

THE WEEKLY

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WAR REFUGEE
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MOURINHO:
POWER GAMES
IN MADRID

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Karl-Heinz Rummeningge
Sights on the Club World Cup

Vedad Ibisevic
Much-travelled marksman



Kick it like Madiba!
Nelson Mandela believed football was a powerful force for integration, and much more than just a game...

Nelson Mandela
African icon

Groups D-H

Group D

- Uruguay
- Costa Rica
- England
- Italy

Group E

- Switzerland
- Ecuador
- France
- Honduras

Group F

- Argentina
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Iran
- Nigeria

Group G

- Germany
- Portugal
- Ghana
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Group H

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The Power to Surprise



Ray of hope: Mandela in 1994, shortly before being voted the first democratically elected President of South Africa.

He made Utopia a reality

Walter De Gregorio

This week, *The FIFA Weekly* team debated at length about whether we should put Nelson Mandela on the cover and pay him a comprehensive tribute. There is certainly no question that he deserves such tributes. Mandela's life story is unique, despite – or perhaps because of – its contradictions, but he was also a human being, with all the flaws that entails. Nonetheless, nobody believed as resolutely in tearing down walls and building bridges as Mandela. He not only freed himself from the prison on Robben Island, he also freed his jailers by seeking to understand his enemies, pulling back the mask of horror and getting to know the people beneath it, even when those people were his tormentors. Although it is often difficult to accept the idea that a seed of goodness can be found in bad men, that is exactly the legacy Mandela has left us: to reach out a hand to one another.

The task of remembering Madiba will now fall to historians once sufficient time has passed to enable clear analysis, as there is always a danger of historical misrepresentation when a person becomes a legend in their own lifetime. Indeed, just by writing these lines, it becomes apparent what a fine line one

has to tread. For that very reason, we asked ourselves: Do we want to join the long list of mourners, many of whom who did little to support Mandela when he was Robben Island's Prisoner 46,664? After all, a discussion about the historical persona of Nelson Mandela is ultimately also a debate about our own conscience. Many governments flying their flags at half-mast this week spent many years collaborating with the apartheid regime, while many companies currently paying their respects continued to do business with South Africa despite sanctions.

The next few pages illustrate the many self-explanatory reasons why we should remember Mandela, even in a football magazine. Most importantly, nobody recognised and harnessed the positive power of sport, particularly football, as effectively as he did. It seems fateful that, of all people, Nelson Mandela passed away on the eve of last week's group draw to officially launch the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. News of Mandela's death reached us on the morning of the draw itself, as if he were somehow passing the baton from the South Africa World Cup to Brazil and the wider world. However, leaving aside any metaphysical interpretations, the fact remains that Mandela made his final public appearance at the World

Cup in South Africa and, like an epilogue to a perfectly scripted story, he departed this world at the very time that billions were awaiting the draw for the next World Cup.

Mandela made utopia a reality and proved that we alone place limits on what is possible. Because of him, we can no longer hide behind the excuse that some problems cannot be solved, because he is proof that they can. ❄️



Honoured: Sepp Blatter awards Nelson Mandela the FIFA Order of Merit in 1998.

Reuters

“Mandela made a dream come true”

Fellow travellers: Nelson Mandela and FIFA President Sepp Blatter were close friends. “Mandela embodied respect and humility towards fellow humans and life”, Blatter recalls in a face-to-face conversation.

Do you remember the first time you met Nelson Mandela?

Sepp Blatter: I certainly do. It was early 1992 in Cape Town. Mandela had been released from prison two years earlier. I was FIFA Secretary General at the time and was accompanying President Havelange. Danny Jordaan, who is now president of the South African Football Association, introduced us to Mandela at the headquarters of the African National Congress. I remember exactly how Mandela immediately approached us and welcomed us with open arms. It was the way he sought to establish an immediate rapport. Thinking back to our first meeting, I recall the way he emanated graciousness and respect. One keeps hearing about long prison terms making people blunt and withdrawn and leaving them cold. But it was the opposite with Mandela. He had a strong desire to catch up on the closeness of human relationships.

He must have had a magical personal aura...

Definitely. His charisma and personality were immense and impressive. He filled any room he entered. One of the greatest experiences of my life was being awarded the South African order of solidarity (Order of the Companions of O. R. Tambo) by Mandela. For his part Mandela was a bearer of the FIFA Order of Merit. What I’m trying to say here is that my relationship with him was based on deep mutual understanding. His ideals are my ideals: respect and humility towards fellow humans and life. He was one of the greatest humanists of our age.

What part did football play when you met?

It played a big part. Mandela was doubly delighted with our visit because we represented football. Our sport was of crucial importance in South Africa’s return to normality. The country rejoined FIFA in 1992. South Africa hosted the African Cup of Nations in 1996, and pulled off a surprise victory over Tunisia in the final. I sat next to Mandela at that match. And he was wearing a national team shirt.

How much did he understand football?

A lot. He was a big football fan and used the positive power of our sport to bring the races together. Football was the biggest force for integration in the post-apartheid period, not rugby. It speaks volumes that the Robben Island prison community played football and not rugby or cricket. Football on Robben Island was life-sustaining for Mandela, even though they put up a wall in front of his cell so he could only just about see the small playing field. I’ve seen his cell with my own eyes. It’s unimaginable: the barest glimmer of light coming through one tiny gap. The toilet was in one corner. By comparison with the other prisoners Mandela was totally isolated.

After his release, did he ever talk to you about that period?

He always said you must never forget, but you must forgive. And Mandela forgave. That’s extraordinary for a person who was shut away for so long. After his release, the whites were scared he might seek revenge. They feared Mandela would rouse and incite the blacks. But he did exactly the opposite. He called for respect, openness and the dismantling of stereotypes, laying the foundations for the nation to be brought together. The restoration of peace and equality is due to his personal generosity.

Could the 2010 World Cup have taken place without him?

Hardly. He was the biggest ambassador for the idea. The danger of South Africa missing out on 2010 came from every vote that switched to Morocco. I had two priorities when I was elected FIFA President in 1998: the Goal Project and the first World Cup on the African continent. And it was always clear to me that the World Cup in Africa would have to take place south of the Sahara. It was always going to require a very strong signal. At the end of the day the decision taken in 2006 was only narrowly in favour of South Africa, by 14 votes to ten.



“Mandela played a decisive role in human history. He did some truly outstanding things, not just for his country but for the entire world.”

Zinedine Zidane



“Outside football, Nelson Mandela is my idol. I had the great fortune of meeting him a few times. He really knew lot about football.”

Ryan Giggs



“Mandela means so much across the world. He is something special. In the history of mankind there have only been a few people with such charisma.”

Ruud Gullit



“Grateful for Madiba’s legacy and the example he set. You will always be with us.”

Cristiano Ronaldo

Mandela was in Zurich at the time...

Yes, together with Thabo Mbeki, Frederik Willem de Klerk and Archbishop Tutu. Mbeki wanted to leave before the hosting rights were assigned so he could be among his people when the result was announced and he said this to me: don't let us fail. I spent the evening with Mandela, and South Africa were awarded the World Cup the next day. That's when they took the photo of Mandela with the World Cup trophy. I was given the picture by the outgoing South African ambassador to Switzerland, of all times, the last week before I set off for the group stage draw in Brazil. It was a symbolic final message from Mandela to me, just before his death and just before the transition from the 2010 World Cup to the 2014 World Cup. I was deeply moved.

How was your meeting with Mandela at the 2010 World Cup?

Mandela was already in poor health. He was also mourning his great-grandchild, who was killed in a car crash shortly before the opening ceremony. I visited him at his home and we talked away. He always called me "Sepp". I can still hear him saying "Sepp", "Sepp", "Sepp". I think he liked the name.

The story of apartheid is also the story of South African football. FIFA's role was not always uncontroversial. In the 1950s, two national associations grew up in South Africa, and the world governing body came down on the side of the government, apartheid-friendly South African Football Association. How would you assess the attitude taken at the time?

After Havelange was elected President in 1974 he spoke vehemently in favour of excluding South Africa, and thus against apartheid. I have precise memories of the 1976 Congress in Montreal when he forced the decision through. The world had to change, and football played a very important part. Havelange deserves great compliments for this.

You've met many of the world's greatest personalities, including Pope Francis, Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin and Kofi Annan. Where does Mandela come in the list?

It's hard to compare these personalities. But off the top of my head I would single out three meetings: with Mandela, with Pope John Paul II and with Kofi Annan. Barack Obama got it exactly right when he said Mandela was the last great liberator of the 20th century. Above all else he was a liberator who fought peacefully. His weapons were generosity, tolerance and vision. He fought with his heart and soul.

The example of Mandela proves football can build bridges...

Football proves that all the time, in Bosnia for example, where the national football team unites a variety of religions and ethnicities. Or in Palestine and Israel, where the sides are talking again thanks to football. Or on Cyprus where reunification is suddenly back on the agenda. Football provides a common foundation even for bitterly entrenched camps. It rises above nationalities, cultures and religions.

But it can also send out conflicting signals. After last weekend's meeting between Galatasaray and Elazigspor, Didier Drogba and Emmanuel Eboue thanked and paid tribute to Nelson Mandela with a slogan on their T-shirts. Now they're threatened with a fine from the Turkish association for displaying a political message.

But it's not a political message. I wouldn't punish these players in any circumstances. There's only one Mandela. Anyone who punishes folk who want to thank him is being discriminatory. We have to applaud Nelson Mandela and pay tribute to him. He made a dream come true.

Sepp Blatter was talking to Thomas Renggli



"He is our honoured elder and the father of our proud nation, but he also always had a smile on his face and that sparkle in his eyes."

Danny Jordaan



"Nelson Mandela was one of most influential people in my life. He was my hero and my friend and he stood by my side in the fight for humanity and world peace."

Pele



"He devoted his entire life to the fight for equality and justice."

Samuel Eto'o



"Nelson Mandela is the 'father of our nation'. He played an integral role in the fight to end discrimination in South Africa and throughout the world."

Steven Pienaar



"The greatest man on earth has died."

Gary Lineker

A world champion: Nelson Mandela, upon being awarded the right to host the 2010 World Cup: "I feel like a young man of 15"





Gratitude: Didier Drogba commemorates Nelson Mandela after Galatasaray's match against Elazigspor.

AFP

Madiba's love for football

Tokyo Sexwale

I arrived on Robben Island in 1978. Nelson Mandela, or “Madiba” as we all called him, had been imprisoned there since 1964. Hence, he became prisoner number 466-64. We weren’t allowed any pastimes, no monopoly, no table tennis and other sporting activities. Prisoners began playing football during free times. We made a soccer ball from cleaning rags. During later years they added bladder made of aluminium recovered from rubbish materials. Gradually, we learned more about a ball, how it should fly and how to improve it. Later, when we got hold of real footballs, we learned about pumps, valves and the rest. We put teams together and had more than a dozen by the end. During later years I became the head of our “football league” under the General Recreation Committee as General Secretary.

Madiba and others who were kept in isolation couldn’t watch football games, but they definitely must have heard us behind the wall separating the wings of the prison. Years later, when reforms were made, Madiba’s section came down and were allowed to watch the football action close-up. He was a big football fan and his love of football was enhanced there. On Robben Island we broke many rules of the Apartheid government, however we never broke a single FIFA rule!

The election of Nelson Mandela as president of a new democratic South Africa closed the chapter on the evil system of Apartheid – a form of racial discrimination against which we had struggled and were imprisoned. This struggle had led to FIFA under the General Secretary Sepp Blatter and President Joao Havelange expelling racist South Africa from the global football family in 1976. Similarly the UN also kept Apartheid South Africa out of the international community by passing special resolutions which described Apartheid as a crime against humanity and a threat to world peace.

Despite the death of his grand-daughter in a car crash the night before the opening match of the World Cup 2010 at Soccer City Stadium. This leader of advanced years still showed up, being driven across the pitch in a golf cart to huge cheers from the crowd. His message in spite of his family pain was that: The show must go on! He earned South Africa the right to host the World Cup. The nation missed out in the bidding process for 2006 and the World Cup was held in Germany. But Nelson Mandela refused to give up. He battled for the World Cup, enlisting the support of Archbishop Tutu

and former president de Klerk, who like him were Nobel laureats. To crown it all, they were joined by Mr. Mbeki who was South Africa’s president at the time. Therefore, FIFA received the South African presentation by three Nobel laureats and three presidents!

Mandela personally appealed to FIFA and the footballing world. He never felt this was beneath his stature. He showed humility and became personally involved. It wasn’t something he actually had to do, but he wanted to bring the World Cup to South Africa for Africa.

Knowing the closeness of FIFA president Mr. Blatter and Mr. Mandela, and to avoid Mr. Blatter learning of Madiba’s passing away from the media, I called Sepp Blatter while he was in Brazil for the draw and informed him of the sad news. True to form, he set in motion a tribute to Mandela to be seen by a global public. That went down very well in South Africa. He undertook to pay his respects at Mandela’s grave in January on the occasion of the African Nations Championship (CHAN).

The things Nelson Mandela taught us all are perseverance and humility, and the significance of football as a unifier in as much as it is entertaining. It is for this reason therefore, that negative incidents of racism and discrimination should be kicked out of the beautiful game and it’s environment. Consequently, FIFA through it’s new Global Task Force Against Racism chaired by FIFA Vice president Jeffrey Webb is seeing the way – the Mandela way. 🌟



“Seeing Mandela at the final of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ was simply amazing for me. It was one of those moments you never forget.”

Tokyo Sexwale

Freedom behind walls



“Since being imprisoned on Robben Island, he became an iconic figure for all Africans – not just for South Africans, but for us all. He is the symbol of freedom and hope.”

Kalush Bwalya

Walter De Gregorio

The teams had names like Gunners, Bushbucks, Dynamos, Atlantic Raiders and Hotspurs. The league was split into three ability-driven tiers, and matches were always on Saturdays. There was a refereeing committee, a disciplinary tribunal and a management board. The match schedules were coordinated by the coaches, who were able to plan for the long term. There was never the slightest danger of a striker suddenly moving abroad. The players had long-term ‘contracts’ with no buy-out clauses. The usual duration was ten to twenty years. All the games were at home on Robben Island, a small outcrop in the Atlantic, 12 kilometres from Cape Town.

The players, who were not to be found on any transfer list, were political prisoners whose alleged subversive activities often amounted to little more than daring to express an opinion as a black person. “Why do you call yourselves blacks? You’re brown,” a judge once asked civil

rights activist Steve Biko. “Why do you call yourselves whites? You’re pink,” Biko replied. Steve Biko, founder of the Black Consciousness Movement, never had the chance to play football. He was tortured under interrogation, and died from his injuries aged 30.

Robben Island was the toughest prison camp in apartheid-era South Africa. The island was already in use as a penal colony back in the 16th century, as the ice-cold and turbulent waters precluded the possibility of escape.

The first football match on Robben Island took place in December 1967 and lasted barely a half-hour before the prisoners were ordered back into their cells. Training took place in the shower room. Old rags were knotted together and pressed into service as a ball.

Out of sight behind the wall

The Makana Football Association (MFA) was founded two years later. It was the year of Woodstock and the first moon landing, the Beatles released Abbey Road, George Best was

football’s first pop star, and Pele scored his 1000th goal for FC Santos. Members of the MFA knew nothing of this. Nelson Mandela didn’t even know what was happening in front of his own cell: the authorities built a wall to prevent him watching MFA matches in the prison yard.

We have to thank historian Chuck Korr for revealing the forgotten history of Robben Island after he stumbled across 70 cardboard boxes of archived material, which he later published as a book with co-author Marvin Close. ¹ It is the story of people who steadfastly opposed the



Wall of shame: Goalkeepers on Robben Island literally had their backs to the wall.

apartheid regime. Almost everything was taken from them, including their lives in many cases, but never their pride, their hope and their uncompromising belief in justice and freedom.

Mandela firmly believed football could change the world. It changed the world first in the 547 hectare compound on Robben Island, and later in South Africa. After the collapse of apartheid many former Robben Island prisoners joined the nation's political elite. Mandela was elected president in 1994. He knew many of his ministers, constitutional judges and parliamentarians from his 27-year term behind bars. Current South African president Jacob Zuma was Rangers captain on Robben Island.

Football proved a force for integration, forcing followers of the African National Congress (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) to forgive and accommodate each other, as Mandela recalled in an interview. The sport was the proverbial straw to which everyone clutched. Historian Korr writes on the subject: "They organised the association as profession-

ally as possible. The clubs communicated with each other in highly official letters, even if they were housed in neighbouring cells." The point was to use football to create a reality of its own in which the prisoners themselves and not the regime dictated the rules. The FIFA manual was the most-borrowed rulebook in the prison library, after the 'rules' laid down by Karl Marx in *Das Kapital*. MFA disciplinary proceedings sometimes took months. The fair trial the prisoners never had in the public courts was rigorously guaranteed to the fullest possible extent in prison football.

It wasn't a man wearing the number 10 who would leave an indelible mark on South Africa and the world beyond the football pitch, but a man wearing number 46,664. Mandela was assigned the number in 1964 when he was added to the roll at Robben Island. Three decades later, as president of the nation, he said this: "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way little else does. It speaks

to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than government in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." ❄️

Marvin Close and Chuck Korr: "More Than Just a Game." Harper-Collins, 2008



"He did so much for mankind and his name will go down in the history books. Hopefully we can celebrate his life and cherish his contribution for many years to come."

Mark Fish



More than a number: Nelson Mandela's prison number became synonymous with equal rights in South Africa.

“The highlight of my life”

I, like many others, was touched by the story of one of the greatest icons of our generation, Nelson Mandela. From a distance, I observed how this colossal figure led South Africa during one of the most turbulent periods for the country and for Africa, a continent which I have been very connected to since my youth when I grew up for a few years in Togo. I watched with keen interest how he campaigned across the globe to end the sport isolation boycott placed on South Africa during the dark days of apartheid.

I was fascinated to know more about an individual who spent almost three decades in jail – incarcerated for his beliefs and for his opposition to a racist government of apartheid – and walked out of prison preaching peace instead of retribution. His story is out of the

ordinary. The seductive appeals of revenge could not cloud Madiba’s quest to free his people not only from apartheid but from hatred. I really admired his strength and conviction to implement reconciliation between all communities to ensure peace after the end of apartheid.

I was privileged to be part of two historic events in South Africa driven by the spirit of Mandela and his mission to create a peaceful and equal society. In 1994, I was South Africa for the first time, working on the preparation for the 1995 Rugby World Cup. In those days I was able to personally witness the transformation and the impact this event had on the young democracy in South Africa. Mandela’s strategic use of this event in the reconciliation process is well documented on the big screen, in the movie *Invictus*.

After meeting Madiba, I was challenged to learn more about his role in shaping world history and that of South Africa – a country I really grew fond of while preparing the 2010 World Cup and of which I eventually became a citizen.

Today, the world is a better place because of Mandela. Africa has a different face because of his generation. South Africa is a free country because of the sacrifices Madiba and his generation made. To follow in his footsteps is not only challenging but requires selflessness, sacrifice, a willingness to serve, bravery and humility – all qualities he embodied during his time.

I still well remember my first meeting with Madiba, in September 2008. Together with President Blatter we first met former President Thabo Mbeki and then ANC President and current President of the country Jacob Zuma. I still recall how anxious I was when we entered Mandela’s house in Johannesburg, seeing Madiba sitting in his chair in his private office welcoming us with his warm smile.

I was overwhelmed by his larger-than-life personality. Words might do an injustice in describing that moment as each of my four meetings were special, but the first will remain the highlight of my life. I was amazed by his level of interest in the 2010 World Cup and the importance of staging the event at that particular moment for his country. I was fascinated by the way he expressed himself and put everything in an analytical context. It was a very personal discussion and his assessments made during the meeting all proved right. From Mandela’s life, I learned some of the most profound lessons of leadership not only from what he said but on how he conducted himself.

Madiba might be gone but his legacy will live forever. His vision has inspired many generations and will continue to spur many others who are not even born. His life will remain a reference point whenever the world loses its moral compass. His life journey encourages us to dream and reach for new heights. Sport and football specifically has benefited from his generous spirit. The 2010 World Cup was his vision and ambition – I was very pleased to see that he was able to be part of 2010 until the end and see what a success it was.

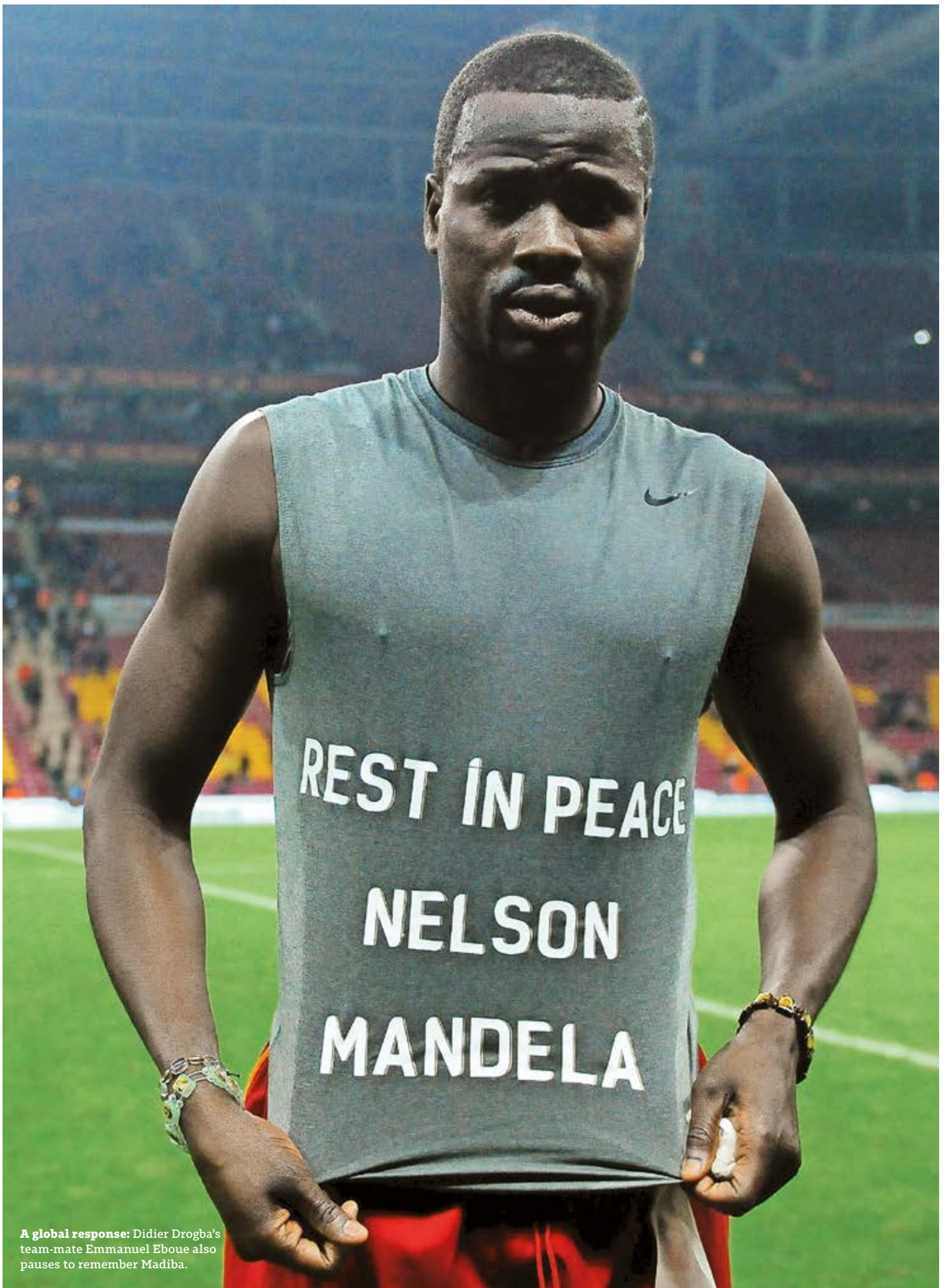
Now it is up to humanity to ensure that Mandela’s life work is continued in South Africa and around the world, and that his spirit of peace and equality live on. ✨



“I still recall how anxious I was when we entered Mandela’s house in Johannesburg, seeing Madiba sitting in his chair in his private office welcoming us with his warm smile.”

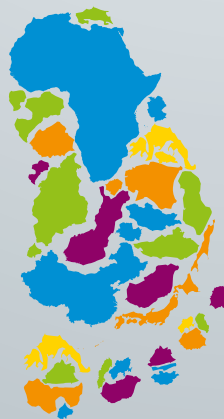
Jérôme Valcke

Jérôme Valcke, FIFA Secretary General



A global response: Didier Drogba's team-mate Emmanuel Eboué also pauses to remember Madiba.

The best footballer of 2035 was born today. But where?



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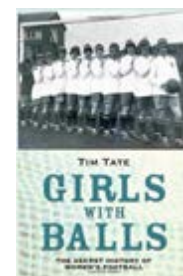
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On “Girls With Balls”

The rather unfortunate title of Tim Tate’s book is intended as an homage to the women who played football in Britain from the 1880s until the mid-1920s.

Jean Williams

Beginning with the first England versus Scotland match in 1881, the narration of Tim Tate’s book moves on to the brief existence of the British Ladies’ Football Club (BLFC) between 1894-97. The two chief instigators of the BLFC were its non-playing President, Lady Florence Dixie, and its middle class playing secretary, Nettie, or possibly Nellie, Honeyball.


Of the two, Honeyball seems to have been the more crucial and Dixie a high-profile figure-head. It is quite likely that “Honeyball” was a pseudonym, given that women’s football was so contentious. Readers keen to explore these issues further will find “Girls With Balls: The Secret History of Women’s Football” a useful book, alongside James F. Lee’s work¹.

With at least a hundred matches between 1895-97 and a further nineteen as Mrs Graham’s Eleven in the same years, women’s football was a significant public entertainment, drawing live crowds of up to 10,000 people and being widely reported in the media. During and shortly after

World War One, women’s football reached unprecedented audiences, especially in Britain, and there were at least 150 clubs. Such was the popularity, with crowds of up to 53,000 at Goodison Park on 26 December 1920, that the Football Association banned women players from grounds of its affiliated clubs and those of the Football League in 1921.

Although the ban was not replicated worldwide, it had a lasting effect on the image of the sport as unfeminine. FIFA revisited its position in the 1960s and began to encourage women’s football globally, leading to the first World Cup in PR China in 1991.

The biggest flaw in Tim Tate’s argument is that this history, rather than being secret, is now well explored in the public domain. Readers could begin with the ground-breaking work of Ali Melling², who first published her work in 1998. This popular and academic interest has coincided with the increase of interest on behalf of women participants, FIFA and the International Olympic Committee – who first held a women’s football tournament at the Atlanta

Games in 1996. Women’s football has consequently now developed a public profile unimaginable when the first Victorian pioneers began to play. 

¹ “The Lady Footballers: Struggling to Play in Victorian Britain” (Routledge, 2008).

² “Ray of the Rovers: The Working Class Heroine in Popular Football Fiction, 1915–25” (*The International Journal of the History of Sport*, 15 pp. 97–122). Popular histories also include David Williamson: “Belles of the Ball” (R&D Associates, 1991); Gail Newsham: “In A League of their Own” (Scarlet, 1998); Barbara Jacobs: “The Dick, Kerr Ladies” (Constable and Robinson, 2004) and Patrick Brennan: “The Munitionettes” (Donmouth, 2007). Brennan’s website also contains much valuable primary material including programme notes, newspaper reports and photographs (<http://www.donmouth.co.uk>). Seminal academic texts have also explored the growing international audience for women’s football including Sue Lopez, “Women on the Ball” (London: Scarlet, 1997); Laurence Prudhomme-Poncet, “Histoire du Football Feminine au XX^{ème} Siècle: Espaces et Temps du Sport” (Paris: L’Harmattan, 2003); Jean Williams, “A Game for Rough Girls: A History of Women’s Football in England” (Oxon: Routledge, 2003); Fan Hong and J.A Mangan, “Soccer Women and Liberation Kicking Off a New Era” (London: Frank Cass, 2004) and Eduard Hoffmann & Jürgen Nendza, “Verlacht, Verboten und Gefeiert” (Landpresse 2006).

Tim Tate: “Girls With Balls: The Secret History of Women’s Football”, John Blake Publishing, London 2013, £17.99



The Special One: Jose Mourinho's power games are legendary



Mou's Madrid machinations

Jose Mourinho is regarded as one of the world's best coaches. El País journalist Diego Torres' book dissects the power games played by the Portuguese during his three-year spell with Real Madrid.

Jordi Puntí

At the end of 2000, Real Madrid were recognised by FIFA as the greatest club of the 20th century. Shortly afterwards they signed Zinedine Zidane, David Beckham and Ronaldo, won the UEFA Champions League for a ninth time and replaced Manchester United at the top of world football's "money league". Yet there is more to football than accolades, marquee signings and cash. It is a game that never ceases to surprise, as proved by Barcelona, who appointed Frank Rijkaard coach and began to rake in the trophies. And when the Dutchman was replaced by Pep Guardiola, the titles continued to come the way of a club which revolutionised the 21st-century game, thanks in no small part to the contributions of Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta, Xavi et al. The greatest team in history was taking shape before our very eyes.

For Madrid it was all too much to bear. Such is the rivalry between the two clubs that success for one means failure for the other. In 2009, at the end of Guardiola's first season in charge at *Barça*, Florentino Perez returned as the president of Real Madrid. The man who had brought the *galácticos* together in his first term in office, Perez was intent on bringing back the glory days. Mindful of the need to find an antidote to Guardiola, to appoint someone who could guarantee the success needed to topple Barcelona, he called on the services of Jose Mourinho.


The Portuguese would stay at the club for three years, a period superbly chronicled by Diego Torres in his new book *Prepárense para perder* (*Get Ready*

to Lose). During his reign Mourinho deployed all his craftiness and trickery in a bid to restore Madrid to the summit of world football, a mission in which he ultimately failed. A winner up to that point in his career and backed by the best coaching record in Europe, Mourinho believed he could build an empire at Madrid. His goal was to become the Ferguson of Madrid, to gain the power to make every decision that mattered and entwine the club's history with his own. His strategy for achieving those aims was to position himself at the very centre of a sport that had made him hugely famous, brought him wealth and influence and, last but not least, had also fed his ego.

Drawing on his in-depth knowledge of the man, Torres tells a story of power games, a tale as captivating at times as a thriller or a Shakespearian drama. Capricious, fickle, hot-headed and a uniquely skilled motivator, Mourinho is depicted as Falstaff, Othello, Richard III, Brutus, Lady Macbeth and Henry V rolled into one. The author describes how The Special One's naked ambition clashed from the off with a club founded on hierarchies and possessing a character and values that he sought to change at will. Torres suggests that in doing so he quite possibly pursued a hidden agenda through the commercial dealings of his agent Jorge Mendes, who also represents the likes of Pepe, Cristiano Ronaldo, Angel Di Maria, Ricardo Carvalho and Fabio Coentrao, for whom Real Madrid, at Mourinho's behest, paid the high price of €30m.

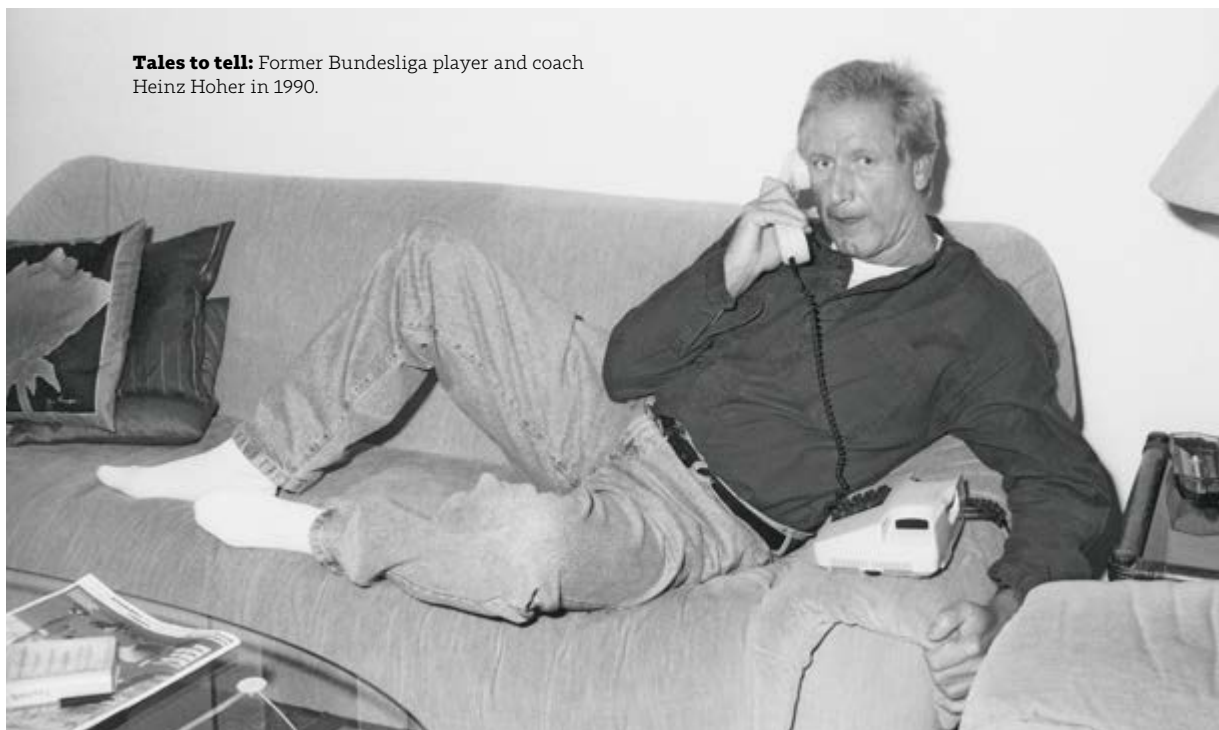
A vastly experienced journalist with the Spanish newspaper *El País*, Torres reveals his intimate knowledge of the workings of the club and the

dressing room. Making use of off-the-record observations made by the players and the coaching staff – which caused Mourinho much irritation at the time – he paints a portrait of the coach that also reflects the state of the game in Spain today, with all its virtues and defects. Mourinho's three-year stay in Spain and his gift for criticising anyone and everyone – a trait he justified by repeatedly saying "I'm no hypocrite" in press conferences – caused much annoyance and is now seen as a closed chapter in La Liga's history, almost a fantasy. Coaches, opposing players and his own, referees and journalists, the list of those who suffered as a result of his mood swings and machinations is a long one indeed.

Get Ready to Lose begins at the end, on 8 May 2013, the day on which Sir Alex Ferguson named David Moyes as his successor at Manchester United. "He was crying! He was crying!", said those close to Mourinho, who was already on his way out at Real Madrid and was sobbing in desperation. A few days later, after losing to Atletico Madrid in the final of the Copa del Rey and ending the season without a trophy, Mourinho said: "This is the worst season of my career." Mendes had been linking his client with the Manchester United job for some time, offering his services and doing so with such insistence that it seemed to Mourinho to be the most natural and logical solution. But Ferguson never even called him, prompting Mourinho to put on airs of grandeur as he made his return to Roman Abramovich's Chelsea, portraying himself as the saviour the club needed. The reality is, however, that wherever the Portuguese goes he leaves the earth scorched behind him, so much so that at this moment in time it is hard to picture what the future holds for him in the medium term, beyond West London. In the meantime, Torres' tome has the potential to become an essential guide to the life and opinions of its subject. 

Diego Torres: Get Ready to Lose: The Mourinho Era, 2010-2013. Ediciones B, Barcelona 2013, 250 S., €16.50

Tales to tell: Former Bundesliga player and coach Heinz Hoher in 1990.



It started with a phone call

In his book “Spielstage” (“Matchdays”), Ronald Reng’s witty reflection on 50 years of the Bundesliga proves that retrospectives can be more than just lightweight entertainment - thanks to one Heinz Hoher.

Alan Schweingruber

This year, the Bundesliga turned 50 years old, and before the anniversary even arrived, it was possible to predict the kind of trite anecdotes that would flood the market. Tales of open wounds and broken goalposts are notorious and peddled to fans over and over again. Sports journalist Ronald Reng demonstrates that more evocative reflection is possible in his entertaining book “Spielstage”, now a bestseller in its sixth edition.

This is partly because the Frankfurt native is capable of weaving a fascinating yarn, but the success of Reng’s opus is also largely attributable to the fact that, from the start, he had the inspired idea of telling the story with a protagonist whose own story is entwined throughout the 480 pages. His name? Heinz Hoher, once a talented footballer who enjoyed limited success before becoming a talented coach who enjoyed limited success, and a man with a weakness for alcohol.

It makes for an enthralling combination. Fifty years of German football provides enjoyable, witty material, while Hoher’s story adds a dramatic perspective to the story. The solitary


Nuremberg native, now 75 and teetotal, has a manner that shocks at several points in the book. Plagued by self-doubt for many years, he gambled his money away and lost one of his three children in a car accident. Hoher himself speaks of having lived “life in a dense fog”, an impressive and unsettling observation. Can anyone possibly understand this man?

If anyone can, it is 43-year-old Reng, whose first work, “Traumhüter” (“The Keeper of Dreams”), and his biography of late German goalkeeper Robert Enke have already garnered acclaim. Ronald Reng always gets to the heart of his stories but avoids getting lost in Hoher’s life story, ensuring that German football remains the primary focus of the book at all times.

While still a coach, Hoher wrote his own chapter in Bundesliga history. It was 1984, and a group of more experienced players at FC Nürnberg sparked a players’ mutiny, an act that normally ends with the coach’s dismissal. Instead, Hoher stood firm until the rebellious players were forced to leave the club.

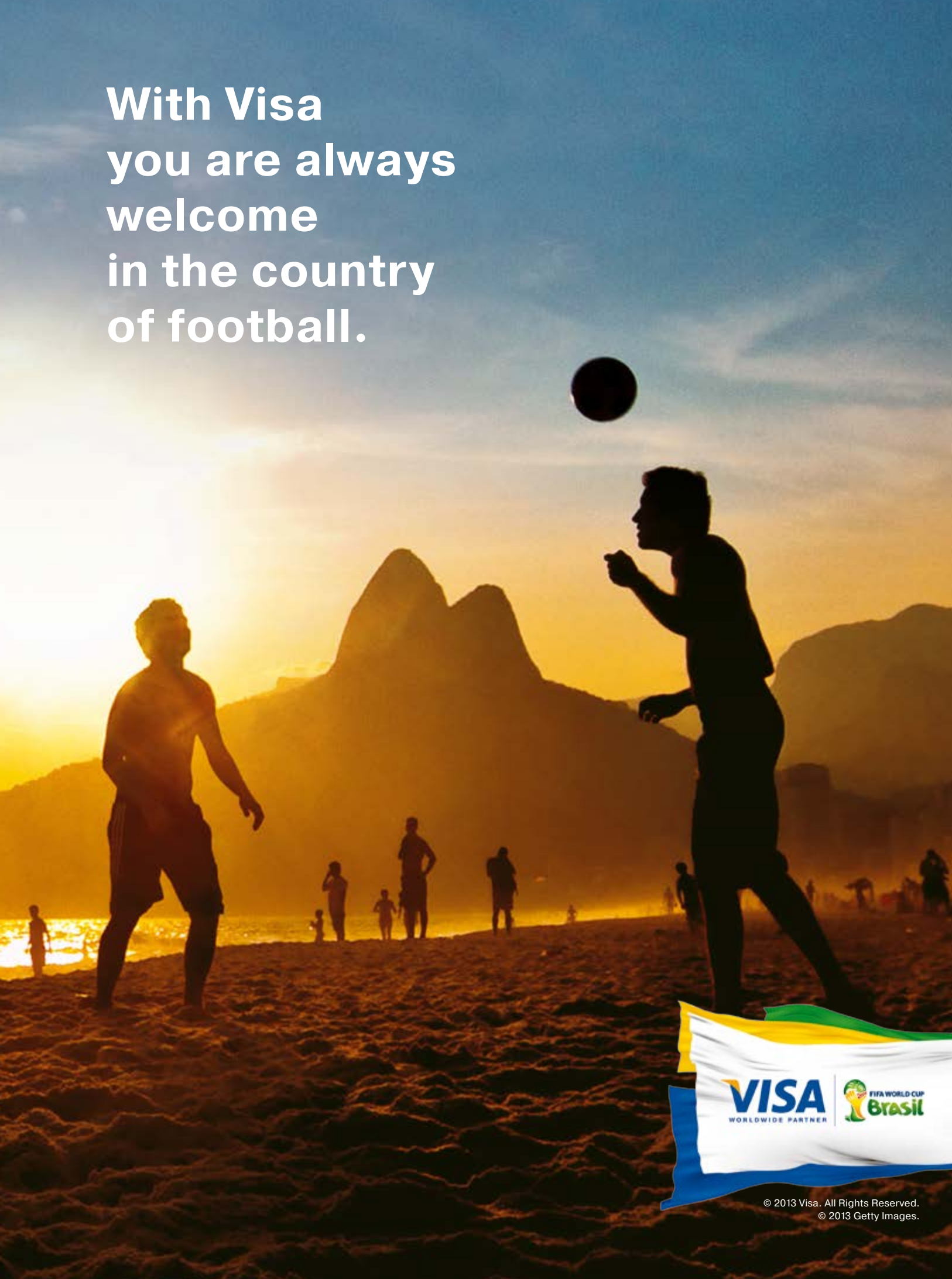
One question remains: how did Ronald Reng stumble across the rather strange case of Heinz Hoher in a world filled with extroverts? The

answer can be found at the start of “Spielstage”, which depicts a telephone conversation between Nuremberg and Barcelona, where Reng was living. It marked the birth of a great idea:

“Hoher.” – “Hello, it’s Ronald Reng here. You tried to call me?” – “Mr Reng – thanks for calling me back! I’ve got to meet you, Mr Reng!” – “What’s it about?” – “I can’t say on the telephone. Please, just give me a couple of hours of your time. I want to explain something to you. I need to explain something to you!” 

Ronald Reng: “Spielstage”. Die andere Geschichte der Bundesliga (“Matchdays: An Alternative History of the Bundesliga”) Piper Verlag, Munich 2013, 480 pages, €20.00

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Role playing



This book has already become a classic just two years after it was originally published. Xavier Breuil stresses the significance of football in the emancipation of women both past and present. The sports historian believes the success of women's teams from the USA, Germany and Sweden is attributable to the role of women in enlightened societies. An impressive overview of women's football. (*mon*)

Breuil, Xavier: *Histoire du football féminin en Europe*. Nouveau Monde Editions, Paris 2011, 340 pages, €24.40

Football's figureheads speak



Football club presidents are social figures and as such tend to express themselves frequently, irrespective of whether or not they have something to say. As a result, two journalists from Italy's "Gazzetta dello Sport" newspaper have compiled a splendid collection of quotes that even non-Italian fans can enjoy. Includes 400 quotations from Berlusconi to Zamparini. (*mon*)

Arcidiacono, Massimo, and Nicita, Maurizio: *Papaveri e Papere. Prodezze e nefandezze dei presidenti del calcio*. Imprimatur Editore, Reggio Emilia 2013, 190 pages, €14.50

Discovering Zlatan



Zlatan Ibrahimovic is one of the best footballers of our time, and now he has published one of the best footballer autobiographies in recent years. Although the Swede and his compatriots failed to qualify for the 2014 World Cup, anyone finding it difficult to deal with the superstar's absence from next year's competition will find solace in this entertaining and revealing book. (*mon*)

Zlatan Ibrahimovic: *I am Zlatan*, Penguin, London 2013, 352 pages, £8.99



Still life with a goat: An improvised football pitch in Argentina, home to the two-time world champions.

Football through the viewfinder

"Terre de Foot" (Land of Football) is a lavishly illustrated volume documenting three friends' fascinating 18-month trip to 27 countries spanning the continents.



Sarah Steiner

"Football may be awash in millions of euros, but dreams are not inspired by money. The inspiration is the players who earn it. And all of them played their first passes out on the street." In his foreword to "Terre de Foot", French footballing legend Eric Cantona references the scenes which lie at the heart of the lavish photo book, of kids and youths around the world chasing down the ball with unbounded enthusiasm. Authors Aurelien Abels Eber, and Romain and Thomas de la Bouvrie set out to meet these young players. The trio share a lifelong passion for football as a bridge between peoples, transcending culture, gender and language.


Three posts, four corners

The images in the seven chapters tell stories and record moments of high emotion, intertwined with football but far removed from conventional media portrayals. The ball is not always the focus, but always takes a central role. The image captured in La Rioja in Argentina depicts a scrubby desert landscape and a goat peering into the camera, against a background of two improvised goals from rickety wooden slats. On Gorée in Senegal, well known for its tragic past as a slave island, kids nowadays meet up on the

village square for a daily game of penalty prize. The running leitmotif of three posts and four corners symbolically repeats throughout the volume.

From Peru to Cambodia

"We had the chance to witness football in the desert and at 4,000 metres above sea level. We had a kick around with the Cambodian royal family, we got to know the Emperor of the Mossi dynasty in Burkina Faso, and we were invited to meet Roger Milla in Yaounde," commented Thomas de La Bouvrie. The authors' deep-felt passion is evident on every page.

The only minor flaw is that the photos come across as a little too small in the softcover format. A large dimension glossy hardback would certainly have been appropriate for the exceptionally well composed and carefully selected images. 

Aurelien Abels Eber, Romain de La Bouvrie, Thomas de La Bouvrie: Terre de Foot (Land of Football). Editions Intervalles. Paris 2013, 19 x 24 cm, 165 colour photographs, 173 pages, € 29.-

T H E N

Leipzig,
Germany

**1922**

There was widespread interest in football in Germany decades before the Bundesliga was established. Ladder rentals flourished, as seen at this match between Hamburg and 1. FC Nürnberg in a scene that calls to mind the well-known saying: "If everyone stands on tiptoe, no one sees better."

Geneva,
Switzerland



2008

Football has moved on. These days, important matches are not the only attraction: training sessions can be extremely interesting too, as these fans of the Dutch national team illustrate. Sadly, ladders are no longer in fashion... and barriers cannot be hired at stadiums.

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The Roosters crow again

Historic Brazilian club Atletico Mineiro's recent Copa Libertadores victory secured their place in this year's Club World Cup and ended a 42-year wait for a trophy.

Marcio Mac Culloch, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian football has been in a state of reflection recently. Last week, the country's first World Cup finals for 64 years were launched at an emotional and atmospheric group draw in Costa do Sauipe. "The 2014 World Cup will be the best of all time," declared FIFA President Sepp Blatter, adding: "I am very pleased that our tournament is finally returning to this country." Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff also stressed the social significance of football: "Nowhere else is football so much a part of everyday life as it is here." A *Seleção* were among the main beneficiaries of the draw, having been handed the manageable task of overcoming group opponents Croatia, Mexico and Cameroon.

Just 48 hours later, Brazilian domestic football was left in shock as two of Rio de Janeiro's biggest clubs, Vasco da Gama and Fluminense, were relegated from Serie A. The circumstances of Vasco's relegation were particularly startling, with Vasco fans leaving a trail of destruction in their wake after the team's final match against Paranaense in Joinville. Halfway through the match, brutal riots broke out in the stands, and as a rescue helicopter landed on the pitch, television coverage beamed images of violent rioters and their bloodstained victims across the globe.

The Brazilian Football Association intervened, ruling that both clubs must play their next ten matches behind closed doors. Nevertheless, questions remain: Why did the league hold this volatile fixture in an outdated stadium even though significantly more modern arenas were available?

One such venue is the Mineirao in Belo Horizonte, home of Atletico Mineiro, where the long-held dreams of fans of the *Galos* (Roosters) were finally realised this year. For decades, fans have attributed their beloved football club's habit of coming close to winning a major title before throwing it away at the last moment to everything from bad luck and curses to conspiracy theories. It seems that the old adage that "good things come to those who wait" held true in this case, and Mineiro's fans finally had a reason to celebrate in 2013.

The Belo Horizonte club reached the final of the Copa Libertadores for the very first time and became the tenth Brazilian club to win the South American equivalent of the Champions League. It was Atletico's first major title since winning the Brazilian championship in 1971 and the most significant success in the club's 105-year history. The victory means that from 17 December, Mineiro will take part in the Club World Cup in Morocco, competing against champions from each of the other continents,

nicknamed Cuca, pronounced that the "curse" was now broken. "I have finally seen the fruits of my labours here at Atletico Mineiro; this team is now a team of champions. We had to go to penalties in the final and turned around a 2-0 deficit against both Newell's and Olimpia. This team now has luck on its side, and we certainly proved that today," declared Cuca.

Atletico were fully deserved winners though. Cuca's team contains a blend of experienced stars, most notably two-time World Player of the Year Ronaldinho, and played the most entertaining football of the entire competition.

Although Atletico can no longer sustain such incredible performances in the Brazilian league and have lost one of the club's most important players with the departure of Bernard, any team at the Club World Cup should be careful to take the *Galos* seriously for two

Club name:

Clube Atletico Mineiro

Date founded:

25 March 1908

Stadium, capacity:

Mineirao, 62,160 seats

Titles, honours:

- **Copa Libertadores: 2013**
- **CONMEBOL Cup: 1992, 1997**
- **Brazilian Championship: 1971**
- **Copa dos Campeões (Champions Cup): 1978**
- **Brazil Champions Tournament: 1937**

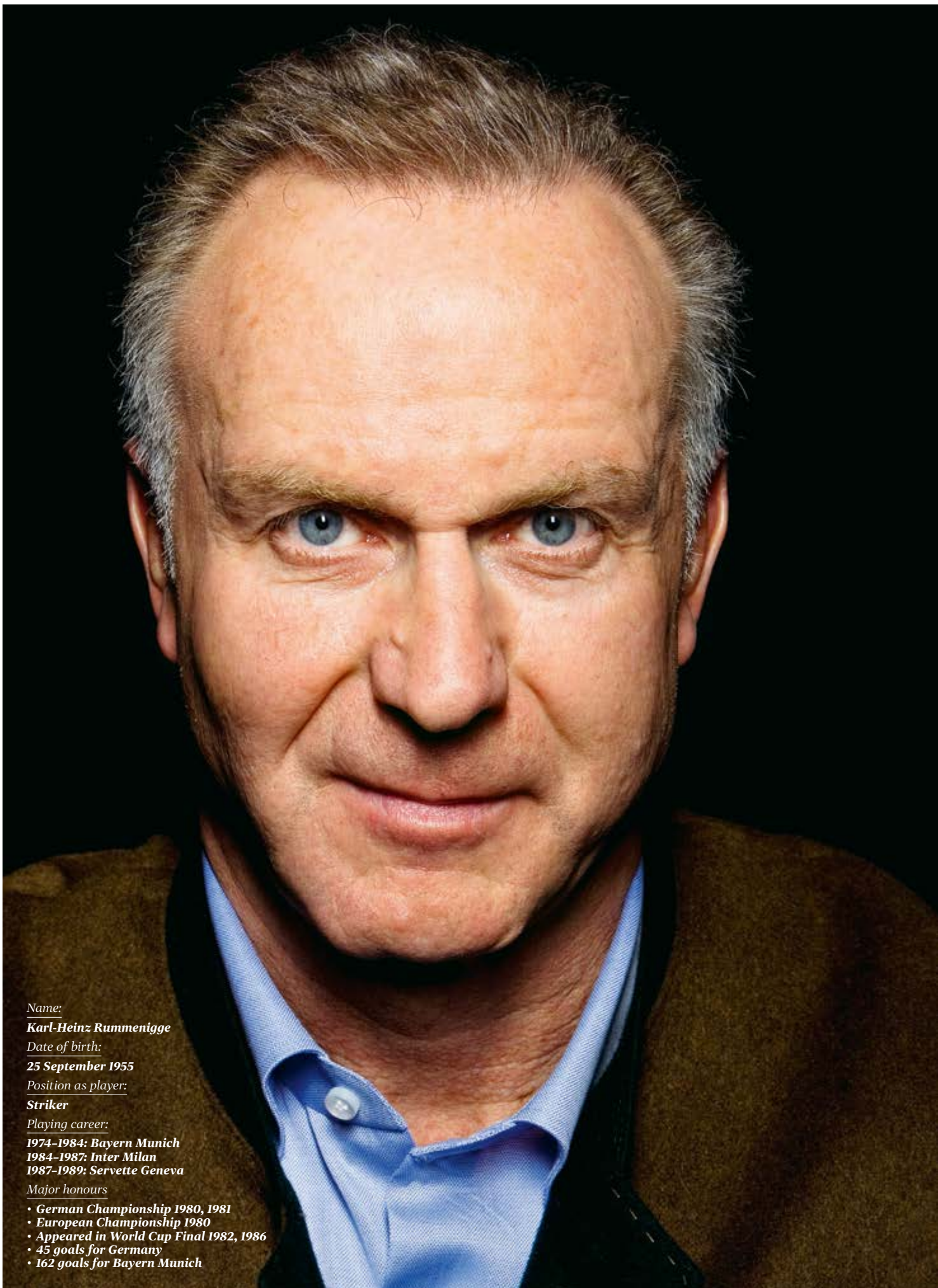


Success at last: Richarlison celebrates Mineiro's win in the second leg of the Copa Libertadores final.

including Bayern Munich. The *Galos* will begin their campaign in the semi-final.

Atletico's route to the Copa Libertadores title was not a spectacle for the faint-hearted. Both their semi-final against Argentinian side Newell's Old Boys and their final against Paraguay's Olimpia Asuncion were decided by penalty shoot-outs, elevating Mineiro goalkeeper Victor to hero status in the process. Shortly after the final at the Mineirao Stadium on 25 July, none other than coach Alexi Stival,

reasons: firstly, Atletico have a coach who knows how to build a title-winning team; and secondly, the club finally has luck on its side, too. ❄️



Name:

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge

Date of birth:

25 September 1955

Position as player:

Striker

Playing career:

1974–1984: Bayern Munich

1984–1987: Inter Milan

1987–1989: Servette Geneva

Major honours

- **German Championship 1980, 1981**
- **European Championship 1980**
- **Appeared in World Cup Final 1982, 1986**
- **45 goals for Germany**
- **162 goals for Bayern Munich**

“The ‘Pep factor’ is huge”

Next week Karl-Heinz Rummenigge hopes to see Bayern Munich win their fifth trophy of 2013, the Club World Cup. “We’ve been yearning after Pep Guardiola’s vision of the game for ages,” the 58-year-old club chairman said.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, how well do you remember the Intercontinental Cup final in 1976, when European Cup winners FC Bayern went to play Cruzeiro of Belo Horizonte, the Copa Libertadores holders?

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge: It was just before Christmas, and we’d won the first leg 2-0 on 23 November in front of a sparse 22,000 crowd at the Olympic Stadium in temperatures that felt like -12°C. The return was on 21 December, a Tuesday evening, and we wanted to fly to Belo Horizonte the previous Saturday evening from Munich via Paris and Rio de Janeiro. But there was fog in Munich so we were sent home for the time being. We finally took off on Monday morning, a day before kick-off. We were stuck at the airport in Rio much longer than planned due to a storm in Belo Horizonte. We eventually arrived at the venue four hours before kick-off.

Completely tired and exhausted?

Very much so. Our coach Dettmar Cramer got us together over coffee and cake and made us promise none of us would fall asleep. Logically enough he told us to drink coffee until we could drink no more right up until we took the field. That’s exactly what we did.

And how did it turn out?

Not bad at all, despite the sticky heat with temperatures over 30°C. But before the match, the first thing that happened was Cramer entering the dressing room dripping with blood. He’d been hit by a cola bottle thrown from the crowd. But our coach still stayed totally cool and declined the offer of pressing charges, with the remark: “That’s quite a feat, hitting me right on my little nose from such a long way away.”

The match ended goalless. Was it a case of digging in for 90 minutes and making it to the end, due to the tiredness?

Not at all. We totally dominated the game in front of the 117,000 crowd and made quite enough chances to have won 6-0. As there are two top-flight clubs in Belo Horizonte, Cruzeiro and Atletico Mineiro, the supporters of the one club jeered and booed, but the other club’s fans got behind us enthusiastically. After the goalless draw we flew back to Munich immediately, arrived in a snowstorm and we were

met at the airport by 19 fans. It seemed almost as if no-one had noticed that we’d gone to Brazil and won the Intercontinental Cup.

What are you hoping for from the current Club World Cup?

From everything we know at the moment it’ll be a huge event in the host cities of Agadir and Marrakesh. They’ve put in a lot of work there. The stadiums have been refurbished, and we understand new football pitches have been constructed round and about. It’s a fact that this tournament is regarded as the highlight of the season in Asia, Africa and South America. Unfortunately the whole thing is seen as a bit of an also-ran in Europe.

What are Bayern’s plans for the tournament?

We want to win it, and we’re travelling to Agadir at 9 pm on the evening of 14 December immediately after our Bundesliga meeting with Hamburg. We’ll have three days to acclimatise prior to our first match, one of the two semi-finals, so we’ll prepare perfectly once we’re there.

Adding the Club World Cup to the German Championship, the German Cup, the Champions League and the UEFA Super Cup would be a perfect fit to the image of a club regarded as one of the leading names in world football both domestically and around the world.

It would play wonderfully into our hands if we succeed in winning this trophy as well. We’ve never won five trophies in a single year. Our 2-1 victory over Dortmund in the Champions League final certainly gave us a real boost. We’ve been regarded with the greatest respect home and abroad since then, and we’ve been getting a lot of visitors to Munich from every conceivable country. People simply want to know how we did it against our competitors from Spain and England, and what lies behind it.

Are Bayern now up at the same level as the giants of the game, Barcelona, Real Madrid and Manchester United?

Those were the clubs who used to be one level above us. We’re now trying to pull our weight and stay up at this very highest level. But on the subject of image and international recognition, I have to say this is also a

challenge to the entire Bundesliga. It would be good if more Bundesliga clubs staged their pre-season or midwinter training camps on another continent. In terms of international popularity we’re in permanent competition with clubs from the Premier League, La Liga and Serie A.

So where do Bayern stand in the eyes of the global fan community?

The way we’re viewed at home has been the same for ages: people either love us or they don’t. It’s different overseas. The respect is almost a little greater for two reasons: we play very attractive football and we’re a seriously well-managed, financially absolutely healthy club, never inclined to risky adventures. On top of that our coach is well regarded everywhere. The ‘Pep factor’ is huge, because Guardiola is arguably the best-known and most popular coach in the world. He and Jupp Heynckes before him have made sure we shed our reputation for arrogance a long time ago.

Guardiola could have gone to another leading European club for much more money. Why did he choose to join Bayern?

It proves the theory that sometimes it’s not only about money. After his terrific spell with Barcelona, Pep quickly recognised he could best realise his ideas with us, because of our approach and the team we have here. After Louis van Gaal and Jupp Heynckes we have our third coach in succession who’s come in and instilled his own footballing philosophy. We’ve been yearning after this vision of the game for ages.

What kind of football do you want associated with Bayern?

Nowadays, our promise is beautiful football. When I came here as a player in the mid-1970s, Bayern were viewed as a model club in terms of success and winning important matches, but not exactly as a byword for aesthetically attractive football. In Germany at the time that was associated with Borussia Monchengladbach, and our biggest rivals of the period were much more popular as a result. ☺

Interview: Roland Zorn

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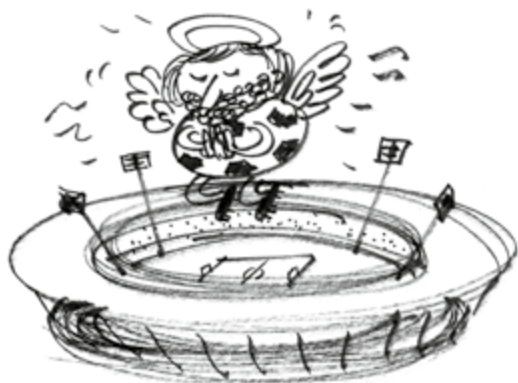
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The tale of the trailblazing stag

Thomas Renggli

“Taking part is more important than winning” was the mantra under which French educator and sports official Pierre de Coubertin revived the Olympic Games in 1896. Back then, his noble aim was to exclude all financial interests from sport, but over the past century, commercialism has steadily replaced idealism. Patrons, donors and sponsors began to intrude upon the sports field and the shirts worn by sport’s leading protagonists lost their neutrality.

Several print media outlets vehemently opposed this shift towards shirt sponsorship from the outset. Some publications, such as Swiss journal “Sport”, even retouched images to remove company logos on football shirts unless the companies concerned placed an advertisement in the journal.

Similarly, stadium advertising was strictly forbidden by puritans within football’s uppermost governing bodies who believed football must remain free from such corrupting outside influences. However, in the early 1970s, Eintracht Braunschweig ultimately toppled these ideas and sowed the seeds of division in German football. Eintracht and closely affiliated spirits manufacturer Mast outmanoeuvred the German Football Association (DFB) by launching a nationwide press campaign with the unusual twist of installing blank, snow-white boards around the pitch at Braunschweig’s stadium – forerunners of the perimeter advertising seen around the world today.

The media flocked to Braunschweig, snapping photographs, filming and writing reports. Overnight, all of Germany knew that these blank advertising boards should have been emblazoned with the branding of Jägermeister liqueur. At the same time, the company’s stag

replaced Eintracht’s lion on the club badge – a stroke of genius. Sales of Jägermeister soared and the DFB’s sponsorship ban was eventually lifted. The campaign cost Mast €255,000.

Today, it is impossible to imagine football shirts and stadiums without advertising. In 2011, Barcelona became the last major club to give in to the lure of shirt sponsorship after 111 years. Although the diminutive Lionel Messi may not be typical of prime advertising space, the club’s current three-year deal with Qatar Airways is worth 96 million euros.

Any company with sufficiently deep pockets can even immortalise their brand in a stadium’s name. Today, Arsenal play at the Emirates Stadium, Bayern Munchen at the Allianz Arena, Wolfsburg at the Volkswagen Arena and Borussia Dortmund at Signal Iduna Park, while Schalke’s Veltins Arena continues the tradition of alcoholic beverage sponsorship begun by Braunschweig’s pioneers.

Energy drink manufacturers Red Bull performed something of a legal step-over after acquiring SSV Markranstädt in 2009. The company’s request to rename the club Red Bull Leipzig was rejected by the DFB’s legal counsel, but Red Bull had an ingenious compromise up their sleeves. Although the club is now named RasenBallSport Leipzig, it is popularly known as RB Leipzig and bears the Red Bull logo on its badge. ❄

Footballing monuments

- 1 **Wembley, London.** Capacity 90,000. The most famous stadium of them all. Home of the FA Cup Final and the English national team.
- 2 **Camp Nou, Barcelona.** Capacity 98,787. This Catalonian cathedral of football is where Messi & Co show off their skills.
- 3 **Maracana, Rio de Janeiro.** Capacity 73,531. Built for the 1950 World Cup (for 183,513 fans), the stadium will also be every team’s ultimate destination in July 2014.
- 4 **Rungrado May Day Stadium, Pyongyang.** Capacity 150,000. The largest stadium in the world, with eight stands for spectators.
- 5 **Estadio Alberto Jacinto Armando, Buenos Aires.** Capacity 40,318. This stadium, known locally as “La Bombonera”, is the home of Maradona’s club, Boca Juniors.
- 6 **Allianz Arena, Munich.** Capacity 69,000. Eight years ago, Bayern Munich and their city rivals TSV 1860 Munich made this new stadium their home.
- 7 **Anfield, Liverpool.** Capacity 45,362. “You’ll never walk alone” immediately evokes images of this place of footballing worship.
- 8 **Stadio Giuseppe Meazza, Milan.** Capacity 81,389. The San Siro is home to both AC Milan and their city rivals Inter.
- 9 **Signal Iduna Park, Dortmund.** Capacity 80,552. The South Stand, which can hold 25,000 standing fans alone, is a fearsome prospect for opponents.
- 10 **FNB Stadium, Johannesburg.** Capacity 94,700. Africa’s largest stadium, also known as Soccer City, was the venue for the 2010 World Cup Final.
- 11 **Aztec Stadium, Mexico City.** Capacity 105,000. Maradona enjoyed his “Hand of God” moment here. Until next July, it is the only stadium to have hosted two World Cup Finals.

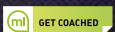
The weekly column by our staff writers



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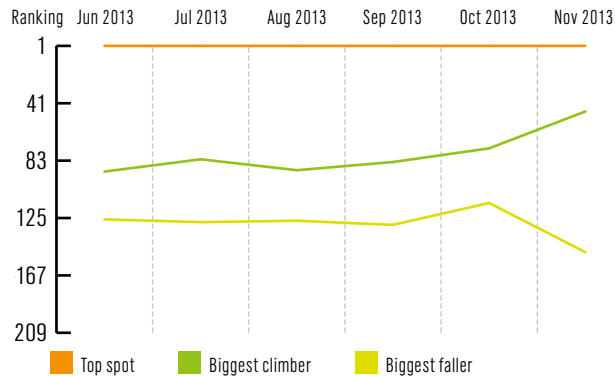
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FIFA WORLD RANKING

Rank	Team	Change in ranking	Points
1	Spain	0	1507
2	Germany	0	1318
3	Argentina	0	1251
4	Colombia	0	1200
5	Portugal	9	1172
6	Uruguay	0	1132
7	Italy	1	1120
8	Switzerland	-1	1113
9	Netherlands	-1	1106
10	Brazil	1	1102
11	Belgium	-6	1098
12	Greece	3	1055
13	England	-3	1041
14	USA	-1	1019
15	Chile	-3	1014
16	Croatia	2	971
17	Côte d'Ivoire	0	918
18	Ukraine	2	907
19	France	2	893
20	Mexico	4	892
21	Bosnia-Herzegovina	-5	886
22	Russia	-3	870
23	Ecuador	-1	852
24	Ghana	-1	849
25	Denmark	1	831
26	Algeria	6	800
27	Sweden	-2	793
28	Czech Republic	-1	766
29	Slovenia	1	762
30	Serbia	-2	752
31	Costa Rica	0	738
32	Romania	-3	734
33	Scotland	2	717
34	Armenia	4	716
35	Venezuela	2	711
36	Nigeria	-3	710
37	Panama	-1	705
38	Egypt	13	699
39	Cape Verde Islands	3	698
39	Peru	0	698
41	Honduras	-7	688
42	Mali	-1	684
43	Turkey	-3	677
44	Hungary	-1	668
45	Iran	4	650
46	Austria	7	648
47	Cuba	27	641
48	Japan	-4	638
49	Tunisia	-2	632
50	Iceland	-4	624
51	Cameroon	8	612
52	Paraguay	-3	600
53	Montenegro	1	594
54	Korea Republic	2	577
54	Norway	-7	577
56	Wales	-12	574
57	Albania	1	571
58	Burkina Faso	-6	569
59	Australia	-2	564
60	Slovakia	5	557
61	South Africa	0	554
62	Israel	4	548
63	Libya	-2	544
64	Finland	-1	539
65	Senegal	-1	536
66	Guinea	2	534
67	Republic of Ireland	-7	528
68	Uzbekistan	-13	526
69	Bolivia	2	519
70	Jordan	0	511
71	United Arab Emirates	0	508
72	Zambia	-5	505
73	Haiti	7	495
74	Sierra Leone	-1	493
75	Morocco	2	490
76	Bulgaria	0	486
77	Togo	-2	480



78	Poland	-9	473
79	Trinidad and Tobago	2	458
80	Gabon	4	453
81	Jamaica	1	441
82	Belarus	1	431
83	Congo DR	4	427
84	FYR Macedonia	2	421
84	Congo	7	421
86	Uganda	-1	417
87	Oman	5	389
88	Dominican Republic	-10	384
89	Angola	4	382
90	Northern Ireland	0	381
91	New Zealand	-12	378
91	El Salvador	-2	378
93	China PR	4	376
93	Ethiopia	2	376
95	Azerbaijan	-7	363
96	Estonia	3	360
97	Moldova	-1	359
98	Botswana	0	357
99	Saudi Arabia	2	352
100	Benin	-6	342
101	Georgia	-1	330
102	Lithuania	1	326
103	Qatar	2	320
104	Niger	6	318
105	Liberia	1	312
106	Zimbabwe	-4	310
106	Central African Republic	1	310
106	Kuwait	3	310
109	Antigua and Barbuda	3	299
109	Iraq	-6	299
111	Equatorial Guinea	8	294
112	Burundi	9	293
113	Korea DPR	-6	292
114	Canada	-3	291
115	Guatemala	-3	287
116	Tajikistan	0	286
117	Kenya	1	281
118	Bahrain	5	275
119	Latvia	-2	272
120	Mozambique	-5	271
121	Malawi	3	270
122	New Caledonia	4	249
123	Lebanon	-2	248
124	Luxembourg	3	243
124	Tanzania	5	243
126	Namibia	2	240
127	Cyprus	7	229
127	Rwanda	2	229
129	Afghanistan	4	226
130	Grenada	2	218
130	Sudan	6	218
132	Kazakhstan	3	216
133	Philippines	4	204
134	Gambia	5	202
135	Syria	6	200
136	Malta	4	198
137	Turkmenistan	-12	195
138	Lesotho	3	187
139	Suriname	-8	186
140	Myanmar	9	184
141	Tahiti	3	179
142	Thailand	1	173
142	Palestine	4	173
144	Mauritania	8	158

144	Hong Kong	4	158
146	Kyrgyzstan	4	155
147	St Kitts and Nevis	0	150
148	India	6	149
149	Maldives	8	147
150	Guyana	-36	146
151	St Vincent and the Grenadines	-31	142
152	Liechtenstein	6	141
152	Puerto Rico	7	141
154	Singapore	1	140
155	São Tomé e Príncipe	7	139
156	Bangladesh	6	137
157	Belize	-12	136
158	Malaysia	2	132
158	Vietnam	-7	132
160	Nicaragua	-7	130
161	St Lucia	-23	129
162	Indonesia	0	122
163	Laos	4	120
164	Chad	-8	116
165	Nepal	0	113
166	Sri Lanka	0	108
167	Pakistan	1	107
168	Barbados	5	101
169	Guam	2	93
170	Faroe Islands	5	87
171	Solomon Islands	0	86
172	Bermuda	-11	83
173	Aruba	0	82
174	Chinese Taipei	2	81
175	Curaçao	-5	67
175	Dominica	-6	67
177	Yemen	0	64
178	Mauritius	0	62
179	Vanuatu	3	53
180	Mongolia	3	49
181	Fiji	4	47
182	Samoa	-4	45
183	Guinea-Bissau	-2	42
184	Bahamas	4	40
185	Swaziland	-2	37
186	Madagascar	-6	33
186	Montserrat	3	33
188	Cambodia	10	28
189	Brunei Darussalam	4	26
189	Timor-Leste	4	26
189	Tonga	-3	26
192	US Virgin Islands	-1	23
193	Comoros	-3	22
194	Cayman Islands	-2	21
194	Papua New Guinea	3	21
196	British Virgin Islands	3	18
196	American Samoa	-10	18
198	Andorra	2	17
199	Eritrea	-4	16
200	Seychelles	-4	15
201	South Sudan	3	10
201	Macau	3	10
203	Djibouti	-1	8
204	Somalia	-3	6
205	Cook Islands	-3	5
206	Anguilla	0	3
207	Bhutan	0	0
207	San Marino	0	0
207	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	0

First Love



Place: Qunu, South Africa

Date: 28 March 2012

Time: 1.24 pm



Kidnappings and brutal fouls



Triumph in 1962: Santos players Gilmar and Pele celebrate in the showers.

The FIFA Club World Cup is underway, and high-quality football is sure to be on show in Morocco. But that hasn't always been the case as previous encounters between the world's best clubs have often been extremely combative.

Xavier Breuil

The FIFA Club World Cup is underway, and high-quality football is sure to be on show in the north African kingdom of Morocco. But that hasn't always been the case in previous encounters between the world's best clubs, which have often been extremely combative affairs. The FIFA Club World Cup Morocco 2013, which kicked off in Marrakech on 11 December, isn't the first international football tournament to be held in the north African kingdom. Since 1962, it has hosted the Mohamed V Cup – an annual tournament pitting the Moroccan champions against three of the world's best clubs. The likes of Real Madrid, Boca Juniors, Sao Paulo, Flamengo, Bayern Munich and Barcelona have all visited Casablanca to participate in this prestigious friendly tournament.

Where it all began

This competition was just one in a long line of tournaments featuring teams from different continents. South America's top clubs in particular have been attempting to organise games against their European counterparts since 1950. One of the first competitions of this nature, the "Copa Rio", was held in Brazil in 1951 and 1952 and featured the champions of the respective domestic leagues. Brazil's Fluminense and Palmeiras, Uruguay's Penarol, Italy's Juventus and Switzerland's Grasshoppers Club Zurich were just some of the teams to take part in the competition.

Di Stefano's kidnapping

The "Pequena Copa del Mundo" (or "Mini World Cup"), which was held in Venezuela between 1952 and 1957 and again between 1963 and 1970, featured the four best European and South American teams and followed a similar format to the Copa Rio. Though the "Mini World Cup" counts Real Madrid, Corinthians and Benfica

among its winners, the tournament suffered from the political instability that plagued Venezuela during the 1960s. Real Madrid striker Alfredo Di Stefano, regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, was kidnapped during the 1963 tournament. Thankfully his kidnapper, the Venezuelan National Liberation Front, released him two days later in front of the Spanish Embassy.

At around the same time as the Pequena Copa del Mundo, the Intercontinental Cup, also known as the European-South American Cup, was starting to make a name for itself. Founded in 1960, the trophy was contested between the winners of the European Cup and the Copa Libertadores.

No African clubs allowed

Though FIFA recognised the tournament, as it did most other competitions, they rejected the opportunity to assist in its organisation, as it only featured teams from two of the six confederations. FIFA put forward the idea of including the best African and North African



clubs, but the South Americans and the Europeans, who were battling amongst themselves for world football domination at the time, rejected the proposal. The winners of the clash were therefore awarded the unofficial title of club world champions.

Popular matches

Until 1968, this annual encounter enjoyed a measure of success. The first leg of the inaugural intercontinental final between Penarol and Real Madrid in Montevideo was watched by 79,000 spectators, while 100,000 fans attended Real's 5-1 triumph in the return leg at the Bernabeu. These matches enabled European fans in particular to see how South American football differed at national and club level. Though FC Santos, featuring a certain Pele, won the competition in 1962 and 1963, Brazilian clubs were conspicuous only by their absence in later years, while A Seleção won three of the four FIFA World Cups held between 1958 and 1970.

Argentinian clubs enjoyed the most success in the Copa Libertadores and thus were much better represented than their Brazilian counterparts between 1960 and 1979 – with ten appearances compared with the Brazilians' three.

Combin loses consciousness

Unfortunately, the players often got carried away in these battles for world football supremacy, and they began to become known for their brutality. Some 100,000 supporters saw Glasgow Celtic play Racing Club de Avellaneda in 1967 in a game marred by five red cards, and when Estudiantes La Plata and AC Milan met at the Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires two years later, Argentinian-born Milan striker Nestor Combin lost consciousness after being on the receiving end of a particularly tough tackle from an Estudiantes player.

Incredibly, the Argentinian police arrested Combin after the match and locked him in prison for the night for refusing to perform national military service.

FIFA brings the Club World Cup to life

These incidents did little to enhance the competition's reputation. A number of European clubs, Bayern Munich and Ajax Amsterdam among them, declined the opportunity to play in South America in later years, preferring to let the European Cup runners-up compete in the tournament. Atletico Madrid became the first team to be crowned club world champions without winning their own continental competition. The tournament only regained its credibility when it was rebranded as the Toyota

Cup. Held in Japan between 1980 and 2004, the competition was won by a South American team on twelve occasions, while a European team emerged triumphant 13 times.

FIFA had never dropped the idea of organising its own intercontinental club tournament featuring teams from all six confederations. In 2000, the first ever official Club World Cup was finally staged in Brazil. With eight teams from the six confederations, it was the first proper intercontinental tournament in football history. 🌐



Club World Cup in Morocco (Agadir and Marrakech)

Duration:

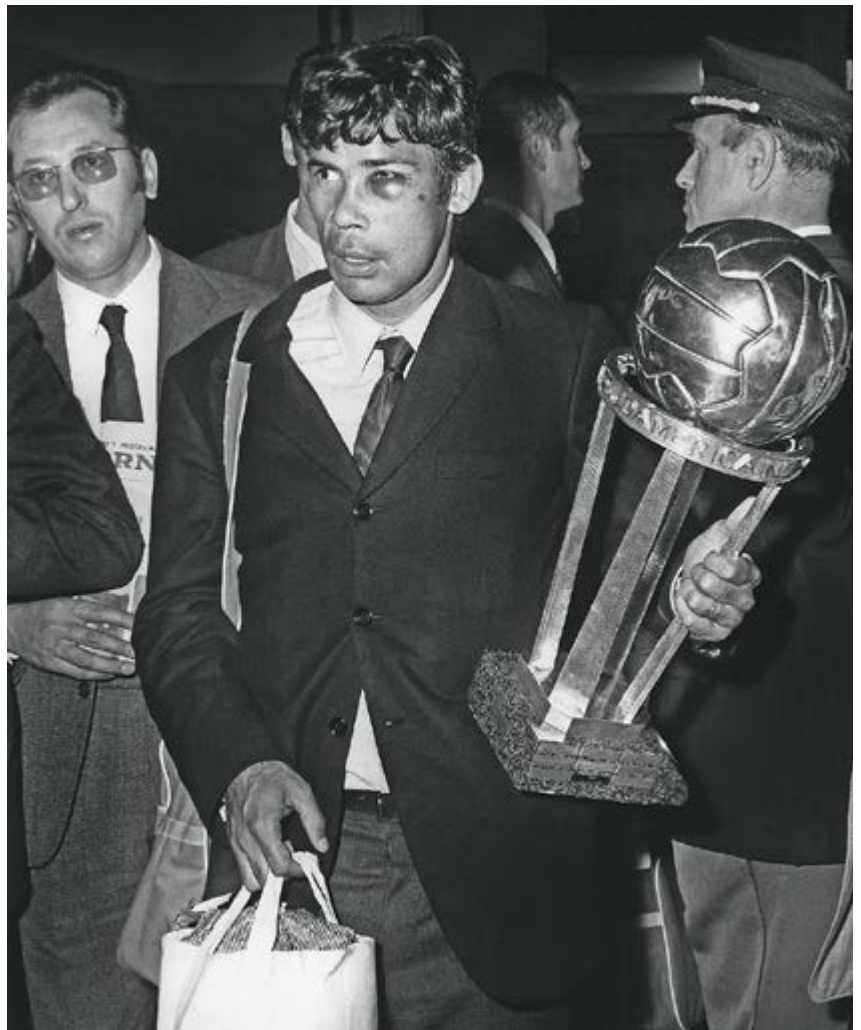
11-21 December 2013

Clubs involved:

- Bayern Munich (Germany)
- Guangzhou Evergrande (China)
- CF Monterrey (Mexico)
- Atletico Mineiro (Brazil)
- Auckland City (New Zealand)
- Al Ahly Cairo (Egypt)
- Raja Casablanca (Morocco)

Final:

21 December 2013 in Marrakech



A tough final: Milan striker Nestor Combin at the airport in 1969.

When will an African team finally win the World Cup?

Asked by Oumar Thiam, Dakar



Long back and sides: Gunter Netzer and hairdresser in April 1972.

It's a very legitimate question, especially as the Africans have been playing tremendous football for decades now. But I fear there won't be an African World Cup winner over the medium term. And it's not as though they're lacking the footballing basics. Magnificent players emerge from Africa over and over again, making the best leagues in the world even better with their athleticism and skill. In the past, certain national teams have sporadically made a real impression. I'm thinking specially of Ghana, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire. But absolutely everything has to come together if you're to triumph at a major international tournament.

A national team and the country at large needs a bedrock of experience in terms of set-up, procedures, consistency and long-term planning. For example, for a major four-week undertaking, tasks such as organisation and nutrition for the squad – things you might

consider incidental or secondary at first glance – can actually make the decisive difference.

In my opinion, expanding the starting field isn't the right way to bring more African teams into the World Cup. Thirty-two teams is the upper limit. We have to maintain high quality standards. That's one of the reasons I'm looking forward to Brazil 2014, and to exciting matches featuring Algeria, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. ☺

What have you always wanted to know about football? Ask Gunter Netzer: feedbackTheWeekly@fifa.org



Perikles Monioudis

This week's object is a small porcelain figure of a footballer wearing boots and a lace-up shirt, with the ball at his feet, his head bowed in concentration and his left arm still trailing towards the point at which his run began. It appears almost as though the young player has been frozen in the midst of a match. The hand that created him crafted him from lifeless, cold materials, yet the figure still captures our imagination. How can this be?

Thousands of years ago, fetishes and totems were popular, before statues eventually took precedence. From archaic Greek sculptures to the Pergamon Altar, all the way to Praxiteles' Resting Satyr, statues are often not literal representations of specific individuals but instead encapsulate the emotions that make us human, such as passion, fear, joy or sorrow. They act as a symbolic exaggeration of qualities that we mortals are not always aware of. If we stopped to study them, we could learn something about ourselves.

Statues look down at us from high plinths, gaze at us from bridges, wait in parks for us and laugh at us when we lose patience with each other on our way to work, cling on to hopeless ideas of love, obsessively compare ourselves with others and succumb to our weaknesses. We amuse them purely because they represent all of those qualities themselves. They warn of humanity's corruption, fickleness, conceit, drunkenness or madness, but we do not notice them or consider their significance in our daily lives. Instead, we refuse to heed their lessons and condemn ourselves to make the same mistakes repeatedly. That is the difference between people and their lifeless stone counterparts.

This little footballer from the FIFA Collection was created in the early 1930s. He is made from white gold rather than marble and, despite his spirited appearance, does not run away when you hold him in your hand. ☺

“If it wasn’t for the war in Bosnia I wouldn’t be a pro”

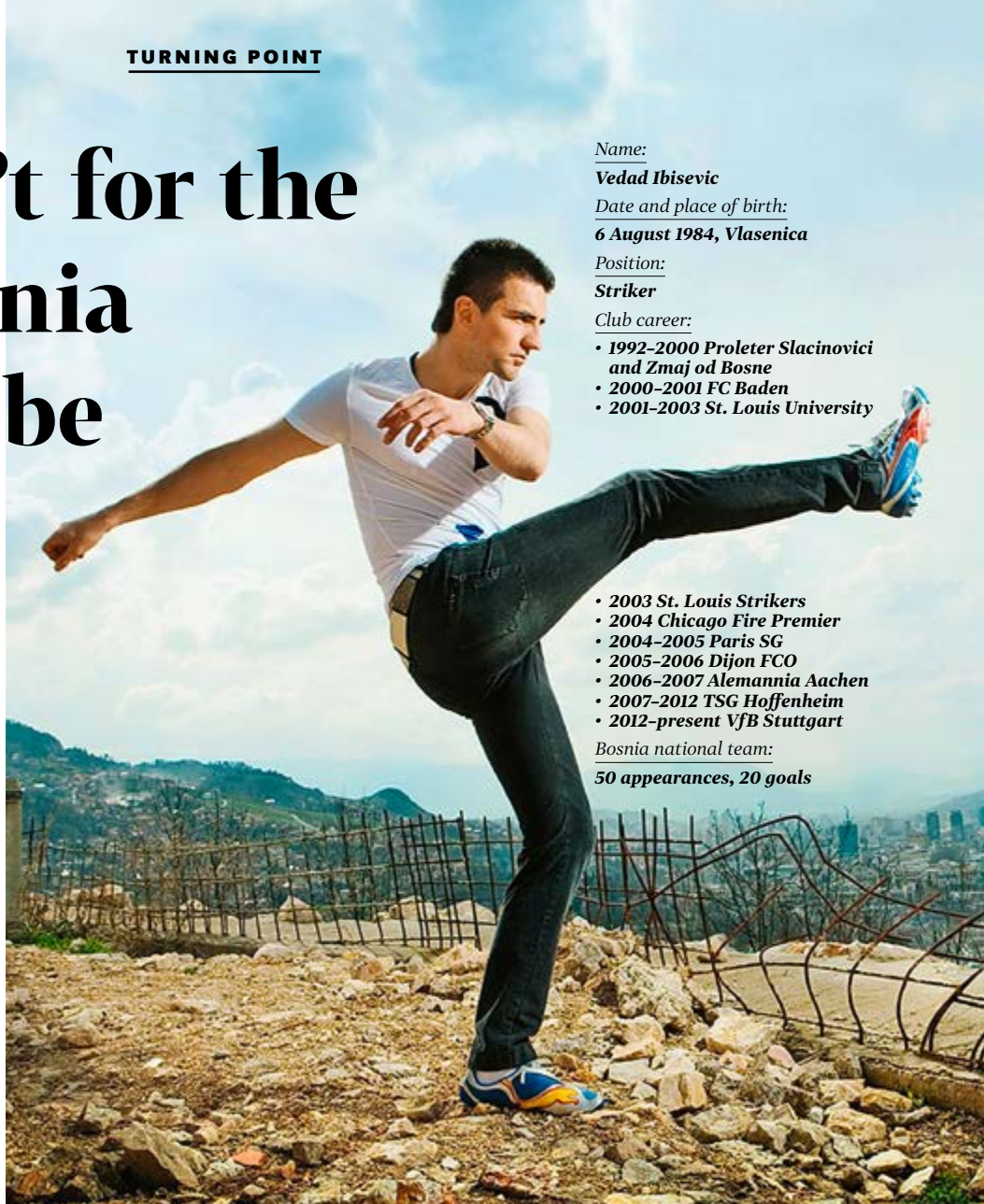
Bosnia, Switzerland, USA, France, Germany: Much-travelled **Vedad Ibisevic** has played for 11 clubs in five countries. The turning point for the Stuttgart star came when he was 16.

I was born in 1984 in Vlasenica, a pretty town of around 12,000 in the rural east of Bosnia. That’s where I first went to school and made friends with lots of other kids, until the catastrophic civil war broke out in 1992. Just before I turned eight my parents, my sister and I packed all our belongings and fled to the northern industrial city of Tuzla.

Those were tough times for my family and for the whole country. But I can still look back on a wonderful childhood. I had lots of friends and loving support from my parents. And of course there was football which I’ve loved for as long as I can remember. My first club was Proleter Slacinovici in the suburbs of Tuzla. As a youth I switched to Zmaj od Bosne. Both clubs are gone now, or at least have new names.

I was happy and very comfortable with my surroundings, but my parents were badly affected by the economic situation after the war. They didn’t want my sister and I to be abandoned there with no prospects for the future, so we moved to Switzerland. But we couldn’t get a residence permit and only stayed ten months, finally ending up in the USA, in St. Louis to be precise. We had relatives there and weren’t forced to start all over again from scratch.

Sure, leaving our home country at the age of 16 definitely wasn’t easy for me and my sister. After all, we were leaving behind our family and friends. When you analyse this turning point in our lives, caused by the Bosnian civil war, you can only say it was



Name:

Vedad Ibisevic

Date and place of birth:

6 August 1984, Vlasenica

Position:

Striker

Club career:

- 1992–2000 Proleter Slacinovici and Zmaj od Bosne
- 2000–2001 FC Baden
- 2001–2003 St. Louis University

- 2003 St. Louis Strikers
- 2004 Chicago Fire Premier
- 2004–2005 Paris SG
- 2005–2006 Dijon FCO
- 2006–2007 Alemannia Aachen
- 2007–2012 TSG Hoffenheim
- 2012–present VfB Stuttgart

Bosnia national team:

50 appearances, 20 goals

positive to the extent that I guess I wouldn’t be a professional footballer today if I’d continued my development as a player in Bosnia. Once I was abroad, I learned a lot and gained experience. It started in St. Louis, where things went very well for me and where I even received an award as the best young player. I then went to France and I’ve now been in Germany for seven years. I believe I’ve absorbed the best things about each of the countries, and I can definitely look back on really varied experiences as a player.

Obviously, it’s fantastic I now have the chance of playing at the World Cup in Brazil with the Bosnian national team. It’s very likely the tournament will be the highlight of my career to date, and it’ll definitely be an unforgettable experience. Actually qualifying and all the celebrations in Bosnia afterwards was unforgettable too. It was unbelievably good to see so many happy faces waiting to greet us. Quite a few of the national team players have similar stories to mine. We draw energy from what we’ve experienced. We Bosnians are fighters.

It won’t be easy in a group with Argentina, Nigeria and Iran, but I reckon we have a chance of making the last sixteen. My parents shuttle between St. Louis and Europe these days, but they’re very proud of me and they’re planning to come to Brazil and support us. 🇧🇦

As told to Alan Schweingruber

In Turning Point, personalities reflect on a decisive moment in their lives.



FIFA WORLD CUP™ TROPHY TOUR by Coca-Cola®



EVERYBODY'S TROPHY



Sep. 12-14 Brazil
 Sep. 17 Tahiti
 Sep. 21 Fiji
 Sep. 23 Vanuatu
 Sep. 27-29 Costa Rica
 Sep. 30-Oct. 2 Honduras
 Oct. 3-4 Panama
 Oct. 5-6 Jamaica
 Oct. 7 Cayman Islands
 Oct. 8 Bahamas
 Oct. 9 Bermuda
 Oct. 10 British Virgin Islands
 Oct. 10 Puerto Rico
 Oct. 11-12 Dominican Republic
 Oct. 13 Turks and Caicos Islands
 Oct. 14 Dominica
 Oct. 15 Anguilla
 Oct. 15 St. Vincent & Grenadines
 Oct. 16 US Virgin Islands
 Oct. 17 Antigua and Barbuda
 Oct. 18 Montserrat
 Oct. 19 St. Kitts & Nevis
 Oct. 21 St. Lucia
 Oct. 22 Barbados
 Oct. 25-27 Haiti
 Oct. 28 Grenada
 Oct. 29 Suriname
 Oct. 30 Guyana
 Oct. 31 Trinidad & Tobago
 Nov. 1 Curacao

Nov. 2 Aruba
 Nov. 3-4 Nicaragua
 Nov. 5-6 El Salvador
 Nov. 7 Belize
 Nov. 10 Israel
 Nov. 11 Palestine
 Nov. 12-13 Jordan
 Nov. 14-16 Egypt
 Nov. 17-19 Tunisia
 Nov. 21-22 Algeria
 Nov. 23-24 Morocco
 Nov. 25-26 Ghana
 Nov. 27-28 Kenya
 Nov. 29-30 Tanzania
 Dec. 1-3 South Africa
 Dec. 9-11 Saudi Arabia
 Dec. 12-14 Qatar
 Dec. 15-16 UAE (United Arab Emirates)
 Dec. 17-19 Bangladesh
 Dec. 20 Bhutan
 Dec. 21 Nepal
 Dec. 22-24 India
 Dec. 25-27 Myanmar
 Dec. 28-30 Thailand
 Dec. 31-Jan. 2 Vietnam
 Jan. 3-5 Malaysia
 Jan. 6-8 Indonesia
 Jan. 10-12 Chile
 Jan. 13-15 Argentina
 Jan. 16-17 Uruguay

Jan. 18-19 Paraguay
 Jan. 20-21 Bolivia
 Jan. 22-24 Peru
 Jan. 25-27 Ecuador
 Jan. 28-30 Colombia
 Jan. 31-Feb. 2 Venezuela
 Feb. 3-5 Guatemala
 Feb. 6-11 Mexico
 Feb. 12-14 Canada
 Feb. 16-18 Spain
 Feb. 19-21 Italy
 Feb. 22-24 Croatia
 Feb. 25-27 Turkey
 Feb. 28-Mar. 2 Sweden
 Mar. 3-5 Romania
 Mar. 6-8 Czech Republic
 Mar. 9-11 France
 Mar. 12-13 Wales
 Mar. 14-16 England
 Mar. 17-18 Scotland
 Mar. 19-20 Netherlands
 Mar. 21 Belgium
 Mar. 22-24 Russia
 Mar. 26-28 Poland
 Mar. 29-Apr. 2 Germany
 Apr. 4-6 Korea Republic
 Apr. 7-9 China
 Apr. 10-12 Japan
 Apr. 14-20 USA



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FIFA QUIZ CUP

This week's quiz features an Italian boss and a World Cup
contender in Roman numerals – test your skill!

1 What is this?



- B** A gas canister for the Olympic flame
- C** The Club World Cup trophy
- F** A crystal ball revealing the next world champions
- G** The draw machine for the World Cup draw

2 Which of these coaches is in charge of one of the Club World Cup 2013 contenders?



3 Which club has contested the most Club World Cups to date?



A



E



O



U

MDCLXVI

4 Final Draw for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil: The abbreviation for one of the 32 countries corresponds to a number expressed in Roman numerals. What's the number?

B 98

E 104

T 506

W 1015

The answer to last week's Quiz Cup was **LUCK** (detailed answers on FIFA.com/theweekly).

Inspiration and implementation: cus

Please send your answers to feedback-TheWeekly@fifa.org by
18 December 2013. Correct submissions for all quizzes received
by 31 December 2013 will go into the draw to **win two tickets to
the FIFA Ballon d'Or 2013 on 13 January 2014**.

Before sending in your answers, all participants must read and accept
the competition terms and conditions and the rules, which can be found
at en.fifa.com/aboutfifa/organisation/the-fifa-weekly/rules.pdf.



What's the highest attendance in history for a single match?

Bernd Timmermann, Hamburg

Answered by Thomas Renggli, chief editor: The highest statistically reliable crowd figures were all recorded at the original, 200,000 capacity Maracana in Rio de Janeiro. The all-time attendance record is held by the 1950 World Cup Final between Brazil and Uruguay, officially watched by 199,854 spectators. Joao Havelange, later to become FIFA President, was one of the eye-witnesses and himself estimated the crowd at 220,000. The biggest attendance for a club match was for a Rio derby between Fluminense and Flamengo in December 1963.

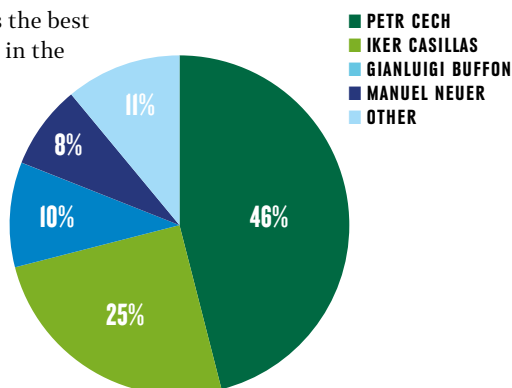


Will Bayern Munich win the Club World Cup?

Everything FC Bayern touched in 2012/13 turned to gold: the Bavarians won the German Championship, German Cup and the Champions League, and have also gone 40 games unbeaten in the Bundesliga. Will Munich now triumph at the Club World Cup in Morocco?

LAST WEEK'S POLL RESULTS

Who is the best keeper in the world?



THE NEW FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

The FIFA Weekly appears every week on Friday as a print edition and an online magazine (www.Fifa.com/TheWeekly).

We report on the biggest stars and the hottest topics, but we also focus on a dialogue with our readers. Why not join in the debate?

Send your opinions to feedback-theWeekly@fifa.org



THE SPRINTER

35.1

FIFA has measured Ecuador striker Antonio Valencia's maximum speed at 35.1 km/h. That makes him the quickest player in the world on the basis of official records, beating Gareth Bale (34.7 km/h) and Cristiano Ronaldo (33.6 km/h).



THE EVERGREEN

603

Bastia keeper Mickael Landreau (34) has made a record 603 appearances in the French top flight. In a career spanning 17 years "Mick" has played for Nantes (Cup winners in 1999 and champions in 2000), Lille (champions in 2011) and Bastia, who he joined in 2012. He has kept 222 clean sheets in his 603 games to date.



THE BALL

6

The adidas Brazuca, the official ball of the 2014 World Cup, is formed from just six interlocking panels, two panels fewer than its predecessor the Jabulani. The iconic Telstar, used for the 1970 World Cup, had 32 panels.

