



The World Cup history and mile strokes **by Kristian Holm Carlsen (2014)**

Soon the FIFA world cup 2014 kicks off. In regard, it is interesting to look back on the previous world cups, both to learn the facts, and to see some of the major influences that the previous world cups have made for the development of football. So far, in particular four world cups have been extraordinary interesting for the development of the game. These are the world cups in 1930, 1950, 1970, and 1990. Those and the last World Cups are covered more deeply and tactically, while the rest of the tournaments are covered briefly.

Uruguay 1930

Uruguay hosted the first world cup, and they won the tournament after beating Argentina 4-2 in the final. Both USA and Yugoslavia lost their semifinal, but there were no play off for third place before 1934. Guilermo Stabile form Argentina became the top scorer in this tournament with eight goals. Many of the European teams refused to participate as a protest of letting Uruguay host the world cup, long travel distance, or the lack of payment to the players. Therefore, there were only four European teams among the 13 teams total. The rest of the teams came from South-America, plus USA and Mexico. There teams were set up in four groups, where the winners from each group qualified directly to the semifinal.

In this tournament, there was a lot of cheating and unfair play. For example, when the referee blew off the game between Argentina and France six minutes before the end because it looked like France would equalize. However, this was the first time to compare the teams from around the world, and it therefore gave fuel to the development of the game in tactical terms. Both Uruguay and Argentina used a (1)-2-3-2-3 system, which gave root to the development of the WM or (1)-3-2-2-3 system that dominate the world football from 1930-1950.



Fig. nr. 1: The WM (1-3-2-2-3) system dominated the world football from 1930-1950. The system has its origin from Uruguay and Argentina, which used a (1)-2-3-2-3 system in the world cup in 1930. However, it was definitely introduced by Herbert Chapman in the 1930/31 when he was coaching Arsenal. He had great success with this system, and in England, they thought this was the superior system until they lost 6-3 for Hungary at Wembley in 1953. Hungary used the (1)-4-2-4 system in this match.

Italy 1934

Italy won the final 2-1 against Czechoslovakia after extra time, and in the bronze medal game Germany won 3-2 against Austria. This time they did not use penalty shot out, so Italy had to play a second game against Spain to qualify for the semifinal. In addition, Italy played three games, two quarterfinals and one semifinal, in four days. . Mussolini and the Italian fascism influenced this world cup. Perhaps this was the reason that 16 of the 32 registered teams refused to participate, among them Uruguay. Egypt participated and represented Africa for the first time. Oldrich Nejedly (Czechoslovakia) became the top scorer with five goals.

France 1938

Italy beat Hungary 4-2 in the final and in the bronze medal match; Brazil beat Sweden 4-2. The Spanish civil war, Mussolini's offence, and Hitler's war against Poland made a big mark on the tournament. Uruguay refused to participate again as a protest to the fact that many of the European teams refused to participate in 1930. Cuba and Indonesia participated for the first and last time, and represented the Caribbean and Asia for the first time. Cuba won their first game and by this qualified to the quarterfinal where they lost 8-0 against Sweden, which had walk over in their first game. Norway also participated for the first time and lost 2-1 after extra time against Italy (as always), but Norwegians said that they played better than the world champions did. Leonidas Da Silva from Brazil won the golden shoe with seven goals.

Brazil 1950

The world cup in Brazil in 1950 was a big mess from start to end, not surprisingly for someone with work experience from Brazil. Again, many teams refused to participate. No teams outside America and Europe participated. Brazil lost 2-1 against Uruguay in the “final”. Sweden ended up as number three. Ademir (Menezes) from Brazil topped the scoring list with eight goals. Total 13 teams participated and they were divided into two groups of four teams, one group of three teams, and one group of two teams. To “help” Uruguay through the group stage they put them in the group of two teams together with “little” Bolivia. This time there were no knockout stages and the four best teams played against each other in a final group play. The last game was between Brazil and Uruguay and this match was therefore counted. However, Brazil just needed a draw to win.

The Brazilians, and many others, thought it should be impossible to lose the “final”. For this reason, there was a national mourning in Brazil for a couple of days after the final match. However, the fact that Brazil lost this final did play an important role in the development of international football. Due to this loss, Brazil decided that the development of Brazil as a country and the Brazilian football should go hand in hand. Now the football became a part of the Brazilian political, cultural, social, and economic development, not just a sport. The result of this can be seen today by the fact that Brazil have won the world cup five times, they are always among the favourites to win it, and together with Argentina they produce more professional players every year than any other country in the World. Because of their loss in the final, Brazil also stated a new trend by introducing the (1)-4-2-4 system that dominated the world for almost 20 years.

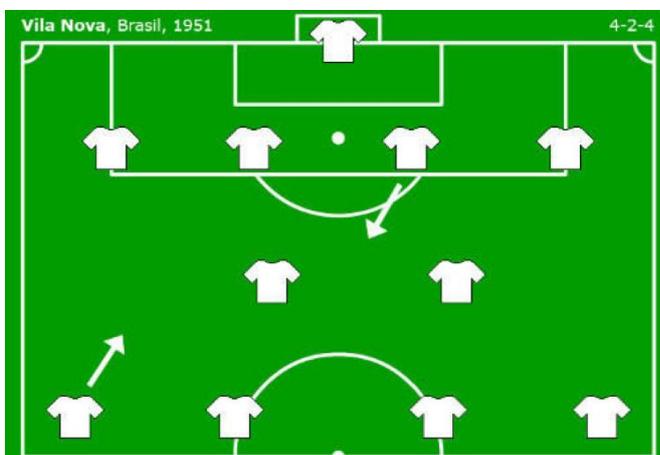


Fig. nr. 2: The (1)-4-2-4 system that both the clubs in Brazil and the Brazilian national teams started to use after the world cup in 1950. Brazil had great success with this system and won the world cup both in 1958 and 1962. However, the system was flexible so when attacking the formation looked more like (1)-3-3-4, and when defending the formation looked more like (1)-4-3-3 (see the arrows).

Switzerland 1954

Again, people accused the World Cup for being decided by politics and conspiracy. This time the cause was the Cold War and the urge to get West-Germany to join the “political elite”. West-Germany won 3-2 against Hungary in the final, and in the bronze medal match, Austria won 3-1 against Uruguay. However, Hungary beat West-Germany 8-3 in the group match. In this match, Puskas also got an injury after a dirty tackle that the English referee disregarded. Therefore, Puskas could not play the two next matches, and he was not perfectly fit for the final. Again, 16 teams participated and South Korea participated for the first time. They were the only team from outside America and Europe. The favourite was the famous Hungarian team with Puskas as a leading star, but they had to go home with “only” silver. However, their team scored 27 goals total in five games, which is still the record for one team in a world cup. This time the 16 teams were divided into four groups of four teams. The two best from each group went to the quarterfinals and normal knock out stages. However, two of the teams in each group were sided, and these did not play against each other. Sandor Kocsis from Hungary scored 11 goals and was totally superior the other top scorers.

Sweden 1958

Luckily, Brazil scored Sweden 5-2 in the final, while France scored West-Germany 6-3 in the bronze final. No team from outside America and Europe participated. Just Fontane (France) scored 13 goals in this world cup, which is still the record in one single tournament. Pele was the hero, and for the first time a team, Brazil, won the world cup outside their own continent. Until Spain won in South Africa in 2010, Brazil was the only team who have achieved this by also winning the world cup in 2002 (South-Korea/Japan). This time we also had four equal groups and 16 teams total with group play and knock out stages.

Chile 1962

Brazil won 3-1 against Czechoslovakia in the final, and Chile won 1-0 against Yugoslavia in the bronze medal game. No team from outside America and Europe participated. Pele got injured in his second game and could not play the following games, but he scored one goal.

However, Brazil had enough good players to win quite comfortably, and they were for instant rolling over the “best team in the world”, England, in the quarterfinal. Still, there were more chaos and cheating than we are used to today. Like when Italy played against Chile in the group match. The referee in this game described this as a wild game, but he just sent two players off with red card. One of them was the Italian Ferrini, but he refused to leave the pitch. They had to stop the match for 10 minutes until the police came and escorted him out. Florian Albert (Hungary), Garrincha (Brazil), Valentin Ivanov (Soviet Union), Drazen Jerkovic (Yugoslavia), Leonel Sanchez (Chile), and Vava (Brasil) shared the top scorer achievement with four goals, the lowest number in a World Cup.

England 1966

The tournament was set up as the three previous world cups. Finally England won, which they should have done every time according to their supporters. They won 4-2 against West-Germany in the final (after extra time). However, most people think that Geoff Hurst shot in the upper post actually never cross the goal line. No situation in the world cup history has been questioned more than this goal. More, many people think that the referees in this World Cup punished the South American teams in order to help England to win. All controlled by the President in FIFA at that time, Stanley Rous from England. If all these assertions are right, it is also right to say that Argentina and the South American teams got their revenge in 1978.

To please English supporters, which there are far too many off compared to the quality of their football, Geoff Hurst is the only player who has scored three goals in one single world cup final. In the bronze medal game Portugal, with a fantastic Eusebio, won 2-1 against U.S.S.R. Nor-Korea participated as the only team from outside America and Europe, and they qualified for the quarterfinal after shocking their opponents with fast and “quick feet” football. They were the first team from outside America and Europe to do so, but in the quarterfinal they could not stop Portugal and Eusebio, who scored four goals in 32 minutes in that game. Eusebio also became the top scorer with nine goals total. This was the first appearance for Portugal, and they knocked out Brazil, which did not qualify for the next round for the first and last time after the Second World War. After that match, Pelè said that he would never participate in the world cup again. Luckily, he changed his mind.

Mexico 1970:

Up to this time the world cups had been totally dominated by teams from America (mostly South-America) and Europe. Still those teams dominate the tournament, but more and more teams from outside these two continents started to participate from this point. In regard, the world cup started to be a tournament for the whole world. Again, 16 teams participated and divided into four groups, all with four teams. The two best in each group qualified for the knock out staged. Brazil and Pelè won 4-1 in the final against Italy, while West-Germany won 1-0 against Uruguay in the bronze final. Morocco participated for the first time and as the only team from outside America and Europe. Israel also participated for the first time and as the first team from the Arabic countries. Gerd Muller became the top scorer with his 10 out of 14 goals total in his two world cups appearances. He is still the second on the list of most goals in one tournament after Just Fontane (France) in 1958, and so far the third all-time goal scorers in the world cup history. The record now belongs to Miroslav Klose (Germany) with 16 goals in four world cups. Ironically, he took this title from Ronaldo (Brazil) in Brazil in 2014. Ronaldo ended with 15 goals in three world cups.

Again, we saw a new tactically trend. Brazil used a flexible (1)-4-2-3-1 (1-4-2-4) system that could easily be transformed into (1)-4-4-2, (1)-4-3-3, (1)-4-2-4 and (1)-4-5-1. Now all the teams played a more complete football where everybody should participate in attack and in defence. However, even today it is still possible to argue that very few teams in the world practice this 100 %. Brazil's flexible system also gave root to the Netherlands' flexible and dynamic "total football", which gave them great success in the years that came. Even more interesting was the fact that after this world cup the systems, tactics and style of play got divided into different ways of playing. Up to now, all teams in the world more or less played the same way. Now some teams chose a more direct style of playing, while some teams chose a more possession oriented way of playing. Some developed towards a more classical (1)-4-4-2 system, while other moved towards a (1)-3-5-2 system. Some started or continued with straight man-to-man defence, while others used zonal marking. Tactics also got more and more important, and even the best teams needed a good system and tactics if they should win. Star players in combination with a good tactic seemed to be the right way in the two decades after the world cup in 1970. After this time it was also normal to play with a sweeper behind the defence, who also where allowed to move forward, like Beckenbauer.

West-Germany 1974

Again, 16 teams participated, but there were not a knock out stage like the last world cups. Instead, the two best teams from each group went to a second group play. The winner from each group went to the final, while number two in each group played for the third place. West-Germany won 2-1 against Netherlands in the final and in the bronze medal game Poland, which knocked out England in the qualification, won 1-0 against Brazil. West-Germany is the 6th host during the history that won the world cup. The others are Uruguay 1930, Italy 1934, England 1966, Argentina 1978, and France 1998. Australia was representing Oceania for the first time, and Zaire was representing Africa and participated for their first and only time, like Haiti for the Caribbean. Netherlands and Cruyff blended the audience with their “total” football. Gzregorz Lato from Poland became the top scorer with seven goals.

Argentina 1978

The set up was the same as in 1974 (and 1982). In the final Argentina beat Netherlands 3-1 (after extra time), and in the bronze medal game Brazil beat Italy 2-1. Iran participated for their first time, and they were the only team representing Asia. The only team from Africa was Tunisia, who participated for their first time, and was the first African team that won a game in a world cup. Many people think there were some game fixing that helped Argentina through, especially the game against Peru which Argentina needed to win with four goals. They won 6-0 and Peru seemed like they did not try. More, this game kicked off later than the other game in the same group, and not as “pair” as they should. The scandal was a fact and Argentina knew how much they had to win before kick-off. Kempes from Argentina became the top scorer with six goals, which is also the number for all the top scores for the next five world cups.

Spain 1982

For the first time 24 teams participated, and this was the last world cup with a second group stage instead of knock out play. However, this time the best team from the four groups in the second group stage went to the semifinals. Italy beat West-Germany 3-1 in the final and Poland beat France 3-2 in the bronze medal game. Teams from all the continents were represented, and New Zealand represented Oceania for their first time. Cameroon and Algeria showed some progress for the African teams. Algeria won 2-1 against West-Germany in their first game, and this is still one of the most shocking results in any world cups. Both the African teams were knocked out on goal score. There are three other things to remember from

this world cup: 1) France with Platini and West-Germany with Rummenigge played 3-3 in a fantastic semifinal, and they had to decide the winner with penalty shot out for the first time in the world cup history. 2) This world cup also had the historical game between Austria and West-Germany where they “stopped” playing when West-Germany scored the first and only goal in the 10th minute. Since both qualified for the next round with this result, they agreed that there were no need to do more. 3) Brazil had a fantastic team, and together with Hungary in 1954 and Netherlands in 1974, they are often considered as the best team that did not win the world cup. The top scorer was Paolo Rossi from Italy with six goals.

Mexico 1986

Again, 24 teams participated divided into six groups, but the set up was new. As in the world cups in 1954, 1958, 1962, 1966 and 1970 they used group play followed by knockout play. The difference was that this time they started with the round of 16 after the group play. In that case, 16 of the 24 teams qualified for the next round. Argentina with Maradona won 3-2 against West-Germany in the final, while France with Platini won 4-2 against Belgium in the bronze medal game. Belgium played with their famous players Pfaff, Scifo and Ceulemans. More interesting, 21 out of 22 players played in the Belgian league before the World Cup.

Columbia was supposed to host this world cup, but due to financial problems, Mexico took over. However, because of a terrible earth quake in September 1985 where 20 000 people died, there were doubt if the tournament needed to be moved again. Luckily, Mexico managed to host a fantastic world cup with many fantastic games in some amazing stadiums. The biggest of them all, Azteca, hosted 114 000 people in the final. This is still the second largest stadium in a world Cup after Maracana. All teams except Iraq and Canada went home with some points. The only teams left out were from Oceania, and Morocco was the first African team, and the second team from outside America and Europe, that qualified for the next round. As mentioned, Nor Korea was the first team from outside America and Europe that qualified for the next round in 1966. Even thou there were many games with many goals, three out of four quarterfinals had to be settled by penalty shot out. Among them, the legendary game between France and Brazil where both Socrates and Platini missed their penalties. Only the historical quarterfinal between Argentina and England had a winner after 90 min. Most of us have seen Maradona’s hand of God goal and his fantastic dribbling from own half. The world has perhaps never seen a player who dominated that much as Maradona did in this world cup. It is said that Lothar Mathäus, the player in the world with most world

cup games (25 matches), was instructed to mark down Maradona in the final. He did not succeed and after the final he just said; *I'm sorry, but he was too good for me*". However, his five goals did not give him the golden shoe. Instead, England got the top scorer with Gary Lineker's six goals. I think this was important for the English self-confidence.

Denmark became a public favourite and played entertaining football until they had a black Monday against Spain in the round of 16. Perhaps they have been too busy singing their famous song "Vi er røde, vi er hvite". They lost 1-5 and Emilio Butragueno scored four goals in this match, a number which is only beaten by Oleg Salenko's five goals for Russia against Cameroon in the World Cup 1994. Three more players have scored four goals in a single match. These are Ernest Wilimowski (Poland) in 1938, which also is the only player in the history who scored four goals in a single match and lost, Eusebio (Portugal) in 1966, and Just Fontane (France) in 1958. Finally, the stadium wave got famous in this tournament, and people often call it the Mexican wave or just "la ola".

Italy 1990:

Italy was together with Mexico the second country who hosted the world cup for the second time. Many remember this world cup for the fewest average goals in the history (2.21) and unfair play. One quarterfinal and both the semifinals went to penalty shot out, and one quarterfinal went to extra time. Like in 1982, 1986 and 1994 a total of 24 teams participated, divided into six groups with the same knockout stages as in 1986. Again, the only teams left out were from Oceania, and Egypt and Cameroon represented Africa. Cameroon broke a barrier, and made hope for Africa with entertaining play and a quarterfinal for the first time for an Africa team. The quarterfinal between Cameroon and England was perhaps the most entertaining game in the tournament. England won 3-2 after an equalizer seven minutes before the end and a goal in the first extra half. Still, this is the best performance of any African team only copied by Senegal in 2002 and Ghana in 2010. It is worth a comment that Norway won 6-0 against Cameroon in a friendly game after the world cup, and that was Egil "Drillo" Olsen first game as the national coach for Norway. This was the beginning of Norway's 10 years as something in the football industry after the Second World War. Many people also remember the spitting episode between Rijkaard and Völler where both were sent off the field. Interesting enough, Netherlands had to play against Germany because they lost the toss-up against Ireland in the group stage.

Germany won the world cup after beating Argentina 1-0 in the final. The goal came on a penalty, which Mattäus was nominated to take. However, he got shaky and the German hood brain Andreas Brehme had to make the shot. Italy won 2-1 against England in the bronze final. The latter is by the way the only semifinal ever for the “best team” in the world, England, except from their corrupt victory in 1966. Italy also got the top scorer with Schillaci (6 goals). Argentina with their penalty expert goal keeper Goycoechea won two penalty shot outs on their way to the final. It is sad that Goycoechea later challenges Maradona in a face-to-face penalty competition. Goycoechea bet that he would save two out of 10 penalties. Maradona scored 10 out of 10.

Today many still consider German’s victory as the beginning of the modern football. One reason for this is that from this time the players ran in average around 10-11 km during a game. This is not so far behind the average distance today, and almost twice as much as in the previous decades. Because of this increase in total distance covered during a game, we now witnessed a much higher speed of the game. After 1990, the speed of the game has increased gradually due to faster passing, more movements with high intensity and better pitches, and not so much because of an increase in total distance covered.

Besides running more, Germany also won because they had the best system and tactics. Consequently, all teams started to focus more on tactics, systems and discipline. More, now we clearly saw the distinction between those who chose a **1**) (1)-4-4-2/4-4-1-1/-4-3-1-2 system, **2**) (1)-4-3-3/-4-5-1 system, and **3**) (1)-3-5-2/-5-3-2. Later, around the Millennium, Real Madrid picked up again Brazil’s (1)-4-2-3-1 system, which in practical terms often is employed from both **1**) and **2**). Finally, now we did see a shift towards more violating of the fair play principle, a trend that has continued and increased in power in the resent years.

USA 1994

Many had some doubt about USA hosting the world cup since football (soccer) doesn’t have that great tradition in the US. However, the world cup became a success and never had so many spectators watched the games (3,587,538 in total and 68 991 in average per match), even taking into account that the world cup was expanded to 32 teams from 1998. The set up was the same as in the previous world cup, but this was the first time the teams got three points for winning. Brazil and Italy played 0-0 in the final, but Brazil won 3-2 after penalty shot out. This was the first final decided by penalty shot out. Sweden, with Thomas Brolin

and his 180° goal celebrating jump, ended up as number three after beating a Bulgarian team with the biggest hangover in the world cup history 4-0 in the bronze final. Again, the Oceania teams did not qualify, and Nigeria, Morocco and Cameroon represented Africa. Nigeria was the only African team that went to the next round, but they were knocked out in the round of 16. Saudi Arabia also made it to the next round as the first Arabic team in the history. Mant remember this world cup because of the tragic of Escubar that was shot and killed after the world cup. Most likely this happened because he was unlucky and scored an own goal for Columbia so they lost their last came and did not qualify for the next round.

Norway with the “Drillos” participated and got four points as all the teams in the “group of death”. However, with less scored goals they ended up as number four and had to return home before the knock out stages. Again, Italia, with a fantastic Baresi in his last world cup, sent them home after winning 1-0 with 10 players. Winning with inferior numbers has been the Italian spirit all the way back from Cesar’s emporium. Maradona was also back after suspension for using cocaine. He scored a fantastic goal against Greece, and he was outstanding in the game against Nigeria. However, then there were a drug test, and with trace of ephedrine this was the last time we saw him in action on the international scene. For the second time in the history (see Chile 1962), more than one player became the top scorer. Both Oleg Salenko from Russia and Hristo Stoitschkov from Bulgaria scored six goals.

France 1998

France was the 3rd country to host the world cup for the second time. The set up was the same as last time, but this time 32 teams participated. They were divided into eight groups, and the two best from each group qualified for the next round. France with an amazing Zidane won 3-0 against Brazil in the final. Croatia was a positive surprise and won the bronze medal after beating Netherlands 2-1 in the runners up final. Again, only teams from Oceania did not qualify, and Morocco, South Africa, Nigeria, Tunisia and Cameroon represented Africa, while South Korea, Japan and Saudi Arabia represented Asia. For the second time Nigeria went to the next round, but Denmark knocked them out in the round of 16. Some other things to remember form this world cup were that Jamaica manage to get qualified for the first time, Iran played and won 2-1 against USA, and the Norwegian newspapers’ “hero”, Beckham, was sent out with a red card in the game against Argentina. Davor Suker scored six goals as the top scorer.

Norway participated again and broke a barrier. After playing draw against both Morocco and Scotland, they had to win against Brazil in their last game in the group stage on June 23rd 1998. Twelve minutes before the end, they were down by 1-0. Then the biggest Viking of them all, Jostein Flo, entered the field. In the next 15 minutes, Norway created six goal opportunities and scored two goals. Rekdal scored on a penalty two minutes before the end and Norway won 2-1. This was enough to give the Norwegians their most remarkable day in their history since May 8th 1945. However, they went back to reality when Italy sent them home for the 3rd time out of three possibilities after winning 1-0 in the round of 16, but this time with 11 players. Still, we have never lost a game against Brazil, but we always lose against Italy.

Japan/South Korea 2002

This was the first world cup in Asia and the first world cup that two countries hosted together. As before only teams from Oceania were left out, and as much as five teams; Senegal, South Africa, Nigeria, Tunisia and Cameroon represented Africa. Senegal made it to the quarterfinal as the second African team in the history. More, four teams represented Asia; China, Saudi Arabia, Japan and South Korea. South Korea went all the way to the semifinal. However, in the bronze final they lost 2-3 to Turkey and their fantastic one touch football. South Korea's 4th place is the best performance ever for a team outside America and Europe. However, there were some controversies refereeing in their matches, whom many people still remember, and some ask question about game fixing. In the final, Brazil won 2-0 against Germany, and that was the first time those two teams ever played against each other in a world cup. This is quite remarkable consider the fact that they both so far have 92 games total and seven finals each during the world cup history. Besides winning the world cup for the 5th time, Brazil won all their seven games, which also is a record. Ronaldo (O Fenômeno) broke the six goals barrier, and became the top scorer with eight goals.

This was the outsider's tournament and many of the favourites had to return home before the knock out stages or in the round of 16, among them Argentina, France, Portugal and Italy. France, the champion from 1998, did not score a single goal and ended up with no points. Senegal beat them in the first game in this tournament, and that was the 3rd time an African team beat one of the favourites in an opening (group) game. Before, Algeria won 2-1 against West-Germany in 1982 and Cameroon won 1-0 against Argentina in 1990. In this tournament, they also used the golden goal rule, and three games were decided by a golden goal.

It is worth mention that China participated in the World Cup for their first and so far last time. They did not score a single goal, but they were still national heroes. The most impressive story about their participation is the coach Velibor "Bora" Milutinović. He and Carlos Alberto Parreira are the only two persons that have coached five different teams at the World Cup, and Bora managed to qualify or perform well with underdogs repeatedly. The record include Mexico (1986), Costa Rica (1990), the United States (1994), Nigeria (1998), and China (2002). He is also the first coach to take four different teams beyond the first round, Mexico (1986), Costa Rica (1990), the United States (1994), and Nigeria (1998). By this, he earned the nickname of *Miracle Worker*.

Germany 2006

Germany (and West-Germany) has together with Mexico, Italy and France hosted the world cup two times. For the 2nd time the final had to be decided by penalty shot out. Italy and France played 1-1, but Italy won 5-4 after penalty shot out. Germany won 3-1 against Portugal in the runners up final. Beside the final, one of the games in the round of 16 and two quarterfinals were decided by penalty shot out.

With Australia included, teams from all the continents participated. Australia also made it through to the next round for the first time for a team from Oceania. Trinidad & Tobago was the fourth team from the Caribbean that participated during the history. Again, five teams represented Africa, and most of them were newcomers. Angola, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Tunisia participated with high expectations, but only Ghana made it through to the next round. Here they lost 3-0 for Brazil. In that match, Ghana played a very fast and physical football, and they should have won if they had learned the ABC in defence. Still people in Ghana blame the referee since he did not mark for an offside when Ronaldo O Fenômeno scored. However, it was not an offside, but terrible defending. Even my friends in Ghana admitted that when I showed them the clip. Japan, South Korea, Iran and Saudi Arabia represented Asia.

As before, there is often something to remember. This time one of the headlines was that Zidane knocked down Materazzi with his head in the final and got a red card. Some speculate that he did this because of doping, while other say it was because his mother was in hospital. Last, Ronaldo scored his 15th goal in this world cup and he was the top scorer in the world cup history at this time. Miroslav Klose from Germany became the top scorer with five goals.

Finally, England lost in the quarterfinal for the 6th out of eight times and for the second time on penalty shot out. Only Brazil, Italy, Germany, and Argentina have more quarterfinals than England. In fact, England is topping the list of most 5th–8th-place finishes, so it is not strange that people still think they are the best team in the world. In addition, 39 teams have made it through to the quarterfinals or the second group stage during the world cup history, among them Cuba, Wales, North Korea, Peru, East-Germany, and North Ireland.

South Africa 2010:

So far, we have seen that there has been a major change in the development of football for every 20 years since the beginning in 1930. Of course, the game developed between these years too, but these world cups have made a particular important impact of the game. In that case, it was interesting to see if we got a new trend in this World Cup. The first thing to notice was that South Africa was the first host who did not qualify for the next round. Beyond this, it is still difficult to see some clear mile stroke in tactically terms, even FIFA stress some new trends in their official FIFA report. However, there were some trends that appeared both before and after the World Cup, but it is not easy to say that they appeared as a consequence of what happen in this World Cup. Some argue that most teams were better in the fast attacks or counter attacks than before, but this was not a new invention. For instance, Drillo realized this old knowledge in the 90s, and Bayern Munich was amazing at this in the late 90s. We also saw that many teams followed a trend of choosing to keep the ball in possession instead of crossing the ball inside the penalty area. In my eyes, this was only a following tendency from the last 10 years, and not necessarily an efficient tactic. Finally, reports tell us that they number of high intensity runs have increased steady from around year 2005. This will most likely be a continuous trend in the years to come too.

An interesting point was that we did not see a trend towards more defence oriented formations, as we have seen through the whole history so far. That means more players in the back line and in the midfield. Many teams started the games in a 1-4-4-2 or 1-4-3-3 formation. However, some will argue that the systems and the playing style was more defence oriented. More, it is possible to say that we did see more teams with a flexible system and compact defensive lines, and teams that were better to adapt their tactics according to the state of play and the scoreline. For instant, the best teams chose to focus more on keeping possession when they were in front, and to attack more when they needed a goal. More, many teams played in periods with five players in the back line and five or six in the midfield when

they were defending against strong opponents. Spain, who won after beating Netherlands 1-0 e.e.o, also attacked with six midfield players and no striker in long periods during their games. All these aspect matched my own expectations prior to the tournament, but I wished I did see more new and controversial trends. Finally, after soon 100 years with World Cups, we still do not have Fair Play in all major areas. The most important is that the semifinals are played on different days, which make a huge advantage for the team who get more days rest prior to the final. One time in the future, people will ask how this was possible and laugh at us.

More strait facts: Germany beat Uruguay 3-2 in the bronze final. There were only two penalty shot outs versus four in 2006. Paraguay won 5-3 PSO against Japan in the round of 16, and Uruguay beat Ghana 4-2 PSO in the quarter final. This was the closet attempt to reach a semifinal ever for an African team. Except from Ghana all other teams from Africa were knocked out in the group stage, even there were high expectations for Africa since the World Cup was hosted in Africa for the first time. The average number of goals was approximately 2.3, the same as in 2006. Four players scored five goals each and had to share the top scorer list for the third time in the history (see Chile 1962 and USA 1994). These were Thomas Mueller (Germany), David Villa (Spain), Wesley Sneijder (Netherlands), and Diego Forlan (Uruguay). Miroslav Klose (Germany) scored four goals in this tournament. With 10 goals from the previous two world cups (5 + 5) and two from 2014, he has totally scored 16 goals in the World Cup, which made him the best scorer of all time.

Brazil 2014

Strengthened by the previous World Cup in South Africa; we are perhaps witnessing a stronger focus on corruption, the work of FIFA, and the social consequences of hosting the World Cup. There have been many protests against the World Cup from the poor and middleclass people in Brazil. There has also been more focus on FIFA and corruption. In general, the World Cup in Brazil is a sad story when it comes to consequences for the poor. This is because they spent money on Stadiums and corruptions instead of education, health and social projects. For those who are interested in the true story I recommend the book "*Omertà: Sepp Blatter's FIFA Organised Crime Family*" by Andrew Jennings, and with introduction by Romario. You find information and free chapters following this link: <http://www.transparencybooks.com/>.

Even we did not see so many clear and specific change in the system of play and tactical aspect in 2010, we did perhaps see the outline of some changes that will occur this summer. Perhaps more teams will use a more flexible 1-3-5-2, 1-5-3-2 or 1-5-4-1 system depending of being in possession of the ball, or using high versus low pressure. This is interesting since it is a reinvention of the 1-5-3-2 of 1-3-5-2 man-to-man system from the 80s and 90s. Italy has been the strongest ambassador for this flexible system in the resent years. However, as a sharp contrast to the early stages of this system, teams today play it with zonal defense and a flat back line, instead of man-to-man defense with a sweeper. In regard, will we see the two-line system? More, will we see some teams that play a fast penetration oriented football, as a contrast to the trend for the last 15 years? Will the trend with zone-oriented defence, also on the set pieces, continue or will it be more focus on pressing and marking? Moreover, what about crossing? Will some teams reinvent good crosses combined with smart movements in the penalty area? In my eyes, it would be interesting to see a more diverted football, and the game is still quite slow and tactically week compared to its potential. Finally, will Europeans teams dominate the World Cup or will South American teams challenge their position. The summer will show us, and it is time to sit back and enjoy.