

With coffee and Cup



RENÉ JOHNSTON/TORONTO STAR

atches the match between Italy and Ecuador yesterday through the win-
ge St., one of several local businesses catering to World Cup fever.

ne said. "We didn't expect
the first game.

was all young people, too. I
s kids didn't go to school."

rone had planned to set up
giant screens outdoors for
final and final matches,
ow he's thinking of doing
ner.

ck at Latte & Caffe, high
ol students Catherine Rid-
and Ruby Smith-Merovitz
ed their lattes while they

discussed a play. "A lot of our
friends aren't fans, that's why
we're huddled here," said
Riddell.

Neither she nor Smith-Merov-
vitz is Italian, but the culture's
soccer spirit has coaxed them
to adopt the team as their own.

"I wait four years for this day
to see (Italy play)," said Joe
Rauti, dressed in green, white
and red.

"My wife says to me this

morning, 'Where are you go-
ing,' and I say, 'I'm going to
work,'" said the retired 64-
year-old. For the month of
June, he has given himself the
job of World Cup watcher.

Panucci said the beauty of
the tournament is watching dif-
ferent cultures come together.

"To everyone in the world, I
want to wish them good luck,"
he said. "To my own, I'm going
to say Forza Italia!"

risk for die-hard viewers

wearing nothing but a
dish flag if the Swedes win.
ro Trevisanato is frantical-
y trying to rearrange his work
chedule to watch as many
es live as possible.

He scouted out a lounge at
Hospital for Sick Children
erday morning to catch the
y vs. Ecuador game, before
ing across the street to a
ating at another hospital.
Being Italian, it goes with-

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- For World Cup soccer scoring updates, player statistics, game previews, contests, photo galleries and more coverage, log on to www.waymoresports.com

- Avoid or limit alcohol con-

night, make up the lost sleep.

■ Keep fit by doing stretches and warm-up exercises at half time. Between games, a brisk walk, jog or kicking a ball around in your own soccer game are good stress-busters.

■ Regular, healthy meals that include plenty of fruits and vegetables are crucial to avoiding stress. Chips, greasy snacks and high fat dips should be avoided.

Chinese revel in first tourney showing

BY JIN YUEJUE
STAFF REPORTER

Soccer fanatic Wei Zhang doesn't mind that he'll have to be up in the middle of the night to catch his native China in the World Cup — it's the first time China's made it to the tournament, held every four years.

A night-shift worker at a local computer company, Zhang gets off at 2 a.m., and that'll give him just enough time to get to a friend's house for a round of world-class soccer.

"I won't be tired," he vowed. "Watching the games is the strongest motivation for my work."

In an effort to be closer to the homeland action, some of Greater Toronto's Chinese community have flown halfway around the world.

Richard Wang, president of Best Travel Inc. on Spadina Ave., said he sold several tickets to people heading to mainland China for the World Cup.

But the Cougars, a team of 22 soccer fanatics who immigrated here from mainland China, are showing their support by getting involved in local action.

The team recently joined the Ontario Soccer League and played their first game Sunday.

"The Sunday game (was) our own opening ceremony for the World Cup," said Bob Wu, 33, who asked his boss to let him start an hour later because he's simply got to watch a World Cup game each morning.

Like many in the Chinese community, Cougar Scott Huang doesn't believe the mainland team will triumph over Brazil on Saturday, but it's an honour to simply see them play, he said.

"This is the greatest moment ever in our lives, to see China play Brazil in the World Cup," said Huang. "Whatever the result, the game itself is worth a big celebration."

Such enthusiasm has prompted local Chinese media to expand soccer coverage.

Restaurants and stores in