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FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

JAPAN

READY TO STEP UP

RUSSIA

WORLD CUP STADIUMS TAKING SHAPE

PITCH MANAGEMENT

MAINTAINING THE PERFECT SURFACE

MADELEINE BOLL

AN ACCIDENTAL PIONEER



FOOTBALL IN THE AMERICAS

PASSION AND TRADITION

GRASSROOTS

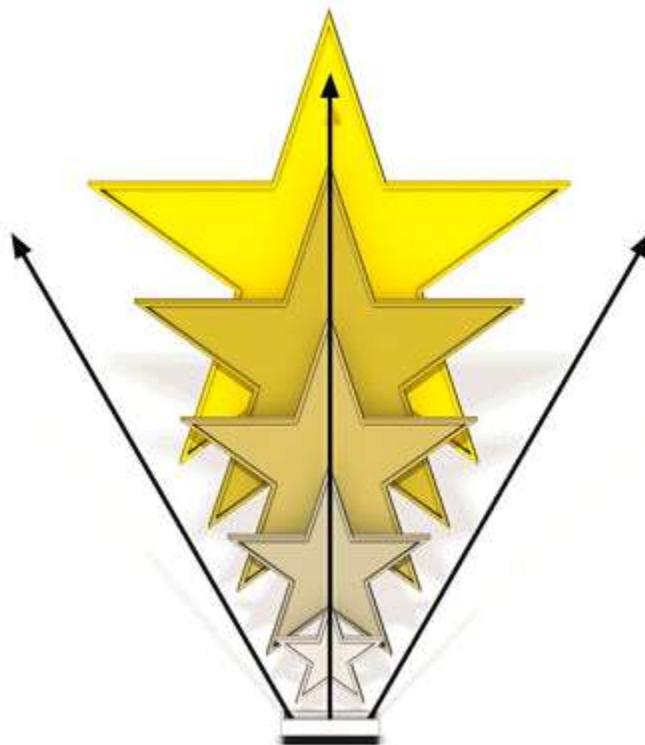
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FOOTBALL FOR ALL

Football, football, and then more football: we have quite a summer ahead of us. In Europe, the 24 best national teams will do battle at the European Championship from 10 June, while across the Atlantic, fans are counting down the days until the start of the *Copa América Centenario* on 3 June. The 45th edition of the CONMEBOL tournament is being staged in conjunction with CONCACAF as part of the celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the competition, and instead of the usual 12 teams, this year's extraordinary event in the USA will see no fewer than 16 under starter's orders.

It certainly promises to be an intriguing competition. Argentina, fresh from topping the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking, will head to the USA full of ambition, but Chile – the defending *Copa* champions and currently number three in the world – will also have designs on retaining the title. Colombia, Brazil and Uruguay can also be found in the top ten, but how will they all fare in the USA? Who will emerge as the new stars? And who will ultimately be victorious? We try to answer those questions from page 8 onwards.

It is not just the stars who play football though, and in 2016, FIFA will support 139 social-development organisations in 58 different countries to the tune of USD 4.3 million. The FIFA Football for Hope initiative's dedicated employees and volunteers bring football to tens of thousands of children and youngsters around the world day in, day out, including in most of the countries that will take part in the *Copa América Centenario*. We also take a closer look at football's immense social potential on page 14.

Perikles Monioudis

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FIFA 1904 app

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<http://www.fifa.com/mobile>

FOR THE GAME. FOR THE WORLD.



In Copenhagen, the results of a "FIFA 11 for Health" pilot study were announced. It was the first time the programme, which was first launched in Africa in 2010, had been run in a European country. "Our study looked at how the programme could be adapted to address the health problems prevalent in the Western world, and its value in terms of raising awareness of health issues and improving social well-being and resilience," explained Prof. Peter Krstrup on the implementation of the programme in Denmark.

The first FIFA Diversity Award will be presented in July 2016 to recognise the outstanding work of an organisation, initiative or individual person in promoting diversity and anti-discrimination in football. "Football is a global and unique convening power. It bridges culture, class and creed like nothing else. It helps us rise above our prejudices to realise our commonality and our humanity," explained Moya Dodd, chairwoman of the FIFA Task Force for Women's Football and member of the 11-strong jury for the new award.

The FIFA Security Division, as part of the continuous improvement of its services for member associations and local organising committees, is planning to extend and strengthen its cadre of trained FIFA Security Officers – including by recruiting more female security staff. "At the moment we have very few female Security Officers, which is why we have launched this initiative in which all of our member associations are involved," explained FIFA's Director of Security Ralf Mutschke.

FIFA and CAF (the Confederation of African Football) joined forces to stage a seminar in Johannesburg on the implementation of the global club licensing system. The system is intended to improve club football by setting minimum requirements in key areas such as stadium safety and security, fan experience and youth football development. In Africa, 61 clubs and 26 member associations are currently licensed and entitled to play in the CAF Champions League and the CAF Confederation Cup. "Club licensing plays an important role in professionalising standards and building stronger clubs," said James Johnson, head of the newly created FIFA Professional Football Department.



MEN'S WORLD RANKING

Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points
1	Argentina	1	1532	55	Serbia	-5	581	109	Liberia	-8	322	162	India	-2	151
2	Belgium	-1	1352	56	Korea Republic	1	579	110	Syria	13	316	164	Malta	-3	149
3	Chile	2	1348	57	Japan	-1	577	110	Armenia	6	316	164	Tajikistan	-14	149
4	Colombia	4	1337	58	Guinea	5	570	112	Korea DPR	-18	314	166	Myanmar	-12	147
5	Germany	-1	1309	59	Congo	0	562	112	Libya	-5	314	167	Gambia	-3	145
6	Spain	-3	1277	60	Saudi Arabia	0	559	114	Belize	5	307	168	Dominica	8	137
7	Brazil	-1	1251	61	Slovenia	-7	558	115	Kenya	-12	303	169	Bermuda	-5	135
8	Portugal	-1	1184	61	Finland	-15	558	116	Kazakhstan	9	300	170	American Samoa	-3	128
9	Uruguay	2	1158	63	Cameroon	-2	556	116	Philippines	19	300	170	Cook Islands	-3	128
10	England	-1	1069	64	Morocco	17	555	118	Sierra Leone	-3	298	170	Samoa	-3	128
11	Austria	-1	1067	65	Mali	8	551	119	Thailand	-1	297	173	Liechtenstein	-10	120
12	Ecuador	1	1019	66	Uzbekistan	8	549	120	Niger	-12	296	174	Malaysia	-8	119
13	Turkey	7	983	67	Nigeria	-5	534	121	Angola	-12	291	175	Timor-Leste	-5	110
14	Switzerland	-2	974	68	United Arab Emirates	-4	521	122	Burundi	7	290	176	Yemen	-1	98
15	Italy	-1	959	69	Bulgaria	1	508	123	Georgia	-1	289	177	Bangladesh	0	87
16	Mexico	6	934	70	South Africa	0	507	123	Ethiopia	-3	289	178	Seychelles	13	83
17	Netherlands	-2	931	71	Haiti	-7	502	125	Cuba	10	285	179	Nepal	6	80
18	Hungary	1	925	72	Uganda	-5	491	126	Kuwait	7	284	180	Vanuatu	14	72
19	Romania	-3	922	73	Benin	4	489	127	Zimbabwe	4	281	181	Chinese Taipei	0	70
20	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	913	74	Venezuela	1	476	128	Turkmenistan	-15	277	182	Cambodia	1	68
21	France	3	907	75	Burkina Faso	11	469	129	Sudan	6	276	182	Laos	-4	68
22	Ukraine	5	880	76	Israel	-9	467	130	Tanzania	-5	274	182	Fiji	4	68
23	Croatia	-5	856	77	Belarus	-13	465	131	Palestine	-14	273	185	Indonesia	-7	65
24	Wales	-7	839	78	Zambia	0	460	132	Bahrain	0	271	186	Bhutan	7	64
25	Costa Rica	8	826	79	Bolivia	-7	440	133	Guyana	23	270	187	Sri Lanka	2	58
26	Northern Ireland	2	825	80	Cyprus	-1	426	134	Azerbaijan	-22	269	188	Montserrat	-1	57
27	Poland	4	821	81	China PR	15	423	134	Swaziland	-10	269	188	Suriname	2	57
27	Russia	-4	821	82	Jordan	0	418	136	Namibia	-3	267	190	Pakistan	-3	54
29	Czech Republic	-4	810	83	Equatorial Guinea	-7	416	137	Aruba	-24	259	191	New Caledonia	-10	53
29	USA	1	810	83	Qatar	-3	416	138	Madagascar	-8	257	192	Solomon Islands	8	46
31	Republic of Ireland	-2	792	85	Antigua and Barbuda	5	413	139	Lithuania	-11	254	193	US Virgin Islands	-15	44
32	Slovakia	-6	784	86	Honduras	3	403	140	St Lucia	4	238	194	Macau	1	42
33	Algeria	4	771	87	Rwanda	-2	401	141	FYR Macedonia	-3	235	195	Brunei Darussalam	-11	37
34	Côte d'Ivoire	2	738	88	Gabon	-5	395	142	Hong Kong	-3	234	196	Tahiti	-5	35
35	Iceland	3	724	89	Guatemala	6	387	143	Barbados	0	231	197	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	33
36	Sweden	-2	713	90	Faroe Islands	3	383	144	Vietnam	2	228	198	Papua New Guinea	4	30
37	Greece	2	695	91	Botswana	1	379	145	Luxembourg	-3	221	199	Cayman Islands	-3	21
38	Ghana	3	693	92	St Kitts and Nevis	29	368	146	St Vincent and the Grenadines	-5	220	200	San Marino	-2	20
39	Paraguay	4	690	93	Estonia	-5	366	147	Afghanistan	4	210	201	British Virgin Islands	-2	14
40	Scotland	5	687	94	Montenegro	-10	365	148	Singapore	0	202	202	Andorra	-1	5
41	Denmark	-1	686	95	Canada	-8	357	148	Lesotho	5	202	203	Mongolia	-1	4
42	Iran	2	672	96	Central African Republic	14	355	150	São Tomé e Príncipe	24	197	204	Anguilla	0	0
43	Senegal	5	651	97	Chad	30	348	151	Dominican Republic	8	193	204	Bahamas	0	0
44	Egypt	9	648	98	El Salvador	1	347	152	Curaçao	-1	191	204	Djibouti	0	0
45	Albania	-10	632	99	Oman	-2	346	152	Puerto Rico	18	191	204	Eritrea	0	0
46	Peru	-4	625	100	Kyrgyzstan	5	340	154	Mauritius	18	188	204	Somalia	0	0
47	Cape Verde Islands	-16	620	101	Mozambique	-1	338	155	South Sudan	-15	182	204	Tonga	0	0
47	Tunisia	0	620	102	Guinea-Bissau	45	336	156	Moldova	0	181				
49	Norway	2	605	103	Togo	-2	334	157	Grenada	4	176				
50	Australia	17	601	103	Mauritania	3	334	157	Lebanon	-12	176				
51	Congo DR	7	596	105	Iraq	-14	333	159	Comoros	14	166				
52	Panama	3	593	106	Nicaragua	4	329	160	Maldives	-2	165				
53	Trinidad and Tobago	-4	592	107	Malawi	-3	326	161	New Zealand	-12	163				
54	Jamaica	-2	585	108	Latvia	-10	323	162	Guam	-8	151				

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7 April 2016



JAPAN WARM UP IN STYLE



Playing to the crowd Japan coach Vahid Halilhodžić at the World Cup qualifier against Syria.

Bosnian coach Vahid Halilhodžić can look pretty serious when he wants to. One occasion that springs to mind is the round-of-16 World Cup match late on 30 June 2014, which ended in bitter defeat for his Algerian side at the hands of Germany. Halilhodžić is now the coach of Japan, the team he is attempting to steer to the World Cup finals for their sixth consecutive appearance. Then, in Russia, the *Samurai Blue* might finally make it to the quarter-finals, which would be a first for him as a coach as well as for Japan.

But they need to qualify first, and although Halilhodžić had his usual stern face on when warning his players not to take victory for granted before the two group matches against Afghanistan and Syria at the end of March, they ran out 5-0 winners in each case. Japan miss out on the World Cup? That's unthinkable these days. They haven't let in a single goal in the eight group matches to date, and the past few months have been like a warm-up for round 3, which kicks off in August (Group B: Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Thailand).

It should, therefore, be just a matter of time before Japan leap up the world ranking, the

most recent edition of which (7 April 2016) sees Halilhodžić's team in 57th place, "only" the fourth highest of the Asian nations on account of their somewhat weaker opponents of late. Iran, followed by Australia are currently the best-placed AFC teams, while at the top of the ranking itself, Argentina have replaced Belgium as the world's number one.

For the Japanese, a recent TV clip seems to have struck a chord with the public. It was shown time and time again on many channels at the end of March and featured coach Halilhodžić in action on the touchline – but for once, his serious expression had deserted him. When a ball that had been hit out of play came towards him, about to drop just behind his head, he bent forwards in an attempt to hit it with the upraised heel of his right foot. Unfortunately, he missed it by some distance. The passing years – his international career as a striker with Yugoslavia had come to end 31 years previously – were shown in sharp relief. Nevertheless, the viewers and commentators lapped it up, and even the man himself saw the funny side.

Alan Schweingruber

LEADER

ARGENTINA

MOVES INTO TOP TEN

URUGUAY

MOVES OUT OF TOP TEN

AUSTRIA

MATCHES PLAYED IN TOTAL

171

MOST MATCHES PLAYED

EL SALVADOR, IRAQ, PANAMA, SYRIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (3 matches each)

BIGGEST MOVE BY POINTS

MOROCCO (up 131 points)

BIGGEST MOVE BY RANKS

GUINEA-BISSAU (up 45 ranks)

BIGGEST DROP BY POINTS

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS (down 169 points)

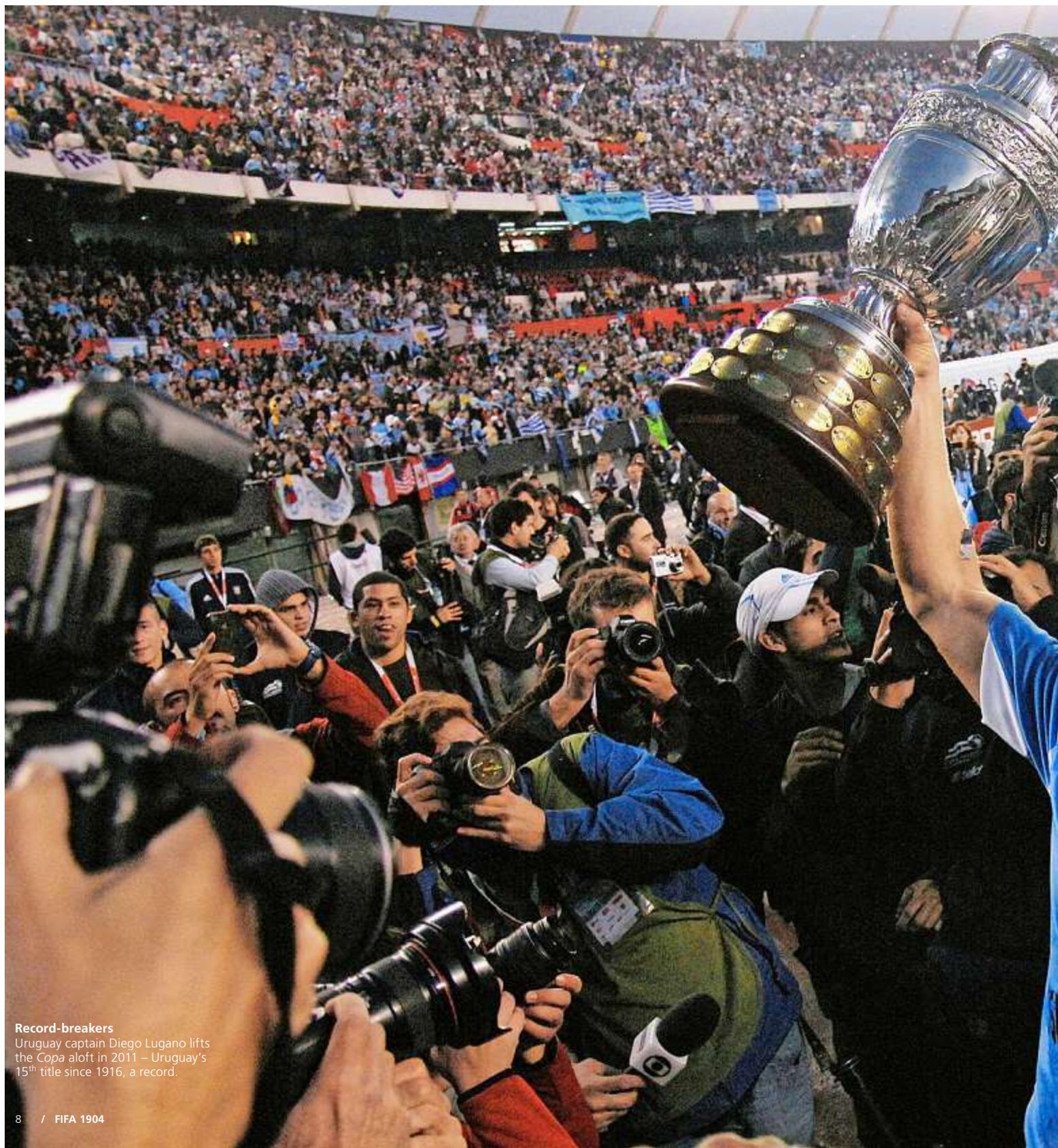
BIGGEST DROP BY RANKS

ARUBA (down 24 ranks)



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

A CONTINENT IN THE GRIP



Record-breakers
Uruguay captain Diego Lugano lifts the Copa aloft in 2011 – Uruguay's 15th title since 1916, a record.

OF FOOTBALL FEVER



This year's *Copa América* will be a special anniversary edition, with CONMEBOL teams being joined by six CONCACAF representatives in the race for the title. With the tournament just around the corner, we take a look at how some of the runners and riders are shaping up.

By Annette Braun

FOOTBALL IN THE AMERICAS

By the time June comes around, the people of Salto – an agricultural town on the banks of the River Uruguay in the north-west of the country – will be sat in front of their TVs and roaring on their heroes. Around 100,000 people live in this town, which ships citrus fruit, cereals and vegetables all around the world, and they all share another passion: football, even though the only local professional club side – Salto Fútbol Club – disbanded after playing in the Uruguayan second division between 2003 and 2005.

Football is still hugely popular in Salto, however – and that is down to the success of two local lads who were both born in 1987 and have since gone on to hit the heights: Luis Suárez and Edinson Cavani. As kids, they would think nothing about travelling 500km by bus to Montevideo to take their first steps on a journey that would eventually see them turn professional. Their childhood dreams certainly came true as Suárez is now starring for FC Barcelona, and Cavani is with Paris Saint-Germain. Together, they make up the strike force that Uruguay hope will fire them to the *Copa América Centenario* title in June.

“Leaving aside how many goals he scores, he’s a guy who makes the difference.”

Enzo Francescoli on Luis Suárez

WORLD RANKING DOMINATED BY SOUTH AMERICA

From 3 to 26 June, the 45th anniversary edition of the *Copa América* will captivate the entire American continent from the north to the south as, for the first time ever, and to mark the 100th anniversary of the prestigious event, it will be played outside South America – in the USA. This year, it is not only the ten South American countries that will be doing battle, as they will be joined by six CONCACAF sides. A quick glance at the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking makes it clear just how much quality will be on show, as a number of teams are currently on top of their game – such as Argentina (ranking leaders), Chile (third) and Colombia (fourth) ... not to mention Brazil in seventh, Uruguay in ninth, Ecuador in 12th, Mexico in 16th, Costa Rica in 25th and the USA in 29th place.



Two Copa triumphs Paraguay first lifted the cup in 1953 and repeated the feat in 1979 (pictured).



A happy Maracanã Brazil have won the *Copa* eight times, including on home soil in 1989 with the likes of Valdo (left) and Alemão in their ranks.



Dream come true Argentina’s Diego Simeone and his team-mates with the *Copa* (1993).

THE OLDEST INTERNATIONAL CONTINENTAL FOOTBALL COMPETITION

So far, there have been 44 editions of the South American championship – and certainly no shortage of stories to tell.

The *Copa América* has already been around for 100 years. Until 1967, the world's oldest international continental football competition was known as the *Campeonato Sudamericano* but, just like many so other things in life, the tournament was beset with teething problems. In 1916, for example, the final deciding game between Argentina and Uruguay was abandoned after just a few minutes due to a riot among the 17,000 fans in the stadium. The match was eventually completed the next day, but at another stadium outside Buenos Aires.

That did not bode well for the home team, who had gone into the tournament with high hopes before it all started going wrong. In their second game, Argentina were held to a 1-1 draw by Brazil, which may well be regarded as an acceptable result these days, but back then, the *Seleção* were still a national team in their infancy with the grand total of three international matches under their belt. With the disappointment of that 1-1 draw still fresh in their memory, the Argentinians took to the field for their rescheduled encounter with Uruguay, and a goalless stalemate was enough for their rivals to claim the title. It was almost as if the rather agitated Argentinian fans had had an inkling 24 hours earlier...

FIRST DROVES OF FANS – 1929

The inaugural tournament in 1916 was attended by a total of 85,000 fans (six matches). Although the tournament was initially played with only three, four or five national teams, success was not long in coming. In 1929, one year before the first FIFA World Cup™, 60,000 fans flocked to the stadium in Buenos Aires to see Argentina defeat their great rivals Uruguay 2-0. The crowd figures were encouraging, especially as the tournament was taking place in difficult times – just a few years earlier the third *Campeonato Sudamericano* had been cancelled due to a flu



Copa América 1999
Martín "El Loco" Palermo after missing his second penalty against Colombia.

THE WINNERS OF THE PREVIOUS 44 TOURNAMENTS:

Uruguay (15), Argentina (14), Brazil (8), Paraguay (2), Peru (2), Chile (1), Bolivia (1), Colombia (1).

outbreak. And then there was the 1919 tournament, which was overshadowed by the death of Uruguayan goalkeeper Roberto Chery, who tragically passed away just a few days after suffering a serious injury against Chile.

This prestigious tournament has of course created some more light-hearted stories down the years. Take that of Chile, for example. After yet another poor showing in 1924, the Chileans decided that they no longer wished to take part in the tournament in the future. They stayed true to their word in 1925, but their boycott only held firm for another year. And then there was a famous incident in the 1937 tournament, which still sets tongues wagging even today. After receiving his marching orders against Peru, Argentina's Antonio Sastre

trooped off the pitch but with the referees temporarily distracted, the *Gauchos* took the opportunity to slip their substitute, Héctor Blotto, onto the pitch in Sastre's place. Argentina went on to win the match 1-0...

PALERMO'S UNFORGETTABLE GAME

And what about the story of another Argentinian by the name of Martín Palermo? The fans called him "El Loco" ("The Madman") because he was crazy enough to shoot (and score) from even the most impossible of angles, but also because he once broke his leg while celebrating a goal. At the *Copa América* 1999, however, Palermo missed three penalties in one game. The fact that he has his very own entry in the *Guinness World Records* rather says it all...

Alan Schweingruber



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WANDA GROUP

FIFA PARTNER



Sights set on another title Superstar Luis Suárez, pictured here with some of his youngest fans, is hoping to fire Uruguay to yet more success.

The Uruguayans, however, appear to be ready to meet the challenge head-on as Óscar Tabárez's side are currently leading the way – along with the impressive Ecuador – in the South American race to qualify for Russia 2018. Uruguay teams have never been short of spirit or determination, but these days they can also call on some players of the very highest calibre, such as Cavani and Suárez. The latter was recently praised by Uruguay legend Enzo Francescoli, now the Sporting Director at River Plate, in an exclusive interview with FIFA.com: "Leaving aside how many goals he scores, these days he's a guy who goes out there and makes the difference, and he is the first one to put pressure on the opponents. He's the complete package."

A MAIDEN TITLE FOR "GENERATION MESSI"?

Small wonder, therefore, that the people of Salto are looking forward to the big event, even

"It would be a disgrace if this generation didn't win a title."

Argentina international Javier Mascherano

though they know just what their idols will be up against. "In Uruguay, you grow up knowing that Brazil and Argentina are your rivals," explains Francescoli. The Argentinians, however, have endured a stuttering start to their World Cup qualifying campaign, losing to Ecuador and being held to draws by both Paraguay and Brazil. The *Albiceleste* are not living up to expectations yet, although the recent return from injury of superstar Lionel Messi has seen them bounce back to winning ways. Now they have set their

sights on finally winning an elusive title. Messi, Ángel di María, Gonzalo Higuaín and Sergio Agüero are just a few of the big names in an impressive generation of Argentinians who have not yet reached their collective potential, losing the 2014 World Cup final to Germany before going on to suffer more final heartbreak at the *Copa América* a year later, this time at the hands of hosts Chile. Midfield general Javier Mascherano hopes that they will finally break their curse in the USA, insisting that "It would be a disgrace if this generation of players didn't win a title".

If Argentina are struggling, then spare a thought for Brazil, who are still suffering from the after-shock of their traumatic 7-1 defeat by Germany in the 2014 World Cup semi-final. In 2015, their *Copa América* adventure came to an abrupt end in the quarter-finals, with some people contending that the team is still paying

FIFA EXTENDS THE REACH OF ITS GLOBAL SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

As the world celebrated United Nations' International Day of Sport for Development and Peace on 6 April, FIFA took the opportunity to highlight the daily work of those hundreds of organisations across the globe that are supported by FIFA's Football For Hope initiative.

In 2016, FIFA will provide support to 139 organisations in 58 countries for a total amount of USD 4.3 million. The staff and volunteers who reach out through football to tens of thousands of young people every day are the best example of football's huge potential to contribute to social development.

"Football cannot change the world but it has the power to contribute to improving lives," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino. "As President of FIFA, I feel it is important that our institution, as the world governing body of football, supports, through its sustainability activities and in particular the Football for Hope initiative, organisations that are using football as a catalyst for positive social change."

This year, eight new organisations have joined the initiative, among them Canada Scores, an organisation that provides free after-school programmes for vulnerable children in Vancouver, and the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, a group which focuses on reducing the drop-out rate among Roma and other affected children living in extreme poverty in Romania.

"The Football for Hope programme impacts positively on the lives of 52 Roma and non-Roma children in one of the poorest and most marginalised areas of Bucharest, the Ferentari neighbourhood," said Raluca Negulescu, Executive Director of the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities. "We see football as a

gateway to traditional education for both girls and boys who are at high risk of dropping out of school. The programme empowers the children to discover their talent and to make the most of their potential. Football for Hope helped us create the first girls' football team in the area, an initiative that challenges negative prejudices about the potential and skills of Roma and non-Roma girls from poor communities."

"Through FIFA Football for Hope, we are able to give kids access to the beautiful game. To our kids, it is more than just a game, it is a hub for building lifelong friendships and a stronger community," said Kevin Yang, Executive Director of Canada Scores.

Education on HIV/AIDS, conflict resolution, gender equality, integration of people with intellectual disabilities into society, peace building, youth leadership and life skills are just some of the many social development objectives that are being pursued by this global network of community organisations.

All project proposals submitted to FIFA's Football for Hope initiative have to go through a rigorous selection process in which their track record, impact and long-term viability are reviewed. FIFA wants to ensure that it supports and works with community projects that are sustainable, accountable and truly of benefit to the communities they serve.

F04

the price for a lack of competitive games in the build-up to the World Cup, a tournament that they qualified for automatically as hosts. Coach Carlos Dunga is currently facing a barrage of criticism as the *Seleção* are languishing in sixth place in the qualifiers, way below expectations with only six points from nine World Cup qualifiers so far. Some form of success later this year would certainly do Brazil the power of good – whether it is at June's *Copa América Centenario* or at August's Olympic Football Tournament, a competition that Brazil are yet to win. Winning their first-ever Olympic gold medal – on home soil to boot – would certainly go a long way towards silencing some of Dunga's critics.

MEXICAN CONFIDENCE

The difference to Mexico could not be any more striking as, quite simply, everything is going to plan for *El Tri* in the World Cup qualifiers – four games, four wins, no goals against. They are brimming with confidence and have high hopes for the *Copa América Centenario* – especially as the many Mexican expats in the USA will make the team feel like they are playing at home. Their key players are all in form – Héctor Herrera, Giovanni dos Santos and Javier "Chicharito"

Mexico are brimming with confidence and have high hopes for the *Copa América Centenario*.

Hernández are impressive at club level and are also on the same wavelength when representing their country, as they recently proved once again during comfortable victories over Honduras (2-0) and Canada (3-0). The team is renowned for its style of play, which is a mixture of aggressive pressing from the front and constant movement to create goalscoring opportunities. The majority of Mexican players now ply their trade in Europe's major leagues, but back home, Mexican clubs are also dominating the club football scene in North and Central America. This year's CONCACAF Champions League final is again an all-Mexican affair, with Tigres UANL going up against defending champions Club América.

At the moment, Jürgen Klinsmann can only dream of such consistency as you never quite know which USA side will turn up on any given day – the euphoria of victories over the Netherlands and Germany has given way to despair after defeats by the likes of Jamaica and Panama. The German coach is another who has been in the firing line recently, and his strategy and the identity of his team have been questioned in the media. All eyes will therefore be on the US team and its coach at the *Copa América* – the first major tournament on home soil since the 1994 World Cup – including those of the Uruguayan fans watching from afar in Salto where, once the hum of the mowers has died down at the end of another day in the fields, football fever will take hold once more. That said, they don't rate the US hosts' chances all that highly as they have every confidence in their home-grown heroes and believe that "Uruguay will go all the way".



Proud champions Gary Medel (centre) and Eduardo Vargas (right) were part of the Chile squad that won the *Copa América* 2015 in front of their own fans.

"Throughout my journey to Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia and Colombia (28 March – 1 April), I have seen a genuine commitment by the member associations to move forward after a very difficult period and serve football with honesty in light of the ongoing reforms. The unique passion of South American fans that I have sensed over the past few days should serve as an obligation to give our best for football."

Gianni Infantino, FIFA President



Even robots love football

Berlin United, the "FUMANoids" team from the Free University of Berlin (represented by "Grace", left), come up against the team from the University of Hamburg at the RoboCup Iran Open 2016 in Tehran (6 April 2016).



RUSSIA

SAINT PETERSBURG

SAINT PETERSBURG STADIUM
 PROJECT: NEW BUILD
 CAPACITY: APPROX. 68,000
 COMPLETION (PLANNED): MAY 2016

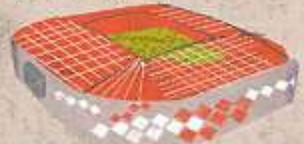
NIZHNY NOVGOROD STADIUM
 PROJECT: NEW BUILD
 CAPACITY: APPROX. 43,300
 COMPLETION (PLANNED): DECEMBER 2017



NIZHNY NOVGOROD



MOSCOW



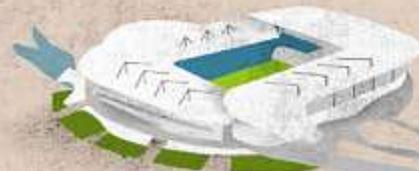
SPARTAK STADIUM
 PROJECT: NEW BUILD
 CAPACITY: 43,200
 OPENED: JULY 2014

LUZHNIKI STADIUM
 PROJECT: RECONSTRUCTION
 CAPACITY: APPROX. 81,000
 COMPLETION (PLANNED): FEBRUARY 2017

KALININGRAD

KALININGRAD STADIUM
 PROJECT: NEW BUILD
 CAPACITY: APPROX. 35,000
 COMPLETION (PLANNED): DECEMBER 2017

ROSTOV ARENA
 PROJECT: NEW BUILD
 CAPACITY: APPROX. 45,000
 COMPLETION (PLANNED): DECEMBER 2017



ROSTOV-ON-DON

FISHT STADIUM
 PROJECT: CONVERSION
 CAPACITY: 47,700
 OPENED: JANUARY 2014



SOCHI



SPRING IS IN THE AIR IN RUSSIA



EKATERINBURG ARENA
PROJECT: RECONSTRUCTION
CAPACITY: APPROX. 39,000
COMPLETION: DECEMBER 2017

EKATERINBURG



KAZAN



KAZAN ARENA
PROJECT: NEW STADIUM
CAPACITY: 44,779
BUILT: JUNE 2013



MORDOVIA ARENA
PROJECT: NEW BUILD
CAPACITY: APPROX. 44,500
COMPLETION (PLANNED): DECEMBER 2017



SAMARA ARENA
PROJECT: NEW BUILD
CAPACITY: APPROX. 44,800
COMPLETION (PLANNED): DECEMBER 2017



VOLGOGRAD

VOLGOGRAD ARENA
PROJECT: NEW BUILD
CAPACITY: APPROX. 44,800
COMPLETION (PLANNED): DECEMBER 2017



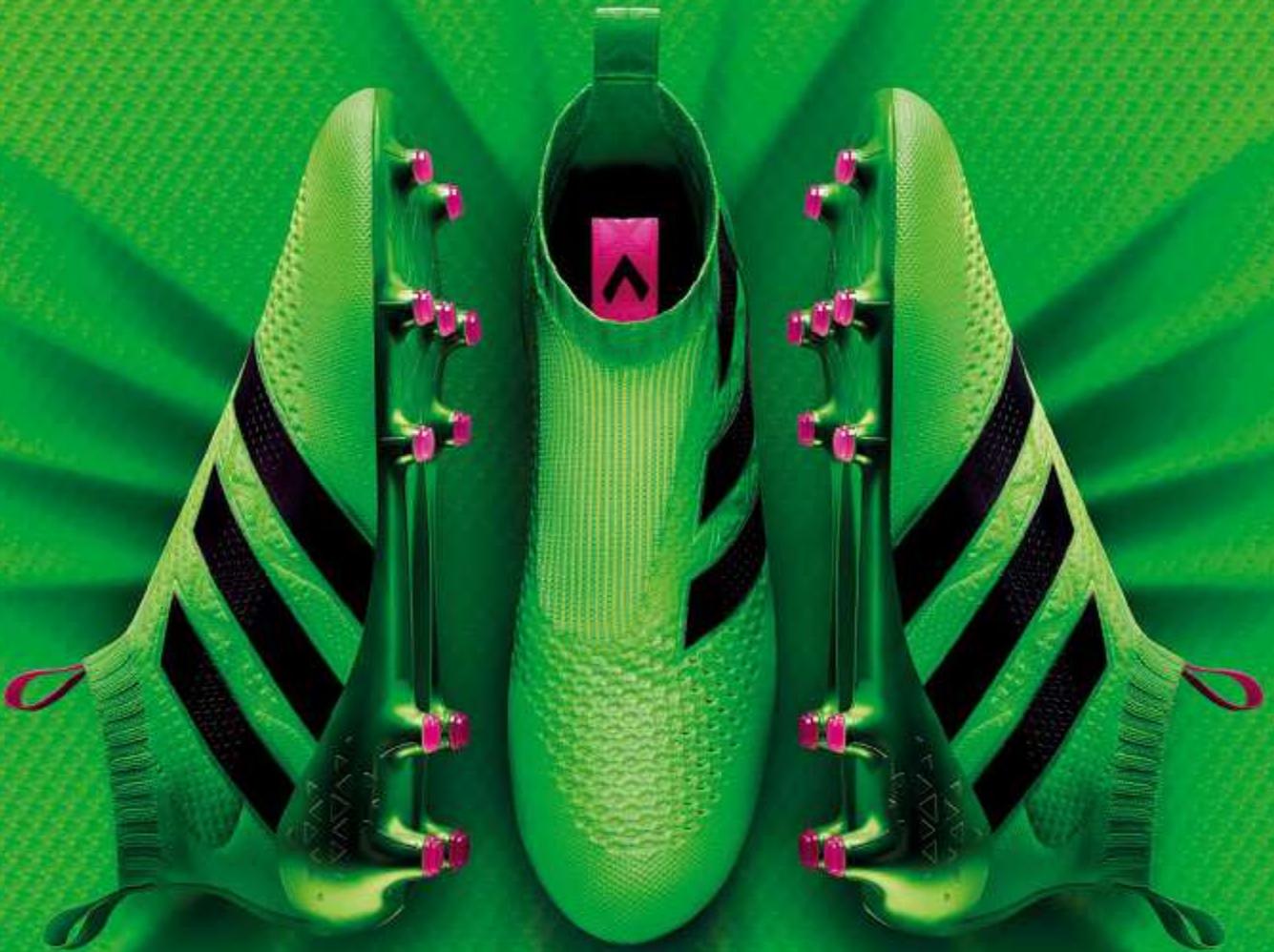
Illustration: Martin Haake

Two more years – just two more years! This graphic gives us a taste of things to come in Russia, where stadium construction work is well on track ahead of the 2018 World Cup.

By Alan Schweingruber



adidas



**BOSS
EVERYONE**



ACE 16+ PURECONTROL

#BETHEDIFFERENCE

There is always something special about spring in Russia, signalling as it does the end of the harsh winter. The stadium construction sites are bathed in sunshine as machines beaver noisily away, and many people have already forgotten that just a few days previously, Moscow experienced its biggest snowfall for 50 years. It was as though winter, which had proved pretty mild up to the turn of the year, finally decided to make its presence felt by shouting: look, I'm still here! The blizzard certainly brought the Russian capital to a standstill at the end of March, with thousands of cars buried under the white stuff and the authorities advising commuters to use the metro and other forms of public transport so that the snowploughs could do their job without hindrance. Still, Moscow got off lightly compared to cities further south in the country like Kursk, Voronezh and Volgograd, where once-in-a-life-time storms wreaked havoc.

THE MAGIC OF THE WORLD CUP

That all seems like aeons ago now, and in Moscow, where temperatures are nudging 20 degrees, the birds have been twittering for some time – including in the Olympic Park on the banks of the River Moscow, which snakes its way through Europe's second-largest city (after Istanbul). This large, leafy area is located right by the Luzhniki Stadium, where reconstruction of the stands is in full swing. With a capacity of 80,000, the arena will be the biggest of the 2018 World Cup when completed. And anyone who catches a glimpse of the stadium silhouette from the park is sure to feel a thrill of anticipation for the 21st World Cup, which will kick off here in Moscow in just over 25 months' time – on 14 June 2018, to be precise. The Luzhniki Stadium will also host a semi-final and the final, but who will contest them? Brazil, Germany, Argentina, Spain? Maybe even Russia?

Who hasn't dreamt of travelling into the future in a time machine at least once in their lives, like actor Michael J. Fox? In this case, a period of just 25 months would suffice. We will have to wait – but the thrill of increasing anticipation makes the waiting worth it. The seats will already be in place in the Luzhniki Stadium by the autumn, coloured red and gold, as decided by the people of Moscow in an internet poll. And you only need to look elsewhere in Russia,

such as Samara, which is situated 850km east of Moscow, to realise that everything is proceeding according to plan as far as the new builds and renovations are concerned. Between them, the 12 stadiums cover a huge area in what is the biggest country in the world by land mass: the distance between Sochi in the south and Saint Petersburg in the north is just short of 2,000km.

UNIQUE STADIUM DOME

In the Samara Arena, work recently began on assembling the dome – a unique architectural feature that is one of the most challenging operations in the stadium's construction, with

The seats will already be in place in the Luzhniki Stadium by the autumn, coloured red and gold.

each of its 32 panels weighing 500 tonnes. The rest of the roof will then be gradually installed, eventually reaching a height of 60 metres. Come to think of it, Michael J. Fox's time machine would come in handy there...

"IT WILL BE GREAT."

In mid-April, FIFA President Gianni Infantino visited Russia, where he met Russian President Vladimir Putin in the run-up to the 2014 World Cup and the Confederations Cup in 2013. "What I have seen makes me very confident that we will organise the greatest event in football as the best ever in history," said Infantino after the meeting. "In 2017 and 2018, the world will look at Russia and together as a team, we will make sure that all will be great."

F04



Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow The biggest World Cup arena in Russia will hold more than 80,000 people.



Today's hopefuls
competing to become
tomorrow's stars.

VISA



BLUE STARS
FIFA YOUTH CUP

worldwide partner

everywhere you want to be

FIFA 1904 ASKED ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

"WHO WILL WIN THE COPA AMÉRICA CENTENARIO, AND WHY?"



"CHILE WILL WIN THE TOURNAMENT. THEY HAVE A BALANCED TEAM AND THEIR ADAPTABLE STYLE OF PLAY CAN MATCH ANY TEAM."

Silas Nchabeleng (South Africa) on Twitter.

"OF COURSE ARGENTINA WILL WIN. WE HAVE HIGUAÍN, WHO NEVER MISSES, DI MARÍA, WHO NEVER GETS INJURED AND MARTINO, A BORN-WINNER."

Fran MG (Argentina) on Twitter.

"URUGUAY, BY VIRTUE OF BEING THE "COMEBACK" TEAM. THEY ALWAYS COME FROM BEHIND TO CROWN THEIR EFFORTS AND DRIVE TO BE THE BEST."

Mauricio Jordan (New York, USA) on Twitter.

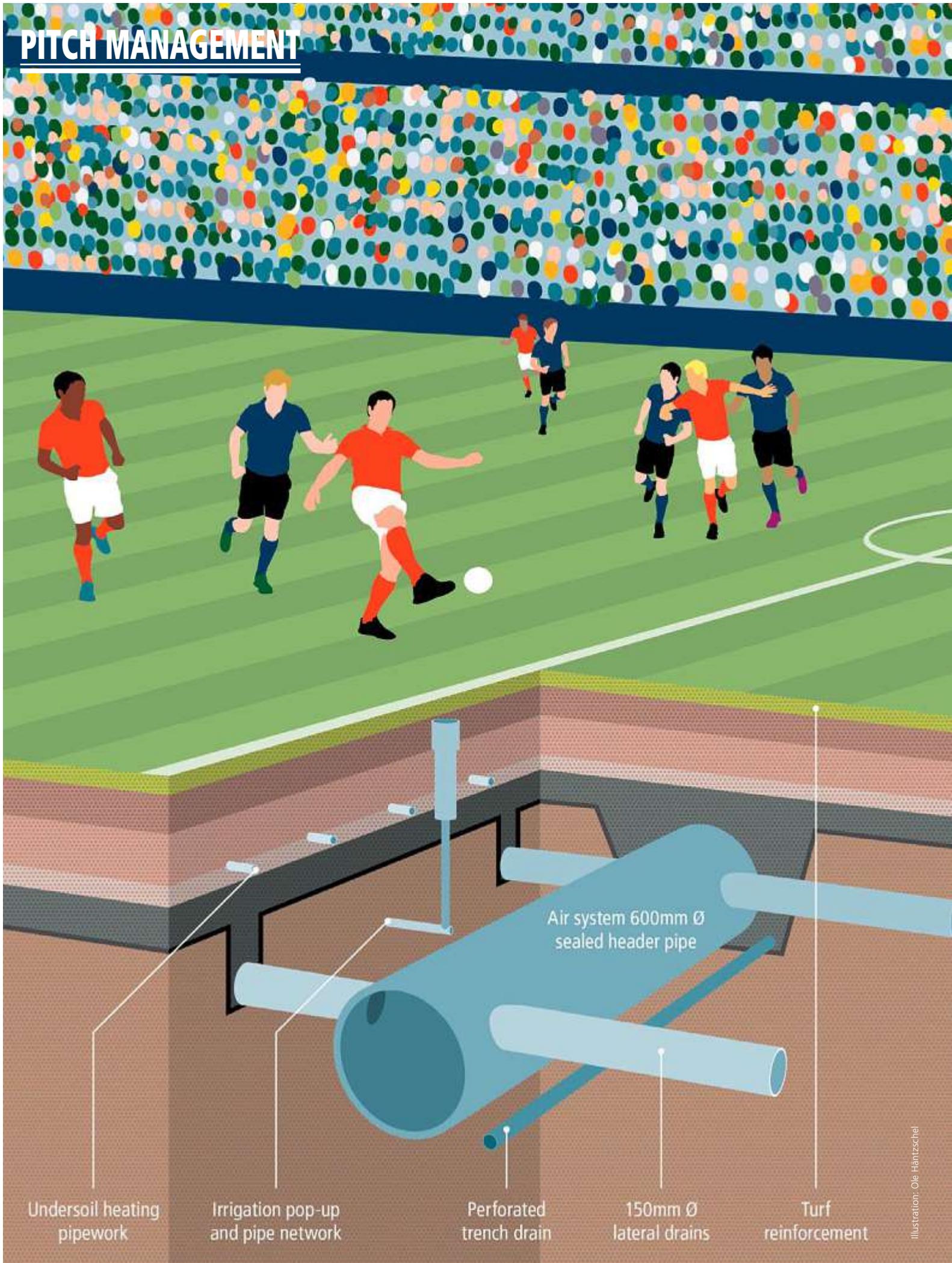
"ECUADOR, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN WAITING 100 YEARS FOR THIS! RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE ONE OF THE BEST NATIONAL TEAMS IN THE AMERICAS."

Eduardo Zambrano (Spain) on Twitter.

"COSTA RICA. BECAUSE THE GREATEST GENERATION AND ERA OF COSTA RICAN FOOTBALL NEEDS TO MAKE THE STEP UP AT A BIG TOURNAMENT."

Pablo Campbell H. (Costa Rica) on Twitter.

PITCH MANAGEMENT



Air system 600mm Ø sealed header pipe

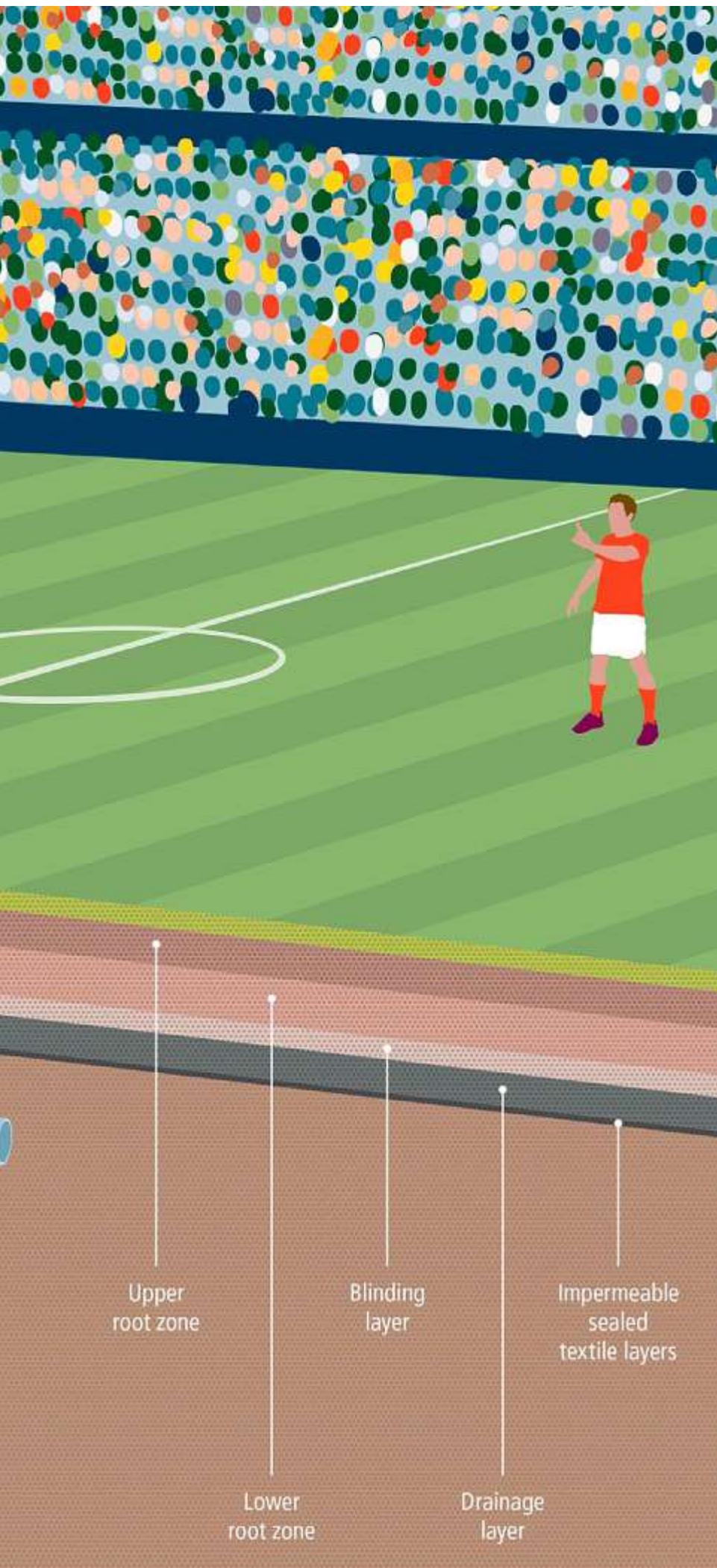
Undersoil heating pipework

Irrigation pop-up and pipe network

Perforated trench drain

150mm Ø lateral drains

Turf reinforcement



Typical stadium air system profile
How it looks below the hallowed World Cup turf.

THE HALLOWED TURF

The focus of attention in a World Cup is, of course, the players. However, in order for the players to be able to perform at their best, the pitch also needs to be in perfect condition. *FIFA 1904* asked: how does one create the perfect World Cup turf?

By Annette Braun

PITCH MANAGEMENT

People kiss it, sell chunks of it as souvenirs, and some even eat it: the hallowed turf, witness to dreams come true or shattered hopes. While some players express their joy after a good match by pressing their lips to the ground, and the turf from Berlin's Olympic Stadium was even offered on sale after the 2006 World Cup for those of a nostalgic bent, tennis star Novak Djokovic actually shoved a clump of the legendary Wimbledon lawn into his mouth following his first victory there in 2011. It tasted great, said the Serbian world number one with a wink afterwards, referring to the victory and the grass – there couldn't be one without the other.

When the opening match of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ kicks off at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium on 14 June, football fans can look forward to thrilling matches, scintillating passes and dazzling moves by the world's best players. These magic moments will be created by the performance of the players, who have to make sure their physical strength, mental fitness and tactical awareness are on song – but the state of the pitch is also an important factor. The training grounds and match pitches for a World Cup have to consistently provide the perfect conditions for the stars to show off their skills over the full four weeks of the competition.

This is no small undertaking for FIFA and the Local Organising Committee, as each World Cup host country has different climatic and geological factors that require very different approaches. In conjunction with the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) in Bingley (UK), an individual plan is therefore developed for every World Cup stadium and each training ground in order to guarantee continuity and consistent quality of the playing surfaces.

The training grounds and match pitches for a World Cup have to consistently provide the perfect conditions for the stars to show off their skills.

CLIMATIC CHALLENGES

In Russia, the biggest challenge is posed by the inclement weather. "The long cold winters limit the time during which we can push on with pitch development," explains Andy Cole, director of the STRI's advisory service, adding: "But it does help to focus the mind to make sure we achieve our objectives for pitch installation and ongoing management." It is important to make the most of the seven months from April/May to October/November to carry out the ground work necessary for perfect pitch construction. This includes: preparation of the sub-base, installation of the sub-surface drainage and vacuum drainage systems, placement of the layer of gravel,

installation of under-soil heating and the automatic irrigation system, placement of the lower sand base and installation of the upper sandy root zone.

During the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, the type of grass used for the pitches was chosen for its ability to withstand high temperatures and humidity, whereas in Russia, grass types that are suited to the cooler climate are required. The different geographical position of Russia means the procedures will also differ from those used in Brazil, and even within Russia there will be differences between the various Host Cities. The biggest differences between the locations in the north and south or in the east and west of the country are how early in the year spring and the warmer weather announces itself, and when the first signs of winter appear and the temperatures drop. "The execution of the work is basically the same, but the timing of it can vary by several weeks," says Cole.

HIGHEST QUALITY STANDARDS

The FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 and the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ will use 82 pitches in total: 12 stadiums, 36 training sites in the Host Cities, 32 team base camps and two referee training camps. But regardless of whether it is for training or matches, the quality of the turf has to meet the same high standards. "The pitches at the training centres are just as important as those on which the matches will be played, and must be of the same quality so that the players can perform at their best and are not at risk of injury," explains Colin Smith, FIFA's Director of Competitions.

Certain considerations have to be made in order to achieve this desired uniform quality. The usual design of stadiums means that pitches are often in the shade and air circulation is hampered. In order to overcome these problems, artificial lighting and air circulation systems are used.

WORLD CUP STADIUMS IN CONSTANT USE

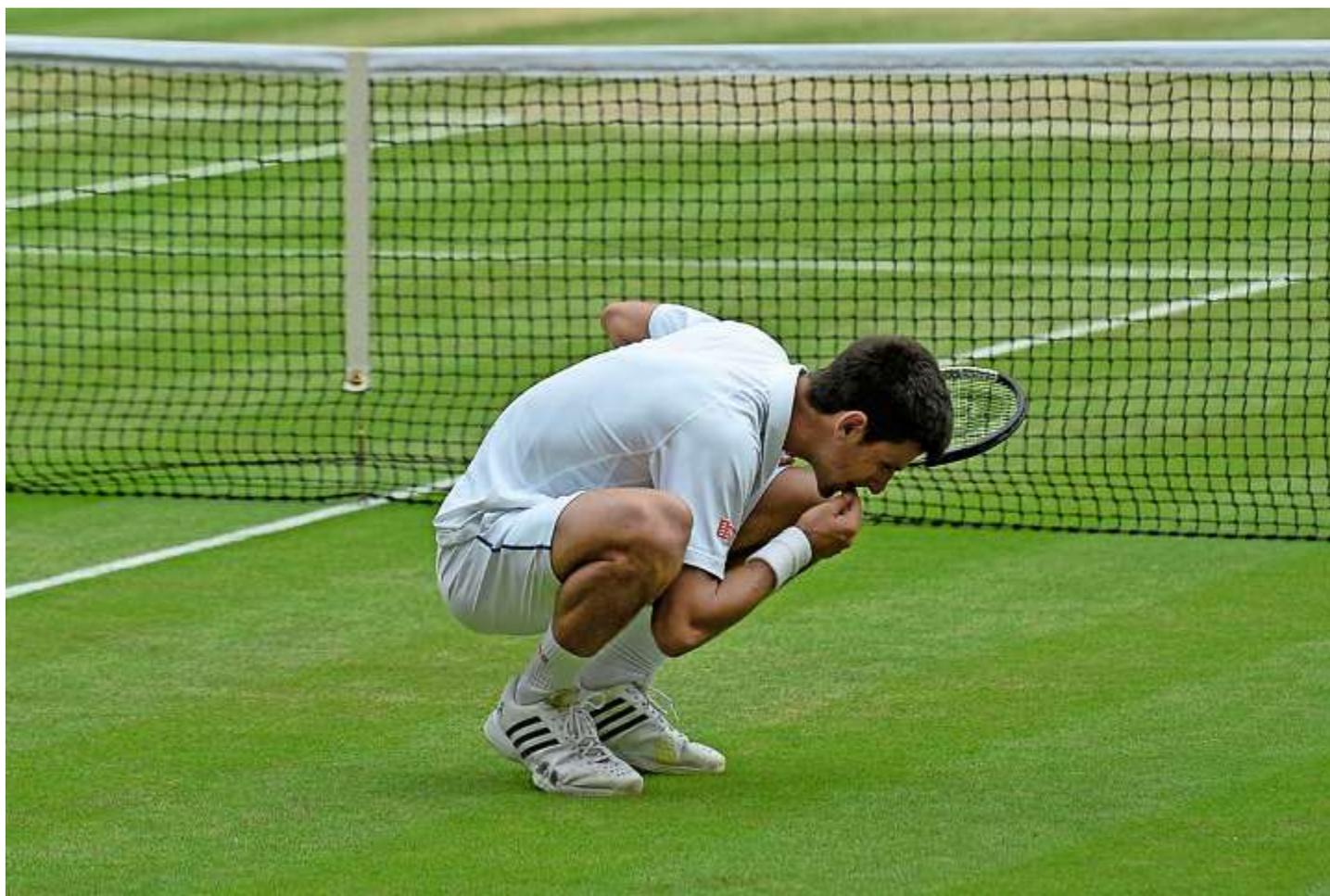
World Cup pitches experience very heavy use during the tournament. A match is always preceded by two training sessions and the pre-match warm-up, and this is repeated every three or four days. Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, the venue for the opening match on 14 June 2018, will also host the opening ceremony of the competition. Therefore, says Andy Cole: "The pitches need to be well-constructed, support good drainage and irrigation for water management and have a reinforcement system to provide durability during the tournament to maintain consistency."

For the organisers, preparation is key. In October 2015, employees of the STRI visited all the venues in Russia to get a complete picture of the situation. In Moscow in January, the first pitch management seminar was held for representatives of FIFA and the LOC, local authorities, pitch owners and managers, pitch technicians and contractors. As almost all World Cup stadiums are either being completely renovated or are new builds, there is a unique

opportunity to create top-quality pitches that are properly adapted to the respective temperature, climate, precipitation, ground water, earth, sunlight and shade conditions.

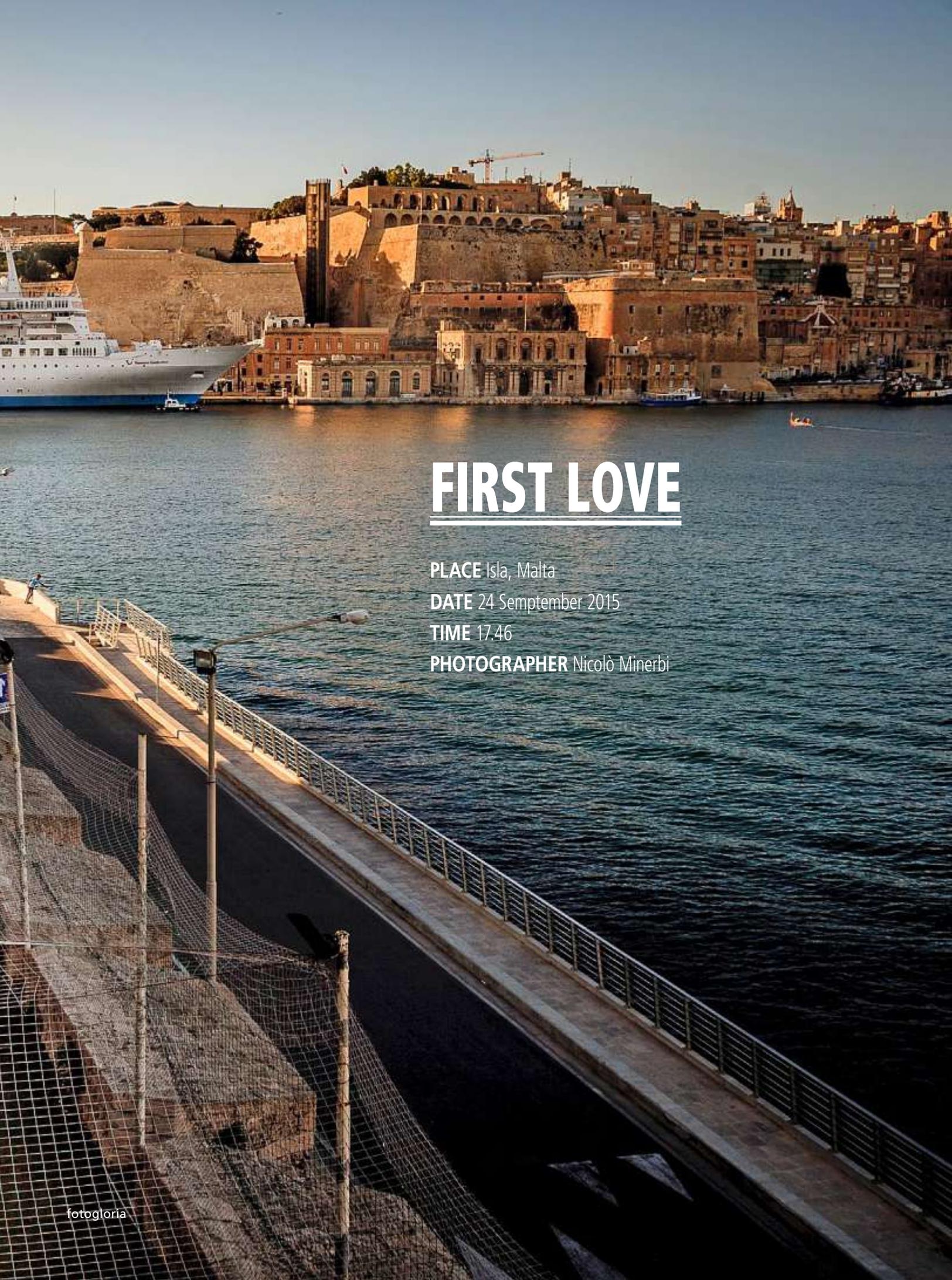
Once the high-quality turf is in place, it needs to be suitably cared for so that it can continue to meet international standards. In the euphoria of the moment, maybe the champions will once again kiss the ground and draw attention to the fine turf. But attention is not always wanted, as every pitch expert knows: "If the pitch is not mentioned during a match, you have done your job correctly."

The FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 and the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ will use 82 pitches in total: 12 stadiums, 36 training sites in the Host Cities, 32 team base camps and two referee training camps.



Taste of success Novak Djokovic tastes the legendary Wimbledon lawn after his 2015 victory, just as he had done in 2011.





FIRST LOVE

PLACE Isla, Malta

DATE 24 September 2015

TIME 17.46

PHOTOGRAPHER Nicolò Minerbi

REFEREEING



The innovator
English referee Ken Aston
(shown here in 1970)
"invented" the system of
red and yellow cards.

KEY REFEREES' SEMINAR IN DOHA

When men and women work together as a team, they improve their interpretative abilities, their positional play and their decision-making skills as referees.

By Bruno Sassi and Giovanni Marti, Doha

The fact that referees make mistakes is unavoidable – after all, they're only human. In a split second, they have to make decisions involving elite athletes that often involve a distance of a few centimetres. Obviously, errors are and will continue to be a fact of life, which is something that players, referees and even top referee instructors know only too well.

"Myself, I always enjoyed this pressure of knowing that the mistake is always there, behind the door, waiting for you," says Massimo Busacca, Head of the FIFA Refereeing Department, who has officiated at two FIFA World Cup™ final competitions. "Referees need the pressure. It's what makes us improve. However, you must prepare yourself as much as you can. Control everything there is to be controlled. Not to avoid the pressure, but to not be afraid of it, so that when you're on the pitch it feels like you're underwater for 90 minutes: all you see and hear is your concentration so that you make the appropriate decision."

COMPREHENSIBLE REASONING

When Busacca talks about preparation, he is referring to the routine repetition of concepts and actions so that they become second nature when an instant decision is needed. Subjective impressions and instinctive decisions come into as little as possible. Behind every top referee's decision – whether correct or incorrect – should lie an objectively comprehensible reason, from awarding a penalty to the referee's position on the pitch. And this reason will have been discussed a thousand times before. Was there a clear goalscoring opportunity? Where exactly was there bodily contact when the foul occurred? Where was the ball when the foul was committed, and how did the foul change the situation at that time? Every well-trained referee's decision

should represent a logical and immediate solution to an equation with a number of variables. This objective cannot be achieved without training – and highly intensive training, at that.

Nothing is left to chance. Every aspect that a referee needs to take into account is covered and applied. For example, Busacca sets great store by the technical aspects of a match, which is why Jean-Paul Brigger, Head of FIFA's Technical Study Group, considers that these referees' seminars are vital. "It is important for the referees to have an overview of how a team behaves technically and tactically. They have to know how fast certain moves can be. This way, the referees can better understand situations in a match and can



Common goals A training group of the 48 selected referees from the AFC, CAF and the OFC.

REFEREEING



Was it a penalty? Male and female referees take part in a joint training exercise in Doha. A video drone records the match situations. The recordings are instantly analysed.

anticipate certain things, which are enormously important for their decisions,” says Brigger.

HISTORIC SEMINAR IN DOHA

These issues apply equally to women’s football as they do to the men’s game, so it does not make sense to train male and female referees separately. FIFA has therefore taken the historic decision to prepare potential referees of both genders together for the next two World Cups, i.e. the 2018 men’s edition in Russia and the women’s tournament in France the following year.

In mid-April, the first seminar for potential referees in Russia and France was held in Doha, Qatar. Over five days, the 48 selected FIFA referees from the AFC, CAF and the OFC analysed match scenes, took medical and sporting tests, simulated match situations on the pitch and then thoroughly

studied the ensuing video footage. Potential World Cup referees from CONCACAF and CONMEBOL will take part in a similar seminar in Miami, as will those from UEFA.

“It’s a really strong message and an excellent initiative,” says Tatjana Haenni, Head of the FIFA Women’s Football Department. “The FIFA Women’s World Cup in Canada showed how much women’s football has come on and how fast it has become. Of course, referees have to adapt to that. In the men’s game, refereeing – partly for historical reasons – has progressed much further and is at a much higher level, which is why female officials and referees can only benefit from projects like this.”

SAME CRITERIA FOR BOTH GENDERS

The Doha seminar demonstrated that when men and women work together as a team, they improve their interpretative

abilities, their positional play and their decision-making qualities. "I'm delighted at how things went, as perhaps women referees have something that we men don't, so this exchange of views and experience was a great idea," said Qatari referee Abdulrahman Al Jassim.

For Massimo Busacca, the initiative is also another step towards something that's been his flagship objective since taking the helm of FIFA's refereeing department in 2011: uniformity. "If we train, watch situations and analyse them together, men and women, we'll give the same answers to each problem and reach the uniformity and consistency that we need in both competitions. This is very important: we don't want to see one philosophy on the men's side and a different one on the women's."

However, the joint training is not just an end in itself but also another step in the ongoing development of women's football. "It's a step in the right direction, but it's not enough. Women referees need more experience: some of them only have very limited opportunities to be in charge of games at a high level in their region, and all of a sudden, they're at a Women's World Cup in front of 50,000 spectators.

They need a lot more top-class tournaments under their belt. They must be able to officiate in the elite men's leagues in their countries," says Haenni.

"This is just a step – a very large step, I should say – in a very long process," said Australian referee Kate Jacewicz following a thorough video analysis session in which her group was guided by one of FIFA's female referee instructors. "But the most important thing is that the step has been taken. The door has been opened to allow men and women the opportunity to go wherever they want to go." Starting, of course, with Russia and France.

The Doha seminar demonstrated that when men and women work together as a team, they improve their interpretative abilities, their positional play and their decision-making qualities.



The voice of experience Massimo Busacca (right), Head of the FIFA Refereeing Department, explains the theoretical side of things to potential World Cup referees.

1930 ATLANTIC OCEAN

The French team came up with a novel way of keeping fit during their lengthy trip aboard the Conte Verde to the 1930 World Cup in Uruguay.



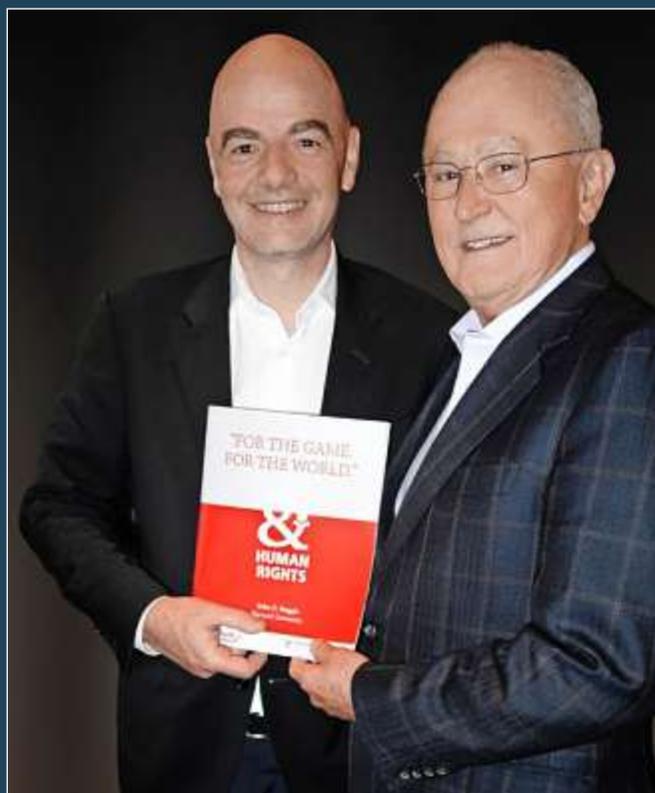
**2014
PRAIA DO FORTE, BRAZIL**

Jumping is still a basic element of football training. Pictured here is Croatia's Nikica Jelavić, just days before the *Vatreni's* opening World Cup match against the Brazilian hosts (1-3).



"FIFA HAS NO RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS!"

Why is FIFA repeatedly accused of ignoring human rights, such as by turning a blind eye to inhumane conditions on stadium construction sites in Qatar or abusing the freedom of local people wherever its tournaments are staged in the world?



Independent report on human rights
FIFA President Gianni Infantino with Professor John Ruggie.

FIFA ANSWERS:

We take the rights of every individual very seriously, and have no wish to cause people harm or curtail their rights by our actions. Through our new reforms, this commitment to human rights has been enshrined in our statutes, and we are currently striving to ensure that it is an integral part of everything we do. Organising events of the magnitude of the FIFA World Cup inevitably involves human rights risks, which we endeavour to minimise by working closely with the host country's authorities. Our commitment to human rights is a key plank of the reforms recently approved by the Extraordinary FIFA Congress and will be an integral part of the bidding process for the 2026 World Cup. We have therefore asked human rights expert and Harvard Kennedy School Professor John Ruggie to provide recommendations for embedding respect for human rights in all of our policies and practices.

AN OVERSIGHT BODY FOR WORKERS' WELFARE

The preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup™ and sustainable workers' welfare were at the top of the agenda for FIFA President Gianni Infantino during his recent two-day meetings with the Qatari leadership. After concluding his visit to Qatar on 22 April 2016, the FIFA President announced the creation of an oversight body with independent members

to monitor the systems in place to ensure decent working conditions at FIFA World Cup stadiums. With this initiative, FIFA will step up its efforts to oversee the set-up by the Supreme Committee. The composition of this new body, which will be led by FIFA, will include relevant sectors of civil society and other FIFA stakeholders to oversee all FIFA

competitions. The FIFA President was very pleased with the positive reaction and the support offered by the Qatari authorities for this initiative.



EVERYONE FOR FOOTBALL

As soon as we have a ball at our feet, we're in the game. We become overwhelmed by an emotion like no other that only football can evoke. We are football.

I am determined to bring football back to the heart of FIFA. To do this, we must now implement the reforms that were adopted at the Extraordinary Congress in Zurich in late February with all our strength.

Good governance and transparency are among the absolute priorities of FIFA. In this way, we will show zero tolerance for any form of misconduct. Personally, I will not rest until every last penny of misappropriated FIFA money has been paid back. We also need greater participation. All 209 FIFA member associations and the various stakeholder groups must be more prominent in discussions and decision-making processes. Above all, I invite the players to get involved – from the stars and legends at the top of the professional game to all the amateurs around the world.

We will achieve greater participation by offering every individual the space in which to develop. We need more women in leadership positions in football and must continue to develop and strengthen the women's game. For this, I believe that we need a women's football division at FIFA.

Football development must be invigorated worldwide by being tailored to the real needs in each and every local context. Here too, we must fundamentally do even more. During my travels and visits in recent weeks, I have been able to listen and understand what is most urgently needed and where: we need tailor-made solutions in our development programmes. In mid-March, the FIFA Executive Committee approved the revised budget for the 2015-2018 financial cycle and thereby raised the investment in football development from USD 900 million to USD 1,417 million, representing a boost of USD 517 million.

I am confident that the revised budget will be approved at the 66th FIFA Congress in Mexico City on 13 May 2016.

I am delighted that this Congress will offer the chance to meet with the member associations and make progress in our important discussions. And I will also be delighted to report on my activities in recent weeks as FIFA President, on the further implementation of the reforms and on greater participation and more substantial football development.

Each and every one of the 209 FIFA member associations has the responsibility to ensure that the whole world can be proud of FIFA. And the world will be proud of us. We are all football.

Best wishes, Gianni Infantino

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Gianni Infantino'. The signature is stylized and fluid, written in a cursive-like style.



Rüdiger Böhm The German lost both legs in 1997, but remains as positive as ever.

GIVING UP IS NOT AN OPTION

Rüdiger Böhm was fighting for his life after a road accident at the age of 19. Today, he is a motivator, author and football coach, having obtained the highest coaching certificate.

By Alan Schweingruber

Rüdiger Böhm sits in his chair on the podium with a smile on his face. It is just gone 19.00, and the spring sun is starting to go down outside, somewhat earlier than is usual for the time of year. It looks like a storm is brewing on the horizon, but inside the museum – in the banquet hall on the first floor to be precise – a pleasant aroma of fresh canapés wafts through the air. The guests wait expectantly. They have come to hear a discussion on “challenges, barriers and passion” between Böhm and Stefan Jost, the Managing Director of the FIFA World Football Museum.

“Regretting lost opportunities is a waste of time. Change brings movement into your life, it pushes back your boundaries.”

Rüdiger Böhm

The most attractive feature in the room hangs over their heads, the 20 poster designs for each of the World Cups to date: here a moustachioed player celebrating a goal, there a bird’s-eye view of the Roman Colosseum. “You know,” says Böhm, “in life, you must always be prepared to change. Regretting lost opportunities is a waste of time. Change brings movement into your life, it pushes back your boundaries.”

THE DAY THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

As a small boy, Böhm was always having to stand up to those who were bigger than him – on the street, at school, on the playing field. But his story is not about that: in 1997, he lost both of his legs in a road accident. Crazy about sport, he was training for a triathlon that April morning on his bike when he was hit by a lorry. The German was fighting for his life and lay for a long time in a coma. Eventually, he began a course of physiotherapy and received two artificial legs. Today, Böhm can walk again, and that is his real story – or at least part of it, because he wasn’t satisfied with simply being able to stand again. “I survived, so I knew that I still had a mission in life.”

Actually, Böhm had two missions: the 46-year-old has since become a successful mental coach and

speaker. He has also just published a book entitled “No Legs, No Limits!”, but referring to “missions” in the plural sounds a bit too energetic and militaristic. Böhm probably meant that he wanted to pursue the path that he has forged for himself, artificial legs or not.

U-21 COACH

So it was that one year after the accident, Böhm took up sport again. “Everyone assumed that I wanted nothing more to do with sport, but why should I give it all up?” he says. He began to work as a sports therapist and coached young footballers, and just a few years later, he was in charge of the youth academy at Karlsruhe, having already obtained his “A” licence from the German Football Association (DFB). But he didn’t stop there: he wanted to push back the boundaries even further, and eventually achieved something that no one had done before by becoming the first football coach without the use of his own legs to pass the UEFA Pro Licence in 2006. Since then, he has worked for three years as the U-21 coach of FC Thun in Switzerland.

On the podium, Böhm mentions the day his life changed once again as though he were talking about going on a boat trip. Grinning, he



Museum talk
Rüdiger Böhm talks to Stefan Jost (centre) about his experiences of challenges, passion and barriers.

describes the accident in 1997 as an “encounter with a goods vehicle”, and the audience respond in kind. Above them, a poster on the ceiling perfectly depicts the notion of “no boundaries”: it shows a golden football in space.

STREET FOOTBALL ART

To mark International Museum Day on 22 May 2016, the FIFA World Football Museum is organising a free, one-day special exhibition on StreetFootballArt. The unique event (09.00 to 18.00) will contain live performances from various local artists as well as a photography exhibition – which you can be part of!

BUILDING FOR SUCCESS

In 2011, the German Football Association (DFB) set up a department for women's and girls' football, which has been headed by Heike Ullrich since March 2016. Ullrich spoke to *FIFA 1904* about the benefits of the new structure, the development process in Germany and the commercial opportunities offered by women's football worldwide.

By Annette Braun

When Silvia Neid, coach of the Germany women's national football team, hands over the reins to Steffi Jones after the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro – having held the post for the past 20 years, including an initial stint as assistant coach – she will be able to look back on a glittering career that includes winning two World Cups, five European Championships and three Olympic bronze medals (so far). Clear evidence of a highly successful tenure for the Walldürn, Germany-born 51-year-old, who is aiming to go out on a high in Rio, and it also shows that women's football in Germany has been at the highest level for some time now.

“To start with, you always need investment.”

Heike Ullrich, director for women's and girls' football

The success of the German women is down to a long-term strategy of the DFB, which culminated in the establishment of a department for women's and girls' football in 2011, headed by Heike Ullrich since March this year. “Defining clear responsibilities has been a big help,” she says of the benefits that have resulted from setting up the department and the structural changes at the DFB. She sees women's football as having an extensive network: “Match organisation, national team management, marketing, media, finance – everything is interconnected. In areas where there is strong growth, such as

in women's football, it makes sense to create a dedicated organisational structure within the overall structure,” says Ullrich, adding: “That way, things don't get forgotten or deprioritised.”

With such an impressive CV, it is clear that she knows what she is talking about. Having joined the DFB in 1996, she has been part of and significantly shaped the development process right from the start. “Twenty years ago, women's football management in Germany was virtually a one-woman show. That was when I decided to try to build up the league's operations and its structures at the same time,” says the 46-year-old. The focus was therefore not only on developing the game but also on integrating it into the existing system. “That was an important strategic point,” stresses Ullrich, “as it resulted in women sitting on boards and the creation of independent committees specifically for women's and girls' football.”

The wisdom of this ongoing development was borne out by the success of the national team, which in turn was built on the success of the clubs. The two divisions of the women's league were merged to form a single *Bundesliga*, and there is also a lower league that currently comprises two divisions. In addition, a German Cup for Women was launched with its own final in Cologne. “The national team structures have also multiplied,” adds Ullrich. The one-woman show has thus grown to become a department of 16 full-time employees and seven full-time coaches.



A NEW MINDSET

By creating the women's football department and appointing a female director, the DFB sent out a political signal intended to show that women's football was a good investment project and that there were many women who were not only in the game but were also extremely knowledgeable about it. The DFB can therefore set an example to other associations. “There are



Dream start Célia Šašić (centre) celebrates the first of her three goals in Germany's first match of the 2015 Women's World Cup in Canada, which resulted in a 10-0 thumping of Côte d'Ivoire.

FIFA'S FEMALE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (FLDP)

The third and final module of the inaugural edition of FIFA's Female Leadership Development Programme (FLDP), which involved 33 participants from across the globe, successfully concluded in Amsterdam in March of this year and is now entering its next phase. The aim of the FLDP, which will now be offered annually and is being

run in conjunction with the THINK School of Creative Leadership, is to increase the number of women in management positions in football and thus improve the gender balance in the game at the decision-making level. The second edition is due to take place on 6-9 June 2016, 5-8 September 2016 and 6-9 February 2017, and will involve

35 women. FIFA received applications from more than 80 of its 209 member associations.

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still some cultural barriers to be overcome around the world, as the role of women in society varies greatly from country to country," Ullrich confirms. Nevertheless, she sees parallels in Germany: "The development of women's and girls' football in Germany has gone hand in hand with that of women in our society."

Ullrich believes that the aim should be to promote opportunities in sport for women and girls in order to achieve growth for women's football overall, thus giving them the same access to sports facilities as men and boys. At the same time, female coaches should have a high level of social competence, as the focus is on human beings, who all need individual encouragement.

When Ullrich speaks about women's football, her knowledge, passion and love for the game are plain to see. She highlights its closeness to the fans as well as its authenticity and spirit of fair play – qualities that need to be promoted in order to create a parallel world, the priority being the opportunities that are closely connected with developing the women's game. "Of course I understand it when marketing agencies go all out to sell the men's World Cup, but we

must not lose sight of the need to exploit women's football commercially and identify its opportunities. But to start with, you always need investment," says Ullrich, who adds that the TV market is subject to clearly defined mechanisms that cannot be ignored. "We have to develop our product step by step and create demand through attractive games and offers." In Germany, for example, the *Bundesliga* is sponsored by a major insurance company, while in Sweden, all 132 games of this season's *Damallsvenskan* (the highest tier of women's football in the country) are being shown on an online platform.

FIFA AS A BRIDGE-BUILDER

The wants and needs of women's football naturally vary greatly from association to association: in countries like Germany, Sweden and the USA, the aim is to improve advertising opportunities and media coverage, but other countries are struggling simply to ensure access to the game for girls and women in general. Says Heike Ullrich: "I see FIFA as playing a very strong coordinating role between the various stakeholders. Associations need to form close networks and exchange information so that

they can understand the challenges, which is crucial to developing tailored programmes that will take the women's game forward in every country."

Ullrich would like to see the introduction of regulations for international female players, long-term coordination of the international match calendar and, in the shorter term, a greater awareness of women in football generally, whether on the pitch or in official roles. "It is important that associations create the sort of conditions in which female players receive everything that they would expect to receive."

In February, FIFA adopted reforms that are intended to strengthen women's football and women in football, the idea being that female players should have the opportunity to develop their talent and integrate their passion for the beautiful game into their everyday lives. The objective is clear: to find a country's best female players so that they can represent their association at major tournaments such as at the Olympic Football Tournament in Brazil in August, the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Jordan a few weeks later or the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Papua New Guinea at the end of the year. This will help to establish the game and the sport in general.

At the same time, women who are well qualified in football business should be given the opportunity to obtain management positions in order to play an active role in developing the game. Ullrich has been following the FIFA reforms and summarises the main benefit thus: "Developing women's football and promoting women to management positions adds value – for everyone."

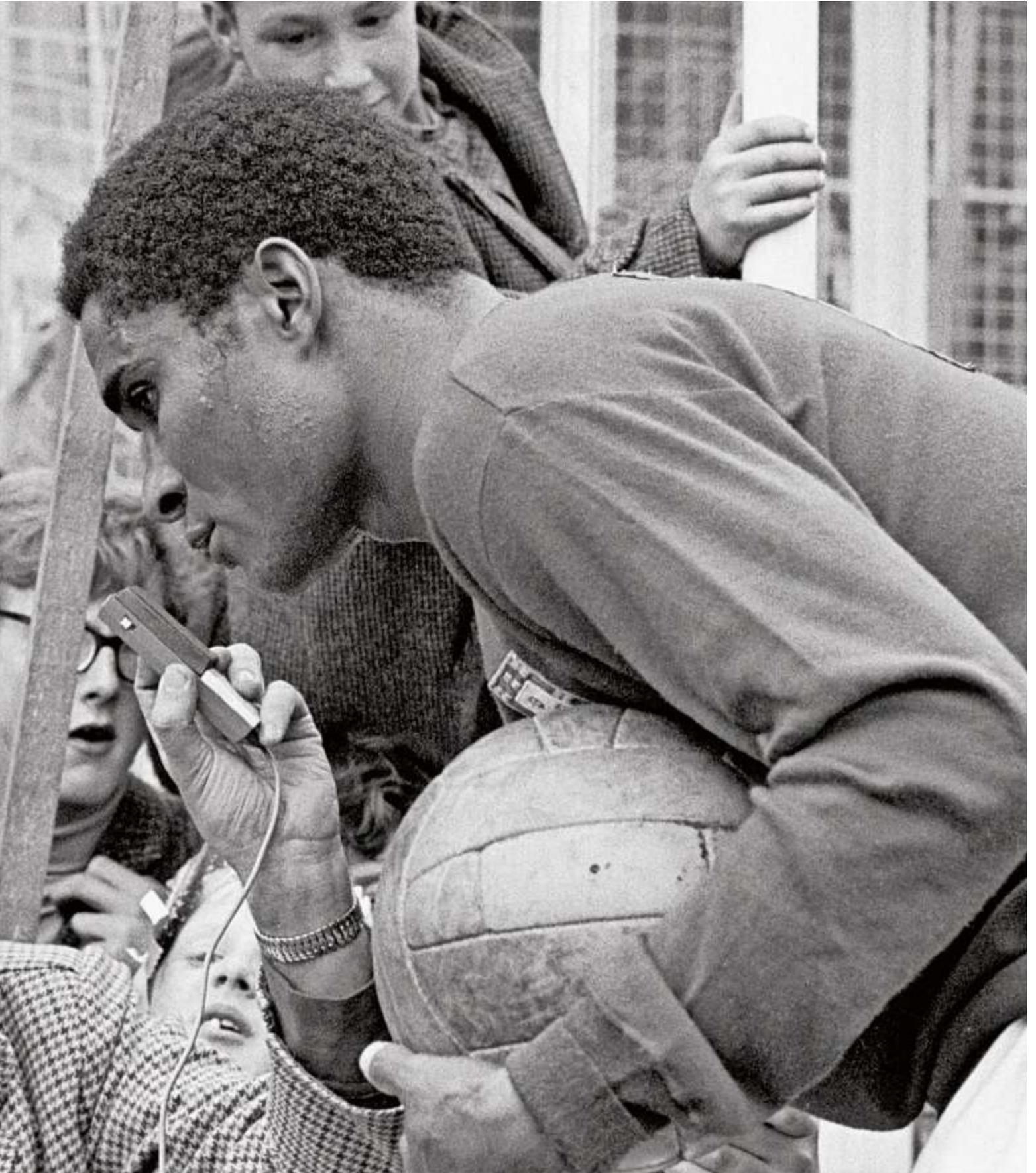


Successful product Heike Ullrich looks forward to the start of the women's *Bundesliga* season (August 2015). She has headed the DFB's department for women's and girls' football since March 2016.

PHOTO ARCHIVE



Back when there was still time for a chat before the game Portuguese legend Eusebio ahead of the 1966 FIFA World Cup quarter-final against Korea DPR



at Goodison Park.

ENGLAND



London, 1966
Captain Bobby Moore and team-mates celebrate England's only World Cup win to date.

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

England fans dearly want to be proud of their team again – and now there is an air of optimism that Roy Hodgson may just be about to bring the good times back.

By Alan Schweingruber

England and football. Traditions. Cult. And then there is the Premier League, which has long been regarded as the fastest, most intense and most attractive league in the world, not least because it is awash with money. If you are playing in the Premier League, you have made it – but that only really applies to foreign players, and not to home-grown talent. And that is the crux of the issue when it comes to discussions about English football that have been raging for what seems like an eternity – just how good is English football? A glance at the record of the English national team over the past 26 years tells its own story, with their fourth-place finish at Italia '90 the clear stand-out.

But who could possibly forget their incredible triumph in 1966 when they saw off West Germany in the World Cup final on the hallowed turf of Wembley? Could it possibly ever get any better than that for an England fan? Maybe not, but the euphoria didn't last long – four years in fact – as the world champions suffered their first crisis when they lost to the West Germans in the quarter-finals of Mexico '70. That proved to be just the first in an ongoing series of blows as England followed that up by failing to qualify for the next two World Cups (1974 and 1978). When they finally returned, they bowed out of Spain '82 at the end of the second group stage and were then consigned to a controversial quarter-final exit in Mexico '86. In 1990, the class of Gary Lineker, David Platt and Paul Gascoigne fired the *Three Lions* all the way to the semi-finals, where once again their dreams were crushed, rather inevitably, in a penalty shoot-out defeat by the Germans (who else?).

That 1990 side, which was built around several star names, worked well together. They even had a star coach – Bobby Robson – but 1990 proved to be merely a false dawn. New stars continued

to break into the English team, players who were winning league championships, cups and even Champions League titles with their clubs, but they were unable to carry their form onto the international stage. Defeats and disappointments continued to come thick and fast, and England were again left at home when another World Cup – USA '94 – got under way. And then there is England's famous, unwanted record in penalty shoot-outs – six defeats out of seven between 1990 and 2012. And still the star names came and went. Lineker was followed by the players of the ilk of Alan Shearer, Paul Scholes, Michael

The post-'66 crisis continues, although in 1990, the class of Gary Lineker, David Platt and Paul Gascoigne fired the *Three Lions* all the way to the semi-finals.

Owen, David Beckham, Rio Ferdinand, Steven Gerrard, Frank Lampard and Wayne Rooney, which meant that England were always in with a shout of winning a title until, eventually, even the most optimistic of England fans stopped truly believing. It was hard to escape the impression

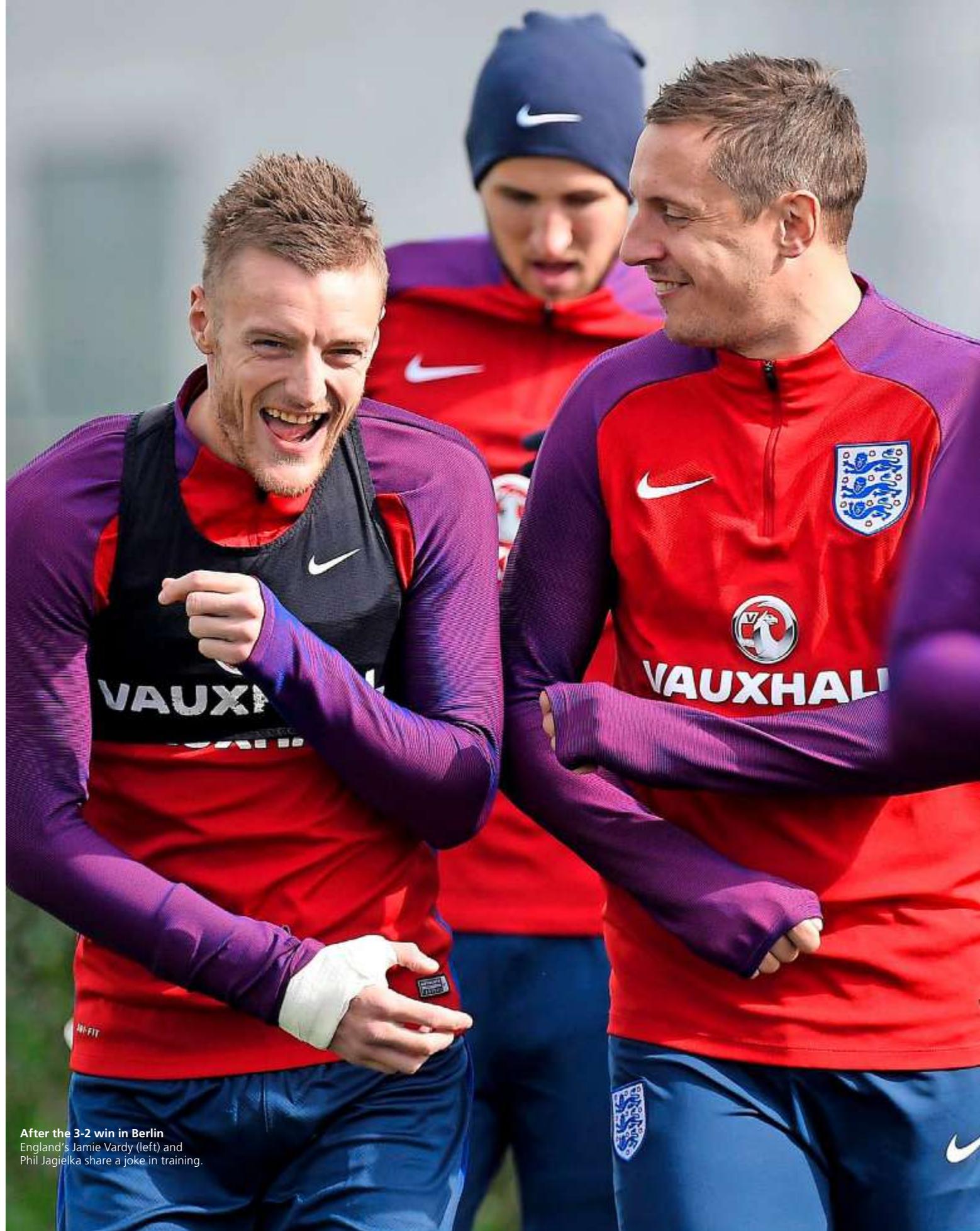
that most England fans travelled to Brazil in 2014 without any real expectations. Which was just as well, as England fell at the first hurdle.

But then something changed – England reinvented themselves and, as fate would have it, they did so in Germany, a country greatly admired for its decision 15 years ago to launch a nationwide youth development programme with young, unknown players because they couldn't (yet) call on big-name stars. When coach Roy Hodgson, who has been in charge for the past four years, was recently asked whether he thought England were now on the verge of something special, he said: "I've thought that for a while, to be honest". Hodgson, a well-travelled and much-respected coach, would probably not have made such a comment if he hadn't witnessed something on the pitch that had left most fans rubbing their eyes in disbelief as his team came roaring back from 2-0 down to win a friendly against Germany 3-2 in Berlin. In their match report, *The Guardian* wrote: "The story of this fightback was so implausible, so entirely out of the ordinary and crammed into the most exhilarating half-hour period of Roy Hodgson's reign, it demands an automatic place in the list of great England occasions." The question is: will fans still fondly remember that evening in Berlin in 20 years' time?

ROY HODGSON

London-born Roy Hodgson, 68, has coached 14 clubs and four national teams over his distinguished career, including Inter Milan and Liverpool. He finally landed the England job in 2012, having been talked about as a possible contender since the 1990s. Hodgson's biggest successes have come in smaller footballing nations, however: he led Halmstad and Malmö (both in Sweden) to two league titles each in the 1970s and 1980s and first achieved international fame when he guided Switzerland to their first World Cup finals for 28 years (USA '94). He is married with one son.

ENGLAND



After the 3-2 win in Berlin
England's Jamie Vardy (left) and
Phil Jagielka share a joke in training.

The manner of England's victory over the world champions was certainly impressive. Shorn of the experience of the injured Wayne Rooney and Joe Hart, Hodgson travelled to Germany with a relatively young and experimental squad, which included a certain Jamie Vardy, the 29-year-old late developer who has this season taken the Premier League by storm with league leaders Leicester City. Just four years ago, he was still playing up front for Fleetwood Town in the Conference National [Ed. the fifth tier of English football] in front of crowds of just a few hundred people. He made his fifth appearance for the national team in Berlin – and probably enjoyed his finest game to date in an England shirt, which he capped with a stunning equaliser with a flick of his heel. Hodgson was also able to call upon Tottenham Hotspur's exciting trio of young starlets Harry Kane, Eric Dier and Dele Alli, and it was midfielder Alli, who only made his Premier League debut in August at the age of 19, who was particularly impressive in Berlin.

Once again, the euphoria of Berlin didn't last long as England fell down to earth with a bump just three days later in a 2-1 home defeat by the Dutch. As for whether England's fans will look back on that "historic" evening in Berlin in 20 years' time, a lot will depend on their showing at EURO 2016. If this young, exciting side can show the same desire and passion to ring in a new era, then England fans will no doubt think

of Berlin as the place where it all began – but if the *Three Lions'* adventure ends after the group stage again, then their exploits in Germany will have been in vain. Roy Hodgson intends to name his provisional squad for the European Championship on 12 May. His captain will be Wayne Rooney, one of the big names still remaining among a generation of players who may well be the promise of a brighter future for the English.



Roy Hodgson England's coach since 2012.

When asked whether he thought England were now on the verge of something special, Roy Hodgson replied: "I've thought that for a while, to be honest."

ICELAND DARE TO DREAM

No team at the Euros have as much cause for optimism as Iceland, but their success has nothing to do with luck.

Back on 9 September 2014, when the team coached by Lars Lagerbäck and Heimir Hallgrímsson embarked on their qualifying campaign for EURO 2016, few gave them much of a chance of making it to France. To widespread astonishment, the minnows proceeded to finish

second in a tough group topped by the Czech Republic, ahead of the Netherlands and Turkey. It will be the first time that this tiny country (population: 330,000) has taken part in a major football tournament.

Luck has had nothing to do with it, however, as Iceland has invested significantly in youth development and coach education in the past two decades: per capita, no European country has as many well qualified coaches as the Land of Fire and Ice, while seven large halls have also been built on the island so that players can train indoors during the harsh winters. The positive effects were already in evidence in the qualifiers for the

2014 World Cup, when Iceland narrowly failed to win its play-off against Croatia.

Although the country does not have a professional league, the Swede Lagerbäck and Icelander Hallgrímsson can call upon some 80 players who ply their trade abroad, the most well known of whom is Gylfi Sigurdsson, currently playing for Swansea City in the Premier League. In Iceland's group at the European Championship in France (10 June to 10 July) will be Portugal, Austria and Hungary – strong opponents, certainly, but then so were Iceland's qualifying opponents...

Alan Schweingruber

HISTORY



Fully committed
Madeleine Boll set new standards with the ball.

BLAZING A TRAIL FOR WOMEN'S FOOTBALL IN SWITZERLAND

Madeleine Boll joined in football games with the boys as a child and went on to pave the way for the foundation of women's teams, helping to make the sport popular in Switzerland. Here, the pioneer tells her story.

By Annette Braun

1965 was a special year for FC Sion, being the year when the Swiss club made its international debut. On 15 September, the team from the canton of Valais hosted Galatasaray in the European Cup Winners' Cup and ran out 5-1 winners – and media from around the world reported on the occasion. The reason for this attention, however, was not Sion's maiden European victory but the match that preceded the main event of the evening, featuring the club's "C" youth team. How come?

A blonde player in that team had caught the eye by dint of her mazy runs, outstanding technique and attacking prowess – one Madeleine Boll. A girl playing among the boys – in Switzerland, where women didn't get the vote

until 1971? Astonishing! From England to France, Venezuela to Gabon – everyone wanted to know more about this sensational talent.

SHORT-LIVED HAPPINESS

At this point in time, women were still not officially allowed to don boots and play the beautiful game in Switzerland, and Madeleine Boll owed her opportunity to impress a large audience and leave a worldwide impact to a happy coincidence.

As a small child, she loved to kick a ball – a passion that her parents picked up on and supported, something that was not exactly commonplace at the time. "I had

The image shows a Swiss football licence for Madeleine Boll. It features a black and white portrait of her on the left, with her signature below it. The licence is issued by the Swiss Football Federation (Schweiz. Fussballverband / Associat. Suisse de Football / Associaz. Svizz' di Football). The personal information fields are filled out as follows:

Name/Nom/Nome	BOLL
Vorname/Prénom/Prénome	MADELAINE D
Geburtsdatum / Date de naiss. / Data di nascita	8 07 53
Pass-Nr. / Passeport / Passaporto	210879

Below the personal information is a table for club and date details:

Nation	Club	Datum	Unterschrift SFV / Signature ASF / Firma ASF
01	8040	11/09/65	SFV

At the bottom of the licence, there is a section for the general secretary's signature, which is signed "Tessell". The licence number is 10A 15 10 917.

Historic
The first-ever licence issued for a female Swiss footballer.



Eyes on the prize
Madeleine Boll (right)
races for the ball in a match
against England in 1975.

friends who also wanted to play football but their parents didn't allow them to because they were girls," she says today. Boll went with a (male) school friend to a training session of FC Sion, where a coach spotted her talent and agreed that she could join in with the boys. Boll describes the feeling she had of playing with the others as an "unbelievable gift". A licence was applied for and obtained from the Swiss FA – the first ever to be issued for a woman.

Backed by this historic document, confident in her talent and raring to go, Boll ran onto the FC Sion pitch for the aforementioned youth match on that autumnal September evening eager to show what she could do – which, buoyed by the atmosphere in the stadium and the opportunity that had presented itself, is precisely what she did. The media attention that she received after the match caught her completely unawares, however.

"In the days after the match, our house and the school were besieged by TV reporters and journalists," says Boll. As might have been expected, this frenzy also caught the attention of the Swiss FA, who suddenly realised that issuing the licence had set a precedent that it had not intended. It had wrongly assumed that Boll was a boy, and as the statutes only mentioned male players, with no allusion to girls, the Swiss FA clearly had a problem. It consulted sports doctors, who refused to approve active female players for medical reasons, and so Boll was stripped of her licence.

ITALY CALLS

Boll was devastated. "I thought it was completely unfair. I simply couldn't understand why I wasn't allowed to play with my team-mates," she says. The Swiss FA's suggestion that she train to become a referee at a later date didn't exactly help, either. Boll had no wish to take

charge of games, she wanted to take part in them. She wanted to sprint down the touchline, send in pinpoint crosses, and score goals. An offer from Lausanne came closer to meeting her needs, however. No licence was needed for her to play in a school tournament there, so the 12-year-old Boll got on the train every Wednesday to go to training. In 1970, she finally got a call from Italy, the Mecca of women's football at the time, where no expense was spared by companies to attract female players from all over Europe to sport their corporate colours on the pitch. Boll was one of their number for the next five years, and she quickly became known as the "Montagna Bionda" (Blonde Mountain).

"I thought it was completely unfair."

Madeleine Boll on the withdrawal of her licence.

A PIONEER IN MANY WAYS

Boll created a boom in women's football in her homeland, where girls were eager to emulate their idol, who also turned out for the newly formed national women's team. She was the first female player to receive a licence: by the mid-1970s, there were already some 1,000 women playing officially in Switzerland. "According to a study on women's football, my story inspired girls to take up the game themselves. If that is the case, then I am happy

that the open-mindedness of my parents and the people in charge at FC Sion gave a helping hand to the development of the fantastic sport that is women's football," says Boll modestly.

In 1998, she took up a position at the Swiss FA, and from 2000 to 2011 was an official in the organisation's Amateur League department. It was another groundbreaking move by Boll, as she was the first Swiss woman to sit on a football committee. However, she is aware that the women's game still has a long way to go. "My successor on the committee is a man," she says with regret, but the FIFA reforms and the pledge by the FIFA President to strengthen women's football and women in football give her hope for the future. "I'm sure that the support of Gianni Infantino can give women's football a fresh boost."

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL IN SWITZERLAND

1970

Start of *Nationalliga A* with 18 teams and 270 players (first title won by DFC Aarau).

1972

Foundation of the Swiss national women's football team.

1975

First edition of the Swiss Women's Cup (won by DFC Sion).

1993

Incorporation of the women's league in the Swiss Football Association and launch of the Swiss Cup for Female Youth Players to promote development of the women's game.

2015

The national women's team qualifies for a World Cup for the first time, reaching the round of 16 before losing to hosts Canada.



In party mood

Yollande Dieng, Uschi Kaiserauer and Madeleine Boll (from left to right) celebrate the 9-0 win over Austria in 1970.



FIFA PARTNER



Name: Dominic Chielens **Job title:** Refereeing Coordinator
Age: 29 **Nationality:** Belgium **Date joined FIFA:** 2013

How did you come to be at FIFA?

I was a futsal player before, so I've always had a passion for football and it was my dream to work in a football environment. There was a vacancy in the FIFA Refereeing Department, so I applied for it and my dream came true.

What goals do you have for FIFA?

I just want to improve myself, and also to come up with new ideas in order to help our department to develop refereeing all around the world.

Which has been your favourite tournament?

The 2014 Youth Olympics in Nanjing. The atmosphere was great. I'm interested in different cultures and the Chinese culture was an enrichment for me personally.

Who do you think will win the 2018 FIFA World Cup?

A team that is efficient and at the same time plays attractive football. If that's Belgium, I would be happy of course!

Which club do you support?

I have supported Club Bruges since I was a kid. I still try to follow most of their matches here from Switzerland.

What does sport mean to you?

Sport for me has become a way of life. It is a tool to create friendship and build bridges! When I play a sport, it empties my mind. Sport conveys so many important values like passion, respect, fair play, discipline, striving for perfection, etc.



Name: Adriana Armas **Job title:** Counsel **Age:** 23
Nationality: Peru **Date joined FIFA:** 2015

How did you come to be at FIFA?

I had recently moved from the French part of Switzerland to the German part, and during this process a vacancy at FIFA caught my eye. Coming from a South American country, football has always been part of my life, so the idea of working for FIFA certainly appealed to me. I am very thankful for the opportunity.

What goals do you have for FIFA?

Since my focus at FIFA is on international transfers of minor players, I want FIFA to continue supporting all young players who have such a great passion for football and are the future of the game.

Which has been your favourite tournament?

The 2010 World Cup in South Africa, because I was living in Johannesburg and I enjoyed the entire atmosphere. Being there from the start and seeing the entire country come together was a unique experience.

Who do you think will win the 2018 FIFA World Cup?

I just hope that Peru can make it to the World Cup this time. Even though they are struggling, it is very hard to lose hope.

What does sport mean to you?

I think doing sport is one of the few ways to forget about other problems. It helps me to relax and focus on my passion and determination.



Name: Nicholas Raudenski **Job title:** Manager – Match Integrity **Age:** 38 **Nationality:** USA **Date joined FIFA:** 2013

How did you come to be at FIFA?

I had a great assignment in the Middle East when a friend sent me the link. I didn't hesitate to apply. It was a dream job to do what I'm passionate about in the sport I love. I'm still grateful to him for the link!

What goals do you have for FIFA?

Honesty. We have to be real about the facts and the situations challenging football worldwide. We have to continue to shoulder the weight to protect the world's game. We all have that responsibility. There are some great people doing amazing things in the world of football but there are also those who take advantage for the wrong reasons. Football is real and we have to reinforce that.

Which has been your favourite tournament?

This might be "home cooking" but for me it was the '94 World Cup. So many memories: the battle for NYC (Republic of Ireland v. Italy). The denim kits of the US. Hagi. Stoichkov. Maradona's fall from grace. Romario and Bebeto. Baggio's march towards the final ... I recorded every match on VHS (remember those!?) and still have them in a box somewhere! For several months after that our team still celebrated goals with "rocking the baby" – even though none of us had kids at the time!



THE PAIN OF A SPRAIN

Injuries are part and parcel of sport – but they can still be prevented. Players need to ask themselves one question: when am I most at risk on the pitch? We take a look at the most common injuries in women's football.

By Perikles Monioudis

Women's football is going from strength to strength. FIFA has declared it to be one of the key focus areas for the further development of the game in general – and acted accordingly. In late February, the reforms passed at the Extraordinary Congress in Zurich paved the way for greater equality in football, and also for more support for women's football and for women in decision-making roles. The FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™ in Canada

proved once again that the women's game is currently in rude health, and is also gaining more and more fans all around the world.

Since 1999, world football's governing body has been analysing all injuries sustained at its women's competitions, collating data in order to investigate trends and find ways to make further improvements to its tournaments and development programmes for member associations.

F-MARC FINDINGS

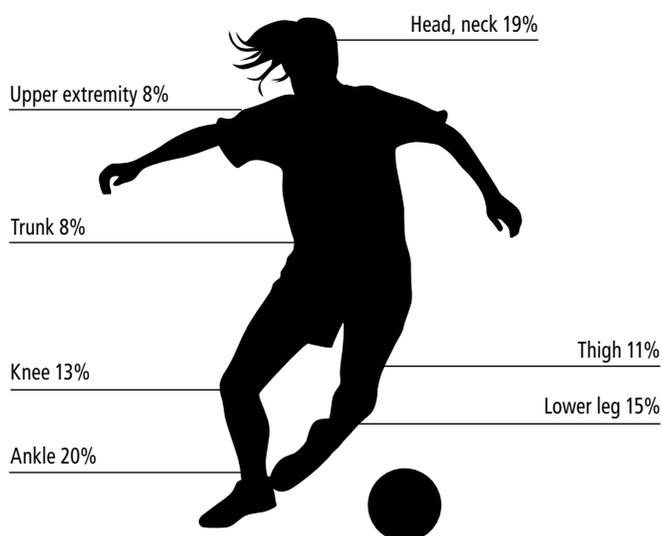
The findings of the FIFA Medical Assessment and Research Centre (F-MARC) revealed that there was an average of 2.12 injuries per game at last year's Women's World Cup in Canada, which represented a slight decrease compared to the Women's World Cups in 2011 (2.27 injuries per game) and in 2007 (2.34). In their article for the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, Prof. Jiří Dvořák (F-MARC; FIFA Chief Medical Officer) and Prof. Astrid Junge (F-MARC) explained that these figures should be viewed with caution, however, as they only apply to those specific tournaments and not league football. It is also clear that the injury rate at tournaments can easily be influenced by a number of factors, including the teams' playing systems, styles of play, and preparations, and even by how the referees go about interpreting their role.

At the 2015 Women's World Cup, the average number of time-loss injuries per match was 0.75, compared to 1.1 in both 2011 and 2007.

X-ray vision

Women's footballers tend to suffer more ankle sprains than any other injuries.

INJURIES IN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL



By way of comparison, the same figures for men's football are: head, neck 14%; upper extremity 7%; trunk 8%; thigh 15%; knee 12%; lower leg 17%; ankle 17%. Source: F-MARC

SEVERE AND MINOR INJURIES

Generally, the duration of a player's absence from play is considered when determining the severity of an injury. In research terms, an absence of up to seven days is regarded as a minor injury. The longest absences from play are caused by torn ligaments and broken bones.

At the 2015 Women's World Cup, the average number of time-loss injuries per match was 0.75, compared to 1.1 in both 2011 and 2007.

ANKLE SPRAINS AND TORN LIGAMENTS

The most common injury sustained on the pitch is an ankle sprain, but most studies have also revealed high numbers of knee and particularly anterior cruciate ligament injuries in women's football.

Most injuries sustained at FIFA tournaments are due to contact with another player, whereas around one-third of all contact injuries are because of fouls (this figure increases to around 50% in the men's game). This applies to both the player committing the foul and the player being fouled.

The risk of sustaining an injury appears to be greatest towards the end of each half, whereas this risk is at its lowest in the first 15 minutes of each

half, which would suggest that the over-eagerness and tiredness of players also have an influence on the frequency of injuries.

There are also more instances of concussion in the women's game compared to the men's, although it is unclear whether women are simply genetically more predisposed to concussion, or whether they tend to report their symptoms more accurately.

Torn ligaments, which are regarded as particularly severe as they result in a long time out of action and can have serious long-term implications for the player, are also three to seven times more likely to occur in the women's game than in the men's. It is also a proven fact that women tend to sustain such injuries at much younger ages than men do. Training methods to prevent torn ligaments, such as the FIFA 11+, are very effective but they are still not being used often.

More on this subject: f-marc.com/11plus/home/

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600+

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A FIFA DIVERSITY AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION OFFICER

Wembley Stadium, London. You could be forgiven for thinking that **Gerd Dembowski** is looking a little tense as he looks out over the hallowed Wembley turf. FIFA's "Say No to Racism" message takes pride of place on the pitch-side panels, but today, as a FIFA diversity and anti-discrimination officer, Gerd won't be stepping foot onto the pitch himself. Instead, he will be deep in the heart of the stadium, playing a key role in presenting the first FIFA Anti-Discrimination Monitoring System for the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ qualifiers.

The tension increases a little as he waits for former leading international referee Howard Webb, who is due to present FIFA's new monitoring system during a podium discussion in front of media representatives from all around the world, alongside Yaya Touré, no less.

Gerd quickly takes Touré to one side to run over things again. "The monitoring system is based on a risk analysis of all 851 qualifiers," explains Gerd. "In cooperation with experts from the Fare network, specially trained, neutral match observers will be sent to matches at which there is a higher risk of discriminatory incidents."

Touré wants to know what FIFA is also doing to put its policy for zero tolerance of all forms of discrimination in football into practice. Gerd's eyes light up a little as he starts to talk about FIFA's strategic approach and the many activities that he is planning and implementing as part of his job in the FIFA Sustainability Department.

Such activities have included publishing the FIFA Good Practice Guide on Diversity and Anti-Discrimination and analysing the action plans submitted by member associations. Gerd is also responsible for providing FIFA's match commissioners, from Miami to Kuala Lumpur, with training on anti-discrimination. And then there is the FIFA Diversity Award, which will be presented for the first time in July 2016 by a jury featuring former German international Thomas Hitzlsperger, former USA international Abby



Gerd Dembowski Twenty years of experience of anti-discrimination in football.

Wambach, and current American Samoa international Jaiyah Saelua. "But the most important part of my work," says Gerd, "is working with my colleagues in other departments, covering everything from legal issues to communication matters. Without that cooperation, everything would just be hot air."

Gerd organises his projects with impressive vision, which is the result of more than 20 years' experience in anti-discrimination in football, initially as a fan activist, then as a sociologist, as someone who travelled around the world to give presentations, as a curator of exhibitions, and now as a specialist employed by FIFA.

"In the last few decades, it has been important to make it absolutely clear that anti-discrimination is about so much more than just anti-racism." Sexism and homophobia, as well as anti-Semitism and discrimination of handicapped people, often find their way into fan cultures, not always openly but in rather more subtle forms. "Sadly, some people often don't even realise that they

are saying or doing something hurtful." With his many years of experience, his participation in public discussions, and his many books and articles, Gerd has certainly helped to shape anti-discrimination work in European football.

"I wake up happy every day, knowing just how much FIFA can still achieve in this area," he says. "It is vital, however, that we take different approaches to anti-discrimination in each region, taking into account the individual circumstances of each member association. That is a major challenge, and one that is always there."

In the meantime, Howard Webb has arrived. The podium is full, and the journalists are taking their notepads out. Now it is the turn of both Webb and Touré to be tense, whereas Gerd feels at ease again. With the podium discussion now underway, he is firmly in his element.

F04

Each month, *FIFA 1904* accompanies a FIFA employee in their work.

BRIAN LAUDRUP

The perceived value of a goal generally comes down to whether it decides the match. In Nantes on 3 July 1998, Denmark's number 11 Brian Laudrup scored the equaliser in the Danes' World Cup quarter-final against Brazil, making the score 2-2. As the final score ended up 3-2 to the *Seleção*, Laudrup's goal was not particularly significant in terms of the tournament. But that rule doesn't apply here. For the fans in Denmark, Laudrup's goal was hugely important, and the scorer himself celebrated extravagantly – with a pose of mock contemplation, something which hadn't been seen on the football pitch before.

The usual procedure upon scoring a World Cup goal would be to run around wildly, but Brian Laudrup overcame his emotions after his close-range goal to slide down onto the pitch into a casual reclining pose, his head resting lightly on his fingertips. Lying on his side with crossed legs and his other hand in his lap, he gazed into the distance as if lost in thought, like a living statue.

He had provided the assist for Martin Jørgensen's goal in the second minute of the game that gave Denmark an early lead, before scoring himself in the 50th minute to make the scoreline the aforementioned 2-2. The goal stemmed from an almost careless mistake by the great Roberto Carlos, who tried to clear the ball with an overhead kick from in front of the Brazilian six-yard box – but missed the ball.

Brian Laudrup is still remembered for his unusual celebration. But why the thoughtful pose? Why did he want to make even more of an impression than he already had? Was it Roberto Carlos' mistake that provoked Laudrup to put on his cheeky display of nonchalance? Or did he actually just want to show off to his big brother Michael, who had played for Juventus, Barça and Real Madrid and who was also up front for Denmark that day and was at that moment running over to congratulate Brian? Questions upon questions – and plenty of food for thought.

Perikles Monioudis





Marcus Brandt/Bongarts/Getty Images

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SAY NO TO RACISM



Football breaks down barriers.

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

To find out more, visit the Sustainability section on FIFA.com



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