

THE FIFA WEEKLY

Fédération Internationale de Football Association – Since 1904



CANADA 2015

NADINE ANGERER'S
TWIST OF FATE

BLATTER

FIFA IS NOT A
"MEN-ONLY CLUB"

GHANA

ABEDI PELE'S
SUCCESSFUL SONS

U-20 WORLD CUP IN NEW ZEALAND

NEW STARS

6

Big dreams

The FIFA U-20 World Cup once kickstarted the careers of players such as Diego Maradona, Luis Figo and Arjen Robben. The latest crop of talented youngsters are currently under the spotlight at this summer's tournament in New Zealand. Sarah Steiner reports on these budding future stars of world football.

14

Denmark

Having finally turned their dreams of a first league title into reality, many at Midtjylland are now predicting a bright future for the Danish club.

23

Sepp Blatter

"The President of the German Football Association, Wolfgang Niersbach, has put forward a motion I support," says the FIFA President. "Only together can we continue to drive the process of reform forward. That is something I will stand for until my final day in office."

37

Nadine Angerer

Germany's goalkeeper was once a top handball player before letting fate decide that her future lay with football.



New stars

Our cover image was taken in Auckland on 10 June 2015. It shows Senegal goalkeeper Ibrahima Sy celebrating after saving a penalty against Ukraine.

Alex Livesey



North and Central America

35 members

www.concacaf.com



South America

10 members

www.conmebol.com



16

Canada 2015

Maren Mjelde reflects on her remarkable free-kick goal.

15

USA

Kaka scored as Orlando City beat league leaders DC United 1-0 in 33-degree heat.



The FIFA Weekly app

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FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup

9 - 19 July 2015, Portugal



FIFA U-17 World Cup

17 October - 8 November 2015, Chile



Europe
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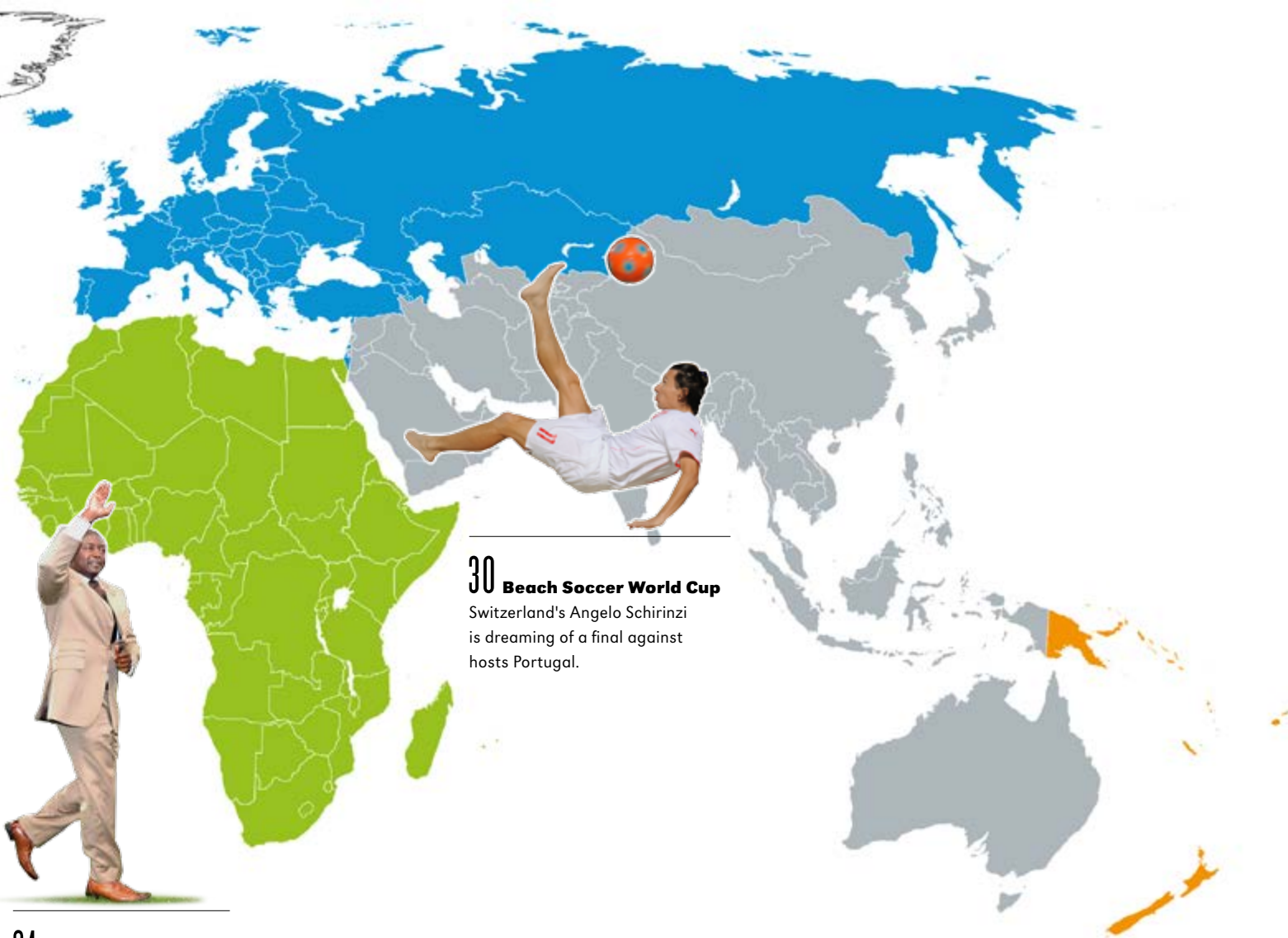
Africa
54 members
www.cafonline.com



Asia
46 members
www.the-afc.com



Oceania
11 members
www.oceaniafootball.com



30 Beach Soccer World Cup
Switzerland's Angelo Schirinzi is dreaming of a final against hosts Portugal.

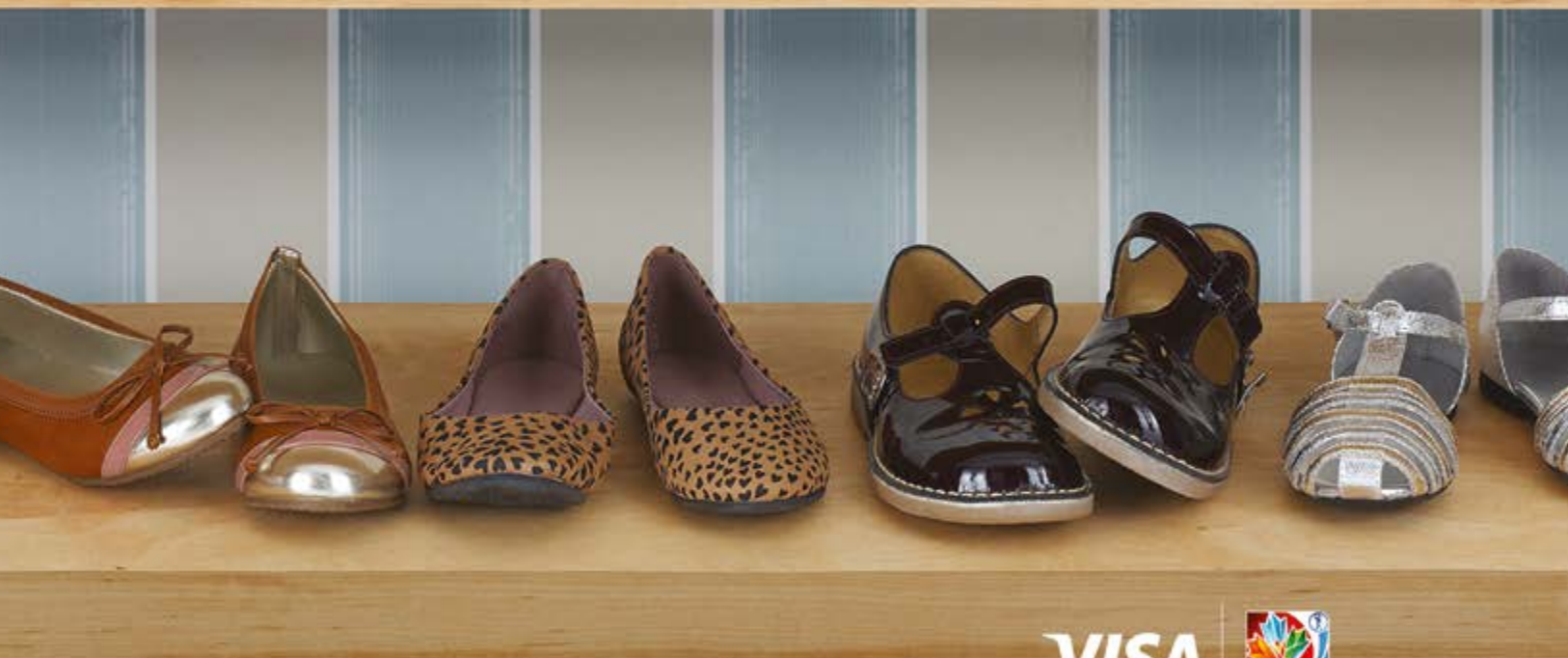
24 Abedi Pele

The Ghanaian explains why all three of his sons have become talented footballers.



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On the home straight

Generally speaking, a great deal is going on in the mind of a young person between the ages of 15 and 20. It is the stage in life when you bid farewell to your childhood. Stress lurks everywhere – at school, at home with parents, in relationships – so it makes sense that teenagers should go looking for fun from time to time, even if that sometimes means staying up all night.

When talented young footballers party the night away, it triggers a whole new layer of stress. They are threatened with predictions that their flourishing careers might now go down the drain. This happened recently in Germany and demonstrates that the path to becoming a seasoned professional is a precariously narrow one. Anyone who feels they can navigate it must leave everything else behind before they can complete the journey.

The FIFA U-20 World Cup comes to an end in New Zealand this week. The name speaks for itself, and great footballers such as Diego Maradona once kicked off their careers in the competition. In her report beginning on page six, Sarah Steiner focuses on five young internationals with the potential to become world-class. At 18 and 19 years old, they now find themselves, as the saying goes, 'on the home straight'. ⚽

Alan Schweingruber

BIG DREAMS

21



IBRAHIMA SY

Date of birth

13 August 1995

Birthplace

Dakar, Senegal

Height

1.89 m

Position

Goalkeeper

Current club

Lorient

National team

Senegal U-20

Mr. Reliable

Ibrahima Sy provides a safe pair of hands at the back for Senegal.

19

GEDION ZELELEM

Date of birth

26 January 1997

Birthplace

Berlin, Germany

Height

1.80 m

Position

Midfielder

Current club

Arsenal

National team

USA U-20

Impressive dribbler

Gedion Zelalem tore into the New Zealand defence during the group phase.



The U-20 World Cup provides a stage for gifted youngsters to showcase their ability at international level. *Sarah Steiner* reports on a selection of the best who have dazzled the football world with their talents in New Zealand in recent days.

A total of 504 players from 24 countries arrived in New Zealand eager to demonstrate their ability to perform on the international scene. The prize on offer is none other than the most important trophy of their fledgling careers: the U-20 World Cup. Playing under the tournament motto of "This Is the One!" the youngsters have taken the seven host cities of Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Whangarei and Wellington by storm. New stars have been born, and some are on the cusp of becoming global household names. One such player is Senegal goalkeeper Ibrahima Sy, who kept his side in the tournament with a number of out-

standing saves. He was impressive enough in the group phase, but really came into his own against Ukraine in the Round of 16, saving three penalties in the shoot-out to emerge as the Man of the Match. "I've got a gift when it comes to penalties," the 19-year-old said afterwards. "I can't explain it, it's just something I can do."

That talent had lain dormant for a long time as Sy took his first steps in the game as a striker. It was only much later at a youth tournament that he donned a pair of goalkeeper's gloves for the first time. "Out keeper couldn't play that day," he recalled. "Besides, I'd watched Fabien Barthez play for Manchester United the night before and that inspired me. You can still see my ability as an outfield player though, as I like to come out of my area a lot." French Ligue 1 club FC Lorient certainly liked what they saw and signed the custodian last summer, handing him his first professional contract in March 2015.

He was forced to be patient in the national set-up though, and was only third-choice goalkeeper under coach Joseph Koto for a long time. Yet while his two rivals between the posts were unable to make the most of their opportunity, Sy made no mistake when Koto offered him a chance. "It gives you a special kind of motivation to play in goal for Senegal," he said. "I'm proud of that. I'm a true Senegalese, I'm a fighter. I give everything for my people." Koto described him thus: "He gives the team security. It's very important for a side to have a keeper like that at the back."

Ibrahima Sy's talent lay dormant for a long time.

A German-American wunderkind

Gedion Zelalem is another young man who appears to be on the right track. Born in Berlin to Ethiopian immigrant parents, he played for Germany at U-17 level, but the midfielder also lived in the USA for six years before joining the Arsenal youth academy. In December 2014 he received American citizenship and authorisation from FIFA to play for the USA, and now he is the brightest star in the Stars and Stripes' U-20 ensemble. English newspaper The Guardian wrote of

Myanmar capture fans' hearts

Myanmar's FIFA U-20 World Cup journey is one of those stories only football can write. To the surprise of many, this Southeast Asian country were among the 24 teams vying for honours at this year's competition. A 1-0 win against the United Arab Emirates ensured the underdogs reached the semi-finals of the 2014 AFC U-19 Championship and secured their tickets to the World Cup finals in New Zealand. "We did what nobody expected," coach Gerd Zeise said after his team's exploits, still hardly believing it himself.

Sadly, their dream of achieving something even greater came to an end after the group stage. Although Myanmar lost 2-1 to the USA, 6-0 to Ukraine and 5-1 against their Kiwi hosts, their sense of disappointment peaked after defeat at the hands of their Eastern European group rivals. After that match, Zeise said bluntly: "We only had the energy for one match. We're too naïve and don't have the necessary experience, that much is very clear. That was a disaster," he continued. "This tournament came too soon for us. We can't keep up with these teams; we've got no chance. My side were too weak." The German shouldered the blame completely, apologising to the fans and claiming full responsibility for the "catastrophe", but also acknowledged that "you can't turn a cyclist into a Ferrari driver overnight."

Technique, stability and thermal underwear

Myanmar's talented youngsters can nonetheless be more than proud of what they have achieved after pushing themselves to the limit to prepare for the tournament in New Zealand. Daily training sessions enabled Zeise to work on every last detail to ensure that his players knew exactly what was expected of them, both in attack and defence, and to get the best out of their dynamism and technical ability. The sports teacher and football coach also worked hard on his team's core strength, explaining: "They need that to ensure that they're not just brushed aside in one-on-one situations."

U-20 WORLD CUPS: FROM PROMISING TALENTS TO GLOBAL STARS

The U-20 World Cup is the second best men's football tournament on the planet.

The top national teams at U-20 level have jostled for supremacy every two years since 1977, and for players such as Diego Maradona, Bebeto and Paul Pogba, the competition served as a springboard to greatness. We take a look at a selection of famous past participants.



DIEGO MARADONA (ARG)
1979 – JAPAN

Maradona captained the team, scored six goals and lifted the title with the 'Albiceleste'. He was also named as the tournament's best player.



BEBETO (BRA)
1983 – MEXICO

110,000 spectators watched the final between Brazil and Argentina. It was Bebeto's first international triumph and the start of a glittering career.



LUIS FIGO (POR)
1991 – PORTUGAL

After lifting the U-16 European Championship in 1989, Figo won the U-20 World Cup two years later. He scored a penalty in the shoot-out in the final.

The squad were optimally prepared for New Zealand on more than just a technical level. Zeise addressed the wintry climate in Oceania by buying thermal underwear and a warming salve for his players to use during their stay. The team also acclimatised for the tournament by visiting Europe earlier this year – even taking the time to try ice skating in Germany. “I’d never seen snow or ice before; I’d only seen it on TV,” said midfielder Yan Naing Oo.

Despite all these considerations, time and patience remain the keys to success for Myanmar. “The sledgehammer approach doesn’t work at all here,” Zeise said unequivocally. It was a tip-off from a friend and fellow coach that originally brought the German to this corner of Southeast Asia after previous stints spent coaching in Japan, Korea Republic, China PR, Vietnam and the Maldives, teaching at Gremio in Brazil and a spell in charge of now-defunct Belgian top-flight side KRC Harelbeke. He is already in his fifth year in Myanmar. “There have been plenty of positive changes and football is booming,” he said with pride.

“A huge amount of hype”

Results were of secondary importance for the country’s travelling supporters at the U-20 World Cup. Among the crowd that gathered for Myanmar’s 5-1 defeat by hosts New Zealand were a 250-strong group of refugees. They were able to make the journey thanks to the efforts of regional New Zealand sports foundation Sports Tasman, who not only organised tickets but also arranged the return journey from Nelson and Porirua. The refugees’ visit created a fantastic atmosphere and stirred the enthusiasm of the other spectators at Wellington’s Regional Stadium. “We had no idea that so many people from Myanmar live in New Zealand,” said the team’s delighted captain Nanda Kyaw. “We only expected a few fans, but there were just so many. We want to give a big thank-you to everyone who cheered us on – it made us stronger and bolder.”

The supporters’ joy was evident well before kick-off, with the tumult reaching its peak when their heroes took an unexpected first-half lead. Although it was ultimately the Junior All Whites who had reason to celebrate after progressing to the last 16, this did nothing to spoil the occasion for the fans from Myanmar. “It’s crazy to see how many messages we get every day,” said Zeise. “There’s been a huge amount of hype around the team online and on social media in particular.” His skipper added: “We’ll never forget this experience; it will stay with us for the rest of our lives.”



Vociferous support Myanmar’s fans cheer on their team.

Preparing for a bright future

Their electrifying experience in New Zealand surely means that nothing can now stand between Myanmar and a promising footballing future. FIFA has also laid a foundation for success when it comes the nation’s sporting infrastructure. Five Goal projects in the last 11 years have enabled the construction of a new headquarters for the country’s football association, a football academy and several training pitches as well as the complete renovation of the national stadium in the capital Yangon. Most importantly, though, these efforts have significantly enhanced the potential of Myanmar’s aspiring young footballers, as coach Zeise confirmed: “We’re a unit and all of the players are working extremely hard to achieve something.” sst/tfw



SEYDOU KEITA (MLI)
1999 – NIGERIA

Mali surprisingly reached the semi-finals and ended up finishing third. Keita enthralled fans with his dribbling ability and was crowned as the tournament’s best player.



ARJEN ROBBEN (NED)
2001 – ARGENTINA

Coach Louis van Gaal has had a big influence on Robben’s career. He included the pacey attacker in the Dutch U-20 World Cup squad 14 years ago and later signed him at Bayern Munich.



LIONEL MESSI (ARG)
2005 – NETHERLANDS

Messi scored both of his side’s goals from the penalty spot in the final against Nigeria, finished as top scorer and was named player of the tournament.



PAUL POGBA (FRA)
2013 – TURKEY

Pogba lifted the most coveted trophy in youth football as captain after France beat Uruguay 4-1 on penalties in the final.

him: “Wonderkid Gedion Zelalem has the world at his feet”, while his youth coach Matt Pilkington said: “He dribbles like Iniesta and passes like Xavi.”

Fans in New Zealand will have no trouble remembering one particular effort of his when, without breaking stride, he struck a volley that flew just wide of the tournament hosts’ goal. USA’s participation at the finals ended in the last eight with defeat to Serbia. “I think we’ve done well, but we also want to reach higher,” said Zelalem. “We want to be reaching finals and winning tournaments. Being here has given me a taste for playing in these kinds of events. I think there’s a few guys in this squad, myself included, who could be in the senior squad for the next World Cup. You look at the likes of [Lionel] Messi playing in this tournament back in 2005 and you know the history it has. He won it with Argentina, and I wanted to do the same.”

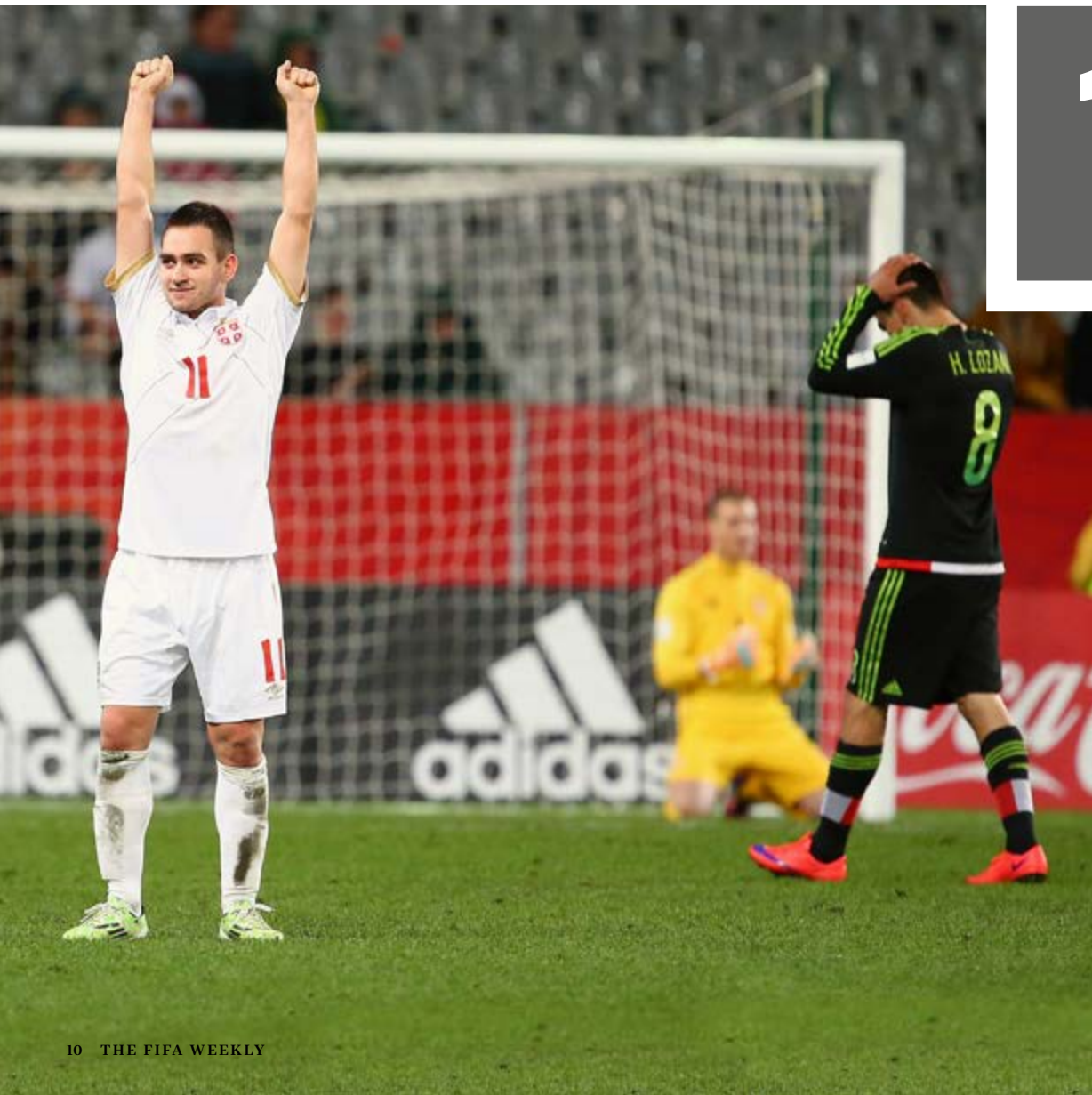
In November the senior USA side will begin their quest to secure one of the three CONCACAF berths at the 2018 FIFA World Cup™. USA’s German coach Jurgen Klinsmann is already well aware of Zelalem’s ability: “He’s a special player and is already at a level where he could play in the senior team.” The future, it seems, bodes well for the young German-American.

Stunning free-kick

Serbia’s Andrija Zivkovic has also made a name for himself on the international stage. The 18-year-old midfielder is the youngest player ever to have worn the captain’s armband at Partizan Belgrade, and was also the first Serbian to be capped at senior level at the age of 17. “I’m not going to stop here,” Zivkovic said. “I’m going to carry on achieving things and performing as well as I can.”

He has been true to his word in New Zealand, catching the eye in Serbia’s final group game against Mexico with a stunning 25-yard free-kick just before half-time to put his side 2-0 up. That strike killed the game off and paved the way for Serbia to reach the Round of 16. “I’m so happy about the goal,” he said. “When I was getting ready to take it, I could see that their wall was good but that the keeper wasn’t quite in the right position. I wanted to make the most of the opportunity. Achievements like that are always something special. You can’t really compare things that happen at club level with international football because the feelings aren’t the same. In terms of representing my country, though, this is without doubt the highlight of my career.”

For Brazil’s U-20 captain Danilo, football is far more than just a sport; the media attention it attracts gives him hope of one day being



ANDRIJA ZIVKOVIC

Date of birth

11 July 1996

Birthplace

Nis, Serbia

Height

1.70 m

Position

Midfielder

Current club

Partizan Belgrade

National team

Serbia U-20

Match-winner

After lifting the league title with Partizan Belgrade, Andrija Zivkovic wants to win the U-20 World Cup too.

5

DANILO

Date of birth

28 February 1996

Birthplace

Simoes Filho, Brazil

Height

1.82 m

Position

Midfielder

Current club

Braga

National team

Brazil U-20

Natural leader

Seleção captain Danilo shoulders responsibility both on and off the pitch.



"It is without doubt the highlight of my career."

Andrija Zivkovic

reunited with his father, who left the family home when Danilo was eight. "I was very small when my parents separated but I remember that day very clearly," he said. "Life goes on, even if you always have that sense of longing."

Danilo left his homeland and moved to Portuguese side Sporting Braga at the start of the 2014/15 campaign. He now divides his time between his club and Brazil's national youth teams, having made his international debut with the U-15s and accrued the experience that earned him the skipper's armband at New Zealand 2015. "He's spent a lot of time in Brazil's youth teams," said Brazil U-20 coach Rogerio Micale. "He's also a natural leader on the pitch and off it, which is what I look for in a captain."

Danilo and his team-mates did not have things all their own way in the knockout rounds. In the last 16, Uruguay put up a fight right until the end and the tie was only decided on penalties after the

match ended goalless. After Uruguay missed a spot-kick, Danilo converted his immediately afterwards, and did so again in the quarter-finals against Portugal, which likewise went to penalties.

Brandt eyeing Russia 2018

Germany had their sights set on glory in New Zealand, with a place in the semi-finals their minimum target. They came up short, however, after losing to Mali 4-3 on penalties in the last eight after the game ended 1-1. The game started promisingly for the Europeans and Bayer Leverkusen's Julian Brandt fired them ahead in the 38th minute. Souleymane Coulibaly equalised after the break and in extra-time the highly fancied Germans were unable to find the target again.

Last August Brandt won the U-19 European Championship and he has already made 37 Bundesliga appearances for Leverkusen, so has a wealth of experience despite his young age. "I came to New Zealand to play my part," said the modest youngster. "I also do a fair bit of talking on the pitch, but I don't see myself as a leading figure in the side."

Germany were hugely impressive in the group stage, where they scored a record-breaking 16 of their 18 tournament goals, and took that form into their last 16 encounter against Nigeria. Furthermore, they were well-drilled both in defence and attack, performed as a unit and enraptured fans with the kind of versatility that has become the

“Obviously I’m aware that in 2018 I’ll be at a good age to be getting involved in the World Cup.”

Julian Brandt

trademark of Germany’s national teams ever since last year’s World Cup. “I’m very proud of my team, who played very well in this tournament,” said coach Frank Wormuth. “We can go home with our heads held high.”

Brandt is eager to take the next step forward in his career, although he is determined not to rush things: “Obviously I’m aware that there’s a World Cup in 2018. I also know that I’ll be 22 by then and that’ll be a good age to be getting involved. But we’ve got so many good players in Germany at the moment and Marco Reus and Mario Gotze aren’t even among the oldest of them, so it’ll be difficult to break into that squad.”

CHRISTCHURCH – A SPECIAL CITY

For many years, Christchurch was famous for its peaceful, idyllic, uniquely laid-back atmosphere and clear sense of identity. Its English-inspired architecture and diverse recreational opportunities helped make the largest city on New Zealand’s South Island a special place indeed. That was then. The metropolis in the Canterbury region is still as striking and exceptional as ever, but since being struck by devastating earthquakes it is now undeniably different.

Everything changed in a matter of moments at 12.51pm on 22 February 2011. The earthquake with a magnitude of 6.3 hit the city during its lunch hour, inflicting near-total destruction. Tragically, some 185 people lost their lives and many thousands more were injured. Although reminders of this terrible natural catastrophe are still evident almost everywhere you look in this city of 350,000 people, the impressive and captivating sense of optimism that has long infused its streets makes it impossible not to love Christchurch. After much effort and at great expense, a more modern, colourful and creative downtown area has been created.

Over the past few weeks the local population have been streaming into the recently-completed stadium to be part of the FIFA U-20 World Cup, clearly proud to be welcoming the world to their city. The message is “Christchurch is back”, but the truth is that it never went away – and now its people are more enthusiastic than ever before. “When a city that has a reputation for being an excellent host loses its heart through a disaster – as our earthquakes have done – it doesn’t mean we lose our spirit,” said mayor Lianne Dalziel.

Andreas Alf



11

JULIAN BRANDT

Date of birth

2 May 1996

Birthplace

Bremen, Germany

Height

1.85 m

Position

Midfielder

Current club

Bayer Leverkusen

National team

Germany U-20

Nimble-footed

Julian Brandt has a keen eye for goal to go with his electric pace.

19

ADAMA TRAORE

Date of birth

28 June 1995

Birthplace

Bamako, Mali

Height

1.78 m

Position

Midfielder

Current club

Lille

National team

Mali U-20

Multi-talented

Be it as a No8 or as a No10, Adama Traore can play in different positions.



FIFA U-20 World Cup
30 May – 20 June 2015

KNOCKOUT STAGE**Quarter-finals • 14. June**

Match 45	Brazil	Portugal	0:0	(3:1) wop
Match 46	Mali	Germany	1:1	(4:3) wop
Match 47	USA	Serbia	0:0	(5:6) wop
Match 48	Uzbekistan	Senegal	0:1	

Semi-finals • 17. June

Match 49	Brazil	Senegal	5:0	
Match 50	Serbia	Mali	2:1 aet	

3rd Place Play-off • 20. June

Match 51	Senegal	Mali		
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Finale • 20. June

Match 52	Brazil	Serbia		
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“I do what’s asked of me”

Mali showed great quality throughout the competition, delighting fans with their courage, fluid short passing game and fantastic goals. Yet as impressive as the team performances were, one individual in particular stood out for the west Africans: Adama Traore. The midfielder made his Ligue 1 debut for Lille in March 2015 and became such an important player for the side that the club refused to release him for U-20 World Cup qualifying.

Given that backdrop, Traore was therefore all the happier when given permission to play in New Zealand, and he even scored in Mali’s first game. “It was really emotional for me when we finally scored,” a beaming Traore said afterwards. “We went over to the corner flag and danced to celebrate. We had heard a drum in the stands during the match, so that was our background beat. Sometimes I play as a No8 and other times I have to play as a No10, but I don’t attach much importance to it. What matters most is to do what’s asked of me, irrespective of the part of the pitch I find myself in.” ⚽

ON THE INSIDE

Denmark: Superliga

The start of something great



Roland Zorn is a Frankfurt-based football correspondent.

"The table lies!" Rasmus Ankersen, the 32-year-old chairman of FC Midtjylland,

has repeated this astonishing utterance time and again. It is just his way of saying that the league table is indicative of all the good and bad luck that has always helped make football such a fascinating sport. The innovative Dane, author of the best-selling "Gold Mine Effect" about how to find and foster real sporting talent, has always contended that "we're good when our analyses tell us that we're good."

At the end of this Danish Superliga season, Ankersen and his data gatherers and analysts were finally proved correct. And so was the league table, which showed the small club from Jutland, formed in 1999 from a merger between Herning Fremad and Ikast FS, four points ahead of record title holders

FC Copenhagen and sixteen points clear of Brøndby IF, the capital's other major club. FC Midtjylland have succeeded Aalborg BK as first-time Danish champions.

How could this have come about? There's no doubt that the innovative approach of men such as Ankersen, head coach Glen Riddersholm and British majority shareholder Matthew Benham, who pursues a similar strategy in his role as owner of English second-division outfit Brentford, has played a significant part in this success. It has been well worth poring over all the big data, and analysing algorithms and probability calculations with mathematical precision to get to the bottom of what makes Midtjylland tick. But the Danish tacticians refuse to admit that their concept has been overly cerebral. Ankersen has not succeeded with FC Midtjylland by dint of meticulous scientific research alone. He was formerly youth-team coach at the club, in which capacity he established Scandinavia's first major junior academy some ten years ago. The Midtjylland chairman is still extremely proud of the fact that "half of our professionals are home-grown." These include Pione Sisto, a 20-year-old midfielder who is the newly crowned champions' most sought-after talent.

Midtjylland's scouting policy also demonstrates that the club's success is down to much more than a successful laboratory experiment by a few football enthusiasts who believe in the power of numbers. The scouts set out to discover and develop previously underrated players, such as the Finn Tim Sparv, purchased last summer from German second-tier side Greuther Fürth to marshal the Danes' defensive midfield. It is this determination to become acquainted with the niches of the international market that has brought Midtjylland to the pinnacle of national league success. "We believe that meticulous data analysis can give us a competitive edge," says Ankersen.

The new Danish champions won the national title with four matchdays to spare thanks to a goalless draw against relegated FC Vestsjælland. They now hope to qualify for the group stage of the UEFA Champions League. As Ankersen insists: "We're working on achieving something great, and our task has only just begun." ⚽



FC Midtjylland
The club recently won their first ever league title.



Rebound Kaka celebrates his goal for Orlando.

USA: Major League Soccer

Orlando beat the heat to overcome DC United



Alan Schweingruber is a staff writer on *The FIFA Weekly*.

It really can get hot in Florida. In June and July, temperatures reach an annual high and by the evening of June 14 last, everyone in the sunshine state was sweltering. Even at 7pm the thermometer was reading over 90 degrees Fahrenheit – nearly 33 degrees Celsius – yet despite the heat the battle for top spot in Major League Soccer’s Eastern Conference still had to be contested.

Orlando City and their Brazilian superstar Kaka were hosting capital city table toppers D.C. United and the encounter promised plenty. To counter the climatic conditions,

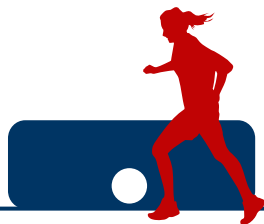
two official drinks breaks were scheduled for the first time in MLS history.

The heat hit the players as expected, with all of the shots on goal coming from distance. The game in Orlando’s Citrus Bowl was just the latest reminder why Washington-born Bill Hamid was voted best MLS goalkeeper last season. The 24-year-old remains behind Tim Howard in the national team’s pecking order, but he was the standout performer again on the day, making a number of spectacular saves. These included keeping out Kaka’s spot kick and it was only when the former Real Madrid star followed up with a header that Hamid was finally beaten.

Kaka’s rebound strike proved to be the match winner. The goal lifted Orlando City into third and after New England Revolution – one of the original members of the MLS – beat Chicago Fire 2-0, D.C. United’s lead at the top was cut to four points.

There are a number of questions still to be answered in the Western Conference,

meanwhile. For example, are Seattle Sounders finally in a position to win their first league title? Or will L.A. Galaxy defend their crown? Top-of-the-table Seattle sealed a comfortable 3-0 win against Dallas, while Galaxy could only manage a 1-1 draw in Ohio against Columbus Crew. Despite having played two games more than their rivals, Bruce Arena’s team are only in sixth, which might explain why they want to sign Ronaldinho. In terms of weather, there are certainly worse locations than California and the 35-year-old will certainly take the sunshine into consideration. Incidentally, 34-year-old Irish striker Robbie Keane has extended his contract at the club. ⚽



I learned from my older brother

Maren Mjelde fired home a magnificent free-kick in the group match against Germany. She credits her brother Erik with teaching her how to hit a dead ball back home in Norway.

Delivering a good free-kick is one of football's greatest skills, mastered perfectly only by a select few – and those who can count themselves among this elite are remembered by fans forever. Most can easily call to mind David Beckham's talent in this area or Roberto Carlos's legendary 1997 strike against France, which moved away from goal before swerving drastically back inside the post. Since last Thursday, Norway's Maren Mjelde can also consider herself part of this exclusive club.

The 25-year-old produced a masterpiece in the group match against Germany at the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™. The ball was in a central-left position just outside the penalty area, but between Mjelde and the goal stood a seven-woman wall and former FIFA Women's World Player of the Year Nadine Angerer. The Norwegian took a simple three-step run-up and lifted an ingenious shot under the crossbar and into the net, with the Germany goalkeeper powerless to do anything other than watch the ball go by.

Her magnificent strike levelled the scores for the Scandinavians at 1-1 in the 61st minute, and by the time the final whistle blew with the score unchanged, Google searches for the Norwegian's name were already yielding countless videos under titles such as "Mjelde's stunning free-kick against Germany". Understandably, the goalscorer herself was absolutely thrilled and almost speechless at what she had done. "I had some images of it in my head, but I can't remember it completely," she explained. "I'll definitely have to watch a couple of videos of it, but I know it was really powerful."

Impressing her opponents

The clearest sign that players have achieved something exceptional on a football pitch is when their opponents praise them as highly as their team-mates. "She struck it very well. I couldn't do anything about it, so it didn't make sense to

move; it would have been a waste of energy," an impressed Angerer said after the match. "That was a once-in-a-season free-kick," added Germany striker Alexandra Popp.

Mjelde attributes her goal to hours of hard graft rather than luck. "I work on free-kicks a lot," the defender explained. "I've taken plenty of them in the last few months and practise all the time – and now it's paid off."

She cites her older brother Erik, who plays for top-flight Norwegian side Sandefjord, as another factor in her success.

THE END OF THE GROUP STAGE

The group stage of the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™ is now complete and the 16 teams progressing to the knockout rounds have been confirmed. This means that eight sides have now been eliminated from the tournament. Eight nations qualified for the finals for the first time this year, so the question is: are these the teams now heading home? The answer is no. Three of the debutants – Cameroon, the Netherlands and Switzerland – have succeeded in making it to the next phase. This is a significant number, demonstrating that the decision to expand the field of World Cup participants from 16 to 24 sides this time was the correct one when it comes to the standard of play. The schedule for the rest of the competition can be found on page 19.

mpe



A stunning free-kick Maren Mjelde (front) curls the ball over the German wall and into the top corner of the goal.



Through to the last 16 Sweden, with Therese Sjogran (left), and Alanna Kennedy's Australia have both qualified for the knockout stages.



**THERE
WILL BE
HATERS**

“She struck it very well. I couldn’t do anything about it, so it didn’t make sense to move; it would have been a waste of energy.”

Nadine Angerer on Maren Mjelde’s free-kick

Her sibling has a powerful left foot and extensive experience in scoring directly from free-kicks. “I’ve learned quite a bit from him,” she explained, before adding with a smile: “I think he’ll have left some messages on my phone.” Those messages will have been more positive than after Norway’s first game against Thailand, when Mjelde’s spot-kick was saved by the goalkeeper.

Focused from the outset

“That penalty really annoyed me,” she said. “It was such a poor shot, so I promised myself that I’d score today if I got

the chance.” Her miss against the Asian side was less critical as Norway already held a clear lead helped by another goal from a direct free-kick, this time by captain Trine Ronning, who was forced to watch from the bench against Germany after sustaining an injury in the first match.

So with all these dead-ball specialists in the team, who does Mjelde believe is the best? “We’ve got a few players who can take good free-kicks. Trine is really powerful but above all she’s consistent and has scored plenty of goals.” ⚽

Marius Achatz

Standings after the group stage

Group A

Canada	3/5	2 : 1
China PR	3/4	3 : 3
Netherlands	3/4	2 : 2
New Zealand	3/2	2 : 3

Group B

Germany	3/7	15 : 1
Norway	3/7	8 : 2
Thailand	3/3	3 : 10
Côte d'Ivoire	3/0	3 : 16

Group C

Japan	3/9	4 : 1
Cameroon	3/6	9 : 3
Switzerland	3/3	11 : 4
Ecuador	3/0	1 : 17

Group D

USA	3/7	4 : 1
Australia	3/4	4 : 4
Sweden	3/3	4 : 4
Nigeria	3/1	3 : 6

Group E

Brazil	3/9	4 : 0
Korea Republic	3/4	4 : 5
Costa Rica	3/2	3 : 4
Spain	3/1	2 : 4

Group F

France	3/6	6 : 2
England	3/6	4 : 3
Colombia	3/4	4 : 3
Mexico	3/1	2 : 8

Round of 16 - 20 - 23 June

Match 37	China PR	Cameroon
Match 38	USA	Colombia
Match 39	Germany	Sweden
Match 40	France	Korea Republic
Match 41	Brazil	Australia
Match 42	Japan	Netherlands
Match 43	Norway	England
Match 44	Canada	Switzerland

Quarter-finals - 26 / 27 June

Match 45	Winner Match 37	Winner Match 38
Match 46	Winner Match 39	Winner Match 40
Match 47	Winner Match 41	Winner Match 42
Match 48	Winner Match 43	Winner Match 44

Semi-finals - 30 June / 1 July

Match 49	Winner Match 45	Winner Match 46
Match 50	Winner Match 47	Winner Match 48

Match for third place - 4 July

Match 51	Loser Match 49	Loser Match 50
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Final - 5 July

Match 52	Winner Match 49	Winner Match 50
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For all the latest news from the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™, visit
<http://www.fifa.com/womensworldcup>





First Love

Place: Koh Panyee, Thailand

Date: 1 Oktober 2014

Time: 9.29 a.m.

Photographer: Christophe Archambault



DEVELOP THE GAME

Developing football
everywhere and for all

TOUCH THE WORLD

Organising inspiring
tournaments

BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

Caring about society
and the environment

For the Game. For the World.

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

Develop the game

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

Build a better future

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

FIFA educates young All White hopefuls



FIFA 11+ Participants at the event at Wellington College.

New Zealand Football and the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) hosted a combined FIFA 11+ event at Wellington College. Attending the event were representatives of both organisations, as well as FIFA, the FIFA U-20 World Cup LOC and players from Wellington College and Rongotai College. The event aimed to get New Zealand's rising stars to think about preventing injuries and the impact injuries can have on their future.

FIFA 11+ is an injury prevention programme designed by world football's governing body that centres around a warm-up which reduces the risk of injury in football. With football growing in popularity in New Zealand, it is even more important to introduce a programme that is proven to reduce the risk of serious injury by 50 per cent and all injury by 30 per cent. ACC statistics show that in 2014 there were almost 43,000 claims for football related injuries.

Sid Miller, Chief Customer Officer at ACC, said: "If we can reduce that number by 30 per cent, that's around 13,000 people who won't have their season interrupted. It's a huge opportunity with programmes like this to really make a difference. To make a difference, not just now, but for the future. Taking care of yourself now has huge benefits. "It's really important for us to support programmes like this and help it grow."

Dr. Mark Fulcher, Medical Director at NZ Football, used anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries as an example of how FIFA 11+ can help prevent serious injuries. "If you tear your ACL it never heals completely again. Most people who play football at a high level who injure their ACL have an operation that takes them out of the game. It is the most common season-ending injury in the United States. There is the perception sometimes that injury is a part of sport. It doesn't have to be. Injuries will always be there, but we can reduce the risk."

Professor Jiri Dvorak, FIFA Chief Medical Officer, says the human suffering is huge. "On a global stage or scale with 300m football players it's not small, it's very big. We have to continue and enhance this collaboration in future. Our duty is to look after the health of you [the players] and allow you to play even at an older age. We have to keep football safe." 🌱

tfw



More democracy

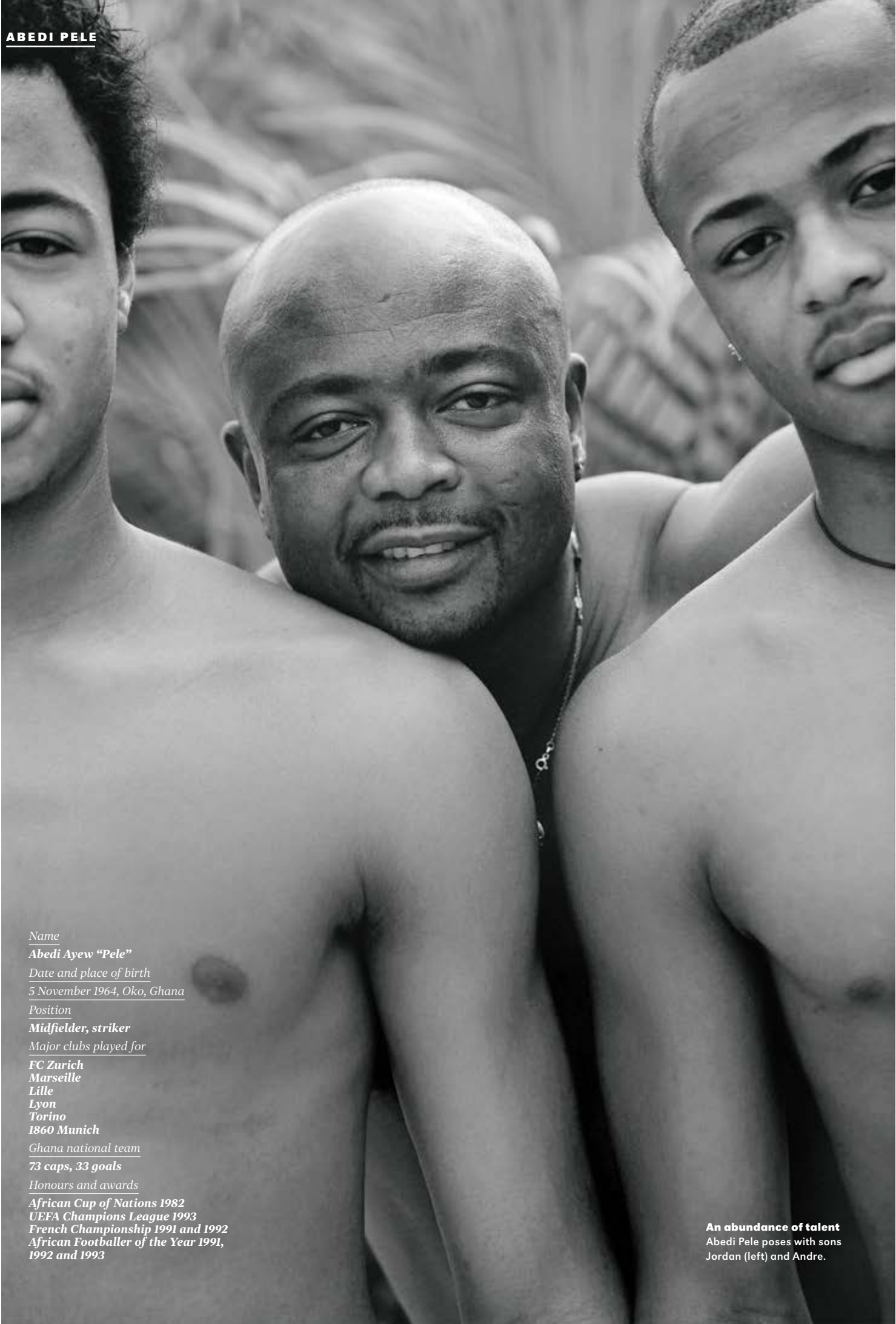
The future of FIFA has begun. At the extraordinary Executive Committee meeting on 20 July 2015, the wheels will be set in motion for an extraordinary elective Congress, at which decisions on extensive changes to the FIFA structure will also be made. The key is to strengthen democracy within the 'FIFA government'. The confederations must be proportionally represented according to the number of member associations they have. The fact that CAF, the African confederation boasting 54 members and the AFC, the Asian confederation with 46 members, only have five and four delegates respectively in the 25-person FIFA Executive is contradictory to this notion of democracy. At the same time we must also ensure that women are appropriately represented in the ExCo. World football's governing body is not a "men-only club". Approximately 50 per cent of the 450 employees at the Home of FIFA are women.

However, I am reluctant to take places away from anyone; there should not be a redistribution of seats on the Executive Committee but a commensurate expansion of this body.

Confederations must at the same time acknowledge their responsibility in matters of ethics. Only the Asian confederation has an Ethics Committee like the one introduced by FIFA. All other continental bodies are lacking in this regard.

Nonetheless, our new Executive Committee member, Wolfgang Niersbach from Germany, has put forward a motion I support. The President of the German Football Association has proposed an independent integrity check for all members of the most important FIFA Committees. In doing so, Niersbach has broached a subject that has so far been blocked by UEFA of all associations. Better late than never. The message he has thereby sent out must apply to everyone: only together can we continue to drive the process of reform forward. That is something I will stand for until my final day in office.

Best wishes, Sepp Blatter



Name

Abédi Ayew “Pele”

Date and place of birth

5 November 1964, Oko, Ghana

Position

Midfielder, striker

Major clubs played for

FC Zurich

Marseille

Lille

Lyon

Torino

1860 Munich

Ghana national team

73 caps, 33 goals

Honours and awards

African Cup of Nations 1982

UEFA Champions League 1993

French Championship 1991 and 1992

**African Footballer of the Year 1991,
1992 and 1993**

An abundance of talent
Abédi Pele poses with sons
Jordan (left) and Andre.

“Nobody can explain where our talent comes from”

Abedi Ayew “Pele” was once a gifted attacking midfielder for Olympique Marseille and Ghana – and now his three sons have forged successful professional careers of their own. **Massimo Franchi** sat down with the three-time African Footballer of the Year (1991, 1992 and 1993) to discuss family, talent and his first meeting with the ‘real’ Pele.

Abedi Pele, what do you make of the fact that all of your sons have become professional footballers?

Abedi Pele: I really do think it’s a miracle. I was the kids’ first coach and motivated and inspired each of them. Although I showed them some tips and tricks, that’s not enough in itself to actually become professionals – at least not at a high level.

Are your sons alike?

No, they’re all very different from one another. Jordan is the youngest at 23. He’s a full-blooded striker, a proper centre forward. He’s technically adept and can really make good use of his strengths. He scored 12 goals for Lorient in France’s Ligue 1 this season. Andre (*nicknamed ‘Dede’ – editor’s note*), my second eldest son, is 25 years old. He’s most similar to me. He’s an artist with the ball. It’s no accident that he wears the same No.10 shirt that I did at Marseille, where he scored ten times in the most recent campaign. His style is similar to mine and he plays predominantly on his left foot, but in addition to his technical abilities he also has a tremendous amount of mental strength. Andre is a tough competitor and can run for 120 minutes if he has to, just like a long-distance runner.

There’s still a defender missing from your ranks...

That’s right. Abdul Rahim is the oldest. He’s 27 years old now and the one of the three most suited to a defensive role. He’s particularly good at tackling – that’s one of his specialties. Two years ago he returned to

I've always considered Diego Maradona to be the greatest player of all time.

Ghana to play for the country's most successful side, Asante Kotoko, after gaining valuable experience in Europe with top-flight Belgian team Lierse.

Dede signed a four-year contract with Swansea City last week. What tipped the balance in the Welsh side's favour? Roma, Inter Milan, Tottenham, Everton and Newcastle had all expressed an interest.

His contract had expired so he decided to leave France, the country where he was born when I was playing in Lille, to go and have an experience abroad. We evaluated all the offers and he chose what he considered best from a professional perspective. Taking part in the next Champions League has never been a prerequisite for him; what matters is the project. He always loved the Premier

League and all his fellow Ghanaian internationals who have played there have raved about it – Asamoah Gyan, Michael Essien, Sulley Muntari... He was ultimately swayed by French-Senegalese forward Bafetimbi Gomis, his former Lyon and now new Swansea strike partner, who praised the Swans' way of life, virtues and achievements. It wasn't easy, however, to leave Olympique Marseille, where he arrived at the youth academy as a 15-year-old. After the last match against Bastia at the Stade Velodrome he couldn't hold back the tears in front of their fans.

You come from a footballing family, as your younger brother Kwame Ayew also enjoyed an excellent professional career. What was he like as a player?

Yes, Kwame was the perfect striker: quick, two-footed, tough and incredibly efficient in the box. He created goals wherever he played, from Saudi Arabia, Italy and Portugal to Turkey and China.

It seems we have your father to thank for this remarkable footballing dynasty.

Yes, Papa Ayew – although he never played football himself! The talent that arrived in our family came about like some kind of miracle. Nobody can really explain it. Unfortunately my father only lived to see Abdul Rahim born, as he passed away in 1989.

What was the best moment of your career – and which was the worst?

The best was winning the Champions League with Marseille in 1993. I delivered



In front of the family home
Father Abedi Pele with Andre
(centre) and Jordan.

the corner from which Basile Boli scored the winning header against AC Milan. Before that we lost the 1991 European Cup final to Red Star Belgrade after a penalty shoot-out, while the following year Ghana were beaten by Côte d'Ivoire in the African Cup of Nations final – also on penalties. Although that was tough, you've always got to try and think positively in life and put negative things behind you as quickly as possible.

When did you first meet your 'namesake' Pele?

In December 1991 in New York for the qualifying group draw for the 1994 World Cup in the USA. We were at Madison Square Garden in the middle of Manhattan. Pele said he knew about my name and even wanted to have his photo taken with me. A short while later we met again at the Home of FIFA in Zurich. I have the utmost respect for him.

Was he the greatest player of all time?

To be completely honest, I've always considered Diego Maradona to be the greatest as we were part of the same generation and I watched him play in person. But when you listen to older fans who saw the Brazilian play, you suddenly become less sure about your own opinion. I think perhaps Pele was just as great.

As a teenager at the start of your career, you played a season with FC Zurich in Switzerland. What are your memories of that adventure?

I was given the opportunity to make a name for myself, but it wasn't very easy for me at all. I arrived during the winter break from Qatar, where I'd been playing for Al Sadd, for what was my first spell in Europe. At that time of year in Zurich there was a lot of snow, it was cold and everyone spoke German, a language that was completely alien to me. New Zealander Wynton Rufer was one of the team's stars at that time. He helped me to settle in a great deal and we became good friends. He also had a great career, and now he's Papua New Guinea's head coach.

Have you ever considered becoming president of the Ghana Football Association?

No, not yet, but if the opportunity should arise one day then why not? You should never say never when it comes to things like that, particularly if people want you to do it.

Why has no African team yet managed to reach the semi-finals of a World Cup?

Our football is much closer to that of Europe or South America than it was 50 years ago, not least thanks to the Goal programme introduced by President Blatter. And don't forget that Ghana already had one foot in the semi-final when Suarez saved the ball on the line with his hand in the 120th minute of the match against Uruguay in 2010. The referee awarded a penalty but unfortunately Gyan hit the bar, otherwise the game would have ended with a win for Ghana. At times the margins are very small. ☹️



Name

Jordan Pierre Ayew

Date and place of birth

11 September 1991, Marseille, France

Position

Striker

Clubs played for

**2009–2014 Marseille
2014 Sochaux (loan)
since 2014 Lorient**

Ghana national team

26 caps, 6 goals

Name

Andre Morgan Rami Ayew

Date and place of birth

17 December 1989, Seclin, France

Position

Striker

Clubs played for

**2007–2015 Marseille
2008–2009 Lorient (loan)
2009–2010 Arles (loan)
since 2015 Swansea City**

Ghana national team

63 caps, 11 goals

Zurich was my first club in Europe;
it wasn't easy for me. There was snow
everywhere and it was cold.

Every Moment Counts



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Cooling glove box



Rear door bottle holders



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The finals

Perikles Monioudis

A strong attack wins you games, but a strong defence wins you titles. Isn't that how the saying goes? Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho, who recently guided Chelsea to the English Premier League title, swears by this philosophy, as does the legendary Giovanni Trapattoni, whose tactical methods were conceived during the "Catenaccio" era. In actual fact, Mourinho's controlled defensive approach couldn't be more different to the slow, suffocating style of the Catenaccio system.

Other coaches, meanwhile, prefer to stick to their attacking principles for the duration of an entire season. They do so regardless of whether or not they were goal-getters themselves during their playing days – although the likes of Jürgen Klinsmann and Kevin Keegan seem to prove that former forwards never lose their offensive flair.

Of course, league championships and tournaments are governed by entirely different laws. At major sporting events such as the FIFA World Cup™ finals, a confident coach will expect his team to take part in more than three matches, while an ambitious coach might prepare his side for seven games, including the final. Compared with a domestic league campaign, which typically comprises 38 or 34 encounters, only a handful of games are played at a tournament and thus a team is required to perform to its full potential over a comparatively short period. The squad is, however, together for rather longer in the run-

up to the event: the idea is that it should develop into a cohesive unit during the six weeks or more of preparation, training camp, travel to the host nation and ultimately the tournament itself. That is why, when selecting his World Cup squad, a coach not only considers factors such as a player's ability to perform to his full potential over a few matches, but also "softer" attributes such as sociability. It doesn't matter how good a player is: if he scuppers the coach's efforts to unite the team for weeks on end, the latter would be well advised to leave him out of the squad, otherwise the team performance may well suffer.

The FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™ and the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015™ are currently capturing the imaginations of fans the world over. In both competitions, certain nations are appearing in their first ever World Cup and they have done their countries proud. However, you could tell that some of the teams were running out of steam towards the end of the group stage.

Attack, defence, psychology and team chemistry – it doesn't matter which approach you favour. As another famous saying goes, the truth is on the pitch. ☺

The weekly column by our staff writers



GENERAL INFORMATION

Country:

Guam

FIFA Trigramme:

GUM

Continent:

Asia

Capital:

Agana

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Surface area:

549 km²

Highest point:

Mount Lamlam 405 m

Neighbouring seas and oceans:

Philippine Sea, Pacific Ocean

MEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Ranking:

174th

World Cup:

no appearances

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Ranking:

86th

World Cup:

no Appearances

LATEST RESULTS

Men's:

Guam - India 2:1

16 June 2015

Women's:

Hong Kong - Guam 3:0

18 November 2014

FIFA INVESTMENTS

Since 2002:

\$ 4,932,000

Switzerland – beach soccer pioneers

Few people in the world know beach soccer better than Angelo Schirinzi. Author of a handbook on the sport, the 42-year-old is also a FIFA instructor and will be Switzerland's player-coach at this summer's FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Portugal™ from 9 to 19 July. "Portugal against Switzerland would be a great final."

FIFA.com: Angelo, how excited are you about the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, which begins on 9 July?

Angelo Schirinzi: I've been very excited since we qualified last September. We managed to do it convincingly too. I'm also delighted that we've brought so many young players into the team.

What are you aiming to achieve in Portugal?

To get as far as we possibly can. We'll be going with that mindset. We reached the final of the European qualifiers, which shows that the potential is there. Our preparations have been spot on so far and we'll get the players in perfect shape. We'll also need to have confidence in ourselves, though. Portugal against Switzerland would be a great final. We'd beat Russia in the semis and Portugal would beat Brazil. That would be fantastic (*laughs*).

What are your team's strengths?

The camaraderie in the dressing room. The team spirit is fantastic and we've grown as a unit in the last few years. On top of all that the players have also got a great understanding of tactics.

Aside from your coaching trips, you also do a lot of travelling on behalf of FIFA. How many countries have you visited in the last few years?

I couldn't tell you. More than 50 for sure. I've had a lot of experiences, I can tell you.

It sounds like you need a map of the world in your office with flags showing all the places you've been to.

(*Laughs*) Yes, that's a great idea! I've thought about it but haven't actually got round to it. It would be a really good birthday present.

What do beach soccer seminars involve?

Before I travel with FIFA, the coaches receive their invitations and all the preparations are made. It's interesting to work with

people from different parts of the world because they all have their own views on the game. The mindset in Africa is different to Asia, for example. I was in Miami and the Caribbean not so long ago and it was fantastic. Everyone was very motivated. As a player/coach, I have a lot of things to say, and we rounded the seminar off with practical and theory units. It's great to get to meet so many people.

How do you see the developments made by beach soccer in the last few years?

When I started out in 2001 the sport was still very much in its infancy. Then along came FIFA in 2005 and they organised the World Cup, which triggered this massive boom. Beach soccer has just grown and grown since then. It's incredible. If you look back a few years, there were just a handful of teams playing in the European qualifiers. Now there are 24. It's the same in the Caribbean. Last year there were eight teams taking part, and this time there were 16. Next time there will be 25. That's a lot of growth.

Where do you think improvements can still be made?

The national teams have come on a lot since FIFA started getting involved, though it's true that the national associations usually forget about the grassroots. We need to organise national leagues and work on the women's and youth games. That's what's needed in my view. Switzerland is playing a pioneering role, though. We have a league that's staged in 14 cities between May and September, as well as beach soccer camps for children, a women's league and much more besides. We're doing a lot, but more needs to be done on a global level.

What attributes do you need to be a good beach soccer player?

First and foremost you have to enjoy playing football. Footballers like playing on grass and in the street but it's more fun on

sand. There are more things you can do, like bicycle kicks. When you play on sand you don't get hurt or injured when you fall. You have to be in good physical shape if you want to play professionally and you have to be able to read the game. That's very important because it's a faster game on sand than it is on grass. In technical terms, it's a very demanding sport. You have to play a direct game and you need to be decisive in finishing moves off. To play on sand you really need to adapt.

Are beach soccer players just as good on grass as they are on sand, and vice versa?

My view is that not every 11-a-side player can play beach soccer, but every beach soccer player would make a good footballer on grass.

What memories do you have of the 2009 Beach Soccer World Cup and Switzerland's sensational run to the final?

It was a massive surprise. We nearly didn't make it there, and almost went out in the decisive final qualifier. We kept on training and trying to improve, though, and when we finally booked our place to the finals we felt a tremendous sense of relief. To play in the World Cup was a dream for us, and when we clinched qualification the players just burst into tears. The World Cup itself was just amazing. Nobody expected it, and to reach the final was a dream come true. Though we couldn't beat Brazil, we went home with a medal and Dejan Stankovic walked away with two individual FIFA awards. It's hard to put it into words. ☺

*Angelo Schirinzi was speaking to
Thanh Nguyen*

Name

Angelo Schirinzi

Date and place of birth

5 November 1972, Basel, Switzerland

Position

Striker

Clubs played for

since 2002: Sable Dancers Bern

Major honours

Beach Soccer European champion 2005

FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup runner-up 2009

European Beach Soccer League 2012

Swiss champion 2013, 2014

Swiss Cup winner 2013

Switzerland national team

Player-coach since 2001, 304 caps



T H E N

Watford, England



1938

Watford goalkeeper Jim McLaren poses for a photo ahead of an FA Cup match.

N

O

W

Stoke-on-Trent, England



2010

Danish shot-stopper Thomas Sørensen warms up for Stoke City.



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Film's footballing heroes

Ronald Düker



It is a rare occurrence for football to make an appearance on the big screen. Little wonder really, given that sport is usually a footnote in the film business. In any event, any exceptions to the rule are usually movies about US sports – basketball, baseball or American football.

The 1981 picture 'Escape to Victory' (known by its title 'Victory' in North America), directed by revered American filmmaker John Huston, gave football its time in the Hollywood limelight. Huston succeeded in assembling a stellar ensemble cast for the project, a clutch of names that enthused film-lovers and football fans alike. Max von Sydow, Michael Caine and Sylvester Stallone signed up, as did FIFA World Cup™ winners Bobby Moore and Pele. Footballers would be playing actors and actors playing footballers: such a combination had rarely been seen before.

The setting was a German prisoner-of-war camp in World War Two, with much more than a simple game of football at stake. The inmates from a multitude of countries are challenged with forming a football team from among their ranks. In order to give them a change from the monotony of daily prison life, a match is arranged against a team of German soldiers. When the German leadership catch wind of the idea they duly decide to stage the game in Paris as a publicity stunt – a demonstration to the world of the supposedly friendly manner in which their imprisoned enemies are treated. The prisoners, however, sense an opportunity for freedom and contrive their own plan to

escape from their captors via a tunnel in the bowels of the stadium in which the match will be played. Members of the French Resistance provide assistance.

Huston was the man who set this exciting plot in motion, but the film is not without its snippets of unintentional humour that do not leave an altogether positive impression. When actors are required to imitate the movements of artists – or athletes – the result is rarely flawless (as anyone who has seen Klaus Kinski playing the virtuoso violinist Niccolò Paganini will know), and Victory does betray some moments of implausibility.

Sylvester Stallone, for example, handles a Kalashnikov markedly more convincingly in his other films than he does a football in this one. Huston did cast more real footballers than just Moore and Pele, however. Argentine midfielder Osvaldo Ardiles, Belgian striker Paul van Himst and Polish playmaker Kazimierz Deyna also featured. These guys could really handle a football in front of a camera, even if their acting left something to be desired.

Football is and remains the most beautiful ball game in the world, regardless of the fact that in 'Escape to Victory', the game is literally about life and death. Yet it is the result of the match itself – after a breathtakingly exciting 90 minutes of football – that sticks in the memory as the credits begin to roll on a film that remains enduringly popular. For that, any imperfections from Huston's squad of part-time actors can surely be forgiven. ⚽

"We all have the same objective. Everyone wants to win the European Championship. Whoever is named in the starting line-up will be prepared to give their all for the rest of the squad. Respect is the most important thing and we're respecting each other, despite the competitive nature of the situation."

German international goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen on the competition for places at the UEFA Under-21 European Championship

"I would like to bring all my experience from Barcelona and all of the values I learned in La Masia: sacrifice, hard work, humility – I want to bring everything I was taught with me. I also want to immerse myself in this wonderful culture and, with all the humility in the world, I want to play my part with what I have learned at Barcelona."

Xavi on his new life in Qatar

"Of course I haven't been a head coach for long, but I'm approaching this new challenge with an awful lot of self-belief."

New Schalke 04 head coach Andre Breitenreiter

"A lot of people think that we neither have the time, nor the space to play football. But you can play football all week, from eight in the evening until midnight. Men, women, children – everybody plays."

Ecuador women's international Denise Andrea Pesantes on playing football on the Galapagos Islands



FIFA PARTNER

“Fate made my decision for me”



As an 11-year-old, Nadine Angerer had the choice of pursuing football or handball. She left the decision up to fortune.

There have been lots of special moments in my career. Like when I was named 2013 FIFA World Player of the Year. Or the European Championship final in the same year, when I saved two penalties as we won 1-0. Or at the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup™ in China, when we became world champions without conceding a goal.

It actually has more to do with luck that I ended up between the posts. I'd previously been a striker – and I was even top scorer once – but a day came when I filled in as goalkeeper because we had some injuries in the team. Even though I preferred scoring goals to saving them, that one-off became a more regular thing, and at some point I never came out of goal again. But all that's just a footnote compared to the moment – a simple, almost existential choice – that had the most decisive influence my career.

I was 11 years old and I had a decision to make that would basically determine what path I took. Looking back, there's a bit of Russian roulette to the situation, but instead of a revolver, I had two slips of folded paper.

I was good at a lot of sports when I was a kid. I played football but I was also in a handball club, and, like my mother, was a good triathlete as well. Football and handball were my main sports, and in both of them I'd made it into the regional Bavarian squad – now I had to decide which one to pursue to get to the next level. I deliberated on it for weeks and weighed up the pros and cons of both, but I still couldn't choose. Then one day I just decided to leave it

up to chance. I took two sheets of paper, wrote 'handball' on one and 'football' on the other, carefully folded them both very small and went with my mother out onto the balcony of our apartment. I took the two bits of paper in my hand, gave them a good shake, closed my eyes and dropped them on the table – and then picked one of them. Fate decided that I'd play football.

I wasn't really emotional when I unfolded the paper and saw 'football', since I liked both sports. With hindsight you can obviously say I made the right decision, but you can't really judge it against anything, since I don't know what the alternative would have been like. Perhaps I'd also have been a decent handball player – who knows. At the end of the day it's pointless asking, 'What if?'

I'm extremely satisfied with how my football career has turned out – it couldn't have gone any better. I'm into my 20th year as a national team player and I still have a lot of ambitions. Like a third World Cup win in Canada this summer. ☺

Name

Nadine Angerer

Date and place of birth

18 November 1978, Lohr, Germany

Position

Goalkeeper

Clubs

**1995–1996 1. FC Nuremberg, Germany
1996–1999 Wacker Munich, Germany
1999–2001 Bayern Munich, Germany
2001–2007 Turbine Potsdam, Germany
2008 Djurgårdens IF, Sweden
2009–2013 1. FFC Frankfurt, Germany
2013–2014 Brisbane Roar, Australia
2014 Portland Thorns, USA
2014 Brisbane Roar, Australia
2015 Portland Thorns, USA**

Selected honours

World champion 2003, 2007; European champion 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2013; Olympic bronze medallist 2000, 2008; FIFA World Player of the Year 2013; European Footballer of the Year 2013

German national team

142 caps (15 June 2015)

Adapted by Rainer Hennies

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

Leader
 Moves into top ten
 Moves out of top ten
 Matches played in total
 Most matches played
 Biggest move by points
 Biggest move by ranks
 Biggest drop by points
 Biggest drop by ranks

Germany (unchanged)
France (9th, up 2)
Switzerland (11th, down 2)
44
Madagascar, Namibia (6 matches each)
Madagascar (up 122 points)
Madagascar (up 37 ranks)
Rwanda (down 128 points)
Maldives (down 38 ranks)



Last updated:
 4 June 2015

Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points
1	Germany	0	1775	55	Egypt	-4	596	109	Canada	6	290	162	Malaysia	4	121
2	Belgium	1	1509	56	Congo DR	-2	591	110	Benin	-16	289	164	Hong Kong	5	118
3	Argentina	-1	1496	57	Turkey	-5	590	111	Botswana	-7	285	165	Yemen	3	117
4	Colombia	0	1435	58	Korea Republic	-1	587	112	St Vincent and the Grenadines	-2	279	166	Bangladesh	3	116
5	Brazil	0	1392	59	Gabon	-4	583	113	Madagascar	37	278	167	Puerto Rico	0	114
6	Netherlands	0	1378	60	Republic of Ireland	2	581	114	St Kitts and Nevis	-2	275	168	Dominica	-3	112
7	Portugal	0	1229	61	Peru	2	546	115	Azerbaijan	1	272	169	New Caledonia	6	111
8	Uruguay	0	1183	62	Bulgaria	5	537	116	Dominican Republic	2	257	170	Pakistan	3	106
9	France	2	1164	63	Australia	1	532	117	Niger	2	251	171	US Virgin Islands	3	104
10	Spain	0	1147	64	Norway	6	528	118	Palestine	23	242	172	Chad	-20	100
11	Switzerland	-2	1146	65	Jamaica	9	524	119	Zimbabwe	4	238	173	Turkmenistan	-14	99
12	Romania	0	1115	66	Burkina Faso	0	520	119	Libya	-7	238	174	Guam	2	97
13	Italy	0	1101	67	Trinidad and Tobago	-2	519	121	Syria	4	234	175	Laos	3	94
14	Costa Rica	1	1056	68	Zambia	-8	517	122	Lesotho	-1	226	176	Mauritius	9	90
15	England	-1	1051	69	South Africa	-10	515	123	Kenya	-6	220	177	Kyrgyzstan	-24	89
16	Czech Republic	2	1036	70	Montenegro	5	513	124	Moldova	-4	219	178	Maldives	-38	86
17	Slovakia	2	1012	71	Uganda	0	504	125	Kuwait	1	218	178	Cambodia	1	86
18	Croatia	-1	992	72	Venezuela	-3	497	126	Bermuda	2	217	178	Chinese Taipei	1	86
19	Chile	-3	989	73	United Arab Emirates	-5	496	127	Vietnam	-3	215	181	Montserrat	-9	74
20	Austria	5	946	74	Uzbekistan	-2	479	127	Tanzania	-20	215	182	Tahiti	3	71
21	Algeria	-1	941	75	Honduras	1	462	129	Thailand	13	207	183	Nepal	-2	70
22	Wales	-1	929	76	Haiti	3	442	129	Liechtenstein	-2	207	184	Brunei Darussalam	-2	69
23	Mexico	-1	926	77	Togo	3	438	131	Luxembourg	6	201	185	Macau	-2	66
24	Côte d'Ivoire	-1	916	78	Finland	0	410	132	Barbados	-2	196	186	Sri Lanka	2	64
25	Greece	-1	899	79	China PR	3	409	133	Kazakhstan	1	195	187	Seychelles	2	60
26	Russia	1	833	80	Belarus	3	400	134	Burundi	-12	194	188	São Tomé e Príncipe	2	58
27	USA	1	823	81	Mozambique	5	391	135	Lebanon	9	188	189	Cayman Islands	2	48
28	Scotland	2	818	82	Latvia	3	390	136	St Lucia	-5	186	190	Comoros	-5	44
29	Tunisia	2	808	83	Sierra Leone	5	387	137	Philippines	0	183	190	Solomon Islands	2	44
29	Denmark	0	808	84	Armenia	-7	383	138	New Zealand	6	180	192	San Marino	2	40
31	Ecuador	3	806	85	Paraguay	-4	382	139	Georgia	0	173	193	Turks and Caicos Islands	-10	33
32	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	802	86	Iraq	0	381	139	Tajikistan	4	173	194	British Virgin Islands	4	29
32	Poland	3	802	87	Cyprus	9	377	141	Central African Republic	3	161	195	Fiji	1	28
34	Ghana	-8	800	88	Angola	1	374	141	India	6	161	196	Bahamas	2	26
35	Ukraine	-2	784	89	Bolivia	3	371	143	Myanmar	15	160	197	South Sudan	-4	24
36	Senegal	0	782	89	El Salvador	-5	371	144	Curaçao	4	159	198	Samoa	-2	21
37	Iceland	1	769	91	Estonia	2	370	145	Malta	4	154	199	Mongolia	1	19
38	Cape Verde Islands	-1	746	92	Morocco	-2	369	146	Timor-Leste	5	151	200	Vanuatu	-5	17
39	Sweden	0	737	93	Guatemala	-3	348	146	Korea DPR	10	151	200	Tonga	1	17
40	Israel	6	725	94	Rwanda	-21	346	148	Liberia	-16	149	202	Papua New Guinea	0	13
41	Iran	-1	717	95	Malawi	2	345	149	Mauritania	-20	146	203	American Samoa	0	12
42	Hungary	1	685	96	Lithuania	4	341	150	Suriname	5	141	204	Andorra	0	8
43	Nigeria	2	681	97	Qatar	2	334	151	Aruba	-15	138	204	Eritrea	0	8
44	Northern Ireland	-2	676	98	Saudi Arabia	-3	329	151	Afghanistan	-16	138	206	Somalia	0	6
45	Guinea	-4	673	99	Ethiopia	2	324	151	Nicaragua	3	138	207	Djibouti	0	4
45	Serbia	-1	673	100	FYR Macedonia	5	321	154	Singapore	8	136	207	Cook Islands	0	4
47	Congo	2	666	101	Oman	-4	319	155	Guinea-Bissau	-23	131	209	Anguilla	0	2
48	Slovenia	-1	653	102	Faroe Islands	0	318	155	Indonesia	4	131				
49	Cameroon	-1	641	103	Jordan	0	316	155	Belize	4	131				
50	Equatorial Guinea	11	635	104	Antigua and Barbuda	2	313	158	Guyana	5	129				
51	Albania	6	624	105	Namibia	9	303	159	Bhutan	4	128				
52	Japan	-2	623	106	Bahrain	2	299	160	Gambia	-3	124				
52	Mali	4	623	107	Cuba	2	295	160	Grenada	11	124				
54	Panama	-1	597	108	Sudan	3	292	162	Swaziland	14	121				



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S U D O K U

The objective of Sudoku is to fill a 9x9 grid with digits so that each of the numbers from 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each column, row and 3x3 sub-grid.

1

EASY

		3		8	7		2	
	8	1						
2			4	1	5			
	9		2	6		5		
		2				1		
		8		3	4		6	
			5	9	8			7
						6	1	
	4		1	7		9		

2

MEDIUM

4						7		
2			5	3				
	6		1	7			9	4
6	1					3		
	4		3		6		2	
		7					6	1
1	9			8	3		7	
				9	2			8
		4						9

3

HARD

						9		
5					4	1	2	6
	1	2				7		
			6		7	8	4	
3	9			2			6	1
	8	4	1		5			
		1				6	9	
9	7	3	5					8
		8						



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