



Mexico celebrates winning their fifth Gold Cup in front of 79,156 at Giants Stadium (Mexsport)

## Mexico wins record fifth Gold Cup with 5-0 victory

Mexico won a record fifth CONCACAF Gold Cup and first since 2003, beating two-time defending champion USA with a 5-0 victory in front of a capacity crowd of 79,156 at New York's Giants Stadium to conclude the tenth confederation championship.

Nearly half a million fans (472,549) attended the 13 match dates for an average of 36,350, including sellouts in Los Angeles, New York and Dallas, where the quarterfinal doubleheader was the first sporting event at the new Cowboys stadium. The attendance total was slightly less than the 2007 event (488,000), making it the second most popular tournament in Gold Cup history.

The 13-city footprint was more than twice the number previously used for the continental championship and shy of only the 1982 FIFA World Cup in Spain and the 2002 FIFA World Cup, which used 10 venues each in Japan and South Korea. The 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States, by comparison, was played in nine different venues.

The success extended to television as well, with Univision broadcasts reaching 5.4 million for the final, making it the highest-rated Gold Cup match in the network's history, while the English language broadcaster Fox Soccer Channel achieved the network's highest rating ever. Both networks received consistently high ratings throughout the competition.

The official tournament Web sites, [www.goldcup.org](http://www.goldcup.org) and [www.copaoro.org](http://www.copaoro.org) drew over 5 million page views and over 1 million unique visitors across three weeks of competition. The revamped Web site launched just prior to the event included new features such as match trackers, photo galleries, previews, reports, reaction and video highlights of each of the 25 games.

The 12-team tournament, which included Gold Cup debutantes Nicaragua and Grenada, saw a total of 66 goals scored by 47 different players for an average of 2.64 goals per game. Miguel Sabah (Mexico) earned the Golden Boot with four goals. Giovanni Dos Santos (Mexico) won the MVP while Keilor Navas (Costa Rica) received the Best Goalkeeper Award. USA won the Fair Play Award.



## CONCACAF Calendar

2009

November 17  
**CONCACAF Champions League**  
Quarterfinal Draw

November 23  
**CONCACAF Executive Committee Meeting**

December 9 – 19  
**FIFA World Club Cup**  
Dubai, UAE

2010:  
January 18 – 31  
**CONCACAF Under-20 Women's**  
**Championship**  
Guatemala

February 24 – 26; March 3 – 5  
**2009-2010 CONCACAF Champions League**  
Quarterfinals

March 9 – 20  
**CONCACAF Under-17 Women's**  
**Championship**  
Costa Rica

March 30 - April 1; April 13-15  
**2009-2010 CONCACAF Champions League**  
Semifinals

April 20 – 22; 27 – 29  
**2009-2010 CONCACAF Champions League**  
Final

June 11 – July 11  
**2010 FIFA World Cup**  
South Africa

## CONCACAF hosts 59th FIFA Congress



Bahamas welcomed the soccer world in June, the seventh time – and first since Los Angeles in 1999

– that a CONCACAF nation has hosted the FIFA Congress. Held at the Hotel Atlantis and its new world-class conference center in the capital of Nassau, the Congress was a fruitful and productive gathering for all the member associations and confederations involved. The 59th Congress discussed saw a wide range of issues and it was the first time it had been held in the Caribbean. Previous CONCACAF venues include: Guadalajara (1968), Mexico City (1970), Montreal (1976), Mexico City (1986), Chicago (1994) and Los Angeles (1999).

## Costa Rica finishes fourth in Under-20 World Cup



Costa Rica missed four consecutive tries from the penalty spot, and Hungary captured third place at the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2-0 on penalties, following a 1-1 draw at Cairo International Stadium on October 16. It was the first time that Hungary finished in the top three at a FIFA competition since taking the silver medal at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. For Costa Rica, it was the best finish for a CONCACAF team at the U-20 World Cup since Mexico lost to the Soviet Union on penalties in the final of the 1977 tournament in Tunisia.

## Warner adds voice to call for salary cap



CONCACAF President Jack Warner added his voice to those calling for a salary cap in club soccer and a requirement that teams field players from their native country, noting

that emergence of the European "mega clubs" have left others behind. Speaking at the second annual Leaders in Football conference Warner noted the influx of wealthy owners in Europe, and especially England, has created excitement, but also concerns. As one of 14 featured speakers, Warner said the salary cap - mainly in European soccer -- had become a necessity. Without mandating a specific requirement, Warner also sought a quota system of local players, referencing Sepp Blatter's "six plus five" proposal which would require club teams to field at least six players eligible for their country's national team. Warner also proposed a no-play moratorium, saying that for as little as six weeks and possibly as much as eight weeks, no professional soccer be played - either at the club or national team level. "I know that many of these ideas are not new and they will meet much resistance from clubs across Europe today," said Warner "but I am of the view that we must sit and talk to ensure that football is the winner not only for the now but also for the future."

## World Cup qualifying produces late goals, drama



Jonathan Bornstein's equalizer deep into second-half stoppage time did more than just earn a 2-2 draw for the United States against Costa Rica. It rippled through CONCACAF.

It gave the United States bragging rights over Mexico, forced Costa Rica into another two games to try to earn qualification to South Africa, and - most importantly - help send Honduras to only its second World Cup and first since 1982.

"Bornstein, Honduras te ama" (Bornstein, Honduras loves you) screamed the headline in Honduras' La Prensa on October 15.

The defender's header finished the United States atop the six-team standings in the final round of CONCACAF World Cup qualifying, one point in front of Mexico, which played Trinidad & Tobago to a 2-2 draw in Port-of-Spain. It was the second straight time the Americans had finished first in World Cup qualifying, just ahead of Mexico - which was some satisfaction after being routed 5-0 in the Gold Cup final by their arch nemesis in July.

"We are very proud to win the group," U.S. coach Bob Bradley said. "It took a really determined strong effort by our team and we always talk about when you step on the field, you show people what you're all about. Tonight is not the way you draw it up on the board before the game, but it still showed the mentality, the spirit and we're very proud of that."

It was an emotional result for the United States, which dedicated the game to forward Charlie Davies, who was seriously injured in a fatal, one-car accident.

"For me, and a lot of the guys, Charlie is a brother," Jozy Altidore said. "We're all very close and that news hurt us a lot. We played with him in our hearts tonight and I think it helped us out big."

Carlos Pavon, who missed a critical penalty kick in a 3-2 loss to the United States Saturday night in San Pedro Sula, achieved some redemption, scoring the lone goal in the 1-0 win against El Salvador. But it still appeared Los Catrachos were destined to finish fourth with Costa Rica leading 2-0 with 20 minutes remaining in Washington. However Michael Bradley struck in the 72nd minute and Bornstein followed with the equalizer with 30 seconds left in the match, setting off a wild celebration at RFK Stadium, and also in Honduras.

"We knew it would be a very tight game with an El Salvador team that is very well drilled, but that's football," Honduran coach Reinaldo Rueda said. "Today it's the Honduran fans' and the team's turn to celebrate, thanks to the work of many years. Now we have months of work, months of matches and let's hope this victory works out for the good of all."

While Honduras claimed CONCACAF's third automatic bid to the 2010 World Cup on goal difference ahead of Costa Rica, the Ticos were relegated to a two-leg aggregate series against Uruguay, the fifth-place finisher in South America, for the last berth in the 32-team World Cup field.

"First I have to rebuild their spirits," Ticos coach Rene Simoes said. "They are in the dumps. This was a shock to them. Everything was going fine up until the last minute. The game just ended and it's just very sad." Like the United States, Mexico already had qualified for South Africa ahead of the final match-day. El Tri played the Soca Warriors to a 2-2 draw in Port-of-Spain, but Mexico manager Javier Aguirre wasn't upset about failing to finish atop the group. "We came through in qualification," Aguirre said. "They never said we had to be first. I am satisfied because we qualified for the World Cup."



*Mexico and USA both qualify for next year's FIFA World Cup in South Africa*



## Mexico again leads way into CCL quarterfinals



Champions League quarterfinals.

Mexican teams won each of the four groups, further proving the Mexican Primera Division is the strongest league in the region.

Cruz Azul was the only team to complete the group stage undefeated following a 2-1 win against Saprissa in Costa Rica. Ramon Nunez and Pablo Zeballos struck for second half goals for La Maquina, which finished 5-1-0 in Group C. A year ago, Cruz Azul lost to Atlante in the two-leg finals.

"I saw a determined Saprissa squad, with a strong will, but they never dominated the match," Cruz Azul coach Enrique Meza said.

The victory, though, wasn't without cost as Alejandro Vela fractured his fibula early in the match and will be lost for the remainder of the season.

Led by Ulises Mendivil, who leads all scorers in the Champions League with nine goals, Pachuca also won five of six matches to cruise to the quarterfinals as the Group A winner.

Pumas' bid to go through undefeated was ruined when Comunicaciones struck twice in the opening half for a 2-1 win

in Guatemala City. But Pumas still finished atop Group D with 13 points to advance to the quarterfinals for a second straight year. That was the same total for Toluca, Group B winners, which finished the group stage with a 1-1 draw against D.C. United.



*Cruz Azul was the only team to complete the Group Stage without a defeat*

A year after just one Central American team advanced out of the group stage, the region sent three squads to the quarterfinals this time. Marathon returned to the knockout stage, clinching its berth on the final matchday. The Honduran side defeated San Juan Jabloteh 4-2 in Port-of-Spain, ending D.C. United's hopes to advance.

It is joined by Arabe Unido, which finished second in Group A, also clinching its berth on the final day of the group stage. The Panamanians lost to

Pachuca 2-0, but were aided by Metapan, which stopped the Houston Dynamo from a second straight quarterfinal bid with its first group stage victory. The third Central American squad to qualify for the knockout stage is Comunicaciones, which needed a win against Pumas to advance.

Major League Soccer sends one team to the quarterfinals for a second straight year as the Columbus Crew claimed the second berth out of Group C with a 1-1 draw against the Puerto Rico Islanders in Bayamon.

"The Champions League is very important," Columbus coach Robert Warzycha told MLSnet.com. "We are pleased that we are playing in the competition, but we're happy all the games are out of the way and we can concentrate on the league. We accomplished our goal, which is to get to the next round."

The quarterfinalists will learn their knockout round opponents on November 17 when the draw at the confederation's New York headquarters will set the pairings for the final eight.

The group winners will be drawn against one of the four teams that finished in second place, with no team playing another that it faced in the Group Stage in the two-leg series.

The teams that finished second will host the first leg of the quarterfinals the week of March 9-11, with the group winners hosting the second leg the week of March 16-18.

## Mexico, USA reach knockout phase of U-17 World Cup



CONCACAF's four qualifiers experienced mixed results at the FIFA Under-17 World Cup in Nigeria. Both Mexico and the USA reached the knockout round while Costa Rica and Honduras returned home after the group stage. The Americans played in a 13th consecutive Under-17 World Cup, the only nation to have qualified for each of the biennial championships. After a loss to Spain, victories over Malawi and the United Arab Emirates sent it to the second round, where it lost 2-1 to Italy. Mexico, meanwhile, also was eliminated in the second round, allowing a goal in second-half injury time and finally succumbing on penalties to Korea Republic. Costa Rica's exit ended a streak of reaching the knockout rounds four straight times.

## Toye, James and Rocha inducted into CONCACAF Hall of Fame



Clive Toye, Anthony James and Julio Rocha were inducted into the CONCACAF Hall of Fame at the confederation's annual congress in the Bahamas. The three, chosen by the CONCACAF Executive Committee, were recognized for their extraordinary contributions to the game and region. Toye has been a fundamental part of the development of the game. He began as general manager of the Baltimore Bays before becoming GM (1971-1976) and then president (1976-77) of the famed New York Cosmos, where he brought Pele out of retirement. James was president of the Jamaican Football Federation from 1985-1992 as well serving on the Executive Committees for CONCACAF and the CFU. He currently serves on the Organizing Committee for the FIFA U-17 World Cup and is an active match commissioner for FIFA and CONCACAF. Rocha has been associated with football for almost 40 years, beginning as a player with Diriangen FC and the Nicaraguan national team in the 1960s. He was appointed general secretary of the Nicaraguan federation in 1988 and two years later became president. He also served as president of UNCAF from 2003-2007. He received the FIFA Centennial Order of Merit in 2004.

## Around the Confederation



### Inaugural CONCACAF Medical Congress draws more than 200 attendees

More than 200 people gathered in San Jose, Costa Rica, for the inaugural CONCACAF Medical Congress August 6-7. With over 22 presenters, the conference served as an educational and medical discussion forum regarding football. With the health and safety of the player paramount, physicians and scientists from 11 countries traded information about issues of nutrition and hydration, to injury prevention and treatment. Some topics included knee ligament injuries and concussions, to issues of prevention of sudden death, altitude, and doping control. Course work also focused on maximizing the success of the player and presented topics on issues such as pre-season dope testing, travel concerns, and methods for fatigue prevention.

The event also served as a celebration for the Costa Rican federation, with Keylor Navas being presented with the 2009 CONCACAF Gold Cup Best Goalkeeper Award by FIFA Executive Committee member Rafael Salguero. Costa Rica was eliminated from the Gold Cup on penalties in the semifinals by eventual champion Mexico. Private medical university UCIMED - headed by University president Dr. Pablo Guzman -- hosted the event and closed its doors for the two days of the congress, organized by Dr. Carlos Palavicini.



### Guatemala beats Uruguay to finish Alfateh Futsal Continental Cup

CONCACAF Champion Guatemala competed at the Alfateh Futsal Continental Cup in Tripoli, Libya from

7-11 October 2009.

The Chapines opened the first-ever continental futsal tournament with consecutive losses to Asian Champion Iran (4:2) and the host (3:2) on 7 and 8 October, respectively.

Guatemala closed out the five-team event with a 6:6 draw against Oceania Champion Solomon Islands on 9 October, before defeating South American representative Uruguay 4:3 the following day.



### Guyana Football Federation Launches National Super League

The Guyana Football Federation launched its National Super League in September with 10 teams from around the country.

Alpha United FC, Bakewell Topp XX, Buton United, Guyana Defence Force, Liquid Gold, Milerock, Rosignol United, Seawall FC, Sunburts Camptown and Victoria Kings will play a 49-match schedule, finishing with the final at the National Stadium on November 11, 2010. The league is part of FIFA's Win in CONCACAF with CONCACAF.



### Central American youths train at England's Manchester City

The six youth players chosen by Liverpool legend Ian Rush from the Digicel Kick Start Clinics in Central America were given a chance of a lifetime with a week-long training camp at English Premier League club Manchester City in October.

Dylan Florez and Jose Alberto Mora Munoz of Costa Rica, Kevin Mendoza of El Salvador, Oscar Salas of Honduras and Panama's Kevin Melgar and Julio Segundo were selected following clinics in each of their home countries.

In addition to training with Manchester City coaches, the young-

sters were able to tour the club's City of Manchester Stadium and witness a match between Manchester City and Blackburn.



### FIFA courses arrive in Caribbean

Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica were the beneficiary of FIFA's instructional program.

Focusing on women's soccer, the Com-Unity Programme Course was held in Trinidad August 17-19. Each Com-Unity course is a three-day program organized by member associations with FIFA, which brings together representatives from the government, NGOs, media and soccer organizations.

In Jamaica, FIFA held a Futuro III referee course August 19-24, hosting participants from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago. The Futuro III Referee courses seek to provide instructors with the necessary tools and training to enable them to offer similar courses to referees at the local level.



### Costa Rica captures Central American U-16 crown

The host Costa Rica won the 2009 Central American (UNCAF) Under-16 Tournament after finishing first with 12 points in the overall standings with a 4:1 victory over runner-up Panama in the final match date held in Guápiles on 8 August.

Costa Rica, who claimed their second UNCAF U-16 crown since 2006, opened the five-team tournament on 4 August with a 5:0 triumph over Nicaragua. The Ticos, then posted consecutive victories against Guatemala (4:0) and El Salvador (2:0) on 5 and 6 August, respectively.