

# THE WEEKLY

FIFA

Fédération Internationale de Football Association – Since 1904

## SUMMIT OF VIRTUAL FOOTBALL

GRAND FINAL  
MUNICH 2015



FIFA  
INTERACTIVE  
WORLD CUP

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**SEPP BLATTER**  
FULL POWER  
AGAINST RACISM

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**FC BARCELONA**  
THE INGENUOUS SYSTEM  
BUILT AROUND LIONEL MESSI

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**CANADA 2015**  
CHRISTIE RAMPONE'S  
IMPRESSIVE CAREER

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**To your consoles!**

After more than a million gamers took part in qualifying for the FIFA Interactive World Cup 2015, the top 20 met in Munich to battle it out on their consoles. Perikles Monioudis was there to report on fast thumbs, perfect passing and celebrated victories.

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**The long way back**

After their enforced relegation in 2012, Glasgow Rangers are in the hunt for promotion back to Scotland's top flight.

23

**Sepp Blatter**

In his weekly column, the FIFA President reflects upon the fact that football is for everyone, declaring that "we must show racism the red card. Forever!"

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**Countdown to Canada 2015**

Eniola Aluko is the perfect embodiment of England's new-found confidence. At the FIFA Women's World Cup™, she and her team are keen to prove that they can compete at the highest level.



**Summit of virtual football**

The cover photograph was taken on 19 May 2015 in Munich. It shows the interior of the city's Volkstheater, where the final took place later that same day.

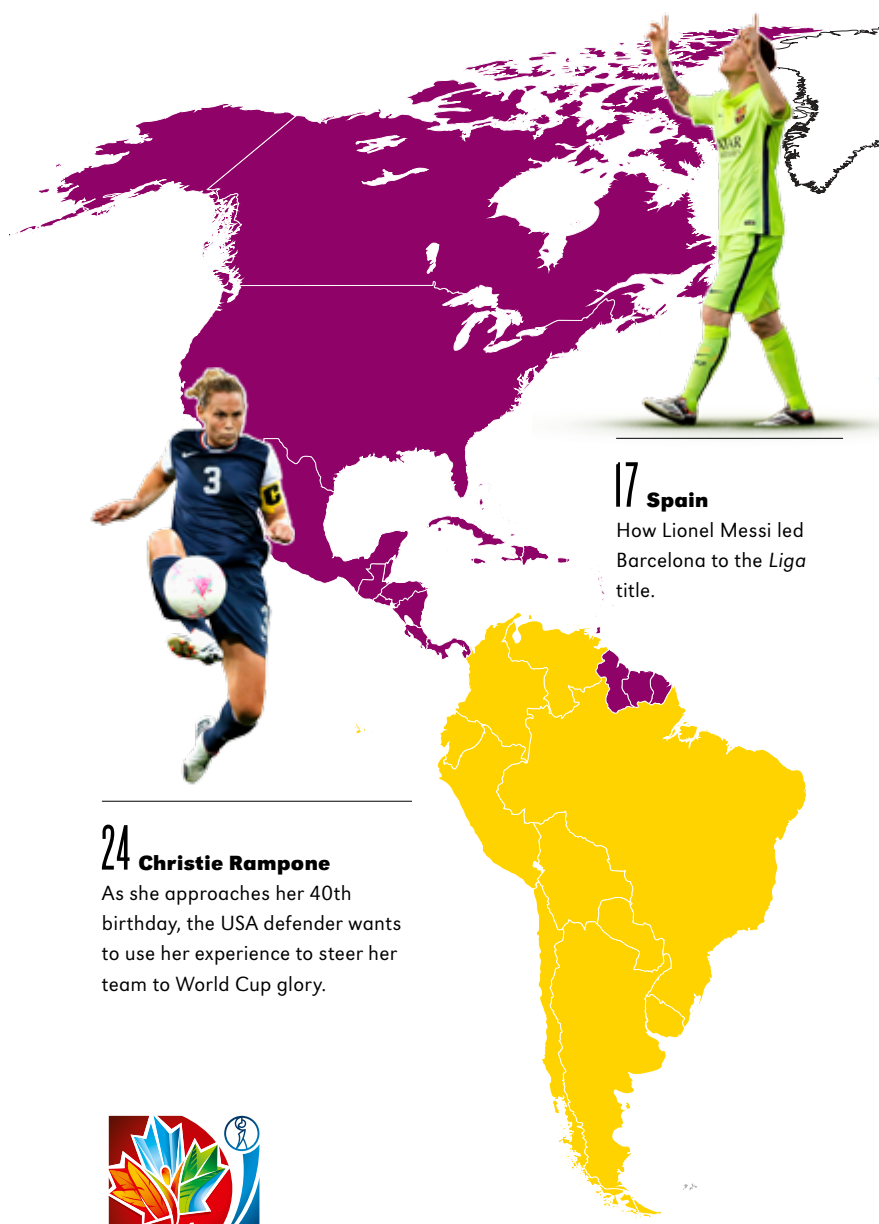
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17

**Spain**

How Lionel Messi led Barcelona to the Liga title.

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**Christie Rampone**

As she approaches her 40th birthday, the USA defender wants to use her experience to steer her team to World Cup glory.



Canada 2015 · Groups A+B

**Group A**

- Canada
- China PR
- New Zealand
- Netherlands

**Group B**

- Germany
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Norway
- Thailand



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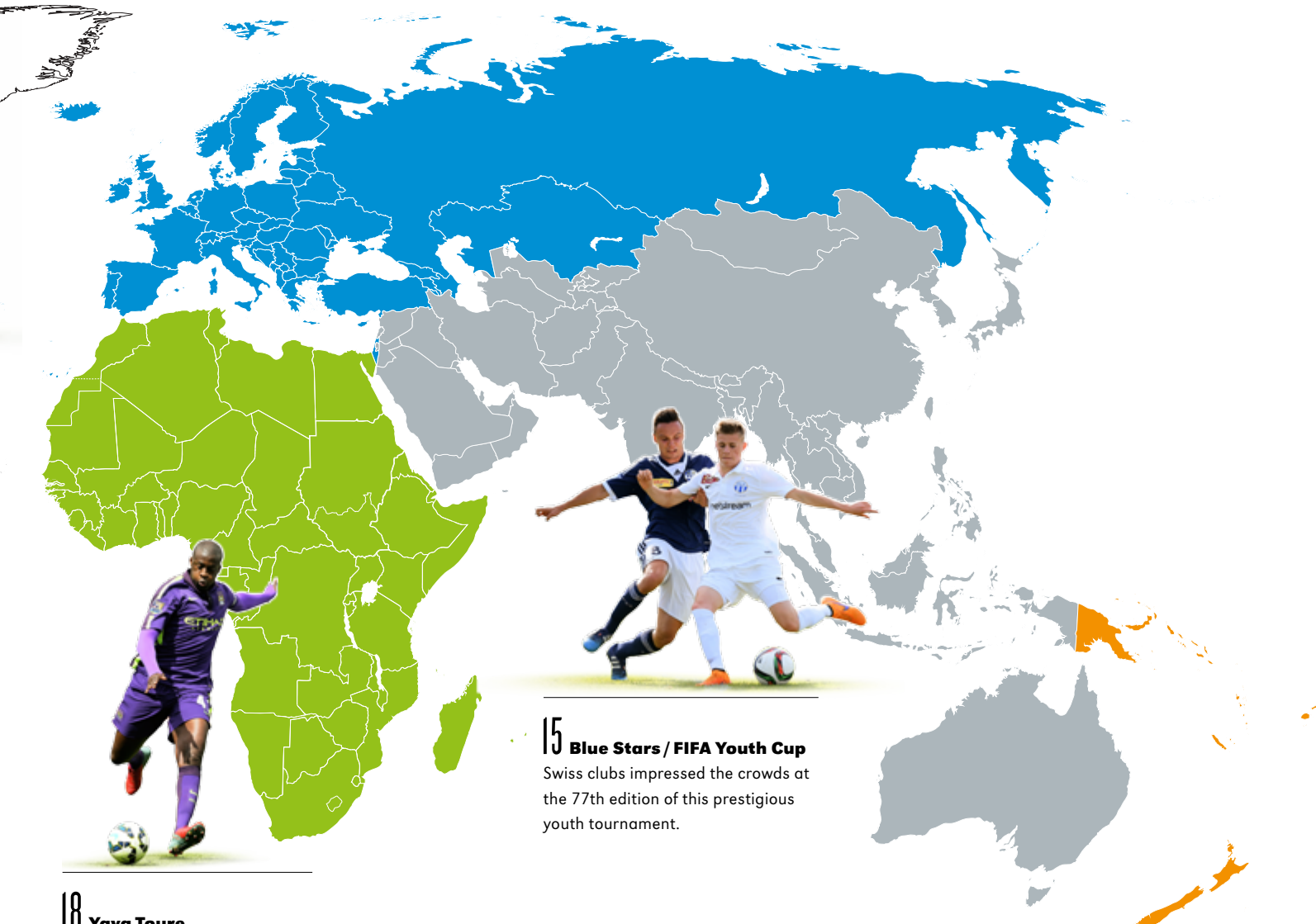
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**18 Yaya Toure**

The four-time African Footballer of the Year is joining forces with FIFA to fight racism.

**15 Blue Stars / FIFA Youth Cup**  
Swiss clubs impressed the crowds at the 77th edition of this prestigious youth tournament.

Canada 2015 · Groups C – F

**Group C**

- Japan
- Switzerland
- Cameroon
- Ecuador

**Group D**

- USA
- Australia
- Sweden
- Nigeria

**Group E**

- Brazil
- Korea Republic
- Spain
- Costa Rica

**Group F**

- France
- England
- Colombia
- Mexico



# THERE WILL BE HATERS



## The 1966 idea

**A**t first Ralph Baer was ridiculed. The year was 1966, and he had hit upon the idea of using home television sets for a second purpose – as a gaming device for both children and adults. The qualified television engineer had been developing a machine capable of controlling on-screen images, but his employer did not think much of the concept. Only in 1972 did Baer finally make his breakthrough with a ping-pong simulation as electronics company Magnavox first put his console – now named the Magnavox Odyssey – on the market for \$100.

It is difficult to imagine where we would be today if Baer's innovation had never come to fruition all those years ago. Although another inventor may well have developed a different prototype, it is likely that Atari's globally successful game Pong would never have existed without the foundations laid by the German-born American, while the gameplay of today's EA SPORTS™ FIFA would probably be far less slick. That primitive table tennis game, with two simple white bars moving up and down the sides of the screen, has created an entire virtual world that is deceptively reminiscent of real life.

Messi, Ronaldo and Schweinsteiger delivered some of their most impressive performances within this fictional environment this week as 20 of the world's best gamers gathered in Munich. Starting on page six, Perikles Monioudis shares his experiences of visiting the Grand Final Munich 2015 of the FIFA Interactive World Cup in our main report. 🎮

*Alan Schweingruber*



**MUNICH'S VOLKSTHEATER**

Lyes Ould-Ramoul (left) and newly-crowned world champion Abdulaziz Alshehri contest their semi-final.

# INSIDE THE FOOTBALL NETWORK

More than 1.2 million players from 206 countries took part in the FIFA Interactive World Cup 2015. *Perikles Monioudis* writes from the Grand Final in Munich, where the 20 best gamers from across the globe gathered to crown a new champion. Photos by Christian Nilson.

**M**unich sparkles. A clear blue sky arches across this sun-drenched Bavarian city, making it feel like the height of summer in mid-May. Under the large, bright marquees erected in the picturesque Hofgarten, twenty young men kitted out in white Adidas shirts, blue tracksuit jackets and black trainers sit eating plates of duck or veal and chatting with their companions, media representatives and, most importantly, with their rivals. Although things will get serious just three hours from now as the group stage of the FIFA Interactive World Cup Grand Final 2015 kicks off, these twenty gamers – assembled from 15 countries on four different continents – remain perfectly calm, with not a single raised voice to be heard among them. The atmosphere of mutual respect means there is no chance of any kind of trash talk, teasing or posturing – and in any case, all of the competitors know that any excessive displays of emotion would be detrimental to their performance.

“The world champion will be the one who can play exactly the same at the tournament as they do at home,” says Arthur Dabilgou from Burkina Faso. “At the Grand Final, everyone plays at a similar level, so maintaining concentration and believing in your own abilities will be crucial,” he continues. The 22-year-old has travelled here from the Canadian province of Quebec, where he is studying mathematics, and wants to return to his homeland one day with a degree under his belt. “FIFA 15 provides plenty of extremely helpful characteristics and statistics on teams and individual animated players that have to be carefully analysed at this level. I think I do that quite well,” Dabilgou concludes. He has been playing EA SPORTS™ FIFA since 2008, after his mother brought a Sony Playstation home for him from overseas when he was a child. He explains that he can imagine using his degree and footballing knowledge to work in the statistics department of a professional club one day; after all, evaluating a wide variety of physical, mental and medical characteristics has been part and parcel of real-life football for some time now.



**CAREFUL DIRECTING** Live images from Munich are prepared for online streaming.

**The world's largest gaming tournament**  
 Subaru Sagano is in a cheerful mood. After working in a gaming cafe until recently, the 27-year-old now plays semi-professionally. Having arrived in Munich a full week ago to ensure that jetlag had no chance of derailing his Interactive World Cup bid, this smiling Japanese competitor now seems relaxed and completely at ease in the almost Mediterranean sunshine. During his stay in the land of football's world champions, Sagano's every move is being followed by a television crew from his home country as well as the CEO and employees of a Japanese gaming platform whose public tournaments are attended by hundreds of spectators. In the Far East, such events can pack out entire football stadiums – although they primarily feature fantasy and first-person shooter games.. Sagano has been playing EA SPORTS™ FIFA since 2011, and although he considers making it to the Grand Final to be a major achievement in itself, winning the Interactive World Cup would represent a real breakthrough for him.

Unfortunately this second goal has yet to be achieved by the Japanese contender, who is ultimately eliminated from the FIWC Grand Final 2015 at Munich's Palais Lenbach at the group stage. Although the same fate also awaits Dabilgou, there is no doubt that both are world-

All matches are streamed live by FIFA, with analysis from two commentators providing further excitement.



class gamers. The man from Burkina Faso finished as runner-up in the second online season, with Sagano ending the same campaign just behind him in third place.

Qualification for the Grand Final primarily consists of six online seasons running from October to March, each with a maximum of 90 players. Anyone with a Sony PS3 console and a hard copy of FIFA 15 can take part in the FIFA Interactive World Cup; with more than 1.2 million choosing to get involved, the tournament is the largest FIFA competition in terms of active participants – and the largest gaming tournament in the world.

**“Two hours every day”**

Although the bright façade of the Palais Lenbach – a handsome neo-baroque construction with rectangular columns, Corinthian capitals and elaborate stucco work hewn from limestone from the Danube – provides a suitably grand setting for the group stages of the FIWC 2015, the event itself is very much geared towards the digital age. All matches are streamed live by FIFA, with analysis from two commentators providing further excitement. FIFA also regularly posts images online and on social networks, while the players give full-length in-





**GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** While the virtual footballers leave the field, the real-life players share a handshake.

Interviews live in a studio on site. This extensive coverage is all the more vital during the group stage, as the games are not played in front of an audience at the venue.

When asked what he needs to deliver his best performances, Abdulaziz Alshehri answers: “A

good environment, plenty of calm and positive people around me.” With that in mind, this experienced contender is certainly in the right place at the Palais. The 24-year-old Saudi Arabian holds a degree in hospital administration and briefly worked in a clinic. Today he makes his living en-

tirely from what are generally referred to as ‘electronic sports’ and specifically from playing FIFA. He won all 90 of his matches during the third online season, enabling him to qualify for the Grand Final for the third time after previous appearances in 2012 and 2013. Although Alshehri



**At a glance**  
Key figures from Grand Final qualifying

# A lucrative game

**A**fter participating at the FIWC Grand Final in Munich, many gamers returned to their clubs. Just like football in real life, the players at the very top of the gaming industry are divided into teams. The majority of the best Far Eastern players - the vast majority of whom specialise in fantasy and first-person shooter games - are signed by profit-oriented clubs and are accommodated in houses or large apartments. Once there, the professional gamers spur each other to reach new heights, and do little more than play video games.

As FIWC Grand Final 2015 champion, Abdulaziz Alshehri from Saudi Arabia not only won a trip to the FIFA Ballon d'Or 2015 in Zurich, he also received USD \$20,000 in prize money. Runner-up Julien Dassonville from France won \$5,000 and bronze medal winner August Rosenmeier from Denmark took home \$1,000. The latter, the dethroned 2014 champion, is a member of the Copenhagen Wolves and can take heart from his club's motto: "Keep on howling!".

The Wolves' manager, Simon Juul Mortensen, aims to recruit the world's best players in order to win as much prize money as possible. "We're a for-profit club. In Rosenmeier we had a world champion in our ranks, which is important for us."

Lasse Baekkelund was another Danish representative at the FIWC 2015. A member of the club Tricked eSport, he is a FIFA game professional and currently ranked third in his homeland. A Danish television channel accompanied both him and Rosenmeier to the Grand Final.

The French participants at the FIWC also play for clubs. Runner-up Dassonville is a professional gamer and after being contracted to MythiX and then German club apeX, he now plays for the e-sport team Millenium, which is based in Marseille.

The city is also home to Millenium Gaming House, which enjoys legendary status in the global gaming community, and around 15 professionals live and train there. It is estimated that the total prize money awarded in the gaming industry each year amounts to several million dollars.

mpe

enjoys connecting with other players in the on-line community and has become relatively well-known in his homeland as a result of his gaming prowess, he also enlists the services of a private coach based in Malta - but says that "two hours of training a day is more than enough."

Most world-class competitors agree with this assessment, saying that there is absolutely



**PRECISION WORK** A player in his element.

no point in training for longer as it only leads to more fatigue and ever-wavering concentration. The elite of the electronic sports world prove that the image of gamers hunched in front of their screens day and night is a misguided one. On the contrary, few competitors would have hit on the idea of playing virtual football and getting involved with eSports were it not for their existing love of the beautiful game. As a result, the stereotype of the isolated nerd has been dispelled at the FIWC Grand Final by world-class virtual footballers who see themselves as true amateur sportsmen who happen to indulge in an electronic hobby.

On the morning of the semi-final, all of the finalists are present at the Exhibition Game in which competitors face members of the media in a real-life football match - including the players who have already been eliminated from the Grand Final. More than 70 per cent of participants in the FIFA Interactive World Cup play football themselves, with more than 86 per cent regularly watching games and more than 70 per cent attending football matches live at stadiums. 18-year-old FIWC 2014 winner August Rosenmeier plays football at a high level in Denmark and is even on the verge of turning semi-professional.



**QUARTER-FINALISTS** Dassonville, who progressed to the next round, and Sánchez (l.).

**Making new connections**

FIFA 15's role as a social integrator is also highlighted by the fact that the game enables people with a disability that prevents them from playing football themselves to experience the sport's emotions and gives them a platform on which to show off their specific set of skills. At the very least, the idea that the FIFA game

sible chance of defeating an opponent who has given just as much thought to the match. Selecting the right virtual players is a crucial part of this process. During qualifying, the majority of the footballers chosen by the 20 finalists hailed from Brazil, Argentina and Portugal – teams containing exceptional players such as Neymar, Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. Inciden-



**ARTHUR DABILGOU** "The world champion will be the one who plays the same here as they do at home."



**SUBARU SAGANO** "Just competing in Munich is an achievement for me."



**ABDULAZIZ ALSHEHRI (WORLD CHAMPION)** "I need calm and a positive environment to perform at my best."

keeps young people off the football pitch could not be further from the truth.

In the USA, where the realism of the game has helped it to become extremely popular, FIFA is the way many players come to understand and love football. Market surveys conducted by EA Sports have revealed "tremendous growth" Stateside over the past few years. For the English Premier League, whose clubs are included in each new FIFA edition, the game opens the door to entirely new markets, especially as all real-life shirt and pitchside advertising is also now integrated into the gameplay. Where else would a young football fan in the USA be able to develop such a thorough grounding in English football's stars, kit colours and branding and get such regular and enjoyable exposure to all of this if not by playing FIFA?

**Emulating Neymar, Messi and Ronaldo**

Expertise – and plenty of it – is vital if you want to win this game. This is not simply a matter of improving hand-eye coordination and learning to quickly manipulate the controller and its many knobs and buttons; instead, it means putting together a team and selecting tactics to give yourself the best pos-

Thanks to motion-capture technology, Cristiano Ronaldo's double not only looks like him but plays like him too.



tally, the first two of this trio are not averse to a game of FIFA in real life.

Alshehri favours the Portuguese superstar, opting to play him in from the wing fairly high up the pitch and enabling CR7's doppelganger to rise for a header in the penalty area rather than scoring after a mazy dribble or with a powerful yet precise long-range effort, to the surprise of everyone present. In addition, Ronaldo's pace and jumping ability mean his opponents rarely decide to deliberately place a high line in defence in an attempt to play the offside trap. Thanks to the magic of motion-capture technology, Ronaldo's double not only looks like him but plays like him too. The animated footballers' movements mimic those of their real-life counterparts while their specific skills are also recreated as closely as possible. Attributes such as strength, stamina, dribbling skills, passing accuracy and shot power are all based on actual statistical data gathered from live matches.

Unsurprisingly, competitors make replacements in certain areas of their team depending on the opponent they are about to face, and adjust their tactics if they or their adversaries score a goal during an encounter. Rosenmeier finds

AUGUST ROSENMEIER  
DENMARK



**MISSED OPPORTUNITY**

Dane August Rosenmeier during the semi-final.



**2015 CHAMPION** Abdulaziz Alshehri holds the FIFA trophy aloft.

time during the competition to explain this in further detail: “I make sure I know the line-up my opponent has picked, and although I’ll naturally want to set up my team to suit my play, I’ll adjust my tactics to fit those of my rival,” he says. “Germany are a compact powerhouse who can play strong, efficient football right to the end, while Brazil and Argentina’s strengths lie in their creative play – but despite these differences, all of these teams are similarly formidable.”

After taking the lead late in his quarter-final against Italian Simone Canini, Rosenmeier immediately changed his tactics, removing a striker in favour of a defender and making some swift substitutions – decisions that led him to a 2-1 win after extra time. Given the opportunity, any coach in a fully-fledged World Cup quarter-final would have done the same.

The game is generally extremely realistic, making it all too easy at this level for spectators to forget that they are not watching a real match, even though each encounter only lasts for approximately 20 minutes.

**Theatre packed out for showdown**

Four semi-finalists eventually emerge from the group stage and quarter-finals in Munich:

*It is all too easy at this level for spectators to forget that they are not watching a real match.*



Alshehri, Rosenmeier, 18-year-old Canadian Grand Final debutant Lyes Ould-Ramoul and Julien Dassonville, who previously competed at Barcelona 2010, Dubai 2012 and Rio de Janeiro 2014. Speaking shortly before his last-four match at the venue for the final evening, Munich’s opulently decorated Volkstheater, the 25-year-old Frenchman says: “The game constantly changes, so you have to keep up with each new version if you want to stay among the best in the world.”

Dassonville, Alshehri and Rosenmeier have all succeeded in keeping pace with developments over the years, which probably explains why they are currently among the world’s best FIFA gamers. Although an impressive defensive display from the Frenchman enables him to narrowly defeat reigning champion Rosenmeier in what is probably the best match of the Grand Final, he is subsequently beaten by Abdulaziz Alshehri in a captivating finale. As the crowd at the Volkstheater goes wild, the newly crowned victor retains his composure. Instead of expressing his immense joy, the Saudi Arabian tells the assembled audience: “I went out in the group stage in 2012, reached the semi-final in 2013 and now I’m standing here as champion. Never give up.” ⚽



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**This is what champions look like**  
FC Luzern's youth celebrate with the trophy.

# First title for Luzern

Clubs from Switzerland and Portugal shone at the 77th Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup in Zurich, with FC Luzern ultimately emerging victorious.

A group of young Brazilians laughed and joked as they attempted to make themselves understood to their Swedish colleagues, while watching teams from Turkey and Portugal do battle on the adjoining pitch. The scene was a fairly typical one this week at the Buchlern sports complex in Zurich, which hosted the Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup, a truly international festival of football, albeit one with a decidedly Swiss flavour on this its 77th staging. Following Brazilian club Atletico Paranaense's win last year, the trophy returned home this time around, though it was not five-time champions FC Zurich – the 2012 and 2013 winners – who claimed it but their domestic rivals FC Luzern.

The new champions were crowned thanks to Luka Sliskovic's first-half penalty and a superb second-half display by their goalkeeper Raphael Zbinden, who inspired his club to their first Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup triumph in 19 attempts.

## A 7,000-strong crowd

The exceptional atmosphere did not go unnoticed by FIFA President Blatter, one of more than 7,000 people who turned up to watch the final day of the tournament on 14 May. "Seeing youth football attract so much interest makes me a happy president," said Blatter. "The games are being played in a sporting manner and the standard is high. It's a celebration of football."

This year's visiting teams failed to match expectations, with the exception of Benfica, who ended the tournament unbeaten but had to be content with third place. Despite top-scoring with nine goals in the first phase along with FC Zurich, the Portuguese side finished two points adrift of FC Luzern in Group B, which left them to fight it out with Bursaspor of Turkey for third place. Benfica clinched a top-three finish thanks to a 2-1 win, with striker Fabio Novo scoring his fifth goal in as many games. ⚽



## Final standings

Team
1. FC Luzern (SUI)
2. FC Zurich (SUI)
3. Benfica (POR)
4. Bursaspor (TUR)
5. Feyenoord (NED)
6. Grasshopper Club (SUI)
7. Atletico Paranaense (BRA)
8. IFK Goteborg (SWE)
9. Werder Bremen (GER)
10. FC Blue Stars (SUI)

**Bruno Sassi**

Watch the final in full at [www.tinyurl.com/pdmttg8](http://www.tinyurl.com/pdmttg8)

# ON THE INSIDE

## Scotland: Championship

### Rangers eye top-flight return



*Peter Eggenberger is a football writer who lives in Switzerland.*

There have been exactly 400 matches between fierce Glasgow rivals Celtic and

Rangers, but supporters of the two clubs have been waiting for the next league instalment of the Old Firm derby since the 2011/12 season. In spring 2012, Rangers were placed into liquidation and relegated to the fourth tier of Scottish football. The 54-time champions overcame another obstacle on the long road back to the Premier League last weekend but, after winning two successive promotions in style, that final leap is proving a little more difficult.

Following a number of inconsistent performances, Rangers finished the regular Championship season in third place, 24 points behind Edinburgh-based champions Heart of Midlothian, who were promoted automatically. The team that finishes third is only guaranteed a place in the quarter-finals of the promotion play-offs. In order to reach the top flight, Rangers would have to win two-legged ties against fourth-placed Queen of the South, Championship runners-up Hibernian, and finally Motherwell, who finished second bottom in the Premiership.

The nerves of the Rangers players, coaching staff and supporters were stretched to breaking point against Queen of the South. A 2-1 victory away from home was followed by a hard-fought 1-1 draw in front of a near-50,000 capacity crowd at Ibrox, which sealed Rangers' place in the play-off semi-final. Defender Lee Wallace netted Rangers' equaliser after Queens' top scorer Derek Lyle had given the visitors the lead. With nine minutes left on the clock, Slovenian forward Haris Vuckic was forced to head an effort off the line to

prevent the tie from going into extra time. "It was one of the most stressful games of my coaching career," said Rangers boss Stuart McCall after the match.

The 40-time Scotland international can afford to breathe a little easier after the first leg against Hibernian on 20 May, though. Goals from Nicky Clark and Kenny Miller earned Rangers a 2-0 home victory and a solid foundation for the return leg three days later. ❄️



**Vital victory**  
Kenny Miller soaks up the adulation of fans and teammates alike after scoring to give Rangers a 2-0 lead in their play-off semi-final.





**Lionel Messi**  
A match winner yet again for Barcelona.

**Spain: Primera División**

## Barça stick to winning formula



*Jordi Puntí is a novelist and a prolific football features writer in the Spanish media.*

Messi. Always Messi. It was the Argentinian's goal that gave Barcelona a 1-0 victory over Atletico Madrid last Sunday and with it the 2014-15 Spanish league title. Collecting possession just outside the box, he played a one-two with Pedro, rolled his foot over the ball and let it run momentarily before planting a precise left-footed shot to Jan Oblak's right. Messi. Always Messi. Barcelona's latest league title is their fifth in the last seven years and the first for coach Luis Enrique and a clutch of trophy-hungry players such as Neymar, Luis Suarez, Claudio Bravo, Jeremy Mathieu, Marc-Andre ter Stegen and Ivan Rakitic.

Buoyed by the imperious Messi, *Los Azul-granas* owe their success this season to

their ability to renew themselves while remaining loyal to their own brand of football. Though Guardiola's legacy remains very much alive in the shape of Xavi, Sergio Busquets and Andres Iniesta, the team has grown in stature in defence and is content to adapt its style when the occasion demands, as evidenced by the occasional deployment of a highly effective counter-attacking system.

The title win was secured after yet another tussle with Real Madrid, a tireless pursuer who pushed the new champions all the way. With one round of games still remaining, Barcelona have racked up 93 points and scored 108 goals, while Real stand at 89 points and 111 goals, some way clear of third-placed Atletico Madrid on 77 points and 67 goals.

To put the top two's duel into a wider perspective, you only have to compare their statistics with those of the champions in Europe's other major leagues, which are also about to conclude. Chelsea top the table in England with 84 points and 70 goals, while Italian champions Juventus have managed 83 points and 67 goals, Bundesliga winners

Bayern Munich currently total 76 points and 78 goals (albeit in four fewer games than the Spanish duo) and Paris Saint-Germain, the new kings of France, have chalked up 80 points and as many goals.

The difference in the number of goals scored can largely be attributed to the continuing excellence of Cristiano Ronaldo and Messi, who have respectively hit the back of the net 45 and 41 times this season. Once again, their rivalry has been the defining feature of the title race, the pivotal aspect of which has perhaps been the nature of their relationships with their team-mates. While Cristiano's goals were often an exhibition of his individual prowess – the footballing equivalent of an album of selfies –, his partnership with Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema was tinged with tension at times. In contrast, Messi was the sharpest of spearheads in a fearsome trio – and more than content to pose for the camera alongside Neymar and Suarez. ☺



**Experiencing racism first-hand**  
Toure suffers abuse from several spectators during a match at CSKA Moscow...

# SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

Sitting alone in an empty Wembley stadium, Yaya Toure's eyes wander down to focus on his notes. Going over them once again, the "Say No To Racism" announcement on the big screen behind him hints at their content. It is 12 May 2015 and the Manchester City star and four-time African Player of the Year is in London to support FIFA in their latest efforts in the fight for diversity and against discrimination.

Someone approaches Toure and leads him to a room inside the stadium where his discussion partners are waiting on the stage: former FIFA referee Howard Webb; Heather Rabbatts, chair of the English FA's Inclusion Advisory Board; Piara Powar from the anti-discrimination network Fare; Federico Addiechi, FIFA's Head of Sustainability, and Delia Fischer, FIFA's Head of Media. All of them are involved in supporting FIFA's anti-racism and anti-discrimination task force, either as members, consultants or organisers.

A new system being implemented by FIFA aims to prevent racist attacks on players and encourages self-regulation among fans.

## Match observers

To introduce the topic of FIFA's anti-discrimination match observation system, Toure recalls some of his more unpleasant memories, citing the racist chants he was subjected to by CSKA Moscow fans in autumn 2013. Romanian referee Ovidiu Hategan's efforts to instruct the fourth official to have an announcement made on the stadium's PA system in order to prevent further abuse proved futile. UEFA's response was to restrict the number of supporters allowed to attend CSKA's home game against Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

Toure is emphatic in outlining what racial abuse feels like and how painful it can be (see the article to the right), and says he talks to former colleagues in different countries who occasionally encounter racism. "Nevertheless, when something like that happens you're determined to keep playing," Toure says. "You don't want to give them the satisfaction of feeling like they've won."

Incidents could lead to sanctions, and any fines paid would be donated to sustainable social projects.

That is why Toure welcomes FIFA's commitment to the cause, as the new match observation system is designed to deal with such attacks. With the support of the anti-discrimination network Fare, all qualifying games for the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ and all matches at the 2017 FIFA Confederation Cup™ will be analysed in advance. Fixtures deemed to pose a risk will be assigned a specially trained match observer, who will collect evidence of any incidents and record them in a match report.

That could lead to sanctions, including points deductions and even exclusion from competitions, while any fines paid would be donated to sustainable social projects. "In the long term a system like that could also lead to self-regulation among fans," said Powar. Fare has implemented a similar system for UEFA for several years now.

#### Education the key

In introducing such steps, FIFA is acting on the Resolution on the Fight against Racism and Discrimination made at its Congress in Mauritius in 2013, as well as following the recommendations of its task force. The match observation system forms part of a series of measures world football's governing body is currently developing for its member associations and for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. During the discussion at Wembley, when mention is made of FIFA's soon to be published Good Practice Guide on Diversity and Anti-Discrimination, which includes practical suggestions tackling discrimination, Toure takes the floor again: "There have to be clear sanctions, but education is the most important thing."

When a journalist asks about his future at Manchester City, Toure proves as skilled at handling the question as he is at dealing with opponents on the pitch: "Racism is more important than my future, and the fight against racism is much bigger than I am." ❄️

**Gerd Dembowski**

For more on the system being used to fight racism, turn to FIFA President Blatter's weekly column on page 23.

## Yaya Toure: "I want to give these people a voice"

"The first time I was discriminated against, I was shocked. I was younger, so it was difficult to take in. Every time I touched the ball there was a chant, there were monkey sounds – it hurt a lot. After that, I would think to myself I have to fight against this, I have to show I am stronger than this.

The monitoring system is an important thing I want to be a part of. I have been involved with a lot of things relating to discrimination and racism in football and I think now I'm the voice of the people. I want to try to give them a voice and adjust that for them so they can express these things."

In this sport, on the pitch or wherever else we are doing our job, it is very important people know we are human beings, we want to be treated the same way. Football is about togetherness and happiness. My point of view is to show them

they need to change or else there will be a radical sanction. I have full trust in FIFA. We know this is difficult but with education we hope to show people a good way to act. We want to express ourselves, we want to enjoy life." ❄️

tfw

"I would think to myself I have to fight against this."

**Yaya Toure**  
Four-time African Footballer of the Year.



#### Name

**Yaya Toure**

#### Date and place of birth

**13 May 1983, Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire**

#### Position

**Midfielder**

#### Most recent clubs

**2006–2007 Monaco  
2007–2010 Barcelona  
since 2010 Manchester City**

#### Major honours

**Spanish Primera Division 2009, 2010  
Copa del Rey 2009  
Champions League 2009  
English Premier League 2012, 2014  
Africa Cup of Nations 2015**

#### Côte d'Ivoire national team

**91 caps, 18 goals**

# First Love



Place: **Havana, Cuba**

Date: **13 March 2015**

Time: **2.03 p.m.**

Photographer: **Alexandre Meneghini**



# Milestones

The FIFA Congress is the world football governing body's highest decision-making body, with important resolutions passed at each of the 64 previous meetings.

Ahead of the 65th summit on 29 May 2015, we look back at the most significant milestones.



**1964** At the 34th Congress in Tokyo, FIFA welcomed 20 African associations to its ranks.

## 1st FIFA Congress, Paris, France, 1904: The foundation

Representatives of the seven founding members – Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland – met between 21 and 23 May at 229 Rue Saint Honoré, Paris to sign the foundation act, define the first FIFA Statutes and to vote unanimously for Frenchman Robert Guérin as the federation's first President.

## 7th Congress, Milan, Italy, 1910: Reaching beyond Europe

The FIFA Congress – then led by President Daniel Burley Woolfall, from England – endorsed the affiliation of the South African Football Association as the first member association from outside of Europe.

## 18th Congress, Barcelona, Spain, 1929: The first World Cup

The hosting of the FIFA World Cup™ was awarded for the first time by twenty-three associations. Uruguay was announced as host of the inaugural edition in 1930.

## 21st Congress, Stockholm, Sweden, 1932: A new home for FIFA

The hosting of the second World Cup was awarded to Italy. FIFA also decided to move its permanent offices to Zurich, in Switzerland, where the organisation is still based.

## 25th Congress, Luxembourg, 1946: The return of the British

The World Cup trophy was renamed in the honour of President Jules Rimet. Most importantly, however, the four British associations – England, Northern Ireland, Wales and

Scotland – returned to FIFA after an absence of almost 20 years.

## 32nd Congress, Rome, Italy, 1960: African emergence

Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Kenya, Morocco and Tunisia were admitted to world football's governing body. The Congress took a firm anti-discrimination stance with the resolution that “football matches should be open to all people, regardless of race or religion”.

## 46th Congress, Zurich, Switzerland, 1988: Fair play, please

Pelé joined then-FIFA Secretary General Joseph S. Blatter to present FIFA's Fair Play campaign with the intention of spreading the message via the Confederations and Member Associations.

## 50th Congress, Zurich, Switzerland, 1996: A sixth Confederation

The membership of the Palestine Football Association was ratified by 170 votes to 1,

FIFA

## Agenda of the 65th FIFA Congress at the Hallenstadion Zurich, on Friday, 29 May 2015 at 09.30

1. Welcome
2. Roll call and declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes
3. Appointment of scrutineers
4. Suspension or expulsion of a member
5. Approval of the agenda
6. Appointment of five members to check the minutes
7. Vote on approval of minutes 64th FIFA Congress – São Paulo, 10 and 11 June 2014
8. President's address
9. Activity Report (separate booklet [encl. A])
- 9.1 Activity Report 2014
- 9.2 Next FIFA events
- 9.3 FIFA World Cup™
10. Finance (separate booklet [encl. B])
- 10.1 Consolidated financial statements for 2014 and for the 2011-2014 four-year period
- 10.2 Auditors' report to the Congress
- 10.3 Report by the chairman of the FIFA Audit and Compliance Committee
- 10.4 Vote on approval of the consolidated financial statements for 2014 and for the 2011-2014 four-year period
- 10.5 Detailed budget for 2016
- 10.6 Vote on approval of 2016 budget
- 10.7 Appointment of the auditors for the 2015-2018 four-year period
11. Strategic and sports-political matters and update on decisions passed at the 2014 Congress
- 11.1 Update on third-party ownership (TPO)
- 11.2 Update on Israel-Palestine
- 11.3 The fight against discrimination/racism
- 11.4 The International Football Association Board (IFAB) / Refereeing
- 11.5 Women's football
- 11.6 Football development
- 11.7 Medical matters
- 11.8 Handshake for Peace initiative

while the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) was also recognised as an official confederation.

*Extraordinary Congress, Doha, Qatar, 2003: New Statutes*

The first Congress to be attended by every member association, at that time numbering 204. The most important item on the agenda was the unanimous ratification of the new FIFA Statutes. Among the major innovations are the rewording of FIFA's objectives to emphasise its mission: namely to improve the game of football constantly and promote it globally, the establishment of a Code of Ethics, and the precise definition of the role, duties and responsibilities of the President compared to those of the Executive Committee and the Secretary General.

*61st Congress, Zurich, Switzerland, 2011: Commitment to the reform process*

As he was elected for another four-year term as the FIFA President, Sepp Blatter presented the Congress with a set of proposals concerning good governance, transparency and zero tolerance towards wrongdoing on and off the pitch. Following the gathering, the Executive Committee agreed on a process that included the creation of four task forces mandated to propose reforms.

*62nd Congress, Budapest, Hungary, 2012*

The reform process was ratified, the strengthening of FIFA's Ethics Committee was approved, an Audit and Compliance Committee with increased scope was established and a new seat was created for a female member on the FIFA Executive Committee.

*63rd Congress, Mauritius, 2013*

A vote was taken on a final set of governance reform proposals. The Statutes were expanded to further regulate such vital issues as the candidature for the presidency and the bidding process for the hosting of World Cups. 🌐

*tfw*

- 11.9 FIFA World Football Museum
12. Vote on proposals for amendments to the FIFA Statutes, Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress
- 12.1 FIFA Statutes
- 12.2 Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes
- 12.3 Standing Orders of the Congress
13. Election for replacement of members of judicial bodies
14. Extension of mandates of co-opted female members of the Executive Committee
15. Discussion of proposals submitted by the members and the Executive Committee within the periods stipulated in art. 25 par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes
- 15.1 Proposal by the Palestinian Football Association for the suspension of the Israel Football Association
16. Installation of the vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee and bestowal of honours
17. Election of the President



## Full power against racism

Football is about winning and losing, but also about solidarity, respect and enjoyment of the game. There can be no place for discrimination and racism in our sport. This fundamental principle is clearly formulated in our statutes under article 1, chapter 3: "Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion."

In other words, football is there for everybody, regardless of nationality, skin colour, gender, ethnicity or religion. Unfortunately not everyone has understood this message, and others simply look the other way when barbaric behaviour occurs at the stadium. It cannot be this way. For this reason FIFA will implement a new monitoring system for the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ qualifying campaign. Specially trained match observers will attend every fixture and report potential violations of the anti-racism and discrimination regulations to the relevant FIFA disciplinary body within 24 hours.

All those involved must shoulder their responsibilities. In particular, the players must live up to their function as role models. What the stars do in the public spotlight will always be copied by amateurs and youths at grass-roots level and by the crowd.

It is a matter of the utmost personal importance to me that we maintain the intensity and pace of our efforts in this respect. The power of our sport ultimately extends way beyond the confines of the pitch and the duration of a match. Thanks to the appeal and popularity of football we have a huge opportunity to bring people together and impart respect and mutual understanding while overcoming prejudices and misunderstanding. We must under no circumstances miss this chance. We must show racism and all forms of discrimination the red card. Forever!

*Best wishes, Sepp Blatter*

# EXPERIENCE AND WILLPOWER



**No sign of fatigue**  
Christie Rampone at the Algarve Cup during World Cup preparations.

Just a few days before her 40th birthday, Christie Rampone will form part of the USA team taking part at the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™. *Michael Lewis* traces the path of her impressive career so far.

**W**ith her age creeping closer to the Big 40, Christie Rampone doesn't exactly know when she will call it a career, although her opponents certainly hope it's much sooner than later.

On the eve of the National Women's Soccer League's third season in the United States, Houston Dash head coach Randy Waldrum probably expressed the feelings of many a foe of the long-time U.S. international defender and captain. "Internationally, I hope for a long time," he said of Rampone's potential staying power. "At the pro level, I hope she can't go much longer at all. Maybe before we play her this year I would be OK if she would want to retire at this point."

Waldrum, who guided Trinidad & Tobago to within a win of this summer's FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™, became serious. "I don't see much difference in her today than I saw two years ago," he said. "I think it's all up to her, how long she wants to drag this out. Eventually father time will catch us all. But she looks as good as ever right now, doesn't she?"

### 304 caps for Team USA

That Rampone has been able to play at the highest level of women's football for so long and so effectively isn't necessarily a matter of coincidence. For the most part she has been free of major injuries. She also is a gifted athlete who has kept herself in tip-top shape. It certainly also has been no coincidence that Rampone has been able to accrue 304 caps,





**Olympic gold**  
Rampone celebrates  
victory over Brazil  
in the final  
in August 2008.

second only to former teammate Kristine Lilly, who retired in 2010 with a world record 352 international appearances.

“I’ve seen Christie in a daily training environment, going through the battery of fitness testing and she stood tall,” USA head coach Jill Ellis said. “I think the physical piece is still there for her and certainly the mental piece. It’s a tremendous credit to her, not just to her mental strength, but her professionalism that she can take care of her body physically. Then she’s doing a handful on the field. I wouldn’t pick a player if I didn’t feel that they would go and perform on the field. She’s earned it.”

Rampone will turn 40 on June 24 – two days prior to the Women’s World Cup quarter-finals – which would make her one of the rare players who have performed in the competition at such an age.

#### **No special treatment**

Since 2013 Rampone has been turning out for Sky Blue FC. And even if she recently has been bothered by back problems, the veteran started and played in her club team’s NWSL season opener on April 11, a stunning 1-0 triumph over host and defending champion FC Kansas City. “I did the same thing everyone else did in camp,” she said. “There was no extra day off because of my age, no less sprints because of age. It’s more about just the recovery. It’s more about getting my rest when I can. When you’re younger, you’re not thinking about rest. You’re coming back from a session and you’re back on your legs and you’re out shopping. You get a

“I wouldn’t pick a player if I didn’t feel that they would go and perform. She’s earned it.”

Jill Ellis, Coach USA

little bit smarter in that aspect. You know when to sit back and when to push. That’s when the experience kicks in.”

Actually, Rampone never had any aspirations to play at international level, let alone setting a standard that will be difficult to surpass. “Growing up and not being in more of a higher level club, then going to a smaller Division I school, I never expected to be at this level, never expected to play this long,” she said. “I think once I wrapped around the mental side of travel, the competition and the fitness side, it started to become more comfortable. I became more confident as the years went on. I was probably more of a late bloomer so I wanted to play as long as I possibly could.”

#### **The multi-sport-talent**

Growing up in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, Rampone was a multi-sport athlete and not surprisingly earned multi-honors. Perhaps her most impressive accomplishment was becoming the first athlete to lead the Shore Conference in scoring in basketball, soccer and field hockey. Rampone excelled in basketball, tallying 2,190 points in high school and setting several records as a point guard at Monmouth University.

She attracted the attention of then USA national coach Tony DiCicco and was invited to a training camp. Rampone admitted she did not follow the team and did not know many of her famous teammates, including defensive midfielder-forward Michelle Akers, who defined not one, but two positions, and striker Mia Hamm. She said it was because of “the distractions of having a busy life, just going from one sport to the next. Actually I never really got to slow down and pay attention to somebody else playing. I didn’t know Michelle until my first time with the national team. They weren’t on television. You didn’t know about them. When I joined the team in ’97 I had heard of their names, but I didn’t know who they were or how they played. Mia was a forward. Michelle was a midfielder-forward. But I didn’t know how they played soccer until I actually got to meet her and play on the same field.”

It was a whirlwind time for Rampone, who got out of her college basketball commitments to train with the U.S. women in January 1997.

**Next generation**

Christie Rampone with her daughter Reece.



Name

**Christie Rampone**

Date and place of birth

**24 June 1975,  
Fort Lauderdale, USA**

Position

**Defender**

Clubs

**1997 Central Jersey Splash  
1998 New Jersey Lady Stallions  
2001-2003 New York Power  
2009-2010 Sky Blue FC  
2011 magicJack  
Since 2013 Sky Blue**

National team

**304 caps, 4 goals**

World Cup 2015

**Group games: Australia (8 June),  
Sweden (12 June), Nigeria (16 June)**

She impressed and stuck, not as a forward as she had played all her career, but as a defender.

**Fear of the unknown**

So, Rampone faced multiple transitions. “My life was changed immediately,” she said. “From never having to focus on one sport to trying to focus on one sport at the highest level. So it was definitely a transition period to defender. It was very new, but at the same time it was very exciting. I had the ability to be at this level, but I wasn’t quite there yet. My finishing needed to be better, my touch needed to get better. I needed to get focused on soccer and eliminate all the other sports so that I could be the best soccer player I could be.”

Rampone admitted there was an intimidation factor training with such football royalty. “It was the fear of the unknown,” she said. “I didn’t know what I was getting into to be honest because there was a not a lot of communication back then. The first meeting was the team going over the gold medal final in ’96 and having a highlight reel. Two minutes after it was over I was going into a camp with them after watching the highlight reel and being like WOW! It was overwhelming, intimidating, playing with the best players in the world and why me? There were so many different emotions at that time.”

**Between football and family**

In that first year, Rampone was like a sponge. “I sat back and I watched, observed, did what I needed to do and kept listening,” she said.



**World Cup 2011**  
Rampone during a  
2-0 win over  
Korea Republic.

“It’s the best way to learn. I learned from my mistakes and that’s hard to do. For most part you’re one of the better players in middle school, high school and college and then you step onto the field with all the best players, you definitely learn from them. You have to learn from your mistakes. Not everything is going your way. It was definitely an adjustment. You pick that up fast and I embraced it and decided that was what I wanted to do. I put everything I had into it to make the team.”

She did, first as a reserve, then playing outside back. When veteran center backs Joy Fawcett and Carla Overbeck called it a career, Rampone took over and has been a staple in the lineup ever since. She was a member of the 1999 World Cup-winning squad, and then runner-up in 2011. She also has three Olympic gold medals (2004, 2008, 2012) and a silver (2000).

To truly appreciate Rampone’s accomplishments and longevity, you must remember that she is the mother of two daughters. Rylie is nine years old and Reece five. Being a mother is a fulltime job in itself. But she has had a great support from her husband Chris. Let’s face it, it’s not always easy for mom to be away for long periods of time. “They understand what mom is doing,” Rampone said. “They’re into soccer, basketball, they have dance, gymnastics. They’re pretty active. Obviously with the technology with FaceTime, there’s a way to see each other on the same day, although we’re not in the same space or country.”

#### **World Cup title as a crowning glory**

Incredible as it might sound to USA supporters, it has been 16 years since the Americans took a victory lap with the Women’s World Cup trophy. They have won four of the five Olympic football tournaments, including the last three. Team USA are the only team in the world to have finished at least third or higher in all six previous Women’s World Cups and five Olympic competitions. So the brass ring, or rather winner’s medals, is the one motivating factor.

So was losing in a penalty-kick shootout to Japan in the 2011 final in Germany. “You never forget,” Rampone said. “That’s the one piece you always have in the back of your mind of what happened and how it happened

and make sure it doesn’t happen again. You remember your feelings after the loss and you can build on that and grow stronger so that you can put your best foot forward in those games. You never forget, but you don’t want to get too emotional where the game becomes more emotional than the actual game itself.” “We won in ’99, but that wasn’t easy. When you get to those games, in soccer anything can happen. I’m proud of this team being in the top three of every championship we’ve entered. We wish we could have had probably more results in the World Cup. We’ve been really good in the Olympics. It’s just that we’ve been cut a little short in the World Cup.”

Humble and hardly an unabashed self-promoter, it says a lot about Rampone when she has brought her medals – first- and second-place – to events in which she talks to young players and coaches about her career and football. “Of course, that’s a learning message as well to kids,” she said. “I don’t leave the silver medal behind. It was part of my career and part of it makes you stronger and builds because ultimately the goal was a gold medal, but you can’t cut yourself short with a silver. There is still the same journey and the same fight to get there. It’s something I’m proud of.”

Rampone, though, would love to make one more journey to the winner’s stand to hang another winner’s medal around her neck before she hangs her boots for good – whenever that will be. ⚽

“You remember  
your feelings after  
the loss and you can  
build on that and  
grow stronger.”

Christie Rampone

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# Hat-trick heroes

*Sarah Steiner*

The term 'hat-trick', referring to three goals scored by a single player in one game, is a curious one, and there are many theories claiming to explain its origins. The most plausible one suggests it stems from a cricket match that took place at Hyde Park in Sheffield in 1858, when Heathfield Harman Stephenson became the first bowler to take three consecutive wickets from as many balls. He was later presented with a hat in honour of his special 'trick' - and so the term was coined.

Statistically speaking, hat-tricks are a rarity in football, occurring only once every 300 matches. There have only ever been eight at FIFA World Cups™, with the first one scored by Germany's Edmund Conen on 27 May 1934 against Belgium. He struck in the 66th, 70th and 87th minutes to help secure a 5-2 victory and book his side's place in the quarter-finals. In 1958 Pele also netted three times in a 5-2 triumph over France, firing Brazil into the World Cup Final, which they went on to win. Another hat-trick, scored at the 1986 tournament, was the cause of much debate. England had started the competition badly and were on the verge of elimination after losing 1-0 to Portugal and drawing 0-0 with Morocco. Gary Lineker bore the brunt of the criticism and was mocked for being "a sports car stuck in neutral", but in the final group game against Poland he turned on the style, hitting the target three times to lead England to a 3-0 victory and into the last 16.

England provided the stage for another remarkable hat-trick this year. In Southampton's 6-1 thrashing of Aston Villa, striker Sadio Mane hit a treble and set a new record in the process. The Senegal international scored three times in the space of 176 seconds between the 13th and 16th minutes, sealing the fastest-ever hat-trick in Premier League history. "It was the best moment of my career so far," the grinning 23-year-old said afterwards, clutching the matchball under his arm. "I'm going to play with this ball every day at home." The forward's performance also drew praise from Lineker himself: "Mane is a constant threat. He plays without any fear and he's got so much power." ⚽

The weekly column by our staff writers



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Country:  
**Andorra**  
 FIFA Trigramme:  
**AND**  
 Continent:  
**Europe**  
 Capital:  
**Andorra la Vella**

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Surface area:  
**468 km²**  
 Highest point:  
**Alt de Comapedrosa 2,942 m**  
 Neighbouring seas and oceans:  
 -

## MEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Ranking:  
**204th**  
 World Cup:  
**no appearances**

## WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Ranking:  
**138th**  
 World Cup:  
**no appearances**

## LATEST RESULTS

Men's:  
**Andorra - Bosnia and Herzegovina 0:3**  
**28 March 2015**  
 Women's:  
**Andorra - Georgia 0:7**  
**9 April 2015**

## FIFA INVESTMENTS

Since 2005:  
**\$ 2,750,000**



**Winning mentality**  
The experience of playing in the USA has helped shape Eniola Aluko's career, and given her greater confidence.

# New-found belief

The hopes of England's women's national team rest on Eniola Aluko's shoulders, and in Canada the 28-year-old is keen to prove that her side have what it takes to succeed at the highest level.

**T**here seemed no danger when the England player latched onto a loose ball near the centre-circle before turning and jinking past two players to reach the edge of the penalty area. The striker took out two more opponents with a smart feint, followed by a right-footed jink, and the goal was in sight. One cutback to leave a final defender on the floor, and a lobbed shot over the diving goalkeeper sealed one of the great international goals.

This was Eniola Aluko, England's hope for the Women's World Cup, scoring an individual goal par excellence in the game against the Netherlands during the Cyprus Cup in March. The tournament was the team's last warm-up opportunity - and England beat World Cup host Canada in the final. Aluko said it wasn't even her best goal for England. In 2009, she ran from the halfway line and beat just as many players before scoring in the UEFA European Championship quarter-final against Finland.

Those feats are just part of the reason why Aluko is England's talisman as the team heads to Canada with confidence brimming. Aluko played in the last two World Cups, when the side reached the quarter-finals (before losing to USA in 2007 and France in 2011). She says there is a difference between those sides and this one - "often it's just the

belief system," she says - while confidently asserting that she is a better player now.

## In the form of her life

The numbers tell their own story: Aluko scored 13 goals in 60 games under previous coach Hope Powell, and then netted 19 goals in her first 26 matches with Mark Sampson in charge. "When Mark came in, there was immediate competition for places, and I knew I had to step up and perform to keep my place in the side," Aluko explains. "Once the goals start going in, then the confidence comes as well. I am trying to add little bits to my game, to use my pace more, to play off the defender's shoulder, and create more chances using my pace. This is probably the best form I've been in but I have to keep working hard."

Aluko knows no other way: born in Nigeria and raised in Birmingham, she has spent the last eight years juggling her football career with studies, recently passed, to become a fully-qualified sports and entertainment lawyer. Three seasons in the Women's Professional Soccer League in the USA put legal qualification on hold but was crucial to her development. "I always thought I had the ability to make it as a professional but going to the USA transformed me," Aluko says.

Aluko moved to Chelsea Ladies in December 2012, and her smartness has been recog-

nized in England. Last season she was the first female pundit to appear on the BBC's iconic football show Match of the Day.

## "We know what we are capable of"

This FIFA Women's World Cup will be a different experience from her first, eight years ago in China. "Things have changed significantly in the women's game. It is now global and this will be the biggest Women's World Cup there has ever been."

Winning the Cyprus Cup, and scoring goals like that solo effort against Holland, has given Aluko belief but she is wary of setting win-at-all-costs targets. "The confidence in the team is high but we must not get too carried away," she adds. "We know what we were are capable of, and that we can compete at the highest level. We are looking to improve on a quarter-final place and hopefully we will be able to perform well." ❄

**Ben Lyttleton**



# T H E N

*Brighton, England*



**1963**

Luton Town players enjoy the pleasure boats on a day off.



N

O

W

Zillertal, Austria



**2014**

Werder Bremen players go white water rafting as a team building exercise.

# Every Moment Counts



Rear camera display system



Cooling glove box



Rear door bottle holders



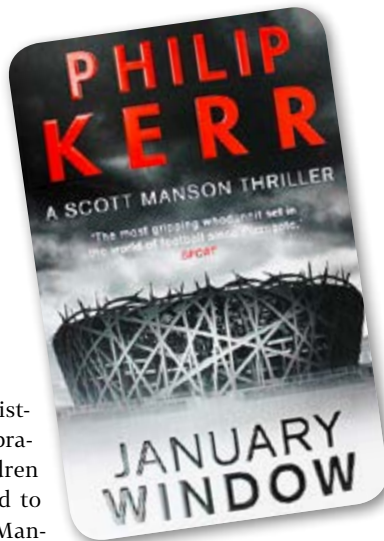
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# Murder in the workplace

Ronald Duker



In countries where Christmas is the biggest celebration of the year, children everywhere look forward to the festive period. Scott Manson does not share their enthusiasm, however. “I hate Christmas,” says the assistant coach of the illustrious football club London City. “I’m almost 40 years old and it seems that I’ve hated it for more than half my life.”

Neither Manson nor his club are real; they only exist in ‘January Window’, a thriller by bestselling Scottish author Philip Kerr. Yet why does Manson’s dislike Christmas so much?

The answer is that in his line of work the festive season is anything but peaceful, with England’s football calendar busier than ever. Christmas, in fact, means “early-morning training on frostbitten pitches, niggling hamstrings that don’t have time to be properly rested, and boozed-up fans expecting much more of their team than seems reasonable.”

While others sit cosily by the fireplace, footballers have to work and suffer. Playing three games in seven days is the ultimate Ironman challenge, according to Manson. And as the book’s title suggests, the winter transfer window adds to the frenzy, with big deals on the line and millions at stake.

Kerr’s thriller is hard to put down, and while many aspects appear to be based on real life, there are also events that have not occurred beyond the pages

of fiction. The London City head coach is found murdered in the club’s stadium, sending the president into a panic and further spoiling Manson’s winter: he is tasked with solving the murder, and must do so before the police find the killer’s trail.

In return the club president promises to fulfil Manson’s wildest dreams by making him the murdered coach’s successor, leading to him taking on the role of private investigator.

Although Kerr does appear to have gleaned many of the details of his novel from observing the football industry, ‘January Window’ is no roman à clef. It demonstrates how the beautiful game can fuel fantasies, even in the literary world. Agatha Christie’s ‘Murder on the Orient Express’ proved that crime thrillers can benefit from a limited number of protagonists: if the amount of possible suspects is relatively small then suspense is all-but guaranteed. Much like it is during 90 minutes on a football pitch. ❄️

“Messi and Ronaldo are two players who fight with one another to be the best, like John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg, like Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Asking me who’s the best is like asking me whether I love my mum or dad more!”

**Alessandro Del Piero**

“The word I would describe him as is ‘Liverpool’. He’s very much about looking after his people. He loves his city. He’s had numerous opportunities to leave here for prestigious clubs. But Liverpool’s his home. What he’s given to this city, politicians, hospitals and local charities haven’t given to this city.”

**Brendan Rodgers on Steven Gerrard**

“Guardiola has already said that their season is over and he’s been rotating his team so much that he’s unsettling the team. His team no longer has the stability they had for over eight months, enchanting football fans up and down Germany. It seems the players are losing a bit of belief in the coach.”

**Lothar Matthaus on Pep Guardiola**



**FIFA PARTNER**

# “In the mine, I knew how to fight for my life”

In 2010, Franklin Lobos was trapped down a San Jose mine for 70 days. The former top-flight Chilean midfielder blamed a severe football injury for being there.

In 2010 I was trapped down the San Jose mine with 32 co-workers. In such a situation, you don't know whether you will survive or not, and it's no wonder that your mind wanders through moments from your past; those memorable times in your life. For me, it was inevitable to think about a specific day. It was 1986 and I was playing for Deportes Antofagasta in the Chilean first division. I was at the top level and one of the top scorers. It had even been reported in the papers that I would be called up to play for Chile, which had been my dream since I grew up. In the match against Universidad Catolica a defender landed a fierce tackle on me while I was in the process of shooting. I remembered seeing my broken leg and hearing the referee telling me to get up. It was so painful: not only because my leg really hurt, but because I knew right away what had just happened.

If I had not been injured, I am sure I would have been called up to play for Chile, like the papers said. The national team coaches had been watching me. I deserved the call in 1986. If I had not been injured, I might have been transferred for a decent amount and played football abroad. That made me think that I would not have been down here, trapped down this mine after accepting this job as a miners' driver. I was convinced that I was there because of that injury. I cursed that day in 1986.

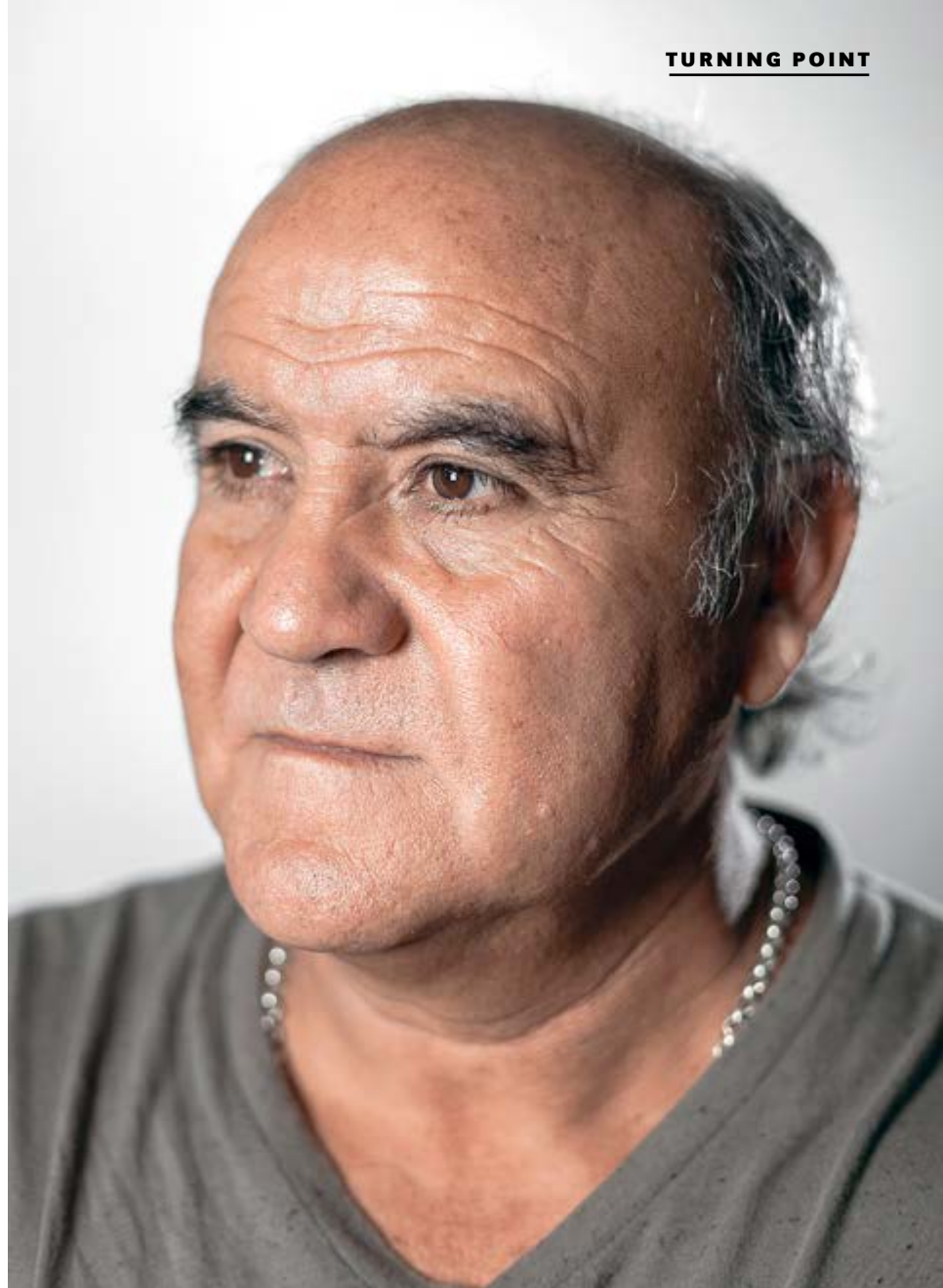
But those memories also helped me, because I remembered when I came back from Santiago with my broken leg. My wife and my daughter were waiting for me. I was broken: literally but also figuratively. My wife knew it im-

mediately, and she looked at me and said to me: “You must fight now. You love playing football, it's your life, and now you have to fight for it.”

It took me nine months to get back playing football. It had been really hard. The club did not have enough resources for my treatment, so I did a lot myself by inventing exercises for my leg in the back yard. I did play football professionally again, but it was not the same. I was not the same player. I was never selected to play for Chile and the papers forgot about me. I never moved to play abroad. But that injury did at least teach me one thing: how to fight in life.

So that's what I did down the mine. I fought for my life day after day until I was rescued. We had been trapped for 70 days when we were finally freed. ❄️

**Franklin Lobos was speaking to Ben Lyttleton**



#### Name

**Franklin Erasmo Lobos Ramírez**

#### Date and place of birth

**2 June 1957, Copiapó, Chile**

#### Position

**Midfielder**

#### Clubs

**1982 Deportes Antofagasta  
1983–1985 CD Cobresal  
1986–1987 Deportes Antofagasta  
1988–1989 CD Cobresal  
1990–1991 Deportes La Serena  
1993 Santiago Wanderers  
1993 Municipal Iquique  
1994 Unión La Calera  
1995 Regional Atacama**

#### Chile national team

**Olympic team**

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)  
**none**  
**none**  
**3**  
**no team with more than one match**  
**Russia** (up 47 points)  
**Suriname** (up 14 ranks)  
**Montenegro** (down 34 points)  
**Mauritania** (down 9 ranks)

Last updated:  
 7 May 2015

Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points	Rank	Team	+/-	Points
1	Germany	0	1687	55	Gabon	0	583	109	Cuba	0	298	163	Guyana	-8	128
2	Argentina	0	1494	56	Mali	0	578	110	St Vincent and the Grenadines	6	291	163	Bhutan	0	128
3	Belgium	0	1457	57	Albania	0	575	111	Sudan	-1	288	165	Dominica	12	121
4	Colombia	0	1412	57	Korea Republic	0	575	112	Libya	-1	281	166	Malaysia	-2	120
5	Brazil	0	1372	59	South Africa	1	553	112	St Kitts and Nevis	-1	281	167	Puerto Rico	-1	119
6	Netherlands	0	1301	60	Zambia	-1	552	114	Namibia	-1	279	168	Yemen	2	117
7	Portugal	0	1221	61	Equatorial Guinea	0	549	115	Canada	-1	277	169	Hong Kong	-2	116
8	Uruguay	0	1176	62	Republic of Ireland	0	546	116	Azerbaijan	-1	264	169	Bangladesh	-2	116
9	Switzerland	0	1135	63	Peru	1	532	117	Kenya	0	258	171	Grenada	-6	113
10	Spain	0	1132	64	Australia	-1	531	118	Dominican Republic	0	257	172	Montserrat	-1	107
11	France	0	1127	65	Trinidad and Tobago	0	519	119	Niger	0	252	173	Pakistan	-1	106
12	Romania	0	1086	66	Burkina Faso	0	517	120	Moldova	1	245	174	US Virgin Islands	-1	104
13	Italy	0	1085	67	Bulgaria	0	505	121	Lesotho	1	242	175	New Caledonia	-1	101
14	England	0	1030	68	United Arab Emirates	0	501	122	Burundi	1	237	176	Guam	-1	97
15	Costa Rica	0	1016	69	Venezuela	0	495	123	Zimbabwe	0	235	176	Swaziland	-1	97
16	Chile	0	1002	70	Norway	0	491	124	Vietnam	1	229	178	Laos	0	88
17	Croatia	0	977	71	Uganda	1	485	125	Syria	1	225	179	Cambodia	0	86
18	Czech Republic	1	923	72	Uzbekistan	1	476	126	Kuwait	1	224	179	Chinese Taipei	0	86
19	Slovakia	1	920	73	Rwanda	1	474	127	Liechtenstein	1	219	181	Nepal	0	70
20	Algeria	1	917	74	Jamaica	1	466	128	Bermuda	1	217	182	Brunei Darussalam	1	69
21	Wales	1	916	75	Montenegro	-5	457	129	Mauritania	-9	216	183	Turks and Caicos Islands	1	66
22	Mexico	-4	908	76	Honduras	0	453	130	Barbados	0	215	183	Macau	1	66
23	Côte d'Ivoire	0	907	77	Armenia	0	449	131	St Lucia	5	214	185	Tahiti	1	65
24	Greece	0	900	78	Finland	0	446	132	Guinea-Bissau	-1	212	185	Mauritius	-4	65
25	Austria	0	891	79	Haiti	0	442	132	Liberia	-1	212	185	Comoros	1	65
26	Ghana	0	833	80	Togo	0	435	134	Kazakhstan	-1	210	188	Sri Lanka	-2	64
27	Russia	5	828	81	Paraguay	0	415	135	Afghanistan	0	208	189	Seychelles	0	60
28	USA	-1	825	82	China PR	0	408	136	Aruba	-2	204	190	São Tomé e Príncipe	0	58
29	Denmark	-1	808	83	Belarus	0	397	137	Philippines	2	200	191	Cayman Islands	0	48
30	Scotland	-1	796	84	El Salvador	0	388	137	Luxembourg	0	200	192	Solomon Islands	0	46
31	Tunisia	-1	793	85	Latvia	0	387	139	Georgia	-1	197	193	South Sudan	0	43
32	Bosnia and Herzegovina	-1	783	86	Mozambique	0	383	140	Maldives	1	191	194	San Marino	0	40
33	Ukraine	0	772	86	Iraq	0	383	141	Palestine	-1	190	195	Vanuatu	0	34
34	Ecuador	0	762	88	Sierra Leone	0	382	142	Thailand	0	183	196	Fiji	0	30
35	Poland	0	753	89	Angola	0	381	143	Tajikistan	0	173	196	Samoa	0	30
36	Senegal	0	752	90	Morocco	1	371	144	Central African Republic	0	163	198	Bahamas	0	26
37	Cape Verde Islands	0	737	90	Guatemala	0	371	144	Lebanon	0	163	198	British Virgin Islands	0	26
38	Iceland	0	728	92	Bolivia	0	360	144	New Zealand	0	163	200	Mongolia	0	19
39	Sweden	0	704	93	Estonia	0	358	147	India	0	161	201	Tonga	0	17
40	Iran	0	689	94	Benin	0	357	148	Curaçao	0	159	202	Papua New Guinea	0	13
41	Guinea	0	678	95	Saudi Arabia	0	349	149	Malta	0	158	203	American Samoa	0	12
42	Northern Ireland	0	672	96	Cyprus	0	342	150	Madagascar	0	156	204	Andorra	0	8
43	Hungary	0	665	97	Oman	0	341	151	Timor-Leste	1	151	204	Eritrea	0	8
44	Serbia	0	664	97	Malawi	0	341	152	Chad	-1	150	206	Somalia	0	6
45	Nigeria	0	659	99	Qatar	0	337	153	Kyrgyzstan	0	148	207	Djibouti	0	4
46	Israel	0	649	100	Lithuania	0	333	154	Nicaragua	0	142	207	Cook Islands	0	4
47	Slovenia	0	648	101	Ethiopia	0	321	155	Suriname	14	141	209	Anguilla	0	2
48	Cameroon	0	627	102	Faroe Islands	0	318	156	Korea DPR	1	139				
49	Congo	0	624	103	Jordan	0	316	157	Gambia	-1	138				
50	Japan	0	614	104	Botswana	0	314	158	Myanmar	0	133				
51	Egypt	0	612	105	FYR Macedonia	0	312	159	Turkmenistan	0	131				
52	Turkey	0	603	106	Antigua and Barbuda	0	311	159	Indonesia	0	131				
53	Panama	0	587	107	Tanzania	0	304	159	Belize	0	131				
54	Congo DR	0	584	108	Bahrain	0	299	162	Singapore	0	130				



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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**

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

**2**

**MEDIUM**

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

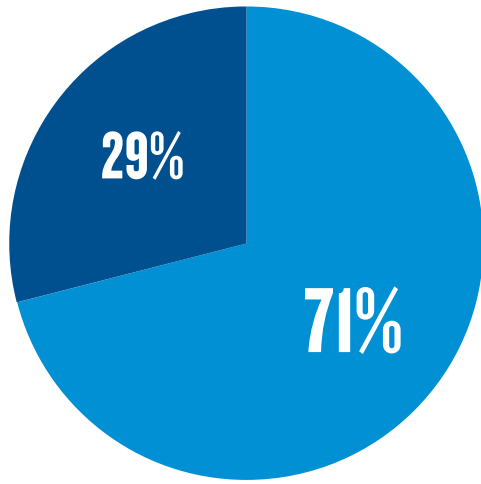
**3**

**HARD**

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

**RESULTS OF PREVIOUS POLL**

Who will win the 2014/2015 UEFA Champions League and represent Europe at the 2015 FIFA Club World Cup?



Source: Fifa.com

- Barcelona
- Juventus

**THIS WEEK'S POLL**

Which of these former champions has the best chance in this year's AFC Champions League?



**WEEK IN NUMBERS**



hat-tricks against AC Milan is a feat that, until now, no-one in the history of Serie A had ever achieved. The record books were rewritten, though, by 20-year-old Domenico Berardi, whose treble – allied to four goals in the corresponding fixture last season – means he has now scored seven times in I Rossoneri's last two visits to Sassuolo.



club trophies was the tally achieved by Xavi, equalling the long-standing national record of Real Madrid legend Francisco Gento. The Barcelona icon bolstered his impressive haul with a club-record eighth La Liga title.



goals in three A-League Grand Finals have established Besart Berisha as something of a specialist when it comes to Australian football's showpiece match. The Albanian striker added to his tally in Melbourne Victory's 3-0 win over Sydney FC and, having already lifted the trophy with Brisbane Roar last year, duly became the first player to win back-to-back A-League titles with different clubs.

imago (2), Getty Images (2)