The Lords of the Game

150 years of The FA

JOSEPH S. BLATTER: WHAT WILL FOOTBALL LOOK LIKE 15 YEARS FROM NOW?

U-17 WORLD CUP: WHERE STARS ARE BORN

GUNTER NETZER: “MESSI IS MY HERO”
**150 years of The FA**
England celebrates and dreams: The Football Association’s 150th anniversary has seen a wave of nostalgia sweep the English game. David Winner looks back at The FA’s illustrious history. Our picture spread also documents The FA’s milestones from 1857 to today.

**On the inside**
In Germany, a ‘phantom goal’ is given, while in England, Arsenal are playing the football of the future, today. Over in Spain, Diego Costa is working his magic, and in Italy, Juventus are reminiscent of a mobile phone.

**Interview with Gunter Netzer**
The 69-year-old German legend tells us why he never became a coach and raves about the heroes of our era. “I wouldn’t have enjoyed everything that comes with playing the game these days,” he says.

**Countdown to Brazil 2014**
Stadium revolution: Brazilian spectators will enjoy unprecedented comfort at the new World Cup arenas. The freshly-built stadiums also hold out the prospect of a better future for the host nation.

**FIFA U-17 World Cup**
The FIFA tournament currently taking place in the United Arab Emirates is an important shop window for young footballers. The instinctive, intuitive football on offer at the U-17 World Cup makes the competition great to watch.

**Joseph S. Blatter**
The FIFA President gives his view on the “football 15 years from now” debate, saying: “As the confederation with the largest number of members, Africa is woefully under-represented at the World Cup. This situation must be remedied.”

**World Cup referees**
FIFA Head of Refereeing Massimo Busacca reveals the qualities required to officiate at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

**Our precursors**
The FIFA Weekly is the tenth incarnation of a FIFA publication. We look back at the paper’s history and consider the future.

**FIFA world rankings**
Moldova are this month’s biggest climbers. Coach Ion Caras’ team have moved up 33 places in the world rankings.

**“I was living in fear”**
In this week’s “Turning Point” column, US women’s national team veteran Shannon Boxx explains why she suffered with the autoimmune disease lupus erythematosus in silence for so long, and how happy she is today.
Europe
53 members
13 World Cup places
www.uefa.com

Africa
54 members
5 World Cup places
www.cafonline.com

Asia
46 members
4.5 World Cup places
www.the-afc.com

Oceania
11 members
0.5 World Cup places
www.oceaniafootball.com

Qualified
Italy
Netherlands
England
Russia
Belgium
Switzerland
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Germany
Spain

Play-offs 15 & 19 November 2013
Portugal-Sweden
Ukraine-France
Greece-Romania
Iceland-Croatia

Play-offs (First Leg)
Burkina Faso 3-2 Algeria
Côte d’Ivoire 3-1 Senegal
Ethiopia 1-2 Nigeria
Tunisia 0-0 Cameroon
Ghana 6-1 Egypt

Play-offs (Second Leg)
Algeria-Burkina Faso (19 November)
Senegal-Côte d’Ivoire (16 November)
Nigeria-Ethiopia (16 November)
Cameroon-Tunisia (17 November)
Egypt-Ghana (19 November)

Qualified
Australia
Japan
Iran
Korea Republic

Play-off 13 & 20 November 2013
Jordan-Uruguay
Mexico-New Zealand

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THIS WEEK IN THE WORLD OF FOOTBALL

On the inside
Diego Costa

Contents: Getty Images, Imago, AFP

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Honduras

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Panama

Oct. 5-6
Jamaica

Oct. 7
Cayman Islands

Oct. 8
Bahamas

Oct. 9
Bermuda

Oct. 10
British Virgin Islands

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Puerto Rico

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Dominican Republic

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St. Vincent & Grenadines

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US Virgin Islands

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Antigua and Barbuda

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Japan

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USA

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ever since England were crowned world champions in 1966, thanks in no small part to the most famous crossbar in football's history, something has always prevented them from repeating the feat, whether it be Argentinian opportunism in 1986, a penalty shootout against Germany in 1990, the goal that never was in 2010 or simply their own shortcomings (repeatedly). It is therefore hardly surprising that the land that spawned the game continues to bask in its past glory, according to David Winner in his FIFA Weekly report on the 150th anniversary of The Football Association.

On 30 November 1872, England and Scotland drew 0-0 in the world's premier international fixture. Due to the dominance of British football and a lack of other suitable opponents at the time, England tested themselves almost exclusively against Scotland, Ireland and Wales over the next four decades. The Three Lions did not take part in the first three FIFA World Cups, but still christened themselves unofficial world champions following victory over official incumbents Italy in November 1934. England remained unbeaten at home at Wembley until 1953, when they were dismantled 6-3 by the legendary Hungary side of that era.

The same venue provided the stage for England's coronation 13 years later, following one of the most memorable matches in footballing history. At the end of extra time the hosts were celebrating a 4-2 victory in a game where Geoff Hurst and the goal frame played leading roles, with the Swiss referee and Soviet linesman chief among the supporting cast.

The names of England's conquering heroes have stood the test of time, with the Charlton brothers Bobby and Jack, Gordon Banks, Nobby Stiles, Alf Ramsey and Hurst still revered to this day. Yet nobody embodied the team's success more than captain Bobby Moore. Born in 1941, Robert Frederick Chelsea 'Bobby' Moore succumbed to cancer in 1993, but still stands as the epitome of integrity and sincerity within the game. The imposing centre-half, dubbed 'Lord of the game' by fans and media alike, was the heartbeat of England's World Cup winning crop and was handed the Jules Rimet Trophy by Queen Elizabeth II. While England's desire for global success remains undiminished almost half a century down the line, their chances of ending their trophy drought next summer appear remote. For one, the present generation do not have a player in the Bobby Moore mould, while the implementation of goal-line technology means a repeat of Hurst's infamous goal cannot happen. And as for help from a higher power - they know all too well that the Hand of God belongs to an Argentinian.
Jumping for joy: Geoff Hurst in the 1966 World Cup quarter-final against Argentina
The Football Association, founded in London in 1863, is the world's oldest national association, and for many English people the most important. That's because in the motherland of football the past continues to encroach upon the present, as David Winner explains.

Some weeks ago, The Observer, one of Britain's most prestigious newspapers, ran a preview of the new season written by fans of teams in the Premier League.

One aspect of the article would have struck outsiders as bizarre. Each writer was asked to nominate a former favourite they'd like to see back with their team. Proposed returnees included Alan Ball of Everton, Laurie Cunningham of West Bromwich Albion and Fulham's Johnny Haynes. All wonderful footballers. But all dead. The fans weren't being macabre. The piece simply reflected the English idea that the most important thing about football is the past.

Surprisingly, some of this hunger for history is decidedly modern. In the last decade, for example, British stadiums have become encrusted with statues of old heroes. The BBC's Match of the Day programme has followed a similar path. The show's opening credits used to be a simple action montage of current players. Now it mingles past and present as if they are inseparable: footage of modern superstars merges with fresh-looking footage from the 1970s and 80s. Such nostalgia actually serves the needs of the present. In an era of globalisation and dizzying transfer fees, evocation of romantic aspects of England's football's past is comforting.

Obsessed with the past
The English penchant for looking back is also surely connected to their historic trauma of diminished power and status. In 1962 the US Secretary of State Dean Acheson observed “Great Britain has lost an empire and not yet found a role.” That is still true today.

In a documentary called The Living Dead, film-maker Adam Curtis argued: “Britain is a country haunted by its past. It is possessed by the memory of a golden age, a time long ago when this country was the most powerful on earth.” Summoning up national myths gave a sense of power, he argued, but there was a drawback: “the British people find themselves trapped by their history.” Curtis was talking about British politics, but much the same applies in football. Even when hedged about with self-mocking humour, the sense of the game as a form of ancestor-worship is never far away.

In this context, how should we view celebrations surrounding the 150th anniversary of The Football Association's birth and the first definitive codification of the rules of the game?
**1863**
The pub where it all began: In 1863, a group of interested parties gather on the ground floor of the Freemason’s Arms in London to found the English Football Association. Arthur Pember is elected as the first president. The new association also revises the laws.

**1871**
The inaugural FA Cup: For the first time, 11-a-side teams play 90 minute matches.

**1872**
Unspectacular start: A crowd of around 4,000 see England and Scotland play out a dour goalless draw in the first-ever international fixture. Cuthbert Ottaway captains the England team in Glasgow.

**1870 to 1883**
No more going it alone: In the space of 13 years, the ‘dribbling game’ is transformed into the more efficient and watchable ‘passing game’. Co-ordinated, collective play is far more pleasing to the eye.

**1882**
Laying down the Laws: The International Football Association Board (IFAB) meets for the first time. The body, comprising pioneer associations England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, is charged with supervising the Laws of the Game. FIFA joins in 1913.

**1889**
The first professional football league is launched in England.

**1890**
Great start to the century: England play Germany twice in the space of four days in the first internationals against a team from continental Europe. The Germans leave for home on the back of 12–0 and 10–0 drubbings.

**1901**
Welcome back! The FA rejoins FIFA.

**1924**
Separate ways: A series of disagreements prompts the FA to quit FIFA for the second time. England do not take part in a FIFA World Cup until 1950.

**1945**
Thaw in relations: The FA joins FIFA for the third time.

**1950**
Ignominy in Brazil: England contest the FIFA World Cup for the first time but are eliminated in the first round. Derision and ridicule follow as the joint favourites lose 1–0 to the USA’s amateurs.

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100 million pound grassroots funding

Every age retools the past for its own purposes and this year The FA is using the occasion to stress a distinctly 21st Century idea of the game. In the words of Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge who is also The FA President, the organisation is a non-profit organisation investing more than £100m a year in grassroots football for boys, girls and people with disabilities “to ensure that football is played in a safe, fun and welcoming environment for everyone – whatever their background.”

The contrast with the attitudes of the game’s patrician and patriarchal founding fathers is vivid: they saw football as a manly and martial business. As a writer in The Field magazine in 1864 said, the purpose of sport was to ensure “the youth of the nation is so trained that when the time arrives it is prepared to command a division, lead a cavalry charge, bear the brunt of battle, the hardships of the field, or accept the responsibilities devolving upon the men to whose hands is entrusted the government of the nation.”

Note the organisation’s name, by the way. The FA is not and never will be “The English FA” any more than the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church could ever be the “Italian Vatican”. And, much as the Church once believed the sun and stars revolved around the Earth, so the rulers of the English game imagined their creation as the centre of the football universe. Except it really was.

The FA’s pub foundations

The vast edifice of modern football grew from a meeting in London in October 1863. In what was then the world’s only superpower, various forms of football were increasingly popular. Various versions of the game had been adapted in the country’s elite private schools from riotous ‘folk football’ played in towns and villages ‘since time immemorial’.

The problem in the 1860s was that alumni of each school played by different rules. So a group of enthusiasts met at the Freemason’s Arms, a pub in the Covent Garden district of London, to thrash out a unified set of rules and create an association to administer the game.

The FA went on to organise the first internationals and the first competition of the world’s favourite sport, the Football Association Challenge Cup, later known as ‘The English Cup’ and in our own age simply as ‘The FA Cup’. From this all football competitions ultimately derived.

Celebrations of the birth of the founding of what was once a bastion of English tradition have become traditional. The centrepiece event for the 150th anniversary is a gala VIP dinner held on 26 October at the Connaught Rooms, a building which now stands on the site of the Freemason’s Arms. This recalls the FA’s 75th anniversary in 1938, which was marked by a “brilliant and historic” banquet for 450 VIPs in virtually the same location.

Doing the pioneers proud

Writing about that occasion in a book commissioned to mark the ninetieth anniversary in 1953, Geoffrey Green of The Times (never call it ‘The Times of London’ by the way) wrote that the spirits of the game’s pioneers would have been proud and impressed: “How could they, in their simple beginning, have ever imagined that their humble association would attain such heights of respect, authori-
1906

**Star signing:** The FA becomes a member of FIFA. England’s Daniel Woolfall is named the second president of football’s world governing body.

1914

**Crowd puller:** This year’s FA Cup final between Burnley and Liverpool attracts a 70,000 crowd. King George V elects to spend his afternoon at the Crystal Palace, where he sees Burnley win by the only goal of the game. 29-year-old Bert Freeman is the match-winning goal scorer.

1920

**Irreconcilable differences:** The FA resigns from FIFA.

1923

**Mass entertainment:** On 28 April, Bolton beat West Ham 2-0 in the FA Cup final at Wembley. The new stadium boasts a capacity of 127,000, but on this particular day an estimated 250,000 find their way into the ground. Mounted policeman George Score famously keeps order on his white horse, and the game goes down in history as the ‘White Horse Final’. The stadium is renovated in 1963.

1955

Arthur Drewry becomes the second English FIFA president, serving until 1961. His successor Stanley Rous holds the position until 1974 and also comes from the United Kingdom.

1966

**Wembley’s finest hour:** On 30 June, World Cup hosts England beat Germany 4-2 after extra time in the Final. The 96,000 crowd witness Queen Elizabeth II presenting captain Bobby Moore with the Jules Rimet Trophy.

1968

**Premiere:** Manchester United are the first English club to win the European Cup.
ty and achievement? Football and The Football Association had indeed trod a long, exciting and difficult path.” Reflection on the remarkable growth of the institution is itself part of the ritual.

In his memoirs, for example, Sir Frederick Wall, FA Secretary between 1895 and 1934, who was recommended for the job by Sir Francis Marindin, whose upper-class credentials were typical of the founding fathers (he was an Old Etonian major who had fought in the Crimean War) marvelled at the change “from a British game played by the few to a world game played by millions”. Sir Frederick, working with just one junior clerk, used to do the catering for FA Council meetings with his wife, cutting sandwiches, making coffee, and sending for more cakes if the food ran out.

Split with FIFA in 1928
But as well as being quaint (its telephone number was not listed in the London directory until the 1970s), The FA could also be isolationist and aloof. Instinctively pro-amateur and focussed on empire rather than Europe, the FA was wary of FIFA when it was founded in 1904 and broke with it in 1928 over the issue of payments to players. As a result England failed to take part in a World Cup until 1950. Sir Frederick insisted there was nothing narrow-minded or insular about this: “The FA have done much missionary work since 1899. This has been carried out in our own way and in accord with our own ideas ... we have kept abreast of modern movements while preserving our independence of thought and action.”

Today’s FA, by contrast, is genuinely modern and engaged with the world. It has evolved into a sleek and commercially-savvy organisation with more than 800 staff and its headquarters at the Wembley Stadium.

Note the stadium name, by the way. The old-loved but decrepit original was demolished a decade ago. It’s still ‘Wembley’ but much like the organisation inside it, it is an entirely new building. 8
From Golden Goals to thermal underwear

The role of the International Football Association Board (IFAB)

Football behaves rather like life on Earth: it can only exist within a relatively narrow range of physical parameters. A dramatic rise or fall in temperatures would threaten our very existence. Even what might at first glance appear a small variation in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere could theoretically put an end to life as we know it. Football behaves in a very similar way. Overly radical changes to the laws could do irreparable damage to the game.

IFAB, guardian of the laws

Our footballing planet is entirely dependent on a relatively unknown body by the name of the International Football Association Board (IFAB). IFAB is charged with protecting the essential foundation of our sporting discipline, the Laws of the Game. The body meets once a year, usually in Great Britain. It was established in 1886 to draw up and enforce a uniform code of laws for football wherever it is played on the planet.

FIFA joined IFAB in 1913, initially in a subordinate role with two representatives who could comfortably be outvoted by the ‘mother lands’ England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, each of whom had two members on the Board. The weighting was amended in 1958, since when the Board has comprised four members appointed by FIFA and one each from the four ‘mother lands’. Any change to the Laws of the Game requires six votes, so neither the British associations nor FIFA can force through a decision with a bloc vote.

Giving the right impulse

The Board has ruled on every conceivable aspect of the game, from the ‘Golden Goal’ through to thermal underwear. The body has consistently erred on the side of discretion and caution, knowing that even the tiniest changes can have far-reaching consequences. In the wake of the goal drought at the 1990 World Cup, the Board examined ways of promoting a more attacking style of play. At the 1991 meeting, the Welsh suggested a change to Law 11: a player should no longer be deemed offside “if the ball is passed to him directly from his own half of the field.”

Is the idea fit for purpose?

The idea was certainly tabled with the best of intentions, to increase the number of goals scored. However, to return to our planetary analogy, the consequences for the game would have been comparable to a moon-sized asteroid crashing into the earth. It would have meant an end to any creativity in midfield and football would have become a game of huge punts up to big men in the box. Fortunately, prudence prevailed and the minutes of the meeting read like this: “The proposal tabled by the Welsh FA was withdrawn.” By contrast, subtle adjustments to the offside law, a blanket ban on tackling from behind and amendments to the back pass law have fundamentally served their purpose.®

David Winner

1999/2005

Nerves of steel: In 1999 and 2005, English teams prevail in two of the most memorable Champions League finals. Manchester United defeat Bayern 2-1 with two stoppage time goals. Liverpool beat Milan on penalties after a 3-3 draw at the end of normal and extra time. Liverpool were 3-0 down at the break.

2007

Finished at last: The new Wembley opens on 19 May after more than four years under construction. The mighty arena costs 1.2 billion Euros and boasts a 90,000 capacity. It is the second biggest stadium in Europe after Barcelona’s Camp Nou.

Palatial surroundings: To mark 150 years of The FA, Prince William invites two of the nation’s oldest clubs to Buckingham Palace Gardens on 7 October. Polytechnic FC defeat Civil Service FC 2-1.

2013

Nerves of steel: In 1999 and 2005, English teams prevail in two of the most memorable Champions League finals. Manchester United defeat Bayern 2-1 with two stoppage time goals. Liverpool beat Milan on penalties after a 3-3 draw at the end of normal and extra time. Liverpool were 3-0 down at the break.
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Under normal circumstances that would have been a topic of discussion across the country, as the Bundesliga is very proud of all its goals, and delighted with the fact that nil-nil draws are such rare commodities these days. Yet the fact that the net failed to ripple once in Bremen on Saturday has been widely overlooked. Instead, the spotlight has been fiercely trained on Friday’s match in Sinsheim, where three goals were scored between Hoffenheim and Bayer Leverkusen, one of which was instantly dubbed “the phantom goal” in Germany. Leverkusen won 2-1, but Hoffenheim have lodged an appeal for a replay due to the nature of the victors’ second effort.

According to the official statistics, the goal was awarded to Stefan Kiessling. Twenty minutes from the end, the forward’s header to make it 2-0 did land in the goal, but it arrived there via a hole in the side netting close to the around the stadium would have been enough for referee Brych to see what the spectators had already seen on their smartphones. In accordance with FIFA regulations, however, Brych was not allowed to do so.

All of which has created an uncomfortable situation for the German Football Association. If they opt to replay the tie, it would put them on a collision course with FIFA. If they decide against it, they will get into even bigger trouble with Germany’s football fans, who have difficulty understanding why a goal must be awarded due to a technicality when everyone saw on television that it should not have been given.

The phantom goal of Sinsheim will force that question to be discussed, as well as the issue of why the Bundesliga has not implemented goal-line technology in its stadiums, as has happened in England’s Premier League and the Netherlands’ Eredivisie. At the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, the “Goal Control” system designed in Germany will be used. The Bundesliga has pencilled in summer 2015 as the date for introducing such technology, yet nobody has said whether that is due to financial or technical constraints.

A somewhat ironic punchline to this rather unsavoury episode is that it was Stefan Kiessling of all players who scored the phantom goal. Kiessling has no trouble scoring real goals on a regular basis, having been the Bundesliga’s top scorer last season. The Leverkusen forward is considered a strong candidate for the national team by fans and experts alike, yet despite his impressive

**Bundesliga**

The goal that wasn’t

_Sven Goldmann_ is a football expert at Tagesspiegel newspaper in Berlin.

After eight weeks, or 73 matches, or 6570 minutes plus stoppage time of football, the first goalless draw of the Bundesliga’s 51st season finally occurred in last Saturday’s game between Werder Bremen and Freiburg.

Visiting Sao Paulo at about this time last year, I saw for myself how the Brazilian city was brought to a standstill at nine o’clock one evening by a retired footballer from Rio de Janeiro with a stormy love life and a daughter looking for vengeance years after being dumped at a rubbish tip. The final episode of Avenida Brasil, one of the most successful soap operas of recent times, was airing on TV, and featuring among the supporting characters was a striker called Adauto, or Chupetinha to give him his nickname. Having missed a crucial penalty years earlier on account of a childhood trauma, Chupetinha finally came to terms with his terrible secret in the show’s last instalment, scoring a vital goal to earn his side, Divino FC, promotion to the first division.

I’m reminded of Chupetinha every time I see Diego Costa, the Brazilian front man who has helped make Atletico Madrid the flavour of the month. The player and the soap character bear a striking likeness to each other. Like his TV double, Costa is tall and muscular, blessed with a build that helps him muscle his way past defenders. And like Chupetinha he has a likeable face with big ears, dark eyes and the look of a slightly sulky child trying to get his head round things. Yet when he gets on the ball he is a man transformed, a player of ferocious movement and pure instinct and power but with the ability nonetheless to convert the chances that come his way with skill and panache. La Liga’s top scorer with ten goals in only eight games, Costa has two more to his name than Leo Messi and has struck nearly half of all those scored by his team. Perhaps more importantly, however, he embodies the style of football embraced by Atletico Madrid.

Since his appointment as Atletico coach in December 2011, Diego ‘El Cholo’ Simeone has taken the Argentinian approach to the game and adapted it to the Spanish league, shaping a side made up of uncompromising defenders, creative midfielders and lethal strikers. Every

**Primera División**

Big-hitting Costa penning his own script

_Jordi Punti_ is a novelist and the author of many football features in the Spanish media.

**”Why has Germany not implemented goal-line technology yet?”**

left-hand post. Referee Felix Brych was not ideally placed so asked Kiessling what had happened, only for the striker to say he had turned away after his header and had not seen anything. Brych consulted his equally perplexed assistants and made his decision based on the policy of giving advantage to the attacker when in doubt.

After the game both teams complained, partly about each other, but then in unison to FIFA, who still view the referee’s decision as final. A glance at one of the many television monitors...
The game is approached as if it were a final and every passage of play is seen as an opportunity to weaken the opposition by pushing the Laws of the Game to the limit, a practice that his players seem to enjoy pursuing on occasion. Within a short space of time and thanks to the likes of Thibaut Courtois, Juanfran, Diego Godin, Koke, Arda Turan, Gabi and Costa himself, the Colchonero coach has won the Europa League, the Super Cup and the Copa del Rey, fashioning a highly consistent unit in the process. As Arsene Wenger recently observed, Atletico are shaping up to be one of the surprise packages of the Champions League, just as Borussia Dortmund were last season. And they have Costa too. "That guy is an absolute animal," said the Arsenal coach. "He can score from anywhere."

On the pitch he is indeed an animal. His spiky character demands confrontation at all times, be it with opposing defenders, match officials or the fans. It energises him and allows him to achieve what he wants, even if it means flashing a Hannibal Lecter look at the referee. Like all his team-mates, Costa plays with the intensity demanded of them by Simeone. There are no traumas holding these players back. The centre-forward slot at Atletico Madrid has traditionally been a stepping stone to bigger things, with Fernando Torres, Sergio Kun Aguero, Diego Forlan and Falcao all filling and then vacating the position in recent seasons. Yet Costa could well break with that tradition. Here is a striker who is planning not to move on but to stick around, play finals, lift trophies and score the winner, just like Chupetinha. And having taken out Spanish nationality in July, the Costa show could well be rolling into Brazil next year. What a soap opera storyline that could make for.

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Premier League

The elegance of speed

David Winner is a London-based author and journalist. His books on football include ‘Brilliant Orange’ and ‘Dennis Bergkamp: Stillness and Speed’.

To the naked eye, the speedy passing and movement that led to Jack Wilshere’s wondergoal for Arsenal against Norwich City on Saturday seemed to have yielded nothing but an offside blur. Only after the linesman failed to raise his flag and the move was replayed in slow-motion on the Emirates Stadium’s giant screens did the crowd appreciate what had happened. Only then did nearly 60,000 fans gasp in astonishment.

Wilshere, along with his team-mates Santi Cazorla and Olivier Giroud, had created a moment that will be remembered long after the circumstances of the match are forgotten.
The move was built from deep inside Arsenal’s half in a series of interlocking triangles blended together at ever-increasing speed. First, a routine ball to the wing. Then another down the line. As Arsenal approached the edge of the Norwich penalty area the pace quickened.

In a couple of seconds the ball zipped from Cazorla to Wilshere to Cazorla to Giroud to Wilshere to Giroud … and suddenly Wilshere was five yards clear, calmly side-footing into the corner of the net. Each of the decisive last three passes involved a flick of near-impossible deftness with the outside of a foot. The goal was Arsenal’s first in a 4-1 win that restored them to the top of the table and strengthened the feeling that, inspired by the arrival of Mesut Ozil and Mathieu Flamini, the club has its best team since the Invincibles a decade ago. Some observers think Arsenal might win the league. Others say it’s too early to tell. Many years hence, of course, no one will remember such stuff. But they will still talk about that goal.

Arsene Wenger said it was his favourite goal in his 17 years in charge at Arsenal: “It was a team goal and it was at the speed you want your team to play”. Wilshere’s wonder thus takes its place in the pantheon alongside the best of Thierry Henry and perhaps even Dennis Bergkamp’s goals at Leicester or Dennis Bergkamp’s goals at Leicester or their heads. Could it be that Arsenal’s time at the top be over?”

The Juventus of this season remind you of a mobile phone that hasn’t been charged and keeps turning itself off. Vidal, one of those previously symbolic figures, arrived back late from international duty with Chile last week and was punished by being dropped to the bench against Fiorentina. He has come to embody the sense of sluggishness that now afflicts the club.

During the 1966 World Cup Final at Wembley Bobby Moore received rapturous applause for controlling a high ball on his thigh. The skill seemed remarkable to the English crowd. During the last two hugely taxing seasons, Conte’s team pushed themselves to the limit, using every ounce of mental and physical strength to execute the coach’s instructions. That is no longer the case, and the collapse in Florence typified this failing. Juice led through 2-1, another careless error led to an equaliser shortly before the end, and the game finished in a 2-2 draw.

The next few games will reveal whether Conte, who is widely expected to leave the club at the end of the season, manages to recharge his team’s batteries or whether the power source needs to be changed altogether.
Name:
Gunter Theodor Netzer
Date of birth:
14 September 1944
Place of birth:
Monchengladbach
Height:
1.78 m
Position as player:
Playmaker
Gunter Netzer, which TV station will be broadcasting your crisp analyses during the 2014 FIFA World Cup?

Gunter Netzer: I haven’t yet decided whether I’m going to Brazil. And if I do, it’ll be as a private person. My days as a TV pundit are over.

But you enjoyed your time as a TV analyst.

I did. But at some point there comes a time to stop. After a few years I always pick up a signal or two, and I listen to those signals. Then I draw my conclusions.

Were you always decisive?

Yes. When Hamburg hired me as general manager in 1977 after I finished playing, it was more or less by chance. All I wanted to do in Hamburg was publish the club paper. But suddenly there was a gun pointing at my head, because the president forced me to take over as manager. It was good, we had eight successful years. But after that – and I was keenly aware of it – I had to give it up, despite enormous resistance. Football had sucked me dry. It was an irrevocable decision. I had plenty of similar offers later on, but I’ve stuck to my decision ever since.

You have seemingly infinite expertise. Why did you never move into coaching?

The job of coach wouldn’t suit me. I’ve always known what I’m capable of. But more than anything else, I know what I’m not capable of. I wouldn’t have enjoyed being out there on the touchlines dealing with players and tactics every day. And I’m not the kind of guy who needs structures and plans.

But you must have had a master plan for your career.

Never. I’ve always decided the most important things in my life intuitively. At certain times, it’s as if I switch to auto-pilot.

Controlled by whom?

I don’t know. Things just happen, and I can’t explain it. It’s like the cup final with Mönchengladbach against Cologne all those years ago, when I brought myself on as a sub.

Could you tell us the story again?

It was 1973. Coach Hennes Weisweiler had demoted me to the bench at the start, and when he tried to bring me on at half-time, I refused. The game went into extra time. It was 1-1, and I saw my team-mate Christian Kulik lying on the ground injured. It was chaotic out on the pitch. So I just took myself over to the referee and spontaneously brought myself on, although I’d actually informed Weisweiler beforehand.

And then, with your second touch of the ball, you scored the match-winning second goal.

Exactly, but I got lucky. If the ball had taken a different bounce, I’d have missed the target.

Would “bringing yourself on” be conceivable nowadays?

Hardly. Even then, it was pushing the limit for me to undermine the authority of my coach like that. The coach commands even more respect today, and rightly so.

Are there still rebels like you?

Of course. But what you really have now is heroes. Football fans need heroes, figures they can identify with.

Who is your hero?

Lionel Messi. The lad is just an unbelievable player.

Is he the greatest player of them all?

The greatest player is Pelé. He was truly very special in every respect, and a really fantastic person too. Diego Maradona was arguably a better footballer than Pelé, but he never had his life under control. Pelé is the greatest because of the total package.

So what about Messi?

He’s the best player of the current era and a charming man away from the field.

Some experts think the young Pelé wouldn’t have stood a chance against Messi.

These comparisons spanning different generations aren’t legitimate. It’s certainly true that our football had nothing like the pace of the game today, but it was the best football there was back then. The conditions were completely different.

Could you imagine life as a professional footballer now?

I could imagine it, but I definitely wouldn’t want it. Franz Beckenbauer and I were talking about this recently, and we rapidly came to the same conclusion: we’d take the money the players earn today, but we would gladly do without all the palaver. I’m just thinking about the speed of media communications, the internet, smartphones, the way everything comes out into the open - it’s ridiculous. You should know this: in my day, if I was invited to appear on Saturday’s TV football show, my heart started beating faster as early as the previous Monday. Today’s players behave more intelligently. They’re very savvy in terms of the media. It’s no small thing to be under the spotlight on every channel.

Were you a complete player?

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Interview: Alan Schweingruber
With Visa you are always welcome in the country of football.
New stadiums, new opportunities

The World Cup will give Brazilian clubs a boost and provide fans with new levels of comfort.

Sérgio Xavier, São Paulo

While the finishing touches are still being added to half a dozen new stadiums earmarked for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, six of the total 12 new arenas have already been inaugurated. With the exception of the Maracana, the venues in Brasilia, Fortaleza, Salvador, Recife and Belo Horizonte have all already staged plenty of action, marking the start of a new chapter in Brazilian football. Curiously enough, however, the first of 14 new stadiums to be officially opened, on 8 December 2012, will not even stage any matches at next year’s tournament.

The Arena do Gremio in the southern city of Porto Alegre was erected in record time, effectively a stowaway that tagged along on the country’s World Cup ticket. New or renovated venues soon followed in Salvador, Brasilia, Belo Horizonte, Fortaleza, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Natal, Curitiba, Manaus, Sao Paulo, Cuiaba and in Porto Alegre itself, with matches programmed at the city’s Beira-Rio stadium. The Palmeiras Arena is the 14th new venue, and, like the Arena do Gremio, it owes its existence to the country’s World Cup enthusiasm and is set to be completed in May next year.

Unfamiliar comforts

The 14 new stadiums are not only modern sporting arenas, but are also responsible for triggering a minor revolution in Brazilian football. Suddenly, attending a match will be a different experience entirely for the locals. No longer will they be herded in through cramped entrance ways, but will instead enter via broad gates, functioning turnstiles, sit in comfortable seats and be able to use clean, hygienic bathroom facilities. Furthermore, the pitches are well maintained, the drainage system works and surveillance cameras provide greater safety, while bars, small shops, parking spaces and connections to the public transport system will ensure visitors’ first impressions are positive.

This is inevitably the case, as FIFA’s infrastructure requirements when awarding hosting rights for one of its tournaments demand the highest standards. The stadia promise plenty of opportunities, and for the first few months after the competition the gleaming structures will remain as a special legacy for the clubs who continue to use them.

Cause for concern

The problems can come later. Chaotic organisation, even after being restructured by outsiders, tends to gradually revert back to its previous state, as even modern buildings still require maintenance and care.

However, that maintenance rarely happens. The Engenhão stadium in Rio, which hosted the Panamerican Games in 2007, stands as a regrettable example. The rundown arena is now closed, as strong winds could cause it to collapse.

Who can take advantage?

It is clear then, that the 14 new stadiums not only represent an opportunity but also a responsibility. Spectators will appreciate the modern venues and word of mouth will ensure news of the improvements swiftly spread. That will lead to higher average attendances, meaning the small shops nearby will sell more licensed merchandise. However, cities without large fan-bases such as Cuiaba and Manaus may be forced to witness the huge disused structures fall into disrepair.

Brazilian football will be given an opportunity to start afresh. The country has always had exceptional players and fantastic supporters, but until now, the same could not be said of its stadiums. The modern arenas will give the nation the chance to address that, yet it remains unclear exactly who will benefit. WIDTH=505-

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COUNTDOWN TO BRAZIL 2014

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Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1961

Samba, Caipirinha, a natural touch on the ball ingrained into every fibre. Beach soccer is a Brazilian cultural asset. Imported by European seafarers, it is part of everyday life on Copacabana beach. The first official tournament took place here in 1957, and from here it grew into what it is today – not just a sporting discipline, more a way of life.
The Beach Soccer World Cup has been a FIFA event since 2005. The first three editions were held on Copacabana beach. But even at the inaugural tournament, the form book was turned on its head. Brazil were bogged down in the sand, and France took the trophy. Revenge was swift, as the Brazilian beach boys won the next four editions. But in 2011, a new force came ashore: Russia became world champions, and they recently retained their title in Tahiti.
Advanced styling on every level
Melted-down dreams

Perikles Monioudis

On the morning of 8 July 1966, British Prime Minister Harold Wilson delivered the opening speech of the 35th FIFA Congress at London’s Royal Garden Hotel. The clearly upbeat head of the Labour government laid his pipe to one side and began to speak of “England’s gift to the world,” referring to “Association Football,” as the game was generally called then to distinguish it from rugby. “I can hardly imagine a greater contribution any nation has ever made to the world,” beamed the Prime Minister, although he swiftly acknowledged that England would no longer lay claim to the “pre-eminent position in football.” Little was he to know that just a few weeks later the motherland of football would claim the most important trophy in the world game for the first time and, thus far, only time.

On that summer morning in London, the fact contributing most to Wilson’s sunny disposition was the very presence of the Jules Rimet Trophy, the World Cup of the time, the Greek goddess of victory Nike glittering gold and reaching to the heavens. A few weeks earlier, on 20 March 1966, she had become swag for Sunday lunchtime thieves, who abducted her from an exhibition of postage stamps at Central Hall in Westminster. The crooks struck at ten past midday, just as the security detail were greeting the next shift. But now the trophy was back in the possession of the FA, “thanks to the joint efforts of the British police and a dog,” reported Wilson.

A dog? Newspapers around the world were filled with pictures of a border collie by the name of Pickles, who was said to have come upon the trophy, wrapped up in old newsprint in a London front garden. What or who exactly caused Pickles to stumble across the precious booty was shrouded in mystery. The only man arrested and imprisoned was an intermediary, Edward Betchley, after the staged handover of a ransom and a dramatic chase. Pickles’ owner, one David Corbett, was invited to a celebratory feast for the players after the World Cup final and received a £6,000 reward.

From 1930 to 1970, the Jules Rimet Trophy was the object of dreams for every serious player before becoming the property of the Brazilian Football Association (CBF) in perpetuity when the South Americans won it for the third time. The trophy lived through eventful times and came to a similar end. It survived the Second World War unscathed in a shoebox under the bed of then FIFA vice-president Dr. Ottorino Barassi but was stolen again in 1983 from CBF’s offices in Rio de Janeiro. It is assumed the trophy was melted down and turned into gold bars.

The new soberly-named World Cup Trophy, designed by Italian craftsman Silvio Gazzaniga, was contested for the first time in 1974. West Germany and their captain Franz Beckenbauer were the first to win it, and were promptly given a replica for their trophy cabinet. The original has been kept in a secret location and meticulously guarded ever since. It emerged from hiding a few weeks ago, going on display in all six FIFA confederations and all 26 Brazilian federal states on the Coca-Cola World Cup Trophy Tour. But Prime Minister Wilson’s words back in 1966 are as relevant now as they were back then: “For reasons of security, I cannot reveal where the cup currently is.”

The weekly column by our staff writers

THE FIFA WEEKLY

WEEKLY TOP 11

The greatest shocks in football history

1. 1954 FIFA World Cup. The miracle of Bern. West Germany bring the ‘mighty Magyars’ of Hungary down to earth in the final to win 3-2.

2. 1992 UEFA European Championship. Denmark’s players are already on holiday when Yugoslavia withdraw from the competition. Called up as replacements, Denmark storm to the title.

3. EURO 2004. Greece win the competition in dramatic fashion, and Otto Rehhagel attains legendary status among Greek fans.

4. 1950 World Cup. The ‘kings of football’ are dethroned: USA 1-0 England.

5. 1938 World Cup. Switzerland come back from a 2-0 deficit to defeat Germany 4-2.

6. 1950 World Cup. Uruguay overcome hosts Brazil in the final to send the host nation into despair.

7. 1992 European Championship qualifier. 12 September 1990 is a date Austrian football fans prefer to forget - Faroe Islands 1-0 Austria.

8. 1966 World Cup. First round: Italy 0-1 North Korea.


10. 1978 World Cup. The disgrace of Cordoba. Defending champions West Germany lose 3-2 to Austria in the second round.

11. 2013 Austrian Cup final. In a shock upset at Ernst Happel Stadium, third-tier Pasching triumph 1-0 against champions Austria Vienna. For the first time ever, the Austrian Cup goes to a third division side.

Have there been any greater shocks?
Send your views to:
feedback-TheWeekly@fifa.org
“Football in its purest form!”

The world’s best junior teams are currently contesting the FIFA U-17 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates. The tournament where stars are born is the leading showcase for up-and-coming young players.

With furious attacking onslaughts, mazy dribbling, shots from every conceivable angle and an almost complete lack of suffocating tactics and strategic rigidity, the FIFA U-17 World Cup is a fans delight. “This is football in its purest form, still based on instinct and intuition,” says Jean-Paul Brigger of the tournament being played out in the United Arab Emirates. The former Switzerland international, director of FIFA’s Technical Study Group, has spent the last two decades monitoring junior football around the world. At this level, coaching is far less likely to influence the shape and structure of a match, “and in this sense the way the juniors play embodies the fundamental basics of football,” he says.

The modern greats of the world game hold similar opinions about their World Cup appearances as teenagers: “It was a magnificent opportunity to measure ourselves against players of the same age from abroad and get to know different footballing cultures,” says England’s Danny Welbeck, a veteran of the U-17 tournament in 2007 in Korea. Ten years earlier, keeper Iker Casillas and Spain made it to the semi-finals in Egypt. Casillas describes the early international comparison as “a unique opportunity and an unforgettable experience.” At the time he kept goal for a team including current Barcelona icon Xavi.

The list of eventual superstars who laid down an initial marker on the U-17 stage is almost inexhaustible. It includes the likes of Luis Figo (Portugal, 1989), Juan Sebastian Veron (Argentina, 1991), Alessandro Del Piero (Italy, 1991), Ronaldinho (Brazil, 1997), Carlos Tevez and Javier Mascherano (both Argentina, 2001), Fernando Torres (Spain, 2001) and Cesc Fabegras (Spain, 2003).

At the 2009 edition in Nigeria, a young Brazilian by the name of Neymar made his first appearance at a World Cup. Defeats to Mexico and Switzerland meant his tournament ended after the group stage. This example of unexpected failure is absolutely typical of the competitive situation in the junior game. The tournament generally features teams drawn from one single year group, so there is little by way of an established dressing room hierarchy, and the potential for shock results is greater than in the senior game. The players are also still growing and the dramatic physical differences have a decisive influence on the outcome. No African representative team has ever brought home a senior intercontinental trophy, but at the U-17 level two of the most successful nations are African; Nigeria with three wins and Ghana with two. Jean-Paul Brigger thinks it is no coincidence: “Experience says that African youths are further on in their physical development compared to the other lads in their age group.”

However, predictions regarding possible future stardom for boys of this age are notoriously unreliable: “The years after this are decisive in terms of physical growth, mental development and tactical training,” according to Brigger. Former France coach Gerard Houllier agrees with this opinion: “There’s undoubtedly the chance you might uncover a talent at a U-17 World Cup. But you can never say for certain that a player will go on and make the breakthrough. Such a lot depends on their tactical, physical and social development.”

Coming at it from another angle, catching the eye at a young age can be a huge dilemma...
2003 in Finland. Spain’s Cesc Fàbregas (left) challenges Leandro Díaz of Argentina. Seven years later, the young Spaniard was a World Cup winner (picture p24).
Yet over 200 have been winners with FIFA.

As an organisation with 209 member associations, our responsibilities do not end with the FIFA World Cup™, but extend to safeguarding the Laws of the Game, developing football around the world and bringing hope to those less privileged.

Our Football for Hope Centres are one example of how we use the global power of football to build a better future.
for a player who hits the headlines as a teenager and is suddenly confronted with the lure of overnight riches. The agents and scouts, football's entrepreneurs if you will, play a central role here. Put bluntly, they are hoping to make a killing from the tournament in the UAE. For sure, the leading clubs put out feelers to the biggest talents earlier and earlier, but the potential for a major discovery at a U-17 World Cup remains great. “It’s the best shop window for young players and people with an interest in them,” says Brigger. “By the time they get to a U-20 World Cup, the players are much more likely to be contracted to major clubs.” From time to time, the prospect of a better life leads to questionable, even extreme incidents. After the 2003 U-17 tournament in Finland, 12 of the 20-strong Sierra Leone squad (and two officials) absconded. Of Ghana’s 1991 World Cup winning squad, 18 of the 20 players signed contracts to move abroad immediately after – and even during – the tournament.

FIFA has overseen the tournament at this age group since 1985, initially as an under-16 contest, and in the present day U-17 form since 1991. The prestige associated with the tournament and overall standards of play have steadily risen. Where the first edition was a 16-team affair and partly by invitation, the 24-team format adopted in 2007 reflected at least in part vastly improved youth development programmes at association level. FIFA’s dedicated support programme makes an important contribution to this welcome progress. For example, the event in the United Arab Emirates includes an eight-day workshop for coaches from the Middle East.

In the past, the organisation of youth football was largely a matter for the clubs and associations. The prestigious BlueStars/FIFA Youth Cup was first staged in 1939 in Zurich and later attracted FIFA as a patron. Following a path similar to the current world junior tournaments, the priority rapidly became the opportunity for cross-border competition. For Sir Bobby Charlton, whose first taste of playing abroad with Manchester United was in Zurich in the 1950s, the continental reality of the time was a footballing culture shock: “The Italians pulled everyone back into their own penalty box and did nothing but defend. We just didn’t get it to start with – and we lost 1-0. That taught us a lesson.” Charlton & Co learned from the experience: England won the World Cup in 1966 and Manchester United lifted the European Cup two years later. Å

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**a) 1999** in New Zealand
USA’s Landon Donovan, now at LA Galaxy.

**b) 1999**: Mali’s Seydou Keita, now at Dalian Aerbin in China – previously at FC Barcelona.

**c) 2001** in Trinidad & Tobago
Argentina’s Carlos Tevez, now at Juventus, previously at West Ham, Manchester United and Manchester City.

**d) 2005** in Peru
Mexico’s Carlos Vela, now on loan from Arsenal to Real Sociedad.

**e) 2007** in South Korea
England’s Danny Welbeck, now at Manchester United.

**f) 2007**
Germany’s Toni Kroos, now at Bayern Munich.

**g) 2009** in Nigeria
Brazil’s Neymar, now at Barcelona, previously at Santos.
but also the speed and precision with which the ball is struck. Modern football coaches focus on attacking play, their greatest challenge being to create teams that can break through solid defences whilst minimising the risk of exposing flaws in their own defence in the process.

For many years, football was characterised by defensive tactics such as the Schweizer Riegel ("Swiss Bolt") and Catenaccio, when the aim of the game was to keep a clean sheet. Only at the start of the 21st century did the focus of the game shift forward as Barcelona and the Spain national team, with their tiki-taka style of play, demonstrated the success that the use of technical finesse and rotating attacking formations can bring.

The current generation of players can only keep up with this modern, physically demanding brand of football by being trained for every aspect of the game, one in which intelligence and mental strength are as important as physical conditioning. Today’s footballers have to be complete players, and to achieve this each player needs to be individually nurtured.

Sarah Steiner

The history of football is one of countless rule changes, from the introduction of the penalty kick in 1891 to new substitution rules in 1967, the addition of the yellow and red card system in 1970, the offside rule update in 1990, and the back-pass rule introduced in 1992. All of these changes have made football what it is today, and new rule changes are being reviewed all the time to help make the game even better, faster and more exciting.

Tempo is a crucial factor, not only in terms of players who are running faster than before, but also for the speed and precision with which the ball is struck. Modern football coaches focus on attacking play, their greatest challenge being to create teams that can break through solid defences whilst minimising the risk of exposing flaws in their own defence in the process.

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On 28 and 29 October in Zurich, the International Football Arena will address the topic: “What will football look like 15 years from now?” Opinion is divided over exactly which rule changes will shape the future of football. Goal-line technology is certainly one of them, and will be used at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. Further suggestions such as the introduction of timeouts or the use of video replays in decision-making are still the subject of much discussion.

Irrespective of which new rules or tactics are adopted across the globe, one thing is for sure: football thrives on emotion, and that, at least, will never change. 

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Tempo is a crucial factor, not only in terms of players who are running faster than before, but also for the speed and precision with which the ball is struck. Modern football coaches focus on attacking play, their greatest challenge being to create teams that can break through solid defences whilst minimising the risk of exposing flaws in their own defence in the process.

For many years, football was characterised by defensive tactics such as the Schweizer Riegel ("Swiss Bolt") and Catenaccio, when the aim of the game was to keep a clean sheet. Only at the start of the 21st century did the focus of the game shift forward as Barcelona and the Spain national team, with their tiki-taka style of play, demonstrated the success that the use of technical finesse and rotating attacking formations can bring.

The current generation of players can only keep up with this modern, physically demanding brand of football by being trained for every aspect of the game, one in which intelligence and mental strength are as important as physical conditioning. Today’s footballers have to be complete players, and to achieve this each player needs to be individually nurtured.

On 28 and 29 October in Zurich, the International Football Arena will address the topic: “What will football look like 15 years from now?” Opinion is divided over exactly which rule changes will shape the future of football. Goal-line technology is certainly one of them, and will be used at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. Further suggestions such as the introduction of timeouts or the use of video replays in decision-making are still the subject of much discussion.

Irrespective of which new rules or tactics are adopted across the globe, one thing is for sure: football thrives on emotion, and that, at least, will never change. 

In the next weekly debate, we ask: Artificial turf – a blessing or a curse? We want to know what you think about the controversial topic of synthetic turf. Send your opinions to: feedback-TheWeekly@fifa.org.
Ten years ago I was certain my training methods were state-of-the-art, but football keeps on developing. Stamina is no longer the priority in training. Methods are now geared towards agility and pace over short distances. Today’s young players are quicker and physically more robust. They’re more skilled and better passers of the ball. Defenders also have far better technique. Possession has become even more important than in the past. That’s opened the way for progress in terms of tactics, and it’s all making football even more attractive.

Ottmar Hitzfeld, Switzerland national coach

From an organisational point of view, the clubs and national teams will be even more closely defined and shaped by the competitions they’re involved in. This can only be advantageous in my opinion. At a technical level, I don’t see much changing. We already have extremely high standards, and I think significant improvement will be difficult. But for all the changes, football is and will always be football. The things you associate with this sporting discipline are individual technique, tactics, entertainment, passion and preparation. There may be changes in the way we prepare, but not in such a way as to distort the spirit and identity of the game.

Cesare Prandelli, Italy national coach

I was impressed when I saw Neymar playing at the Confederations Cup. He has unbelievable presence on the field of play. He racks up the kilometres and has extraordinary power. He is what the players of the future will look like. Pace, power and technique will continue to develop along with everything that contributes to football being even more of a spectacle. Because let’s not forget one thing: the players make football what it is, and nothing else. What we’ll increasingly see in the future are players capable of winning matches single-handedly.

Gerard Houllier, Red Bull global sports director

The game will definitely become a little quicker and more skilful. The really big leap forward though will be in the area of regeneration. Recovery time will become much more important. Players will have to recover and be capable of delivering 100% again in the shortest possible time. The hallmark of the game is an utter determination to win, which is why I’m unreservedly in favour of the new goal-line technology. If the ball crosses the line, a goal must be given. However, I have no time at all for possible changes to the laws, abolishing offside for example. Without offside, there’s no football.

Jean-Paul Brigger, head of FIFA’s technical department

Training conditions will be optimised and become more specialised. In the past, it was enough to have one coach for everything. Goalkeeping coaches came along at a later date. In the future, I imagine we’ll have specialist coaches for every match situation for defending, build-up play, and finishing. I assume we’ll spend an increasing amount of time on training. If there’s one change to the laws I’d get behind, it would be to give free-kicks for time wasting. We need to stop teams who are in the lead from suffocating the game in the last minute by monopolising the ball down by the corner flag.

Sven-Goran Eriksson, Guangzhou R&F FC, China, head coach

‘Football is and will always be football’

Cesare Prandelli

A level playing field for Africa!

What will football look like 15 years from now? It will still be 11-a-side that’s for sure, and Sepp Herberger’s words of wisdom will still be true: the game will last 90 minutes, and the ball will still be round. What will change is the setting. In the future, football matches may become more of an ‘event’. They will be big occasions, which don’t merely start with kick-off and end with the final whistle. I could imagine making matches even more enjoyable for the whole family by incorporating show acts and concerts. For that to happen, stadium infrastructure and facilities must be improved. Football is culture and entertainment rolled into one, and it requires a setting worthy of that.

From a purely sporting perspective, I would like to see globalisation finally taken seriously, and the African and Asian national associations accorded the status they deserve at the FIFA World Cup. It cannot be that the European and South American confederations lay claim to the majority of the berths at the World Cup (18 or 19 teams), because taken together they account for significantly fewer member associations (63) than Africa and Asia (100).

Africa, the confederation with the most member associations (54), is woefully under-represented at the World Cup with just five places. As long as this remains the case, African sides may never win an intercontinental trophy, regardless of progress on the playing side. This flawed state of affairs must be rectified. At the end of the day, an equal chance for all is the paramount imperative of elite sport.
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“Respect for referees”

A

n intense month in the football calendar has come to an end. The last group qualifiers for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil have come and gone, and the final berths are about to be claimed via the playoffs. Slowly but surely, the make-up of next year’s tournament is taking shape.

Yet this isn’t just an intense time for the teams; the same is true for the officials. Impeccable performances and the fullest concentration are expected of them. Participation at the World Cup is on the line, and that means there’s a lot at stake - a huge amount in fact.

So it isn’t just the players and football associations who are feeling the pressure. The world’s top referees are also in the spotlight. My team and I will analyse those games in detail. Part of the prospective team of officials for Brazil is currently in the United Arab Emirates for the FIFA U-17 World Cup, while other referees are officiating at tournaments in each confederation. I led those intensive sessions, which covered various theoretical and practical exercises. We are presently working with three-man teams of officials from over 50 countries, but there is still an opportunity for others to add their name to the list of those who will referee in Brazil. Officials may not have the necessary abilities today, but that may not be the case tomorrow. Right now we are still only at the qualifying stage and we don’t yet know who’ll be in our team for the World Cup!

The next thing for us to do is to make sure that the candidates for 2014 make decisions on the pitch based on uniform and consistent criteria. We are working towards achieving uniformity and consistency in our decision-making. These are the vital factors we have to consider.

For me, the most important messages we have to get across to the players and the rest of the world are fair play and respect. We need fair play and we need respect. Some situations require a split-second decision, while others arise when the referee doesn’t have a perfect view. So co-operation is extremely important. The players need to realise that football is a game that needs to be enjoyed and not ruined. It’s often very difficult for the referee to make the right decision when the players don’t play fair.

One of the most important aspects of a referee’s training is to understand different footballing mentalities. How can referees improve in this area? Through practise their skill relentlessly, just as a player or coach would do. They have to watch and re-watch videos, noting down the differences. They have to “nourish” themselves with football, as it were.

We have to understand every zone, whether it be Africa, Asia or Central America. That way our referees won’t be caught out by unexpected situations or reactions. We have to grasp the different football cultures as best we can. We place great importance on the referee being in the best possible position during the game, focusing especially on his movement and where he places himself during a game. A well-positioned referee can, for example, better assess and recognise what’s happening in the penalty area or in peripheral areas of the pitch where it can be difficult to see exactly what’s taking place. Obviously we can’t eradicate every mistake although we can do our utmost to minimise errors. But at the end of the day, we are all human and we will always make mistakes.

*The maximum permitted age for a FIFA referee is 45.*

*The number of FIFA referees has diminished significantly over the last decade – from 1149 in 2003 to 883 now.*

*153 African referees have forfeited their status in this time, but the European total has held steady at 272.*

*Around 30 FIFA referees will be on duty at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.*

Massimo Busacca

**Massimo Busacca** (44) is a former world-class referee. He is currently FIFA’s Head of Refereeing.
Debates, opinions and reports

FIFA is taking a huge leap in the way it communicates. The FIFA Weekly, which is aimed at fans and national associations in equal measure, gives you the chance to take part in the football debate.

Perikles Monioudis and Yvonne Lemmer

Depending on who you ask, FIFA is a castle, a black hole or a bunker from which no light ever escapes. Some commentators appear determined to outdo each other in their efforts to come up with the most original imagery to describe the organisation. Amidst all of this it should not go unnoticed that FIFA has three separate branches to prevent abuse, with executive, legislative and judiciary arms. Recommendations that come from the Ethics Committee have not been passed down from the Executive Committee, but are instead drawn up entirely separately, and decisions made by the Congress are binding for the latter. FIFA's efforts to ensure transparency do not end there. This new publication that has been launched to give voice to all the changes.

The FIFA Weekly's precursors were originally designed as news bulletins. Victor E. Schneider was a man whole-heartedly committed to any project he set his mind to, yet his tenure as the first FIFA vice-president was plagued by misfortune. In 1906, Schneider began work on an ambitious idea to organise a maiden international competition for European clubs. He set the wheels in motion, informing national associations, planning a four-group tournament and even had the trophy made. The semi-finals and final were to be played in his homeland, Switzerland. There was only one problem: not a single club showed any interest in participating.

Scheider had failed with a previous effort to start another FIFA project a year earlier, when in 1905 the Geneva native launched the first FIFA publication at his own expense. It was called 'Bulletin Officiel de la Federation Internationale de Football (Association)' and Schneider not only took charge of editing duties, he also bankrolled the printing costs himself. It was a bold initiative, but Schneider soon found himself lacking the financial resources needed to sustain it and the first FIFA publication was discontinued after just four editions.

After a tentative attempt to establish a presence with its 'Official Communications' in 1924, FIFA stepped up its efforts a few years later. The result was 'World's Football', which was printed in colour and was available via an inexpensive subscription from member associations. Between 1938 and 1940 its front cover achieved cult status and its art-deco style would not look out of place today.

From 1983 onwards world football's governing body published the 'FIFA Magazine', including reports and interviews on glossy paper, before replacing it with the monthly 'FIFA World'. From today, the tenth FIFA publication will appear. A product born of its past, The FIFA Weekly heralds the future. ✨
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**FIFA WORLD RANKING**

**The FIFA Weekly**

**Republic of Ireland**

11 Brazil
12 Chile
13 USA
14 Portugal
15 Greece
16 Bosnia-Herzegovina
17 Côte d’Ivoire
18 Croatia
19 Russia
20 Ukraine
21 France
22 Ecuador
23 Ghana
24 Mexico
25 Sweden
26 Denmark
27 Czech Republic
28 Serbia
29 Romania
30 Slovenia
31 Costa Rica
32 Algeria
33 Nigeria
34 Honduras
35 Scotland
36 Panama
37 Venezuela
38 Armenia
39 Peru
40 Turkey
41 Mali
42 Cape Verde Islands
43 Hungary
44 Japan
45 Wales
46 Iceland
47 Norway
48 Tunisia
49 Paraguay
50 Iraq
51 Egypt
52 Burkina Faso
53 Austria
54 Montenegro
55 Uzbekistan
56 Korea Republic
57 Australia
58 Albania
59 Cameroon
60 Republic of Ireland
61 Libya
62 South Africa
63 Finland
64 Senegal
65 Slovakia
66 Israel
67 Zambiap
68 Guinea
69 Poland
70 Jordan
71 United Arab Emirates
72 Bolivia
73 Sierra Leone
74 Cuba
75 Togo
76 Bulgaria
77 Morocco
78 Dominican Republic
79 New Zealand
80 Haiti
81 Trinidad and Tobago
82 Jamaica
83 Belfas
84 Gabon
85 Uganda
86 FYR Macedonia
87 Congo OR
88 Azerbaijan
89 El Salvador
90 Northern Ireland
91 Congo
92 Oman
93 Angola
94 Benin
95 Ethiopia
96 Panama
97 Norway
98 Botswana
99 Estonia
100 Georgia
101 Saudi Arabia
102 Zimbabwe
103 Lithuania
104 Iraq
105 Qatar
106 Liberia
107 Korea DPR
108 Central African Republic
109 Kuwait
110 Niger
111 Canada
112 Guatemala
113 Antigua and Barbuda
114 Norway
115 Mozambique
116 Tajikistan
117 Latvia
118 Kenya
119 Equatorial Guinea
120 St Vincent and the Grenadines
121 Lebanon
122 Burundi
123 Bahrain
124 Malawi
125 Turkmenistan
126 New Caledonia
127 Luxembourg
128 Namibia
129 Rwanda
130 Tanzania
131 Singapore
132 Grenada
133 Afghanistan
134 Cyprus
135 Kazakhstan
136 Sudan
137 Philippines
138 St Lucia
139 Guadeloupe
140 Malawi
141 Syria
142 Lesotho
143 Thailand
144 Tahiti
145 Belize
146 Palestine
147 St Kitts and Nevis
148 Hong Kong
149 Myanmar
150 Kyrgyzstan
151 Vietnam
152 Mauritania
153 Nicaragua
154 India
155 Singapore
156 Chad
157 Maldives
158 Liechtenstein
159 Puerto Rico
160 Malaysia
161 Bermuda
162 Indonesia
163 Sao Tome e Principe
164 Bangladesh
165 Nepal
166 Sri Lanka
167 Laos
168 Pakistan
169 Dominica
170 Curacao
171 Solomon Islands
172 Guam
173 Barbados
174 Aruba
175 Faroe Islands
176 Chinese Taipei
177 Yemen
178 Samoa
179 Mauritius
180 Madagascar
181 Guatemala-Belize
182 Vanuatu
183 Swaziland
184 Mongolia
185 Fiji
186 American Samoa
187 Tonga
188 Bahamas
189 Montserrat
190 Cameroon
191 US Virgin Islands
192 Cayman Islands
193 Brunei Darussalam
194 Timor-Leste
195 Eritrea
196 Seychelles
197 Papua New Guinea
198 Cambodia
199 British Virgin Islands
200 Andorra
201 Somalia
202 Djibouti
203 Cook Islands
204 South Sudan
205 Macau
206 Angola
207 Brunei
208 San Marino
209 Turks and Caicos Islands

**Top spot**

**Biggest climber**

**Biggest faller**
THE SOUND OF FOOTBALL

Is there any song more closely associated with a football club than “You’ll Never Walk Alone” with Liverpool? In the countdown to kick-off at Anfield, when the stadium resounds to the sound of 40,000 fans bellowing the famous chorus, it sends shivers down the spine.

The tune probably has the same effect on opposing teams, although for very different reasons. Unsurprisingly, when Pink Floyd wanted to emphasise the main message of their song “Fearless” (taken from the album “Meddle”), they used a live recording of the Kop as a backing track.

The pride and passion embodied by “You’ll Never Walk Alone” is rooted in nostalgia. The evergreen classic harks back to Liverpool’s glory days. Rewind to 1963 and the start of a new football season. Beatlemania is at its height. Bill Shankly had taken over as Reds’ manager in 1959 and had succeeded in taking the club up to the top flight at the third attempt followed by a respectable eighth-place finish in their first season back in the First Division. Shankly was a friend of bandleader Gerry Marsden, whose beat generation pioneers The Pacemakers had just had two hit singles. During a coach trip as a guest of Liverpool football club, Marsden played Shankly his next single - “You’ll Never Walk Alone”.

A tune begets a title

The song was a cover version of a popular ditty from the musical “Carousel”, composed by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein and given its world premiere on Broadway in 1945. Shankly was much taken with what he heard, and soon enough the press were reporting that Liverpool had a new club song. “You’ll Never Walk Alone” topped the British charts for four weeks, and by the end of the season Liverpool had claimed their first league title since 1947. The rest is history. ☑️

Walk on...
Through the wind...
Walk on...
Through the rain...
Though your dreams be tossed and blown...
Walk on... (walk on)
Walk on... (walk on)
With hope (with hope)
In your heart...
And you’ll never walk alone
You’ll never walk alone.

“YOU’LL NEVER WALK ALONE”

Hanspeter Kuenzler

THE OBJECT

Dealing with the sound of whistles, especially those from referees, was a part of everyday life for Diego Maradona during his playing days. He loved to hear them when he was brought to ground after a mazy solo run, and detested them when he was adjudged to have been the aggressor, a moniker which was always somehow beneath him. Whistles provided the framework for Maradona’s actions on the pitch; his thoughts and emotions were governed by them and in a sense he was a slave to their shrill song.

On one occasion, three urgent, extended bursts of a whistle, seemingly aware of their own significance, provided liberation for the great man. Upon hearing them the Argentinean captain leapt into the air, hands aloft in delight, as the sound marked the end of the 1986 FIFA World Cup Final in Mexico. Maradona’s dream of becoming world champion had come true.

The subsequent stages in Diego’s career are widely known. Rudi Voller, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Andreas Brehme and Tony Schumacher, losing finalists with West Germany in Mexico City, chose diverging, although largely lucrative roles afterwards. In that decisive match they had managed to fight back from two goals down, only to lose 3-2.

So what of the black whistle that Brazilian referee Romualdo Arppi Filho used that day? It lies on a shelf in Zurich, encased in a plastic bag marked: “Brand: Acme. Model: THUNDERER. Type: Plastico-Grande. Country of origin: England.” It sits, unused, five floors below ground at the Home of FIFA, waiting in vain to make another appearance. That said, it has already made its most important outing. Just ask Maradona. ☑️

Perikles Monioudis
“I was living in fear”

For the last six years, Shannon Boxx has been living with the autoimmune disease lupus erythematosus. The USA veteran concealed her illness for a long time, fearing rejection. The 35-year-old tells her personal story.

“The bad feelings started shortly before the 2007 World Cup. I was really looking forward to the tournament of course. As a player, it doesn’t get any better. But there was something in the back of my mind and I’d been worried about it for months: my chronic physical weakness. I felt tired, I had a hard time getting my legs and muscles to recover. I was also plagued by uncertainty. The doctors were at a loss to explain it. I was already suffering from Sjogren’s syndrome [a systemic autoimmune disease characterised by dryness in the mouth and eyes] but the medics ruled out the illness as a factor in my ability to perform.

So there we were, gearing up for the World Cup in China. And I acted as if nothing had happened. I was frightened of the consequences. What if I lost my place on the team? What if the coaches didn’t feel they could take a chance on a “bad day” happening on the day of a game? What if the media made a big thing out of it? I chose to say nothing.

The World Cup went OK and we finished third. I actually played reasonably well and no-one seemed to notice anything. But the state of my body was really getting me down. I was having really bad attacks more and more often, there were trainings I literally had to push through with everything I had because I was drained of energy. The low periods lasted for hours, sometimes for days, and as well as the joint pain and skin problems, I needed to sleep the whole time. It was a mental burden too. I had no one to talk to about it. I always stressed about when a bad day might hit and I feared my level of play would suffer.

The turning point came one morning in December 2007. It was the day when I was able to confront my illness head on. After going to another doctor (now my 4th) and yet another examination, my affliction acquired a name: Lupus erythematosus, an autoimmune disease. I started researching it. Lupus – as I found out from the internet – doesn’t just attack the joints and skin, it can also spread to the internal organs. You even come across fatal cases. I had a really odd feeling. On the one hand I was relieved - the uncertainty was gone. On the other hand, I was frightened by the enormity of it all. I was prescribed medicine to help control my symptoms. But still I remained silent.

I needed time to come to terms with the disease. It was 2011 before I summoned up the courage to inform my club Magic Jack and the national team about my suffering. It was a good decision, because the feedback was overwhelming. My team-mates and the coach offered me total support. I can now officially take time off when I need it, but more than anything else, I can talk about it. My time in hiding is over.

Lupus has changed my life. I go for a check-up every three months, and I know my internal organs are in good shape. I’m free of the mental burden, and that helps. At the end of the day, I’m looking to the future. My first baby is due in March 2014. Little more than a year later it’s the World Cup in Canada. I want to be there when we win the trophy.”

As told to Alan Schweingruber

In Turning Point, personalities reflect on a decisive moment in their lives.

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<td>Position: Midfield</td>
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<td>Place of birth: Fontana, USA</td>
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Tomorrow brings us all closer

To new people, new ideas and new states of mind. Here's to reaching all the places we've never been.

Fly Emirates to 6 continents.

Hello Tomorrow
This FIFA World Cup ended with a missed penalty – and it began with a missed penalty too. Who was first to miss from the spot?

1. This FIFA World Cup ended with a missed penalty – and it began with a missed penalty too. Who was first to miss from the spot?

2. May I introduce myself. My name is...
   A. Jabulani
   E. Tricolore
   I. Brazuca
   L. Fevernova

3. World Cup qualifiers were introduced in 1934. Only one country has taken part in every single World Cup qualifying competition since 1934. Which one?
   E. Netherlands
   I. Luxembourg
   L. Turkey
   T. USA

4. How many goals did the Dutch score at the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan? (Careful - this one may be trickier than you think...)
   L. 0
   R. 1
   T. 2
   E. 3

Inspiration and implementation cues

Please send your answers to feedback-TheWeekly@fifa.org by 31 October 2013. All correct entries will go into a prize draw for two tickets to the FIFA Ballon d’Or 2013 on 13 January 2014. Before submitting their entry, entrants will have to review and accept the contest terms & conditions as well as the rules of the competition, both available under www.fifa.com/aboutfifa/organisation/the-fifa-weekly/rules.pdf.
The number of goals scored by the top marksmen in World Cup qualifying – Robin van Persie (Netherlands), Luis Suarez (Uruguay) and Deon McCaulay (Belize/pictured). McCaulay and Co failed to survive the second stage of CONCACAF qualifying, but the striker was on deadly form against Montserrat, Grenada, Guatemala and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Answered by Dominik Petermann, FIFA historian: Italy have traditionally played in blue. In historical terms, this derives from the national colours of the Kingdom of Piemont-Sardinia and its ruling Savoy dynasty.

Question from Dieter Paul, Cottbus: Why do the Squadra Azzura wear blue?

Analysis, features, images. The FIFA Weekly appears every week on Friday as a print edition and an online magazine (www.Fifa.com/TheWeekly).

We report on the biggest stars, the best goals and the hottest topics, but we also encourage dialogue with our readers. Why not join in the debate about the world’s favourite game?

Opinions to: feedback-TheWeekly@fifa.org

percent of the French public have an unfavourable opinion of their own national team, according to a poll published in daily paper “Le Parisien”. If footballing decisions were taken by popular vote, coach Didier Deschamps would be out of a job. As it is, he will attempt to guide his men to success in the play-offs against Ukraine.

Due 1 November 2013.

 million girls and women around the world play football. The FIFA Women’s Ranking includes 120 teams. USA (Pictured: Abby Wambach) are in first place, with Kenya currently bringing up the rear.

Brazil, Spain, Germany or a less-fancied team? Send your answers to: feedback-TheWeekly@fifa.org