

# Gelsenkirchen – a football town through and through

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In a twelve-part series, *FIFA magazine* takes a closer look at the 12 cities and stadiums that will be hosting the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ from 9 June to 9 July. Part 10: Gelsenkirchen.

BY JEAN-JULIEN BEER



## 2006 FIFA World Cup™ matches in Gelsenkirchen:

- 9 June: Poland v. Ecuador
- 12 June: USA v. Czech Republic
- 16 June: Argentina v. Serbia & Montenegro
- 21 June: Portugal v. Mexico
- 1 July: Match 59, W51 v. W52 (quarter-final)

It even smells of football here,” says 1990 World Cup winner Olaf Thon, as he stands in Kurt-Schumacher-Strasse in Gelsenkirchen’s suburb of Schalke. It seems that football is all that matters around this way. The legendary Gluckauf-Kampfbahn arena serves as the focus of attention, the stadium where Schalke football greats like Ernst Kuzorra and Fritz Szepan once thrilled the masses with their skills. That was back in the middle of the last century, when Schalke 04 won the German championship six times between 1934 and 1942. The pub that Kuzorra ran back then is still standing. In fact, there are lots of football bars, hidden away in rundown side streets, whose best years are long behind them.

The Gluckauf-Kampfbahn is an amazing sight. Its gigantic, resplendent structure rises up from nothing to tower over the grey surroundings, the new football arena, the “new home of tradition”, as it was initially touted by the club in order to sell the idea to sceptical locals when the neighbouring Parkstadion arena closed its gates for the last time in summer 2001. “There is

nowhere else where the traditional and the modern are so close to one another,” says Thon.

### INDUSTRIALISATION

Thon is a part of that tradition. He was born in Gelsenkirchen in 1966. At just 18 years of age, he was a hero when he scored a hat trick against Bayern Munich in a thrilling cup tie that ended 6-6. In 1997, he helped Schalke’s “Eurofighters” beat Inter Milan in the UEFA Cup final. Today, he is Gelsenkirchen’s World Cup ambassador and part of the club’s board. Many say he could even have become mayor, because, to reiterate, football means everything here. In times gone by, industry also had an important role to play. In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, industrialisation saw the town and the entire Ruhr region boom. The first official reference to Gelsenkirchen can be traced back to 1147. However, its population numbered no more than 6,000 for several centuries. Today, Gelsenkirchen is home to just over 280,000 people. The hard manual labour of the coal and steel industries fed the mouths of many but made very few



Oases of green between industrial relics: Gelsenkirchen.

PHOTOS: IMAGO

rich. Having been one of Europe’s most important industrial areas in the past, the region is now among the poorest in Germany. The last coal mine closed in 1998. Politicians are now hoping to create new opportunities in the solar power industry and thus reduce the local employment figures of 22%.

Football has remained a constant though. More than 10,000 players are registered with Gelsenkirchen’s 70 clubs. With a 200-strong staff, first division club Schalke 04 is among the biggest employers around. The club’s pre-season matches last year attracted 100,000 fans. Three years ago, 20,000 attended a training session to give the team a rousing send-off ahead of the German cup final in Berlin. “This enthusiasm, these crowds – you don’t see anything like it anywhere else in Germany,” says Schalke team official Andreas Muller. “Football is an essential part of life here.”

That enthusiasm for the game will also be in evidence during the 2006 FIFA World Cup™. Proud, open and direct, the locals have already shown their mettle as hospitable hosts. The

Parkstadion was the setting for matches during the 1974 World Cup and EURO 1988. More recently, Schalke played host to the 2004 Champions League final between Porto and Monaco. During the 2006 World Cup, the impressive stadium with its retractable roof and a pitch that can be rolled in and out is sure to attract admiring glances. It has already been awarded UEFA’s top five-star classification.

### LEISURE OASIS

Another of Gelsenkirchen’s attractions is that it is one of the 2006 World Cup’s most centrally located venues, only a thirty-minute drive from Dortmund and an hour from Cologne. And while the bleak points should not be forgotten, there are plenty of leisure opportunities to be found in between the industrial wastelands. No other part of Europe has so many theatres and museums in such a small area as the Ruhr region. Furthermore, green spaces make up one third of the town of Gelsenkirchen. Perhaps most important of all though, there is hardly a local who does not love football. ■

## Gelsenkirchen

**Population:** 280,000  
**State:** North Rhine-Westphalia  
**Airports:** Dortmund, Dusseldorf  
**Founded:** The first reference to Gelsenkirchen in official records dates from 1147. The discovery of coal in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century heralded the start of the industrialisation of the Ruhr region. For almost three centuries, the coal and steel industries formed the economic backbone of this working-class town, whose population swelled when workers moved there from what is now Poland. Gelsenkirchen developed into one of the coal and steel industry’s most important centres in Europe. The last coal mine closed in 1998. The town is now exploring the solar power industry.  
**Internet:** www.gelsenkirchen.de  
**Football:** Gelsenkirchen’s most successful club is Schalke 04, which celebrated its centenary in 2004. Schalke won the German championship in 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1940, 1942 and 1958, the UEFA Cup in 1997 and the German cup in 1937, 1972, 2001 and 2002. The club has twice qualified for the UEFA Champions League.

### The Stadium

**Official name:** FIFA World Cup Stadium, Gelsenkirchen. This multipurpose arena opened in summer 2001.

**Gross capacity:** 61,524

**Total seating capacity:** 44,813 (72 private boxes, 3,257 executive seats)

**Work undertaken for the 2006 FIFA World Cup™:** Large investment in temporary extension of media facilities

**Investment:** EUR 185.7 million

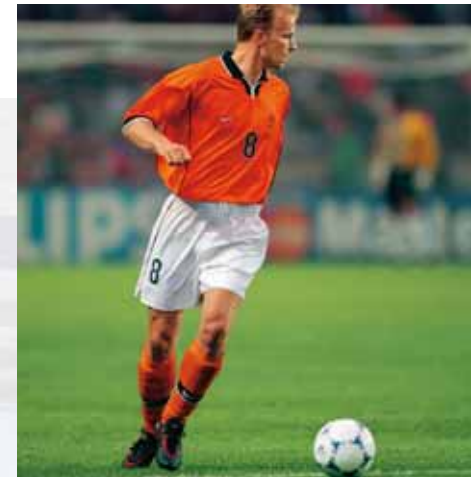
**Finance:** Entirely without public funding. EUR 122.5 million credit provided by a bank consortium, EUR 6.4 million loan from a contracting and project management company, EUR 40 million private capital from holding company, EUR 10 million contribution from the Gelsenkirchen town council, EUR 5.1 million capital from fans, EUR 1.7 million from the Emscher-Lippe power company.

**Directions to stadium:** By road: from the A2 (Hannover-Oberhausen), the stadium is sign-posted from the Gelsenkirchen-Buer and Herten exits. By public transport: tram 302 from Gelsenkirchen main railway station.

# Are you a football buff?

The 2006 FIFA World Cup Germany™ is due to kick off in June. What do you know about the history of the competition? Are you *au fait* with the world's biggest single-sport event? Until the event gets underway, each issue of *FIFA magazine* will allow you to test your footballing knowledge.

- To save costs, Mexico travelled to the 1954 FIFA World Cup™ in Switzerland with a squad of only 18 players. Which other country had an even smaller contingent of only 13 players?  
A: Korea Republic  
B: Scotland  
C: Czechoslovakia
- In which of the following three years did Spain appear in the FIFA World Cup™ finals?  
A: 1970  
B: 1974  
C: 1978
- The 1986 World Cup quarter-final between France and Brazil was decided by a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw after extra time. Which of the following three players did not miss?  
A: Zico  
B: Socrates  
C: Michel Platini
- Where was the smallest stadium in the 1938 FIFA World Cup™ in France?  
A: Reims  
B: Le Havre  
C: Antibes
- Who was the Netherlands captain at the 1998 FIFA World Cup™ in France?  
A: Jaap Stam  
B: Dennis Bergkamp  
C: Frank de Boer
- How many times have Chile taken part in the World Cup finals?  
A: 8 times  
B: 7 times  
C: 5 times
- Which African country beat Mexico 3-1 in its first ever World Cup final competition match?  
A: Tunisia  
B: Morocco  
C: Cameroon
- Who was the USA's first-choice goalkeeper in the 2002 World Cup?  
A: Brad Friedel  
B: Kasey Keller  
C: Tony Meola



Dennis Bergkamp at the 1998 World Cup. – The official 1938 World Cup poster.

- Why was Frenchman Celestin Delmer missing from the official records of the 1930 World Cup, even though he had appeared in a match against Chile, until he was "acknowledged" by the French football association in 1992?  
A: He had played under a pseudonym.  
B: Reporters had confused him with another player.  
C: Two team-mates who were responsible for the records ignored his appearance because they did not like him.
- How many matches did Pele spend on the substitutes' bench in the 1958 FIFA World Cup™ before he actually played?  
A: 0  
B: 1  
C: 2
- Who coached Italy at the 1986 FIFA World Cup™ in Mexico?  
A: Azeglio Vicini  
B: Cesare Maldini  
C: Enzo Bearzot
- Which English referee awarded one penalty each to Germany FR and the Netherlands in the 1974 FIFA World Cup™?  
A: Patrick Partridge  
B: Jack Taylor  
C: Clive White
- How did Turkey win the World Cup quarter-final against Senegal in Korea and Japan in 2002?  
A: On penalties  
B: By a golden goal  
C: In normal playing time
- Which French player missed the final of the 1998 FIFA World Cup™ on home ground after being sent off in the semi-final?  
A: Fabien Barthez  
B: Laurent Blanc  
C: Youri Djorkaeff
- How many matches did Ernst Happel (later a legendary coach) play in for Austria in the 1954 World Cup finals in Switzerland?  
A: Two  
B: Four  
C: None
- Which country represented the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) at the 1982 FIFA World Cup™ in Spain?  
A: Kuwait  
B: Iran  
C: Saudi Arabia
- Who was the second highest goalscorer with a tally of four (after Helmut Haller with five) for the West German team at the 1966 FIFA World Cup™ in England?  
A: Franz Beckenbauer  
B: Uwe Seeler  
C: Lothar Emmerich
- How many times has Samuel Eto'o (Barcelona) been included in Cameroon's World Cup squad?  
A: None  
B: One time (1998)  
C: Two times (1998 and 2002)
- Against which team did Colombia earn their only point at the 1962 FIFA World Cup™?  
A: Yugoslavia  
B: Uruguay  
C: USSR
- What was so noteworthy about Ronaldinho's performance in Brazil's 2002 World Cup quarter-final against England?  
A: He scored both goals for his team.  
B: He scored a goal and was sent off soon afterwards.  
C: He scored an own goal but then scored the winning goal from a free kick.



Former Brazil captain Socrates at the 1982 World Cup (left). – Former Italy coach Cesare Maldini.

PHOTOS: IMAGO

The answers can be found on page 59.

# 25 QUESTIONS 25 ANSWERS Cha Du-Ri

**Born:** 25 July 1980 in Frankfurt am Main (Germany).  
**Nationality:** Korea Republic  
**Height:** 1.81m  
**Weight:** 81kg  
**Position:** Striker  
**Clubs:** 1985–1987: Bayer Leverkusen (Germany). 1987–1999: Various school teams in Seoul (Korea Republic). 1999–2002: Korea University in Seoul. 2002–2003: Arminia Bielefeld (Germany). Since 2003: Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany).

**Honours:** 2002: 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 2002 FIFA World Cup™ Korea/Japan. 2005: promotion to the German first division. 37 international appearances for the Korea Republic, four goals.  
**Miscellaneous:** Cha Du-Ri is the son of Korea Republic's best and most famous footballer, Cha Bum-kun (121 internationals, 55 goals; he played for clubs such as Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayer Leverkusen before going on to coach his own national team).

*As at 30 November 2005*

1. What does football mean to you?

I grew up with it and can't imagine a situation in which I won't be playing.

2. Which football club did you support as a child?

Any club where my father happened to be playing at the time.

3. Did you ever have an idol?

Yes, my father.

4. Who is the best player in the world right now?

There are a few superb players – Ronaldinho, for instance.

5. Which team is currently playing the most attractive football?

I enjoyed Barcelona's 3-0 victory over Real Madrid last November. Barcelona played some breathtaking football in that match.

6. What is your fondest footballing memory?

The 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan takes pride of place, of course, when we made it to the semi-final. That was the by far the most exciting moment I have ever experienced in football. But Eintracht Frankfurt's promotion to the German top flight was also a wonderful occasion.

7. What has been your biggest disappointment in football?

Relegation to the German second division with Arminia Bielefeld.

8. What is your favourite type of music?

Korean pop music.

9. And your favourite book?

The Bible.

10. Your favourite film?

"Mr & Mrs Smith" with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie was very funny.

11. Your favourite city?

I have two – Seoul and Frankfurt.

12. What do you like eating the most?

Ramyun (a Korean speciality) and noodles.

13. What is your favourite hobby?

Sleeping and surfing the net.

14. Who has been the most influential figure in world history?

There have been several – Mikhail Gorbachev is one of them.

15. What is your main strength?

I am honest and unassuming.

16. And your biggest weakness?

I am too quiet and unassuming.

17. What qualities do you appreciate in a woman?

All the qualities you find in a person with the human touch.

18. And in a man?

The same as for a woman.

19. What do you spend most of your money on?

Clothes.

20. What are you afraid of?

Injury and war.

21. How do you see the future of the world?

People around the world will move closer together as a result of globalisation.

22. What does the word "beauty" mean to you?

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

23. Where would you like to go on holiday?

The USA.



24. Who would you most like to meet?  
 Jesus Christ.

25. Who will win the 2006 FIFA World Cup Germany™?

There are several candidates – Brazil, Argentina, Germany, England and the Netherlands. It would be a triumph for Korea if the team progressed into the knockout stages.

# Poland's goalscoring legend

Grzegorz Lato, the top scorer at the 1974 FIFA World Cup™, is looking forward to a reunion with Germany.

BY THOMAS ROSER

Poland's first and to date only World Cup Golden Shoe winner shaved off his trademark moustache long ago, but the game has not lost any of its fascination for Grzegorz Lato, even though he is getting on in years in footballing terms. "Of course I still play," the 55-year-old smiles, referring to his outings with veterans' team Gorski's Eagles. "There's only one condition: the opposition must be older than 35, as I'm not running around after the youngsters any more."

Once it was his opponents who had trouble keeping up with the fleet-footed striker. Capped 90 times by his country, Lato was known for his pace, accurate shooting and skill on the ball. Having scored 42 international goals, he was probably Poland's most influential player during their "golden decade" from 1972 to 1982. The man with the thinning hair played at three World Cups and two Olympic tournaments, but Poland's most successful player says his fondest memories are of his first World Cup in 1974, and not just because he finished as the leading scorer with seven goals. For him, the most memorable moment was the first of his two goals in the first group match against Argentina (3-2) in Stuttgart. "It was my first World Cup goal in front of a packed stadium," explains Lato. "And I knew that everyone in Poland was sitting in front of the television willing us to win."

Although Poland's state-backed amateurs had claimed gold at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich and had even bundled England out of the World Cup at the qualifying stage, the side coached by the legendary Kazimierz Gorski travelled to West Germany as rank outsiders. Drawn in the same group as co-favourites Argentina and Italy, it seemed inevitable that the "White Eagles" would be going home early. "Gorski was the only one who really believed we could do well," recalls Lato.

"We had a great team and in Gorski, we had a super coach. He prepared us perfectly and filled us with confidence."

#### "MORE LIKE WATER POLO"

Led by their ingenious playmaker Kazimierz Deyna, the Poles played some thrilling attacking football, winning five games in succession as they very nearly powered their way into the final. Their run of victories only came to an end in the legendary waterlogged semi-final against hosts West Germany

in Frankfurt (0-1). "It was more like water polo – these days it would never have kicked off," says Lato with a smile more than three decades later. "The water was ankle-deep on the flanks. My marker Paul Breitner kicked the ball two metres, then I knocked it two metres – until eventually one of us allowed the other to scoop the ball out of the puddle. It was a farce."

After Poland secured third place, Lato received several offers from Bundesliga clubs in 1974, but the star striker from

Stal Mielec decided against a move that at the time would have meant an end to his international career. In 1978, the Poles went to the World Cup in Argentina with much higher expectations than four years earlier, explains Lato, for whom the opening match against West Germany (0-0), in particular, remains etched in the memory. Although Poland qualified for the second round by winning their group, they then lost to Argentina and Brazil. "We finished joint fifth along with West Germany. It was a disappointment

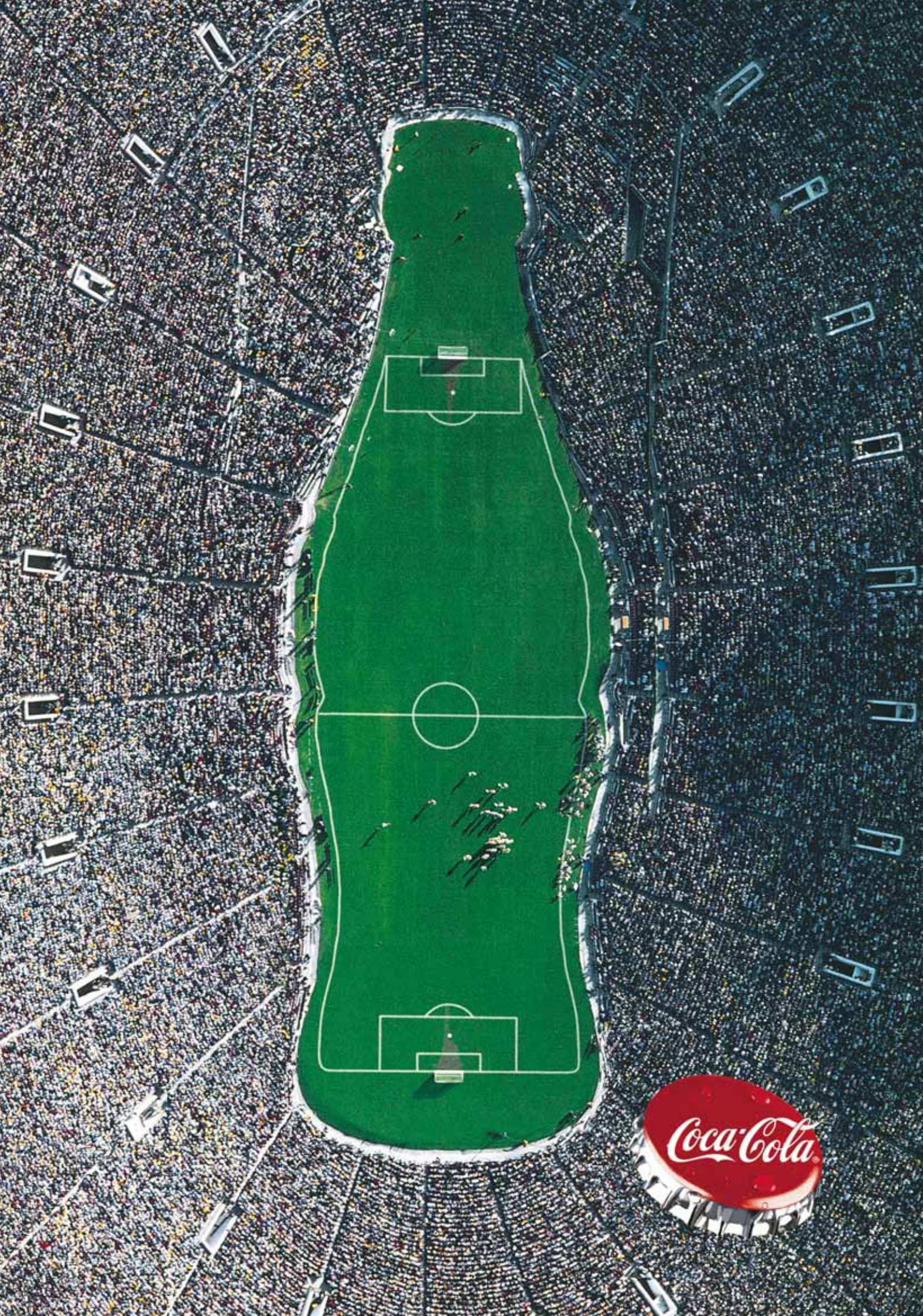
for us at the time because we had hoped for more. Today, such a final position would be a massive success for Poland," he adds.

"Ahead of the 1982 tournament in Spain, no one had Poland on their list," says Lato, reflecting on his third World Cup. "We had martial law at home and all our warm-up matches had to be cancelled." After a slow start involving two goalless draws against Italy and Cameroon, Poland eventually stepped up a gear and progressed somewhat

PHOTOS: FORUM



Grzegorz Lato at the double – in a 1974 World Cup match against Greece (left) and signing autographs under the watchful eye of a security guard.



GRZEGORZ LATO

**Born:** 8 April 1950 in Malbork (Poland)  
**Nationality:** Polish  
**Place of residence:** Mielec  
**Playing career:** Stal Mielec (1962–1980), KSC Lokeren (1980–1982), CD Altante Mexico City (1982–1984).  
**Coaching career:** North York Rockets (Canada, 1988–1990), Stal Mielec (1991–1993), Olimpia Poznan (1993–1995), Amica Wronki (1995–1996), Widzew Lodz (1999).  
**Honours as a player:** Two league titles with Stal Mielec (1973 and 1976) and twice leading goalscorer in Poland (1973 and 1975). Twice player of the year in Poland (1977 and 1981). Ninety international appearances (42 goals). Played at three World Cups (1974, 1978 and 1982). World Cup Golden Shoe winner in 1974 with seven goals, third place at the World Cup (1974 and 1982). Gold medal winner at the Munich Olympic Games (1972) and silver at Montreal (1976).  
**Miscellaneous:** Senator in the Polish Parliament (2001 to 2005). Board member of his hometown club, Stal Mielec, and the Polish Football Federation (PZPN).



► surprisingly to the semi-final, where they faced Italy for a second time. According to Lato, two careless mistakes cost the “White Eagles” a place in the final in a 2-0 defeat. “But you have to be able to lose as well as win. We did finish third for the second time in eight years, after all. Later things became very different for Poland.”

**“FIVE MINUTES OF FAME”**

Not until the age of 30 was Lato granted a late move abroad. After spells at Lokeren in Belgium and a club in Mexico, a serious Achilles tendon injury finally forced him to hang up his boots in 1984. When asked whether he ever resented missing out on the chance to earn a fortune abroad while in his prime, Lato looks back on his career without a trace of regret. As a World Cup Golden Shoe winner, of course he would earn more if he were playing today, he says, but money cannot buy success. “Everyone has their ‘five minutes of fame’ – and I made good use of mine.”

Although he never had any problems living as a football star in the people’s socialist republic, Lato did not want to live in a Poland under martial law. He spent seven years in Canada and did not return to his home country until 1992, trying his luck as a coach at Stal Mielec, Olimpia Poznan and Widzew Lodz.

**SENATE SEAT**

In 2001, the former outside-right switched flanks and moved into politics, serving the Social Democrats as a non-card-carrying member of the Polish Senate for four years. The parliamentary football team were not the only ones to appreciate the presence of the erstwhile

From goalscorer to senator: Grzegorz Lato (pictured, top, with Poland team-mate Zbigniew Boniek).



star in their ranks. It was a valuable experience during which he met some wonderful people, says Lato, drawing a satisfied conclusion on his “closed” chapter in politics. Today, he sits on the boards of the Polish Football Association (PZPN) and his hometown club Stal Mielec, now of the fourth division. “Along with some friends, I am trying to rebuild the club. The council are supporting us and we’ve found a sponsor. In five years’ time we aim to be back in the first division,” says Lato looking forward.

Lato makes no secret of his excitement about returning to the scene of his greatest triumph, saying: “As in 1974, the Germans will organise a superb

World Cup, of that I am sure. But when I see the new stadiums, I do feel a sense of envy, as in Poland we can only dream of such venues.” But he does draw satisfaction from Poland’s success in qualifying for the finals at the home of their neighbours. “You cannot really compare today’s team with the one of 1974, and not just because football has undergone a total transformation in the last 32 years. Back then we were among the three best teams in the world, but today Poland fluctuate between 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> place in the FIFA world ranking. But even without any world stars, the current team is a good collective with a very good coach – and hopefully will make it to the second round.” ■

# Theo Walcott following in footsteps of Wayne Rooney

For some time now football experts in England have been lavish in their praise for 16-year-old **Theo Walcott**, with many predicting he will have a meteoric rise similar to the one enjoyed by Wayne Rooney of Manchester United. Walcott, the son of immigrants from the Caribbean island of Barbados, grew up in Reading and made his debut for Southampton and the England U-17 team a few months ago. The youngster has already attracted the attention of some top English clubs. Arsenal and Liverpool are on the trail of the nimble and lightning-fast striker (he reportedly runs 100 metres in eleven seconds), as are Chelsea, who are said to have offered GBP eight million for him. Yet Southampton chair-

man Rupert Lowe does not want to sell Walcott – at least not until the end of the season. Lowe hopes the teenage forward's runs and goals will help Southampton clinch a return to the Premier League.

**Eric Cantona**, 39, has been voted the best player in the history of the English Premier League in a poll of 26,000 football supporters. Cantona, a member of the French side that won the Beach Soccer World Cup in Rio de Janeiro last year, played in attack for Leeds United and Manchester United between 1992 and 1997, winning the league title five times and the FA Cup twice. Cantona now works as an

actor and film director and lives with his family in Barcelona.

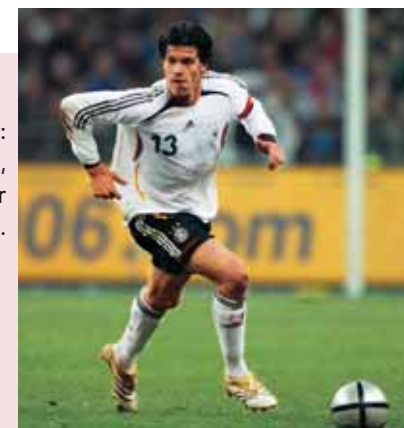
The respected Spanish football magazine *Don Balón* has run the rule over the official websites of a number of famous players. After evaluating the graphic design and content, amongst other criteria, of the various Internet offerings the journal concluded that **Michael Ballack** ([www.michael-ballack.com](http://www.michael-ballack.com)) has the highest-quality website, followed by fellow German Christian Ziege ([www.christianziege.de](http://www.christianziege.de)) and Spain's Fernando Torres ([www.fernando9torres.com](http://www.fernando9torres.com)). The remaining places were taken by:



16-year-old Theo Walcott celebrating a goal.

PHOTOS: IMAGO (2)/GETTY IMAGES/AFP

From left to right: Michael Ballack, Australia jump for joy, George Weah.



Petr Cech ([www.petr-cech.cz](http://www.petr-cech.cz)), Fabio Cannavaro ([www.fabiocannavaro.it](http://www.fabiocannavaro.it)), Didier Drogba ([www.didier-drogba.com](http://www.didier-drogba.com)), Djibril Cisse ([www.djib-cisse.com](http://www.djib-cisse.com)), Simao ([www.simaosabrosa.iol.pt](http://www.simaosabrosa.iol.pt)), David Trezeguet ([www.trezegol.com](http://www.trezegol.com)), Belletti ([www.belletti.com.br](http://www.belletti.com.br)), Francesco Toldo ([www.francescotoldo.it](http://www.francescotoldo.it)), Paulo Wanchope ([www.wanchope.net](http://www.wanchope.net)), Alessandro Del Piero ([www.alessandrodelpiero.com](http://www.alessandrodelpiero.com)), Claudio Pizarro ([www.claudiopizarro.com](http://www.claudiopizarro.com)), Francesco Totti ([www.francescototti.com](http://www.francescototti.com)), Jose Antonio Reyes ([www.joseantonioreyes.com](http://www.joseantonioreyes.com)), Hidetoshi Nakata ([www.nakata.net](http://www.nakata.net)), Fabien Barthez ([fabienbarthez.sports.fr](http://fabienbarthez.sports.fr)), Junichi Inamoto ([www.junichi-inamoto.jp](http://www.junichi-inamoto.jp)), Guillermo Barros Schelotto ([www.melliguillermo.com](http://www.melliguillermo.com)), Zinedine Zidane ([www.zidane.net](http://www.zidane.net)), Gianluigi Buffon ([www.gianluigibuffon.it](http://www.gianluigibuffon.it)) and Andres D'Alessandro ([www.andresdalessandro.com.ar](http://www.andresdalessandro.com.ar)).

Almost 8.5 million Australians, or **51 percent** of the population, saw the second leg of the World Cup play-off between Australia and Uruguay on television in November, according to a representative telephone poll conducted by Roy Morgan Research. Official TV ratings suggested that an average of 2.5 million people watched the thriller live. "These figures obviously did not take into account the large number of Australians who watched at organised parties," the company claimed in explanation for

the discrepancy. A spokesperson said that 4.4 millions Australians had watched the game from its hesitant beginning to its dramatic end, when John Aloisi scored the deciding penalty for the home side to secure Australia's first appearance at the World Cup finals since 1974.

On 16 November 2005, **FIFA.com** celebrated its tenth anniversary over a glass of champagne at FIFA headquarters in Zurich. In the presence of Director of FIFA Marketing & TV Jerome Valcke and the New Media team, guest of honour Andreas Herren, who launched FIFA's official website on 16 November 1995, gave a brief speech on the project's beginnings. Originally a monolingual website, FIFA.com has since evolved into a four-language presence offering tens of thousands of pages of original content per language. Local events are also covered in the respective language, such as Dutch for the FIFA World Youth Championship 2005 Netherlands and Japanese for the FIFA Club World Championship TOYOTA Cup Japan 2005. From 1995 to 2003 the website was operated by En Linea. Today it is hosted by Changepond in India. The next significant milestone will be reached in the first quarter of 2007 when FIFAworldcup.com will be integrated into FIFA.com, turning it into a huge content site accessible via a single URL: [www.FIFA.com](http://www.FIFA.com). Since launching in 1995, traffic on FIFA.com has steadily increased.

In October 2005, for example, it registered 2.4 million unique visitors, while another 2.9 million visitors stopped by FIFAworldcup.com, generating more than 80 million page views. To mark its tenth anniversary, FIFA.com now provides unparalleled coverage of the top 100 club leagues in the world, featuring up-to-the-hour results, standings and fixtures. Off to South Africa and after the latest news from the Castle Premiership? Going to China and interested in the Super League? Want to know how your team got on last weekend? Simply go to <http://www.fifa.com/en/WorldLeagues/index.html> and enter a mine of football information.

Former star player **George Weah**, 39 (1995 FIFA World Player of the Year), was defeated in November's presidential election in Liberia by 66-year-old Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. In the second round of voting, the mother of four and grandmother of six won 59% of the vote to gain the required absolute majority. Johnson-Sirleaf, who thus becomes the first female head of state in the civil-war-riven West African country, has offered Weah a ministerial post.

## QUIZ

Here are the answers to the 20 questions on pages 50 and 51:  
 1. B / 2. C / 3. A / 4. A / 5. C / 6. B / 7. A / 8. A / 9. C / 10. C / 11. C / 12. B / 13. B / 14. B / 15. B / 16. A / 17. A / 18. C / 19. C / 20. B

# One day in February

by Harold Mayne-Nicholls



**5 February 1927**

The Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup™ meets in Zurich. Although there is a certain amount of opposition, the committee eventually decides to push ahead with plans for the inaugural FIFA World Cup™.

**5 February 1991**

A Nigerian women's club plays a match on foreign soil for the first time, with Kakanfo Queens defeating Cameroon's Kalara FC 3-1.

**6 February 1965**

Sir Stanley Matthews retires after playing his last match for Stoke City aged 50 years and five days. For Matthews, who is still the oldest player to have played in the English league, the match against Fulham is his 701<sup>st</sup>.

**8 February 1914**

Luxembourg beat France 5-4 thanks to Jean Massard's four strikes. This is still the record for the most number of goals by a Luxembourg player in an international match.

**9 February 1979**

Trevor Francis becomes the first million-pound player when Nottingham Forest pay Birmingham City GBP

1,150,000, thereby beating the record set just 12 months earlier when Manchester United secured the services of Leeds United's Gordon McQueen for GBP 495,000.

**9 February 1996**

The International Center for Sports Studies (CIES) is founded in Neuchatel, Switzerland by FIFA and the university, canton and city of Neuchatel.

**11 February 1957**

At its meeting in Madrid, the FIFA Regulations Committee unanimously approves a proposal to allow teams to substitute players injured during play.

**12 February 1972**

Assistant referee Agustin Basso dies in La Carlota (Argentina) after players from Sportivo Rural de Santa Eufemia attack him in protest over his failure to flag for offside during a match against Belgrano Juniors de Arias.

**13 February 1999**

The Football Association agrees to a replay of an FA Cup match after Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger and his players offer to restage a game as a gesture of goodwill and fair play. In the match in question, Arsenal had

beaten Sheffield United 2-1, but the Premier League side scored the crucial second goal in controversial circumstances. After the Sheffield United goalkeeper had thrown the ball into touch to allow an injured team-mate to receive treatment, Arsenal failed to return possession to their opponents and instead scored what proved to be the deciding goal. In the replay ten days later, Arsenal again win 2-1.

**14 February 1946**

Resolution no. 30 of the National Sports Council approves professional football in Paraguay.

**15 February 1992**

Chelsea's Vinnie Jones beats his own record by receiving a yellow card just three seconds into a fifth round FA Cup clash with former club Sheffield United. Jones had set his previous record of five seconds in January 1991.

**16 February 1957**

Egypt win the first African Cup of Nations by beating Ethiopia 4-0 in the final in Khartoum, Sudan. El Diba scores all four goals.

**18 February 1960**

In Montevideo, CONMEBOL and its president, Fermin Sorhueta, approve a proposal to create the Champion Clubs' Cup (now the Copa Libertadores) to bring together the champions of all CONMEBOL countries in 1959. The tournament begins on 15 April.

**22 February 1922**

Leeds United's Bill Poyntz scores a hat-trick on his wedding day in a victory over Leicester City.

**25 February 1967**

A bolt of lightning strikes 23-year-old Tony Allden of Highgate United during an FA Amateur Cup quarter-final match against Enfield Town. Allden fails to recover and passes away the next day.

**25 February 1979**

Algeria lose 3-2 to Guinea in the second leg of the first African Youth Championship final, but still claim the title on the away goals rule after winning the first leg 2-1 at home on 9 February.

**27 February 1977**

Argentina defeat Hungary 5-2 in Diego Maradona's international debut at the age of just 16 years and 121 days and after only 11 top-flight appearances. Maradona is still the youngest player to represent Argentina.

PHOTOS: AFP (2)/GETTY IMAGES/FIFA

