

# THE **FIFA** WEEKLY

Fédération Internationale de Football Association – Since 1904

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING IN AFRICA

# CELEBRATION OF HOPE

**FRANCE**

ANGERS SHOW  
WHAT THEY CAN DO

**SYRIA**

U-17 WORLD CUP TEAM  
RAISE A SMILE

**CHINA PR**

WANG FEI MAKES  
THE LEAP TO EUROPE



**6**

**World Cup qualifying in Africa**

Qualification for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia is underway in Africa with an initial knockout round for the continent's lowest-placed teams in the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking. Elio Stamm reports on the international debut of FIFA's newest member South Sudan, the "Big Five" and their possible challengers.

**15**

**France**

Newly promoted Angers' strong start to the season has raised a few eyebrows and propelled them to second in the table.

**18**

**Liberia**

In an interview, international defender Solomon Grimes says: "Football helped to pacify Liberia during the civil war years."

**26**

**FIFA U-17 World Cup**

Volunteers in Chile are tasked with ensuring the tournament runs smoothly. Pedro, who has learning disabilities, is helping with these efforts in Chillan – and having the time of his life doing it.



**Celebration of hope**

Our cover image shows a fan cheering on South Sudan. The photo was taken at the home match against Kenya on 10 July 2011, one day after the country gained its independence.

Roberto Schmidt



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35 members  
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**South America**  
10 members  
[www.conmebol.com](http://www.conmebol.com)



**31**

**Gary Neville**

The former Manchester United defender and current England assistant coach shows his compassion.

**17**

**Brazil**

At 41, Ze Roberto still has no intention of hanging up his boots.



**The FIFA Weekly app**

FIFA's magazine The FIFA Weekly is published in four languages every Friday and is also available free of charge on smartphone and tablet. <http://www.fifa.com/mobile>



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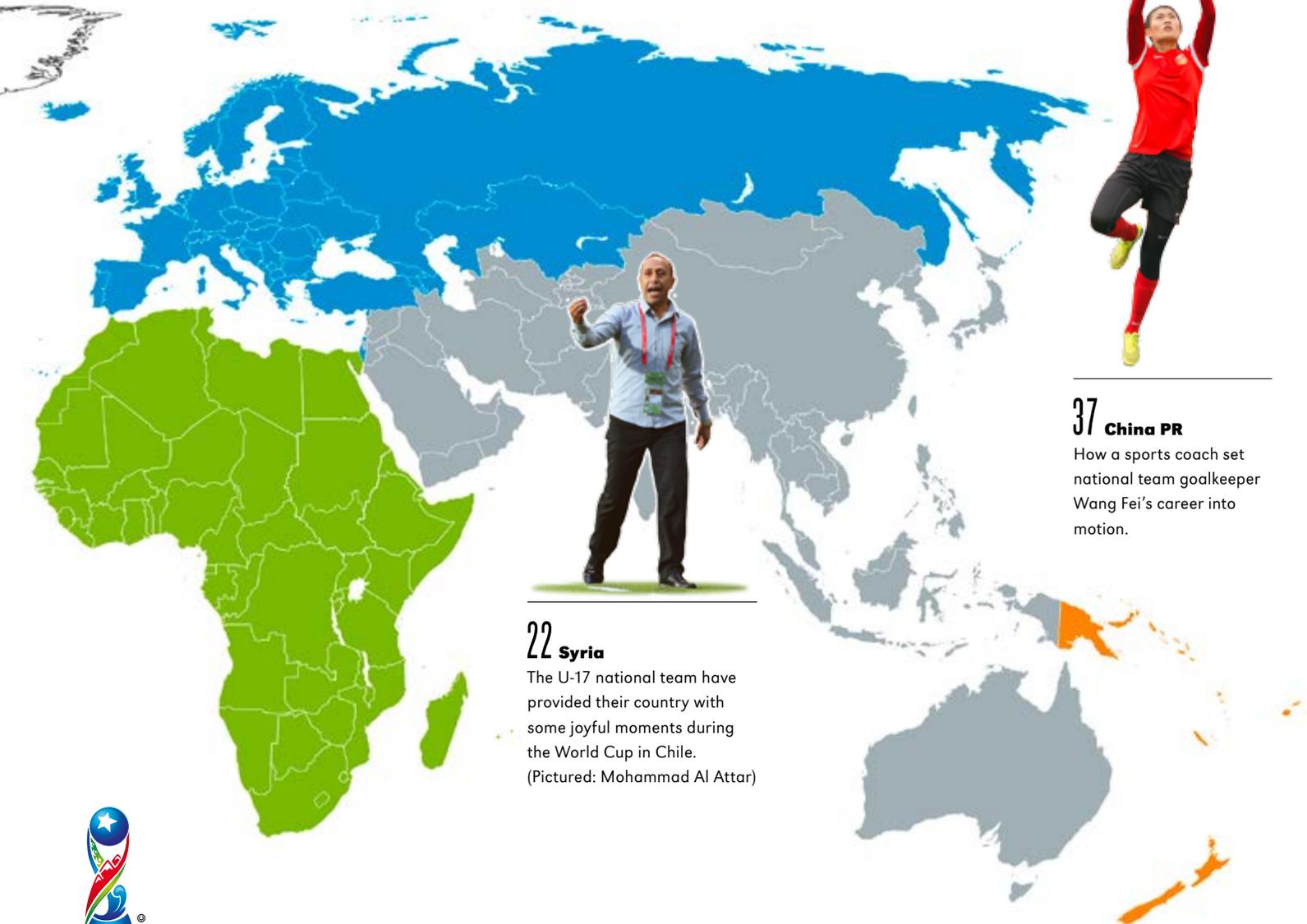
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**22 Syria**  
The U-17 national team have provided their country with some joyful moments during the World Cup in Chile.  
(Pictured: Mohammad Al Attar)

**37 China PR**  
How a sports coach set national team goalkeeper Wang Fei's career into motion.



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

**Matches of the knockout stage**

**Round of 16 - 28 / 29 October**

Match 37	Brazil	New Zealand	1:0
Match 38	Mexico	Chile	4:1
Match 39	Nigeria	Australia	6:0
Match 40	Korea Republic	Belgium	0:2
Match 41	Croatia	Germany	
Match 42	Mali	Korea DPR	
Match 43	Russia	Ecuador	
Match 44	France	Costa Rica	

**Quarter-finals - 1 / 2 November**

Match 45	Winner of Match 37	Winner of Match 39
Match 46	Winner of Match 41	Winner of Match 42
Match 47	Winner of Match 43	Winner of Match 38
Match 48	Winner of Match 40	Winner of Match 44

**Semi-finals - 5 November**

Match 49	Winner of Match 46	Winner of Match 48
Match 50	Winner of Match 47	Winner of Match 45

**Match for third place - 8 November**

Match 51	Loser of Match 49	Loser of Match 50
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**Final - 8 November**

Match 52	Winner of Match 49	Winner of Match 50
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# Africa!

Not all close-fought matches are alike. Sometimes an important goal is scored three minutes before the final whistle, theoretically giving the other team a chance to rectify the situation. Then there are situations like that faced by Ghana in the 2010 FIFA World Cup quarter-final, in which a Uruguayan outfield player blocked the ball twice in stoppage time of extra-time, once with his hand. The Black Stars' resulting penalty hit the crossbar and their South American opponents went on to win the penalty shootout.

No other African country has ever come closer to reaching a World Cup semi-final, not even Cameroon, who took England to the brink of defeat in the last eight in 1990 before falling short. Ever since that surprising display 25 years ago, one question has remained: when will Africa win its first World Cup?

While the continent's sides still face a long wait for their next chance to find out, qualification for Russia 2018 has already begun with a knockout round for Africa's lowest-ranked teams. They include fledgling nation South Sudan, where fans cheer on their heroes from walls and rooftops outside the stadium. Our colleague Elio Stamm's report from Accra, Ghana, begins on page six. 🌍

*Alan Schweingruber*



**Crowd puller** Fans travelled on motorbikes to watch the South Sudan national team in the capital, Juba.



# THREE-PART DRAMA

World Cup qualifying is underway in Africa, with a knockout round the first of three stages en route to Russia. While the big sides are expected to ease through, for teams such as South Sudan and Comoros it represents an opportunity to attract attention, writes *Elio Stamm* in *Accra, Ghana*.





**Pride and relief**  
South Sudan supporters in Juba celebrate their new country as well as the national team.



Roberto Schmidt/APP (2), Patrick Gherdoussi/Presse Sports

n a continent as football-crazy as Africa, there was nothing unusual about the scene in the South Sudanese capital of Juba on the morning of Thursday 8 October. Fans decked out in Borussia Dortmund and Manchester United shirts blew into yellow vuvuzelas and indicated to television cameras that they were hoping for a big victory, predicting scorelines of 3-1 and 5-1. Yet this was nevertheless a historic moment, as the youngest FIFA Member Association was about to contest its maiden FIFA World Cup™ qualifying match: the home fixture in a two-legged knockout tie against Mauritania.

The game had actually kicked-off in front of over 20,000 spectators in late afternoon the previous day, only to be suspended after just ten minutes due to torrential rain which made the pitch unplayable, abruptly cutting short what had been an intense debut until then. With only three minutes on the clock Boubacar Bagili put Mauritania in front against the run of play after the hosts, cheered on by an ecstatic home crowd, had been relentlessly pushing forward. However, South Sudan, sitting 55 places below their visitors in the world ranking, refused to be thrown off course and deservedly equalised just two minutes later through a Dominic Abui Pretino header.

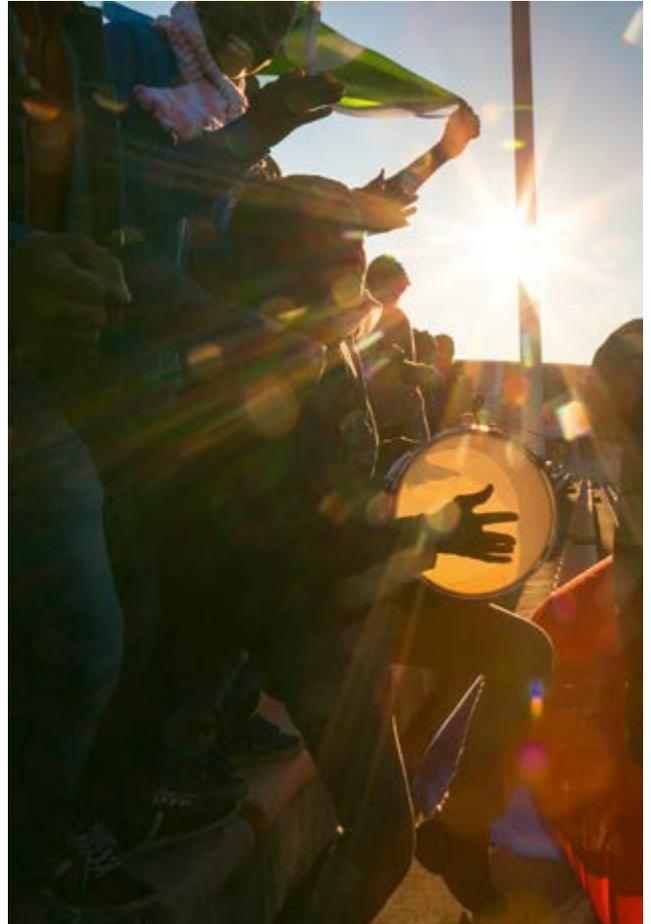
That whipped the home crowd into a state of frenzy and South Sudan were in the ascendancy, but then came the rain and the match was interrupted. The home supporters in the stands, as well as those perched on the wall surrounding the stadium and even on the roofs of nearby houses, looked on incredulously. Perhaps they were hoping the teams would return and continue playing, or perhaps they simply refused to believe that such a joyous occasion was over for the time being. Nonetheless, many of them resolutely continued singing and dancing in the rain in front of an empty, waterlogged pitch.

### Football unites

The South Sudanese people crave joy, entertainment and an easy-going culture. Following decades of bloody conflict, much of the population hoped that the declaration of independence on 9 July 2011 would mark the start of a brighter future. The country's oil reserves alone would have been enough to instigate a revival, yet instead the fledgling nation descended into a civil war fought along ethnic lines. It made survival the primary objective for many people and left deep scars on society.

Football has the power to unite, however, giving people the chance to take pride in their nation once more. "There are players of all ethnicities who come from different parts of the country," midfielder Richard Justin Lado said of the national team at the start of October. "We harmonise well out on the pitch; there is no war anymore." The 35-year-old grew up in Sudan but decided to return to the land of his ancestors the same day independence was declared. In a match against Uganda on 10 July 2012, he wrote his name into the country's record books by becoming the first player ever to score an international goal for South Sudan.

Having had a ten-minute taste of the action, fans in Juba poured back into the stadium the following morning to witness the rest of the qualifier. Puddles on the red, loamy earth outside stood as a reminder of the previous evening's disruption. The sense of optimism was tangible, even if not every-



**Upbeat rhythm** Spectators cheer on their heroes.

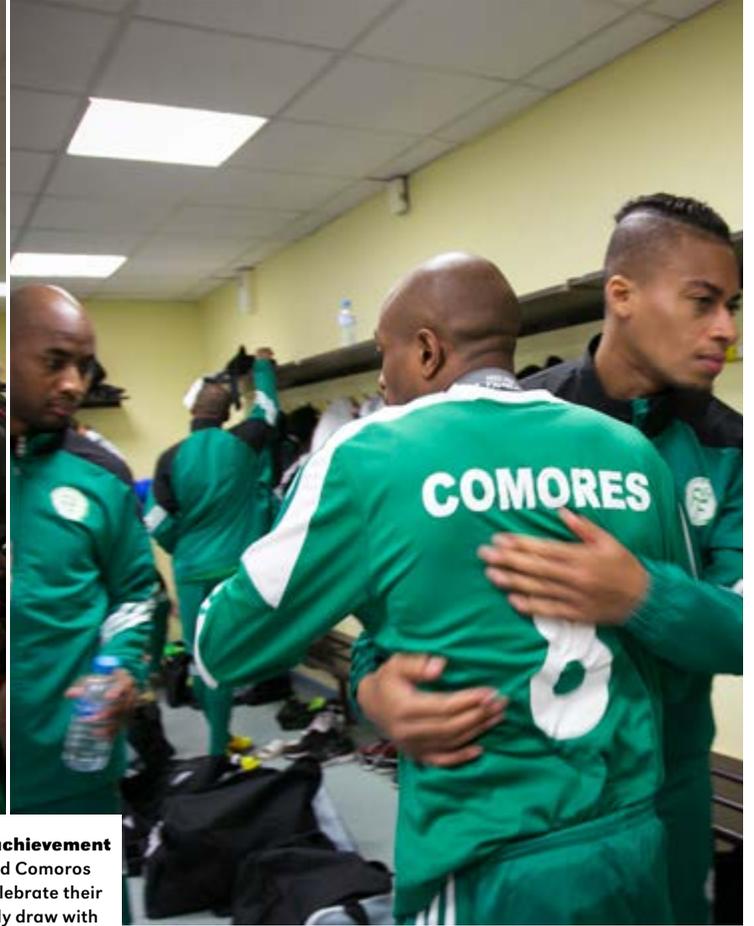
one present had done their homework. One man in trendy horn-rimmed glasses told the television cameras: "I think there'll be a good result between South Sudan and... I don't even know who we're playing against!"

The fans' sanguine predictions proved to be misplaced, as there were few highlights in the rest of the game, which ended in a 1-1 draw some 19 hours after it had first kicked off. It was certainly not a bad result for a first World Cup qualifying match, but it was not enough for South Sudan. Five days later the teams played the return leg in Mauritania, who bolstered their ranks with an additional six players, all of whom are contracted to European clubs. The hosts from north-west Africa emerged 4-0 victors to maintain their positive record under coach Corentin Martins, a former France international. In a 2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in September, Mauritania defeated continental giants South Africa 3-1.

That result highlights the competitiveness among the 53 African nations vying for a place at Russia 2018, with any team able to beat any other. It also adds weight to legendary Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o's comment at the preliminary draw in St. Petersburg in July that "there are no small teams anymore".

### Big five to succeed again?

The road to Russia leaves African sides with little margin for error. The 26 lowest-ranked teams in the world ranking at the cut-off date in July 2015 played in the first qualifying round in October – hence the tie between South Sudan and Mauritania.



**Sense of achievement**  
Overjoyed Comoros players celebrate their 1-1 friendly draw with Burkina Faso on 5 March 2014 in Martigues. Below: The players arrive at the stadium.



In the second round the winners are joined by the remaining nations in fixtures to be played in November. The 20 second round winners progress to round three, where they will form five four-team groups, from which only the respective pool winners qualify for the 2018 World Cup. These group games will only begin in a year's time, once the qualifying campaign for the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations in Gabon has finished.

The same five nations have participated in the last two World Cups in South Africa and Brazil: Algeria, Nigeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. That quintet should easily reach at least the third qualifying round this time too, as they will face teams from the lower reaches of the FIFA World Ranking to get there. The foundation of the big five's success is without doubt their strength at home. For instance, Nigeria have not lost a World Cup qualifier in front of their own fans since 10 October 1981, while Cameroon's undefeated streak dates back almost 40 years to 31 October 1976.

So far 13 African countries have participated at the World Cup proper and this year's second qualifying round has presented some of them with awkward ties. Morocco, who played at the 1970, 1986, 1994 and 1998 editions, will meet an up-and-coming Equatorial Guinea side who went as far as the semi-finals at the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations on home soil. Elsewhere, Angola and South Africa, who have both already featured at World Cups, will go head to head.

Egypt are long overdue an appearance at the tournament. They were the first African team to participate at a World Cup after accepting an invitation to play at the 1934 edition, but have only managed to qualify for the finals in 1990 since then. Not even the golden generation of players who won successive continental crowns in 2006, 2008 and 2010, and climbed to tenth in the world ranking, could end that drought. The current side are now hoping to make amends, spearheaded by AS Roma's Mohamed Salah and flanked by a squad in which the majority of players lace their boots for Egyptian clubs.

Over 20,000 spectators witnessed South Sudan's World Cup qualifying debut, which was suspended after just ten minutes due to torrential rain.

Zambia are another team that stand as proof that glory in the Africa Cup of Nations does not guarantee success elsewhere: the southern Africans won the continental championship in 2012 but are yet to reach a World Cup. Still, they will have fond memories of their opponents in the second qualifying round – Sudan – as Zambia beat them 3-0 in the quarter-finals en route to their continental triumph in 2012. Perhaps their pairing is a sign that the time is ripe to make history once again.

It is often forgotten that African sides now considered established World Cup participants could only dream of playing at the tournament not so long ago. On 8 October 2005, exactly ten years to the day before South Sudan's rain-soaked

## VISION AND CIGARETTES

African teams have sometimes lacked tactical nous at World Cups, and often luck too. We take a look back over Africa's performance in the competition.

What makes a good prediction? When it comes true or when it is made in a convincing way? In 1990, a reporter managed to elicit a forecast from Brazilian legend Pele. The FIFA World Cup Italy™ had just finished and he stated: "Soon there will be an African World Cup winner." That certainly sounded plausible, particularly given that Cameroon had just enjoyed an excellent tournament. After beating holders Argentina in their opening match and topping their group, the side starring Roger Milla was eventually knocked out in extra time in the quarter-finals by England.

Pele's prophecy is yet to come true, but it is one that found many believers in the nineties. A lot of neutral observers had been hoping for a long time that an African nation would reach at least the semi-finals of a FIFA World Cup. Not only because it is enjoyable to watch Africa's finest players, with their extraordinary skill and physique, but also because having competition from a third continent would inspire the heavyweights from Europe and South America.

### The last of the Romantics

Talented players from Africa are often lured to Europe but that has never altered the character of African football. When asked about his own traits, Cameroon superstar Samuel Eto'o (previously of Barcelona and Chelsea, now at Antalyaspor) once said: "Playing football makes me happy, it is my passion. But I have had to change. In Africa I played for fun whereas in Europe I play to win."

With a bit of pragmatism Nigeria probably would have reached the quarter-finals of the 1994 World Cup, but after going 1-0 in front against Italy, the team stayed loyal to its attractive and open brand of football and lost 2-1 in stoppage time. "They are the last great romantics," said football philosopher Cesar Luis Menotti in praise of the Super Eagles.

### Self-belief

The top African nations have long had confidence in themselves. Before the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, President of Ghana John Mahama told his team: "We expect and pray that Ghana will lift the World Cup for the first time." Expectations were rather lower in 1974, when Zaire became the first sub-Saharan African country to take part in the tournament. They lost 9-0 to Yugoslavia with three of the substitutes smoking on the bench.

Alan Schweingruber



**United by joy**  
Players and fans from the small island state of Comoros are proud of each other (Martigues).



Roberto Schmidt / AP; Pete Müller / AP / Keystone, Patrick Gherdoussi / Presse Sports

World Cup qualifying adventure began, Angola, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo all booked their tickets to the competition for the first time within hours of each other.

“There are players of all ethnicities and we harmonise well out on the pitch; there is no war anymore.”

*Richard Justin Lado, South Sudan midfielder*

**Celebrating a draw**

On that historic evening in 2005, the Comoros Football Federation had only been a FIFA member for one month. The tiny island state in the Indian Ocean, known as the 'Perfume Isles' due to the export of oil from which the ylang-ylang essence is extracted and used for perfume, had never tasted victory in a World Cup qualifying match before, but managed to progress from a knockout tie that month.

Following a goalless draw at home to Lesotho in the first leg, the green-shirted islanders drew 1-1 in the return fixture, with Mohamed M'Changamas' powerful effort into the top-right corner sparking jubilant scenes in his homeland. People honked cars horns as they drove up and down the streets of the capital Moroni, while others leaned out of windows waving flags bearing a white half moon on a green background. Upon the team's return home, Tourqui Salim, president of the Comoros Football Federation, held a public ceremony to honour the team, while one euphoric fan posted a YouTube video predicting a 4-0 victory over next opponents Ghana.

Although those 1-1 stalemates in the first round of World Cup qualifying will live long in the memories of football fans in South Sudan and Comoros, the continent's biggest teams are hoping for success in their forthcoming fixtures with as little fuss as possible. 🙏

**THE ROAD TO RUSSIA 2018**

53 of FIFA's member associations in Africa are taking part in qualification for the 2018 FIFA World Cup finals, with five ultimately going on to represent their continent in Russia. The matches are divided into three rounds.

• **FIRST ROUND (OCTOBER 2015)**

The 26 lowest-placed participating member associations (ranked 28 to 53 based on the July 2015 FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking) contest Round One:

Burundi, Botswana, Chad, Comoros, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mauritania, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sao Tome and Principe, Swaziland, Tanzania.

These 26 teams are divided into 13 pairs that play home and away games against each other: The 13 winners of these ties progress to Round Two.



• **SECOND ROUND (NOVEMBER 2015)**

The 13 Round One winners join up with the remaining 27 participating member associations in Round Two:

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo DR, Cape Verde Islands, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Libya, Morocco, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, Sudan, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia.

These 40 teams are divided into 20 pairs that play home and away games against each other: The 20 winners of these ties progress to Round Three.



• **THIRD ROUND (OCTOBER 2016 TO NOVEMBER 2017)**

The 20 Round Two winners progress to Round Three, where they are split into five groups each containing four teams to play home and away matches against each other in a round-robin league format. The five group winners qualify for Russia 2018.

• **2018 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018**

The five teams that qualify from Round Three compete at the global showpiece.

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# ON THE INSIDE

## France: Ligue 1

### New beginnings in western France



**Alan Schweingruber** is a staff writer on *The FIFA Weekly*.

The 1993/1994 season should have been a wonderful experience for Angers SCO.

The small-town team from western France had just been promoted into the country's top flight and were looking forward to welcoming flocks of football tourists from Paris, Marseille and Bordeaux. As if that was not enough, this historic town's location at the edge of the Loire Valley UNESCO World Heritage Site meant it had far more to offer than just sport.

Although fans did indeed travel to Angers from all over France, each team's supporters only made the trip once. The season soon

became a fiasco for the Ligue 1 new boys, who suffered 21 defeats in 38 games to end the season at the foot of the table while fellow promoted side Cannes secured a sensational UEFA Cup spot.

As soon as *Les Scoïstes'* return to the top division of French football was confirmed in the spring, jokes began circulating that they would go straight back down again, but after eleven rounds of matches this now seems highly unlikely. Currently sitting second in the table, Angers have already struck fear into the hearts of several of the league's biggest clubs, even subjecting nine-time champions Olympique Marseille to a 2-1 defeat in front of their own fans.

Coach Stephane Moulin's side most recently recorded a 0-0 stalemate with Guingamp, a result which – incredibly – prompted many to criticise the club. “We mustn't forget that we've only just been promoted and Guingamp were still playing in the Europa League at the start of this year,” Moulin pointed out in

response to this sudden shift in expectations. “It was a great draw and we should all be happy to take away a point.”

Meanwhile, the one club still standing between Angers and the Ligue 1 summit are navigating the current campaign flawlessly. Paris Saint-Germain most recently beat record French champions Saint-Etienne 4-1 to post their fifth victory in a row. With Laurent Blanc's side still undefeated this season, whispers of a fourth successive title – the sixth in the club's history – are already swirling around the capital. Incidentally PSG were crowned champions for the second time in the spring of 1994, just as their current closest rivals' last disastrous foray into the top flight was drawing to a close. ❄️



#### Stade Jean-Bouin

Guingamp's Moustapha Diallo arrives too late to prevent Angers' Abdoul Camara (right) from firing in a cross.



## Vanuatu: Super League

# The Italian journeyman



**Emanuele Giulianelli** is a freelance football correspondent based in Milan.

In 2014 at the age of 26, following years in the lower Italian leagues and having seemingly missed his big chance when Serie A side Bari included him in their squad for the 2010/11 season but did not play him, Mauro Boerchio took the unusual decision to sign for Amicale FC in Vanuatu, along with coach and fellow Italian Marco Banchini.

After the departure from Amicale of the Varese-born strategist in May this year, Boerchio remained in Port Vila along with compatriots Antonio Violi and Francesco Perrone, having won over the inhabitants of

the small Oceanian archipelago by participating personally in relief efforts with his team-mates in the aftermath of the devastating Cyclone Pam in March of this year.

And this year the Italian goalkeeper won the Vanuatu National Super League as captain of Amicale, gaining not just a measure of professional satisfaction, but also vindication for a lifestyle choice that has turned into a dream come true.

It was Amicale's fourth title since the 2010 debut season of the event, which integrated the older Port Vila Football League, a competition restricted to teams from the capital that had been held continuously since 1994 following a one-off edition in 1983-84. The Port Vila Football League was won by Tafea FC in the first 15 years from 1994 to 2009, since when Amicale have taken over the mantle by winning it every subsequent year.

Although these two arch-rivals have long dominated Vanuatuan football, this year, for

the first time, they did not face off in the final of the Vanuatu National Super League. Instead Amicale competed for the trophy against Malampa Revivors and went on to triumph 3-0.

This victory earned the former a berth in the continent's biggest club event, the OFC Champions League, a far cry from its UEFA equivalent but no less prestigious in the eyes of Mauro Boerchio and his team-mates. The Italian journeyman took part in the tournament last season, when his side were edged out in the group phase behind eventual champions Auckland City. ⚽



**Proud captain**  
Italian Mauro Boerchio celebrates winning the title with Amicale.



**Matchwinner!**  
Corinthians' Vagner Love celebrates scoring the only goal of the game against Flamengo.

**Brazil: Serie A**

## Last chance saloon for Atletico Mineiro



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

With six games of the Brazilian Serie A campaign left to play, reigning champions

Cruzeiro are already out of the running for the league title. The 2013 and 2014 champions, who have been languishing in mid-table for the majority of the season, are 26 points behind current leaders Corinthians, making it mathematically impossible for them to retain their crown.

Even so, Cruzeiro's 1-0 win over relegation-threatened Goias in their last match was of vital importance. The narrow victory keeps them within touching distance of fourth place and qualification for the 2016 Copa Libertadores. Fourth position in the league is currently occupied by Santos, who were held to a goalless draw by Figueirense last weekend.

Corinthians remain in pole position to lift the title after beating Flamengo 1-0. Vagner Love

netted the only goal of the game in first-half stoppage time, thereby securing *Timao's* place in next season's Copa Libertadores. Corinthians are now on 70 points, eight ahead of closest challengers Atletico Mineiro.

Matchday 33 could very well be last chance saloon for second-place Atletico. If they still harbour realistic ambitions of lifting their first title since 1971, their top-of-the-table clash with the league leaders this weekend is surely a must-win encounter. "It's the most important game of the season," said head coach Levir Culpi. "The only thing that matters is getting the win. We have to go into the game with that approach."

Culpi is under no illusions as to the size of the task that faces his team on Sunday. "Corinthians won't give us many chances," he added, fully aware that even victory for his side may not be enough to win the title. The visitors, in contrast, can take a huge step towards their first league crown since 2011 by picking up three points at the Estadio Mineirao.

The leaders have already faced bitter rivals Palmeiras home and away this season, though they were unable to win either of those games: after losing 2-0 on home soil in May,

they were held to a thrilling 3-3 draw at the Estadio do Pacaembu in September.

The fierce rivalry between the two teams goes back to 1914, when a group of Corinthians rebels of Italian origin decided to found a football club of their own. Until 1942, Palmeiras' Italian heritage was proudly displayed on their club crest, which not only featured the three colours of the Italian flag – green, white and red – but also bore the word "Italia".

One player currently on the books at Palmeiras is Jose Roberto da Silva Junior, more commonly known as Ze Roberto. The veteran midfielder made 336 appearances for Bayer Leverkusen, Bayern Munich and Hamburger SV between 1998 and 2011, making him the Bundesliga's most capped foreign player alongside Levan Kobiashvili and Claudio Pizarro.

Now 41 years old, Ze Roberto is refusing to contemplate retirement just yet. He has scored six goals in 42 appearances for Palmeiras this season and only recently agreed a one-year contract extension with the club. It may be quite some time before the former *Selecao* international finally decides to hang up his boots. ⚽



Name

**Solomon Isaac Grimes**

Date and place of birth

**24 July 1987, Monrovia, Liberia**

Position

**Defender**

Clubs played for

**2003–2007 Mighty Barrolle**

**2007 LISCR FC**

**2007–2011 Ethnikos Piraeus**

**2008 Kalamata (loan)**

**since 2011 Nea Salamina**

Liberia national team

**15 caps**

# “The improved ranking is down to great players”

With Liberia climbing 65 places in the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking in the past month, defensive pillar Solomon Grimes discusses the Lone Stars' ambitions and the country's footballing patriarch George Weah.

## Tell me something about yourself and your beginnings in the world of football.

*Solomon Isaac Grimes:* I'm a footballer in the Liberian national team and I play in Cyprus for Nea Salamina. I started playing football when I was three years old and I've always loved this fabulous game. My dream was always to one day become a professional footballer. I was born and raised in Liberia, a country that is currently going through a period of calm after the difficult years of war: at last we all feel serene and happy and free to be able to think about our daily activities without worries of any other kind.

## What do people in Liberia think about football?

My compatriots are literally crazy about football and constantly follow it, very closely, partly because football helped to pacify Liberia during the civil war years. Now it's a wonderful pastime that helps people in my country to be happy and smile.

## The national team is on form at the moment and picking up some exceptional results; in the past month they've leapt 65 places up the FIFA ranking, from 160 to 95. How do you explain that?

It's great for the football movement and for the country as a whole. But it's also very gratifying for all Liberian footballers who play in the domestic league and abroad. The improved ranking is down to great players who, together with myself, won the match against Tunisia – a side placed 33 in the world rankings – when everyone was writing us off. If the team finds itself in such a high

position, it's thanks to all those who have worn this jersey in recent times, even during the difficult moments when we lost.

## What does it mean for you to play for the national team?

I feel happy and proud to represent my beloved country Liberia. I know that every player in the world longs to play for their country and I'm one of them. The icing on the cake was definitely winning at home against Tunisia.

## Who are the stars on your team?

In my opinion, the best players are Zah Krangar, Diuh Williams, William Jebor, Teah Dennis, Francis Doe and myself. But I could easily continue the list because there are many young players in the national squad who always give their best for Liberia and enable us to aim even higher. We play a type of football that I'm not afraid to define as modern; for our brand of football it has always been important to play well. Most of the time we line up with a 4-4-2 system, with some of our coaches preferring to vary the formation depending on the opponents we're facing.

## And the next games?

The next match we're going to play is one of those really hard games. But without disrespect to Côte d'Ivoire, I think we're ready to meet them on a level footing because we're on top form, also bearing in mind the leagues that our players are playing in, which are all still in progress. For Liberia's sake we hope to get the best possible result, which is a victory.

## Tell us about George Weah. What does he represent to Liberia, its football and its people?

Weah represents a multitude of different things for Liberia and for its football movement, because he has always been seen as a role model and a goal to reach for any Liberian boy who has decided or decides even today to pursue a career as a professional footballer. He is our footballing legend. He currently works in the Liberian government and that means a lot to all of us, to all citizens, because Weah is committed to trying to speak on behalf of all of us and to publicise our country's talents around the world. ⚽

*Solomon Isaac Grimes was speaking to Emanuele Giuliani*



# First Love

Place: Ragusa, Sicily, Italy

Date: 10 July 2015

Time: 6.05 p.m.

Photographer: Nicoló Minerbi





# PRIDE IN ADVERSITY

With their country in the grip of war, Syrians currently have little to celebrate. Now the U-17 national team have raised smiles among their fellow countrymen despite their World Cup adventure in Chile coming to an end after the group stage.



**Syrian fans**  
Supporters remained confident and appreciative even during the final group match, a 4-0 defeat by leaders France.

“At this difficult time in Syria’s life, we believe our participation in these finals will bring joy to Syrian people regardless of the results. The situation in our country makes our presence here even more important.”

Syria’s U-17 coach Mohammad Al Attar is clearly proud to represent his country, and does not skirt around the issues at hand. The ongoing situation in Syria, and the ensuing refugee crisis, has understandably made it tough for his young side in the build-up to



**A special experience**  
Syria’s U-17 coach Mohammed Al Attar.



**The ball keeps rolling on**  
 In war-torn Aleppo (left) and at Syria's 4-1 FIFA U-17 World Cup group match loss to Paraguay.

the FIFA U-17 World Cup. Perspective is required at times like these. The game has bred unity and positivity in the country in the past, and Al Attar hopes it will do so again.

“It is an honour for every Syrian that we are part of this major world championship at this difficult time in Syria’s life,” said Al Attar when asked about the significance of his country’s participation in the Chile tournament. “We are the only Arab team to have made it to the finals,” he continued. “Merely taking part in this international competition makes us proud and gives us the morale boost that we’d hoped for after the huge effort we’ve put in over the past two years.”

**The backing of a nation**

Despite the difficult situation in the country, the Syrian public have not forgotten their team, with many fans staying awake until dawn to watch their team’s matches in Chile. “The Syrian fans have demonstrated this passion for decades,” Al Attar said. “When a Syrian team plays in a foreign competition, everyone rallies around them and supports them by every possible means.”

This ardent love of football in the country saw the nation back their young heroes at their most recent global appearances, the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2005 and the 2007

edition of the U-17 finals, and Syria reached the knockout stages in both those tournaments. “We saw national unity, with everyone talking about the national team,” Al Attar recalled.

**Overcoming adversity**

Syria faced many obstacles during the course of their preparations this time, with training moved to Damascus, Latakia and Russia. During the build-up to the tournament, the problems back home meant spirits in the camp have been low.

“We got a positive response and endless support from all the fans at home.”

*Syrian U-17 international Naeem Ghazal*

“When you stay in training camps for a long time it can be exhausting,” Al Attar said. “We tried to address this problem by minimising knowledge of the situation back home, stressing the need for every player to give their all during the games and to only think about our flag and raising Syria’s profile.”

Modern technology has helped boost morale in the squad, with the team’s No9 Naeem Ghazal explaining the worldwide connection to the Syrian community. “We were able to talk and video call, and all players need support like this,” Ghazal said. “After our loss to Paraguay we expected some negative reactions [on social media], but instead we got a positive response and endless support from everyone. The fans congratulated us on our performance, our determination, and urged us to do better in our next encounters.”

What’s more, support came not only from relatives and countrymen in Syria. Indeed, when the team visited the Syrian Arab School in Puerto Montt, they were given a warm welcome by the locals. Established more than four decades ago, the school teaches Arab traditions and customs to its students, who are largely of Syrian origin. The schoolchildren carried Syrian flags, recited the national anthem, took



**Ready for the match**  
Children in Aleppo (left) and the Syrian team before their final FIFA U-17 World Cup group match, a 4-0 loss to France.

## Nigeria cruise into last eight

The U-17 World Cup in Chile has entered its knockout stages, although Argentina have already been eliminated.

At the FIFA U-17 World Cup Chile 2015™, Nigeria continue to set the pace. After two wins from three in the group stages, the defending champions then coasted through their last-16 tie and have their sights set on lifting the trophy for a fifth time. Meanwhile, Argentina, fourth at the last U-17 World Cup in 2013, have already packed their bags and made the short journey home. The Albiceleste were beaten by Mexico, Germany and Australia in Group C and managed one solitary goal.

In the first knockout round, at least four matches produced the expected outcome. Brazil, runners-up in Group B, booked a quarter-final berth after beating New Zealand 1-0, while the aforementioned Nigeria swept past Australia 6-0 and Mexico defeated Chile 4-1.

South Korea had emerged as a surprise package in the tournament after topping Group B – ahead of Brazil, England and Guinea – but their campaign ended after a 2-0 loss to Belgium, although it might have been different had they capitalised on the 71st-minute red card shown to Laurent Lemoine and not missed the resulting penalty. “My goalkeeper made a superb save on the penalty, and that’s something he did during the European qualifiers,” said Belgium coach Bob Browaeys after the game. For the Red Devils, who seized the initiative with an early goal, it was their first ever victory in an U-17 World Cup knockout match. (Match schedule and map, pages 2-3).

tfw

pictures, asked the players for autographs and had a kickaround with the team. A much-needed experience of familiarity, many miles from home. ⚽

**Mohammad Hussein**

# DISABILITY NO BARRIER TO VOLUNTEERS' ENTHUSIASM

For 22-year-old Pedro, who has learning disabilities, volunteering at the FIFA U-17 World Cup is not only great fun but also offers a chance for social interaction.



**PEDRO**  
Ready for his job as a volunteer at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Chile!



**ON THE SIDELINES**  
Pedro accompanied by his mother (right).



**CHILLAN**  
Everything is in place at this World Cup host venue.

**A**s he does on every matchday in the host city of Chillan, Pedro gets up, has breakfast and gets everything ready in order to arrive on time for his shift at the Estadio Nelson Oyarzun Arenas, 90 minutes before the start of the first game.

The 22-year-old, who has general learning disabilities, is one of the many participants in the FIFA U-17 World Cup Chile 2015 Volunteer Programme. "I'm having a great time," he told with a broad smile on his face.

"The U-17 World Cup's arrival in Chillan, and the invitation extended to Pedro and other boys with disabilities, has been a real gift for them and for their families," said Myrna Arenas, Pedro's teacher at the Las Acacias Special School and also a volunteer at the tournament. "I've known Pedro for over ten years, and he is definitely happy. He's already told the whole school what he's doing at the World Cup. He comes in every

morning asking me about the match schedule; he knows all the fixtures off by heart!"

In total, there are nine boys and men with special needs among the approximately 170 volunteers helping out in Chillan during Chile 2015. The youngest volunteers work as ball boys, while those over 18, such as Pedro, lend a hand with ticketing and welcoming duties. "I greet people coming to watch the match and help them," he explained.

"The main goal here is to help to break down barriers and promote inclusion," explained Jorge Briones, head of the volunteer programme in Chillan. "Pedro and his workmates are permanently accompanied by physical education graduates specialising in disability issues. We want to show that these boys have a lot more to offer than just being a member of a team. We started working with them a month before the start of the U-17 World Cup, and we're convinced that it's been a marvellous experience for them."

“It’s also a good experience for other volunteers to work with young people with disabilities as it gives them a greater understanding of what life is like with a disability.”

*Pedro’s teacher Myrna Arenas*



**INCLUSIVE**

Pedro (top left) with his fellow volunteers.



**WHERE DO I SIT?**

Pedro checks tickets and points fans towards their seats.



**SECOND LOVE**

Apart from the home team, Pedro also enjoys watching Mexico (Mexican striker pictured in black).

**Inclusive initiative**

As far as Arenas is concerned, the inclusion programme is extremely beneficial for all concerned. “I think the fact that they have the possibility of working alongside other volunteers is a positive thing from both points of view. On the one hand, it’s great for the boys, because they don’t get out much, and this type of interaction does them a world of good,” she said.

“But it’s also beneficial for the rest of the volunteers, because it’s a way of raising awareness of the existence of people with disabilities and taking the right steps towards inclusion.”

Pedro, who never stops smiling, appears delighted to be able to play a part in the U-17 World Cup. “I feel proud and privileged to have been chosen. The part I love most about the job is meeting new people,” he said.

“I hope to get the chance to get to know some of the players as well! Aside from Chile,

the team I really like is Mexico.” Indeed, *El Tri*, who played their first two matches of the tournament in Chillan, have received considerable backing from local fans.

Before getting down to his duties of ticket checking and escorting fans to their seats, Pedro shares a final pertinent thought: “My parents told me that they were proud of me and that it’s important for me to be here, because I can achieve a big goal. Nothing is impossible. You can achieve anything if you put your mind to it.”

Whatever happens, there is little doubt that the U-17 World Cup Volunteer Programme will have made a major impact in Pedro’s life. ♻️

*Elisa Revuelta*



# GRASSROOTS

## FIFA inspiring girls and boys to play football

FIFA's Grassroots programme is the core foundation of our development mission, aimed at encouraging girls and boys around the world to play and enjoy football without restrictions. Grassroots focuses on the enjoyment of the game through small-sided team games, and teaching basic football technique, exercise and fair play.

For more information visit [FIFA.com](http://FIFA.com)



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# Ad-hoc Electoral Committee receives seven candidatures for FIFA presidential election

FIFA's member associations have proposed, in due time and form, seven candidates for the presidential election to take place at the Extraordinary FIFA Congress in Zurich on 26 February 2016.

The candidates proposed are HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein, Mr Musa Hassan Bility, Mr Jérôme Champagne, Mr Gianni Infantino, Mr Michel Platini, H.E. Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and Mr Tokyo Sexwale. Given that Michel Platini is currently provisionally banned from taking part in any football-related activity, his candidature will not be processed by the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee as long as such ban is valid and in force. Should such a ban be lifted or expire before the FIFA presidential election, the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee would decide, depending on the respective exact point in time, on how to proceed with the candidature concerned.



## For the other proposed candidates, the following applies:

The Ad-hoc Electoral Committee will now assess the candidatures, in line with the Electoral Regulations for the FIFA Presidency.

In accordance with article 8 par. 1(e) of the Electoral Regulations, the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee has passed the candidature dossiers to the investigatory chamber of the independent Ethics Committee to carry out integrity checks, as stipulated in the regulations. The investigatory chamber will – as a result of this integrity check – deliver comprehensive documentation on each candidate, but it will not give any recommendation as to whether or not a candidate may run for the FIFA presidency.

Upon receipt of the results of the integrity checks, the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee will reconvene in order to review the submissions and validate their compliance with the applicable FIFA regulatory provisions. Following this process, the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee will formally admit and declare the candidates who are eligible to stand for the office of FIFA President. ☺

tfw



FIFA's global network and the popularity of football have created a powerful platform. It is a platform that we must use responsibly, and for the benefit of society. One way we have sought to harness this potential is to promote public health and healthier lifestyles.

This week, former Cameroon international Samuel Eto'o travels with our Medical team to Africa to assess the progress of our "11 against Ebola" awareness campaign and to promote FIFA's long-term "11 for Health" programme, which seeks to educate young people on health issues.

The Ebola campaign brought together top players such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar as well as FIFA, the World Bank and the World Health Organization to urgently promote simple messages to help communities limit the spread of the disease. It has been a great example of FIFA using its global influence for the good of others, and we are grateful to all the players and organisations that took part.

It is vital that we, as an organisation, continue to focus on this kind of positive work in the future. Our work in promoting football has to include encouraging and helping young people to take better care of themselves and to live an active, healthy life.

"11 for Health" was an essential part of our legacy programme in Brazil, and it has seen great results all over the globe, especially in developing countries.

But FIFA's commitment to promoting health also has another purpose. As the governing body of the game, we have a duty to tackle doping in sport.

Thankfully, football has not suffered from major problems with doping, but this is no time to be complacent. We must keep football free from doping – for the sake of fair play, the fans and the health of the players.

To support our efforts in testing and education, next week FIFA launches a campaign to explain to all players why they should stay clean and how to avoid doping.

I urge you all to support our "11 rules to prevent doping in football" campaign so that football can remain a fair game that fans everywhere can believe in. Doping is cheating, and there can be no place for cheats in football.

Best wishes, Issa Hayatou



## Football breaks down barriers

Football builds bridges. It has a unique power to inspire friendship, respect and equality. FIFA's Say No To Racism campaign is part of our commitment to tackle all forms of discrimination in football. Everyone should have the right to play and enjoy football without fear of discrimination. Say no to racism.

For more information visit [FIFA.com](http://FIFA.com)



# A winter's fairytale

*Annette Braun*

**J**ose Mourinho has been in the media firing line of late, and was recently handed a wise piece of advice by former Manchester United defender and television pundit Gary Neville: “The bad headlines need to stop.”

The Chelsea coach and his players are enduring one of the club's roughest patches in recent memory. The Blues were crowned champions back in May, but now find themselves in the bottom third of the table with five defeats from ten games, and Mourinho has had a series of run-ins with officials and the media. Inspiring more positive headlines is, therefore, somewhat easier said than done.

The 52-year-old is not exactly known for accepting criticism – constructive or otherwise – but if anyone is in tune with the current public relations climate and is well placed to drop a helpful hint or two, it is Neville. Alongside his TV work, Neville is also the assistant coach of the England national team and is revered for both his work on screen and on the touchline. The United legend provided further evidence of his popularity with a philanthropic gesture to the homeless people of Manchester recently.

Together with former team-mate Ryan Giggs, Neville had been given planning permission to turn the historic Manchester Stock Exchange building – which the two had bought for £1.5 million – into a boutique hotel. However, their envisaged luxury accommodation has not yet come to fruition. In-

stead, the place has been decked out with sleeping bags and gas cookers.

A group of homeless people in need of shelter over the winter and supported by housing activists promoting the 'Operation Safe Winter' campaign recently occupied the property. Their squatting on the premises could easily have snowballed into a long and drawn-out court case. It has not come close to that. On the contrary, Neville contacted Wesley Hall, the leader of the protest, and gave permission for the new residents to stay until next February, since construction of the hotel starts in the spring anyway. The early 20th century building is now a place of shelter and warmth for dozens of homeless people in search of a roof over their heads and some warm clothes throughout the coldest months of the year.

There is perhaps something to be learned by Mourinho in all of this. While some of the homeless of Manchester will be spared sleeping rough this winter, Neville – whose generosity moved activist Hall to tears – has once again underlined his ability to provide a positive headline. Chelsea's beleaguered coach could do with being at the centre of a similarly positive story. ☺

The weekly column by our staff writers



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Country:  
**Mozambique**  
 FIFA Trigramme:  
**MOZ**  
 Confederation:  
**CAF**  
 Continent:  
**Africa**  
 Capital:  
**Maputo**

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Surface area:  
**801,590 km<sup>2</sup>**  
 Highest point:  
**Monte Binga 2,436 m**  
 Neighbouring seas and oceans:  
**Indian Ocean**

## MEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Ranking:  
**107th**  
 World Cup:  
**No appearances**

## WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Ranking:  
**148th**  
 World Cup:  
**No appearances**

## LATEST RESULTS

Men's:  
**Mozambique - Zambia 1:1**  
**25. Oktober 2015**  
 Women's:  
**South Africa - Mozambique 5:0**  
**9. Juni 2013**

## FIFA INVESTMENTS

Since 2001:  
**\$ 5,660,822**

# T H E N

Berlin, Germany



**1960**

An amateur goalkeeper watches the match unfold further up the pitch.

N

O

W

Kiev, Ukraine



**2012**

Italy custodian Gianluigi Buffon looks on during his country's 4-0 defeat by Spain in the UEFA EURO 2012 final.

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# Why do players argue with the referee?



**Netzer injured** Our columnist in November 1971

When an argument with a referee takes place, it is usually when emotions are at their most raw, the player in question perhaps angry or frustrated at a decision. While in the majority of cases the player knows that the referee is unlikely to change his mind, reversing a decision is not necessarily always the aim of the confrontation. More often, it is an attempt to gain the psychological upper hand. The referee might then think twice if there is another controversial moment, meaning the original complaint has played to one side's advantage.

It goes without saying that the referee must be treated with the utmost respect, regardless of disagreements. Abuse should be punished, whether it comes from a player or a coach. Personally, I wish that the infamous technical area on the touchline for coaches did not exist, although given that some coaches regularly overstep the mark, it does prove useful on occasion. A coach should avoid being sent to the

stands, however, if only for the reason that he expects the same standard of behaviour from his players. Nobody should run the risk of a red card.

In fact, a level of calmness on the field from all involved can only benefit proceedings. The referee can play his part in this: if he comes across as overbearing or arrogant, then it is likely that will have a negative effect on the game. If he controls a match with natural authority, however, then he will comfortably navigate any difficult moments. ⚽

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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)

"I'm really saddened to learn of the death of Howard Kendall (...) He was a great manager and in my time at Everton he was fully supportive of me. He was always ready to give advice when it was needed. My thoughts are with his family. Undoubtedly, Howard will go down in Everton's history as the finest manager to have worked at the club."

**Former Everton manager David Moyes on the passing of former Everton player and boss Howard Kendall**

"On his 75th birthday, our new collection celebrates the international sporting icon that is Pelé. Each of the artists who created pieces for the collection have been personally inspired by Pelé. Their pieces reflect not just the sporting star but the person behind the celebrity image and his admirable rise to fame from humble beginnings."

**Castle Fine Art gallery manager Sarah Manghan**

"Cruyff was my favourite coach. Not only the relationship between player and coach but also as friends - we always had Christmases together in Barcelona at that time. I wish all the best to him and his family. He was always a winning man - a winning football player and a winning coach. I hope that he will win this battle also."

**Southampton manager Ronald Koeman offering a message of support to friend and former coach Johan Cruyff following the Dutch legend's lung cancer diagnosis**



**FIFA PARTNER**

# An academy coach turned me into a goalkeeper

Wang Fei's fate was decided when she was still at school. The Chinese shot-stopper was a striker until a teacher decided that tall girls should be goalkeepers.

I still clearly remember the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup Final at the Pasadena Rose Bowl. I was nine years old at the time. We lost to the USA on penalties after the match had finished 0-0. I followed China's greatest football success on TV with my family and was so impressed that I decided I wanted to become a professional footballer too. At first I didn't tell my parents anything about my dream and kept my thoughts to myself.

The 1999 final is still a source of inspiration for me today. I also believe that the tournament was a turning point overall for women's football in my country. As a child I preferred to play in attack because I always wanted to score goals. Because I was quite good I joined a football academy at the early age of twelve, leaving my family in Pulandian in north-east China.

In 2003 I had a big decision to make that would have a decisive impact on the rest of my career. My coach at the academy was of the opinion that because of my size, I had the potential to be a good goalkeeper. I would grow tall, he said, so he converted me from the midfielder that I was at the time into a goalkeeper.

Somehow my coach had the right instinct, because my performances between the sticks were good. My first senior club was Dalian Shide, followed by other clubs in Liaoning province. It wasn't long before I was called up to the national team and I was able to



quickly establish myself. We won the gold medal at the 2011 World University Games in Shenzhen and I was named best goalkeeper, which certainly pleased my former coach.

In the winter of 2015 I moved to Germany to join Turbine Potsdam, a club known for its goalkeeping coaching. At times it was tough there, and the football was very physical and direct, but I battled through it despite a few tears that had been bottled up along the way. On my debut at an international indoor tournament, I not only made some saves but also scored one myself. That brought back memories of being an outfield player in my youth but also made me realise that since then, I had matured into a goalkeeper in body and soul. ❄️

**Wang Fei was speaking to Rainer Hennies**

## Name

**Wang Fei**

## Date and place of birth

**20 March 1990, Pulandian, China**

## Position

**Goalkeeper**

## Clubs played for

**2010–2011 Dalian Shide  
2012–2013 Liaoning Hongyun  
2014 Dalian Aerbin  
2015 Turbine Potsdam  
2015 Olympique Lyonnais**

## Major honours

**Chinese Women's National League 2014**

## China national team

**62 caps**

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** (unchanged)  
**Spain** (6th, up 5)  
**Romania** (13th, down 6)  
**149**  
**American Samoa, Cook Islands, Gabon, Samoa, Tonga** (3 matches each)  
**Norway** (up 243 points)  
**Liberia** (up 65 ranks)  
**Romania** (down 134 points)  
**Cyprus, FYR Macedonia** (down 28 ranks each)

Last updated:  
 1 October 2015

Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points
1	Argentina	0	1419	55	Guinea	8	582	109	Zimbabwe	-1	313	163	Myanmar	-1	147
2	Germany	1	1401	55	Japan	3	582	110	Georgia	37	308	164	American Samoa	35	145
3	Belgium	-1	1387	57	Jamaica	-5	576	111	Botswana	7	305	165	Puerto Rico	-13	134
4	Portugal	2	1235	58	Australia	3	567	112	St Kitts and Nevis	7	303	166	Cook Islands	39	132
5	Colombia	-1	1228	59	Trinidad and Tobago	-5	564	113	Burundi	21	302	167	India	-12	128
6	Spain	5	1223	60	Congo DR	5	563	114	Cyprus	-28	300	168	Mauritius	17	123
7	Brazil	-2	1204	61	Paraguay	-6	552	115	Aruba	22	299	169	New Caledonia	-3	120
8	Wales	1	1195	62	Mali	-2	546	116	Lithuania	-7	298	170	Timor-Leste	-7	118
9	Chile	-1	1177	63	Serbia	3	538	117	Cuba	-4	294	171	Malaysia	-2	111
10	England	0	1161	64	Finland	28	534	118	Belize	10	292	171	Indonesia	-6	111
11	Austria	2	1100	65	Gabon	-2	529	119	Dominican Republic	4	290	173	Bhutan	-9	106
12	Switzerland	5	1044	65	Panama	-6	529	120	Niger	-19	287	174	Dominica	-2	102
13	Romania	-6	1042	67	Equatorial Guinea	-5	510	121	Sierra Leone	-16	286	175	Chad	-4	100
14	Netherlands	-2	1004	67	Bolivia	0	510	122	St Vincent and the Grenadines	-6	284	176	Maldives	1	96
15	Czech Republic	5	983	69	Venezuela	-19	501	123	Syria	-2	283	177	Pakistan	-7	89
16	Croatia	-2	965	70	United Arab Emirates	0	491	123	Bahrain	-11	283	178	US Virgin Islands	-2	88
17	Italy	-1	962	71	Zambia	3	487	125	Namibia	-14	274	179	Laos	-5	85
18	Slovakia	-3	936	72	Montenegro	5	470	126	Central African Republic	42	271	180	Yemen	-5	82
19	Algeria	0	927	73	South Africa	-1	465	127	Madagascar	-6	262	181	Suriname	-15	79
20	Uruguay	-2	919	74	Uzbekistan	2	464	128	Kuwait	-1	260	182	Bangladesh	-9	77
21	Côte d'Ivoire	0	916	75	Uganda	-4	455	129	Korea DPR	-3	252	183	Chinese Taipei	-4	69
22	France	2	899	76	Burkina Faso	-3	427	130	Palestine	-11	246	184	Seychelles	8	67
23	Iceland	0	882	77	Haiti	10	418	131	Kenya	-15	245	184	Montserrat	-6	67
24	Ukraine	5	874	78	Bulgaria	-10	414	132	FYR Macedonia	-28	239	186	Cambodia	-6	66
25	Ghana	2	849	79	Togo	0	411	132	Moldova	-8	239	187	Brunei Darussalam	-5	61
26	Russia	6	845	80	Morocco	5	407	134	Philippines	-9	238	188	Tahiti	-6	60
27	Mexico	-1	842	81	China PR	3	405	135	Swaziland	0	224	189	Fiji	-8	59
28	Denmark	-6	835	82	Guatemala	16	401	136	Tanzania	4	218	190	Nepal	-5	51
29	USA	-1	807	83	Antigua and Barbuda	22	400	137	Guyana	17	210	191	Sri Lanka	-7	49
30	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	787	84	Sudan	5	399	138	Bermuda	-6	209	191	Cayman Islands	-4	49
31	Ecuador	3	765	85	Iraq	-3	396	139	St Lucia	-8	208	193	Comoros	-3	48
32	Albania	-7	755	85	Faroe Islands	-10	396	140	Lebanon	-7	201	193	Macau	-6	48
33	Hungary	4	741	87	Estonia	-7	388	140	Lesotho	-12	201	193	São Tomé e Príncipe	-3	48
34	Norway	35	739	88	Saudi Arabia	5	384	142	Kazakhstan	3	199	196	San Marino	-3	35
35	Northern Ireland	6	724	89	Mauritania	25	379	142	Luxembourg	-1	199	197	Turks and Caicos Islands	-3	33
36	Tunisia	-3	722	89	Honduras	-8	379	144	South Sudan	54	198	197	Solomon Islands	-10	33
37	Turkey	9	717	91	Armenia	-8	377	145	Thailand	-8	196	199	British Virgin Islands	-4	27
38	Senegal	0	713	92	Qatar	2	365	146	Kyrgyzstan	9	195	200	Tonga	-1	17
39	Iran	1	703	93	Rwanda	-15	364	147	Guinea-Bissau	-5	193	201	Vanuatu	-4	13
40	Scotland	-9	702	94	El Salvador	13	363	148	New Zealand	-12	188	202	Eritrea	-1	8
41	Cape Verde Islands	15	701	95	Liberia	65	360	149	Vietnam	3	187	203	Mongolia	-1	6
42	Costa Rica	-3	691	95	Nicaragua	44	360	150	Afghanistan	-20	183	203	Somalia	-1	6
43	Poland	-9	680	97	Angola	-9	353	150	Guam	-4	183	205	Andorra	-3	5
44	Greece	0	676	98	Belarus	-1	350	152	Curaçao	-4	181	206	Djibouti	-1	4
45	Sweden	-9	672	99	Jordan	-8	348	153	Hong Kong	-2	180	206	Papua New Guinea	-1	4
46	Slovenia	-1	662	100	Benin	15	341	154	Barbados	-10	175	208	Anguilla	0	0
47	Israel	-1	659	101	Malawi	-5	339	155	Turkmenistan	-6	172	208	Bahamas	0	0
48	Cameroon	-6	640	102	Oman	-2	338	156	Liechtenstein	-6	170				
49	Congo	-7	636	103	Latvia	-13	335	157	Singapore	0	164				
50	Peru	-2	623	104	Canada	-2	333	157	Malta	3	164				
51	Egypt	-2	620	105	Azerbaijan	5	328	159	Grenada	-1	159				
52	Nigeria	1	600	105	Libya	-7	328	160	Tajikistan	-2	156				
53	Korea Republic	4	590	107	Mozambique	-12	327	161	Gambia	-18	154				
54	Republic of Ireland	-3	587	108	Ethiopia	-5	315	162	Samoa	34	152				



<http://www.fifa.com/worldranking/index.html>

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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**

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

**2**

**MEDIUM**

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

**3**

**HARD**

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



# 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).