

# 2010 FIFA World Cup \_ South Africa

Let the Games begin: 11 June – 11 July 2010



We are less than a week away from the greatest sporting spectacle on the planet \_ **FIFA World Cup 2010**. When South Africa were awarded the staging rights a number of parties held grave concerns over a number of different issues. Contrary to all the gloomy predictions, South Africa is well prepared for the World Cup Soccer.

All that anticipation will crystallises into one moment on Friday night, when **Bafana Bafana** (South African national soccer team) emerge from the tunnel into the cacophony of **Soccer City** to take on **Mexico** in the opening game of the tournament.

The World Cup football is the most widely-viewed sporting event in the world, where an estimated 715.1 million people watched the final match of the 2006 World Cup held in Germany.

## 2010 World Cup groupings:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
South Africa	Argentina	England	Germany	Holland	Italy	Brazil	Spain
Mexico	Nigeria	USA	Australia	Denmark	Paraguay	N Korea	Switzerland
Uruguay	S. Korea	Algeria	Serbia	Japan	New Zealand	Ivory Coast	Honduras
France	Greece	Slovenia	Ghana	Cameroon	Slovakia	Portugal	Chile

The **Socceroos** have mountain to climb in South Africa, but I am backing them to shock the world and emulate the feats of **Guus Hiddink's** team from four years ago. Pim Verbeek's team will be huge underdogs in group matches against **Germany, Ghana and Serbia**.












**Socceroos** definitely need a win in one of those games and I think our best chance is against the **Serbia**. A draw against the **Germany** or **Ghana** is not beyond them. And with golden boy **Harry Kewell** on the mend, X-Factor **Tim Cahill** to score, and one of the best goalkeepers in **Mark Schwarzer**, things are beginning to look a lot bright and positive now.

Australia will play their first match against the most consistent team **Germany** on **14<sup>th</sup> June (Monday)** at 4:30 AM (Queens BDay holiday). They will play against African Champion **Ghana** on **20<sup>th</sup> June (Sunday)** at 12 midnight. Australia will play their last group match against **Serbia** on **June 24 (Thursday)** at 4:30 AM.



The **Jabulani ball** is the official ball of the FIFA World Cup 2010 in South Africa. It has created many concern and controversy among the footballers. Specially, all the goalkeepers are most vocal critics of the lightweight **Jabulani ball**. They complained the new ball is not decent, not just for goalkeepers but for everyone. Its trajectory is unpredictable.

In all, 76 nations have played in at least one World Cup. Of these, seven national teams have won the World Cup. With five titles, **Brazil** are the most successful World Cup team and also the only nation to have played in every World Cup to date. **Italy** (1934 and 1938) and **Brazil** (1958 and 1962) are the only nations to have won consecutive titles. **Brazil** and **Germany** have both made the most appearances in the final, with seven, while **Germany** have made the most appearances in the top four, with eleven.

Team	Champion	Runners-up	Third place	Fourth place
 <b>Brazil</b>	5 (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002)	2 (1950*, 1998)	2 (1938, 1978)	1 (1974)
 <b>Italy</b>	4 (1934*, 1938, 1982, 2006)	2 (1970, 1994)	1 (1990*)	1 (1978)
 <b>Germany</b> <sup>^</sup>	3 (1954, 1974*, 1990)	4 (1966, 1982, 1986, 2002)	3 (1934, 1970, 2006*)	1 (1958)
 <b>Argentina</b>	2 (1978*, 1986)	2 (1930, 1990)	—	—
 <b>Uruguay</b>	2 (1930*, 1950)	—	—	2 (1954, 1970)
 <b>France</b>	1 (1998*)	1 (2006)	2 (1958, 1986)	1 (1982)
 <b>England</b>	1 (1966*)	—	—	1 (1990)
 <b>Netherlands</b>	—	2 (1974, 1978)	—	1 (1998)
 <b>Czechoslovakia</b> <sup>#</sup>	—	2 (1934, 1962)	—	—
 <b>Hungary</b>	—	2 (1938, 1954)	—	—
 <b>Sweden</b>	—	1 (1958*)	2 (1950, 1994)	1 (1938)

\* = hosts, ^ = includes results representing West Germany between 1954 and 1990

# = states that have since split into two or more independent nations



A “**naked**” **promise** !! \_ Flamboyant **Argentina** coach **Diego Maradona** has made an astonishing promise to run naked through the centre of Buenos Aires if his team wins the World Cup this year. Looking forward to 11<sup>th</sup> July !!!

**FIFA World Cup 2014 Brazil** \_ If there is one country that unequivocally deserves to host a **FIFA World Cup**, it has to be **Brazil**. The South American nation lives and breathes the game with a religious intensity. **Australia** has submitted to win the right to host the **2018 or 2022** FIFA World Cup, we will wait till December 2010.

### Favourites

Six teams (**Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Spain, Italy and England**) are regarded as genuine contenders to lift the trophy on July 11, 2010. Of these, only **Spain** has failed to win the World Cup, while **Brazil** has won it a record **five times**, **Italy** is the current Champion, having won the tournament in 2006.

Finally, fastened your seat belt, hold on to the remote control for many sleepless nights and expect color, expect passion, noise, upsets but most of all let the party begin..... Go the **Socceroos**, if not then **Brazil**.

## Records and statistics

Two players share the record for playing in the most World Cups; **Mexico's Antonio Carbajal** and **Germany's Lothar Matthäus** both played in five tournaments. **Matthäus** has played the most World Cup matches overall, with 25 appearances.

**Brazil's Pelé** is the only player to have **won three World Cup winners'** medals, with 20 other players who have won two World Cup medals.

The top goalscorer in World Cups is **Brazil's Ronaldo**, who scored **15 goals** in three tournaments. **West Germany's Gerd Müller** is second, with **14 goals** in two tournaments. **France's Just Fontaine**, holds the record for the most goals scored in a single World Cup. All his 13 goals were scored in the 1958 tournament.

**Brazil's Mário Zagallo** and **West Germany's Franz Beckenbauer** are the only people to win the World Cup as both player and head coach. **Zagallo** won in 1958 and 1962 as a player and in 1970 as coach. **Beckenbauer** won in 1974 as captain and in 1990 as coach. **Italy's Vittorio Pozzo** is the only coach to ever win two World Cups.

As of the end of the 2006 tournament, **Brazil** and **Germany** have both played 92 matches, the most by any nation, with **Brazil** scoring the most goals, 201. The two teams have played each other only once in the World Cup, in the 2002 final.

- **Germany** is the most consistent team who have played 16 World Cup and reached Semi-final on 11 occasions.
- **Germany** conceded the most goals in the World Cup – **112 goals**.
- **Brazil** played most finals – **7 times**, and **won 5 times**
- **Argentina** conceded the most **Yellow cards** – **88**
- **Diego Maradona** played twice in the final as a **Captain** (1986, 1990).
- **England's** goalkeeper **Peter Shielton** and **Fabian Berthel** did not concede any goal in 10 consecutive matches.
- **Germany** played most matches in a draw – **19 match**.
- **Brazil** won most matches in a single World Cup – **7 match**
- Youngest player to appear at a World Cup - **Norman Whiteside** (**Northern Ireland**, 1982) - 17 years, 41 days.
- Oldest player to appear at a World Cup - **Roger Milla** (**Cameroon**, 1994) - 42 years and 39 days.
- Highest match attendance in a World Cup match - **199,854**, **Uruguay v Brazil**, 16 July 1950, Maracanã Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, **Brazil**.
- From 1930 to 1970, the **Jules Rimet Trophy** was awarded to the World Cup winner. In 1970, Brazil's third victory in the tournament entitled them to keep the trophy permanently.
- After 1970, a new trophy, known as the **FIFA World Cup Trophy**, was designed. The new trophy is 36 cm (14.2 in) high, made of solid **18 carat** (75%) gold and weighs **6.175 kg** (13.6 lb).
- The **Golden Ball** for the **best player**, determined by a vote of media members (first awarded in 1982); the **Silver Ball** and the **Bronze Ball** are awarded to the players finishing second and third in the voting respectively.
- The **Golden Boot** will be awarded for the top goalscorer (first awarded in 1982); most recently, the **Silver Shoe** and the **Bronze Shoe** have been awarded to the second and third top goalscorers respectively.
- 32 teams will play in the final. But total **204 teams** played to qualify for the final 32 spots.