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## The History Of World Cup Football

By John Francis

The FIFA World Cup (often called the Football World Cup or simply the World Cup) is the most important competition in international football (soccer), and the world's most representative team sport event. Organised by Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the sport's governing body, the World Cup is contested by the men's national football teams of FIFA member nations. The championship has been awarded every four years since the first tournament in 1930 (except in 1942 and 1946 due to World War II), however it is more of an ongoing event as the qualifying rounds of the competition take place over the three years preceding the final rounds. The final tournament phase (often called the "Finals") involves 32 national teams competing over a four-week period in a previously nominated host nation, with these games making it the most widely-viewed sporting event in the world.[1] In the 17 tournaments held, only seven nations have ever won the World Cup Finals. Brazil are the current holders, as well as the most successful World Cup team, having won the tournament five times, while Germany and Italy follow with three titles each. The next football World Cup Finals will be held in Germany.

The first international football match was played in 1872 between England and Scotland, although at this stage the sport was rarely played outside Great Britain. As football began to increase in popularity, it was held as a demonstration sport (with no medals awarded) at the 1900, 1904 and 1906 Summer Olympics before football became an official competition at the 1908 Summer Olympics. Organised by England's Football Association, the event was for amateur players only and was regarded suspiciously as a show rather than a competition. The England national amateur football team won the event in both 1908 and 1912.

With the Olympic event continuing to be contested only between amateur teams, Sir Thomas Lipton organised the Sir Thomas Lipton Trophy tournament in Turin in 1909. The competition is often described as The First World Cup, and featured the most prestigious professional club sides from Italy, Germany and Switzerland. The first tournament was won by West Auckland, an amateur side from north-east England that was invited after the Football Association refused to be associated with the competition. West Auckland returned in 1911 to successfully defend their title, and were given the trophy to keep forever, as per the rules of the competition.

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In 1914, FIFA agreed to recognise the Olympic tournament as a "world football championship for amateurs", and took responsibility for organising the event. This led the way for the world's first intercontinental football competition, at the 1924 Summer Olympics. Uruguay won the tournament, before winning the gold medal again in 1928, with another South American team, Argentina, taking silver. In 1928 FIFA made the decision to stage their own international tournament. With Uruguay now two-time official football world champions and due to celebrate their centenary of independence in 1930, FIFA named Uruguay as the host country.

The 1932 Summer Olympics, held in Los Angeles, did not plan to include football as part of the programme due to the low popularity of football in the United States. FIFA and the IOC also disagreed over the status of amateur players, and so football was dropped from the Games. FIFA president Jules Rimet thus set about organising the inaugural World Cup tournament to be held in Uruguay in 1930. The national associations of selected nations were invited to send a team, but the choice of Uruguay as a venue for the competition meant a long and costly trip across the Atlantic Ocean for European

sides. Indeed, no European country pledged to send a team until two months before the start of the competition. Rimet eventually persuaded teams from Belgium, France, Romania, and Yugoslavia to make the trip. In total 13 nations took part — seven from South America, four from Europe and two from North America.

A spin-off tournament, the FIFA Women's World Cup, was first held in 1991. It is similar to the men's tournament in format, but so far has not generated the same level of interest.

World Cup Football i

<http://www.worldcupfootballi.com/>

offers information about the soccer world cup.

### **Ronaldinho - Football Star Of Brazil**

**By Gabriel Adams**

Who is Ronaldinho?

Ronaldinho is arguably one of the best football players in the world, currently playing for FC Barcelona as a midfielder, where he has amazed everybody with his amazing footwork. He is the latest miracle from Brazil, scoring wonderful goals and "dancing the samba" while doing so. He was also named FIFA World Player of the Year in 2004, the most prestigious award a player can receive, following his Brazilian team mates Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Romário.

Where did he come from?

Born in the southern city of Potro Alegre, Brazil, Ronaldinho worked his way out of the slums to

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become the worlds most recognized and coveted player. His love for football blossomed when his father, Joao da Silva Moreira, joined an amateur club. Roberto Moreira, Ronaldinho's brother, was a rising star in the Gremio Club, but when his knee shattered he was relegated to a substitute player.

### The World Cup

Ronaldinho dazzled fans in the 2002 World Cup where he played so gracefully that he was almost unstoppable. Scoring 27 goals in 57 matches he helped Brazil become World Cup winners for the 5th time. He is considered to be one of the most inventive football players, treating the football like his lover, flirting and teasing it before taking control.

When asked if he had a girlfriend during a press conference, he took out a football and said, "This is her."

His unquenchable thirst for football and his love for life will surely make him a player to be rivaled with for years to come. In fact, Ronaldinho said "I still have a video of my father, which I watch before every game I play for Brazil. It gives me strength, makes me determined."

### Quick Statistics

Full Name: Ronaldo de Assis Moreira Born: March 21 1980 Place of Birth: Vila Nova, Brazil Club: FC Barcelona. Height: 181cm Weight: 80kg Random Fact: Ronaldinho's name is Portuguese for "Little Ronaldo".

Get the Latest news about ronaldinho at

<http://www.ronaldinho.cc>



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