

DOWN THE WORLD CUP LANE

Pele: The greatest of them all

AGENCIES, undated



Above and beyond everything else Pele, was a genius who was constantly reinventing the game of football.

Brazil's living legend Pele won an unprecedented three World Cups and is widely recognized, along with Argentina's Diego Maradona, as the best footballer of all time.

The striker's 1,285 goals from 1,321 official matches made his club Santos a household name and the Brazilian side that won those World Cups in 1958, 1962 and 1970 the benchmark for any other nation that has pretensions of footballing greatness.

The smiley Pele has enchanted the world wherever he has been and has won respect since retirement, working as an ambassador for the United Nations and sports minister for Brazil.

During his heyday he had breathtaking speed and technique, tenacity, great physical power and an extraordinary eye for goal.

He was the son of professional footballer nicknamed "Dido", and got his nickname at age three after mispronouncing the name of a goalkeeping friend of his father (Bile) as Pele.

He grew up in the region of Sao Paulo, where he was spotted by former Brazilian international Valdemar de Brito, and invited to join local club Santos.

He scored on his debut in September, 1956, in a match against Corinthians, the first of hundreds for the club.

He also scored on his Brazil debut eight months later in a 2-1 loss to Argentina.

At his first World Cup in Sweden in 1958, Pele gave the world glimpses of his talent when he scored a hat-trick in the semi-final against France and another two in the final as an irresistible Brazil stormed to a 5-2 victory over Sweden.

Thus, aged just 17 years and eight months, he became the youngest player to win a world title. He so enchanted the watching Swedes that they used to touch his face to convince themselves that he was real!

After a baptism of such fire the world awaited the return of Pele in the 1962 edition but tragedy struck. He was injured early even though he did score a goal in the only match that he played. Although Brazil went on to win the World Cup, for Pele it was a pyrrhic victory as he played little part in it. His teammates, particularly, Garrincha was the inspiration behind the success

but Pele still only 21 had a long career ahead of him.

However, an almost similar story ensued in England in 1966. By now Pele was a marked man and he again left the field on a stretcher, hacked down in Brazil's third game against Portugal. This time, though, he was forced to watch from the sidelines as his team was knocked out of the competition. Pele was so

incensed at the treatment that he swore never to play another World Cup.

But in 1970 Pele began the Mexican World Cup at the heart of one of the greatest football teams ever to walk out onto a pitch.

Alongside the likes of Carlos Alberto, Jairzinho, Rivelino and Gerson, Pele shone like a leading man on a stage designed specially

for his talents as Brazil marched imperiously to their third title, crushing Italy 4-1 in the final.

Pele got the opener in the final but is better remembered for a deft pass that set up Carlos Alberto for the fourth, a goal constantly shown on television due to its masterful teamwork.

As it was Brazil's third World Cup final.

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PHOTO: STAR FILE

The pinnacle of the greatest career. After the final in 1970, some local headgear costs Pele the shirt off his back.

Owen backs himself as saviour

REUTERS, London

England will head for the World Cup knowing that supporting Michael Owen and striking at opponents from deep will be the key to success without Wayne Rooney.

As coach Sven-Goran Eriksson sweats on next Thursday's scan on Rooney's broken foot, few expect the striker to recover in time for the group stages in Germany -- if he makes the finals at all.

The 20-year-old's injury will clearly place an extra weight on Owen's shoulders as England look to come through Group B games against Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, and Sweden.

Fortunately for Eriksson, Owen's track record shows that pressure does not faze a 26-year-old who is now looking forward to his third World Cup.

"It doesn't really affect the way I play," Owen told reporters. "If anyone plays for England on a regular basis and for top Premiership teams

like Chelsea, Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal -- you've got to be able to handle pressure.

"There are massive games every week let alone a Champions League final like Arsenal were playing in. Pressure comes with life.

"I never get so excited that I can't think and I never get too low. I'm able to keep a middle ground on a lot of things."

From breaking records as a schoolboy to rattling up 35 goals in 75 England games, the Newcastle United striker has no reason to doubt his ability despite a long-term injury.

"The first time I ever played in the World Cup I scored, the first time I played in a football match I scored, the first time I played for Liverpool I scored," Owen said.

"If you do it first time, it's not a confidence thing -- it's deep within you that you know you can do it.

"I don't go to sleep thinking about the pressure, I think about that little rectangle that I've got to smack the ball

into -- and that's about it."

Owen also believes he is only part of a goalscoring equation for England, who have only three other named strikers.

Rooney is joined on the roster by 17-year-old Theo Walcott, who has not played in Arsenal's first team since joining in January, and Peter Crouch.

Asked about England's goal potential, Owen told reporters at a training camp in Portugal: "That's why I think we've got such a good squad of players.

"You've got to have more than one or two matchwinners and we've got Wayne, Frank Lampard, Stevie Gerrard, David (Beckham), Joe Cole -- people who can turn a match with one bit of magic or a great goal.

"Even John Terry scores in double figures for Chelsea every season, so he's always dangerous on set pieces," he said of the central

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Hamann hangs up international boots

INTERNET, undated

Liverpool midfielder Dietmar Hamann has retired from international football after being overlooked for Germany's World Cup squad.

He won 59 caps and scored five goals, among them the last ever goal at the old Wembley Stadium when Germany beat England in an October 2000 World Cup qualifier.

Hamann made his international debut against South Africa in 1997 and his last appearance was against Holland in August last year. In 2002 he played for Germany in the World Cup final.

The 32-year-old was also an FA Cup winner with Liverpool last weekend but admits he expected to be omitted by Germany boss Jurgen Klinsmann.

"It's not really a big surprise to me I wasn't in the squad," he said on www.liverpoolfc.tv.

"I haven't spoken to the manager for the last three months so I didn't think there was much chance of me being included.

"That's it for me now at international level. I'm 32 now and this would have been my last tournament."

Bitterness drives Cruz on

INTERNET, undated

Julio Cruz will use his bitterness at missing out on Argentina's last two World Cup squads to fuel him at this summer's tournament.

The 31-year-old Internazionale striker narrowly missed out on selection for France '98 and Japan/Korea four years later but has finally been handed what he admits will probably be his only chance to star on football's biggest stage by current head coach Jose Pekerman.

"It is a revenge for me, as I could've played another World Cup but I was never selected," Cruz said. "I think this could be my last chance."

"Despite fulfilling my dream, this will not change anything in my life. I am like this always."

Cruz admits previous disappointments meant he did not dare believe he would be on the plane to Germany and even turned off his mobile phone on the day of the squad announcement to avoid tormenting himself.

"The same day Jose Pekerman announced the World Cup squad, I turned off my cellular phone," the former Banfield, River Plate, Feyenoord and Bologna striker said.

Cruz need not have worried after outscoring Inter team-mate and Brazil striker Adriano this season.

"I had a nice season," he said. "I feel more mature than during the tenures of Marcelo Bielsa (Argentina's coach in 2002) and Daniel Passarella (1998).

"I learned a lot of things. Most of all, I have been recognised by the difficult Italian press after six years in Italian football."

Cruz knows all too well how

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The Messi-ah?

INTERNET, undated

The imposing figure of Diego Maradona looms large for every aspiring Argentinian footballer - but there is one individual who truly plays in the great man's image.

He may only be 18 but Lionel Messi's performances for Barcelona, arguably the best side in Europe, suggest South America has unearthed its latest superstar.

While neighbours and fierce rivals Brazil have a rich tradition of genius, Argentina's top players have relied on technical rather than individual brilliance.

For Argentina, Maradona was the exception rather than the rule and now, 20 years after he inspired them to World Cup glory at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, he has a worthy heir.

Argentina's success at the World Under-20 Championship last summer was virtually a one-man crusade, Messi scoring six times, twice from the spot in the final win over Nigeria, to finish top scorer in the tournament.

Last August he made his debut for the senior side against Hungary - for

those looking for omens the same opposition when Maradona took his bow - amid a flurry of expectation.

As if to extend the comparison it was the kind of start befitting Maradona in his own impetuous youth.

Only two minutes after coming on as substitute, Messi was dismissed by referee Markus Merk for allegedly elbowing Hungary defender Vilmos Vanczak.

Bursting through from midfield in

customary manner, Messi attempted to wrestle his way free from an ungainly grab and succumbed to the rulebook.

Wizards do not conform to convention and, as if to prove the point, Messi's 120 seconds on the field was viewed as a success back in Buenos Aires.

To Argentinians, the Spanish-raised player had seized the moment in his brief cameo, craving the chance to create and displaying frustration at being denied.

His actions may have been contrary to modern football's interpretation of the spirit of the game but his spirit for the game shone through.

Argentina coach Jose Pekerman spoke for the nation when he said: "I congratulated Messi because he went out to play his football."

That is something he has done with aplomb for Barca since having dual nationality granted last September - he had previously been restricted due to the presence of three other non-EU players at the Nou Camp.



LIONEL MESSI

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2006 Round 2, Draw in Khulna

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

Information

A. The *Daily Star* Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2006 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in Germany from June 9 to July 9.

B. There will be **FIVE** rounds of competition.

C. Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of **RANGS TOSHIBA** as per announcement.

D. Participants of all the **FIVE** rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes.

E. For each round, a set of questions including a photographic quiz will be published in the *Daily Star*.

F. Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in the *Daily Star*.

G. Winners will have to collect their prizes from the *Daily Star* office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.

H. Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.

Rules

Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in **Rangs Toshiba** World Cup Quiz 2006. Employees of and **Rangs Toshiba** and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.

All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in the *Daily Star*. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.

Forms will have to be cut along the dotted lines.

Participants are to put a tick () mark in the box alongside their answer to each question.

A person may send numerous entries for each round. Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.

Name, address, father's name and particulars of participants must be clearly written. Each entry form must also bear the signature of the participant and date.

Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

Entries must reach the office of the *Daily Star* on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Late entries will not be accepted.

Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "*Daily Star* World Cup Quiz 2".

Entries may be hand delivered or posted to the *Daily Star*, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.

Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the draw to be held on a notified date in public in presence of invited guests and Quiz participants, if any.

Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.

Entering this Quiz competition shall be construed as the respective agreement by each participant to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines as may be issued by the *Daily Star*.

Any decision of the *Daily Star* in the conduct of the Quiz competition/including the answers selected as correct shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.

The *Daily Star* management, in their absolute discretion, reserves the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of the Quiz competitions under any circumstances.

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS


| Prize | Item | Model | Winner |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 1st | One 21" Toshiba Bomba Flat TV | 21CZ8DE | YOU |
| 2nd | One Toshiba Refrigerator | GRM-19BPT | YOU |
| 3rd | One Toshiba Washing Machine | VH-7200 | YOU |
| 4th | Ten Canon Cameras | BF-800 | YOU |
| 5th | Twenty Toshin Irons | | and YOU |

QUIZ SCHEDULE

| Round & Draw | Starts | Answers must reach by 8pm | Lucky Draw for prizes |
|------------------|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Rangpur | May 05 | May 18 | May 23 |
| 2 Khulna | May 19 | June 01 | June 02 |
| 3 Sylhet | June 2 | June 15 | June 16 |
| 4 Chittagong | June 16 | June 29 | June 30 |
| 5 Dhaka (Bumper) | June 30 | July 09 | TBA |

The Daily Star RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 2 Ends June 01, 2006

Tick () the correct answers

- The only player to have appeared in three World Cup final matches is: Matheus ☐ Maradona ☐ Cafu ☐
Munich ☐ Frankfurt ☐ Berlin ☐
- The 2006 World Cup final will be held in: 5 ☐ 3 ☐ 0 ☐
- How many goals did France score in the 2002 World Cup? ☐ South Korea ☐ Saudi Arabia ☐
- Which Asian nation made highest number of appearances in World Cup finals? Iran ☐ Ronaldinho ☐ Drogba ☐ Ronaldo ☐
- Who is this player? 

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) Age.....

Father's name Occupation

Address

Telephone (if any) Signature Date.....

Write with a ballpoint pen in clear **BLOCK** letters.

Cut along the dotted lines and mail to OR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star

You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "*Daily Star* World Cup Quiz 2."

READ The Daily Star CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER



PHOTO: AFP

Shop assistant Jutta Corzani wears a hat decorated with black and white toy footballs at a bakery in Bremen, northern Germany on Friday. The bakery sells so called 'kicker bread' front, which reminds people of a football. The soccer World Cup 2006 is due to run from June 9 through July 9.



No games for Thai prisoners!

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand will ban live broadcasts of World Cup games in prisons in a bid to prevent football gambling among inmates, an official said Saturday.

But prisoners would be permitted to watch pre-recorded games of the 64-match tournament, which kicks off in Germany next month, Thai Corrections Department spokeswoman Athicha Kiewzen said.

"They will be allowed to watch tape-recorded tournaments so that they already know the results and they cannot bet," she said.

The announcement follows reports in Brazil's media this week that recent prison riots were due to inmates' demands that they be allowed to watch the World Cup matches.

Bidder crashes Becks party

AFP, London

A big-spending bidder became the envy of a nation's football fans after picking up a pair of tickets to England captain David Beckham's World Cup party in an online charity auction which wound up Friday.

The unnamed buyer will be able to join the stars attending Beckham's glittering bash on Sunday at his countryside mansion north of London.

The offer of 103,100 pounds (194,000 dollars, 151,700 euros) came in on Monday.

BITS AND BOBS

Real Madrid midfielder Beckham and his pop star wife Victoria are throwing the Full Length and Fabulous Ball as a send-off for the England team before the World Cup kicks off in Germany on June 9.

The money raised by the tickets will go to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Rock legends the Rolling Stones have donated a Mercedes car for the charity's next round of auctions.

A chance to spend a day on the set of the forthcoming James Bond film "Casino Royale" is also up for grabs.

Open door session for Germany

AFP, Frankfurt

Germany are inviting fans to watch one of their World Cup warm up sessions, the German football federation announced.

"The German team invite their supporters to attend the public training on May 31 during which Jurgen Klinsmann will present his squad of 23 players," the DFB said in a statement.

The World Cup hosts' public relations exercise is being held at third division side Fortuna's 51,000-capacity stadium in Dusseldorf.

Under FIFA rules each of the 32 World Cup finalists must open at least one of their warm-up sessions to their fans ahead of the June 9-July 9 competition.

640 tickets for the blind!

REUTERS, Berlin

All 640 tickets for blind soccer fans at World Cup matches have been sold, Germany's organising committee said on Friday.

For the first time at a World Cup, 10 tickets for each of the 64 matches have been reserved for blind fans, who will each be allowed to take an escort into the stadiums for free. There will also be two commentators accompanying the groups at each match.

Headphones will be made available so that the fans can hear the commentary in one ear and the stadium sounds in the other. The organising committee said English commentators would be available for all the English team's matches.

Several Bundesliga teams have had groups of blind fans regularly in their stadiums, such as at Dortmund, Cologne and Ham-burg, and said the practice had been successful, the organising committee said.

The equipment will be left in place at all 12 venues after the World Cup, which runs from June 9 to July 9.

Ljungberg to take it easy

INTERNET, undated

Sweden team doctor Anders Valentin insists the coaching staff will "take it easy" with Freddie Ljungberg when he reports for pre-World Cup training on Sunday.

The tenacious Arsenal midfielder

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