



# SPORT

## PELE'S CAREER IN NUMBERS

- Won three World Cup titles with Brazil in 1958, 1962 and 1970 - the only player to have won the showpiece tournament three times.
- Became the youngest-ever player to win the World Cup trophy at 17, a record that still stands.
- Scored 757 goals in 812 official matches for club and country, a record that stood for decades until Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo eclipsed his tally.
- Brazil's football association (CBF) and Santos say Pele scored a total of 1,283 goals in 1,367 matches while FIFA puts the figure at 1,281 goals in 1,366 games. Other sources give varying figures depending on the types of games included.
- Netted 77 goals in 92 official matches for Brazil - the country's all-time leading goal scorer, alongside Neymar, who netted his 77th goal in the 2022 World Cup.
- Scored 12 goals in World Cups.
- Registered six assists at Mexico 1970 - a record for one World Cup.
- Scored 92 hat-tricks across official and unofficial games.
- Scored 127 goals for Santos in 1959, thought to be the most goals scored by a club player in one calendar year.
- Finished as Santos' top scorer with 643 goals in 659 competitive matches.
- Won Brazil's Serie A six times with Santos (1961-1965 and 1968).
- Led Santos to two Copa Libertadores titles (1962 and 1963).



## 'Football in four letters'

AFP, Paris

His face appeared on televisions around the world and dominated the homepages of news outlets everywhere as global media bowed to the late, great Pele, the undisputed "King" of football.

News organisations across the planet hailed the legendary Brazilian, who died Thursday at the age of 82 and was widely considered the greatest footballer to ever play the game and stood alone as the only one in history to win three World Cups.

To the Brazilian daily O Globo, whose front page was packed with stories about the sporting legend, Pele may have died, but he remained the "immortal king of football".

In the Folha de S.Paulo, journalist Juca Kfourri quoted the late Brazilian poet Carlos Drummond de Andrade, who said: "The difficulty, the extraordinary, is not to score 1,000 goals like Pele — it's to score one goal like Pele."

Concluding his obituary, Kfourri suggested that while Edson Arantes do Nascimento — Pele's birth name — may have passed on, "it isn't true that Pele is dead".

In Argentina — home of Diego Maradona and Lionel Messi, both also contenders for the title of greatest of all time — the Clarin remembered Pele as "a supreme symbol of football's spectacle" and a "great among the greats".

The Argentine sport daily Ole wrote: "Beyond the rivalry that exists between Argentina and Brazil, no one can doubt that Pele was one of the greatest footballers in history, for many the best, on top of Diego

Maradona and Lionel Messi".

Writing in the German tabloid Bild, Alfred Draxler saw no need for such couching, declaring that "Pele was better than Messi, Maradona and (Cristiano) Ronaldo combined."

In Mexico, meanwhile, the image of Pele celebrating his third world title win in 1970 at the country's Estadio Azteca circulated widely, with El Universal declaring, "Football in mourning!"

The main story on the homepage of Ecuador's El Universo was titled in part: "Goodbye to Pele, the 'supernatural footballer'".

In the far less football-mad United States, the New York Times called Pele the "global face of soccer" who "helped popularise the sport" stateside with his 1975-1977 stint with the New York Cosmos.

Japan's Asahi Shimbun lauded Pele's intelligence and his forays into business and politics — he was sports minister of Brazil from 1995 to 1998 — calling him "a man of many talents off the pitch too".

In France, L'Equipe ran 22 special pages on Pele, with Vincent Duluc writing: "Behind the sadness is hidden the happiness of having seen him play, seen him dance, even in old images, and of having seen him give another meaning to the most universal game on the planet."

El Pais in Spain, meanwhile, headlined one of several stories on the legend's passing: "Pele, global football in four letters".

And in Italy's La Stampa, Matteo Giusti began his article with a quote attributed to the Brazilian writer Jorge Amado: "If football hadn't been called that, it should have been called Pele."



## 'THE PERSON WHO STOPPED THE WORLD'

**"Before Pele, '10' was just a number. I would say that before Pele, football was just a sport. He transformed football into an art, into entertainment."**

► Brazil star Neymar.

**"My friend of so many victories, titles and shared stories. He leaves an eternal, unforgettable legacy. The person who stopped the world several times."**

► Mario Zagallo, a Brazil teammate in the 1958 and 1962 World Cup-winning teams.

**"The king of football has left us but his legacy will never be forgotten. RIP KING."**

► French international forward Kylian Mbappe.

**"He will never be forgotten and his memory will live on forever in each of us football lovers. Rest in peace, King Pele."**

► Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo

**"Rest in peace, Pele."**

► Argentine World Cup winner Lionel Messi.

**"With the death of Pele, football has lost one of its most beautiful legends, if not the most beautiful. Like all legends, the King seemed immortal."**

► France national team coach Didier Deschamps.

**"Pele was one of the greatest to ever play the beautiful game. And as one of the most recognizable athletes in the world, he understood the power of sports to bring people together. Our thoughts are with his family and everyone who loved and admired him."**

► Former US President Barack Obama.

**"Football has lost the greatest player in its history. Pele called me his brother. That was an unimaginable honour for me. Football will always belong to you!"**

► Former Germany star Franz Beckenbauer.

**"With Pele's passing, the world has lost a great sporting icon."**

► IOC president Thomas Bach.

**"Pele's name will forever be synonymous with sporting artistry and genius. His lasting impact on the sport of soccer is inestimable. Rest in peace, O Rei."**

► New York Cosmos, a former club of Pele.

**"A Sporting Legend. Rest in Peace King Pele."**

► Athletics legend Usain Bolt.

**"I have so many memories of Pele, without doubt the best footballer I ever played against (with Bobby Moore being the best footballer I ever played alongside). For me Pele remains the greatest of all time and I was proud to be on the pitch with him. RIP Pele and thank you."**

► England 1966 World Cup winner Geoff Hurst.

**"Pele had a magnetic presence and, when you were with him, the rest of the world stopped."**

► Current FIFA chief Gianni Infantino.

## Local football pays tribute to Pele

### SPORTS REPORTER

Dark clouds of grief have covered the Bangladesh football fraternity following the death of megastar footballer Pele, and the country's former and current booters expressed their deepest condolence over the loss of such a colossal figure.

Pele is mostly known as the 'Kalo Manik [Black Pearl]' among the Bangladeshi generation following the country's independence in 1971, courtesy of a chapter in primary level text book featuring the achievements of the Brazilian, who remained in a league of his own as the lone footballer to have won three FIFA World Cup trophies.

Kazi Salahuddin, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president and a football icon in the country, was left heartbroken upon knowing that Pele passed away on Thursday.

"I felt really very sad when I heard the news last night (Thursday). We did know Pele's condition was not good and anything can happen, but I believed that he won't go so soon," said Salahuddin.

Labelled as 'the greatest' by FIFA, Pele shares the one-off FIFA Player of the Century award with Diego Maradona,



whom the BFF president recalled as he mourned for Pele.

"At the same time, I remembered the demise of Maradona. The world within just a couple of years had lost two top footballers, who elevated football to this level," said Salahuddin, who had watched Pele in VHS tapes after the 1970 World Cup.

"Of course, Pele had an impact on me because I had grown up as a footballer

watching great footballers like Pele, Johan Cruyff, Bobby Charlton, George Best. Every footballer had wished to imitate them, and footballers developed themselves in such way for decades."

Former national forward Sheikh Mohammad Aslam however had an opportunity to watch Pele play World Cup in 1970 live on TV while he was then a grade-three student in Khulna.

"I was really enthralled with his

dribbling ability that put a number of players behind him. From that time, I believed football is a game of art, and I grew up with that belief inspired by Pele," said Aslam.

For millions of fans of the game around the globe, Pele was the first person to have made football Jogo Bonito, "the beautiful game". He was the player of number 10, a number sported by the likes of Diego Maradona, Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbapp. The genius played the game with such passion and was so unstoppable that fouling him was the only option.

Bangladesh national team's captain Jamal Bhuiyan and his colleagues also paid their tributes to Pele, who had been suffering from Colon cancer.

"Rest in Peace. Pelé the only footballer who has won the World Cup trophy thrice. One of the greatest footballers of all time, you will be remembered forever," Jamal posted on his Facebook page.

National goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico wrote, "Pele was more than a footballer. He was the icon of the game. Good bye, King of football."

Mentioning Pele's wish to play with Maradona in the heavens one day, national defender Tapu Barman wrote, "Enjoy your game, legends."