

# World Cup Soccer Special

## ITALIA '90

### The WC football fever is on

By ELMO RODRIGOPULLE

The greatest sporting event in the world – the World Cup Football finals 1990 – will be kicked off today between the reigning champions, Argentina and Cameroon in Naples, Italy.

From today until July 8 when the final will be played, it will be football fever right round the globe.

24 teams will be contesting the Jules Rimet Trophy – will be putting heart and soul to secure the glittering trophy.

In 1986 when the tournament was held in

Mexico City, Argentina wrote their names on the trophy defeating West Germany in the final.

But this year all teams have been revving up and come match kick time will be on top gear and football, with no quarter asked or given will be the order.

Italy the hosts have lived up to the confidence placed in them by the World governing body for football – FIFA – and have left no stone unturned to see to the successful conclusion of this grand event.

The hosts have arranged for a breath taking opening ceremony, which will be one that will be talked about for a long time to come.

The draw apparently favours hosts Italy and West Germany. Fortune favoured the Italians from the moment Sophia Loren, the film star drew soccer novices United States as the first team to join seeded Italy in group A.

The pairing of England and Holland, the countries with the most feared soccer fans in the world, sent shock waves rippling through the Mediterranean island of Sardinia, where

this game will be played.

The world's best soccer talent will be on display, but the one man who will draw attention from everyone will be that great dazler Diego Maradona who led Argentina to the title in 1986.

In the quarter-final against England, he was alleged to have scored with his hands when questioned he retorted, if that was so then it would have been 'the hand of God' that goal is still being spoken about.



### "Etrusco Unico"

No one can say how many goals will be scored at the 1990 World Cup in Italy, but one thing is certain: every goal will be scored with the "Etrusco Unico", the official tournament ball for the World Cup, which the Adidas technical experts developed specially for the soccer highlight of 1990.

The new Adidas ball has been put through its paces with the help of international research institutes and successful teams from Europe and South America.

Pierre Littbarski, Germany international, on the new official ball: "With the 'Etrusco Unico' at your feet you feel like a South American player. It is easy to control, and playing with this ball is great fun."

The outstanding characteristics of the "Etrusco Unico" are great ball acceleration, 100% impermeability to water and exact, vibration-free flight. The newly developed soft and elastic material of the official ball for the 1990 World Cup offers the world's best team optimal contact with the ball, another vital criterion for top-level games and power-play shots.

This hi-tech soccer ball gets its name from an ancient Italian people: the Etruscans. Through their art, their sporting competitions and their hunting nature, the Etruscans had a decisive influence on the history of the host country long before the Roman era.

They venerated the lion as a symbol of strength and courage. And it was the lion that was the source of inspiration to Rene Geiser, Product Manager Balls, for the new Etrusco line. As with the "Azteca Mexico" for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, with this new ball Adidas is continuing its successful tradition of creating new and innovative products for major soccer events, in a design which closely relates to the history of the host country.

## The greatest show on earth

"Football helps to overcome barriers of RACE, COLOUR, RELIGION – POLITICS"

By R. C. W. SAMARAWICKREMA

The WORLD CUP that colourful football extravaganza is with us again and during June/July the jamboree in ITALY will eclipse all other events in the whole world.

As in Mexico four years ago, 24 nations will compete for the most prized trophy, in international football.

This is the 14th such tournament and it has come a long long way since 1930, when 13 countries contested the first World Cup finals in Uruguay to fulfil the original aims of Federation International Football Associate, the world governing body for football.

### DELIBERATION

It took many years of discussion and deliberation before the first competition started. The principles and rules were not formulated until the congress meeting in BARCELONA in May, 1929.

At that time, Italy, Holland, Hungary, Spain, Sweden and Uruguay were all eager to host the inaugural festivities. However, when it was proposed that the Organising National Football Association would be responsible for the transport and accommodation expenses of not only the players and members of Federation International Football Associate organising committees, but the competing teams as well, their enthusiasm somewhat waned.

The financial implications of supporting all these people for up to ten weeks – the competitors all had to travel by sea then – was somewhat daunting and in the end the responsibility was vested in URUGUAY, The South American Nation, and the Olympic Soccer Champions of 1924 and 1928.

### FINANCIAL BURDEN

Even though the financial burden was to be borne by the hosts the prospect of making such a long and hazardous journey to South America frightened off some of Europe's most ardent protagonists for the tournament. And in the clear light of day just Belgium, France, Rumania and Yugoslavia remained to make the trip to MONTEVIDEO in Uruguay.

Joining them were Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Paragna and the United States of America together with the host nation Uruguay, who became the first world champions when they defeated Argentina 4-2 in a tournament dominated by the South Americans.

Yet despite the trepidation and the total reluctance by the British Football Associations to associate themselves with it, the world cup series was a resounding success with four gates over the official maximum of 80,000. In every respect the 1930 tournament was a striking victory for the pioneers and those European teams which did enter returned home with healthy bank balances.

### QUALIFYING SERIES

Four years later in 1934, Italy provided the venue and 32 countries entered. In order to scale down the final tournament itself a preliminary qualifying series was introduced.

Once again England and Scotland were conspicuous by their absence, Ireland providing the only competitors from the

(Contd. on page 26)

### Britain would back pull out decision

LONDON (Reuter) - Britain's sports ministry confirmed, the government would back the soccer authorities in Italy if they pulled England out of the World Cup because English fans were causing major or fatal incidents.

But a spokesman for the man, clarifying press reports, said Britain was doing everything in its power to ensure that such a "hypothetical" situation did not arise.

"I'm sure if a few fans start causing problems in Cagliari the Italian police will be well-versed in how to deal with them", the spokesman said.

He said Sports Minister Colin Moynihan did tell journalists in a briefing last week that he was ready to back FIFA, the International Football Federation, if it decided to send the English team home because of major violence or fatalities.

"It would obviously be naive of him to say 'I never see a situation where England would be brought home', the spokesman said.

But he added: "It was a hypothetical answer to a hypothetical question. We're doing everything possible to make sure it doesn't arise".

Moynihan's remarks, reported in the British press received wide coverage in Italy.

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## The greatest show...

(Contd. from page 21)

United Kingdom. They were unfortunately eliminated from the qualifying rounds by Holland and Belgium, but with such diverse nations as Haiti, Cuba, Egypt, Palestine, Estonia and Lithuania entering, the competition was gaining a true world-wide reputation.

The English Football Association however was not impressed and continued to adopt a singularly insular attitude towards the whole tournament. Indeed they shunned it completely until 1950 when they, somewhat reluctantly, agreed to enter the 4th tournament of the series in Brazil.

### ON OWN SOIL

Meanwhile, Italy won the World Cup on their own soil in 1934 beating Czechoslovakia two goals to one in the finals. In 1938, Italy retained the World Cup they won in 1934 with 4-2 victory over Hungary in France.

The next World Cup was staged in 1950 in Brazil. The 1942 and 1946 competitions could not be held due to World War II.

In Brazil however the whole format of the competition was changed. The classic cup formula of a knock out competition was discarded for a league system with four qualifying groups, the leaders of which would then progress to form another mini-league the winners of which would claim the Jules Rimet Trophy. The whole thing was a farce because several teams withdrew,

including France, leaving the competition with only two complete groups, those in which Brazil and England were the favourites.

### THREE TEAMS

The group containing the World Champions Italy was reduced to three teams and Bolivia and Uruguay were all that were left in group four. So while Brazil, Spain and Sweden battled it out for a place in the final league Uruguay strolled to victory over Bolivia, the weakest side in the tournament, to earn their place, with an 8-0 scoreline.

England's performance had been disastrous - ill prepared, complacent and totally out of touch with the world game they stuttered to an uninspired 2-0 win over Chile. England were cut down to size in their second game by a team that was not a recognised power in football. In the confines of a small stadium in Bela Horizonte on a hard uneven pitch the might of England, bristling with stars the likes of Bert Williams; Alf Ramsey; Billy Wright; Tom Finney; Marion; Mortensen and Mullen were humiliated by USA who won 1-0.

England then had to beat Spain to force a play off with the Spanish in front of 90,000 people. They lost 1-0 and returned home.

### POINT BEHIND

Uruguay eventually lifted the trophy with

Brazil who were a point behind, although in their three games they had scored seven more goals than the winners and conceded one less.

Four years later in 1954, Hungary were to emerge as the outstanding team in the world. Yet in the World Cup finals in Switzerland they upset all the odds by losing 2-3 to West Germany in the final having thrashed the Germans 8-3 in the first qualifying group.

England reached the quarter finals where they were beaten 4-2 by Uruguay but 4 years later in Sweden in 1958 they again failed to qualify for the latter stages after losing 1-0 Russia in a play off.

This was the year Brazil stamped their authority on the world game and a 17-year-old established himself as an outstanding personality. He was of course PELE who complemented the brilliance of Garrincha, Didi, Vava and Santos and went on to become the greatest individual in the modern game.

### IRISH THRASHED

However the British Flag was carried into the quarter-final stage by Northern Ireland and Wales who were a little unfortunate to lose 1-0 to Brazil. The Irish, on the other hand, were thrashed 4-0 by one of the best French teams ever with Fontaine and Kopa the stars. But they had done well with Danny Blanchflower the leading light and Peter McFarland, Wilbur Cush and Billy Bingham

providing great support.

Brazil beat the hosts, Sweden 5-2 to take the World Cup for the first time and emerge as the dominant nation in world football. In 1962, Brazil retained the trophy in Chile defeating Mexico, Spain and England in the quarter-final then Chile and Czechoslovakia in the finals 3-1.

The Brazilian charge was halted in 1966 when England enjoyed their greatest hour, beating West Germany 4-2 in the Wembley final, but they were back again in 1970 adapting to the climate and high altitude of Mexico to once more point their poetic game across the world cup canvas. PELE was still there but his supporting cast had changed.

Now the world thrilled to the magic of names like Everaldo, Gerson, Jaizinto, Tostao and the great Carols Alberto.

### PRESENTED TO BRAZIL

The Jules Rimet Trophy was present to Brazil to keep after their third success when they beat Italy 4-1 in Mexico, and they finished fourth in the 1974 tournament when West Germany took full advantage of home ground to beat Holland 2-1 in the final.

Holland had developed into the best footballing side in Europe. A brilliant team who utilised a rotational system of play, pushing players from back positions into striking positions and thus making it hard for their men to be marked.

When such a system is performed by

Artists with superb techniques and flamboyant arrogance, then it becomes a masterpiece. Orchestrated by John Cruyff, Neeskens, Red and Krol. Holland reached both the finals in 1974 and 1978 but on both occasions they were unable to overcome the host nations.

### TICKER TAPE

West Germany had inched home against the Dutch in 1974 and four years later amidst the ticker tape and paper confetti of the River Plate stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina aided by some apparently appalling decisions by the Italian Referee Gonella, also denied the Dutch their rightful crown.

There were radical changes in the format for the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain. The number of finalists were increased to 24 who would be divided into six groups of four. The top two teams from each group then went forward to form four further groups of three teams, again playing on a league basis. The four second phase group winners would then go into knock out semi-finals, the losers playing off for third place.

24 teams will be selected as follows: The member nations of FIFA are divided into six confederations, UEFA (Europe), Connebol (South America), Concacaf (North Central America and Caribbean), Africa, Asia and Oceania Israel.

### FOR THE FINALS

The European teams are divided into 7 groups, the winners of each group qualifying for the finals. The runners-up in groups 2, 3, 4 & 6 also qualified while the runner-up of groups 1 & 5 played off for a place in the final. The runners-up in group 7 played off against the winners of the Oceania Israel Zone for a place in the finals. So Europe will have 12 or 13 teams in the finals.

The African Zone was elected entirely on a knock out cup basis with the last two teams left in the competition qualifying for the finals.

The first round of the CONCACAF ZONE was played on a cup system with 9 teams going through to the second round, where they were divided into three groups of three. The winners of these three mini-leagues go forward to the third round which was again based on a league system with the top team qualifying for the finals.

### LEAGUE BASIS

The first round of the Connebol Zone was played on a league basis with 3 groups. Winners of three (3) groups will qualify for finals. The runner-up of the three groups play a two legged knock-out competition with the winner qualifying.

The first round of the Asia Zone will be played on league basis with the teams divided into eight sub groups. The winners of the each sub group go forward to a knock out competition to decide which two teams would qualify for the finals.

Winners of the Oceania Israel Zone on a league basis will battle it out against the runner-up of the European Group 7 for a place in the finals.

### FINAL TALLY

The final tally as follows: UEFA (Europe) 12, UEFA/Oceania Israel 1, Concacaf 1, Connebol 4, Asia 2, Africa 2, Previous World Champion 1, Host Nation 1.

And so to Spain in 1982 and another Italian triumph. Having arrived in the finals with a dismal record they went on to the ultimate triumph over West Germany in Madrid in what must have been one of the dullest World Cup Finals ever. During the first half not one single shot had been on target and that included a penalty which was driven wide by Cabrini. But the Italians rallied after Paolo Rossi had given them the lead in the 56th minute and became the first European side to win the World Cup three times beating the Germans 3-1.

So to Italy went the gold but in a rather drab series the lingering memories were of the Brazilians, Zico, Soerates, Falcao and Junior and a French side which recovered from a 3-1 defeat at the hands of England in their opening match, to thrill and excite us with their open off the cuff style of play masterminded by Platini, Giresse, Tigona and Bossis.

### LOT TO BE DESIRED

In Spain the refereeing left a lot to be desired and it is to be hoped that FIFA have not adopted a head in the sand attitude as President JOCO HAVELANGE who four years ago had the affront to apparently acclaim that the standard of refereeing in the 1982 finals had been very good.

One was tempted to believe that even his granite features would crack open with laughter. But when he then expanded his thoughts further to say, 'No single refereeing decision affected the results of any one game' one could at least; only put it down to paralogism and at worst just downsize pig-headed ignorance.

Indeed in the first series of matches the standard of officiating was so poor that it became the outstanding feature of the opening weeks. And because of the gravity of many crucial decisions which determined the eventual scoreline, it was not melodramatic to suggest that many referees were incompetent to the extent of actually bringing the game into disrepute. One sincerely hopes that the governing body will not as it has done in the past ignore the realities but rather tackle them head on.

### 13TH WORLD CUP

Mexico hosted the 13th world Cup finals in 1986. 24 top footballing nations line up in six groups as follows:

GROUP A - Argentina, Bulgaria, Italy (Defending World Cup Holders), South Korea.

GROUP B - Belgium, Iraq, Mexico and Paraguay.

(Contd. on page 27)



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## Lots of pasta but no sex for hosts

MONATE, Italy (Reuter) - Host team Italy will be put on a strict regime of no sex but lots of pasta to boost their chances of winning a fourth soccer World Cup this summer.

Team doctor Leonardo Vecchiet told reporters after carrying out medical tests on the squad that all the players were in good condition.

He said that during the three-week training camp before the World Cup the team would be discouraged from smoking and from sex, although two breaks of two days would be allowed.

During the competition there would be no chance to get away from the squad's strict discipline.

The team's diet would be based on large quantities of pasta and rice to stock up on stamina building carbohydrates, lean meat or fish, vegetables, salads and fruit. Wine would be allowed in moderation with meals.

## Doping procedure foolproof

BRUSSELS, (Reuter) - Players at World Cup finals are being warned that the dope test procedure is foolproof, FIFA's medical chief said Friday.

"We can say the doping procedure is water-proof, or rather urina proof," said Belgian Michel D'Hooghe, president of the FIFA medical commission.

Asked if he was privately hoping to catch a prominent victim similar to the Ben Johnson case the Seoul Olympics - in his doping not, D'Hooghe replied: "On the contrary."

"I am not out, like a policeman, to catch someone driving through a red light. I hope every body will stop before the red light," he said.

"For me a positive test is a defeat," added D'Hooghe, who was elected head of FIFA's medical commission in 1988.

He said two players from every team would be tested after first round matches, increased to three during later rounds. But he added that the referee or FIFA observer could always force other players, whose attitude on the pitch appeared suspicious, to be tested.

"In theory, the whole team could be tested," D'Hooghe said.

# World Cup Soccer Special

## The stars on parade



## The greatest show...

(Contd. from page 26)

GROUP C - Canada, France, Hungary and Soviet Union.

GROUP D - Algeria, Brazil, Northern Ireland and Spain.

GROUP E - Denmark, Scotland, Uruguay and West Germany.

GROUP F - England, Morocco, Poland and Portugal.

Preliminary group matches were played in 24 stadiums located in different cities in Mexico. After a keen competition the nations that qualified for the quarter final stage were:

Brazil vs. France, England vs. Argentina, Belgium vs. Spain, Mexico vs. West Germany.

### PENALTY COMPETITION

West Germany beat Mexico on a penalty competition after drawing at full time. France, to be fair, also could win only on penalties against Brazil on that same day, but the achievement of holding the Brazilians was surely a much greater one. Yet it was West Germany which went on its way to the finals beating France 2 goals to nil.

Belgium having defeated the mighty Soviet Union 4 goals to three earlier defeated Spain on a penalty shoot out to earn a place in the semi-finals.

Argentina having beaten the Englishmen after a controversial goal scored by Diego Maradona finally got the better of a tired and faded Belgium in the semi finals and beat them 2-0. Belgium by then had earned a new found respect that the more traditional nations had not even come close to achieving in Mexico. The finals between Argentina and West Germany fought at the AZTEC Stadium.

### SECOND TRIUMPH

Argentina the 1978 World Cup Champions made its second triumph in 8 years on Latin American soil beating West Germany 3-2. Diego Maradona the captain of Argentina was the monarch of all he surveyed and was crowned as football's No. 1 player in the world. According to most critics the quarter-final clash between France and Brazil could be considered a cup final. Great PELE exclaimed in anguish "We want to see a final equal to this" when ZICO missed the penalty kick which eliminated Brazil from further participation.

At Mexico altogether 132 goals were scored in 52 matches for an average of 2.53 per game. At the 1982 world cup in Spain there were 146 goals in 52 matches for an average of 2.8. GARY LINEKER of England became the first Englishman to win the world cup individual scoring title edging out Diego Maradona of Argentina, Carec of Brazil and Emello Butragueans of Spain by one goal. LINEKER won the Adidas Golden Shoe Trophy by scoring 6 goals in the tournament which included a hat-trick against Poland in the preliminary round matches. IGOR BELANEV of Soviet Union was the only other player to record a hat-trick in the 1986 World Cup match against Belgium and he finished the tournament with 4 goals. Others who finished with 4 goals were PREBAN EKJEAR of Denmark, TARGE VALDANO of Argentina, and SANDAO ATABELL of the defending champions Italy.

(Continued on page 28)



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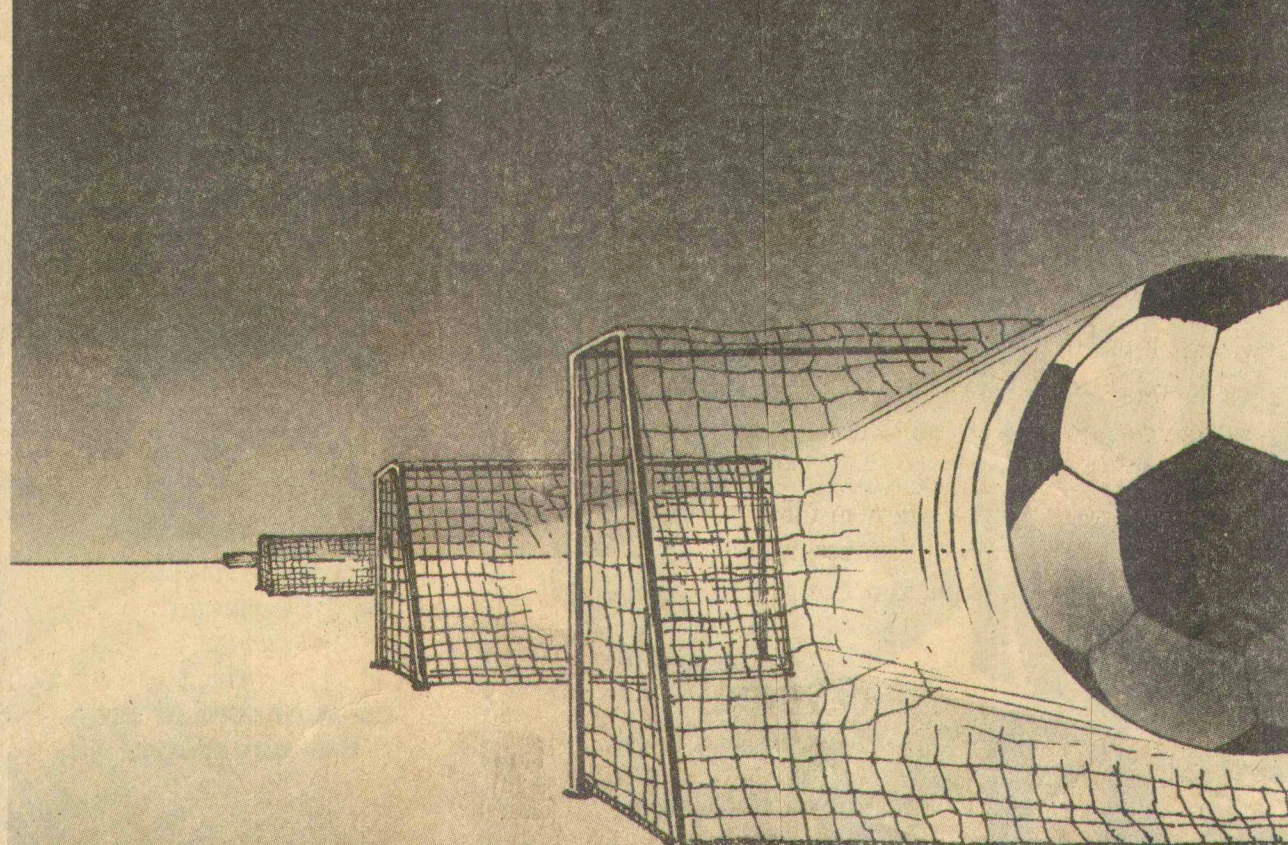
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## Brazil & Samba mad supporters to invade Turin

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TURIN, Italy, Thursday (Reuter) - The staid and sober city of Turin is braced for an invasion by some of the world's noisiest and most colourful soccer fans.

This northern industrial city, where the busy streets usually echo to nothing noisier than the clatter of a tram, is hosting World Cup favourites Brazil and their samba-mad supporters.

Brazil's first-round rivals will include Scotland, whose kilted followers are likely to take to the streets in wild celebration of victory or sink to the depth of depression in defeat.

### EXTRAVAGANZA

Turin's concession to the 24-nation extravaganza is a brand new stadium, Stadio delle Alpi, across town from the old Stadio Comunale, the scene of many battles between the city's two famous soccer clubs, Juventus and Torino.

Just completed, the 72,000-capacity all-seater stadium will replace the old arena for league matches from next season.

Turin is also home to Italy's biggest private company, Fiat, run by industrial patriarch Gianni Agnelli. The white-haired Agnelli, arguably the country's most influential figure, is sometimes dubbed "a king without a crown".

### FORTUNES

He is currently spending millions of dollars on players to revive the fortunes of Juventus, the "Grand Old Lady" of Italian soccer. He is intent on challenging the football power of European champions A.C. Milan, run by Silvio Berlusconi, who vies with the Fiat boss for the title of Italy's richest man.

Turin, where the modern state of Italy was born in 1861, prides itself on its architecture and culture. Its residents are reserved but friendly and welcome foreign visitors, although other Italians sometimes doubt their sincerity and describe them as "courteous but false."

Food in the Piedmont region, of which Turin is the capital, has a strong French influence and is more elaborate than cooking further south. The region is famous for its white truffles, dug up by specially-trained pigs. Piedmontese wines are rated among the best in Italy.

### The greatest show...

(Continued from page 27)

The World Cup record for individual goals is 13 by JUST FONTAINE of France in 1958 in Sweden. SANDRO KOCIS of Hungary scored 11 in the 1954 tournament in Switzerland and GERD MULLER of West Germany got 10 goals in the 1970 tournament in Mexico.

The 1986 World Cup concluded in grand style Argentina becoming the World Champions for the second time. It is worth mentioning here that no European nation has so far won the World Cup on Latin American soil. It has always been a Latin American nation, while only Brazil has won once in European soil, in Sweden in 1958. This is the only exception otherwise European nations have won on their soils while Latin American Nations have won on Latin American soils. Will this tradition be reversed in 1990?

When all is said and done football is the universal language. Indeed FIFA has more member countries than the United Nations, thereby giving credence to belief that the international game plays an important and major role in helping to maintain world peace.

Competition of the calibre we will see in the World Cup helps unite nations. Football overcomes barriers of RACE and COLOUR, RELIGION and POLITICS and as long as it can remain above such prejudices the World Cup will continue to be the GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH.

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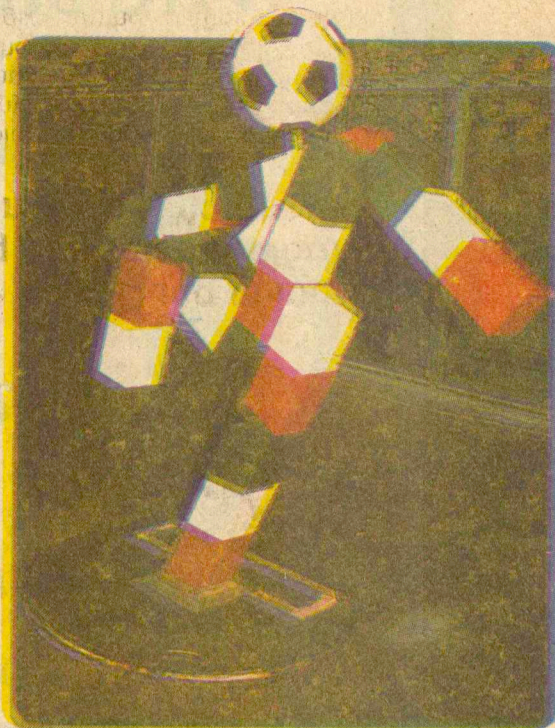
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## Denies criticising

ZURICH, Reuter - FIFA vice-president Hermann Neuberger denied newspaper reports he had criticised security arrangements for next month's World Cup finals in Italy.

Neuberger, who is also chairman of the International Football Federation's (FIFA) World Cup organising committee, was reported in two British papers last week as saying disasters on the scale of Heysel and Hillsborough could not be ruled out.

A FIFA statement said Neuberger denied making such statements to any newspaper or journalist and called the reports "pure fabrication".



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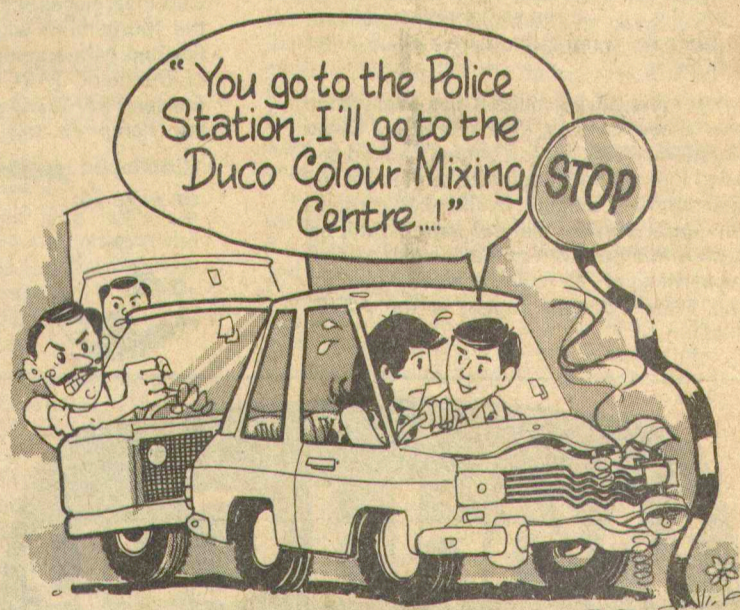


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