

# THE WEEKLY

FIFA

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Russia 2018 Preliminary Draw

# World Cup journey begins

**ZAMBIA**

KATONGO RETURNS  
TO SUPER LEAGUE

**BLATTER**

FIFA  
WORKS

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IS STILL IMPROVING

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**Russia 2018**

The qualifying groups for the FIFA World Cup will be drawn in St Petersburg on 25 July, marking the start of a long adventure that will culminate in Moscow in July 2018. Annette Braun reports on the Preliminary Draw at Konstantin Palace and the 31 World Cup spots up for grabs. A feature spotlights World Cup mascots past and present.

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**World Cup journey begins**

Our cover illustration depicts a woman in traditional Russian dress.

Illustration: Bianca Litscher (www.sukibamboo.com)



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**28 World champions at last**

Portugal are celebrating after winning the Beach Soccer World Cup on home sand.

**17 Zambia**

The return of Chris Katongo is enriching the Zambian Super League.

Panoram/C/Imago, Alex Grimm/ FIFA via Getty Images





# GRASSROOTS

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## Something special

The final few minutes before kick-off at the FIFA World Cup are always emotional. An almost ridiculous, childlike feeling washes over everyone, making it impossible to contemplate anything other than watching football matches every day for weeks on end. Everyday life takes a back seat, with shopping and mowing the lawn put on hold indefinitely as eager spectators send each other short messages saying: “The game’s about to start! Where are you watching it?”

There are a couple of good reasons why this event justifies such sacrosanct status. Firstly, the fact that stars from 32 different nations are battling it out means the matches are top class, while there is nothing quite like the drama of a late goal. The other, less impulsive reason for being glued to this wonderful FIFA tournament is that, fortunately, it only happens once every four years, and this rhythm is a big part of what makes the World Cup so very special.

Although World Cup hunger was fully satisfied by the most recent Final in Rio de Janeiro, appetite for the competition is slowly returning just a year later. The Preliminary Draw for Russia 2018 takes place in St Petersburg on 25 July to mark the start of a lengthy adventure. “Three, two one – the countdown begins,” writes Annette Braun in her report, which means that it will not be long before the first texts are exchanged: “Did you see? We’re playing Italy!” 🌐

*Alan Schweingruber*

# CURTAIN RAISER

The Preliminary Draw for the 2018 World Cup in Russia marks the tournament's first highlight, writes *Annette Braun*.



**Kazan**  
The stadium in the famous city of culture, located 800 km east of Moscow, lies on the banks of the river Volga.



Laurence Griffiths/Getty Images

**T**hree, two, one – the countdown to the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018™ will begin on 25 July when the draw for the qualifying stages of the tournament takes place at the Konstantin Palace in St. Petersburg, marking the first major event en route to the competition. The draw will determine which path teams take in their continental qualification campaigns and represents a landmark occasion in the battle for the coveted tournament berths.

It is almost exactly five years since Russia was chosen to host the 2018 finals, beating off joint bids from Spain/Portugal, the Netherlands/Belgium and England. It was with great pride that Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov announced: “Let’s make history together.” Russia has never hosted a World Cup before; indeed no country in eastern Europe has ever done so. Since being confirmed as hosts the sense of anticipation has skyrocketed – even extending to outer space.

Last year three cosmonauts on the International Space Station, which is approximately 400 kilometres from earth, presented the official 2018 World Cup emblem. The stylised World Cup trophy combines elements of dreams and magic, and was even projected onto the famous Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. The draw in St. Petersburg provides the nation with a first opportunity to channel its enthusiasm. “Almost a year ago we began preparations and today I can unequivocally state that Russia is ready to host this important event,” said Vitaly Mutko, Russia’s Minister of Sports and Chairman of the Russia 2018 Local Organising Committee (LOC).

#### **Two-hour show with Ronaldo and Forlan**

The event, which has been given the motto “The dream”, will be hosted by model Natalia Vodianova and television presenter Dmitry Shepelev. “The start of our exciting journey is about to begin,” said Vodianova. For Shepelev, meanwhile, the event’s slogan is particularly apt: “I’ve often dreamed of scoring a goal in front of a sea of cheering fans. Later I dreamed about being a spectator at a World Cup. But being able to host the show for the World Cup draw goes beyond anything I’ve ever dreamed of.”

“We have over 30 months of excitement and drama ahead of us.”

*Jérôme Valcke,  
FIFA Secretary General*

Some 2,000 guests from all walks of life will be present in Konstantin Palace when Vladimir Putin and Joseph S. Blatter open the show. Russia can showcase itself as a country and offer the first taste of a tournament that will ignite emotions and enthral fans around the world in three years’ time. Ronaldo will be the special guest, and the Brazilian will also make the draw. The two-time World Cup winner not only has first-hand experience of the magical, unforgettable moments the tournament can provide, but has also already been involved in making a draw: alongside Pele, Cafu, Neymar, Zico and Bebeto he added glamour to the occasion in 2011 in Rio de Janeiro. Over 500 million television viewers worldwide watched that broadcast, and that figure is unlikely to drop this time. Diego Forlan, who appeared at three World Cups with Uruguay and was crowned as the best player at the 2010 finals in South Africa, will help make the draw for the first time. “I’m proud of

the fact I can be present at an occasion like the draw on 25 July and can represent my country,” said the striker, who only recently retired from international duty. Aiding Forlan will be Fabio Cannavaro, Samuel Eto’o, Hulk, Oliver Bierhoff, Serbian U-20 World Cup winner Predrag Rajkovic, Russian goalkeeping legend Rinat Fayzrakhmanovich Dasayev, Russia’s all-time top scorer Aleksandr Anatolyevich Kerzhakov and Madjer, captain of recently crowned Beach Soccer world champions Portugal.

**Qualifying groups to be determined**

The key point of intrigue on the evening will be finding out who each country will face in qualifying. As hosts, Russia are the only nation sure of a place at the 2018 tournament. They have participated at ten finals to date, playing as the USSR seven times, and their best achievement was reaching the semi-finals in 1966, when they were knocked out by Germany. The other countries will eagerly wait to discover their opponents on the road to Russia 2018, and will have their eyes firmly trained on Ronaldo, Forlan and Co. when the draw is made. Five of the six global confederations will travel to St. Petersburg; only the Asian confederation (AFC) will be absent as continental qualifying has already begun there.

A total of 141 national teams are in the pot, and each of them has the same objective: to secure one of the coveted 31 places on offer at Russia 2018. The confederations employ different qualifying methods: for example, in North and Central America the countries placed lower down the FIFA/Coca-Cola world ranking play each other in a preliminary phase, with the winners going on to meet the historically more successful sides. In South America the ten teams contest a round robin tournament to determine who goes through, while in Europe there are nine groups comprising five or six teams. Each group includes a seeded side, based on the world ranking, in order to ensure the top nations avoid each other during qualifying. Nevertheless, big teams can still clash at this stage as both Italy and France are in pot two, meaning they will each have to play a seeded nation.

“Over 840 matches will be played until we know which teams will join Russia in the finals,” said FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke. “We have over 30 months of excitement and drama ahead of us.” Three, two, one – the countdown has started. ☺

# ALL GOING TO PLAN

The 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ will take place in 11 host cities and 12 stadiums – of which eight will be newly built for the tournament. Three years before the big kick-off, the 2018 FIFA World Cup Local Organising Committee (LOC) Chairman, Vitaly Mutko, is pleased with the pace of preparations. “We are running perfectly on schedule,” he said.

On 25 July, Saint Petersburg will open its doors to the football world for the World Cup Preliminary Draw, which takes place at the historic Konstantinovsky Palace. Russia’s second-largest city will host four matches at the tournament, including a semi-final, in a newly erected arena.

Alongside Saint Petersburg, the cities of Ekaterinburg, Kaliningrad, Kazan, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Rostov-on-Don, Samara, Saransk, Sochi and Volgograd will also welcome fans from all over the world in 2018. For the LOC, it was important that the host venues offered the widest possible view of Russian culture.



**Historical centre** Kaliningrad is ready to captivate the world of football.

**A journey through Russian history**

Accordingly, the tournament will stretch right across the country. From the westernmost venue, Kaliningrad, it is a distance of some 2,500 kilometres, crossing three time zones, to the easternmost venue, Ekaterinburg, in the Ural Mountains. In the south, Sochi, the host of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, is familiar with the organisation of major sporting events and will welcome fans to the Olympic Stadium.

The capital city, Moscow, boasts two arenas which will host World Cup matches: Spartak Stadium and Luzhniki Stadium. The latter, which is in the process of being redeveloped, will be the scene of the Opening Match and the Final.

The loudest cheers upon Russia’s award of the tournament, meanwhile, were most likely heard in Saransk. With a popula-

**THE 32 SLOTS AT THE 2018 WORLD CUP**

<b>HOSTS RUSSIA</b>	1.0
<b>AFRICA</b>	5.0
<b>ASIA</b>	4.5
<b>EUROPE</b>	13.0
<b>NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA</b>	3.5
<b>OCEANIA</b>	0.5
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>	4.5



**Greatest World Cup success** In 1966 a Soviet Union side featuring defender Vasilov Danilov (left) and goalkeeper Lev Yashin only lost to Uwe Seeler (right) and his West German team-mates at the semi-final stage.



**FIFA PARTNER**



**Preparing for the Final** The Luzhniki Stadium is being modernised.

tion of around 300,000, the capital of the central Russian Republic of Mordovia is the smallest host city.

**FIFA Confederations Cup Russia 2017 as a dress rehearsal**

Samara is another venue already swept up in World Cup fever. As host of the most recent meeting of the LOC in June, the city offered guests the chance to tour the construction site of the new stadium and visit the recently completed passenger terminal in the Volga Region’s biggest airport.

For his part, Mutko is certain preparations will continue to run smoothly. “All the arrangements for the 2018 World Cup in Russia will be carried out to the highest possible standard,” he said.

Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Sochi and Kazan will stage a dress rehearsal for the World Cup a year in advance as venues for the FIFA Confederations Cup Russia 2017. Currently confirmed participants in the competition are hosts Russia, World Cup winners Germany, AFC Asian Cup winners Australia and Copa America champions Chile. ♻️

*Annette Braun*

**WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION IN ASIA**

In Asia, qualification for the 2018 FIFA World Cup began in March, when several lower-ranked sides took part in a knock-out round. In May, the second round got underway as Asian champions Australia entered the fray together with Japan, Korea Republic and Iran - all teams who successfully qualified for the last World Cup in Brazil.

**Guam making waves**

Australia and Korea Republic won their opening encounters while Japan and Iran were held to draws, but Guam have been making the biggest headlines in Iran’s Group D. This western Pacific island nation, battling for a World Cup spot for the first time in 15 years, emerged victorious from their first two games to place them at the top of their table until the next round of matches in September.

**bra**

# Yes to environmental protection!

FIFA and Russia, hosts of the 2018 World Cup, have developed a sustainability strategy ahead of the preliminary draw for the tournament.

**A**mid preparations for the first official event of the 2018 FIFA World Cup 2018™, the Preliminary Draw in Saint Petersburg, the Russia 2018 Local Organising Committee (LOC) is implementing a waste management programme to segregate and recycle waste. The main goal of the programme is to reduce the negative impact of the event on the environment by managing waste more effectively and assist in disseminating existing best practices in this regard. The programme is part of



**St. Petersburg** The preliminary draw will take place at the Konstantin Palace.

the sustainability strategy developed by FIFA and the LOC, which was presented on 23 July. At the main venue of the Preliminary Draw – the Konstantin Palace – as well as at auxiliary sites, a tailor-made system of 150 to 200 waste bins will be used to ensure that non-recyclable waste is separated from recyclable material such as paper, plastic, glass, batteries, food waste, cardboard, cans, and packaging materials.

“Our aim is to mitigate the environmental impacts of the event and leave a positive legacy through the World Cup. After all, legacy is not just about the stadiums, but also the skills and expertise that will be gained and put to practice in the future, as a result of planning and delivering the FIFA World Cup” says Alexey Sorokin, CEO of the Russia 2018 LOC. “The Preliminary Draw is already being successful in partnering with local busi-



**Under construction** Work has already begun on the site of the World Cup stadium in Saransk.



**The countdown begins** Excitement is already building ahead of the tournament.

nesses practices that help to organise events in a more environmentally-friendly manner and reduce costs for waste disposal. We really appreciate their participation in such an important

The main goal of the programme is to reduce the negative impact of the 2018 World Cup on the environment.

initiative". Together with the local NGOs, its supporters and companies from Saint Petersburg, the LOC will recycle a substantial part of the waste produced in the preparation and staging of the

## BECOMING A WORLD CUP MASCOT

At the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ Germany, Goleo the lion proved to be a great success. At South Africa 2010 Zakumi the leopard followed suit, and at Brazil 2014 it was Fuleco the armadillo. Over the years tournament mascots have become a standard feature at the world's biggest football event.

It all started almost 50 years ago in 1966, when Willie the lion turned out to be a lucky charm for World Cup hosts England, who won their only title to date. Since then numerous successors have followed in the footsteps – or rather paw prints – of the tame predator-cum-mascot: Juanito, Striker, a cockerel and an orange for example. They have all had different shapes and names but nevertheless all had one thing in common: they represented the respective host nation.

Mascot fever has taken hold in Russia too, and the country's population has been greatly involved

now that the search for a suitable figure for the 2018 World Cup has begun. "The mascot represents the embodiment of our country for all World Cup fans," said Russia's Minister of Sports Vitaly Mutko. "Therefore it must be colourful and distinctive. Accordingly, it is important to involve Russian fans as much as possible in its development."

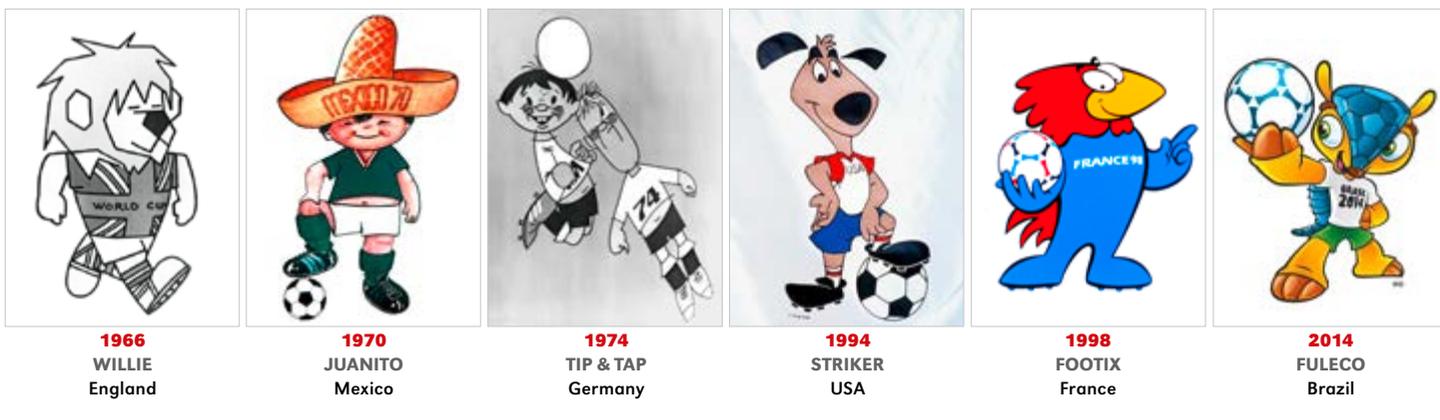
### Design competition

Between 1-31 May, Russian children took part in the process of deciding on the appearance of their mascot. An Amur tiger, the medieval character Bogatyr, a wolf, an Amur leopard, a phoenix, an alien, a cosmonaut, a cat, a bear and a robot were all in the running to be selected. Furthermore, the participants agreed that the mascot should be 'clever', 'a team player', and 'sporty'.

From September to November, design students at Russian art colleges now have the opportunity to come up with proposed mascots that adhere to the desired physical features and character traits, before presenting them to a jury.

"Collaborating on the image of the World Cup mascot is an inspiring, ambitious and interesting project for the design institutes," said Alexey Afanasyev, deputy director of academic affairs at the Moscow Institute for Architecture, before describing the task as a "wonderful challenge". He continued: "While working on their designs, students must take into account both the cultural traditions of football as well as FIFA's design guidelines." The three best creations will be put forward in a nationwide vote, and the winner will be presented to the general public in 2016.

bra



event. Recycling is important because it reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfills which can pollute the soil and ground water. It also offers an alternative that provides income, opportunities to innovate, and is also environmentally-friendly.

"After having successfully implemented a waste recycling programme for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, we are very pleased that the LOC has already started with these efforts at the first official event of the 2018 FIFA World Cup," said Federico Addiechi, FIFA Head of Sustainability. "The outcomes of the recycling programme in Saint Petersburg will help us in the planned expansion for the upcoming World Cup events and potentially make recycling programmes more readily available for the general population." ♻️

tfw

## FIFA IN RUSSIA

As part of its Goal development programme, FIFA has provided the Football Union of Russia with \$1,299,741 in financial assistance since 2000. These funds were primarily used for projects aimed at enabling year-round play and thus securing the future of youth football by installing artificial turf pitches.



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#BETHEDIFFERENCE



# ON THE INSIDE

## Peru: Primera Division

### Alianza reviving memories of former glories



**Sven Goldmann** is a leading football correspondent at Tages-spiegel newspaper in Berlin.

Alianza are winning again, as well and as regularly as they last did in the early years of this millennium, when it was taken for granted that the Peruvian champions would be running out at Lima's Estadio Alejandro Villanueva every other week. Located in the capital's La Victoria neighbourhood, the stadium is home to the club almost all of Peru's most famous players have represented at one stage or another. From national hero Teofilo Cubillas in the 1970s right through to stars of the present day such as Jefferson Farfan, Claudio Pizarro and Paolo Guerrero, Alianza boast an impressive list of alumni.

Peruvian football is currently riding the crest of a wave, epitomised by the national team's performances at the recent Copa America. La Blanquiroja marched to the semi-finals of the tournament where they were unfortunate to lose 2-1 to hosts Chile. It is not just the national side who are on the verge of reviving former glories, however. Top of the league after 11 matchdays, Alianza Lima are dreaming of adding to their 22 domestic titles after a nine-year drought.

On Sunday, the men in blue and white stripes beat UTC 4-1 at the Estadio Alejandro Villanueva, a fifth consecutive victory. While the winning streak has helped Alianza storm to the top of the table, at least as important to the fans was the fact that two of the successes came against their age-old capital-city rivals. A recent 3-1 triumph against reigning champions Sporting Cristal from the Rimac neighbourhood was followed in May by a 1-0 victory over Universitario in Peru's Clásico. Hailing from the Ate neighbourhood in the city's industrial heart, Universitario have won 26 titles and are the only side to have lifted more domestic championships than Alianza.

This season, however, the record champions are struggling. After six games without a win, Universitario battled to a 1-0 victory over San Martin on matchday 11. With only nine points, La U have slumped to 15th, only a point ahead of basement boys Ayacucho FC and Leon de Huanuco, both of whom have a game in hand.

While Universitario flounder near the bottom, the gap to leaders and fierce rivals Alianza has grown to 13 points. The league leaders' victory over UTC was marked by a superiority which underlined the current confidence among the squad. Indeed, the game had virtually been decided after 20 minutes. Julio Landauri opened the scoring in the 18th minute with an excellent finish from a tight angle on the left, before Gabriel Costa doubled the lead with a mirror image effort from the opposite side a mere 60 seconds later. Miguel Araujo got on the scoresheet halfway through the second period, while Pablo Lavandiera's 68th-minute strike for UTC was rendered little more than consolation when William Mimbela calmly slotted a late penalty for his side's fourth and final goal. Alianza are winning again. 🍀



**Derby victory**  
Alianza Lima's Gabriel Costa (l.) gets the better of Irven Avila from city rivals Sporting Cristal.



**Primary target**

Lucerne's Marco Schneuwly (centre) scored against Sion to secure a 2-2 draw and is now top of the Valais side's transfer wish list.

**Switzerland: Super League**

# Season off to a heated start in Valais



*Sarah Steiner is a staff writer on The FIFA Weekly.*

With the 2015/2016 Super League season now underway, it already seems clear

that teams will struggle to get past Basel. The team on the Rhine continue to act as a yardstick for the rest of the league and are expected to secure their seventh successive title, despite the fact that Urs Fischer is the club's fifth coach in four years. Although the champions got their latest campaign off to a successful start with a 2-0 win over Vaduz, their display was less than convincing, as coach Fischer admitted: "It was a typical first match of the season. The most important thing was the result. I'm still not happy with our switching of play, so there's still room for improvement."

Another team eager to gain some upward momentum this season are Young Boys, who have now gone 29 years without winning the league - much too long for their fans in Bern. With reinforcements urgently required, the club from Switzerland's capital city looked to Lisbon, signing Miralem Sulejmani - who once cost Ajax €16 million - and Loris Benito from Benfica. Nevertheless, the first of these promising new additions fell well short of expectations in Young Boys' opening game against FC Zurich, while Benito missed the encounter through injury as his new team snatched a fortunate 1-1 draw.

The third side aspiring to secure the Swiss domestic crown are Sion. The club from the canton of Valais recently issued a clear statement of intent to Basel by outclassing their rivals 3-0 to lift the Swiss Cup, while they also have Moussa Konate, one of the league's most captivating players, in their ranks. It was the Senegal international who scored to give his team a 1-0 lead in the 34th minute of their opening match against Lucerne, with Ebenezer Assifuah doubling the advantage just after half-time. With the

three points seemingly wrapped up, FCL rallied in the 90th minute as Jahmir Hyka's attempt from 16 metres out took a deflection off Sion defender Elsad Zverotic and flew past his helpless goalkeeper. Andris Vanins was beaten again just two minutes later as Joao Oliveira duped the disoriented Valais back line for Marco Schneuwly to improbably level the scores at 2-2.

Just a few days earlier, the man who netted the equaliser had been courted by Sion president Christian Constantin, who offered the striker a lucrative six-year contract and bid €500,000 for his services. Lucerne sporting director Rolf Fringer dismissed the bid as "a laughable amount" and expressed his disgust at the Sion president's conduct by saying: "You usually start by approaching a club when you want to buy a player, but it was totally different in this case." How long Lucerne manage to hang on to their prolific goalscorer remains to be seen, but it is unlikely to be long before another offer emerges from the foothills of the Bernese Alps. ❄️



## Zambia: Super League

# Rivals fail to halt Zesco charge



**Mark Gleeson** is a Cape Town-based journalist and football commentator.

It is just past the halfway point of the Super League season in Zambia and champions Zesco United are well on course for a successful defence of their title. Victory on Sunday over Green Buffaloes extended to five points their lead over Power Dynamos and to nine points their advantage over third placed Zanaco.

Zesco have won 12 of their 16 matches played this season, dropping points in just four games and marching impressively in search of further silverware after last season winning the title by two points from Dynamos. Zesco are now shooting for their fifth championship since they won their first league title in 2007. They have come from behind to depose Dynamos from top place in recent weeks with the goals of Winstone Kalengo and Jackson Mwanza proving a decisive factor as they have won their last six matches in a row.

The Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation team is based in Ndola on the Copperbelt in the north of the country. The area has long been not only the economic heart of the country but also its footballing power base. There are plenty of neighbouring clubs who will be seeking to topple them as Zesco's coach George Lwandamina is telling his players.

"There will be pressure I'm sure, that's what we have to plan for so that we are not complacent. Every team that is on top finds a lot of challenges from teams below them. They will all want to beat the team on the top."

A mark of the reputation of Lwandamina was his appointment last month as Zambia's national coach on a caretaker basis. He now juggles that job with the process of trying to hold on to Zesco's lead. "We will plan for the second round and make sure that we sustain our performance," he told local reporters recently.

Second placed Dynamos are hoping to lift themselves out of a mini slump and have used the mid-season transfer window to strengthen their attack with the signing of the teenage Zambian international Patson Daka who had recently been on trial at Lille in France.

Jimmy Ndhlovu, who is the top scorer in this Super League with nine goals, has moved back to Nkana FC, who are fourth in the standings but have hopes of making a challenge in the second half of the season.

But the major excitement in the country has come with the return to the Super League of Chris Katongo, captain of the Zambian side that won the 2012 CAF Africa Cup of Nations in Gabon.

At 32-years-old, he is now near the end of a career that has taken him to South Africa, Denmark, Germany and China, and sees him back at his first club Green Buffaloes, where he will be hoping to complete his playing days. ⚽



**The prodigal son returns**  
Chris Katongo is back in the Zambian Super League.

Name

**Diego Forlan**

Date and place of birth

**19 May 1979,  
Montevideo, Uruguay**

Position

**Striker**

Clubs played for

**1998–2001 Independiente  
2001–2004 Manchester United  
2004–2007 Villarreal  
2007–2011 Atletico Madrid  
2011–2012 Inter Milan  
2012–2014 Internacional  
2014–2015 Cerezo Osaka  
since 2015 Penarol**

Uruguay national team

**112 caps, 36 goals**



# “It all comes down to one result”

Diego Forlan is Uruguay's most-capped international. In an interview with *The FIFA Weekly*, the striker discusses his retirement from the national team, his first World Cup and the possibility of a future in coaching.

**Diego, you have recently announced your retirement from international football. Of all the records you've set with “La Celeste”, which one are you most proud of?**

*Diego Forlan:* A big one for me is belonging to a family with three generations of players who've won the Copa America. My grandfather won it twice, my father once and me once. I'm also amazed by the number of games I played. When I was a kid, my dad used to take me to the stadium for free. That was because the Uruguayan FA gave him a free ticket for having played over 45 matches with the national team. I feel so proud to have played more than 100 times for my country.

**Did the fact that you weren't such a central figure in Oscar Tabarez's starting line-up influence your decision at all?**

No, absolutely not. You can spend more or less time on the pitch, but there are young players coming through the whole time and they have to play. That changeover is happening now. And it wasn't as if I didn't feel so important any more. It was mostly a personal process.

**Do you think there is a big difference between the way people see the current Uruguay team in South America and, say, the generation before you?**

Yes, it's changed a lot, though Uruguay have always earned respect. The change has come about at team level, I think. In the last few years Uruguay have played the big teams at their own game and been the equal of them. People have started to see that.

**As someone involved in the whole process, was there a key moment in the shaping of that new mindset?**

It came before the 2007 Copa America in Venezuela. That's where it started. Then came the qualifiers and that game against Ecuador in 2009 (*editor's note: 2-1 away win in the decider*). Amazingly, we won it and that's what took us to where we are now, with people seeing Uruguay the way they do. If we'd lost, though, they'd have had a

different view of us and we'd be talking about a different future now. And that all comes down to one result.

**You were invited to represent your country and continent at the Preliminary Draw for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia. That must have been a special moment for you.**

To me, the World Cup means everything. When I was a kid, I used to watch loads of videos of different World Cups. Now, having had the opportunity to play at and enjoy three World Cups, I'm very proud to be attending an event like the draw on 25 July and to be representing my country.

**Do you remember your first World Cup?**

Yes, of course. It was in 2002. I had the chance to play for 45 minutes, when the team were losing 3-0 to Senegal in the first half. It was our last match in the group and our chances of going through were pretty slim. I came on at a difficult time and in a position that I'm not used to, on the right side of midfield. We got the first goal and then I scored what I have to say was a great goal, one of the best of my international career. Then we got the equaliser and we almost scored in the closing seconds, but out we went. Despite the result, I have to say it was a great experience on a personal level, as it was my first time with the national side and it came at the World Cup, too.

**Are players under greater pressure at a World Cup than when they are playing league football week in, week out?**

Yes. It's your country, it's everything. It's what the whole world is waiting for, what you dreamed about as a child: playing for your national team, singing the national anthem. You used to experience it as a fan, so you know what the supporters are going through in those moments before a game. It's where the best players are and where they're ready to give their best; where they dream of bringing joy to their family, their friends, the people they know, the people back home. It's the most important event on the planet.

**You finished top scorer in the Spanish league on two occasions, which is no mean achievement. How do you feel when you see Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo make it look so easy?**

*(laughs)* It's amazing. I was the last one to win the Pichichi (La Liga's leading goalscorer accolade) before they started to share it between themselves. It's the same with the European Golden Shoe, except the year in which Luis Suarez shared it with Cristiano Ronaldo. You just can't compete with them. I can't see anyone else taking over their mantle just yet, not with the competition between them and their desire to outdo each other. They've still got a few years ahead of them too.

**When you speak, you give every impression of having all the ingredients required to make a good coach. Is that something you're considering?**

Nowadays yes, a little more. To be honest, I'd love to work as a duo with my brother. He was a defender and I'm a striker, so we could get a good team going. My brother's doing the coaching course already and I think I'll get started any time now. Later we'll see. We'll have to see how things turn out, but I enjoy watching, listening, asking questions and being with coaches and other colleagues. I know that I'll do something that's linked to football. 🦿

*Diego Forlan was speaking to Alejandro Varsky*





# First Love

Place: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Date: 15 December 2008

Time: 5.22 p.m.

Photographer: Peter Menzel



# 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).

# Candidates to be submitted by 26 October 2015

With the new FIFA President set to be elected in Zurich on 26 February 2016, we take a look at some frequently asked questions.



**Voting time**  
The new FIFA President will be elected by the Congress. Each of the 209 member associations has one vote.

## What is the deadline for candidates to be submitted?

Candidates must be submitted together with declarations of support from at least five members by 26 October 2015. The extraordinary Congress will take place on 26 February 2016. After reviewing the submissions, the Ad-Hoc Electoral Committee will be tasked with officially authorising and announcing the list of candidates eligible for election to the office of FIFA President.

## What other responsibilities does the Ad-Hoc Electoral Committee have?

The Committee is tasked with monitoring proceedings for electing the next FIFA President. It checks whether candidates meet the eligibility requirements and ensures that election campaigns are carried out in a fair and respectable manner that generally respects the FIFA Statutes and Regulations.

## Can FIFA employees support a candidate?

No. They may not participate in election campaigns in any way.

## Can member associations abstain from voting?

Yes.

## Can candidates address the Congress?

Yes. Each candidate has the opportunity to present their proposals to the Congress before the voting begins.

## Can candidates withdraw their candidacy before or during the Congress?

Yes. The Ad-Hoc Electoral Committee must be notified of any such withdrawal made before the Congress. During the Congress, the candidate must officially announce their withdrawal before voting begins.

## When will the new President take office?

The elected President's term will begin after the conclusion of the Congress at which they are elected.

tfw

FIFA Executive Committee fully supports roadmap for reform: <http://tinyurl.com/ozttk8y>



## FIFA works

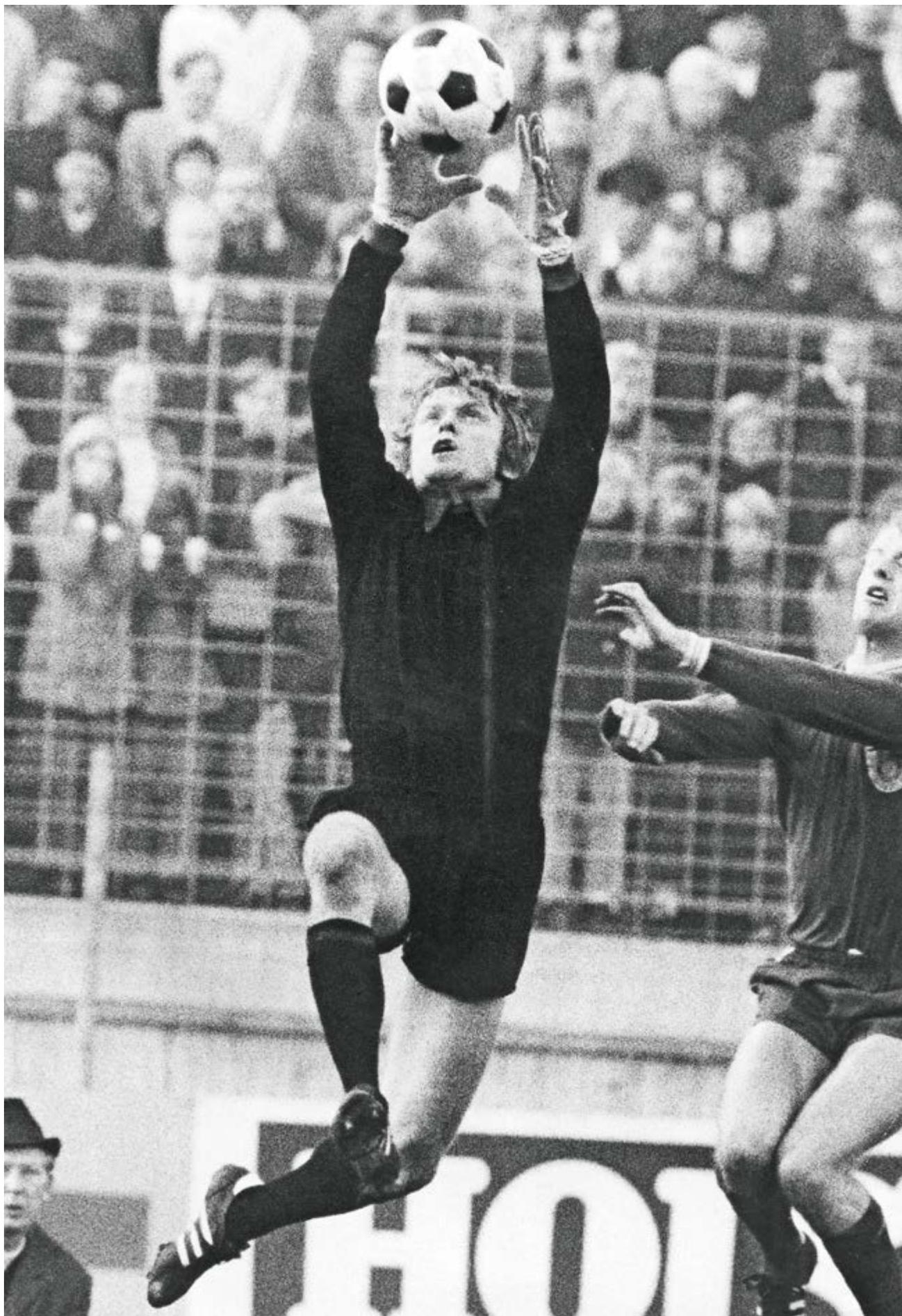
We are currently experiencing turbulent times here at FIFA, but even in rough seas we are staying on course. Over the past few weeks we have crowned three new world champions – Serbia at U-20 level, the USA's women team and Portugal at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

There is a historic dimension to all three of these triumphs. Serbia, a nation with an impressive pool of talent whose players are represented in every major league, won their first world title since the country became a sovereign state in its own right in 2006, while the Americans became the first women's team to become global champions on three occasions. Last but not least, Portugal lifted the Beach Soccer World Cup exactly ten years after they last made it to the final. The event was made all the more special by the fact that their opponents in this year's decider were Tahiti, the nation that has made arguably the greatest progress within the sport over the last few years.

While regional coaching and instructor courses were held alongside each of these tournaments, we are also pursuing our development programmes as intensively as ever, with 19 new Goal Cup projects being launched in 2015 alone. With the CONCACAF Gold Cup currently taking place in North America, we are already looking ahead to the next highlight in the youth football calendar as Chile, a major footballing nation who recently won their first international title at the Copa America, prepare to host the world's 24 best U-17 teams between 17 October and 8 November.

One look at the list of competitors at this tournament illustrates just how diverse and international our sport has become at every level. Syria and Korea DPR, two countries currently experiencing considerable upheaval, will be there, as will two sides from Down Under – Australia and New Zealand. In other words, football is present in every corner of the globe and at every level of society, and neither political turmoil nor war can stop it. And FIFA works, as demonstrated by the outstanding efforts of the entire FIFA team.

Best wishes, Sepp Blatter



**Fit, healthy and willing to play – for 13 years** Only one man guarded the posts for Bayern Munich between 1966 and 1979 – Sepp Maier.

# STAYING POWER

Careers in football tend to be brief but intense. Although some players suffer several lengthy injury layoffs during that time, others – like legendary Germany goalkeeper Sepp Maier – manage to make more than 400 appearances without missing a single game. The FIFA Weekly looks back at the sport’s most irreplaceable figures.

Some players never miss a moment of action during their playing careers, an achievement that requires a significant amount of luck. While those plagued by injuries are forced to spend many months undergoing rehabilitation, being treated by physiotherapists or in the weights room, those who remain healthy and whose ambition and willpower make them indispensable to their team from one week to the next soon take on an air of indestructibility.

A brief look through football’s history books reveals that the most durable man ever to grace a pitch was former Germany goalkeeper Sepp Maier, who stood guard in front of the Bayern Munich goal without interruption for more than a decade. The man nicknamed *Die Katze von Anzing* or ‘The Cat from Anzing’ made an incredible 442 Bundesliga appearances for Munich between 1966 and 1979 without missing a single game, winning four German championships, four DFB Cups and three successive European Cups as well as being named Germany’s Footballer of the Year three times during this run.

Now 71, Maier has always been well known for his sense of humour, and when asked to reveal the secret of his success, he answered: “We all ate roast pork the night before a match, washed down with a Weissbier. My team-mate Franz Roth always ate three slices of cake before the game – and it did him the world of good.”

## Defying doctors’ orders

The dogged determination of Liverpool’s most decorated player, Phil Neal, enabled him to make 365 consecutive league appearances for the Reds between December 1974



**Phil Neal** The Englishman even played with fractures to make 365 consecutive appearances for Liverpool.

“We all ate roast pork the night before a match, washed down with a Weissbier.”

Germany's Sepp Maier

and September 1983. Although he won no fewer than 22 titles during this time, including four European Cups, his impressive record was almost scuppered on several occasions. “I remember once having a broken cheekbone,” the Englishman recalled. “I chose to play against the wishes of doctors who said that I shouldn’t play for a month, but I got away with it. I played with a broken toe once too, which meant I had to play for six weeks with a size 40 boot on one foot and a size 43 on the other!”

Although Neal’s lengthy run was finally ended by an injury sustained in a match against Manchester United, he returned after this spell on the sidelines to complete another 127 games for the Merseyside club. The all-time English record for consecutive matches played is held by Harold Bell, who made 459 appearances in a row after making his debut for Tranmere Rovers after the end of the Second World War and did not miss a game again until 1955.

**Brad Friedel’s record run**

Such historic spells are not only the preserve of the distant past. As recently as 2012, goalkeeper Brad Friedel made a record 310 consecutive Premier League appearances without interruption. In his recordbreaking appearance, the 41-year-old American helped Tottenham Hotspur to their first win away to Manchester United in 34 years. Friedel’s uninterrupted run extended across eight seasons with three different clubs, having played for Blackburn Rovers and Aston Villa before moving to Tottenham Hotspur.

Although the Ohio-born custodian admits to being a complete “fitness fanatic” who takes care to ensure that he is “active

every day”, he, like Neal, could have been ruled out of reaching his momentous milestone on two occasions. Friedel refused to undergo a planned fitness test ahead of a match on Blackburn’s frozen pitch and played on regardless, and chose to push through the pain barrier after almost missing a game at Aston Villa due to a sprained ankle. “In all those eight years, they were the only two close calls I had,” he explained. On the other side of the Channel in France, Auxerre’s long-serving shot-stopper Fabien Cool produced a run of 306 consecutive appearances, just four fewer than Friedel’s record. After waiting six years for a regular place in the starting line-up, the Frenchman refused to relinquish his position between the posts, playing in every encounter between May 1998 and December 2006 to become the club’s most capped player of all time.

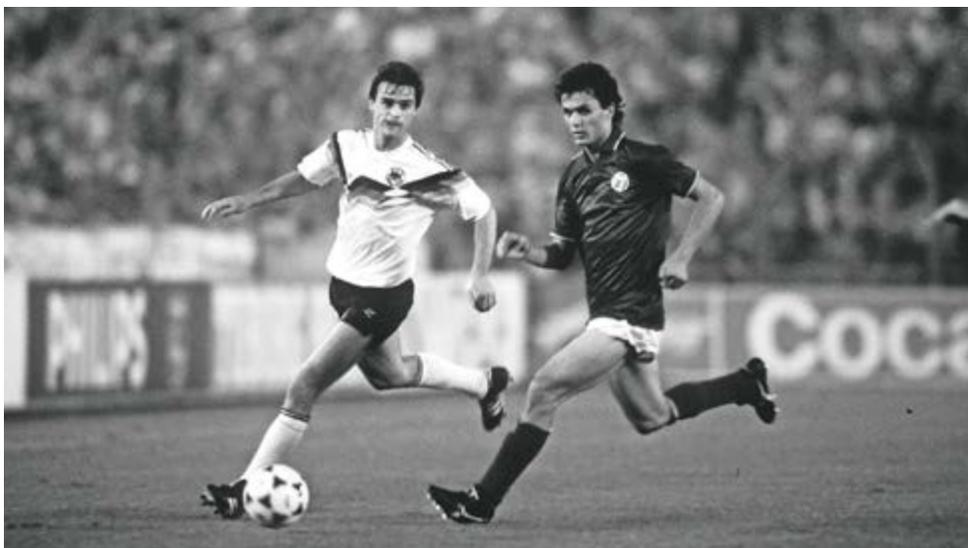
**“Il Capitano” Maldini**

It was a very similar story for Pedro Catalano, who stood in goal for Deportivo Espanol from July 1986 until November 1994, playing 333 successive matches during a particularly successful period in the club’s history. His role could easily have stretched even further: having played a crucial role in lifting his team first from the third to the second tier of Argentinian football and then into the top flight, he was shown the first and only red card of his career two minutes before the end of a game against Talleres.

Just as impressive as these long, injury-free runs are those players who remain key figures for their national sides over a similarly lengthy period, and few footballers have represented their country better than Paolo Maldini. Widely regarded as one of the best Italian defenders of all time, *Il Capitano*



**Record holder** American goalkeeper Brad Friedel played 310 Premier League matches in a row.



**“Il Capitano”** Italy international Paolo Maldini (r.) began his competitive streak at EURO 1988 and signed off at the 2002 World Cup.

For 14 years, Paolo Maldini featured at every major tournament for which Italy qualified.

featured at every major tournament for which Italy qualified for 14 years, playing a total of 35 matches from his fourth international cap at EURO 1988 until the last 16 of the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan™, his last game for *Gli Azzurri*. Although Maldini amassed an impressive 23 World Cup appearances, he was only rewarded with two second-place finishes at the 1994 World Cup and Euro 2000.

**Lilly tops the international charts**

When it comes to longevity in international football, the most impressive statistics can only be found in the women’s game. A particularly good example is that of the USA’s Kristine Lilly, who played no fewer than 46 consecutive matches at FIFA Women’s World Cups and the Olympic Games between 1991 and 2007, becoming a two-time world champion and winning two Olympic gold medals and a silver medal along the way. Some way behind her with a streak of 39 successive games are compatriots Julie Foudy and Joy Fawcett, who also featured at the inaugural Women’s World Cup back in 1991.

The player with the second-longest run of international appearances is legendary Germany striker and two-time World Cup winner Birgit Prinz, who won 43 caps in a row to continue her country’s apparent knack of producing resilient footballers. Uwe Seeler made 16 consecutive appearances at the world’s biggest tournament between 1962 and 1970, while Wolfgang Overath (1966 to 1974), Berti Vogts (1970 to 1978), Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (1978 to 1986) and Lothar Matthaus (1986 to 1994) all featured in 19 World Cup matches without interruption. ⚽



**Kristine Lilly** The American won 46 successive caps at the Women’s World Cup and Olympic Games between 1991 and 2007.

tfw

# Kings of the sand

Portugal have done it!

The country's beach soccer team became world champions on home sand to celebrate their first-ever international title.

**T**he FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Portugal 2015 ended on Sunday in the happiest of ways for the thousands of home fans who packed into the Estadio da Praia da Baia over the course of the ten-day tournament. They had come to cheer on Portugal and were rewarded when the hosts won their first senior FIFA world title by defeating Tahiti 5-3, rich reward for a golden generation of players who have waited a long time to top the podium.

Strong favourites Portugal had reckoned without France back in 2005, when they lost to their European rivals in the final of the same competition. Disappointed as they were, the Portuguese vowed that their time would come, and so it did, on home sand ten years later. "They had been waiting since 15 May 2005," said delighted Portugal coach Mario Narciso. "That day was the final at the inaugural FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, a game we were expected to win after having beaten hosts Brazil in the semis. If someone had said to me three years ago that I was going to be a beach soccer world champion at home, I'd have probably said they were crazy. But we are the world champions!"

## Next stop the Bahamas

The denouement of Portugal 2015 could hardly have been scripted better, with the hosts taking on the most-improved side of the last few years; Tahiti. Building on the fourth place they achieved in hosting the tournament two years ago, the *Tiki Toa* took another big step forward to reach the final in Espinho.

Narciso's side began the competition with two wins and a shock defeat to Senegal in the group phase, advancing to the last eight as Group A winners and then knocking out the combative Swiss to check into the last four. Waiting for them there were none other than two-time reigning world champions Russia. Portugal did not flinch, however, powering to a 4-2 victory, with the Russians eventually having to settle for bronze after defeating Italy 5-2 in the match for third place.

One man who made a decisive contribution to Portugal's triumph was their captain Madjer, who seemed almost lost for words in the wake of his team's victory. "I still can't tell you how I feel. My emotions are still sky high," said the 38-year-old, who was rewarded for his performances with the adidas Bronze Ball. "This world title is the icing on the cake but we haven't finished yet," the skipper added, his mind turning to the 2017 finals in the Bahamas, where Portugal will seek to continue their dominance on sand. ☺

tfw



**In their element**  
Portugal celebrate becoming beach soccer world champions after their 5-3 win over Tahiti.



Alex Grimm / FIFA via Getty Images (2), Christopher Lee / FIFA via Getty Images (1)



### Tahitian pride



As Portugal celebrated, Tahiti were forced to contemplate the thankless task of finishing second. Despite their disappointment, the islanders refused to wallow in sadness. "We'd already succeeded by reaching the final," said defender Heimanu Taiarui. Portugal 2015 ended on a high note for the 28-year-old as he was awarded the adidas Golden Ball for player of the tournament. "I still can't believe it," he said, a huge smile spread across his face. "When they told me the prize was mine, I asked, 'Who, me?' When they said yes and that I had to go up on stage to collect the trophy, I asked for confirmation again because I thought it was a joke. They practically had to march me up to go and get it!" The team are anticipating a warm welcome on their arrival back in Tahiti. "They set up a giant screen in Papeete to watch the final, so I'm sure we'll get a good reception and there will be a good party," said Taiarui. Although the only thing he was not sure about was where he is going to put his adidas Golden Ball, his reply to that question perfectly reflected the team spirit the Tahitians exhibited in Portugal. "Maybe I'll talk it over with my team-mates and decide to leave it at the FA headquarters. It would be good for everyone to be able to see it, don't you think?"

tfw

#### Taking a back seat

Raimoana Bennett (rear) had to settle for defeat at the hands of Be (front) and his Portugal team-mates.

### FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup 2015

adidas Golden Ball:	Heimanu Taiarui (Tahiti)
adidas Silver Ball:	Alan (Portugal)
adidas Bronze Ball:	Madjer (Portugal)
adidas Golden Scorer:	Pedro Moran (Paraguay)
adidas Silver Scorer:	Madjer (Portugal)
adidas Bronze Scorer:	Noel Ott (Switzerland)
adidas Golden Glove:	Jonathan Torohia (Tahiti)
FIFA Fair Play Award:	Brazil

#### Final standings

1. Portugal
2. Tahiti
3. Russia
4. Italy
5. Brazil
6. Iran
7. Japan
8. Switzerland
9. Oman
10. Spain
11. Senegal
12. Paraguay
13. Argentina
14. Madagascar
15. Mexico
16. Costa Rica



#### Dazed and delighted

Heimanu Taiarui was named player of the tournament.



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## BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

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FIFA's primary objective is to develop the game of football in our 209 member associations. The FIFA World Cup™ gives us the resources we need to invest USD 550,000 per day in football development across the globe.

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### **Build a better future**

Football is much more than just a game. Its universal appeal gives it a unique power and reach which must be managed carefully. FIFA believes it has a duty to society that goes beyond football.



# A scuffed shot that made history

*Alan Schweingruber*

**M**aking decisions in life is usually very straightforward. The process does not require much mental effort and lasts no longer than a couple of seconds: would I prefer apple pie or cheese for dessert? Apple pie, of course!

The process would be much more difficult, however, if you knew the consequences of your decisions in advance. This does not really apply to the above example, provided the apples haven't gone off, but beyond the world of culinary dilemmas lies a realm of profound questions. What would have happened if I had gone on holiday to Asia instead of South America that time?

Shortly after 4:30 pm on 16 July 1950, Uruguayan striker Alcides Ghiggia was about to make an important decision that would change his life. Ghiggia, 23, was running down the right wing towards the opposition goal and must, at some point, have thought to himself: "Should I pass or shoot?" With no fewer than 200,000 spectators in attendance, the Maracana was completely sold out for the final of the 1950 FIFA World Cup Brazil™. Uruguay's opponents that day were none other than *A Seleção*, favourites to win the tournament on home soil.

Everyone in the stadium thought they knew what Ghiggia was about to do: he was

going to cross the ball into the box, as he always did, and Brazil's goalkeeper Barbosa would come out and clear the danger. Only Ghiggia didn't cross the ball. The mustachioed Uruguayan made a beeline for the Brazil goal, took aim and from a tight angle fired a scuffed shot towards the near post, which Barbosa failed to keep out. The goal put the seal on Uruguay's World Cup triumph in Rio de Janeiro and plunged Brazil into a collective depression.

Last week, Ghiggia passed away in Montevideo at the age of 88, having spent nearly three quarters of his life doing interviews about that goal. He was idolised in Uruguay, but even after so many years Brazilians hardly dare speak his name. "Are you the Ghiggia from 1950?" he was once asked at Brazil customs. The female officer is said to have burst into tears after he had confirmed his identity.

Ghiggia drew his final breath on 16 July 2015, 65 years to the day after scoring the winning goal at the Maracana. He was the last surviving player from the 1950 World Cup. ☹

The weekly column by our staff writers



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Country:  
**Italy**  
FIFA Trigramme:  
**ITA**  
Continent:  
**Europe**  
Capital:  
**Rome**

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Surface area:  
**301,340 km<sup>2</sup>**  
Highest point:  
**Mont Blanc de Courmayeur**  
**4,748 m**  
Neighbouring seas and oceans:  
**Mediterranean Sea**

## MEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Ranking:  
**17th**  
World Cup:  
**18 Appearances**  
Best performance:  
**Champions**  
**1934, 1938, 1982, 2006**

## WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Ranking:  
**13th**  
World Cup:  
**2 Appearances**  
**1991, 1999**  
Best performance:  
**Quarterfinals, 1991**

## LATEST RESULTS

Men's:  
**Italy - Portugal 0:1**  
**16 June 2015**  
Women's:  
**Japan - Italy 1:0**  
**28 May 2015**

## FIFA INVESTMENTS

Since 2011:  
**\$ 1,800,000**

# T H E N

*London, England*



**1967**

Tottenham Hotspur triumph in the FA Cup.

N

O

W

London, England



**2015**

Chelsea win the Premier League.



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# Was Bastian Schweinsteiger's transfer a smart move?



**An eye for space** Gunter Netzer in June 1972

When a player turns 30 and the course of his career no longer quite corresponds to his expectations, despite good performances, then he must begin to give serious thought to his future. For Bastian Schweinsteiger, staying at Bayern München would have been a well-deserved, easy option, a fact which made his eventual transfer to Manchester United somewhat more complicated.

Allowing an icon to leave is never easy, even for a club the size of Bayern. The German champions have not only lost a key member of the dressing room, but in the process have also risked the ire of their own fans. Yet are those not the very same fans who are up in arms when results are not going as expected? Would it not be those same fans who would be first to complain if the club missed an opportunity to rebuild? Bayern are currently at the start of such a rebuilding process. For that reason alone, it is entirely understandable that every contract offer is reviewed right down

to the last detail – regardless of whether the player in question is a club icon or not.

Manchester United's interest came at possibly just the right time. The club is globally recognised and the Barclays Premier League is one of the most attractive in the world. For Schweinsteiger, it is an added bonus that one of his former coaches, Louis van Gaal, is in charge at Old Trafford. Although the Dutchman's presence will ease his passage into the English game, the Germany captain will still have to prove his abilities.

I view the move as an opportunity to add to an already impressive CV. Schweinsteiger has never known anything but German football. He will have no choice but to learn and adapt to a new culture. And he will come back even better for it. ☺

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What have you always wanted to know about football?  
Ask Gunter Netzer: [feedback-theweekly@fifa.org](mailto:feedback-theweekly@fifa.org)

"Yesterday, a Uruguayan football great passed away. A man who marked the history of our country. Thank you Alcides Ghiggia."

*Luis Suarez on Twitter*

"The games against Juventus have been the most difficult in my career. My decision was also borne of this: I no longer wanted to have to play against them!"

*Mario Mandzukic on signing for Juventus*

"This club made me as a person and helped me grow, with values such as respect, companionship and, above all, humility. Rather than being remembered as a good or bad goalkeeper, I want to be remembered as a good person. Thanks – a thousand thanks. I'll never forget you."

*Iker Casillas (new FC Porto) announcing his departure from Real Madrid*

I've decided to begin a new chapter in my life and call time on my professional football career. I want to finish my studies, sort out my career path, start a family and much more."

*Celia Sasic, top scorer at the FIFA Women's World Cup*

"It seems that this guy is mentally weak. When the match was 0-0, he was missing in action. I don't know what you call this kind of person. I can only say that his legs were shaking. The worst part was in a moment when he was near my area of the pitch and he said: 'Mr Ref, he's kicking me, he's kicking me!' The official responded to him: 'You are doing your work, they're doing theirs.'"

*Uruguay defender Jorge Fucile on Alexis Sanchez*



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# “A transfer alone doesn’t guarantee success”

Mathieu Beda plied his trade as a defender in France, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland before becoming a freelance agent.

**A**fter playing in four divisions in four separate countries, adjusting to four different cultures, learning three languages, playing in countless matches and going on memorable trips, I decided one day that it was time to pack it in. My contract was running out and it was clear to me that I had to draw the line.

During the latter years of my career as a professional footballer I was always given the captain’s armband, which makes you much more than just a leader on the pitch. You’re like a big brother, you always have to lend a sympathetic ear to people.

Football has changed a lot over the years. When I started out, it was normal to be regarded as a youngster at 22 or 23 years of age, but life as a professional starts to get serious much earlier these days.

During my time in Germany and Switzerland I learned to speak German very well. There is one German word that encapsulates what I have become: weltoffen, meaning open-minded. Considering the experience and responsibility I had gained both on and off the pitch, the next step in my career was a fairly obvious one. I’ve always been a mediator and a consultant, whether among my team-mates or at boardroom level. I also had to deal with agents from a very early stage.

I decided to stay in Zurich, in the heart of Europe. I’m happy here and believe I’ve found the perfect location to carry out my job. I’m an agent, but I see myself as more of an advisor to my players. I want to support my clients in a personal and professional sense. I love talking to people, I enjoy travelling and I like experiencing new things.

The most important attribute of a good agent is the ability to know exactly what a club



is looking for. I want to help my players, of course I do, but a transfer alone doesn’t guarantee success. The player has to settle and succeed at the club, otherwise it doesn’t reflect very well on me.

Analytical thinking is very important. You don’t learn that at school. The only thing that can teach you that is life itself. It’s vitally important that I see through the clubs I’m trying to sell players to. I need to be aware of their identity and their vision. I need to gain the trust of the people running the club, but at the same time I also need to know my own players. I need to know what they can achieve, not only physically and technically, but also mentally. To reach the very top, you need to have the whole package. ☘

**Mathieu Beda was speaking to Sarah Steiner**

#### Name

**Mathieu Beda**

#### Date and place of birth

**28 July 1981, Nice (France)**

#### Position

**Defender**

#### Clubs

**1999–2004 Girondins Bordeaux  
2004–2005 VV St. Truiden  
2005–2006 Standard Liege  
2006–2008 1. FC Kaiserslautern  
2008–2010 TSV 1860 Munich  
2011–2013 FC Zurich**

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 points  
 Biggest move by ranks  
 Biggest drop by points  
 Biggest drop by ranks

**Argentina** (up 2)  
**Romania** (8th, up 4), **England** (9th, up 6), **Wales** (10th, up 12)  
**Spain** (12th, down 2), **Uruguay** (13th, down 5), **France** (22nd, down 13)  
**213**  
**Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru** (7 matches each)  
**Wales** (up 226 points)  
**Belize** (up 37 ranks)  
**Germany** (down 364 points)  
**Central African Republic** (down 29 ranks)

Last updated:  
 10 July 2015

Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points
1	Argentina	2	1473	55	Egypt	0	606	108	Azerbaijan	7	302	163	Suriname	-13	141
2	Germany	-1	1411	56	Paraguay	29	603	110	Lithuania	-14	301	164	Indonesia	-9	134
3	Belgium	-1	1244	57	Nigeria	-14	601	111	Sierra Leone	-28	300	165	Timor-Leste	-19	130
4	Colombia	0	1217	58	Guinea	-13	591	112	Zimbabwe	7	290	166	Bhutan	-7	128
5	Netherlands	1	1204	59	Australia	4	559	113	Bahrain	-7	282	167	New Caledonia	2	118
6	Brazil	-1	1186	60	Congo DR	-4	555	114	Namibia	-9	276	168	Malaysia	-6	117
7	Portugal	0	1177	61	Mali	-9	550	115	St Vincent and the Grenadines	-3	268	169	Bangladesh	-3	115
8	Romania	4	1166	62	Panama	-8	549	116	Kenya	7	263	170	Central African Republic	-29	111
9	England	6	1157	63	Equatorial Guinea	-13	546	117	Syria	4	262	171	Yemen	-6	104
10	Wales	12	1155	64	Trinidad and Tobago	3	543	118	Belize	37	257	172	Pakistan	-2	101
11	Chile	8	1129	65	Gabon	-6	524	119	Palestine	-1	255	173	Chad	-1	100
12	Spain	-2	1110	66	Bolivia	23	511	120	St Kitts and Nevis	-6	254	174	Dominica	-6	98
13	Uruguay	-5	1036	67	Norway	-3	495	120	Botswana	-9	254	175	US Virgin Islands	-4	97
14	Croatia	4	1023	68	Bulgaria	-6	489	122	Madagascar	-9	250	176	Maldives	2	87
15	Slovakia	2	1016	69	United Arab Emirates	4	487	123	Kuwait	2	242	177	Laos	-2	86
15	Austria	5	1016	70	South Africa	-1	483	124	Philippines	13	236	178	Montserrat	3	74
17	Italy	-4	1001	71	Zambia	-3	482	124	Moldova	0	236	179	Chinese Taipei	-1	72
18	Switzerland	-7	997	72	Burkina Faso	-6	481	126	Dominican Republic	-10	227	180	Mauritius	-4	71
19	Algeria	2	941	73	Uganda	-2	467	127	St Lucia	9	225	181	Cambodia	-3	66
20	Czech Republic	-4	933	74	Faroe Islands	28	456	128	Mauritania	21	224	181	Macau	4	66
21	Côte d'Ivoire	3	917	75	Uzbekistan	-1	453	129	Korea DPR	17	222	183	Sri Lanka	3	62
22	France	-13	882	76	Jamaica	-11	437	130	Lebanon	5	218	184	Brunei Darussalam	0	61
23	Iceland	14	877	77	China PR	2	436	131	Burundi	3	217	185	Nepal	-2	60
24	Denmark	5	876	78	Rwanda	16	433	131	Lesotho	-9	217	186	Seychelles	1	52
25	Ghana	9	827	79	Haiti	-3	428	133	Guinea-Bissau	22	213	187	Comoros	3	51
26	Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	819	80	Honduras	-5	427	134	Afghanistan	17	212	188	Tahiti	-6	50
27	Ukraine	8	791	81	Montenegro	-11	423	135	Aruba	16	211	189	São Tomé e Príncipe	-1	48
28	Russia	-2	782	82	Estonia	9	420	136	Bermuda	-10	209	189	Cayman Islands	0	48
29	Scotland	-1	774	83	Togo	-6	415	136	New Zealand	2	209	191	Solomon Islands	-1	44
30	Poland	2	769	84	Morocco	8	394	138	Swaziland	24	206	192	San Marino	0	40
31	Hungary	11	763	85	Cyprus	2	391	139	Tanzania	-12	200	193	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	33
32	Tunisia	-3	758	86	Iraq	0	382	140	Thailand	-11	199	194	British Virgin Islands	0	27
33	Sweden	6	752	87	Latvia	-5	377	141	Barbados	-9	198	195	South Sudan	2	24
34	USA	-7	748	88	El Salvador	1	374	142	Kazakhstan	-9	193	196	Samoa	2	19
35	Ecuador	-4	738	89	Armenia	-5	373	143	Gambia	17	188	197	Vanuatu	3	17
36	Albania	15	722	90	Sudan	18	371	143	Nicaragua	8	188	197	Tonga	3	17
37	Northern Ireland	7	721	90	Finland	-12	371	143	Vietnam	-16	188	199	Fiji	-4	16
38	Iran	3	716	92	Angola	-4	355	146	Luxembourg	-15	187	200	Bahamas	-4	13
39	Senegal	-3	715	92	Jordan	11	355	147	Liechtenstein	-18	182	201	American Samoa	2	12
40	Mexico	-17	697	92	Saudi Arabia	6	355	148	Tajikistan	-9	181	202	Papua New Guinea	0	9
41	Costa Rica	-27	695	95	Mozambique	-14	354	149	Curaçao	-5	174	202	Andorra	2	9
42	Cameroon	7	672	96	Benin	14	345	150	Puerto Rico	17	169	204	Eritrea	0	8
43	Serbia	2	662	96	Libya	23	345	150	Singapore	4	169	205	Mongolia	-6	6
44	Greece	-19	661	96	Niger	21	345	152	Turkmenistan	21	167	205	Somalia	1	6
45	Venezuela	27	643	96	Qatar	1	345	153	Georgia	-14	165	207	Djibouti	0	4
46	Peru	15	635	100	Belarus	-20	341	154	Hong Kong	10	163	207	Cook Islands	0	4
47	Congo	0	630	101	Ethiopia	-2	333	154	Guam	20	163	209	Anguilla	0	0
48	Turkey	9	627	102	Oman	-1	329	156	India	-15	161				
49	Slovenia	-1	626	103	Canada	6	328	157	Kyrgyzstan	20	160				
50	Japan	2	621	104	Cuba	3	313	158	Malta	-13	157				
51	Israel	-11	620	105	Guatemala	-12	311	159	Guyana	-1	155				
52	Cape Verde Islands	-14	608	105	FYR Macedonia	-5	311	160	Grenada	0	153				
52	Republic of Ireland	8	608	107	Antigua and Barbuda	-3	303	161	Liberia	-13	152				
52	Korea Republic	6	608	108	Malawi	-13	302	162	Myanmar	-19	145				



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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

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

2

MEDIUM

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

3

HARD

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



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