

## Sport

## Hosts have seen it all



UNDATED, July 23 (Internet): The FIFA Confederations Cup, the most recent addition to FIFA's list of tournaments, will return in 1999 to a country and two stadiums that have already seen a lot of football history in the making.

Mexico will host the eight teams involved in the competition, and matches will be played in the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City and in the Jalisco Stadium in Guadalajara.

Azteca and Jalisco - two names that awaken stirring memories for those who have followed football over the years. When polls are carried out to determine which match people consider the most memorable of all time, then the vote usually goes to the semi-final thriller between Italy and Germany on 17 June 1970, which the Italians won 4:3 after extra time. This was certainly one of the classic games that have been played in the Azteca Stadium in the Mexican capital, which had only been built four years earlier. It has a capacity of 115,000, and no fewer than 19 World Cup matches were played there in 1970 and 1986. Among them was also the game in 1986 in which Maradona's two now-legendary goals against England went down in history (for different reasons).

There were also other great matches, such as the final of the World Youth Championship in 1983. For the 1999 Confederations Cup there will be an interesting link between the past and the present. Back in 1986 the recently crowned World Champions and the team they deposed played each other in the Jalisco Stadium in a quarter-final match, which the French under Michel Platini won against a Brazil team that included Zico, Socrates, Careca, etc., but only narrowly, via a penalty shoot-out.

And we are likely to see excellent football again. If not, it will be a big surprise, in view of the quality of the teams taking part:

**Defending champions Brazil, who won the Copa America in 1997 and 1999 and were runners-up in the World Cup**

**The host country Mexico, who won the CONCACAF Gold Cup in 1998**

**World Champions France, designated by UEFA instead of the reigning European champions**

**Saudi Arabia, Asian champions 1996**

**Egypt, winners of the African Nations' Cup 1998**

**Argentina, Denmark, Brazil, ...?**

UNDATED, July 23 (Internet): The three previous competitions at a glance:

**FIFA CONFEDERATIONS CUP 1997**

**TEAMS**

1. Brazil  
2. Australia  
3. Czech Rep.  
4. Uruguay  
5. Mexico  
6. UAE  
7. Saudi Arabia  
8. South Africa

**FINAL**

21.12.97 Brazil - Australia  
6:0 (3:0)  
King Fahd Stadium, att. 25,000

**Referee:** Un Prasert, THA  
**Scorers:** Ronaldo 1:0 (15.), 2:0 (28.), Romário 3:0 (38.), 4:0 (53.), Ronaldo 5:0 (59.), Romário 6:0 (75. pen.).

**INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP 1995**

**TEAMS**

1. Denmark  
2. Argentina  
3. Mexico  
4. Nigeria  
5. Saudi Arabia  
6. Japan

**FINAL**

13.01.95 Argentina - Denmark 0:2 (0:1)  
King Fahd Stadium, att. 25,000

**Referee:** Bujaim, UAE  
**Scorers:** Michael Laudrup 0:1 (8.), Peter Rasmussen 0:2 (75.)

**INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP 1992**

**TEAMS**

1. Argentina  
2. Saudi Arabia  
3. USA  
4. Ivory Coast

**FINAL**

20.10.92 Saudi Arabia - Argentina 1:3 (0:2)  
King Fahd Stadium, att. 75,000

**Referee:** Lim Kee Chong, MUS  
**Scorers:** Rodriguez 0:1 (18.), Caniggia 0:2 (24.), Simeone 0:3 (64.), Owairan 1:3 (65.)

**Confederations**

**Cup Prize Money**

UNDATED, July 23 (Internet): Following is the amount of prize money for the 1999 Confederations Cup:

**Champion:** 2,000,000 - USD  
**Runner-up:** 1,500,000 - USD  
**3rd:** 1,250,000 - USD  
**4th:** 1,250,000 - USD  
**5th to 8:** 750,000 - USD



German soccer coach Erich Ribbeck (R) supervising his team's practice in Guadalajara on July 22. —AFP photo

**USA, representing CONCACAF, as losers in the Gold Cup final 1998**

**Bolivia, representing CONMEBOL as losing finalist in the Copa America 1997**

**New Zealand, sensational winners of the Oceania Nations' Cup thanks to a victory over their arch-rivals Australia.**

The Confederations Cup was first designated a FIFA competition in December 1997, when it was held in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. Previously there had been two other tournaments in Riyadh in 1992 and 1995, under the title of Inter-continental championships. In 1992 the winners were

Argentina, then reigning South American champions. They came with a star-studded team including Batistuta, Rondon, Caniggia and Simeone and carried off the trophy, beating the host country, who had tremendous support from the home fans, into second place.

The other two teams taking part on that occasion were the USA and Côte d'Ivoire. For the 1995 competition six teams took part, and this time it was Denmark who took the honours, with strong performances from the Laudrup brothers earning them victory over Argentina.

Mexico and Nigeria made it to the semi-finals, while Japan and the host country were eliminated after losing both of their group games.

Although the competition came under the FIFA umbrella in 1997, the venue remained the same. This time eight teams were invited to Saudi Arabia. With World Champions Brazil

and the host country being automatically invited, there was room for another Asian team, in this case UAE.

The organisational format was easy this time: eight teams, two groups, semi-finals, finals. The tournament lasted just ten days - perhaps a record short time in view of the number of matches - and in the end it was the pre-tournament favourites Brazil who won the final in the King Fahd stadium. Their opponents in this match were Australia, who had held the South Americans to a goalless draw in their group encounter. But the final was far from a repeat of that result, with Romario and Ronaldo scoring three each, and no reply from the Socceroos.

Even though the competition has now been transferred to another continent, the concept has remained almost the same. Back in 1997 it had been decided to offer an automatic invitation to the title-holder and not to the World Cup winners. But with UEFA nominating France to take part, an interesting line-up has been guaranteed anyway: both World Cup finalists will be there, four reigning continental champions - five if we include Brazil - and, in the shape of the USA and Bolivia, two ambitious countries who want to re-establish themselves in view of recent results (which could be an important consideration in view of the performances of Australia and Uruguay in a similar position last time round).

With home advantage behind them, the host country should not be overlooked.

They have a long-standing unbeaten record in the Azteca stadium and will be difficult opponents for Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Bolivia, who are drawn against them in the same group.

World Cup revenge - perhaps in the final, or earlier? The answer to this question could come in what looks like an intriguing opening match - a repeat of the World Cup final between France and Brazil, with New Zealand and the USA looking to have a hard time ahead of them in this group.

After nearly twenty years in the wilderness, New Zealand have staged a comeback at exactly the right time. In 1982 they qualified for the World Cup for the first and so far only time in their history. Now they have a chance to perform in a major competition again - an opportunity to do some PR work for the FIFA U-17 World Championship which they will host in November.

With the high quality of the teams taking part, this competition will enable teams to battle for prestige at intercontinental or regional level - Egypt versus Saudi Arabia for example - and offer a unique opportunity for coaches to test out new ideas and players in a series of games against top level opposition, since apart from the Copa America there is no other continental championship taking place in 1999. These two weeks in Mexico promise varied and interesting matches, with a lot of the world's established top players on view, and others trying to break into that elite group.

With his contract and also show respect for the club," French forward Anelka has pleaded with Arsenal's wantaway striker Nicolas

Anelka to show some respect for the free transfer system, reports AFP.

Bosman - the player who fought through the European courts to establish the right for footballers to move without restriction on their own terms at the end of their contracts - believes Anelka's reported intention to 'buy' his own freedom from Arsenal may do untold harm to the game.

"You could say it's anarchy," said Bosman. "Anelka should always re-

spect his contract and also show respect for the club."

French forward Anelka has long been known to want out of Highbury and has left the Gunners in no doubt that he intends to move to Italy's Serie A at the earliest opportunity.

But the 20-year-old's prospective 22 million pound (33 million dollar) transfer to Lazio has been halted by the two clubs varying valuation of his talent, and Anelka's legal adviser Jean-Louis Dupont - the man who also championed Bosman's cause - has told the player he may be able to leave London on his own terms if he pays 900,000 pounds compensation and serves notice.

Bosman added in The Sun newspaper: "I don't know why

he wants to go. He has already made a lot of money from Arsenal, so there must be something else in his mind."

"I just hope Anelka does the right thing and honours his contract."

Anelka has received support, meanwhile, from Pierre van Hooijdonk, another of British football's controversial former imports.

Vitesse Arnhem striker Van Hooijdonk, who went on strike at the start of last season while at Nottingham Forest over a contract dispute, blames the greed of clubs for forcing players into legal redress.

"The clubs have been pulling the strings for far too long," said van Hooijdonk.

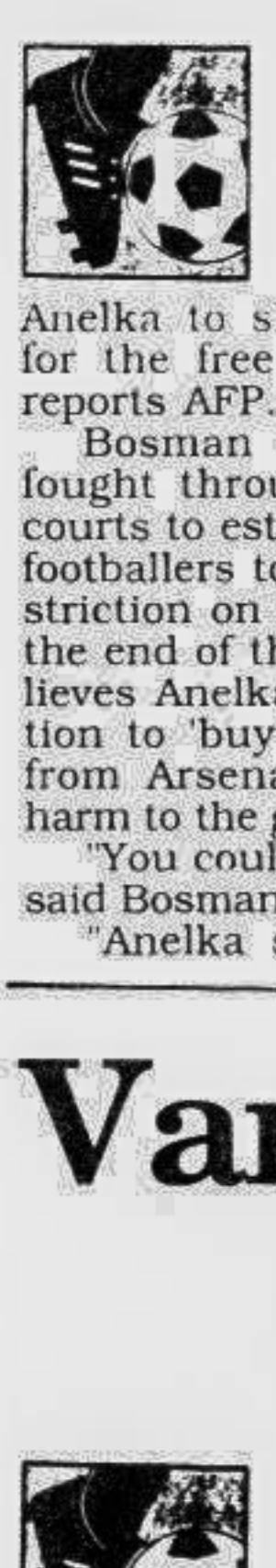
"They call the players greedy, but it is their own greed in asking ridiculous prices for players that leads to these situations," he added, citing as a prime example Arsenal's insistence that two years after paying 500,000 pounds for Anelka they must now receive 22 million for his transfer.

Malcolm, bowled Mathew Wood for a duck and then had Michael Vaughan caught behind 18 as the Tykes struggled again in their second innings.

The formalities were completed this afternoon at Anfield after the player came in from Munich and he is a Liverpool player now," Anfield spokesman Ian Cotton said.

"He will now fly out to

## Bosman's advice for Anelka



BARCELONA, July 23: Barcelona's Dutch coach Louis van Gaal has agreed to stay with the Spanish champions through to 2002, club president Josep Luis Nunez announced on Thursday, reports AFP.

Van Gaal had a clause in his contract allowing him to leave the Catalan club if he were ever offered the Dutch national job "but for now Van Gaal has put aside this possibility and extended his contract," Nunez said.

"Van Gaal informed me a few days ago that he was dropping this clause. It was a big - and pleasant - surprise as our relationship has been perfect and it would be difficult for it to get better," Nunez added.

Van Gaal originally signed a three-season contract with an option for a further two and had agreed to make his intentions on his future clear by the end of this year.

Van Gaal remains a controversial figure despite winning the league title and earlier this week sparked a row with Spanish journalists, whom he allegedly kept waiting in a car park for six hours before allowing them access to the Nou Camp stadium.

He has also infuriated the media by deciding that all training sessions this season should be held behind closed doors with the press only being admitted at the end of each session.

Some 90 reporters signed a petition complaining at their treatment and handed it to the

## Buechse bags first gold

ISTANBUL, July 23: Peggy Buechse of Germany claimed the first gold medal of the European swimming championships when she retained her five-km open-water title on Friday, reports Reuters.

At the finish off the coast of the sea of Marmara, Buechse touched just ahead of Viola Valli of Italy. Buechse's German teammate Britta Kamrau took the bronze.

Barcelona's Dutch coach Luis van Gaal shows his soccer skills during a practice session of his team on July 22. Van Gaal extended his contract until 2002 with the club.

## SL may split squads

COLOMBO, July 23: Sri Lanka's selectors are considering following the new trend in one-day internationals and Test matches by selecting two specialist squads, a senior cricket board official said today, reports Reuters.

"We are considering having a very young side for one-day matches and keeping the experienced players for the Test team," the official said.

"There will obviously be a few who will be in both teams, but for the one-day matches we want to focus on youth," he added.

"We are looking four years down the road (at the next World Cup in South Africa in 2003) and we need to take some hard decisions. Might as well be the bull now than later," the official said.

He said the squads would be announced after consultations with Australian Dav Whatmore, who was recently taken on again as coach.

Whatmore was widely seen as responsible for moulding the Sri Lankan team which won the World Cup in 1996. He takes over his old job next month.

Sri Lanka are scheduled to play Australia and India in a one-day tournament next month, which will follow by a three-Test series against Australia.

Sports authorities have revamped Sri Lanka's cricket in recent weeks by appointing Sanath Jayasuriya as captain, bringing in a new selection committee and appointing a new coach.

Sacked skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and experienced batsman Aravinda de Silva, who was also replaced by Mahela Jayawardene as vice-captain, have been included in a 30-member pool from which the squads will be selected for the one-day tournament and test series.

The changes came after Sri Lanka failed to reach the second round of the World Cup tournament in England in May. Sri Lanka have lost 18 of their last 25 one-day matches.

England and World Cup winners Australia already name different squads for one-day internationals and Test matches.

## Boon blazes for Durham

LONDON, July 23: Former Australian Test opener David Boon hammered 139 - equaling his best score for Durham - as the visitors, resuming on 359 for three, piled up 552 on the second day of their English county championship match against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham on Thursday, reports AFP.

Boon's compatriots Justin Langer and Greg Blewett were also among the runs.

Boon's first century of the season was sprinkled with 23 boundaries and Gloucestershire were then reduced to 148 for five in reply by the close, still needing 255 runs to avoid the follow on.

Langer, Middlesex's acting skipper, earned his side a 58-run first-innings lead against Somerset at Taunton.

Middlesex resumed on 61 for three and Australian Test star Langer made 96 as the visitors posted 355 in reply to Somerset's 297.

Somerset were 28 without loss, and 30 runs behind, by the close.

Yorkshire resumed on 122 for two by replying to Northants' 517 for seven declared but got off to a bad start, David Byas edging to Matthew Hayden at second slip off Devon Malcolm after completing his half-century.

Byes Arnhem striker Van Hooijdonk, who went on strike at the start of last season while at Nottingham Forest over a contract dispute, blames the greed of clubs for forcing players into legal redress.

"They call the players greedy, but it is their own greed in asking ridiculous prices for players that leads to these situations," he added, citing as a prime example Arsenal's insistence that two years after paying 500,000 pounds for Anelka they must now receive 22 million for his transfer.

Malcolm, bowled Mathew Wood for a duck and then had Michael Vaughan caught behind 18 as the Tykes struggled again in their second innings.

The formalities were completed this afternoon at Anfield after the player came in from Munich and he is a Liverpool player now," Anfield spokesman Ian Cotton said.

"He is still young but he has experience because he has played for Bayern Munich in the Champions League."

Hamann himself believes Liverpool will soon be challenging again for the highest European honours.

"He will now fly out to