

QUANTUM OF SOLACE +++ ESCAPE TO VICTORY +++ BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM +++ GOMORRAH +++ STAR WARS +++ SPIDER-MAN 2

FIFA 1904

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL CINEMA ISSUE

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LETTER FROM A FIFA LEGEND



Alexey Smertin

DEAR READERS OF *FIFA 1904*,

As every young player should know, football can make your dreams come true! If you have character, then even a simple boy from Barnaul can go to England and play for one of the best clubs in the Premier League.

Well, the boy from Barnaul in the deep south of Siberia, Russia, was me, and yes, I admit I was lucky. I was lucky because my football hero, idol and role model literally lived in the same room. I'm talking about my brother, the famous Russian football player Yevgeni Smertin. I was always inspired by him. And of course by Diego Maradona, my first foreign football hero.

My first coach was my father, who did a lot to help me become a good footballer. I also vividly remember watching the 1986 World Cup on TV with him and Yevgeni. That's my most memorable football moment as a child. I have some

incredible memories of that hot World Cup in the Mexican sun. It inspired me a great deal!

Now that I've become a FIFA Legend, I'm helping to reform FIFA. The football experience of the FIFA Legends can help make our game even better, because football is a living organism. It has changed many times over the last century. It is therefore necessary to make sure that new technologies make the game even more interesting.

All of my personal plans are focused on the development of football in Russia, and I'm working closely with the young generation of players and fans. We all have one milestone ahead of us: Russia 2018 is just months away. Let's celebrate our game!

**Yours in football,
Alexey Smertin**

CONTENTS



14



16



18



24

FILM AND FOOTBALL

- 8 *James Bond* bad guy Anatole Taubman is a huge Manchester United fan. We paid him a visit in Berlin.
- 14 FIFA Legends also love films. They seem to be particularly taken with *Escape to Victory* (USA/UK, 1981).
- 16 British actor Parminder Nagra shot to fame thanks to her role as Jess in *Bend It Like Beckham* (DE/UK, 2002). We caught up with her to chat about her life in Hollywood.
- 18 There is no shortage of documentaries on the great Johan Cruyff, which help to keep our collective memories of the great Dutch maestro alive and well.
- 22 Which footballers have famous actor lookalikes? Take a look for yourself!
- 24 TV crime drama *Gomorra* is a smash hit in Italy. Salvatore Esposito, one of the show's stars and a huge football fan, took time out of his busy schedule for a chat.
- 30 Football has always been popular in the acting world. Check out our gallery of film stars putting their skills to the test.
- 34 Can you pick out the stars of these five redesigned movie posters?

COVER PICTURE

Our cover is a parody of the poster for *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* from the hugely popular intergalactic series. We have replaced the actors with the winners of The Best FIFA Football Awards 2017 – with a starring role for droid BB-8 as the adidas Telstar 18, the official 2018 World Cup match ball.

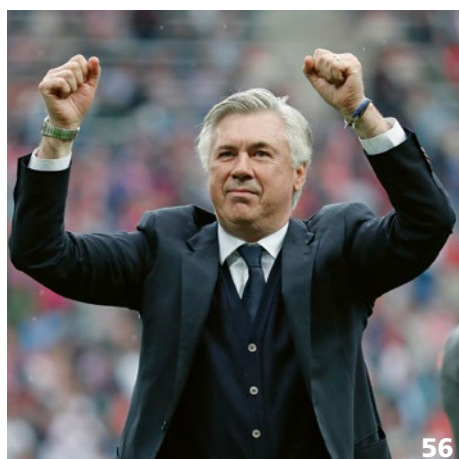
ILLUSTRATION: André Sanchez/
carolineidler.com





FOOTBALL IN PICTURES

- 4 THE MONTH IN PICTURES Mohamed Salah, African Footballer of the Year 2017 – the Stadion Gospin Dolac in Imotski, Croatia.
- 38 FIRST LOVE Ait Ben Haddou, Morocco.
- 47 PANINI: Zlatan Ibrahimović.
- 54 THEN AND NOW From Cologne to Barranquilla.
- 58 PHOTO ARCHIVE Dick French and his family (Brendon Barton, Exmoor, 18 May 1985).



THE WORLD OF FOOTBALL

- 41 President's message: In his monthly column, Gianni Infantino writes about the success of the FIFA Forward Programme: "Football development is a serious business and that is how we treat it. Whenever you hear a promise from FIFA, make no mistake: it is not mere rhetoric. It is backed up by facts."
- 42 FIFA NEWS AND THE FIFA/COCA-COLA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WORLD RANKINGS
- 48 NEWS FROM FIFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS
- 56 A FIFA LEGEND'S CAREER Carlo Ancelotti.
- 61 CARTOON Mordillo.
- 62 INNOVATIONS The functions and symbolism of the corner flag.
- 63 FANS A fan from the USA on how the French women's national team stole her heart.
- 64 PUBLICATION DETAILS/COMING UP





In top form

Mohamed Salah (middle) has been named African Footballer of the Year for 2017 by CAF. The Egyptian player, pictured above scoring against Leicester City, is currently weaving his magic in the Premier League for Liverpool FC. Prepare to be bedazzled by the gifted attacker during the World Cup in Russia.





At the heart of nature

The Stadion Gospić Dolac is nestled in a karst depression in the Split-Dalmatia County and is home to the Croatian club NK Imotski.



Branimir Boban/AFP

FIFA 1904

FILM AND FOOTBALL



Anatole Taubman, 47 "There's no room for airs and graces on a film set. It's no different in a football team. Teamwork has to come first."

A LIFE FOR MANCHESTER UNITED

Anatole Taubman never seems to be short of offers for starring roles. He has played the bad guy in a *James Bond* movie, but he's also been a Manchester United fan his entire life. We met him in Berlin for a spot of breakfast.

By Alan Schweingruber from Berlin

The American website Internet Movie Database, or IMDb for short, has always been a good place to while away an hour or two. Its slogan, after all, says it all – “Movies, TV and Celebrities”. Since being founded in 1990, the IMDb has grown into the biggest movie database in the world. Today, 28 years later, visitors to the site can look up their favourite films or even the latest glamorous shots from Hollywood. Actors themselves are also known to visit the site, which also has a list of the top 250 films of all time among its

attractions. It will probably come as no surprise to learn that the top two places tend to alternate between *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994) and *The Godfather* (1972), with both films currently rated at 9.2 out of 10.

The site also has information on which actors are currently working on which set, as well as facts and figures on just how many films any given actor has under his or her belt. Anatole Taubman, 47, for example, has exactly 100 credits to his

name. By way of comparison, Robert De Niro, 74, only has 113.

Today, Taubman is running a couple of minutes late for our meeting in a Berlin café, maybe giving me some time to work out just how many films this British-Swiss actor has completed every year for the past 20. But then I think better of it as I realise that Taubman has basically been filming non-stop. And then he arrives. “Sorry, traffic!” he says as he takes off his Manchester United training jacket and

FILM AND FOOTBALL

drapes it over the back of his chair before sitting down and ordering an English breakfast.

GROWING UP IN HOMES

It's probably fair to say that chats with actors often tend to turn into monologues about their current "projects". You can't help but think about the stars who seem to tour the talk shows of this world, purely to talk about their latest film as if it were a lifelong charity project. It is obviously part of their job for them to sell their movie to the public, but today is different. Taubman has simply taken two hours out of his schedule to sit down and talk about football. It feels like being treated to something special, maybe like a trip to the opera in Italy, when you are more used to spending the whole day in a café with a little children's play area.

Taubman's childhood was far from a bed of roses, he says, which explains why this son of a woman from Vienna and a man from East Prussia became such a huge football fanatic. It's even more remarkable that he still finds time to indulge his passion for the game when you think that he spends much of his time sitting around in airport lounges on his way to casting calls and media interviews for his many leading roles, such as in *Quantum of Solace* opposite Daniel Craig in 2008, for example. And that is before you even consider his family life – he is a father of three and also juggles a long-distance relationship. But back to his childhood. Taubman was only ten when he lost his dad, and he grew up in various homes in the Swiss countryside, kicking balls around in backyards and streets but always taking time out on Saturdays to watch *Bundesliga* highlights or to retreat to his room to listen to live radio commentaries of games in the Swiss top flight. "Football was all I had," he says. "It gave me something to hold on to, it was

my life. I was able to focus on football and all of the players."

Breakfast arrives. Toast and butter on one plate, bacon, baked beans, sausages and tomatoes on the others. "Well I am British," he laughs. "My father was very late in fleeing from Germany to England and he had to join the British army, and that's how he got his UK passport. He

"FOOTBALL WAS ALL I HAD. IT GAVE ME SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO, IT WAS MY LIFE. I WAS ABLE TO FOCUS ON FOOTBALL AND ALL OF THE PLAYERS."

met my mother in Vienna in 1962. He was 30 years older than her. But that was such a long time ago. And what does nationality mean anyway...?" Taubman tells me about his father, who was a famous violin player. In 1938, he was fortunate to escape the clutches of Nazi Germany and the horrors of the Holocaust before going on to become the private secretary of British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

Just how far back can a person remember anyway? To the age of five? Six, maybe? Either way, his father had a great idea in 1976, when he decided to take the young Anatole, then just six, to Wembley for the FA Cup Final between Manchester United and Southampton on 1 May. The game may have finished in a shock 1-0 defeat for United, but looking back now, those 90 minutes of watching United with Stuart Pearson up front go a long way towards explaining why, today, Taubman is wearing a United jacket, why he drinks coffee from a red United mug at home, and why even the nappies he bought for

his daughter bore the famous United crest. He admits that he has to show some restraint whenever he finds himself in the club shop at Old Trafford, even though it's hard to imagine this bundle of enthusiasm ever being restrained. It's easier to imagine Taubman impressing in a casting call but then maybe deciding not to take the role after all. Perhaps, for example, a role in a football film, one about the history of Manchester City? That actually happened – although Taubman did not even try out for the part, choosing instead to tell the producers that he was not interested. "I just couldn't take a role in a City film," he smiles. It's fair to say that only the lucky few can choose to turn down roles in the cut-throat movie business.

TEAM SPIRIT ON SET

As a youngster, Taubman played for FC Unterstrass in Zurich. He was a left back, and not a bad one either. He thinks he may have stood a chance of making it in the game – but his mum pulled him out of the academy as he was no longer paying enough attention in school.

Perhaps that is why he sounds all the more credible when he talks about the game. He says, for example, that there are a lot of similarities between football and films, and that team spirit is just as vital on the set as it is on the pitch. "If an actor takes himself too seriously and starts acting selfishly during filming, the entire project will be doomed to fail. I can remember one show with a French lady. Boy, did she have airs and graces! By the seventh episode, the bosses had had enough of her and they simply wrote her character out. You can only have a career like the great Al Pacino or Steven Spielberg if you have some class about you. Even the cableman and the lighting technician deserve respect. It's no different in football. You need everyone pulling in the same direction."



Maurice Haas / 13 Photo

There must be something to be said for how director Ridley Scott goes about his business. Unlike Woody Allen, for example, who calls his chosen stars first and then writes the script, Scott, who turned 80 last year, prefers to leave the casting to his casting team, insisting only that every single person on his crew gets to know everyone else before any contracts are signed, firm in his belief that there is no place for airs and graces on his set. In the business in which the sun always seems to shine, money is hardly an object – although the same could obviously be said about football these days. EUR 222 million for Neymar, for example? And the sums will probably keep on rising too. Taubman believes that certain values have been lost from the game, but is the film set any different?

“I can live with my fee being lower than that of my co-star. But the gaps are nowhere near as big as they are in football. Think about it – imagine how much Lionel Messi is earning, and then how much one of the 18-year-olds who may be sitting alongside him in the dressing room may be earning. Isn’t that a bit odd?”

100 roles and counting
Taubman, pictured here as “Elvis” in 2008’s *Quantum of Solace*, has been filming almost non-stop for the past 20 years.

from Dreams to Reality



stinger



The Power to Surprise



Time for football Anatole Taubman in a Berlin café, talking about his love for Manchester United.

NAME: ANATOLE TAUBMAN
PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH:
Zurich, 23 December 1970
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Berlin
MOST FAMOUS FILMS/TV SERIES:
Captain America, 2011
The Pillars of the Earth, 2009
Taken, 2008, *Quantum of Solace*, 2008
Marmorera, 2007

WHO IS A STAR?

What exactly does the word “star” mean? Is it someone you idolise? Is Taubman himself a star? Was Paul Friberg? A player whom most football fans outside of Switzerland probably won’t have even heard of? Friberg was part of the FC Lucerne championship-winning team in 1989, and he shot to fame partially because he grew up in Grisons and was the only player from the mountainous region in south-east Switzerland to play in the Swiss top flight. The young Anatole would not have been aware of that fact in the 1980s, but he still adorned his bedroom walls with poster after poster of his hero, whom he even got to meet when Friberg did his Swiss military service in the town of Fanas – which

just so happened to be the town where Taubman was living on a host family’s farm at the time. Would Paul Friberg even remember the time he met Anatole Taubman? If he did, he’d no doubt be proud. Just as that little boy was when he met his idol.

Fast-forward to the present day, and Anatole Taubman is still nothing but approachable. He has a hug for all of the café employees, including the chef and the owner. And then, as we head out onto the street, I spot a badge on his jacket. No, not the Manchester United crest – this one is a UNICEF badge. Taubman is an ambassador for the children’s charity. He simply smiles. UNICEF couldn’t wish for somebody more down-to-earth.

FIFA LEGENDS' FAVOURITE MOVIES

Yes, FIFA Legends like movies, too. And they seem to agree that *Escape to Victory* was one of the best football films ever made.



Stars both on the pitch and the big screen

In the legendary football movie *Escape to Victory* (USA/UK 1981; director: John Houston), world champions Bobby Moore (third from left) and Pelé (fourth from left) played major roles.

GORDON BANKS
73 CAPS FOR ENGLAND,
WORLD CHAMPION IN 1966:

"My favourite football movie is *Escape to Victory* starring Pelé and Bobby Moore. For me, it is the most memorable because of these two stars. I really enjoyed the story, too. I was invited to see *Escape to Victory* at the premiere in London with my wife and children as I recall. I can't remember the exact date but Pelé was there."

KARINA LEBLANC
110 CAPS FOR CANADA:

"I watched *Bend It Like Beckham*, my favourite football movie, as a young adult with my team-mates. We sat there and watched it, spoke about it and realised the reality of the game for so many others. I was playing professionally in 2002 but so many others were in a situation like the main character and had to deal with cultural difficulties just to play. Eye-opening for all of us at the time!"

DWIGHT YORKE
72 CAPS FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:

"My favourite football film is *Escape to Victory*, because of the humour and of course Pelé! It's a long time ago, so I can't entirely remember where and when I watched the movie for the first time. But more than likely, it was at home with my elder brothers."

SOL CAMPBELL
73 CAPS FOR ENGLAND:

"My favourite film is *Escape to Victory*, which I first watched at Christmas with the family when I was ten years old. It's my favourite football movie because of Pelé and Bobby Moore: iconic players with personality and character!"



Empowerment through football
Parminder Nagra (left) and Keira Knightley in *Bend It Like Beckham* (UK/Germany 2001; director: Gurinder Chadha).

A close-up portrait of actress Parminder Nagra. She has long, dark, wavy hair and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a light-colored collared shirt under a dark grey blazer. The background is a textured, dark grey wall with a single light bulb visible in the upper right corner.

BREAKING THE BARRIERS

British actress Parminder Nagra gained worldwide recognition for her role as Jess in the freewheeling football movie *Bend It Like Beckham* (2002). She is also well-known for her role in the US TV series *ER*. Perikles Monioudis asked her about her life and career.

“Whatever you do, don’t stop” Today, British actress Parminder Nagra lives and works in the United States.

Dreaming big Parminder Nagra as Jess in *Bend It Like Beckham* (UK/GER 2002; director: Gurinder Chadha).



Parminder, the character, Jess, that you played in *Bend It Like Beckham*, is looking for her own way with football and finds success. Has Jess’s story repeated itself for you in reality?

Parminder Nagra: It’s a story about working hard and following your dreams. I would say that, to a certain extent, it has repeated itself for me. If you do what you love, the rest falls into place. You have to believe in yourself, even when there are challenges present.

What kind of challenges? What sort of resistance did you have to overcome growing up in England?

Other people’s belief that it’s “not worth doing”, “it’s too hard”, “why would you want to do that?” ... Honestly, if it feels wrong, it’s probably not right for you. You have to tune out the excess noise.

Could you personally learn something from the character of Jess?

Keep going! Whatever you do, don’t stop, even if you move slowly.

What did *Bend It Like Beckham* do for you personally?

Bend It Like Beckham brought me into the mainstream and made lots of aunties and uncles proud. It helped me build my life in America.

How difficult is it for young women today to achieve fair recognition in their hobby and profession?

Women, I feel, sometimes have to work twice as hard. Especially if it’s something men are typically known for. It’s okay though, you can always be the person that breaks the glass ceiling and pave the way for others.

What do you advise young women who want to achieve their goals?

Don’t stop. Keep putting in the time. But make sure it’s quality time.

What is your favourite football movie?

Ha! *Bend It like Beckham*, of course!

Do you play football regularly?

Once in a while I try and do keepy-ups. But I’m afraid I’m not quite as limber as I was.

What is your favourite movie and why?

I loved the movie *Amelie*. Just a beautiful, simple story, told in an entertaining way.

You were born in Leicester. Are you a supporter of Leicester City? How did you experience the club winning the 2015-16 Premier League?

I do support Leicester City. I actually drove through the city when they won. It gave it a much-needed boost.

You received the FIFA Presidential Award in 2002. What does the prize mean to you today?

One of the most surreal days of my life. A little Indian girl from Leicester standing next to the greatest footballers of the time. There’s always a first.

PARMINDER KAUR NAGRA

Parminder Kaur Nagra is a British film and television actress born in Leicester, England, who is best known for playing Jess in *Bend It Like Beckham* and Dr Neela Rasgotra in the US TV medical drama *ER*. She has had several other major television roles and received the FIFA Presidential Award in 2002 for her performance in *Bend It Like Beckham*.

FILM AND FOOTBALL



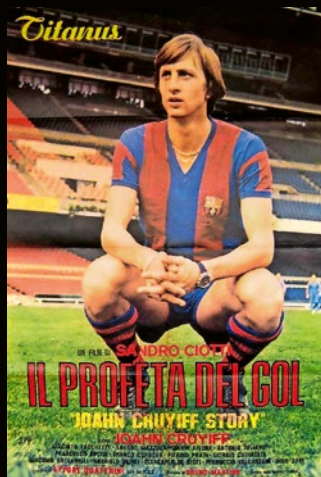
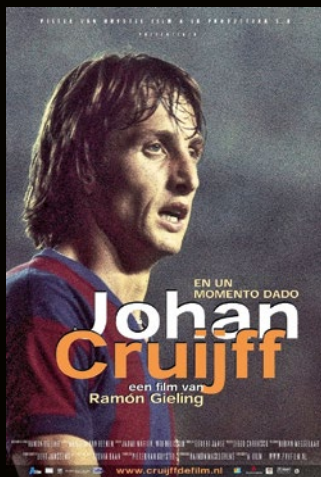


AN ENDURING LEGEND

Johan Cruyff was one of football's all-time greats, a fact that has not been lost on certain film directors. We take a look at some of the documentaries devoted to the Dutch master.

By Perikles Monioudis

Fun and games
Cruyff training at Ajax.



He always seemed to be ahead of the game, whether as a player or a coach, dreaming up strategies based on effectiveness, beauty and elegance – qualities that he himself personified. Johan Cruyff can justifiably be regarded as the pioneer of modern football, building on the brand of “total football” played by the Netherlands and the ideas of his coach Rinus Michels to leave an indelible mark on the way the game is played today, with its emphasis on ball possession, quick passing movements to outwit opponents and transitional play after losing possession, as well as on pressing. He made his debut for Ajax at the tender age of 17 and devoted the rest of his life to football until his death on 24 March 2016. For many, he was “the king”, and accordingly was the subject of numerous biopics.

MOMENTS AND MAXIMS

Anyone not looking for a visual hagiography should watch a short, perceptive documentary on Cruyff from last year: *Horacio & Johan* (NED 2017, 12 min.) by Dutch director Johan Kramer, which showcases the legend’s first few years at FC Barcelona from his arrival in October 1973 through the lens of Catalan photographer Horacio Seguí, who took a variety of shots of the player. Seguí effectively became the club’s house photographer, amassing some 250,000 snaps between 1963 and 2003, many of them featuring Cruyff, who quickly became his favourite subject as well as a good friend. Kramer uses these snaps to tell Seguí’s story and

thus of Cruyff’s time at Barcelona. We see him at his wedding, as a Barça player, behind the wheel of his car, and so on, gaining an unparalleled glimpse of the superstar relaxing off the pitch.

In Barcelona, Cruyff’s status long ago went beyond that of a cult hero – he is worshipped there. In his documentary *Johan Cruyff: En un momento dado* (NED/ESP 2004, 93 min), fellow Dutchman Ramón Gieling explores the legend by asking a range of people in Barcelona – including a butcher, a baker and a lawyer – where they were when Cruyff scored a crucial goal for Barça. Gieling lets his interviewees do the talking, and is rewarded with some wonderful anecdotes. Cruyff was also feted in the Catalan capital on account of his oft-used saying *en un momento dado* (“at any given moment”) – which was used by the director as the title of his film.

PROPHETS AND LAST MATCHES

So what were Cruyff’s actual achievements? Just watching him play provides all of the evidence needed: the way he read the game, his elegance and goals. In his 1976 documentary *Il profeta del gol* (“The Goal Prophet”, ITA 1976, 110 min), Italian film-maker Sandro Ciotti focused on Cruyff as the protagonist of total football, the playing style that came to the fore in the Netherlands in the 1960s and that, at Ajax, was developed into a modern system incorporating zonal marking and the idea that every player had to be

capable of taking over the role of any team-mate on the pitch. Ajax became giants of Europe, winning the European Cup three times in a row and enthralled football fans everywhere.

But back to what Cruyff means to his “second home”, FC Barcelona. Thanks to his efforts for the club, he became a symbol of success, openness and even for change in Catalonia. Jordi Marcos’s documentary *L’últim partit* (“The Final Match”, ESP 2014, 70 min) looks at the Dutchman’s influence from sporting and political viewpoints. Clearly, Cruyff had a huge impact on Barça, and his dedication to the club made him countless friends across the region, including Manchester City’s current coach Pep Guardiola and world champion Xavi.

One of the biggest (and earliest) homages to Cruyff is the documentary *Number 14 Johan Cruyff* (NED 1973, 90 min). It was directed by Maarten de Vos and produced by Cruyff’s father-in-law Cor Koster, both of whom showed the player in the best possible light – which, admittedly, is not exactly hard to do. Whether in Ajax, Barcelona or Netherlands colours, his dazzling talent was always in evidence, as befits one of the true greats of the game.

SEEING DOUBLE

Did Mats Hummels once star in *Pirates of the Caribbean*? And since when has Shia LaBeouf been so composed in front of goal? Find the doppelgänger! Lights, camera, action!



Antonios Nikopolidis



Mats Hummels



Karim Benzema



Daniel Osvaldo



Andrea Pirlo



Michael Ballack



Chuck Norris



Matt Damon



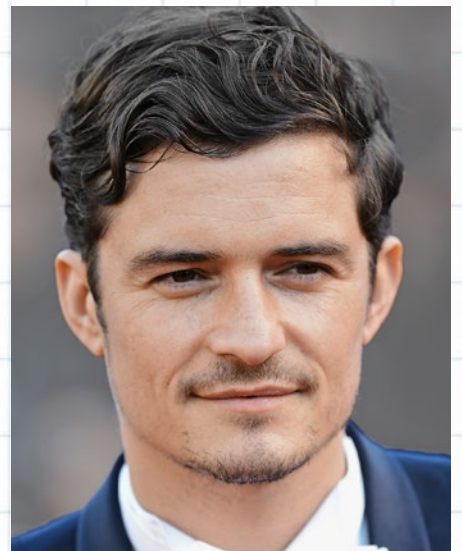
Johnny Depp



Shia LaBeouf



George Clooney



Orlando Bloom

FILM AND FOOTBALL



"THERE'S NOBODY BETTER THAN DIEGO MARADONA"

Salvatore Esposito shot to fame on the back of his role in Italian crime drama *Gomorra*. We sat down with him to talk about Naples, football and his fans, two of whom are none other than Zlatan and Diego.

Salvatore Esposito spoke to Giovanni Marti.



FILM AND FOOTBALL

Salvatore, does the man on street tend to see you as an actor, or as gangster Genny Savastano?

If you are lucky enough to play such a strong and interesting character, then the most incredible things can happen. I take particular pleasure from the fact that people seem to like and appreciate the way I play Savastano. I also feel their love for me as an actor, however. That is what is so beautiful about acting. If I'm in Los Angeles and a fan from Puerto Rico or Brazil comes up to me and asks for a photo, it always makes me incredibly proud. It tells me that I've made it as an actor.

What makes *Gomorra* so successful?

It's about the machinations of the Neapolitan mafia, the *Camorra*. Our show is special because everything is portrayed so much more realistically than it ever has been before. The viewers witness all of the hard-hitting, cruel twists of fate and the ruthless fight for power between the various clans. We do also show the good side of Naples, though. I have had messages from people who have fallen in love with the area because of *Gomorra* and now want to pay the city a visit. *Gomorra* has become an international project.

It's also popular in the football world.

As a massive football fan myself, that particularly pleases me. It's a wonderful feeling whenever someone like Zlatan Ibrahimović or Diego Maradona asks me what will happen in the next series – even though I obviously can't tell them. I've had a lot of fun watching SSC Napoli, AS Roma and Paris Saint-Germain matches and attending training sessions. I've met a lot of people from the world of football and spoken to them about the game and about the movie business. Football brings people together. And football also brings people joy, no matter who you support. What could be better?

Tell us about when you met Diego Maradona.

What can I say? It was a wonderful moment. In my opinion, there's never been a better player

than Maradona. It was a great joy, maybe the best gift ever, to find out that someone like Maradona is a fan of *Gomorra*. He gave me so many wonderful moments when I was a young boy. The 1986 World Cup, when he practically won the title single-handedly for Argentina, and that's before we even get on to his time with Napoli and the two *Scudetto* titles. There's still not been anyone else like Maradona, a man who shone the spotlight on an entire region. You can maybe criticise him as a man for the mistakes he made, but you can never forget that he is a legend, that he was an artist. I was very moved when he said to me, with tears in his eyes: "Salvatore, every morning I wake up and think about just how good a player I could have been if I had not taken cocaine."

Which modern-day footballers do you admire?

Napoli's Marek Hamšík. I love the way he plays football. I think he's one of the best midfielders in the world. I also think two of his team-mates – Lorenzo Insigne and Dries Mertens – are fantastic.

What can an actor learn from football?

A lot. I think that acting and football have a lot in common. The coach is the director, the players are the actors, the backroom staff are the film crew. There are many parallels. In terms of structure, the two worlds are not miles apart.

You also wanted to be a professional footballer, didn't you?

Yes, but I never got any further than playing for my local club.

What was your position?

I actually wanted to be a goalkeeper because I was fascinated by the position when I was a boy. When I joined the football school in my home town of Mugnano, I told everyone that I wanted to play in goal. Then one day, as the team was warming up before a match, the coach came up to me and told me that I would

finally get my chance. I asked him if the usual goalkeeper was injured, but he said: "No, no, as a striker. Fire us to victory!"

And did you?

I hit the bar in that match (*laughs*)! But I stayed as a striker and I was always very happy up front. Even though I didn't make it as a professional.

If you had, maybe you would have scored the goals to take Italy to the 2018 World Cup.

(*laughs*) I know what you're getting at. *Mamma mia* ... we're all gutted that Italy won't be in Russia. When we found out that Italy had only drawn 0-0 with Sweden in the second leg of the play-off, we all just stared at our phones in disbelief.

Why do you think Italy didn't qualify?

It's quite simple – Italy didn't score. It's down to the system. Italian football is old-fashioned, conservative. There shouldn't still be as many as 20 teams in *Serie A*. Our failure to qualify has given us the chance to reinvent ourselves. Italy has to take a long, hard look at itself now.

Will you still watch the World Cup in Russia anyway?

I honestly don't know. It won't feel the same. On the one hand, countries like Brazil, Germany and Argentina will be there, countries that should always be at a World Cup. On the other hand, we also have to recognise the progress of the smaller football countries. In terms of emotions, it will of course be a different kind of World Cup for Italians.

Do you still collect football shirts?

Yes, that is one of my big passions. Although I don't just collect any old shirts. They have to be special.

What kind of shirts, for example?

I own about 80 shirts, including some rather special ones. I have shirts from Maradona,



Esposito as Gennaro Savastano In his most famous role, Esposito plays an inexperienced drug dealer who rises to power, which also involves him going up against his influential father.



ESPOSITO IN GOMORRAH

The third season of *Gomorra* is currently thrilling fans all over the world. The show, which takes its inspiration from Roberto Saviano's 2006 investigative book of the same name, has been an international hit and has so far been sold in more than 130 countries. One of the stars of the show is Salvatore Esposito, who plays Gennaro "Genny" Savastano. The 31-year-old Naples native is on record as saying that his family helped him to resist many temptations when he was a boy, but some of his childhood friends weren't so lucky and are now in prison, in real-life *Camorra* clans or even dead. Esposito loves his city, and he talks enthusiastically about football and SSC Napoli, one of his great passions.

FILM AND FOOTBALL



Ambitious Esposito also has his eye on starring in foreign films in the future.



Pelé, Van Basten, Messi, Ibrahimović, Totti, Hamšík, Insigne and many more besides.

Did you get those shirts from the players in person?

Most of them, yes. Fortunately, I was able to give them something in return, a copy of my book.

Your book is called *Non volevo diventare un boss* (English: "I didn't want to be a boss").

What is the book about?

It is a book about my life. I have had a lot of luck, even though I grew up in a tough neighbourhood. My family has always supported me, and I have a lot to be grateful for. A lot of the book is about how I became an actor and about everything that I had to sacrifice for my career. The role in *Gomorra* has opened a lot of doors for me, and I know that I never would have been able to do it on my own.

As a football fan, what do you dream about?

I would obviously love to see Napoli in a Champions League final one day. And maybe we could even win it! But it will be hard. Times have changed and the richer clubs just

keep on getting richer. I don't like the fact that it's all about which club has the most money and can afford the most expensive players. I would like the regulations to change somehow.

And what do you dream about as an actor?

I have been able to make my dream of becoming an actor come true and that is a big deal for me. The next challenge will be to be even more successful. *Gomorra* has been a major part of my life and career, but there are also other projects. I want to continue to act to the best of my ability. The objective is to also get offers from outside of Italy.

Do you have a dream role?

I love action films and comics. It would be fantastic to get a role in a *James Bond* film one day. A role in a *Batman* or a *Superman* movie would also be interesting.

SALVATORE ESPOSITO
BORN: 2 February 1986 in Naples
FILMS: *La dolce arte di esistere* (2015),
Lo chiamavano Jeeg Robot (2016),
Zeta (2016), *Veleno* (2017),
AFMV – *Addio Fottuti Musi Verdi* (2017)
TV SERIES: *Il clan dei Camorristi* (2013)
Gomorra (seit 2014)
BOOK: *Non volevo diventare un boss* (2016)

salvatore-esposito.com

LIGHTS, CAMERA, BALL!

What do cinema legends Marilyn Monroe, Doris Day and Jean-Paul Belmondo all have in common? They all played football – either on the set, in a film or on the pitch. Happy reading!



Wild man French actor Jean-Paul Belmondo turns out between the sticks for a team of journalists (1971).



Poker face
Harvey Keitel in a scene from John Irvin's
City of Industry (1997).



The classic Pelé (right) coaches Sylvester Stallone in the art of goalkeeping on the set of *Escape to Victory* (1981).

FILM AND FOOTBALL



No holding back

Legendary Italian director Pier Paolo Pasolini unleashes a shot during a break in filming *Accattone* (1961).

In hat and coat

The celebrated American actress Doris Day in *Do Not Disturb* (1966).

Icon in action

Marilyn Monroe kicks a ball for the ceremonial kick-off of a friendly match at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, New York (1957).



AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

On 4 March 2018, the 90th Academy Awards ceremony will take place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. If the winners of The Best FIFA Football Awards 2017 were contenders in the “Best Picture” category, which films would they be in? *FIFA 1904* has some suggestions...

Illustrations by André Sanchez, Dani Blázquez, Cranio Dsgn and Lola Beltrán.

Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo? For the last ten years, these two world-class players have been competing for the football throne at The Best FIFA Football Awards. We would give them the leading roles in *Game of Thrones* – it’s as if the title of the successful US series was made for our Argentinian and Portuguese stars.

The *Star Wars* trilogy is special because it appeals to all generations. That is true for football and its heroes too. The Best FIFA winners Zinedine Zidane, Toni Kroos, Andrés Iniesta, Lieke Martens, Luka Modrić, Dani Alves, Marcelo and Sergio Ramos draw children and grandparents alike into a universe of emotions through their victories, defeats, magic moments and surprising plot twists.

Gianluigi Buffon was crowned The Best FIFA Goalkeeper at The Best FIFA Football Awards 2017. He has some special super

powers; even though he can’t climb walls like Spider-Man, he manages to keep even the most carefully placed shots from going into the goal.

This season, Neymar is no longer looking for fame and glory in Barcelona but in Paris. In this edition, we’ve given him the lead role in Woody Allen’s comedy *Midnight in Paris*. For the moment, the Brazilian player is skilfully dribbling along the Seine but he’s bound to cause a furore at the World Cup in Russia this summer.

Just like Indiana Jones, Leonardo Bonucci is brave. In the films, the archaeology professor has made it his mission to protect cultural artefacts. On the pitch, Bonucci has made it his mission to protect the penalty area from attacks. What do they have in common? Focus and oversight when carrying out their mission.

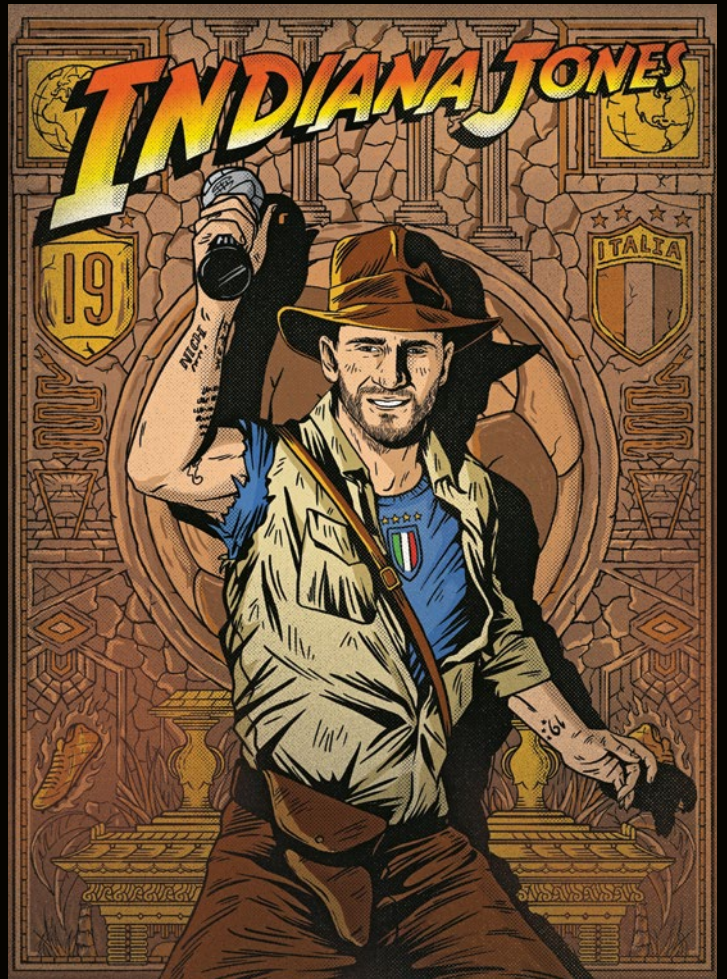
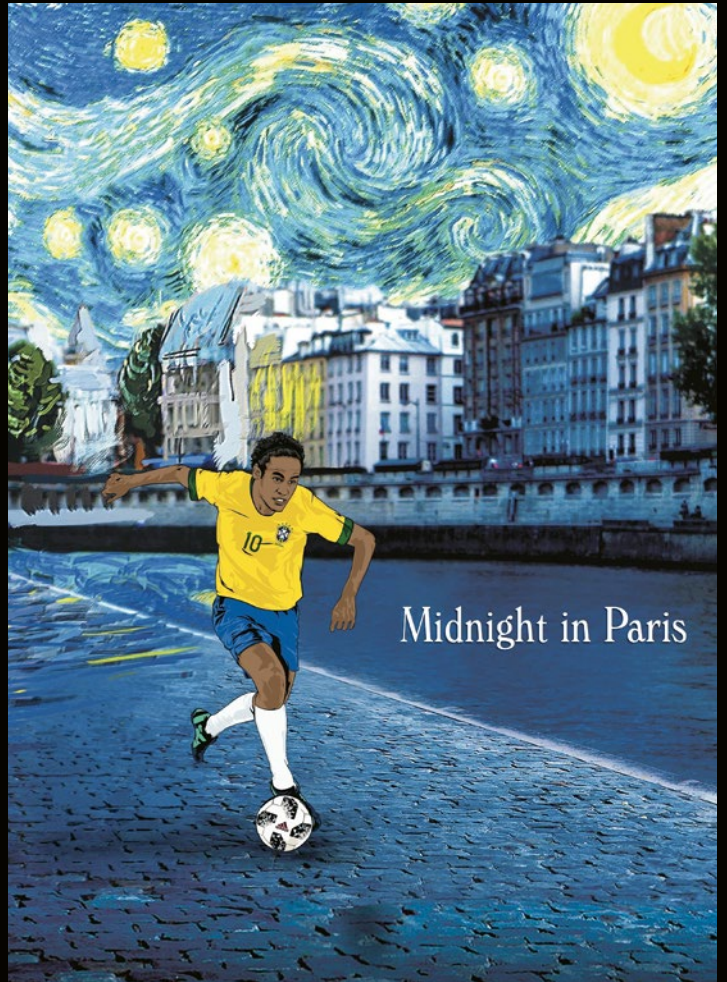
EVERY PARODY NEEDS A FUNNY DISCLAIMER:
NO FOOTBALLERS WERE HARMED IN THE RE-EDITING OF THE ORIGINAL ARTWORK, WHICH BELONGS TO THE RELEVANT RIGHT HOLDER.



GAME OF THRONES



STAR THE LAST JEDI WARS



Star Wars by André Sanchez
Spider-Man 2 by Dani Blázquez
Midnight in Paris by Cranio Dsgn
Indiana Jones by Lola Beltrán





FIRST LOVE

PLACE Ait Ben Haddou, Morocco

DATE 17 June 2017

TIME 15:49

PHOTOGRAPHER Holly Wilmeth



FIFA PARTNER



FIFA FORWARD PROGRAMME IS A CONCRETE REALITY

In May 2016, we presented a new concept to our member associations: FIFA Forward, a revolutionary programme that promised to more than triple FIFA's investment in football development around the world and to do so in a more efficient and controlled manner.

That promise was not just a set of big, beautiful words thrown to the wind. It was the foundation of a very concrete and ambitious plan – one that goes way beyond simply granting more funds.

As soon as the programme was presented, FIFA started to work diligently on the administrative steps to ensure that Forward would hit the ground running. The first step was the most complex one, though: taking carefully drafted project applications and putting them into practice in the daily work performed by associations around the world. To make Forward a concrete reality.

This process did not depend on FIFA alone, but more than anything, on the commitment and effort of our 211 member associations. They are the ones on the ground, day in, day out. They are the ones who know exactly what kind of project will make a difference in terms of football development in their territories.

If the most pressing issue for Guyana is to build their very first dedicated football stadium, Forward will provide it. If Botswana

wants to establish a system of youth leagues that allows 25,000 kids to play football in an organised manner, with the proper equipment, it can do so through the programme. If Colombia decides to break new ground and establish a professional women's football league with these funds, FIFA is there to help make it happen. We must be. This is why we set up our ten regional development offices across the six confederations: to be there for them.

In total, we have received more than 770 project applications. If this seems like a lot, it is because indeed it is. And if it seems like it is just a beginning, just a step on the long road ahead, it is that, too.

Football development is a serious business and that is how we treat it. Whenever you hear a promise from FIFA, make no mistake: it is not mere rhetoric. It is backed up by facts.

Yours in football,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Gianni Infantino'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial 'G'.

Gianni Infantino
FIFA President

FIFA MASTER THE WAY TO SUCCESS



The International Centre for Sport Studies (CIES) is an independent study centre located in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. It was created as a foundation in 1995 by FIFA, the University of Neuchâtel, and the city and canton of Neuchâtel.

Using a multi-disciplinary approach (law, sociology, geography, history and management), the CIES provides research, top-level education and consulting services to the world of sport.

The main CIES activities are organising the FIFA Master (International Master in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport), providing teaching as part of the University of Neuchâtel's Master in Sports Law, and organising the FIFA/CIES Executive Programme in Sports Management in 16 different countries worldwide. The FIFA Master was recently ranked the leading postgraduate sports management course in Europe for the fifth time by Sport Business International. The one-year intensive postgraduate course comprises three modules, all of which are taught in English by experts at three different European universities. The Humanities of Sport module is delivered by the International Centre for Sports History and Culture at De Montfort University in the United Kingdom. Sports Management lectures are provided by the SDA Bocconi School of Management in Italy, while the final module, Sports Law, is provided by academics at the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland.

Many of our course alumni are now working within the football industry around the world, including at club, national and international level. For example, at the Home of FIFA in Zurich, some of our graduates are working in areas as diverse as competitions, marketing, legal and corporate communications. We closely support and follow the career development of our 475 alumni and regularly publish news of their success on our website: www.cies.ch/en/education/fifa-master/where-are-they-now. In addition, and in cooperation with FIFA, the CIES has developed an international academic network of courses, offering executive programmes in sports management to students through partner universities around the world. The executive programme covers key areas of sports management, including law, event organisation, communication, finance, sponsorship and marketing. The course aims to familiarise students with the principles and methods of global management in today's world, as well as adapting them to different economic, cultural and social requirements. Finally, the University of Neuchâtel, with the support of the CIES, offers a dedicated Master in Sports Law, which allows students to further develop their understanding of this complex area. This programme is the only one of its kind in Switzerland and is taught mostly in French.



ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MONITORING SYSTEM

With the last of the FIFA World Cup™ qualifiers finished and the identity of the 32 teams taking part in Russia confirmed, FIFA has also concluded that the first-ever anti-discrimination monitoring system for the qualifiers was successful. In collaboration with the Fare network, FIFA assessed all 871 qualifying matches and deployed anti-discrimination observers at 177 matches that had a higher risk of discriminatory incidents taking place. The system helped to facilitate the work of FIFA referees and disciplinary bodies in gathering additional evidence on incidences. It also raised awareness among member

associations of discrimination in football and led to new local campaigns to promote diversity and fight discrimination in stadiums. "We are very happy with the outcome of the system and how it has helped strengthen the enforcement of FIFA's anti-discrimination rules," said Federico Addiechi, FIFA's Head of Sustainability & Diversity. "But more importantly, it has led to an increased awareness about discrimination and new campaigns and projects to prevent it from happening. Ultimately, that is our goal in the fight against discrimination."

FOOTBALL FOR HOPE ADIDAS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

It is well known that playing football brings enjoyment and improvements to one's health, but children who play this sport loved by millions are able to learn key life skills as well. It is particularly important to ensure that disabled children can also benefit from these qualities that football can bring, such as communication, teamwork, adapting to new circumstances, independent decision-making and many others. To address this, many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) around the world are using football training sessions to change the lives of disabled children for the better. However, it is clear that disabled children require a special approach and coaches are faced with the question of whether to use the same methodologies developed for players at football academies. NGO programme managers in this field recently gathered in Moscow for a Football for Hope adidas Exchange Programme workshop in order to better understand the requirements of disabled children and improve the training process. The programme itself is the result of FIFA's efforts with its partner adidas to provide training to NGOs worldwide since 2009, and allows organisations working with disabled children to exchange experiences and tips necessary for effective work. "Football is a very strong tool to help young people improve their lives in many ways," explains Irina Schlossarek-Dhowtalut, FIFA Football for Hope Programme Manager, "so we are very glad to have been able to organise this workshop in Moscow together with our FIFA Partner adidas and our host organisation Downside Up. It has allowed representatives from 26 Football for Hope-eligible organisations in Russia and Europe to discuss how to best deliver football-based programmes for differently abled children."

EXECUTIVE FOOTBALL SUMMITS

FIFA has launched a second round of summits to bring together its member associations and discuss strategic matters for the future of the game. Each summit will bring together presidents and general secretaries of around 20 member associations. The series started on 21 November in Baku, Azerbaijan, and will run until March 2018, with the last gathering in Lima, Peru. The Executive Football Summits were introduced in 2016 as one of the key initiatives of the FIFA reforms to offer a platform of exchange and encourage greater participation of FIFA's 211 member associations in the strategic decisions of the organisation. The agenda of this year's summits will include a

JOYCE COOK RECEIVES CBE



As midnight struck in London on 30 December 2017, the latest names to be recognised in the traditional Queen's New Year's Honours list were revealed: a mix of politicians, stars of music, culture and sport, and community champions. Among the list was the citation: "Joyce Evelyn, Mrs Cook, OBE, for services to Sport and Accessibility". Cook took up the role of FIFA Chief Member Associations Officer on 1 November 2016, overseeing the delivery of FIFA's investment in football development through FIFA's 211 member associations under the FIFA Forward Programme. Before joining FIFA, Cook had already been awarded an OBE for her proven record of developing and delivering far-reaching and sustainable diversity and inclusion projects at both national and international levels. On receiving the news, Cook said: "It's a very proud moment for me and my family. The World Health Organization considers more than 20 per cent of the global population to be disabled, yet there are very few disabled people in senior positions at this time, especially in the sports sector. The award recognises the work I've been involved in for a long time. As a disabled person working for FIFA, and a member of the Management Board, I have a responsibility as a role model. I'm proud that FIFA is showing its commitment to diversity and inclusion, and I hope that I can continue to help show the way forward, using my personal and professional experiences to continue to build programmes and enhance football fan experiences and inclusion around the world for disabled people, including those attending the 2018 FIFA World Cup."

debate on the future of FIFA's youth and women's competitions. Delegates will also have an opportunity to discuss the FIFA Forward development programme and how it can be further improved in the years to come. Also on the agenda will be the current reviews of the transfer system and the international match calendar. In addition, the summits offer a unique possibility for member associations to share knowledge amongst each other and interact with FIFA's top management to raise their concerns and share their priorities at local and regional level.



FIFA PARTNER

FIFA/COCA-COLA WOMEN'S WORLD RANKING

Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points
1	USA	0	2114	55	Northern Ireland	5	1425	109	Mozambique		865		Bermuda **		943
2	Germany	0	2052	56	IR Iran	-2	1411	110	Malawi		842		St Kitts and Nevis **		942
3	England	0	2033	57	India	-1	1409	111	Lesotho		836		Guinea-Bissau **		927
4	Australia	2	2030	57	Peru	-1	1409	111	Uganda	4	836		Pakistan **		926
5	Canada	0	2023	59	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	1406	113	Swaziland		832		Grenada **		914
6	France	-2	2019	60	Slovenia	-2	1404	114	Bhutan	2	771		Dominica **		900
7	Netherlands	0	1972	61	Turkey	-2	1401	115	Andorra	2	748		Libya **		883
8	Brazil	1	1968	62	Israel	-7	1398	116	Botswana	2	746		Liberia **		877
9	Japan	-1	1967	63	Venezuela	-1	1388	117	Madagascar		693		Kuwait **		870
10	Sweden	1	1955	64	Greece	0	1370	118	Mauritius		358		British Virgin Islands **		867
11	Korea DPR	-1	1948	65	Azerbaijan	0	1360		Papua New Guinea **		1473		Qatar **		864
12	Denmark	0	1899	66	Bulgaria	1	1345		Paraguay **		1459		US Virgin Islands **		852
13	Spain	4	1869	67	Kazakhstan	-1	1329		Ecuador **		1451		Cayman Islands **		849
14	Norway	0	1868	68	Hong Kong	0	1323		Côte d'Ivoire **		1386		Curaçao **		831
14	Korea Republic	1	1868	69	Philippines	1	1316		Haiti **		1372		Belize **		825
16	China PR	-3	1861	70	Faroe Islands	-1	1296		Panama **		1363		Antigua and Barbuda **		767
17	Italy	1	1860	71	Albania	2	1288		Uruguay **		1361		Aruba **		745
17	Switzerland	-1	1860	72	Bahrain	4	1278		Jamaica **		1352		Timor-Leste *		991
19	New Zealand	0	1830	73	Guam	2	1274		Indonesia **		1321		Barbados *		979
20	Iceland	1	1818	74	Egypt	3	1256		Tunisia **		1313		Comoros *		837
21	Austria	-1	1810	75	Malaysia	4	1244		Morocco **		1299		Macau *		824
22	Belgium	1	1788	76	United Arab Emirates	4	1230		Guatemala **		1297		Turks and Caicos Islands *		704
23	Scotland	-1	1785	77	Estonia	5	1221		Fiji **		1292		Burundi *		519
24	Colombia	0	1756	78	Montenegro	3	1219		Algeria **		1283				
25	Russia	0	1730	79	Bolivia	4	1217		Guyana **		1274				
26	Mexico	0	1724	80	Mali	5	1216		Laos **		1273				
27	Ukraine	0	1712	81	Moldova	5	1214		Tonga **		1258				
28	Finland	0	1708	82	Latvia	5	1209		New Caledonia **		1252				
29	Republic of Ireland	4	1682	83	Zimbabwe	0	1204		Senegal **		1248				
30	Thailand	-1	1668	84	El Salvador	4	1198		Tahiti **		1238				
30	Poland	0	1668	85	Malta	6	1191		Cuba **		1217				
32	Vietnam	-1	1652	86	Lithuania	3	1181		Congo **		1206				
33	Costa Rica	-1	1650	86	Palestine	3	1181		Dominican Republic **		1191				
34	Czech Republic	3	1642	88	Georgia	4	1145		Benin **		1187				
35	Wales	1	1635	89	Singapore	5	1144		Cook Islands **		1185				
36	Argentina		1615	90	Ethiopia	3	1143		Puerto Rico **		1156				
37	Nigeria	-2	1613	91	Nepal	3	1136		Suriname **		1152				
38	Portugal	-4	1600	92	Luxembourg	4	1125		Honduras **		1152				
39	Romania	-1	1585	93	Cyprus	4	1120		Solomon Islands **		1144				
40	Chile	0	1566	94	Nicaragua	5	1073		Vanuatu **		1139				
41	Uzbekistan	0	1557	95	FYR Macedonia	5	1069		Samoa **		1138				
42	Chinese Taipei	0	1553	96	Zambia	6	1048		Angola **		1134				
43	Hungary	-4	1538	97	Kosovo	8	1022		Kyrgyz Republic **		1134				
44	Myanmar	1	1534	98	Namibia	5	1019		Sierra Leone **		1132				
44	Serbia	0	1534	99	Tajikistan	5	1018		Congo DR **		1132				
46	Ghana	0	1499	100	Bangladesh	6	1003		Armenia **		1104				
47	Slovakia	-4	1492	101	Sri Lanka	6	971		Guinea **		1077				
48	Trinidad and Tobago	-1	1484	102	Tanzania	6	960		American Samoa **		1075				
48	Cameroon	-1	1484	103	Maldives	6	959		Burkina Faso **		1060				
50	Jordan	0	1460	104	Syria	6	921		Eritrea **		1060				
51	Croatia	2	1454	105	Rwanda	6	908		Gabon **		1052				
52	Belarus	-3	1450	106	Afghanistan	6	884		St Vincent and the Grenadines **		1000				
53	Equatorial Guinea	-2	1446	107	Iraq	6	873		St Lucia **		989				
54	South Africa	-2	1435	108	Kenya	6	870		Lebanon **		949				

** Inactive for more than 18 months and therefore not ranked.

* Provisionally listed due to not having played more than five matches against officially ranked teams.



Last updated: 15 December 2017



www.fifa.com/worldranking

FIFA/COCA-COLA MEN'S WORLD RANKING

Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points
1	Germany	0	1602	57	Algeria	1	585	113	Jordan	-6	294	168	Chad	0	110
2	Brazil	0	1483	58	Norway	1	572	114	Turkmenistan	0	292	168	Dominica	0	110
3	Portugal	0	1358	59	Korea Republic	1	569	115	Nicaragua	4	287	171	Belize	-13	105
4	Argentina	0	1348	60	Albania	2	553	116	Kyrgyz Republic	-1	282	172	Cambodia	1	103
5	Belgium	0	1325	61	Côte d'Ivoire	0	544	116	Rwanda	-3	282	173	Singapore	-1	101
6	Spain	0	1231	62	Russia	2	534	118	Azerbaijan	-1	281	174	Kuwait	15	100
7	Poland	0	1209	63	Cape Verde Islands	4	530	119	Korea DPR	7	269	175	Malaysia	-1	99
8	Switzerland	0	1190	64	Slovenia	5	529	120	New Zealand	1	267	175	St Vincent and the Grenadines	-1	99
9	France	0	1183	65	Saudi Arabia	-2	522	121	Central African Republic	1	266	175	St Lucia	-1	99
10	Chile	0	1147	66	Guinea	-1	510	122	Bahrain	-7	264	178	Kosovo	-1	97
11	Peru	0	1128	67	Honduras	1	509	123	Philippines	1	263	179	São Tomé e Príncipe	-1	94
12	Denmark	0	1099	68	Ecuador	2	508	124	Sudan	12	260	180	Aruba	-1	92
13	Colombia	0	1078	68	Finland	-2	508	124	Malawi	1	260	181	Cuba	-1	88
14	Italy	0	1052	70	China PR	1	504	126	Tajikistan	0	255	182	Liechtenstein	-1	86
15	Croatia	2	1048	71	Mali	1	477	127	Togo	-5	247	183	Laos	-1	82
16	England	-1	1047	72	Zambia	2	466	128	Guatemala	1	242	184	Bermuda	-1	72
17	Mexico	-1	1032	73	Uganda	2	446	129	Thailand	1	236	185	Malta	-1	66
18	Sweden	0	1000	73	FYR Macedonia	3	446	130	Comoros	1	235	186	Macau	-1	65
19	Wales	0	985	75	Palestine	5	443	131	Latvia	1	233	187	Djibouti	-1	64
20	Iceland	2	959	76	Syria	1	442	132	Swaziland	1	228	188	Bhutan	-1	57
21	Netherlands	-1	952	77	Uzbekistan	1	441	133	Liberia	1	224	189	Mongolia	-2	55
22	Uruguay	-1	924	78	United Arab Emirates	-5	436	134	Chinese Taipei	1	223	190	Brunei Darussalam	0	45
23	Tunisia	4	915	78	South Africa	3	436	135	Kazakhstan	2	220	191	Timor-Leste	0	44
24	Senegal	-1	875	80	Trinidad and Tobago	7	430	136	Andorra	2	215	192	Seychelles	0	43
25	USA	-1	867	81	Benin	1	427	137	Ethiopia	6	213	192	Guam	0	43
25	Northern Ireland	-1	867	82	Iraq	-3	410	138	Yemen	-18	212	194	American Samoa	0	38
27	Costa Rica	-1	831	83	Guinea-Bissau	3	409	139	Antigua and Barbuda	0	209	194	Cook Islands	0	38
28	Slovakia	0	817	84	Luxembourg	-1	407	140	Myanmar	0	203	194	Samoa	0	38
29	Austria	0	815	84	Lebanon	1	407	141	Equatorial Guinea	5	202	197	Bangladesh	0	30
30	Egypt	1	814	84	Curaçao	-1	407	142	Angola	-1	200	198	US Virgin Islands	0	26
31	Paraguay	-1	812	87	Haiti	-31	403	143	Burundi	-1	197	199	Montserrat	0	20
32	Republic of Ireland	0	798	88	Estonia	1	399	144	Hong Kong	0	189	200	Sri Lanka	0	16
32	Scotland	0	798	89	Libya	-1	389	145	Lesotho	0	188	201	Pakistan	0	15
34	IR Iran	-2	797	90	El Salvador	10	383	146	Tanzania	1	182	202	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	13
35	Ukraine	0	781	90	Armenia	0	383	147	Lithuania	2	179	202	Cayman Islands	0	13
36	Australia	2	763	92	Cyprus	-1	373	148	Afghanistan	0	176	204	San Marino	0	11
37	Serbia	-1	756	93	Gabon	0	372	149	Botswana	1	172	205	British Virgin Islands	0	6
38	Bosnia and Herzegovina	-1	753	93	Belarus	-1	372	150	Maldives	5	154	206	Anguilla	0	0
39	Morocco	1	748	95	Canada	-1	371	151	Solomon Islands	0	152	206	Bahamas	0	0
40	Romania	1	737	96	Congo	0	369	152	Tahiti	0	149	206	Eritrea	0	0
41	Turkey	1	735	97	Faroe Islands	-2	364	153	South Sudan	0	148	206	Gibraltar	0	0
42	Bulgaria	1	719	98	Sierra Leone	-1	360	154	New Caledonia	0	146	206	Somalia	0	0
43	Congo DR	-4	715	99	Israel	-1	355	155	Barbados	0	144	206	Tonga	0	0
44	Burkina Faso	0	709	100	Mauritania	-1	340	156	Vanuatu	1	141				
45	Cameroon	0	707	101	Oman	0	335	157	Mauritius	2	134				
46	Montenegro	0	681	102	India	3	333	158	Papua New Guinea	2	126				
47	Greece	0	680	103	Qatar	-1	327	159	Grenada	2	125				
48	Czech Republic	0	677	104	Georgia	0	322	160	Indonesia	2	121				
49	Bolivia	0	674	105	Kenya	1	317	160	Suriname	-32	121				
50	Ghana	0	659	106	Niger	2	311	160	Dominican Republic	2	121				
51	Nigeria	0	651	106	Zimbabwe	-3	311	163	Gambia	1	120				
52	Venezuela	0	639	108	Mozambique	2	310	164	Guyana	1	117				
53	Panama	2	636	109	Madagascar	-1	309	165	Nepal	6	115				
54	Hungary	-1	630	110	St Kitts and Nevis	1	303	166	Moldova	1	112				
55	Jamaica	-1	625	111	Namibia	7	300	166	Puerto Rico	0	112				
56	Japan	1	598	112	Vietnam	0	298	168	Fiji	0	110				



Last updated:
17 January 2018



www.fifa.com/worldranking

ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIĆ

116 caps for Sweden,
FIFA Club World Cup champion, UEFA Europa League winner.



PRESIDENT INFANTINO MEETS EMMANUEL MACRON



French President Emmanuel Macron received FIFA President Gianni Infantino at the Élysée Palace in Paris in the presence of French Football Association (FFF) President Noël Le Graët. The meeting focused

on preparations for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup, which will take place in Brittany from 5 to 24 August 2018, and for the FIFA Women's World Cup™, which France will host from 7 June to 7 July 2019. President Macron underlined France's commitment to making these tournaments a festive and unifying occasion that would showcase the best of the country's towns and regions. For his part, the FIFA President presented his project to regulate the transfer system. "It is time we acted to ensure more transparency and clarity so that we can protect the game of football and everyone involved in it," he explained. Confirming his support for these ambitious reforms, the French President proposed that France help organise a period of reflection with the various European countries in order to work on the necessary revision of European law to accompany this regulatory change. Also discussed was the subject of implementing an effective development policy in Africa through sport. "FIFA welcomes and fully supports the project announced by Mr Macron in Ouagadougou and Accra," said Infantino. "Through our Forward development programme, we are already supporting concrete initiatives on the ground. The discussion with the French President has opened new avenues and objectives, which we will be delighted to explore and realise by working with the French government and the FFF."

COLEMAN LEAVES WALES POST



After over five years managing the Wales national team, 47-year-old Chris Coleman has announced his resignation, according to a statement published by the Football Association of Wales (FAW). Coleman

led Wales to the semi-finals of UEFA EURO 2016, the nation's greatest achievement in their history in the competition. However, he was unable to build on the momentum from their successful France 2016 campaign and take the team to the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. Wales finished in third place in Europe's Group D in the World Cup qualifiers. A 1-0 defeat by the Republic of Ireland in Cardiff on 9 October 2017 ultimately meant they fell short of a play-off place and their ultimate goal of booking a ticket to Russia 2018. A statement by Chief Executive of the Football Association of Wales Jonathan Ford read: "We are extremely disappointed to see Chris's tenure as Wales manager come to an end. The FAW and Wales as a nation will be eternally grateful for the job he has done over the last six years as national team manager, from travelling the length and breadth of Wales outside of the media spotlight to talk to players and supporters, to guiding us to the semi-finals of the European Championships. We wish Chris the very best of luck for the future as he returns to club management, a desire about which he has always been honest and open." Coleman's successor is Ryan Giggs.

NATIONAL CONGRESS VOTES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DFB HEADQUARTERS AND ACADEMY



The German FA's (DFB) National Congress unanimously voted in Frankfurt am Main for the construction of their new headquarters and academy, as well as for the planned budget. On the site of the former racecourse in Frankfurt-Niederrad, administration and academy will grow together under one roof. The purpose of this project is to further develop German football as a whole. "I welcome the delegates' vote and am delighted with the support shown for this groundbreaking project," said DFB President Reinhard Grindel. "By building a new DFB and our academy, we are creating necessary structures, requirements and working conditions in order to continue developing German football from the top to the grassroots. This flagship project will have long-term benefits for football as a whole." A total of EUR 150 million has been allocated for this project, the largest investment in the history of the association. This includes costs for a fixed-price construction contract, site controlling, project management and provisions for unforeseeable risks. The resources for the new DFB sports centre

and administration office consist of reserves, contributions from FIFA and UEFA and a bank loan. "At the new DFB and its academy, sport and administration will be able to work even more closely together under one roof," said DFB General Secretary Dr Friedrich Curtius. "Everyone is already very optimistic about this project – our staff, our football family and our partners. We are building a place where people, ideas and passions will come together." Our goal is to continually develop German football and to establish a quality seal for our academy worldwide," said Oliver Bierhoff, Project Manager of the DFB Academy. "With our competent team, modern technology and expertise, we would like to be a service provider for football. We will develop and share knowledge as we strive to improve our experts, coaches and teams. The groundbreaking ceremony for the building designed by Kadawittfeldarchitektur is planned for the middle of 2018, while completion is due in early 2021.

FULLY DEMOUNTABLE WORLD CUP STADIUM



The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), the organisation responsible for delivering the infrastructure required to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar, has unveiled the design of the Ras Abu Aboud Stadium, the seventh Qatar 2022 stadium design to be released. The stadium features a bold and innovative design concept, unlike any other World Cup stadium ever made. Built using modular building blocks, each containing removable seats, concession stands, lavatories and other fundamental stadium elements, the Ras Abu Aboud Stadium combines tournament experience and legacy planning in a revolutionary way to create a truly unique venue. "Innovation has always been central to our plans for delivering a historic FIFA World Cup that leaves a legacy for Qatar and the world, and there is no better example of this than the design of the Ras Abu Aboud Stadium," said SC Secretary General H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi. "This venue offers the



perfect legacy, capable of being reassembled in a new location in its entirety or built into numerous small sports and cultural venues. All of this in a stadium that delivers the atmosphere fans expect at a World Cup and which will be built in a more sustainable way than ever before. I'm delighted with this design and confident that Ras Abu Aboud will become a blueprint for future mega-event planners to follow." Ras Abu Aboud's modular design also means the construction of the venue will require fewer materials, create less waste and reduce the carbon footprint of the building process. Thanks to this sustainable approach to the stadium's construction, Ras Abu Aboud will receive a four-star Global Sustainability Assessment System certification rating.

CFA GRASSROOTS SEMINAR



The Chinese FA (CFA) Grassroots Football Workshop hosted by the CFA came to a close following a successful three-day session in China. Some 160 participants including representatives from the CFA regional member associations as well as the Asian Football Confederation attended the workshop, which was held in conjunction with the CFA's largest grassroots competition, "We Love Football". Key agendas discussed included: a wrap-up on the 2017 CFA Grassroots Football Workshop, the 2018 grassroots work plan and good practices by selected member associations. Grassroots Football Development Officer Masahiro Sugiyama from the AFC Technical Division shared the AFC Grassroots Charter and Roles and Responsibilities of the MA in Grassroots Football. Sugiyama introduced successful amateur football clubs in Japan, as well as the Japan Football Association Grassroots Promotion Partner Programme, which is tasked with promoting grassroots football through football-related organisations, including clubs. Bai Lili, AFC Head of Women's Football, discussed women's football development in Asia and its role in grassroots development. The CFA gave its review of 2017, which included amateur football leagues, social responsibility activities, education courses, as well as futsal and beach soccer. "The CFA has been deeply committed to the development of grassroots football in China and is working closely with its member associations and partners to achieve their joint goals through various projects, competitions and activities," said Roger Luo Zhao, Director of Football for All Departments from the Chinese FA. "We initiated the CFA Grassroots Workshop in 2015 and we were able to present the grassroots activity report for the year and work plan for next year." The annually held event also serves as a platform for the key Chinese grassroots stakeholders to share their knowledge and discuss business under the guidance and direction of the CFA.

FIFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

TAN CHENG HOE, NEW MALAYSIA COACH



Tan Cheng Hoe has been appointed as the head coach of the national team of Malaysia. Tan replaces Nelo Vingada, who resigned as the Malaysia national team coach at the beginning of December. Vingada

took responsibility for Malaysia's recent poor form in the final round of the qualifiers for the AFC Asian Cup 2019, which saw the Southeast Asian side suffer back-to-back defeats to Korea DPR in November.

PIZZI NEW SAUDI ARABIA COACH



The Argentinian Juan Antonio Pizzi has been appointed as the new Saudi Arabia coach. He will manage the team for the 2018 World Cup, replacing his compatriot Edgardo Bauza, announced SPA, the

official Saudi Press Agency. Pizzi's contract was initialled in Tokyo, in the presence of the President of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF), Adel Izzat. Pizzi, 49, led Chile to victory in the *Copa América* 2016, but stepped down as *La Roja's* manager after failing to help them qualify for the World Cup. So the SAFF selected another South American to take the helm from the Argentinian coach Edgardo Bauza, just under seven months before the 2018 World Cup. Adel Izzat stated that their decision was based on an assessment of Pizzi's work as manager and on the "results of the friendly matches" of the Saudi team. Edgardo Bauza took the reins as manager of the Saudi team in September 2017, shortly after they secured a place in the World Cup under Dutchman Bert van Marwijk.

WILMOTS PARTS WAYS WITH CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Belgian coach Marc Wilmots parted ways with Côte d'Ivoire after failing to help the West African country qualify for the World Cup in Russia. Côte d'Ivoire lost their decisive World Cup match 2-0 to Morocco,

leading to talks between the association and Wilmots. "At the end of the talks, the two parties agreed to amicably end their collaboration, all the while praising the good atmosphere during the six months of their work together," the association said. Ex-Belgium coach Wilmots, 48, had signed a two-year deal with Côte d'Ivoire in March 2017, with a possibility of extending it by a further two years.

POSTECOGLOU STEPS DOWN FROM AUSTRALIA POST



Ange Postecoglou has resigned as Australia coach just a week after leading the Socceroos to the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia. Postecoglou announced he was stepping down despite being contracted

until the end of the current World Cup campaign. "This has been a very tough decision for me," Postecoglou said. "It has been a privilege for me to coach my country's national team. All this, however, has taken a toll on me, both personally and professionally. I have invested all that I can into this, knowing how important a period it was for Australian football. It is with a heavy heart that I must now end the journey. I look forward to watching the team take on the world next year. I have no doubt that the road ahead will have many special moments, and no one will be happier than me watching and cheering from afar." Australia qualified for Russia 2018 after defeating Honduras in the intercontinental play-off. In doing so, Postecoglou became the first Australian-raised coach to take the Socceroos to the World Cup.

MAALLOUL'S CONTRACT EXTENDED



Tunisia head coach Nabil Maaloul's contract has been extended by five

years by the Tunisian FA. Following a successful 2018 World Cup qualification campaign, the 55-year-old tactician will stay at the helm till June 2022. *The Carthage Eagles* maintained an unbeaten run in their qualifying series to finish at the summit of Group A

with 14 points from six games and have been drawn alongside England, Belgium and Panama in Group G of this year's tournament in Russia. The former Espérance Sportive de Tunis manager guided the side to their first World Cup appearance since 2006 and has been tasked to lead the 2004 Africa Cup of Nations champions to the next global showpiece in Qatar in 2022. Tunisia take on England in their first World Cup group game at the Volgograd Arena on 18 June.

HUDSON EXITS AS NEW ZEALAND COACH



Anthony Hudson has stepped down as New Zealand coach following the *All Whites'* failure to qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia after their defeat in the intercontinental play-off against Peru.

The 36-year-old Englishman came into the role following New Zealand's play-off defeat against Mexico in November 2013. "As a group, we were obviously sad not to achieve our goal of qualifying for the World Cup, but from where we were three years ago to where we were in the dying few minutes of the game against Peru, I have to say I'm incredibly proud of all the players and staff, they were magnificent," said Hudson. "They were together, they played with pride and bravery and were superb when we had a mountain to climb. The effort they have put in for this team over the years has been first class. I am proud of how far the team have come in the past three years and I hope that my time here has built the foundation for future success. I have no doubt that New Zealand has a great team that is capable of achieving big things on the world stage."

EDUCATION CENTRE TO HELP PROFESSIONALISE CALEDONIAN FOOTBALL



The launch of the OFC Education Centre in New Caledonia is set to take football to new heights throughout the country. The educational institute, which is based at the Centre International Sport et

Expertise (CISE) in Dumbea, is offering courses ranging from foundation to licence level where participants can gain a qualification which will be recognised Oceania-wide. The President of the New Caledonian FA, Steeve Laigle, is excited about the opportunities the OFC Education Centre will bring to the country. "The OFC Education Centre will contribute enormously to the development of football here," said Laigle. "We talk a lot about Caledonian football being an amateur sport and needing to have structure in our football. This will assist us greatly in providing that structure with courses for administrators, coaches and referees. And also, for the administrators, there will be management, marketing and medical courses, so there will be a complete set of courses." Laigle said the OFC Education Centre is not an exclusive institute only hoping to develop football. "Courses like management and marketing will be open to all the sports leagues in New Caledonia, so this isn't just about helping football develop, but rather all sports."

ZAGALLO AWARDED CBF ACADEMY'S HONORARY DEGREE



The CBF has honoured Mário Jorge Lobo Zagallo with the CBF Academy's first honorary degree. The degree recognised Zagallo's accomplishments and commitment throughout his successful career as coach of the Brazil national football team, as well as the several clubs he managed. The CBF acknowledged Zagallo for his invaluable contribution to both Brazilian and international football. The honorary degree was awarded during the 2017 "Brasileirão" Awards hosted in December. Zagallo was the main awardee of the evening, which also honoured the best players of the national championship. Deeply moved, the "Old Wolf", as he is known, spoke about the certificate he was awarded: "I am proud to be honoured by the CBF Academy. I never had the opportunity to get a diploma and the CBF has now given me this opportunity. I am grateful for these tributes."

GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL FESTIVAL



A grassroots football festival was organised by the Salvadorian FA (FESFUT), with the participation of 224 youth players from 14 amateur departmental football associations, consisting of 25 stations, who were divided up on pitches 1 and 2 of the FESFUT sports complex into U-11 and U-13 levels. "On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank the presidents of the amateur departmental football associations for all their effort, as well as the coaches and parents of the players for sowing the seeds of which we will be able to reap the benefits in a few years as the young players will one day be our national players," said Jorge Cabrera Rajo (FESFUT President). We also heard from the architect Emerson Avalos (Director, Coordinator of the amateur departmental football associations), who agreed with the president that these children would one day be the national players and said that the associations were delighted to be working with them.

A man in a red polo shirt with white stripes is holding a condensation-covered glass bottle of Coca-Cola. He has a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of surprise or delight. The background is a blurred crowd of people, suggesting a social gathering or event. The overall lighting is warm and vibrant, dominated by reds and oranges.

Coca-Cola

TASTE THE FEELING™

COURSE FOR WOMEN'S FOOTBALL COACHES COMES TO A CLOSE



A course for women's football coaches was held at the Paraguayan national team headquarters, in Ypané. This event was jointly organised by CONMEBOL within the framework of the Evolution Programme and the Paraguayan FA's Development Department. At the end of the course, Douglas Martínez, Head of the Development Department, expressed his joy at and support for the course, stating that it was the first time that Paraguayan professional female football players had access to such a course. He also thanked Fabimar Franchi, representative of the CONMEBOL Development Department, for her continuous effort to promote women's football throughout South America. The lecture was held by important role models, such as Professors Rubén Subeldia and Viviana Ayres, as well as Milagros Infante, who shared their overall experiences and knowledge and urged the participants to keep working hard to ensure the continuous growth of women's football. A total of 24 coaches attended this successful training session for female professional footballers.

FIFTH LIVE YOUR GOALS FESTIVAL



On the morning of Saturday, 2 December, the fifth FIFA Live Your Goals festival was held at the Celeste complex in Uruguay. Approximately 180 children between the ages of six and 13 and their friends and family attended this festival. A group of players and coaches from women's teams from the Uruguayan FA organised an activity, under the guidance of Professor Juliana Castro, on their artificial turf, based around football exercises and fundamentals, with a clear recreational purpose. Girls attended the course from many local schools. Players from San Jacinto, Danubio FC, La Paz Wanderers and Náutico were also present. Following the activity, which lasted about an hour and a half, the girls spent some time with their mentors, namely current and former Uruguayan national team female players. Previous festivals have been held at the Celeste complex and the Nasazzi, Suppici de Colonia and Charrúa stadiums.



INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON PHYSIOLOGY AND NUTRITION



Thanks to an initiative by the University of San Ignacio de Loyola (USIL) and the support from the Peruvian FA (FPF), the first international course on physiology and sports nutrition in football took place from 4 to 7 December. One of the course participants was Dr Antonio Escribano Zafra, member of the Committee on Nutrition and Healthy Habits of the Spanish Olympic Committee and chief doctor in nutrition of the Spanish Basketball Federation and the Spanish FA, for both male and female players. It is important to note that, in 2014, Dr Escribano received a prestigious award for his promotion of good nutritional habits from the association, Cofradía del Colesterol. He was also awarded the 2016 National Prize in Sports Medicine by the Spanish Sports Press Association. "You can learn to eat well, all you need is some common sense. The key to a healthy diet is knowing how to choose and measure out your food," Escribano explained. Juan Matute, FPF General Secretary, also had a few words to say. "We were able to launch a youth programme, which is actually a social project, which, through football, will change the lives of thousands of young people. In the last 25 years, 85% of the national team players have been from Lima. In the past, we haven't been supportive enough. We are therefore creating 26 centres of excellence in our country."

SERGIO CHUC ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE FFB



On Saturday, 2 December 2017, the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) held its 11th extraordinary congress at the Ramada Princess Hotel and Casino in Belize City where Sergio Chuc was elected the new President of the FFB and Cruz Gamez was elected to the post of Vice-President. They both garnered 14 votes out of a possible 20. This completes the association's management team and paves the way for a new beginning for football in Belize. The saga of the Chuc presidency started 19 months ago at the FFB's 9th ordinary congress held on 30 April 2016 when, after 22 rounds of voting, the FIFA representative decided to put a halt to the election process and proposed that Mr Marlon Kuylen step in as acting president until the next elections. A second round of elections was called on 24/25 June 2017, which had to be aborted because there was no quorum. This was followed by an extraordinary congress on Saturday, 2 September 2017, during which many of the items on the original agenda were dealt with, and the decision was made to set a new election date.

THEN

1971 COLOGNE, WEST GERMANY

Fellow artists: Günter Netzer (left; Borussia Mönchengladbach) and Wolfgang Overath (FC Cologne) during a *Bundesliga* match (2 October).



NOW

2017
BARRANQUILLA, COLOMBIA

Neymar (left; Brazil) and James Rodríguez (Colombia), purveyors of pure football enjoyment, have a quick chat during a 2018 World Cup qualifier (5 September).



Carlo ANCELOTTI

10.06.1959



Carlo Ancelotti has coached some of the biggest clubs in the world. His last six clubs were Juventus, AC Milan, Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich, and his haul of trophies includes three Champions League titles, four league titles and three domestic cup wins. His success as a coach often makes people forget that Ancelotti wasn't exactly a bad player himself. He was a key member of Arrigo Sacchi's legendary AC Milan team – alongside the likes of Franco Baresi, Roberto Donadoni, Paolo Maldini, Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten – that won six titles in two years, including two European Cups.



1976-1979 AC Parma

Debut at the age of 17. Coach Cesare Maldini would later play Ancelotti just behind the forwards. In 1979, Ancelotti's brace in a play-off against Triestina, including a strike in extra time, secures Parma's promotion to *Serie B*. Ancelotti's form attracts the attention of bigger clubs, and he moves to AS Roma.

1976

On 1 April, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak found Apple.



1979-1987 AS Roma

1 league title, 4 Italian Cups.

Serie A debut on 16 September 1979 at the age of 20, and captain by the age of 26. While at Roma, he makes his debut for Italy, featuring in the squad for Mexico '86 and EURO '88 before going on to win a bronze medal on home soil at Italia '90.



1987-1992 AC Milan

2 league titles, 2 European Cups.

After switching to the *Rossoneri* in 1987, Ancelotti becomes one of Sacchi's "invincibles" thanks to his impressive reading of the game. Sacchi – under whom Ancelotti would later work as an assistant coach – revolutionises the Italian game with his spectacular brand of attacking football, and Ancelotti would later say: "We were all shocked to start with. Sacchi totally changed the Italian mentality."



1979

South African Jody Scheckter becomes the first African to win the Formula 1 Drivers' Championship. It proves to be Ferrari's last title for more than 20 years.



1987

On 1 January, Radio Moscow broadcasts US President Ronald Reagan's New Year's address. By the end of the year, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Reagan sign the INF Treaty to eliminate all intermediate- and short-range nuclear missiles.





Family time

Saturday, 18 May 1985. Outside, the fields have been tilled and the cattle are grazing happily. Before heading back out to tend to their Brenton Barton farmland in Exmoor, Dick French and his family take a well-earned breather with a cup of tea in front of the TV. It is no ordinary day – it is FA Cup final day, with Manchester United and Everton doing battle at Wembley.



James Ravillious © Beaford Arts, digitally scanned from a Beaford Archive negative www.beafordarchive.org.uk

In the 78th minute, United's Irish defender Kevin Moran becomes the first-ever player to be sent off in an FA Cup final after a crude challenge on the *Toffees'* Peter Reid, but the *Red Devils* would still go on to win 1-0, thanks to Norman Whiteside's extra-time stunner.

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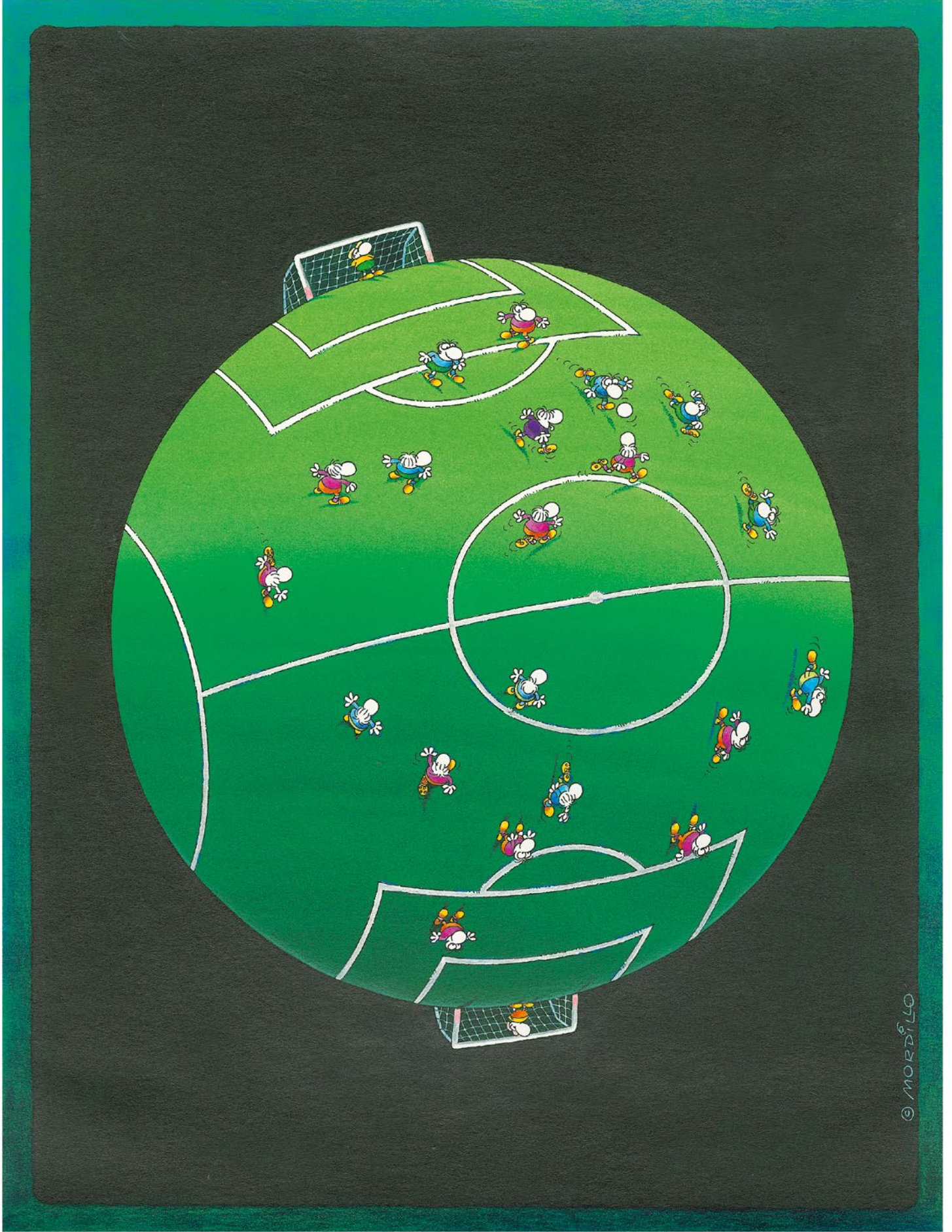
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TOP OF THE PROPS

Once a piece of home-made cloth on a wooden handle, the humble corner flag is today a high-tech product. However, it remains an object rich in tradition.

By Perikles Monioudis

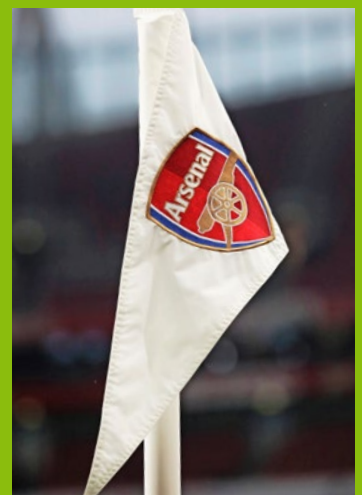
The topics covered so far under our “Innovations” feature include recycling artificial turf pitches and GPS-based training data for footballers: new products and ideas that point the way forward for the game or that make the future of football happen now.

It is also possible, however, to take an innovation from way back in the past and put it in a new context. One, for example, that may have seemed insignificant at the time but nevertheless has invaluable practical value and is part of the game’s visual appearance. Yes, we are talking about corner flags here...

The corner flag’s development from a stick in the ground with a piece of material on the top to the sleek, UV-resistant plastic product (with or without a pivoted joint) that we know today is mirrored by that of other mundane objects, such as the hockey stick and the broom, and the technological change that it has experienced is therefore nothing out of the ordinary. We mainly notice it when it is on the receiving end of a player’s celebratory kick after scoring a goal. How wrong we are!

Corner flags are prescribed in FIFA’s regulations, with four required for every pitch. They denote the outer dimensions of the field of play and help players to orientate themselves: a quick glance is enough to know how much space there is behind the opposition’s defence for a pass or cross, for example. To conform to the regulations, they must be at least 1.5m high with a non-pointed top. Additional flags may be placed at each end of the halfway line, at least 1m outside the touchline.

Corner flags are more than mere props – they have a certain prestige that is closely related to tradition: some British clubs, such as Arsenal, Aston Villa, Cardiff City and Everton, but also the likes of Preston North End and AFC Wimbledon, are permitted to use triangular-shaped flags to indicate that they are past winners of the FA Cup, and were thus once the top knockout team in the country. However, there are also former FA Cup winners that use square-shaped flags. There are no rules or regulations on this particular matter – only that corner flags must be used.



British corner flags A blend of tradition and high-tech materials.

“THE WOMEN’S WORLD CUP IN FRANCE WILL BE A FANTASTIC TOURNAMENT”

Fans have the last word: Allison Cary from the USA on how the French women’s national team captured her heart and why she is looking forward to next year’s Women’s World Cup.

Recorded by Annette Braun

“I went to my first Major League Soccer match in 2015: Orlando City versus Chicago Fire. It was pouring with rain – as it often does in Florida – and my friends and I were soaking wet. The stadium was practically empty so we ran through the seats, following the ball. It remains one of my favourite football memories, particularly because I joined the Orlando City staff a few months later.

I can still remember the summer of 2015 very well. Before then, I hadn’t watched much women’s football, even though I played as a kid. I saw that the Women’s World Cup was on in Canada, and when I turned the TV on I stumbled across the group-stage match between England and France. It was like falling in love with the game again. I was a short defender as a kid, so maybe that’s why Laure Boulleau caught my attention in that match. I fell in love with the French style of play, and to this day I still regard France as ‘my team’. The USA’s Ali Krieger also impressed me, not just on the pitch but also off it. She has spoken openly about her own insecurities and has given some very personal interviews, which made me feel like I wasn’t alone. I was part of a community, a family.



Team spirit

Allison Cary (front, centre) with the Orlando City content team at the opening of the club’s new stadium in 2017.

For me, the best player last year was Sam Kerr. She scored her first hat-trick for Australia as well as a record-breaking 17 goals for Sky Blue FC in the National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL). She is incredibly talented, and at 24 years of age, she is only going to get better.

The FIFA Women’s World Cup in France in 2019 will be a fantastic tournament. I can’t wait!”

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COMING UP

MARCH 2018 EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

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Football has the power to change the way we think, the way we feel. Its ability to bring people together, locally as well as globally, is unique – as is the game's ability to include people, irrespective of geographical, social or ethnical background or gender. In the March 2018 issue of *FIFA 1904*, we will – ahead of FIFA's fourth annual conference, "Pass it on – Hope through Football" – tell stories about equality, inclusion, diversity and integration through football.

Together on the pitch

Cristiano Ronaldo kisses ten-year-old Polina Khaeredinova before the national anthems ahead of the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 match between Russia and Portugal at Spartak Stadium, Moscow on 21 June (0-1).





FIFA 18



IN STORES NOW

THE WORLD'S GAME

Powered by Frostbite™, EA SPORTS™ FIFA 18 blurs the line between the virtual and real worlds, bringing to life the players, teams, and atmospheres of The World's Game. Move with **Real Player Motion Technology** to unlock **Dramatic Moments** in the world's most **Immersive Atmospheres**. And go on a global journey with a star-studded cast of characters in **The Journey: Hunter Returns**. In FIFA Ultimate Team™, **FUT ICONS**, featuring Ronaldo Nazário and other football legends, are coming to FIFA 18.



FROSTBITE GAME ENGINE TECHNOLOGY, THE JOURNEY AND OTHER FEATURES NOT AVAILABLE ON ALL PLATFORMS.

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