

THE WORLD CUP

THE COMPLETE HISTORY



2010
FIFA WORLD CUP
SOUTH AFRICA

Argentina
vs
Nigeria
Match 3 - Group B
12/06/2010 - Kick Off 16:00
Ellis Park Stadium



TERRY CROUCH WITH JAMES CORBETT



14
EVERY RESULT FROM THE
2014 QUALIFIERS

**THE WORLD CUP
THE COMPLETE HISTORY**

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TERRY CROUCH
with **JAMES CORBETT**



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James Corbett would like to thank Teresa Crouch, Thomas Regan and Asha Sathyadas for helping make this book happen.

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The Authors

TERRY CROUCH was educated in Barnet, where he played in amateur football leagues. He managed to continue supporting Queens Park Rangers while living in Garstang, Lancashire, with his wife and five children, where he coached with Garstang Juniors and Imperial Football Club.

He compiled and wrote two editions of this book, dedicated them to his uncle, Laurie Crouch; his cousin, friend and team-mate Michael 'Martin' Lannon; and, with love, to his father, Barry Crouch. He died in January 2009.

James Corbett is an award-winning author and journalist, who writes about football for publications including *FourFourTwo*, *World Soccer*, *When Saturday Comes* and the *Blizzard*, and contributes to the BBC World Service's World Football programme. He reported from the 2010 World Cup and completed the 2010 and 2014 editions of this book. Born in Liverpool, he now lives in Ireland with his family.

Introduction

THE WORLD CUP is the greatest sporting event on Earth, a competition that evokes memories so vivid, so breathtaking, of the heroes of yesteryear: Pelé, whose genius embellished four, three times a winner, Cruyff of Holland and Puskás of Hungary, gallant losers both, for teams whose failure was glorious. Beckenbauer, West Germany's immaculate, marvellous captain who saw the heartbreak of 1966 and suffered agony in 1970 before finally triumphing in front of an ecstatic nation four years later. Kempes of Argentina and the Italian Rossi, who in 1982 and 1978 respectively scored the goals that earned their teams the glory. Schiaffino, brilliant Uruguayan, outstanding in victory in 1950 and again in defeat in 1954. Then there was England, Champions in 1966, for whom their accomplished, assured captain, the fair-haired Bobby Moore, was a wonderful example of spirit, sportsmanship and dignity; his untimely death left a nation in mourning.

Of all these great players who have thrilled us, none surely have so thoroughly dominated a tournament as did Maradona in 1986, mesmerizing opponents with his powerful running and trickery, and leading Argentina inevitably to a second title. Tragically, the stocky little striker also became embroiled in controversy and then disgraced himself in a drugs scandal, demonstrating once again the frailties of many great players in the cauldron of the modern game.

Great matches are also remembered fondly: France and Brazil in 1986, Italy and Brazil in 1982, both absorbing contests tactically, from very different footballing cultures.

France and West Germany's unbearably exciting semi-final match in Spain, and of course Hungary's victory over Uruguay in 1954, when two genuinely great teams fought out an unforgettable encounter.

The competition, however, is not just for the great and the good: it is, and should always remain, a celebration, an opportunity for the Davids to mix with the Goliaths, and do battle beneath the floodlights of football's greatest stage. Who would forget the plucky little Koreans of 1966; Roger Milla and his indomitable lions of Cameroon in 1990, so close to a semi-final place; Haiti, who almost unbelievably led the Italians in 1974; and Cuba, who back in 1938 eliminated a strong Romanian side. The beauty of the World Cup is that it embraces all, giving us the pleasure of watching El Salvador, Zaire, New Zealand, Israel, Japan and Jamaica embark, no matter how brief the experience, on their great adventure.

With such a prize on offer, it is little wonder that on occasion frayed tempers spark violent and chaotic confrontation, none more so than the notorious 'battle of Santiago', when ill-judged remarks by the Italian press infuriated the Chileans into retribution. From the start it was claimed that Chile were abusive and spitting, though the trouble erupted after an off-the-ball incident left an Italian with a broken nose. Thereafter what had begun as ugly and ill-tempered degenerated into anarchy, with the ball often incidental to proceedings. Chile won but few cared.

Through eighty-four years of absorbing drama, however, it is memories of sportsmanship and skill that quite rightly dominate our recollections, and it might be that the forever endearing image of the competition be that of a smiling Pelé and Bobby Moore exchanging shirts after the epic encounter in Leon 1970, each showing great mutual respect to a fellow giant of this most beautiful of games.

I sincerely hope that this book does justice to those to whom it is dedicated, the players who have entertained us

so royally in this, the world's most prestigious sporting event.

CHAPTER 1

URUGUAY

1930

In 1904 an association designed to represent the interests of international football was founded in Paris. The Federation of International Football Associations, or FIFA, as it was known, initially consisted of seven countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland, Spain, Switzerland and Sweden. One of its goals was to arrange a World Championship.

By World War I, membership had increased substantially; Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States truly gave FIFA world representation. The four 'Home' Associations, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, had also joined, but for them problems lay ahead. On resumption of sporting links after the war England, supported by Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France and Belgium, expressed a reluctance to compete with their recent enemies, Germany, Austria and Hungary. Furthermore, and crucially, at a conference in Brussels in 1919 delegates agreed on a policy 'not to meet Neutral Associations nor neutral clubs who had played against the Association or the clubs of the Central Empires', and in so doing cast themselves adrift from world football. Belgium swiftly reneged, their stance inappropriate for a nation about to host the Olympic Games of 1920, but for Britain it was to be the first of many spats that would condemn their Associations ultimately into the international wilderness.

At their meeting in 1926 Henri Delaunay, secretary of the French Federation, addressed FIFA delegates. 'An International Football Competition,' he said, 'could no longer be the preserve of the Olympic Games, an amateur event. Professionalism had arrived.'

But what was a professional footballer? The British Associations, having rejoined, had no doubts and submitted their definition. FIFA, with so many varying attitudes amongst its membership, could not agree, and this time the split was irreparable. Britain for many years would play no

part in the World Championships, spending their time in the words of FIFA secretary Dr Schricker in 'splendid isolation'.

For the rest, however, the World Cup would shortly become reality.

In 1928 FIFA proposed at its congress that 'plans should be prepared for the staging of the World Championship', and twenty-five nations cast their votes in favour. Only Scandinavia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Estonia dissented. Hugo Meisl, a leading figure in Central European Football, whose recent successes had included the Mitropa Cup for club sides and then the Nations Cup contested by Czechoslovakia, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Hungary, was given the task of organizing the event, which would need to embrace the footballing nations of South America.

Those wishing to act as hosts for the inaugural competition included Sweden (rather surprisingly, since it had opposed its inception), Holland, Hungary and Spain, but the honour was bestowed on Uruguay, Olympic Champions, who had offered to meet all entrants' travelling costs and expenses. Sculptor Abel Lafleur designed a trophy, and the title of 'The Jules Rimet Cup' was bestowed upon it in recognition of the contribution of the President of FIFA.

1930 URUGUAY 13 July-30 July

ENTRIES

Argentina	Paraguay
Belgium	Peru
Bolivia	Romania
Brazil	United States
Chile	Uruguay

France
Mexico

Yugoslavia

GROUP STAGES

Uruguay, whose football team had impressively won gold at the 1928 Olympic Games, secured the right to host the inaugural competition for the Jules Rimet Trophy. Having emphasized that this was the year the country would celebrate its centenary, one hundred years of independence, an International Football Tournament would fit in with the celebrations. Indeed, a brand new Stadium in Montevideo, 'The Centenario', would be built in order to stage the matches. Inevitably, however, the decision to stage so prestigious an occasion on the South American continent led to the withdrawal of the cream of European football. Italy, Holland, Spain and Sweden, all of whom had declared an interest in hosting the tournament, sulkily pulled out. Austria, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia also said no to so long a journey - despite Uruguay's generous offer to pay all expenses - and Britain, no longer a member of FIFA, maintained their splendid isolation.

The draw pitted teams in four groups of three or four, with only the winners progressing to the semi-finals. Group One featured Argentina, who, along with Uruguay from Group Three, was one of the joint favourites. Indeed, Argentina was runner-up to Uruguay at the Amsterdam Olympics. Stábile and Monti were key players for a team renowned for its virtuoso performances. France, also in the group, were one of four European teams to make the arduous journey south. However, theirs was a respectable rather than exceptional side, with Pinel their towering centre half, and Alex Thepot a goalkeeper of repute. Chile had been playing the game for many years, the South Americans benefiting

from a vibrant British community in the nineteenth century. For them, Subiabre, a fine inside forward, represented the greatest danger to their opponents. Mexico, new to the game (their federation had been founded just three years earlier), was the fourth member of an interesting quartet.

In Group Two were Brazil, Bolivia and a fine Yugoslavian team. Football in Brazil, South America's largest nation, was flourishing, though as an international force they were yet to make a mark, largely, it was suggested, as a result of flagrant prejudice operated against their best black players by the country's authorities. Yugoslavia had surprisingly disappointed during the Olympics, failing miserably against Portugal; still, they were here and not without hope. In Stefanovic and Beck, Cup winners in France with Sete and Sekulic at Montpellier, they had a trio of professional mercenaries. Marjanovic, too, was a splendid forward, and Tirnanic a tricky right winger.

In Group Three, Uruguay, four weeks in training, had separated from society. Their preparation had been serious, their intention to win. Mazáli, their celebrated goalkeeper, was discarded when he dared to break an imposed curfew. Amongst their many excellent players were Ballesteros (Mazáli's replacement), Andrade, Scarone and Nasazzi (right back and captain). Peru also arrived courtesy of the recent founding of a National Football Federation. Theirs was an inexperienced team of whom there were few expectations. The Romanians, like all the European entrants, were from the middle order of the continent's footballing powers, though their monarch, King Carol, had gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure their participation, granting amnesty to suspended players, picking the team personally and negotiating their release from employers.

Group Four featured the United States, Belgium and Paraguay, none of whom were highly regarded; indeed, many of the better players in the United States had joined Britons imported into the country in the American soccer

league that had subsequently been outlawed by the United States Association. However, they were fit, and with their impressive physiques they had been dubbed by the French 'The Shot Putter's'.

All matches at Montevideo

Group 1

Argentina

Chile

France

Mexico

Group 3

Peru

Romania

Uruguay

Group 2

Bolivia

Brazil

Yugoslavia

Group 4

Belgium

Paraguay

United States

It was France from Group One who opened the Tournament, easily beating Mexico by racing to a 3-0 lead. Though the Mexicans fought back bravely, it was a lost cause, and they finally suffered a 4-1 defeat, Carreño's goal earning the team some small consolation. On the same day, America provided an immediate shock by pounding their more experienced Belgian opponents 3-0. Packed with British expatriots, they proved surprisingly fast and powerful - Belgium, in truth, were a disappointment.

The next day Yugoslavia allayed fears that the South American teams would be totally dominant, deservedly beating Brazil 2-1. Tirnanic and Marjanovic gave them an interval advantage, and Brazil, who replied through Preguinho, floundered against Stefanovic and his defensive

colleagues as they sought in vain for an equalizing goal. Meanwhile, Romania's 'King's Men' beat the inexperienced Peruvians 3-1, Staucin scoring three and Vogl excelling. For the most part, though, football proved a secondary consideration in a rough ill-tempered affair: De Las Casas, capping a miserable day, was sent off - the first player ever dismissed in a World Cup fixture.

Argentina now came into the competition, winning 1-0 against France, the goal provided by the tough-tackling Monti, though they were unimpressive and given an uncomfortable time by their opponents. A distraction caused by referee Sr. Rego blowing the half-time whistle too soon provoked a pitch invasion which considerably delayed the re-start of the match. France suffered further when a problem that would plague future tournaments surfaced for the very first time: one of eccentric organisation. France, the losers, had been asked to play a second game in two days and were clearly disadvantaged, whilst Chile had not yet played at all!

The following day Chile got their opportunity and swept aside the naive Mexicans, Subiabre twice finding the net, and Vidal, the Chileans' other inside forward, also rewarding enterprising play.

Yugoslavia in their three-way Group confirmed a place in the semi-finals against Bolivia, though their victory celebrations - considered inevitable - were delayed by their hopelessly outplayed opponents, whose luck and desperate tackling worried them for an hour. Bolivia, however, soon tired and finally collapsed, going down 4-0. Beck scored two, Marjanovic and Vujadinovic one each, as Yugoslavia finally feasted on Bolivia's frailties.

To general surprise America also qualified, beating Paraguay in the same overpowering manner in which they had disposed of Belgium. Patenaude, America's centre forward, added two to his total, while Florie, their captain and star player, made it a third.

Curiously Uruguay, hosts and favourites, started poorly, the waiting and expectation clearly upsetting their concentration as Peru, so ineffective against Romania, pushed them hard. Castro finally relieved their anxiety with a well taken goal, though their opponents, with Pardon, playing in goal in place of Valdiviso, and left back Maquillon, performed heroics in stemming the steady tide of attacks launched at their goal.

On the following day Chile beat France, the goal-scoring inside forward Subiabre whipping his shot beyond the excellent Thepot, thus condemning the French to an early exit. Meanwhile, Argentina flowed over Mexico, scoring six times. Stábile, a thorn in the side of the Mexican defenders, lead the goal glut, while Zumelzu, making his first appearance, converted two penalties gained from ill-judged tackling. At least poor Mexico could be consoled by their three goals.

In Group Four a match rendered academic by America's previous success saw Paraguay edge out Belgium. Peña, a clever outside left, supplied a goal to decide a moderate game between two disappointing teams. Brazil, too, already eliminated by Yugoslavia, won their final Group Two fixture 4-0 against Bolivia, though again the Bolivians gave an obstinate, gritty performance, refusing to yield until finally, as in their first match, their stamina and luck dissolved.

Uruguay confirmed their predictable progress from Group One by bewildering the 'King's Men' from Romania with faster movement and rapid passing, Dorado, Scarone, Cea and the young star Anselmo giving them an easy win. In Group One, however, the final fixture in the qualifying round saw Argentina defeating Chile amidst controversy and ugliness. An unpleasant kick by the tempestuous Monti on Chile's Torres as he stooped to head the ball led to a brief reign of chaos as a brawl ensued. When referee M. Langenus had finally regained control, Argentina reasserted their dominance and Chile succumbed 3-1.

Final Tournament – Uruguay

Group 1

France (3) 4, Mexico (0) 1

13.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

France: Thepot, Mattler, Capelle, Villaplane, Pinel, Chantrel, Liberati, Delfour, Maschinot (2), Laurent (1), Langiller (1)

Mexico: Bonfiglio, Gutierrez R, Rosas M, Rosas F, Sanchez, Amezcua, Perez, Carreño (1), Mejia, Ruiz, Lopez

Referee: Lombardi (Uruguay)

Argentina (0) 1, France (0) 0

15.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Argentina: Bossio, Della Torre, Muttis, Suarez, Monti (1), Evaristo J, Perinetti, Varallo, Ferreyra, Gierro, Evaristo M

France: Thepot, Mattler, Capelle, Villaplane, Pinel, Chantrel, Liberati, Delfour, Maschinot, Laurent, Langiller

Referee: Rego (Brazil)

Chile (1) 3, Mexico (0) 0

16.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Chile: Cortes, Morales, Porier, Torres A, Saavedra, Helgueta, Ojeda, Subiabre (2), Villalobos, Vidal, Scheuerberger

Mexico: Sota, Gutierrez R, Rosas M, Rosas F, Sanchez, Amezcua, Perez, Carreño, Ruiz, Gayon, Lopez

Referee: Christophe (Belgium)

Chile (0) 1, France (0) 0

19.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Chile: Cortes, Ciaparro, Morales, Torres A, Saavedra, Torres C, Ojeda, Subiabre (1), Villalobos, Vidal, Scheuerberger

France: Thepot, Mattler, Capelle, Chantrel, Delmer, Villaplane, Liberati, Delfour, Pinel, Veinante, Langiller

Referee: Tejada (Uruguay)

Argentina (3) 6, Mexico (1) 3

19.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Argentina: Bossio, Della Torre, Paternoster, Cividini, Zumelzu (2 pens), Orlandini, Peucelle, Varallo (1), Stábile (3), Demaria, Spadaro

Mexico: Bonfiglio, Gutierrez R, Gutierrez F, Rosas M (2 pens), Sanchez, Rodriguez, Rosas F, Lopez (1), Gayon, Carreño, Olivares

Referee: Saucedo (Bolivia)

Argentina (2) 3, Chile (1) 1

22.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Argentina: Bossio, Della Torre, Paternoster, Evaristo J, Monti, Orlandini, Peucelle, Varallo, Stábile (2), Ferreyra, Evaristo M (1)

Chile: Cortes, Ciaparro, Morales, Torres A, Saavedra, Torres C, Avellane, Subiabre (1), Villalobos, Vidal, Aquilera

Referee: Langenus (Belgium)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	3	0	0	10	4	6
Chile	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
France	3	1	0	2	4	3	2
Mexico	3	0	0	3	4	13	0

Group 2

Yugoslavia (2) 2, Brazil (0) 1

14.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Yugoslavia: Jaksic, Ivkovic, Mihailovic, Arsenijevic, Stefanovic, Dokic, Tirnanic (1), Marjanovic (1), Beck, Vujadinovic, Sekulic

Brazil: Joel, Brilhante, Italia, Hermogenes, Fausto, Fernando, Poly, Nilo, Araken, Preguinho (1), Moderato

Referee: Tejada (Uruguay)

Yugoslavia (0) 4, Bolivia (0) 0

17.3.30 MONTEVIDEO

Yugoslavia: Jaksic, Ivkovic, Mihailovic, Arsenijevic, Stefanovic, Dokic, Tirnanic, Marjanovic (1), Beck (2), Vujadinovic (1), Najdanovic

Bolivia: Bermudez, Durandal, Ciavarria, Argote, Lara, Valderrama, Gomez, Bustamante, Mendez, Alborta, Fernández

Referee: Mateucci (Mexico)

Brazil (1) 4, Bolivia (0) 0

20.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Brazil: Velloso, Ze Lulz, Italia, Hermogenes, Fausto, Fernando, Benedito, Russinho, Leite, Preguinho (2), Moderato (2)

Bolivia: Bermudez, Durandal, Ciavarria, Sainz, Lara, Valderrama, Ortiz, Bustamante, Mendez, Alborta, Fernández

Referee: Balway (France)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Brazil	2	1	0	1	5	2	2
Bolivia	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

Group 3

Romania (1) 3, Peru (0) 1

14.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Romania: Lapusneanu, Steiner, Bürger, Rafinski, Vogl, Fieraru, Covaci, Desu, Wetzler, Staucin (2), Barbu (1)

Peru: Valdiviso, De Las Casas, Soria, Galindo, Garcia, Valle, Flores, Villanueva, Denegri, Neira, Souza (1)

Referee: Warken (Chile)

Uruguay (0) 1, Peru (0) 0

18.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Uruguay: Ballesteros, Nasazzi, Tejera, Andrade, Fernández, Gestido, Urdináran, Castro (1), Petrone, Cea, Iriarte

Peru: Pardon, De Las Casas, Maquillon, Denegri, Galindo, Astengo, Lavalle, Flores, Villanueva, Neira, Souza
Referee: Langenus (Belgium)

Uruguay (3) 4, Romania (0) 0

21.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Uruguay: Ballesteros, Nasazzi, Mascheroni, Andrade, Fernández, Gestido, Dorado (1), Scarone (1), Anselmo (1), Cea (1), Iriarte

Romania: Lapusneanu, Bürger, Tacu, Robi, Vogl, Fieraru, Covaci, Desu, Wetzler, Rafinski, Barbu

Referee: Rego (Brazil)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
Romania	2	1	0	1	3	5	2
Peru	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Group 4

USA (2) 3, Belgium (0) 0

13.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

USA: Douglas, Wood, Moorhouse, Gallacher, Tracey, Brown, Gonsalvez, Florie, Patenaude (1), Auld, McGhee (2)

Belgium: Badjou, Nouwens, Hoydonckx, Braine, Hellemans, Declercq, Diddens, Moeschal, Adams, Voorhoof, Versijp

Referee: Macias (Argentina)

USA (2) 3, Paraguay (0) 0

17.3.30 MONTEVIDEO

USA: Douglas, Wood, Moorhouse, Gallacher, Tracey, Brown, Gonsalvez, Florie (1), Patenaude (2), Auld, McGhee

Paraguay: Denis, Olmedo, Miracca, Etcheverri, Diaz, Aguirre, Nessi, Dominguez, Gonzales, Caceres, Peña

Referee: Macias (Argentina)

Paraguay (1) 1, Belgium (0) 0

20.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Paraguay: Benitez P, Olmedo, Flores, Benitez S, Diaz, Garcete, Nessi, Romero, Gonzales, Caceres, Peña (1)

Belgium: Badjou, De Deken, Hoydonckx, Braine, Hellemans, Moeschal, Versijp, Delbeke, Adams, Nouwens, Diddens

Referee: Vallarino (Uruguay)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USA	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	1	3	2
Belgium	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

THE SEMI-FINALS

Pitting Uruguay against Yugoslavia, and Argentina against USA, sadly the semi-finals were hopelessly one-sided. Argentina first contemptuously overwhelmed the Americans, their lead, thanks in the main to heroic defending, restricted at half-time to 1-0; thereafter it became a procession as the South Americans ambled to the first ever World Cup final by 6-1.

Yugoslavia also found to their chagrin that they were no match for Uruguay, and were themselves ground down by a team infinitely more talented than their own. Cea fired a hat-trick, Anselimo a brace and Iriarte finally dispatched them. Sekulic's goal in response was a mere blip in the mounting celebrations.

Semi-Finals

Argentina (1) 6, USA (0) 1

26.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Argentina: Botasso, Della Torre, Paternoster, Evaristo J, Monti (2), Orlandini, Peucelle, Scopelli (2), Stábile (2), Ferreyra, Evaristo M

USA: Douglas, Wood, Moorhouse, Gallacher, Tracey, Brown (1), Gonsalvez, Florie, Patenaude, Auld, McGhee
Referee: Langenus (Belgium)

Uruguay (3) 6, Yugoslavia (1) 1

27.3.30 MONTEVIDEO

Uruguay: Ballesteros, Nasazzi, Mascheroni, Andrade, Fernández, Gestido, Dorado, Scarone, Anselmo (2), Cea (3), Iriarte (1)

Yugoslavia: Jaksic, Ivkovic, Mihailovic, Arsenijevic, Stefanovic, Dokic, Tirnanic, Marjanovic, Beck, Vujadinovic, Sekulic (1)

Referee: Rego (Brazil)

THE FINAL

As had been anticipated, it was Uruguay and Argentina, obviously the best teams, who would renew their bitter rivalry in a final contest for the Trophy of Jules Rimet and the title 'World Champions'.

For the final, Uruguay were forced to recall Castro in place of the injured Anselmo. The home team consequently began nervously, conceding the initiative. A goal by Dorado failed to galvanize them, and the persistence of Argentina was rewarded as first Peucelle and then the prolific Stábile put them ahead at the end of the first half. However, Uruguay began to find their form, with Cea ending a Nasazzi run firing past Botasso for 2-2, and hard though Argentina tried, they could not resist. Iriarte made it 3-2 and then Castro crowned his good fortune with a fourth. To the cacophonous symphony of their delirious supporters, Uruguay were acknowledged Champions.

Final

Uruguay (1) 4, Argentina (2) 2

30.7.30 MONTEVIDEO

Uruguay: Ballesteros, Nasazzi, Mascheroni, Andrade, Gestido, Fernández, Dorado (1), Scarone, Castro (1), Cea (1), Iriarte (1)

Argentina: Botasso, Della Torre, Paternoster, Evaristo J, Monti, Suarez, Peucelle (1), Varallo, Stábile (1), Ferreyra, Evaristo M

Referee: Langenus (Belgium)

The Tournament itself had been a great success, ensuring its own future. Moreover, the best teams by far had contested an exciting final. Still, with so many of Europe's finest declining to compete, there had been a predictability about proceedings which somewhat diminished Uruguay's achievement. The champions would remember, and in 1934 when Europe, specifically Italy, hosted the competition, Uruguay would tartly but understandably refuse to travel to defend their crown.

CHAPTER 2

ITALY

1934

Qualifying Tournament

32 entries

Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Holland, Hungary, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Palestine, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA, Yugoslavia

Group 1 (USA, Cuba, Mexico, Haiti)

Haiti v Cuba 1-3, Haiti v Cuba 1-1, Haiti v Cuba 0-6, Mexico v Cuba 3-2, Mexico v Cuba 5-0, Mexico v Cuba 4-1

Extra qualifying match (in Rome)

USA v Mexico 4-2

USA qualified

Group 2 (Brazil, Peru)

Brazil qualified (Peru withdrew)

Group 3 (Argentina, Chile)

Argentina qualified (Chile withdrew)

Group 4 (Egypt, Palestine, Turkey withdrew)

Egypt v Palestine 7-1, Egypt v Palestine 4-1

Egypt qualified

Group 5 (Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania)

Sweden v Estonia 6-2, Lithuania v Sweden 0-2

Sweden qualified

Group 6 (Spain, Portugal)

Spain v Portugal 9-0, Spain v Portugal 2-1

Spain qualified

Group 7 (Italy, Greece)

Italy v Greece 4-0

Italy qualified

Group 8 (Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria)

Bulgaria v Hungary 1-4, Austria v Bulgaria 6-1, Hungary v Bulgaria 4-1

Austria and Hungary qualified

Group 9 (Czechoslovakia, Poland)

Poland v Czechoslovakia 1-2

Poland withdrew before return match

Czechoslovakia qualified

Group 10 (Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Romania)

Yugoslavia v Switzerland 2-2, Switzerland v Romania 2-2, Romania v Yugoslavia 2-1

Switzerland and Romania qualified

Group 11 (Holland, Belgium, Rep of Ireland)

Rep of Ireland v Belgium 4-4, Holland v Rep of Ireland 5-2, Belgium v Holland 2-4

Holland and Belgium qualified (Belgium on goal average)

Group 12 (Germany, France, Luxembourg)

Luxembourg v Germany 1-9, Luxembourg v France 1-6
Germany and France qualified

1934 ITALY 27 May-10 June

QUALIFIERS

Argentina

Austria

Belgium

Holland

Hungary

Italy

Brazil	Romania
Czechoslovakia	Spain
Egypt	Sweden
France	Switzerland
Germany	United States

It was Italy who emerged from numerous FIFA conferences with the nomination as Europe's first host nation. Eager to impress, Mussolini's fascist government relished the opportunity to espouse their virtues, their fine team offering them plentiful scope for propaganda. General Vacaro, appointed as a political representative and President of their Federation, later declared, 'The ultimate purpose of the Tournament was to show that fascist sport partakes of a great quality of the ideal.'

Once again Britain was in 'isolation', and Uruguay, still angry at the European snub of 1930, declined the invitation. Undoubtedly, though, the field was stronger this year and constituted most of the world's footballing powers of the time. Interestingly, too, the group format incorporated by FIFA for the Montevideo Tournament was dispensed with in favour of a more traditional sixteen-team knockout competition.

Italy were the favourites, with Louis Monti, the roving centre half, one of three Argentineans of Italian origin selected. Pozzo, their coach, justified the Argentineans' inclusion on the grounds that they would have been called to the flag during the Great War: 'if they were able to die for Italy they could certainly play for Italy'. Guiseppe Meazza would also play for the Italians, a goal-scoring inside forward and darling of the Internazionale fans. Austria were a major challenger - their 'Wunder Team' inspired by Hugo Meisl had annihilated Bulgaria to qualify and had defeated Italy in a friendly match in Turin. Smistik was an adventurous centre half, and the tall blond Matthias Sindelar their sinewy centre

forward. Argentina had entered but, tired of losing their best players to the Italian League, they cautiously left many of the team at home. Brazil had also come without the necessity of qualifying. Peru withdrew. Hungary and Spain came as dark horses: the Spanish had demolished poor Portugal 11-1 on aggregate (and included their legendary goalkeeper Ricardo Zamora), and Hungary had a talented team aided by the extraordinary centre forward Dr Georges Sarosi. As for the rest, Czechoslovakia had beaten England earlier in May and appeared to be an emerging nation, while Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Romania, Belgium, France and Holland completed Europe's entrants. The USA, with a much changed team, and mysterious Egypt, conquerors of Hungary in the Olympic Tournament of 1924, represented the North American and African continents. Coincidentally, Egypt had drawn... Hungary!

The Draw

Italy v United States	Rome
Czechoslovakia v Romania	Trieste
Austria v France	Turin
Belgium v Germany	Florence
Brazil v Spain	Genoa
Argentina v Sweden	Bologna
Egypt v Hungary	Naples
Holland v Switzerland	Milan

THE PRELIMINARY ROUND

Italy opened their World Cup in devastating style in Florence, sweeping a disappointing America aside by Schiavio scoring a hat-trick. Egypt brought back to Hungary