

THE WEEKLY

FIFA

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Beach Soccer World Cup in Portugal

SPECTACLE ON THE ATLANTIC COAST

BELIZE

STAR STRIKER
BRINGING HOPE

SEPP BLATTER

RUSSIA SETTING
A NEW BENCHMARK

USA

THE BEST IS
YET TO COME



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Beach Soccer World Cup

Playing football on sand was derided for many years, until the first images of Eric Cantona kicking a ball by the sea were beamed around the world. Since then, beach soccer has made a name for itself. Alan Schweingruber visited this young FIFA tournament in the Portuguese resort of Espinho.

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Venezuela

Tachira have made a strong start to the season despite top scorer Gelmin Rivas's move away from the club, but Trujillanos will pose a tough challenge in their next game.

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Sepp Blatter

"A new era begins on 25 July 2015, 376 days after the unforgettable World Cup Final in Rio de Janeiro," the FIFA President says ahead of the Preliminary Draw for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia 2018™.

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I'm in charge!

Christoph Schroder is an amateur referee in Germany whose recently published book "Ich pfeife!" ("I'm in charge!") makes for an entertaining read.



Spectacle on the Atlantic Coast

This week's cover image was captured in Espinho, Portugal, on 9 July 2015, and shows the stadium for this year's Beach Soccer World Cup beside the Atlantic Ocean.

Antonio Pedrosa



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Norway

Pal Andre Helland has emerged as the Tippeligaen's new star after Martin Odegaard's departure.

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USA

"We've got exciting times ahead," says US international Jozy Altidore. "The best is yet to come."



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FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup
9 - 19 July 2015, Portugal



FIFA U-17 World Cup
17 October - 8 November 2015, Chile



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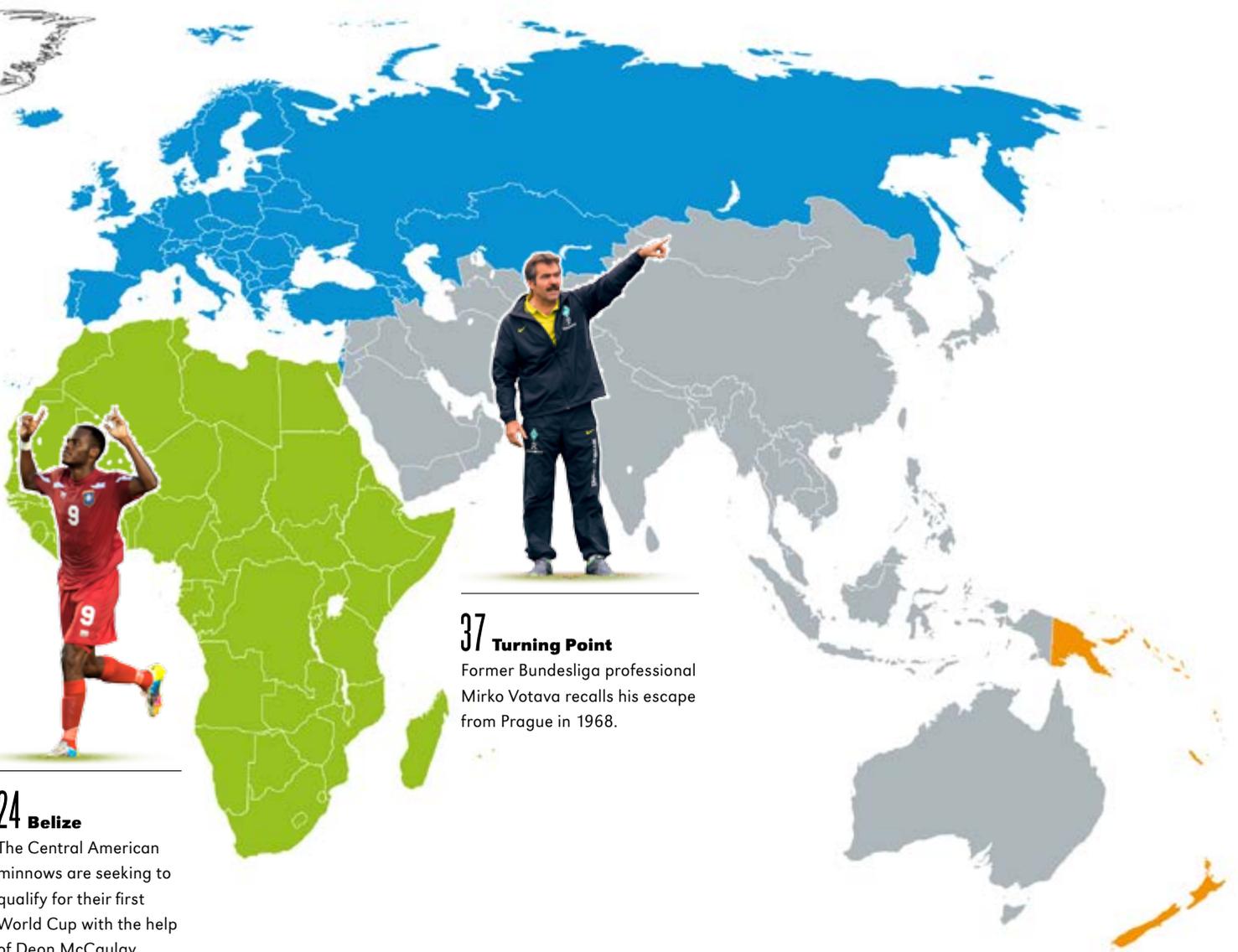
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24 Belize

The Central American minnows are seeking to qualify for their first World Cup with the help of Deon McCaulay.

37 Turning Point

Former Bundesliga professional Mirko Votava recalls his escape from Prague in 1968.

Oswaldo Aguilar/Mexsport/AFP, Matthias Kern/Bongarts/Getty Images





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Right foot volley – goal!

Although fans of the beautiful game love stunning, spectacular goals preceded by bicycle kicks, diving headers or volleys, they have become all too rare a sight in modern football. The game has become too tactical, the systems too refined. By contrast, these skilful interludes are still an everyday occurrence in beach soccer and are integral to the sport's character. The ball does not roll – or hardly ever does – and if it does, its movements across the sand are almost impossible to predict. Playing the ball in the air therefore gives players better control.

It is this aspect of the game that produces so many wonderful goals, the kind that can be watched over and over again. One such strike was that of Italian Simone Marinai in the World Cup match against Switzerland. He controlled the ball on his chest, let it fall on to his thigh and then hit it on the volley with his right foot to score a magnificent goal.

Alan Schweingruber has been sampling the atmosphere at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Portugal. Starting on page six, you can read his report from the seaside village of Espinho. ☺

Sarah Steiner

SHOW OF EMOTION

Once derided, beach soccer has now carved out its own niche in the world of football. *Alan Schweingruber* paid a visit to Espinho, where the World Cup is now entering its final stages. Photos by Antonio Pedrosa.



Espinho

The eighth Beach Soccer World Cup is being held 20 kilometres south of Porto and is providing a boost to this small seaside town.



Although it is hard to believe, the Portuguese woman sitting on a small folding chair is 86 years old. Her name is Leonor and many years ago she brought six children into the world, all of whom have now raised kids of their own. Sitting on her head at a somewhat jaunty angle is a light blue hat from the well-known pilgrimage site at Fatima. Leonor knows just how to get beautiful bronzed skin after experiencing so many hot summers here, and while smearing greasy hand cream on her legs she says with a laugh: “You get a tan much more quickly this way.” It is this zest for life, combined with her soft skin, that make her look younger than her years.

the sunshine, as she has no doubt been doing for decades. This summer she has rented a small red hut to allow her to bring everything she needs down to the shore. Although the atmosphere this season is different, with the sound of booming music and cheering fans ringing out from the little red shelters, the 86-year-old is delighted with the change of pace. “People are coming here from all over the world,” she says. “That kind of thing is good for the place.” This, then, is far from business as usual for Espinho as it plays host to the eighth FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

Eric Cantona’s contribution

Beach soccer is a relatively young sport that has yet to feature at the Olympic Games. Although Brazilians have been kicking a ball around on



It would be easy to imagine a woman of Leonor’s age sitting peacefully in her front garden surrounded by flowers, or perhaps under the cool shadow of a tree within reach of a refreshing glass of water. Instead, she is relaxing on the beach at Espinho, a suburb of Portugal’s second-largest city, Porto. She knows the area well, having grown up here and walked the narrow coastal streets with her parents as a child.

Espinho is a small and tranquil city of almost 10,000 inhabitants, a charming place despite its somewhat sleepy ambience and slightly dilapidated buildings. The town is home to a surf school, many cosy fish restaurants and a large swimming pool complex for families to enjoy. The hulking shape of the old casino stands on the promenade, its dark, block-like 1970s construction giving it an almost iconic status. A huge broken display screen is fixed to the roof, looking as though one gust of wind from the wrong direction could send it toppling over at any moment. Leonor sits on the beach with the jar of cream in her hand and laughs in

their world-renowned Copacabana and Ipanema beaches since the 1960s, the rules, pitch and goal sizes were defined much later and the idea of playing football competitively on sand only really gained momentum in the Nineties. At first the sport was derided as the preserve of players unable to make it as professionals on grass, a pursuit that brought to mind topless men playing on the beach with a cocktail umbrella casually tucked behind their ears.

Every new product needs the backing of a familiar face to secure its place in the hearts and minds of the general public. These endorsements are meant to establish a connection, one that implies: “This product is okay and you’ll enjoy it because famous people enjoy it too.” Beach soccer only truly made its breakthrough when Frenchman Eric Cantona began playing on sand. The 49-year-old has achieved a remarkable amount in his life so far, enjoying success as a footballer on grass and as an artist, writer and actor, but when it comes to lasting impact, actively promoting



**Stadium
spectacle**

Swiss striker Dejan Stankovic unleashes one of his infamous bicycle kicks in the match against Oman.



Old-fashioned stations, vibrant alleyways

Towards the end of the 19th century, a railway line was built between the northern Portuguese city of Porto and its southern suburbs. The line stretched down the coast past all the little fishing villages, and its primary function was to allow the rich to visit the idyllic beaches on the outskirts of the city.

The railway line is still in operation today and connects Porto with a town called Espinho. The old stations we pass on the way down are a throwback to a forgotten age. Indeed, the large painted tiles that decorate the walls at Granja - one of the smaller stops en route to Espinho - appear to date back to 1914. The trains are infrequent here, but when ours pulls into the platform the station master briefly emerges from his office to ensure everything is in order. Meanwhile, in one of the rear compartments, two small children with Portugal colours emblazoned on their cheeks peer out of the window. As it happens, Espinho is playing host to the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Portugal 2015™, and the host nation are due to play Argentina that same day.

Special attraction

Espinho's beaches are well-visited, its narrow alleyways abuzz with activity - even during sunset - and the beach soccer training facilities near the stadium attract visitors from far and wide. In the evenings, local Portuguese sides do battle with one another on the same spot where the national teams of Japan and Tahiti were put through their paces only hours previously. Men, women, girls and boys, all barefoot, are eager to show off their skills on the warm sand. As they play, elderly men sit on nearby walls and reminisce about times gone by, while the smell of fish wafts from the entrances of the surrounding restaurants.

From Russia, with love

Countless fans have travelled to Espinho to see their teams in action. The Beach Soccer World Cup may not be front page material just yet - the transfer of Iker Casillas to FC Porto and head coach Jorge Jesus' decision to leave Benfica for Sporting Lisbon remain headline news - but the little arena is always full when Portugal are playing. Indeed, before the tournament's opening game between the hosts and Japan on 9 July, a 300-metre long queue formed outside the Praia da Baia stadium. "The effort our fans have gone to in order to see us play is fantastic," says Russia head coach Mikhail Likhachev, who guided his team to World Cup glory in 2011 and 2013 before winning the European Games in June this year. "They usually have to make several stopovers to get here, but their support helps us a great deal. Their backing is terrific, even here in Espinho."

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Granja One of the smaller stops en route to Espinho



Espinho A 300-metre queue formed outside the stadium in Espinho ahead of the opening game

beach soccer was arguably one of his best ideas. Brazilian world champion Romario was another poster boy for this form of the game during the 1990s, particularly in South America. Suddenly, playing football on sand was no longer comical and cool but was instead a fully-fledged sport requiring plenty of talent and hours of training.

When it comes to lasting impact, actively promoting beach soccer was arguably one of Eric Cantona's best ideas.

The development and changes that have taken place in the game since FIFA took the World Cup under its wing in 2005 mean that these sandy pitches are no longer a place for footballers who previously enjoyed a career on turf. Players now specialise exclusively in beach soccer even if the earnings potential is not nearly so great as in "proper" football. Ramiro Amarelle is an icon of the game after playing in Milan and Barcelona and featuring for Spain at six World Cups. Having travelled to Espinho this year as a spectator and to work as an expert for FIFA, he says: "Former professional footballers can no longer try their luck and be successful on sand, because the game has become extremely fast. On this surface the sport needs a very particular set of skills. Previously good technique alone would get you a long way, but now conditioning, energy levels and tactics are just as important. Beach soccer has become an incredibly intense game."

On the sand below, Portugal have just beaten Japan 4-2, and the 3,500 fans who have taken advantage of the free tickets to pack into the arena are performing *La Ola*, the wave made famous in Mexico back in 1986. As a young DJ in sunglasses and a fedora turns the music up louder, it is clear that a little of the sport's previous party atmosphere lives on, at least in the stands.

The prodigal son returns

The summer holidays are well underway in Portugal, where, like in other southern European countries, children enjoy a two- or three-month break during the hottest months. In a scene reminiscent of a seaside schoolyard, hundreds of teenagers mill around on the dunes behind the stadium, with boys hollering and playing pointless pranks on each other while pairs of girls listen to their favourite music through a single pair of headphones. Just one look at the football shirts worn by many of the young people here brings to mind one particular native of these shores who left for Manchester before returning to the Iberian Peninsula to become a three-time FIFA Ballon d'Or winner - Cristiano Ronaldo. CR7's name is everywhere, sparking pride among the locals that this prodigal son has returned for a couple of days to northern Portugal, where he owns a house on a lake in the countryside. Whenever he goes there for a holiday, the paparazzi simply set up camp on the opposite shore to capture some long-distance shots with their most powerful lenses.

When it comes to football, Portugal still has progress to make, because although this country of 10 million people consistently exports excellent players and talented coaches, it is still waiting for its first major international title. While nobody would consider the national side's loss to Greece in the final of their home European Championship 11 years ago to be a success, the fact remains that during the period in which this diminutive footballing nation has been producing more world-class



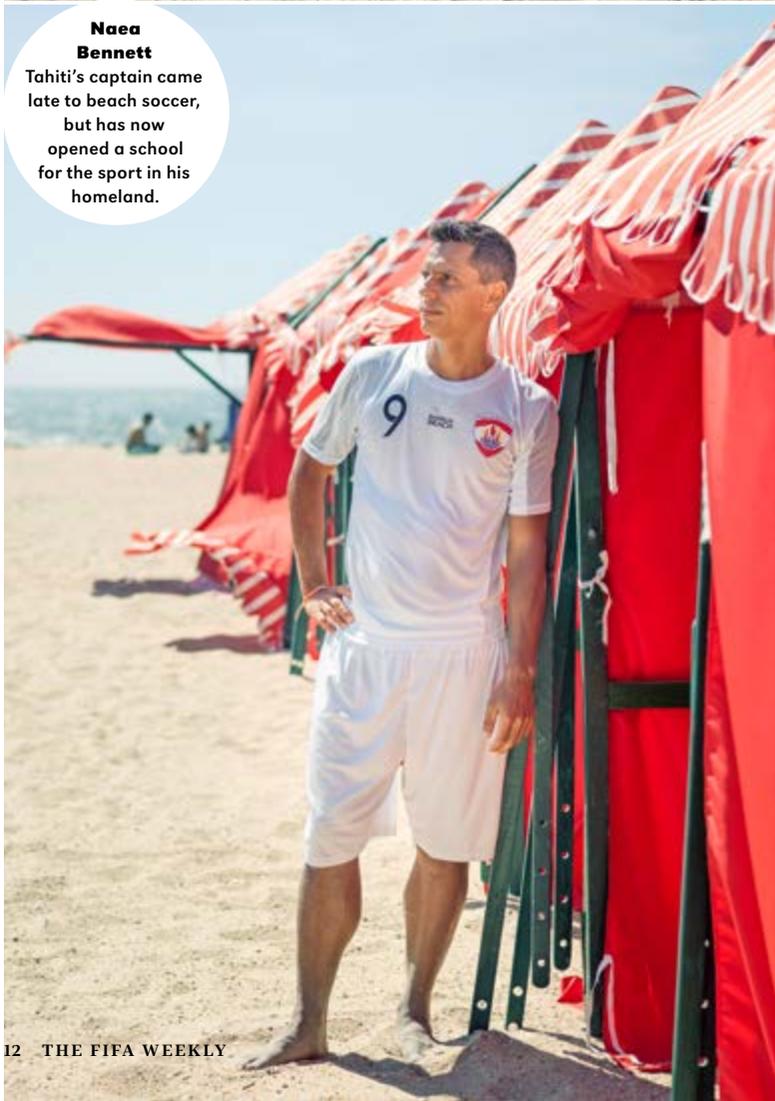
The Atlantic way of life
A surfer (above) takes an early-morning shower at the stadium. Four young men enjoy an afternoon on the beach.



Bloodied but unbowed
A Russian player receives medical attention after training.



9 July 2015
Argentina beat Senegal
4-3 on the
tournament's
opening day.



Naea Bennett
Tahiti's captain came
late to beach soccer,
but has now
opened a school
for the sport in his
hometown.



Mikhail Likhachev
Russia have
won the last two
Beach Soccer World
Cups under his
leadership.

individuals than ever, that Euro 2014 runners-up spot marks the high point in a list of honours that also includes Porto's Champions League triumph the same year and a fourth-place finish at the 2006 FIFA World Cup. Now this part of the Atlantic coast has captured the attention of at least part of the footballing world once more.

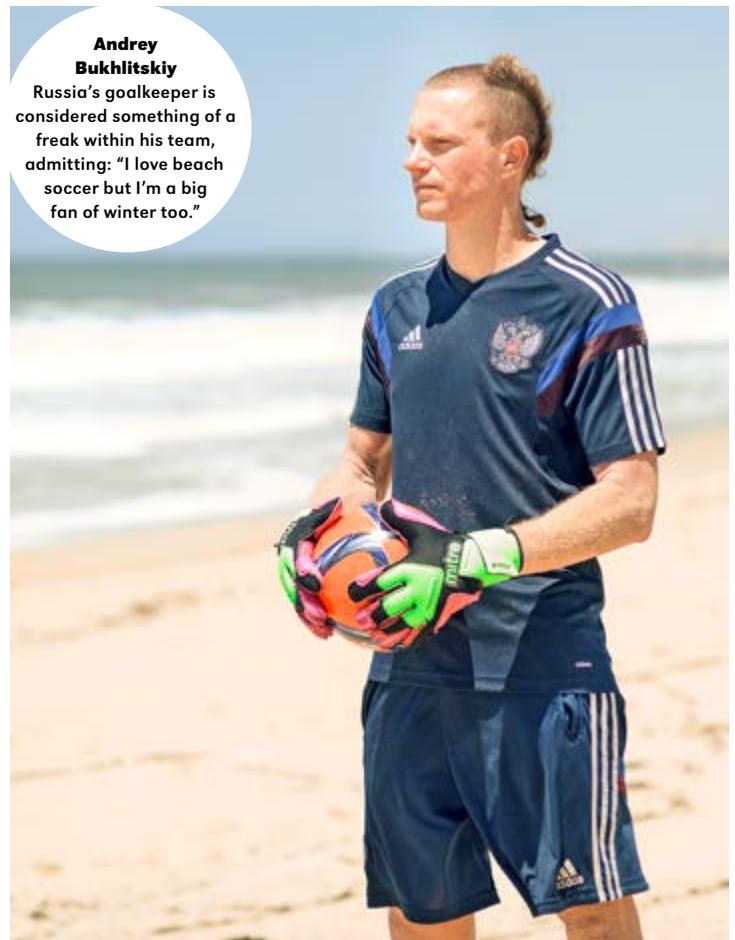
Faced with the prospect of hosting the Beach Soccer World Cup in 2013, Tahiti embarked on a project that led the team to a sensational fourth-place finish on home soil.

Beach soccer offers a rich source of wonderful stories, such as those penned at the last World Cup in Tahiti in 2013. Although the idea of playing football on the shores of a South Pacific island was easy enough to imagine, the prospect of being unable to keep pace with the sport's biggest teams on home soil prompted the islanders to begin a project aimed at making their team strong enough to compete for the title. They did this by recruiting the nation's most talented players on grass, including current national side captain Naea Bennett, who explains: "I got a call and thought, 'Why not?' Beach soccer sounded really great." The project went from strength to strength and, with the help of experienced Swiss coach Angelo Schirinzi, the team achieved success faster than many expected as Tahiti ended the 2013 tournament in a sensational fourth place. Bennett still plays on sand and has since opened his own beach soccer school on the island.

The secret of Russia's strength

In Russia, a country where even a bitterly cold winter is considered mild by the locals, beach soccer has enjoyed a surprising rise in popularity over the last decade. Having defended their title in 2013, the national team have left traditional superpower and four-time back-to-back World Cup winners Brazil trailing in their wake ever since the South Americans' former assistant coach Mikhail Likhachev took the reins of the Russian side. Although the 37-year-old's face is a picture of calm after a short, intensive training session with his team in Espinho, his goalkeeper Andrey Bukhlitskiy looks less relaxed. With sand clinging to his cheeks, he has one more task to attend to as Likhachev calls his shot-stopper over with a shout of "Come on Andrey, we're going for a photo shoot in the sea."

While making their way to the water's edge, the two Russians pass a Portuguese teenager casually practising heel flicks. Scarcely visible in the distance behind them is the familiar figure of an old woman in a folding chair. "It's lovely here," Likhachev smiles, "and there's only one answer to the question of why Russia are so strong right now. We're disciplined and we work hard." ☺



Andrey Bukhlitskiy
Russia's goalkeeper is considered something of a freak within his team, admitting: "I love beach soccer but I'm a big fan of winter too."

Quarter-finals - 16 July

Match 25	 Brazil	 Russia	5:6 aet
Match 26	 Portugal	 Switzerland	7:3
Match 27	 Italy	 Japan	
Match 28	 Tahiti	 Iran	

Semi-finals - 18 July

Match 29	Winner Match 27	Winner Match 28
Match 30	 Portugal	 Russia

Match for third place - 19 July

Match 31	Loser Match 29	Loser Match 30
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Final - 19 July

Match 32	Winner Match 29	Winner Match 30
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Eliminated after the group stage:

Argentina, Costa Rica, Madagascar, Mexico, Oman, Paraguay, Senegal, Spain



Get all the latest news from the Beach Soccer World Cup at: www.tinyurl.com/qx3sh2

BEACH SOCCER

A beach soccer match is split into three periods, each lasting 12 minutes. Each team consists of four outfield players and a goalkeeper who can all be substituted as often as required, with each player generally spending between two and four minutes on the pitch. As in basketball and ice hockey, the clock is stopped in the event of a foul.

Games are played barefoot, with players allowed no other kit apart from their team strip. The sport is very intense and quickly takes its toll on the legs, and although the soft surface means the risk of injury is relatively low, the occasional bloodied toe is not unusual.

This year's tournament is being held between 9 and 19 July 2015 in Espinho, Portugal, with Madagascar the only side making their World Cup debut. This is the eighth time the competition has been held under FIFA's leadership. France became world champions in 2005 before Brazil lifted the trophy four times in succession. The past two tournaments in 2011 and 2013 were won by Russia. The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup 2017 will be held in the Bahamas.

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The last 12 Beach Soccer World Cups (under FIFA since 2005)



2013

Tahiti

Winners: Russia

Runners-up: Spain

Third: Brazil

Fourth: Tahiti

adidas Golden Ball: Bruno Xavier (BRA)

adidas Golden Boot: Dmitrii Shishin (RUS)

adidas Golden Glove: Dona (ESP)

2011

Ravenna (ITA)

Winners: Russia

Runners-up: Brazil

Third: Portugal

Fourth: El Salvador

adidas Golden Ball: Ilya Leonov (RUS)

adidas Golden Boot: Andre (BRA)

adidas Golden Glove: Andrey Bukhlitskiy (RUS)

2009

Dubai (VAE)

Winners: Brazil

Runners-up: Switzerland

Third: Portugal

Fourth: Uruguay

adidas Golden Ball: Dejan Stankovic (SUI)

adidas Golden Boot: Dejan Stankovic (SUI)

adidas Golden Glove: Mao (BRA)

2008 Marseille (FRA)



Winners: Brazil

Runners-up: Italy

Third: Portugal

Fourth: Spain

adidas Golden Ball: Amarelle (ESP)

adidas Golden Boot: Madjer (POR)

adidas Golden Glove: Roberto Valeiro (ESP)

2007

Rio de Janeiro (BRA)

Winners: Brazil

Runners-up: Mexico

Third: Uruguay

Fourth: France

adidas Golden Ball: Buru (BRA)

adidas Golden Boot: Buru (BRA)

2006

Rio de Janeiro (BRA)

Winners: Brazil

Runners-up: Uruguay

Third: France

Fourth: Portugal

adidas Golden Ball: Madjer (POR)

adidas Golden Boot: Madjer (POR)



A history of Beach Soccer

Sun, sand and scintillating action: how a light-hearted event became a competition attracting international media attention.

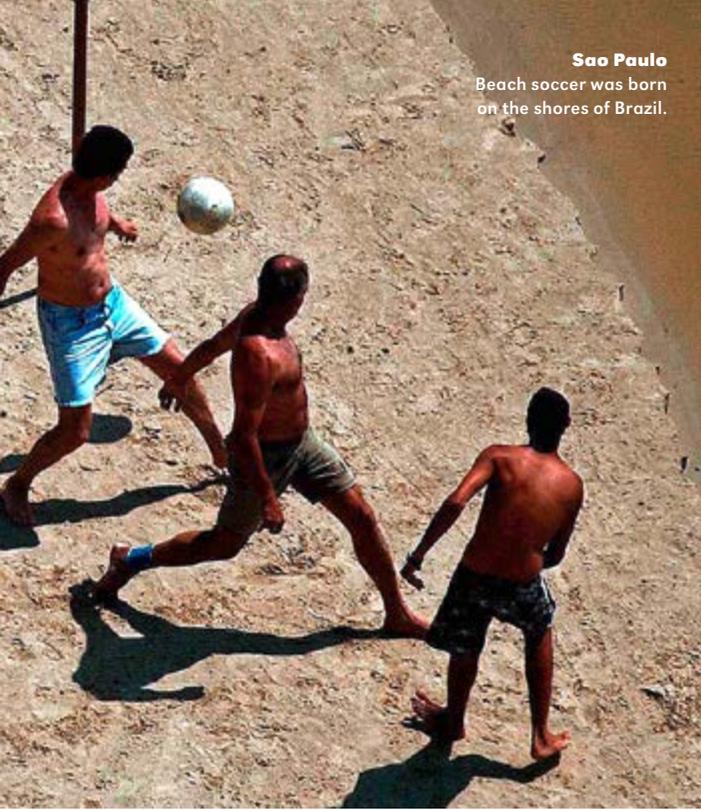
Over the past decade and a half, beach soccer has journeyed from the beaches of Brazil to the hearts of millions of fans all over the globe. The participation of internationally renowned players such as the Brazilian Junior Negao, Portugal's Alan and Madjer and the Spanish star Amarelle has helped to expand television coverage to large audiences in over 170 countries worldwide, making beach soccer one of the fastest growing professional sports in the world and converting it into a major showcase for international commercial opportunity.

Beach soccer had been played recreationally all over the world for many years and in many different formats. However, it was not until 1992 that the Laws of the Game were envisioned and a pilot event staged in Los Angeles. The following summer, the first professional beach soccer competition was organised at Miami Beach, with the teams from USA, Brazil, Argentina and Italy taking part in what would turn out to be an historic event.

World premiere on the Copacabana

In April 1994 the first event to be covered by network television transmissions was held on the Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro and the city hosted the inaugural Beach Soccer World Championship one year later. The competition was won by the host nation, making Brazil the first ever Beach Soccer world

Sao Paulo
Beach soccer was born
on the shores of Brazil.



champions. The success of the tournament saw international interest begin to match developments on the pitch and growing demand for the sport around the world gave rise to the Pro Beach Soccer Tour in 1996.

The first Pro Beach Soccer Tour included a total of 60 games in two years across South America, Europe, Asia and the USA, attracting major names both on and off the pitch. Interest generated by the tour in Europe led to the creation of the European Pro Beach Soccer League in 1998, providing a solid infrastructure that would increase the professionalism of the spectacle on all levels. The EPBSL, now known as the Euro BS League, united promoters from across the continent and satisfied the demands of the media, sponsors and fans. Only four years on from its creation, the successful first step in the building of a legitimate Worldwide Competition Structure for the sport of Pro Beach Soccer had been taken.

The Euro BS league flourished, with a nail-biting 2000 season decided in the closing match of the final tournament when Spain beat Portugal in an intense encounter. The next four years would see this growth consolidated by further progress both on and off the pitch, with the Euro BS League emerging as the strongest Pro Beach Soccer competition in the world. By 2004, some 17 nations had entered teams, and by 2005 this had risen to 20, leading to more than seventy countries looking to stage events.

Brazil and Russia win successive World Cups

2005 saw beach soccer become part of the FIFA family with the first-ever FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup staged on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro. An Eric Cantona-led France defeated Portugal in the final, while hot favourites Brazil fell in the semis.

However, the following year, at the first edition of the tournament to feature 16 nations, the *Auriverde* avenged the previous year's loss, before winning a further three successive world crowns, with the latter two tournaments staged in Marseille and Dubai. The most recent tournament, held in 2013 in the Tahitian city of Papeete, saw Russia repeat as kings of the beach after seeing off Spain in the final. The Russians won their maiden title at Ravenna 2011, dethroning Brazil as beach soccer's best. ⚽

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2005

Rio de Janeiro (BRA)

- Winners: France
- Runners-up: Portugal
- Third: Brazil
- Fourth: Japan
- adidas Golden Ball: Madjer (POR)
- adidas Golden Boot: Madjer (POR)



2004

Rio de Janeiro (BRA)

- Winners: Brazil
- Runners-up: Spain
- Third: Portugal
- Player of the tournament: Jorginho (BRA)

- Top goalscorer: Madjer (POR) - 12 goals
- Best goalkeeper: Roberto (ESP)
- Goals: 155 (average: 7.8)

2003

Rio de Janeiro (BRA)

- Winners: Brazil
- Runners-up: Spain
- Third: Portugal
- Player of the tournament: Amarelle (ESP)
- Top goalscorer: Nenem (BRA) - 15 goals
- Best goalkeeper: Robertinho (BRA)
- Goals: 150 (average: 9.4)

2002

São Paulo (BRA)

- Winners: Brazil
- Runners-up: Portugal
- Third: Uruguay
- Player of the tournament: Nenem (BRA)
- Top goalscorer: Neném (BRA), Madjer (POR) und Nico (URU), - 15 goals
- Best goalkeeper: Nomcharoen (THA)
- Goals: 145 (average: 9.1)

2001

Bahia (BRA)

- Winners: Portugal
- Runners-up: France
- Third: Argentina
- Player of the tournament: Hernani (POR)
- Top goalscorer: Alan (POR) - 10 goals
- Best goalkeeper: Dimeta (FRA)
- Goals: 144 (average: 7.2)

2000

Rio de Janeiro (BRA)

- Winners: Brazil
- Runners-up: Peru
- Third: Spain
- Player of the tournament: Junior (BRA)
- Top goalscorer: Junior (BRA) - 13 goals
- Best goalkeeper: Kato (JPN)
- Goals: 172 (average: 8.6)

ON THE INSIDE

Venezuela: Primera Division

Champions Tachira start on a winning note



Annette Braun is a staff writer on *The FIFA Weekly*.

Venezuela's failure to qualify from Group C of the Copa America 2015 should certainly not be attributed to a lack of support back home. Before the tournament, eight female TV presenters demonstrated their backing of *La Vinotinto* in provocative fashion by stripping completely naked on air.

Despite victory over Colombia in the group opener, defeats to Peru and Brazil sent Noel Sanvicente's side crashing out early. There has been little time for reflection on the premature exit in football-mad Venezuela, however, after the country's top flight, the Primera Division, kicked off on 11 July, only

a week after proceedings in Chile had drawn to a close.

The Primera Division spans two 'half-seasons', the Apertura and the Clausura, with the winners of each facing off in a two-legged final to decide the destination of the title. Last season Deportivo Tachira overcame Trujillanos over the two-leg decider, although it was a minor miracle that the eventual champions, based in San Cristobal in the northern Andes, made the final at all.

After ending a woeful Apertura, the first half of the season, in 11th place, Deportivo put together an impressive Clausura, with qualification going down to the final seconds of the last game of the regular season. Daniel Farias' side only secured safe passage courtesy of a 94th-minute equaliser to make it 2-2 against historic rivals Caracas. A stalemate followed by a 1-0 victory against Trujillanos in the final then proved enough to ensure Tachira's eighth domestic title.

This season, Farias' men do not intend to leave it quite so late, aiming to impress in

both the Apertura and the Clausura. They have gone the right way about achieving that aim so far, beating Deportivo Anzoategui 2-1 in their opening game courtesy of goals from 37-year-old Jorge Alberto Rojas and 19-year-old Carlos Cermeno. While the departure of last season's top scorer, Gelmin Rivas, to Al-Ittihad (Jeddah), does not yet seem to have had an impact, Tachira face a tough test on the second weekend with the visit of Trujillanos. Last season's beaten finalists began their campaign with a 1-1 draw against Deportivo La Guaira.

The side who came third overall last season, Caracas, sent a signal of their own title ambitions on the opening weekend with a 4-0 win on the road at Tucanes de Amazonas. The capital-city club's 11 domestic championships since 1992 ensure they remain Venezuela's record champions, despite a last title coming in 2010. Next up on 19 July, Caracas face coach Eduardo Sarago's former club, CD Lara, intent on taking another step towards ending that five-year drought. ⚽



Mr. Reliable
Deportivo Tachira's Jose Alberto Rojas (l.) celebrates another strike.



Norway: Tippeligaen

Rosenborg's high-flying Helland



Sarah Steiner is a staff writer on The FIFA Weekly.

Rosenborg have not won the Tippeligaen for five long years. That is quite a wait

for fans who had become accustomed to success when the club secured 13 consecutive titles between 1992 and 2004. Now, at the halfway point of the season in Norway's top-flight, Rosenborg once again sit top of the pile. The Trondheim-based club boast a five-point cushion over second-placed Stabaek, who were only promoted in 2013, and lead their closest rivals in recent years, Stromsgodset and Molde, by nine and 11 points respectively.

The primary reason for Rosenborg's success so far this season, and for the fans' hopes of a first title since 2010, has been the attacking

duo of Pal Andre Helland and Alexander Soderlund. As if to underline their importance, in the recent league game against Odds both found the net in a 3-0 victory. Centre-forward Soderlund tops the league's scoring charts with 14 goals, while winger Helland sits joint-third with ten goals, despite injury problems limiting him to that very number of appearances.

Injuries or not, the Norwegian press are united in their belief that Helland is a very special player. "He is far and away the best player in the league and is able to do things which almost no-one else can," said TV2's football expert, Jesper Mathisen, recently. "Rosenborg will win the title at a canter."

Having trodden a long and difficult path to reach his current heights, Helland is unlikely to let the praise go to his head. Only four years ago, Rosenborg declined to renew his contract, leaving the wide man working in a warehouse while turning out for Byasen in the second division. Even back then, however, Helland was aware of his potential. "This isn't the last you'll hear of me," he promised the

club on his departure in 2011. He proceeded to work harder than ever, both on his fitness and his game and was proved right when Rosenborg re-signed him two years later.

Indeed, facing a Rosenborg side missing Helland is a very different proposition to one with him in its ranks. The statistics alone highlight his value: the league leaders take 1.83 points per game without Helland in the side, a figure which rises to 2.44 when the 25-year-old plays. "It could be the case that it's hard to find a replacement for me," he said, modestly. "But the numbers could just as easily be a coincidence." Regardless, international honours have followed suit, with Helland making his Norway debut in a friendly against Sweden in June.

Rosenborg goalkeeper Andre Hansen disagrees with his team-mate's unassuming self-assessment. "Helland has the strength and the ability to impose himself which not many other wingers in Norwegian football possess," he explained. "On top of that there is a real finesse to his play. In fact, he's a very atypical Norwegian player." ❄



Man of the moment
Pal Andre Helland (l.)
in action for Rosenborg
Trondheim

“The best is yet to come”

At 25, Jozy Altidore has already played for clubs in six different countries. The USA international discusses his adventures in Turkey, Jurgen Klinsmann and the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Jozy Altidore, you were only 16 when you began your professional career. Were you mentally ready for that?

Jozy Altidore: I actually signed [with New York Red Bulls] when I was 15, but I didn't start playing until the next year. It was a difficult time for me in many ways, especially in the States where we didn't have too many professional players coming through at such a young age. It was a challenging time, but I don't have any regrets about it. I enjoyed it and it helped me become the player I am today.

You must have missed a lot of the fun stuff that your schoolmates were getting up to...

Yeah, that's true. You miss your high school dances and those types of things, although I did manage to go to my prom. At least I got to do that. You're not a normal kid in a lot of ways. But for me football was always in my blood. It's something that was a part of my family and the love for it was always there. We shared a passion together and the sacrifices weren't that a big deal to me. I enjoyed every moment of it and looking back I wouldn't change a thing.

You've lived and played in many different cultures – Spain, England, Turkey, the Netherlands, Canada – which was the toughest to adapt to?

Turkey. I was there for six months and I really didn't know what to expect. It took me some time to settle. The fans are so fanatical and so passionate about their teams and players, and I had to get used to that. I grew to really love it. It was a very good experience for me and one I would recommend to a lot of young players.

Which country was easiest to adapt to?

The Netherlands. I was there at AZ Alkmaar with a sporting director that I had a very good understanding with. I was playing with players that liked the same type of football that I did. That's a key for any player – to go into an environment where you're comfortable. It was an easy transition from day one.

And now you're back in Canada with Toronto FC. How does it feel to be back in MLS after a long time away?

I'm excited to be back. I haven't played here in a long time, since I was very young. I feel like I'm at a point in my life where I'm ready for this different type of challenge, and I can still take my game to the next level. It's a big thing for me.

You're very active on Twitter. How did this come around?

I've been on Twitter for so long, I can't even remember when I got started. I think it's a good platform to engage with fans and express your views. I think the fans appreciate that, to see that you're normal and someone they can talk to.

Do you usually answer tweets from fans?

Sometimes. I'm a big joker. I can address positive things or negative things and I want to make sure the fans know that I have no problem talking to them.

You use the motto 'family over everything.' What can you say about that?

It's a part of my upbringing. I'm so close to my family. They've been there for me forever. They've been there in the tough times and the great times too. For me, there are no other people that have your back the way family does.

What can you say about the current US national team?

Positive things are happening since the World Cup in Brazil. If you look at the trajectory of US soccer – where we've come over the last 12 or 15 years – it's incredible. We're constantly growing and getting better. Our football is improving all the time. The best is yet to come and we've got exciting times ahead in Russia. We will have another strong team and hopefully we can surprise a few more people.

CONCACAF teams are getting stronger across the board. We saw that in Brazil too...

The region is as tough as it's ever been.

I was so happy to see the rest of the CONCACAF teams do as well as they did in Brazil. Costa Rica went so far, Mexico are always strong and so were we. It shows the world that it's not so easy for us to qualify. It's extremely competitive here. That's good because it makes everyone better.

You must imagine that the USA will qualify for the World Cup Russia 2018?

I would like us to qualify for Russia. But nothing is a given. We still have to go to these tough places and work hard and qualify. It would be a huge disappointment if we didn't qualify.

What does Jurgen Klinsmann bring as coach of the US team?

If you look at the work that Jurgen has done since he's come in, he's made us think differently. He's challenged us in ways we haven't been challenged before, and I think that's important. If you want to grow or become better in any part of life, you have to step out of your comfort zone. He's testing us in a lot of ways.

You've been around a long time, but you're still only 25. What are your goals for the future?

I still feel like my best football is yet to come. I understand the game in a way that I didn't before. I'm excited for the next five or six years. I'm getting better with every game and I want to see where that goes. 🍀

Jozy Altidore was speaking to Alejandro Varsky

Name

Josmer Volmy Altidore

Date and place of birth

**6 November 1989,
Livingston, New Jersey, USA**

Position

Striker

Clubs played for

2006–2008 New York Red Bulls

2008–2011 Villarreal

2009 Xerez (loan)

2009–2010 Hull City (loan)

2011 Bursaspor (loan)

2011–2013 AZ Alkmaar

2013–2014 Sunderland

since 2015 Toronto FC

USA national team

78 caps, 26 goals





First Love

Place: Munich, Germany

Date: 29 August 2013

Time: 7.07 p.m.

Photographer: Simon Koy





FOOTBALL FOR HOPE

Football for Hope is our global commitment to building a better future through football. To date, we have supported over 550 socially-responsible community projects that use football as a tool for social development, improving the lives and prospects of young people and their surrounding communities

To find out more, visit the Sustainability section on [FIFA.com](https://www.fifa.com).

Ghana introduces IRT

The Ghana Football Association will soon become the first FIFA member association to use FIFA's TMS Intermediary Regulations Tool (IRT).



On 1 April 2015, FIFA's new "Regulations on Working with Intermediaries" came into force. The regulations require all MAs to register intermediaries who are engaged in transactions involving players and clubs affiliated with their association and to annually publish aggregate figures.

In line with FIFA TMS's goal to support MAs in fulfilling their regulatory obligations, the IRT will enable the GFA to gather the necessary information in order to comply with FIFA's regulations. The information to be collected includes: all agreed remunerations or payments that are made or will be made to an intermediary; intermediary declarations; representation contracts and consents and declarations about conflict of interests for all involved intermediaries. Most importantly, at the end of March each year, the GFA will be able to generate a report reflecting the necessary data for publication in accordance with the Regulations on Working with Intermediaries.

The IRT is integrated with the Transfer Matching System (ITMS and DTMS). As such, the GFA has the added benefit of being able to manage professional player transfers and related intermediary involvement in one system - increasing administrative efficiency and visibility over transfer and intermediary activity within their association. ☺

tfw



A new benchmark in Russia

376 days after the unforgettable FIFA World Cup Final in Rio de Janeiro, the clocks will be reset to zero once more over the coming week. The Preliminary Draw for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ will herald the start of a new era when it takes place in St Petersburg on 25 July.

The finals in Russia mark another milestone in footballing history. Holding the world's largest sporting event in the world's largest country will set a new benchmark.

This became clear when entries were submitted for the competition. For the first time in World Cup history, all 209 member associations registered their national sides for the qualifying campaign.

With qualifiers already underway in North and Central America as well as in Asia, the first ties have already been decided – and I am delighted to see that emerging countries such as Bhutan and East Timor in Asia, together with Belize, Curacao and Aruba in the CONCACAF Zone, are still in the race for a World Cup spot.

For 141 associations from five confederations, the road to the 2018 finals will only begin in St Petersburg next Saturday. The beauty and symbolism of the event's setting cannot be surpassed. Few cities have inspired more songs and works of literature than the Pearl of the Baltic, and nowhere else in Russia has produced so many artists and masterpieces. Although the city's magnificent backdrop of countless palaces, cathedrals and churches is a lasting testament to the high culture of the Tsarist era, drama has also unfolded here. The 900-day Siege of Leningrad was among the most tragic chapters in 20th-century history.

St Petersburg is already the historic and cultural heart of Russia, and now this city on the banks of the Neva River will mark the beginning of another major story for the 2018 finals. This tale will reach its climax on 15 July with the biggest match of all – the Final of the 21st FIFA World Cup at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium.

Best wishes, Sepp Blatter

Goals galore on the road to Russia

Deon McCaulay is Belize's all-time leading goalscorer. Now the underdogs' hopes rest on the 27-year-old as they bid for a place at the 2018 World Cup, writes *Jonah Fontela*.

Something was missing when Belize began their 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 qualifying tie against the Cayman Islands. The ball simply refused to go into the net, and with pressure mounting over the two legs it took a late free-kick from Elroy Kuylen to level the scores at 1-1 and seal passage through to the next round by a slim away goal. "We missed Deon," the clearly relieved scorer said, making no secret of what or, to put it more plainly, who his team had been so sorely lacking.

The Deon in question is Deon McCaulay, the 27-year-old forward who is his country's all-time leading goalscorer. "Play him through five times and I guarantee he'll score at least three," Kuylen said of the national hero. Coach Jorge Nunez agreed, hardly hesitating to heap praise on his No.9. "Deon solves all of our attacking problems."

McCaulay then proved these were not empty words uttered after one poor performance. Just as his coach had predicted, the floodgates opened again upon his return. The striker scored twice away to the Dominican Republic in the first leg of their second-round qualifier before adding a spectacular headed strike in the return leg to ensure Belize stormed into the third round with a 5-1 aggregate victory. The team will learn their next opponents at the Preliminary Draw in St Petersburg on 25 July.

Clarity in front of goal

"Sometimes when the goals are flying in, I think to myself: 'Wait, is this really happening?'" McCaulay said candidly, his voice marked by the Caribbean-inflected accent of Belize. "When my goals win a big game it's almost unreal. In some ways I can't believe it's become so easy for me."

Do not mistake McCaulay's confidence for arrogance. Instead it is the sum total of years of hard work, developing what he calls "clarity" in front of goal. He exudes the clear-eyed strength of a man who has worked his way up from humble, even dangerous, beginnings, having been born in a corner of Belize City known for drugs, gangs, guns and violence. "Football was a way out," he said of his roots. But he did not drag himself out alone. There was someone to light the way. His father, David McCaulay Sr., had football, and scoring goals, in his veins.

Like father, like son

"He scored 13 goals for the national team," McCaulay said of his dad, beaming with a pride matched only by his father's for a son who is Belize's best-ever player by any measure. "When I was a boy he used to bring me and my brother to the field and work us out." Young McCaulay watched on as his father trained with the national team, waiting patiently on the sidelines for sessions to end.



Xinhua / image



High flyer
Deon McCaulay has scored 20 goals in 34 appearances for his country.

Name

Deon McCaulay

Date and place of birth

**20 September 1987
Belize City, Belize**

Position

Striker

Clubs played for

**2005-2006 Kremandala
2006-2007 FC Belize
2007-2008 Belize Defence Force
2008 Puntarenas
2008-2009 FC Belize
2009 Belize Defence Force
2009-2011 Deportes Savio
2011-2012 R.G. City Boys United
2013-2014 Belmopan Bandits
2014-2015 Atlanta Silverbacks**

Belize national team

34 caps, 20 goals



FIFA PARTNER



Aiming for Russia 2018 Deon McCaulay (right) and Ian Gaynair are seeking to lead Belize to their first World Cup.



Belize

Population: 331,900 (2013)

Official language: English

Area: 22,966 km²

2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying:

1st round

25 March 2015: Belize 0-0 Cayman Islands

29 March 2015: Cayman Islands 1-1 Belize

2nd round

11 June 2015: Dominican Republic 1-2 Belize

14 June 2015: Belize 3-0 Dominican Republic

3rd round

Preliminary Draw on 25 July

FIFA: As part of its Goal development project, FIFA provided a total of \$1,733,777 in financial support to the Belize Football Association between 2000 and 2012. It also donated a further \$1,050,000 under the 2015 Financial Assistance Programme (FAP).

Then, he got his chance to run on the pitch. His father stayed behind to show his boy the tricks of the striking trade: where to put the ball, how to run off the shoulder of a defender, and the wizardry of finding the right place at the right time.

“Oh man, did we miss Deon.”

Elroy Kuylen

More goals than Suarez and Messi

McCaulay says he “always knew (he) would be a striker” and has been finding the target ever since. He even hit the global headlines during qualifying for Brazil 2014 by scoring 11 goals in as many games, including a hat-trick against Montserrat, admittedly one of the world’s lowest-ranked teams. He finished the preliminary rounds as the world’s top scorer, ahead of Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi. Although the man from Belize laughs off the notion his talent is anywhere near those massive names, he is once again demonstrating his scoring prowess on the international stage, sitting second in the scorer’s charts with three goals in just two Russia 2018 qualifiers.

Pure striker

McCaulay is a pure striker, the type pundits call ‘a natural’. He is lean, fast and moves through the channels a step ahead of any pursuer. The marked improvement in Belizean football over the last decade is in many ways down to his ability.

“I’ve had my eyes on him a long time. He’s got what we need,” Atlanta Silverbacks Technical Director Eric Wynalda said of McCaulay before he brought him to the team last year. The former USA star knows what he is talking about, having made a habit of scoring opportunistic goals in a ten-year, 100-plus-cap career.

Waiting for the right offer

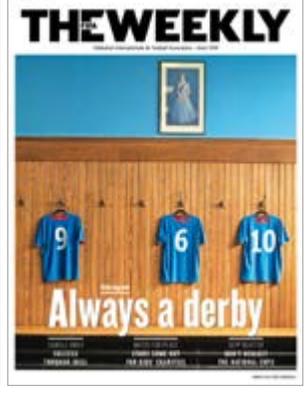
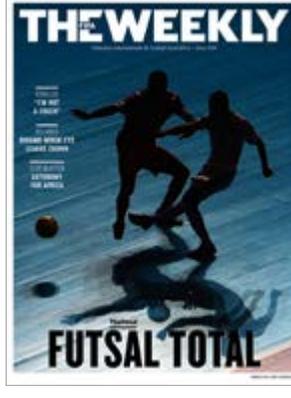
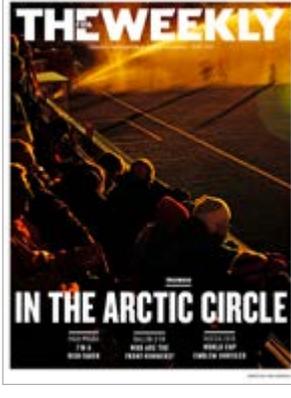
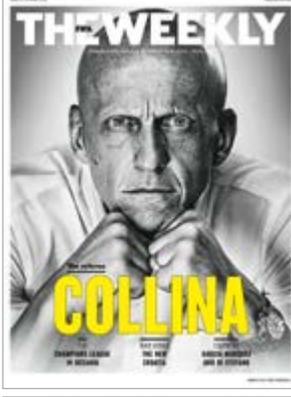
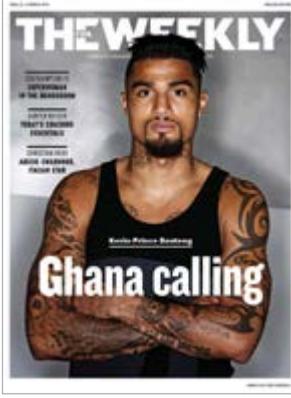
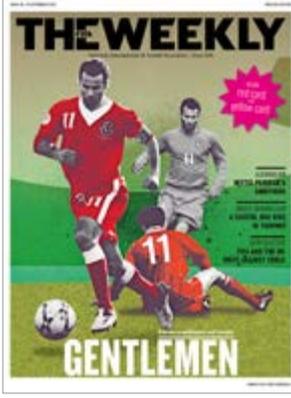
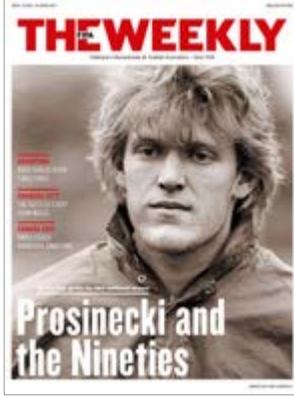
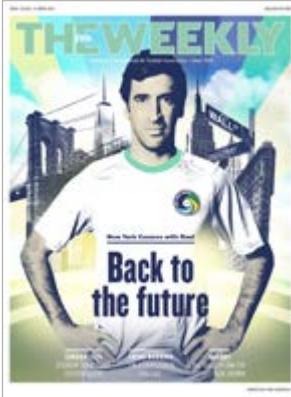
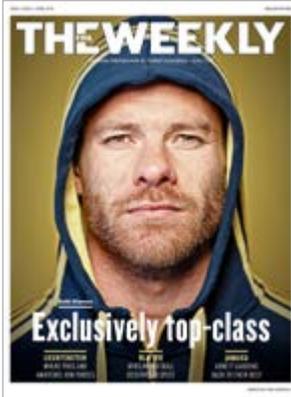
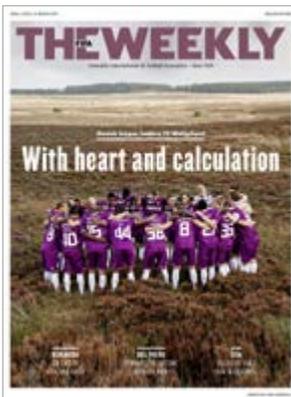
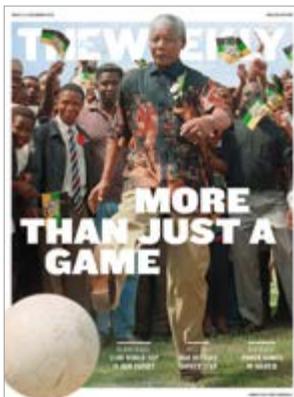
Despite this endorsement, life in the USA’s second professional tier was not easy for McCaulay, who failed to establish himself at the club after suffering a hernia. Now he is out of contract and back in Belize, training full-time with the national team and waiting for his next chance, but it seems unlikely that a striker who can score like he does will not be without a home for long.

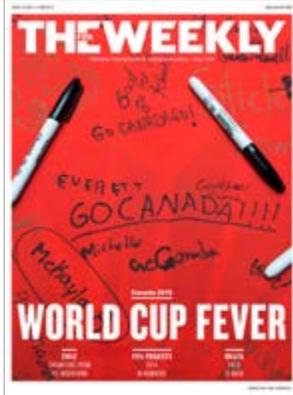
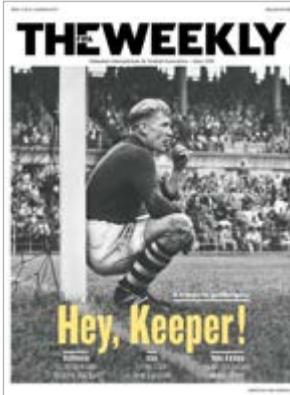
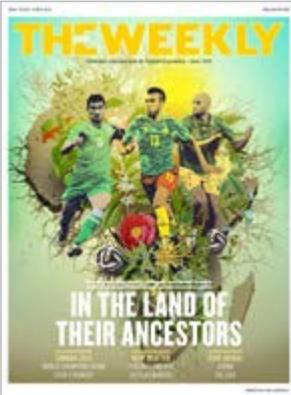
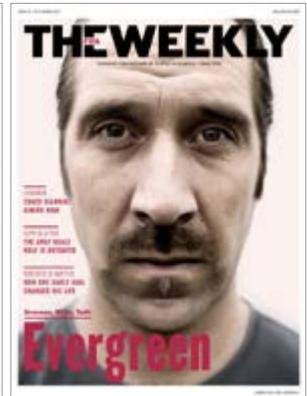
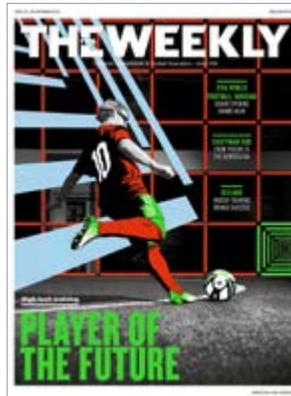
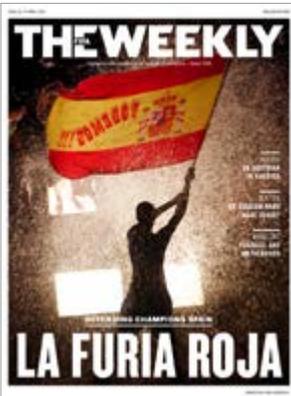
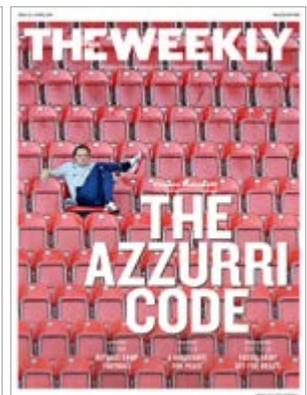
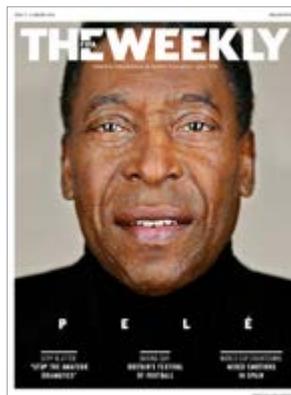
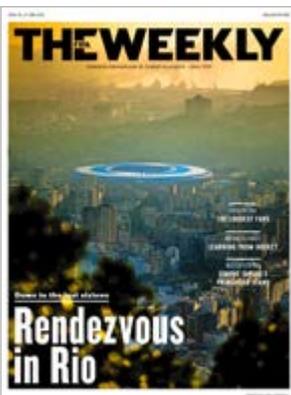
“I don’t want to jump at the first offer that comes my way,” said McCaulay, who has had trials in MLS and as far away as Greece, and considers patience to be among the key attributes of a great scorer. “All I can do is keep scoring goals and helping my country. From there, only good things can come.” ⚽



Narrowly missing out

McCaulay (right) – here duelling with Marcos Senna – struggled to establish himself in Atlanta.





THE WEEKLY



FIFA's magazine is available in four languages every friday.



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A rollercoaster of emotions

Annette Braun

Throughout the history of football, it has always been thus: for the fan, your pre-match excitement reaches fever pitch, the desire to see your team win overwhelming. The neutral, on the other hand, hopes for an exciting game with as many goals as possible. But do goals always equate with excitement?

There are, of course, limits. A 1-0, 2-0 or 3-0 victory stirs positive emotions while a 4-0, a 5-0 or a 6-0 win sends those emotions cascading into unadulterated joy. Along with brilliant team play and fantastic finishing, eye-catching attacking football lives long in the memory.

Yet there comes a point when football fans are also capable of empathy. As supporters, we have all suffered; after all, victory and defeat go hand in hand. We are able to understand the mind-set of losing fans and put ourselves in their shoes. A 7-0, 8-0 or 9-0 victory starts to become discomfoting, while as soon as the scoreline reaches double figures we watch on with increasing disbelief.

Indeed, as soon as the win is in the bag and the game only revolves around the eventual margin of victory, a switch in the fan's mind is flicked. Support for the victors becomes

sympathy for the opposition. This must undoubtedly have been the case for all present when Vanuatu U-23s beat their Micronesian counterparts by a record 46-0 score at the recent Pacific Games.

The Micronesia coach, Stan Foster, spoke afterwards of it being a game of men against boys. While sadness still holds sway over football lovers in the islands which form Micronesia, well wishes and sympathy have poured in from all over the globe for Foster's troops.

Such reactions reflect not only football's public spirit but also the fact that there is always another chance – even for Micronesia. In four years' time, the disappointed players will get another crack at the Pacific Games and fans will certainly be hoping to celebrate more goals – this time for both teams. ⚽



GENERAL INFORMATION

Country:
Tanzania
 FIFA Trigramme:
TAN
 Continent:
Africa
 Capital:
Dodoma

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Surface area:
945,087 km²
 Highest point:
Kibo 5,895 m
 Neighbouring seas and oceans:
Indian Ocean

MEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Ranking:
139th
 World Cup:
No appearances

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Ranking:
129th
 World Cup:
No appearances

LATEST RESULTS

Men's:
Uganda - Tanzania 1:1
4 July 2015
 Women's:
Tanzania - Zambia 2:3
10 April 2015

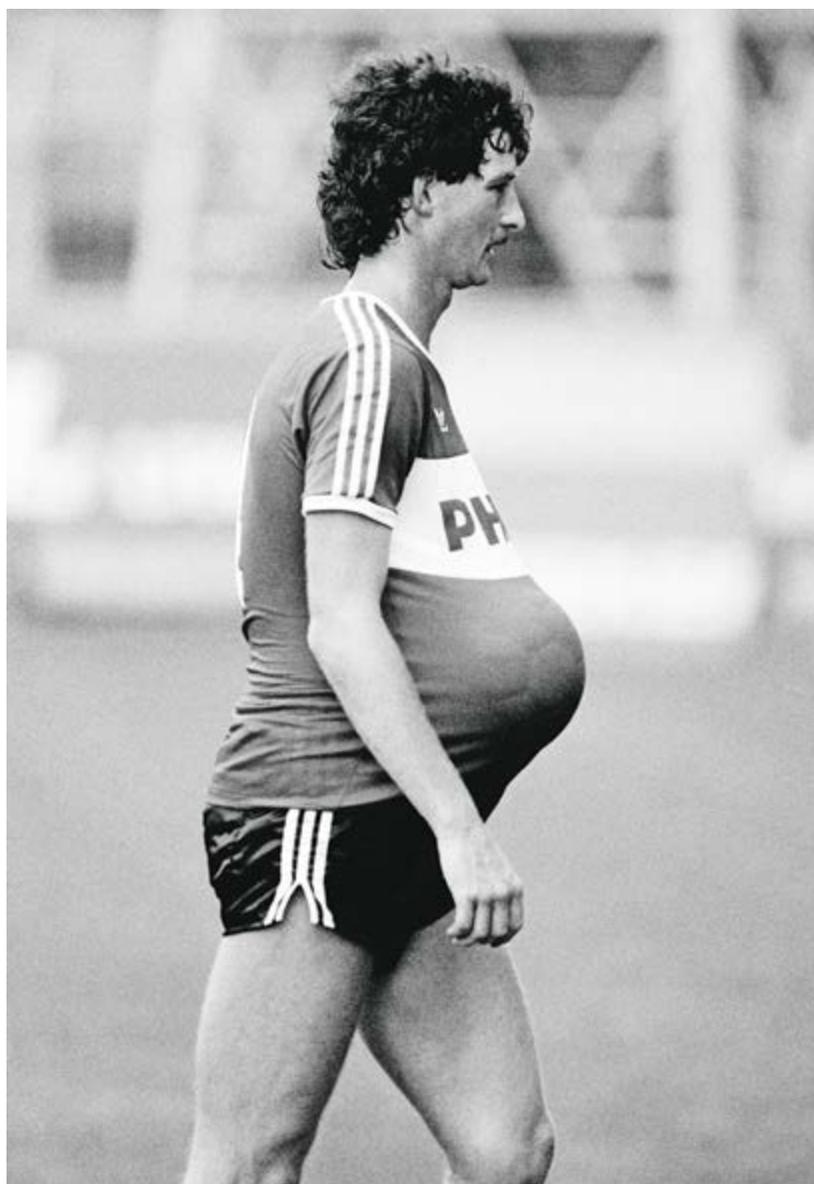
FIFA INVESTMENTS

Since 2001:
\$ 4,608,797

The weekly column by our staff writers

T H E N

Dortmund, Germany



1983

PSV Eindhoven's Ernie Brandts, pictured after his side's penalty shootout loss to Borussia Dortmund.

N

O

W

Bloemfontein, South Africa



2010

Honduras striker David Suazo after his team's 0-0 draw with Switzerland in a World Cup group match.

adidas



#BETHEDIFFERENCE





The 23rd man

Ronald Düker

It is a recurring dream, one that has followed the same pattern every week for a number of years: a man is sitting in a deserted changing room, aware that everyone out there is waiting for him to emerge. But the man is not ready – nowhere near ready. He urgently needs to get changed into his shirt, socks and shoes, which are lying spread out in front of him. And he mustn't forget his yellow and red cards, his whistle, pen and pad he uses to jot down notes during the game. But he can't do it. Even tying his shoelaces seems to take an eternity. Suddenly, the man notices that the game has started. They've kicked off without him – without a referee! At this point the man always wakes from his dream with a start, bathed in sweat.

The man in question, Christoph Schröder, has been a referee for over 27 years, but he isn't one of those officials who is subjected to torrents of abuse from fans who watch his matches on television every week. No, Schröder officiates in the amateur leagues, usually on substandard pitches out in the sticks somewhere. Although players still take the game seriously at this level, they also tend to polish off an entire crate of beer after their matches. It is all a far cry from the world of highly-paid superstars we know so well. The game is nothing but a hobby for these players, who don't earn a single penny for their efforts. Schröder, of course, also officiates on a voluntary basis.

"Ich Pfeife! Aus dem Leben eines Amateurschiedsrichters" – which translates to "I'm in charge! The life of an amateur

referee" – is the German title of the wonderful book that Schröder, who earns a living as a literary critic, has written about his favourite pastime. He describes the game from his own unique perspective and doesn't hold back when it comes to talking about the darker aspects of his job. Unsurprisingly perhaps, Schröder receives far more abuse from players and fans than gratitude. The standard of football at this level may not be quite on a par with the professional game, but the players go into battle with the same doggedness and determination. They even copy the goal celebrations of their favourite players when they hit the back of the net themselves. The question is, why would an adult put himself through the trials and tribulations of being an amateur referee? The answer is simple: because his love of the beautiful game encompasses all levels of the sport. Even on the boggiest of pitches, a game of football still lasts 90 minutes and involves 22 players. Actually, make that 23: After all, a referee's passion for the game knows no bounds. ❄️

Christoph Schröder: Ich pfeife! Aus dem Leben eines Amateurschiedsrichters ("I'm in charge! The life of an amateur referee")

"Bad news is that I lost my phone last night. Good news is that Cristiano Ronaldo found it. Better news is that he took us to dinner last night."

Austin Woolstenhulme on Instagram

"People think that, because you're a footballer, you don't have the right to do things. I like to play the guitar.

I like to drink wine. Why?

Because I have a life."

Daniel Alves, FC Barcelona

"In a game I played in New York with Steve Nash, I scored an overhead kick.

I felt like Pelé in the film 'Escape to Victory'! It was truly magical."

Giuseppe Rossi, Fiorentina

"I would never imagine the Final would go as wildly, dramatically, smoothly as it just did for us. Seven goals in the final is a little bit outrageous in my opinion, but the first 16 minutes, it seemed surreal, it seemed fake. I think I died and this is what my heaven looks like."

Abby Wambach on the Canada 2015 decider

"If we reach the final I will go on foot!"

Hristo Sakantiev, an 83-year-old who made a 5,000km round trip by bus to watch Bulgarian minnows Beroe play in Lithuania in the UEFA Europa League.



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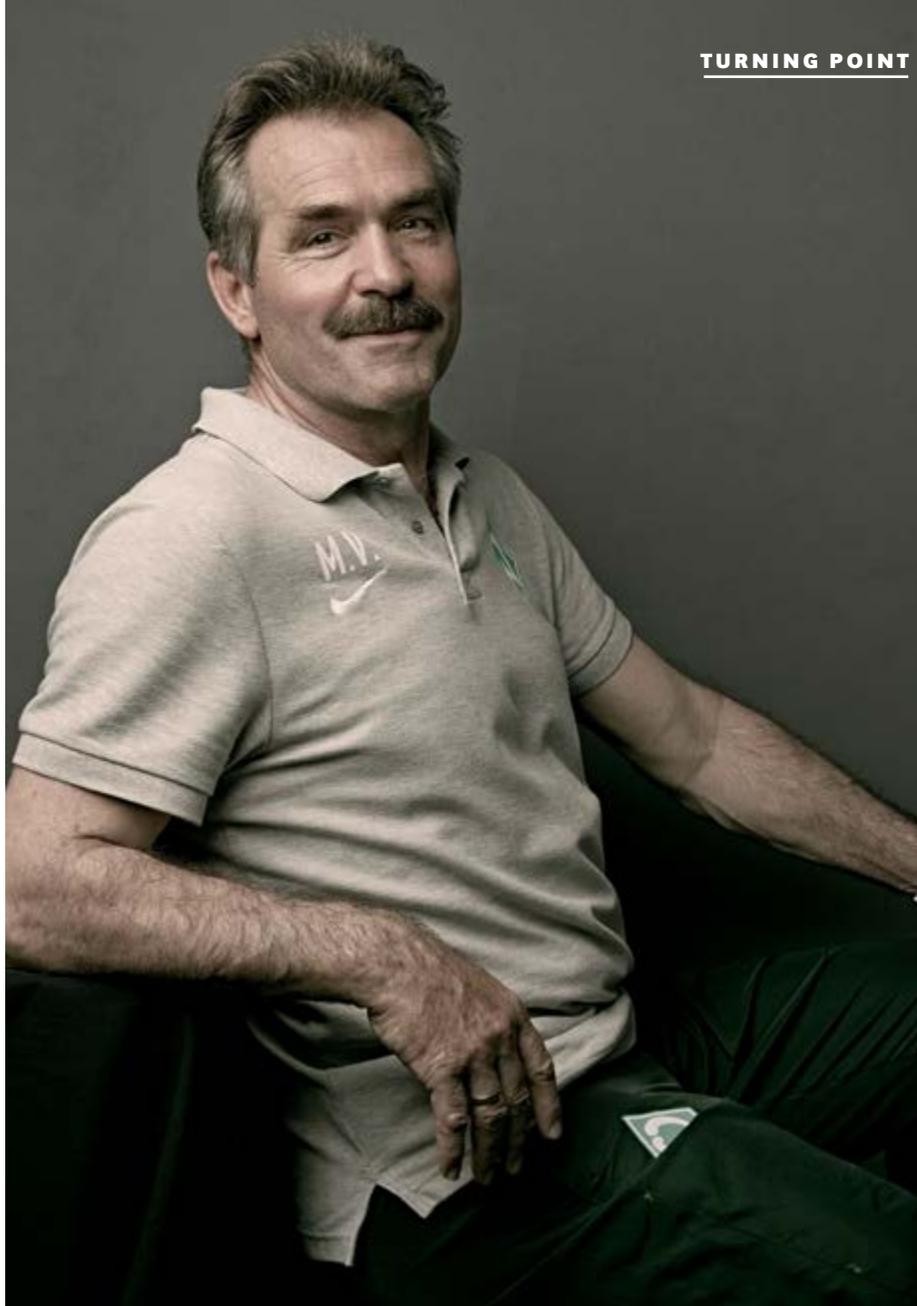
“We were sweating blood at the border”

Mirko Votava fled Czechoslovakia with his parents and brother in 1968, and ultimately managed to gain German citizenship.

Amidst the turmoil of the Prague spring, my parents decided to flee the country in 1968. Back then, leaving the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was no easy matter. I remember it well – we were sweating blood at the border! When we finally got handed our visa it was a huge relief. The fact that everything went so smoothly is down to my parents, who had booked a trip to Switzerland before the unrest began. Had we been made to stay, I’m not sure how my career would have panned out.

After crossing into Germany we arrived at the reception camp in Zirndorf, and from there we travelled to Australia. My aunt and uncle lived in Sydney, where we stayed for eight months until we finally obtained our German residence permit. In a way, it was also thanks to football that we were able to return to Europe. Even in the CSSR, football had always been my favourite pastime. I took my first steps as a footballer at Dukla Prague. While playing in tournaments I got to know a few of my friends from Germany, who would go on to help us return.

Like my brother, I joined Borussia Dortmund from VfL Witten 07 in 1973. I was mainly used in the reserves, but also made one or two appearances for the first team. I was given a professional contract for the start of the 1974/75 season. In those days you were only allowed two foreign players in your team, but



because Zoltan Varga was a mainstay of the side, only one spot was left. My brother may have been the more talented footballer, but I had the greater willpower.

I was granted German citizenship several years later. My former youth coach went on to become a local politician and he stood by me, as did my wife of course. As a competitive swimmer, she met a politician at a swimming gala who helped me obtain a German passport and go on to play for the national side.

Germany has become my home. I suffered from homesickness three years into my stint in Madrid with Atletico, so Otto Rehhagel's offer of a move to Werder Bremen came at exactly the right time. Under his guidance I became a German champion, a DFB Cup winner and European Cup Winners' Cup winner. I've remained at Bremen ever since and am currently coaching the Under-19s. The city is my home. 🇩🇪

Mirko Votava was speaking to Sarah Steiner

Name

Miroslav Votava

Date and place of birth

25 April 1956, Prague, Czechoslovakia

Position

Midfielder

Clubs

1974-1982 Borussia Dortmund

1982-1985 Atletico Madrid

1985-1996 Werder Bremen

1996-1998 VfB Oldenburg

West Germany national team

5 caps

Clubs coached

1997-1998 VfB Oldenburg

1998-1999 SV Meppen

2000-2002 Werder Bremen (scout)

2002-2004 Union Berlin

since 2004 Werder Bremen Under-19

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



Leader
 Moves into top ten
 Moves out of top ten
 Matches played in total
 Most matches played
 Biggest move by ranks
 Biggest drop by ranks
 Newly ranked teams
 Teams that are no longer ranked

USA
Norway (10th, up 1)
Canada (11th, down 3)
138
USA (11)
Cameroon (43rd, up 10)
Ecuador (54th, down 6), **Zimbabwe** (104th, down 6)
Indonesia, Congo, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Gabon, Kenya
Singapore, Lesotho

Last updated:
 10 July 2015

Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points
1	USA	1	2189	51	Paraguay	0	1459	101	El Salvador	-1	1184		Angola **		1134
2	Germany	-1	2115	52	Ghana	0	1456	102	Latvia	1	1180		Congo DR **		1132
3	France	0	2081	53	Jordan	1	1452	102	Moldova		1180		Samoa **		1110
4	Japan	0	2073	54	Ecuador	-6	1451	104	Zimbabwe	-6	1179		Armenia **		1104
5	England	1	2038	55	Equatorial Guinea	0	1445	105	Cook Islands	-4	1177		American Samoa **		1075
6	Brazil	1	1975	56	India	-1	1425	106	Ethiopia	-2	1154		Guinea **		1063
7	Sweden	-2	1971	57	Israel	0	1424	107	Suriname	-2	1152		Eritrea **		1060
8	Korea DPR	0	1969	58	Iran	0	1418	107	Honduras	-2	1152		Uganda **		965
9	Australia	1	1968	59	South Africa	1	1415	109	Malta	-4	1145		Guinea-Bissau **		927
10	Norway	1	1927	60	Croatia	-1	1413	110	Kyrgyzstan		1134		Syria **		927
11	Canada	-3	1924	61	Peru	0	1412	110	Luxembourg	-2	1134		Iraq **		882
12	Netherlands	0	1907	62	Turkey	0	1411	112	Nepal	-3	1115		Mozambique **		873
13	Italy	0	1875	63	Haiti	0	1397	112	Georgia	1	1115		Kuwait **		870
14	China PR	2	1866	64	Slovenia	0	1391	114	Nicaragua	-4	1111		Malawi **		840
15	Denmark	0	1853	65	Venezuela	0	1380	115	Puerto Rico	-4	1108		Lesotho **		836
16	New Zealand	1	1839	66	Northern Ireland	0	1376	115	Cyprus	-4	1108		Curaçao **		831
17	Korea Republic	1	1824	67	Côte d'Ivoire	0	1372	117	FYR Macedonia	-3	1079		Sierra Leone *		1132
18	Iceland	2	1817	68	Greece	0	1364	118	Gabon		1052		Burkina Faso *		1038
19	Spain	-5	1815	69	Panama	0	1363	119	Namibia	-4	1039		Grenada *		1029
20	Scotland	1	1797	70	Uruguay	0	1361	120	Zambia	-2	1015		Rwanda *		996
21	Switzerland	-2	1781	71	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1360	121	St Vincent and the Grenadines	-5	1000		Barbados *		979
22	Russia	0	1779	72	Kazakhstan	0	1354	122	St Lucia	-5	991		Macao *		922
23	Ukraine	0	1772	73	United Arab Emirates	0	1353	123	Bangladesh	-4	987		Liberia *		877
24	Finland	0	1758	74	Jamaica	0	1352	124	Sri Lanka	-4	968		British Virgin Islands *		867
25	Colombia	3	1747	75	Hong Kong	0	1347	125	St Kitts and Nevis	-4	956		US Virgin Islands *		852
26	Mexico	-1	1736	76	Bulgaria	0	1343	126	Lebanon	-4	949		Andorra *		763
27	Austria	-1	1719	77	Estonia	0	1339	127	Bermuda	-4	943		Comoros *		761
28	Belgium	-1	1708	78	Albania	0	1329	128	Maldives	-3	938		Madagascar *		714
29	Nigeria	4	1659	79	Indonesia		1321	129	Tanzania	-5	934		Turks and Caicos Islands *		704
30	Thailand	-1	1654	79	Algeria	0	1321	130	Pakistan	-4	926				
30	Czech Republic	-1	1654	81	Morocco	-1	1316	131	Dominica	-4	906				
30	Poland	2	1654	82	Tunisia	-1	1314	132	Afghanistan	-4	889				
33	Republic of Ireland	-2	1653	83	Philippines	-1	1312	133	Qatar	-4	864				
34	Costa Rica	3	1627	84	Guatemala	-1	1300	134	Cayman Islands	-4	849				
35	Vietnam	-1	1626	85	Tonga	-1	1299	135	Swaziland	-4	836				
36	Argentina	0	1621	86	Bahrain	0	1289	136	Belize	-3	825				
37	Wales	-2	1620	87	Guam	-1	1287	137	Kenya		781				
38	Portugal	0	1578	88	Faroe Islands	-3	1286	138	Bhutan	-4	778				
39	Chinese Taipei	0	1574	89	Egypt	-1	1278	139	Antigua and Barbuda	-4	767				
40	Hungary	0	1566	90	Laos	0	1273	140	Aruba	-4	758				
41	Romania	-1	1564	91	Malaysia	-2	1260	141	Botswana	-4	730				
42	Chile	0	1559	92	Senegal	-1	1252		Azerbaijan **		1341				
43	Myanmar	0	1542	93	Montenegro	0	1237		Fiji **		1306				
43	Cameroon	10	1542	94	Lithuania	-2	1228		Guyana **		1256				
45	Uzbekistan	-1	1540	95	Congo		1218		Tahiti **		1238				
46	Serbia	-1	1533	96	Bolivia	-2	1217		Solomon Islands **		1195				
47	Slovakia	-1	1509	97	Dominican Republic	-2	1207		New Caledonia **		1188				
48	Trinidad and Tobago	-1	1489	98	Cuba	-2	1206		Benin **		1187				
49	Belarus	0	1475	99	Mali	-2	1196		Singapore **		1177				
50	Papua New Guinea	0	1472	100	Palestine	-1	1192		Vanuatu **		1139				

** Inactive for more than 18 months and therefore not ranked.
 * Provisionally listed due to not having played more than five matches against officially ranked teams.

Published weekly by the
Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

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S U D O K U

The objective of Sudoku is to fill a 9x9 grid with digits so that each of the numbers from 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each column, row and 3x3 sub-grid.

1

EASY

2			8		7			
	8	9				4		
			3	9	6		7	8
		3				5		
6			1	5	2			7
		1				6		
1	5		7	6	9			
		7				9	2	
			5		8			1

2

MEDIUM

	8				7		5	
	2		6		8	4	9	
1				9			2	
3		5	9					
	9						6	
					1	9		4
	5			8				9
	1	8	2		6		7	
	6		5				4	

3

HARD

						9		
5				4	3			
		1	2	5	8		4	
9			8	2			1	
7		6				2		9
	1			9	7			5
	4		3	7	2	8		
			5	8				4
		7						



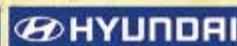
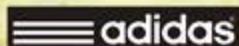
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