

July/August 2013

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FIFA Confederations Cup review | Brazil 2014 countdown | First four qualifiers revealed |
Governance reforms approved | FIFA Museum takes shape | Interactive joy for Grannec |
Blue Stars celebration | Kick-off for women referees | All set for beach soccer showdown

Home straight

Victory in Rio kick-starts World Cup countdown





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“High-quality football, lots of goals, huge passionate crowds and wonderful stadiums all combined to create a great footballing event.”

A new beginning

The half-way point of the calendar year traditionally marks the start of a busy period for all of us at FIFA, and this year has certainly proven no exception, with a historic FIFA Congress in Mauritius being followed by a truly memorable FIFA Confederations Cup in Brazil.

While the Confederations Cup has long been used as an operational warm-up for the following year’s FIFA World Cup, it has also begun to emerge as a major event in its own right, and the latest edition more than lived up to its billing as a “Festival of Champions”. With no fewer than four current and former World Cup winners taking part, it was always likely that June’s contest would be a special one, as indeed it turned out to be. High-quality football, lots of goals, huge passionate crowds and wonderful stadiums all combined to create a great footballing event.

Brazil’s emergence as champions – almost reborn before our eyes after a long, testing period without competitive matches – certainly provided a thrilling end to the competition. If Brazil can play next year as well as they did in June, we will surely enjoy an incredible atmosphere both in the match stadiums and far beyond.

Outside the stadiums, there were clearly strong signs of wider social unrest, with several large-scale demonstrations taking place during the weeks of the tournament. I am confident, however, that the government will address the concerns raised and ensure that everybody is ready for a universal celebration when we return to the country less than one year from now. Football – and FIFA’s – ability to unite people of all backgrounds is perhaps unique in the world and in Brazil, the beautiful game can surely play a massive part in helping to bring us all even closer together.

A sense of unity was certainly in the air in Mauritius two weeks before we headed to Brazil, as the FIFA Congress gave near-unanimous backing to the final set of measures in our two-year governance reform process, endorsed a strict new resolution in the ongoing fight against racism and discrimination and, historically, held the first-ever election for a female member of the FIFA Executive Committee, with two other women being co-opted onto the committee.

As I told the Congress delegates at the conclusion of the meeting, the formal end of the process does not mean an end to reform itself, as we must always remain open to improvements. I am convinced, however, that FIFA now has the necessary structures to allow our organisation to shine with the same splendour as our ever-popular tournaments and events.

For the Game. For the World.

Joseph S. Blatter

Cover photo: Goalscorers Fred and Neymar celebrate during Brazil’s 3-0 win over Spain in the final of June’s FIFA Confederations Cup.

Around the world

Confederations conquest

Brazil began their one-year countdown to the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ in winning style after celebrating a home-soil triumph over Spain in the final of June's FIFA Confederations Cup. Seemingly struggling for form heading into the traditional World Cup warm-up event, the Brazilians came good when it mattered – winning all four of their matches en route to the final, before



brushing the reigning world champions aside with an emphatic 3-0 scoreline. As well as raising hopes of more home-soil celebrations next year, the win maintained Brazil's fantastic Confederations Cup record, with the South Americans lifting the trophy for the third time running and the fourth time overall. Our full review of the FIFA Confederations Cup 2013 begins on **page 42**.

Reforms approved

FIFA's two-year governance reform process reached its conclusion at the 63rd FIFA Congress in Mauritius in May, with world football's "parliament" giving its overwhelming backing to the final package of reforms. Ninety-nine per cent of the delegates voted in favour of the remaining proposals, which included the establishment of integrity checks for

all key FIFA officials, stricter criteria for candidates seeking election to the FIFA Presidency, and the awarding of future FIFA World Cup™ hosting rights by the Congress rather than the FIFA Executive Committee. Further highlights included the adoption of a tough new resolution against racism and discrimination in football, and the first-ever election of a female member of the Executive Committee. For more on the decisions taken in Mauritius, see our Congress review starting on **page 14**.

First four

The first four qualifiers for next year's FIFA World Cup in Brazil were revealed in June, with Japan, Australia (pictured), Iran and Korea Republic sealing the four automatic qualifying spots for the Asia region. On the brink of qualification since November of



last year, Japan finally sealed their place as Group B winners following a 1-1 draw with Australia on 4 June – with the *Socceroos* joining them two weeks later, after a nervy 1-0 home win over Iraq. Iran qualified as winners of Group A thanks to a 1-0 win over the South Koreans, who only secured their ticket to Brazil on goal difference ahead of third-placed Uzbekistan. A full round-up of the latest World Cup qualifiers can be found on **page 20**.

Club class

The line-up for this year's FIFA Club World Cup is also starting to take shape, with three more clubs having recently booked their places for December's global showdown in Morocco. Regular Club World Cup participants Auckland City (pictured) made sure of their fifth appearance at the competition on 19 May when they beat cross-town rivals Waitakere United 2-1 in the all-New Zealand final of the OFC Champions League. Six days later, German giants Bayern Munich secured



their first-ever berth at the Club World Cup by beating fellow *Bundesliga* side Borussia Dortmund 2-1 in the UEFA Champions League final. Raja Casablanca then sealed the place awarded to the tournament's host nation after wrapping up Morocco's domestic league with a game to spare. The trio join Mexican giants CF Monterrey, who qualified as CONCACAF Champions League winners at the start of May. South America's representatives will also soon be revealed, following the completion of this year's two-legged *Copa Libertadores* final on 24 July. The last two slots will only be allocated in November, however, when the club champions of Asia and Africa are due to be crowned.

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Jurassic ballpark

A "dinosaur" runs onto the pitch at the LA Galaxy's Home Depot Center as part of a half-time promotion put on by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

If the cup fits...

Bayern Munich's Arjen Robben is understandably delighted after finally getting his hands on the UEFA European Champions League trophy. The 29-year-old Dutch international had lost twice in the final with Bayern before, but made it third time lucky at Wembley Stadium in May when his 89th-minute goal ensured a 2-1 win over German *Bundesliga* rivals Borussia Dortmund.



Piling in...

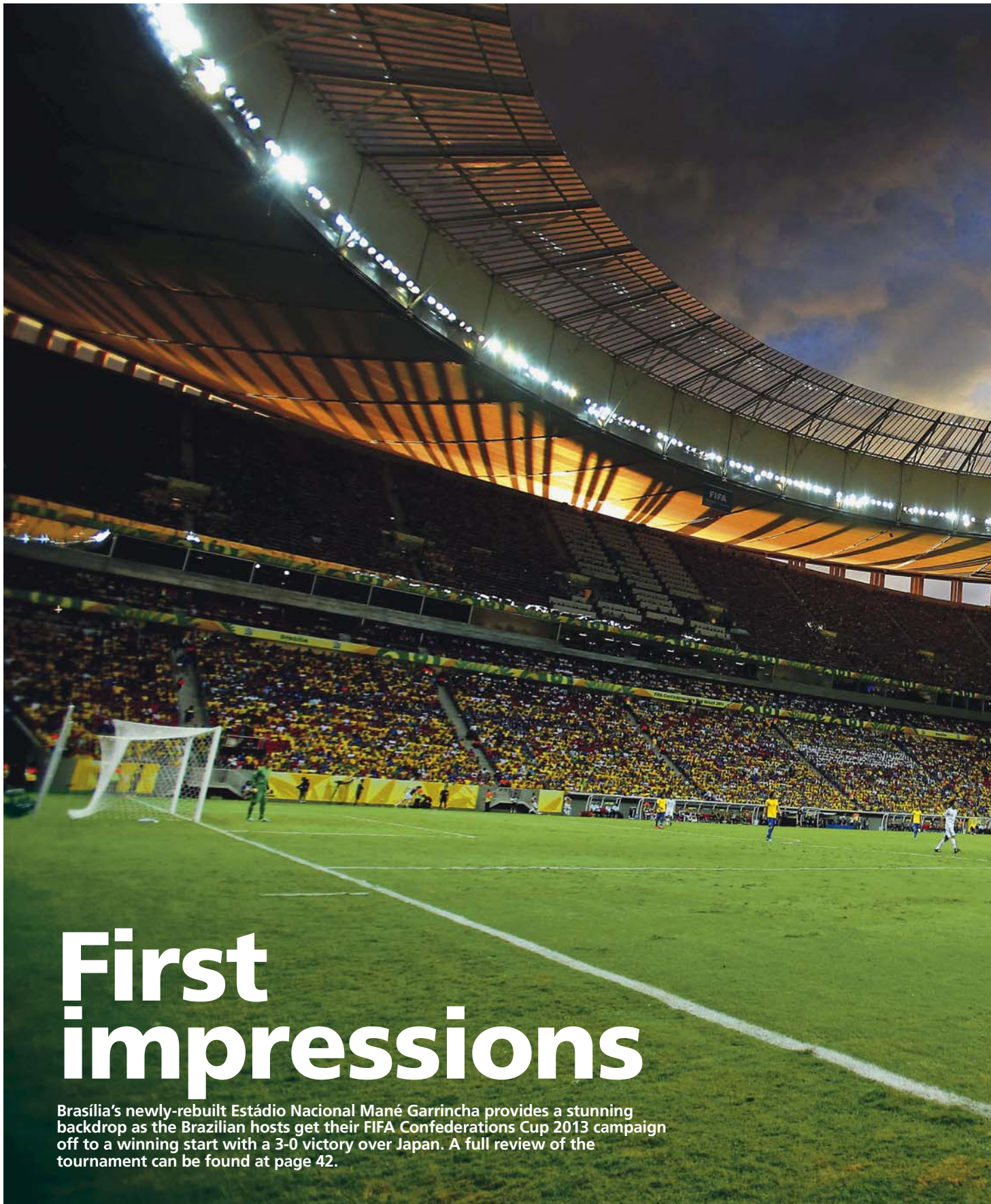
Uruguay's Edinson Cavani (number 23) is first to the ball as his team contest an important 2014 FIFA World Cup™ qualifier against Venezuela on 11 June. The Uruguayans went on to win the match 1-0, edging themselves ahead of the Venezuelans in the South American standings.





...piling up

Colombia's players also had plenty to celebrate as a 2-0 home win against Peru lifted *Los Cafeteros* up to second place, just three points adrift of leaders Argentina. For more on the latest World Cup qualifiers, see our wrap-up starting on page 20.



First impressions

Brasília's newly-rebuilt Estádio Nacional Mané Garrincha provides a stunning backdrop as the Brazilian hosts get their FIFA Confederations Cup 2013 campaign off to a winning start with a 3-0 victory over Japan. A full review of the tournament can be found at page 42.



Letters to FIFA

A selection of comments from the *FIFA World* and FIFA.com mailbags



May/June issue

Brazilian benchmark

I do think that the Confederations Cup is a good way to test the host country as well as being a good benchmark for the teams hoping to take part in next year's World Cup. Take the USA at the last Confederations Cup in 2009, for example. They got to play twice against five-time World Cup winners Brazil, the reigning European champions [and later 2010 FIFA World Cup™ winners] Spain, African giants Egypt and four-time World Cup winners Italy. So it gives the participating teams experience of playing against sides with a very high standard of football.

FIFA.com user (Italy)



While the audience might not be on the same scale as the World Cup, this is clearly a major event! It offers teams such as Spain the chance to write more history and is also crucial for sides such as Uruguay, Mexico, Japan, Nigeria and, especially, the newcomers from Tahiti.

FIFA.com user (Indonesia)

Stage set for Turkey

With Brazil and Argentina, the best two teams in the history of the FIFA U-20 World Cup, failing to qualify this time, I think that Colombia or Chile will probably go on to win. When it comes to the Europeans, I only see



Portugal as having a chance, because they don't develop young talent as well as the South Americans do. Instead, the Europeans buy South American players and eventually improve them by exposing them to European club football. It's good to see that the U-20 World Cup is about raw talent, not the bought version.

FIFA.com user (USA)

The USA has a good team and an excellent chance to take the crown, especially because of all the Mexican-American players who play there. But they are by no means as naturally talented as Mexico!

FIFA.com user (Mexico)

Healthy stars

It's really great to see top stars like Diego Forlán, Neymar, Marta and Falcao lending their time and support to the "FIFA 11 for Health" programme.

FIFA.com user (USA)



Let us hear your views, either on what you have read in *FIFA World*, or in regard to anything else in the world of international football. You can contact us via e-mail at feedback-fifaworld@fifa.org or by writing to *FIFA World*, FIFA-Strasse 20, P.O. Box, CH-8044 Zurich, Switzerland.

This sounds like an excellent programme, and I hope it becomes even more well known because there are many people on the ground who could benefit from it.

FIFA.com user (Argentina)

Algarve joy for USA

The latest Algarve Cup win marked another great victory for the US women's national team. The new players are blending very well with the veterans, and Alex Morgan certainly puts the "beautiful" into the beautiful game.

FIFA.com user (USA)

It's great to see how well the USA have performed at the Algarve Cup over the past few years. They are clearly one of the best teams in women's football and once again showed a beautiful side to the game during the 2013 edition – as well as offering a taste of what might be possible for them beyond this competition.

FIFA.com user (USA)

Women's football is making considerable progress. Teams like the USA and Japan, as well as Germany, Ghana and, of course, Brazil are all coming through. They are also

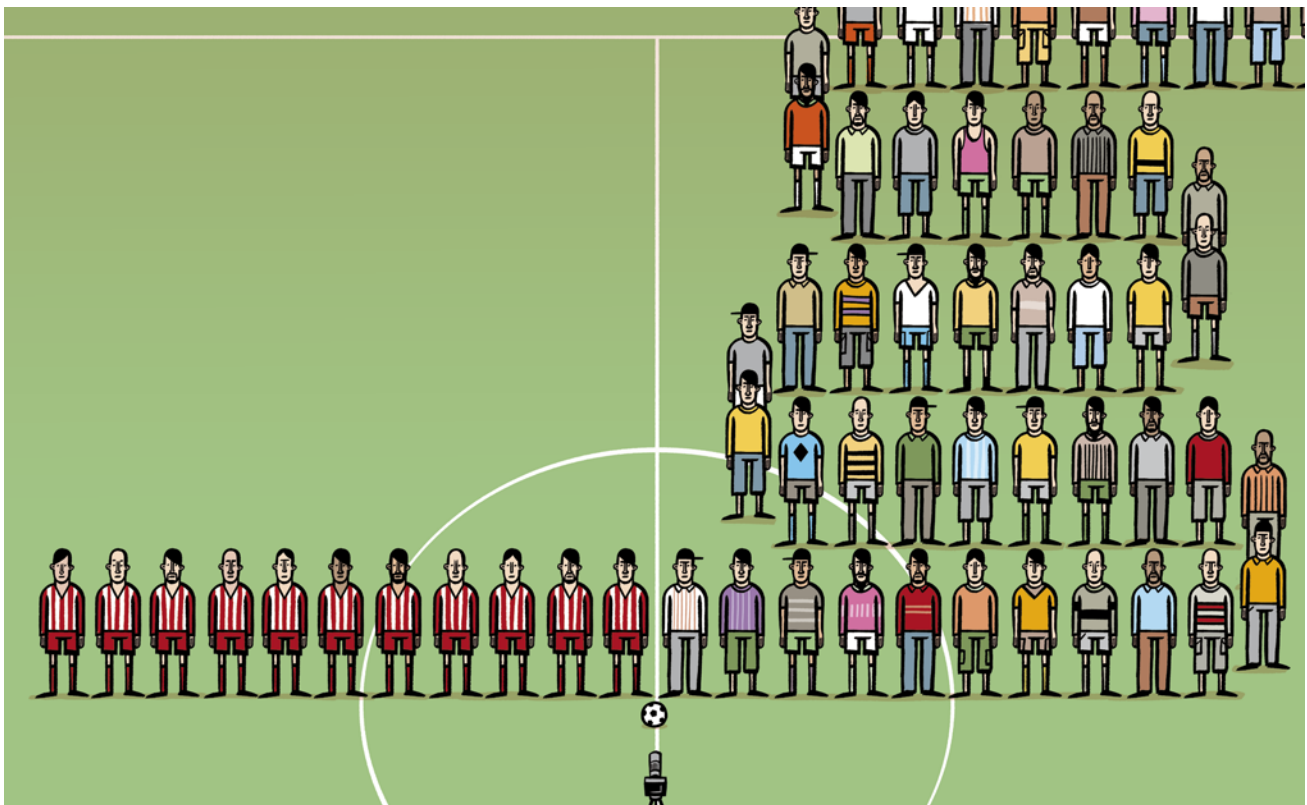


playing with many different styles, which makes it great to watch for the supporters.

FIFA.com user (Algeria)

Playing against millions

More than 2.5 million gamers lined up to compete for this year's FIFA Interactive World Cup title. See page 36.





Strong backing for reforms

The 63rd FIFA Congress in Mauritius proved to be a momentous one, with highlights including the completion of FIFA's two-year governance reform process, approval of strict new anti-discrimination measures and the historic appointment of three women to the Executive Committee.

By Jennifer Davies, Port Louis

The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius was designated back in 2011 as the finish line for FIFA's far-reaching governance reform process and that turned out to be the case, with delegates from all around the world giving their near-unanimous backing to the final set of proposals put forward to complete the two-year process.

"The question is, do we want to change, and the only answer is 'yes'," FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter told the Congress after seeing 198 delegates (or 99 per cent of those voting) cast their votes in favour of the reforms. "We needed it and we did it. The overwhelming participation of the Congress ... is really a confirmation of the seriousness and accountability of FIFA and of you, the delegates. We have made very important changes and reforms that will also [change] the perception of our organisation."

Building upon the first set of reforms that were approved at the 2012 FIFA Congress in Budapest (see "Reforms at a glance"), the second package of proposals was presented to the member associations by FIFA Vice-President Ángel María Villar Llona in his capacity as chairman of the FIFA Legal Committee.

"The road since Budapest has been long – and not easy," Villar Llona acknowledged, "but we have moved forward. All of you have expressed how you see the future of FIFA at many meetings held at every level

... and everyone has been able to give their opinion on these amendments."

Selections and elections

Among the biggest changes approved within the Mauritius reform package was the decision to hand the final say on the location of future FIFA World Cup™ finals back to the FIFA Congress. The FIFA Executive Committee, which had previously been responsible for World Cup hosting allocations going all the way

back to the 1986 edition, will in future present a shortlist of up to three bids for the Congress to vote upon. Further detailed regulations on the bidding process will now be drawn up, and will include stipulations that only one hosting decision can be made per Congress.

Another important measure approved by Congress was the establishment of integrity checks for key officials. Already put in place at the Budapest Congress for candidates elected directly by the Congress (including →



Delegates were treated to some colourful Mauritian culture before the Congress business began.

candidates for the FIFA presidency), these checks will now be extended to cover the election and re-election of all FIFA Vice-Presidents and Executive Committee members. The FIFA Ethics Committee and Audit & Compliance Committee will carry out the checks for officials elected by the Congress, while the confederations will run the checks on the ExCo members and Vice-Presidents from their respective regions, in accordance with a standard established by FIFA.

Stricter criteria have also been put in place for candidates seeking election and re-election to the FIFA presidency, with such candidatures now only valid if they are supported by at least five member associations. Applicants must also have played an active role in association football for at least two of the five years leading up to their candidacy.

Tackling corruption, discrimination

The FIFA Congress also approved an amendment to one of the most important articles in the FIFA Statutes, namely article 2, which sets out the primary objectives

of world football's governing body. Where previously this included the aim "to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardise the integrity of matches or competitions or give rise to abuse of Association Football", the new wording now makes specific reference to the most

"This Congress has allowed us to see and act justly. We have sent out a strong message."

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter

common threats faced – declaring that one of FIFA's key roles is "to promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods and practices such as corruption, doping or match manipulation which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, Players, Officials and Members or give rise to abuse of Association Football".

Article 3, relating to non-discrimination and FIFA's stance against racism, was also expanded to include a more detailed list of the types of discrimination that will not be tolerated. Previously threatening suspension or expulsion of any association which discriminated "against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason", the new article expands upon the possible forms of discrimination to include "race, skin colour, national or social origin, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, and sexual orientation".

"Significant achievements"

In his capacity as chairman of the Independent Governance Committee (IGC) set up in 2011, corporate governance expert Professor Mark Pieth was then invited to give his thoughts on the two-year journey.

"Looking at the concrete achievements so far, it is significant that FIFA has been able to give itself a credible independent ethics committee and a new ethics code,"

Reforms at a glance

An overview of the main reforms implemented during FIFA's two-year governance reform process:

- FIFA World Cup™ hosting decisions to be taken in future by the FIFA Congress, based on a shortlist drawn up by the Executive Committee
- Integrity checks to be carried out on all candidates for key positions
- Ethics Committee split into two chambers (investigatory and adjudicatory), both overseen by independent chairmen and deputy chairmen
- Powers of former Audit Committee expanded within new Audit and Compliance Committee
- New Development Committee operating according to new regulations with increased number of central audits and public disclosure of projects and use of funds
- Approval of revised Code of Ethics and a new Code of Conduct, the latter laying down 11 core principles for players, officials and associations
- Candidates for FIFA presidency to be supported by at least five member associations and required to have played an active role in association football in at least two of the preceding five years
- First female member of the Executive Committee installed, initially as a co-opted member and now as a full member elected on a four-yearly basis by the Congress; two additional female members co-opted on a one-year basis by the 2013 FIFA Congress

- Redrafting of the FIFA Statutes, including more detailed wording of articles 2 and 3 relating to the integrity of the game and the fight against discrimination
- "Self-reform" by football's rule-making body, the International Football Association Board, including the creation of new advisory panels and more detailed explanation of decisions taken





FIFA Audit and Compliance Committee chairman Domenico Scala provides Congress with an update (above); Senior Vice-President Julio H. Grondona congratulates Lydia Nsekera on becoming the first elected female member of the FIFA Executive Committee (right).



Pieth told the Congress. “The independent Audit and Compliance Committee is also responsible for deciding on remuneration of the senior officials and developing rules on

“All women in football can now look at the ExCo and feel represented at the top table, where football’s big decisions are made.”

Co-opted ExCo member Moya Dodd

such remuneration. They are responsible for the financial supervision, the development of a compliance programme and a conflict

of interest policy. All this is supplemented by a new whistle-blower hotline.”

After addressing the many IGC recommendations that had been adopted, Pieth said he was still in favour of centralised integrity checks, suggesting that integrity checks conducted by the confederations could be accepted as long as the confederations based their decisions on input by professionals in due diligence (for instance the “big four”). Pieth also referred to other suggestions which were

not adopted, such as the IGC proposal to allow independent compliance experts to be given permanent seats on the FIFA Executive Committee, but said he had been comforted to hear that the independent chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Domenico Scala, was receiving free access to any committee meetings of his choosing.

Giving his own thoughts on the work carried out, the FIFA President then reminded the Congress that the formal →

Congress briefs

Levies lifted

Following the raising of the topic ahead of last year's Congress in Budapest, delegates in Mauritius voted in favour of a proposal to drop the match levies traditionally paid to FIFA whenever international "A" matches take place. The scrapping of the levies is intended to give greater financial freedom to the associations and confederations who may themselves still demand levies from organisers of such matches.

Defibrillators donated

A medical first was unveiled at the Congress, as FIFA's medical experts presented the new football-specific FIFA Medical Emergency Bags which are being sent out to all 209 member associations around the world. Following approval by last year's FIFA Congress in Budapest, each of the bags contains a portable automated external defibrillator (AED) which can be used to diagnose suspected heart failures at football matches and administer immediate defibrillation. "The highly specific nature of the equipment in each of these bags is a first for the world of sport," FIFA's Chief Medical Officer Professor Jiří Dvořák told the Congress, "and we hope that this will lead the way for other sports federations to introduce their own safety bags."

New members

The Congress also saw the formal installation of six new FIFA Executive Committee members. Besides the election of Lydia Nsekera and the co-opting of Moya Dodd and Sonia Bien-Aime as the first three women on the board (see main text), new CONMEBOL President Eugenio Figueredo, his Asian Football Confederation counterpart Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and United States Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati were also welcomed onto the committee.

conclusion of the two-year reform process did not mean an end to reform itself.

"Reform never stops, and indeed we have been carrying out reforms in FIFA since 1998, when I was first elected President," Blatter asserted. "The big [governance reform] process that we have just completed may be over, but we will go on with reforms, because we have to keep looking at where we are going with FIFA in the future.

"I would say that this Congress has allowed us to see justly and to act justly. We have sent out a strong message, but it is not finished because now we have to implement all these decisions, and that will take time."

Age-old question

Originally intended to be put before a separate vote at the Mauritius Congress, the issue of potential age limits or limited terms of office for elected officials was instead postponed until the 2014 FIFA Congress, since no clear consensus could be found on these topics, either among the various confederations or by the Executive Committee.

Illustrating the differences of opinions that abound, several member associations

took to the floor to give their thoughts, with some arguing that the imposition of age limits would represent a form of discrimination, while others argued that such limits could help to bring younger leaders into the game.

In the end, the Congress approved a proposal to continue the discussion in the coming months ahead of a planned final vote on the topic at next year's FIFA Congress.

A win for women

Another important aspect of the reform process has been the desire to increase the representation of all stakeholders in football's decision-making bodies and, in particular, to increase the involvement of women in the game. In Mauritius, that took concrete form with the first election of a female Executive Committee member.

Having already sat on the ExCo for a year as a co-opted member, Burundi's Lydia Nsekera won the historic vote for a four-year term after garnering 95 votes to finish ahead of Australia's Moya Dodd (70 votes) and the General Secretary of the Turks and Caicos Islands FA, Sonia Bien-Aime (38 votes).



Life-savers: FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter and Chief Medical Officer Jiří Dvořák present Mauritian FA President Dinnanathlall Persunoo with one of the new FIFA Medical Emergency Bags.

On a day when there were no losers, however, both Dodd and Bien-Aime were co-opted onto the Executive Committee for one-year terms, bringing the total number of women on the committee to three.

"I hope that all women in football can now look at the ExCo and see themselves reflected and represented at the top table where football's big decisions are made," Dodd told *FIFA World* immediately after her appointment.

Ongoing concerns

While the approval of the latest reforms and the election of the female Executive Committee member understandably took centre stage, the delegates also received important updates on several ongoing issues of concern within the game.

Addressing the topic of match-fixing, for example, David Sabir, a member of

FIFA's Stadium and Security Committee, provided an overview of the work already being carried out by FIFA in cooperation with INTERPOL and the FIFA subsidiary firm Early Warning System (EWS), which monitors around 1,500 matches all over the world each year for signs of irregular betting patterns. After presenting some of the more recent measures taken in the fight against match manipulation, including the FIFA/EWS telephone and e-mail hotline and the web-based confidential reporting system for members of the public, Sabir reminded delegates that match manipulation could only be tackled successfully by a concerted effort both inside and outside of the game.

"Match manipulation is a complex and serious issue which must be addressed with a long-term approach on many levels and in cooperation with all stakeholders," he concluded.

Turning to the regulation of players' agents, FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber chairman Geoff Thompson also provided an update on the latest deliberations. The Congress gave its unanimous backing to a proposal to end the current system whereby agents themselves are licensed, with the focus instead switching to stricter control over the activities of all "intermediaries" involved in player transfers. Thompson said that the current intention was to draw up a set of minimum standards for the profession to be established in parallel with a new registration system for intermediaries. A working group is now being convened to work on a final draft of regulations.

The 64th FIFA Congress will be held in São Paulo on 10 and 11 June 2014, concluding one day before the opening of the 2014 FIFA World Cup™. ■

Resolving racism

As well as agreeing to strengthen the wording in FIFA's own statutes on the subject of racism and discrimination, the delegates at the 2013 FIFA Congress passed a powerful new resolution in the fight against these twin evils.

Drawn up by FIFA's new Task Force Against Racism and Discrimination, under the chairmanship of CONCACAF President and FIFA Vice-President Jeffrey Webb, the resolution stipulates that the following measures shall be implemented on a global level in football:

- Competition organisers to establish a concrete action plan, showing their intention to fight all forms of racism and discrimination among their players, officials and supporters.
- Competition regulations shall foresee a specialised official to be present at all competition stadiums to identify potential acts of racism or discrimination.
- In order to harmonise the pronounced sanctions on a worldwide level, the sanctions imposed on a club or representative team shall in principle be issued in a two-stage approach:
 - Warnings, fines and/or the playing of a match behind closed doors shall be applied as a sanction for a first or a minor offence.
 - For reoffenders or for serious incidents, sanctions such as point deductions, expulsion from a competition or relegation should be applied.

Any person (player, official, match official, etc.) committing such an offence shall be suspended for at least five matches combined with a stadium ban, as stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

"We believe that the sanctions, now that they're effective, will be implemented throughout the world in our 209 FIFA member associations," Webb told *FIFA World* following the resolution's near-unanimous adoption by the Congress.

"We also expect to see the immediate curbing of racist abuse within our stadiums. Because if we don't, the individuals involved will have to bear the resulting sanctions. The final result we are aiming for is that racism and discrimination are no longer present in our stadiums, leaving every player and supporter free to enjoy the beautiful game."



FIFA Vice-President Jeffrey Webb expressed his confidence in football's ability to stamp out racism.

Asian quartet book places in Brazil

The first four qualifiers for the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ were revealed in June, with Japan, Australia, Iran and Korea Republic coming through Asia's preliminary competition to secure their places alongside the tournament's Brazilian hosts.

In the end, it was the favourites who prospered. Asia's top four seeds successfully negotiated the continent's fourth qualifying round to book their places at next year's global showdown in Brazil. While the identities of the qualified teams produced no great shocks, the routes they took were far from straightforward, however, with three of the four sides only making sure of their automatic qualifying berths on the round's final matchday.

Japan were the exception, securing their place on 4 June with a game to spare. But even they found the going tough, eventually securing the point they needed when a stoppage-time penalty from Keisuke Honda helped the reigning Asian champions to a 1-1 draw at home to Australia.



Keisuke Honda celebrates after firing Japan into the World Cup finals with a late penalty conversion against Australia.

"We dominated the match, but could not score the first goal when we got our chances," said a visibly relieved Honda after firing Japan to their fifth consecutive World Cup appearance. "The game became more difficult after Australia scored, but we did not give up till the end, and we finally got the result."

While the Japanese celebrated becoming the first side to qualify for Brazil 2014, the other Asian teams in contention were to see their campaigns going right the way down to the wire.

Chasing the second automatic qualifying spot behind Japan in Group B, Australia followed up their draw in Saitama with an emphatic 4-0 home win over Jordan on 11 June – but still needed a victory against former Asian champions Iraq on the round's final matchday to be sure of qualification.

On a wet night in Sydney, the hosts appeared to be in trouble after squandering several good scoring opportunities, but a late substitution helped turn things around, with veteran striker Josh Kennedy coming off the bench in the 77th minute before heading in the only goal of the game with seven minutes remaining.

"It's been a really hard campaign, but we showed our mental strength," Australia

captain Lucas Neill said afterwards. "I'm sorry it wasn't pretty, but we beat them. We've got to keep pushing ourselves, but let's look at the positives tonight – we're going to Brazil!"

Five hours later, Iran and Korea Republic also made it through after taking the top two positions in Group A, although only on goal difference in the case of the South Koreans. Beaten 1-0 at home by the Iranians in their final top-of-the-table encounter, the *Taeguk Warriors* faced a nervous few moments as they waited for the final score from Uzbekistan's own decisive home game against Qatar. Three points behind Korea Republic at the start of the day, the Central Asians had fought

back from a goal down against the already-eliminated Qataris to eventually triumph 5-1 – but it was not quite enough, with the Koreans boasting a +6 goal difference compared to Uzbekistan's +5.

While the East Asians can now look forward to their eighth consecutive World Cup appearance, they will be heading to Brazil without coach Choi Kang-Hee, who confirmed he would be stepping down immediately after the Iran defeat.

Chasing their first-ever appearance at the FIFA World Cup™, Uzbekistan's *White Wolves* could at least console themselves with having finished third in the group, to earn themselves a place in Asia's fifth-round play-off tie. Taking place in September, this home-and-away fixture will see the Uzbeks take on a Jordan side who finished third in Group B thanks to a final matchday 1-0 win over West Asian rivals Oman.

"It's a shame that we could not achieve our aim of qualifying automatically, but life goes on and we will continue to battle in the next round after we have had a little time to recover," said Uzbekistan coach Mirdjalal Kasimov of September's tie, from which the eventual winner will progress to an intercontinental play-off against the fifth-best side in South American qualifying for a place in Brazil.

Draws delay Argentina

Two-time FIFA World Cup winners Argentina also had the opportunity in June to book an early place at Brazil 2014, but were forced to put their champagne back on ice after being held to two consecutive draws.

Knowing that two wins would guarantee them their place at next year's finals, Alejandro Sabella's men instead had to settle for a goalless draw at home to Colombia on 7 June before sharing a 1-1 scoreline away to Ecuador four days later.

Remarkably, the stalemate with Colombia was the first goalless encounter of the current South American qualifying tournament, with all 55 of the group's other matches to date having produced at least one goal. Starting both games without Lionel Messi, who was still →



State of play – AFC

Japan, Iran, Australia and Korea Republic qualified for the 2014 FIFA World Cup after taking the top two places in their respective fourth-round groups. The two third-placed teams, Jordan and Uzbekistan, will contest a home-and-away fifth round tie in September to determine Asia's representative in November's intercontinental play-off against the fifth-best team from South American qualifying.

Group A	Played	Points
Iran	8	16
Korea Republic	8	14
Uzbekistan	8	14
Qatar	8	7
Lebanon	8	5

Group B	Played	Points
Japan	8	17
Australia	8	13
Jordan	8	10
Oman	8	9
Iraq	8	5

6 September	Jordan v. Uzbekistan
10 September	Uzbekistan v. Jordan

Sharp shooters

June brought no changes to the top three in the chase to be crowned top scorer of the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ qualifiers. Belize striker Deon McCaulay still leads the way with his 11 goals, but can no longer improve on that impressive tally due to the *Jaguars'* elimination in the second round of CONCACAF qualifying. Of the 19 players who have scored seven goals or more, 12 (shown in bold below) are still in contention, however, with Panama's Blas Pérez currently just one goal behind McCaulay.

Player	Team	Goals scored
Deon McCaulay	Belize	11
Peter Byers	Antigua & Barbuda	10
Blas Pérez	Panama	10
Gonzalo Higuaín	Argentina	9
Edin Džeko	Bosnia-Herzegovina	8
Georges Gope-Fenepej	New Caledonia	8
Luis Suárez	Uruguay	8
Lionel Messi	Argentina	8
Shinji Okazaki	Japan	8
Lê Công Vinh	Vietnam	7
Jacques Haeko	New Caledonia	7
Jerry Bengtson	Honduras	7
Chris Wood	New Zealand	7
Hassan Mahmoud	Jordan	7
Falcao	Colombia	7
Álvaro Saborío	Costa Rica	7
Clint Dempsey	USA	7
Younis Mahmoud	Iraq	7
Ahmad Ibrahim	Jordan	7



Bosnia's Edin Džeko has moved into the top five after scoring his eighth goal in six matches during his country's 5-0 win over Latvia in June.

nursing a hamstring injury, the *Albiceleste* made a much brighter start against Ecuador – with Sergio Agüero converting an early penalty after just four minutes. The home side struck back shortly afterwards, however, as Segundo Castillo headed in a Walter Ayovi free-kick for what turned out to be a decisive equaliser.

“We knew it was going to be our hardest game,” said Sabella, after seeing his team end Ecuador’s run of six straight qualifying wins in the high-altitude setting

of Quito. “We had a lot of things against us – injuries, suspensions. But the team responded with great dedication and I am very satisfied.”

Sabella insisted that he would not be taking qualification for granted “until it’s mathematically certain”, but an 11th straight appearance at world football’s biggest event now seems little more than a formality for the Argentinians. A win against bottom side Paraguay in their next game on 10 September would make things certain, while they could even book their place in Brazil before then if other results go their way on 6 September – when Argentina have a rest day.

Colombia’s chances of qualifying for their first World Cup finals since 1998 are also looking good, after *Los Cafeteros* followed up on the goalless draw in Buenos Aires with a clinical 2-0 home win over struggling Peru, to go second in the South American standings. Beaten 1-0 by the Peruvians prior to their home draw with Argentina, Ecuador meanwhile slipped back to third place – level on points with a Chile side who massively boosted their own qualifying hopes with wins over Paraguay and Bolivia.

Reigning South American champions Uruguay also put themselves back in contention by winning a potentially crucial away game against their nearest rivals Venezuela. *La Celeste* came into the match off the back of a dismal year-long streak in which they had lost four and drawn two of their six previous qualifying games, but they finally got back to winning ways thanks to a solitary first-half strike from Napoli-based striker Edinson Cavani. The result lifted Óscar Tabárez’s side back into fifth place and on course for at least the intercontinental play-offs, though only ahead of the Venezuelans on goal difference.

Trio advance in Africa

There were no World Cup qualifying spots up for grabs in Africa in June, but it still proved an important month for the three teams who were able to book places in the continent’s final qualifying round.

Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt and Algeria were the trio in question, with all three securing passage to the final stage with a game to spare. Dreaming of their first World Cup qualification since Italia ’90, the Egyptians advanced thanks to back-to-back away wins over Zimbabwe and Mozambique →



FIFA WORLD CUP
Brasil

QUALIFIERS

State of play – CONMEBOL

The top four teams will qualify automatically for Brazil 2014, with the fifth-placed team advancing to November’s intercontinental play-off against either Jordan or Uzbekistan.

	Played	Points
Argentina	13	26
Colombia	12	23
Ecuador	12	21
Chile	13	21
Uruguay	12	16
Venezuela	13	16
Peru	12	14
Bolivia	13	10
Paraguay	12	8

6 September	Colombia v. Ecuador Paraguay v. Bolivia Chile v. Venezuela Peru v. Uruguay
10 September	Uruguay v. Colombia Bolivia v. Ecuador Paraguay v. Argentina Venezuela v. Peru
11 October	Argentina v. Peru Ecuador v. Uruguay Colombia v. Chile Venezuela v. Paraguay
15 October	Uruguay v. Argentina Paraguay v. Colombia Chile v. Ecuador Peru v. Bolivia



Waiting to celebrate: back-to-back draws in June meant that Argentina are not over the finish line just yet.

First past the post

A look at the teams who have secured Asia's four automatic qualifying spots, and how they did it:



Iran

- Route to Brazil:** The only one of Asia's four automatic qualifiers to have started their campaign in the second qualifying round, Iran brushed aside the Maldives 5-0 on aggregate before sailing unbeaten through the third round. Surprise defeats against Lebanon and Uzbekistan in the second half of 2012 threatened to derail Iran's fourth-round ambitions before three straight victories in June propelled them to the top of Group A.
- Been here before?** Yes. This will be Iran's fourth appearance at the World Cup finals, following on from previous qualifications for the 1978, 1998 and 2006 FIFA World Cups™.
- Best performance:** The Iranians have never made it past the World Cup's group stage but celebrated a shock 2-1 win over the USA at France '98 – the country's only World Cup victory to date.
- What they said:** "The pressure was on our side, but fortunately my team played with confidence and care. We entered this match determined to win it and I had faith in my players." Iran coach Carlos Queiroz following the decisive 1-0 win over Korea Republic



Korea Republic

- Route to Brazil:** After topping their group in Asia's third round of qualifying, Korea Republic struggled for consistency during much of the fourth round. Home and away defeats against Iran nearly cost them dearly, with the *Taeguk Warriors* ultimately only qualifying as Group A runners-up, ahead of Uzbekistan on goal difference.
- Been here before?** Many times! After qualifying just once in the first 52 years of the competition, the South Koreans are now preparing to make their eighth consecutive appearance.
- Best performance:** Without doubt, their fourth-place finish as co-hosts of the 2002 FIFA World Cup™, when Dutch coach Guus Hiddink led the team to wins over Portugal, Poland, Italy and Spain before they finally bowed out with a 1-0 semi-final defeat to Germany.
- What they said:** "The players gave their best but we didn't play as we wanted to. I hope the team can learn from the qualifiers and I wish them luck in Brazil." Outgoing coach Choi Kang-Hee reflects on the 1-0 defeat against Iran.



Japan

- Route to Brazil:** Reigning Asian champions Japan had to settle for second place behind Uzbekistan during the third qualifying round, but made a flying start to the fourth round when they won four and drew one of their opening five matches. A first-ever defeat to Jordan in March proved a shock, but Japan bounced back with a 1-1 draw against Australia to top Group B with a game to spare.
- Been here before?** Yes. Japan are relative latecomers to the FIFA World Cup, having qualified for the first time at France '98. Since then, however, they have been ever-present, with Brazil 2014 marking their fifth straight appearance.
- Best performance:** Two appearances in the round of 16, firstly on home soil in 2002 and again in South Africa three years ago.
- What they said:** "I've achieved one of the goals that I set when I was hired, but qualifying isn't enough. We want to keep improving and to aim high when we're at the World Cup in Brazil." Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni



Australia

- Route to Brazil:** After cruising through Asia's third qualifying round, the Australians found the going much tougher in the fourth round – winning just one of their first six matches as they desperately scrapped it out for second place behind runaway leaders Japan. It was in Japan at the start of June that the turnaround began, however, with a creditable 1-1 draw in Saitama being followed by crucial home wins against Jordan and Iraq.
- Been here before?** Yes. Australia made their World Cup debut at Germany '74 but then had to wait 32 years before returning to the global stage (and Germany) for the 2006 finals. Australia's gamble to leave the Oceania Football Confederation that same year in order to join a more competitive field in Asia appears to have paid off well, with the country now looking forward to their third straight World Cup appearance.
- Best performance:** An impressive run to the round of 16 in 2006, when the *Socceroos* finished a formidable-looking group in second place – behind Brazil, but ahead of Croatia and Japan. Eventual champions Italy brought Australia's quarter-final dreams to an end, though it took a controversial stoppage-time penalty to see the *Azzurri* through.
- What they said:** "I'm simply happy for the boys, for the fans. It was a very tough qualifying campaign but we made it happen over the last three games." Australia coach Holger Osieck



State of play – CAF

Africa's ten group winners will advance to the confederation's final qualifying round, consisting of five straight knockout ties played over two legs in October and November, with the five eventual winners progressing to the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

Group A	Played	Points
Ethiopia	5	10
South Africa	5	8
Botswana	5	7
Central African Rep.	5	3

6 September South Africa v. Botswana
Central African Rep. v. Ethiopia

Group B	Played	Points
Tunisia	5	11
Cape Verde	5	9*
Sierra Leone	5	5
Equatorial Guinea	5	2*

* Pending result of appeal by Equatorial Guinea

6 September Tunisia v. Cape Verde
Sierra Leone v. Equatorial Guinea

Group C	Played	Points
Côte d'Ivoire	5	13
Morocco	5	8
Tanzania	5	6
Gambia	5	1

6 September Côte d'Ivoire v Morocco
Gambia v. Tanzania

Group D	Played	Points
Ghana	5	12
Zambia	5	11
Sudan	5	2
Lesotho	5	2

6 September Ghana v. Zambia
Sudan v. Lesotho

Group E	Played	Points
Congo	5	10
Burkina Faso	5	9
Gabon	5	7
Niger	5	3

6 September Burkina Faso v. Gabon
Niger v. Congo

Group F	Played	Points
Nigeria	5	9
Malawi	5	7
Namibia	5	5
Kenya	5	3

6 September Nigeria v. Malawi
Kenya v. Namibia

Group G	Played	Points
Egypt	5	15
Guinea	5	10
Mozambique	5	2
Zimbabwe	5	1

6 September Egypt v. Guinea
Zimbabwe v. Mozambique

Group H	Played	Points
Algeria	5	12
Mali	5	8
Benin	5	5
Rwanda	5	2

6 September Algeria v. Mali
Benin v. Rwanda

Group I	Played	Points
Cameroon	5	10
Libya	5	9
Congo DR	5	6
Togo	5	1

6 September Cameroon v. Libya
Togo v. Congo DR

Group J	Played	Points
Senegal	5	9
Uganda	5	8
Angola	5	4
Liberia	5	4

6 September Senegal v. Uganda
Angola v. Liberia

to maintain the only perfect record in the African qualifiers.

"It shows that we can win games at home and on the road, but all we are thinking about now is how to be ready for the [final round]," the *Pharaohs'* American coach Bob Bradley told reporters in Mozambique's Estádio da Machava. "This is for everyone in Egypt. At a time when the country is looking for things that are good, this is a good start for us, because the goal for everyone in Egypt is of course the World Cup."

Côte d'Ivoire and Algeria also celebrated two wins on the road in June – the Ivorians beating Gambia and Tanzania, and the Algerians seeing off Benin and Rwanda – to establish unassailable leads in their respective groups.

Two other teams also appeared to have qualified in June for the final round, only to have their celebrations cut short following the opening of separate disciplinary investigations into the alleged use of ineligible players.

Bidding to make their first-ever appearance at a World Cup finals, surprise Group A leaders Ethiopia pulled off an impressive 2-1 home win over South Africa on 16 June to apparently go five points clear of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ hosts with only one round of matches remaining. The *Black Lions* were then docked three points by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, however, for fielding a suspended player during a 2-1 win in Botswana eight days earlier, and will now have it all to do again in their last game against Central African Republic on 6 September.

Tunisia also seemed to have gone five points clear of their last remaining rivals Cape Verde at the top of Group B, only for the Cape Verdeans to be handed a lifeline when Equatorial Guinea were also judged to have fielded an ineligible player during their 4-3 win over the islanders in March. The reversal of that result into a 3-0 win for Cape Verde was still the subject of an appeal by the Equatorial Guineans as this issue of *FIFA World* went to print. If confirmed, however, the sanction means that Tunisia are now just two points clear of the *Blue Sharks* and in need of at least a

draw when the two sides go head to head in September's decisive game.

Exciting finales are meanwhile guaranteed in the five other groups that are still open, particularly in Group E, where three teams who have yet to qualify for a FIFA World Cup (Congo, Burkina Faso and Gabon) are all still able to finish top. In Groups D, F, I and J, meanwhile, former World Cup participants Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Senegal will each go head to head against the second-placed teams in their respective groups (Zambia, Malawi, Libya and Uganda), knowing that a point will be enough to send them through to the final round.

USA lead the way

In the CONCACAF region, June proved to be a perfect month for the USA, who took three large steps towards Brazil 2014 with wins over Jamaica, Panama and Honduras. Languishing in third place at the start of the month – having taken just one win from their first three matches – Jürgen Klinsmann's men now find themselves two points clear at the top of the final six-team "hexagonal" round, and could already wrap up qualification in September by winning their next two games, away to Costa Rica and at home to arch-rivals Mexico.

"I want my team to be proud of this moment," Klinsmann said following the 1-0 win over the Hondurans in Utah. "We are in a very good position at the top of

the Hexagonal and the players should enjoy their beer tonight."

The former German international is unlikely to have let the celebrations go on for too long, however, with those next two qualifiers likely to provide a stern test. The trip to second-placed Costa Rica's daunting Ricardo Saprissa Stadium (nicknamed the "Monster's Cave" in reference to the often intimidating atmosphere generated by the local supporters) could prove particularly challenging – especially since two September victories would also be enough to send the Costa Ricans through to next year's finals. Like the USA, *Los Ticos* were in impressive form in June, holding on to second place after celebrating wins over fellow Central Americans Honduras and Panama either side of an impressive goalless draw at Mexico's legendary Azteca Stadium.

On top of the group at the start of June, surprise early leaders Panama also managed to hold the out-of-sorts Mexicans to a 0-0 draw in Panama City on 7 June, but their subsequent away defeats against the Americans and Costa Ricans have now seen them plummet to fifth place. Although not yet out of the running for what would be their first-ever appearance at a World Cup finals, the *Canal Men* will probably need to take maximum points from their own September clashes with bottom side Jamaica and fourth-placed Honduras ahead of a tricky October run-in against Mexico and the USA.

European surprises

In Europe, June's qualifiers marked something of a calm before September's storm, with only two thirds of the continent's teams in action.

Nevertheless, there were a number of surprise results – with only three of the seven group leaders in action managing to win games. →

USA striker Jozy Altidore was in great form in June, scoring four times in four games for the *Stars and Stripes*.



FIFA WORLD CUP
Brasil

QUALIFIERS

State of play – OFC

New Zealand have finished top of the Oceania qualifying competition – with six wins from their six final-round matches – and will now contest a two-legged intercontinental play-off in November against the fourth-best side from CONCACAF's qualifying competition.

	Played	Points
New Zealand	6	18
New Caledonia	6	12
Tahiti	6	3
Solomon Islands	6	3

State of play – CONCACAF

The top three teams from CONCACAF's final six-team "hexagonal" round will qualify automatically for Brazil 2014, with the fourth-placed team going on to represent the region in November's intercontinental play-off against Oceania representatives New Zealand.

	Played	Points
USA	6	13
Costa Rica	6	11
Mexico	6	8
Honduras	6	7
Panama	6	6
Jamaica	6	2

6 September	Costa Rica v. USA Mexico v. Honduras Panama v. Jamaica
10 September	Honduras v. Panama Jamaica v. Costa Rica USA v. Mexico
11 October	Honduras v. Costa Rica Mexico v. Panama USA v. Jamaica
15 October	Costa Rica v Mexico Jamaica v. Honduras Panama v. USA

Belgium, Switzerland and Bosnia-Herzegovina were the successful teams in question, with victories over Serbia, Cyprus and Latvia helping to maintain their unbeaten records and consolidate their leads at the top of Groups A, E and G respectively.

The Belgians also profited from a surprise home defeat for Croatia against a Scotland team whose hopes of qualifying had already been dashed back in March. The Croatians had been joint group leaders going into the June encounter in Zagreb, but a solitary goal from Norwich City forward Robert Snodgrass handed the Scots their first win of the campaign, gave the Croatians their first defeat and gifted the Belgians a three-point lead at the top of the Group A table.

Group B leaders Italy, meanwhile, had to settle for a goalless draw in the Czech Republic. Heavily reliant on veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon throughout much of the encounter – and especially after the second-half dismissal of star striker Mario Balotelli – the four-time world champions seemed relieved to have at least earned a single point to extend their lead over second-placed Bulgaria to four points.

There was no such silver lining for Russia and Montenegro, however, who both suffered their first defeats of the campaign in June. Travelling to Lisbon as leaders of Group F, the Russians were undone by an early Helder Postiga goal, which proved enough to lift Portugal into top spot, two points clear of Fabio Capello's men. Having played two games less than Portugal, the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ hosts still have their destiny in their own hands and could regain the lead as early as August, when they travel to Northern Ireland for a match that was postponed in March due to heavy snowfall.

Looking to open up a five-point lead at the top of Group H, Montenegro instead suffered a surprise 4-0 thrashing at home to Ukraine. Following a goalless first half that had ended with the sending off of Ukraine's Roman Zozulia, there was little sign of what was to come. The Montenegrins then had two men sent off themselves, however, and the visitors took full advantage – scoring more goals in the final 40 minutes than Montenegro had conceded in the rest of their campaign combined. The result leaves Group H wide open, with Montenegro, England, Ukraine

and even fourth-placed Poland (who host the Montenegrins on 6 September) still harbouring realistic hopes of winning the group.

Arguably the biggest surprise in June came in Copenhagen, as former European champions Denmark suffered a 4-0 home defeat in Group B at the hands of struggling Armenia – who had themselves been beaten 1-0 at home by bottom side Malta four days earlier.

It was Denmark's biggest defeat since losing 5-1 to Spain at the 1986 FIFA World Cup™ in Mexico – a match in which the country's current coach Morten Olsen featured as a player. Olsen had no doubt in June, however, as to which result hurt the most, describing the thrashing by Armenia as "the worst night of my football life".

The Armenians, on the other hand, were able to celebrate their biggest-ever win and only their sixth victory in World Cup qualifying. The result also lifted them into fourth place, above the Danes on goal difference, although both teams now face an uphill struggle to catch up with the unbeaten Italians and Bulgarians.

As throughout the rest of the world, September could now prove a critical month for many of the European teams, with the likes of Germany, Italy and the Netherlands all in a position to successfully wrap up their campaigns with victories in their upcoming fixtures. Switzerland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Russia and Spain could also secure qualification in September, although they would need to rely on other results in their respective groups also going their way. ■



Swiss forward Xherdan Shaqiri holds off Cyprus midfielder Siniša Dobrašinović during the 1-0 win that moved Switzerland four points clear at the top of European Group E.



QUALIFIERS

State of play – UEFA

Europe's nine group winners will qualify automatically for Brazil 2014, with the eight best group runners-up contesting home-and-away play-offs to determine the confederation's remaining four qualifiers.

Group A	Played	Points
Belgium	7	19
Croatia	7	16
Serbia	7	7
Wales	6	6
Scotland	7	5
FYR Macedonia	6	4

6 September	Macedonia v. Wales Scotland v. Belgium Serbia v. Croatia
10 September	Macedonia v. Scotland Wales v. Serbia
11 October	Croatia v. Belgium Wales v. Macedonia
15 October	Belgium v. Wales Scotland v. Croatia Serbia v. Macedonia

Group B	Played	Points
Italy	6	14
Bulgaria	6	10
Czech Republic	6	9
Armenia	6	6
Denmark	6	6
Malta	6	3

6 September	Czech Republic v. Armenia Italy v. Bulgaria Malta v. Denmark
10 September	Armenia v. Denmark Italy v. Czech Republic Malta v. Bulgaria
11 October	Armenia v. Bulgaria Denmark v. Italy Malta v. Czech Republic
15 October	Bulgaria v. Czech Republic Denmark v. Malta Italy v. Armenia

Group C	Played	Points
Germany	6	16
Austria	6	11
Sweden	6	11
Rep. of Ireland	6	11
Kazakhstan	6	1
Faroe Islands	6	0

6 September	Kazakhstan v. Faroe Islands Germany v. Austria Republic of Ireland v. Sweden
10 September	Kazakhstan v. Sweden Austria v. Republic of Ireland Faroe Islands v. Germany
11 October	Germany v. Republic of Ireland Sweden v. Austria Faroe Islands v. Kazakhstan
15 October	Sweden v. Germany Faroe Islands v. Austria Republic of Ireland v. Kazakhstan

Group D	Played	Points
Netherlands	6	18
Hungary	6	11
Romania	6	10
Turkey	6	7
Estonia	6	6
Andorra	6	0

6 September	Estonia v. Netherlands Romania v. Hungary Turkey v. Andorra
10 September	Andorra v. Netherlands Hungary v. Estonia Romania v. Turkey
11 October	Andorra v. Romania Estonia v. Turkey Netherlands v. Hungary
15 October	Hungary v. Andorra Romania v. Estonia Turkey v. Netherlands

Group E	Played	Points
Switzerland	6	14
Albania	6	10
Iceland	6	9
Norway	6	8
Slovenia	6	6
Cyprus	6	4

6 September	Norway v. Cyprus Slovenia v. Albania Switzerland v. Iceland
10 September	Cyprus v. Slovenia Iceland v. Albania Norway v. Switzerland
11 October	Albania v. Switzerland Iceland v. Cyprus Slovenia v. Norway
15 October	Cyprus v. Albania Norway v. Iceland Switzerland v. Slovenia

Group F	Played	Points
Portugal	7	14
Russia	5	12
Israel	6	11
Azerbaijan	7	4
Northern Ireland	5	3
Luxembourg	6	3

14 August	Northern Ireland v. Russia
6 September	Israel v. Azerbaijan

10 September	Northern Ireland v. Portugal Russia v. Luxembourg Luxembourg v. Northern Ireland Russia v. Israel
11 October	Azerbaijan v. Northern Ireland Luxembourg v. Russia Portugal v. Israel
15 October	Azerbaijan v. Russia Israel v. Northern Ireland Portugal v. Luxembourg

Group G	Played	Points
Bosnia-Herzegovina	6	16
Greece	6	13
Slovakia	6	9
Lithuania	6	5
Latvia	6	4
Liechtenstein	6	2

6 September	Liechtenstein v. Greece Bosnia-Herzegovina v. Slovakia Latvia v. Lithuania
10 September	Greece v. Latvia Slovakia v. Bosnia-Herzegovina Lithuania v. Liechtenstein
11 October	Greece v. Slovakia Bosnia-Herzeg. v. Liechtenstein Lithuania v. Latvia
15 October	Greece v. Liechtenstein Lithuania v. Bosnia-Herzegovina Latvia v. Slovakia

Group H	Played	Points
Montenegro	7	14
England	6	12
Ukraine	6	11
Poland	6	9
Moldova	7	5
San Marino	6	0

6 September	Ukraine v. San Marino England v. Moldova Poland v. Montenegro
10 September	Ukraine v. England San Marino v. Poland
11 October	Moldova v. San Marino Ukraine v. Poland England v. Montenegro
15 October	England v. Poland San Marino v. Ukraine Montenegro v. Moldova

Group I	Played	Points
Spain	5	11
France	5	10
Finland	5	6
Georgia	5	4
Belarus	6	4

6 September	Georgia v. France Finland v. Spain
10 September	Georgia v. Finland Belarus v. France
11 October	Spain v. Belarus
15 October	France v. Finland Spain v. Georgia

HUBLOT



The clock is ticking

The start of the one-year countdown to the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ has been accompanied by a flurry of activity across the host country in recent weeks, as our latest Brazil 2014 news round-up reveals...

Pelé time

The celebrations to mark the start of the one-year countdown got officially under way in Rio de Janeiro on 12 June and combined the presence of Brazil's most famous footballer with the spirit of the country's most celebrated architect. Three-time FIFA World Cup™ winner Pelé drew a large crowd to Rio's Copacabana Beach as he unveiled one of three Official Countdown Clocks manufactured by official tournament timekeeper Hublot and designed by Oscar Niemeyer shortly before his death last December at the age of 104. "We're commencing the countdown to the start of a major celebration," said Pelé. "It's fantastic to have been given the chance to partake in another World Cup, and I just hope Brazil are lucky enough to lift the trophy on home soil in 2014." Simultaneous launch events took place in São Paulo and Brasília to start the countdown on the other two clocks, with all three timepieces now displaying the number of days, hours, minutes and seconds until the Brazilian hosts kick off their opening match in São Paulo on 12 June 2014. "It's just great to be here and sense how close we are to an event as special as the FIFA World Cup," said FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke. "This will be the 20th FIFA

World Cup, a major milestone for us too, especially as it's being held in a country with such an enormous love of football."

Just the ticket

The next major date for World Cup fans is already no more than a few weeks away, with 20 August having now been announced as the day when tickets for the 2014 FIFA World Cup will start to go on sale. Details on the ticketing process are set to be revealed in mid-July, with the tournament's official section on FIFA.com once again set to provide the only official online platform for the sale of general tickets and hospitality packages. Fans who don't want to miss out on the action in Brazil can find more information at www.fifa.com/worldcup/organisation/ticketing.

Refs touch down

The candidate referees bidding for their own place at the 2014 FIFA World Cup also enjoyed a landmark moment in May as they took part in the first official refereeing seminar to be staged in the host nation itself. Taking place in Rio from 26 to 31 May, the event saw 52 officials from 46 countries receive instruction from FIFA's refereeing instructors along with experts in medicine, technology, physiotherapy, communications and administration. "We are now at the final stage, the most intense part of the process which will lead us to the FIFA World Cup," FIFA Head of Refereeing and two-time World Cup referee Massimo Busacca told the attendees. "You are the best of the best referees around the world, and I want you to →



Arms aloft: Pelé starts the official World Cup countdown (left), while the tournament's prospective referees work on their card-brandishing technique.

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Hello Tomorrow



Emirates

breathe and eat football.” The week culminated in an opportunity to seek the advice of one of Brazil’s most renowned former referees, Arnaldo César Coelho – who at Spain ’82 became the first South American official to oversee the final match of a FIFA World Cup. Asked how the job had changed in the intervening years, César Coelho pointed out that world-class referees were now required to run more than ten kilometres a match, compared to about six in the days when he was an official. “Football has become much more dynamic,” the Brazilian reminded the current referees, “and because of that, a referee’s positioning out on the pitch is vital.”

Sponsorship complete

Even before the one-year countdown had begun, FIFA was able to announce the completion of its Brazil 2014 sponsorship line-up, with sports retailer Centauro coming on board in May as the final brand in the National Supporter category. Founded in 1981, Centauro is the largest multi-channel chain of sporting goods retailers in Latin America and a familiar sponsor of sports events in Brazil, having also lent its support to the *Copa do Brasil* and Brazil’s *Série B* league. “Centauro is a brand who truly understands what hosting the FIFA World Cup means to Brazil,” said FIFA Marketing Director Thierry Weil, “and we’re delighted to welcome them on board to complete our sponsorship sales with over one year to go until the event.” Centauro is one of six Brazilian brands to have now filled the national tier of sponsors. The global level of sponsorship was already completed in July 2011, when Johnson&Johnson signed on as the eighth company in the FIFA World Cup Sponsor category, in addition to FIFA’s six long-term Partners (adidas, Coca-Cola, Hyundai/Kia, Emirates, Sony, Visa), each of whom have global rights to FIFA’s entire events package.

Online store launched

There was also good news for fans who still can’t wait until the 2014 FIFA World Cup gets underway, with FIFA launching



FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke stands alongside Centauro CEO Sebastião Vicente as the World Cup’s sponsorship line-up is completed.

a new online merchandise store offering goods and items exclusive to the flagship tournament, as well as other major FIFA competitions taking place this year. Products for sale include plush toys of the Brazil 2014 Official Mascot Fuleco™, official footballs and Panini sticker collections. Fans from around the world can also choose from a selection of team kits, while even art lovers are catered for with a series of limited edition prints from well-known artists including Jeff Koons, Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat. “The e-commerce platform is a vitally important component of our global licensing programme,”

said Weil. “We have a great range of merchandise available and we want to ensure that accessibility to this range is optimal. I’m sure that the online store will give football fans worldwide the opportunity to own their very own piece of the FIFA World Cup.” The store can be found at www.fifa.com/store. ■



FIFA Museum starts to take shape

FIFA's plans to open its own museum are moving ahead following the selection of a site in the centre of Zurich.

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter could be seen trowel in hand on 25 April as he took part in the symbolic start of construction work on the new FIFA Museum. Located in the lakeside Zurich quarter of Enge, the new cultural attraction will be housed in

a previously unoccupied building which will now be totally renovated in time for the museum's planned opening in April/May 2015.

"You see a very happy President standing before you in this building today," Blatter

told reporters at the project's official launch. "It may still be a building site, but soon this will be a true meeting place for football and its millions of fans from all over the world."

Dismantling work is already under way inside the building and is set to continue until September 2013. Once planning and conversion permission has been received, work on the building shell will start around December, followed by the facade and the technical installations, and finally by work on the museum itself, which is set to occupy four floors of the building.



FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter and Rolf Dorig of building owners Swiss Life laid the first symbolic bricks at the future museum site.



"We know that we have a tight and ambitious schedule to plan and carry out all of this work, but we are very confident," said Sacha Menz from the Zurich-based project architects, SAM Architekten und Partner AG.

"The FIFA Museum will be a true meeting place for football and its millions of fans from all over the world."

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter

A detailed concept for the museum is also now being worked on by Berlin-based communications agency Triad, who are also helping to design the new German Football Association Museum in Dortmund. Initial plans for the FIFA project include a Hall of Fame, 3D displays, interactive games and a collection of trophies and players' shirts. Attention will also be focused on FIFA's many activities beyond its high-profile tournaments, with exhibitions given over to FIFA's social responsibility programmes, the promotion of fair play and the Football for Hope movement.

The museum is intended to be not just a place to store and display trophies and hold exhibitions, but also a vibrant meeting place and discussion forum for all members of the football community, including fans, clubs, associations, partners and sponsors. A special event area is also planned, where award ceremonies, autograph sessions, media conferences and readings can be held.

"Football has become almost like a universal language which is now spoken by fans of all nationalities and cultures," Lutz Engelke, founder and managing partner of Triad Berlin, told *FIFA World* in June. "As the official museum of world football's governing body, the FIFA Museum will be in a unique position to showcase that universality and to provide a meeting point for supporters from all over the world."

Above the museum, the building's upper storeys will be converted into office space for around 150 workers and 28 apartments, with these sections due to be completed by mid-2015.

As well as being good news for football fans, the museum is being hailed as a major boost for the Enge quarter and for Zurich's tourism in general.

"The ideal location for the FIFA museum has finally been found," reckoned Zurich Tourist Board President and former Zurich Mayor Elmar Ledergerber. "I have no doubt whatsoever that this major football attraction will soon be extremely popular and a fixture in Zurich's cultural scene." ■

FIFA briefs

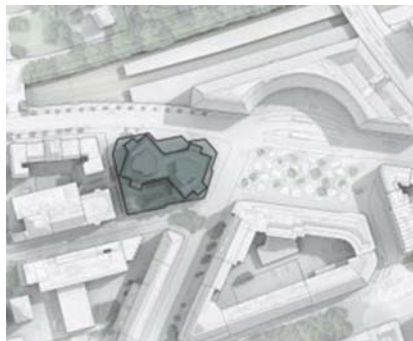


Addio, Stefano

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter has paid tribute to former Italy striker Stefano Borgonovo who died in June at the age of just 49, following a seven-year fight against motor neurone disease. Borgonovo (whose story was featured in the August/September 2012 issue of *FIFA World*) picked up three caps with the Italian national team and a European Cup winner's medal with AC Milan in 1990, but it was his fight against his debilitating illness that most inspired the football community. Despite being able to move only his eyes during the latter stages of the disease, the Lombardy-born player launched his own foundation to raise funds for research into motor neurone disease and also managed to dictate his autobiography using a voice synthesiser. Writing to Borgonovo's wife and four children, Blatter described a "great man of football and a great champion of life ... [who] was, and will continue to be, an example to us for the tenacity and composure with which he fought his disease."

Russians spot on

Russia's Under-17 team celebrated victory at the 2013 UEFA European Under-17 Championship in Slovakia in May to also book themselves a place at this year's FIFA U-17 World Cup. Dmitri Khomuka's side showed nerves of steel in the tournament's final stages, winning both their semi-final (against Sweden) and the final (against Italy) on penalty kicks. Their 5-4 triumph over the Italians, after a goalless 80 minutes of regular time, earned the Russians their third European Under-17 title – following on from previous wins in 1985 (as the Soviet Union) and 2006. The European tournament also witnessed the completion of the line-up for the FIFA U-17 World Cup's 15th edition, with Italy, Sweden, Slovakia, Croatia and Austria now set to join the Russians at the United Arab Emirates event, which runs from 17 October to 8 November.



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Brazil face tricky start in Tahiti

Four-time FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup winners Brazil have been handed a tough start to this year's finals in Tahiti, after being drawn together with two continental champions at the tournament's official draw on 5 June.



The South Americans, who won four consecutive Beach Soccer World Cups between 2006 and 2009 before being toppled by Russia in the final of the 2011 edition, are set to face Asian champions Iran and African champions Senegal in Group C of Tahiti 2013. They will also be reunited with rising European side Ukraine, who took Brazil all the way to a penalty shoot-out in the group stage of Ravenna/Italy 2011.

Their Tahitian hosts were handed a similarly challenging group, after being placed in Group A alongside European champions Spain, CONCACAF champions the USA and former Asian champions the United Arab Emirates.

"I'm relieved in a sense, as now we know who we are going to play against," said Tahiti coach Teva Zaveroni following the draw in Papeete's *Maison de la Culture*. "Now we need to work according to our opponents. Our objective is to reach the quarter-finals."

Russia's defending world champions will meanwhile take on Beach Soccer World Cup ever-present Japan, African championship runners-up Côte d'Ivoire and World Cup debutants Paraguay in Group D.

Fellow newcomers the Netherlands have been placed in Group B alongside South American champions Argentina and Central American heavyweights El Salvador. The group will be completed in August by the winners of the Oceania Football Confederation's qualifying competition.

Tahiti 2013 will mark the first appearance of the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Oceania, following on from previous stop-offs in South America, Europe and Asia. It will also be the first time that any Pacific Islands nation has hosted a FIFA tournament.

"The official draw was a great success and it also provided an important test of our operations ahead of the Beach Soccer World Cup itself," said Local

Organising Committee President Vairani Davio, following a colourful show featuring Tahitian songs and dances, both traditional and modern. "Now we can say we are ready to welcome the beach soccer world to our beautiful Tahiti and to show the world our famous hospitality."



FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Tahiti 2013 Official draw results:

- Group A:** Tahiti, United Arab Emirates, Spain, USA
- Group B:** Netherlands, OFC qualifier, Argentina, El Salvador
- Group C:** Brazil, Iran, Senegal, Ukraine
- Group D:** Russia, Japan, Paraguay, Côte d'Ivoire

Interactive joy for “The Machine”

French professional video gamer Bruce “The Machine” Grannec secured his second FIFA Interactive World Cup title in May, clawing his way back from the brink of early elimination to clinch an improbable triumph at the Madrid Grand Final.

By Marco Monteiro, Madrid

The ninth edition of the annual FIFA Interactive World Cup (FIWC) virtual football tournament culminated in one of the most exciting Grand Finals to date, with Frenchman Bruce Grannec digging deep to come out on top of a high-calibre field comprising the 21 best players from this

year’s huge global qualifying competition. A full-time virtual footballer, who has even been the subject of a documentary film in his native France, Grannec made an unexpectedly poor start to the Madrid showdown. Having gone unbeaten all the way to the final match of last year’s Grand

Final in Dubai (where he eventually lost out on penalties to Spaniard Alfonso Ramos), this time around the 26-year-old suffered the rare occurrence of two defeats in his opening three matches.

Already on the brink of elimination after that poor first day, the 2009



Console king Bruce Grannec celebrates his second FIWC title triumph.

world champion turned things around dramatically on day two – first dispatching Mexico’s Andrei Torres Vivero 5-0 in the most one-sided game of the entire tournament, before celebrating back-to-back 2-0 victories over Colombians Daniel Rodriguez Moyano and Edizon Quiroga Forero.

Suddenly back in the running as a strong favourite for the title (particularly after the shock group-stage exit of defending champion Ramos), Grannec then saw off Danish teenager August Rosenmeier with a solitary goal in the quarter-finals, before heading into a penalty shoot-out against Saudi Arabia’s Abdulaziz Alshehri following a 2-2 draw in their semi-final encounter.

If Grannec was at all haunted by his penalty shoot-out defeat 12 months earlier he showed no sign of it, calmly converting all of his spot kicks to beat Alshehri 4-2 and set up a reunion with Vivero in the final.

Tight final

Having pulled off some impressive performances of his own by beating 2012 bronze medallist Kai Wollin in the quarter-finals and home favourite Rafael Riobo in the last four, Vivero provided Grannec with much stiffer resistance than he had managed in their group-stage encounter. Playing as Real Madrid against Vivero’s Brazil, the Frenchman finally got the decisive breakthrough, however, thanks to a 31st-minute Cristiano Ronaldo goal.

“I’m very happy, even if it might not look that way,” insisted Grannec, whose “Machine” nickname stems from the steely poker-face that he maintains at tournaments, as well as his staggering record of having made it to at least the semi-finals in all four of his Grand Final appearances to date. “Given how the first day went, being here right now is almost miraculous.”

Indeed, after picking up the trophy, the USD 20,000 winner’s cheque and a ticket to next January’s FIFA Ballon d’Or, the newly crowned champion revealed that his dramatic turnaround had been kick-started by a pep talk at the end of that first day with his manager Sasha Brodowski and travelling coach Alan “Zal” Brin.



This year’s Grand Finalists emerged from a field of more than 2.5 million contestants.

“I got back to the hotel and I said to my team, ‘I can’t go out of the tournament like this, not at this stage,’” Grannec recalled. “As far as I was concerned, I had to play six finals from day two onwards and I’m so pleased I won the lot of them.”

Record-breaking

Grannec was not the only one leaving Madrid satisfied, with the event’s organisers also able to look back happily on a highly successful competition. Even before the finalists had rolled into the Spanish capital, records had again been broken thanks to the number of gamers who had taken part in the qualifying competition.

In total, more than 2.5 million players attempted to qualify for the 2013 Grand Final – either via the six online “seasons” or at one of the four territory showdowns held in England, Germany, France and Spain – almost doubling the number of participants in the 2012 edition, and maintaining the FIWC’s position as the world’s biggest online video game tournament.

There were also some impressive figures when it came to the dedicated live stream, which provided fans of the tournament around the world with a daily two-hour broadcast, featuring live match coverage, post-match interviews and surprise guests,

including former Real Madrid stars Raúl Albiol and Christian Karembu.

Nearly half a million web users viewed the live stream during the course of the three days, with more than 200,000 views being logged during the final day.

“It has been a thrilling competition and I’d like to congratulate all 21 grand finalists, in particular Bruce Grannec for emerging as world champion,” said FIFA’s Head of Strategy & Brand Management, Ralph Straus. “The FIWC continues to be a platform that gives fans across the globe an opportunity to participate in a FIFA World Cup event and become real champions, and we’re already excited about planning the tenth edition of the competition in 2014.”

For more on the FIFA Interactive World Cup, see the tournament’s dedicated section at www.fifa.com/interactiveworldcup. ■

FIWC 2013 final standings

1. Bruce Grannec (FRA)
2. Andrei Torres Vivero (MEX)
3. Rafael Riobo (ESP)

Stepping up for Canada 2015

Forty women referees from 33 countries gathered at FIFA's Zurich headquarters in May, all of them sharing the dream of a place at the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™.

By Giovanni Marti, Zurich

The long journey to Canada 2015 has been getting under way for several teams in recent weeks, with the qualifying tournaments for Europe and Asia kicking off in April and May respectively. But it's not just the players who are bidding for a place at the finals, with May also marking the first global gathering of potential candidates to officiate at the event.

A total of 40 female referees were invited to Zurich for the five-day seminar in which they were tested for technical ability, tactical understanding, mental strength and fitness.

"We want to have the best referees in the world for our flagship women's competition," Sonia Denoncourt, Head of Women's Refereeing at FIFA, told *FIFA World*, "and that makes this seminar incredibly important. It's the first real step towards choosing candidates for Canada 2015, which is now just two years away."

As with the ongoing process to select male referees for the 2014 FIFA World Cup™, Denoncourt stressed that the current list of prospective women's referees is an open one – meaning that some referees who are not yet on the list

may still be called up, and that there are no guarantees for those who attended the Zurich seminar.

"For now, we still have a large group of referees, but we are starting to test them so that by the end of the process we will have the very best officials available."

Fully tested

Despite the referees' relative youth, no stone was left unturned when it came to the extensive health checks that began the seminar. As well as undergoing blood sampling, orthopaedic examinations



and full cardiac screenings combined with measurements of maximal oxygen uptake, the women received guidance regarding their physical fitness and diet along with specific instructions on how best to minimise the risk of injury.

“To be part of this pool gives me special motivation and I really hope that the road to Canada continues for me.”

Margaret Domka, USA

After being put through their paces on the running track and then exercising their brain muscles in a series of theory sessions, the referees were also given the opportunity to test their knowledge in practice – thanks to real-match scenarios created with the help of academy players from Swiss top-division club Grasshopper Club Zurich.

Plenty of time was also given to the mental aspect of the referees’ preparations, in acknowledgement of the enormous pressure that can weigh on their shoulders during major tournaments. Each of the candidates in Zurich received instruction from a professional sports psychologist on how to use individual strategies to help develop the mental strength needed to deal with challenging situations.

“Referees are judged on their ability to manage a game and make decisions and to do this they need to be healthy, stable and mentally well prepared,” explained Denoncourt. “It’s a complete package.”

North American dreams

As the seminar came to an end, the prospective referees’ excitement regarding Canada 2015 seemed only to have increased, with the North American candidates in particular understandably eager to make it all the way to the finals.

“I’m very happy with how the week has gone, because I feel that I’ve learned many

new things,” the USA’s Margaret Domka told *FIFA World*. “To be part of this pool gives me special motivation and I really hope that the road to Canada continues for me.”

As the only Canadian on the current list, 36-year-old Carol Anne Chenard is clearly also not lacking in motivation as she dreams of officiating at her home-soil World Cup in two years’ time.

“I really want to be there in 2015,” Chenard said. “For every referee, the ultimate goal is a World Cup. And having this competition in my own country makes me feel so excited. I think it could also be a fantastic showcase for young girls in Canada, to show them that there is another career on the football pitch besides being a player.”

Tournament trials

Having heard from Sonia Denoncourt how the final selection process would rest largely upon the quality of decisions that the referees make on the pitch, the candidates were reminded of the key role that will be played by upcoming tournaments.

Between now and the June 2015 start of the FIFA Women’s World Cup, the referees will be monitored in particular during the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup 2014 in Costa Rica, the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup 2014 in Canada and the Women’s Youth Olympic Football Tournament, also being held in 2014, in Nanjing, China.

It is only once those assessments have been completed and the final decisions made that the hopes and dreams of some of the Zurich seminar participants will finally become reality. ■

“To manage a game and make decisions, the referees need to be healthy, stable and mentally well prepared – it’s a complete package.”

*Sonia Denoncourt,
FIFA Head of Women’s Refereeing*

FWWC Briefs

Eight left in Asia

The Asian race to qualify for the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2015™ is already down to the last eight teams, following the completion in May and June of the qualifiers for next year’s AFC Women’s Asian Cup – which will also serve as Asia’s qualifying competition for Canada 2015. Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Jordan all came successfully through the preliminary round to join the teams who automatically qualified for the Asian Cup, Japan, Australia, China PR and Korea Republic, at next year’s event in Vietnam. The top five teams will receive starting places at the FIFA Women’s World Cup.

U-20 host cities revealed

Preparations for the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup, taking place in Canada one year prior to the main event, also stepped up a gear in June as the tournament’s host cities and official



emblem were revealed. Matches will be held in Toronto, Edmonton, Moncton and Montreal – with the last three cities already part of the six-city line-up for the staging of World Cup games in 2015.

Opening Bell

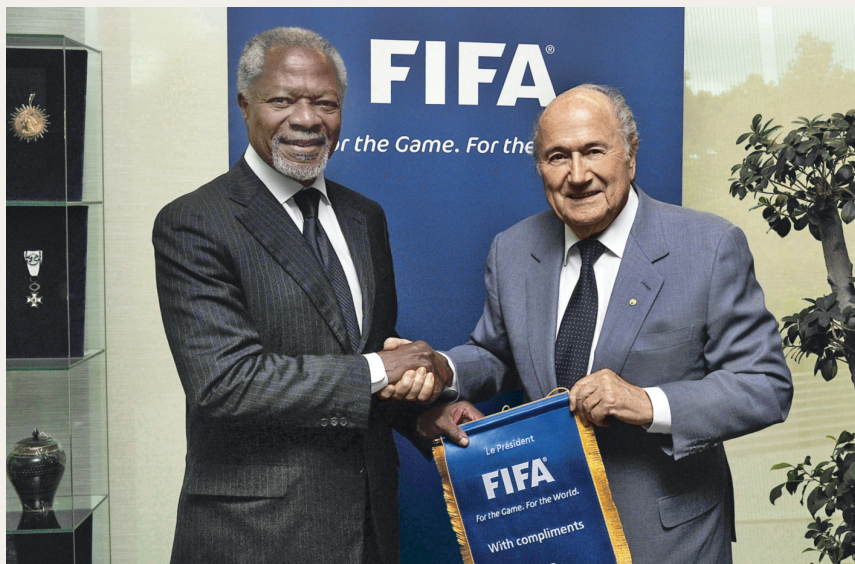
On the same day as the host cities and official emblem were unveiled, a significant sponsorship deal was also announced, with Bell Canada coming on board as the official telecommunications provider and first National Supporter of both the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup 2014 and the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2015.

 IT'S COMING



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KOFI ANNAN

FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, paid an impromptu visit to FIFA's Zurich headquarters at the start of June. Still active in the field of mediation and conflict resolution, and for his own Kofi Annan Foundation, which aims to promote better global governance, the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize winner met with FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter and afterwards spoke to *FIFA World* about the positive impact that football can have on society.

FIFA World: What brought you to FIFA today?

Kofi Annan: I have a very keen interest in football and Mr Blatter and myself [are] friends, so I came to Zurich and decided I couldn't leave without coming to say hello and look at your new headquarters, which is not so new now, but it's wonderful to see it.

What are the most important issues that connect the work of the Kofi Annan Foundation and FIFA?

I think what is important is that we both believe in cooperation, in people

working together and playing together, and in development and peace. It's quite amazing how football has been used to bring people together, even in conflict areas such as Syria, Afghanistan or Palestine. It's really a wonderful vehicle to bring people together and as U.N. Secretary-General, I even appointed a Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, underscoring what you are doing here.

Racism in football has been a major topic in the media of late. What message do you have to those who still think that racial abuse is acceptable behaviour?

I say shame on those very few people who do this, because the vast majority of people go there just to enjoy the game. Those people [who racially abuse] must understand that what unites us, what we have in common, is much larger than what divides us – and they should also go there to enjoy the game, to be with each other, and to play.

FIFA used its recent Congress in Mauritius to approve a resolution creating clearer global sanctions in the fight against racism and discrimination. How do you see the efforts being made?

I congratulate Sepp Blatter for the efforts to fight racism and discrimination and the measures they have taken to get the message across to the players and spectators that it will not be tolerated, that it's unacceptable and that they will be held to account. I've seen quite a lot of progress in the last couple of years and I congratulate Sepp Blatter and FIFA for carrying on the campaign against racism.

The FIFA Congress also saw Burundi's Lydia Nsekera become the first woman ever to be elected onto the FIFA Executive Committee, with Australia's Moya Dodd and Sonia Bien-Aime of the Turks and Caicos Islands also being co-opted onto the executive. How important was this development?

I think it's wonderful to open the door, and I think the women will teach us men some lessons. They will teach us about patience, about caring and about how to care for each other. I've noticed in most situations that when you bring in women, the quality of the relationship and the decisions and the thinking changes. I think it's going to be good for FIFA and for world football that women are becoming engaged and coming into the leadership groups. So I'm very excited about it and I think this is a beginning and I'd like to see more women engaged.

Do you have any final message for fans around the world?

I think we all love the game, it's a great game, but I would like to warn the others that Africa is coming. Watch out, we are ready! ■

Brazilian triumph gets party started





With thrilling football, passionate crowds, the fairy-tale participation of Tahiti's amateurs and a home win that breathed new hope into Brazil's national team, the FIFA Confederations Cup 2013 has more than whetted appetites for next year's main course.

By Bruno Sassi, Rio de Janeiro

Never before has the FIFA Confederations Cup lived up to its "Festival of Champions" motto as much as it did on 30 June 2013, when the Brazilian hosts took on all-conquering Spain in the legendary setting of Rio de Janeiro's Estádio do Maracanã. In purely statistical terms, the tournament final was already destined to be a fascinating duel, pitting the record five-time winners of the FIFA World Cup™ against the defending world and European champions. But, to borrow Bill Shankly's famous quote on football in general, this match was always going to be "much, much more important than that".

Beyond the statistics of previous achievements and head-to-head records, the Maracanã encounter was being widely billed during the days that preceded it as the first major test of Luiz Felipe Scolari's Brazil with one year remaining until their hosting of the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ and also as a timely opportunity to reassess a Spain squad who had swept all before them over the course of the past six years. Although unbeaten in 26 matches going into the final, and still riding the wave of their three successive European and world title wins, the Spanish had never faced Brazil during that period of dominance – with the last meeting between the two →

nations dating all the way back to a friendly goalless draw in Galicia at the close of the last century.

As they finally prepared to face each other again, the questions raised by football fans around the world were understandably numerous. Would Scolari be able to complete the remarkable transformation of a squad that had seemed all at sea in

“We’ve laid some good foundations for next year’s World Cup and what we need to do now is to persevere and keep working the way we’ve been doing.”

Italy defender Leonardo Bonucci

the weeks leading up to the tournament? Could the 21-year-old Neymar maintain the brilliance shown during the opening stages and carry the weight of his nation’s hopes in such a decisive encounter? Would Brazil’s high-tempo pressing style really bear fruit against the Spaniards’ renowned game of patient, probing passing?

In the end, boosted by a crowd of more than 73,000 exultant supporters, Brazil provided an emphatic “yes” to all of the above. A scrambled Fred goal in only the second minute of the match gave an early indication of what was to follow and by the time the final whistle had blown, Brazil had completed an emphatic 3-0 victory, clinched their fourth Confederations Cup crown (and third in a row), and inevitably heightened their fans’ expectations of seeing the *Seleção* clinch a sixth World Cup title next year.

“We are still not a team that is complete,” Scolari insisted as his team celebrated with the Confederations Cup trophy. “We know that we have a good group of players, but we still have to prove a lot. It was fantastic to hear the crowd singing ‘the champions are back’, but a long path stretches ahead of us.”

After picking up the adidas Golden Ball award for the tournament’s best player, Neymar confessed that even he had been surprised by the way his team had grown in confidence throughout the event.

“I honestly didn’t [think things would go so well for Brazil],” laughed the Barcelona-bound youngster, who scored four times in the tournament, including the second goal of the final in between Fred’s brace.

“I was just speaking to my team-mates in the dressing room about how everything has come together and how well things are going in every sense. And I’m really pleased that things have ended on such a high note, with our best performance to date.”

While many fans and journalists were already speculating about a possible power shift at the very top of the game, Spain were understandably keen to downplay the significance of the match, which also included a second-half penalty miss by Sergio Ramos and a 68th-minute red card for Gerard Piqué.

“It was one of those days when nothing goes your way, right from the start,” shrugged Spain striker Fernando Torres, whose five group-stage goals (including four against Tahiti) earned him the individual consolation of the adidas Golden Boot award.

“We’ve already experienced similar matches, such as when we played badly in our friendlies against Argentina, Portugal and Italy. Some teams even beat us, sometimes by a few goals. So it won’t change how we approach things in the future, because it’s confirmed what we already knew – that it’s not going to be easy to beat Brazil on their own patch. In one year’s time, though, we’ll be back here as world champions to defend what’s ours.”

“Best ever”

While the final match is naturally the one that people will remember most, the 2013 edition of the FIFA Confederations Cup was also highly memorable in its entirety.

“When we look on the pitch, I have to say that this was the best FIFA Confederations Cup in quality that we have ever organised,” FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter had no hesitation in declaring as he looked back on the two-week spectacle. “The games have been entertaining and intense, but fair.”

Goals were also plentiful, with the average tally of 4.25 per match easily surpassing the averages of the seven most recent editions and falling only slightly short of the 4.5 goals per match scored →



Xavi and César Azpilicueta contemplate the end of Spain’s long unbeaten reign.



Golden Glove winner
Júlio César wheels away in
celebration during the final.

FIFA Confederations Cup 2013 results

Group A

15.06	Brazil v. Japan	3-0
16.06	Mexico v. Italy	1-2
19.06	Brazil v. Mexico	2-0
19.06	Italy v. Japan	4-3
22.06	Italy v. Brazil	2-4
22.06	Japan v. Mexico	1-2

	MP	W	D	L	Pts
Brazil	3	3	0	0	9
Italy	3	2	0	1	6
Mexico	3	1	0	2	3
Japan	3	0	0	3	0

Group B

16.06	Spain v. Uruguay	2-1
17.06	Tahiti v. Nigeria	1-6
20.06	Spain v. Tahiti	10-0
20.06	Nigeria v. Uruguay	1-2
23.06	Nigeria v. Spain	0-3
23.06	Uruguay v. Tahiti	8-0

	MP	W	D	L	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	9
Uruguay	3	2	0	1	6
Nigeria	3	1	0	2	3
Tahiti	3	0	0	3	0

Semi-finals

26.06	Brazil v. Uruguay	2-1
27.06	Spain v. Italy	0-0 a.e.t., 7-6 PSO

Match for third place

30.06	Uruguay v. Italy	2-2 a.e.t., 2-3 PSO
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Final

30.06	Brazil v. Spain	3-0
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Awards

adidas Golden Ball: Neymar (BRA)
 adidas Silver Ball: Andrés Iniesta (ESP)
 adidas Bronze Ball: Paulinho (BRA)

adidas Golden Boot: Fernando Torres (ESP),
 5 goals, 1 assist*

adidas Silver Boot: Fred (BRA), 5 goals,
 1 assist

adidas Bronze Boot: Neymar (BRA), 4 goals,
 2 assists

* Torres picked up the Golden Boot by virtue of having played fewer minutes than Fred.

adidas Golden Glove: Júlio César (BRA)

FIFA Fair Play Trophy: Spain

Brazil lead way

The full list of FIFA Confederations Cup winners

Brazil 2013	Brazil
South Africa 2009	Brazil
Germany 2005	Brazil
France 2003	France
Korea/Japan 2001	France
Mexico 1999	Mexico
Saudi Arabia 1997	Brazil
Saudi Arabia 1995*	Denmark
Saudi Arabia 1992*	Argentina

* Originally known as the "Intercontinental Championship for the King Fahd Cup"

during the inaugural 1992 edition in Saudi Arabia, which was still only a four-team and four-match event. Even discounting the 25 goals scored in the three games involving Tahiti, June's tournament would still have averaged 3.3 goals a game and been the fourth-most goal-laden of the nine editions held to date.

There was also nothing average about this year's spectator figures, with a staggering 804,659 spectators following the action live in the stadiums of Belo Horizonte, Brasília, Fortaleza, Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador. The average attendance of 50,291 was the second-highest in Confederations Cup history, surpassed only by the 60,625 average turnout for Mexico 1999.

Stars shine

It was not just the quantity of goals and spectators that impressed, however, but also the general quality of play. This was the first FIFA Confederations Cup to involve four World Cup winners (Brazil, Spain, Italy and Uruguay) among its participants and all four lived up to expectations by reaching at least the semi-finals. As well as being a good tournament for the big teams, it also turned out well for the big names, with supporters frequently treated to the sight of top players performing at the top of their game.

"This is no coincidence, because in a tournament like this, wherever you look, you only see great players – be it Javier Hernández, [Shinji] Kagawa or Neymar," Italy's veteran goalkeeper and skipper Gianluigi Buffon told *FIFA World* following his team's opening 2-1 win over Mexico. "And when you add that to the kind of atmosphere that exists in Brazil, where everyone is so passionate about football, it is simply amazing. It is no wonder that all the great players, like [Andrea] Pirlo or [Mario] Balotelli, are ready to deliver."

Aptly enough, Buffon himself later went on to put in a star turn at the end of his side's last match. Beaten 7-6 on penalties by Spain in the semi-finals, after an exciting but goalless battle in which the Italians had often looked the likeliest winners, the 35-year-old led from the back as the



Azzurri picked themselves up to take on Uruguay in the match for third place.

Having themselves only narrowly lost out 2-1 to Brazil in the other semi-final, the Uruguayans more than held their own in a pulsating encounter that saw the Italians take the lead twice only for the South Americans to come back each time. After extra time had failed to produce a decider, the stage was set for another penalty shoot-out. This time, however, it was Buffon who would finish with a smile on his face, as the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ winner saved three Uruguayan spot kicks to earn Cesare Prandelli's boys a well-deserved place on the podium.

"Taking everything into account, we're pleased because we really gave the world champions a difficult time," said Italian defender Leonardo Bonucci, whose penalty shoot-out miss in the semi-final allowed Spain to scrape past their European rivals in far less convincing fashion than their 4-0 victory when the teams last met to contest the final of UEFA EURO 2012.

"We've laid some good foundations for next year's World Cup and what we need to do now is to persevere and keep working the way we've been doing."

While Italy are currently four points clear at the top of their European World Cup qualifying group and looking odds-on for a swift return to Brazil, the Uruguayans still have a fight on their hands just to hold on to fifth place in the South American standings, a position which would still see them having to come through an intercontinental play-off to secure qualification.

Nevertheless, *La Celeste* will surely also take plenty of positives from some sparkling performances in Brazil, with the team's highly experienced attacking trio of Diego Forlán, Edinson Cavani and Luis Suárez once again terrorising opposition defences before the reigning South American champions finally came up short against their Brazilian neighbours.

"This squad is starting to gain a lot of experience, and we've got back to being competitive against the big teams," said Uruguay coach Óscar Tabarez, before vowing that his team would learn from

their narrow loss to the hosts as their thoughts returned to the Brazil 2014 qualifying campaign.

Early departures

The widely expected march of the European and South American teams into the semi-finals ensured that there were early exits for Mexico, Japan, Nigeria and Tahiti – but each of the four continental champions professed that they too would be taking valuable lessons away with them from Brazil.

Japan were perhaps the most hard done by, leaving the tournament with three defeats from their three matches, despite playing a crowd-pleasing brand of attacking football that could easily have seen them rewarded with a place in the knockout stage.

"It was fantastic to hear the crowd singing 'the champions are back', but a long path stretches ahead of us."

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari

Although unable to offer much resistance against the Brazilians during a 3-0 defeat in the tournament's opening game, the Asian champions seemed to have rebounded in style after taking a 2-0 lead against Italy early in their second match. After pulling a goal back shortly before the break, the four-time world champions turned the game on its head in the second half, though it took an Atsuto Uchida own goal and a penalty for handball to put the Italians in front.

In what was shaping up to be one of the most memorable matches in the history of the tournament, the Japanese then grabbed an equaliser of their own as Shinji Okazaki headed in a Yasuhito Endō free kick to level the score at 3-3 with barely 20 minutes remaining. A period of sustained Japanese pressure then culminated in the ball twice rattling the Italian goal-frame – with Okazaki →

Tournament briefs

Records tumble

While the large number of goals scored at Brazil 2013 fell just short of the record set at the inaugural four-team edition of 1992, plenty of other records were broken – many of which involved Tahiti. The Pacific islanders' 10-0 thrashing in their second match against Spain was the largest winning margin of any game in the competition's history, and also equalled the record for the most goals scored in a Confederations Cup encounter, tying with Brazil's 8-2 demolition of Saudi Arabia in 1999. The Tahitians also conceded the second-fastest goal in the competition's history, with Abel Hernández's headed goal for Uruguay after just 79 seconds beaten only by Hassan Mubarak's strike for the United Arab Emirates after 39 seconds of the UAE's match against South Africa back in 1997. This year's tournament goal tally could have been even more impressive if it were not for some wayward penalty shots. Not including the two penalty shoot-outs, no fewer than five spot kicks were missed or saved from a total of nine which were awarded during the two-week event.

Scoring centurions

The FIFA Confederations Cup 2013 was particularly memorable for Italy's Andrea Pirlo and Uruguay's Diego Forlán, both of whom made their 100th appearance for their respective national teams during the competition. Pirlo picked up his 100th cap in the Italians' 2-1 group-stage win over Mexico, marking the occasion with the stunning free kick that opened the scoring. Not to be outdone, Forlán then became Uruguay's first-ever centurion during his team's crucial match against Nigeria – and promptly grabbed the winning goal with a brilliant left-footed drive early in the second half.

Roll on, Russia

Newcomers are already guaranteed at the next edition of the FIFA Confederations Cup, with 2018 FIFA World Cup™ hosts Russia set to make their debut appearance as the home team at the 2017 event. The first team to actually qualify for the tournament will be the winners of next year's FIFA World Cup, but by the end of this month, one side from the CONCACAF region will also be halfway to securing their place. That is because of a change to the confederation's qualifying rules, which will now see the winners of this year's CONCACAF Gold Cup take on the winners of the 2015 edition to determine who qualifies for Russia 2017.

Winning hearts

Ranked well outside of the world's top 100, boasting just one professional player in their ranks and making their first-ever appearance at a global level, the amateurs of Tahiti were always expected to stand out at the FIFA Confederations Cup.

Despite being comprehensively outgunned by Nigeria, Spain and Uruguay as they shipped 24 goals in just three games, the Polynesians were never reduced to laughing stocks, however, with their professional attitude, never-say-die spirit and sheer joy at participating quickly winning over the Brazilian fans.

"After arriving here, we got a better grasp of how much we share the same approach to life," said goalkeeper Mikael Roche of the warm welcome that the champions of Oceania received from their hosts. "We try to play with humility and with our hearts. The Brazilians appreciate seeing us give everything in such an honest way. They know we are amateurs playing against big, professional teams and that creates a certain identification. It was just magical."

The Pacific Islanders made a number of nice gestures during their stay in Brazil, hanging shell-chains around their opponents' necks ahead of each match, holding up an "Obrigado, Brasil" ["Thank you, Brazil"] banner after their final outing, and even staging an impromptu beach concert for a bunch of children from a Rio favela ahead of their encounter with Spain.

It was perhaps their approach to the game itself, though, that most impressed the spectators, with Eddy Etaeta's team eschewing the defensive, long-ball style that many might have expected and instead opting for a free-flowing, passing game in which the Tahitian midfielders and forwards frequently attempted to dribble their way past some of the world's best defenders.

While the execution was sometimes naïve, and certainly led to a lot of goals being conceded at the other end, Tahiti's desire to play the ball gave the neutrals in the stands plenty to cheer. It also helped create the crowning moment of the team's campaign, in the 54th minute of their opening game against Nigeria, when Jonathan Tehau rose to head home Marama Vahirua's corner and score Tahiti's first-ever goal at a FIFA tournament.

"We don't want this to end and to have to go back to our everyday lives."

Tahiti striker Steevy Chong Hue

The "canoe-paddling" team celebration that followed will surely be one of the most remembered moments of Brazil 2013, along with Gilbert Meriel's penalty save against Uruguay's Andres Scotti and Roche's exuberant celebration after Spain's Fernando Torres blasted another spot kick high – albeit without Roche getting a hand to the ball.

"We don't want this to end and to have to go back to our everyday lives," admitted striker Steevy Chong Hue, whose goal in last year's OFC Nations Cup final secured Tahiti their place in Brazil. "The Brazilian fans were amazing, and we identified with them straight away because we're like them. We don't get paid to play and it feels a bit like we represent them. If there's one thing I'll be taking away with me, it's the affection they've had for us."



Without a paddle: Tahiti take an imaginary canoe ride following their historic goal against Nigeria.

striking the post and Shinji Kagawa heading the rebound against the bar. It all proved in vain, however, as a late Italian interception allowed Daniele De Rossi to pick out Claudio Marchisio, whose square pass inside the area was deftly tapped home by Sebastian Giovinco.

“In one year’s time, we’ll be back here as world champions to defend what’s ours.”

Spain striker Fernando Torres after his team’s 3-0 defeat in the final

“My players really gave their all and deserved a lot more than they got, especially given that they were playing against the runners-up from EURO 2012,” said Japan’s Italian coach Alberto Zaccheroni as defeat against his own countrymen ensured *Samurai Blue’s* early elimination. “So we’re heading back home disappointed, but with our heads held high.”

While Japan have already made sure at least of their return to Brazil next year, Mexico and Nigeria bowed out of June’s warm-up with the “small matter” of qualification for the 2014 FIFA World Cup still ahead of them. Both sides finished third in their respective groups and produced plenty of good moments along the way, but were ultimately edged out in their decisive encounters – the Nigerians losing 2-1 to Uruguay and the Mexicans paying the price for their own 2-1 defeat by Italy.

“What you have to remember is that [Uruguay] have spent six years together, whereas we’ve only been working together for a year and a half,” said Nigeria coach Stephen Keshi following the game in Salvador. “Nevertheless, I’m very proud of what my boys did, considering the difference in experience between the two sides.”

Nowhere was the difference in experience more obvious, however, than in the matches involving Tahiti. Arguably the



Net loss: Japan’s Yasuyuki Konno shows his anguish as Italy come from two goals down to complete their thrilling 4-3 win over the Asian champions.

biggest underdogs to have ever featured in a global football tournament, the Pacific Islanders were unable to disguise their amateur credentials against some of the world’s leading sides.

Although a win in any of their three matches was clearly too much to expect, Eddy Etaeta’s men certainly achieved their pre-tournament aim of winning over the Brazilian public with their attitude – as well as taking understandable pride in individual moments of joy, including Jonathan Tehau’s historic goal against the Nigerians and goalkeeper Gilbert Meriel’s penalty save against Uruguay’s Andres Scotti (see “Winning hearts”).

“This type of game shows the massive difference between professional and amateur football – it’s an abyss!” Etaeta conceded, as his team ended their campaign with an 8-0 defeat to the Uruguayans. “The tournament’s over for us, but we leave here having learned a lot of lessons. In spite of the defeats and the emphatic scorelines, we’re going to

keep on playing and trying to improve, little by little.”

Stars of the stands

Besides the stars performing out on the pitch, it would be remiss not to mention the significant contribution made by the thousands of Brazilian supporters in the stands. Perhaps it might be argued that passionate crowds are expected in a football-crazy country like Brazil, but things did not seem quite so straightforward in the days leading up to the start of the tournament.

With Scolari having only returned as coach in November, and winning just two of his first seven games back in charge, a party atmosphere in the stadiums was far from guaranteed. Brazil legend Pelé even went as far as to plead with his countrymen not to boo their national team if the performances failed to match the supporters’ permanently high expectations.

In the end, of course, there was barely a chance for jeers before the cheers →

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“More of everything”

While the FIFA Confederations Cup has clearly now established itself as a major international tournament in its own right, the importance of the event as an operational “warm-up” for the following year’s FIFA World Cup™ still cannot be overstated, particularly for those charged with delivering a smooth-running party for the world’s football fans in 2014.

“From the organisational point of view, I am particularly happy with what has happened here. We have received only compliments from the eight delegations that have been participating in this competition,” said FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter as FIFA and the Brazilian Local Organising Committee (LOC) took stock of a busy two weeks behind the scenes.

“The Confederations Cup is a great opportunity for us to test the infrastructure and the facilities of the six venues, and it is really important that the competition went well: it is a good sign for the World Cup,” agreed FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke, adding that attention would shift to 2014 the second that the final whistle blew on the 2013 tournament.

“However, it is necessary to remember that the World Cup means more: more teams, more fans, more media, more officials... More of everything. And, therefore, we also need more from the organisation. We still have six stadiums to receive for 2014 and that is what we will start to look at right now.”

The already-high demands of organising a FIFA Confederations Cup were further increased this time around by the large wave of public demonstrations taking place in Brazil at the same time as the tournament. Starting out as regional protests against hikes in public transport fares, the demos quickly expanded to encompass other causes of social and political dissatisfaction, including government spending on World Cup-related projects.

Sports minister Aldo Rebelo insisted, however, that the authorities would be working hard in the coming months to engage the disaffected.

“We are not a perfect country. We are still a country with many imbalances and differences between the regions,” the minister acknowledged. “But we are improving traffic, communication, airport infrastructure and public security – not just for the World Cup but for Brazil as a whole. From the experience of the Confederations Cup, we were able to learn different lessons, so that next year we will be able to anticipate the problems and create solutions in advance.”

Other positive aspects of the tournament included an unprecedented level of interest among global television audiences, with Brazil’s final



win over Spain attracting more than 69.3 million viewers across ten key markets – setting a new high for the event. Brazil provided 42 million of those viewers, marking an increase of almost 50 per cent on the number of Brazilians who followed the final of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. The final also drew the biggest Spanish television audience for any programme this year, with 10.7 million watching the game on Telecinco.

The tournament also saw the introduction of two major innovations: biological profiling of players as part of a long-term approach to the threat of doping, and the implementation of goal-line technology to assist referees in cases when it is hard to determine whether or not the ball has crossed the goal line.

While the FIFA President was happy to confirm that all of the doping tests had come back negative, semi-final referee Howard Webb was also able to express his satisfaction with the new goal-line technology – despite the fact that the tournament’s 16 matches had failed to deliver a debatable shot on goal.

“Although we saw many goals in the tournament, they were all clear, with no goal-line doubt situations,” the English official explained. “But irrespective of that, the reassurance that the system gives us referees is a big benefit, and I think I speak on behalf of all the referees when I say that we welcome this technology with open arms.”

started ringing out – thanks to the magnificent opening strike from Neymar just three minutes into the team’s first game against Japan. After that, the excitement surrounding the *Seleção* grew stronger by the day. The outpouring of joy was perhaps best exemplified by the ritual that began ahead of the team’s second match against Mexico, when some 50,000 fans in Fortaleza’s Castelão stadium kept on singing the second section of the Brazilian national anthem a cappella after the public address system had finished relaying the opening part.

Some ninety minutes later, after Brazil’s 2-0 win, Scolari recounted a quick

post-match chat he had had with the game’s English referee, Howard Webb. “He told me that he had never heard anything like it at a football stadium, not ever,” said Scolari, before admitting that he too had been blown away by the crowd’s spontaneous performance. “They have been our fuel, each and every game. And I am sure even players from other teams realize how passionate Brazilians are and how much that changes the atmosphere of a whole tournament. This is a priceless asset.”

As Brazil now bid to become the first team ever to follow up a victory in the FIFA Confederations Cup with success in the following year’s FIFA World Cup,

the *Seleção* are unlikely to take anything for granted. Given how the side rose to the occasion in June, however, it seems entirely feasible that the same anthem will be ringing out around the Maracanã once again on 13 July next year, when the legendary stadium plays host to its second World Cup final match.

“I have never seen an atmosphere like it,” said the FIFA President as he too voiced his admiration for the Brazil fans. “History was written in Rio de Janeiro today, and the clearer legacy of this day and this tournament is to give us the certainty that we will have an absolutely outstanding World Cup next year.” ■

75 years young

One of the world's most prestigious and longest running youth tournaments celebrated a major milestone in May, when the annual Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup took place in Zurich for the 75th year in a row.

By Jennifer Davies, Zurich



Now and then: FC Zurich celebrate their successful title defence at the 2013 edition of the Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup (above left), 75 years after tournament founder Fritz Rey welcomed players to the inaugural edition (above right).



Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup 2013 final ranking

1. FC Zurich (Switzerland)
2. Botafogo FR (Brazil)
3. FC Basel (Switzerland)
4. Manchester United (England)
5. Zenit Saint Petersburg (Russia)
6. Borussia Dortmund (Germany)
7. Grasshopper Club Zurich (Switzerland)
8. Torino (Italy)
9. WYNRS New Zealand (New Zealand)
10. FC Blue Stars (Switzerland)

Golden Ball:

Adnan Januzaj (Manchester United)

Golden Glove:

Thierry Ursprung (FC Zurich)

Fair Play Award:

FC Basel

The weather could perhaps have been kinder, but the spectators packed into the Buchlern football stadium seemed barely to notice as they cheered on local heroes and defending champions FC Zurich to an emphatic 5-0 win over Brazilian side Botafogo in the rain-spattered final of this year's Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup.

The intercontinental finale served as a fitting tribute to the long and impressive history of the event, which began in 1939 as a purely Swiss affair before growing rapidly into a truly global competition, at which many subsequent stars of the senior game were able to get their first taste of international football.

Named after host club FC Blue Stars (who currently play in Swiss football's sixth tier and are yet to win the event themselves), the tournament has welcomed no fewer than 226 teams during its three-quarters of a century of existence, with 38 sides from 14 different countries having lifted the trophy.

“Four years ago, Zenit had no academy at all – and so the fact that we can already play here as equals with these other teams that are the best in Europe is amazing.”

*Zenit Saint Petersburg Youth Academy
Director Henk von Stee*

“When Blue Stars started in 1939, there were only a few teams who even had an under-21 side,” Hansueli Schneider, president of the Blue Stars executive committee, told *FIFA World* as the 2013 edition got underway. “Nowadays, youth players are embedded within the structures of all the big clubs from a very young age. That helps them learn how to bring

their standards of play to the next level, and it also makes it very exciting for the spectators at an event like this, because they get to see the next generation of young players developing right in front of their eyes.”

Among the excited spectators this year was FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter, who explained why world football's governing body has been involved in the organisation of the event since 1991.

“We thought that if there's a chance to support an international youth tournament that takes place in the same city as FIFA's home then it's a chance to demonstrate our commitment to both the city of Zurich and to youth football,” Blatter said. “And the fact that they've kept this event going for 75 years is magnificent.”

Players' memories

The FIFA President's own involvement with Blue Stars goes back much further than 1991, however, with Blatter having →

Testing ground

Since FIFA's involvement in 1991, the Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup has provided world football's governing body with a competitive setting in which to test out proposed changes to the Laws of the Game, some (but not all) of which have subsequently been adopted by the game as a whole:

- **The back-pass rule**

Introduced into the Laws of the Game in 1992, after a successful trial at Blue Stars, this rule change (preventing goalkeepers from handling the ball after it has been kicked back by a team-mate) has helped to minimise overly defensive play.

- **The kick-in**

Trialled at the Blue Stars for a number of years, with the aim of making the game faster, the kick-in allowed teams to take an indirect free kick from the touchline instead of a throw-in. It was never adopted in the wider game.

- **The shoot-out**

Another experiment that never made it into the Laws of the Game was this variation on the current penalty shoot-out system. Rather than taking kicks from the penalty spot, players instead had to run towards the goal from the halfway line before taking their shot.

- **Penalties before the game**

Another idea which was subsequently abandoned, the "preventative" penalty shoot-out took place before each game, but only came into play if the game ended in a draw or left the two teams tied in the tournament standings.

- **The multi-ball system**

This innovation involved a number of matchballs being held by ball boys and girls around the pitch, enabling the game to resume immediately after the ball left the pitch. It has now become common practice in both club and international football.

himself played in the tournament as a young centre forward turning out for Swiss side FC Siders in 1955 – the year in which Genoa took top honours ahead of defending champions Manchester United.

"The fact that they've kept this event going for 75 years is magnificent."

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter

"What has stuck in my mind is the way we prepared for the tournament, compared to a professional team like Genoa, who were our first opponents," Blatter told *FIFA World*. "We wandered out with a couple of balls and passed them around a bit, and then the lads from Genoa appeared in red and black and, if I remember correctly, they marched on in military fashion.

"I said to myself 'We don't stand a chance!' and, sure enough, we were soon a goal down, but we pulled ourselves together and it finished 1-1. But the way they marched on, in military-style formation, it put the fear in you and we were in danger of being completely

awestruck. It's become normal nowadays, but that was a real eye-opener for us at the time."

It was not only the Swiss sides who experienced culture shock in those early days of the tournament, however. Recalling his own memories of the event for the 75th anniversary programme, England and Manchester United legend Sir Bobby Charlton remembers being blown away by his early taste of international football during his first two appearances at the 1954 and 1955 Blue Stars.

"I was 16 and it was my first international experience," Charlton explains. "In England we had competed against teams like Blackpool, Bolton or Bury. But suddenly, in Zurich, here stood the Italians. They played a completely different style than we were used to, just defending and barricading themselves in their own penalty area. We were baffled. I remember the 1-0 defeat [against Genoa in 1955]. It was a real lesson for us!

"You have to remember that in the 1950s, travelling across borders as young players was very rare and so it was a big thing for us to play a junior tournament on the continent. But later, when we played for Manchester United's first team, and were



FC Zurich's Dimitri Oberlin (right) tussles with Botafogo's Vinícius during the Swiss side's 5-0 final victory.

preparing for the European Cup, we knew precisely what style of play our opponents had in store for us. That was because of our participation in the Blue Stars tournament. It helped our coaches tremendously to respond to different tactics.”

Red success

Nearly six decades on from their successful maiden appearance at the 1954 tournament, the *Red Devils* are by far the most successful club in the history of the event, having won the Blue Stars title a record 18 times – including an unbeaten four-year reign at the top from 1959 to 1962 and back-to-back victories on six other occasions (1965/66, 1968/69, 1975/76, 1978/79, 1981/82 and 2004/05).

Although unable to add a 19th title this time around – settling instead for fourth place after a 2-0 defeat by FC Basel in the bronze-medal match – United’s coaching staff insisted that their latest crop of young stars would again be leaving Zurich with some valuable lessons under their belt.

“We don’t experience new styles of play here anymore, because English football now has lots of foreign players, so the styles and systems are pretty much the same,” United’s U-21 team manager Warren Joyce told *FIFA World*. “What we do learn here is cultural, like the way people react to things. And even though the competition is often held at a busy

Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup Tournament winners from 1939 to 2013

1939 Grasshopper Club Zurich	1964 Arsenal	1989 Nottingham Forest
1940 FC Winterthur	1965 Manchester United	1990 Real Madrid
1941 FC Young Fellows	1966 Manchester United	1991 Spartak Moscow
1942 FC Young Fellows	1967 TSV 1860 Munich	1992 Spartak Moscow
1943 FC Aarau	1968 Manchester United	1993 FC Barcelona
1944 Servette FC	1969 Manchester United	1994 FC Barcelona
1945 FC Oerlikon	1970 BSC Young Boys	1995 FC Barcelona
1946 FC Zurich	1971 Grasshopper Club Zurich	1996 Benfica
1947 Austria Vienna	1972 Lausanne-Sport	1997 FC Basel
1948 Austria Vienna	1973 Borussia Dortmund	1998 Grasshopper Club Zurich
1949 FC Zurich	1974 Atalanta	1999 São Paulo
1950 Wiener Sportklub	1975 Manchester United	2000 São Paulo
1951 AS Strasbourg	1976 Manchester United	2001 Grêmio
1952 Birmingham City	1977 AC Milan	2002 Boca Juniors
1953 FC Young Fellows	1978 Manchester United	2003 AS Roma
1954 Manchester United	1979 Manchester United	2004 Manchester United
1955 Genoa	1980 AS Roma	2005 Manchester United
1956 Grasshopper Club Zurich	1981 Manchester United	2006 Grasshopper Club Zurich
1957 Manchester United	1982 Manchester United	2007 Partizan Belgrade
1958 AC Milan	1983 Inter Milan	2008 FC Zurich
1959 Manchester United	1984 Chelsea	2009 FC Basel
1960 Manchester United	1985 US Cremonese	2010 Boca Juniors
1961 Manchester United	1986 Celtic	2011 FC Porto
1962 Manchester United	1987 Grasshopper Club Zurich	2012 FC Zurich
1963 Arsenal	1988 FK Sarajevo	2013 FC Zurich

time of year of us, we make the effort to come because it holds a special place in Manchester United’s heart.”

New horizons

For some of the less established youth teams taking part in this year’s tournament, meanwhile, the opportunity simply to play

against the likes of Manchester United is one of the event’s major draws, as was the case for group-stage opponents Zenit Saint Petersburg this year.

“Four years ago, Zenit had no academy at all – and so the fact that we can already play here as equals with these other teams that are the best in Europe is →



WYNRS New Zealand perform a *haka* ahead of their match against the Blue Stars hosts.

Christine Sinclair
Canadian Women's National
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Blue Star births

"Where stars are born" is the official motto of the Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup, and it has proven to be well justified over the past 75 years, as demonstrated by a quick glance at just some of the tournament's previous participants...

Helmut Haller (BC Augsburg, 1956)

Considered one of Germany's best post-war footballers and among the first to emerge from the new West Germany, Haller's transfer to AC Bologna and later Juventus set records with an unprecedented two hundred thousand *Deutschmark* annual salary. At age 17, he made his debut for Augsburg in the team's first appearance at the Blue Stars tournament, the 1956 edition, at which future England star Bobby Charlton also appeared for Manchester United's youth team. Ten years later, both players would feature opposite each other at an even more prestigious event: the final of the 1966 FIFA World Cup™.

George Best (Manchester United, 1964)

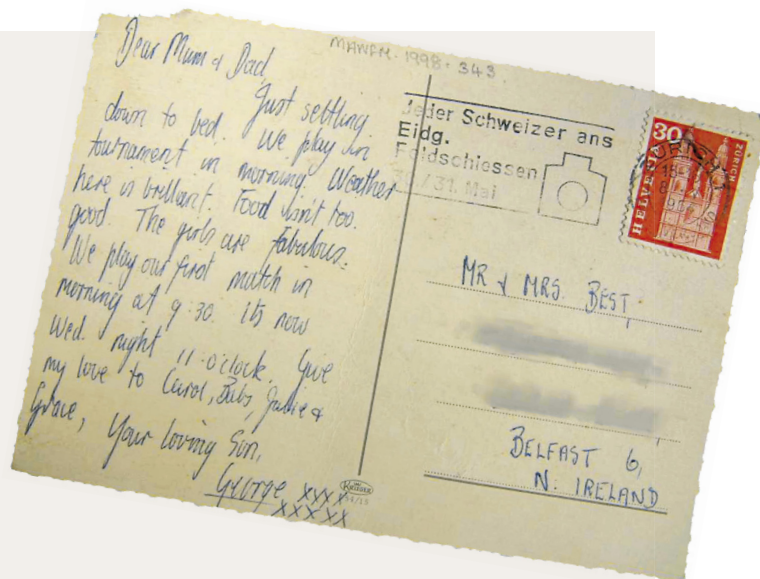
The Northern Irishman who would go on to become European Footballer of the Year was a fresh-faced 18-year-old and part of a new generation of young Manchester United players to grace the later years of Matt Busby's career. Best's postcard home to his Mum and Dad in Belfast describes Zurich's great weather and "fabulous" girls, but complains that the food "isn't too good"!

Josep "Pep" Guardiola (Barcelona 1988)

Bayern Munich's newly appointed head coach came to the Blue Stars in 1988 as yet another unknown talent, but one for whom fame would soon beckon. Breaking into *Barça's* first team shortly afterwards, the defensive midfielder was part of Johan Cruyff's "dream team" who went on to win the European Cup in 1992 during an impressive personal career that also included six *La Liga* titles, two *Copa del Rey* victories, a 1997 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup win and an Olympic gold medal win with Spain. He then carried his success into coaching, leading Barcelona to an incredible 14 trophies in four full seasons between 2008 and 2012.

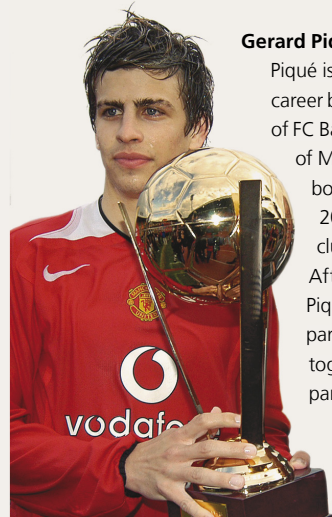
David Beckham (Manchester United, 1992, 1993 and 1995)

Devoid of tattoos and free from trailing paparazzi, David Beckham played for the *Red Devils* in the Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup for three years between 1992 and 1995. Together with team-mates Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and Gary and Phil Neville, he went on to re-establish Manchester United as England's leading club before moving abroad to win league titles with Real Madrid, LA Galaxy and, finally, Paris Saint-Germain.



Nani (Sporting Lisbon, 2004-05)

The Cape Verdean winger is another player who would later make the move to the red half of Manchester, but his career began in Portugal at the age of just nine, when he trained with both Sporting Lisbon and Benfica before finally signing a contract with Sporting. Nani wowed the crowds at the Blue Stars, not only with his play, but also with his *capoiera*-inspired goal celebrations.



Gerard Piqué (Manchester United, 2005)

Piqué is an icon of Catalan football whose career began in the legendary youth squad of FC Barcelona. But it was in the red jersey of Manchester United that he made his bow at the Blue Stars tournament in 2005, having signed for the English club as a 17-year-old one year earlier. After four years as a United player, Piqué was lured back to Barcelona as part of the highly successful squad put together by fellow former Blue Stars participant Pep Guardiola.

amazing," Zenit's Youth Academy Director Henk von Stee told *FIFA World*. "In Eastern Europe, you do not have this type of tournament so it's great to play against other cultures, other systems and with other referees – and even if we lose, we lose to the best."

While this year's diamond jubilee celebrations naturally ensured that plenty of attention was focused on the past 75 years, the organisers were also keen to break new ground by welcoming New Zealand club

WYNRS as the first-ever participants from Oceania. Founded by Oceania's "Player of the Century" Wynton Rufer, the club was established as an academy in 1998, a year before New Zealand hosted the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

"Since that World Cup, we've had more children under the age of 15 playing football than any other sport in New Zealand, so we're at the start of a new phase," Rufer's brother and fellow WYNRS coach Shane Rufer told *FIFA World* after

watching his team secure ninth spot with a penalty shoot-out victory in their final match against their FC Blue Stars hosts.

"The international experience for us here in Europe, the home of football, is what we need, so we're keen to come back. What our lads have seen here over the last two days is that it's not so intimidating and with a little bit of self-belief, organisation, unity, hard work and discipline, you can play against the best. Now that is the essence of football." ■

Member associations

Asia

Saudi Arabia continued to exert their influence on Asian club football in May, with two of the country's representatives booking places in the last eight of this year's AFC Champions League competition. Following up on last year's strong showing (when three teams from the kingdom reached the quarter-finals), the Saudis will be represented this time around by domestic champions Al Shabab and 2012 Champions League runners-up Al Ahli. Both teams saw off **Qatari** opposition in the Round of 16, with Al Shabab beating Al Gharafa 5-1 on aggregate to set up a last-eight meeting with still unbeaten **Japanese** contenders Kashiwa Reysol. Al Ahli, meanwhile, saw off El Jaish 3-1 and will now face **Korea Republic's** reigning K-League champions FC Seoul for a place in the semi-finals. In the other quarter-final meetings, **Chinese** champions Guangzhou Evergrande will take on their Qatari counterparts Lekhwiya while surprise **Thai** qualifiers Buriram United aim to build on their shock defeat of **Uzbekistan's** Bunyodkor when they square off against **Iranian** giants Esteghlal.

Korea Republic have appointed former national team captain Hong Myung-Bo as the country's new head coach, following the June resignation of Choi Kang-Hee. Choi stepped down following the South Koreans' home defeat by Iran in their final qualifying match for the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ – a result that saw the *Taeguk Warriors* scrape their way into next year's finals on goal difference alone (see World Cup qualifying wrap-up on page 20). Hong, 44, represented Korea Republic at four consecutive FIFA World Cups™ between 1990 and 2002, and will now be charged with restoring the side's confidence in time for Brazil 2014.



www.the-afc.com

Africa



Cairo rivals Al Ahly and Zamalek are set to go head to head in the group stage of the CAF Champions League for a second year running, after the **Egyptian** giants were placed together in a 14 May draw held in their home city. The two sides will not have to wait too long for their first meeting, with Al Ahly, the defending African champions and record seven-time winners, due to visit Zamalek in the opening round of matches on 21 July. Zamalek are the second most successful team in the competition's history, having been crowned African champions on five occasions, and will be strong favourites to progress alongside Al Ahly from a group that also includes 1995 African champions Orlando Pirates of **South Africa** and **Congolese** newcomers AC Léopards. The Pirates and the Leopards will not be taken lightly, however, having pulled off creditable second-round wins in May over four-time African champions TP Mazembe and 1988 winners ES Sétif respectively. **Tunisian** giants Espérance meanwhile appeared to have been given a slightly less daunting task in Group B. Chasing a record-equalling fourth consecutive Champions League final appearance, the two-time African champions and 2012 runners-up have been pitted against the 2008 runners-up Coton Sport of **Cameroon** along with two group-stage newcomers, CRD Libolo of **Angola** and **Côte d'Ivoire's** Séwé Sport.

www.cafonline.com

North & Central America and Caribbean

USA national women's team striker Abby Wambach earned herself a place in the record books in June when she struck her 159th international goal to overtake the previous all-time record set by compatriot and women's football legend Mia Hamm. Wambach, 33, completed the feat with the third of four goals scored against **Korea Republic** during a 5-0 friendly win in New Jersey. Wambach's tally is all the more remarkable for having been achieved in 206 matches (a rate of 0.77 goals per game) compared to the 275 games which Hamm needed to score her 158 goals. Describing the record as "surreal", the reigning FIFA Women's World Player of the Year said she was also relieved to have put it behind her. "This team is too good to be talking about just one player," she insisted. "So I'm glad it's over with."



Member associations wishing to submit news items to *FIFA World* can send e-mails to feedback-fifaworld@fifa.org. Please bear in mind that items should be submitted more than a month in advance of the issue in question.

www.concacaf.com

South America



Provincial side Zamora FC were unexpectedly crowned **Venezuelan** league champions in May, securing their first *Primera División* title with a 3-2 aggregate win over Deportivo Anzoátegui. Based in the city of Barinas in the Andean foothills, Zamora were held to a 1-1 draw at home in the first leg of the season's two-legged final, but triumphed 2-1 in the return fixture. Zamora had booked their place in the final as winners of the *Clausura* – or second half of the season – after Anzoátegui had won the opening *Apertura*. While May's victory marked a first for Zamora, it continued an impressive run of results for their coach Noel Sanvicente who had previously won five league titles during an eight-year stint with Caracas FC. It was also the second year running that the league was won by one of the country's smaller teams, following on from Deportivo Lara's maiden success 12 months ago.

There was a more familiar name at the top of the **Argentinian** standings in June, as Rosario-based Newell's Old Boys celebrated their sixth league title – and their first since 2004. Coached by former Paraguay national team trainer Gerardo Martino, Newell's wrapped up the *Torneo Final* with a game to spare, eventually finishing three points clear of record 34-time winners River Plate. The biggest surprise came at the lower end of the table as seven-time *Copa Libertadores* champions Independiente were relegated to the second division for the first time in their history, following a penultimate round 1-0 defeat at the hands of San Lorenzo.

www.conmebol.com

Oceania

The Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) have decided on a number of format changes to their premier club competition, the OFC Champions League. Starting with next year's edition, the competition will in future be held in one country using a tournament format – as opposed to the home-and-away system of recent seasons. Announced following May's OFC Congress in **Mauritius**, the new version of the Champions League will also grant the winner of the competition's preliminary round direct entry to the main tournament, ensuring the first-ever participation of a club from either **American Samoa**, the **Cook Islands**, **Samoa** or **Tongo**. Automatic places will meanwhile be assigned to the league champions of **New Caledonia**, **Papua New Guinea** and the **Solomon Islands**, as well as to the league champions and runners-up of the **New Zealand**, **Fijian** and **Tahitian** domestic leagues.

Innovation is also afoot when it comes to the next edition of the OFC Futsal Championship, taking place in Auckland, New Zealand, from 23-27 July. For this year's edition, the OFC have decided to organise an invitational event with Asian Football Confederation members **Australia** and **Malaysia** joining **New Zealand**, **New Caledonia**, the **Solomon Islands**, **Tahiti**, **Vanuatu** and an OFC invitational side in the eight-team tournament. "The invitation to teams from the AFC is designed to increase both the technical level of the tournament and to create new television and online audiences," said OFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Development Officer Paul Toohey. "Each of the five Oceania representatives have made excellent progress in their futsal programmes since the last competition two years ago and this tournament represents a significant step ahead of their FIFA Futsal World Cup 2016 qualification campaigns."

www.oceaniafootball.com

Europe

The next edition of the European Championship began to take visual form in June as the new logo for the UEFA EURO 2016 tournament was unveiled in Paris. Combining the Henri Delaunay Cup in the foreground with the national colours of the competition's **French** hosts, the new design was described by UEFA as an attempt to "bring together the creativity that defines French culture with the beauty of the game and give UEFA EURO 2016 its own personality". The logo follows hot on the heels of a new brand identity for the tournament's qualifying competition, which has also been revamped to incorporate a "week of football" concept in which qualifiers will be spread out from Thursdays to Tuesdays during fixed periods in the international calendar.

Spanish football's trophy harvest continued in June, as the country's U-21 team successfully defended their UEFA European Under-21 title with a 4-2 win over Italy. Barcelona midfielder Thiago put in a stellar performance as team captain, firing in a first-half hat-trick and later picking up the tournament's Most Valuable Player award. The victory was Spain's fourth overall in the competition and means that they are now European champions at senior, U-21 and U-19 level, as well as in futsal and beach soccer, with only Russia's victory in May's European Under-17 Championship denying the Spanish a clean sweep of European men's football titles.



www.uefa.com

Victorious Brazil re-enter top ten



July's edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking was heavily influenced by June's FIFA Confederations Cup and the latest 2014 FIFA World Cup™ qualifiers, with Confederations Cup champions Brazil the most obvious beneficiaries.

Having qualified automatically for the World Cup as tournament hosts, the South American five-time world champions had tumbled down the ranking in recent months as a result of not playing any qualifiers, and in June registered their lowest-ever placing of 22nd.

Boosted by their stunning 3-0 victory over world and European champions Spain in the Confederations Cup final (along with their perfect overall record for the tournament of five wins from five matches and a further win against France in a pre-tournament friendly), the Brazilians have now soared back into the top ten, however, climbing 13 places to ninth.

Having improved on their semi-final exit at the FIFA Confederations Cup 2009, Spain were at least able to maintain their position at the top of the ranking, with their run to the final even helping to extend their lead over second-placed Germany. Colombia

Hair we go: Brazil are combing their way back up the ranking.



have, meanwhile, shot up four places to their best-ever position of third thanks to their continued good form in South America's World Cup qualifying competition.

Confederations Cup semi-finalists Uruguay (12th, up 7) and Italy (6th, up 2) were also rewarded for their strong showings at the tournament, although there was less good news for the four teams that exited after the group stage – with Mexico (20th, down 3), Nigeria (35th, down 4), Japan (37th, down 5) and Tahiti (154th, down 16) all falling back.

The ongoing World Cup qualifiers and a number of friendly matches saw no fewer than seven teams climb more than 20 places,

with the Cape Verde Islands (49th, up 23), Scotland (50th, up 24), Austria (54th, up 22), Guinea (61st, up 24), Armenia (66th, up 23), Senegal (74th, up 25) and Malta (133rd, up 23) all making rapid ascents.

Nine teams also reached their highest-ever positioning in the ranking, with Belgium (10th, up 2), Bosnia-Herzegovina (14th, up 1), Peru (19th, up 11), Albania (37th, up 1), the Dominican Republic (90th, up 4), Tajikistan (106th, up 6) and Guam (176th, up 2) joining the aforementioned Cape Verde and Colombia in hitting new highs.

The next FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking will be published on 8 August 2013. ■

Rank	Team	+/- Ranks June- July 13	Points July 13	+/- Points June- July 13
1	Spain	0	1532	-82
2	Germany	0	1273	-143
3	Colombia	4	1206	83
4	Argentina	-1	1204	-83
5	Netherlands	0	1180	22
6	Italy	2	1142	45
7	Portugal	-1	1099	-38
8	Croatia	-4	1098	-124
9	Brazil	13	1095	223
10	Belgium	2	1079	44
11	Greece	5	1038	32
12	Uruguay	7	1016	103
13	Côte d'Ivoire	0	1009	-13
14	Bosnia-Herzegovina	1	995	-13
15	England	-6	994	-101
16	Switzerland	-2	987	-23
17	Russia	-6	979	-80
18	Ecuador	-8	932	-134

Rank	Team	+/- Ranks June- July 13	Points July 13	+/- Points June- July 13
19	Peru	11	898	107
20	Mexico	-3	880	-48
21	Chile	4	872	31
22	USA	6	865	67
23	France	-5	838	-84
24	Ghana	-3	830	-57
25	Norway	4	801	7
26	Czech Republic	-2	797	-56
27	Denmark	-7	788	-102
28	Mali	-5	774	-95
	Montenegro	-3	774	-67
	Ukraine	11	774	87
31	Sweden	-4	765	-65
32	Hungary	1	749	-10
33	Romania	1	732	-18
34	Algeria	1	730	-7
35	Nigeria	-4	723	-62
36	Venezuela	1	704	-8

Rank	Team	+/- Ranks June- July 13	Points July 13	+/- Points June- July 13
37	Japan	-5	689	-76
	Albania	1	689	-1
39	Costa Rica	9	688	71
40	Australia	7	671	52
41	Serbia	-5	661	-62
42	Burkina Faso	9	656	62
43	Korea Republic	-3	642	-24
44	Republic of Ireland	-3	639	-20
45	Slovenia	10	634	66
46	Wales	-1	630	-8
47	Tunisia	-5	627	-25
48	Paraguay	-4	622	-18
49	Cape Verde Islands	23	620	134
50	Scotland	24	610	129
51	Panama	-8	601	-48
52	Iran	15	596	90
	Bulgaria	-6	596	-32
54	Austria	22	595	126

Rank	Team	+/– Ranks June– July 13	Points June– July 13	+/– Points June– July 13	Rank	Team	+/– Ranks June– July 13	Points June– July 13	+/– Points June– July 13	Rank	Team	+/– Ranks June– July 13	Points June– July 13	+/– Points June– July 13
55	New Zealand	2	582	31	109	Suriname	4	311	0	163	Myanmar	-8	129	-20
	Honduras	-3	582	0	110	Kuwait	1	309	-6	164	Gambia	-2	126	-12
57	Turkey	-3	573	0	111	Northern Ireland	5	307	3	165	Dominica	2	124	0
58	Uzbekistan	0	563	13	112	Korea DPR	2	306	-3	166	São Tomé e Príncipe	-7	120	-24
59	South Africa	1	558	16		Qatar	-8	306	-32	167	Pakistan	1	114	-4
60	Zambia	-11	554	-48	114	Zimbabwe	-12	304	-46	168	Indonesia	2	112	-4
61	Guinea	24	545	107	115	Benin	0	302	-6	169	Nepal	2	106	-2
62	Egypt	9	543	52	116	Botswana	11	301	56	170	Yemen	3	96	0
63	Slovakia	-7	542	-23	117	Azerbaijan	1	298	7	171	Sri Lanka	1	95	-4
64	Israel	-2	540	0	118	Bahrain	-1	286	-6	172	Mauritania	2	94	0
65	Finland	19	537	95	119	Latvia	0	280	-7	173	Laos	-5	87	-31
66	Armenia	23	534	126	120	Burundi	5	273	17	174	Faroe Islands	-12	81	-57
67	Equatorial Guinea	-3	532	9	121	Tanzania	-12	271	-46	175	Chinese Taipei	0	77	-13
68	Bolivia	-15	528	-50	122	Antigua and Barbuda	-1	265	-15	176	Guam	2	70	5
69	Haiti	-6	522	-16	123	Kenya	0	264	-4	177	Montserrat	-1	66	0
70	Libya	-1	518	20		Grenada	1	264	-2	178	Curaçao	0	65	0
71	Cameroon	-6	517	0	125	Cyprus	-3	256	-13	179	Swaziland	-1	60	-5
72	Togo	1	511	28		Moldova	9	256	26	180	Guinea-Bissau	1	58	-4
73	Iceland	-12	499	-42	127	Namibia	-7	252	-29	181	Bahamas	-5	53	-13
74	Senegal	25	497	131	128	Guyana	-2	250	1	182	Mauritius	3	52	0
75	Poland	-10	493	-24	129	Lebanon	2	246	13		Brunei Darussalam	3	52	0
76	Jordan	-1	489	17	130	Belize	-1	242	3		Timor-Leste	3	52	0
77	Jamaica	-28	484	-118	131	Puerto Rico	-3	241	0	185	Madagascar	-1	51	-4
78	Belarus	-11	482	-24	132	St Vincent and the Grenadines	-2	238	0	186	Mongolia	-4	49	-12
79	Morocco	-2	470	7	133	Malta	23	236	88	187	Samoa	1	46	0
80	Uganda	13	466	65	134	Rwanda	1	233	9		US Virgin Islands	6	46	7
81	Gabon	1	459	15		Sudan	1	233	9	189	Vanuatu	2	43	0
82	Cuba	9	458	52	136	Turkmenistan	-4	232	0		Tonga	1	43	-1
83	Sierra Leone	-13	443	-54	137	Kyrgyzstan	6	227	21	191	Fiji	-9	41	-20
84	Congo DR	-5	434	-20	138	Thailand	4	223	14		Comoros	1	41	0
85	United Arab Emirates	2	432	8	139	St Kitts and Nevis	-2	218	0	193	British Virgin Islands	2	34	0
86	Estonia	3	423	15	140	Afghanistan	0	214	4	194	Cayman Islands	2	33	0
87	Trinidad and Tobago	-6	419	-28	141	Luxembourg	4	210	24	195	American Samoa	2	30	0
88	Canada	-5	413	-30		St Lucia	-1	210	0	196	Eritrea	2	24	0
89	Central African Republic	-30	398	-145	143	Syria	-5	205	-10	197	Papua New Guinea	-3	23	-15
90	Congo	-10	396	-56	144	Philippines	0	203	0	198	Cambodia	-9	20	-25
	Dominican Republic	4	396	0	145	Vietnam	-12	182	-49	198	South Sudan	2	20	0
92	FYR Macedonia	-14	395	-65	146	India	1	178	0	200	Seychelles	-1	19	-3
93	Guatemala	-5	388	-22	147	Barbados	2	175	0	201	Somalia	1	14	0
94	El Salvador	-8	382	-47	148	Hong Kong	-1	173	-5	202	Macau	0	12	-2
95	Ethiopia	11	381	53		Liechtenstein	10	173	28	203	Djibouti	1	11	0
96	Angola	-5	380	-26	150	Kazakhstan	-4	172	-8	204	Cook Islands	-3	9	-7
97	New Caledonia	0	377	6	151	Palestine	0	167	5	205	Andorra	0	8	0
98	Georgia	-2	369	-22	152	Bangladesh	0	166	5	206	Anguilla	0	3	-1
99	Oman	2	361	10	153	Aruba	-3	163	0	207	Bhutan	0	0	0
100	China PR	-5	339	-54	154	Maldives	3	147	1		San Marino	0	0	0
101	Iraq	-3	335	-35		Tahiti	-16	147	-68		Turks and Caicos Islands	0	0	0
102	Mozambique	1	326	-23	156	Singapore	9	146	12					
103	Liberia	-3	324	-32	157	Bermuda	4	139	0					
104	Lithuania	1	321	-9	158	Nicaragua	4	138	0					
105	Saudi Arabia	3	315	-8	159	Malaysia	0	136	-8					
106	Tajikistan	6	314	2	160	Chad	-6	134	-18					
107	Niger	0	313	-12	161	Lesotho	-8	133	-23					
108	Malawi	1	312	-5	162	Solomon Islands	4	132	2					

Note: Teams inactive for more than four years do not appear in the table.

WHAT COUNTS TOWARDS THE RANKING?

The results of all matches at “A” international level are taken into account by the world ranking. These matches include:

- FIFA World Cup™ final competition matches
- FIFA World Cup™ qualifying competition matches
- Continental championship final competition matches
- Continental championship qualifying competition matches
- Friendly matches

Ranking points are calculated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Points for a win, draw or defeat
- Type of competition (multiplication factor)
- Strength of opponents (multiplication factor)
- Strength of confederation in question (multiplication factor)

To ensure that the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking reflects the reality of world football, the results a team has recorded in the previous 12 months are the most important. Results from previous years are also taken into account, but their value decreases on an annual basis until four years after the match was played (100% of ranking points for matches in last 12 months, 50% for matches played 12–24 months previously, 30% for 24–36 months and 20% for 36–48 months) at which point the result no longer has any impact on the ranking.

FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking

USA closing in on new records



The latest edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking saw the USA maintain their firm grip on the number one spot, with two major milestones now beckoning for the *Stars and Stripes*. Having already celebrated a record five years at the top of the ranking back in March, the Americans are now just six points away from overtaking their highest-ever points tally of 2,233 (set in May 2010) and seven away from overtaking the all-time highest total of 2,234 points for Germany in December 2005.

Unbeaten in their last 34 matches – a run stretching back to March of last year – Tom Sermanni's side remain 66 points clear of nearest rivals Germany. Reigning world champions Japan (the only team to have beaten the USA in the past two years) are still third in the ranking, a further 66 points behind Germany. Sweden (5th, up 1) are the only climbers in the top ten, having leaped above France following recent friendly victories over Iceland and Norway.

Three new teams have entered the women's world ranking for the first time this month, with Albania (60th), Montenegro (81st) and Kuwait (119th) all contesting FIFA Women's World Cup™ qualifying matches in the past few months. While the Kuwaitis



The US team celebrate during June's 4-1 friendly win over Korea Republic.

underwent a baptism of fire during June's Asian qualifiers (losing 18-0, 21-0 and 12-1 to Uzbekistan, Jordan and Lebanon respectively), Albania and Montenegro exceeded all expectations in Europe's preliminary round, with both teams progressing to the upcoming group stage.

After long absences, Uzbekistan (44th), Kyrgyzstan (98th) and Georgia (103rd) have

managed to climb back into the ranking, but six teams have dropped out of the ranking due to a lack of matches played, leaving the total number of teams unchanged at 124.

The next FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking will be published on 2 August and will include results from the UEFA Women's EURO 2013 currently under way in Sweden. ■

Rank	Team	+/- Ranks March- June	Rank end of 2012	Rating June	+/- Rating March- June
1	USA	0	1	2228	13
2	Germany	0	2	2162	-1
3	Japan	0	3	2096	0
4	Brazil	0	4	2038	0
5	Sweden	1	6	2027	2
6	France	-1	5	2023	-4
7	England	0	8	1999	7
8	Canada	-1	7	1983	-9
9	Korea DPR	0	9	1943	0
10	Australia	-1	9	1939	-4
11	Norway	0	12	1922	-10
12	Italy	0	11	1915	2
13	Denmark	0	13	1905	-5
14	Netherlands	0	14	1887	6
15	Iceland	0	15	1836	-9
16	Korea Republic	0	16	1835	0

Rank	Team	+/- Ranks March- June	Rank end of 2012	Rating June	+/- Rating March- June
17	China PR	0	17	1829	0
18	Spain	0	18	1824	0
19	New Zealand	1	21	1806	4
20	Scotland	1	23	1801	7
21	Finland	-2	19	1791	-14
22	Russia	0	20	1780	-3
23	Ukraine	0	22	1773	-7
24	Mexico	0	24	1761	0
25	Switzerland	0	26	1723	9
26	Czech Republic	0	25	1708	0
27	Belgium	0	27	1667	7
28	Vietnam	2	30	1654	14
29	Colombia	-1	28	1650	0
30	Thailand	-1	29	1646	5
31	Poland	0	31	1638	0
32	Nigeria	0	32	1622	0

Rank	Team	+/- Ranks March- June	Rank end of 2012	Rating June	+/- Rating March- June
32	Republic of Ireland	0	34	1622	0
34	Austria	0	32	1619	1
35	Romania	0	35	1613	2
36	Hungary	1	37	1598	5
37	Wales	1	39	1580	0
38	Belarus	1	38	1576	0
39	Chinese Taipei	2	43	1564	9
40	Costa Rica	0	40	1561	0
41	Slovakia	3	41	1557	12
42	Portugal	0	46	1551	0
43	Myanmar	3	47	1550	14
44	Uzbekistan	4	41	1548	-17
45	Serbia	-2	44	1546	0
46	Trinidad and Tobago	1	48	1509	0
47	Papua New Guinea	1	49	1476	0
48	Cameroon	1	50	1467	0

Rank	Team	± Rank March- June	Rank end of 2012	Rating June	± Rating March- June	Rank	Team	± Rank March- June	Rank end of 2012	Rating June	± Rating March- June	Rank	Team	± Rank March- June	Rank end of 2012	Rating June	± Rating March- June	
49	Ghana	1	51	1459	0	93	Malta	5	104	1170	34		Congo **			1238	0	
50	India	1	52	1431	-10	94	Ethiopia	1	100	1163	0		Tahiti **		87	1238	0	
51	South Africa	2	56	1430	-5	95	Luxembourg	-1	98	1156	-16		Bolivia **			1236	0	
52	Equatorial Guinea	2	54	1429	0	96	Honduras	0	102	1153	0		Solomon Islands **		93	1195	0	
53	Jordan	4	58	1417	19	97	Vanuatu	0	103	1139	0		New Caledonia **		95	1188	0	
54	Northern Ireland	1	55	1416	0	98	Kyrgyzstan			1136	-7		Benin **			1187	0	
55	Bulgaria	1	57	1412	0	99	Congo DR	0	105	1132	0		Moldova **			1177	0	
	Iran	-3	53	1412	-25	100	Nicaragua	0	109	1111	0		Barbados **			1173	0	
57	Haiti	1	59	1397	0	101	Samoa	0	106	1110	0		Cook Islands **		99	1170	0	
58	Greece	1	60	1389	-2	102	Armenia	0	107	1104	0		Suriname **		101	1159	0	
59	Slovenia	1	61	1382	-8	103	Georgia			1100	29		Angola **			1134	0	
60	Albania			1374	-50	104	Nepal	-1	108	1095	0		Sierra Leone **			1132	0	
61	Israel	0	62	1367	0	105	FYR Macedonia	0	110	1089	11		Bahamas **			1111	0	
62	Panama	0		1364	0	106	Cyprus	-2		1087	0		Puerto Rico **			1108	0	
63	Croatia	0	63	1363	0	107	Guinea	-1	112	1063	0		American Samoa **		111	1075	0	
64	Hong Kong	2	66	1361	14	108	Namibia	-1	113	1017	0		St Lucia **			1061	0	
65	Turkey	-1	64	1353	0	109	Bangladesh	-1	114	979	-9		Eritrea **			1060	0	
66	Kazakhstan	-1	65	1350	0	110	Sri Lanka	-1	115	965	0		Gabon **			1031	0	
67	Faroe Islands	5	72	1345	20	111	Lebanon	-1	117	955	11		Grenada **			1029	0	
68	Côte d'Ivoire	0	68	1344	0	112	Maldives	-1	118	942	0		St Vincent/Grenadines **			1008	0	
69	Uruguay	1	68	1330	0	113	Tanzania	-1	119	941	0		Burkina Faso **			1003	0	
	Morocco	1	71	1330	0	114	Zambia	-2	119	938	-3		St Kitts and Nevis **			974	0	
71	Tunisia	1	72	1325	0	115	Pakistan	-1	121	937	0		Turks and Caicos Islands **			963	0	
72	Guatemala	3	76	1318	0	116	Dominica	0	123	906	0		Bermuda **		116	950	0	
73	Tonga	3	75	1316	0	117	Afghanistan	0	124	899	0		Guinea-Bissau **			927	0	
74	Bahrain	-5	70	1311	-29	118	Mozambique	1	126	873	0		Syria **		122	927	0	
75	Estonia	2	78	1308	6	119	Kuwait			870	102		Iraq **		125	882	0	
76	Philippines	7	83	1297	29	120	Malawi	0	127	840	0		Liberia **			877	0	
77	Guam	2	79	1294	0	121	Belize	0		827	0		Swaziland **			863	0	
78	Laos	2	81	1293	0	122	Bhutan	0	128	785	0		Lesotho **			858	0	
79	Egypt	2	82	1289	0	123	Antigua and Barbuda	0	129	757	0		Cayman Islands **			847	0	
80	Bosnia-Herzegovina	2	83	1282	0	124	Botswana	0	130	708	0		Curaçao **			831	0	
81	Malaysia	3	85	1258	0		Argentina **		36	1609	0		Aruba **			803	0	
	Montenegro			1258	104		Chile **		45	1544	0		Comoros **			534	0	
83	Senegal	2	86	1247	0		Ecuador **			1484	0		United Arab Emirates *			1665	0	
84	Lithuania	-6	79	1246	-49		Peru **			1450	0		Qatar *			1046	0	
85	Dominican Republic	1	88	1226	0		Paraguay **			1430	0		Uganda *			965	0	
86	Zimbabwe	2	92	1220	8		Indonesia **		67	1346	0		US Virgin Islands *			885	0	
87	Mali	2	90	1204	0		Azerbaijan **			1341	0		British Virgin Islands *			867	0	
88	Cuba	2	91	1201	0		Jamaica **			1339	0		Kenya *			816	0	
89	Latvia	-2	89	1193	-26		Venezuela **			1338	0							
90	Palestine	1	94	1182	-7		Algeria **		74	1320	0							
91	Singapore	1	97	1180	0		Fiji **		77	1306	0							
92	El Salvador	3	96	1175	0		Guyana **			1256	0							

* team provisionally listed in ranking
** team inactive for more than 18 months
and therefore not ranked

Elections

The following member associations have elected presidents since the last issue of *FIFA World*:

Suriname:	John KRISHNADATH	Czech Republic:	Miroslav PELTA (re-elected)
Antigua & Barbuda:	Everton GONSALVES (re-elected)	Bahrain:	Shk. Ali Bin Khalifa AL KHALIFA
Switzerland:	Peter GILLIÉRON (re-elected)	Gabon:	Dieudonné NDOUMBOU LIKOUNI (acting)
Congo DR:	Constant OMARI SELEMANI (re-elected)	Belgium:	François DE KEERSMAECKER (re-elected)
Korea DPR:	RI Jong Mu		

FIFA Calendar July-September 2013

7-28 July	CONCACAF Gold Cup, USA	14 August	Friendly matchday
17 July	Copa Libertadores final, first leg	6-10 September	International matchdays
24 July	Copa Libertadores final, second leg	18-28 September	FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, Tahiti

FIFA Archive
Zurich, Switzerland
23 October 1949





Many players have donned the Swiss jersey over the years, but few have left their mark as much as Alfred “Fredy” Bickel. While there have admittedly been bigger names such as Pelé, Beckenbauer and Maradona, Bickel actually went one better than all three by securing a quite unique place in football history, as anyone who peruses the FIFA World Cup™ archives will discover when they come across the 1954 FIFA World Cup Switzerland™ commemorative coin, which bears the image of a certain Fredy Bickel.

The picture in question shows Bickel in a typical pose during a 9-0 victory for Grasshopper Club Zurich over Nordstern Basel in Zurich’s Hardturm stadium in 1949, at a time when the Zurich giants had fallen into the Swiss second division before earning promotion back to the top flight in 1951. The next few years were a golden era for Grasshoppers, and by the end of his career, Bickel had won seven Swiss league titles and nine Swiss cups.

In 1954, FIFA decided to mark its 50th anniversary by issuing a commemorative coin with Bickel’s image, “especially for the

collectors among the friends of football”, as stated in the official 1954 World Cup book. It is still the only time that FIFA has bestowed such an honour upon a player.

Bickel’s international career was no less impressive either as he played in two World Cups, with Switzerland impressing on both occasions. In 1938, the Swiss saw off the mighty Germany thanks in no small part to a goal from a 20-year-old Bickel, who drew rapturous applause from the crowd in Paris’s Parc des Princes stadium every time he ran at the German defence.

Twelve years later, the by now 32-year-old Bickel led his team to an impressive 2-2 draw with the Brazilian hosts of the 1950 World Cup™ in front of a crowd of more than 40,000 in São Paulo. Bickel and Sweden’s Erik Nilsson were the only players to play in World Cups both before and after the Second World War, although no player has ever had a longer gap between two World Cup matches than Bickel’s record of 12 years and 13 days.

Even though his image graced the commemorative coin for the 1954 World Cup on home soil, Bickel had called time on his international career at the age of 36 shortly before the tournament after a match against the Netherlands on 30 May 1954. He is still, to this day, one of Swiss football’s most revered sons, and he was undoubtedly the perfect choice for a FIFA commemorative coin. ■



Coming up

In the next issue of *FIFA World*



Teen spirit

FIFA U-20 World Cup review

Finding refuge

How football is helping Syria's displaced

Hope for the future

Football for Hope Forum tackles Brazil's social concerns

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