

THE WEEKLY

FIFA

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Hungary's long decline

The hard road back

ARON WINTER
DEFYING THE RACISTS

AMERICAN SAMOA
THE FAIRY TALE OF
PAGO PAGO

SEPP BLATTER
A REFEREE'S
RESPONSIBILITIES

6

Hungary: from powerhouse to footballing minnow

The Hungarian national team set new standards in excellence in the 1950s, but today they find themselves in free-fall and were on the wrong end of an 8-1 hammering by the Netherlands in World Cup qualification. The story of Lajos Detari is one example of this decline. A highly talented player, he never quite reached his full potential, and spends his time coaching Hungarian third-division club Felsotarkany. We take a journey through history, from former glory to present gloom.

16

Furore in Chile

CD Palestino have left themselves open to attack after displaying a political message on their shirts. The Primera Division club, originally founded by Palestinian migrants, is now seeking legal redress.

17

A thrilling showdown in Ghana

An old rivalry is set to flare up again in Ghana's Premier League this season, as Hearts of Oak face champions Asante Kotoko. Both clubs are among the best-known teams in Africa.

23

Blatter: Referees have a responsibility

In the debate over the threefold punishment of penalty, red card and suspension, FIFA President Blatter has adopted a clear stance: the rules should not be challenged. However, referees can use tact and sensitivity to defuse the issue once and for all.

24

A South Pacific fairytale

Small Pacific island nation American Samoa were once resigned to losing every game, but turned things around and finally won their first competitive match after 13 years as a FIFA Member. This heart-warming tale is coming to cinemas in April.

29

The biggest clubs in the world

It has now been more than 50 years since Benfica won their biggest international titles, but the long-standing Portuguese club is still the world's biggest club in terms of members, thanks to its handballers, roller hockey players and cyclists.

30

Tim Howard: "Alex Ferguson will not return"

In this week's interview, Tim Howard discusses Tourette's syndrome, Manchester United and Jurgen Klinsmann and looks ahead to this summer's World Cup in Brazil.

36

The sound of football

Instrumental track "The Liquidator" continues to create an atmosphere at stadiums, particularly at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge. But what does the song have to do with Jamaica and shorn heads?

37

"I wasn't prepared to give up"

Keen to play in the best league in the world, Aron Winter signed for Lazio in 1992. The Dutchman explains how he battled against racism and why he decided to show people the error of their ways with his performances on the pitch.



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talks to The FIFA Weekly

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Lajos Detari
Hungarian standard-bearer
in the 1980s



Sepp Blatter
Considers the triple
punishment



Nicky Salapu
Making history with
American Samoa



The hard road back
Our cover is dedicated to Hungarian football: They're brewing tea in the Felsotarkany clubhouse. The third-tier outfit, coached by legend Lajos Detari, are about to contest a friendly. The balls are on their way out to the pitch.



FIFA World Cup
12 June to 13 July 2014, Brazil



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The Major's melancholy

Thomas Renggli

FIFA have bestowed The Ferenc Puskas Award upon the scorer of the best goal in a calendar year at the Ballon d'Or Gala since 2009. The reasons why the honour bears the name of the former Hungarian international become clear with a glance at his goalscoring record. The Major, as he was known, netted 84 times in 85 appearances for his country, producing the astonishing goals-to-games ratio of 0.988. By comparison, Pele struck 77 times in 92 international matches for Brazil, scoring at a rate of 0.837 goals per game. Yet even those statistics fail to paint the full picture of Puskas' brilliance. He was supremely gifted technically, a genius on the ball and possessed perhaps the fiercest left boot in the history of the game. Legend has it that Puskas' right foot was even stronger, but that he compassionately opted to use his left after breaking a goalkeeper's ribs with a shot early in his career.

Furthermore, there is an air of melancholy surrounding the kind-hearted attacker. Puskas' name is inextricably linked with the most spectacular upset in footballing history – Hungary's 3-2 defeat in the 1954 World Cup final against Germany in Bern. It is often forgotten, however, that Puskas very nearly prevented the 'Miracle of Bern' happening at all. The attacker, who injured his foot in the 8-3 group stage victory over Germany and subsequently missed the next two games, put Hungary 1-0 up in the final and also netted what appeared to be the equaliser to level the scores at 3-3 in the 89th minute. Yet his effort was ruled out for offside and to this day both pictures and television footage have proved inconclusive in determining whether the right decision was made.

Until that point Hungary had gone 31 competitive matches unbeaten, spanning a period of four years. Their starting line-up of Gyula Grosics, Jeno Buzanszky, Gyula Lorant, Mihaly Lantos, Jozsef Bozsik, Jozsef Zakarias, Laszlo Budai, Sandor Kocsis, Nandor Hidegkuti, Puskas and Zoltan Czibor were household names, and not only in their homeland.

In the end, Hungary had to make do with winning the consolation prizes of Olympic gold at Helsinki 1952 and becoming the first non-British team to triumph in England in 1953.

Nowadays the sense of mystique that used to surround Hungarian football has long gone. They currently lie 46th in the world rankings, have not reached a World Cup since 1986 and stumbled at the penultimate hurdle during

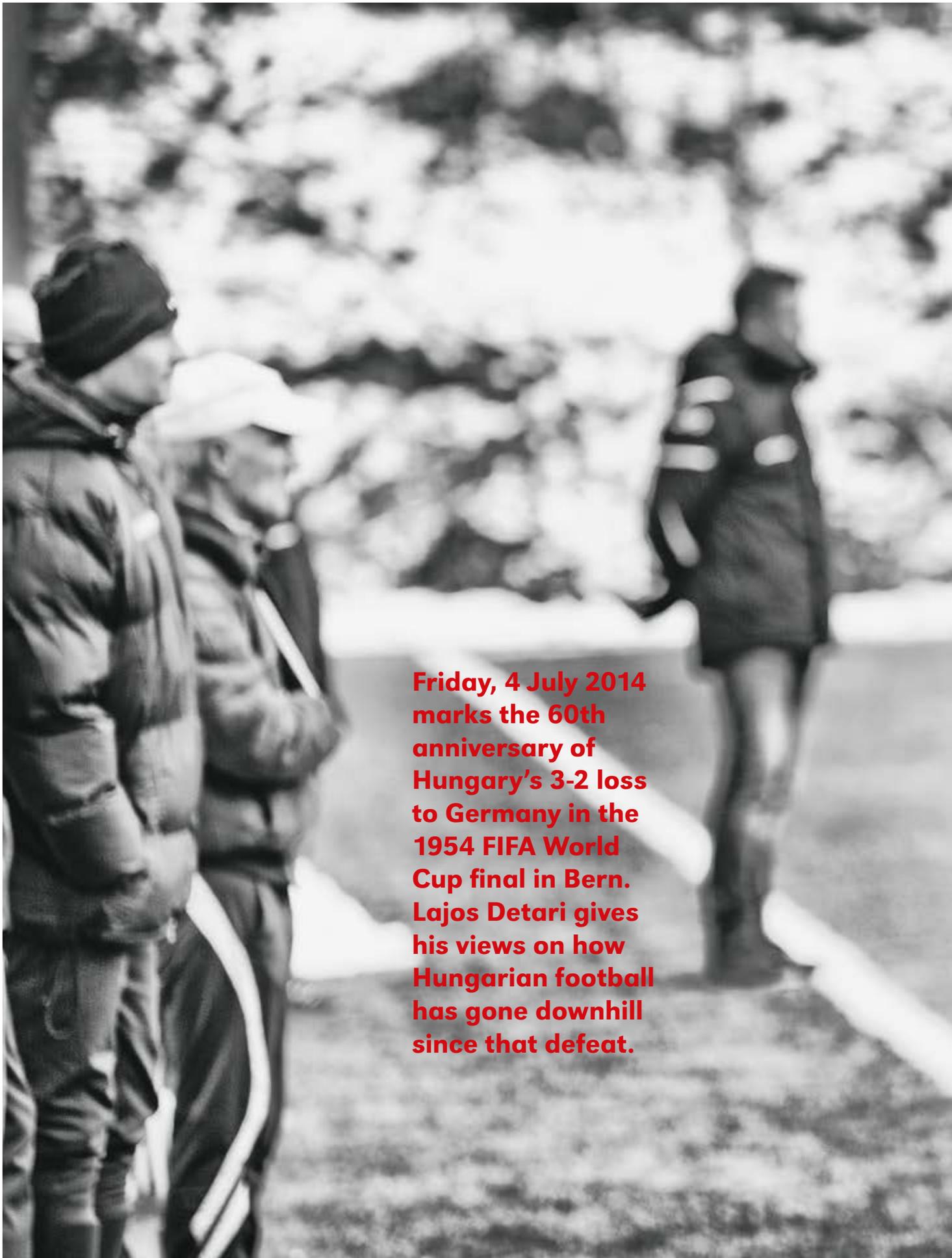


The beginning of the end Ferenc Puskas (l.) and Fritz Walter prior to the 1954 World Cup final. The "Miracle of Bern" ended Hungary's dominance of the game.

Brazil 2014 qualifying by finishing on the wrong end of an 8-1 thrashing by the Netherlands. Lajos Detari, one of the leading lights of a new crop of Hungarian talent in the 1980s and the last Hungarian to score at a World Cup, at Mexico 1986, speaks to The FIFA Weekly reporter Roland Zorn about his nation's footballing demise. Indeed, Detari's career has mirrored that of Hungary's on-field fate. A wonderfully talented player in his day, Detari rarely lived up to his potential and following subsequent stints as coach at Budapest giants Honved and Ferencvaros, he is now at the helm of

Felsotarkany in the third division. It is a captivating tale of one-time glamour mixed with present-day gloom.

The story of American Samoa's footballing odyssey (p. 24) is equally remarkable, as an eclectic group of players embarked on a 13-year losing streak - including a 31-0 mauling against Australia in World Cup qualifying - before experiencing a footballing fairytale. Meanwhile, President Sepp Blatter has a clear opinion on the 'triple punishment' of red-card offences in the penalty area (p. 23), and calls on referees to shoulder responsibility. ☹



Friday, 4 July 2014 marks the 60th anniversary of Hungary's 3-2 loss to Germany in the 1954 FIFA World Cup final in Bern. Lajos Detari gives his views on how Hungarian football has gone downhill since that defeat.

Out in the sticks Lajos Detari's Felsotarkany visit former top-flight outfit Salgotarjan in a friendly. The home side went down 3-0 to Detari's team.



**“Our foot-
ball is
third rate.
That makes
me sad.”**

Helmut Wachter / 13 Photo



Early days Detari is set for a bumpy ride at Felsotarkany. His first season with his new club has yet to get underway, and the 50-year-old is yet to foster a relationship with his players.

*Interview by Roland Zorn,
Photos: Helmut Wachter*

Mr. Detari, you were the last Hungarian to score at a World Cup, in 1986. Is another Germany-Hungary final beyond the realms of possibility?

That would be a miracle, given all that has happened in Hungary in recent years. I don't believe it will happen. We'd be happy to qualify for a World Cup or a European Championship.

Hungary's last World Cup final appearance was in 1954.

We had a wonderful team in 1954; we didn't lose a single game for three years, apart from that most important of matches. We became the first team to beat England away from home in 1953, and beat them 7-1 in Budapest a year later. Many regard Puskas, Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Groszcs, Czibor and Co. as an absolute dream team.

The heyday of Hungarian football happened so long ago – does that make the current plight even worse?

The black-and-white footage from back then is still shown on Hungarian television. It was a different time, a very different style of

football. The fact that we've been talking about that incredible time and that magnificent team for so long and with such nostalgia is a problem for us. People have forgotten what would have to be done today to bring about a football renaissance in Hungary. We've lost our attacking brand of football, which was once revered throughout Europe.

Hungary finished as runners-up at the 1938 and 1954 World Cups, and were Olympic champions on three occasions prior to 1968. Their most recent appearance at the European Championship was in 1972 and they last reached the World Cup finals in 1986.

There's still plenty of talent in Hungary, but there are too many things we're doing wrong. Although we have football academies, there's no real concept or long-term strategy from youth level to the professional game. The majority of our youth national teams have failed to qualify for the Euros and World Cups. The Under-19s have qualified for Euro 2014, but that's only because Hungary qualify automatically as host nation.

You were the last Hungarian player to make a name for himself internationally at Eintracht

Frankfurt and Olympiacos during the 1980s. After spells at top-flight clubs Honved and Ferencvaros, you're now coach of third-division side Felsotarkany SC.

I've always been honest. Some people have had a problem with that – not so much my players, who always knew that I'm a fair and upstanding guy. In the third division, where I am at the moment, I feel there is more honesty. We want to help Felsotarkany develop in a calm and considered manner, and ultimately achieve promotion to the Hungarian second division. I enjoy this job because it's not accompanied by unrealistic expectations.

Is your help and advice no longer needed in the top flight and at the Hungarian Football Association, the MLSZ?

It's important that former national players like myself and others do our bit and help get kids between the ages of 6 and 12 interested in our sport. We can show these youngsters how to pass, how to control the ball, how and when it's appropriate to dribble, and how to improve their shooting technique. I don't understand why we don't get asked to help more often. There are very few former Hungarian football greats working in our first



No gear, no training Detari's players carry the goals from their grass pitch to their smaller artificial pitch. The basic infrastructure at Felsotarkany is lacking.

“All Eastern and Central European nations have improved except Hungary.”

division. Nowadays, the fashion is to employ foreign coaches and players alike.

Is Hungary still a football nation?

Not any more. Kids don't want to play football – they would rather stay at home at their computers. Many pitches have been built in Hungary recently, and a number of stadiums have been renovated and rebuilt, but it hasn't exactly triggered a huge boom at club level.

We have a population of 9.5 million in Hungary, between 80,000 and 90,000 of whom – both male and female – play football. That's not a great number. Germany has a population of almost 80 million, with almost 7 million playing for clubs under the jurisdiction of the German Football Association.

What must happen in order for Hungary to move with the times and produce a competitive team capable of challenging at major tournaments?

The Football Association and the clubs would have to agree on new programmes, and our current attitude of “every man for himself” would have to change. Much has been initiated in Hungary, but very little has been followed through to the end. No team sport can succeed under these conditions.

The people who make the decisions here – in most cases business people with no football background – would sometimes be well advised to look for work elsewhere. At club level, the presidents make the decisions and want to do everything themselves. The influence of politics on the Football Associa-

tion and on clubs is by no means small. However, there are hardly any sporting directors in Hungary. I've always said we need experts working at club level.

What do you make of the coaching qualification system in Hungary?

It's good. We trainers always want to learn more – that's why we pay big foreign clubs a visit from time to time. I find it fascinating that players can run for 90 minutes in Germany, but not in Hungary.

How should work at youth level be structured?

In my opinion, the only thing that should be worked on between the ages of 6 and 12 is technique. After that, youngsters between 12 and 16 must be taught about different formations and from 16 or 17, they can focus on the physical aspects of a career in football. Those who cope well with all three steps can consider turning professional at 18.

That's not the way it works here, though. We still have outstanding talents between the ages of 12 and 14, but they rarely reach their full potential. Even in these age groups, coaches only really care about short-term success, which is of no use whatsoever when

The key facts on Hungarian football

12 October 1902

Hungary lose their inaugural match 5-0 to Austria in Vienna in the first international encounter between two non-British teams. The two nations have met over 100 times since. Only Argentina and Uruguay have played each other more often.

1938 World Cup

Hungary reach the final with a combination of incredible ease, technical brilliance and a goal difference of +12, but suffer a 4-2 defeat to Italy in Paris.

25 November 1953

Hungary become the first non-British team to beat England away from home. The 6-3 victory at Wembley is still regarded as the game of the century in Hungary. In 1954, Hungary beat England 7-1 in Budapest – England's highest defeat to date.

1950 – 1954

The Hungarian team remains unbeaten for 31 international games between 14 May 1950 and 4 July 1954. It took almost 40 years for that record to be equalled by Argentina (between 1991 in 1993). The team of that era goes down in history as the "Aranycsapat" – the Golden Eleven.

1986

Hungary qualify for the FIFA World Cup finals in Mexico, but are knocked out after finishing third in their group behind the Soviet Union and France. It remains Hungary's last appearance at the finals of a major tournament.

11 October 2006

Hungary lose 2-1 to Malta during their qualifying campaign for the 2008 European Championship.

1956

Following the Hungarian uprising and the Soviet invasion, many Hungarian stars flee abroad. This marks the end of an era for Hungarian football.

2011

In September, Hungary achieve their best-ever FIFA World Ranking of 27th. They're currently ranked 46th in the world.

1964

Hungary win the Olympic football tournament in Tokyo; their second Olympic success after winning in Helsinki in 1952. They go on to secure a third title in Mexico four years later. These Olympic victories must be put into perspective, however, as the players in Communist countries were all eligible thanks to their amateur status.

11 October 2013

Hungary lose 8-1 to the Netherlands in a 2014 World Cup qualifier. Although the team still have a theoretical chance of qualifying, Sandor Egervari resigns as head coach.

1972

Hungary reach the semi-finals of the European Championship in Belgium, only to lose to the Soviet Union in the last four. They are also defeated by the hosts in the third-place play-off. Their fourth-place finish remains the last notable success of the Hungarian national team.



With an admirer: Former star Detari still holds a place in the hearts of Hungarian fans.

it comes to turning youngsters into the professionals of tomorrow. The only thing that's important for coaches of the Under-16s and Under-17s is how many of their players make the step up to the first team. Another thing that's missing here is proper medical and scientific support in the training environment.

Just like our national team that missed out on qualification for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and suffered an 8-1 defeat to the Netherlands last autumn, the OTP Bank Liga just goes through the motions.

Our plight is reflected in the lack of sporting progress, while public interest – with an average of only 4000 spectators per game – is limited. There just aren't enough exciting matches to attract supporters. Around five games are broadcast on television on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with the league champions getting around €500,000 a season in TV money.

What would it take for Hungarian football to get the boost it needs?

Competence at youth, league and national level, and close cooperation between the clubs

and the Football Association, which hasn't happened in over 20 years.

We're not second rate at the moment – we're third rate. We're lagging behind the rest of Europe. All Eastern and Central European nations have improved except Hungary. That makes me sad. It's unbelievable. ❄️

Name

Lajos Detari

Date of birth, place of birth

24 April 1963, Budapest (Hungary)

Position

Attacking midfield

Clubs played for

1980–1987 Budapest Honved
1987–1988 Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany)
1988–1990 Olympiakos (Greece)
1990–1992 Bologna (Italy)
1992–1993 Ancona Calcio (Italy)
1993 Ferencvaros
1994 Genoa (Italy)
1994–1996 Neuchatel Xamax (Switzerland)
1996–1998 St Polten (Austria)
1998–1999 Budapesti VSC
1999–2000 Dunakeszi VSE

Clubs coached

2002 Budapest Honved
2002–2003 Hanoi ACB (Vietnam)
2005–2006 Panserraikos (Greece)
2011–2012 Ferencvaros



Cramped Detari's players train in small groups. The pitch is too small to accommodate the whole squad at once, making tactical exercises impossible.



Solitary coach Detari is in charge of Hungarian third-tier outfit Felsotarkany SC.

The twofold symbol

Lajos Detari embodies the fate of Hungarian football as a whole, his journeyman career an indicator of the nation's structural problems.



Fearsome shot Lajos Detari was Hungary's No10 at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico. France's Alain Giresse is to the left.

Perikles Monioudis

Lajos Detari would size up the situation, curl the ball over the wall and into the net. He would score from free kicks time and again, from Budapest to Piraeus to Bologna. He could score from open play too and earned a reputation for netting decisive goals. An individualist working for the good of the team, the Hungarian's character would shine through when he would single-handedly take on opponents – and when he shaped to shoot.

A Detari free-kick proved to be the match-winner in the German Cup final in 1988, his effort firing Eintracht Frankfurt to a 1-0 victory over VfL Bochum. It was his most important – and his last – goal for the club.

State ownership

Free kicks were Detari's trademark and also his signature on a declaration of independence against a life that was otherwise dictated to him by the government.

At that time, the Hungarian state owned Detari's transfer rights; they practically owned the player himself. The playmaker was

forced to just accept his western employers. Detari once said that he was never asked his opinion, that his plans for his life, present or future, were not relevant. Quite how he ended up in Frankfurt after seven years at Honved Budapest (1980–87), where he earned fame as a goalscoring midfielder with 72 strikes in 134 games, will only ever be known by a select group of officials.

The same is true of his transfer from Frankfurt to Olympiacos a year later. Detari said that Juventus also made an offer for him, but the Greek club stumped up more money: a Bundesliga record 17.2 million Deutschmarks.

Constantly on the move

The Hungarian national team last played at a World Cup in 1986, with Detari grabbing his country's last goal at the tournament, a poacher's finish in a group stage match against Canada. It was similar to the one he scored during qualifying in a 2-1 away win in the Netherlands almost two years previously. If Detari did not find the target with a free kick then he would frequently pounce on rebounds from keepers, seemingly always in the right place at the right time.

Yet as his path since hanging up his boots reveals, that has not always been the case. He has worked as a coach at a string of clubs, with Honved Budapest and Greek side Panserraikos his most notable stations. Detari is currently at the helm of Hungarian third division outfit Felsotarkany SC, out of principle, as he states in an interview in this edition. He is determined to help reconstruct Hungarian football.

It appears as though Detari, who is still stopped on the streets in Hungary and asked to pose for photos with fans, continued the journeyman trend he started as a player into his coaching career. He laced his boots for 11 clubs in 13 years and has taken charge of 14 teams in the last 13 years. As the symbol of Hungarian football for the last two and a half decades, Detari, the skilful individualist, also embodies the state of Hungarian football as a whole. Yet he does not just represent the Hungarian game, it was also Hungarian football that dragged him down to the lower levels of the sport. ❄️



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

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

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



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O N T H E I N S I D E

Primera División

The 100-point club



Jordi Puntí es novelista y autor de numerosos artículos futbolísticos en la prensa española.

Twenty-three matchdays have gone by in Spain and there is virtually nothing to choose between the top three, with Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid level on 57 points and *Barça* leading the way thanks to a slightly superior goal difference. Not since the 1992-93 season has there been a three-way tie at this relatively late stage of the campaign, and the battle is so tight that no one is daring to predict how it might pan out. That there are three sides involved is down to the bold and belligerent play of Diego Simeone's Atletico, who have muscled their way into the high-class duel played out by Barcelona and Madrid in recent seasons.

"You need 100 points to win this league," said Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti when asked about the increasingly tight championship race a few weeks ago, a view shared by Gerardo Martino, his opposite number at Barcelona. In winning recent league titles, both clubs have achieved that stratospheric tally, one that reflects the high standards they have set but which with the arrival of Atletico in the race and the emergence of other in-form sides such as Villarreal, Athletic Bilbao and Valencia, looks almost impossible to match this season.

Of the three frontrunners, Real Madrid have perhaps created the best impression in the last couple of weeks, especially in easing to a 3-0 win over Atletico in the first leg of their Copa del Rey semi-final. The fact is, though, that none of the three title contenders have been entirely convincing of late. That cup defeat seems to have checked the progress of an Atletico side that is finding life more and more difficult as opposing teams begin to suss them out and encounter ways of blunting their threat. A good example of that came only last Sunday, when Simeone's men lost 2-0 at Almeria, a game in which with their leading scorer Diego Costa failed to have a single attempt on goal. The Argentinian coach shaped a compact unit in the first half of the season, but a sudden glut of games and an injury to left-back Filipe Luis seem to have sapped their strength. Atletico dipped into the January transfer market to make some



Quiet please Welsh star Gareth Bale opens the scoring for Real in a 4-2 win over Villarreal.

important signings, namely the Argentinian Jose Sosa and the Brazilian playmaker Diego, who has returned to the club after two seasons with Wolfsburg. His vision as a midfield organiser could be crucial in bringing some stability back to the team.

Although they embrace two different styles, Barcelona and Real Madrid are not without their problems either. Both sides seem still to be adjusting to life under a new coach, with all the inevitable changes that entails, and both have been making up for their deficiencies with the goalscoring prowess of their front men. With Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi in somewhat erratic form – though the goals continue to come thick and fast for both of them – this year has seen their team-mates take on more prominent roles, with Cesc Fabregas, Pedro and Alexis Sanchez starring for *Barça*, and Benzema and Jese, the season's breakthrough act, doing likewise for Real.

Madrid's game is built around Luka Modric and the ballast provided by Xabi Alonso and Angel Di Maria. Ancelotti's side has been struggling to impose itself, however, and it is not unusual to see them being dominated. It happened on Saturday against Villarreal, who dictated the pace for long periods but were undone by Madrid's sharp finishing and went down 4-2. As for *Barça*, the ball seems to be moving more slowly this year, the fluidity that was once the hallmark of their game now diminished. Messi's two-month injury layoff

robbed the team of its guiding light, forcing it to reinvent itself. And with the Argentinian's return, Martino's charges are swinging wildly from one emotion to the other, from dejection to euphoria in a matter of minutes. Last Sunday's meeting with Sevilla was a case in point. Outplayed and a goal down in the opening half hour, El Blaugrana were revived by a piece of Messi inspiration. Further emboldened by Iniesta's gift for stitching moves together, they ran out handsome 4-1 winners in the end.

The outlook is also the same for *Barça* and Real. The return from injury of Neymar and Gareth Bale, their most recent star buys, should bring about the kind of changes that have only been glimpsed occasionally up to now. "From here on in it's all about not slipping up," said Martino after his side's win at Sevilla, setting the tone for the coming weeks. Whether they reach 100 points or not, it seems clear that the champions will be the team that slips up least. ❄️



Chile's Primera Division

Palestino's shirt



Sven Goldmann is a football expert at Tagesspiegel newspaper in Berlin.

On Matchday 6 of the Chilean Apertura, Club Deportivo

Palestino had big plans going into their top-of-the-table fixture at home to last year's Apertura champions O'Higgins. For the visitors it was just a short 70 kilometre journey along the Carretera Panamericana from their home in Rancagua to Palestino's Estadio Municipal de La Cisterna in the south of the county's capital Santiago.

Pablo Hernandez's strike around the hour mark appeared to have sealed another victory for the guests, only for Miguel Escalona's late header to secure Palestino a point. While the result meant O'Higgins slipped four points behind league leaders Colo-Colo, the weekend's real talking point was not about the match's consequences, but rather the shirts the hosts wore.

Palestino are no average club and have enjoyed some successes over the years, although city neighbours Colo-Colo have won considerably more silverware recently. Palestino have lifted the championship trophy twice, the last time in 1978 when Chilean footballing icon Elias Figueroa led the team as captain. Manuel Pellegrini used to coach the side before moving abroad to take the reins at Real Madrid and Manchester City, among others.

Yet what really sets Palestino apart is that they are a club of Palestinian immigrants. With a community numbering 350,000, Chile has one of the world's largest Palestinian populations outside of the Middle East, and accordingly their influence is substantial. The squad may be made up exclusively of Chilean and Argentinian players, but the 'Arabs', as they are known, still have a strong a connection to their former homeland. That much was apparent at the start of the year when the club unveiled their new kit. While still in the traditional Palestinian colours of black, white, green and red, the new shirt also bore a political message. The number one on the players' backs was in the shape of Palestine as it was before the creation of Israel.

It prompted an outcry from the Jewish community and Deportivo Nublense lodged

an official complaint. The Chilean football federation fined Palestino \$1,300 USD and ordered the club to redesign their shirt, to which Palestino responded with the following statement on their homepage: "For us, free Palestine will always be historical Palestine, nothing less." Three weeks ago the club donned the revamped kit in their match against Universidad de Concepcion. The shape of the numbers remained unchanged, only now they were in gold and also visible on the front. This time the Israeli embassy was moved to intervene, calling it an "unprecedented provocation".

The case seems set to keep the courts busy for the time being, but one thing is already certain: the shirts have been a runaway success. Palestino's kit manufacturer has received orders from across the globe and sales have soared by 400 per cent. ❄

"The number one on the players' backs was in the shape of Palestine's historic borders."



Politics and sport Club Deportivo Palestino in their controversial new shirts.

Claudio Reyes / AFP



Ghana's Premier League Asante Kotoko's hegemony



Mark Gleeson is a South African journalist and football commentator who lives in Cape Town.

For more than a decade, Ghana's premier league was characterised by the intense rivalry between Asante Kotoko and Hearts of Oak but these days it has become more of a one-club race, taking something of an edge away from the campaign.

Kotoko have dominated the league over the last two years and at the halfway mark of the current campaign sit again comfortably on top, with a seven point lead.

It did not use to be so one-sided. For 12 years, the title in Ghana was traded between the two clubs, the monopoly eventually broken up by unheralded Aduana Stars in 2010 and Berekum Chelsea in 2011. But the last two seasons Kotoko regained their mojo while Hearts' form continued to take a tumble with a new generation of players unable to match the exploits of previous squads.

“Kotoko have dominated the league over the last two years.”

In 2012, Kotoko were runaway league winners with a total of 63 points while Hearts came third with 47. Last season Kotoko were crowned champions again, although this time it was a little closer. Hearts slipped down to fifth place.

This season, however, the intensity of the rivalry might well be ratcheted up again with one of the continent's most eagerly anticipated clashes becoming as unpredictable as it previously was.

They are due to play against each other next in May in the penultimate round of the season with Kotoko having won 1-0 in Accra in late September in the last head-to-head encounter. Not only are they the top two clubs in the country with the biggest support, they also represent the country's two biggest

cities. Kotoko are from Kumasi and under the royal patronage of the Asantehene, the king of the Asante people. Their fans call them the “Porcupine Warriors”.

Hearts hail from the capital, bringing a more brash urban than traditional support but one of the oldest surviving clubs on the continent, founded back in 1911. Both have continental honours, with Kotoko twice winners of the old style African Champions Cup while Hearts were Champions League winners in 2000.

Ghana's league, which in December celebrated 20 years since it turned professional, resumed after a long hiatus last weekend, boosted by a US \$10-million sponsorship deal plus a separate television contract.

Kotoko have to try and organise league matches in between their campaign in the CAF Champions League, where they play again this weekend. They have a slender 2-1 lead from the first leg of their first round tie at home to Barrack Young Controllers FC from Liberia.

Hearts have no such obligations and so can concentrate solely on trying to catch their arch foes and again ensure a stimulating rivalry. ⚽



Top of the pile Asante Kotoko players in celebratory mood (archive).

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Hello Tomorrow





World Cup generates wealth

The World Cup is not an expenditure that has no chance of being paid back. It is an investment. Some 3.6 million jobs will be created.



World Cup job machine FIFA General Secretary Jerome Valcke (above left) and next to him minister Aldo Rebelo in Brasilia.

Aldo Rebelo

There are certainly people of good faith who, through their own convictions or ideological motivations, are against Brazil's hosting of the 2014 World Cup. With intellectual candour, there are people who believe that the investments made by the Federal Government would be better spent on health and education.

Thus arises a healthy discussion concerning what is urgent and what is deferrable, or between what is essential and what is superfluous.

From the radical viewpoint of austerity and even asceticism, one can argue that art, museums, philosophy courses, fashion, and leisure are superfluous and deferrable. Spiritual food can be scorned in favour of improvements in the reach and quality of material life.

For these devotees, it is an option; for everyone else – a false dilemma. The process of civilisation does not pit a museum against a hospital,

a stadium against a school, a romance novel against a kilo of beans. This is why the stridency and violence brought to the streets against the World Cup are distorting the debate.

There is no good faith or intellectual candour in the political party-aligned groups who are boycotting the FIFA tournament, ranting that it is diverting money into things which are superfluous or could be done later and which should be injected into the immediacy of health and education.

First, because the World Cup is not an expenditure that has no chance of being paid back. It is an investment and social equity incomparable to what is being put into the tournament. The World Cup has had a budget ceiling of R\$33 billion (US\$13.9 billion) since Brazil was selected in 2007. Independent consultancies estimate that an additional R\$112 billion (US\$47 billion) will circulate in the Brazilian economy between 2010 and 2014. Some 3.6 million jobs will be created and the

population will earn extra income of R\$63.48 billion (US\$26.7 billion).

The investments made by the Federal Government serve the people of Brazil. The World Cup lasts a month, but airports, ports, road bridges, rapid transport lanes, improvements to security and telecommunications will remain for the good of the public. Money transferred by the BNDES (Brazil's National Development Bank) to renovate or build modern and comfortable stadiums will be paid back, as with any loan.

Second, resources for "urgent" and "non-deferrable" social sectors are still growing. Between 2007 and 2013 education received R\$311.6 billion (US\$131.1 billion) and health – R\$447 billion (US\$188 billion).

The World Cup pays for itself, is profitable and generates wealth that will help to resolve secular and structural problems in Brazilian society. ☺

Aldo Rebelo is Brazil's Sports Minister

First Love



Place: **Dubai, Al Mafoot FC**

Date: **18 December 2005**

Time: **5.33 pm**



Triple punishment



Wipeout Gianluigi Buffon was sent off after bringing down Miroslav Klose.

The triple punishment of a red card, a penalty and a ban for a professional foul inside the area has triggered a heated debate.

Thomas Renggli

One of football's most engrained truisms is that if the referee blows his whistle, a foul has been committed. If the offence takes place inside the penalty area and denies a team a clear goalscoring opportunity, or involves violent conduct, then the perpetrator receives the triple punishment of conceding a penalty and receiving a red card and suspension. If the culprit is a goalkeeper, an additional disadvantage emerges, as an outfield player has to leave the pitch in order for the substitute keeper to be allowed on.

That scenario is precisely what ended defending Serie A champions Juventus' 12-game

winning streak a couple of weeks ago. Goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon brought down Lazio's German forward Miroslav Klose and was sent for an early shower with the game barely a quarter of the way through.

The Italian media consequently raged at the "disproportionate", "excessive" and "inappropriate" sanctions, widely neglecting to mention that the referee had no other choice in acting in accordance with the rulebook.

The debate surrounding triple punishment is a highly emotive one and the International Football Association Board (IFAB) addressed the issue at their meeting in March 2012. A suggestion to relax the rules and only award a red card for professional fouls – or if a clear goalscoring chance is denied – outside of the penalty area, was rejected on the basis that the idea was not yet fully formed and that a new approach should be looked at. The seemingly simple decisive questions – what constitutes a professional foul and the denying of clear goalscoring chance? – are in fact anything but.

Despite the insistence of renowned experts, there is not likely to be any modification to the

guidelines any time soon. At the next IFAB meeting in Zurich on 1 March, the subject has only been included under 'miscellaneous' in the topics for discussion. "We are looking for a solution but we still haven't found a better alternative," said Jonathan Ford, chief executive of The Football Association of Wales. Any change to the rules requires a three-quarter majority vote among the eight-person committee. ⚽

The weekly debate.

Anything you want to get off your chest? Which topics do you want to discuss? Send your suggestions to: feedback-theweekly@fifa.org.

Referees make mistakes and many red cards are a matter of opinion. Harming a team in such a dramatic way without considering mistakes would be disregarding the interest of fans, players and the sport and certainly not fair play. In some rare cases, however, it might be applicable to prevent violent action.

Domi2901, Germany

Punishment is perfectly fine, we need to address the issue with diving. Soccer is ridiculed in North America because of all the fake injuries. Start using Video Replays and straight red for fake dives.

Adham_1010, Canada

“A triple punishment is too harsh.”

The issue is whether a revision in the Laws of the Game contributes to its improvement and authenticity. A player now receives sporting/disciplinary and administrative sanctions for an infringement in the box. The administrative sanction applies for a match not yet played. As such, the pillar of equal basis is compromised and therefore I feel the ban should be abolished.

Adjvfun, Greece

The triple punishment can be readjusted to give room for fair play. I believe a ban should only be in that particular match, not extending to other matches. On red card its normal

it makes players to be cautioned and on the penalty I think it should be changed to free kick.

Philbad, Nigeria

Players have to be protected by the rules! Not only physically, but also sportingly! Fouls and any illegal try to stop a goal chance have to be punished strongly!

Lucasjeha, Brazil

I disagree with those punishments because the red card and penalty are usually a one-man (referee's) judgment on certain plays, which end up favoring one team and sometimes based on replays we can see they're wrong. A red card should be to replace the player that committed foul or two yellows and ban that player. I am yet to see a player banned and learn his lesson, especially in Spain's league. Banning should be harsher, soccer has very little protection gear and it puts players at a certain risk against aggressive players.

GAR6593, Honduras

Yes it makes sense for such to be given to a player like Suarez. I haven't forgiven him for handling the ball against Ghana at the last World Cup.

Enyimbasuper, Nigeria

A triple punishment is too harsh specially considering that the goal prevented by the foul is scored from the penalty spot the vast majority of the time. How about a conditional red card that's only given to the offending player if the penalty kick is missed? I don't even like the red cards shown when a defender is the last man. Red cards should be reserved for vicious tackles that endanger a player's physical integrity or for outright aggressions.

Loroussa, USA

I think the triple punishment do make sense. This prevents footballers from deliberately committing fouls. Issuing red cards is alright, giving a penalty and a ban but i dont think they should be fined after the game.

Wanlam21, India



The fine art of officiating

The phrase 'triple punishment' is based on a misinterpretation. It suggests a player is punished three times for an offence, but ignores the fact that the laws of football fundamentally allow no scope for discretion. Law 12 lists the ten offences to be punished by a direct free kick, from kicking an opponent, via charging or pushing, through to deliberate handball. The same clause stipulates the offences for which a sending off is due. These include serious foul play, violent conduct, spitting at an opponent, and denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball, or by another punishable offence.

If the foul takes place in the penalty area the referee must give a penalty instead of a free kick. That is the only difference compared to a red card shown anywhere else on the field. To put it another way: a red card anywhere on the field leads to a) a free kick, b) the player's dismissal and c) a suspension. And in the penalty area the free kick is a penalty.

It changes nothing about the facts of the incident (and the required sanctions) whether the player committing the offence is an outfield player or the goalkeeper. The laws apply equally to all.

However, their interpretation does demand intuition and sensitivity. Not every foul in the penalty area necessitates a sending off, yet referees do occasionally seem prone to this fallacy. By interpreting the laws depending on the situation referees could put an end once and for all to the vexed discussion about triple punishments. Making these distinctions is the fine art of officiating.

Best wishes, Sepp Blatter

“Players have to be protected by the rules.”

The fairy tale of Pago Pago

Idyllic movie poster The 92-minute film tracks the American Samoa national team's growing comradeship and belief. But a maiden win was essential for a happy ending.

For 13 long years American Samoa lost every game they played. But then a maverick Dutchman stepped up to the plate and formed a winning team from a bunch of footballing no-hopers. The fairytale story was captured by a film crew. "Next Goal Wins" is released in April.

Alan Schweingruber

If you're the kind of fan who likes a wild celebration to mark a footballing triumph, best not live on American Samoa. Your party opportunities will be strictly limited. There is no domestic championship, and the national team from Pago Pago hardly boasts a glittering record of success. The locals would rather not talk about it, but tucked away in a long list of defeats is the demoralising 31-0 thrashing at Australian hands from the year 2001. That remains the biggest defeat ever suffered by a national team in a competitive fixture, and the kind of thing you never forget. Goalkeeper Nicky Salapu is still traumatised.

Some 56,000 people live on the volcanic island in the South Pacific. It sounds idyllic, but the country is struggling in a number of ways. The economic situation is dire and the nation is heavily dependent on the USA. The superpower is obliged to subsidise its far-flung overseas territory, because unemployment is running at 30 percent. The inhabitants may sing lustily and eat voraciously, but they are not known for their love of strenuous physical activity. Indeed, American Samoa has the worst obesity rate in the world. Some two and a half years ago the island was the butt of the world's footballing jokes when the national team sunk to a nadir of last place in the FIFA World Ranking. Thirteen years as a member of the world

governing body produced nothing but defeats. American Samoa scored precisely two goals in this period, and one of them looked suspiciously offside.

Keepers, look away now

It's possible a fan somewhere around the globe may have sent a postcard to the southern seas: "Chin up! Don't let it get you down. We all have to start from the bottom." But some folk are passionate about their football, including Englishmen Mike Brett and Steve Jamison. They work in the film business but ran out of projects in the summer of 2011. And because both up-and-coming directors would rather work than loll about on the beach, they pricked up

NEXT GOAL WINS

“Next Goal Wins” is an Agile Films and Archer’s Mark production. The 92-minute documentary goes on global cinema release in April 2014. The title is derived from the ad hoc arrangement used in playgrounds and sports lessons, usually because time has run out, whereby the next goal wins the match regardless of the score at the time.

“Next Goal Wins” is directed by British duo Steve Jamison and Mike Brett.



A decade on from the nadir,



a new coach brings belief.

Mental strength Coach Thomas Rongen instilled a winning mentality in the national team.

their ears when they heard about the amateurs of American Samoa. The story was made for the movies. “Our intention was never to poke fun at the nation,” Jamison says. “The idea was to make a documentary showing miracles are possible.”

Goalkeepers suffering a crisis of confidence should probably avoid the opening sequence of “Next Goal Wins”. It comprises a five-minute montage of the 31 goals conceded to Australia. The man at the centre of the action is keeper Nicky Salapu. He dives to his left and right, attempts to reach unstoppable shots, prepares in vain for saves, stomps around his six-yard box, screams, swears, and cries. If he attends the film’s premiere in London, he might want to

bring a torch and arrive fashionably late for the showing.

The James Dean formula

Following the goal glut the film moves to an interview with Salapu, shot ten years after the record defeat. The experience patently still preys on the keeper’s nerves. Salapu struggles to maintain his composure. This man, a legend of the national footballing scene and a proud father, is emotionally scarred. Thirty-one goals against is the ultimate humiliation.

In Hollywood they call it the James Dean formula: a film cannot work without heroes. The English pair were not equipped with tens of millions of dollars from a California studio,

but despite their limited resources Brett and Jamison stuck to the basic principles of movie-making and created strong characters, including goalkeeper Salapu and defender Jaiyah Saelua, a Fa’afafine. Saelua was born male but grew up with the identity and in the role of a girl and then a woman – nothing especially unusual on Samoa where Fa’afafines are regarded as a third, autonomous gender. The interviews with this sensitive soul are moving. Comments Jamison: “We and the film crew were all hoping we’d meet interesting characters. Otherwise we might not have been able to make it.”



Sliding in style The former Ajax player demonstrates how to recover possession on a wet surface.



Welcome break The cameras kept rolling when the team cooled off in the ocean.

Movie on a knife edge

Up to this point in time the British creative team had done sterling work on their shoot. They had a fantastic plot, with superb landscapes and authentic leading characters. These are essential ingredients for a decent film, but then without warning, a man who had never been in any previous version of the script appeared on set and transformed a decent film into a minor masterpiece. The man's name is Thomas Rongen, a 55-year-old Dutchman. On first meeting him you wouldn't necessarily want him as your travelling companion on, say, an Antarctic expedition. Rongen is grim faced, physically wiry, and powerfully voiced, the US Soccer Federation's answer to a request from American Samoa. Rongen is an old school coach

and a gruff taskmaster. At first Jamison was anxious: "When we heard he'd been appointed we thought that was it for our film. I found out what he was like from the internet. What would we do if Rongen wouldn't let us film?"

A breath of fresh air

Rongen let them film, and he lived up to his reputation from the very first day of training. "If you don't do what I tell you I'll replace you! You'll never play for the team again!" he screams at a defender. You could comfortably cast the voice in a radio play, and Rongen uses all his vocal talents to make corrections, motivate and explain. The film shows him demonstrating how to slide tackle on a wet surface, and for all the world it looks like the first time

the players have witnessed this basic technique in close-up.

Rongen is clearly authoritarian but it comes from the heart, as it were. He learned the trade at the famous Amsterdam academy and played alongside Johan Cruyff. A polarising character in "Next Goal Wins", Rongen is also the star. At a team dinner the Dutchman reveals a sensitive side to his character and wins over the last lingering doubters. Rongen talks about his daughter, killed in an accident at 18, and appeals to his players' pride. "You're all young. Enjoy the present! And be glad about what you have."

Maiden victory brings happy ending

The plot works, and the film comes complete with a happy ending. The crew, coach and his



For the greatest win of their lives.



Countdown to kick-off American Samoa go through their pre-match rituals prior to meeting Tonga.



Association

Football Federation American Samoa

Ranking

196th

Joined FIFA

1998

First international

1983

Record since 1983

Played 41, won 2, drawn 1, lost 38

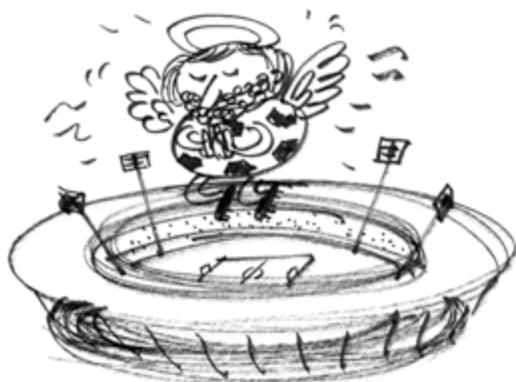
23-man squad worked a full month towards one special day, 22 November 2011: American Samoa met Tonga in a World Cup qualifier and won the hard-fought encounter 2-1, their first-ever victory in a FIFA-sanctioned match. The “Woman of the Match” honours went to defender Jaiyah Saelua for preventing not one but two Tonga goals. The cameras roll, the tears flow, and the players stumble on their words. And right at the end, just before the credits, goalkeeper Nicky Salapu manages to smile again. “Everything’s all right now,” he beams. “But one day I’d like to play Australia again. Just once. That’s what I’d like.” ⚽



game on or game over

all in or nothing
adidas.com/worldcup





Football's journey from hands to feet

Perikles Monioudis

Football was not always a highly regulated, tactical and occasionally – in the lowest amateur or youth leagues at least – blissfully silent sport for spectators to enjoy in peace. Instead, a fan's fascination with events on the pitch prompted him to join in, either by screaming at the top of his lungs or using virtually uncontrolled force and violence.

Back in the 10th century, playing formations were completely unheard of, as the pitch and goals could come in all sizes. The teams often comprised the entire lower-ranking male population of a village, such as farm boys and journeymen. The gates of the city fortifications served as goalmouths, and the sole aim of this traditional folk game was to get the ball into the opposing village before darkness fell, whether by carrying it, kicking it, rolling it or throwing it. There were no rules, and it was not unusual for competitors to be beaten, bitten or punched.

As the Industrial Revolution took hold, regimented factory work meant men from the lower classes had no time for outside pursuits such as football, and the bourgeoisie and upper classes took up the sport instead. In English public schools, where upper and upper-middle class children were taught, what was once a folk game became a fully-fledged sport with rules – albeit inconsistent ones at first – focusing on the virtues of self-discipline and assertiveness and thus providing essential training for a career in the military.

The Football Association was founded in London in 1863, prompting the separation of “association football” from “rugby football” and marking the moment at which football as we know it became solely focused on the feet and not the hands.

In America, the ball did not even make its way down to the feet until relatively recently. Without the intervention of an aristocracy, which would have prevented the game from being played with hands so useful for paid labour, American football trod a similar path to rugby and moved away from what the United States now calls soccer.

Indeed, American sports generally have a tactile allure, with basketball, golf and ice hockey all gaining particular widespread appeal in Europe before the continent's football leagues awoke from their slumber. The Premier League pioneered a modern brand of football that recognised generating excitement was key to the league's success, triggering a move away from the old kick-and-rush, *catenaccio*, man-to-man marking game in Europe towards a fluid, fast-paced, teamwork-based game that requires well-rounded footballers. Players such as Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp, who played at Arsenal between 1995 and 2006, and Italy's Gianfranco Zola, a Chelsea stalwart between 1996 and 2003, were at the forefront of this change in style.

As a result, English football recaptured its former glory, with Bergkamp and Zola acting as the modern-day equivalent of the 19th century public schoolmasters without whom we would all have been basketball fans instead. ⚽

The weekly column by our staff writers

Clubs with the most members

- 1 Benfica**
Members: 235,000
Sports: Football, basketball, cycling, handball, roller hockey, volleyball, table tennis (amongst others)
- 2 Bayern Munich**
Members: 223,985
Sports: Football, basketball, chess, gymnastics, handball, table tennis
- 3 Barcelona**
Members: 177,246
Sports: Football, athletics, baseball, basketball, figure skating, handball, hockey, ice hockey, roller hockey, rugby, wheelchair basketball
- 4 Manchester United**
Members: 151,079
Sport: Football
- 5 Arsenal**
Members: 130,000
Sport: Football
- 6 Schalke 04**
Members: 119,040
Sports: Football, athletics, basketball, handball, table tennis
- 7 Juventus**
Members: 111,100
Sport: Football
- 8 Internazionale**
Members: 110,000
Sport: Football
- 9 SC Internacional (Porto Alegre)**
Members: 100,135
Sport: Football
- 10 Boca Juniors**
Members: 100,000
Sports: Football, aerobics, artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, athletics, basketball, futsal, judo, karate, taekwondo, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling
- 11 Borussia Dortmund**
Members: 95,000
Sports: Football, athletics, boxing, handball, table tennis

Do you know of any bigger clubs? Email us at: feedback-theweekly@fifa.org

“We laugh about my Tourette’s in the changing room”

He once left Manchester United on bad terms, but Tim Howard has become indispensable at Everton. The 34-year-old is now aiming to make history with USA. Howard discusses a World Cup Group of Death, Tourette’s syndrome and an amazing 100-yard goal.

Tim Howard, seven years ago you left Manchester United on bad terms. Today you seem to be right at home at Everton.

Tim Howard: Yes, I really like it at Everton, I like the city and the fans. It was a great experience being at Manchester United but in 2005 the club signed Edwin van der Sar shortly after I’d extended my contract. At first that annoyed me but I don’t have a problem with it now, it’s just part and parcel of football. And Everton are a great club.

Manchester United are not doing so well at present. Do you keep in touch with your old club?

I still live in Manchester but I don’t really have any special contact there, no.

Do you think Sir Alex Ferguson could return to the touchline at Manchester United?

No I don’t think so. He immortalised himself at the club after such an incredible time there but he’s enjoying retirement now. I liked him a lot as a person and as a coach, it was an honour to play under him.

On YouTube there is a wonderful clip involving you from a game between Everton and Bolton.

You mean the goal from two years ago?

Precisely. It was only the fourth goal scored by a goalkeeper in Premier League history.

I get asked about that a lot. It was a windy evening in Liverpool and in the second half I kicked the ball out of my area. It landed twenty metres in front of the opposition’s goal, bounced over Bolton’s keeper and somehow landed in their net. It was completely unintentional. I felt sorry for [Adam] Bogdan, Bolton’s keeper, as I’ve conceded a goal that way myself. It’s not a nice feeling.

Earlier in your career you played for New York Metro Stars for five years and were back-up for

one of America’s footballing icons, Tony Meola. What was he like?

Tony was my mentor and he’s a great person. I learned a lot from him and I got into professional football thanks to him. He helped me so much as a young player by being open and honest with me, and by talking to me a lot. We still speak on the phone regularly, in fact just last week he called me. He works in television in the US now.

Football is still not very big in the USA. What is your take on that as a player?

Soccer’s in really good shape in the US, there are good foundations there and the fan culture’s good too. Our football has a good future even if it’s not the number one sport in the country.

The US national team like to attack. Are they expected to win the World Cup in Brazil?

No, not at all. We’re all really happy to be going there to represent the USA. We’ll just have to wait and see what happens. Reaching the quarter-finals at the 2002 World Cup really got our fans fired up and of course everyone wants to experience something like that again.

What is it like working with Jurgen Klinsmann?

Fantastic. The way he’s boosted the national team with his ideas and his inspirational style is unbelievable. It’s great fun working with him and we can only benefit from his experience at the World Cup. We’ll need that too in our group with Germany, Ghana and Portugal.

You have suffered from Tourette’s Syndrome ever since you were a child. How does it manifest itself?

I twitch, sometimes in my arm or in my neck. It varies. But fortunately I don’t have verbal outbursts, as a lot of people with

Tourette’s Syndrome do. Sometimes I get a cough, normally when I’m nervous.

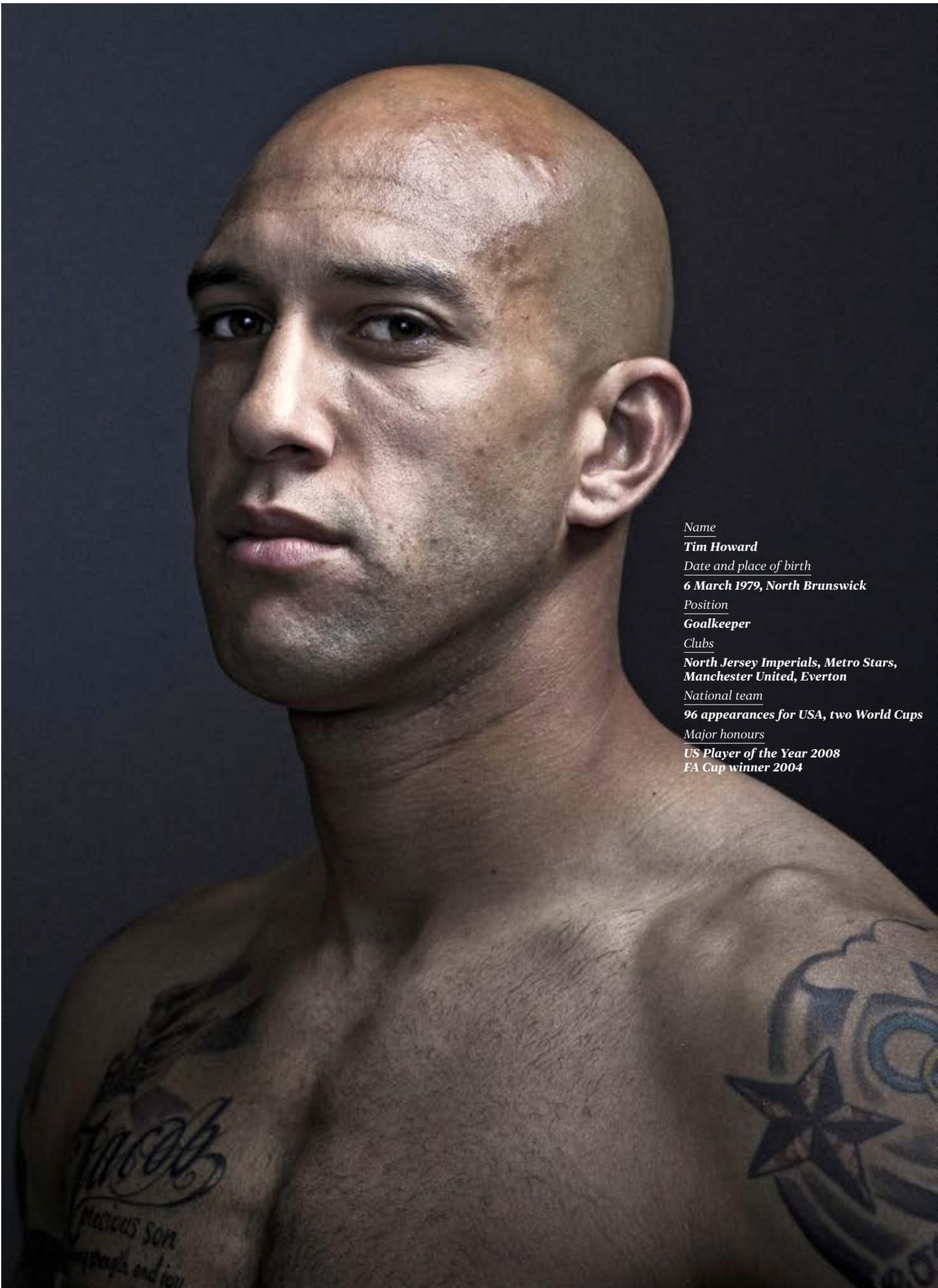
How does it affect your on-pitch performances?

It doesn’t. When I’m focused and an opponent is approaching my goal then I don’t twitch at all. The doctors can’t explain why. It’s like my level of concentration is stronger than the Tourette’s is.

Is your medical condition an issue within your team?

Everyone knows about it but no-one’s got a problem with it, quite the opposite actually. We all laugh about it in the changing room when my arm flinches again.

Tim Howard was speaking to Alan Schweingruber



Name

Tim Howard

Date and place of birth

6 March 1979, North Brunswick

Position

Goalkeeper

Clubs

**North Jersey Imperials, Metro Stars,
Manchester United, Everton**

National team

96 appearances for USA, two World Cups

Major honours

**US Player of the Year 2008
FA Cup winner 2004**

T H E N

Caracas,
Venezuela

**1969**

King Pele. In the build-up to the World Cup finals in Mexico, Brazil travelled to Venezuela, where Edson Arantes do Nascimento - Pele - received a frenetic welcome from a group of local youths. The world's greatest player never shied away from close contact with fans, but he was cold-blooded once he came up against opponents: he scored twice in Brazil's 5-0 thrashing of Venezuela. He went on to collect his third World Cup winner's medal in Mexico. "I played the best football of my career in 1970," he now says.

Sao Paulo,
Brazil



2012

Prince Neymar. Just like Pele, Neymar da Silva Santos Junior is a product of the FC Santos youth section. He is just as much of a draw for the youthful fans now as his illustrious predecessor 43 years earlier. The picture shows one of his final training sessions for his Brazilian club before his move to Europe, a step Pele never took. The youngsters capture the special moment with their idol using their camera-equipped mobiles, another sharp contrast to the Pele era: no-one ever successfully fitted a camera to a rotary dial telephone.



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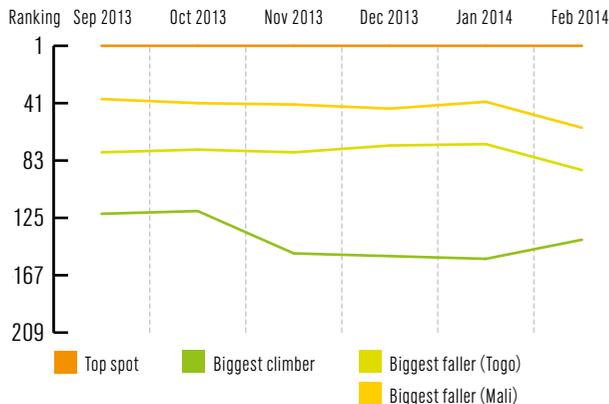


*Options may vary depending on market



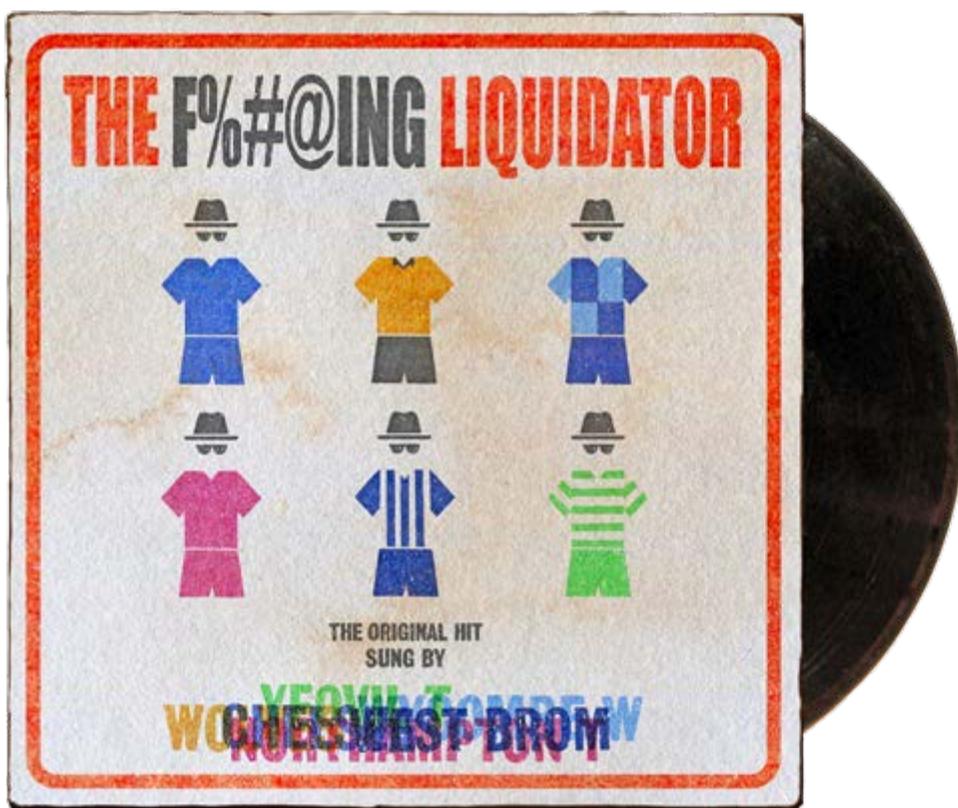
The Power to Surprise

Rank	Team	Change in ranking	Points
1	Spain	0	1506
2	Germany	0	1314
3	Argentina	0	1255
4	Portugal	1	1219
5	Colombia	-1	1211
6	Switzerland	2	1159
7	Uruguay	-1	1157
8	Italy	-1	1135
9	Brazil	1	1125
10	Netherlands	-1	1122
11	Belgium	0	1117
12	Greece	0	1084
13	USA	1	1044
14	Chile	1	1038
15	England	-2	1032
16	Croatia	0	966
17	Bosnia-Herzegovina	2	919
18	Ukraine	0	917
18	France	2	917
20	Denmark	5	907
21	Mexico	0	887
22	Russia	0	862
23	Côte d'Ivoire	-6	841
24	Ecuador	-1	831
25	Sweden	1	821
26	Algeria	1	819
27	Slovenia	2	799
27	Cape Verde Islands	8	799
29	Serbia	1	775
30	Armenia	8	771
31	Czech Republic	-3	760
32	Panama	4	754
33	Romania	0	746
34	Scotland	3	742
35	Costa Rica	-3	734
35	Venezuela	4	734
37	Ghana	-13	733
38	Egypt	-7	729
38	Iran	-4	729
40	Honduras	3	716
41	Peru	1	704
42	Turkey	3	703
43	Austria	4	678
44	Hungary	2	673
45	Tunisia	-1	656
46	Cameroon	4	626
47	Nigeria	-6	616
48	Iceland	1	613
49	Paraguay	2	603
50	Japan	-2	601
51	Wales	4	598
52	Montenegro	0	594
53	Australia	3	576
54	Slovakia	6	574
55	Albania	1	571
56	Israel	7	570
57	Uzbekistan	8	569
58	United Arab Emirates	5	565
59	Mali	-19	561
60	Norway	-1	557
61	Korea Republic	-8	556
62	Burkina Faso	-4	554
62	Guinea	-1	554
64	South Africa	-10	550
65	Finland	1	540
66	Senegal	2	529
67	Republic of Ireland	0	528
68	Libya	-6	523
69	Jordan	3	514
70	Poland	7	494
70	Bolivia	-1	494
72	Bulgaria	2	486
73	Sierra Leone	3	484
74	Morocco	0	454
75	Zambia	-6	450
75	Saudi Arabia	-2	450
77	Trinidad and Tobago	1	444



78	El Salvador	10	436
79	Haiti	0	430
80	Oman	-1	426
80	Jamaica	1	426
82	Belarus	1	423
83	FYR Macedonia	1	402
84	Uganda	3	400
85	Northern Ireland	5	397
86	Congo	-1	393
87	Gabon	-2	386
88	China PR	4	380
89	New Zealand	2	378
90	Togo	-19	376
91	Congo DR	-10	373
91	Estonia	2	373
93	Azerbaijan	1	372
94	Botswana	3	360
95	Angola	-6	356
96	Liberia	1	354
97	Benin	2	335
98	Cuba	2	334
99	Qatar	2	331
100	Zimbabwe	5	330
101	Ethiopia	-6	329
102	Lithuania	1	326
103	Georgia	-1	325
104	Niger	0	316
105	Central African Republic	2	310
106	Bahrain	4	308
107	Moldova	-11	305
108	Kenya	1	300
109	Kuwait	-3	299
110	Tajikistan	3	285
111	Latvia	5	282
111	Dominican Republic	3	282
113	Canada	-2	275
114	Iraq	1	269
115	Malawi	2	268
116	Tanzania	2	254
117	New Caledonia	4	252
118	Mozambique	2	251
118	Equatorial Guinea	-10	251
120	Luxembourg	2	247
121	Lebanon	2	243
122	Cyprus	3	240
123	Sudan	-4	236
124	Namibia	1	234
124	Burundi	0	234
126	Guatemala	-14	229
127	Philippines	0	219
128	Kazakhstan	0	214
129	Turkmenistan	4	203
130	Myanmar	-1	200
131	Malta	-1	199
132	Suriname	0	197
133	Syria	2	196
134	Rwanda	-4	195
135	Grenada	-1	194
136	Korea DPR	-1	191
137	Gambia	1	190
138	Afghanistan	0	184
139	Lesotho	-1	182
140	Tahiti	1	179
141	St Vincent and the Grenadines	14	177
142	Belize	10	176
143	Vietnam	0	172
144	Hong Kong	-7	170

144	Palestine	-2	170
146	Antigua and Barbuda	-2	164
147	Thailand	1	158
148	St Lucia	-2	155
148	Kyrgyzstan	-2	155
150	Liechtenstein	6	152
150	Singapore	-1	152
150	Malaysia	4	152
153	St Kitts and Nevis	-3	150
154	India	2	149
154	Guyana	-3	149
156	Laos	-3	146
157	Puerto Rico	-1	141
158	Indonesia	3	135
159	Mauritania	-14	127
160	Guam	2	123
161	São Tomé e Príncipe	-1	122
162	Chad	2	121
163	Maldives	0	120
164	Bangladesh	0	116
165	Pakistan	7	107
166	Dominica	1	103
167	Nicaragua	-8	102
168	Barbados	-2	101
169	Nepal	3	98
170	Chinese Taipei	-3	97
171	Sri Lanka	-2	90
172	Aruba	-2	87
172	Faroe Islands	-2	87
174	Solomon Islands	-2	86
175	Bermuda	0	83
176	Seychelles	0	67
177	Mauritius	0	66
178	Curaçao	0	65
179	Vanuatu	0	55
180	Mongolia	1	49
181	Fiji	1	47
182	Samoa	1	45
183	Guinea-Bissau	1	43
184	Swaziland	2	40
184	Bahamas	1	40
186	Yemen	-6	39
187	Madagascar	0	33
187	Montserrat	0	33
189	Cambodia	0	30
190	Brunei Darussalam	0	26
190	Timor-Leste	0	26
190	Tonga	0	26
193	US Virgin Islands	0	23
194	Cayman Islands	0	21
194	Papua New Guinea	0	21
196	British Virgin Islands	0	18
196	American Samoa	0	18
198	Comoros	0	17
198	Andorra	0	17
200	Eritrea	0	11
200	Macao	1	11
202	South Sudan	-1	10
203	Somalia	0	8
204	Djibouti	0	6
205	Cook Islands	0	5
206	Anguilla	0	3
207	Bhutan	0	0
207	San Marino	0	0
207	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	0



In the mood with “The Liquidator”

Hanspeter Kuenzler

Despite his much-publicised passion for the beautiful game, Bob Marley never penned a song about football. (Incidentally, the rumour that his battle with cancer was a consequence of a foul during a game of football is pure fabrication!).

Even without Marley's songs, however, the connection between reggae and football is deep-rooted. Aston "Family Man" Barrett (Bass) and his brother Carlton "Charlie" Barrett (Drums), two later "Wailers" were there when Kingston-based producer Harry "J" Johnson recorded the instrumental "The Liquidator" in 1969. Back then, the term "skin-head" didn't evoke the racist connotations it did in the late 70s. On the contrary, the shaven heads of white British youths

were a symbol of their renunciation of the hippie movement and admiration for the culture of the young Jamaicans who had moved to England. "The Liquidator" made it to the top of the charts. From there, it was just a short leap to the terraces: Fans of Wolverhampton Wanderers, Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion, Yeovil Town, Wycombe Wanderers and Northampton Town all claim to have belted out their own songs to the tune. Wolves' stadium DJ was forced to stop playing it due to the obscenity of some of the lyrics. Today, "The Liquidator" is played at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge five minutes before kick-off to get the crowd going. In an indirect way, Marley did eventually leave his mark on the world of football. "Tribute to the Reggae Boyz" was a compilation album

of football songs recorded by artists such as Jimmy Riley, Mega Banton, and General Tree to mark Jamaica's first FIFA World Cup appearance in 1998. As is only fitting, the album included a song by Bob. The lyrics to "Small Axe" carried a message of foreboding: "If you are a big tree, we are the small axe/sharpened to cut you down..." As it turned out, there was nothing remotely rough and ready about the Reggae Boyz' playing style in France. 🍌



Perikles Monioudis

In the most literal sense, football can be broken down into the words foot and ball. And while the foot gets the attention that a human limb deserves, the ball has long since led a miserable existence, viewed more often than not as a necessary evil. It has carried the threat of its presence right from the very beginning, for the game cannot be played without it. That might not seem like much, but in reality it is everything. As stated above: no ball, no football.

The item displayed in the above picture is an artifact from the FIFA collection, originating from the Orkney Islands off the coast of Scotland. Its outer shell consists of two colours, which give the impression that it is sparkling as it flies through the air, turning at great speed.

There is good reason to wonder whether it is even possible to kick a leather ball like this far through the air, especially if it soaks up water in wet and rainy conditions. In fact, such doubts are probably not far from the truth. And does a ball really need to sparkle? Is it not enough for a ball to reach its target in a discreet and modest fashion?

Of course it is enough, and yet the official footballs used for the last and the next World Cups, the Adidas Tango and the Adidas Brazuca, are both adorned with painted or printed designs, with one in black and the other in various colours. But it is not as they fly through the air that they change colour; it is the players who make them sparkle, for it is they who are responsible for lighting up the game.

A colourful game – irrespective of the end result – is always received well by fans. But ultimately, a football is only a good one if it helps you on your way to victory. Football really is that simple. 🍌

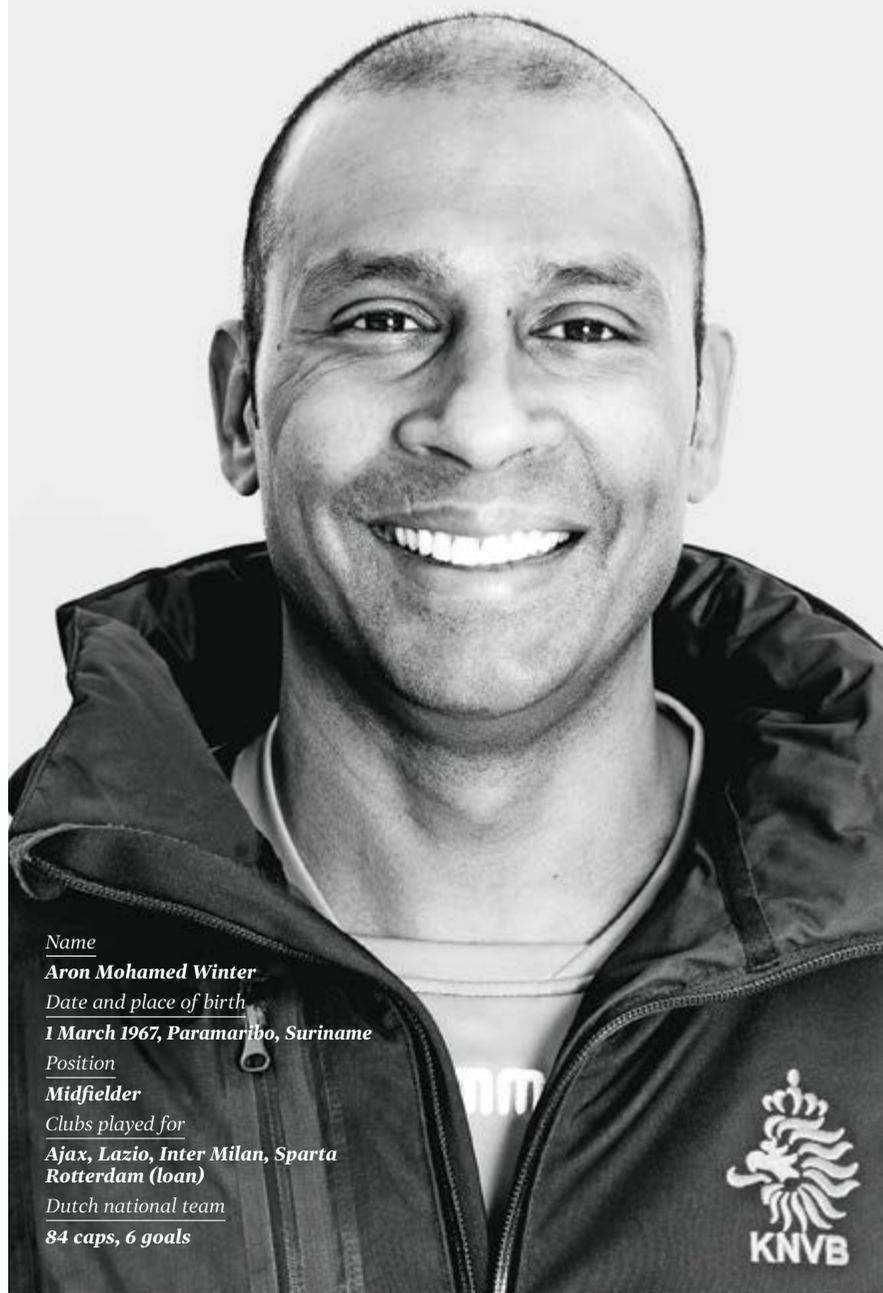
“I wasn’t prepared to give up”

As Lazio’s first black player, Aron Winter faced a battle against racism in Italy. He decided to stay and does not regret a single minute of his time in Serie A.

Like every kid who loves football, I kicked a ball around on the streets of my local neighbourhood almost as soon as I could walk. I always dreamed of being a football star, but it was purely fantasy; I never believed I would actually manage it.

I signed for Ajax at the age of 19. With Johan Cruyff as our coach, we won the KNVB Cup and the European Cup Winners’ Cup in 1987. Everything went perfectly for us that year; I was definitely in the right place at the right time. I made my debut for the Dutch national team the same year – it was an honour to be part of that team. Of course, I realised a huge dream when I was called up for the 1988 European Championship in Germany. I was the youngest player in the squad and, even though I didn’t complete a single game, it was incredible to be part of that group, to win the title and share that joy with my team-mates. Every footballer dreams of moments like that; it was wonderful.

In 1992, Ajax won the UEFA Cup and it became clear to me that I’d achieved all I could in the Netherlands. Every league has its limits. I wanted to prove myself in the best league in the world, and back then that meant Italy. When I received an offer from Lazio, I didn’t even have to think about it. Bear in mind that only three foreigners were allowed per team in those days, and someone had chosen me to be one of them. I was not prepared for what awaited me in Rome. When I made my debut, I was shocked to be booed, not because I played badly, but because I was black! Things were made even worse by the fact that I had the first name ‘Aron’ (originally a Jewish name) and came from Ajax, a club associated with the Jews. Ordinarily, anyone in that situation would have said “count me out”, but I wasn’t prepared to



Name

Aron Mohamed Winter

Date and place of birth

1 March 1967, Paramaribo, Suriname

Position

Midfielder

Clubs played for

Ajax, Lazio, Inter Milan, Sparta Rotterdam (loan)

Dutch national team

84 caps, 6 goals

give up. I wanted to show these people that they were misguided; I wanted to get out on the pitch and prove that skin colour is irrelevant. Racism should not and cannot resolve anything. The team and club gave me a lot of support, and the fans quickly realised that I could play well and got behind me.

The rapport I had with my team-mates was also extremely important to me during that time. Those team-mates included Paul Gascoigne, who was one of England’s all-time best footballers and a great person, and the big Italian stars I played with at Inter, such as Roberto Baggio, Giuseppe Bergomi and Gianluca Pagliuca. I really was very happy in Italy and would have ended my career there, but my mother fell ill and it became clear that I needed to go home. I had various offers, but I decided to return to my home club, Ajax.

Football is still my life. I trained as a coach and spent some exciting times in Canada, where I learned a lot. I don’t know what the future will bring, but one thing is certain: football will continue to play a big part in it, whether as a coach, on the commercial side or simply as an ambassador of this wonderful sport. ❄️

As told to Sarah Steiner

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

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Tears of joy, a philatelic slip-up and a remedy for thin air – test your knowledge!



① **What do these four gentlemen have in common? They all...**

- N** ... currently top the scoring charts in their respective leagues.
L ... used to play for Manchester United.
G ... have the star sign Virgo.
F ... will not feature at the World Cup in Brazil.

② **Once again the Ballon d'Or went to a player from La Liga, but not to a Spaniard. How long is it since a Spanish national won the World Player award?**



- A** 0–5 years **I** 5–15 years
O 15–50 years **U** 50–500 years

③ **At which stadium is the oxygen concentration in the air at its lowest?**

- D** Maracana
T Wembley
R Azteca
M About the same everywhere



④ **The stamps show Brazil battling for the World Cup – but in the wrong shirts. When?**



- E** 1950 **I** 1958 **O** 1970 **U** 1998

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

Inspiration and implementation: cus

Please email your answers to feedback-theweekly@fifa.org
by **19 February 2014**. Correct submissions for all quizzes received by
11 June 2014 will go into a draw to **win two tickets to the FIFA World
Cup Final on 13 July 2014**.

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



I've often wondered where the word 'soccer' comes from. Can you shed some light on this?
Rupen Boyadjian, Yerevan (Armenia)

Answered by Thomas Renggli, chief editor: This expression is most commonly used in countries where other forms of "football" are played, such as the USA (American football), Canada (Canadian football) or Australia (Australian rules football). It is derived from the word 'association' and refers to any game played in accordance with the rules of The Football Association in England. The term was first used in Oxford in the 1880s. Today, "association football" is normally known as "football" in Great Britain.

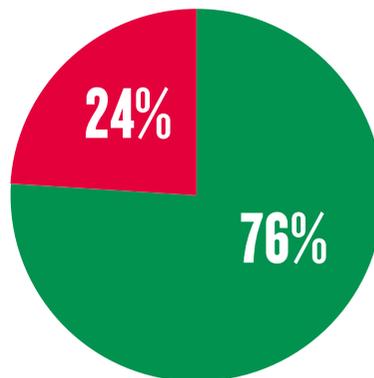


Do we need a video arbitration?

Basel's Taulant Xhaka brings down opponent Alexander Gerndt in a top-of-the-table clash between Basel and Young Boys in the Swiss Super League, forcing the Swedish striker to miss the rest of the season with a serious foot injury. Xhaka received a yellow card for the offence. Should the league be able to increase punishments retrospectively? Send your opinions to: feedback-theweekly@fifa.org

LAST WEEK'S POLL RESULTS:

Will Atletico Madrid be champions?



■ YES
 ■ NO

THE CRISIS MEETING

8 1/2



Hamburg's crisis meeting following the club's 0-3 defeat to Hertha Berlin lasted for 8 1/2 hours, but ultimately produced no outcome. The only Bundesliga club to have remained in the top flight since the league's inception in 1963 is flirting with relegation after a run of six consecutive defeats. Even refreshments were below par, with Chairman Carl Edgar Jarchow providing potato salad and sausages at the meeting in question.

THE TAX HAVEN

50



AS Monaco have paid the French Football Federation in millions of Euro to keep their tax residency in the principality. And the investment is well worth it according to "Le Parisien", the French newspaper that has calculated the amounts paid by Monaco and Paris Saint Germain for their star players. Falcao (whose monthly salary is €1.2 million) costs Monaco a gross monthly sum of €1.27 million, whereas PSG shell out €2.33 million per month for Ibrahimovic - even though he only takes home €807,000.

THE GOALSCORING KEEPER

113



Unlike most goalkeepers, Rogerio Ceni is used to scoring. The Sao Paulo shot-stopper is a fantastic free-kick taker and has also notched up almost half of his 113 goals from the penalty spot. Paraguayan Jose Luis Chilavert (62 goals) and Colombian Rene Higuita (41) occupy second and third place respectively in the all-time ranking list of top-scoring goalkeepers.