

Attacking football galore?

A number of teams are lining up to challenge defending champions Germany, and a group of talented attackers could make this tournament a feast of entertaining football.

BY RAINER HENNIES

Sixteen teams are currently competing in the inaugural FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship, but as the host nation of the competition that began on 17 August, it is Russia that is making history. Ever since the USA won the very first U-19 Women's World Championship in Canada in 2002, this FIFA youth event has blossomed into an enthralling competition, with Germany claiming the honours in the second event in Thailand two years later.

The opening match of this year's Women's World Championship, which is now a U-20 competition, was at St Petersburg's Petrovsky stadium and it saw two of the pre-tournament favourites, Russia and Brazil, go head to head. In other words, the European champions against their South American

counterparts, and Elena Danilova v. Marta. The Brazilian has long been a star on the world stage, but Danilova shot to fame on the back of the nine goals that saw her crowned as the top goalscorer at the 2005 UEFA U-19 Women's European Championship in Hungary. These two are just two of the most talented young players in the world.

Many teams are harbouring hopes of winning the 2006 Women's World Championship. The USA, in particular, will be hoping that their strength in depth will carry them to a repeat of their 2002 heroics. Coach Tim Schulz watched 50 friendly matches since January, before honing the squad that spent two months at a training camp. No other team can match the USA in this respect. "It was extremely difficult to pick a squad because we have so many good young players," says Schulz. With Amy Rodriguez and Jessica Rostedt, the Americans appear to be particularly dangerous in attack, and together with Canada, the USA breezed through the qualifiers. In Kara Lang, a player who has already made her senior international debut, the Canadians also boast the fastest goalscorer in the tournament's history, as Lang needed just four seconds to give Canada the lead over Mexico during the qualifiers. As for Germany, coach Maren Meinert claims that Germany and their midfield superstar Celia Okoyino Da Mbabi would be happy to get as far as

the quarter-final stage. The Russian hosts, meanwhile, are regarded by some as one of the teams to beat. Nevertheless, before the tournament even got underway, coach Valentin Grishin claimed that "the USA are still the clear favourites but Germany, Nigeria and Brazil will also have a very good chance." Grishin explained that the European Championship title had given women's football in Russia a huge boost. Danilova, the team's main goalscorer, is a key player together with goalkeeper Elvira Todua.

China PR are another team with high hopes, as are Korea DPR. Australia will be competing under the banner of the Asian Football Confederation for the very first time, while New Zealand and Tonga have effortlessly assumed the Australians' mantle as the Oceanian force to be reckoned with. Neither Oceanian team is expected to challenge for the World Championship title, though.

The same cannot be said about Brazil. The South American qualifiers in Chile were keenly contested, with CONMEBOL, a confederation not known for playing a huge number of internationals, represented by ten teams.

Like their senior counterparts, the Mexican team is currently going from strength to strength. Coach Leonardo Cuellar has a twelve-year plan in place, and although he is only halfway through it, his work already seems to be bearing

fruit. Cuellar's squad boasts 14-year-old Charline Veronica Corral, but the coach only plays her sporadically, preferring to keep a watchful eye on her development.

Traditional European powerhouses such as Norway and Sweden failed to qualify for Russia 2006, but France are now threatening to break into the world elite thanks to the association's years of sustained youth development in women's football. Switzerland and Finland also surprised many by qualifying.

As for Africa, Nigeria are still the team to beat, although Congo DR raised a few eyebrows by edging past South Africa on the away-goal rule in the semi-final of the regional qualifiers (1-2; 1-0). Liberian president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf made a successful appeal for donations to enable the national team to travel to Arabian champions Algeria for a second-round match. It paid off, as Liberia won the first match 3-2, and Algeria pulled out of the second leg in a cost-cutting exercise. ■

Talented German midfielder Celia Okoyino Da Mbabi.

PHOTOS: IMAGO



"We want a medal"

Dr Viacheslav Koloskov, the former president of the Football Union of Russia and a current member of the FIFA Executive Committee, on the FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship in his home country.

FIFA magazine: How important is this tournament for Russia?

Dr Viacheslav Koloskov: It is very important. In the past, Russia has hosted the Olympic Games and various FIFA youth events, but the U-20 Women's World Championship is the most important and biggest sporting event since the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980. It is therefore a very important event for our country.

Is women's football popular in Russia?

Koloskov: Oh yes, particularly as our women's U-19 team won the European Championship last year. This team, which is now at U-20 level, has a huge challenge ahead of it. I am also sure that many fans will attend the matches in St Petersburg and Moscow. The

stadiums are ready. We are also ready, and we are looking forward to hosting the event.

Russia is an up-and-coming team in women's football. What can Russia hope to achieve in this competition?

Koloskov: Third place. We are not expecting that, but it is certainly possible. The USA will obviously be there or thereabouts and Germany are the defending champions. There are other strong countries too, but we are the European champions. As such, we have to set ambitious targets, which we have done, as we would like to win a medal. We expect this World Championship to give women's football in Russia yet another boost. That was why we submitted a bid to host the competition. rh



Hard to dispossess: Marta (front).

The FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship Russia 2006 began on 17 August 2006 and will finish on 3 September. For the latest news on the tournament, see www.FIFA.com.

New-look FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking

FIFA has comprehensively revised its men's world ranking, introduced in 1993, for two main reasons. Firstly, to simplify the method of calculation, and secondly to create more transparency in terms of which matches are taken into consideration and how they are evaluated.

BY MARIUS SCHNEIDER

When it introduced the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking more than a decade ago, FIFA had a number of aims, including:

- To create a concise tool to constantly and reliably determine the strength of all "A" international teams around the world;
- To enable developed and developing football teams to compare their progress;
- To document the progress of national teams by means of a ranking;
- To provide talking points for football experts and fans;
- To make it possible to conduct various statistical analyses.

The ranking underwent slight modification after the 1998 FIFA World Cup™ in France, with the assessment period extended from six to eight years in order for the most important length of time in the FIFA calendar – the FIFA World Cup™ cycle – to be taken into account. Seven years later, the calls for a comprehensive revision grew in strength and frequency, but that had little to do with the information or the ranking itself, as such calls were primarily based on the calculation method and the "instability" caused by using such a lengthy assessment period.

The new, revised FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking has taken many of these demands into account, but it would have been impossible to consider them all. For example, calls for a special treatment of the host nations of official events, who do not play competitive qualifying matches, have not been heeded, with demands for an extraordinary solution having been rejected in the interests of simplification.

As before, the ranking continues to be calculated on the basis of typical factors such as the match result (win, draw or defeat), the importance of a match (competitive or friendly match), the strength of opponents (calculated using the team's position in the ranking) and regional strength, which is gauged by the results of teams from the respective confederation in the last three final competitions of the FIFA World Cup™.

WHAT COUNTS?

The results of all international "A" matches contested by FIFA member associations are taken into account in the world ranking. The matches played by an association's youth teams or other representative sides have no influence. The FIFA Women's World Ranking uses a

separate system to determine the relative standings of women's national teams.

MATCH RESULT

Wins, draws and defeats are given central importance by using the following customary points system: win: 3 points, draw: 1 point, defeat: 0 points.

This means that in the future, defeats will not be "rewarded" with points. To ensure that the formula is not only fair but also simple, matches that are decided by a penalty shoot-out (which are considered as draws under normal rules) will result in the winning team receiving two points and the losing team one point.

IMPORTANCE OF MATCH

While World Cup matches carry a greater weighting than friendly matches in order to reflect their importance, it is important to recognise the significance of friendlies (as well as small regional tournaments, which can carry much local weight), as such matches account for approximately 50% of all "A" international matches played in the last four years (see graphic). The mooted removal of all friendly matches from the ranking has also been rejected, as such a move would have resulted in two-thirds of all associations not being ranked in a reliable manner.

WEIGHTING:

World Cup final competition	4.0
Continental final competition and FIFA Confederations Cup	3.0
World Cup qualifier and continental qualifier	2.5
Friendly match	1.0

STRENGTH OF OPPONENT

The strength factor used for the calculation has a direct effect on the ranking position of the opposition, although the formula has now been simplified. The team at the top of the more than 200-team ranking is used as the starting point, and it is assigned the value of 2.00. The team in 30th place is assigned the value of 1.70, with the team in 112th place given 0.88. All teams ranked 150th and below are assigned the minimum weighting of 0.50.

REGIONAL STRENGTH

The evaluation of the strength of each confederation was one of the main points that FIFA would have liked to have removed. However, the statistics alone – 84% of all international matches between 2002 and 2005 involved two teams from the same confederation – make it clear that such a factor, which has always been part of the world ranking, is necessary to judge the achievements of teams that virtually always play on a regional level.

High climbers: Ukraine (Andriy Shevchenko, left) and Switzerland (Philipp Degen) make the biggest jumps up the new FIFA World Ranking.

PHOTO: FOTO-NET

This factor has always been a successful method of doing this.

REGIONAL STRENGTHS AFTER THE 2006 FIFA WORLD CUP™:

UEFA: 1.0
CONMEBOL: 0.98
CONCACAF: 0.85
AFC: 0.85
CAF: 0.85
OFC: 0.85

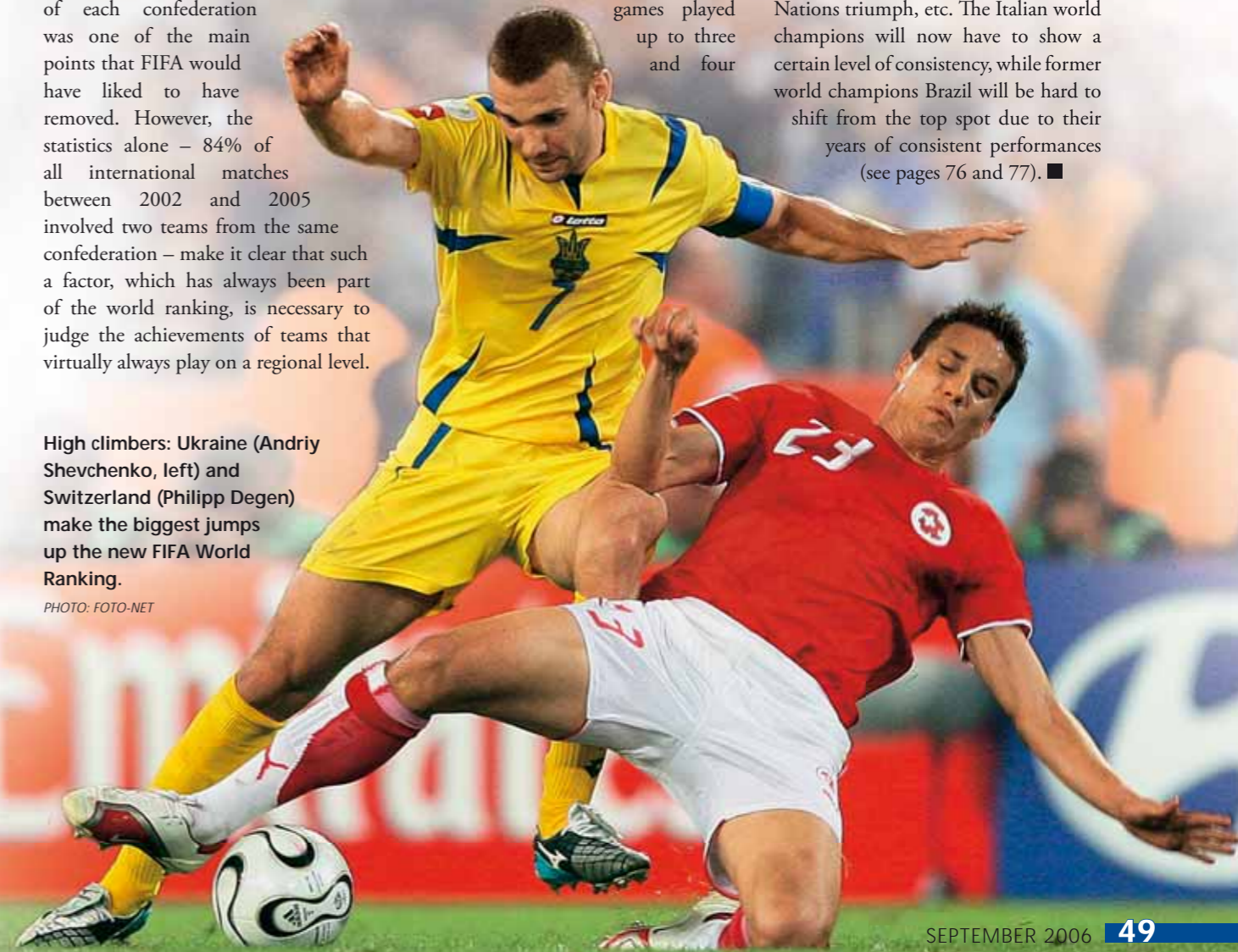
PERIOD ASSESSED

Matches played during the last four years (i.e. 48 months) are taken into account in the ranking. The considerable reduction in value of less recent matches ensures that a team's latest successes have a much greater influence than earlier matches and the ranking therefore always reflects the latest developments in world football. Results during the last 12 months count in full, those from the previous year count half, while games played up to three and four

years earlier have much less significance (100%, 50%, 30%, 20%). This means, for example, that the triumphant march of European champions Greece in 2004 is already having less of an effect in terms of points, and that the points gained by the new world champions will start to diminish as early as July 2007.

As of 2007, FIFA.com will offer an online tool that will allow users to carry out hypothetical calculations for their teams and take a look at how matches that have been played will affect future editions of the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking.

However, the revised FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking cannot and does not wish to take certain demands into account; namely that the world champions are automatically ranked number 1 in the world, or that the reigning African champions, for example, are not the best-placed African team due to their African Cup of Nations triumph, etc. The Italian world champions will now have to show a certain level of consistency, while former world champions Brazil will be hard to shift from the top spot due to their years of consistent performances (see pages 76 and 77). ■



World-beater or back to the training ground?

Do you think you know your football? If so, test your knowledge with our world football quiz. How many of the 20 questions can you get right? The correct answers can be found on page 59.

- 19-20 correct answers: world-beater!
- 18 correct answers: Professor of World Football
- 17 correct answers: World Cup title in sight
- 16 correct answers: superstar
- 15 correct answers: continental champion
- 14 correct answers: model pro
- 13 correct answers: battler
- 12 correct answers: on the brink of the national team
- 11 correct answers: club stalwart
- 10 correct answers: back to the training ground
- 9 correct answers or less: keep reading FIFA magazine and www.FIFA.com

1. Which Egyptian club has won the most domestic league titles with 30 in all?
A: Al Ahly
B: Zamalek
C: Ismaily
2. Which team won the first ever FIFA Women's World Cup in China PR in 1991?
A: USA
B: Germany
C: Norway
3. With a capacity of 98,000, which is the largest football stadium in Europe?
A: Giuseppe Meazza, Milan
B: Camp Nou, Barcelona
C: Olimpijskiy, Kiev
4. In which year was the USA's current national championship, Major League Soccer (MLS), founded?
A: 1996
B: 1997
C: 1999
5. To which country can France international Zinedine Zidane trace his roots?
A: Morocco
B: Egypt
C: Algeria
6. Who is Poland's most capped player with exactly 100 international appearances to his name?
A: Wladyslaw Zmuda
B: Kazimierz Deyna
C: Grzegorz Lato



Three football legends: Kazimierz Deyna, Jurgen Klinsmann and Garrincha.

PHOTOS: IMAGO (4), AFP

7. With which club did legendary Brazilian striker Garrincha spend most of his career?
A: Botafogo
B: Vasco da Gama
C: Fluminense
8. According to the Big Count survey that FIFA conducted in 2000, how many male and female footballers are there around the world?
A: 181 million
B: 242 million
C: 305 million
9. How many times have Bayern Munich won the German league championship?
A: 15
B: 20
C: 23
10. Which team won the last FIFA Futsal World Championship?
A: Brazil
B: Italy
C: Spain
11. Carlos Bilardo took Argentina to a World Cup title in 1986 and the runners-up spot in 1990, but what was his profession before he took up football coaching?
A: Doctor
B: Lawyer
C: Chemist
12. In which city do BSC Young Boys play their home matches?
A: Berne
B: Houston
C: Perth
13. The world's oldest football club was founded in 1857. What is its name?
A: Sheffield FC
B: Queens Park FC
C: Wanderers FC
14. In which country does club side Cienciano play?
A: Paraguay
B: Peru
C: Bolivia
15. Which Brazilian football legend's full name is Artur Antunes Coimbra?
A: Pele
B: Zico
C: Socrates
16. In which city would you find the Vieri Restaurant & Bar owned by Italy international Christian Vieri?
A: Milan
B: London
C: Sydney
17. Who has served a world-record 276 matches as a national team coach?
A: Velibor "Bora" Milutinovic
B: Francisco Maturana
C: Sepp Herberger
18. In 2001, Australia won a World Cup qualifying match 31-0. Who were their hapless opponents?
A: Vanuatu
B: Papua New Guinea
C: American Samoa
19. What type of business do Jurgen Klinsmann's parents run?
A: A baker's
B: A butcher's
C: A greengrocer's
20. Who is Cameroon's all-time top scorer with 33 goals?
A: Roger Milla
B: Patrick Mboma
C: Samuel Eto'o

The Olympic Stadium in Kiev.
- Al Ahly v. Zamalek (in red).



20 QUESTIONS 20 ANSWERS

Ali Karimi

1. What does football mean to you?

To begin with, football was just my passion. Then I got the chance to turn that passion into my profession – what more can you ask for?

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

I've always enjoyed watching Bayern Munich and AC Milan.

3. Did you ever have an idol?

Yes, Diego Maradona.

4. What is your fondest footballing memory?

The moment I found out that my transfer to Bayern Munich had been confirmed.

5. What has been your biggest disappointment in football?

Being knocked out of this year's Champions League by AC Milan.

6. If you had not become a professional footballer, what would you have become?

No idea. I've only ever thought about playing football.

7. What is your favourite type of music?

Pop music.

8. And your favourite book?

I don't read very much. I prefer to surf the internet.

9. Your favourite film?

"Face/Off" starring Nicolas Cage and John Travolta.

10. Your favourite city?

I have three: Tehran, Munich and Rome.

Full name: Mohammed Ali Karimi

Pashaki

Born: 8 November 1978 in Karaj

(Tehran province, Iran)

Nationality: Iranian

Height: 1.78m

Weight: 78kg

Position: Midfielder

Clubs: until 1998: Fath (Iran). 1998-2002:

Pirouzi (Iran). 2002-2005: Al Ahly (UAE). Since

1 July 2005: Bayern Munich (Germany).

Honours: 1998: Asian Games gold medallist. 1999: Iranian league champion, Iranian cup winner. 2000: Iranian league champion. 2002: UAE cup winner. 2004: Asian footballer of the year. 2006: German league champion, took part in the FIFA World Cup™ finals in Germany. More than 90 international caps for Iran, over 30 goals.

Miscellaneous: married to Sahar with two sons (Havash and Hirs). On his home continent, Karimi is known as the "Asian Maradona" and the "Wizard of Tehran".

As at 30 June 2006

11. What is your favourite food?

Persian and Italian.

12. What is your favourite hobby?

Volleyball. I started playing with my father when I was seven or eight. I also like shopping, but obviously my family comes before everything else.

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

Shopping for me and my family.

14. What was your first job?

Playing football.

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

I can't single out one individual, but I really admire anyone who helps others, like doctors who give up well-paid jobs to work in the Third World.

16. What are you afraid of?

Spiders.

17. What was the most embarrassing moment in your life?

I can't think of one off the top of my head.

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

Further progress in terms of technology, progress that, I hope, will help to avert wars in the future.

19. Where would you like to go on holiday?

The USA and the Canary Islands.

20. Who would you most like to meet?

I would love to meet Diego Maradona and talk to him about football.

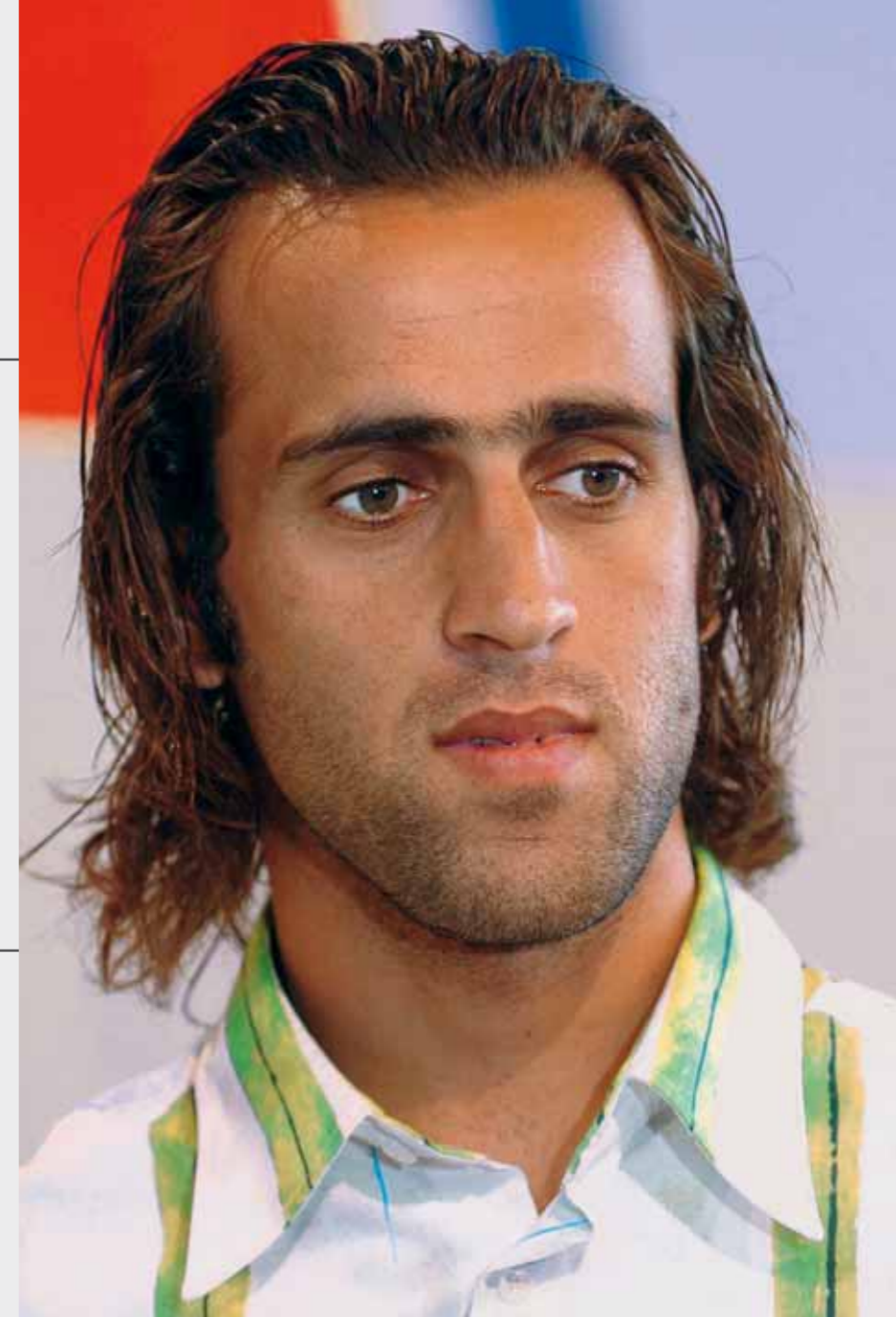


PHOTO: IMAGO

YES OR NO?

Are you a patient person?

No

Are you superstitious?

No

Is Ronaldinho the world's best footballer at present?

No

Is the quality of football better today than twenty years ago?

Yes

Would you like to coach one day?

Yes

Michel - a walking football encyclopaedia

Spanish and Real Madrid legend Michel is now 43 years old and spends most of his time as a sports commentator, columnist, writer and coach.

BY PABLO BROTONS

An allround authority on football, Jose Miguel Gonzalez Martin del Campo puts his heart and soul into football. He is often seen ensconced in front of a row of television screens at home, simultaneously watching action from the Spanish league, the UEFA Champions League, the European Championship, the World Cup and international leagues – without missing a trick. Popularly known as Michel in the world of football, he once extolled Zinedine Zidane's virtues long before anyone had heard of him in Spain. No-one is quite sure whether Michel lives in a house or under a satellite dish.

Oscar-honoured Spanish film director Jose Luis Garci commented in Michel's book *El Futbol de Michel*: "No-one, not even Beckham or Figo, mastered the art of crossing the ball better than he did."

Not only is Michel a mastermind but he also has a heart of gold, donating the entire proceeds from the sale of his book to the Sabera and Padre Arrupe foundations.

THE FAMOUS FIVE

Michel began by playing for Rayo Los Angeles in the suburbs of Madrid, while all the time his father, Miguel, dreamed

that one day his son would become a full-blooded member of the real thing, Real Madrid. On 1 October 1976, at the age of 13, Michel joined the B schoolboy team. He soon progressed to the A team, before graduating to the B juniors and then the A juniors – Real Madrid's top finishing school. Under the guidance of the now deceased and highly respected Ramon Moreno Grosso, he pocketed two Spanish league championships.

Gradually his fame spread abroad when he won Prince Albert of Monaco Trophy with the U-18 Spanish team and was nominated the best young European footballer.

Michel began playing as an inside left, controlling the ball deftly with both feet. In 1981, he joined Real Madrid after winning the Spanish cup as a junior against Athletic Bilbao. No-one was in any doubt that he would assume the role of inside right not only with Real Madrid Castilla but with Real Madrid's top flight and the Spanish national team as well. In his first tentative matches with Real Madrid, he took up position on the left again.

Led by the eminent Emilio Butragueno, Real Madrid nurtured a generation of players who became known as the Quinta del Buitre (literally, the

vulture's five, and a pun on Butragueno), including such famed names as Manolo Sanchis, Miguel Pardeza, Rafael Martin Vazquez and, of course, Michel himself.

He was the last to make the big leap over to Real Madrid but it gave him enough time and space finally to lead Real Madrid Castilla to the Spanish second division title in the 1983-84 season.

HAT TRICK IN ITALY

Michel made his debut for Real Madrid against Castellon at the age of 19 on 11 April 1982 (even scoring the decisive goal) when the junior players ▶



A creative talent for Real Madrid and Spain, Michel has launched a career in coaching.

PHOTOS: IMAGO (3), MARCA





S H O W P A S S I O N



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► in Spain's first division clubs were called upon to replace their senior footballers who were on strike.

Michel then spent the next twelve seasons with Real Madrid, reigning supreme as the number 8 on the right wing and forming part of a dream midfield and attack alongside Schuster, Martin

Vazquez, Gordillo, Butragueno and Hugo Sanchez. He netted no fewer than 130 goals, claiming a string of honours, including five Spanish championships in a row, two Spanish cups and two UEFA Cups. The only blemish in the legendary team's record was their failure to win the European Cup, now the UEFA Champions League.

Michel wallowed in glory in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico when Spain reached the quarter finals, only to fall to Belgium in a penalty shoot-out. Four years later in the World Cup in Italy, he produced a brilliant hat trick in true

Michel style against Korea Republic. His journey as a footballer finally came to an end alongside buddy Butragueno in Mexico.

LIKE FATHER – LIKE SON

After an era in which football fans had relished his knowledgeable commentaries on television and his incisive reports in the press, last season saw the emergence of Michel as a technical director. As the manager of Rayo Vallecano in the Spanish second division, Michel has had his first taste of the arduous job of coach. In his book he once presciently wrote: "Being a coach is a fascinating job. There is an inherent thrill in taking risks – you get hooked on it like a drug. But, as with everything else, there are drawbacks. And in this job, there are many."

Michel hails Giancarlo Antognoni and Vicente Del Bosque as his role models and, for different reasons, Michel Platini, Pep Guardiola, Michael Laudrup, Ruud Gullit, Luis Figo, Franco Baresi, Paolo Maldini, and not to mention Adrian Gonzalez.

Who is this Adrian Gonzalez? It is Michel's successor – and eldest son. Now, at the age of 18, he has joined Real Madrid's B junior team as a midfielder, just like his father. On the left, to be precise. He seems to be the reincarnation of his father's role as the passing genius on the wing. This personal legacy is Michel's lasting impression on the beautiful game. ■

MICHEL

Full name: Jose Miguel Gonzalez Martin del Campo
Born: Madrid, 23 March 1963
Nationality: Spanish
Clubs as a player: 1984–1996: Real Madrid. 1996–1997: Atletico Celaya (Mexico).
Honours as a player: 6 Spanish league championships (1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1995), 2 Spanish cups (1989, 1993), 4 Spanish super cups (1988, 1989, 1990, 1993), 1 league cup (1985), 2 UEFA Cups (1985, 1986). 66 international caps for Spain, 21 goals. 2 World Cup appearances (1986, 1990; 9 games, 4 goals), 1 appearance in the European Championship (1988).
Career as a coach: 2005–2006: Rayo Vallecano (Spain).

As at 30 June 2006



Michel times three: in the office, with his son and on the bench.

PHOTOS: MARCA





Murat Yakin sets the pace with children in Cape Town.

PHOTO: SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES SWITZERLAND

Yakin visits SOS Children's Village

The Official Charity Campaign of the 2006 FIFA World Cup™, "6 Villages for 2006", was one of the biggest ever humanitarian initiatives undertaken by FIFA and in the game of football as a whole. In his role as an SOS Children's Villages ambassador, former Swiss international **Murat Yakin** recently visited one of the organisation's facilities in Cape Town, showing a great deal of compassion for the children who live there. Himself one of eight children, Yakin was amazed at the tough conditions under which the village's

15 "mothers" raise up to nine or ten children each. "They have so very little," Yakin observed, "yet they give so much love." Each mother receives a monthly allowance of 230 South African rand (approximately 30 euros) per child. The FIFA campaign ran throughout the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ right up until the final in Berlin.



English coach **Bob Houghton** has been crisscrossing the globe for

many years thanks to coaching posts that have included the top jobs with the national teams of China PR and Uzbekistan. Houghton has now taken on a huge new challenge by agreeing to coach India during the qualifiers for the 2007 Asian Cup. Having kicked off their campaign before his appointment, the team's first two qualifying matches ended in 6-0 and 3-0 defeats to Japan and Yemen respectively. The 58-year-old is nonetheless excited by the job and by his players. "They are very keen to learn," he said. In the coming weeks

and months, Houghton is hoping to recruit new faces to his team. His first port of call will be India's youth teams, then the association intends to seek out players with Indian origins who are playing abroad.



In June, German coach **Werner Lorant** signed a twelve-month contract with Iranian club Saipa. Following a playing career that took him to several clubs across Germany, Lorant had a long and successful spell as coach of 1860 Munich – the city rivals of Bayern Munich – before taking on a number of other posts including, most recently, the head coach role at Turkish club Sivasspor.



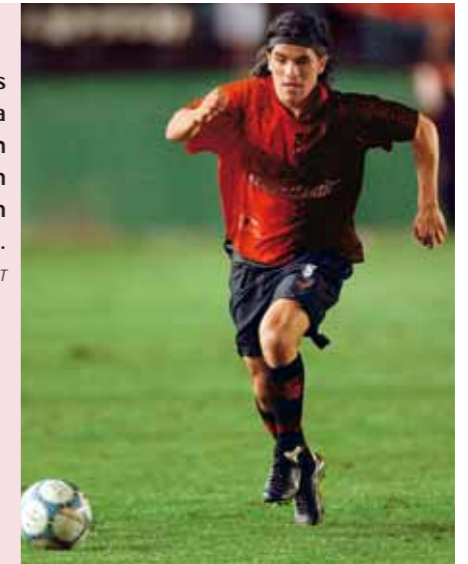
A good number of the teams that took part in the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ were welcomed home by thousands of their compatriots. In Quito, however, tens of thousands of joyful fans turned out to celebrate the homecoming of **Agustin Delgado, Jose Valencia** and the other members of the Ecuador squad, who were beaten by England in the last 16 after Colombian coach Luis Suarez and his team had delighted supporters with group stage victories over Poland and Costa Rica.

QUIZ

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

Two Argentine midfield greats with new clubs: Ariel Ortega (top, during a spell with Newell's Old Boys) and Juan Sebastian Veron (in Inter Milan colours).

PHOTOS: IMAGO/FOTO-NET



With a 25-0 win over the British Virgin Islands in a FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship qualifier, the Dominican Republic scored the highest ever victory in the women's international game, in Santo Domingo on 25 September 2005, beating the previous record of 24-0 by Japan's U-19 team against Malaysia in May 2005. **Osama Valerio** hit the net ten times for the home side, which also constituted a record. Sadly the Dominican Republic's joy was short-lived as the team was knocked out of the tournament two days later.



In Juan **Sebastian Veron** and **Ariel Ortega**, two midfielders in their 30s who did not feature in Argentina's squad for the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ will be facing off against each other in the coming Argentinian league season. Both players have returned to the scene of former glories. Veron, who played for various clubs including Inter Milan and Chelsea during his time in Europe, has rejoined Estudiantes, the club he represented between 1993 and 1996, while former Fenerbahce and Valencia star Ortega has left Newell's Old Boys to commence a third spell with River Plate following on from stints with the club between 1991 and 1996 and between 2000 and 2002.

Triumphant homecoming: the Ecuador national team's procession through Quito.

PHOTO: KEYSTONE





One day in September

by Harold Mayne-Nicholls

1 September 1904:

The first FIFA Statutes come into force.

2 September 1982:

The Icelandic Women's Cup final is decided on penalties for the first time. Breioablik of Kopavogur defeat Valur of Reykjavik 6-5 on penalties following a 1-1 draw.

3 September 1983:

USA defeat home side Trinidad and Tobago 5-3 on penalties to win the CONCACAF U-16 Championship.

4 September 1955:

The first ever European Cup match is played. Sporting Lisbon of Portugal and Partizan Belgrade of Yugoslavia (Branko Zebec) draw 3-3.

5 September 1926:

The first ever Polish cup final is held in Krakow as Wisla Krakow defeat Sparta Lwow 2-1. This competition would not be held again until 1950.

5 September 1971:

The Danish women's national team beat Mexico 3-0 to win the "Women's World Cup" (a tournament organised without FIFA's support). The game was played at the Azteca stadium in front of a crowd of 110,000, the largest ever to watch a women's football match.

6 September 1928:

The secretary of the Scottish Football Association, John Kevan M'Dowall, dies. He had first been appointed to this position on 26 April 1882.

7 September 1906:

Esporte Clube Ypiranga is founded in Bahia, Brazil.

7 September 1983:

Centre-forward Juan Carlos Sanchez scores seven goals for his club, Blooming of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in their 13-0 victory over Primero de Mayo in a Bolivian league match.

7 September 2002:

In Seoul, a crowd of 60,000 watch South Korea and North Korea play out a goalless draw in a friendly match.

9 September 1987:

Neil Webb becomes the thousandth player to represent England following his appearance as a substitute for Glenn Hoddle in his country's 3-1 defeat at the hands of West Germany.

12 September 1885:

John Petrie scores 13 goals for Arbroath against Bon Accord in the first round of the Scottish Cup, setting a British football record.

14 September 1996:

54-year old Mohammed Buizeb dies during a match held in his honour in Algeria. The player died after scoring a goal.

15 September 1944:

Santiago Bernabeu is invested as president of Real Madrid at 8pm, an office he would continue to hold until his death in 1978.

16 September 1972:

Referee Jim Finn dies whilst officiating at an English Division 4 match between Exeter City and Stockport County.

18 September 1926:

Auckland beat Otago 4-1 to win the first ever New Zealand Association Football Trophy competition.



27 September 1990:

Rene Higuita, the Colombian goalkeeper of Nacional de Medellin, saves four penalties in the semi-final of the Copa Libertadores against Olimpia, but his performance is not enough to see his team through to the final.

29 September 1984:

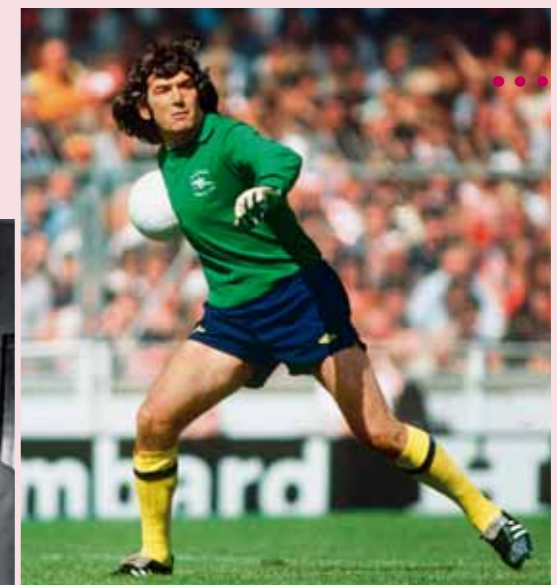
Arsenal's goalkeeper, Pat Jennings, celebrates his 750th league match by saving a penalty from Ken Hibbitt of Coventry City. His team wins 2-1.

29 September 1985:

In the Tribhuvan Challenge Shield final in Nepal, Friends Club are declared the winners after Thimpu XI (of Bhutan) refuse to take part in the penalty shoot-out when the match ends in a goalless draw.

29 September 2001:

Wydad Casablanca defender Youssef Belkhoja dies of a heart attack during an Moroccan cup match against Raja Casablanca.



PHOTOS: IMAGO