

THE **FIFA** WEEKLY

Fédération Internationale de Football Association – Since 1904



P E L É

SEPP BLATTER:
"STOP THE AMATEUR
DRAMATICS"

BOXING DAY:
BRITAIN'S FESTIVAL
OF FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN:
MIXED EMOTIONS
IN SPAIN

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Pele – The greatest player in footballing history

No player since has been able to match his success, his ability to enrapture fans or his embodiment of the beautiful game. Raised in humble surroundings, Edson Arantes do Nascimento went on to become a symbol for an entire nation and is the only player to have won the World Cup three times. Furthermore, he was voted as player of the century and his goalscoring feats earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records. We spoke with the sporting icon.

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Morocco celebrates, Bayern triumph

Raja Casablanca’s progress into the final of the Club World Cup was one of the biggest surprises in world football over the past 12 months. However, Bayern Munich went on to win the title, their fifth of the calendar year.

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“The Netherlands are too inexperienced to win the title”

Former Dutch forward Roy Makaay’s calm, modest demeanour belies the fact that he was once the most expensive footballer in the world and made waves at Bayern Munich. He looks back on his playing career as well as casting an eye forward to the 2014 World Cup.

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World Cup countdown: mixed feelings in Spain

After the group stage draw pitted Spain against Chile, Australia and the Netherlands, the reigning world champions are confident but wary. Nevertheless, national team coach Vicente del Bosque is remaining level-headed.

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Boxing Day – a very British tradition

The major European leagues take a break between Christmas and New Year, with the notable exception of the professional game in Britain. The traditional round of fixtures on Boxing Day ushers in the most intense and popular period on the calendar, but not everyone is delighted with the frenzied holiday schedule.

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Senegal making progress

Senegal may have missed out on qualification for the 2014 World Cup, but under national team coach Alain Giresse they are set to take a big leap forward, thanks in part to the Performance Programme.

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Stop the time-wasting

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter is irritated by simulation and play-acting on the pitch and calls on referees to enforce the existing regulations.

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“We had to borrow money”

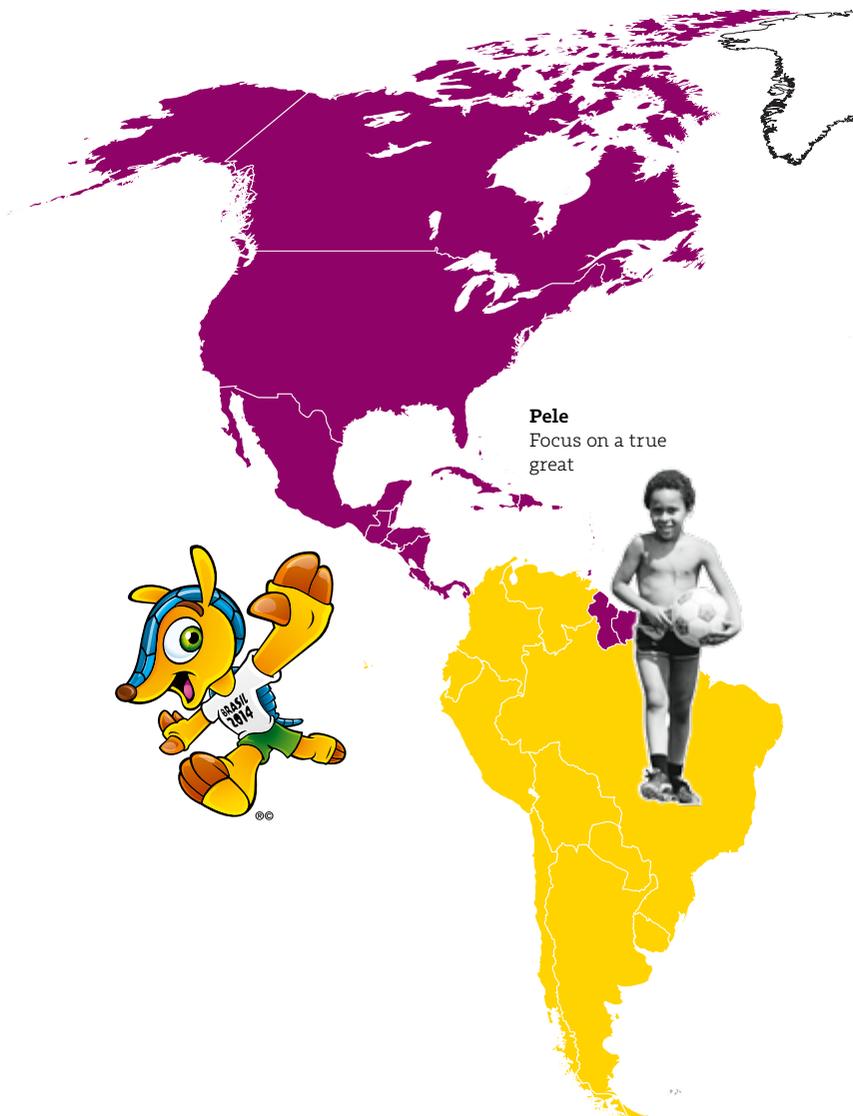
Escaping Kosovo. In Turning Point, Fatmire Alushi, star of Germany’s women’s national team, reflects on her life in 1992.



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Fatmire Alushi
Refugee turned figurehead



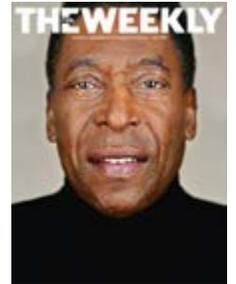
Roy Makaay
speaks out



Iajour Mouhssine
Riding high at the Club World Cup



Karim Ansarifard
Spearheading Iran's ascent in the FIFA Ranking



Pele, a living legend
The world's best-ever player remains a charming and approachable character. On the cover: Pele by top photographer Martin Schoeller.



Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup
28 to 29 May 2014, Zurich



FIFA World Cup
12 June to 13 July 2014, Brazil



U-20 Women's World Cup
5 to 24 August 2014, Canada



FIFA Club World Cup
10 to 20 December 2014, Morocco

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



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Owens, Ali, Pele

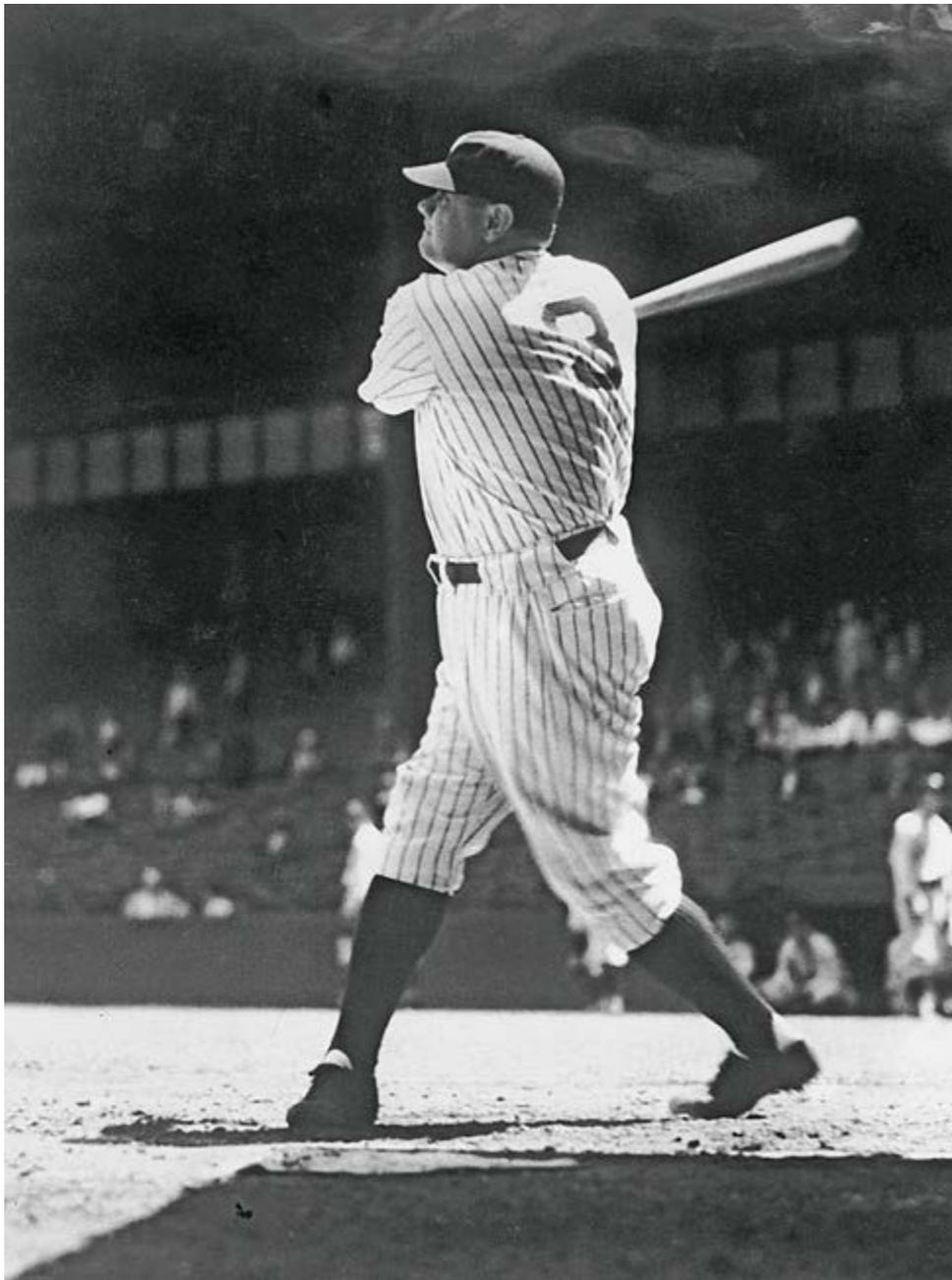
Thomas Rengli

The debate as to the greatest sports personality of all time is as old as it is controversial. You won't obtain a definitive answer even by putting it to a proper democratic vote. Opinions around the world simply differ too greatly, and are heavily dependent on your generation and sporting discipline. The track and field community discuss the merits of Jesse Owens, Carl Lewis and Usain Bolt. The swimmers would settle on the greatest Olympian of them all, Michael Phelps... or would they? What about Mark Spitz or Johnny Weissmuller? Canadians might unanimously select ice hockey legend Wayne Gretzky. Basketball fans would say it can only be Michael Jordan, but the baseball community would argue for Babe Ruth, while golfers would back Tiger Woods. Cricket connoisseurs around the world might put forward Sir Don Bradman. And in any case, they are all eclipsed by boxing icon Muhammad Ali and king of tennis Roger Federer. Or are they?

Football puts the question as to who is the world's best on an annual basis, with the next answer due at the Ballon d'Or Gala on 13 January in Zurich. Will it be Messi, Ronaldo or Ribery?

However, the World Player accolade only represents a snapshot in time. FIFA has already made up its mind about the greatest of them all by naming Pele as its Player of the Century. The International Olympic Committee even went a step further by awarding the Brazilian wizard the title of Athlete of the Century.

The facts speak for themselves. Pele scored 1,281 goals in 1,363 matches and won 26 trophies in 17 years with his home club Santos. He is the only player in history to win the World Cup three times. He was born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, given the name Pele by his father and hailed as "O Rei" by the fans. Pele is one of a small handful of sports personalities able to maintain their fame way beyond the end of



The greatest? George Herman 'Babe' Ruth (1m 87cms) won the World Series seven times.

their active careers. Nor is the story over yet: even at the age of 73 he is as much in demand as ever, almost as if he had recently scored the winning goal in the World Cup Final. He symbolizes Brazil's yearning for a sixth world crown more and better than anyone else. Pele is the face of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

The FIFA Weekly had the honour of meeting the king of football at home for a face-to-face conversation. Pele exuded all the qualities that made him the most famous footballer ever: unencumbered ease, classy charisma, and play-

fulness. He explained why the Brazil national team brings tears to his eyes even now, revealed he would actually rather have been known as Edson, and picked out the greatest moment in his career. More than anything else, fully 36 years after his retirement, he showed he has lost nothing of the aura of a world champion.

Sports people are often advised to quit when they're at the top. If this advice also held true for sportswriters, it might be time for me to take (early) retirement. It is impossible to imagine a greater interviewee than Pele. ☺





**“I PLAYED MY
BEST FOOTBALL
IN 1970”**

Three-time World Cup winner, scorer of over a thousand goals, the king of Brazil: nobody has left a more indelible mark on football than Pelé. Even at the grand old age of 73, the game's greatest talent is still in the spotlight, moving with typical grace and elegance. The FIFA Weekly were able to conduct a personal conversation with a true legend of world sport.

The entire world knows you as Pelé, but your full name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento and in Brazil you are also known as "O Rei" ("The King"). How do you prefer to be addressed: Mr. Pelé or "Your Highness"?

My father gave me the name Pelé – short and snappy. There was no title or salutation that came with it.

Why Pelé then?

The word 'pé' in Portuguese means foot, so my father took the name from that. But I was also proud to have been christened Edson, after Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb. When I was born, electric lamps began to be used in the mines in Brazil for the first time, so my parents named me Edson because of that, although that part of my birth certificate actually got lost. But today I'm happiest living with the name Pelé.

Your name has also become a brand.

Yes, you could say that. I run my own company, am always on the go and receive requests to appear at marketing or advertising events on a daily basis. But I'm selective with those and place clear limits on what I do. I would never lend my name to alcohol or tobacco products, or political causes.

It is now 36 years since you retired, but you are still one of the highest authorities in football. So that surely means you can tell us who will win the 2014 World Cup?

I can't tell you who'll win the World Cup unfortunately, but I can tell you who I want to win it: Brazil, obviously. I suffer with *A Seleção* as if I were still playing. The situation reminds me of my father. After the World Cup final in 1950 – I was nine at the time – he cried uncontrollably. I asked him what had happened, and he answered that Brazil had lost the World Cup to Uruguay. I don't want to be crying next summer.

The great Pelé cries from time to time?

Yes, and it doesn't take much. But it's not football that makes me cry. I'm moved to tears when I see people living in poverty or children who are sick. When I went around the world on a project for UNICEF helping underprivileged children, there were times when the emotions were so strong I had to collect myself. I was supposed to be a role model of strength and determination for them, but it's harder to be that if you're crying.

Does the fate of these children move you because you see a part of yourself in them?

Yes, in a certain way. I also grew up in very poor surroundings, but God blessed me with the talent of being able to play football. I'll always be grateful for that.

The expectations on the host nation before a World Cup are tremendous. Is it possible to block that pressure out?

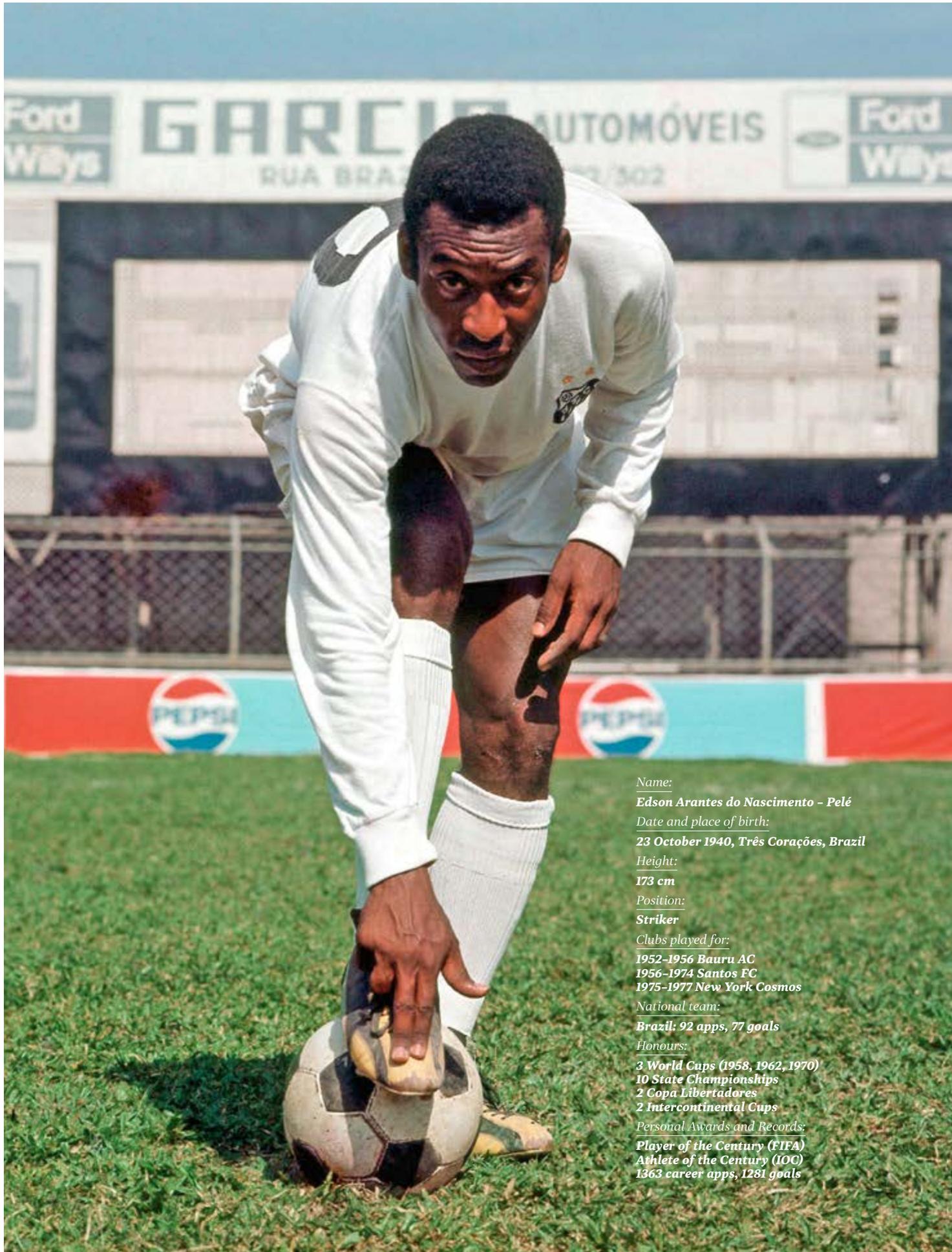
It's part and parcel of top-level sport. The players showed at the Confederations Cup that they can deal with immense pressure. They're also used to that type of pressure at their clubs.

Who do you consider to be Brazil's biggest competitor for the World Cup?

There are lots of good teams – Spain, Italy, Germany, Chile – and obviously Argentina. Messi could be a big factor.

"Pelé was one of the few who contradicted my theory: instead of 15 minutes of fame, he will have 15 centuries."

Andy Warhol, Artist



Name:
Edson Arantes do Nascimento - Pelé

Date and place of birth:
23 October 1940, Três Corações, Brazil

Height:
173 cm

Position:
Striker

Clubs played for:
1952-1956 Bauru AC
1956-1974 Santos FC
1975-1977 New York Cosmos

National team:
Brazil: 92 apps, 77 goals

Honours:
3 World Cups (1958, 1962, 1970)
10 State Championships
2 Copa Libertadores
2 Intercontinental Cups

Personal Awards and Records:
Player of the Century (FIFA)
Athlete of the Century (IOC)
1363 career apps, 1281 goals

AP/Keystone

1970. After winning the World Cup for the third time Pelé poses for the cameras in Santos kit and golden boots.



“I was proud of being christened Edson.”

Pelé

From a Brazilian’s point of view, an Argentina victory at the World Cup would be the worst-case scenario, similar to that defeat against Uruguay in 1950.

Yes, it wouldn’t be ideal for us. But Argentina have a very strong team with lots of experienced players, which is what you need at a World Cup.

Do you think it is an advantage that many of Brazil’s players ply their trade in Europe?

Yes, absolutely. Playing there means they’re used to football played at a fast pace, as well as the immense pressure that goes with it. That will help them at the World Cup.

The man carrying the nation’s hopes in 2014 will be Neymar, who moved to Barcelona in the summer at the age of just 21. Would you have advised him to make that move so early?

It was the only logical decision he could make. He will gain huge experience there, and that could be crucial when it comes to the World Cup in July.

In your day it was more difficult to earn a transfer to Europe. Did that disappoint you? Would you like to have played at a top European club?

No, never. I had a lot of offers from Europe, such as Real Madrid or AC Milan. But for me, Santos was always the best place to be, both on and off the pitch. I could have earned more money in Madrid for example, but money wasn’t that important for me. I wanted to play where I felt most comfortable. Then at the end of my career I played abroad anyway, at the New York Cosmos between 1975 and 1977.

You won the World Cup three times, aged 17, 21 and 29. How do those three triumphs compare to one another?

That’s a good question. When I was 17, everything was like a dream. The World Cup in Sweden in 1958 was my very first trip to Europe. I played with the freedom of someone new to the game, and everything seemed to

happen by itself, almost automatically. In 1962 I was injured going into the tournament, didn’t manage to play in all the games in Chile and wasn’t as dominant as I was four years earlier. My third World Cup in England in 1966 ended in massive disappointment: I got injured and we went out at the group stages, and to be honest I wanted to retire from the national team. But God told me that it wasn’t yet the time to stop. At the World Cup in 1970 I played the best football of my life and it was the crowning moment of my career. I would probably have also made the squad in 1974; I was in great form and had been top scorer with Santos in 1973. But I felt it was time for things to start winding down.

Your son Edinho also became a professional footballer, although he became a goalkeeper. What did you do wrong when you raised him?

(laughing) Don’t say anything against goalkeepers! My son grew up in the United States and decided to become a footballer relatively late. He broke through as a professional at the age of 24 and actually ended up as a coach at Santos, coaching Neymar for a time. After that he had to give up playing due to persistent knee injuries.

In most sports, discussions about the greatest of all time go on endlessly, but not in football. Pelé is the greatest, without a shadow of a doubt. How do you explain this phenomenon and how were you able to play for over a decade at the very top level of world football?

I always trained hard and lived very sensibly. There a lot of distractions for young players, and you can only become a great player if you don’t succumb to them. I was always aware that my talent was a gift – a gift that I had to consciously nurture. I always lived for football, and that was probably the biggest reason for my success, although there was definitely some luck involved as well. My father was a great footballer too, but he had to retire because of a knee injury, which was difficult for our family as we had a lot of financial problems after that.

“Pelé played football for 22 years, and in that time he did more to promote world friendship and fraternity than any other ambassador anywhere.”

J.B. Pinheiro, the Brazilian ambassador to the United Nations



1963. Pelé as a nervous spectator at Wembley during an England v Brazil international.

“His great secret was improvisation. Those things he did were in one moment. He had an extraordinary perception of the game.”

Carlos Alberto Torres, Brazilian player



1966. Shooting practice during the World Cup



1970. The crowning glory as Pelé leads Brazil to their third World Cup in Mexico.

“Pelé was so focused on winning the Trophy. It was like he knew it was his destiny. He was like a child waiting for Santa Claus.”

Mario Americo, Brazil’s masseur, on Mexico 1970



1970. Celebrations following the 4-1 victory over Italy in the World Cup Final.

“I told myself before the game, ‘he’s made of skin and bones just like everyone else’. But I was wrong.”

Tarcisio Burgnich, the Italy defender who marked Pelé in the Mexico 1970 Final



1982. “Overseas development” at a soccer camp for American school kids.

“The greatest player in history was Di Stefano. I refuse to classify Pelé as a player. He was above that.”

Ferenc Puskas, Hungarian footballer and manager



2012. Pelé with Neymar and Sepp Blatter at the Ballon d'Or Gala in Zurich.

My name is Ronald Reagan, I'm the President of the United States of America. But you don't need to introduce yourself, because everyone knows who Pelé is."

Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States



"The difficulty, the extraordinary, is not to score 1,000 goals like Pelé - it's to score one goal like Pelé."

Carlos Drummond de Andrade, Brazilian poet

"In some countries they wanted to touch him, in some they wanted to kiss him. In others they even kissed the ground he walked on. I thought it was beautiful, just beautiful."

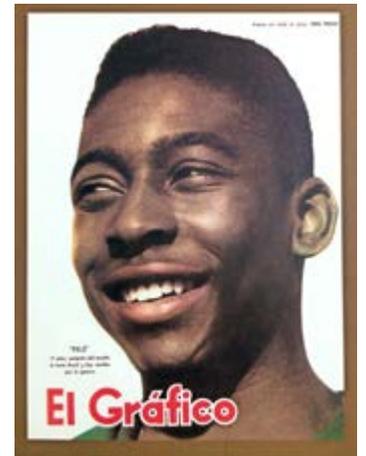
Clodoaldo, Brazilian player



1957. Pelé after a game for his home club Santos.



1966. Pelé in acrobatic action during a friendly against Belgium at the Maracana.



“I always trained hard and lived a disciplined life. There are lots of temptations in the way of a young player. You can only become a great by resisting them.” *Pelé*

That was when you began cleaning shoes, correct?

Yes. Even my brother, who’s now a lawyer, and my sister, who married a footballer, had to help out. I earned about 15 dollars a month cleaning shoes; my first contract at Santos – which I signed at 14 – paid me 200 dollars a month. That doesn’t sound like much today, but back then it was a lot of money.

Who do you believe is the best player in the world at the moment: Messi, Ronaldo, Ibrahimovic or Ribery?

You can’t really compare those four players with one another, so it’s almost impossible to answer that question. In their style of play and the way they interpret their roles on the pitch, Ronaldo and Ibrahimovic are the most comparable. Ribery is a classic winger and Messi simply can’t be compared with anyone.

Do any of those four play to the type of standards you set?

Ronaldo, Ribery and Ibrahimovic are different types of player, but all attacking like me. However, in terms of the role he plays in his team, Messi is the one whose style is the most similar to mine.

Many players move into coaching when they hang up their boots, but not you.

I still get a lot of offers and could have signed a contract to be a coach a thousand times. But I prefer to stay out of it. As a coach you’re constantly under pressure and influenced by external factors like the players and the wishes of the president. If the players stop listening to you, you’re powerless, and I wouldn’t like that at all. On top of that you also get older more quickly because of the constant stress of the job.

And finally, what do you wish for in the year 2014?

I want Brazil to embrace the opportunity it has been given at the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games. We want to show the world the positive things we have here: our love of life, our spirit and our beautiful country. Events like those during the Confederations Cup, when a sporting event was hijacked for political demonstrations, shouldn’t be allowed to happen again.

Interview: Thomas Renggli



1980. But would he have become equally famous as a goalkeeper?

Morocco reaches fever pitch



Raja Casablanca may only have finished as runners-up but fans and players alike still celebrated their achievement.

Morocco under the Club World Cup spell: Raja Casablanca's progress to the final was one of the biggest surprises in world football over the last 12 months.

Alan Schweingruber, Marrakesh

In the immediate aftermath of Raja Casablanca's 2-0 Club World Cup final defeat against Bayern Munich, the Moroccan players may have affected an air of sadness, but disappointment was by no means the overriding emotion. Instead, pride in their achievements was clearly visible in their eyes. They had come a long way at the tournament and so much had happened in the country over the previous 11 days that the fact that Raja failed to cause a major upset against the best team in the world could not dampen their spirits.

Of course, the \$5m USD prize money would have been readily received and the trophy would have had pride of place in a cabinet already housing 11 league championships, but the

sense of satisfaction and pride was unshakable, regardless of the final outcome.

Given the backdrop of events leading up to Raja Casablanca's participation at the competition, their exploits were all the more remarkable. After losing the domestic cup final to El Jadida at the start of November, the club was in a rut which was deepened by a 1-0 league loss to the same opponents that pushed Raja down to mid-table. With the club in a tailspin, Mohamed Fakhir, who had guided the side to the league title the previous season and who had been on the playing and coaching staff uninterrupted from 1972 to 1999, was relieved of his duties as head coach. As preparations for a Club World Cup go, things could not have been much worse. Yet the fresh impetus provided by new coach Faouzi Benzarti paid dividends. As rank outsiders at the tournament, and only actually

participating as the host country's representatives, Raja first beat Auckland City before overcoming Mexican side Monterrey and then taking Atletico Mineiro's scalp in the semi-final on 18 December.

As the tournament progressed, the spectacle on the streets and villages throughout Morocco became increasingly impressive. There were all-night parties in Casablanca following the team's first two victories and after the quarter-finals the competition took on a carnival atmosphere for the nation's 33 million inhabitants. The epicentre was Marrakesh, venue for one of the semi-finals as well as the title-decider, with the city becoming a throbbing hub of noise for days on end. The festivities started as early as nine o'clock, with scooters and cars racing aimlessly through the streets, trailing green flags behind them while the drivers relentlessly honked their horns as their passengers' euphoric cries of "Raja" filled the air. When the winter sun was at its strongest, at around two o'clock in the afternoon, the city really began to simmer. Barking dogs, snorting horses, muezzins' calls, crying babies, policemen's whistles, wailing sirens and screeching tyres added their notes to an already imposing cauldron of noise. Traffic jams

All-conquering Bayern

“As the tournament progressed, the spectacle on the streets became increasingly impressive.”



Five titles in one year: Bayern defender Dante leads the celebrations after the Club World Cup triumph.

formed around the stadium and people celebrated among the rows of hanging meat, spice stalls, snake charmers and belly dancers in the famous medina. The city was a blend of chaos and ecstasy.

The good news is that South Americans know how to party just as much as Africans, which bodes well for the World Cup in Brazil in just over five months' time. And just a few months later, in December, the world's best club sides will once again jostle for supremacy, rounding off a memorable year in Morocco. 🍀



CLUB WORLD CUP 2013 RANKING

1. Bayern Munich (UEFA)
2. Raja Casablanca (CAF)
3. Atletico Mineiro (CONMEBOL)
4. Guangzhou Evergrande (AFC)
5. Monterrey (CONCACAF)
6. Al-Ahly (CAF)
7. Auckland City (OFC)

Sven Goldmann

After last season's Champions League final, with Bayern Munich's treble two-thirds complete and only the DFB Cup title-decider left to play, Thomas Muller could not avoid getting caught up in the moment. "The coach should be glad he's 68 and not 25," said the Bayern attacker. "Otherwise he'd have to retire now after the season we've had."

Jupp Heynckes is not renowned for his way with words but after crowning his coaching career with a 2-1 triumph over Borussia Dortmund in the all-German continental decider at Wembley, he nevertheless produced a couple of soundbites that were both articulate and feisty in equal measure: "I'm leaving my successor with a perfect team," he said. "Bayern will have to show whether or not they can continue like this."

The Bavarians' astonishingly successful year, which culminated in them lifting the Club World Cup trophy, becomes all the more apparent in their impressive statistics: five titles, 50 victories from 56 competitive matches and

only three defeats. Several figures emerged as worthy of particular praise: Dutch winger Arjen Robben made amends for missing a penalty in the 2012 Champions League final against Chelsea by netting the late winner at Wembley this time around, while Munich natives Bastian Schweinsteiger and Philipp Lahm, long accustomed to domestic success, finally tasted continental glory after losing two finals in the previous three years. Yet in retiring from the game on the back of an all-conquering treble-winning campaign, Heynckes stands out from the crowd.

Pep Guardiola later paid thanks to his predecessor after his first major success at the club, a UEFA Super Cup triumph made all the sweeter by the fact it came over a Chelsea side coached by Jose Mourinho. "Many thanks to Jupp Heynckes for the opportunity to play in this final," Guardiola said. "This title is for him and for the fans." 🍀

“This Dutch team lacks the experience to win the World Cup”

Roy Makaay was feared by defenders for his ruthless finishing and adored by coaches for his professionalism. The man who was once Bayern Munich’s most expensive signing talked to The FIFA Weekly about soft skills, pressure and appropriate lifestyles.

As a player you were considered a serious, unassuming and unproblematic character. It’s hardly the stereotype of the modern professional footballer.

Roy Makaay: No-one was ever going to make me change. I am who I am and I’m not interested in playacting. I adopted a serious approach to being a professional footballer. I took it as read in fact. If you intend to get anywhere you have to sacrifice everything else for the cause. Your body takes the most punishment as a footballer so it’s vital to pay it enough attention.

Is it true that you’ve never been drunk?

It is. Since I hung up my boots three years ago, I must say I’m happy to spend a little longer in a restaurant and I do enjoy the odd glass of wine, but I’m not the kind of guy who will ever really cut loose.

What do you expect from your U-19 juniors at Feyenoord in Rotterdam?

I want them to apply themselves and perform when we work together towards our goals. But I have no problem with the lads going out and enjoying themselves from time to time. It’s good for them.

What did you take away from your time with Bayern?

I was born with a serious approach to life. I learned other things at Bayern. Lots of people at the club were very valuable to me in their own way. They had plenty of social or soft skills. I’ll never forget how well the folk in Munich helped me settle in.

Can you tell us a bit more about that?

You feel good about being at Bayern from the very first day. You sense the club doing everything in its power to keep you happy.

I arrived in 2003 from La Coruna but I was way behind in training and I was under pressure, even more so when I failed to score in the first few matches. But the people at the club supported me, backed me to the hilt, and made sure I was okay every day. The club isn’t part of the global elite by accident. It’s the product of exceptionally good work.

Are you still in touch with Bayern?

Not regularly. But if I give them a call to enquire about match tickets they always make me feel very welcome. For example, I attended the Champions League game against Manchester City on 10 December last year.

You cost Bayern 19 million euros and were the club’s most expensive signing at the time.

What must it be like for Gareth Bale at Real Madrid?

On the whole, players are best advised to ignore all the drama surrounding transfer fees. Clubs are responsible for doing business, not the players. I simply focused on trying to score goals. Everything else basically had nothing to do with me.

The Dutch national team has a reputation for swashbuckling attacking play. Are the Netherlands contenders for the World Cup title later this year?

No, I don’t believe so. Louis van Gaal’s team is good, but I think they lack the experience to win a World Cup. My favourites for the trophy are Brazil, Spain, Argentina and Germany.

And Belgium?

Belgium are good, no doubt about it. But they have yet to prove themselves as a team. They’re only just starting out with a group of young players.

Who was your biggest influence as a young player?

Frans Thijssen. He was my youth coach at Vitesse Arnhem and he managed to motivate me to volunteer for extra sessions after official training. One of the main reasons was to work on shooting with both feet. I then signed professional forms with Vitesse when I was 18, as a two-footed player. I don’t know if I’d have made it as far without Frans Thijssen.

Did you have a role model?

No, not as such. But when I was a teenager Marco van Basten was playing for AC Milan. He had fantastic quality as a striker. It goes without saying I was something of a fan, like so many others.

Roy Makaay was talking to Alan Schweingruber



Name:

Roy Makaay

Date and place of birth:

9 March 1975, Wijchen

Playing career:

**Vitesse Arnhem, Tenerife, La Coruna,
Bayern Munich, Feyenoord**

Honours:

**German Championship 2005, 2006
Spanish Championship 2000**

Achievements and awards:

**European Golden Shoe 2003
Top scorer in Spain 2003
Fastest goal in Champions League
history (after 10 seconds)**

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Spain blowing hot and cold



Hardly in the holiday mood: Javier Martinez (left) and Cesc Fabregas of Spain must navigate potentially choppy waters.



Jordi Puntí

Reaction in Spain to the FIFA World Cup Final Draw is indicative of the country's ever-shifting mindset when it comes to talking football, something that rival coaches would be well advised to study when preparing to face the national side. A near-perfect qualification campaign and the pride gleaned from being world champions offered little comfort in the face of what turned out to be an emotional rollercoaster of a draw.

Thrown into Group B with the Netherlands, Chile and Australia, the Spanish have been handed a tough assignment, though the reaction from commentators on the afternoon the draw was made was varied. Some were certain Spain would win all their games in the so-called "group of death" and thereby avoid Brazil – who were also presumed certain to win their pool – in the Round of 16. There were others, meanwhile, who saw the pairing with the Dutch – a repeat of the South Africa 2010 Final – as a macabre twist of fate. For the men in orange the opening match of the group represents a second chance. For the Spanish it is a game of déjà vu. "They're the ones who should be

scared. We're the champions," someone retorted. "Watch out for Chile," said another. "They're the dark horses in this group. They thrive on inspiration, determination and perspiration, with guys like Alexis [Sanchez] of Barcelona." As for the mysterious Australians, not much was forthcoming about them beyond the usual geographical clichés: Australia is the antipode of Spain.

The pessimists and the chest-beaters were agreed on one thing at least: the French had been fortunate, undeservedly so. Our neighbours, who only qualified at the last minute, found themselves drawn in arguably the easiest group, alongside Switzerland, Honduras and Ecuador. The draw was followed by the reactions of the players on Twitter. "No one said it would be easy," tweeted Gerard Pique. "No reason for feeling down. We're the champions," commented Pepe Reina. "That's an exciting group to start the World Cup. Vamos!" urged Andres Iniesta.

As is often the case, Vicente del Bosque came up with the most measured reaction of all. The national team coach had feared Chile from the very start, describing them as "very awkward and exciting opponents". Sizing up

the group, he said: "The Netherlands are going to push us all the way in the opening game, but it all depends on us and how we approach the World Cup." Aware that Spain can be slow starters, Del Bosque knows how important it will be to be mentally focused from the off. Accentuating the positives, he also spoke about the cities where Spain will be playing: "We'll be going from hot weather to cool. We'll start in Salvador, then go to Rio and end up in Curitiba, where we'll be based." Del Bosque knows that no European team has ever won the World Cup on South American soil, though perhaps the July temperatures in Curitiba will make his players feel like they are in Europe. One thing is for sure: attitude is all important. ❄️



Jingle Bells! Father Christmas is an ever-present at English stadiums during the holiday period. Here he is dispensing good cheer among Arsenal fans.

Festive football fixtures

Most of Europe closes down for the festive season, but it is one of the busiest periods for British football. The Christmas and New Year programme rates as the most intense in the world. The crowds love it, the coaches and managers less so.



Hanspeter Kuenzler

The sky is leaden grey as if reflecting a frozen lake. A weak and pale sun slowly sinks below the horizon, alone and unnoticed. The mist swirls and the air is chilly and damp. But the atmosphere is magnificent. It is Boxing Day, the day after Christmas. We are at Barnet's home ground watching the fifth tier of the English game, the Conference Premier. Even at this level most of the clubs are fully professional. Nor are the players all no-name hopefuls. The home team are coached by former Netherlands stalwart Edgar Davids. The ex-Ajax, Juventus, Milan and Barcelona star was so enamoured with life in London that he decided to stay on in the city even after officially hanging up his boots with Crystal Palace. Nowadays he is the Bees' player-manager, learning the coaching basics from scratch. Today's visitors are Luton Town so it is

a derby of sorts, very much a Boxing Day tradition. It is also a top of the table clash as the team in fifth host the team in second. A crowd of 3,608 has flocked to the Hive Stadium in North London. It's a new record for the ground, but by no means the exception in this division: Luton, a top-flight outfit back in 1992, regularly pull in crowds of 6,000. The passion for football in England runs deep. And for every single one of the fans, the holidays would not be the holidays without the rush and thrill of what must be the most intense schedule on the global footballing calendar. The period between 21 December and 4 January includes four complete rounds of Premier League fixtures and the third round of the FA Cup.

The packed Christmas and New Year programme is as old as organised football itself. As long ago as 1888/89, when 12 teams competed in a league for the inaugural English championship, ultimately won by Preston North End,

matches were scheduled for Boxing Day. Although it was a national holiday it was not imbued with any particular significance. That made 26 December perfectly suited for the curious masses to discover the new phenomenon of "spectator sport". The best part of the population was simply glad of a rare day off work. Many men were also hardly accustomed to spending quality time at home. By the time Boxing Day came round they were desperate to get some fresh air and crack a few jokes with their mates. Leaving aside for a moment the fact that holiday crowds nowadays include hosts of women and the most often played Christmas song is no longer "Silent Night" but Slade's anthemic "Merry Xmas Everybody", little has changed in this respect. The Christmas and New Year games still crackle with the restless, unspent energy slowly accumulated over a festive lunch and sleepy hours in front of the box. And by way of maximising the holiday crowds, the fixture list traditionally includes as many derbies as possible. It is hardly surprising that a number of record attendances were posted on Boxing Day.

Despite it all, the festive programme remains one of the few ideas emanating from English football not to be taken on board by the rest of Europe. Surveying all the major European leagues it is only the English and the Scots who do without a winter or mid-season break. This has led to a distinctly contradictory situation. Loyal fans and casual spectators alike revel in the programme, but the voices of players and managers calling for the tradition to be scrapped are just as loud. Arsene Wenger of Arsenal, Sam Allardyce at West Ham, Mark Hughes of Stoke, England manager Roy Hodgson and even Sir Alex Ferguson have all called for a break, arguing that their players never really recover from the demands of the Christmas period until the end of the season itself. Many commentators cite this very fact as the main reason why the English national team has flopped at recent World Cups and UEFA Euros: the lack of time off means the stars' batteries are simply spent by the time the international competitions come around. Supporters of a break back their case with statistics. The Guardian recently quoted an analysis published by Prozone. This examined the match performance of midfielders and strikers over the Christmas and New Year period last year. Players who appeared in two matches sprinted an average of 69.5 times per match. The figure was 63.7 for three-game players, but for those who played four matches the number of sprints averaged 58.0. The stats suggest teams with strength in depth due to bigger, high-quality squads hold a measurable advantage over less



Holiday hangover: Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger (left) and Sam Allardyce of West Ham United have called for a winter break.

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resource-rich clubs who cannot rotate their teams to the same extent. The plea for a winter break long ago trickled down to the fifth tier: "I wish there was one," says Luton manager John Still. "It would be nice if the players had a couple of days to themselves and their families."

In all likelihood, a combination of popular demand and commercial interests will prevent the situation changing any time soon. The holiday programme offers the Premier League a high-profile global showcase: in the absence of competition from the other major European leagues, the English top flight has the world media stage all to itself. For the fans on the other hand the programme promises excitement and intrigue for completely different reasons. Not without justification it is widely assumed that the period can make or break a season. The psychological dimension to each forthcoming Christmas programme is impossible to predict. Some teams react to the chal-

lenge with outstanding efficiency. Others crack under the strain. The phenomenon applies just as much to the leading teams as to the strugglers. The festive programme regularly yields a string of shock results.

Luton have come away from Christmas on a high. After a 2-1 victory over Barnet and a 6-0

romp against Kidderminster the fallen giants are top of the table. By contrast Barnet also lost their next match away to Salisbury, during which Davids was sent off for the third time this season. In the aftermath he floated his immediate retirement as a player. Referees, he said, were picking on him and his team. ❄️

"It would be nice if the players had a couple of days to themselves and their families."

John Still, Luton Town manager



Mass appeal: crowds flock to the stadiums between Christmas and New Year, as seen here for Manchester City versus Liverpool.

T H E N

New York,
USA



1957

Marilyn Monroe demonstrates her skills in high heels with a thumping shot to open the USA - Hapoel Tel Aviv charity match at New York Ebbets Field. The Americans lost the match 6-4. "Sign Marilyn up," read the headline in "Soccer Star" magazine.

Rio de Janeiro,
Brazil



2012

All windswept hair and intent concentration, Lady Gaga shows off her passing skills in a Rio de Janeiro favela. The local kids don't look too impressed...



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

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

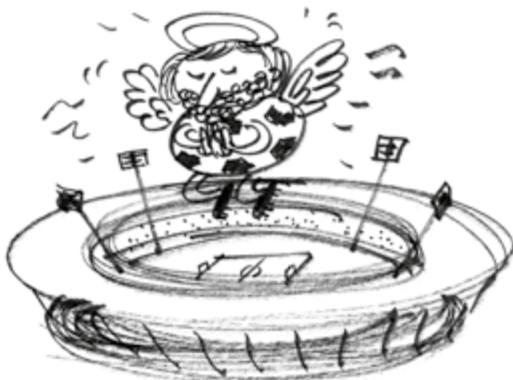
Jan. 18-19 Paraguay
 Jan. 20-21 Bolivia
 Jan. 22-24 Peru
 Jan. 25-27 Ecuador
 Jan. 28-30 Colombia
 Jan. 31-Feb. 2 Venezuela
 Feb. 3-5 Guatemala
 Feb. 6-11 Mexico
 Feb. 12-14 Canada
 Feb. 16-18 Spain
 Feb. 19-21 Italy
 Feb. 22-24 Croatia
 Feb. 25-27 Turkey
 Feb. 28-Mar. 2 Sweden
 Mar. 3-5 Romania
 Mar.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



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The Twitter Ball

Thomas Renggli

Happy New Year! Feliz Ano Novo! 2014 promises to be a magical year as the World Cup returns to the land of fantasy football after 64 years. There wasn't much time to make resolutions, especially in England where a full league programme kicked off shortly after the champagne corks had stopped popping. In former times British professionals caroused in a haze of alcohol during the Christmas and New Year period, leaving a trail of night time destruction in their wake. It is somewhat different today as the hectic sporting schedule at this time of year hardly leaves them time to hand in their shirts to the club laundry and swig on a sports drink.

The World Cup year actually began on 6 December 2013 when the draw for the finals took place on Brazil's Atlantic Coast. Once the initial shock wave had subsided and the Spaniards and Italians had run through their list of conspiracy theories, it was time for the 32 participating nations to begin their preparations. The Americans are naturally delighted at the prospect of clocking the air miles, with a total of 8,866 to be covered during the group stage alone. The Germans could not find a hotel that ticked all the boxes so they decided to build one from scratch. The English have begun sweating in advance and are preparing for the worst-case scenario in a sauna. The French are delighted with their early Christmas present.

Football is educational. As the groups were drawn we feasted on several nuggets of useful information: the Honduran capital is Tegucigalpa, Australia is part of the Asian footballing continent, Belgium produces outstanding footballers as well as the best chips and Manaus is not a new Japanese car.

Images of Samba and Carnival on the TV are giving us sneak previews of the atmosphere to expect at Brazil 2014. Technically the jour-

ney to the 20th World Cup finals started during the Club World Cup in Morocco. That is where the new World Cup ball, the Brazuca, was on show for the first time. This is the twelfth time Adidas has produced the holy sphere since 1970, and this year's ball is made of 100% polyurethane and will apparently shred fewer nerves than its predecessor the Jabulani. Some 600 footballers from ten countries have put the ball through its paces, including such artists as Lionel Messi, Bastian Schweinsteiger and Zinedine Zidane.

The verdict has been overwhelmingly positive. The Brazuca is said to be stable in flight with good aerodynamics, an impressive transfer of power and excellent grip. The old wisdom of Sepp Herberger still applies though. The ball is indeed still round! The Brazuca's flight through the virtual world has been world-class too, thanks to its own Twitter account (@brazuca). This is good news for all goalkeepers, especially English ones, as they may get a quick tweet before the ball comes flying towards them. ☺

The weekly column by our staff writers

My life, my club – the loyal servants

- 1 Ryan Giggs, 26 years of loyalty to Manchester United.** Giggs has won more titles than any other player in the history of English football.
- 2 Iker Casillas, 24 years at Real Madrid.** The goalkeeper learnt his craft at the Bernabeu. He was voted IFFHS World's Best Goalkeeper on five successive occasions.
- 3 Steven Gerrard, 24 years at Liverpool.** Gerrard's special link to the club is also partly due to the death of his cousin in the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.
- 4 Francesco Totti, 24 years at AS Roma.** "Il Capitano" has divine status in Rome and is still in love with his club.
- 5 Rogerio Ceni, 22 years at FC Sao Paulo.** He has turned out for his club on no fewer than 1117 occasions, winning the Copa Libertadores three times and also the Club World Cup in 2005.
- 6 Xavi, 22 years at Barcelona.** Seven times winner of La Liga, two cup wins and three Champions League wins.
- 7 Alessandro del Piero, 19 years at Juventus.** He joined Juve at the age of 19 and remained loyal to his club, reflecting his own motto: "A true gentleman never leaves a lady."
- 8 Nobuhisa Yamada, 19 years at Urawa Red Diamonds.** The Japanese stalwart is the epitome of club loyalty in Asia.
- 9 Henrik Rydström, 19 years at Kalmar FF.** The literary scholar and "Offside" columnist has been with the same club since his junior days.
- 10 Javier Zanetti, 18 years at Inter Milan.** The Argentine star has made over 800 appearances for Inter Milan. The fans refer to him as "El Tractor".
- 11 Carlos Puyol, 14 years at Barcelona.** The 35 year-old legend has been Barcelona's captain for the last nine years.

**Can you think of any other loyal footballing servants?
Please send your thoughts to:
feedback-TheWeekly@fifa.org**

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Lions of Teranga back on the prowl



Near and dear to the heart. A Senegal fan proudly displays the national colours.

Senegal are not losing any sleep over their failure to qualify for the World Cup. The national football association and their coach, the legendary Alain Giresse, are looking to the future with the help of Performance, FIFA's football management programme.



Incoming. Amateur players in Dakar watch an aircraft on its final approach.

David Noemi, Dakar (Senegal)

Dakar in December is a somewhat cooler place than Seville in the summer. It was in the Spanish city, back on 8 July 1982, that Alain Giresse starred on a steamy night that went down in football history. The Frenchman's vision remains just as clear as it was on that evening, one he lit up with a fierce right-footed drive past Toni Schumacher to put France 3-1 up against Germany in their FIFA World Cup semi-final at the Estadio Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan. Giresse, who also played for his country at Mexico 1986, is still using that vision to great effect, these days as Senegal's national team coach.

Sitting in his small office – adorned by a photo of him in his Bordeaux days affectionately embracing Barcelona's Diego Maradona – on the second floor of the headquarters of the Senegalese Football Federation (FSF), just a quarter of an hour from downtown Dakar, Giresse makes it clear that his vision is to return the Lions of Teranga to the place they occupied at the start of the last decade. Or, to be more pre-

cise, to the place they occupied in 2002, when Bouba Diop, El Hadji Diouf, Khalilou Fadiga and Co upset the odds by beating France in the Opening Match at Korea/Japan 2002 and going on to reach the last eight.

Senegal, whose hopes of reaching Brazil evaporated when they lost to the Elephants of Côte d'Ivoire in the play-offs, have now turned their thoughts to qualifying for the 2015 CAF African Cup of Nations in Morocco.

"Africa has always had exceptional players," said Giresse, now into his third national-team coaching job on the continent after stints with Gabon and Mali. "You could see that back in 1982 when I played in my first World Cup, and quite a few of them are now playing at the very highest level in Europe. The challenge facing Africa is to create a team based around individual ability and set up administrative and infrastructure-related programmes to promote development across the board." He added: "If it were just a question of talent, there'd be a chance of an African team winning the World Cup in 2014. And in actual fact, Ghana came close to reaching the semi-finals in 2010."

A trip to the Demba Diop Stadium to watch a Dakar City Council Cup tie between first division sides US Ouakam and NGB serves to



French master. Former world-class midfielder Alain Giresse, seen here supervising training in Abidjan, is aiming high with Senegal.

confirm Giresse's views. There is plenty of talent on show on the synthetic pitch and fitness levels are high, but there is the sense perhaps that something is lacking.

And that is what the FSF is looking to address, as the organisation's secretary general Victor Cisse explained. "We want to repeat the phenomenal events of 2002, when the national team's extraordinary performance in the World Cup brought the whole domestic game together".

Though the failure to qualify for Brazil is a major blow in both sporting and financial terms, Cisse is adamant that life goes on and that work needs to start now to bring about the long-term development people are so anxious to see.

It is with that goal in mind that six experts from FIFA's Performance programme made a low-key trip to Dakar in late November at the request of the FSF. The five-day visit proved to be intense, as the team engaged in a hectic round of meetings and interviews with anyone and everyone involved in Senegalese football, from FSF Chairman Augustin Senghor to Giresse, the Ministry of Sport and the country's main television broadcaster RTS.

The challenges are evident. For example, the Senegalese professional league, which was founded in 2009, is struggling to attract the attention of RTS, which prefers to show European football, while the FSF lacks a functioning website through which it can promote its activities. In response to these challenges, FIFA's Performance specialists made the following proposals: the creation of a marketing and communication strategy contemplating the use of high-penetration, low-cost social media across the country; the internal restructuring of the FSF and the recruiting of a finance manager, not forgetting the development of the technical board as a body coordinating grassroots and women's football as a whole, all this within the framework of a project with tangible goals and fixed deadlines.

Senegal is just one of the 155 countries that the Performance experts have visited around the world, 38 of them in Africa. Their work is bearing fruit. It is thanks to Performance, for example, that the Mauritanian Football Association (FFRIM) has been able to set up its own TV production unit to film national league matches and produce a weekly football maga-



Association:

Fédération Sénégalaise de Football

Nickname:

Lions of Teranga

FIFA ranking:

65th (536 points)

Maiden international:

**Benin 3-2 Senegal
31 December 1961**

Biggest win:

**Senegal 7-0 Mauritius
9 October 2010**

Heaviest defeat:

**Tunisia 4-0 Senegal
15 July 1995**



Called to the bar. The English Premier League is a big draw in Senegal.

“If it were just a question of talent, there’d be a chance of an African team winning the World Cup in 2014.”

zine broadcast by the country’s leading TV station. “The project has allowed us to increase our visibility enormously,” commented FFRIM Chairman Ahmed Ould Yahya.

Progress is also being made in Ethiopia, where, following a serious internal crisis, the national FA (the EFF) carried out a comprehensive restructuring programme with the assistance of Performance. As a result, Ethiopia qualified for the 2013 African Cup of Nations, their first appearance in the continental finals in 31 years, while the EFF has also signed a historic commercial agreement with a beverage company.

The success of these development programmes is always relative. As far as the rest of the world is concerned, the Lions of Teranga will only return to the limelight, in the im-

mediate future at least, if they qualify for the 2015 continental finals and Russia 2018. In the meantime, Senegal fans dreaming of better days can take solace from the fact that the process designed to make all that happen is already under way. ⚽

Why not play rugby instead?



Ashley Young (below; Man Utd) received a yellow card for this dive in a league game against Crystal Palace on 14 September 2013.

Perikles Monioudis

“It’s not a dive if the referee doesn’t give it,” is the default refrain of apologists who fail to find it objectionable when a player attempts to con the referee, opposition and spectators. And if the referee does blow his whistle, then it was a foul, never a dive. As justification for deliberate simulation, two arguments are inevitably put forward: anyone can do it and everyone does it anyway.

Yet to say that every player has the option of cheating and gaining an unfair advantage is to misunderstand the referee’s duty to treat all players equally. The claim that every player will do it sooner or later when the opportunity presents itself is an equally weak validation of the problem.

Furthermore, the snag with both arguments is that they are inherently contradictory. A player cannot take the laws of the game into his own hands, for instance to protect himself

from diving opponents, and fail to apply the laws upon himself. To do so would be to enter into an unregulated ethical grey area which could lead to him resorting to increasingly rough tactics - including assault - in order to score. If that is the case, why not play rugby instead?

Anyone who has played football will know that the temptation to con the referee is huge, especially when your team is losing and the clock is ticking down. Why not go to ground in the box, knees buckling, legs stretched, body twisting as it falls, while emitting a loud cry, even if your opponent was not involved?

That is the path many players choose to take, despite being aware that blatant cases of deceit will linger longer in the collective memory and tarnish their own reputation. For example, Thierry Henry irretrievably lost his respected status in 2009 in the World Cup second leg play-off against Ireland when he clearly used his hand to help propel France to

the finals. The Irish could have been forgiven for thinking they were in a rugby match for a moment. ⚽

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.

It's no wonder soccer isn't a serious player in American professional sport. Football is just play-acting at its worst. It makes me sick when I see a player writhing on the floor with his face twisted in pain, only to get up and sprint away 30 seconds later. Football just isn't credible. And it doesn't look as though it's going to change any time soon.

Mike Tattersall, San Francisco (USA)

As a striker, I have a fraction of a second to take my decisions. Do I sprint or not, where do I run, will I get on the ball, or will the move unfold in a different way? Going to ground occasionally is only a similar kind of decision. We shouldn't over-react. Simulation is part of football. It's not cheating, and every good footballer knows that.

Nikos Mavridis, Thessaloniki (Greece)

“There has to be simulation.”

There has to be simulation. If you punish the players too hard, we lose something central to the game: instinct, because every player's instinct is to gain an advantage, knowing there's a danger you'll be caught. A true professional can't be expected simply to toe the line in advance - although obviously, you accept the rules in all other cases.

Japhet Kinhasi, Brugge (Belgium)

It's high time we told divers and play-actors on the football field where to go. They distort the play with their antics and tarnish the reputation of an entire sport. In my opinion, there's an easy way to solve the problem: blatant diving in the penalty area should be punished with a red card. If you try to win a penalty by deceit you're as guilty as a player who stops an opponent with a professional foul.

Peter Durst, Innsbruck (Austria)

Football is a game - and part of every game is pushing the laws to the limit. It's only human for everyone to try and gain the maximum advantage for himself. The whole

debate over stricter punishments for simulation strikes me as being sanctimonious and holier-than-thou.

Valentino Nero, Milan (Italy)

Jurgen Klinsmann, Cristiano Ronaldo, Filippo Inzaghi. The biggest kings of diving do football a major disservice. They are responsible for all the cheating and deception that's already taking place in junior football and on school playgrounds. We're talking here about a societal problem. If parents are no longer prepared to instil values into their children, we can't expect fair play to survive on the football field.

Holger Sandmann, Duisburg (Germany)

The skilled divers long ago overtook the skilled footballers.

Volker Roth, former German referees' convenor

I think simulation should be punished with a ban after the event. However, we need to be careful not to overrule or question every spur of the moment decision made by referees, just because we have the benefit of hindsight. We need clear guidelines as to when there should be a ban and when not.

Anders Berqvist, Umea (Sweden)

Diving is definitely unsporting.

I absolutely condemn it, and I support sending off for blatant diving, although punishment after the event on video evidence can still only be allowed if the referee wasn't aware of the situation. And in the case of diving, that can fundamentally be ruled out.

Cornelia Reder, Fischbach (Schweiz)

At the end of the day, it's a question of fair play. You'll always get players who are prepared to cheat, in every sporting discipline.

But you get less of it in an environment where integrity and respect aren't just empty words. In the Premier League, the crowds mercilessly get after known divers. But ever since waves of foreigners started filling up our league, the trend has become unstoppable - even in England, unfortunately.

David Best, Lemington (England)

I think diving is the worst thing of all. It's cheating on your opponents, and cheating the game of football. The right punishment is a ban.

Victor D Johnston, Leeds (England)



“Stop the amateur dramatics”

In recent years football has become increasingly fast and direct, thanks in part to deliberate technical adjustments. These include the introduction of the back-pass rule and the use of more than one matchball.

The longest breaks in the game nowadays are almost exclusively the result of dives, simulation and play-acting to feign injury. This kind of thing is treated with scorn in other sporting disciplines but it has become a normal and accepted part of football nowadays. Even though simulation is incredibly unfair and looks preposterous when viewed in a replay, some people regard it as smart or in the worst case as a harmless misdemeanour. This includes the winning of controversial penalties by extravagant diving in the box.

I find this deeply irritating, especially when the (supposedly) half-dead player comes back to life as soon as they have left the pitch. The touchline appears to have acquired powers of revival which even leading medical specialists cannot explain.

The ball is in the referees' court. The instructions are now clear on this matter: if a player is lying on the floor, the opposing team are not required to put the ball into touch. The referee should only intervene if he believes a serious injury has occurred. When a 'stricken' player seeks to return to the field of play immediately after being taken off, the referee can make the player wait until the numerical disadvantage has had an effect on the game. In practical terms this amounts to a time penalty - and it could cause play-actors to rethink.

Cutting out this kind of cheating is also a matter of respect towards opponents and fans, and ultimately one of self-respect as a professional and role model.

Best wishes, Sepp Blatter

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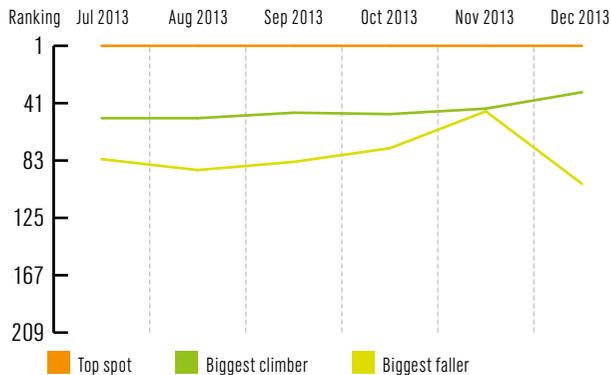
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FIFA WORLD RANKING

Rank	Team	Change in ranking	Points
1	Spain	0	1507
2	Germany	0	1318
3	Argentina	0	1251
4	Colombia	0	1200
5	Portugal	0	1172
6	Uruguay	0	1132
7	Italy	0	1120
8	Switzerland	0	1113
9	Netherlands	0	1106
10	Brazil	0	1102
11	Belgium	0	1098
12	Greece	0	1055
13	England	0	1041
14	USA	0	1019
15	Chile	0	1014
16	Croatia	0	971
17	Côte d'Ivoire	0	918
18	Ukraine	0	907
19	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	899
20	France	-1	893
21	Mexico	-1	892
22	Russia	0	870
23	Ecuador	0	852
24	Ghana	0	849
25	Denmark	0	831
26	Algeria	0	800
27	Sweden	0	793
28	Czech Republic	0	766
29	Slovenia	0	762
30	Serbia	0	752
31	Costa Rica	0	741
32	Romania	0	734
33	Iran	12	720
34	Scotland	-1	717
35	Armenia	-1	716
36	Venezuela	-1	711
37	Nigeria	-1	710
38	Panama	-1	705
39	Cape Verde Islands	0	698
39	Peru	0	698
41	Egypt	-3	695
42	Honduras	-1	690
43	Turkey	0	677
44	Hungary	0	668
45	Mali	-3	664
46	Austria	0	648
47	Japan	1	638
48	Tunisia	1	632
49	Iceland	1	624
50	Cameroon	1	615
51	Paraguay	1	600
52	Montenegro	1	594
53	Burkina Faso	5	591
54	Korea Republic	0	577
54	Norway	0	577
56	Wales	0	574
57	Albania	0	571
58	Australia	1	565
59	Libya	4	558
60	Slovakia	0	557
61	Guinea	5	555
62	South Africa	-1	554
63	Israel	-1	548
64	Finland	0	539
65	Senegal	0	536
65	Jordan	5	536
67	Republic of Ireland	0	528
68	Uzbekistan	0	526
69	Zambia	3	523
70	Bolivia	-1	519
71	United Arab Emirates	0	507
72	Togo	5	504
73	Morocco	2	490
74	Bulgaria	2	486
75	Sierra Leone	-1	471
76	Poland	2	461
77	Gabon	3	453



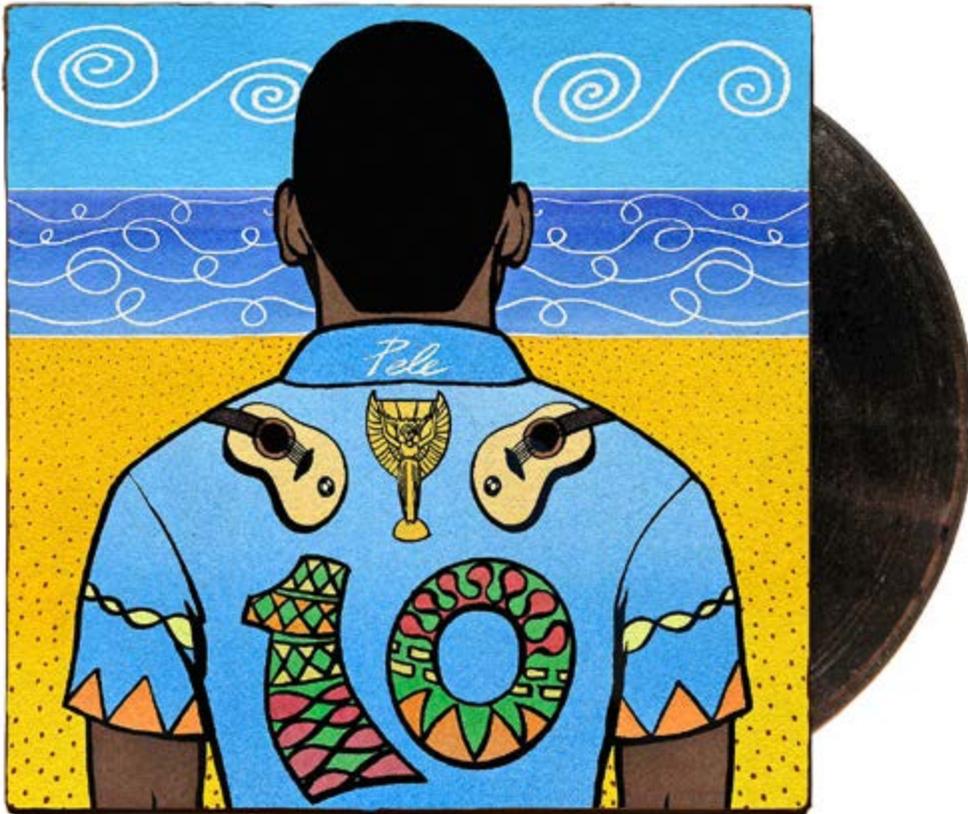
78	Trinidad and Tobago	1	441
79	Haiti	-6	440
80	Jamaica	1	439
81	Belarus	1	431
82	Congo DR	1	427
83	FYR Macedonia	1	425
84	Congo	0	421
85	Oman	2	408
86	Uganda	0	402
87	Saudi Arabia	12	391
88	Angola	1	384
89	Northern Ireland	1	381
90	New Zealand	1	378
90	El Salvador	1	378
92	China PR	1	376
93	Ethiopia	0	374
94	Azerbaijan	1	363
94	Estonia	2	363
96	Moldova	1	359
97	Botswana	1	357
98	Liberia	7	354
99	Benin	1	342
100	Cuba	-53	334
101	Georgia	0	330
102	Lithuania	0	326
103	Qatar	0	325
104	Niger	0	318
105	Kuwait	1	315
106	Central African Republic	0	310
107	Zimbabwe	-1	299
108	Equatorial Guinea	3	294
109	Kenya	8	293
110	Iraq	-1	292
110	Bahrain	8	292
112	Canada	2	291
113	Guatemala	2	287
114	Tajikistan	2	286
115	Dominican Republic	-27	282
116	Malawi	5	272
116	Latvia	3	272
118	Mozambique	2	264
119	Sudan	11	259
120	Tanzania	4	256
121	New Caledonia	1	249
121	Lebanon	2	249
123	Luxembourg	1	243
124	Burundi	-12	239
125	Namibia	1	237
126	Cyprus	1	229
127	Philippines	6	219
128	Kazakhstan	4	216
129	Syria	6	207
130	Myanmar	10	204
131	Gambia	3	202
132	Malta	4	198
133	Rwanda	-6	197
133	Suriname	6	197
135	Turkmenistan	2	195
136	Grenada	-6	194
137	Palestine	5	192
138	Lesotho	0	187
138	Korea DPR	-25	187
140	Afghanistan	-11	184
140	Hong Kong	4	184
142	Mauritania	2	180
143	Tahiti	-2	179
144	Vietnam	14	167

145	Antigua and Barbuda	-36	164
146	Thailand	-4	162
147	St Lucia	14	155
147	Kyrgyzstan	-1	155
149	St Kitts and Nevis	-2	150
150	Guyana	0	149
150	Singapore	4	149
152	Laos	11	144
153	St Vincent and the Grenadines	-2	142
154	Liechtenstein	-2	141
154	Puerto Rico	-2	141
154	Malaysia	4	141
154	India	-6	141
158	São Tomé e Príncipe	-3	139
159	Belize	-2	136
160	Nicaragua	0	130
161	Guam	8	123
161	Indonesia	1	123
163	Maldives	-14	120
164	Chad	0	116
164	Bangladesh	-8	116
166	Barbados	2	101
167	Chinese Taipei	7	95
167	Dominica	8	95
169	Sri Lanka	-3	90
170	Aruba	3	87
170	Faroe Islands	0	87
172	Solomon Islands	-1	86
172	Nepal	-7	86
172	Pakistan	-5	86
175	Bermuda	-3	83
176	Seychelles	24	67
177	Mauritius	1	66
178	Curaçao	-3	65
179	Yemen	-2	54
180	Vanuatu	-1	53
181	Mongolia	-1	49
182	Fiji	-1	47
183	Samoa	-1	45
184	Guinea-Bissau	-1	42
185	Bahamas	-1	40
186	Swaziland	-1	37
187	Madagascar	-1	33
187	Montserrat	-1	33
189	Cambodia	-1	28
190	Brunei Darussalam	-1	26
190	Timor-Leste	-1	26
190	Tonga	-1	26
193	US Virgin Islands	-1	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	-5	17
198	Andorra	0	17
200	Eritrea	-1	11
201	South Sudan	0	10
201	Macau	0	10
203	Somalia	1	8
204	Djibouti	-1	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

First Love

Place: Istanbul, Turkey
Date: 19 June 2013
Time: 5.32 pm





Pele: singer/songwriter

Hanspeter Kuenzler

The image of Pele, dressed in shorts and sandals and plucking the strings of his guitar intently during a rare moment of relaxation was seen around the world during the 1970 World Cup in Mexico.

It was no cheap publicity stunt. Since his childhood, this guitar had been one of Edson Arantes do Nascimento's most prized possessions. He always composed his own songs, and in 1969 he released his first single, a duet with Elis Regina entitled "Perdao Nao Tem". The song was not a throwaway product intended to generate a little additional cash off the back of Pele's stardom; it was, in fact, a stylish song with a fantastic duet partner. Pele's footballing heyday coincided neatly with an unusually creative period in Brazil's musical history. In the late 1950s, Joao Gilberto ushered in the phenomenon of bossa nova, a sunny fusion of laid-back jazz

and subtle samba rhythms. A little later, the country was engulfed by the Tropicalita craze. Influenced as much by Bob Dylan and the Beatles as by samba and other varieties of Brazilian music, artists such as Caetano Veloso, Gilberto Gil and Gal Costa expressed the feelings of freedom among young people who were railing against the draconian government regime at that time. Pele's singing partner, Elis Regina, was one of the most popular stars on this burgeoning scene. In 1977, Pele returned to the airwaves once more when, under the aegis of bandleader and bossa nova pioneer Sergio Mendes, he sang the title track to a documentary about his life, "Meu Mundo E Uma Bola" with Mendes's wife, Gracinha Leporace. Incredibly, it was 2006 before Brazil's most famous footballing son recorded his first album. On "Peleginga", the legend demonstrates his charming and assured sing-

ing abilities on an album that radiates calm and tranquillity. The songs themselves illustrate Pele's stylistic variety, ranging from big band bossa nova and percussive samba to the mellow, accordion-led folk-rock of "Meu Boi". The album also features appearances from Gilberto Gil, who was serving as Brazil's culture minister at the time of the recording. 🎧

Pele, "Peleginga"
(EMI Records)



Perikles Monioudis

Imagine record-breaking German international and 1990 world champion Lothar Matthaus with a velvety green cap on his head. "Why?" you may well ask. Well, firstly because he might well be entitled to wear one; and secondly, because the German national team also plays in green whenever the home team wears a white or black kit.

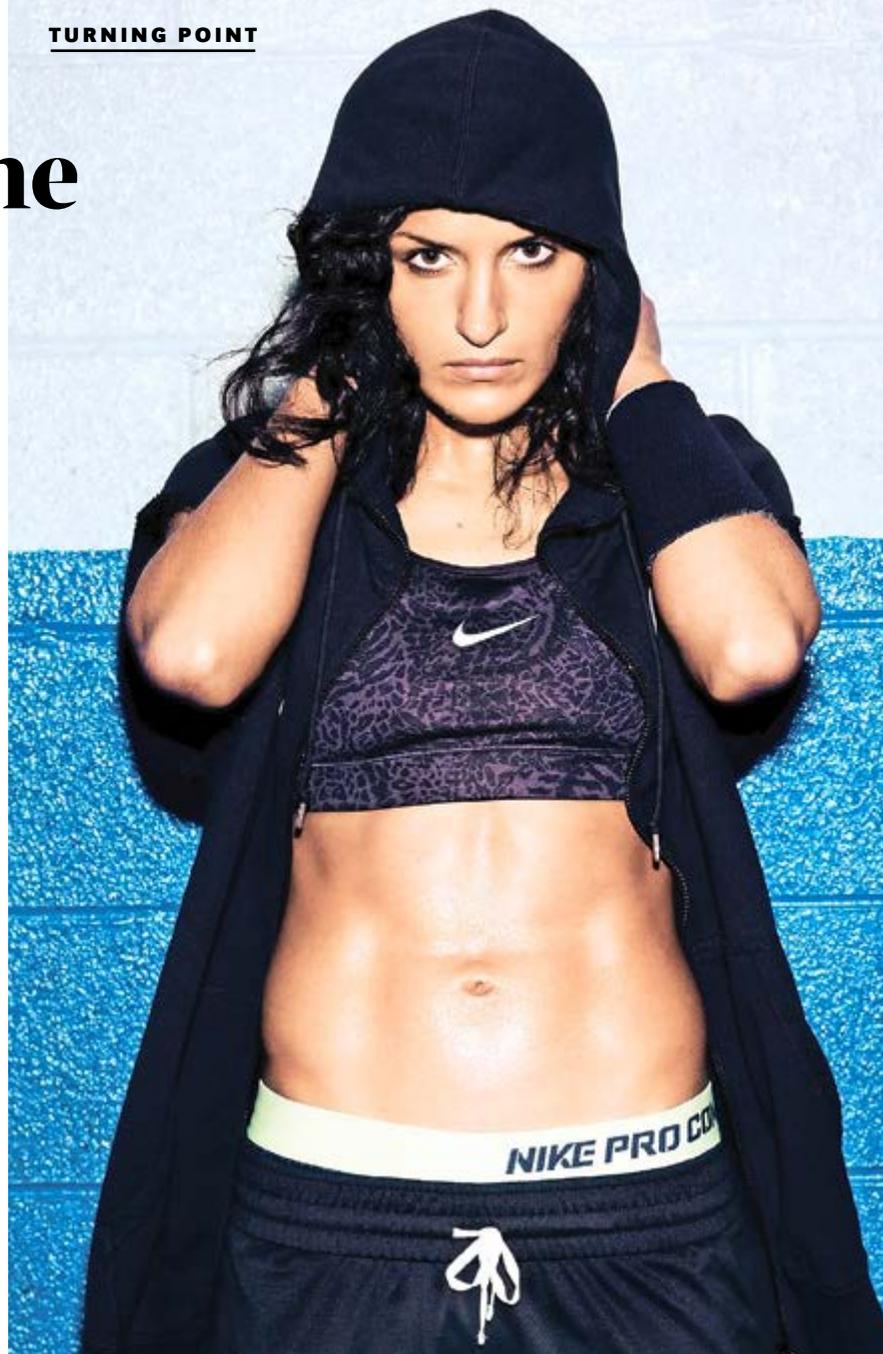
Looking back at footballing history, there is every chance two-time World Footballer of the Year Matthaus would deserve to wear such a cap. In the sport's infancy, a player's kit consisted not only of socks, shorts and shirt but also a cap that its owner would have to earn the right to wear. Each club had a cap in its colours, emblazoned with its crest and stitched with details of the occasion for which it was made. A player would be awarded the cap if he had scored the winning goal or otherwise made a decisive contribution to the match.

In England, The Football Association traditionally furnished each player with a cap, and today the term 'cap' is still used in England to refer to a player's appearance for his country in an international match. For example, goalkeeper Peter Shilton earned a record 125 caps as England's shot-stopper between 1970 and 1990, beating Bobby Moore's previous record of 108 caps.

The green cap in the picture above is embroidered with "Ireland v Poland", "Ireland v Switzerland" and "1938-39". In May 1938, Ireland were defeated 6-0 by Poland before exacting their revenge in a 3-2 win in Dublin 11 months later.

In September 1938, when Poland were already at war with Germany, Ireland dispatched Switzerland 4-0. Today, the green cap forms part of the FIFA Collection. 🎧

“Fleeing home opened new prospects”



Fatmire Alushi fled Kosovo with her family when she was just four. Starting over in a new country was hard but opened up fresh prospects. Nowadays the 25-year-old is a leading personality for Germany.

As a girl I was best off in goal – or at least that’s what the other kids thought. But I never enjoyed just throwing myself at the ball over and over again. I wanted to dribble, send over crosses and score goals. It took a while for the lads to accept me, but when they realised I had some qualities and wasn’t at all bad on the ball, they let me play outfield. It even reached the point where the lads squabbled about which team I’d be on.

But why football? Lots of people think it’s because I have two brothers, one younger and one older, but it’s not true. Football was my big passion right from the start, although I also liked climbing trees and other rough-and-tumble activities. I grew up with sport in the family: my mum played volleyball and my dad football, so physical activity comes naturally to me.

I’d say the turning point in my life was when we fled Kosovo in 1992. I was only four. Home will always be where the heart is, but if we’d stayed in Gjurakovc where I come from, it’s hard to imagine I’d have had a realistic chance in football. Sure, I’d have played somewhere and enjoyed it, but being in Germany gave me the chance to develop and explore my potential.

Starting over as a refugee was hard and tough. At first we lived in a hostel for asylum seekers in Remscheid and knew almost no-one. My parents had to borrow money from relatives so we could get by. Once they found work we started looking for a place to settle. The place turned out to be Monchengladbach where I went on to lay the foundations for my career.

My parents still live in Monchengladbach and regularly come to watch me. It’s hard to single out a particular highlight in my career.

I’ll never forget winning the World Cup in 2007. But our triumphs at the UEFA Women’s EURO (in 2009 and 2013) and with Turbine Potsdam (two Bundesliga titles and the Champions League) also mean a lot to me. I’m still only 25 and, after making a comeback last summer [from a torn cruciate], I want to achieve lots more with FFC Frankfurt and the national team. I have an eventful past and that’s shaped me in its own way. If I have kids, maybe I’ll be able to pass on what happened to me as a girl: the chance of having a future with good prospects. ☺

As told to Alan Schweingruber

Name:

Fatmire “Lira” Alushi

Date and place of birth:

1 April 1988, Gjurakovc

Position:

Attacking midfield

Playing career:

1996–1997 DJK/VfL Giesenkirchen (youth)

1997–2004 FSC Monchengladbach (youth)

2004–2009 FCR Duisburg

2009–2011 1. Turbine Potsdam

since 2011 1. FFC Frankfurt

Germany national team:

67 appearances, 15 goals

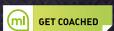
In Turning Point, personalities reflect on a decisive moment in their lives.



nitrocharge your game

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PO box, CH-8044 Zurich,
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President:
Joseph S. Blatter

Secretary General:
Jérôme Valcke

Director of Communications
& Public Affairs:
Walter De Gregorio

Chief editor:
Thomas Renggli

Art director:
Markus Nowak

Staff writers:
Perikles Monioudis (Deputy Editor),
Alan Schweingruber, Sarah Steiner

Contributors:
Jordi Puntí, Barcelona; David Winner,
London; Hanspeter Kuenzler, London;
Roland Zorn, Frankfurt/M.;
Sven Goldmann, Berlin;
Sergio Xavier Filho, Sao Paulo;
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Picture editor:
Peggy Knotz, Adam Schwarz

Production:
Hans-Peter Frei (head of section),
Richie Kronert, Marianne Crittin,
Mirijam Ziegler, Peter Utz

Proof reader:
Nena Morf

Contributors to this issue:
David Noemi

Editorial assistant:
Lorraine Mcdouall

Translation:
Sportstranslations.com

Project management:
Bernd Fisa, Christian Schaub

Printer:
Zofinger Tagblatt AG
www.ztonline.ch

Contact:
feedback-TheWeekly@fifa.org

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FIFA QUIZ CUP

**This week's quiz features the eleventh man, vinyl classics and a player with
gold, silver and bronze – test your knowledge!**

- ① **He is the 12th member of his organisation, so he's not in the first team. But wait: one of the 12 is female, so he's actually the 11th man. Who is it?**



H Joao



R Henry



M Placido



P Sepp

- ② **Which player contested three World Cups and ended up coming first, second and third?**



A Claudio Caniggia

E Rivelino

I Paolo Maldini

O Wolfgang Overath

- ③ **Four countries have made it to the World Cup Final but never been crowned world champions. The four countries ...**

E ... have made a total of seven appearances in the Final

N ... are all monarchies

R ... all share a border with Germany

S ... all lie in the same time zone



- ④ **Which of these celebrated singles actually features four tracks?**



T



S



H



E

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

Inspiration and implementation: cus

**The winners of the tickets to the FIFA Ballon d'Or Gala
will be announced in the next issue.**

Please send your answers to feedback-TheWeekly@fifa.org by **8 January 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 en.fifa.com/aboutfifa/organisation/the-fifa-weekly/rules.pdf.



Who has scored the most goals in European competition?

Answered by Thomas Renggli, chief editor: Spanish icon Raul Gonzalez Blanco, usually known simply as Raul, scored a total of 76 goals in Europe for Real Madrid and Schalke, 71 of them in the Champions League. These are both records. Filippo Inzaghi lies second on 70 goals, with Ukraine's Andriy Shevchenko and Gerd Muller of Germany tied for third on 67. Muller's career total is particularly noteworthy as he played at a time when matches in Europe were still relatively rare and exotic. In the European Cup, Bayern's *Der Bomber* finished with a goal a game from 35 appearances.

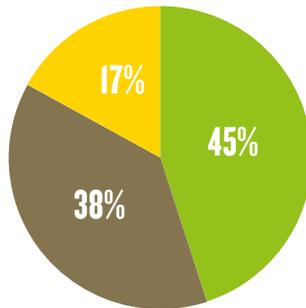


Who will be Coach of the Year 2013?

Jupp Heynckes (pictured), Alex Ferguson and Jurgen Klopp are the three nominees for FIFA Coach of the Year. The Ballon d'Or Gala takes place on 13 January in Zurich.

LAST WEEK'S POLL RESULTS:

Should the leagues in Germany, Italy and Spain play through the holiday season?



- YES, IT MEANS EVERYONE'S FREE TO WATCH GAMES
- NO, IT'S A TIME FOR THE FAMILY
- DOESN'T BOTHER ME EITHER WAY

THE FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

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

We report on the biggest stars and the hottest topics, but we also focus on a dialogue with our readers.

Send your opinions to feedback-theWeekly@fifa.org



THE COEFFICIENT

88,427



Spain's coefficient in the current UEFA five-year country rankings stands at 88.427 points. La Liga clubs comfortably lead the chart used to determine the allocation of places in European club competition, ahead of England on 82.320 points and Germany on 79.498.

THE MARKSMAN

6



Current Switzerland head coach Ottmar Hitzfeld scored six of the goals in Stuttgart's 8-0 victory over Jahn Regensburg in 1976/77, still a record in the top two German divisions.

THE DEAL

25



Barcelona's shirt sponsorship deal with chip maker Intel is worth US\$25 million. The Catalans will wear the 'Intel inside' logo for the next five years, tucked away from view on the inside of their famous shirts.