

# THE WEEKLY

FIFA

Fédération Internationale de Football Association – Since 1904



Brazil's golden boy

# MANIA

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THE MYTH

ANDRES ESCOBAR  
IN MEMORIAM

GERMANY  
SOUL SEARCH

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**Neymar carrying the hopes of a nation**

Not for the first time, the hopes of Brazilian football fans rest squarely on the shoulders of their No.10. At the World Cup, 22-year-old Neymar da Silva Santos Junior has triggered all-out hysteria in the land of "A Seleção". Thomas Renggli spoke to the residents of Rio de Janeiro in an attempt to understand the Neymar phenomenon.

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**Sepp Blatter**

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**Twenty years without Escobar**

Colombia's Andres Escobar was shot dead in a bar in Medellin after scoring an own goal at the 1994 World Cup. Twenty years on, his siblings have travelled to Brazil to support the Colombian team.



**Mania**

Our cover image shows Neymar, Brazil's golden boy.

Ryan Pierse/FIFA via Getty Images



**The FIFA Weekly Magazine App**

The FIFA Weekly, FIFA's football magazine, is also available in five languages as an e-Magazine on your tablet every Friday.



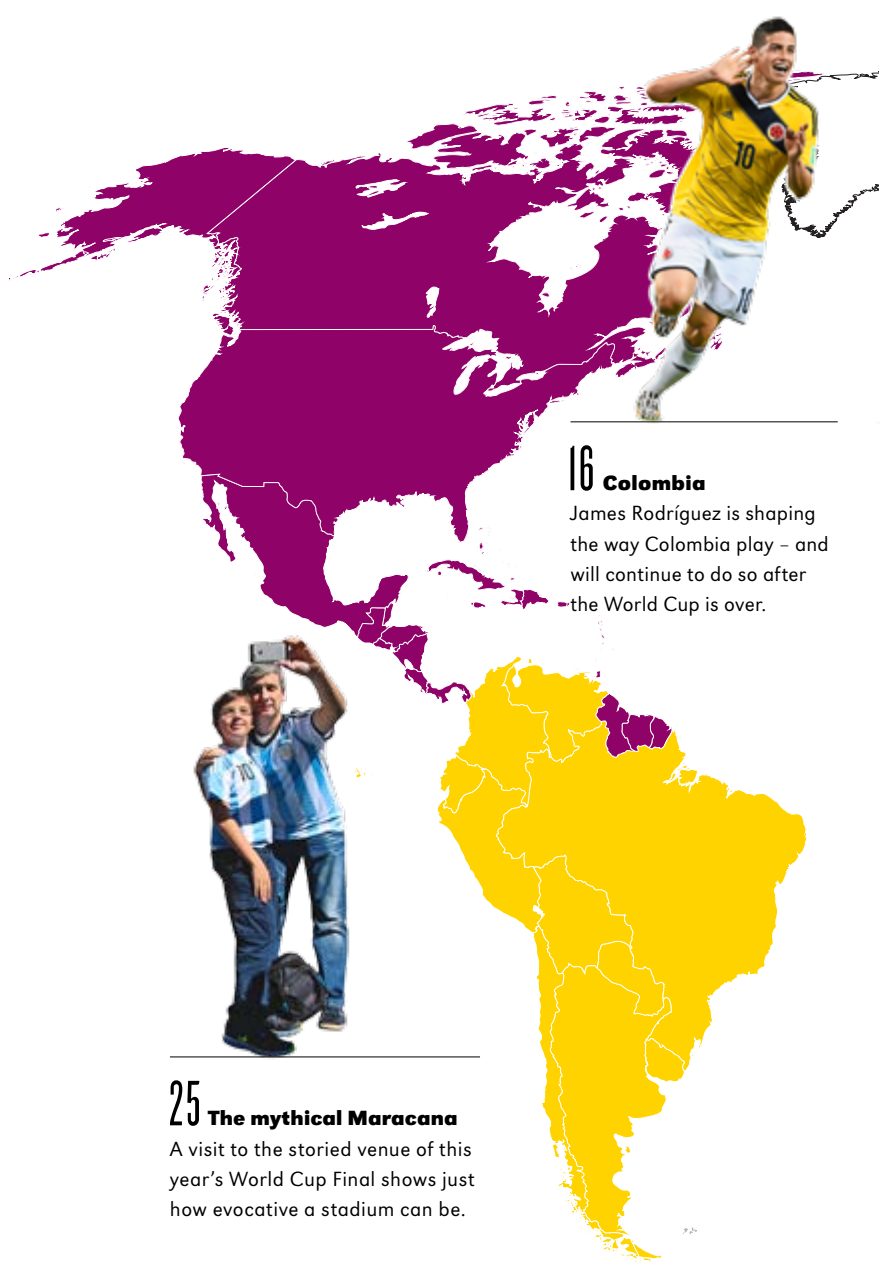
**North and Central America**

35 members  
www.concacaf.com



**South America**

10 members  
www.conmebol.com



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James Rodríguez is shaping the way Colombia play – and will continue to do so after the World Cup is over.

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**The mythical Maracana**

A visit to the storied venue of this year's World Cup Final shows just how evocative a stadium can be.

**Match 57**



BRA - COL  
4 July, 17:00  
Fortaleza

**Match 58**



FRA - GER  
4 July, 13:00  
Rio de Janeiro

**Match 59**



NED - CRC  
5 July, 17:00  
Salvador



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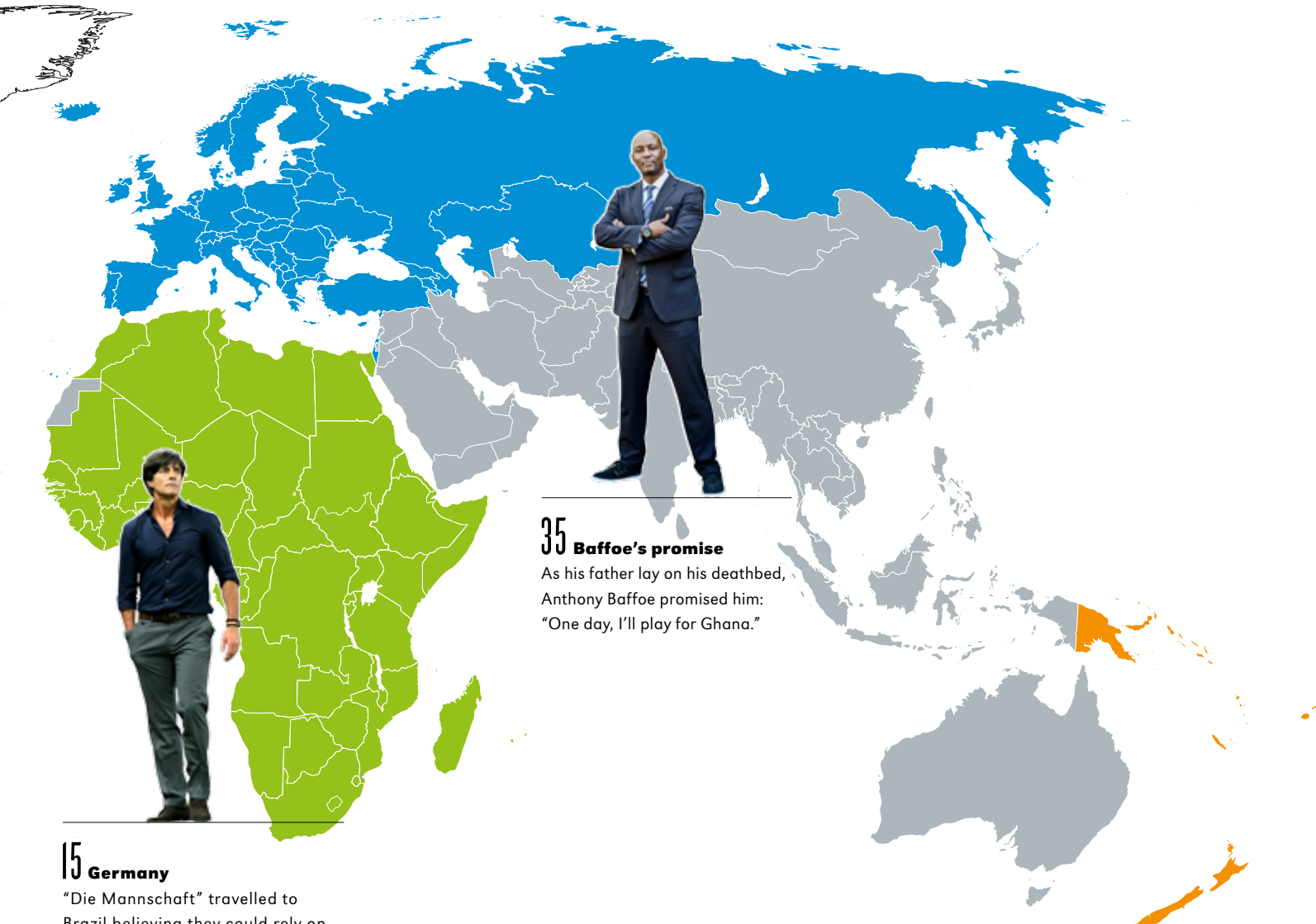
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**35 Baffoe's promise**

As his father lay on his deathbed, Anthony Baffoe promised him: "One day, I'll play for Ghana."

**15 Germany**

"Die Mannschaft" travelled to Brazil believing they could rely on their Spanish-inspired brand of quick-passing football – but things turned out differently. Now Joachim Low's side are seeking a new path.

**Match 60**



ARG - BEL  
5 July, 13:00  
Brasília

**Match 61**



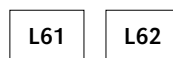
[www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com)  
8 July, 17:00  
Belo Horizonte

**Match 62**



[www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com)  
9 July, 17:00  
São Paulo

**Match 63**



[www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com)  
12 July, 17:00  
Brasília

**Match 64**



[www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com)  
13 July, 16:00  
Rio de Janeiro



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# Myths and mortals

**W**ith less than ten days to go until the Final in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July, the World Cup in Brazil is now entering its most critical phase. Ahead of the final showdown in the legendary Maracana, Alan Schweingruber paid the venerable stadium a visit to see how the events and experiences of the past have been absorbed within its walls over the decades.

**T**he Maracana is not the only thing catching the eye of Brazilians. This time the object of their attention is made of flesh and blood, but is deemed by his fellow countrymen to have almost superhuman abilities. The legend of Neymar has grown steadily in recent years and will continue to be embellished for some time to come, regardless of when Brazil's 2014 World Cup campaign comes to an end. At 22, Neymar is far from the end of his career, and a player of his calibre does not come along every day – even in Brazil. Thomas Renggli stepped onto the streets of Rio in an attempt to encapsulate the myths surrounding Brazil's golden boy.

**I**n this week's column, FIFA President Sepp Blatter discusses the level of competition in this summer's tournament and the prospect of changing the number of World Cup places given to each confederation. "Although the Confederation Africaine de Football has exactly the same number of members as UEFA (54), they only have five representatives at the World Cup while Europe has 13. The same is true of the Asian Football Confederation: four World Cup places is not sufficient for a body with 46 national associations." Sepp Blatter continues by saying: "Therefore, the cards must be redealt sooner rather than later."

**E**xactly 20 years ago, Colombia's Andre Escobar was killed after scoring an own goal in their 1994 World Cup group match against the USA. The centre-back was shot six times outside a bar in Medellin. Alejandro Varsky met Escobar's family. ❖

**Perikles Monioudis**



**Distinctive locks** Neymar's portrait adorns the back of a Brazilian fan's head.



# BRAZIL'S SAVIOUR

**Skilful, savvy and wealthy. Brazil's best player Neymar is the idol of a nation, and a bountiful source of revenue.**

*Thomas Renggli, Rio de Janeiro*







**Grateful thanks** Neymar obviously relishes his goals.

**T**here are many good reasons to travel to Brazil: the beaches of Bahia, the broad expanse of the Amazon basin, the pulsating metropolises of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, the warm hospitality and Brazilian joie de vivre. But as a tourist draw, none of the sights comes close to the statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooking Rio from Corcovado Mountain. Without being prompted practically every taxi or bus driver draws the visitor's attention to the 30 metre tall figure with outstretched arms. Even the beach traders, who will sell you a Caipirinha, a coconut or a *Seleção* replica shirt if you so wish, periodically raise their eyes devoutly to this remarkable monument. Cristo Redentor watches over the city like a supernatural guardian angel, and seems permanently illuminated by sunshine even in the gathering dusk and as if by some kind of magic.

#### **National treasure**

The proud Brazilian nation is yearning for the "Hexa", a sixth World Cup triumph and a first on home soil. Anything short of outright victory would deal a terrible blow to the self-esteem of this country where wizardry with a football is a national treasure and gifted players seem to drop off an endless conveyor belt. The European visitor watching the Cariocas playing football tennis on Ipanema beach practically sinks to his knees in awe and wonderment and would never dream of joining in.

Brazilians are literally and metaphorically always on the ball. They long ago identified the real hero of this 20th World Cup: Neymar da Silva Santos Junior. The slightly-built 22-year-old would probably get squashed in a crowded underground train, and possibly had to sit in the front row at school just to get a decent view of the blackboard. But on the field of play his prodigious skill and elegance allows him to escape every cul-de-sac and head for goal. He also

appears to have shouldered the monstrous burden of pressure at the World Cup with the ease of the naturally gifted. "Neymar will fire us to the World Cup title on 13 July at the Maracana": from Boa Vista in the far north of the country to the World Cup's most southerly venue in Porto Alegre, this is probably the only thing the vast and diverse nation can agree upon.

#### **Versatile and effective**

Henrique Iamauti is one of Neymar's 200 million Brazilian admirers. The IT specialist, who is in charge of telecommunications at tournament headquarters during the World Cup, voices the opinion shared by all his fellow countrymen and women: "Neymar is the player everything depends on. He'll lead us to the World Cup title. If he gets injured we won't stand a chance." In the wake of the Round of 16 drama against Chile that nightmare scenario came unpleasantly close to reality. Neymar has a problem with a hamstring, and the whole





**Guardian Angel** Christ the Redeemer watches over Rio.

nation is sharing his pain. But Henrique thinks all will be well, thanks to the healing power of medicine and the footballing gods: “Neymar has to play against Colombia, and he will.” The systems expert is predicting a golden year for his idol: “Regardless of what happens at the World Cup Neymar will win the Ballon d’Or as the best player of 2014.”

Henrique’s co-worker Marco Antonio is less convinced: “Messi is still the best player in the world for now. But this is Neymar’s huge chance to put that right. To do that he’ll have to lead us to the title.” Antonio makes no bones about Neymar’s crucial importance to *A Seleção*: “We need him if we’re to be world champions. It won’t happen without him.”

The public admiration and awe for the exceptional footballer reflects the problem that could yet be Brazil’s undoing as the tournament unfolds: the talk is only of Neymar, and everyone expects Neymar to deliver. The diminutive number 10 is head and shoulders

above the rest. Brazil’s attacking efforts depend disproportionately on their one true star, making Luis Felipe Scolari’s team a shade predictable, although that does not automatically mean beatable.

Zico, the great playmaker of the 1980s, is a fan: “In my opinion Neymar is like Ronaldo or Messi, a guy who just goes out there and does the seemingly impossible.” Xavi, Neymar’s Barcelona team-mate, is much taken by the Brazilian’s relaxed approach: “You’re blown away by Neymar’s carefree nature. When he plays the lad seems completely oblivious to pressure.”

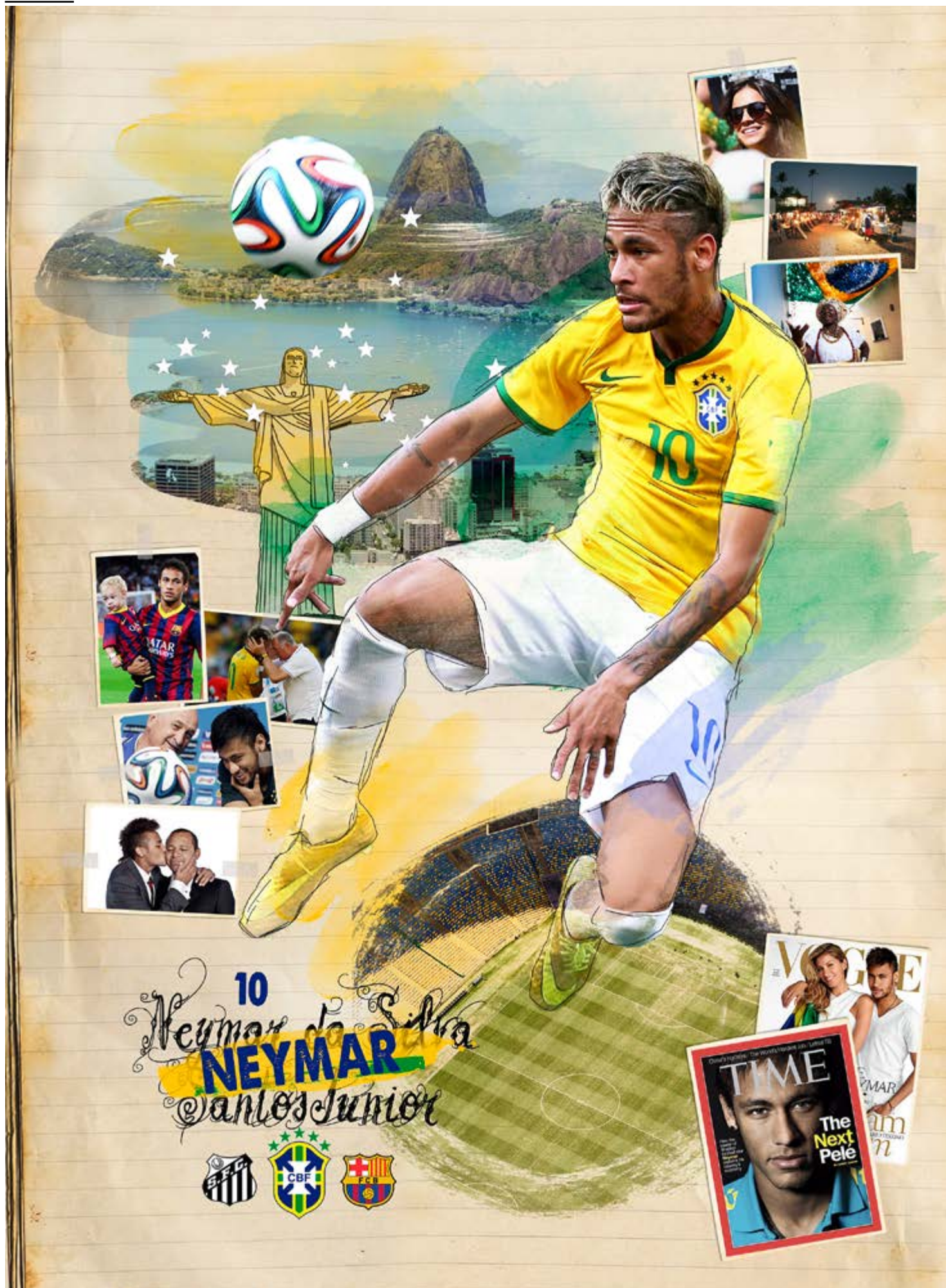
At the time of writing, opposing teams have also been blown away by Neymar. He has scored four goals in four games so far, against Croatia, Mexico, Cameroon and Chile, from completely different areas of the field and in contrasting match situations: from close range like a fox in the box, from distance like a mid-field general, and from the penalty spot like a hard-nosed assassin. Just listing his goals

provides convincing evidence of Neymar’s versatility and intuition. His strike in the dramatic penalty shootout against Chile also showed his willingness to take responsibility. *A Seleção* were a miss away from elimination, but he stepped up and calmly delivered the nation from a collective state of shock.

### **National hysteria**

Something akin to hysteria breaks out wherever Neymar turns up to play. He has only to step out for the simple purpose of warming up and the noise from the packed grandstands reaches ear-splitting levels. An appearance in the mixed zone sparks a media mob scene, with shouts, a blizzard of flashbulbs, and wildly gesticulating reporters. It is also the cue for hard-nosed Brazilian journalists to become drooling groupies. Everyone hangs on Neymar’s slightest utterance and greedily devours his every word. You’d almost think an exclusive statement by the







“Neymar is a gifted entertainer and a slick marketing operator too.”



**We made it!** A relieved Neymar in the arms of his coach Felipe Scolari after Brazil's penalty shootout victory over Chile in the Round of 16.

superstar was as valuable as the World Cup Trophy itself.

But what Neymar then intones into the microphones in such a friendly and composed manner is far removed from extravagance or arrogance. He emphasises the vital nature of the team effort, plays down his own contribution, and talks optimistically about upcoming challenges. He favours phrases straight from the player interview textbook: “Brazil are a match for every team in the world. If it is the will of God we’ll play well at this tournament and win it.” His four earrings may sparkle, but his wit and repartee does not.

Of course, Neymar is much more than a mere footballer. He is a gifted entertainer and a slick marketing operator to boot. When he scores he knows exactly where to find the nearest TV camera; his celebrations are inclusive, shared with the entire stadium

and every watching Brazilian. His smiling face greets readers from practically every other page of the glossy magazines. He appears for longer spells in TV commercials than he does on the pitch.

Even prior to swapping Santos for Barcelona in the summer of 2013 Neymar had signed advertising deals with a gross value in excess of €20 million, with Nike, Panasonic, Heliar, VW, Claro, Santander, Guarana Antarctica, Ambev, Red Bull and Unilever.

And he knows exactly how to give his sponsors value for their money. In the meeting with Cameroon he allowed his underwear, bearing the logo of a well-known beach fashion brand with a stylised Brazilian flag, peek out from under his official kit. However, moments like these are not intended to arouse or titillate. “Neymar isn’t a sex symbol for Brazilian women,” declares clothing sales assistant Marcela Pimentel, before adding

with a giggle: “But despite that we’d all be delighted to marry him.”

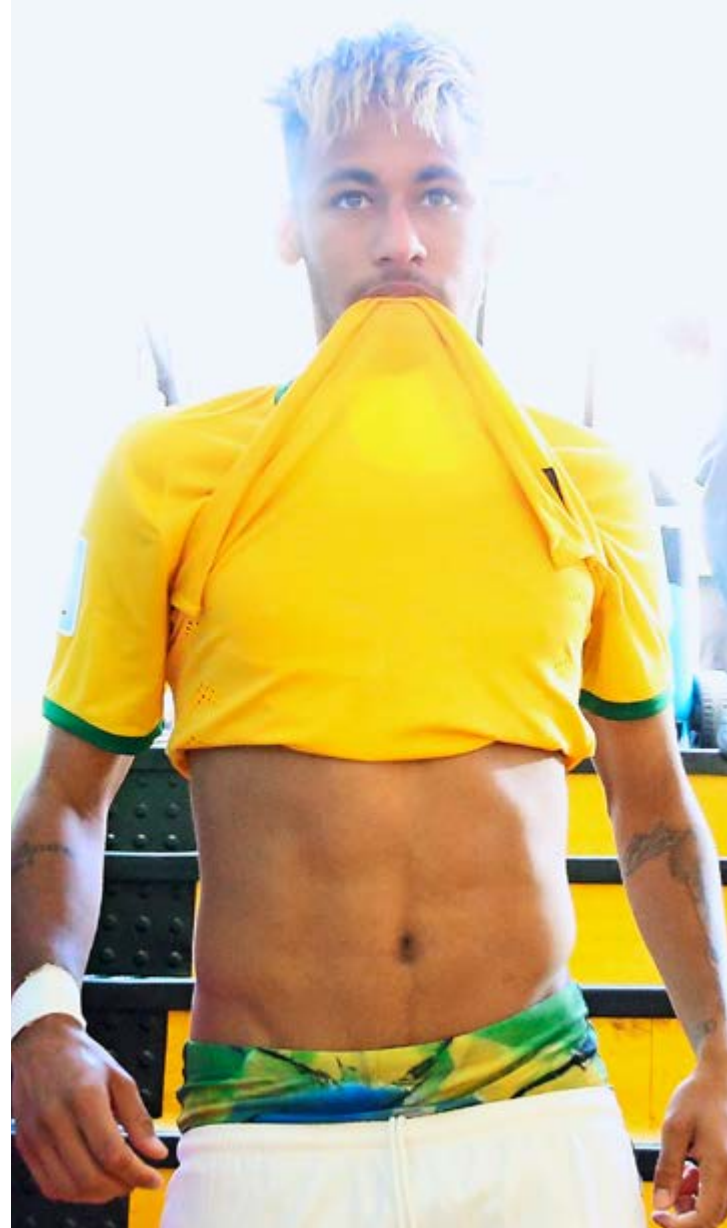
The most enthusiastic of his fellow countrymen are already comparing Neymar with Pele. After all he wears the same number and played for the same club, Santos. But the comparison is flawed. Pele had already won the World Cup twice at the same age, and Neymar’s backstory is hardly a poor boy made good, rags-to-riches fairy tale.

He received a middle-class upbringing in Mogi das Cruzes, a suburb of Sao Paulo. His father was also a professional footballer and later became a physiotherapist. Neymar Senior soon gave it up to help develop his son’s career. “My father was always by my side,” Junior now recalls, “he took care of everything related to my career.” Neymar’s first training ground was the street in front of his childhood home. According to the myth he was snubbed and treated disdainfully by the big-





**Calmness personified** Neymar is as cool from the spot as he is from any shooting angle (Round of 16 versus Chile).



**Fashion conscious** A man with his finger on the contemporary pulse.

ger kids until he scored his first goal: “That changed everything,” he now says.

**Most expensive transfer?**

Things took off rapidly from there. Neymar joined Santos at the age of 11 and was said to be earning a monthly salary of €3,600 at 15, rising to €9,000 just a year later. A Brazilian labourer’s average monthly salary comes to the equivalent of about €500.

Neymar made his senior debut for Santos at the age of 17 and went on to score 138 goals in 228 appearances, elevating his club to a new financial level. Santos’ income from sponsorship tripled between 2009 and 2012 to €18 million and match attendances doubled. Neymar became the focus of attention for Barcelona and bade his childhood club a tearful “Adeus” in the summer of 2013. At the time he officially weighed 60 kg. He has since bulked up and now tips the scales five kg heavier.

By contrast, Neymar is a true financial heavyweight. According to Spanish paper “El Mundo” Barcelona paid €95 million for his services. If that is true, he would be the most expensive player in footballing history, costing even more than Real duo Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale.

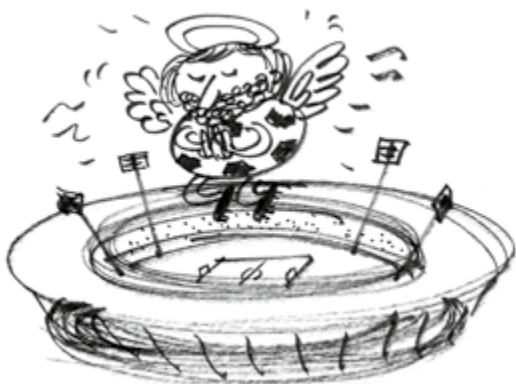
If you fancy advertising your product or service with Neymar’s help, you will need to get in touch with his agency “Neymar Sport Marketing Limited” where the player’s father is the most important figure. Another player who benefits financially from the Barcelona superstar is Ronaldo via his company “9ine”. When the man who scored twice in the 2002 World Cup final says: “Neymar is an outstanding talent. He’ll prove he’s the number one,” he has an eye on his own revenue stream. Not everyone is unconditionally thrilled by this “brand maximisation” and media saturation. Even Pele has been moved

to voice criticism. Neymar should focus more closely on football and develop a less selfish streak on the field, according to the world’s greatest player, who said “Sometimes he’s more bothered about how he comes across in the media than how he plays.”

Neymar has silenced his critics at the World Cup with inspiring displays and authentic leadership quality. He is showing what makes the difference between a truly great player and a merely very good one. Most Brazilians are unconcerned about his extravagance and million-dollar deals. The nation requires just one thing from him: the World Cup Trophy on 13 July, no more, no less. 🏆

Reuters, Getty Images





# The social media World Cup

**Sarah Steiner**

Any football fan will know that there is nothing quite like the experience of witnessing a match live at a stadium, where the smell of the grass, the fans' chants and coaches' shouts from the touchline combine to create a unique atmosphere. Yet nowadays the game also takes place in a different arena: the internet, with the World Cup currently dominating the sphere of social media. Internet traffic has increased dramatically since the start of the tournament and Facebook registered over a billion World Cup-related posts during the group stage alone. Over the course of the Round of 16 encounter between Brazil and Chile, which the hosts won 3-2 on penalties after the match itself finished 1-1, 75 million posts and 'Likes' were recorded.

It is not only fans who are actively involved online though; the players themselves have long since discovered social media platforms. Alongside competing to finish as top scorer at the finals, they also vie for first place in a different set of criteria: who has the most 'Likes' or followers and whose pictures are the most shared. Despite having already been eliminated, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo currently leads the way with 89 million Facebook 'Likes' and 33.6 million followers on Twitter and Instagram. Lionel Messi (60.8 million 'Likes', 5.1 million followers) and Neymar (32.6 million 'Likes', 19.3 million followers) also boast a vast fan base.

Various national sides even have dedicated accounts to inform their supporters of the latest news from the squad headquarters, giving fans unprecedented insight into their heroes' activities. In the past, behind-the-scenes images of team accommodation were unheard

of, yet today photographs of hotel rooms, the breakfast buffet or girlfriends posing on the Copacabana are freely available on Twitter and Instagram. Within minutes of the final whistle, fans know how the players are feeling, what happened in the dressing room and how the post-match party on the team bus went. Football is increasingly played out on the internet too.

The Final, however, will be staged on the freshly-cut grass at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana, which will be overflowing with passionate fans with one eye the nervous coaches on the touchline. Hopefully the players will be there too, unless they are too busy posting their latest news and photos back in the changing rooms. ☺

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**The weekly column by our staff writers**

## World Cup matches as a coach

- 1 Helmut Schon, 25 matches**  
Nationality: German  
Team: Germany FR  
Years active: 1966-1978
- 2 Carlos Alberto Parreira, 23 matches**  
Nationality: Brazilian  
Teams: Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, South Africa  
Years active: 1982-2010
- 3 Bora Milutinovic, 20 matches**  
Nationality: Mexican-Yugoslavian (Serbian)  
Teams: Mexico, Costa Rica, USA, Nigeria, China PR  
Years active: 1986-2002
- Mario Zagallo, 20 matches**  
Nationality: Brazilian  
Teams: Brazil, United Arab Emirates  
Years active: 1970-1998
- 5 Luiz Felipe Scolari, 19 matches**  
Nationality: Brazilian  
Teams: Brazil, Portugal  
Years active: 2002-2014
- 6 Enzo Bearzot, 18 matches**  
Nationality: Italian  
Team: Italy  
Years active: 1978-1986
- Sepp Herberger, 18 matches**  
Nationality: German  
Team: Germany FR  
Years active: 1938-1962
- Guus Hiddink, 18 matches**  
Nationality: Dutch  
Teams: Netherlands, Korea Republic, Australia  
Years active: 1998-2006
- 9 Henri Michel, 16 matches**  
Nationality: French  
Teams: France, Cameroon, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire  
Years active: 1986-2006
- Guy Thys, 16 matches**  
Nationality: Belgian  
Team: Belgium  
Years active: 1982-1990
- 11 Lajos Baroti, 15 matches**  
Nationality: Hungarian  
Team: Hungary  
Years active: 1958-1978

**Source: FIFA**  
(FIFA World Cup, Milestones & Superlatives, Statistical Kit, 04.07.2014)

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## Germany

## The new Casillas



**Roland Zorn** is a football expert who lives in Frankfurt am Main and is currently at the World Cup in Brazil.

At this World Cup, nothing is certain. Virtually every match in the knock-out stage was a nerve-wracking experience, the result hanging in the balance to the very end. Germany endured a shaky 2-1 extra-time win over Algeria, Brazil wobbled towards a penalty shoot-out victory against Chile and the Netherlands turned their game around against Mexico at the very last minute. The result was three relieved winners all now well aware that there are no easy opponents at this remarkable tournament.

Germany began their campaign believing they could depend on their Spanish-inspired passing game and flowing combination play. That assumption was first challenged in their 2-2 draw with Ghana during the group stages. Their 4-3-3 system, which seemed to offer security via a holding player shielding the back four and two ball-carrying midfielders carrying a threat down the flanks was then penetrated by the assured and counterattacking Algerians. Germany's usually fearsome attacking players, who have only occasionally had to call upon the services of their one true striker Miroslav Klose during this World Cup, had barely any time or space to work their magic. At times panic broke out in the German ranks, but one man had the physical presence, anticipation and immaculate timing to provide a formidable last line of defence: goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.



**On the ball**  
Manuel Neuer reinterpreted the role of goalkeeper in Germany's Round of 16 match against Algeria.

The Bayern Munich shot-stopper proved to be an extremely competent outfield player in Porto Alegre, skilfully defusing the North Africans' counterattacking opportunities with audacious but clean tackling and making several saves to deny *Les Fennecs*. Never has there been such a confident display at a World Cup of what modern goalkeeping means when defenders are slow to get back, and what is required of keepers in one-on-one situations.

Even in his days as a Schalke youth player, 28-year-old Neuer was happy to join in with the rest of the team whenever training sessions allowed. At that time, many observers believed he could play as an outfield player in the fourth division, but the jack-of-all-

trades was determined to stay in goal. His decision has paid off at a World Cup in which Spain's former World's Best Goalkeeper Iker Casillas endured the worst moments of his career. It now seems certain that Casillas' heir to this global crown hails from Germany. "I haven't changed the way I play," said Neuer after the Algeria game. "I perform like that from time to time." If Germany are to emerge triumphant from this tournament, he will have little choice but to continue in this vein. The question is: can their last man carry the German defence to the title? ⚽

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**Quarter-final**

Germany - France (4 July in Rio).

## Belgium

## Making up for lost time



**Nicola Berger** is a football correspondent at *Neue Luzerner Zeitung*.

Over the 14 years since being knocked out of the European Championship on home soil in 2000, Belgium have grown accustomed to failure. The country's footballing structures were exposed as flawed: a poor youth system, a lack of a clear vision and a divided national association. It was precisely that toxic combination

that caused Belgium to miss out on four consecutive major tournaments, leaving memories of Jean-Marie Pfaff and Enzo Scifo playing at the 1986 World Cup semi-finals as little more than sepia-tinged nostalgia.

All that has now changed. "Our football is healthy again," said coach Marc Wilmots, fondly known as "War Pig" at former club Schalke for his tenacity during his playing days. A young, energetic and bold strategist, Wilmots has been hugely influential in Belgium's footballing upswing and his team are a reflection of those characteristics.

In terms of the collective market value of each of the World Cup squads in Brazil, Belgium occupy sixth place, ahead of Italy, England and

the Netherlands. Wilmots has an array of exceptionally gifted players at his disposal: Eden Hazard, Thibaut Courtois, Thomas Vermaelen and Axel Witsel to name but a few. It was because of that wealth of big name talent that the Red Devils were widely tipped to be dark horses for the title prior to the start of the World Cup.

They have lived up to that billing in Brazil. Belgium won all three of their group games to reach the Round of 16, where they ousted USA in Salvador with a 2-1 victory after extra time. Having played a disciplined, results-oriented game prior to the knockout rounds, Belgium demonstrated their versatility with a passionate, hard-running display against the USA in which they fired 31 shots on goal. The depth

of available attacking options was also evident in that match; Divock Origi, one of the discoveries of the tournament, was selected in the starting line-up while Kevin Mirallas and Romelu Lukaku came off the bench to great effect, the latter scoring his team's crucial second goal.

Many observers are now wondering how far Belgium can go in Brazil, while trying to identify their recipe for success. Is it the insatiable appetite for victory of a silverware-starved nation, so buoyed by a new golden generation of players that anything appears possible?

We will find out on 5 July when Belgium take on Argentina in the quarter-finals in Brasilia, where Wilmots will attempt to steer his charges into the last four, eager to make up for lost time. ⚽

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#### Quarter-final match:

Argentina - Belgium (5 July in Brasilia)

## Colombia

### The new *pibe*



**Sven Goldmann** is a football correspondent for *Tagesspiegel* newspaper in Berlin and is currently at the World Cup in Brazil.

Few have followed the progress of *Los Cafeteros* in Brazil more closely than the star turned fan still sporting the legendary bleach-blond frizzy afro. Carlos Valderrama, 52, was the iconic playmaker in the great Colombia side that successfully qualified for three consecutive World Cup tournaments between 1990 and 1998. "It was a very long time ago," said Valderrama, who is delighted that his country's national team is once again on the rise after more than a decade in the wilderness. "Finally there's another great team," he added, and there is also a new *pibe* – a new "kid", as Valderrama was affectionately nicknamed back then. James Rodriguez is that player.

In his homeland he is known simply as James, but as fans and pundits at the World Cup in Brazil have been discovering, the Colombians adopt the melodic tones of South American Spanish to pronounce his name like "Chames" rather than opting for the English equivalent. The AS Monaco man has been the star so far, netting in each group game and producing an inspired performance as Colombia beat Uruguay 2-0 in the Round of 16. It was in the Maracana of all places that he set the global showpiece alight by scoring the most scintillating goal the tournament has witnessed to date. Standing with his back to goal, Colombia's number ten controlled the ball with his chest, turned on a sixpence and volleyed a shot so powerful and precise that it flew like a bullet past the outstretched arms of Fernando Muslera in the Uruguay goal.

"It was by far and away the best goal of the World Cup," said Radamel Falcao, who – like Valderrama – has watched all of Colombia's games from the stands and boasts an impressive goalscoring record himself. The striker, who also plays his club football in Monaco, had carried the nation's hopes on his shoulders before a cruciate ligament injury ruled him out of the tournament. Yet his absence has gone largely unnoticed. Rodriguez has spearheaded the charge, attracting interest from some of Europe's top clubs in the process.

James may be the focal point of Colombia's play, but the second goal *Los Cafeteros* put past Uruguay on Saturday proved that they are by no means a one-man-team. The yellow and blues' number ten rounded off one of the slickest and most spectacular passing moves of the tournament with a simple tap-in from close range to score his second goal of the game and secure victory for his side. The 75,000 fans in the Maracana – the vast majority of whom were supporting Rodriguez and Co. – were blown away by the free-flowing offensive football that overwhelmed a passionate but conservative effort from their Uruguayan opposition. Indeed, it was never in doubt which of the two teams would book their place in Friday's quarter-final against Brazil in Fortaleza. "This team has a very bright future," said Valderrama. "James Rodriguez is part of a new generation that is capable of achieving great things in the years to come." ⚽

**Colombian magic** James Rodriguez is one of the leading lights of this World Cup.




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#### Quarter-final

Brazil - Colombia (4 July in Belo Horizonte)



## The Netherlands

## The Oranje resurrection



*Andreas Jaros is a freelance writer based in Vienna.*

With time fast running out for the Netherlands in their Round of 16 encounter with Mexico, the country's footballing icons and media representatives had already resigned themselves to defeat. A gruelling post-mortem seemed inevitable, with autocratic head coach Louis van Gaal braced to bear the brunt of the onslaught for the three-time World Cup finalists' ignominious departure from Brazil. The Dutch, lining up with a five-man defence, had been far too passive prior to going 1-0 down early in the second half, and Arjen Robben, expertly shackled by *El Tri*, had been restricted to just a few high-speed dribbles. The defensive reshuffle which saw Augsburg captain Paul Verhaegh being brought in on the right to keep Miguel Layun at bay and

striker Dirk Kuyt filling in on the opposite flank on his 100th international appearance had proved unsuccessful.

The Group B winners a mere shadow of their former selves against the Group A runners-up in the heat of Fortaleza. Where was the side that had destroyed defending champions Spain 5-1? Mexico's unbending determination, their bite in the tackles and compact defending gave them an air of invincibility, especially with goalkeeping revelation Guillermo Ochoa starring between the posts. The custodian once again demonstrated his outstanding reflexes in denying Stefan de Vrij's point-blank effort with an extraordinary save.

Yet Van Gaal still had one more hand to play, and it proved to be a masterstroke. The 62-year-old reverted to a 4-3-3 formation, moved Robben to the right wing and brought on Klaas-Jan Huntelaar as a 76th minute substitute. What at first appeared to be a consolation outing for the Schalke striker was later viewed as a stroke of genius, as Huntelaar's headed knock-down provided the assist for an otherwise off-colour Wesley

Sneijder to snatch an 88th minute equaliser with an unstoppable drive. Shortly afterwards Huntelaar grabbed the winner via a stoppage-time penalty, despite having missed from the spot against Frankfurt and Hoffenheim in the Bundesliga last season. "I wasn't nervous at all," the forward said after sealing the 2-1 victory.

Having shaken off the cautiousness of their first half display just in time, the Netherlands squeezed through to the next round thanks to their more flexible attacking play after the break. It was the kind of dogged performance – below par but nevertheless triumphant – that has all the hallmarks of a world champion. 🇳🇱

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**Quarter-final match:**

Netherlands - Costa Rica (5 July in Salvador)

**Overjoyed** Dutch fans celebrate their team's last-minute victory.





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# No terror threat at Qatar 2022

**The British media has levelled a number of accusations against the State of Qatar in the wake of FIFA's selection of the tiny Muslim nation as host of the 2022 World Cup. However, the latest charge that FIFA ignored Qatar's "high risk" for a terrorist attack is the most questionable to date.**

*Quintan Wiktorowicz*

**C**iting a confidential assessment by former South African police chief Andre Pruis, the British media is trying to make the case that Qatar is too vulnerable to terrorism to serve as host. As someone who has worked on counter-terrorism issues for nearly 20 years, I find this argument wrong for three key reasons.

First, the expert assessments of risk managers say otherwise. The UK Foreign Office's foreign travel advice calls attacks in Qatar "unlikely"; and the 2014 assessment by firms Aon Risk Solutions and The Risk Advisory Group rates the risk of terrorism and political violence in Qatar as "negligible" (the only country in the Middle East and North Africa with this rating). For comparison, Qatar rates better in the 2014 assessment than both the United States and the UK, where the risk is considered "low."

## **No security issues**

According to recent media claims, Pruis' threat assessment was "based on American anti-terrorism information," yet the only reference to the level of threat in Qatar in the US State Department's 2013 Country Reports on Terrorism is that "terrorist activity historically has been low in Qatar." This is reaffirmed by the Global Terrorism Database at the University of Maryland, which shows that from 1982-2012, there were only six terrorist attacks, resulting in a total of seven deaths and twelve injuries. This is significantly lower than in Great Britain, which suffered 431 attacks in the same period, at a much higher human cost (if we add Northern Ireland, the number is substantially higher).

British media have also emphasised that Pruis told the FIFA Executive Committee that the "threat against Qatar relates to its location – its proximity to countries with inter alia an al-Qaeda presence." If proximity had a causal relationship with attacks, Qatar should have been inundated with terrorism long ago, yet we have not seen an increase in terrorist attacks in the country.

Apprehension among counter-terrorism experts and government officials in Europe about jihadist "bleed out" from Syria – the return of foreign fighters to their countries of origin where they could initiate attacks –

also seems to undercut the proximity argument. Hundreds of British nationals have travelled to fight in Syria, and senior UK officials have raised serious concerns about the consequent threat. In contrast, there are no indications that a similar threat exists for Qatar, despite its closer proximity to Syria.

## The claims by the British are not fully thought out.

Second, the British media's claim that the concentration of main World Cup venues in a radius of 60 kilometres poses security challenges for crowd control, traffic, and impact on multiple venues in the event of an attack, seems out of context and incomplete. There are specific challenges to concentrated venues, admittedly, but there are also advantages to compact emergency management and infrastructure protection. We already know that, according to the U.S. State Department, the Qataris are "well-positioned to respond to incidents with rapid reaction forces and trained internal security forces that routinely pursue and engage in structured counter-terrorism training and exercises," so why would we suddenly assume that in the next eight years they will not build additional resiliency to manage the World Cup? Indeed, Pruis qualified his judgment by saying that an attack "may" create these security challenges; it is not imminent and there is time to plan and mitigate.

## **Dishonest journalism**

Finally, Mr. Pruis clearly did not conduct a thorough review. According to media reports, "FIFA told Pruis to report within days" and directed him to "work alone and discreetly." In the U.S., an assessment of this magnitude for a high profile sporting event involves multiple agencies (Department of Defense, CIA, FBI, State Department, U.S. Treasury, etc.) and dozens of individuals, taking months to complete. Yet the British media appears to question whether Qatar should host the

World Cup based on the judgment of a single individual who took only a few days to review the risk profiles of five bidding nations. Mr. Pruis may be good, but no one is that good.

My point is not to discredit Mr. Pruis or impugn his expertise. My concern is about reporting that appears to mislead rather than inform. Indeed, I would not be surprised if Mr. Pruis has serious issues with how the British media have used and characterised his assessment (Pruis was not interviewed). I also question why publications have been so selective in their citations from the "report," which appear to have been more of a briefing. Perhaps they should publish the full text. In the context of a series of British media stories critical of Qatar as the 2022 host, this most recent accusation appears to be more of a smear campaign than honest journalism. ❄

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**Quintan Wiktorowicz** served as President Obama's senior advisor on countering violent extremism and held two senior positions at the National Security Council at the White House. He published widely on the subject, including "Radical Islam Rising," a book about radicalisation in the UK.

This article first appeared as a blog post in The Huffington Post (UK) on 24 June 2014.

# First Love





Place: **Tempelhof, Berlin, Germany**

Date: **24 May 2014**

Time: **5.47 p.m.**





# Costa Rica leading by example



**Heading for the quarter-finals** Costa Rica win their Round of 16 match against Greece on penalties.

## Costa Rica's success shows how competitive the World Cup has become. This year, the underdogs have given the tournament a real boost.

*Alan Schweingruber, Rio de Janeiro*

**T**he World Cups of 1990 and 1994 were spectacular. Even though the two Finals were not awash with goals (1-0 and 0-0 respectively), two remarkable stories emerged from these tournaments. The first was the performance of Cameroon led by veteran showman Roger Milla, who helped his side become the first African team to reach the World Cup quarter-finals. The second was Nigeria, who won their group four years later before coming within a few minutes of dumping Italy out of the competition.

These performances no longer cause a stir in today's game. Nigeria – the seventh-largest country in the world with 170 million inhabitants – put on a disciplined display against France. The Super Eagles had chances to win their Round-

of-16 encounter, before ultimately having their wings clipped by the 1998 world champions.

### Better youth development

Today, international football is more competitive than ever, and Costa Rica are the best example of this trend. *Los Ticos*, from a small nation of four million inhabitants, steered their way past Italy, Uruguay and England in the strongest group in the tournament with their attractive brand of football. But how truly surprising was this? After all, Costa Rica are 28th in the world rankings. The team from Algeria who gave Germany a scare last Monday are ranked even higher, in 22nd place.

These placings are the result of healthy development. Football schools have improved in Central America and Africa. Talent is now scouted and nurtured better than ever before.

FIFA also has a role to play, contributing \$550,000 to football development every day.

### 19 titles won by eight countries

The successes of these smaller nations has provided a particular boost to the World Cup. New stars are being born, while the sport's traditional powers have shown their physical and psychological limits when a match does not go to plan and they have to deal with surprising tactics from their opponents.

Despite these advances, the biggest triumph of all remains beyond the outsiders' grasp – so far at least. To date, only eight countries have ever lifted the World Cup Trophy. 🏆

### The weekly debate.

**Anything you want to get off your chest? Which topics do you want to discuss? Send your suggestions to: [feedback-theweekly@fifa.org](mailto:feedback-theweekly@fifa.org)**



## FIFA.com users gave their opinions on the results of the Round of 16:

I think everything is up in the air now: each of the remaining eight teams could take the trophy home. At the moment I'd say Colombia have impressed me the most and I enjoyed watching Belgium too, although only in their last game against the USA. I really hope Belgium can continue their good form.

*thOrgil, Belgium*

Costa Rica have impressed me the most but I still think Germany will win. I don't understand all the fuss about [Lionel] Messi; in my opinion [Angel] Di Maria was by far the better player on Tuesday. It's a huge shame the USA lost, Tim Howard was amazing.

*Monikkuba, Poland*

Why shouldn't Argentina get to the Final? Colombia are good but against a Brazil side with millions of supporters cheering them on they won't be able to hear themselves think. Holland were really lucky against Mexico, Belgium only just beat the USA and Germany needed a long time to get the better of Algeria.

*messi10boss, USA*

Belgium has a population of 11 million people. The USA has 315 million, Russia 146 million, South Korea 50 million, Algeria 38 million and Argentina 42 million! The Red Devils dominated their match in the last 16 like no other side. They can definitely go all the way.

*Benevole, Belgium*

I'm sad the USA didn't win. We fought so hard and deserved to reach the next round. Now we have to make sure we don't let our heads hang and start focusing on the next World Cup.

*hope56, USA*

At this World Cup [Arjen] Robben has proved how good he is on the ball and how impressive his finishing skills are. He's a world-class player who's more than capable of shining on the global stage. Good luck Holland! Keep going Oranje.

*robman33, New Zealand*

“Everything is up in the air now.”

Switzerland defended really well and there were just two minutes left on the clock.

When a team gives their all out in the pitch it makes them very difficult to beat. Argentina had the advantage of having a couple of players who can make the difference and they stayed focused throughout the 121 minutes.

*josue2014\_14, El Salvador*



## It's time for a new deal

Supporting history is currently being made in Brazil. Three-quarters of the way into the tournament we can ascertain that new benchmarks are being set in terms of creativity, exuberance and attacking intent. Football is moving forward, in the most literal sense of the phrase.

This is attributable in part to the increased number of teams performing at a higher level, and much fiercer competition. There are no hopeless underdogs any more. Teams such as Costa Rica, Algeria, Belgium and Switzerland are making life hard for the established powers. The teams from North and Central America (CONCACAF) are particularly catching the eye: three of their four teams at the finals made it to the knockout stages. It is no coincidence that three former world champions – England, Italy and Spain – went home after the group stage.

But not all the continental federations are in a position to contribute as positively to this story as yet. The Africans have played good football and shown technical skill. For the first time, two of their number made the last sixteen, although their best teams, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, were then unluckily knocked out. However, as we enter the decisive phase, the continent is conspicuous only by its absence, unfortunately.

Explaining this fact solely by results at the current tournament is not to tell the whole story. In purely mathematical terms the Africans are at a severe disadvantage compared to their rivals. Even though the Confédération Africaine de Football has exactly the same number of member associations as UEFA (54), it is only represented at the World Cup with five teams, whereas Europe has 13. The same applies to the Asian Football Confederation: four places at the World Cup is unfair given the number of member associations (46). It cannot be that the regions which supply the leading European teams with top players from their vast reservoir of talent and make a huge contribution to the attractiveness of the top leagues are treated with such disdain at the level of the World Cup. We need a new deal, preferably sooner rather than later.

*Best wishes, Sepp Blatter*

“We fought so hard.”





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# Within these magical walls



**A true Brazilian landmark**  
The Maracana in Rio de Janeiro.

**The history of the Maracana is steeped in legend. Visiting this week, The FIFA Weekly discovered that it is impossible not to be moved by this great stadium.**

*Alan Schweingruber (text) and Andre Vieira (photos), Rio de Janeiro*

**N**obody ever pauses to admire the fig trees and palms surrounding the Maracana - an incredible fact when you consider that they have lined the avenues to the stadium in all their splendour for decades, whether in winter or summer, with or without flowers. But once any visitor reaches their shade, their fascination with the formidable structure behind them simply becomes all-consuming. After all, the Maracana is no ordinary stadium - many even describe it as mythical.

Mythical seems a little extreme, as myths usually involve an element of falsehood. Like many children, the young people of Rio grow up listening to stories, but tales of the Maracana are particularly popular for one reason - they are true.

In morning temperatures of 26 degrees Celsius, even the journey to the stadium is eventful. The car's air conditioning system refuses to work properly as we crawl towards our fabled destination in yet another traffic jam. Lengthy queues are notorious in Rio: nobody likes them, but every-





**Three generations**

The Belmont family with 85-year-old Joedir Sancho. He was unable to attend the final game in 1950.



**World Cup atmosphere**

Fans gather at the Maracana for Spain versus Chile on 18 June.

one accepts them as part of everyday life. On the radio, a report discusses Brazil's relationship with South America, a relationship one listener believes must now be redefined. Whether Chilean, Argentinian or Colombian, visitors have been pouring into the country to celebrate the football in a happy and loving atmosphere that has taken many Brazilians by surprise. One man on the radio says: "It's fantastic. What we are experiencing here in Brazil right now is so important."

**Home of the first samba**

At that point, the radio station cuts to a lively samba as if to herald the fact that we have now entered Mangueira, a famous Rio favela where the first ever samba was danced and where the Maracana now sits. We park directly outside the stadium. As we climb out of the car, we get our first glimpse of those formidable palms and fig trees flanking the statue of Hideraldo Luiz Bellini, Brazil's first World Cup winning captain in 1958. Did these lofty trees witness the 1950 World Cup? Tourists lean casually against the palms for photos, with the stadium looming large in the background.

There are no matches scheduled at the Maracana today. As a result, the pace of life around the stadium is much more

sedate than usual, making it the perfect time for Rio's older generation to pay a visit in relative peace. 85-year-old Joedir Sancho Belmont is visiting with his son and eight-year-old grandchild, and his excitement is clear as he places a tentative foot on the hallowed turf.

64 years earlier, Joedir Sancho Belmont managed to get a ticket for the final World Cup match between Brazil and Uruguay, but then his mother died and he never made it to the game. He kept his ticket for 64 years before donating it to the FIFA Museum this year. As a token of thanks for his donation, FIFA gave him three tickets to this year's Final on 13 July.

**Forever Zico**

Belmont's eyes sparkle as he surveys the empty stands. "It was all bigger here before," he remembers. "You could get up to 200,000 people in here. We stood right up close to the pitch. But it's still beautiful, the Maracana. I'm looking forward to the final. It will be magnificent. Hopefully as good as when Zico was playing."

Nowadays it is much easier to get within touching distance of this Brazilian legend. He is there, striking a ball with textbook precision, down in the belly of the stadium beside





**Guarding the entrance**  
The statue of Hidelaldo Luiz Bellini, Brazil's 1958 World Cup captain.

It is hot up here. Four generators rumble noisily below while images of Didi, Pele and Socrates play on a small flatscreen positioned near the water hoses.

the lifts. The statue is small but his name is written in large letters: Zico, the star of the 1970s and 80s who shaped the history of CR Flamengo here at the ground they share with local rivals Fluminense. Nobody has scored more goals on this pitch than him – 333 in all. But it was not just his footballing prowess that earned Zico such respect in Brazil; there were never any lurid rumours about his private life as a player, and he continued to demonstrate his moral fibre as a coach. One thing is certain: Zico always remained true to himself.

#### History within its walls

Some Brazilians say that if you place an ear to the walls of the Maracana, you can hear the exultant fan chants of years gone by. The concrete is cold – a strange feeling in 30-degree heat – but suddenly the strains of *A Bencao, Joao de Deus*, the anthem composed for the Pope's mass at the Maracana, can be heard. The entire stadium is singing along. The hymn sounds beautiful... or is it simply a figment of my imagination, like believing you can hear the sea when holding a seashell to your ear? It is all too easy to get caught up in such a powerful myth.

The stadium's recent modernisation was not met with universal approval in Brazil. Older visitors complained that

the Maracana would lose its soul and would no longer be the same. "The old Maracana was beautiful, but it needed renovating," said one stadium employee. "The tragic collapse of the stand in 1992 showed what happens when you keep everything exactly as it used to be. Plus we wanted to host the World Cup again."

#### Preparing for the World Cup's final week

Just under the roof, in the highest level of the stadium, men and women are washing the floors in readiness for the next day's World Cup match. It is hot up here. Four generators rumble noisily below while images from 1962, 1970 and 1982 play on a small flatscreen positioned near the water hoses. Didi, Pele and Socrates each appear in turn as the pictures revisit the greatest moments from the past. Even the trauma of Brazil's Maracanazo defeat to Uruguay in 1950 is briefly referenced.

The water begins to drain away as the wet floor shimmers in the sun. The stage is now set in Rio for the final week of the World Cup. After the Final on 13 July, there will be another chapter to relate in the myth of the Maracana. ❄️

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The Football for Hope Festival is an official event of the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ Brazil which brings together 32 teams composed of young leaders from social projects in underprivileged communities around the world, allowing them to exchange best practice, play football and enjoy the FIFA World Cup together.





Empty hotels are disconcerting places, with their silent corridors, cold lighting and vacant lobbies. On this warm afternoon in Rio de Janeiro all was deserted except for an American woman by the pool reading what appeared to be a gripping book. Perhaps the detective - it might have been Jerry Cotton - was hot on the heels of a killer, or maybe the plot centred around a young French girl discovering her father's affairs in *Bonjour Tristesse*. At any rate the fifty-something woman, sporting a straw hat and an old-fashioned walkman, was tearing through the pages; speed reading, as it is called in the USA. All that was missing from the scene was an attentive steward by her side, book in one hand and a scotch in the other. Instead, all was quiet with the background hum of distant traffic the only noise to be heard. However, a murmur of human voices gradually became audible and it swiftly rose to a crescendo. Puzzled, the woman looked up from her book and suddenly a huge cheer rang out. Was it some sort of sporting event? Could it be the Super Bowl in June? No, it was the World Cup and Brazil had just qualified for the quarter-finals. It was almost as exciting as a Jerry Cotton thriller. ❁

**Alan Schweingruber**

Rio de Janeiro is a city that never sleeps, its Copacabana beach a round-the-clock hum of activity. Sports of all kinds are practiced here, from running, surfing, canoeing and skating to boxing and football. Early-morning joggers often find themselves side by side with the local fire brigade rehearsing their drills; two companies of 40 men wearing red shorts and black shirts staring fixedly ahead, divided into tight columns of four. The bare-footed troops with close-cropped hair power through the white sand, repeating at full voice and in chorus their commander's time-honoured chants. The whole spectacle is reminiscent of a military academy and provides onlookers and passers-by with a reassuring presence: they look ready to battle the flames at a moment's notice in order to ensure the general public's safety. And yet despite that, we hope they are never called into action. ❁

**Thomas Renggli**

Miguel Herrera is a restless figure on the touchline, alternating between shouting, laughing, leaping around, roaring encouragement, tearing at his hair and prowling the confines of his coaching zone. Suddenly the ball loops up high outside the Netherlands' penalty area and Giovanni dos Santos controls it on his chest, allows it to bounce twice and unleashes an unstoppable shot into the net to put Mexico 1-0 up. Herrera throws his hands into the air, eyes bulging, green tie dancing across the white shirt stretched taught over his chest. His joy is unconfined, and it is small wonder he is known as "El Piojo", the flea. Herrera's emotional outpourings have made him one of the discoveries of this World Cup, a rare species of coach who does not conform to the norms, who divides opinion and occasionally upsets those around him. Yet he is such a magnetic figure that he makes a football match, in which he is completely absorbed, seem something of a sideshow. What a shame his team are no longer in the tournament. ❁

**Sarah Steiner**

The term 'sweeper keeper' derives from the vocabulary of the pre-modern era, when teams still wore shirt numbers 1 thru 11, and included a sweeper, a playmaker, a true centre-forward and a substitute goalkeeper wearing shirt number 12. Nowadays all that has changed, not just with the interchangeability of shirt numbers, but on the pitch too. Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer interpreted his role so freely in his side's 2-1 extra-time win over Algeria in the Round of 16 that he made tackles outside the penalty box and was content to play so high up the pitch that he was practically a fully-fledged sweeper, even though that position has all but died out in today's era of the flat back line. Neuer's performance shows he is capable of being a traditionalist while at the same time treading new ground. Few footballers manage to invent a whole new playing position during their careers. ❁

**Perikles Monioudis**

# Twenty years without Escobar

On 2 July 1994, Andres Escobar was shot in his hometown after scoring an own goal in Colombia's World Cup group match against the USA. Twenty years later, his siblings have travelled to Brazil to support their national side and remember their brother.



In loving memory Andres Escobar's likeness adorns a wall in Medellin.

**M**aria Ester Escobar was in Los Angeles on that fateful day, 2 July 1994, and will never forget the moment she found out the news. It was in the small hours of the morning, the sort of time when the telephone ringing is often synonymous with an emergency. She took a while to pick up and had a lump in her throat by the time she did so. On the other end of the line was Colombia's veteran midfielder Gabriel Barrabás Gomez and, his voice trembling, he confirmed her worst fears: "Maria, something terrible has happened. Andres... Andres has been killed."

For the football world, Andres was a talented defender who had impressed for Medellin side Atletico Nacional and the Colombian national team. But for Maria Ester and the rest of the Escobar family, the 27-year-old was much more than that: "He was our little brother, our pride and joy," she tells us in Rio de Janeiro, an unmistakable twinge of nostalgia in her tone.

"Andres is with them and the rest of the team in spirit." *Maria Ester and Jose Escobar*

#### Invitation to Brazil triggers emotions

The pain has not faded, despite the twenty years that have gone by since Andres Escobar was shot six times outside a bar in Medellin, where he had been insulted and accosted by his fellow countrymen as a result of his own goal at the World Cup in the United States in 1994. "Sometimes I think it'd be better if people didn't remember Andres every day, because it's really painful. But he left a mark, so it's only natural," adds Jose, another of the former centre-back's siblings.

FIFA's invitation triggered all sorts of conflicting emotions among the members of the family who have come to Brazil to watch this summer's tournament. "Especially because of the way the World Cup kicked off, with an own goal [by Brazil's Marcelo versus Croatia],"

Maria Ester notes. "That brought back very sad, distressing memories, but it helped hammer home that it's part and parcel of the game, that these things happen all the time. We're really happy to be here and to have the chance to share in the joy that football can bring, along with everyone else who is here."

#### "Life doesn't stop here"

The Escobars did not turn their backs on football following Andres's murder. Far from it: they are attending each of Colombia's matches at the World Cup in Brazil sporting a *Cafeteros* kit with the number two and their surname on the back. That is because, just as Andres poignantly wrote just five days before his death in a piece for the newspaper *El Tiempo*, "Life doesn't stop here".





**Total commitment** The defender won 50 caps for the Colombian national team.

Unwittingly, this message would help spur on his family to rebuild their lives after the murder. “Twenty years is a long time and it’s really upsetting to think about it, but I prefer to thank God for having given us the chance to have him with us for 27 years, for lending him to us. His life was cut short, but he did important things in that time,” states Maria Ester, visibly moved, going on to express her relief at being outside Colombia for this most emotional of occasions. “I wanted to escape Medellin, because there Andres’s death will be talked about in all the news programmes and papers and it would be very tough. I’d rather spend it [the anniversary of the murder] here, with the family, and then hold a memorial service when we go back home.”

#### **Cafeteros break new ground**

As these words make clear, the events of 1994 have not been forgotten in Colombia, although paradoxically there is also a mood of optimism in the air. This is because the current

*Cafeteros* squad, which includes Escobar’s former team-mates Faryd Mondragon and Mario Yepes, has broken new ground by reaching the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time.

“Andres is with them and the rest of the team in spirit,” stress the siblings, before concluding by expressing their hope that the memory of their brother’s death can be a force for good: “People should enjoy football with passion, but never forgetting it’s a game. [What happened to Andres] should serve as a cautionary tale: there is no place for violence. Football should unite the country around a message of peace and love.” ☘

*Alejandro Varsky, Rio de Janeiro*

#### Name

**Andres Escobar**

#### Biographical data

**Born on 13 March 1967, Medellin**

**Died on 2 July 1994, Medellin**

#### Position

**Defender**

#### Clubs played for

**Atletico Nacional, Young Boys**

#### Colombia national team

**50 caps, 1 goal**



# T H E N

*Turin, Italy*



**1990**

Riding high: Mexico and Brazil fans ride together outside the Stadio delle Alpi at the 1990 World Cup. Brazil won their group match against Sweden 2-1.



N

O

W

*Fortaleza, Brazil*



**2014**

Fans from Mexico and Brazil on another giant bicycle prior to the World Cup group match between the two nations. The two sides drew 0-0.



*Oscar*  
11 Oscar



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# “My deathbed promise”

Anthony Baffoe lost his father when he was 15. The former Ghana international has never forgotten their last few conversations.

It wasn't always easy growing up dark skinned in the 60s and 70s in a suburb of Bonn. People let it be known that I wasn't one of them, at school and on the football pitch.

I remember well the day in 1980 when I visited my father in a Bonn hospital. He'd been diagnosed with cancer a few months earlier. I came from Cologne, where I was playing for the U-17s. We knew he only had days left. I found my way to his room and sat on the bed. It was one of those meetings where you're aware it might be the last. We fell into conversation. We talked about life and the family, and the two nations that had shaped my 15 years on the planet: Ghana, where I have my roots and where my parents came from. And Germany where I was born.

I had footballing talent and my father knew it. He also knew I was ambitious and wanted to become a pro. I wanted to play for a national team. So I took him by the hand and made him a promise. I said this: “I'll play for Ghana one day.”

My father died before the month was out. The promise I made on his deathbed remained with me through the early period of my career. I learned the trade as a full-back in Cologne, and then Rinus Michels, the head coach at the time, called me into his team. I was just 18 and it was still early days for the kind of integration we have now: I was only the third African



to play in the Bundesliga. I went on to play for Stuttgart and Dusseldorf and in France. But I'm especially proud of 13 January 1991, the day I made my debut for Ghana.

Integration was and remains a very important topic for our family. My father, a career diplomat, passed on a great deal to me and my six siblings. He takes the credit for my success in becoming a figure young African players can identify with. It was exactly what I needed as a kid, the likes of Viv Anderson, Marius Tresor and Ruud Gullit. Watching them play left a lasting impression. ❄️

**Anthony Baffoe was talking to Alan Schweiguber**

*Name*

**Anthony Baffoe**

*Date and place of birth*

**25 Mai 1965, Bonn**

*Position*

**Defender**

*Clubs*

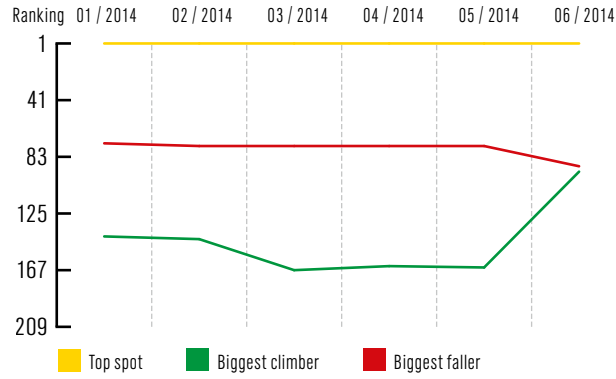
**Cologne, Fortuna Dusseldorf, Metz, Nice**

*2014 World Cup*

**General Coordinator, Maracana Stadium (Rio)**

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

Rank	Team	Change in ranking	Points
1	Spain	0	1485
2	Germany	0	1300
3	Brazil	1	1242
4	Portugal	-1	1189
5	Argentina	2	1175
6	Switzerland	2	1149
7	Uruguay	-1	1147
8	Colombia	-3	1137
9	Italy	0	1104
10	England	1	1090
11	Belgium	1	1074
12	Greece	-2	1064
13	USA	1	1035
14	Chile	-1	1026
15	Netherlands	0	981
16	Ukraine	1	915
17	France	-1	913
18	Croatia	2	903
19	Russia	-1	893
20	Mexico	-1	882
21	Bosnia-Herzegovina	4	873
22	Algeria	3	858
23	Denmark	0	809
23	Côte d'Ivoire	-2	809
25	Slovenia	4	800
26	Ecuador	2	791
27	Scotland	-5	786
28	Costa Rica	6	762
29	Romania	3	761
30	Serbia	0	745
31	Panama	4	743
32	Sweden	-7	741
33	Honduras	-3	731
34	Czech Republic	2	724
35	Turkey	4	722
36	Egypt	-12	715
37	Ghana	1	704
38	Armenia	-5	682
39	Cape Verde Islands	3	674
40	Venezuela	1	672
41	Wales	6	644
42	Austria	-2	643
43	Iran	-6	641
44	Nigeria	0	640
45	Peru	-3	627
46	Japan	1	626
47	Hungary	-2	624
48	Tunisia	1	612
49	Slovakia	-3	591
50	Paraguay	5	575
51	Montenegro	3	574
52	Iceland	6	566
52	Guinea	-1	566
54	Sierra Leone	17	565
55	Norway	0	562
56	Cameroon	-6	558
57	Mali	2	547
57	Korea Republic	-2	547
59	Uzbekistan	-6	539
60	Burkina Faso	1	538
61	Finland	-9	532
62	Australia	-3	526
63	Jordan	1	510
64	Libya	-2	498
65	South Africa	0	496
66	Albania	4	495
67	Bolivia	1	483
68	El Salvador	1	481
69	Poland	3	474
70	Republic of Ireland	-4	473
71	Trinidad and Tobago	3	470
72	United Arab Emirates	-5	460
73	Haiti	4	452
74	Senegal	-11	451
75	Israel	3	444
76	Zambia	3	441
77	Morocco	-1	439



78	Bulgaria	-5	425
79	Oman	3	420
80	FYR Macedonia	0	419
81	Jamaica	0	411
82	Belarus	1	397
83	Azerbaijan	2	396
84	Congo DR	4	395
85	Congo	7	393
86	Uganda	0	390
87	Benin	10	386
88	Togo	1	383
89	Gabon	-2	382
90	Northern Ireland	-6	381
90	Saudi Arabia	-15	381
92	Botswana	-1	375
93	Angola	1	364
94	Palestine	71	368
95	Cuba	-5	354
96	Georgia	7	349
97	New Zealand	14	347
98	Estonia	-5	343
99	Zimbabwe	-1	340
100	Qatar	-5	339
101	Moldova	-2	334
102	Equatorial Guinea	11	333
103	China PR	-7	331
104	Iraq	-4	329
105	Central African Republic	1	321
106	Lithuania	-2	319
107	Ethiopia	-6	317
108	Kenya	-2	296
109	Latvia	0	293
110	Bahrain	-5	289
110	Canada	0	289
112	Niger	-10	284
113	Tanzania	9	283
114	Namibia	6	277
115	Kuwait	-7	276
116	Liberia	3	271
116	Rwanda	15	271
118	Mozambique	-4	269
119	Luxembourg	-7	267
120	Sudan	-3	254
120	Aruba	35	254
122	Malawi	0	247
123	Vietnam	-7	242
124	Kazakhstan	-6	241
125	Lebanon	-11	233
126	Tajikistan	-5	229
127	Guatemala	-3	226
128	Burundi	-3	221
129	Philippines	11	221
130	Afghanistan	-2	215
131	Dominican Republic	-5	212
132	Malta	-4	204
133	St Vincent and the Grenadines	-7	203
134	Guinea-Bissau	50	201
134	Chad	31	201
136	Suriname	-5	197
137	Mauritania	2	196
137	St Lucia	-4	196
139	Lesotho	2	194
140	New Caledonia	-2	190
140	Syria	-6	190
142	Cyprus	-12	189
143	Turkmenistan	13	183
144	Grenada	-8	182

144	Madagascar	45	182
146	Korea DPR	-9	175
147	Maldives	6	171
148	Gambia	-14	166
149	Kyrgyzstan	-3	163
149	Thailand	-6	163
151	Antigua and Barbuda	-9	158
152	Belize	-8	152
153	Malaysia	-8	149
154	India	-7	144
155	Singapore	-8	141
156	Guyana	-5	137
157	Indonesia	-5	135
158	Puerto Rico	-9	134
159	Myanmar	14	133
160	St Kitts and Nevis	-7	124
161	Tahiti	-4	122
162	Liechtenstein	-12	118
163	Hong Kong	-5	112
164	Pakistan	-5	102
164	Nepal	-5	102
166	Montserrat	22	99
167	Bangladesh	-5	98
168	Laos	5	97
169	Dominica	-6	93
170	Barbados	-9	92
171	Faroe Islands	-7	89
172	São Tomé e Príncipe	-5	86
173	Swaziland	5	85
174	Comoros	10	84
175	Bermuda	-6	83
176	Nicaragua	-8	78
176	Chinese Taipei	-6	78
178	Guam	-7	77
179	Sri Lanka	-6	73
180	Solomon Islands	-8	70
181	Seychelles	-5	66
182	Curaçao	-5	65
183	Yemen	-4	61
184	Mauritius	-4	57
185	South Sudan	16	47
186	Bahamas	0	40
187	Mongolia	0	35
188	Fiji	-6	34
189	Samoa	-6	32
190	Cambodia	0	28
190	Vanuatu	-10	28
192	Brunei Darussalam	-1	26
192	Timor-Leste	-1	26
192	Tonga	-1	26
195	US Virgin Islands	-1	23
196	Cayman Islands	-1	21
196	Papua New Guinea	-1	21
198	British Virgin Islands	-1	18
198	American Samoa	-1	18
200	Andorra	-1	16
201	Eritrea	-1	11
202	Somalia	0	8
202	Macau	0	8
204	Djibouti	0	6
205	Cook Islands	0	5
206	Anguilla	0	3
207	Bhutan	0	0
207	San Marino	0	0
207	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	0





## The Closing Ceremony's multicultural hit

Hanspeter Kuenzler

**Some 52 years after Los Ramblers' "El Rock del Mundial" was named the official World Cup song for the 1962 tournament in Chile, the world's biggest football competition has also blossomed into a global musical event.**

For the first time, FIFA has selected four anthems to set the mood both in and around the stadiums. Meanwhile, unofficial World Cup songs have been released around the world; thirty in Germany alone.

This celebration offers the troubled music industry a rare opportunity to reintroduce the power of music to an audience that now prefers to get its thrills from gaming, extreme sports or snapping selfies. Two songs from the album "One Love, One Rhythm - the 2014 FIFA World Cup Official Album" are particularly catchy:

"Dar um Jeito (We Will Find a Way)" and "Tatu Bom de Bola."

Arlindo Cruz's "Tatu Bom de Bola" is an electronic samba with house beats penned in honour of an armadillo called Fuleco, and for good reason: the tune is the "official song of the World Cup mascot."

"Dar Um Jeito (We Will Find a Way)" is special for very different reasons. The song will be performed during the closing ceremony in Rio de Janeiro by the artists who created it: Carlos Santana, born in Mexico and a pillar of the Californian rock scene since the 1960s, Wyclef Jean, born in Haiti and a pioneer of soulful hip-hop with his group, The Fugees, Alexandre Pires, born in Brazil and one of the country's most successful samba artists, and Swedish DJ Avicii. Producer Rami Yacoub, who first gained recognition with Britney Spears' single "Baby

One More Time" recorded the track in Sweden, making this a truly global collaboration!

In the 1960s and 1970s, artists from outside England and the USA could only be successful internationally if they infused their music with a hint of rock or jazz, or if they copied the Beatles. In the 1980s, the idea of bringing musicians from different cultures to create a new fusion style from their various influences spread thanks to Peter Gabriel and his Real World Studio in England. As "Dar Um Jeito (We Will Find a Way)" shows, the sound of today was born from the avant-garde of yesterday. 🎧



Perikles Monioudis

What would a ball be without a pump? Pretty deflated when you consider that air can only be transferred into the ball with the pump's assistance. Defying all the technological developments the ball has encountered over the years, the pump remains a pump, regardless of whether it is operated manually or automatically. Its sole vocation is to transfer air into the ball.

The smart, chrome-plated example with pressure indicator pictured above is from the FIFA Collection and was manufactured in England over 100 years ago.

In contrast to the small hand pumps used on the training pitch, this example has the crucial advantage of displaying the exact air pressure within the ball, removing the need to press one's finger into the ball as far as possible and add further pumps depending on how far the surface yielded.

Just like the pump, however, the air is always just air, and as the barometric reading makes little difference, the idea occasionally arises to fill the ball with a gas lighter than air.

Helium can make a ball much lighter; so light, in fact, that it can be carried away by a gust of wind - or even by a powerful shot. Imagine that! 🎯



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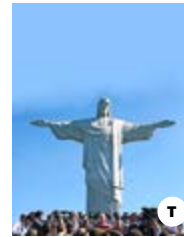
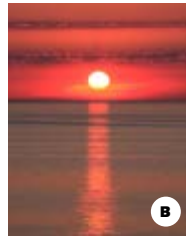


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## A non-singing team, the Beckhams, and James who? Test your knowledge!

- ① The images represent the names of four 2014 World Cup host cities.  
Which is the most northerly?



- ② Fill in the correct name:



- R James  
O James R.  
E R. James  
A Rodriguez

- ③ What did Luis Suarez do following his last group stage match at this World Cup? He ...



- A ... resigned  
I ... was named Man of the Match  
L ... joined Paris Saint-Germain  
R ... was signed to star in Jaws 4

- ④ Which team did not sing their national anthem at this World Cup?



The answer to last week's Quiz Cup was **LAHM**  
Detailed answers on [www.fifa.com/theweekly](http://www.fifa.com/theweekly)  
Inspiration and implementation: cus

Send your answer by **9 July 2014** to [feedback-theweekly@fifa.org](mailto:feedback-theweekly@fifa.org).

Correct solutions to all quizzes published from 13 June 2014 onwards will go into a draw in January 2015 for  
**two tickets to the FIFA Ballon d'Or on 12 January 2015.**

Before sending in answers, all participants must read and accept the competition terms and conditions and the rules,  
which can be found at:

[http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/af-magazine/fifaweekly/02/20/51/99/en\\_rules\\_20140613\\_english\\_neutral.pdf](http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/af-magazine/fifaweekly/02/20/51/99/en_rules_20140613_english_neutral.pdf)



**Has a coach ever been fired during a World Cup?**

*Nina Laiva Mendez da Silva, Florianopolis (Brazil)*

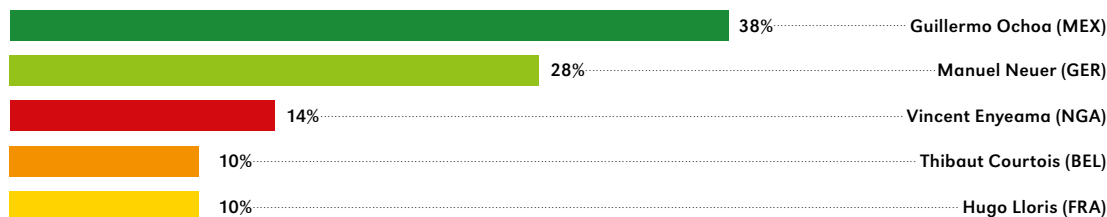
Yes, vividly illustrating the Latin aphorism “sic transit gloria mundi”, loosely translated as “the glories of the world are but fleeting”. Carlos Alberto Parreira was hailed as a Brazilian national hero for winning the 1994 World Cup, but suffered a dramatic reversal in fortune four years later when he was dismissed when his Saudi Arabia team lost their first two matches. The axe fell on two of his counterparts at the same World Cup, Tunisia’s Polish boss Henryk Kasperczak and Korea Republic’s Bum-Kun Cha. For the controversial interview in which Cha railed against corruption and bribery in South Korean football, the former Bundesliga player was also banned from coaching for five years. (thr)

## Who do you think should win the Hyundai Young Player Award?

The Hyundai Young Player Award will be presented to the best young player at the 2014 World Cup. The players must have been born after 31 December 1992 and be taking part at their first World Cup. Cast your vote at [www.fifa.com/newscentre](http://www.fifa.com/newscentre)

**LAST WEEK'S POLL RESULTS**

Which keeper will win the adidas Golden Glove?



**WEEK IN NUMBERS**

# 154

The group stage and the Round of 16 matches at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil yielded 154 goals, seven more than the entire 2006 World Cup in Germany and nice more than the total for the 2010 edition in South Africa. Attack is back at Brazil 2014! (pictured: Lionel Messi)

# 28

A player wearing the number 19 has scored for France at a World Cup for the first time in 28 years. Paul Pogba (pictured) opened the scoring for *Les Bleus* in a 2-0 Round of 16 victory over Nigeria. The last French number 19 to find the net at the global show-down was Yannick Stopyra, also in the last sixteen in a 2-0 victory over Italy in 1986.

# 16

Germany have reached the last eight at the World Cup for the 16th time in a row, starting with their first triumph at the 1954 edition. The picture shows Andre Schurrle, scorer of the first goal in a 2-1 extra-time victory over last sixteen opponents Algeria.