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At Hampden Park, Glasgow, Scotland and Spain were launched on the long trail that could lead to World Cup soccer honours by the cheers of 88,000 fans.

For both sides, this was the vital first match of the qualifying round. But once Skipper George Young had won the toss - there was time for a traditional exchange of courtesies.

Then - Spain kicked off, and the grim battle commenced ^{- a battle} that was to find Scotland (in the dark shirts) battered and bruised: but triumphant at the final whistle!!

On a heavy pitch that obviously suited them - Scotland were soon attacking - ~~and~~ ^{AND} Ramallets saved in great style.

With typical continental ball-play - the visitors dominated the mid-field play: but their attacks broke down before hard Scottish tackling. Then the home forwards would break away in lightning raids. ^{then} And following a corner - Mudie scored with a grand header.

Scotland were leading, but not for long. Slack marking found Kubala racing through - and Younger had no chance.

Spurred on by the Hampden roar - the Scots slowly got on top - and Spain had some anxious moments.

~~Then, however,~~ the Spaniards' stop-at-nothing tactics were penalised when Ring was pulled down - and Hewie banged home the penalty. The second half opened with Scotland leading two-one. But five minutes later, the score was level - two-all - Suarez scored for Spain.

With great determination, Scotland launched almost non-stop attacks... and seizing a half-chance - Jackie Mudie ^{put SCOTLAND BACK IN LEAD} crashed home a real wonder goal.

All Scotland now - and with the Blackpool leader completing his hat-trick - Scotland won by four goals to two. A welcome morale-booster for the return match in Madrid.