FLYING START

ITALY
SAPUTO TO THANK FOR BOLOGNA’S SUCCESS

BLATTER
THE STARS OF TOMORROW

SENEGAL
A THRILLING TITLE RACE
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Canada 2015
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Generational shift in Paraguay
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A historic victory
Bhutan have reached the second qualifying round for the 2018 World Cup. Midfielder Karun Gurung believes this momentous day represents a turning point for his team.

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Joey Saputo
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Flying start
Our cover image shows Nigeria’s Asisat Oshoala (l) and Francisca Ordega celebrating. The picture was taken on 8 June after the African side’s late equaliser in the 3-3 draw with Sweden.

Adam Pretty / Getty Images
THIS WEEK IN THE WORLD OF FOOTBALL

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Asia
46 members
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11 members
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30 U-20 World Cup
Brazil make magic, Fiji celebrate – and there is still more to come from the world’s biggest youth tournament in New Zealand. Pictured: Judivan and Choe Ju Song.

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The Royal Leopards have strolled to another title.
Pictured: Sizwe Khumalo.
THERE WILL BE HATERS
The FIFA Women’s World Cup Canada 2015™ is now in full swing and all 24 teams have played their first match. Some sides have justified their position as favourites, while others have shown that even the tournament’s outsiders are capable of springing surprises.

Although newcomers Thailand are unlikely to produce many sporting shocks after losing 4-0 to Norway in their first game, their polite manner has already won the hearts of many fans. Before taking their place on the bench at Ottawa’s Lansdowne Stadium, each substituted player bade farewell to the crowd with a greeting typical in their homeland – clasping their hands together at chest height. The crowd later repaid this courteous gesture by wildly cheering the Thai goalkeeper’s penalty save.

The team embarked on a lap of honour after their defeat, greeting spectators and thanking them for their support. This heartwarming World Cup story is sure to be followed by many more.

*Sarah Steiner*
A bigger world elite

All 24 teams have now begun their Women's World Cup campaigns, and this top-quality field seems to be refreshingly closely matched, writes Perikles Monioudis from Montreal.
USA can always rely on vociferous support at the Women’s World Cup (top), but the same can be said of group rivals Nigeria: here, Francisca Ordega (r.) and Asisat Oshoala celebrate their side’s surprising 3-3 draw against Sweden (below).
Captain! My Captain!” cried Sophie Schmidt after Canada’s 1-0 opening win against a young, defensive Chinese side. The captain in the versatile midfielder’s mind was her skipper Christine Sinclair, who scored the winner shortly before the final whistle by sidefooting neatly into the bottom left corner. This dream penalty was exactly what FIFA Women’s World Cup 2015 hosts Canada needed to start the tournament with a bang. After the game, Schmidt was named player of the match in the catacombs of the Commonwealth Stadium, and knew exactly who to thank for this achievement: the remarkable attacking force of Sinclair, who at 32 (she celebrates her birthday on the day this issue of The FIFA Weekly is published) is almost back to her previous best of four years ago. ‘O Captain! My Captain’ was the title of the poem written by the great American poet Walt Whitman to mark the death of US President Abraham Lincoln, who abolished slavery in the United States. For Schmidt, Sinclair’s late strike at least significantly raised Canadian hopes of progressing from Group A into the last 16.

Eight-team expansion a success
The deafening roar caused by fans at Edmonton’s sold-out Commonwealth Stadium a few days ago has not yet faded but has instead formed a wave that has swept across the country, over the prairies and the Rocky Mountains, all the way to the coast. With all 24 participating teams having completed their first group matches, the hopes and ambitions of every side have now been placed in context. It is a highly competitive and exciting picture, despite Germany’s thundering 10-0 victory over Women’s World Cup debutants Côte d’Ivoire in which Celia Sasic and 2007 world champion Anja Mittag each scored a hat-trick – an achievement made all the more remarkable by the fact five goals was enough to win legendary Japanese attacking midfielder Homare Sawa the Golden Boot at the 2011 tournament.

The long-discussed expansion of the Women’s World Cup from 16 to 24 teams was given the green light in time for this summer’s tournament and is the next logical development for the sport; after all, it has been some time since women’s football hit upon a formula capable of captivating a wide audience across the globe. Results such as the aforementioned 10-0 win for Germany do more than just highlight a gulf in class between the teams taking part. Such encounters are also the first opportunities World Cup debutants have to measure themselves against major sides like the two-time world champions in serious competition. They get to see where they stand and what progress they have already made. These matches also reinforce the importance of establishing a league in these countries to supply the national team. Without a high-quality domestic championship – one that can at least be professionally organised even if it cannot offer professional football – associations will only make painstakingly slow progress in the women’s game.

“We can learn a lot from this match, particularly when it comes to formation,” said Thailand coach Nuengruethai Sathongwien in Ottawa. Reinforced 1995 world champions Norway defeated her counterattacking World Cup first-timers 4-0 – a scoreline that was not nearly as high as some had perhaps expected.
Fast, athletic, intense

The expansion of the Women’s World Cup from 16 to 24 teams is proving to be a wise move. The result is a top-quality field playing a refreshing brand of football.
Not on the menu

Both Emily Zurrer and Selena Iacchelli were unused substitutes for Canada in their opening game at the FIFA Women’s World Cup™. They sat on the bench just metres from the touchline underneath the Plexiglas cover behind coach John Herdman for the majority of the match at Edmonton’s Commonwealth Stadium, which was packed to capacity with 53,000 enthusiastic spectators. It was a situation far removed from selling frozen organic yoghurt and Belgian waffles out of a converted delivery truck in and around Vancouver, which they do when they are not otherwise engaged at a World Cup. That sense was heightened when captain Christine Sinclair scored the winning goal and sprinted wildly towards the bench, where she celebrated in a group hug with the backroom staff and her team-mates - all of whom, incidentally, have to forgo the sweet delights Zurrer and Iacchelli produce.

“Sweet Monkey” is the favourite among Zurrer and Iacchelli’s customers.

Quality ingredients
The duo’s light blue truck is called “Sweet Ride”, and has the name painted in white letters on the side. They pay great attention to detail and use only the finest locally sourced ingredients. The two have been friends for many years and have run the business since 2012, albeit with occasional interruptions due to their footballing commitments. They take their truck to open air concerts and children’s events, and document friends’ visits on social networks from time to time.

Zurrer, a 27-year-old Vancouver native, has so far earned 82 international caps for Canada. The defender has played for teams in Germany and Sweden, where she was captain at Jitex BK last season, and she also won a bronze medal at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

In contrast, Iacchelli’s career has been plagued by bad luck. The 29-year-old playmaker broke her leg at the age of 12 and later twice broke bones in her foot before fracturing her arm last year at an indoor game in Edmonton. She made her international debut aged 27 at the end of 2013, the culmination of a long, arduous journey to the top. Yet the injuries were merely setbacks and did not throw her off course. “I’m still here,” she said in the run-up to the World Cup on home soil.

Abstinence required
Iacchelli’s sister, who co-owns the food truck, is taking care of the business while the other two prepare for Canada’s next group game. The favourite among the ‘Sweet Ride FroYo n’ Waffles’ customers is the ‘Sweet Monkey’, which consists of a freshly made Belgian waffle with hazelnut spread, peanut butter, banana and a generous portion of frozen yoghurt. Other best-sellers include the ‘West Coast Bowl’, with forest fruits and coconut, and ‘Lemon Ride’.

Cesar Meylan, a Swiss sports scientist with Canadian national team, would no doubt urge Zurrer and Iacchelli to avoid consuming their own products, although the two elite athletes are clearly aware of that themselves.

Perikles Monioudis, Montreal
Giving the national team their all
Seven of the 23 members of hosts Canada's squad play solely for the national team and do not have a club – including Sophie Schmidt. The association offers these players the opportunity to train for their country and take part in competitions, making them less dependent on the international dates set by FIFA as they do not have to be specifically released by their clubs. On the other hand, setting up a professional league in Canada is difficult to contemplate given this setup.

The overwhelming majority of the rest of the squad play for teams in the USA. Despite enjoying professional status there, they continue to be supported by the Canadian Soccer Association as footballers cannot earn enough to live on without an additional source of income. The lowest income in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) is $6,842 per year, while the highest is $37,800; according to one Canadian newspaper, national footballing idol Christine Sinclair earns $30,000 annually. The NWSL places a salary cap of $265,000 on every club.

In addition to a maximum of 16 Canadians, some 23 Americans and 16 Mexicans also receive financial support from their respective associations. These internationals are divided as equally as possible between the NWSL's clubs in what is known as "player allocation". The benefits of this competitive environment are made clear by Mexico, who are making their third appearance at a Women's World Cup this summer. Coach Leonardo Cuellar's side played out a close-fought 1-1 draw against Las Cafeteras of Colombia, while title contenders France – who finished fourth at the last finals – beat England 1-0 in the other game in Group F.

The excitement of the high-scoring victories and defeats seen elsewhere in the first round of matches paled in comparison to such dramatic, high-quality encounters as Sweden versus Nigeria, which ended 3-3 in Winnipeg. The nine-time and reigning African champions have travelled to North America intent on being crowned world champions, an achievement that would be a first for their country and continent alike. Last year their U-20 side narrowly lost the World Cup final to Germany after extra time.

Nigeria's first priority in the first game in Group D was simply to score goals after Lotta Schelin's Sweden took a 2-0 lead within half an
hour. The Super Falcons struck back with a double blow as Ngozi Okobi and Asisat Oshoala levelled the scores shortly after half-time with a combination of quick direct play, no-frills switching of possession and confident finishing. With her impressive ball control and pace, Liverpool striker Oshoala proved that she is a complete player at the age of just 20. Nigeria rounded off a gutsy performance by equalising at 3-3 just before the final whistle through 21-year-old Francisca Ordega, who plays for Washington Spirit in the NWSL.

Cameroon also dealt two quick blows in their first-ever Women's World Cup match against Ecuador thanks to goals from Madeleine Ngono Mani and Gaelle Enganamouit in the 34th and 36th minutes. The African side led 3-0 at half-time after Christine Manie coolly converted a penalty. Ecuador captain Ligia Moreira was dismissed for a professional foul in the 66th minute, and the Indomitable Lionesses scored another three times in the second half to post a 6-0 victory that does not do justice to the efforts of their South American opponents. 22-year-old Ajara Nchout of NWSL club Western New York Flash replaced goalscorer Ngono Mani but was unable to add to her team's tally.

**Making successful debuts**

Current world champions Japan and Homare Sawa – making her 200th international appearance in her sixth Women's World Cup finals – justified their role as favourites against competition newcomers Switzerland despite failing to shine. The Nadeshiko won 1-0 thanks to a penalty from captain Aya Miyama, with the Swiss pushing the title holders all the way with their attacking passing play, driven on by the remarkable talent of captain Aya Miyama, with the Swiss pushing the title holders all the way with their attacking passing play, driven on by the remarkable talent of Ramona Bachmann.

After the first round of matches, Switzerland and versatile fellow debutantes the Netherlands – who beat New Zealand 1-0 – offered further proof that the decision to expand the Women's World Cup to 24 teams was the right one. This view was further reinforced by Costa Rica, whose tactical discipline and defiance secured them a 1-1 draw against Spain in the battle of the Spanish-speaking debutants in Group E at a packed venue in Montreal. Only Ecuador and Côte d'Ivoire suffered disappointment in their first appearances on the game's largest international stage.

In Group E Brazil – with the incomparable Marta as captain and 37-year-old Formiga in midfield – began their quest for a first Women's World Cup title against Korea Republic, returning to the finals for the first time in 12 years. A Canarinha defeated the Taeguk Nangja 2-0 thanks to some quick thinking and a cool finish from Formiga in the 33rd minute, followed by Marta's 53rd-minute spot-kick.

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**Group A**

1. Canada 3
2. Netherlands 3
3. China PR 0
4. New Zealand 0

**Group B**

1. Germany 3
2. Norway 3
3. Thailand 0
4. Côte d'Ivoire 0

**Group C**

1. Cameroon 3
2. Japan 3
3. Switzerland 0
4. Ecuador 0

**Group D**

1. USA 3
2. Nigeria 1
3. Sweden 1
4. Australia 0

**Group E**

1. Brazil 3
2. Costa Rica 1
3. Spain 1
4. Korea Republic 0

**Group F**

1. France 3
2. Colombia 1
3. Mexico 1
4. England 0

11 June 2015
Marta has time on her side

“Having 24 teams in the tournament is a good thing,” the five-time FIFA Women’s World Player of the Year said after the match, wearing a blue sweatshirt bearing a bright yellow number 10, hair still damp from the shower and carrying a rucksack full of kit. “The differences in performance have got smaller,” she continued. “There’s no comparison with ten years ago.”

Marta was in no hurry to leave. Standing in the extensive network of tunnels underneath Montreal’s Olympic Stadium she smiled, pleased that her team were off to a good start. Her eyes betrayed only the slightest hint of post-match tiredness. “The teams are attracting attention for women’s football at home, and that’s a good thing.”

Although it was almost time for the Brazil bus to leave, she seemed happy to linger a little longer.

“Marta, whose poems do you most enjoy reading?” The 29-year-old laughed engagingly. “Poetry?” She paused. “I’m mostly inspired by music; the singer-songwriter Djavan or Victor e Leo and their guitars.” Taking a pen and a folded-up team sheet, she wrote down their names. “And when you need to make some noise, Ivete Sangalo.” With that, the Women’s World Cup’s all-time leading goalscorer clenched her fists, mimed a small drum solo in the air and grinned.

Four years ago the Brazilians reached the quarter-finals without dropping a point or conceding a goal, only to be eliminated from the competition at the hands of the USA. With their sights set on a third Women’s World Cup title after 1991 and 1999, the Stars and Stripes were held at 1-1 for an hour of their opening match this summer until Christen Press struck in the 61st minute to make it 2-1. Formidable playmaker Megan Rapinoe scored USA’s other two goals in the 12th and 78th minutes respectively.

Walt Whitman’s masterpieces ‘Leaves of Grass’ was published in 1855. Although it comprises hundreds of poems, it begins with the line: “I celebrate myself.” It is a concept that extroverted Canadian Sophie Schmidt would endorse without hesitation, and one shared by each and every player at this wonderful tournament.
ON THE INSIDE

Swaziland: MTN Premier League

Leopards stroll the title

The Royal Leopards secured their fifth championship title to mark their 40th season in the Swazi Premier League, Swaziland’s top flight. The police team have won all of their league trophies since the 2005/06 campaign and even defended their crown this year. Their success is proof of the steady dismantling of the Swazi Premier League’s former hierarchy, traditionally dominated by teams from Manzini and the capital Mbabane.

All of the Royal Leopards’ players are policemen and are coached by 29-year-old Sifiso Ntibane, who has used his blend of experience and charisma to lead his team to a remarkable result at continental level. The Simunye-based side almost qualified for the prestigious CAF Confederation Cup play-off round after eliminating South Africa’s Bidvest Wits on penalties in the preliminary round and Petro de Luanda from Angola in the first round.

Swaziland’s representatives even won the first leg of the 16-team second round against AS Vita Club 1-0 but lost the return leg 4-1 in Kinshasa at the stadium that hosted the historic ‘Rumble in the Jungle’ boxing match between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman. Despite this disappointment, the police team can take solace from having pushed last year’s CAF Champions League finalists to the brink. Meanwhile, Ntibane’s squad secured the league title on 22 April after soundly beating closest rivals Mbabane Swallows 4-0, and held an 11-point lead over second place by the end of the season.

The national team of this small kingdom between South Africa and Mozambique is also flying high at present. After suffering a 3-1 loss to their historic rivals Bafana Bafana, Swaziland recorded three notable results in a row, winning away to both Tanzania and Lesotho before securing a draw in Madagascar. The Sihlangu Semnikathu or ‘King’s Shield’ are currently 162nd in the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking. With an all-time best ranking of 99th back in 1999 and a low of 186th two years ago, Swaziland have the potential to keep climbing the table.

CAF Confederation Cup
Royal Leopards’ Sizwe Khumalo (l) takes on Deo Kanda of AS Vita Club from Congo DR.

Emanuele Giulianelli is a freelance football correspondent based in Milan.

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Senegal: Championnat National

Tight tussle guaranteed

Mark Gleeson is a Cape Town-based journalist and football commentator.

With four matches left of the Ligue 1 season in Senegal, a tight tussle for the title is guaranteed with more than half of the clubs in the top flight still in the running. The list, however, does not include last year’s champions AS Pikine, who face relegation after a catastrophic campaign in which they have won just three times since their heroics of last season.

Instead Pikine have lost almost half their matches, their latest setback coming at home to Niarry Tally, who are one of the clubs best placed to become their successors. Niarry Tally, even though they are nicknamed ‘Les Galactiques’, have never won the Ligue 1 title but are now on 35 points after a topsy-turvy season in which all the top contenders have battled to show any consistency or put together a run of successes.

The club from Dakar, whose best ever finish was runner-up in 2010, are just one point behind a trio who share top place – five-time champions AS Douanes, the 2013 league winners Diambars de Saly and Stade Mbour, the provincial club looking for a first piece of silverware. Three points off the leaders are AS Ouakam, who were Senegalese champions four years ago, and ASC Suneor, who used to be known as Sonacos and are also past champions. Just five points behind top place are Casa Sports, champions in 2012, and six points off the pace are Linguere from the coast town of Saint-Louis.

Douanes and Diambars must still meet each other while the advantage seemingly lies with Stade Mbour, who play three of their remaining matches at home. Mbour is in a state of massive anticipation. The town is on the coast, about 80km south of the capital Dakar and never had any major footballing success before. Stade’s coach Ousseynou Sene has taken a stoic line of trying to temper the excitement by refusing to talk about the prospect of a first-ever championship.

Diambars have two players – Elimane Cisse and Alhassane Sylla – at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in New Zealand where Senegal won through to the knockout stage. Essentially an academy, Diambars was set up 15 years ago by former French internationals Patrick Vieira and Bernard Lama, and has gone on to win a place in the top flight and find league success, along with rolling out a steady supply line of exciting talent.

At the Amadou Barry stadium AS Pikine’s Yahya Fall (r.) tries to dribble his way through the FC Guediawaye defence.
open happiness

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Saving the best for last

A 3-1 victory over Juventus in the UEFA Champions League final capped a perfect season for Barcelona. Here are the key facts and figures from the contest at a

1st team to win the treble twice

Barcelona are the first side to win the treble of domestic league, main domestic cup, and UEFA Champions League on two separate occasions (2009, 2015). Manchester United (1999), Inter Milan (2010) and Bayern Munich (2013) have all achieved that feat just once.

361 goals

The four goals scored in Berlin lifted the overall total for the 2014/15 Champions League campaign to 361 – just one goal less than the previous season. An average of 2.89 goals were scored in every game, the third highest tally in the 23-year history of Europe’s premier club competition.

4 finals won in a row


151 appearances

Xavi, Barcelona’s midfield magician, appeared in his 151st Champions League match against Juventus, making him the competition’s record appearance holder ahead of Iker Casillas (150 appearances for Real Madrid) and Raul (130 for Real Madrid, 12 for Schalke).

3 minutes, 22 seconds

Ivan Rakitic’s opening goal for Barcelona was the third quickest strike in Champions League final history. Only Paolo Maldini’s first-minute goal against Liverpool in 2005 and Gaizka Mendieta’s third-minute penalty against Bayern in 2001 were faster.

95,000 fans

2,000 guests were present as Barcelona celebrated their success in the departure lounge of the former Tempelhof Airport. They returned to Barcelona the following day, where they took part in a parade through the city all the way to the Nou Camp. 95,000 fans were there to greet them.
Name
Ivan Rodrigo Piris Leguizamon

Date and place of birth
10 March 1989, Itaugua, Paraguay

Position
Defender

Clubs played for
2008–2011 Cerro Porteno
2011–2014 Deportivo Maldonado
2011–2012 Sao Paulo (loan)
2012–2013 Roma (loan)
2013–2014 Sporting Lisbon (loan)
since 2014 Udinese

Paraguay national team
17 caps
Ivan Piris, could Paraguay really achieve something at the Copa America?

Ivan Piris: I can’t really answer that question. We’re currently moving into a new generation with plenty of new players and a coach who has so far only completed two friendlies with us. We certainly don’t lack the will to perform well, so we hope that’ll be enough to get us a good result.

For the past 20 years Paraguay have been fluctuating between good results, including two Rounds of 16 and a quarter-final at the FIFA World Cup, and immense disappointment such as that experienced in the last three years. How do you explain this rollercoaster ride?

When I made my debut at the Copa America in 2011, the group of players who had made Paraguay great were coming to the end of their era of success. No-one has been able to replicate that since. Having said that, we mustn’t forget that we’re a country with a population of less than seven million and only a few professional clubs.

What are your memories of the Copa America 2011 and Paraguay’s second-place finish?

I was personally torn between the joy of playing for the national team and the frustration of knowing I wasn’t back at my best after an operation. When you get to a final you want to win no matter what, so naturally you’re initially overcome by disappointment if that doesn’t happen. But as soon as you return to your homeland, the pride of what you’ve achieved takes over.

What was your welcome back to Asuncion like that year?

We were greeted like heroes. That made it clear to us that we’d made the whole country proud and that football can act as a kind of social release in difficult times, offering people an opportunity to forget their problems. An unforgettable homecoming had also been organised for me in my hometown of Itaugua near Asuncion.

How difficult will it be to progress from a group containing Argentina, Uruguay and Jamaica this year in Chile?

Although we know that we can even qualify for the knockout stages as the third-placed side, we’re not underestimating anyone. We obviously know Argentina and Uruguay’s strengths, but luckily Luis Suarez will be missing for La Celeste because of a ban. He scored against us in the final four years ago.

What kind of team are Paraguay in 2015?

We’re searching for a new identity with a new coach [Argentinian Ramon Diaz – editor’s note] and young players. We’re very strong in attack thanks to players like Roque Santa Cruz and Lucas Barrios, and then we’ve got footballers with plenty of potential like Raul Bobadilla, Derlis Gonzalez and Haedo Valdez. Above all we’ve just got to give it our all and demonstrate our special fighting spirit – the proverbial raza guaraní. We always play with great determination.

Ramon Diaz could be considered an unknown quantity, as this is his first stint as a national team coach...

Ivan Piris was speaking to Franco Nicolussi

The Copa America takes place in Chile from 11 June until 4 July and could prove to be a turning point for Paraguay. Defender Ivan Piris discusses the team’s new identity and players to watch for the future.

Who will win the Copa America title and which new South American players will the world discover?

As well as Argentina and Brazil I wouldn’t underestimate the Chileans; after all, they’ve got home advantage. We’ll try to be the surprise package at this tournament and perhaps do even better than that, as we did at the last Copa America. When it comes to players, you should make a note of my teammate Derlis Gonzalez, who performed well for Swiss side Basel and in the Champions League this season.
First Love

Place: Sana’a, Yemen
Date: 21 November 2012
Time: 5.09 p.m.
Photographer: Muhammed Muheisen
Football for Hope is our global commitment to building a better future through football. To date, we have supported over 550 socially-responsible community projects that use football as a tool for social development, improving the lives and prospects of young people and their surrounding communities.

To find out more, visit the Sustainability section on FIFA.com.
Take your seat in the Global Stadium

FIFA's digital platforms allow football fans across the globe to experience the FIFA Women's World Cup at close quarters.

**On the go** The Women’s World Cup action can also be followed on smartphones.

The future of football

FIFA is currently going through a difficult period. The fact that our organisation continues to function smoothly and provides football with a firm foundation at this time of crisis makes me all the prouder.

The game never stands still; it moves forward. At the moment the best young players on the planet are in New Zealand at the FIFA U-20 World Cup. There, 24 participating teams from every continent underline just how broad the base of our sport has become and highlight the powerful impact of our development programmes.

The calibre of the tournament can be seen from the list of former participants: exceptional players such as Lionel Messi, Ronaldinho, Michael Owen, Adriano, Sergio Aguero, James Rodriguez and Paul Pogba all left their mark on the competition.

It is difficult to say which players from the current crop will make it to the very top one day, although many have already shown great promise. For instance, Ghana’s Yaw Yeboa, who was voted best player at the U-20 African Championship and has a contract with Manchester City; Austria’s Martin Rasner, who made his debut in his country’s second division two years ago; Colombia’s Jeison Lucumi, considered one of the brightest prospects in South America, and Ukraine’s Viktor Kovalenko, who scored five times in the group stage to top the scoring chart. The list of talented youngsters goes on and on.

The African nations in particular have caused a stir in New Zealand, with all four teams (Nigeria, Ghana, Mali and Senegal) reaching the Round of 16. Germany have travelled down under with six Bundesliga players in their ranks, and in Werder Bremen midfielder Levin Oztunali, the four-time world champions have a player who indirectly represents their glorious past: he is the grandson of Germany legend Uwe Seeler.

Alongside the big names, newcomers have also shown positive signs. Despite being knocked out in the group stage, Myanmar demonstrated that there is great potential in the multi-ethnic southeast Asian country. Qatar caused a sensation with their triumph at the Asian U-19 Championship in 2014, while Panama cemented their reputation as a growing force in Central America.

The U-20 World Cup represents the future of football and is the place where the stars of tomorrow can be seen. Dear readers, it would be well worth taking a look at the action in New Zealand over the next few days.

Best wishes, Sepp Blatter
When Joey Saputo took over Bologna last December, the founder of the Montreal Impact will doubtless have thought of his father, who emigrated from Italy to Canada in the aftermath of World War II. The Italian club’s acquisition meant a trip down memory lane for the Saputo family and in particular for Joey’s father Emanuele, or “Lino” as he is known, who followed his own father from an impoverished post-war Italy to Quebec in 1952, at the age of just 15. Lino’s life since then could have been lifted straight from the script of a Hollywood blockbuster.

In an exclusive interview with “The FIFA Weekly” at Bologna’s training complex in Casteldebole, Joey, who celebrated his 50th birthday last September, relates the family history. “My grandfather’s dairy processing company was destroyed during the war. He initially wanted to emigrate to New York, but the USA had closed its borders and he eventually ended up in Montreal, where he stayed for the rest of his life. My mother is also an Italian expat. She’s originally from Treviso and emi-

Joey Saputo, owner of the Montreal Impact, recently took over Italian club Bologna. Setting foot in the land of his forebears triggered powerful emotions, writes Franco Nicolussi.
grated to North America with her family at the end of the 1950s. My parents met each other through their English teacher. Back then it was common practice for the Italians to meet regularly on Sundays, and my grandmothers already knew one another in any case." Joey is the eldest of Lino's children and has two siblings, a brother and a sister.

**An instant hit with Italian cheese**
The Saputo family endured a difficult start to life in Canada. Cheese-making was an extremely lucrative industry on Sicily before the war, but Joey's grandfather was initially forced to take up bricklaying in Montreal in order to feed his eight children. In 1954, Joey's father Lino convinced his dad to return to the profession he had pursued in Italy. He did so with almost immediate success – and not just among the numerous Italians living in Montreal. Dairy products such as cheese and mozzarella were exported to the USA and Argentina, and Lino rose to become one of Canada's richest entrepreneurs.

**In no time at all,**

Bologna were transformed into a competitive side that achieved promotion back to Serie A.

The Saputo family differed from many other Italian emigrants in one crucial respect: sport in general, and football in particular, had never played a central role in their lives. Like most Canadians, Joey loved ice hockey and is a lifelong supporter of the Montreal Canadiens, but he knew next to nothing about football. That would all change at the beginning of the 1980s, when Saputo Inc. started to sponsor the Montreal Manic, then competing in the newly-founded NASL (North American Soccer League). Joey, who was 18 at the time, was responsible for establishing relations between club and company and quickly developed a passion for a sport that was barely known in North America.

Just ten years later, however, the Montreal Manic were disbanded and Joey was called upon by the League to help promote football...
in Quebec. “I was able to convince my father at a difficult family meeting that, given our terrific experience as sponsors, it was now time to take matters a step further,” he says. “In 1993, I founded the Montreal Impact. The name Impact was chosen because it is spelt the same way in English and in French and also has the same meaning. That way, we were able to sell ourselves to both major language groups.”

The first 15 years of the Saputo family’s management of the club were something of a rollercoaster ride. In 1998, Saputo Inc. was listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, making the company’s simultaneous ownership of the Impact impossible. A few years later, Joey eventually resumed control of the club as a private citizen and, as its only remaining sponsor, relaunched it as a non-profit organisation. The turning point came in 2008, when Joey left the family business after 20 years in order to fully devote his attention exclusively to the Impact.

Long-term objectives at Bologna
“Sporting achievements are obviously important, but I want to stress that we’ve had an academy with a youth department for eight to 21-year-olds since 2010 and that our stadium is always full – something I’m particularly proud of, as it shows that the people of Quebec relate to the club,” explains Joey. “We’re also determined to unearth and develop future Canadian internationals. The last 22 years have been an incredible experience. The Impact means everything to me.”

Joey and his wife Carmie have four sons aged between nine and 19 (Luca, Simone, Joey Jr. and Jesse) who, along with their cousins, have been tasked with continuing the renowned family’s legacy. As it happens, it was Joey’s father Lino who at the end of last year persuaded him to return to the country where it all began. Saputo had already established contacts with a number of Italian clubs, hoping to forge partnerships with a view to transferring young Canadian hopefuls to Italy in order to gain experience. He was taken by surprise, however, when Andrew Nestor, owner of the Tampa Bay Rowdies, invited him to New York in August 2014 to discuss a business proposal. “I had no intention of taking over an Italian club, but when Nestor told me about Bologna I was hooked straight away,” he says. “The history of the club and the fact that they’ve won seven championships, even though the last one came in the year I was born, the strategic location and good size of the city, as well as the arguments put forward by Di Vaio, who played there for four years, convinced me to purchase a minority stake of 20 per cent. I know Italian football is currently in crisis, but I’m convinced that it will recover and I want to be there when it returns to the pinnacle of the European and global game. If we utilise the stadium better and improve marketing and sponsoring, we can be just as successful here as we were with the Impact.”

“My grandfather initially wanted to emigrate to New York, but the USA had closed its borders.”

Joey Saputo
Success! Saputo helped guide Bologna back into the top flight after just one season in Serie B.

emigrate to Canada. Business is business, but in this instance I’m also pouring my heart and soul into this Italian adventure. The wonderful reception we received from the people of Bologna convinced me that it was the right decision and that we must make every effort to live up to everyone’s expectations. Now that we’ve been promoted, the priority is to build a competitive team which will enable Bologna to replicate the famous achievements of yesteryear.”

Saputo is among a mere handful of people to own two football clubs on different continents. He commutes between the two cities on a regular basis in order to attend matches and in recent months has appointed big names such as Claudio Fenucci (formerly of AS Roma) and Pantaleo Corvino (who spent years at AC Fiorentina) to Bologna’s executive board. He has also named Di Vaio as ‘club manager’ of the Italian outfit.

Proud parents return home
Unsurprisingly, Joey’s return to Italy has met with approval from his family. “I’m delighted to witness my family’s increased sense of belonging to Italy,” he says. “My parents came to the reception at the stadium in February and were very proud. My children are happy and are already demanding new signings.”

Saputo laughs, before adding: “Luckily they aren’t expecting me to buy Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo.”

The Fath brothers’ ambitious plans
In Edmonton, host city for the Opening Match of the FIFA Women’s World Cup Canada 2015, brothers Tom and Dave Fath have ambitious plans for their club. FC Edmonton currently play in the North American Soccer League (NASL) against teams such as New York Cosmos and Fort Lauderdale Strikers and play derbies against Ottawa Fury from the Canadian capital.

In early 2010 the Faths hired experienced coaches to tempt players from across the country and further afield in South America and Europe. FC Edmonton made their NASL debut in April 2011, posting a 2-1 win over the Strikers and going on to reach the play-offs. Despite this bright start, the Eddies ended the next campaign at the foot of the table. The 61-time Canadian international Colin Miller subsequently took over as coach and has so far steered his team to lower mid-table during the current season.
Every dream needs a kick-off.

Inspire her passion. Use your Visa Card to purchase tickets to the FIFA Women’s World Cup™.

For purchase and to see all ticketing terms and conditions visit: http://www.fifa.com/womensworldcup/organisation/ticketing/index.html
Keeping it concise

*Perikles Monioudis*

It has long been common practice in the build-up to important matches for head coaches to give a press conference the day before the encounter. After answering the media’s questions, the coach normally proceeds to lead his side’s final training session, which the press are allowed to watch for 15 minutes.

Ahead of the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ final against Argentina, Germany tactician Joachim Low and Bastian Schweinsteiger appeared before journalists in the depths of the Maracana stadium. From there, they went to the team’s final training session in the iconic, charming Vasco Da Gama stadium, where the media were given a quarter of an hour to watch. They witnessed Low, as if by way of entertainment, fire off a couple of long-range volleys into an empty goal.

At the FIFA Women’s World Cup™ currently being played in Canada, China coach Hao Wei likewise observes the pre-match ritual of press conference and final training session, as do his coaching colleagues from other nations.

The difference is that Hao Wei is extremely concise. He is not taciturn; he is merely there to give information, and does so in short sentences before waiting for the next question, which he also answers succinctly.

One journalist inquired whether he intended to set his team up to play on the counter-attack. The friendly but poker-faced 38-year-old replied briefly, giving his translator one of the easier tasks of her career: “A modern team must be able to master more than one playing style.”


And so it continues: “You have tough opponents in your group. Will you reach the next round?” “We’re confident and we have the quality to get there.”

“What do you make of the fact that two opposition players in particular are fit again?” “I’m not interested in who will play for the opposition because we are ready.”

Wei, ever polite, finishes, stands up and heads toward the artificial pitch in the stadium next door. It is a rare sight to see a full squad of 23 players warming up and being put through their paces, before they split into two groups and play keep-ball in a confined space.

Wei watches on with his arms folded. At this point he does not have much to say.
Euphoria, elegance and tears

It was the match against Korea DPR on 7 June and Brazil, leading title contenders for the FIFA U-20 World Cup in New Zealand, had been toiling in vain for some time. Then on came Jean Carlos to net his team’s decisive second goal and turn the game around. “My job was to score,” he said afterwards. Brazil’s star striker was full of determination after being forced to watch from the bench as his team-mates were frustrated by Korea DPR’s deep and tightly packed defence for the first 45 minutes.

Jean Carlos is under contract with Real Madrid, although he has only featured for the club’s U-19 side so far. Knowing that this promising youngster has played futsal since childhood, coach Rogerio Micale knew exactly how best to motivate his substitute. “He said to me that we should play as if it were futsal,” the 19-year-old told reporters after Brazil’s 3-0 win, “and whenever there’s the space to shoot, I should do it. So that’s what I did. I love futsal, you know;” he added, beaming.

Fiji record first-ever win

While Brazil shine with their free-flowing football at the FIFA U-20 World Cup, Fiji’s young side have been eliminated – but are still being celebrated in their small South Pacific homeland.

Quarter-finals · 14. June
Match 45 Brazil
Match 46 Mali
Match 47 USA
Match 48 Uzbekistan

Semi-finals · 17. June
Match 49 Winner of Match 45 Portugal
Match 50 Winner of Match 47 Germany
Match 51 Winner of Match 49 Serbia
Match 52 Winner of Match 50 Senegal

3rd Place Play-off · 20. June
Match 51 Loser of Match 49
Loser of Match 50

Finale · 20. June
Match 52 Winner of Match 49
Winner of Match 50
Youth football in Oceania

The FIFA U-20 World Cup may be in full swing, but tournament hosts New Zealand also staged a FIFA youth coaching workshop in Auckland to focus on the future of the game in Oceania. Representatives from American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga and Vanuatu all took part in the 11-day course, which was conducted by the OFC’s Technical Department and concentrated on the U-20 World Cup’s legacy and the development of youth football in general. “Even if we are not at the top of the football pyramid, the game is growing in Oceania,” said OFC technical director Patrick Jacquemet. “We now have specific and sustainable football programmes in all our member associations and the results of Fiji and New Zealand during this tournament highlight the progress we are making.”

Argentina heading home early

The result was another giant leap in Fiji’s progress after their previous significant achievement of scoring a consolation goal in their 8-1 thrashing by Germany. “We’re so incredibly proud of this win – it’s the realisation of an amazing dream,” exclaimed a visibly emotional Misiwane Nairube. “We didn’t really expect it. Tonight we left the pitch as winners, having given great pleasure to all the people watching us back home.”

One prominent team forced to book their flights home after the group stage is Argentina. La Albiceleste began their campaign as the competition’s most successful team with six U-20 World Cup titles and were among the main title contenders.
1979

Arsenal centre forward Frank Stapleton is given a shower by his physio.
Liverpool Ladies winger Gemma Davison takes part in the ‘Ice Bucket Challenge’.

2014

Widnes, England

Anna Gowthorpe / The FA / Getty Images
Every Moment Counts

Rear camera display system
Cooling glove box
Rear door bottle holders

The New Accent

This specific model may not be available in your country.
I’m looking forward to the upcoming Beach Soccer World Cup in July and am intrigued to see whether Russia can once again fend off Brazil to defend their title.

Pre-game rituals Netzer and comedian Marty Feldman before an exhibition match in 1972.

I’m often asked if it’s possible to compare beach soccer to the 11-a-side game on grass. My answer is that it is; after all you have two teams playing with one ball trying to score in one of the two goals. The difference is that beach soccer requires a different skill set. The ball doesn’t roll and you don’t have much time to anticipate what might happen. What sets beach soccer apart when it’s played well is that it’s a precise and direct game.

In my playing days we occasionally spent our free time before international matches or European Cup fixtures at the beach. Although we were all fit, we quickly noticed how tiring playing on sand could be. It was interesting to see members of our squad who were normally outstanding players struggle on an unfamiliar surface. Others were able to adapt well.

If you look at the figures from the last few Beach Soccer World Cups it is clear to see that the sport is booming at the moment, and it shows no sign of slowing down. Rightly so in my opinion, as beach soccer played at a high level is a wonderful game.

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“Does beach soccer have a future?”

“It’s impossible to keep up with them. Due to the rivalry between the two players and the fact that one is always trying to out-do the other, I can’t see anyone else getting the better of them in the near future.”

Diego Forlan on Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo

“The feeling was just indescribable, it was a dream come true. I always played the game as a young kid and was always in awe of the stars on the cover. When I finally made it on there myself, it really was something special.”

David Alaba on being on the cover of EA SPORTS’ FIFA game for the third time in a row

“I wanted to help the girls. I told them I was tingling all over and that I had butterflies in my stomach. Then some of them said: ‘I’m happy you’ve said that - I feel the same way,’ and suddenly everybody started laughing.”

Norway captain Trine Ronning following the 4-0 victory over Thailand at the Women’s World Cup

What have you always wanted to know about football? Ask Gunter Netzer: feedback-theweekly@fifa.org
"We turned the football world upside-down"

Karun Gurung, a restaurant owner in Thimphu, was part of the Bhutan side that reached the second round of 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ qualifying.

During preparations for our two-legged tie against Sri Lanka in 2018 World Cup Russia qualifying, we constantly told ourselves to hope for the best but prepare for the worst. We prepared well for the matches and won both the first leg away and the return fixture at home. Bhutan of all teams, bottom of the FIFA World Ranking at the time and supposedly the worst team on the planet, had won!

Our triumph was more than just a victory though. I’m aware that my teammates and I turned the football world upside-down at that moment. The second leg was unbelievable and it was the happiest moment of my footballing career so far. As soon as we started training for the two matches I realised the team could make history. And now here I am, on top of the world, with two wins from two games.

When we arrived at the stadium ahead of the second leg the gates had been closed an hour before kick-off because there wasn’t any room left inside. We could hear the crowd chanting and in addition to the 25,000 spectators inside the stadium there was a similar number following the game right outside. It was at that moment that I realised our small country was ready for professional football and that we should take advantage of this success to spread our sport across the whole nation to people who had supported us wholeheartedly.

In Thimphu the streets became a sea of yellow and orange flags. After winning the game us players walked from the stadium to our hotel and chatted to the fans we met on the way. There were happy faces wherever we looked.

Media outlets from all corners of the country arrived to tell the story of the world’s lowest ranked team winning two games and reaching the next round of World Cup qualifying.

For me it’s a huge honour to be part of this team. At 29, I’m one of the more experienced players. I don’t earn my living playing football but from my small restaurant in Thimphu. I’m certain our success can be the springboard to professionalising the game in Bhutan and I’m proud to be one of the key figures in that development.

As told to Emanuele Gianelli
**MEN’S WORLD RANKING**

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- **Germany** (unchanged)
- **France** (9th, up 2)
- **Switzerland** (11th, down 2)
- **Madagascar, Namibia** (6 matches each)
- **Madagascar** (up 122 points)
- **Madagascar** (up 37 ranks)
- **Rwanda** (down 128 points)
- **Maldives** (down 38 ranks)

**Biggest move by points**
- Rwanda: -128 points
- Madagascar: +122 points
- Portugal: -100

**Biggest move by ranks**
- Madagascar: +122
- Argentina: +122
- Poland: -100

**Last updated:** 4 June 2015

http://www.fifa.com/worldranking/index.html
The objective of Sudoku is to fill a 9x9 grid with digits so that each of the numbers from 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each column, row and 3x3 sub-grid.

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FIFA is committed to developing football for the benefit of all. Our mission is to:

**Develop the game**
FIFA’s primary objective is to develop the game of football in our 209 member associations. The FIFA World Cup™ gives us the resources we need to invest USD 550,000 per day in football development across the globe.

**Touch the world**
FIFA’s aim is to touch the world through its international football competitions and events, uniting and inspiring people everywhere.

**Build a better future**
Football is much more than just a game. Its universal appeal gives it a unique power and reach which must be managed carefully. FIFA believes it has a duty to society that goes beyond football.