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The World Cup

The Complete History

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Extract

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Introduction

THE WORLD CUP is the greatest sporting event on Earth, a competition that evokes memories so vivid, so breathtaking, of the heroes of yesteryear: Pelé, whose genius embellished four, three times a winner, Cruyff of Holland and Puskás of Hungary, gallant losers both, for teams whose failure was glorious. Beckenbauer, West Germany's immaculate, marvellous captain who saw the heartbreak of 1966 and suffered agony in 1970 before finally triumphing in front of an ecstatic nation four years later. Kempes of Argentina and the Italian Rossi, who in 1982 and 1978 respectively scored the goals that earned their teams the glory. Schiaffino, brilliant Uruguayan, outstanding in victory in 1950 and again in defeat in 1954. Then there was England, Champions in 1966, for whom their accomplished, assured captain, the fair-haired Bobby Moore, was a wonderful example of spirit, sportsmanship and dignity; his untimely death left a nation in mourning.

Of all these great players who have thrilled us, none surely have so thoroughly dominated a tournament as did Maradona in 1986, mesmerizing opponents with his powerful running and trickery, and leading Argentina inevitably to a second title. Tragically, the stocky little striker also became embroiled in controversy and then disgraced himself in a drugs scandal, demonstrating once again the frailties of many great players in the cauldron of the modern game.

Great matches are also remembered fondly: France and Brazil in 1986, Italy and Brazil in 1982, both absorbing contests tactically, from very different footballing cultures. France and West Germany's unbearably exciting semi-final match in Spain, and of course Hungary's victory over Uruguay in 1954, when two genuinely great teams fought out an unforgettable encounter.

The competition, however, is not just for the great and the good: it is, and should always remain, a celebration, an opportunity for the

Davids to mix with the Goliaths, and do battle beneath the floodlights of football's greatest stage. Who would forget the plucky little Koreans of 1966; Roger Milla and his indomitable lions of Cameroon in 1990, so close to a semi-final place; Haiti, who almost unbelievably led the Italians in 1974; and Cuba, who back in 1938 eliminated a strong Romanian side. The beauty of the World Cup is that it embraces all, giving us the pleasure of watching El Salvador, Zaire, New Zealand, Israel, Japan and Jamaica embark, no matter how brief the experience, on their great adventure.

With such a prize on offer, it is little wonder that on occasion frayed tempers spark violent and chaotic confrontation, none more so than the notorious 'battle of Santiago', when ill-judged remarks by the Italian press infuriated the Chileans into retribution. From the start it was claimed that Chile were abusive and spitting, though the trouble erupted after an off-the-ball incident left an Italian with a broken nose. Thereafter what had begun as ugly and ill-tempered degenerated into anarchy, with the ball often incidental to proceedings. Chile won but few cared.

Through seventy-six years of absorbing drama, however, it is memories of sportsmanship and skill that quite rightly dominate our recollections, and it might be that the forever endearing image of the competition be that of a smiling Pelé and Bobby Moore exchanging shirts after the epic encounter in Leon 1970, each showing great mutual respect to a fellow giant of this most beautiful of games.

I sincerely hope that this book does justice to those to whom it is dedicated, the players who have entertained us so royally in this, the world's most prestigious sporting event.

CHAPTER 1

URUGUAY

1930

In 1904 an association designed to represent the interests of international football was founded in Paris. The Federation of International Football Associations, or FIFA, as it was known, initially consisted of seven countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland, Spain, Switzerland and Sweden. One of its goals was to arrange a World Championship.

By World War I, membership had increased substantially; Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States truly gave FIFA world representation. The four 'Home' Associations, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, had also joined, but for them problems lay ahead. On resumption of sporting links after the war England, supported by Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France and Belgium, expressed a reluctance to compete with their recent enemies, Germany, Austria and Hungary. Furthermore, and crucially, at a conference in Brussels in 1919 delegates agreed on a policy 'not to meet Neutral Associations nor neutral clubs who had played against the Association or the clubs of the Central Empires', and in so doing cast themselves adrift from world football. Belgium swiftly reneged, their stance inappropriate for a nation about to host the Olympic Games of 1920, but for Britain it was to be the first of many spats that would condemn their Associations ultimately into the international wilderness.

At their meeting in 1926 Henri Delauny, secretary of the French Federation, addressed FIFA delegates. 'An International Football Competition,' he said, 'could no longer be the preserve of the Olympic Games, an amateur event. Professionalism had arrived.'

But what was a professional footballer? The British Associations, having rejoined, had no doubts and submitted their definition. FIFA, with so many varying attitudes amongst its membership, could not agree, and this time the split was irreparable. Britain for many years would play no part in the World Championships, spending their time in the words of FIFA secretary Dr Schricher in 'splendid isolation'.

For the rest, however, the World Cup would shortly become reality.

In 1928 FIFA proposed at its congress that 'plans should be prepared for the staging of the World Championship', and twenty-five nations cast their votes in favour. Only Scandinavia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Estonia dissented. Hugo Meisl, a leading figure in Central European Football, whose recent successes had included the Mitropa Cup for club sides and then the Nations Cup contested by Czechoslovakia, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Hungary, was given the task of organizing the event, which would need to embrace the footballing nations of South America.

Those wishing to act as hosts for the inaugural competition included Sweden (rather surprisingly, since it had opposed its inception), Holland, Hungary and Spain, but the honour was bestowed on Uruguay, Olympic Champions, who had offered to meet all entrants' travelling costs and

expenses. Sculptor Abel Lafleur designed a trophy, and the title of 'The Jules Rimet Cup' was bestowed upon it in recognition of the contribution of the President of FIFA.

1930 URUGUAY 13 July–30 July

ENTRIES

Argentina
Belgium
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
France
Mexico
Paraguay
Peru
Romania
United States
Uruguay
Yugoslavia

GROUP STAGES

Uruguay, whose football team had impressively won gold at the 1928 Olympic Games, secured the right to host the inaugural competition for the Jules Rimet Trophy. Having emphasized that this was the year the country would celebrate its centenary, one hundred years of independence, an International Football Tournament would fit in with the celebrations. Indeed, a brand new Stadium in Montevideo, 'The Centenario', would be built in order to stage the matches. Inevitably, however, the decision to stage so prestigious an occasion on the South American continent led to the withdrawal of the cream of European football. Italy, Holland, Spain and Sweden, all of whom had declared an interest in hosting the tournament, sulkily pulled out. Austria, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia also said no to so long a journey – despite Uruguay's generous offer to pay all expenses – and Britain, no longer a member of FIFA, maintained their splendid isolation.

The draw pitted teams in four groups of three or four, with only the winners progressing to the semi-finals. Group One featured Argentina, who, along with Uruguay from Group Three, was one of the joint favourites. Indeed, Argentina was runner-up to Uruguay at the Amsterdam Olympics. Stábile and Monti were key players for a team renowned for its virtuoso performances. France, also in the group, were one of four European teams to

make the arduous journey south. However, theirs was a respectable rather than exceptional side, with Pinel their towering centre half, and Alex Thepot a goalkeeper of repute. Chile had been playing the game for many years, the South Americans benefiting from a vibrant British community in the nineteenth century. For them, Subiabre, a fine inside forward, represented the greatest danger to their opponents. Mexico, new to the game (their federation had been founded just three years earlier), was the fourth member of an interesting quartet.

In Group Two were Brazil, Bolivia and a fine Yugoslavian team. Football in Brazil, South America's largest nation, was flourishing, though as an international force they were yet to make a mark, largely, it was suggested, as a result of flagrant prejudice operated against their best black players by the country's authorities. Yugoslavia had surprisingly disappointed during the Olympics, failing miserably against Portugal; still, they were here and not without hope. In Stefanovic and Beck, Cup winners in France with Sete and Sekulic at Montpelier, they had a trio of professional mercenaries. Marjanovic, too, was a splendid forward, and Tirnanic a tricky right winger.

In Group Three, Uruguay, four weeks in training, had separated from society. Their preparation had been serious, their intention to win. Mazáli, their celebrated goalkeeper, was discarded when he dared to break an imposed curfew. Amongst their many excellent players were Ballesteros (Mazáli's replacement), Andrade, Scarone and Nasazzi (right back and captain). Peru also arrived courtesy of the recent founding of a National Football Federation. Theirs was an inexperienced team of whom there were few expectations. The Romanians, like all the European entrants, were from the middle order of the continent's footballing powers, though their monarch, King Carol, had gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure their participation, granting amnesty to suspended players, picking the team personally and negotiating their release from employers.

Group Four featured the United States, Belgium and Paraguay, none of whom were highly regarded; indeed, many of the better players in the United States had joined Britons imported into the country in the American soccer league that had subsequently been outlawed by the United States Association. However, they were fit, and with their impressive physiques they had been dubbed by the French 'The Shot Putters'.

All matches at Montevideo

Group 1	Group 3
Argentina	Peru
Chile	Romania
France	Uruguay
Mexico	

Group 2	Group 4
Bolivia	Belgium
Brazil	Paraguay
Yugoslavia	United States

It was France from Group One who opened the Tournament, easily beating Mexico by racing to a 3–0 lead. Though the Mexicans fought back bravely, it was a lost cause, and they finally suffered a 4–1 defeat, Carreño's goal earning the team some small consolation. On the same day, America provided an immediate shock by pounding their more experienced Belgian opponents 3–0. Packed with British ex-patriots, they proved surprisingly fast and powerful – Belgium, in truth, were a disappointment.

The next day Yugoslavia allayed fears that the South American teams would be totally dominant, deservedly beating Brazil 2–1. Tirnanic and Marjanovic gave them an interval advantage, and Brazil, who replied through Preguinho, floundered against Stefanovic and his defensive colleagues as they sought in vain for an equalizing goal. Meanwhile, Romania's 'King's Men' beat the inexperienced Peruvians 3–1, Staucin scoring three and Vogl excelling. For the most part, though, football proved a secondary consideration in a rough ill-tempered affair: De Las Casas, capping a miserable day, was sent off – the first player ever dismissed in a World Cup fixture.

Argentina now came into the competition, winning 1–0 against France, the goal provided by the tough-tackling Monti, though they were unimpressive and given an uncomfortable time by their opponents. A distraction caused by referee Sr. Rego blowing the half-time whistle too soon provoked a pitch invasion which considerably delayed the re-start of the match. France suffered further when a problem that would plague future tournaments surfaced for the very first time: one of eccentric organisation. France, the losers, had been asked to play a second game in two days and were clearly disadvantaged, whilst Chile had not yet played at all!

The following day Chile got their opportunity and swept aside the naive

Mexicans, Subiabre twice finding the net, and Vidal, the Chileans' other inside forward, also rewarding enterprising play.

Yugoslavia in their three-way Group confirmed a place in the semi-finals against Bolivia, though their victory celebrations – considered inevitable – were delayed by their hopelessly outplayed opponents, whose luck and desperate tackling worried them for an hour. Bolivia, however, soon tired and finally collapsed, going down 4–0. Beck scored two, Marjanovic and Vujadinovic one each, as Yugoslavia finally feasted on Bolivia's frailties.

To general surprise America also qualified, beating Paraguay in the same overpowering manner in which they had disposed of Belgium. Patenaude, America's centre forward, added two to his total, while Florie, their captain and star player, made it a third.

Curiously Uruguay, hosts and favourites, started poorly, the waiting and expectation clearly upsetting their concentration as Peru, so ineffective against Romania, pushed them hard. Castro finally relieved their anxiety with a well taken goal, though their opponents, with Pardon, playing in goal in place of Valdiviso, and left back Maquillon, performed heroics in stemming the steady tide of attacks launched at their goal.

On the following day Chile beat France, the goal-scoring inside forward Subiabre whipping his shot beyond the excellent Thepot, thus condemning the French to an early exit. Meanwhile, Argentina flowed over Mexico, scoring six times. Stábile, a thorn in the side of the Mexican defenders, lead the goal glut, while Zumelzu, making his first appearance, converted two penalties gained from ill-judged tackling. At least poor Mexico could be consoled by their three goals.

In Group Four a match rendered academic by America's previous success saw Paraguay edge out Belgium. Peña, a clever outside left, supplied a goal to decide a moderate game between two disappointing teams. Brazil, too, already eliminated by Yugoslavia, won their final Group Two fixture 4–0 against Bolivia, though again the Bolivians gave an obstinate, gritty performance, refusing to yield until finally, as in their first match, their stamina and luck dissolved.

Uruguay confirmed their predictable progress from Group One by bewildering the 'King's Men' from Romania with faster movement and rapid passing, Dorado, Scarone, Cea and the young star Anselmo giving them an easy win. In Group One, however, the final fixture in the qualifying round saw Argentina defeating Chile amidst controversy and ugliness. An unpleasant kick by the tempestuous Monti on Chile's Torres as he stooped to head the ball led to a brief reign of chaos as a brawl ensued. When referee M. Langenus had finally regained control, Argentina reasserted their dominance and Chile succumbed 3–1.

Final Tournament – Uruguay

Group 1

France (3) **4, Mexico** (0) **1**
13.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
France: Thepot, Mattler, Capelle, Villaplane, Pinel, Chantrel, Liberati, Delfour, Maschinot (2), Laurent (1), Langiller (1)
Mexico: Bonfiglio, Gutierrez R, Rosas M, Rosas F, Sanchez, Amezcua, Perez, Carreño (1), Mejia, Ruiz, Lopez
Referee: Lombardi (Uruguay)

Argentina (0) **1, France** (0) **0**
15.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Argentina: Bossio, Della Torre, Muttis, Suarez, Monti (1), Evaristo J, Perinetti, Varallo, Ferreyra, Gierro, Evaristo M
France: Thepot, Mattler, Capelle, Villaplane, Pinel, Chantrel, Liberati, Delfour, Maschinot, Laurent, Langiller
Referee: Rego (Brazil)

Chile (1) **3, Mexico** (0) **0**
16.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Chile: Cortes, Morales, Porier, Torres A, Saavedra, Helgueta, Ojeda, Subiabre (2), Villalobos, Vidal, Scheuerberger
Mexico: Sota, Gutierrez R, Rosas M, Rosas F, Sanchez, Amezcua, Perez, Carreño, Ruiz, Gayon, Lopez
Referee: Christophe (Belgium)

Chile (0) **1, France** (0) **0**
19.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Chile: Cortes, Ciaparro, Morales, Torres A, Saavedra, Torres C, Ojeda, Subiabre (1), Villalobos, Vidal, Scheuerberger
France: Thepot, Mattler, Capelle, Chantrel, Delmer, Villaplane, Liberati, Delfour, Pinel, Veinante, Langiller
Referee: Tejada (Uruguay)

Argentina (3) **6, Mexico** (1) **3**
19.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Argentina: Bossio, Della Torre, Paternoster, Cividini, Zumelzu (2 pens), Orlandini, Peucelle, Varallo (1), Stábile (3), Demaria, Spadaro
Mexico: Bonfiglio, Gutierrez R, Gutierrez F, Rosas M (2 pens), Sanchez, Rodriguez, Rosas F, Lopez (1), Gayon, Carreño, Olivares
Referee: Saucedo (Bolivia)

Argentina (2) **3, Chile** (1) **1**
22.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Argentina: Bossio, Della Torre, Paternoster, Evaristo J, Monti, Orlandini, Peucelle, Varallo, Stábile (2), Ferreyra, Evaristo M (1)
Chile: Cortes, Ciaparro, Morales, Torres A, Saavedra, Torres C, Avellane, Subiabre (1), Villalobos, Vidal, Aquilera
Referee: Langenus (Belgium)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	3	0	0	10	4	6
Chile	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
France	3	1	0	2	4	3	2
Mexico	3	0	0	3	4	13	0

Group 2

Yugoslavia (2) **2, Brazil** (0) **1**
14.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Yugoslavia: Jaksic, Ivkovic, Mihailovic, Arsenijevic, Stefanovic, Dokic, Tirnanic (1), Marjanovic (1), Beck, Vujadinovic, Sekulic
Brazil: Joel, Brilhante, Italia, Hermogenes, Fausto, Fernando, Poly, Nilo, Araken, Preguinho (1), Moderato
Referee: Tejada (Uruguay)

Yugoslavia (0) **4, Bolivia** (0) **0**
17.3.30 MONTEVIDEO
Yugoslavia: Jaksic, Ivkovic, Mihailovic, Arsenijevic, Stefanovic, Dokic, Tirnanic, Marjanovic (1), Beck (2), Vujadinovic (1), Najdanovic
Bolivia: Bermudez, Durandal, Ciavarria, Argote, Lara, Valderrama, Gomez, Bustamante, Mendez, Alborta, Fernández
Referee: Mateucci (Mexico)

Brazil (1) **4, Bolivia** (0) **0**
20.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Brazil: Velloso, Ze Lulz, Italia, Hermogenes, Fausto, Fernando, Benedito, Russinho, Leite, Preguinho (2), Moderato (2)
Bolivia: Bermudez, Durandal, Ciavarria, Sainz, Lara, Valderrama, Ortiz, Bustamante, Mendez, Alborta, Fernández
Referee: Balway (France)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Brazil	2	1	0	1	5	2	2
Bolivia	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

Group 3

Romania (1) **3, Peru** (0) **1**
14.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Romania: Lapusneanu, Steiner, Bürger, Rafinski, Vogl, Fieraru, Covaci, Desu, Wetzer, Staucin (2), Barbu (1)
Peru: Valdiviso, De Las Casas, Soria, Galindo, Garcia, Valle, Flores, Villanueva, Denegri, Neira, Souza (1)
Referee: Warken (Chile)

Uruguay (0) **1, Peru** (0) **0**
18.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Uruguay: Ballesteros, Nasazzi, Tejera, Andrade, Fernández, Gestido, Urdináran, Castro (1), Petrone, Cea, Iriarte
Peru: Pardon, De Las Casas, Maquillon, Denegri, Galindo, Astengo, Lavalle, Flores, Villanueva, Neira, Souza
Referee: Langenus (Belgium)

Uruguay (3) **4, Romania** (0) **0**
21.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Uruguay: Ballesteros, Nasazzi, Mascheroni, Andrade, Fernández, Gestido, Dorado (1), Scarone (1), Anselmo (1), Cea (1), Iriarte
Romania: Lapusneanu, Bürger, Tacu, Robi, Vogl, Fieraru, Covaci, Desu, Wetzer, Rafinski, Barbu
Referee: Rego (Brazil)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
Romania	2	1	0	1	3	5	2
Peru	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Group 4

USA (2) **3, Belgium** (0) **0**
13.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
USA: Douglas, Wood, Moorhouse, Gallacher, Tracey, Brown, Gonsalvez, Florie, Patenaude (1), Auld, McGhee (2)
Belgium: Badjou, Nouwens, Hoydonckx, Braine, Hellemans, Declercq, Diddens, Moeschal, Adams, Voorhoof, Versijp
Referee: Macias (Argentina)

USA (2) **3, Paraguay** (0) **0**
17.3.30 MONTEVIDEO
USA: Douglas, Wood, Moorhouse, Gallacher, Tracey, Brown, Gonsalvez, Florie (1), Patenaude (2), Auld, McGhee
Paraguay: Denis, Olmedo, Miracca, Etcheverri, Diaz, Aguirre, Nessi, Dominguez, Gonzales, Caceres, Peña
Referee: Macias (Argentina)

Paraguay (1) **1, Belgium** (0) **0**
20.7.30 MONTEVIDEO
Paraguay: Benitez P, Olmedo, Flores, Benitez S, Diaz, Garcete, Nessi, Romero, Gonzales, Caceres, Peña (1)
Belgium: Badjou, De Deken, Hoydonckx, Braine, Hellemans, Moeschal, Versijp, Delbeke, Adams, Nouwens, Diddens
Referee: Vallarino (Uruguay)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USA	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	1	3	2
Belgium	2	0	0	2	0	4	0