

TV SPORTS

World Cup soccer takes over airwaves

BY SARA BENNETT

The World Cup, the biggest single-sport event in the world, finally comes to the United States, in more places than one, and on more networks.

Twenty-four countries' teams, whittled from 143 that tried to qualify, vie for perhaps the most handsome trophy awarded in sports. Fifty-two games will be played over 31 days (June 17-July 17) in nine cities.

Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Orlando, Fla., New York/New Jersey, Washington, San Francisco, Boston and Detroit (whose Pontiac Silverdome becomes the first indoor venue to ever be used in World Cup competition) are host to the matches and the millions of fans who will attend.

TV viewers are privy to all the action as ABC, ESPN and ESPN2 present mostly live coverage of the games. Including those shown on a tape-delay basis, every game will be on TV.

Friday kicks off first-round matches

on ESPN - Germany vs. Bolivia, Spain vs. South Korea - can be seen live on ESPN2, with a tape-delay showing on ESPN.

ABC airs the first U.S. team game, vs. Switzerland, Saturday, June 18.

Two additional games involving the United States can be seen Wednesday, June 22, on ESPN (vs. Colombia) and Sunday, June 26, on ABC (vs. Romania).



Michael Blehn plays a Navy SEAL team leader who comes unglued in "The Abyss" Monday on Fox.

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Jerry Mathers of "Leave It to Beaver" was "discovered" at age 2 by a store manager who used the boy's photo on a Christmas calendar.

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