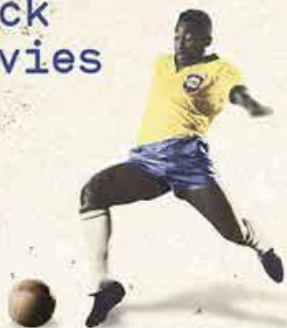


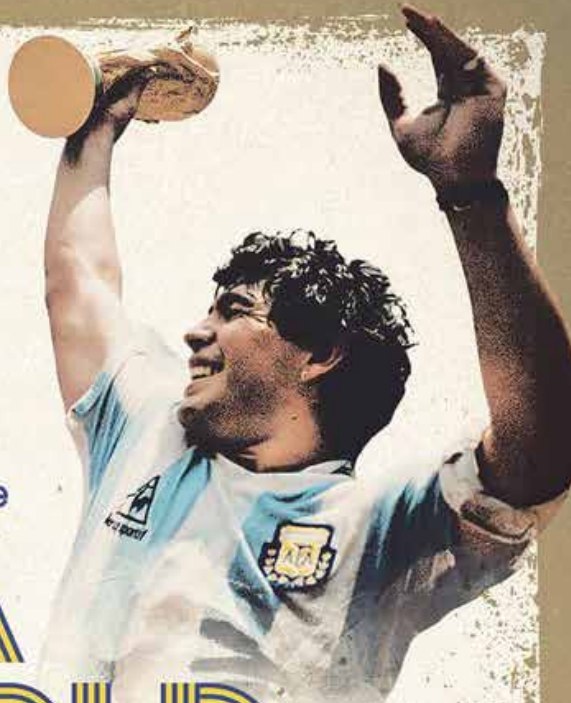
Jack  
Davies



The Making of the

# FIFA WORLD CUP

**75** of the Most Memorable,  
Celebrated, and Shocking Moments  
in the History of Football's  
Greatest Tournament



The Making of the

FIFA  
WORLD  
CUP

**75** of the Most Memorable,  
Celebrated, and Shocking Moments  
in the History of Football's  
Greatest Tournament

Jack Davies



# Contents

Introduction . . . . .	8
<b>1930: A Very Important Boat Trip . . . . .</b>	<b>9</b>
1930: The First World Cup Final . . . . .	12
<b>1934: Mussolini's Refereeing Puppets and the Fascist World Cup 16</b>	
<b>1938: The Battle of Bordeaux . . . . .</b>	<b>20</b>
1938: The Blackshirts Reign Supreme . . . . .	22
<b>1950: American Amateurs and English Embarrassment. . . . .</b>	<b>26</b>
1950: The Final That Wasn't. . . . .	29
<b>1954: Scotland and the World Cup's Most Disastrous Debut . . . . .</b>	<b>33</b>
1954: The One with All the Goals. . . . .	35
1954: The Battle of Bern . . . . .	38
1954: The Miracle of Bern . . . . .	41
<b>1958: Northern Ireland a Sensation in Sweden . . . . .</b>	<b>45</b>
1958: Wales's Finest World Cup Hour (and a Half) . . . . .	48
1958: Just Fontaine's Lucky 13 . . . . .	51
1958: The Arrival of Pelé. . . . .	54
<b>1962: The Battle of Santiago . . . . .</b>	<b>58</b>
1962: Garrincha's Greatness and Another Brazilian Win . . . . .	61
<b>1966: Pickles the Dog Sparing the FA's Blushes. . . . .</b>	<b>64</b>
1966: North Koreans Become the Toast of Teesside . . . . .	66
1966: Eusébio and a Glittering Portuguese Comeback . . . . .	69
1966: Argentina, England and the Birth of a Rivalry . . . . .	72
1966: The Wembley Final . . . . .	75
<b>1970: Bobby Moore and the Bogotá Bracelet. . . . .</b>	<b>80</b>
1970: The Save (and Tackle) of the Century . . . . .	82
1970: The Game of the Century . . . . .	85
1970: Brazil's Greatest Team and Pelé's Swansong. . . . .	88
<b>1974: Haiti's Five Minutes of Fame . . . . .</b>	<b>92</b>
1974: The Cruyff Turn? . . . . .	95
1974: Zaire and the Worst Free Kick Ever . . . . .	97
1974: East Beats West . . . . .	101
1974: German Efficiency Trumps Total Football . . . . .	104
<b>1978: Zico and the Welsh Referee . . . . .</b>	<b>108</b>
1978: Glorious Gemmill's Bittersweet Strike . . . . .	110
1978: Dodgy Dealings in Rosario . . . . .	113
1978: The Ticker Tape Final. . . . .	116
<b>1982: El Salvador's Hungarian Humiliation. . . . .</b>	<b>120</b>
1982: England's Return and Rapid Robson . . . . .	123
1982: The Kuwaiti Prince and the Strangest Pitch Invasion Ever	125

1982: The Disgrace of Gijón . . . . .	128
1982: Northern Ireland Shock Hosts Spain . . . . .	131
1982: History and Harm in Seville. . . . .	135
1982: Resurgent Rossi and Tearful Tardelli . . . . .	140
<b>1986: The Unemployed Hero . . . . .</b>	<b>143</b>
1986: France, Brazil and an All-Time Classic . . . . .	145
1986: The Hand of God . . . . .	149
1986: The Goal of the Century . . . . .	153
1986: Magic Maradona Inspires Argentina to Glory . . . . .	156
<b>1990: Cameroon Shock the Holders . . . . .</b>	<b>160</b>
1990: Netherlands, Germany and an Almighty Spat . . . . .	163
1990: Gazza's Tears. . . . .	166
<b>1994: Diana Ross Auditions for England Penalty Duties . . . . .</b>	<b>171</b>
1994: Diego's Last Dance. . . . .	173
1994: A Tragic Own Goal . . . . .	175
1994: The Angriest Substitution Ever . . . . .	179
1994: Salenko's High Five . . . . .	181
1994: A Bulgarian Underdog Story. . . . .	184
1994: The Penalty That Went into Space . . . . .	188
<b>1998: Football 1 Politics 0 . . . . .</b>	<b>193</b>
1998: Magic and Madness in Saint-Étienne . . . . .	195
1998: Where's Ronnie? . . . . .	199
<b>2002: The Saipan Incident . . . . .</b>	<b>204</b>
2002: A Seismic Senegalese Upset . . . . .	206
2002: South Korea, Italy and the Worst Referee Ever . . . . .	209
2002: Brazilian Brilliance and a Disgraceful Dive . . . . .	213
<b>2006: Third Time Unlucky for Graham Poll. . . . .</b>	<b>217</b>
2006: The Battle of Nuremberg . . . . .	220
2006: Zizou Loses His Head. . . . .	223
<b>2010: Time for Africa. . . . .</b>	<b>228</b>
2010: Frank Lampard's Ghost Goal . . . . .	230
2010: One Hand Crushes a Continent. . . . .	233
2010: Tiki-Taka Takes the World by Storm . . . . .	237
<b>2014: Suárez Takes a Chunk Out of Italy. . . . .</b>	<b>241</b>
2014: The <i>Mineirazo</i> . . . . .	243
<b>2018: England Lift Penalty Curse . . . . .</b>	<b>248</b>
2018: Fantastic France and a Croatian Fairytale . . . . .	251

## Introduction

*I'm sure sex isn't as rewarding as winning the World Cup. It's not that good, but the World Cup is every four years and sex is not.'*

Brazil's Ronaldo Luís Nazário de Lima

There are very few spectacles that can capture the imagination of planet Earth quite like the World Cup can. For one month every four years, this superbly unique football tournament sits front and centre in the minds of hundreds of millions around the globe. Or billions, even – FIFA estimates the audience for the 2018 World Cup Final reached over 1.1 billion people. These sensational numbers make it comfortably the most watched sporting event in the world, eclipsing even the Olympic Games.

Ask any football fan when they first really started getting excited about the sport, and the chances are they'll cite watching the World Cup on TV as a key reason. There's a magic surrounding the tournament that no other competition in football can compare to, giving it that special edge to captivate hardened fans and first-time followers alike. Maybe it's the chance to see the world's best players ply their trade in pursuit of that ultimate prize. Maybe it's the knowledge that it only comes around once every four years. Or maybe it's just because there's nothing else on telly.

Whatever you think explains the World Cup's monumental popularity, there's one thing that's undeniable: it's bloody entertaining. Try finding another event that can deliver such drama, excitement, shock, rage and ecstasy. It is those moments of extreme emotion that make the World Cup the ever-growing behemoth that it is today, and keep us coming back every four years to do it all over again.

This is the story of the World Cup, told through those pivotal, awe-inspiring, downright sensational moments on – and sometimes off – the pitch. From the tournament's beginnings as one man's idea to bring the world of football together at the first competition in Uruguay, to the biggest stars, most remarkable matches, inexplicable flashpoints, controversial decisions, and all the way through to that record-breaking final in 2018, this is your ultimate guide to why the World Cup is sport's greatest tournament.

## 1930: A Very Important Boat Trip

*Friday, 20 June 1930–Friday, 4 July 1930*

*SS Conte Verde*

*Atlantic Ocean*

Nowadays, the majority of professional international footballers lead lives of uninterrupted comfort and luxury when travelling abroad with their national teams. They stay in only the best hotels, are provided with top-class training facilities and get to travel all over the world on grand private jets and team coaches so hi-tech they wouldn't look out of place in a *Star Wars* movie.

Back in 1930, though, things were a little different. International football was in something of a fledgling state. The first international match – a 0-0 draw between England and Scotland – had been played in 1872, but in the nearly 60 years that had passed since, nations had predominantly stuck to playing the countries nearest to them geographically in exhibition matches and small regional tournaments, such as the British Home Championship.

A big step towards a major international competition was taken at the London Olympics in 1908, when eight teams from seven nations (France also fielded a 'B' team) contested the first official Olympic football tournament, organised by the English Football Association. But the sides involved comprised exclusively amateur players, with no professionals allowed to compete. This stayed the same until the 1924 Games in France, when for the first time players were paid for appearing. FIFA, formed in 1904, had since taken over the running of Olympic football, and made the rule change to allow higher-quality players to take part; in what became a recurring theme, the British football associations opposed the change and felt they knew best, withdrawing from the tournament.

The success of these first professional competitions in 1924 and 1928 (both won by Uruguay) led FIFA to believe that they could go it on their own and host a standalone football tournament separate to the Olympics. The organisation's president, Jules Rimet, was determined that this time, after a few failed attempts and false starts, a footballing world championship would flourish. Uruguay was chosen as the host country to honour the national team's status as defending Olympic champions, with the capital Montevideo scheduled to host every match, and a date was set for summer 1930.

The FIFA World Cup started out life as an experiment, and Rimet was keen to just get as many established footballing nations involved as possible, with the hope of persuading 16 teams to take part. An open invite was sent out to the football associations of all countries that had a relatively good playing standard. Rimet's experiment was not as popular as he had hoped it would be, however. In May 1930, with just two months to go before the tournament's start, only nine teams had entered – all from the Americas.

This was a disastrous blow to Rimet's hopes of staging a proper intercontinental tournament. It would be difficult for FIFA to dub the competition a world championship if teams from only South and North America took part. They were desperate to secure some European participants. England were invited on more than one occasion, but the chances of persuading the FA to support the World Cup were slim given that all of the British nations had resigned from FIFA following the disagreement over Olympic football. They preferred instead to focus on the British Home Championship, which they felt was more prestigious.

Rimet had a bigger problem still than the British teams throwing their dummies out of the pram: the location. International travel in the 1930s was not what it is today. Similarly, national football teams were yet to have the astronomical funding that many of them enjoy in the 21st century. So, for the European teams, crossing the Atlantic and travelling south beyond the equator to get to Uruguay was always going to be a big ask.

FIFA relied on the connections of senior officials to persuade some European teams to make the trip. France reluctantly agreed at the behest of Rimet, himself a Frenchman, but both the team's coach and star player declined to travel. FIFA's vice-president, Rudolf Seedrayers, used his links at the Belgian FA to ensure his nation was represented. Meanwhile, in Romania, football-loving monarch King Carol II ordered his country to play, and even went as far as to select the squad himself. It was Carol who also persuaded the fourth and final European entrants, Yugoslavia, to take part, bringing the total number of teams for the inaugural World Cup up to 13. And it was down to an Italian ocean liner – built just outside Glasgow – to ensure that the full 13 were present in Uruguay in time for the tournament's start date.

When the SS *Conte Verde* set sail from Genoa on 20 June, the Romanian team were already on board, having endured a two-day

train journey simply to get to the port. The vessel was a passenger ship, so they were joined by plenty of non-footballing civilians making their own voyages. The French team were next to board just outside of Nice, before the Belgians joined at Barcelona. Yugoslavia also tried to travel on the *Conte Verde* but ended up having to make their own way to Uruguay; the ship was fully booked by the time they had decided to participate.

Also joining the footballers for the trip were three European referees and Jules Rimet himself. He even had the now-iconic trophy – named after him in 1950 – packed in his suitcase. A huge portion of the key elements needed for the tournament to actually go ahead were on that ship; the organisers would be forgiven for being on tenterhooks for the duration of the journey.

And that journey was by no means a short one. It would ultimately take over two weeks for those departing from Europe to reach Montevideo, limiting the players' preparation for the competition. France's Lucien Laurent, who would go on to book his own place in football history as the first man to score a goal in the World Cup, remembered, 'There was no talk of tactics or anything like that, no coaching. It was just running about the boat on deck.'

Far from the rival teams keeping one another at arm's length, a spirit of camaraderie was fostered aboard the *Conte Verde*. Laurent spoke of how the journey 'was like a holiday camp'. After their short bouts of physical training, the players would eat together and be entertained by comedy acts and string quartets.

The Brazilian team were also picked up by the *Conte Verde* when the boat reached South America, joining their European counterparts for the final leg of the journey. On 4 July, after over a fortnight at sea, the ship docked in Montevideo, well in time for the tournament's opening game nine days later. Ultimately, those who had travelled on the *Conte Verde* only had short stays in the tournament. All four teams were knocked out in the group stages, in a format that saw only the four group winners progress straight to the semi-finals. But they had played an integral part.

The travel problems that hampered participation in the first World Cup would remain throughout the 1934 and 1938 tournaments, which were both staged on European soil and saw limited numbers of non-European teams compete. But, like in 1930, a handful did make transatlantic journeys to take part, and those tournaments also saw the debuts of teams from Africa and



Asia. That voyage of the *Conte Verde* had set the precedent for worldwide participation, and the World Cup never looked back.

## 1930: The First World Cup Final

*Wednesday, 30 July 1930*

*Estadio Centenario*

*Montevideo, Uruguay*

While FIFA mightn't have had as many teams taking part as they'd have liked, the first World Cup had been an understated success. Attendances were high, and the tournament had been lit up by some stunning performances and memorable matches.

That said, there were two teams who stood out from the rest as being at a level above: hosts and reigning Olympic champions Uruguay, and Argentina, their neighbours and fierce rivals. The two South American nations had led eerily similar campaigns. Both had slightly laboured to 1-0 wins in their respective opening group games before going on runs where they exhibited their dominant attacking prowess, sweeping aside the teams who faced them with ease.

They had even both won their semi-final matches by the same unlikely scoreline of 6-1. Argentina were first up, romping past an unfancied United States team who had been something of a surprise package in their group. Uruguay, meanwhile, faced a very capable Yugoslavia side in a match not lacking in controversy. With the scores at 1-1, the Yugoslavs went behind to a goal that stands to this day as one of the most bizarre ever scored in the World Cup. A wayward ball drifted out of play during a Uruguay counter attack, only for a uniformed policeman at the side of the pitch to boot it back in. The (hopefully) oblivious referee allowed play to continue. Striker Peregrino Anselmo latched on to the ball, surged beyond the Yugoslavian defence and made it 2-1. Dubious goal aside, Uruguay had four more goals up their sleeve and ultimately rampaged into the final with little fuss.

Their star man was Pedro Cea. At 29, the forward was one of the oldest members of the Uruguay team, and a seasoned veteran who had helped the country win back-to-back Olympic golds. He was his country's top scorer in the tournament and even bagged a hat-trick in that semi-final rout.

Argentina also had a leading light who shone even brighter than Cea. Guillermo Stábile must go down as one of the happiest accidents in international football. The 25-year-old went to the 1930 World Cup having never played a game for the national side, and was taken largely as backup to Roberto Cerro, star striker for Boca Juniors (at the time Argentina's biggest and most successful club). Stábile sat out his country's opening game against France and, in the days before substitutes were allowed, was expected to do the same for the rest of the competition.

Fate would carve out a different path for him. Cerro had a bad reaction to some anti-anxiety medication and was unavailable for Argentina's second fixture, against Mexico, while another forward, Manuel Ferreira, had to sit the match out because he had a law exam to take back in Buenos Aires. Out of these unorthodox circumstances Stábile got his chance, and made sure to grab it with both hands. In that game against Mexico – his international debut – he scored a hat-trick as Argentina ran out 6-3 winners. He'd score four more in their next two games to help fire his team into the final.

The scene was set for a magnificent footballing occasion. Two great rivals – who had two years prior played each other in the gold medal match of the 1928 Olympics – facing off in the kind of centrepiece that organisers would have dreamed of. FIFA now put the number at 80,000 but reports at the time suggested up to 100,000 supporters crammed inside Montevideo's Estadio Centenario, which had been built specially for the World Cup. Thousands of these were Argentina fans who had crossed the River Plate to attend the match, ensuring their team was well represented in the stands.

The opposing supporters made for a tense, hostile atmosphere. There'd been reports of death threats made to some of the Argentina players, and fans were searched for weapons upon entry to the stadium. With no separated seating sections, many Argentina fans who were not in larger groups of their compatriots found themselves surrounded by Uruguayans. Francisco Varallo, who played for Argentina in the final, remembered, 'My father was in the stands and he had to leave the stadium disguised with a Uruguayan flag because some Uruguayans ... were trying to find the Argentinians to punch them.'

There was plenty of hostility between the players themselves, too. In a somewhat farcical episode, the kick-off was actually

delayed because the two teams couldn't agree on which ball to use. Both had been allowed to provide their own balls for every game that they'd played in the tournament up to that point. But now that they were facing each other it seemed one side would be left disappointed. John Langenus, the experienced Belgian referee officiating the match, had the solution: the first half would be played with Argentina's ball, the second with Uruguay's.

The hosts took the lead in the 12th minute, with Argentina looking erratic in possession and nervy without it. The goal they had conceded seemed to calm them though, and eight minutes later they were level. Largely in control, they took the lead through a sleek, angled shot from Stábile shortly before half-time. It was the striker's eighth goal of the tournament, ensuring he finished three clear of Cea as the World Cup's first top scorer (amazingly, this was his last game for Argentina, with his four appearances and eight goals for his country all coming during the tournament).

Uruguay, now playing with their own ball, rallied in the second half. The Centenario had become a deadly bear pit and the home team surged forward relentlessly. Twelve minutes in, Cea tapped in an equaliser. From that moment on, Argentinian heads dropped and mistakes were rife. In the 68th minute, Uruguay winger Santos Iriarte scored with a low, driven shot that seemed to take Argentina keeper Juan Botasso completely by surprise, the stopper flailing helplessly in the direction of the ball long after it had travelled past him and into the net.

At 3-2, Argentina threw everything they had at Uruguay in search of an equaliser but came up against a rigid, regimented team that was drilled to perfection. The match was clinched with a fourth goal a minute from full time, when the one-armed Héctor Castro rose high in the box to rifle a header past Botasso. Fans spilled on to the pitch to celebrate Uruguay's triumph as maiden champions of the world.

Post-game, Argentinian media suggested that their players' confidence had been shot by threats they had received before the match, and the Uruguayan consulate in Buenos Aires was pelted with rocks. The *Daily Herald* reported that the feeling was so strong, women seen flying the Uruguayan flag in the Argentinian capital were stoned. Uruguay, meanwhile, declared the day after their victory a national holiday. Even with the tournament in its

infancy, a World Cup win there was deemed significant enough for a full day of celebration.

Despite their fervour, Uruguay would become the only champions in the competition's history to not defend their title. They boycotted the next edition – the 1934 World Cup in Italy – protesting against the lack of European attendance at their own tournament. They withdrew from the 1938 tournament in France too, angry at FIFA for picking two European countries in a row to host. Still, the passion and appetite of the fans for a football world championship had shown FIFA and the wider footballing community that maybe, the World Cup was an idea they could run with.