

## Africa's 2004 Golden Four

*Semi-finals: Tunisia v Nigeria and Morocco v Mali*

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After this weekend's quarter-finals games, only four teams remain in the competition for Africa's most prestigious title. Nigeria and Morocco are the only teams in the 2004 Golden Four that have previously won the African Championship. Tunisia and Mali will fight hard to win their first African title.



The Carthage Eagles played a very tough and experienced opponent in the quarter-finals. Cheered by 60,000 fans, Tunisia scored the game's unique goal at the 65th minute when Zied Jaziri sent a beautiful bicycle kick from the right side of the penalty area to Jawhar Mnari who nodded the ball home. Tunisian fans took to the streets to celebrate on Saturday until late after midnight. Tunisians are optimistic about their semi-finals game this Wednesday against Nigeria's Green Eagles. Experts predict that the winner of the semi-finals game between Tunisia and Nigeria will also most likely win the championship

Nigeria had to come back from one goal down to beat the four-time champion Cameroon 2-1 ending the Indomitable Lions' dream of winning their third successive African Cup.

The Morocco Atlas Lions made it into the semi-finals after a tough match with Algeria's young a determined team. The two North African neighbors ended the game's official time in a 1-1 draw. It was only in the last five minutes of the overtime that Morocco scored twice to secure its semi-finals ticket. Morocco, one of the 5 bidders for the 2010 World Cup, will battle Mali on Wednesday.

The Mali Eagles' ticket to the Golden Four round was no easy play either. Guinea opened the score only 15 minutes after kick-off. Mali had to push hard and apply constant pressure on the brave Guinean team. Mali was able to equalize the score at 1-1 with only a minute of action left before the end of the first half. Mahamadou Diarra scored Mali's winning goal at a killing time, just few seconds before the referee blew the final whistle sending Mali to the semi-finals for the fourth time in the championship's history.

Check out the Kansas City Aurora Sports section on Wednesday for an update on the 2004 African Cup of Nations.