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Soccer dream comes true in Brazil

In late February and early March, a men's soccer team from Stouffville fulfilled a lifelong dream and travelled to Brazil to play local teams from the island paradise of Florianopolis. One of the players, Klaas Westera, reports on the high points of the trip:

We could never have anticipated meeting world-famous celebrities, being on television, seeing a topranked volleyball game and much more. Here's what happened.

On March 3, we arrived at the field before the other team, but not before the referee. He was a spectacle to behold, prancing around like a butterfly doing a fine ballet, leaping this way and that way with arms and legs thrusting in every direction. He ran as effortlessly backwards as forward, with an unbroken rhythm and a smile that captivated all who watched.

I could hear a familiar symphony in my mind as



On a recent trip to Brazil for an unforgettable series of soccer games, Stouffville's Klaas Westera, left, and Igal Militzer, right, present a flag and jersey to legendary Brazilian referee "Margarida".

he danced around the field. And to top it off, he was dressed from head to foot in Barbie pink! Yes, shoes too. I had seen him many times before accompanied by symphony music on Saturday morning's Soccer TV. None other than "Daisy" himself was to be our referee for the evening's games. Daisy is the English version of his Portuguese nickname, "Margarida". His real name is Clesio Moreira dos Santos and he is worldrenowned for his spectacular style.

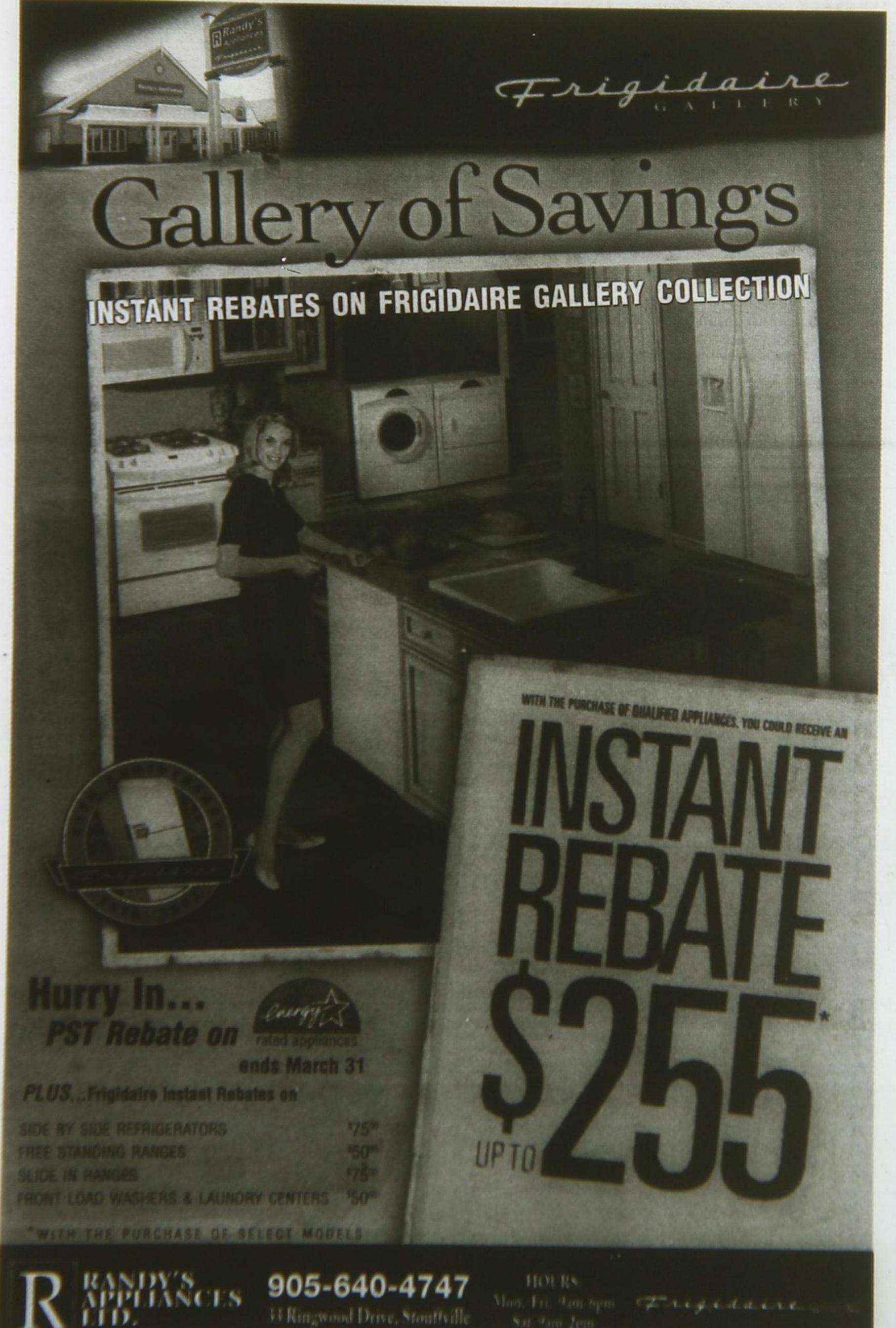
Our rivals for the evening's first game finally arrived and Daisy started the game. We quickly led 2-0 but by halftime the score was tied 2-2. By the end of the game we lost 2-5. They were clearly supe-

rior in skill but we surprised them with our tenacity and stamina.

When the second game started it became evident that our new opponents, Manezinhos from the Figueirense Futebol Clube, were the most skilled of the three teams we had played to date. We were down 0-2 at the half when we made a slight change to our strategy. Losing to them by the low score of 0-3 was a surprise to everyone who watched and played the game.

During the second game, our goalie had to be replaced due to injury. Pacheco, one of the players from the first team we had played against, agreed to substitute for us and he turned in a great game.

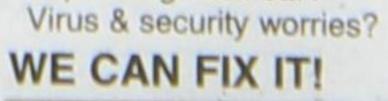
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