeper Jens Lehmann, at 38 the oldest player in the competition, charged from his net when he saw that defender Philipp Lahm was beaten on the right side. But Torres chipped the ball over the sliding Lehmann and into the gaping goal. The crowd of 51,428 at Ernst Happel Stadium, split almost equally between Germany and Spain, might have expected the Spaniards to go into a protective shell. Instead, and even without leading scorer David Villa (leg injury), they continued to carry the attack and were far more dangerous than Germany the rest of the way. Indeed, Lehmann, who helped the Germans to third place in the 2006 World Cup, kept it close

with several tough saves. This was the last game for 69-year-old Aragones, the oldest coach to win the Euros. "The most important thing about our team, perhaps, is the manager," Torres said. "He has confidence in us and he lets us play. We have brought him the championship in his last game for Spain and we are very happy we could make this history for him and for us." Germany's Joachim Loew has a contract through the 2010 World Cup, but will need to find the spark Germany showed only periodically in Austria and Switzerland. "Spain played very well during the whole tournament, and they were technically excellent," Loew said. "They fully deserve victory." A crowd of about 68,000 packed Vienna's downtown fan zone to watch the final, police said. In Germany, flags fluttered from balconies and car antennas across the country. In Berlin, an estimated 400,000 fans watched the game on large outdoor screens. Spain has never made a World Cup final and was in one other Euros final, aside from the 1964 triumph. That was a loss to France in 1984. Otherwise, there had been nothing but disappointment and early exits from big tournaments. Two years ago, the Spaniards were dynamic in the opening round in Germany, then fizzled against France. With two of the world's top clubs, Real Madrid and FC Barcelona, the nation has tons of talent. What it has lacked is fortitude. No one can say that anymore.

Group with Clinton connections ready to back Obama



By rights, a group that helped elect Bill Clinton president and counts Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton as one of its leaders should be hostile territory for Barack Obama. But members of the Democratic Leadership Council seem ready to embrace Obama rather than risk squandering an opportunity for victory this fall. "Ultimately, what I care about is putting a strong Democrat in the White House," said Phil Bartlett, a state senator from Maine who backed Clinton in the primary. But many DLC members, meeting in Chicago on Sunday, argued victory will require following their centrist organization's philosophy. They urged Obama to emphasize practical solutions to the problems directly affecting voters — gas prices, inflation, failing schools, job security. He can't let Republicans define him as a tax-and-spend liberal, they said, and he can't let the left push him toward a campaign based on retribution against the Bush administration. "We need somebody who can pull us together," said Sen. Tom Carper, D-Md., a DLC vice chairman. "Voters want us to be united and they want us to govern from the middle." The Democratic Leadership Council was formed in the wake of Walter Mondale's huge loss to Ronald Reagan in 1984. The goal was to change the party's image and focus by stressing such issues as welfare reform, charter schools and business opportunity. The group helped Bill Clinton win in 1992, although critics say it ignores Democratic principles and the poor and vulnerable who need the party's help. The group's president is a former Clinton aide, and Hillary Clinton heads its "American Dream Initiative." Some former Clinton backers admit to a little hesitation about Obama. Peggy West, a member of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, says she's still "taking inventory" after Clinton's loss to the Illinois senator in the Democratic presidential primary. "I'm not, at this point, enthusiastic about Obama, but I am going to be out there doing doors and giving what little money I can," West

said. "I'm definitely in his camp." New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who endorsed Obama after ending his own run for the Democratic nomination, urged DLC members to put aside any hurt feelings from the long primary race. "There is still probably a need to heal a little bit," he said in a speech to the group. "It may take a little time — hopefully not too much longer. Everybody needs to find ways to recognize that we have an incredible opportunity to regain the White House." The DLC meeting took place just across a small courtyard from the building that houses Obama's headquarters. While the campaign didn't make any overt effort to woo the group, senior Obama aides did meet with members during the conference, "many of whom are elected officials who have been involved with the campaign for a long time," said spokeswoman Amy Brundage. Obama won the nomination without help from top DLC leaders, but that isn't stopping them from taking a little credit. Al From, who founded the group, argued Obama's theme of putting solutions ahead of bipartisan bickering matches what the DLC has championed from the beginning. And in the early stages of the general election, Obama shows signs of continuing that theme, he said. Obama didn't condemn a Supreme Court decision restricting gun control laws. From pointed out, and he endorsed a congressional compromise on legal protections for telecommunications companies that aided Bush administration wiretapping — two positions that disappoint some liberals. "He's shown me that he knows how to be practical," From said. West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin argued that on almost any issue, Obama can get voters to listen if he emphasizes results over ideology. He said Obama should make the case that Republicans have failed to get results on health care, government spending, the war on terror and more. Voters know Obama is smart and inspirational, Manchin said — now they need to know that he has specific plans to make their lives better.

ادامه مطلب شهر فرنگ... از صفحه ۲۷

کارهای «تام فورد» آمریکایی که طراح ارشد لباسهای آماده «سن لوران» شده بود و برای گوجی هم طراحی می کرد، باب طبع «سن لوران» نبود و او علناً از کارهای فورد انتقاد می کرد. فورد در سال ۲۰۰۳ از این کار کناره گرفت و از آن سال به بعد آسیستان قبلی «فورد» به نام «استفانو پیلاتی» طراحی مزون «سن لوران» را به عهده گرفت. در ژانویه ۲۰۰۲ آقای «سن لوران» در یک کنفرانس مطبوعاتی بازنشستگی خود را اعلام کرد. یک هفته بعد اعلام شد که آنتیه «سن لوران» به موزه ای تبدیل خواهد شد که از آن سال به بعد در این مکان کارهای کلاسیک این طراح به نمایش در آمد. زندگی آقای «سن لوران» هم خالی از جنجال نبود مثلاً زمانی که برهنه در آگهی برای ادوکلن «ایوس لوران» مردانه در سال ۱۹۷۱ ظاهر شد. همچنین با نامگذاری عطر زنانه اش «افیون» یا «Opium» به او تهمت محبوب کردن مواد مخدر زده شد. در سال ۱۹۹۴ آقای «سن لوران» طراح آمریکایی «رالف لورن» را برای تقلید از لباس اسمو کینگ و مبهوت ولی هوشیار. »

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Carry-on...

United and US Airways will allow passengers to use cash at curbside, credit cards at the kiosk and cash, credit cards and checks at the ticket counter. United will not allow passengers to pay bag fees curbside at some airports. American passengers can use credit cards to pay their bag fees curbside and at airport kiosks, and they can use credit cards, cash or check to pay at the ticket counter. If a passenger is stopped from boarding with an oversize carry-on, American will charge that passenger the \$15 fee to check it at the gate. United has not decided how it will handle passengers with oversize carry-ons, and US Airways says its passengers can check those bags at the gate for free. Meanwhile, other carriers are watching how passengers react to the new bag fees. Continental Airlines Inc. Chairman and Chief Executive Lawrence Kellner, for example, hinted that he might add a bag charge if he sees that customers are not scared off. US

Airways flight attendant and union leader Mike Flores said the new bag fees are going to frustrate a lot of people, and he is not excited about being the one to sort out the confusion. Passengers are not going to be happy when they see people checking their bags at the gate for free, he said. "They really haven't thought this thing out," Flores said. Passengers who paid the fee are going to say "Wait a minute, I paid \$15 to have my bag checked, and this guy is getting them checked for free." But the new fees may finally force a lot of people to start following the federal carry-on guidelines, said Laura Glading, president of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants. Glading said passengers have gotten used to bringing in large bags in part because airlines rarely have enough staff to watch them. In her 30 years at American Airlines, Glading said she has seen passengers bring on tubas, paintings and wedding gowns. "We're very reluctant to be separated from our bags," Glading said. "I imagine that that reluctance for passengers will grow into sheer horror now that they not only have their bag taken away, but they now have to pay for that."

Americans finally cut back on driving

IranTimes:Oil prices keep going up, but American motorists keep driving more despite that—until March, that is. The mileage driven in the United States in March fell 4.8 percent compared to the previous month. It was the biggest monthly drop ever in the United States and the first March in which mileage had declined transsince March 1979, when Iran reduced oil exports after the revolution. It's still too early to tell whether this represents a real turn around or just a temporary blip.



But if Americans start driving less—and buy fewer gas guzzlers, as they have been doing for some months—it could impact crude oil prices.



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