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Introductory greetings

The Executive Committee of FIFA has once again asked its Technical Committee to produce a technical study on the 3rd World Youth Championship, which was held this year in the USSR.

The Technical Committee assembled a Technical Study Group, with a view to preparing a complete report on this sporting event in the Soviet Union.

The members of this Technical Study Group were:

José Bonetti, Brazil
Heinz Marotzke, Germany FR
Roy Millar, Northern Ireland
Erich Vogel, Switzerland

Once again the Chairman was Harry H. Cavan, Northern Ireland, Senior Vice-President of FIFA and Chairman of the Committee for the FIFA World Youth Championship. The coordinator was Walter Gagg, Switzerland.

The report presented by FIFA will once again become an important part of the technical development programme. We hope that it will be of use to all national Football Associations, particularly to those countries where football has not yet reached international level.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank the Soviet people, the authorities there and their sportsmen in the name of world football. As President of FIFA I should also like to thank those in charge of Soviet football for so obligingly taking over this tournament and for doing such a fine job in organising it.

It gives me much pleasure that this 3rd World Youth Championship could be held in a country that places great emphasis on youth and on sport.

At this happy moment, in the Year of Youth, FIFA and the USSR are united by this festival which embraces both youth and sport.

May football be an example for peace and understanding, and bring this message of goodwill to all nations.

Finally, I should like to thank all those connected with the Technical Study Group for placing their experience and their expertise at our disposal in order to complete this large and demanding project.

Dr. João Havelange
President of FIFA
The outstanding success of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup, since its modest inception in Tunisia in 1977, has made a major contribution to the development and standard of football in many countries of the world. The Youth Championship has been complimentary to the educational programmes which FIFA has organised in all the Confederations and evidence of its success is the remarkable results achieved by the "Third World" teams. The substantial number of players who have progressed from Youth teams to the National "A" teams and played in the FIFA World Cup or the Olympic Football Tournament, is most encouraging.

In special circumstances and at short notice, the USSR Football Federation undertook to host the 1985 World Youth Championship and with the nomination of a representative and distinguished USSR Organising Committee, everything possible has been done to ensure the complete success of the Championship. The Coca-Cola Company has once again been most generous in its sponsorship and contributes much to the promotion of the Championship. As Chairman of the FIFA Organising Committee, I am pleased that with the assistance and co-operation of the USSR Organising Committee, the contribution and understanding of the competing National teams and the referees, together with the support and co-operation of our partner the Coca-Cola Company, we enjoyed an outstanding and successful World Youth Championship in the USSR.

Harry H. Cavan, O.B.E.
Chairman - FIFA Organising Committee

It gives FIFA great pleasure that the fifth FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup tournament has also been a success, this being the third time that the competition has been accorded the status of the official World Youth Championship. Many factors contributed to this success: the good organisation, the weather that was exceptionally fine until the final, the positive attitude of the teams involved and the fine sporting spirit shown in the matches themselves.

We should like to congratulate the Brazilian team on its successful defence of the title, and hope that all participants - players and trainers, referees and officials - will help to spread the optimistic style of the winners as an exemplary basis for our sport.

FIFA would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the tournament, and once again recognise the Coca-Cola Company for their support of youth football and thank them for their long-standing partnership with our world football organisation.

Joseph S. Blatter
General Secretary of FIFA

Congratulations on behalf of The Coca-Cola Company to the young men of Brazil for adding still more lustre to their country's football reputation. In winning the fifth FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup World Youth Championship in the Soviet Union, they achieved a double which echoes Brazil's victories in the World Cups of 1958 and 1962.

For this was the first time that any country had won and then retained the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup in successive championships. Given our view that the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup is a valuable testing ground for the senior international arenas, Brazil's performances in both Mexico 1983 and the Soviet Union augurs well for their future. Congratulations, too, to runners-up Spain, third placed Nigeria, and the Soviet Union, hosts and the inaugural winners of the tournament in 1977.

It is encouraging for our company to view the exciting emergence at youth level of Nigeria. For they reflect the performance of Korea Rep. in reaching the semi-finals in Mexico 2 years earlier. That is because Africa and Asia make up the major part of our company's support of FIFA's coaching initiatives.

The philosophy behind the FIFA/Coca-Cola International Academy has been the promotion of football education in less developed areas of the game. And to have two teams, one from each continent, going so far and both losing only to the eventual winners is extremely rewarding.

Everwin van Steeden
Vice President Europe and Africa
The Coca-Cola Export Corporation
Organisation of the WYC

Duties of FIFA
It is the main duty of the World governing body of Football (FIFA) to promote and develop football all over the world. In carrying out this obligation, FIFA will naturally pay special attention to youth football at all ages and different levels of performance. When Dr. João Havelange took over the presidency in 1974, it was one of his concerns to help the Third World in the development of its football. Since 1976, FIFA has held courses in almost 100 different countries, helping to train football coaches, sports doctors, administrators and federation secretaries at various different levels.

The Idea of a World Youth Tournament
In order to provide a check on how far these courses had had a practical effect on world football, it seemed natural for FIFA to organise a third type of international competition, in addition to the present World Cup and Olympic tournaments. The aim was mainly to offer young players from the Third World a chance to compete against their contemporaries from the highly-developed footballing nations.

Since FIFA could not hope to finance a worldwide undertaking of this sort on its own, a sponsor was sought, with sufficient resources and a real interest in sport. In the Coca-Cola Company, the ideal partner was discovered. The new competition would accordingly be for the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup.

WYC Referees

Europe (9):
- Agnolin (Italy)
- Sanchez Armino (Spain)
- Kuznetsov (USSR)
- Padar (Hungary)
- Quiniou (France)
- Sandoz (Switzerland)
- Syme (Scotland)
- Worrall (England)
- Zavchenko (USSR)

South America (5):
- Cardellino (Uruguay)
- Diaz Palacios (Colombia)
- Escobar (Paraguay)
- Silva Arco (Chile)
- Ramiz Wright (Brazil)

Africa (3):
- Ben Naceur (Tunisia)
- Picon-Ackong (Mauritius)
- Traore (Mali)

Asia (3):
- Al-Shafi (Syria)
- Mandi (Bahrein)
- Takada (Japan)

North and Central America and Caribbean (3):
- Codeseal (Mexico)
- Evangelista (Canada)
- Ulloa Morera (Costa Rica)

Oceania (1):
- Munro (New Zealand)

Qualification within the Confederations
As before, there were 16 teams participating in this World Youth Championship. 15 of these had to qualify within their confederations, while the USSR as host would automatically take part.

FIFA allotted the six confederations the following team quotas:

Europe (UEFA) including organiser 6
South America (CONMEBOL) 3
Africa (CAF) 2
Asia (AFC) 2
North and Central America + Caribbean (CONCACAF) 2
Oceania + Israel 1

Each confederation was allowed to decide independently on the type of qualifying tournament it would run. Several different methods were employed, but the tournament regulations had to be submitted for FIFA approval in each case.

UEFA used the results of the European Championships in 1984 as the basis for qualification, by chance this tournament too having been held in the USSR.

In South America, FIFA designated the “Juventud de America” tournament held in Asuncion (Paraguay), as the official qualifying tournament.

In Asia there were first two regional qualifying competitions, in Dammam (Saudi Arabia) for countries in western Asia, and in Dhaka (Bangladesh) for those in the east. The two top teams in each region went on to the final tournament in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirate), from which the two finalists qualified for the WYC.

The CONCACAF settled on Trinidad and Tobago as the venue for its qualifying tournament.

In Oceania too, the qualifying round was held in the form of a tournament. This was organised and held in Sydney (Australia), with Israel, which does not belong to any confederation, also taking part.

A grand total of 99 nations entered for the qualifying games for the WYC, but for various reasons a few of these teams had to withdraw.

Previous tournaments for the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup
The first two competitions, held in Tunisia (1977) and Japan (1979), were both simply designated “tournaments”. The next two, in Australia (1981) and Mexico (1983) were officially entitled “World Youth Championships for the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup” (WYC).

The 3rd World Youth Championship in the USSR
The 3rd World Youth Championship for the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup was held between 24th August and 7th September 1985. The Soviet organising committee decided to decentralise the competition games, and the following four Soviet Republic capital cities were chosen as the centres for the group games and the quarter-finals:

Armenia: Erewan
Georgia: Tiflis
White Russia: Minsk
Azerbaijan: Baku

For the semi-finals, the tournament moved to Leningrad and Moscow, with the two finals (1st/2nd and 3rd/4th places) being held in the Lenin Stadium in Moscow.
Qualification

In the African Football Confederation, there were originally 23 nations that applied to enter the qualifications for the World Youth Championships.

The first round games were played in October and November 1984, with the following results:

| Tunisia         | Algeria  | 0:0 |
| Algeria         | Tunisia  | 0:0 |
| Morocco         | Egypt    | 2:0 |
| Egypt           | Morocco  | 1:1 |
| Nigeria         | Ghana    | 2:0 |
| Ghana           | Nigeria  | 1:0 |
| Cameroon        | Angola   | 3:0 |
| Angola          | Cameroon | 0:2 |
| Zimbabwe        | Sudan    | 4:2 |
| Sudan           | Zimbabwe | 1:0 |
| Ethiopia        | Zambia   | 2:2 |
| Zambia          | Ethiopia | 1:3 |

The quarter-finals were played in December and January:

- After they had drawn away from home, the good win in their own country brought the Ivory Coast safely through. Another team from northern Africa fell victim to the draw: the strong Moroccan side went out to their old rivals from Tunisia.
- The game between Cameroon and Nigeria was a very promising encounter. Cameroon had dominated football in equatorial Africa for a good decade, while Nigeria was one of the up and coming footballing nations in central Africa. After their convincing 3:0 home win, Nigeria seemed to be in a commanding position, but in the return match in Lagos the Nigerians over-ran their opponents, the 5:1 win being just enough to get them through.

The semi-final dates were set by CAF to be in February and March:

| Ivory Coast     | Tunisia  | 1:1 |
| Tunisia         | Ivory Coast | 0:0 |
| Nigeria         | Ethiopia | 3:0 |
| Ethiopia        | Nigeria  | 1:1 |

The final games to decide who would be African Junior Champions took place at the end of April and the beginning of May:

| Tunisia         | Nigeria  | 1:1 |
| Nigeria         | Tunisia  | 2:1 |

Ethiopia was responsible for the only unexpected result of the round. After drawing 2:2 at home, their chances of qualifying were pretty low, particularly as Zambia had developed into the major footballing force in southern Africa over the last few years. However, Ethiopia managed a 3:1 away victory and got through to the next round.

The winners of the two semi-finals not only qualified for the final, but also won the right to represent Africa at the World Youth Championship. Tunisia’s goal in their draw away from home turned out to be the decisive factor in their matches with the Ivory Coast.

The final games were

- Tunisia - Nigeria 1:1
- Nigeria - Tunisia 2:1

Tunisia was favoured to win, but after they had only drawn at home, and allowed Nigeria to score an away goal in the process, the final was almost decided. With their own crowd behind them, the Nigerians made good use of this unique chance to become African Junior Champions, and so Tunisia had to be content with second place.

The North Africans were unable to put out their best side for the two final games. Since they had already qualified for the World Youth Championship final competition, some previously injured players were rested in order to give them time to recover fully. Two of them in fact underwent long-overdue operations, hoping that things would heal in time for them to take part in the preparations for the WYC.

In earlier competitions, Nigeria had played in the WYC in Mexico, although they were eliminated during the group games and eventually finished tenth. Tunisia had taken part in the first WYT in 1977 – as host country they had automatically qualified.
North and Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF)

Qualification

The CONCACAF turned the organisation of the qualifying tournament for the WYC over to Trinidad and Tobago. Of the 23 members of CONCACAF, 19 entered for the competition. Shortly before the tournament began, Jamaica and Surinam withdrew, while the Dominican Republic came too late and could not be included. This left exactly enough teams to form four groups of four.

Round 1

The top two teams in each group qualified for the second round. These 8 countries were divided into groups of four again. The CONCACAF turned the organisation of the qualifying tournament for the WYC over to Trinidad and Tobago. Of the 23 members of CONCACAF, 19 entered for the competition. Shortly before the tournament began, Jamaica and Surinam withdrew, while the Dominican Republic came too late and could not be included. This left exactly enough teams to form four groups of four.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Guatemala 5:0</th>
<th>Cuba 0:2</th>
<th>Cuba 1:1</th>
<th>Canada 0:0</th>
<th>El Salvador 1:0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table</td>
<td>1.El Salvador 3:2 1:0</td>
<td>2.Cuba 3:2 0:1</td>
<td>3.Cuba 3:2 1:1</td>
<td>4.Guatemala 3:2 1:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

El Salvador won this group without losing a game, but their goal difference suggests that the strength of the team was in defence. After a good win in their opening game, Canada could only draw their next two matches.

Here Honduras and the USA were far superior to their opponents: surprisingly the USA lost the direct encounter between these two. Thus Honduras won all three games and were group-winners with maximum points.

Trinidad and Tobago reached third place without having won a game. Costa Rica did not score a single goal in this round and was last in the group. Most of the games in both groups took place in the newly-built national stadium in Port of Spain, one of the finest sports arenas in the world. Two games from each group were held in the Skinner Park Stadium in San Fernando.

The Mexican and Canadian teams were a class better than their opponents, both beating Honduras and Guyana without letting in a single goal. In the direct encounter between them the result was a draw, and so Mexico’s higher win goal difference saw Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana through to the next round.

Round 2

In the first semi-final, Canada played El Salvador, and only in extra time of a hard-fought match did they score the decider.

The second semi-final between Mexico and the USA also ended 1:0. A reason for the lack of goals can probably be found in the players’ increasing tiredness, resulting in a lack of concentration near goal and thus many wasted chances. The final for 3rd/4th places was a very lively game, and for a change there were a good number of goals. Mexico deservedly won the final after eventually wearing down Canada’s stubborn resistance. Mexico was the best team at the tournament, having won seven of the eight games they played. Only Canada took a point from them in the 2nd round.

Finals

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**Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Trinidad &amp; Tobago 1:0</th>
<th>Costa Rica 1:0</th>
<th>USA 1:1</th>
<th>El Salvador 1:0</th>
<th>Costa Rica 2:0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table</td>
<td>1.El Salvador 3:2 1:0</td>
<td>2.Costa Rica 3:2 1:0</td>
<td>3.Trinidad &amp; Tobago 3:2 1:0</td>
<td>4.Costa Rica 3:2 1:0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Group B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canada 2:0</th>
<th>Honduras 2:0</th>
<th>Mexico 2:0</th>
<th>Guatemala 2:0</th>
<th>Costa Rica 2:0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table</td>
<td>1.Mexico 3:2 1:0</td>
<td>2.Costa Rica 3:2 1:0</td>
<td>3.Honduras 3:2 1:0</td>
<td>4.Guatemala 3:2 1:0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mexico and Costa Rica clearly dominated this group, with Mexico convincingly winning. Costa Rica, with 4 points and an impressive goal difference was second.

**Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 3</th>
<th>Panama 2:1</th>
<th>Neth. Antilles 2:1</th>
<th>Trinidad &amp; Tobago 1:2</th>
<th>Guyana 1:2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table</td>
<td>1.Panama 3:0 1:0</td>
<td>2.Neth. Antilles 3:0 1:0</td>
<td>3.Trinidad &amp; Tobago 3:0 1:0</td>
<td>4.Guyana 3:0 1:0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This was the most balanced group. Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Panama each won two matches and lost one. A better goal-difference saw Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana through to the next round.
South America
(CONMEBOL)

Qualification

The South American Confederation (CONMEBOL) decided to use the 11th "Juventud de America" tournament as the basis of qualification for the WYC. This popular youth competition took place in January 1985, in Asuncion (Paraguay). The ten teams participating were divided into two groups of five.

Each group was organised on a league basis, with each team playing all the others. This gave a total of ten games per group, each team playing its four matches within a period of twelve days. This intensive programme got the players accustomed to the kind of tournament pattern that would be expected of them at the WYC.

Group Games

In Group A it was to be expected that Paraguay would have a lively home crowd behind them and would therefore have to be considered as a serious candidate for the title. After they had outclassed Venezuela in their opening game, it was clear that they really would be dangerous rivals for Uruguay, who had done well in previous years. With this first good result behind them, they went on full of confidence to beat both Ecuador and Peru by three clear goals in their next two games. Only in the final game, against Uruguay, did they begin to appear tired, and they had to share the points in this encounter.

Uruguay too beat their first three opponents without much trouble, but in the final reckoning had scored six goals fewer than Paraguay and so had to be content with second place.

The other three teams were definitely weaker and were well behind the leaders in the final table. Among them, Ecuador had held the Peruvians to a draw and beaten the weak Venezuelan team, so they had three points and were third. Peru and Venezuela, without a win between them, occupied the last two places.

As expected, Brazil came through in Group B, but it was only in the first game, against Bolivia, that things went according to plan. They only won the game against Chile by a narrow margin, and even dropped a point against the Colombians who put up a strong performance. In their last game, against Argentina, the Brazilians had to go all out for victory if they wanted to win the group, and with a score of 2:1 they did it.

The Colombian team showed remarkably strong defensive qualities, and so was able to contain both Argentina and Brazil and take a point from each of them. Argentina's misfortunes began in the opening of the game against Chile. Despite having most of the play, they could not score a goal, and so dropped their first point. Nor could they manage a better result in their second game against Colombia, and another point was gone. After a clear win against Bolivia, they were in the position of having to win their final game against their arch-rivals, Brazil, or they would not be in the finals. This put too much pressure on their players and they lost 2:1, but it was a good game.

Finals

The two top teams in each group qualified for the finals. These were played in the form of a group of four, and so that all the teams would have the same conditions (same rest period between games) the matches were played in pairs, in the evening. The Brazilians were worthy of their role as favourites. Without losing a single point they won the tournament convincingly. In addition to their obvious individual class, their excellent teamwork and economical style paid off at the end of the tournament. Indicative of this is the fact that they won all three games by a one-goal margin.

Paraguay made good use of their home advantages. Against the technically strong Colombians their power-football earned them a draw, and they gave Uruguay not a ghost of a chance in beating them 4:1. The last game saw a confrontation between two contrasting concepts of football: Brazil, with technically outstanding players plus football intelligence and a real feeling for the game, against Paraguay, who relied more on the physical qualities of the players. Paraguay lost the game 1:2, but finished second in the final table.

Colombia managed exactly the same results against Brazil and Uruguay as did the Paraguayans. Since the direct encounter between these teams ended 1:1, they were equal both on points and goals. The lower number of points in the earlier round decided the issue, against Colombia.

In addition to Brazil and Paraguay, Colombia was designated for the first time to represent South America at the WYC. The two most successful representatives of this continent in previous competitions, Uruguay and Argentina, did not qualify on this occasion.
Qualifying Tournament in Dammam

This youth tournament was held in December 1984, and nine teams took part. The odd number of participants meant that the organizers had to set up one group of five and one of four. After the group games had been played, there were no semi-finals: the second teams met to decide 3rd/4th places, and the two top teams went into the final, although both had already qualified for the WYC.

Group A


In Group A, the three Arab teams clearly dominated the other two participants, Syria and Pakistan, in every respect. Saudi Arabia lost one point to Bahrain, but won their other three matches. In their last match against Qatar, Bahrain had the chance to become group-winners, but they did not obtain the necessary win, and the draw meant that they would only be second.

Group B


In Group B, the Emirate and Kuwait were in a class of their own. Since the direct encounter between them ended in a goalless draw, their results against North Yemen and Iraq really decided the group. The Emirate won both of these games, but Kuwait dropped a point in their final game against Iraq, and the decision was clear:

The two group-winners met in the final: after a 1:1 draw the game went on into penalty-shooting, which the Saudi Arabians won 5:3.

Qualifying Tournament in Dhaka

This tournament took place as early as March 1984 in the state of Bangladesh. The eight participating teams were divided into two equal groups. After the group games had been played, the top team from group C met the second team from group D and vice versa, in the two semi-finals. The two semi-final losers then played off for 3rd/4th, while the winners went into the final, with the qualification for the WYC already secured.

Group C


In Group C there were clearly two strong teams, South Korea and Bangladesh, and two weaker ones, Singapore and Hong Kong. The two rivals for top place held each other to a draw, and so finally South Korea's better goal-difference won them the decision. Singapore's 1:0 win over Hong Kong earned them third place.

In the semi-final, South Korea surprisingly lost 2:4 to Thailand, but they did beat Bangladesh in the play-off for 3rd/4th.

Group D

1. PR China 2. Thailand 3. Indonesia 4. Japan

In Group D the situation was similar, with the PR China and Thailand definitely stronger than Indonesia and Japan. Once again the match between the top teams ended all-square, and China's impressive goal difference of 10:2 tipped the scale in their favour.

In the semi-final, PR China beat Bangladesh 1:0, and then in the final they defeated Thailand 2:1. Both these teams went on to play in the final tournament.
Europe
(UEFA)

Qualifying Games for the European Youth Championship

Europe was allowed to nominate five teams for the WYC: as host country the USSR automatically qualified. The UEFA decided that the five top-placed teams at the European Youth Championships would be the ones to participate at the WYC. Of the 34 members of UEFA, 31 entered for the qualifying games for the EYC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group A: Leningrad</th>
<th>Group B: Kiev</th>
<th>Group C: Moscow</th>
<th>Group D: Minsk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland, Rep.</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>CSSR</td>
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<td>Wales</td>
<td>- Denmark</td>
<td>- GDR</td>
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Qualification

Europe Youth Championship

Group A saw encounters between two typical exponents of the British style of football, Ireland and Scotland, and two representatives of the Latin style, Portugal and Greece. The northern teams clearly dominated their contemporaries from the south, with Ireland's decisive win over Scotland in the opening game having set them on their way to winning the group.

Europe Youth Championship

In Group B, Poland beat each of their adversaries by 1:0, and so ended top of the table with maximum points.

In their first two games the English could not manage more than a 1:1 draw against either of the East European teams, and the good English support, the Russians never managed to overcome the Hungarian defence, but neither were the Hungarians' attacks successful, and so the game went on into penalty-shooting. Hungary won luckily by 3:2, and thus became European Junior Champion for the third time.

The Bulgarians, who had dropped a point to Denmark in a good game, just managed to beat Italy and so push their most dangerous rivals down to third place. Denmark won only the one point and ended up at the bottom of the group.

The final was played in Moscow before a crowd of more than 50,000. Despite the spectators' support, the Russians never managed to overcome the Hungarian defence, but neither were the Bulgarians' attacks successful, and so the game went on into penalty-shooting. Hungary won luckily by 3:2, and thus became European Junior Champion for the third time.

Of the four top teams, Russia, as host of the WYC too, also qualified automatically for that tournament; Poland declined to enter, which meant that in addition to England as fifth, both Spain and Bulgaria in the next two places could also represent Europe in the World Youth Championship.

Finals

It had been decided not to play quarter-finals in these European Championships, and so only the four group-winners qualified for the semi-finals. The East European triumph of the qualifying games repeated itself in the group games. Three of the six East European teams taking part won through to the semi-finals, with only Ireland breaking into their ranks. In the first semi-final, the Irish almost caused a surprise against the host country, Russia; they were leading at half-time, and only just before the end did the Soviet team get the winner.

In the second semi-final, the Poles could not hold out against the superiority of the Hungarians after the interval, and went down 0:2. In the play-off for 3rd/4th, Poland was 2:0 ahead at half-time, before the Irish managed to pull one back. Despite a tremendous final effort from the northern team, the score remained unchanged until the end.

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Oceania

(OF C)

Members of the Oceanian Confederation

Oceania is the youngest and by far the smallest Confederation. It was founded in 1966 and today has five member nations: Australia and New Zealand are the two big footballing countries, while Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Chinese Taipei are just beginning to develop their football talent.

In addition to these ordinary members, there are ten more small football associations that are affiliated to the Oceanian Confederation as extra-ordinary members.

Oceania was delegated by FIFA to select one team to participate in the WYC in the Soviet Union, as a representative of the up and coming football of this continent.

Organisation and Set-up of the Qualifying Tournament

For political reasons, Israel, which is not a member of any Confederation, was also included in the Oceania group for the WYC qualifications.

The officials decided to carry out the qualification in the form of a tournament, which was really the only practical solution in such a huge continent with enormous distances to travel.

The Australian Association was chosen to be the organiser of the tournament. Sydney was to be the place and the date February 1985.

All of the participating teams were put into one group, each team having to play the other five. This gave a total of 15 games to decide who would be the group winner.

So that no team would be at a disadvantage, each match day contained three games. Thus every team had the same amount of time for resting and recovering.

This measure was all the more necessary, since each team had to play all five games within a ten-day period - in the heat of the Australian summer at that. A stress of this kind is something that even European and South American professionals don't have to face.

Situation before the Qualifying Tournament

From the very beginning there was never any doubt that the winner of the group would be either Australia, New Zealand or Israel.

Australia had participated in both of the two previous World Youth Championships, in their own country in 1981 and in Mexico in 1983.

New Zealand's football has taken a terrific upswing since their participation in the World Cup in Spain. This increased interest in the football there.

While the three minor football nations, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Chinese Taipei, have no such means of preparation at their disposal. In addition to the low number of active players in these countries, the lack of international contact is a major drawback in the development of football there.

Qualifying Games

The clash between the arch-rivals, Australia and New Zealand, came right in the first round. After a varying game, which was very competitively played by both teams, the Australians just carried the day.

In their first game, Israel had more trouble with Chinese Taipei than would have been expected, while Fiji beat their opponents, Papua New Guinea, by a surprisingly high margin.

In the second round everything ran according to the form book, with the three favourites winning clearly.

In the third round, however, there was a real surprise when Fiji held the Israeli team to a draw and thus picked up their third point.

New Zealand's 11:0 victory over Papua New Guinea was the biggest win of the whole tournament. At the same time, Australia comfortably disposed of Chinese Taipei.

In the fourth round too there were some unexpected results: Chinese Taipei, without any points at all at this stage, narrowly beat Fiji by 2:1. Israel wanted to make up for their lapse in the previous round and beat New Zealand 4:2, while Australia defeated Papua New Guinea as expected.

In the final round came the decisive game between the teams lying first and second in the group. In a dramatic encounter, Australia finally got the upper hand and kept Israel down in second place.

Thanks to a 3:2 win, New Zealand was able to overtake its opponents, Fiji, in the table and climb into third place.

With this convincing win in the group, Australia qualified for the WYC for the third successive time.

Qualifying Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Match</th>
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<tr>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<td>3-0</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3-0</td>
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In the final round, New Zealand took the lead and kept it throughout the game. Australia finally got the upper hand and kept Israel down in second place. In the final round, Australia faced China Taipei and beat them 7:2. This gave Australia the group winner's place in the final round.
The World Youth Championship Matches

Division into Groups

By the end of March 1985, the 15 teams that had qualified for the 3rd World Youth Championship in the six Confederations were all known. The 16th team was the Soviet Union, which was invited as the host nation for the tournament. The draw to divide the teams into the four groups took place at FIFA headquarters in Zurich on April 27th, with the following outcome:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group A: Yerevan</th>
<th>Group B: Tbilisi</th>
<th>Group C: Minsk</th>
<th>Group D: Baku</th>
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Each team played against the other three in its group, after the six group games a table was established, and the top two teams in each group entered the quarter-finals. The third and fourth teams in each group were eliminated and had to go home early.

In the quarter-finals, the teams that had won their groups could remain in the same city and play against the second team from the neighbouring group, who had to travel.

The winners of the quarter-finals qualified for the semi-finals, held in Leningrad and Moscow. The losers of the semi-finals met in the play-off for 3rd/4th places in the Lenin Stadium in Moscow. The winners of the semi-finals contested the final to decide who would win the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup and the title of World Youth Champions 1985.

The following pages contain a description and statistical summary of all group and final games. The letters used in the key have the following meanings:

a) Goal scored — scorer — minute of scoring
b) Referee — first linesman — second linesman
c) Player warned — minute of warning
d) Player sent off — minute of sending off
**Group A**

(Hungary, Colombia, Tunisia, Bulgaria)

### Tunisia v. Bulgaria

0:2 (0:1)

**5 24.8. 19.00 Yerewan 14,000**

**Tunisia:** 1 El Ouaer - 5 Mhadhbi - 2 Abdelhak - 4 Mahjoubi, 3 Chihi - 6 Gharbi, 8 Ounis, 10 Abid (72 min 12 El Beiz) - 7 Dergaa, 9 Yacoubi, 13 Touati (56 min 14 Limam)

**Bulgaria:** 1 Jilkov - 3 Dotchev - 2 Kalkanov, 5 Pachov, 4 Vassev - 16 Petkov, 8 Kirov (56 min 6 Ivanov), 14 Penev (89 min 7 Kostadinov) - 11 Maznilkov, 9 Mikhtarski, 10 Balakov

a) 0:1 Mikhtarski (32 min); 0:2 Penev (78 min)

b) Worrall (England) - Codesal (Mexico), Escobar (Paraguay)

c) -

d) -

From the start the Bulgarians' cleverly applied pressing tactics put pressure on the Tunisian defence. The constant harassing by the Bulgarian players unsettled the Africans to such an extent that they were never able to get their own game going, and seldom did one of their attacks reach their opponent's penalty box. The Bulgarians made themselves several chances and came close with a shot that hit the bar, but not until the 32nd minute did they score, when Balkov picked up a rebound, centred to the far post where Mikhtarski volleyed the ball into the net.

In the second half too it was the Bulgarians who set the tone. Only with a great deal of luck could a Tunisian defender clear off the line, with his goalkeeper beaten, and a little later a firmly-struck free-kick hit the corner of the bar. Just before the end, a nice combination of passes led to Penev scoring with a shot low into the left side of the goal. This sealed the Bulgarians' victory, the Tunisians not playing up to their potential in the opening match.

### Hungary v. Colombia

2:2 (0:0)

**1 24.8. 15.00 Yerewan 10,000**

**Hungary:** 1 Petry - 3 Pinter - 5 Szalma, 6 Kovacs Ervin, 8 Deak (53 min 13 Csoboth), 10 Vincone - 7 Zsinka, 9 Kovacs Kaiman, 17 Orovocz (82 min 15 Zsivotzky)

**Colombia:** 12 Niño Garcia - 3 Nuñez Perez - 5 Ampudia Perea, 13 Córdoba Aguilar, 4 Alvarez Raigoza - 6 Hurtado Torres, 10 Alvarez Maya (63 min 8 Maturana Vargas), 18 Rodriguez Bedoya - 7 Trélez Valencia, 14 Pérez Urrea, 10 Alvarez Maya (63 min 8 Maturana Vargas), 17 Castaño Ortiz - 18 Rodriguez Bedoya

a) 1:0 Pinter (59 min; Penalty); 2:0 Zsinka (65 min); 2:1 Pérez Urrea (89 min)

b) Sandoz (Switzerland) - Mandi (Bahrain), Kuznetsov (USSR)

c) -

d) -

The Hungarian team immediately took the initiative, starting at a high tempo, and the Colombians were lucky not to concede an early goal. However the Europeans could not keep up their pace in the midday sun, and their opponents were able to slow the game down and take more and more control.

A foul in the penalty box resulted in the Hungarians taking the lead, and then the Colombians began to take more risks, but all the chances they cleverly created were wasted. Five minutes from the end the Hungarians launched a classical counter-attack, setting their winger Zsinka off with a through pass, and he left his defender and scored inside the near post.

The Colombians now threw everything into attack, and three minutes before time Perez scored with a shot from the inside right position. Right from the re-start the South Americans snatched the ball away from their opponents, and after several passes the ball came to Rodriguez, who hit the right post from 50 meters, the ball then rolling along the line before coming to rest behind it, near the other post. The crowd gave this fantastic goal an enthusiastic reception.

### Hungary v. Tunisia

2:1 (0:0)

**9 26.8. 19.00 Yerewan 19,000**

**Hungary:** 1 Petry - 3 Pinter - 2 Szalma, 6 Kovacs Ervin, 8 Deak (53 min 13 Csoboth), 10 Vincone - 7 Zsinka, 9 Kovacs Kaiman (74 min 11 Fischer), 16 Zvara

**Tunisia:** 1 El Ouaer - 5 Mhadhbi - 2 Abdelhak - 4 Mahjoubi, 3 Chihi - 6 Gharbi, 8 Ounis, 13 Touati, 11 Rouissi (65 min 15 Grioui)

a) 0:1 Touati (46 min); 1:1 Pinter (60 min; Penalty); 2:1 Fischer (87 min)

b) Escobar (Paraguay) - Sandoz (Switzerland), Codesal (Mexico)

c) Pinter (33 min) - Yacoubi (89 min)

d) -

This game began very evenly balanced, and surprisingly it was the Tunisians who were first to create several nice chances, but good saves by the Hungarian goalkeeper kept them out. However, these chances gave the Africans a lot of confidence and, to the delight of the crowd, they played some technically excellent football. The Hungarians were lucky not to be trailing at half-time.

After the interval, the Tunisian schemer, Abid, sent his right winger Touati away, and he cut inside his man to open the score with a well-placed shot. The Hungarians tried to react, but the Africans continued to control the situation. In the 60th minute a Hungarian player ran into a Tunisian defender inside the box, both players went down, and the referee gave a penalty which Pinter hit into the left corner for the equaliser.

The Tunisians did not let this set-back discourage them, continued to attack and kept the Hungarians under constant pressure. Just before the end, in a period when the Africans were clearly on top, the Hungarians managed a counter-attack down the left which their substitute Fischer, who had only just come on, finished off with the winning goal.
Colombia v. Bulgaria 1:1 (0:0)

For the first 20 minutes the physically strong Bulgarian side was constantly on top: their intelligent fore-checking upset the slow build-up of the Colombians' game, and thwarted the South Americans' efforts to slow the pace down. The match developed into a very interesting encounter, played at high speed with many aggressive but fair tackles, and goalmouth action alternating constantly from one end to the other.

However, it was not until the second half that either side managed to capitalise on one of their many chances. First Kalaydjiev scored, following a nice one-two he beat the Colombian goalkeeper with a shot into the near corner of the goal. Shortly afterwards, the Colombian midfielder Maturana sent his winner Trellez away with a through pass. He carried the ball into the penalty area and gave the Bulgarian goalkeeper no chance of stopping his shot into the near left-hand side of the goal. Until the end, both teams put all their energy into an effort to get the winner, but neither was able to convert any of their numerous chances.

Hungary v. Bulgaria 1:1 (0:0)

Needing only a draw to qualify for the quarter-final, the Bulgarians began this game on a very cautious note. Since the Hungarians seemed to be afraid of conceding an early goal, and therefore also played with restraint, the first half passed without any action worthy of mention.

Shortly after the break, the Bulgarians were awarded a free-kick about 28 meters from their opponent's goal. Kostadinov hit a technically hard shot towards the left side of the goal, which left the Hungarian goalkeeper groping, much to the consternation of his teammates. Following this setback, the Hungarians now abandoned their over-cautious approach, and began to show their technical skills, which brought them several chances, including one shot which hit the post. On another occasion a Bulgarian player had to clear off the line. It went on like this until the 60th minute when it was again the Hungarian substitute, Fischer, who had only come on in the second half, who managed to finish off a fine attacking move by scoring the equaliser.

Colombia v. Tunisia 2:1 (1:0)

Right from the start the Colombians' aim was clear – to find the quickest way to their opponent's goal. After 19 minutes an attack over the whole width of the field brought the ball to Castaño, who once again eluded his marker and scored from a narrow angle into the near side of the goal.

In the second half both sides continued to play with a lot of commitment and at a high pace. But not until the 60th minute did a goal fall, when Trellez received a long pass in the inside right position and from 12 meters gave the Tunisian goalkeeper no chance. With a 2-goal lead, the Colombians continued to attack, and after a lovely combination of passes saw a shot rebound from the underside of the bar back into play. However, their attacking spirit was soon to receive even worse reward, when the Tunisians were given a free kick just outside the box. This was touched back to the libero Abdelrah, who had come forward for the occasion, and he hammered the ball into the top corner of the goal.
**Group B**  
(Ireland Republic, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Spain)

**Ireland Rep. v. Brazil**  
1:2 (0:1)

2 24.8. 15.00 Tbilissi  45,000

**Ireland Rep.:** 16 Kelly – 2 O’Kelly, 3 Kelch, 4 O’Shea, 6 Bollard – 8 Bayly (79 min 12 Tuite), 10 Collins, 11 Russell, 14 McDermott (46 min 17 Dolan Eamonn) – 14 Mooney, 15 Neal

**Brazil:** 1 Claudio – 2 Luciano, 3 Luis Carlos, 4 Henrique, 6 Dida – 5 João Antonio, 8 Tosin (73 min 11 Antonio Carlos), 7 Silas – 10 Muller, 9 Gerson, 18 Balalo

a) 0:1 Balalo (20 min); 0:2 Dida (80 min); 1:2 Tuite (86 min)
b) Tuite (67 min 8 Bayly), 10 Collins, 11 Russell, 14 Mooney

c) –
d) –

The first match in this group brought together two teams with quite contrasting styles of football. It was an interesting and animated game, clearly dominated by the Brazilians: in midfield the Irish could in no way match the brilliance of their opponents.

After 20 minutes, the Brazilians took a well-deserved lead: Balalo had won the ball out on the left wing, carried it into the centre where he eluded an onrushing Irish defender and from about 6 meters scored in the near corner.

In the second half too, the Brazilians had more of the game, but they missed many chances, and not until the 80th minute were they able to increase their lead: the left back Dida came forward yet again, risked a lovely one-two pass with Muller about 25 meters from goal and in full flight hit the ball into the left corner.

But 4 minutes before the end, the Irish managed a surprise by pulling up to 2:1. Dolan sent a sharp cross in from the left wing, and Tuite, who was completely unmarked in the middle, took the ball on the volley and hammered it in just below the bar.

**Saudi Arabia v. Spain**  
0:0 (0:0)

6 24.8. 19.00 Tbilissi  25,000

**Saudi Arabia:** 1 AI-Solaimani – 5 Abu-Dawod, 13 AI-Maghlouth, 16 AI-Habashi, 3 AI-Saud (79 min 4 AI-Razgan), 2 AI-Jamal, 8 AI-Bishi – 7 Ibrahim, 9 AI-Dosari Hathal, 11 AI-Dosari Mehaisen

**Spain:** 1 Unzue – 6 Tirado – 2 Marcelino, 7 Mendiondo – 10 Fernando, 11 Nayin, 12 Juanma (14 min 8 Gay), 16 Lopez (18 min 14 Goicoechea), 18 Francis

a) –
b) Evangelista (Canada) – Zavchenko (USSR), 7 Diaz Palacios (Colombia)
c)  –
d) –

It was quite obvious that both teams wanted above all to avoid defeat in their first game in the finals. Neither was prepared to take the slightest risk, they reinforced their defences at the expense of their attacks, and when the ball was lost pulled every man back into their own half.

The Spanish team allowed their opponents to take the initiative, hoping to be able to make use of their speedy forwards during quickly-mounted counter-attacks. Thus the Saudi Arabians managed to establish a slight territorial advantage, but this did not lead to anything on the score-board: as soon as the ball reached the danger-zone, the Spanish defenders marked their opponents very closely, and tackled them quite fiercely. Since the Spanish defenders were also very fast, the physically lighter Saudi Arabian forwards could never make a decisive break away from their markers.

Both teams played extremely hard, and the Canadian referee allowed too much to go unpunished. Thus the game ended 0:0, a disappointment in every respect.

**Ireland Rep. v. Saudi Arabia**  
0:1 (0:0)

10 26.8. 19.00 Tbilissi  20,000

**Ireland Rep.:** 16 Kelly – 2 O’Kelly, 3 Kelch, 4 O’Shea, 6 Bollard – 12 Tuite (67 min 8 Bayly), 10 Collins, 11 Russell, 14 Mooney – 17 Dolan Eamonn, 15 Neal (57 min 18 McDermott)

**Saudi Arabia:** 1 AI-Solaimani – 5 Abu-Dawod, 13 AI-Maghlouth, 16 AI-Habashi, 3 AI-Saud – 6 AI-Razgan, 8 AI-Bishi – 7 Ibrahim, 9 AI-Dosari Hathal, 11 AI-Dosari Mehaisen

a) 0:1 AI-Dosary Mehaisen (54 min: Penalty)
b) Ulloa Moreira (Costa Rica) – Diaz Palacios (Colombia), Zavchenko (USSR)
c) –
d) –

In a lively and varied game, with lots of good skills on view, the slightly luckier Saudi Arabian team emerged as the winner.

In the first half both teams hit the goal-post or the bar three times, and in the second the Saudi Arabians did so once again.

However, it was not just a question of bad luck that neither team scored: the players on both sides seemed to have a lot of trouble taking advantage of the chances created, some of which were the results of some very good moves.

The goal that was to decide the game for the Saudi Arabians came at the start of the second half: after a heading duel, an Irish defender tried to use his body to steer the ball out of his own penalty area, but it unluckily and certainly unintentionally made contact with his left hand. The Saudi Arabien left-winger AI-Dosari hit the penalty hard, placing it just under the bar and giving the Irish goal-keeper not the slightest chance.
Brazili
v.
Spain
2:0 (0:0)

No doubt about it, Brazil deserved to win this game: they were the better organised team, their skillful and intelligent midfielders were always on top in their part of the field, and the numerous offensive runs made by the two full-backs, Luciano and Dida, continuously upset the Spanish defensive balance.

Thus the Spanish defenders had so much work in dealing with the Brazilian attacks, that they could find neither the time nor the energy to take part in their own team's offensive attempts.

Yet it was not until the 2nd half that the Brazilian superiority produced concrete results: right-back Luciano had a long run with the ball from inside his own half up to the edge of the Spanish area. There he beat a Spanish defender and seemed to have played the ball too far forward, but with the goalkeeper expecting a centre he put in a shot from the goal-line and it went into the top corner of the goal.

In the 65th minute, a ball that seemed to be going out bounced back into play from the corner-flag. After a bit of a tussle, Balalo won the ball, neatly fooled two defenders on the goal-line and shot at goal from a narrow angle. A tremendous reaction from the Spanish keeper blocked the ball, but the rebound came right back to the feet of Balalo and he volleyed the ball into the net.

Ireland Rep. v. Spain
2:4 (0:2)

Although they had already been eliminated, the Irish team gave the Spanish a terrific battle, in one of the best of all the games in the final round. Clearly the Irish wanted to go home with one good result.

The game could hardly have begun better for the Spanish: after only 3 minutes their play-maker Fernando gave them a 1:0 lead. This goal brought the team a lot of confidence, and for the rest of the first half they gave a splendid display of attacking football. That they only managed one more goal in this period, scored by their most dangerous player, was quite flattering for the Irish.

However, scarcely had the 2nd half begun when Mooney made the score 2:1, and 5 minutes later a penalty converted by Kelch brought the two sides level. This surprising turn of events gave the Irish an enormous boost, and the Spanish defence had to endure a number of tense moments. The game went back and forth, and just as it seemed that the Spanish were about to crack under the continuous Irish pressure, it was their play-maker Fernando who struck again, scoring the 3:2 and steering the game towards its final result.

Five minutes before the end the Spanish got their 4th goal through Losada.

Brazil v. Saudi Arabia
1:0 (1:0)

The Brazilian team, which had already qualified for the quarter-final, were in complete control at every moment, their superior skills and better understanding of the game becoming more and more apparent as the game went on.

In the 55th minute, Balalo put across a high centre from the left wing. One of the Saudi Arabian defenders and centre-forward Gerson both missed the ball, but Muller came sprinting in, took the cross on his chest, turned slightly and volleyed the ball into the net from 12 meters before he'd touched the ground. An absolute dream of a goal.

The Saudi Arabians, who were constantly being informed about the state of the other group game which was being played simultaneously, became even more nervous after this goal. They allowed themselves to be dispossessed even in midfield, and then tried to get the ball back with wild tackles. What followed was a bitty and destructive game, with many free-kicks and one penalty, awarded for a foul on Balalo, but Brazil's midfield general Silas put his shot round the post.

It was only Brazil's uncharacteristic squandering of chances that stopped them from wrapping this game up well before the end.
Group C

(USSR, Australia, Nigeria, Canada)

**USSR v. Australia**

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0:0 (0:0)

3 24.0 15.00 Minsk 16,000

USSR: 1 Kutepov - 5 Kolotovkin - 2 Ketashvili, 4 Chedia, 3 Gorilyi - 7 Khudojigov, 8 Medvid, 6 Ivaunauskas (57 min 12 Kuzhlev), 10 Tatarshchuk - 9 Savchenko (46 min 15 Bubliauskas), 11 Skliarov

Australia: 1 Jones Paul - 4 Jones Mark - 2 Hooker, 7 Bundalo, 8 Panagis - 10 Hristodoulou, 12 McLennan, 14 Spink, 11 Kalantizis - 17 Postekos, 16 Sharpe

- a)
- b) Arminio (Spain) - Takada (Japan), Wright (Brazil)
- c) Ketashvili (25 min) - Ivanauskas (53 min) - Igbinabaro (25 min) - Waidi (74 min)
- d) -

The Russians started as hot favourites in the opening game in this group, and with the home crowd behind them they set a fast pace from the beginning. They put the Australians under immediate pressure and tried to break up any counter-attacks before they really got started. But the Soviets became the victims of their own tempo: they showed good variations when switching from defence to attack and made use of the full width of the field, but in front of their opponent’s goal their attacks were very stereotyped, always down the middle with the wings sadly neglected. Although this strategy did create some dangerous moments, there was always an Australian defender there to intervene at the last second and clear up the situation. Most of the Soviets’ chances were taken too hastily, and so the Australians were able to hold out for the full 90 minutes. In fact, towards the end of the game the Australians themselves had a few chances against the increasingly tired Russians. The 0:0 draw was a fair result, and the first surprise of the tournament.

**Nigeria v. Canada**

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2:0 (1:0)

7 24.8. 19.00 Minsk 16,000

Nigeria: 1 Agwu - 2 Eveh, 3 Onye, 4 Waidi, 5 Uwe - 6 Odu, 10 Osaro, 8 Igbinabaro - 7 Dominic (74 min 13 Sia-Sia), 9 Odiaka (83 min 12 Okosime), 11 Anunobi

Canada: 1 Rosenfeld - 2 Tomasetti, 3 Gilfillan, 4 Cambridge, 5 Dipasquale - 6 Stoly, 8 Thomas, 12 Simon, 15 Preito (65 min 10 Cubellis) - 9 Bunbury (78 min 14 Phillips), 13 McNaught

- a) 1:0 Odiaka (1 min)
- b) Agnolin (Italy) - Quiniou (France), Ben Naceur (Tunisia)
- c) -
- d) -

The Nigerians began their opening game with some real fireworks: their very first attack brought them 1:0 into the lead. But then they failed to take advantage of the resulting disorganisation and uncertainty in the Canadian defence, when they could have gone further ahead. Instead they preferred to fall back into defence whenever they lost the ball, and relied on quick breaks for their chances. It did not take the Canadians too long to recover from the opening shock, and soon they were launching attacks, but these foundered because of the numerical superiority of the Nigerian defence. In this respect the Canadians made things easier for their opponents by neglecting the wings and concentrating their attacks down the middle.

The picture did not change much in the second half, and when the Africans scored again in the 78th minute the outcome of this match was settled.

**USSR v. Nigeria**

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2:1 (2:0)

11 26.8. 19.00 Minsk 23,000

USSR: 1 Kutepov - 5 Kolotovkin - 2 Ketashvili, 4 Chedia, 3 Gorilyi - 7 Khudojigov, 8 Medvid, 6 Ivaunauskas (59 min 13 Kuzhlev), 10 Tatarshchuk (79 min 9 Savchenko) - 11 Skliarov, 15 Bubliauskas

Nigeria: 1 Agwu - 2 Eveh, 3 Onye, 4 Waidi, 5 Uwe - 6 Odu, 7 Dominic, 8 Igbinabaro (32 min 13 Sia-Sia) - 10 Osaro, 9 Odiaka, 11 Anunobi

- a) 1:0 Khudojigov (23 min: Penalty)
- b) Wright (Brazil) - Arminio (Spain) - Takada (Japan)
- c) Ketashvili (25 min) - Ivaunauskas (53 min) - Igbinabaro (25 min)
- d) -

After surprisingly dropping a point in their opening game, the Russians just had to win this match against Nigeria. From the whistle they dictated the play and did everything they could to take an early lead. With improved use of the wings and a number of long-distance shots, they endeavoured to overcome the Nigerian defence. But they did not in fact score until they were able to convert a penalty, and this then allowed them to play a less hectic game. The Russians now fell back more into their own half and hoped to score again through quick breaks. Just before half-time their second goal came when they took advantage of a mistake by one of the Nigerian defenders.

In the second half the spectators saw a much improved Nigerian team, who seemed to have rediscovered their fighting qualities and sent attack after attack rolling towards the Russian goal. When they finally did score it was in the 81st minute, by which time it was too late for them to seriously threaten the Russian victory.
Australia v. Canada

0:0 (0:0)

Both teams approached this match with similar tactics: to maintain a strong defence and to bring their forwards into the game with long passes. However, the forwards were always too tightly marked and usually too isolated to be able to make much impression on the physically strong defenders. The numerous centres that came across were mostly safely dealt with by the tall defenders. With the forwards receiving little support from their midfielders, the game had few real chances and hardly any highlights. Having won a point in their first game, the Australians seemed content to play towards a similar result again. Canada showed a bit more in the way of offensive action, but its forwards were too inexperienced at international level to be able to profit from the few chances they had. Thus a poor game ended in justified draw.

USSR v. Canada

5:0 (2:0)

This game started with the Russians, who were top of the group, having great trouble justifying their role as favourites against the Canadians, who were bottom. The North Americans had adapted their tactics very well against this opponent, and were able to fend off a number of Russian attacks quite cleverly. But in the 37th minute it was eventually the Russians who went ahead: a Canadian defender in the wall deflected a free kick so unluckily that his goalkeeper had no chance of reaching the ball. Shortly after this, the Soviet team scored a second goal, and this signalled the end of the Canadians resistance.

For the first time in the tournament the Australians tried an attacking plan, and put the Nigerian team under pressure from the start. With two goals in the first half their efforts were handsomely rewarded. But after the interval it was a transformed Nigerian team that took the field: they took the initiative immediately, fought for every ball and broke up any Australian attempts at attacking in their early stages. The longer the game went on, the more the Australians tired. Due to concentration lapses they lost the ball many times, and their defensive organisation became ever weaker. The superior speed of the Africans now became more evident, and with astonishing coolness they used their nicely-created chances to make the score 2:2. Although this result would have seen the Africans through to the quarter-final, they continued to press and finally scored the well-deserved winner.
Group D  *(England, Paraguay, PR China, Mexico)*

**England v. Paraguay**  \[2:2 (2:1)\]

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England:</td>
<td>13 Williams, 2 Howard, 6 Corner, 18 Ratcliffe, 3 Thomas, 17 Priest, 4 Stobbing, 5 Beresford (89 min 10 Scott), 7 Cooke, 9 Wakenshaw, 12 Wood (67 min 8 Moulden)</td>
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<td>Paraguay:</td>
<td>1 Balbuena Gimenez, 5 Diaz Britez, 2 Caceres Villalba, 3 Aquino Diaz, 4 Sanchez, 6 Franco Lopez, 8 Jara Heyn Adolfo (55 min 16 Diaz Gabaglio), 10 Paniagua Benitez, 11 Cartaman T., 9 Mereles Trigo, 7 Palacios C. (72 min 17 Jara Heyn Luis)</td>
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The English players were in control for the whole of the first half, during which time they set up a number of good attacks, with their two wingers creating all sorts of problems for their markers. When the Paraguayan goalkeeper could only parry a free-kick from Priest, Wakenshaw followed up well to put the ball into the net. The second English goal was scored by Priest, who headed in a centre from Wood on the left. But before half-time Cartaman had reduced the deficit, receiving a diagonal centre from the right and scoring in the right corner of the goal.

England’s tactics were different in the second half: when the ball was lost they retired into their own half, and tried to increase their lead through quick counter-attacks. Thus the South Americans were able to seize more of the initiative, and the substitute Jara got the equaliser with a spectacular shot, just after he came on. 30 seconds before the end, Paniagua failed to put the ball into the open English goal, and so missed the chance of creating the first big surprise of the tournament.

**China P.R. v. Mexico**  \[1:3 (0:3)\]

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<tr>
<td>China P.R.:</td>
<td>13 Li Jiandong, 5 Li Hongbing, 2 Dong Yugang, 6 Ju Li.jin, 16 Yang Weijian, 8 Gong Lei, 11 You Kewei, 18 Gao Zhongxun (17 Song Yan</td>
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<td>Mexico:</td>
<td>12 Quintero, 5 Huerta, 2 Orozco, 4 Salatiel, 13 Herrera, 16 Ambriz, 14 Frias, 8 De La Torre (62 min 3 Torres), 9 Garcia Azpe (6 Medina, 10 Cruz (69 min 17 Patino)</td>
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Mexico went into this game with full concentration and tactically very well prepared. By comparison, the Chinese lack of international experience was quite evident: the team seemed very tense and they committed many unnecessary fouls. The Mexican superiority was especially evident in midfield, where Ambriz had a fine game and combined particularly well with the full-back Orozco. The Chinese strikers were far too static, and so all their attacks came down the middle which made life much easier for the Mexican defenders.

Mexico took the lead with a disputed penalty, and in the 30th minute their centre-forward Garcia made it 2:0, profiting from a fine cross from the left. Shortly before half-time, an attack down the right produced a centre which bounced out to Garcia who scored again.

In the second half, Mexico changed down to a lower gear, and this allowed the Chinese to enter more into the game. They attacked more but their efforts were still directed down the middle. One of their rare efforts down the wing led to Gong Lei heading home a fine goal to set the final score-line at 1:3.

**England v. China P.R.**  \[0:2 (0:0)\]

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<tr>
<td>England:</td>
<td>13 Williams, 2 Howard, 6 Corner, 18 Ratcliffe, 3 Thomas, 17 Priest, 4 Stobbing, 5 Beresford, 7 Cooke, 9 Wakenshaw (61 min 15 Stein), 12 Wood (46 min 8 Moulden)</td>
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<td>China P.R.:</td>
<td>13 Li Jiandong, 5 Li Hongbing, 2 Dong Yugang, 6 Ju Li.jin, 12 Dong Yungang, 8 Gong Lei, 11 You Kewei, 18 Gao Zhongxun (59 min 14 Fu Bo), 9 Gao Hongbo (59 min 17 Song Lianyong), 15 Li Hui (46 min 10 Zhang Yan)</td>
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Both teams began the match very cautiously, with the emphasis on defence. Thus, most of the action was in midfield, and only occasionally did an attack get as far as the penalty area. During the first half the English had a slight territorial advantage.

After the break, the Chinese took the initiative, and after a very few minutes an English defender had to clear a shot from Gao Hongbo off the line. But not until the 76th minute did the Chinese get any concrete reward for their efforts: an attack down the right ended with a fierce shot from Gao Hongbo, which was slightly deflected by an English defender. It took this goal to awaken the English team, but their offensive came too late. Just before the end, a Chinese midfielder intercepted a pass, moved the ball on to Fu Bo who directed the ball immediately to Gong Lei and he volleyed it home from the inside left position just outside the box. Another sensational result in this tournament.
Paraguay v. Mexico 0:2 (0:1)

Paraguay: 1 Baquena Gimenez - 5 Diaz Britez - 2 Caceres Villalba, 3 Aquino Diaz, 4 Sanchez - 6 Franco Lopez, 7 Palacios C., 16 Diaz Gabaglio (57 min 8 Jara Heyn Adolfo) - 11 Cartaman T. (78 min 18 Galeano Carreras), 9 Mereles Trigo, 10 Paniagua Benitez

Mexico: 12 Quintero - 5 Huerta - 2 Orozco, 4 Salatiel, 3 Torres - 14 Frias, 16 Ambriz, 8 De La Torre, 9 Garcia Azpe (74 min 17 Patino) - 6 Medina, 10 Cruz (69 min 18 Becerra)

a) 0:1 Cruz (22 min); 0:2 Garcia Azpe (70 min)

This match was an encounter between two teams with quite different styles of football: Paraguay tried to contain their opponent's forwards by close man-to-man marking, and to launch their own attacks with long passes out of defence. By contrast, Mexico relied more on their excellent technical skills and greater variation in attack.

Paraguay began the game very aggressively, going hard into the tackle and thus trying to intimidate the Mexicans. The numerous free kicks awarded to the Mexicans were a constant source of danger to their opponent's goal. When the Paraguayan failed to clear a corner properly, Cruz was there to score from 7 meters out.

England v. Mexico 0:1 (0:1)

England: 16 Heyes - 2 Howard, 6 Corner, 18 Ratcliffe, 3 Thomas - 14 Carr, 10 Scott (46 min 17 Priest), 4 Stebbing, 5 Beresford - 7 Cooke, 9 Wakenshaw (60 min 15 Stein)

Mexico: 12 Quintero - 5 Huerta - 2 Orozco, 4 Salatiel, 3 Torres (67 min 13 Herrera) - 16 Ambriz, 8 De La Torre, 14 Frias, 7 Vasquez (58 min 11 Uribe) - 18 Becerra, 6 Medina

a) 0:1 Becerra (34 min)

b) Silva Arce (Chile) - Cardellino (Uruguay), Padar (Hungary)

c) Ratcliffe (55 min), Beresford (67 min - 30) - Vasquez (52 min)

d) -

For this decisive match, Paraguay altered the tactics that they had previously employed: they abandoned their fast, long-passing game in favour of a slower but more varied strategy. Now the only long passes into the opponent's area came from the wings, but the midfielders did not offer their forwards enough support.

China P.R. v. Paraguay 1:2 (1:1)

China P.R.: 13 Li Jiandong - 5 Li Hongbing - 2 Dong Yiaqang (82 min 4 Yang Feipeng), 6 Ju Lijin, 16 Yang Weiian - 8 Gong Lei, 11 You Kewei, 18 Gao Zhongxun, 9 Gao Hongbo - 17 Song Lianyong, 15 Li Hui (46 min 10 Zhang Yan)

a) 0:1 Song Lianyong (14 min); 1:1 Mereles Trigo (17 min); 1:2 Gao Hongbo (76 min)

This match was an encounter between two teams with quite different styles of football: Paraguay tried to contain their opponent's forwards by close man-to-man marking, and to launch their own attacks with long passes out of defence. By contrast, Mexico relied more on their excellent technical skills and greater variation in attack.

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The second half began with a further series of free-kicks against Paraguay, whose players had trouble keeping up with the pace of the game, and they began to show signs of fatigue. A good Mexican attack down the left was initially checked, but the Mexicans won the ball back, and a quick through pass to Garcia Azpe enabled him to shoot from the edge of the area into the right corner of the goal. This set the seal on the Mexicans' victory.

England: 16 Heyes - 2 Howard, 6 Corner, 18 Ratcliffe, 3 Thomas - 14 Carr, 10 Scott (46 min 17 Priest), 4 Stebbing, 5 Beresford - 7 Cooke, 9 Wakenshaw (60 min 15 Stein)

Mexico: 12 Quintero - 5 Huerta - 2 Orozco, 4 Salatiel, 3 Torres (67 min 13 Herrera) - 16 Ambriz, 8 De La Torre, 14 Frias, 7 Vasquez (58 min 11 Uribe) - 18 Becerra, 6 Medina

a) 0:1 Becerra (34 min)

b) Silva Arce (Chile) - Cardellino (Uruguay), Padar (Hungary)

c) Ratcliffe (55 min), Beresford (67 min - 30) - Vasquez (52 min)

d) -

England made a lightning start to the game, in an attempt to catch their opponents by surprise, forcing three corners in the first 4 minutes. But it was the English who came closer to opening the score, when in the 17th minute a cleverly-taken free-kick just missed the goal. In both teams the defence was the strongest part, and so there were few scoring opportunities, although the Mexicans were more dangerous with their counter-attacks. In the 34th minute De la Torre intercepted an English pass on the centre-line, sent Becerra away with a through pass, and despite the efforts of three English defenders he was able to score.

In the second half, both teams played much more attractive football. With Medina and Becerra, the two best Mexicans, calling the tune, the Central Americans dominated their European opponents at every stage. The English forwards had too little support from midfield to be able to cause much trouble for the close-marking Mexican defenders. The English were lucky not to go further behind, and the Mexican win was never in doubt.

Paraguay v. China P.R. 1:2 (1:1)

Paraguay: 12 Gonzalez Flores - 2 Caceres Villalba, 3 Aquino Diaz, 14 Antero Blanco - 6 Franco Lopez, 8 Jara Heyn Adolfo (66 min 10 Paniagua Benitez), 15 Vera Espinola - 11 Cartaman T., 9 Mereles Trigo, 17 Jara Heyn Luis (59 min 7 Palacios C.)

China P.R.: 13 Li Jiandong - 5 Li Hongbing - 2 Dong Yiaqang (82 min 4 Yang Feipeng), 6 Ju Lijin, 16 Yang Weiian - 8 Gong Lei, 11 You Kewei, 18 Gao Zhongxun, 9 Gao Hongbo - 17 Song Lianyong, 15 Li Hui (46 min 10 Zhang Yan)

a) 0:1 Song Lianyong (14 min); 1:1 Mereles Trigo (17 min); 1:2 Gao Hongbo (76 min)

Paraguay began the game very aggressively, going hard into the tackle and thus trying to intimidate the Mexicans. The numerous free kicks awarded to the Mexicans were a constant source of danger to their opponent's goal. When the Paraguayan failed to clear a corner properly, Cruz was there to score from 7 meters out.

The second half began with a further series of free-kicks against Paraguay, whose players had trouble keeping up with the pace of the game, and they began to show signs of fatigue. A good Mexican attack down the left was initially checked, but the Mexicans won the ball back, and a quick through pass to Garcia Azpe enabled him to shoot from the edge of the area into the right corner of the goal. This set the seal on the Mexicans' victory.
Group Commentaries

Group A: Yerevan

Hungary  
Colombia  
Tunisia  
Bulgaria

Hungary started as the clear favourite in this group, since this team had won the European U-18 Championship in the USSR the year before. Bulgaria had only ranked 7th in that tournament and so was clearly rated as being weaker than the Hungarians. Colombia, qualifying for a World Youth Championship for the first time, was regarded as dangerous outsider, and Tunisia was an unknown quantity.

In their first match against Colombia, the Hungarians lost not only a point in the very last minute (after being 2:0 up, they conceded two goals within 60 seconds), but also a good deal of their self-confidence. In the next two games the team seemed to be very tense and could only show flashes of its true ability. Against Tunisia they were very lucky to be able to come from being 0:1 down to win the game 2:1 just before the end.

It soon became apparent that it was the Bulgarians who had the most mature and stable team. In their first game against Tunisia, it was clear that they were a class better, and the 2:0 was flattering for the Africans. However, in their second game, against Colombia, the Bulgarian defence had some trouble when faced with the confusing dribbling and faking of the South Americans, and a draw was a fair reflection of the course of the game. In the deciding game against Hungary, the Bulgarians were undoubtedly the better team and they really should have won this match.

In the course of the first round of the finals, the Colombian team developed more and more into being the surprise of this group: their refreshing attacking style and their many artistic touches made them the favourites of the Yerevan spectators. Particularly impressive was the fact that after falling behind against both of the East European teams, they managed not to lose either match. Colombia’s qualification for the quarter-final, decided on the toss of a coin against the dead-level Hungarians, was a fitting reward for the overall performance of this team.

With the Tunisians, the biggest problem was themselves: their intensive preparation of over 200 days, with tournaments in five different countries had generated expectations that the young players could not fulfill. In their opening game, against Bulgaria, the Tunisian team played well below its potential and was lucky only to lose by 0:2.

In their next game, against Hungary, the Africans were able to re-establish themselves and show their true worth. Only a patch of very bad luck just before the end cost them the game. In their last, and now meaningless game, they again provided a positive surprise, and in an intensive and interesting game forced the Colombians to use all their ability.

The trainers in this group had to wait until the last minute for a decision: from the left: Luis Marquín Osorio, Colombia; Boris Angelov, Bulgaria; M'rad Mahjoub, Tunisia and Bertalan Bicskei, Hungary.

The trainers in this group had to wait until the last minute for a decision: from the left: Luis Marquín Osorio, Colombia; Boris Angelov, Bulgaria; M'rad Mahjoub, Tunisia and Bertalan Bicskei, Hungary.

Colombia’s goalkeeper Niño gathers a centre, supported by one of his defenders.
Group B: Tbilisi

Ireland Republic
Brazil
Saudi Arabia
Spain

This group was made up of teams with quite different styles of football. Brazil and the Saudi Arabians (who had been coached by a Brazilian) demonstrated the South American style. Spain played a typical Southern European counter-attacking game, while Ireland tried the traditional British method!

Having been the most successful nation in the four previous World Youth Championships, Brazil was the hot favourite in this group; the expectation was that this team would be able to retain the title that had been won in Mexico in 1983.

And so it turned out. The Brazilian team was fully up to expectations, controlled all of its three games right from the start, changing the pace when they needed to and never allowing any of their opponents the chance of winning a point. In addition to the well-known Brazilian attributes of above-average technique and outstanding football-intelligence, this side also showed exemplary organisation within the team and tremendous discipline. Only one thing is not right – the results do not truly reflect the superiority of this Brazilian squad!

The Spanish team had had only a minimal preparation, and in fact had only come together just before flying off to this tournament. They started very poorly, with a draw in their opening game and a clear defeat in the second. Before their last game they had only one point, had not scored a single goal, but they were in third place. In order to qualify for the quarter-finals they would have to win their game against Ireland and hope that the Saudi Arabians, who were lying second with three points, would lose against Brazil who had already qualified. In the event, things went right for Spain, but it was only five minutes before the end that they scored the decisive fourth goal against Ireland. Thus the Spanish team qualified for the quarter-final thanks to having scored more goals.

Saudi Arabia started very well in this tournament, with a draw against Spain and a narrow victory over Ireland. Despite these results the team did not appear to be using their full potential on the field; off and on the field there was always an atmosphere of unrest and the players often behaved in a hasty and uncontrolled manner. The numerous unfair tackles led to many unnecessary but dangerous free kicks, which unsettled the team even more. Such behaviour is even more regrettable in light of the great progress that Saudi Arabian football in general has made in recent years, and in view of the very good standard that this team demonstrated on a few occasions. The decisive game against Brazil was lost 0:1, and so the Saudis were eliminated with three points from three games and a goal average of 1:1!

Despite a terrific effort, excellent discipline and a well-organised team, the Irish were not able to collect even one point: they lost their first two games by a one-goal margin. However, they were indirectly responsible for deciding second place in this group: Spain beat Ireland 4:2 in the last game, while the Saudi Arabians had earlier beaten them only 1:0 and thus missed second place on the basis of fewer goals scored.

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<tr>
<th>Results:</th>
<th>Final Placings:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland, Rep. - Brazil 1:2 (0:1)</td>
<td>1. Brazil 3 3 - - 5:1 6</td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia - Spain 0:0 (0:0)</td>
<td>2. Spain 3 1 1 1 4:4 3</td>
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<td>Ireland, Rep. - Saudi Arabia 0:1 (0:0)</td>
<td>3. Saudi Arabia 3 1 1 1 1:1 3</td>
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<td>Brazil - Spain 2:0 (0:0)</td>
<td>4. Ireland, Rep. 3 - - 3 3:7 -</td>
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<td>Ireland, Rep. - Spain 2:4 (0:2)</td>
<td>5. Saudi Arabia 3 1 1 1 1:1 3</td>
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<td>Brazil - Saudi Arabia 1:0 (1:0)</td>
<td>6. Spain 3 1 1 1 4:4 3</td>
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Results:
Ireland, Rep. - Brazil 1:2 (0:1)
Saudi Arabia - Spain 0:0 (0:0)
Ireland, Rep. - Saudi Arabia 0:1 (0:0)
Brazil - Spain 2:0 (0:0)
Ireland, Rep. - Spain 2:4 (0:2)
Brazil - Saudi Arabia 1:0 (1:0)
The teams in the Minsk group represented no less than four different continents: Europe had the Russians, one of the top favourites to win the tournament; Oceania had Australia, qualifying for this competition for the third time in a row; Africa was represented by Nigeria, impressive winners of the eliminating games, and from the CONCACAF came Canada, reaching the finals for the second time.

As was generally expected, the Russians came through, but their qualification was considerably more difficult than the bare results would suggest. It seemed that the Russian team could not quite handle the pressure that the high expectations of the spectators and the mass-media placed upon them. As it was, the team only sporadically played freely and gave glimpses of its undoubted class. Most of the time, the players showed signs of tension. It was particularly noticeable that the Russians tried to play at a speed that their technical skills could not quite match; many moves ended with a too-hasty pass, and lots of chances were missed for the same reason.

Nigerian youth football has made great progress in the last few years: they qualified for the last World Youth Championship in Mexico. The efforts made in this country, and the considerable investment, are beginning to pay off. After an easy win in their opening game against Canada, the Nigerians seemed a bit sleepy in the first half against the Russians, and found themselves trailing 0:2. In the second half they raised the pressure greatly, but their only goal came too late to give them much hope of equalising. In their third game, against Australia, they once again found themselves 0:2 down, before launching a stirring offensive that brought them three beautifully-created goals in fifteen minutes and thus their second win. It is not often that such a fighting come-back has been seen from an African team. Australia’s 0:0 against the Russians in the opening game was the first big surprise of the tournament. Since their second match, against Canada, also ended as a goalless draw, the Australians had to win their final game against Nigeria in order to qualify for the quarter-final, the Africans being equal on points but with a superior goal-difference. With a 2:0 lead at half-time, the Australians seemed to be well on the way, but they had nothing left with which counter the impressive final onslaught of the Nigerians.

The Canadians had a difficult task right from the start: after losing their opening match against Nigeria, they managed to hold the Australians. But in their final game against the Russians they were overwhelmed, and the 0:5 was the highest score in any of the 24 first round games. The Canadian team was eliminated without having scored a single goal.
In this group the Mexicans were convincing winners. In the opening game against China they had taken a decisive 3:0 lead by half-time, and only because they eased the pace in the second half were the Chinese able to get into the game and score their one goal. They also won their second game against Paraguay by a two-goal margin, and appeared a class better than their opponents.

These two wins earned Mexico an early qualification for the quarter-final and they were able to rest their two best attackers in the game against England and give their substitutes some match-practice. In spite of this, they were never in danger of losing this game, even though the result of 1:0 seems a bit close.

If the Paraguayans had won their third game against the PR China they would have advanced to the quarter-final, but the Chinese were full of confidence after having beaten England, and so they were able to play a defensive game and had the match under control at every stage. With only fifteen minutes to go, and the scores still level, the Paraguayans were forced to take more risks and go all-out into attack, but this only opened the way for the Chinese, who promptly scored the deciding goal.

The English squad was made up entirely of young professional players, and as they were managed by Dave Sexton, one of England's best-known and most successful coaches, they were among the favourites in this group. However this team was unable to live up to expectations.

Even in the opening game, against the moderately-rated Paraguayans, they had to watch a 2:0 lead disappear and in the end be more than satisfied with a draw. In the last quarter of an hour of the game against China, the English collapsed and let in two goals. Not even in their final game against the Mexicans, who had already qualified and were resting two of their best players, could the English manage another point. Thus, with only one point from three games they finished up bottom of the group.
Quarter Finals

**Yerevan**

**Bulgaria v. Spain**

1:2 (0:1)

25 1.9. 19.00 Yerevan

20,500

Bulgaria: 1 Jilkov - 3 Dotchev - 2 Kalkanov (70 min 8 Kirov), 5 Pachov, 4 Vassev - 16 Petkov, 6 Ivanov (46 min 15 Kalaydjiev), 10 Balakov - 11 Maznilkov, 9 Mikhtarski, 7 Kostadinov

Spain: 1 Unzue - 6 Tirado - 3 Mendiondo, 7 Ferreira, 8 Lizarralde - 12 Juanma (76 min 4 Paz), 9 Gay, 2 Marcelino, 10 Fernando - 14 Goicoechea, 17 Losada (85 min 18 Francis)

a) 0:1 Marcelino (33 min); 1:1 Kostadinov (47 min); 1:2 Fernando (67 min: Penalty)

b) Worrall (England) - Sandoz (Switzerland), Mandi (Bahrain)

c) -

d) -

The Bulgarian's starting formation included no less than 5 strikers, of whom two were assigned midfield roles. These two took turns in joining the attack, with one of the others dropping back to assume some midfield duties. The Spanish defence, which operated on a close-marking system, found this continuous changing very hard to cope with, and they were lucky not to concede an early goal.

Quite against the run of the play, it was the Spaniards who went ahead: a corner was headed away by a Bulgarian defender, but the ball came to Garcia about 27 meters from goal and he volleyed it perfectly into the top corner of the net.

Just after half-time the Bulgarian right winger Maznilkov sold his marker a dummy and hit a sharp cross back from the goal-line into the centre, where Kostadinov sprinted to the near post and glanced the ball into the near corner. During one of the rare but dangerous Spanish attacks, a Bulgarian defender committed an unnecessary foul in the penalty area: Fernando safely converted the penalty into a 2:1 lead for his team. Only 3 minutes later there came what appeared to be the equaliser: a back pass from a Spanish defender eluded both the goalkeeper and a Bulgarian forward, and the ball rolled slowly over the goal-line. But after consulting with his linesman the referee disallowed this valid goal.

From this point on, the Bulgarian resistance was broken, and the Spanish team safely held on to their lead until the end.

**Tbilissi**

**Brazil v. Colombia**

6:0 (0:0)

26 1.9. 17.00 Tbilissi

20,000

Brazil: 1 Claudio - 13 Polaco, 3 Luis Carlos, 4 Henrique, 6 Dida, 5 João Antonio, 8 Testin, 7 Silas - 10 Muller, 9 Gerson, 18 Balalo

Colombia: 12 Niño Garcia - 3 Nuñez Perez - 11 Lainez Espinosa, 13 Córdoba Aguilar, 5 Ampudia Perea - 6 Hurtado Torres (45 min 16 Caicedo Domínguez), 10 Alvarez Maya, 14 Pérez Urrea - 17 Castaño Ortiz, 7 Trélez Valencia, 18 Rodríguez Bedoya (57 min 8 Maturana Vargas)

a) 1:0 Gerson (51 min); 2:0 Silas (54 min); 3:0 Gerson (69 min); 4:0 Dida (72 min); 5:0 Muller (81 min); 6:0 Gerson (90 min)

b) Ulloa Morera (Costa Rica) - Al-Sharif (Syria), Zavchenko (USSR)

c) -

d) -

The first half of this game was one long uninterrupted Brazilian assault on their opponent's goal, which the Colombians tried to seal off with every available man. Often there were 21 players in the Colombians' half of the field, and even the Brazilians found it hard to penetrate this tangle.

However, just before half-time the wall was breached: Gerson touched on a centre from the right with his head, and the ball went over the Colombian goalkeeper into the net. Only three minutes later came the decisive blow: Silas profited from a rebound from the goalkeeper and put the ball into the empty net.

However, this was by no means the end of goal-scoring: Gerson struck again after breaking through a minimal space, and Dida made it 4:0 with a shot into the top right corner from the inside-left position.

The 5:0 was another gift from the goalkeeper; despite the efforts of two defenders, Muller broke through and the goalkeeper allowed his shot to go through both hands and legs into the goal.

In the final minute came the best of all the goals in this one-sided match: Silas played a delicate through-pass to Gerson on the edge of the penalty area, and he lifted the ball with a beautiful touch over the advancing goalkeeper and into the net.

In this game the Brazilians were superior to their opponents in every respect. After the first goal, the Colombians' resistance was completely broken and they had neither the spirit nor the physical strength with which to counter the exuberant Brazilians. Brazil showed a quality of football that made them clear favourites to win this World Youth Championship.

For once Gerson, scorer of three of the Brazilians' goals, cannot get away from his markers.
**Minsk**

**USSR v. China P.R.**

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<td>27</td>
<td>1.9. 17.00 Minsk</td>
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**USSR:** 1 Kutepov - 5 Kolotovkin - 2 Ketashvili, 4 Chedia, 7 Khudojilov - 12 Mokh, 11 Skliarov, 10 Tatarchuk, 8 Medvid - 13 Kuzhlev (43 min), 15 Bubliauskas (74 min), 9 Savchenko

**China P.R.:** 13 LiJiandong - 5 LiHongbing - 2 Dong Yugang, 6 Ju Lijin, 16 Yang Weijian - 8 Gong Lei, 17 Song Lianyong, 18 Gao Zhongxun - 10 Zhang Yan, 9 Gao Hongbo, 11 You Kewei (46 min 14 Fu Bo)

a) 1:0 Kuzhlev (1 min)
b) Ben Naceur (Tunisia) - Agnolin (Italy), Quiniou (France)
c) Ketashvili (30 min) - Song Lianyong (30 min)
d) -

Long before a game started, the Chinese began their intensive warm-up.

The first-ever meeting between these two countries at a World Youth Championship was attended with keen interest: both teams played a tactically similar game. The development of an attack occurred very quickly, with many short passes and a variety of combinations. The midfield was quickly bridged, and near the opponent's goal play was usually concentrated down the middle, with numerous deflections and attempts at one-two passes.

The game got off to a roaring start. The Russian right winger Medvid started off on a long run, then let Kuzhlev take the ball, and after going round a Chinese defender he caused a surprise with a shot into the far corner of the goal. A superb goal for the Russians in the 1st minute.

The Chinese did not appear to be particularly influenced by this turn of events: they reacted energetically, began to get their own game organized and soon established a clear territorial superiority. The Russians adopted a waiting game at first, kept their ranks tightly closed and when they lost the ball immediately withdrew into their own half. From this position they tried to surprise the Chinese defence by carrying out sudden attacks in an attempt to increase their lead.

But the longer the game lasted, the clearer it became that the Chinese were on top. Attack after attack rolled in the direction of the Russian goal. With their surprising combinations the Chinese carved out several good chances, but here the main weakness of Asian football became apparent: even the clearest chances were wasted. In this phase of the game, the Chinese lack of international experience really told. Having played a good game the Chinese were eliminated by the narrowest possible result.

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**Baku**

**Mexico v. Nigeria**

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<td>28</td>
<td>1.9. 17.00 Baku</td>
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**Mexico:** 12 Quintero - 5 Huerta - 16 Ambriz, 8 De La Torre, 14 Frias, 9 Garcia Azpe - 10 Cruz, 6 Medina

**Nigeria:** 1 Agwu - 2 Eveh, 5 Uwe, 6 Odu, 3 Onye - 13 Igbinabaro, 15 Adeleye (62 min 7 Dominic), 10 Osaro - 13 Sia-Sia, 9 Odiaka, 11 Anunobi

a) 0:1 Agwu (33 min); 0:2 Odiaka (33 min); 1:2 Medina (50 min)
b) Cardellino (Uruguay) - F.T. Syme (Scotland), Silva Arce (Chile)
c) Salatiel (31 min), Huerta (42 min) - Odiaka (42 min)
d) -

Right from the whistle the Nigerians took the initiative and put pressure on the Mexican team. The Africans' midfielders and defenders continually went forward into attack, and shot at goal from every possible position. As time went on, the Mexicans came more into the game: the build-up of their attacks was quite leisurely and their game moved sideways rather than forwards. The Nigerians were lucky when from 3 meters out Garcia headed a free-kick from Cruz just over the bar. But it was the Africans who went ahead: after 33 minutes a headed clearance from Huerta landed right at the feet of Igbinabaro who took his chance and scored from 25 meters. Two minutes later the Nigerians extended their lead, when their left winger Anunobi elegantly beat his man and centred to Adeleye. He immediately passed the ball on to Eveh, and although his quick shot was saved by a fine effort from the Mexican goalkeeper, Odiaka following up well gave the goalie no second chance.

Five minutes after the re-start, the Mexicans were able to reduce the gap: after a nice attacking move, Cruz out-ran the Nigerian defence and played a lovely pass to Medina who put the ball home from 4 meters. This gave the Mexicans new motivation, and they increased the pressure, coming close when Huerta finished off a dangerous attack with a shot that unluckily hit the underside of the bar. Control of the game slipped more and more away from the Nigerians, and they had to resort to booting the ball clear to hang on to their lead and thus enter the semi-final.
Semi-Finals

Moscow

Spain v. USSR 2:2* 1:1 (0:1)

29 4.9. 19.00 Moscow 37,000

Spain: 1 Unzue – 6 Tirado – 8 Lizarralde, 7 Ferreira, 3 Mendiondo – 2 Marcelino, 9 Gay, 10 Fernando, 12 Juanma (55 min 11 Nayin, 83 min 18 Francis) – 17 Losada, 14 Goicoechea

USSR: 1 Kutepov – 5 Kolotovkin – 4 Chedia, 12 Mokh, 3 Gorilyi – 6 Ivanauskas, 11 Skliarov (91 min 9 Savchenko), 8 Medvid, 7 Khudojilov – 10 Tatarchuk, 13 Kuzhlev (68 min 15 Bubliauskas)

a) 0:1 Khudojilov (38 min: Penalty); 1:1 Losada (70 min); 1:2 Ivanauskas (107 min); 2:2 Goicoechea (120 min)
b) Silva Arce (Chile) – Diaz Palacios (Colombia), Cardellino (Uruguay)
c) Ferreira (25 min) – Tatarchuk (51 min), Medvid (51 min), Khudojilov (70 min)
d) * After extra-time / Penalty-kicks 4:3

This game started with a bang. After the Spaniards kicked off, three Russian players followed the ball back at full speed and provoked the Spanish schemer Fernando into an unlucky back pass. One of the Russians caught up with the ball and hammered it against the underside of the bar. With only 12 seconds gone, the Spaniards were very lucky not to be a goal down.

However, this incident really got the game going, both teams fighting bitterly for every ball, with tremendous physical commitment. There were many fouls on both sides, and the game never really flowed, most attacks being broken up before they reached the penalty areas.

The Spaniards again adopted a counter-attacking strategy for this game, and let the Russians have almost uncontested control of midfield. But although they had this territorial advantage the Russians did not create any more real chances.

In the 38th minute, Medvid received the ball from a throw-in near the left corner-flag, took it into the penalty area where he cleverly eluded the tackle of a Spanish defender, but was then brought down from behind. Khudojilov majestically converted the penalty with a shot into the top left corner.

In the second half, the game began to improve. The Spaniards opened up more, took more risks and made themselves some good chances. Their equaliser came from a mistake by the Soviet goalkeeper, who allowed a high cross from the right to slip through his hands, and Losada standing behind him had no trouble heading the ball into the net.

This lucky equaliser gave the Spanish team new heart, and now they had more of the game, but they were unable to score again before the end of the normal playing time.

In extra-time, it was now the Russians who besieged their opponent's goal. After missing two excellent chances, they were finally rewarded in the 107th minute: Medvid hit a long, heavily sliced centre from the left touch-line over to the far post, where Ivanauskas headed the ball into the left of the goal catching the goalkeeper on the wrong foot.

This goal appeared to be the decider. The Spanish team was showing signs of paying for their earlier efforts, and the players' concentration began to lapse. The Russians' passage into the final seemed certain. But in the dying seconds of the game, the Russians were trying to keep possession of the ball in the middle of their own half, when Tatarchuk played a rather short ball back to a team-mate. Although this player did manage to fend off a challenge from one oncoming Spaniard, he did not succeed a second time and lost the ball. A quick pass found the completely unmarked Goicoechea, and he had time to pick his spot in the top left corner, just before the final whistle.

Spain won the subsequent penalty-shooting 4:3, and so qualified for the final.
Leningrad

Brazil v. Nigeria       2:0 (2:0)
30     4.9.      18.00      Leningrad      51,500

Brazil: 1 Claudio – 2 Luciano, 3 Luis Carlos, 4 Henrique, 6 Dida – 5 João Antonio, 8 Tosin, 7 Silas – 10 Muller, 9 Gerson, 18 Balalo (87 min 15 Marçal)

Nigeria: 1 Agwu (46 min 17 Obi) – 2 Eveh, 6 Odu, 5 Uwe, 3 Onye – 4 Waidi (59 min 15 Adeleye), 8 Igbinabaro, 10 Osaro – 13 Sia-Sia, 9 Odiaka, 11 Anunobi

a) 1:0 Muller (22 min); 2:0 Balalo (44 min)
b) Quiniou (France) – Agnolin (Italy), F.T. Syme (Scotland)
c) Osaro (1 min)
d) –

Centre-forward Gerson shows his delight as the Brazilians score a goal.

The Brazilians took command of this game right from the start, and almost went into the lead in the 11th minute: a lovely attack ended with a hard shot from Gerson which hit the bar, then bounced off the Nigerian goalkeeper’s back and finally just rolled past the post for a corner.

But in the 22nd minute the constant domination of the Brazilians was finally rewarded: the ball came down the right to Luciano who switched the play to the far side with a long pass, and then Silas played the ball into the path of the oncoming Balalo who immediately drove it at goal. The Nigerian goalkeeper failed to hold the ball, and Miller, following up well, put the rebound into the net.

In the 33rd minute the outstanding Brazilian goalkeeper, Taffarel, prevented the equaliser when he made a spectacular save from a Sia-Sia volley with his feet. But one minute before half-time, the Brazilians extended their lead: another attack down the right, Luciano then playing a short through pass to Miller, who hit a lovely square ball across from the corner of the penalty box to Balalo. With a lightning turn he left his marker standing and scored with a fierce shot from 16 meters.

During the break, the Nigerians were forced to replace the injured goalkeeper with their reserve Obi. Despite having the wind against them, the Brazilians made a furious start to the second half, forcing a number of corners and having several shots come close. In the 52nd minute, the Africans were awarded a penalty given away by João Antonio, but Igbinabaro’s shot was saved by the Brazilian goalkeeper with another fantastic effort.

Nigeria continued to attack and kept their opponent’s defence under constant pressure, having no less than 8 corners in the second half. But the Brazilians showed themselves to be very strong in defence and hardly ever did they lose control of the situation. In the 65th minute the game was almost put beyond doubt: once again Miller put across a lovely ball from the right wing position, but from 4 meters Gerson only hit the post. The Nigerian keeper would never have had a chance.

This terrific semi-final contained a lot of spectacular goalmouth action, and was one of the very best games of the whole tournament, with the Brazilians worthy winners. The Nigerians were technically almost as good as their opponents, having no problems at all when they were on the ball. They were also very well prepared tactically and their condition was every bit as good. However, their best forward up until now, the left winger Anunobi, was well controlled by the Brazilian back Luciano, and so the Africans did not quite have enough class up front to pose a serious threat to their opponent’s defence. Thus, they had to resort to long shots, particularly in the first half, and on this occasion that was not the way to beat the brilliant Brazilian goalkeeper.
Match for Third Place

USSR v. Nigeria 0:0*

31 7.9. 13.00 Moscow 12,500

USSR: 1 Kutepov - 5 Kolotovkin - 2 Ketashvili, 12 Mokh - 6 Ivanaukas, 11 Skilrov, 7 Khudojlov, 8 Medvid (70 min 13 Kuzhlev) - 9 Savchenko, 10 Tatarchuk (75 min 15 Bubliauskas)
Nigeria: 17 Obi - 14 Mba, 5 Uwe, 2 Eveh, 3 Onye - 4 Waidi, 8 Igbinabaro, 10 Osaro - 13 Sia-Sia, 9 Odiaka, 11 Anunobi

a) -
b) Mandi (Bahrain) - Cardellino (Uruguay), Agnolin (Italy)
c) Odiaka (12 min), Igbinabaro (25 min), Onye (55 min), Osaro (88 min)
d) Odiaka (65 min)

* After extra-time / Penalty-kicks 1:3

Their previous performances in this tournament had a lot to do with the way these two teams approached this play-off match for 3rd/4th places:

Nigeria could be very satisfied with their earlier results. In the first round in the finals they had won their games against Canada and Australia - losing only against the Russians. In the quarter-final they defeated the much-fancied Mexicans, and then they lost in the semi-final to the Brazilians after a most exciting game.

As the home team, the Russians had started the tournament as one of the most frequently-mentioned favourites: in the first round they only dropped one point, in the opening game against Australia, but only in their third game, against Canada, did they turn in a really convincing performance. In the quarter-final, they beat China with a goal in the first minute and a lot of luck after that to hold on to their narrow lead for the rest of the game. In the semi-final against Spain they had the equaliser scored against them in the last minute of extra-time, and then lost on penalties.

So the Nigerians came out for this final game to decide third place highly motivated and radiating self-confidence, playing aggressive football and showing no respect for the home team. In addition, their trainer had adapted his team's defensive tactics so that they were an excellent answer to the Russians' style of attack. At the back their previous formation had been completely altered: the team now played without a libero in a four-man zone defence. By going in quickly right from the start, the Africans took the steam out of the Russian forwards, but the tackles were often right on the limit of what could be tolerated. However the referee was too late in intervening, so that he could not regain control and bring some flow back into the game. The Africans were also unusually good at jumping, and coupled with their greater determination this meant that they won the majority of heading duels against the Soviet attackers.

The establishment, in the shape of the Russian team, had no success against the rising newcomers from Nigeria.

In midfield the Nigerians adopted a somewhat defensive strategy, falling back when they lost the ball and then trying mainly to set their fast forwards off with long balls, hoping to catch the Russian goalkeeper by surprise with distance shots.

However the three forwards were not decisive enough in offering themselves, and were held in check by the Russian defenders with relative ease.

The Russian team had taken the field without any confidence at all, their players looked listless and not at all sharp, avoiding any risk if they could: each player pushed the ball on to a colleague as quickly as possible, thereby also relieving himself of the responsibility for doing something that might go wrong.

Only the defenders seemed equal to the demands made of them, and they never let the Nigerian forwards develop their game.

In midfield there was no pattern in the Soviet play: true, their players ran a lot, but mostly to no purpose, and in direct contact with their opponents they usually lost the ball to the Africans. The Russian forward line was practically non-existent: hardly ever did they manage to put together a string of passes, and their chances should have been counted on the fingers of one hand.

The whole game was as boring and as cheerless as the weather - it rained without stopping from the kick-off to the final whistle!

Top right: the even balance between the teams meant that more and more matches went into extra time. Here the teams' officials make good use of the short break before over-time begins.

Below: another success for African football: after winning the U-16 tournament in China now comes third place in the U-20 category.
For the Spaniards to have held the chance right at the start, the Brazilians had had a chance right at the start, the Brazilian team took charge, with the excellent Silas pulling the strings in midfield. They set up one attack after another, but the close-marking and uncompromising Spanish defenders held off the Brazilian onslaught. In the 23rd minute, Silas created a great opportunity for the advancing back Dida with a dream of a pass, but a fantastic save by the Spanish goalkeeper prevented the Brazilians taking the lead. Only 3 minutes later, Balalo hit a fierce swerving free-kick from the inside right position and the Spanish keeper could only parry the ball. Gerson came in immediately for the rebound, but his left-footed shot hit the right post, with the goal completely open.

Not until the 42nd minute did the Spaniards have another chance: Gay struck a hard shot from the left which hit the top of the bar, with goalie Taffarel beaten. In the very next Brazilian attack, Silas played a through pass from the midfield that cut open the entire Spanish defence, leaving Miller with only the goalkeeper to beat, but at the last moment Unzue dived magnificently to turn the ball round the post for a corner.

In the second half the incessant rain made the going heavier and heavier, to the detriment of the Brazilian ball-players. The standard of the game dropped noticeably, the pace began to slow and combinations of passes became ever rarer. The match produced more and more aggressive tackles, and Mendiondo was ordered off following a second warning. Despite now being a man down, the Spaniards managed to keep the game open and worried the Brazilian defence with their dangerous counter-attacks. Three minutes from the end, they almost took the lead: a classical break-away found two Spanish forwards confronted by a single Brazilian defender, but Losado who had the ball completely overlooked his colleague Francis standing in front of an open goal! Brazil's immediate reply was a subtle breakthrough which brought Miller into a position where he only had the goalkeeper in front of him, but at the last moment he played the ball too far ahead, and wasted the last chance before the normal time was over.

Right at the start of extra-time, Balalo hit a long corner to the far side of the 5-meter box, where Miller outjumped the Spanish defenders, headed the ball down into the middle for the centre-back Henrique to put it home from 4 meters. With the Brazilians in the lead, the Spanish team threw everything forward, and created several chances. The Brazilians had some anxious moments, and only after changing ends did they get a grip on the game again. After 120 minutes, the excellent Scottish referee ended the game, which had been of a high standard in the first half, and had remained intense and gripping until the final whistle. The Brazilians were by far the best team present and worthy winners of the World Youth Championship.
Australia

Team Coach: Jim Shoulder

Preparation
A good number of the players on the National Youth Team are enrolled as students at the Australian Sport Institute (AIS). There they train and play regularly under the guidance of the current National Youth Trainer, Jimmy Shoulder. Other players are under contract to clubs in the national league, and they were called up three times to attend four-day training-camps. In these short courses, in addition to physical conditioning, the main emphasis was on ways of improving teamwork. Shortly before the World Youth Championship, the Australian National Youth Team went for a ten-day training session in the National Sports Centre in Sittard (Holland). In this period they also played four training matches against leading Dutch amateur teams, before travelling on to the WYC in the Soviet Union.

The players and their appearances

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Qualification
The Oceanian Confederation also chose to run the qualifying matches for the World Youth Championship in the form of a tournament. In addition to the five members of this group, it was decided to include Israel too, for political reasons:

Australia - New Zealand 2:1
Australia - Fiji 6:1
Australia - Chinese Taipei 3:0
Australia - Papua New Guinea 6:0
Australia - Israel 3:2

Against the minor footballing nations, Australia came through convincingly, but the game against their old rivals New Zealand, and the one against Israel were hard fought. In the end however, Australia won both these games by a one-goal margin, and finished top of the group with the maximum number of points:

1. Australia 5 5 0 0 20:4 10
2. Israel 5 3 1 1 15:6 7
3. New Zealand 5 3 0 2 21:9 6
4. Chinese Taipei 5 2 0 3 7:12 4
5. Fiji 5 1 1 3 9:12 3
6. Papua New Guinea 5 0 0 5 2:31 0

Winning this group meant that Australia qualified for the WYC for the third successive time.
Results at the WYC

In what was regarded as a very strong group in Minsk, Australia's opponents were Russia, Nigeria and Canada:

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After they had held the Russians to a sensational draw in their opening match, Australia's performance in the second game was eagerly awaited. In this match against a very moderate Canadian team, the Australians played a very cautious, defensive game. This was quite surprising, since the Australians really needed a win to allow them a chance of qualifying if they could hold the more highly-rated Nigerians to a draw in the final game.

The second 0:0 meant that they had to go on to the attack against Nigeria, for whom a draw would suffice. Australia's effort indeed saw them 2:0 ahead at half-time, but in the second half they could not withstand Nigeria's enormous pressure and were forced to concede three goals.

In midfield the set-up was predominantly defensive; however it was difficult to decide the reason for this, whether the four players were so busy reacting to their opponents' behaviour or whether this style better suited the talents and abilities of the players themselves. Either way, they could not offer much support to their own forwards.

It is also possible that the Australian national youth coach, Jimmy Shoulder, did not want to alter a formation that had proved so successful in the sensational draw against the Soviet Union in the opening game. The plan was to control the game from a strong defensive position and only when this had been established to start to develop attacks. The two strikers, Postekos and Sharpe, moved about a lot, offered themselves again and again to receive passes, and frequently broke out on to the wings.

The Australian team was not capable of taking charge of a game and dictating the style of play to suit their talents. They were good at reacting to their opponents' moves, but not at calling the tune themselves. Particular notice was the energetic way in which the midfielders would challenge opponents receiving the ball with their backs towards the Australian goal: under no circumstances would they allow these players to turn and often forced them into playing a back-pass.

Weak points of the team

The Australian team was not capable of taking charge of a game and dictating the style of play to suit their talents. They were good at reacting to their opponents' moves, but not at calling the tune themselves. Some of their play down the wings was good, but they did not profit sufficiently from it: the numerous centres were inaccurate, often too high or too soft, or failed to get past the nearest opposition defender. An inexplicable lapse of concentration led to the Australians' losing a 2:0 lead in the deciding game against the Nigerians, so that they eventually lost both the match, 2:3, and their chance of a place in the quarter-final.

What this well-balanced team lacked was a leader, someone whose own efforts could have inspired his colleagues, and who could also have provided a skillful impulse to bring more variety into the somewhat stereotyped Australian game.
Brazil

Preparation

As early as May 1984, the Brazilian National Youth Coach, Gilson Nunes, began to prepare his team for the South American qualifying tournament in Paraguay the following January.

In eight shorter training sessions and several camps lasting five weeks in all, no less than 63 players were tested. This unusually high number of possible candidates for a place in the National Youth Team was the result of the coaches' difficulty in observing the most talented players in such a huge country to determine their current form.

The final preparation for the WYC consisted of two phases: first the players selected were brought together from 17-20th June in Sierra Negra (SP), and then in the second phase they were invited to a final training camp in Rio de Janeiro, from 15th July until departure for the tournament on 18th August.

Qualification

In the qualifying tournament held by the South American Confederation in Asuncion (Paraguay), Brazil was drawn in a group with the highly-rated Argentinians, and the outsiders Bolivia, Chile and Colombia.

As clear winners of this group, the Brazilian team went forward as favourites into the final round:

1. Brazil
2. Paraguay
3. Colombia
4. Uruguay

Six points from three games in the final brought the Brazilians victory in this tournament: easily the best and most consistent team taking part.

The top three teams from this 11th “Juventud de America” tournament qualified for the WYC in the USSR.

The players and their appearances

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Gilson Nuñes

Results at the WYC

As holders of the title, Brazil started as clear favourites in this tournament. In Group B they played against two European teams, Ireland and Spain, and also Saudi Arabia:

- Brazil vs Ireland Rep.: 2:1 (1:0)
- Brazil vs Spain: 2:0 (0:0)
- Brazil vs Saudi Arabia: 1:0 (1:0)

With three wins and only one goal against them, the Brazilians clearly dominated the Tbilissi group:

1. Brazil: 3 3 0 0 5:1 6
2. Spain: 3 1 1 1:4 4
3. Saudi Arabia: 3 1 1 1:1 3
4. Ireland Rep.: 3 0 0 3 3:7 0

As group winners, Brazil was able to remain in Tbilissi to play the second team from the Yerevan group in the quarter-final:

- Brazil vs Colombia: 6:0 (0:0)

The next opponent was the surprisingly strong Nigerian team, this semi-final game being played in Leningrad:

- Brazil vs Nigeria: 2:0 (2:0)

In the final, the Brazilians met the Spaniards again, having already beaten them in the group game:

- Brazil vs Spain: 1:0 after extra time

Thus the Brazilians were able to defend the title of World Youth Champions that they had previously won in Mexico.

Team Analysis

Team organisation

Brazil employed their customary 4-3-3 system, with the four defensive players deployed in a purely zonal marking formation.

In front of this defensive chain, João Antonio acted as a sort of advanced libero, but his role was mainly defensive. He was continuously filling gaps and look over when the two outer-backs Luciano and Dida went forward.

Over on the right of midfield, Toisín was the driving force of the team: he often went down the right wing during an attacking move. More to the left was Silas, the midfield schemer.

Their most advanced man, often as far forward at the last defender, was Gerson, the Brazilian centre-forward. Their second striker, Muller, operated more on the right of the attack: he would often sprint from this position into the spaces created by Gerson in the middle.

The left-winger, Balalo, spent a lot of time deep in midfield helping to build up attacks, and then he would sprint through to the front again.

Attack

The rhythm of a game is one of the most important factors in Brazilian football: faced with an opponent playing at high speed, they would do their best to take the tempo out of the game and try always to be in control of the match. If an opponent seemed to want to play a slow deliberate game, the Brazilians would speed things up so that the other team would have to face unexpected situations.

Near their opponent's goal, the Brazilians showed their full mastery of the change of rhythm: with a subtle pass, a lightning feint or an unexpected deception, these South American ball-artists always had a surprise in store for the opposition, and created countless chances.

After winning the ball, the build-up of an attack was usually a slow process; the central-defenders would first try to find a midfielder for a pass. If these players were already marked, the outer-backs would begin to sprint forward into the wing positions vacated by the forwards, where they were often reached by a diagonal pass.

All the Brazilians were astonishingly cool on the ball. They were prepared to wait until a suitable moment came for a forward pass, and in such situations their skill at breaking away from their markers and the creation of open spaces was testimony to the intelligent way the Brazilians play football.

As centre-forward, Gerson would try to push the opposing defence as far back as possible, in order to create more room for his team's attacks. From this very advanced position, where he was usually quite isolated, he would often break out to the left wing. Muller, Silas, Balalo and Dida would take turns in coming through into this space and try to get into position for a shot.

In the group game against Spain, whose defenders practised close man-to-man marking, the Brazilians changed their plan of attack: Gerson went back more into midfield, thus pulling the Spanish stopper out of position. The two outer-backs went forward more frequently with the attacks, and Luciano was responsible for their first goal.

The goalkeeper, Claudio, deserves a special mention: his precise and very quick throws, usually out to the wings, were an exemplary way to launch an attack.

Strong points of the team

The Brazilian team was splendidly organised and behaved in a very disciplined fashion both on and off the field. Thanks to their instinctive football-intelligence, the players could handle even the most difficult situations. Under pressure, they never lost their awareness of the whole situation, and very seldom indeed did they lose control of a game. The many automatic moves that the Brazilian game showed say a lot for the outstanding work of their technical advisors.

The team also contained some outstanding players: Silas, their play-maker, would sometimes cut through an opponent's entire defence with a single pass, and played some magnificent balls to his teammates. Muller, full of tricks and dodges, was a constant danger to any defence, while Balalo's free kicks were a goalkeeper's nightmare. At the back, João Antonio and Henrique were stabilising forces in defence, while Dida not only scored two goals but was tireless in getting his team's attacks under way.

Weak points of the team

Despite their terrific shooting ability and subtle ways of attacking goal, the Brazilians wasted too many chances, and the final score-line was often not a true reflection of their domination of a game.