Pelé in 1970. Maradona in '86. Zidane in '98. Every four years, one World Cup player makes history. Henry A. Kissinger—Nobel Peace Prize winner, former secretary of State, soccer fan—shares his golden moments before this year's June 9 kickoff.

On June 9, host country Germany will inaugurate a month of football frenzy by playing Costa Rica in the opening match of the 2006 soccer World Cup. For two weeks, there will be three matches a day as the 32 survivors of a global competition (involving more than 100 teams over a period of three years) are whittled down to 16.

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The practical consequence is that goals are harder and harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense. Teams—especially national teams—play first of all not to lose. Since the number of points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of succeeding is finite, a disciplined defense can occasionally thwart a technically superior team. Thus a superbly coached Greek team defeated a Portuguese team of probably superior individual players in the final for the 2004 European Football Championship, and a very disciplined German team overcame a marvelous team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974.

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URL: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13123847/site/newsweek/
World of Wonder


By Henry A. Kissinger

June 12, 2006 issue - On June 9, host country Germany will inaugurate a month of football frenzy by playing Costa Rica in the opening match of the 2006 soccer World Cup. For two weeks, there will be three matches a day as the 32 survivors of a global competition (involving more than 100 teams over a period of three years) are whittled down to 16.

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The Haditha Question

For U.S. Soldiers On the Front Lines in Iraq, Where Is the Line Between Self-Defense And Shame?

Haditha victims, two days after the Nov. 19, 2005, incident.
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New interior with available features like power-release fold and tumble second row seats¹ power bags in all three rows² Plus, standard StabiliTrak® and OnStar with one-year Safe & Sound Plan² The 2007
Haditha—And Beyond

As a probe into charges of a civilian massacre in Haditha continued, the Pentagon disclosed preliminary results of investigations into three more incidents of alleged military abuse in Iraq. The pressures that push frontline soldiers to the edge—and how echoes of My Lai will affect the debate over the war.

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TAKING IT PERSONALLY: Marines mourn a comrade killed in Haditha

WORLD CUP FEVER: Henry Kissinger on his favorite game

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THE EDITOR'S DESK

Babak Dehghanpisheh, Dan Ephron and others—these incidents, like warfare itself, are always less black and white than they appear to the public at home. Whether these incidents will temper the overwhelming support that Americans have shown for the men and women serving in Iraq remains to be seen. Yet no matter what the probes find, they are likely to add to growing public dissatisfaction with the war itself—as well as tensions between American forces and the Iraqi officials whose election they helped make possible.

Is America in danger of losing its global leadership in science, technology and education? In a special report, Fareed Zakaria sifts through the alarmism and the complacency, and 15 of the country's smartest thinkers in these areas offer their ideas for keeping our competitive edge. Gay marriage may have helped sway the 2004 elections but, Debra Rosenberg asks, will conservatives succeed in making it an issue again in '06? And on the eve of the World Cup, we get an analysis of the esthetic pleasures and geopolitical importance of soccer from no less than Henry A. Kissinger—who over the next two weeks will also be providing post-match audio commentary on the Cup on Newsweek.com.

-MARK WHITAKER

COLUMNISTS & LIVE TALKS

The Week Ahead on the Web

E-mail your questions to Dr. John Marburger, the president's science adviser. Excerpts will be live June 9.

Read Barbara Kantrowitz and Pat Wingert's column on women's health, Her Body, published Tuesday.

Every Wednesday, check out Mark Hosenball's online-only investigative dispatch, Terror Watch.

Mark Starr follows professional and amateur sports in his online column, Gazing, published Thursdays.

Send your questions on America's global competitiveness to Fareed Zakaria. Excerpts will be online June 12.

For Susanna Schrobsdorff's full interview, go to xtra.Newsweek.com on MSNBC.
STANDING UP: Anti-gay-marriage activists at a rally this spring in Olympia, Wash.

House could weigh in next month. Though it isn't expected to pass either House, supporters want to get points on the record before November. "It's a way to build momentum," says FMA author Matt Daniels, president of the Alliance for Marriage. Bush himself had been mostly mum on gay marriage since his re-election. But now, with his poll numbers in a nose dive and even his most enthusiastic supporters grousing, Bush took up the cause in his radio address Saturday; an amendment is needed because "activist courts have left our nation with no other choice," he explained. The president also plans to address amendment supporters in the Old Executive Office Building on Monday.

While the GOP leadership clearly hopes this tack can revive their sputtering election prospects this fall, some GOP strategists aren't so sure. Pew polls show a 10-point jump in support for gay marriage since 2004. And Bush pollster Matthew Dowd doubts it was decisive last time around. "It didn't drive turnout in 2004," he says. "That is urban legend." Turnout was the same in states with bans on the ballot and those without, Dowd says. GOP consultant Grover Norquist also questions how gay marriage plays as an electoral issue. Though social conservatives vote for marriage bans, it's not clear whether that will translate into votes for GOP candidates. "We don't have much to go on," he says. For their part, gay-rights leaders would be happy to leave the issue off the ballot. "We have to make sure [the initiatives] never see the light of day," says Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese, who would prefer to press his case in court.

Evangelical leaders insist they know how gay marriage affects their voters—they'll stay home if politicians don't push for the FMA. "It's the one issue I have seen that eclipses even the abortion issue among Southern Baptists," says Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Last month James Dobson, the influential founder of Focus on the Family, met privately with key Republicans, including Frist, House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Majority Leader John Boehner, to warn them about the political consequences of failing to promote issues like marriage. "If you forget us, we'll forget you," he said, according to a GOP House leadership aide who was briefed on the gatherings, but declined to be identified discussing private meetings.

Though Bush himself has publicly embraced the amendment, he never seemed to care enough to press the matter. One of his old friends told NEWSWEEK that same-sex marriage barely registers on the president's moral radar. "I think it was purely political. I don't think he gives a s--- about it. He never talks about this stuff," said the friend, who requested anonymity to discuss his private conversations with Bush. White House aides, who also declined to be identified, insist that the president does care about banning gay marriage. They say Monday's events with amendment supporters—Bush will also meet privately with a small group—have been in the works "for weeks" and aren't just a sop to conservatives.

Whatever Bush's motivation, his actions aren't likely to quiet his critics. Land says he's happy Bush is speaking out, but he'd like to see signs of real commitment to the issue. "We know what a full-court press looks like when we see one," Land says. A White House official, who declined to be identified discussing strategy, says Bush has not made calls on the amendment because "nobody has asked us;" Whatever the political maneuvering, it's the courts that could make the next move. Last week New York's highest court heard arguments that the state must allow gay couples to wed. A similar case in New Jersey was argued in February. Decisions could come later this summer. At the same time, judges recently struck down 2004 bans from Georgia, Ohio and Nebraska. "It's just a matter of time before the other shoe falls; says Family Research Council president Tony Perkins. "This is not an issue you can take a pass on." For politicians and activists, that may be true. But average voters might do exactly that.

Gay Marriage: Back on the Table

In 2004, 13 states voted to ban same-sex marriage (joining 5 other states with amendments already on the books). This year seven more states have similar ballot initiatives to amend their constitutions. A look at the battlefield:

- Marriage amendment already in place
- Amendment approved by state legislature; on the ballot in 2006
- Citizen-led drive to get ban on the 2006 ballot
- Amendment debate pending in state legislature
- No current bid to amend constitution

"If fiscal court has struck down the amendment, currently on appeal, amendment will be voted on in 2007."

SOURCE: HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese, who would prefer to press his case in court.

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WORLD OF WONDER

BY HENRY A. KISSINGER

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The emotions evoked by club teams are, compared to those inspired by the national team, like a raging stream to Niagara Falls. Club teams play at least once a week between August and June. National teams play only a fraction of that number a year and, for the highest prize, only once every four. There is no margin for error or for deferred passions. Victors are heroes; losers are treated as if they have inflicted a personal insult. A Colombian player who had contributed to the elimination of his team in the 1994 Cup by scoring on his own goal was murdered when he returned home.

Manipulating a ball by foot along a 110-yard-long field into an opposing goal requires skills analogous to ballet. Teams that concentrate on individual skills, like the Brazilians, astonish with their virtuosity and abandon. On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by their individual artistry that they forget to score goals and are overcome by more single-minded, strategically oriented teams.

Only the rarest players—like Maradona for Argentina, dribbling past four or five English players in the 1986 World Cup—are able to score by essentially solitary efforts. Typically, games are won by team efforts. The seductive quality of soccer resides in the almost intellectual focus with which the best teams move the ball down the field to solve the riddle of how, with each side moving at high speed, to get a ball past 11 opponents, one of whom (the goalie) is permitted to use his hands to intercept the ball. This turns the game into a kind of geometry of finding uncovered open spaces from which to launch an unimpeded shot on the goal. The great field generals like Zinedine Zidane of France or Franz Beckenbauer of Germany are blessed with the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seems unimaginable in the abstract and self-evident in execution.

Soccer at its highest level is complexity masquerading as simplicity. Over the decades, the game has become increasingly strategic: when I first became a fan, the 10 field players were distributed as five forwards, three midfield players and two defenders. As a result, the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders—especially as the players, not as well conditioned as today, more or less stayed in their assigned positions. Since then, a radical change in deployment has taken place. Forwards rarely exceed two, and the remaining players are deployed in various ways available to the defense, of
which the 4:4:2 system is among the most widely used. One of the most dramatic changes was the introduction of the "sweeper," charged with reinforcing the most threatened position on the field. Beckenbauer gave this role an additional significance by acting like an American football free safety on defense and like a quarterback in directing the attack with his subtle passing. The result was a kind of total football: whatever the assigned position of the player, he had the additional task of reinforcing the center of gravity, attack or defense, depending on the situation.

The practical consequence is that goals are harder and harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense. Teams—especially national teams—play first of all not to lose. Since the number of points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of succeeding is finite, a disciplined defense can occasionally thwart a technically superior team. Thus a superbly coached team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974. This should have given the so-called Azurri (because of their blue jerseys) an opportunity to apply their Ma-

Listen to Dr. Kissinger's periodic audio updates on the World Cup at: xtra.Newsweek.com on MSNBC

anchiavellian skill in frustrating the opponent into rash errors by a give-no-quarter defense. But Brazil did not play by the book. It abandoned whatever theoretical formation with which it had entered the game and threw every player into a wild offense, literally running the Italian team into the ground. Brazilian panache was aided no little by the high altitude of Mexico City, which wore down the defenders already exhausted from a brutal semifinal between Italy and Germany. This match was won by Italy, 4-3, in overtime (with five of the goals scored in that 30-minute period), and was so rough that Beckenbauer, having dislocated his shoulder, completed the game with his arm in a sling.

While offense triumphed in 1970, an unintended shift of emphasis helped turn the tables in 1974 between the Netherlands and Germany in Munich. The Dutch team was elegant and offense-minded, inspired by one of the all-time greats, Johan Cruyff. A penalty kick gave it the lead in the first minute before a stunned crowd. It proved a poisoned chalice. For it tempted the Dutch team to abandon its finely tuned offense in favor of protecting the lead. The Germans, led by Beckenbauer, thereupon threw everything into attack, reinforced by a frenzied home public. This led to a 2-1 lead just before halftime, which Germany defended tenaciously through the second half against an increasingly frantic Dutch side.

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I regretted not being able to attend the '86 final due to other obligations I had at the time. In 1990, in a very tactical defensive game, I witnessed a systematic German team overcome an Argentine side that substituted toughness for its usual dexterity. Argentina reached the final primarily because of the uncanny ability of its goalkeeper to parry penalty shots in shootouts, saving two against Italy. What added particular piquancy to that feat was that the goalkeeper was a substitute for the injured first-team goalie.

The most disappointing match for me was the final of the 1994 World Cup at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. As honorary chairman of the American organizing committee, I had hoped for a high-scoring match that might do for American soccer what the Giants-Colts football game of 1958 did by generating public interest in pro football. Unfortunately, the game was decided in a penalty shootout after 120 minutes of scoreless tactical maneuvering.

The final in 1998 in Paris supplied a mystery. An elegant French team defeated a Brazilian squad which, after a brilliant semifinal victory over the Netherlands, turned inexplicably lethargic. Its star player, Ronaldo, was scratched from the public lineup amid injury rumors an hour before the game and then re-inserted without participating actively.

Altogether, in the seven finals I watched, I saw Brazil, Germany and Italy three times each, the Netherlands and Argentina twice. The only other start went to France. Will this elite be broadened in the World Cup about to begin? Not having seen most of the national teams of this tournament, a prediction is difficult. The United States plays in a very tough initial group. To reach the elimination round, it will have to overcome at least one of two powerhouse European teams, Italy and the Czech Republic, as well as a talented team from Ghana. England has the players to reclaim a major role, though the recent injury of its star forward, Wayne Rooney, reduces its prospects. In qualifying, Argentina won more games than any South American team, including Brazil. But its composite is not always equal to its talent. Italy looked overwhelming when defeating Germany a few months ago, and could advance unless it is held back by a developing scandal regarding refereeing. The German team has been a puzzle. It has an inventive new coach and passionate public support. But in the preliminary games, it had trouble against major opponents. This may be the year for African teams to emerge; their technical brilliance has so far been thwarted by lack of international experience. In the last World Cup, two Asian teams—Korea and Japan—showed great progress. This World Cup will reveal how much of this is owed to the fact that the Cup was played before admiring home fans. And there is always Brazil, which will guarantee excitement and exuberant fans. We will know the answer by July 9. In the meantime, 64 games in a month are guaranteed to slake the thirst of even the most frenetic fans—myself included—if only very briefly.
GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

HOW LONG WILL WE LEAD THE WORLD?

ILLUSTRATION BY JIMMY TURRELL FOR NEWSWEEK
June 6, 2006

Dr. Henry Kissinger  
Kissinger Associates  
350 Park Ave., 26th Floor  
New York, NY 10022-6022

Dear Henry,

Here are copies of the international issue with your name emblazoned on the cover. It is a real pleasure for us to have this and my thanks to you for doing it.

Was Putin asking your expert advice on soccer as well?

All best,

Fareed Zakaria
## Europe's Failing Schools

The Continent's Education Systems Are Crumbling

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EXHILARATION. CONSIDERATION.
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the UK. BBC Top Gear Magazine

Auto Express
Driver Power Survey
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2002 to 2006.

Model shown: GS 450h SE with metallic paint £44,470 OTR. GS range prices start from £32,825 to £47,700 OTR. Prices correct at time of going to press and include VAT, delivery charges, number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road tax and first registration fee. BBC Top Gear Magazine Motoring Survey
GS 450h fuel economy figures: extra-urban 7.2L/100km (39.2 mpg), urban 9.2L/100km (30.7mpg), combined 7.9L/100km (35.8mpg). CO2 emissions 186g/km.
Dead-End Schools

Compared with the rest of the developed world, Europe's schools are underfunded, antiquated and failing to prepare kids for a knowledge-based economy. Even worse: the problem is especially acute for the children of immigrants, widening gaps in what are already divided societies.

Page 34

NO FUTURE: Many graduates head straight for welfare rolls
CLIMATE

The Big Meltdown

A L GORE IS GETTING good reviews for "An Inconvenient Truth," a book and documentary film in which the former vice president warns us of impending catastrophe unless we curb carbon emissions. Gore raises the specter of eight-meter sea-level rises that would lay waste to London, New York, Shanghai and other coastal cities and redraw the world's maps. This water would come from the arctic regions, where glaciers are melting at an alarming rate. The British journal Nature chose last week to publish a trio of scientific papers that, in a less politicized age, might have interested a few dozen scientists. They focus on what the climate was like at the North Pole 55 million years ago. Scientists have known that Earth was warmer then than it is now, but they didn’t have any direct data from the North Pole, largely because getting it required drilling through 400 meters of seabed for core samples. The Nature authors did just that: two ships held the sea ice at bay while a third did the drilling. That’s an expensive proposition to satisfy academic curiosity, but not to get important missing data in the global climate puzzle.

The conclusion that made the front pages of newspapers and Web sites last week was this: the waters of the North Pole seem to have been about 10 degrees Celsius warmer than scientists previously thought. How does this relate to the question we’d all like to know—how warm will the world get? That temperatures spiked sharply 55 million years ago suggests there may be a mechanism—high, heat-trapping clouds?—that kicks in to amplify warming beyond what you would expect merely from carbon. That’s just what climate scientists fear. The Nature scientists did not find any clues as to what this mechanism might be, or if it even exists. The warming effect may have something to do with the continents, ocean currents and storm patterns, which were vastly different 55 million years ago. If so, it wouldn’t have much bearing on our future.

The prospect of a balmy 23-degree ocean at the North Pole conjures just the kind of world Gore is warning us about. One of the Nature papers describes evidence that the Arctic was once dominated by lush ferns—a graphic scene that might have fit neatly into Gore’s documentary. While we wait for answers, it might help to remember that it would likely take millions of years—not tens or even thousands—for the North Pole to sprout ferns again.

FRED GUTERL

GLOBAL BUZZ

THE BOOMERANG EDITION

Decisions are coming back to haunt governments in Ecuador, Syria and China. A new leader in Mexico won’t have much more to look forward to.

Ecuador
Cash-strapped state oil company will struggle to find foreign partners after taking over Occidental’s fields. Don’t expect much more fuel to flow.

Syria
Early leaks indicate the U.N. report on the Hariri murder, due on June 15, could tie a slew of assassinations to Damascus. Arrests are possible.

China
The full G8 is joining U.S. calls for the yuan to appreciate. Beijing has put off Washington thus far, but world opinion will be hard to ignore.

Mexico
Approaching the finish, expect the presidential race to get nastier and tighter. The winner’s prize: a weak mandate and an alienated opposition.

PRODUCED IN CONJUNCTION WITH eurasia group
N JUNE 9, HOST COUNTRY GERMANY will inaugurate a month of football frenzy by playing Costa Rica in the opening match of the 2006 soccer World Cup. For two weeks, there will be three matches a day as the 32 survivors of a global competition (involving more than 100 teams over a period of three years) are whittled down to 16. In eight groups of four, each team plays the others in its group. The top two teams of each group advance to a sudden-death round also lasting two weeks and culminating in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets at all hours of the day and night; millions will find ways to interrupt their work schedules to watch at least some of the 64 matches. National morale in winners and losers will be affected, particularly as the competition nears its end.

I will be one of those viewers and have arranged my schedule to accommodate its necessities. Most fans...
would find it difficult to describe what it is about soccer that so
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2004 European Football Championship, and a very disci-
plined German team overcame a marvelous team from
the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974.

I have attended seven World Cup finals (and I have firm plans
to attend one of the semifinals and the final in Berlin this year).
Each has produced a distinctive drama. My first exposure was in
1970 in Mexico City, and it introduced me to the exuberant style of
Brazilian soccer. Led by the incomparable Pelé and an all-star cast
of irrepressible virtuosos, the Brazilians overwhelmed
a very good Italian team by a score of 4-1. Pelé scored
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Spain celebrates the 25th anniversary of the return of “Guernica” with a dazzling tribute to its creator.

BY TARA PEPPER

WHEN PABLO PICASSO was asked to paint the centerpiece for Spain’s pavilion at the 1937 World’s Fair, no one expected him to create what remains one of art’s most disquieting depictions of war. But stunned by an exhibit of black-and-white photographs documenting the recent massacre of inhabitants of a small Basque village, Picasso could think of little else. He rushed home from the show and began to paint. The resulting work, “Guernica,” did not win many plaudits at a show designed to celebrate modern technology. And although Picasso always intended it to belong to Spain, the vast work was shipped around the world for more than four decades. In keeping with the artist’s wishes, the painting found a permanent home in Madrid only after “democratic institutions” were installed in Spain, in 1981. Now, to celebrate 25 years since “Guernica’s” return, and the 125th anniversary of Picasso’s
A PASSIONATE FAN REMEMBERS THE DRAMA AND HEROISM OF WORLD CUPS PAST

By Henry A. Kissinger

On June 9, host country Germany will inaugurate a month of football frenzy by playing Costa Rica in the opening match of the 2006 soccer World Cup. For two weeks, there will be three matches a day as the 32 survivors of a global competition (involving more than 100 teams over a period of three years) are whittled down to 16.

In eight groups of four, each team plays the others in its group. The top two teams of each group advance to a sudden-death round also lasting two weeks and culminating in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Billions of people around the world will be glued to their television sets at all hours of the day and night; millions will find ways to interrupt their work schedules to watch at least some of the 64 matches. National morale in winners and losers will be affected, particularly as the competition nears its end.

I will be one of those viewers and have arranged my schedule to accommodate its necessities. Most fans would find it difficult to describe what it is about soccer that so enthralls them. They would probably identify it with their passionate adherence to their favorite club team — a passion that, in America, is matched only by the most fanatical adherents of football teams.

I grew up in Fuerth, a little town in southern Germany where soccer had the status of football in Green Bay, Wis. Though playing with local amateurs, its team inexplicably won the German championship three times during my boyhood. I have not lived in Germany for many more decades than I care to admit, yet I still follow the fortunes of that team, which, in the age of high-salary professionalism, has been relegated to the second division. Fuerth periodically seems on the verge of rising to the top league but, as happened this year, always manages to fall just short — guaranteeing the mixture of misery and hope that is the soccer addict’s lot.

The emotions evoked by club teams are, compared to those inspired by the national team, like a raging stream to Niagara Falls. Club teams play at least once a week between August and June. National teams play only a fraction of that number a year and, for the highest prize, only once every four. There is no margin for error or for deferred passions. Victors are heroes; losers are treated as if they have inflicted a personal insult. A Colombian player who had contributed to the elimination of his team in the 1994 Cup by scoring on his own goal was murdered when he returned home.

Manipulating a ball by foot along a 110-yard-long field into an opposing goal requires skills analogous to ballet. Teams that concentrate on individual skills, like the Brazilians, astonish with their virtuosity and abandon. On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by their individual artistry that they forget to score goals and are overcome by more single-minded, strategically oriented teams.
Only the rarest players — like Maradona for Argentina, dribbling past four or five English players in the 1986 World Cup — are able to score by essentially solitary efforts. Typically, games are won by team efforts. The seductive quality of soccer resides in the almost intellectual focus with which the best teams move the ball down the field to solve the riddle of how, with each side moving at high speed, to get a ball past 11 opponents, one of whom (the goalie) is permitted to use his hands to intercept the ball. This turns the game into a kind of geometry of finding uncovered open spaces from which to launch an unimpeded shot on the goal. The great field generals, like Zinedine Zidane of France or Franz Beckenbauer of Germany, are blessed with the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seems unimaginable in the abstract and self-evident in execution. Soccer at its highest level is complexity masquerading as simplicity.

Over the decades, the game has become increasingly strategic: When I first became a fan, the 10 field players were distributed as five forwards, three midfield players and two defenders. As a result, the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders — especially as the players, not as well conditioned as today, more or less stayed in their assigned positions. Since then, a radical change in deployment has taken place. Forwards rarely exceed two, and the remaining players are deployed in various ways available to the defense, of which the 4:4:2 system is among the most widely used. One of the most dramatic changes was the introduction of the “sweeper,” charged with reinforcing the most threatened position on the field. Beckenbauer gave this role an additional significance by acting like an American football free safety on defense and like a quarterback in directing the attack with his subtle passing. The result was a kind of total football: Whatever the assigned position of the player, he had the additional task of reinforcing the center of gravity, attack or defense, depending on the situation.

The practical consequence is that goals are harder and harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense. Teams — especially national teams — play first of all not to lose. Since the number of points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of succeeding is finite, a disciplined defense can occasionally thwart a technically superior team. Thus a superbly coached Greek team defeated a Portuguese team of probably superior individual players in the final for the 2004 European Football Championship, and a very disciplined German team overcame a marvelous team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974.

I have attended seven World Cup finals (and I have firm plans to attend one of the semifinals and the final in Berlin this year). Each has produced a distinctive drama. My first exposure was in 1970 in Mexico City, and it introduced me to the exuberant style of Brazilian soccer. Led by the incomparable Pele and an all-star cast of irrepressible virtuosos, the Brazilians overwhelmed a very good Italian team by a score of 4–1. Pele scored first — then the Italians responded. This should have given the so-called Azurri (because of their blue jerseys) an opportunity to apply their Machiavellian skill in frustrating the opponent into rash errors by a give-no-quarter defense. But Brazil did not play by the book. It abandoned whatever theoretical formation with which it had entered the game and threw every player into a wild offense, literally running the Italian team into the ground. Brazilian panache was aided no little by the high altitude of Mexico City, which wore down the defenders already exhausted from a brutal semifinal between Italy and Germany. This match was won by Italy 4–3 in overtime (with five of the goals scored in that 30-minute
period) and was so rough that Beckenbauer, having dislocated his shoulder, completed the game with his arm in a sling.

While offense triumphed in 1970, an unintended shift of emphasis helped turn the tables in 1974 between the Netherlands and Germany in Munich. The Dutch team was elegant and offense-minded, inspired by one of the all-time greats, Johan Cruyff. A penalty kick gave it the lead in the first minute before a stunned crowd. It proved a poisoned chalice. For it tempted the Dutch team to abandon its finely tuned offense in favor of protecting the lead. The Germans, led by Beckenbauer, thereupon threw everything into attack, reinforced by a frenzied home public. This led to a 2-1 lead just before halftime, which Germany defended tenaciously through the second half against an increasingly frantic Dutch side.

In 1978, the Netherlands found itself once more in a final before a rabid hometown crowd in Buenos Aires. In a game of wild fluctuations, the Dutch, in the last minute, tied an Argentine team playing with Brazilian flair and European killer instinct. But as happened four years earlier, the Dutch could not stay the course and lost in overtime. The Argentine victory produced a moment of respite from the near civil war conditions and brutal official repression wracking Argentina. For 48 hours, Buenos Aires celebrated with such tumultuous abandon as to hide the bitterness of the national divisions.

In 1982, the drama came before the final. In a second-round group match, under the different Cup rules of the period, Italy overcame the most attractively playing of all Brazilian teams by one of its deadly counterattacks, exploiting the recklessness of the Brazilians, who played to win, not satisfied with the tie that was their admission ticket into the final — and which was only minutes away. In one semifinal, Germany defeated France, scoring two late goals after falling behind by two goals in overtime to send it to a penalty-kick shootout against a French team demoralized when one of its star players was flattened by the German goalie as he was heading for a score.

I regretted not being able to attend the '86 final due to other obligations I had at the time. In 1990, in a very tactical defensive game, I witnessed a systematic German team overcome an Argentine side that substituted toughness for its usual dexterity. Argentina reached the final primarily because of the uncanny ability of its goalkeeper to parry penalty shots in shootouts, saving two against Italy. What added particular piquancy to that feat was that the goalkeeper was a substitute for the injured first-team goalie.

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: June 3, 2006
TO: John Bentes, Hotel Guest
The Regent Berlin
FAX #: 011/49-30/2033-6119
FROM: Theresa Amantea
Home tel: (201) 689-1622

Sir:

Following is the final proof from _Newsweek_ as it will go to print tonight. I indicated any changes they made from the last draft, all of which are minor, with the exception of:

P. 3, bottom – "...(with five of the goals scored in that 30-minute **period**)" [changed from "overtime", to avoid repetition]

P. 5, top – "...exploiting the recklessness of the Brazilians, who played to win, not satisfied with the tie that, under the rules of the period, was their admission ticket into **a semifinal** [changed from "the final", because you’re talking about the quarterfinal here]."

If the changes are not okay with you, I am told we still have time to change the piece until late tonight. If acceptable, I assume this is the version you would like sent on to Ikenberry.

Theresa
hi theresa -- one final copy for you. as far as we're concerned, this is perfection and final, if any further tweaks are needed, our copy desk is here through very late tonight. they're at 212-445-4518. i'll copy and paste the piece into this message, and i'll provide a word attachment too.

all the best and thanks for your help, ray sawhill


By Henry A. Kissinger

On June 9, host country Germany will inaugurate a month of football frenzy by playing Costa Rica in the opening match of the 2006 soccer World Cup. For two weeks, there will be three matches a day as the 32 survivors of a global competition (involving more than 100 teams over a period of three years) are whittled down to 16. In eight groups of four, each team plays the others in its group. The top two teams of each group advance to a sudden-death round also lasting two weeks and culminating in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets at all hours of the day and night; millions will find ways to interrupt their work schedules to watch at least some of the 64 matches. National morale in winners and losers will be affected, particularly as the competition nears its end.

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<<bz0224_2.rtf (application/rtf)>>
Sir:

Following is the final revised proof from Newsweek, one with my markings and one clean copy. Note Whitaker’s message to you at the end.

Theresa
Dear Theresa Cimino,

Hello. I’m helping our editor Brett Begun, who has worked on Dr. Kissinger’s column. You should see notes in a blue font embedded in this text. If you can’t see them, please let me know. We need to make sure that Dr. Kissinger is aware of the minor changes that have been made and that he sees the questions. This is round number one. There may be a few more questions or changes around 6-7 pm EST. We would need to have his final approval by mid-day EST Saturday, which gives us time. There’s no need to bother him late tonight. Best, Temma 212-445-4544

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The most disappointing match for me was the final of the 1994 World Cup at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. (I regretted not being able to attend the '86 final due to other obligations.) In 1990, in a very tactical defensive game, I witnessed a systematic German team overcome an Argentine side that substituted toughness for its usual dexterity, and which, after Germany'sbb reached the final when its goalkeeper saved a penalty shotbb primarily because of the uncanny ability of its goalkeeper to parry penalty shotsbb Goalkeeper only saved one penalty shot in the semifinalsbb. As honorary chairman of the American organizing committee, I had hoped for a high-scoring match that might pique American soccer fans.

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Temma Ehrenfeld
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Theresa,

Here's our the end would read, after Bret's edit:

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Please ask Dr. Kissinger if that's acceptable to him.

Thanks,

Temma
Dear Theresa Cimino,

Hello. I'm helping our editor Brett Begun, who has worked on Dr. Kissinger's column. You should see notes in a blue font embedded in this text. If you can't see them, please let me know. We need to make sure that Dr. Kissinger is aware of the minor changes that have been made and that he sees the questions. This is round number one. There may be a few more questions or changes around 6-7 pm EST. We would need to have his final approval by mid-day EST Saturday, which gives us time. There's no need to bother him late tonight. Best, Temma 212-445-4544

On June 9, host country Germany will inaugurate a month of football frenzy by playing Costa Rica in the opening match of the 2006 soccer World Cup. For two weeks, there will be three matches a day as the 32 survivors of a global competition (involving more than 100 teams over a period of three years) are whittled down to 16. In eight groups of four, each team plays the others in its group. The top two teams of each group advance to a sudden-death round also lasting two weeks and culminating in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets at all hours of the day and night; millions will find ways to interrupt their work schedules to watch at least some of the 64 matches. National morale in winners and losers will be affected, particularly as the competition nears its end.

I will be one of those viewers and have arranged my schedule to accommodate its necessities. Most fans would find it difficult to describe what it is about soccer that so enthralled them. They would probably identify it with their passionate adherence to their favorite club team—a passion that, in America, is matched only by the most fanatic adherents of football teams.

I grew up in Fuerth, a little town in southern Germany, where soccer had the status of football in Green Bay, Wisc. Though playing with local amateurs, its team inexplicably won the German championship three times during my boyhood. I have not lived in Germany for many more decades than I care to admit, yet I still follow the fortunes of that team which, in the age of high-salary professionalism, has been relegated to the second division. Fuerth periodically seems on the verge of rising to the top league but, as this year, always manages to fall just short guarantee.

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There is no margin for error or for deferred passions. Victors are heroes; losers are treated as if they have inflicted a personal insult. A Colombian player who had contributed to the elimination of his team in the 1994 Cup by scoring on his own goal was assassinated latest news suggests his death may have been unrelated to Cup when he returned home.

Manipulating a ball by foot along a 100-meter-long field into an opposing goal requires skills analogous to ballet. Especially Teams that concentrate on individual skills-like the Brazilians astonish with their virtuosity and abandon. On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by their individual artistry that they forget to score goals and are overcome by more single-minded, strategically oriented teams. World Cup Rule No. 1: Don't Forget to Score Goals This OK?

Only the rarest players-like Maradona for Argentina, dribbling past four or five English players in the 1986 World Cup-are able to score by essentially solitary efforts. Typically, games are won by team efforts. The seductive quality of soccer resides in the almost intellectual focus with which the best teams move the ball down the field to solve the riddle of how, with each side moving at high speed, to get a ball past 11 opponents, one of whom (the goalie) is permitted to use his hands to intercept the ball. This turns the game into a kind of geometry in finding uncovered open spaces from which to launch an unimpeded shot on the goal. The Great field generals like Zidane of France or Beckenbauer of Germany had the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seemed unimaginable in the abstract and self-evident in execution. Soccer at its highest level is a game of complicated simplicity.

Over the decades, the game has become increasingly strategic: when I first became a fan, the 10 field players were distributed as five forwards, three midfield players and two defenders. As a result, the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders especially as the players, not as well conditioned as today, more or less stayed in their assigned positions. Since then a radical change in deployment has taken place. Forwards rarely exceed two, and the remaining players are deployed in various ways.
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The practical consequence is that goals are harder and harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense (in contrast to most other sports which, with the passage of time, have increased scoring). Teams—especially national teams—play first of all not to lose. Since the number of points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of succeeding is finite, a disciplined defense can occasionally thwart a technically superior team. Thus a superbly coached Greek team defeated a Portuguese team of probably superior individual players in the final for the 2004 European Football Championship Cup, and a very disciplined German team overcame a marvellous team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974.

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Brazilian panache was aided no little by the high altitude of Mexico City, which wore down the defenders already exhausted from a brutal semifinal between Italy and Germany. This match was won by Italy 4-3 in overtime extra time (with five of the goals scored in the extra time) and was so rough that Beckenbauer dislocated his shoulder.

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Temma
FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE:       June 2, 2006
TO:        John Bentes, Hotel Guest
         The Regent Berlin
FAX #:      011/49-30/2033-6119
FROM:      Theresa Amantea
         Home tel: (201) 689-1622
NO. OF PAGES:   11 incl. cover

PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

Sir:

Following is the proof from Newsweek, one with my markings and one clean copy. After we get this back to them, they will have another proof, which we will have to return by noon tomorrow (Saturday).

Theresa

Ikenberry  - management
Hi Theresa

Here's the piece, which has now been through the editors and which now fits. I notice that when I copy and paste into the body of this email I can't see any of the blue text — the cuts, the queries and responses, and such. Maybe you can, but if not, I've included a Word attachment that should show everything.

Fyi, Brett is at 212-445-5659, and I'm at 212-445-4419.

Best,

Ray

-- Underlined = cut
-- Circled = added
-- Bracketed = notes/questions from editors

<[stk-3]>Pele in 1970. Maradona in '86. Every four years, one player in soccer's World Cup makes history. Henry A. Kissinger-Nobel Peace Prize winner, former secretary of state, soccer fan-shares his golden moments before this year's June 9 kickoff.<[etk]>

World of wonder

By Henry A. Kissinger

On June 9, host country Germany will inaugurate a month of football frenzy by playing Costa Rica in the opening match of the 2006 soccer World Cup. For two weeks, there will be three matches a day as the 32 survivors of a global competition (involving more than 100 teams over a period of three years) are whittled down to 16. In eight groups of four, each team plays the others in its group. The top two teams of each group advance to a sudden-death round also lasting two weeks and culminating in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets at all hours of the day.

Editor restored.

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Manipulating a ball by foot along a 100-meter-long field into an opposing goal requires skills analogous to ballet. Teams that concentrate on individual skills, like the Brazilians, astonish with their virtuosity and abandon. On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by their individual artistry that they forget to score goals and are overcome by more single-minded, strategically oriented teams.

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France or Beckenbauer of Germany are blessed with the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seemed unimaginable in the abstract and self-evident in execution. Soccer at its highest level is complexity masquerading as simplicity.

Over the decades, the game has become increasingly strategic: when I first became a fan, the 10 field players were distributed as five forwards, three midfield players and two defenders. As a result, the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders—especially as the players, not as well conditioned as today, more or less stayed in their assigned positions. Since then, a radical change in deployment has taken place. Forwards rarely exceed two, and the remaining players are deployed in various ways available to the defense, of which the 4-4-2 system is among the most widely used.

One of the most dramatic changes was the introduction of the "sweeper," one of the midfielders is usually assigned the role of "sweeper," because sweepers are defenders, not midfielders, and teams no longer have sweepers. Beckenbauer gave this role an added significance by acting as a sweeper on defense and like an American football free safety on defense and like a football quarterback in directing the attack with his subtle passing. The result was a kind of total football: whatever the assigned position of the player, he had the additional task of reinforcing the center of gravity, attack or defense, depending on the situation.

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In 1982, the drama came before the finals. In a semifinal quarterfinal, Italy/Brazil was quarterfinal, not the drama. Italy overcame the most attractively playing of all Brazilian teams by one of its deadly counterattacks, exploiting the recklessness of the Brazilians, who played to win, not satisfied with the tie that, under the rules of the period, was their admission ticket into the final and which was only minutes away. In one semifinal Germany defeated France, scoring two late goals after falling behind by two goals in overtime to send it to a penalty kick shootout against a French team demoralized when one of its star players was flattened by the German goalie as he was heading for another score. I regretted not being able to attend the ‘86 final due to other obligations. I had at the time. In 1990, in a very tactical defensive game, I witnessed a systematic German team overcome by an Argentine side that substituted toughness for its usual dexterity. Argentina reached the final primarily because of the uncanny ability of its goalkeeper to parry penalty shots in shootouts, saving two against Italy. What added particular piquancy to that feat was that the goalkeeper was a substitute for the injured first-team goalie.

The most disappointing match for me was the final of the 1994 World Cup at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. As honorary chairman of the American organizing committee, I had hoped for a high-scoring match that might do for American soccer what the Giants-Colts football game of 1958 did by generating public interest in pro football. Unfortunately the game was decided in a penalty shootout.

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Henry—What a terrific piece. Your passion for the game really shines through. Many thanks, and I look forward
to hearing your commentary on the Web. All best, Mark

<<bz0224_1.rtf (application/rtf)>>
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Over the decades, the game has become increasingly strategic: when I first became a fan, the 10 field players were distributed as five forwards, three midfield players and two defenders. As a result, the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders-especially as the players, not as well conditioned as today, more or less stayed in their assigned positions. Since then, a radical change in deployment has taken place. Forwards rarely exceed two, and the remaining players are deployed in various ways available to the defense, of which the 4:4:2 system is among the most widely used. One of the most dramatic changes was the introduction of the "sweeper," one of the midfielders is usually assigned the role of "sweeper," because sweepers are defenders, not midfielders, and teams no longer have sweepers charged with reinforcing the most threatened position on the field. Beckenbauer gave this role an addition al significance by acting as a sweeper on defense and like an American football free safety on defense and like a quarterback in directing the attack with his subtle passing. The result was a kind of total football: whatever the assigned position of the player, he had the additional task of reinforcing the center of gravity, attack or defense, depending on the situation.

The practical consequence is that goals are harder and harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense (in contrast to most other sports which, with the passage of time, have increased scoring). Because scoring is down in hockey, basketball and football, which changed its rules recently to decrease scoring.

Teams-especially national teams-play first of all not to lose. Since the number of points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of succeeding is finite, a disciplined defense can occasionally thwart a technically superior team. Thus a superbly coached Greek team defeated a Portuguese team of probably superior individual players in the final for the 2004 European Football Championship Cup, and a very disciplined German team overcame a marvelous team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974.

I have attended seven World Cup finals (and I have firm plans to attend one of the semifinals and the final in Berlin this year). Each has produced a distinctive drama. My first exposure was in 1970 in Mexico City, and it introduced me to the exuberant style of Brazilian football. Led by the incomparable Pelé and an all-star cast of irrepressible virtuosos, the Brazilians overwhelmed a very good Italian team by a score of 4-1. The Italian team scored first-Pele scored first-then the Italians responded. This should have given the so-called Azurris (because of their blue jerseys) an opportunity to apply their Machiavellian skill in frustrating the opponent into rash errors by a give-no-quarter defense. But Brazil did not play by the book. It abandoned whatever theoretical formation with which it had entered the game and threw every player into a wild offense, literally running the Italian team into the ground. Brazilian panache was aided no little by the high altitude of Mexico City, which wore down the de
fenders already exhausted from a brutal semifinal between Italy and Germany. This match was won by Italy 4-3 in overtime extra time (with five of the goals scored in the extra time) and was so rough that Beckenbauer, having dislocated his shoulder, completed the game with his arm in a sling.

While offense triumphed in 1970, an unintended shift of emphasis helped turn the tables in 1974 between the Netherlands and Germany in Munich. The Dutch team was elegant and offensively-minded, inspired by one of the all-time greats, Johan Cruyff. A penalty kick gave it the lead in the first minute before a stunned crowd. It proved a poisoned chalice. For it tempted the Dutch team to abandon its finely tuned offense in favor of protecting the lead. The Germans, led by Beckenbauer, thereupon threw every thing into attack, reinforced by a frenzied home public. This led to a 2-1 lead just before halftime, which Germany defended tena ciously through the second half against an increasingly frantic Dutch side.

In 1978, the Netherlands found itself once more in a final before a rabid hometown crowd in Buenos Aires. In a game of wild fluctuations, the Dutch, in the last minute, tied an Argentine team playing with Brazilian flair and European killer instinct. But as happened four years earlier, the Dutch could not stay the course and lost in overtime. The Argentine victory produced a moment of respite from the near-civil war conditions and brutal official repression wracking Argentina. For 48 hours, Buenos Aires celebrated with such tumultuous abandon as to hide the bitterness of the national divisions.

In 1982, the drama came before the finals. In a semifinal quarterfinal, Italy overcame the most attractively playing of all Brazilian teams by one of its deadly counterattacks, exploiting the recklessness of the Brazilians, who played to win, not satisfied with the tie that, under the rules of the period, was their admission ticket into the final—and which was only minutes away. In one semifinal, Germany defeated France, scoring two late goals after falling behind by two goals in overtime to send it to a penalty kick shootout against a French team demoralized when a defender star attacker was flattened by the German goalie as he was heading for another score.

I regretted not being able to attend the 86 final due to other obligations I had at the time. In 1990, in a very tactical defensive game, I witnessed a systematic German team overcome by an Argentine side that substituted toughness for its usual dexterity. Argentina reached the final primarily because of the uncanny ability of its goalkeeper to parry penalty shots in shootouts, saving two against Italy. What added particular piquancy to that feat was that the goalkeeper was a substitute for the injured first-team goalie. The most disappointing match for me was the final of the 1994 World Cup at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. As honorary chairman of the American organizing committee, I had hoped for a high-scoring match that might do for American soccer what the Giants-Colts football game of 1957 did by generating public interest in the sport. Unfortunately, the game was decided in a penalty
In 1998, the final in Paris supplied a mystery. An elegant French team defeated a Brazilian squad which, after a brilliant semifinal victory over the Netherlands, turned inexplicably lethargic. Its star player Ronaldo was scratched from the public lineup amid injury rumors an hour before the game and then reinserted without participating actively.

Altogether, in the seven finals I watched, I saw Brazil, Germany and Italy three times each, the Netherlands and Argentina twice. The only other start went to France. Will this elite be broadened in the World Cup about to begin? Not having seen most of the national teams of this tournament, a prediction is difficult. The United States plays in a very tough initial group. To reach the elimination round, it would have to overcome two teams it has never beaten, Italy and the Czech Republic (including former Czechoslovakia) and one team it has never played, Ghana. Temma, please ask Dr. Kissinger if we could reinsert my sentence below both established soccer powers. Technically, never played Czech Republic at least one of two powerhouse European teams in its group, Italy and the Czech Republic, as well as a talented team from Ghana.

England has the players to reclaim a major role, though the recent injury of its star forward Wayne Rooney reduces its prospects. In qualifying, Argentina won more games than any South American team, including Brazil. But its composure is not always equal to its talent. Italy looked overwhelming when defeating Germany a few months ago, and could advance unless it is held back by a developing scandal regarding refereeing. The German team has been a puzzle. It has an inventive new coach and passionate public support. But in the preliminary games, it had trouble against major opponents. This may be the year for African teams to emerge; their technical brilliance has so far been thwarted by lack of international experience. In the last World Cup, two Asian teams-Korea and Japan-showed great progress. This World Cup will reveal how much of this owed to the fact that the Cup was played before admiring home fans. And there is always Brazil, which will guarantee excitement and exuberant fans. We will know the answer by July 9. In the meantime, 64 games in a month are guaranteed to slake the thirst of even the most frenetic fans—myself included—only very briefly.

Henry-What a terrific piece. Your passion for the game really shines through. Many thanks, and I look forward to hearing your commentary on the Web. All best, Mark
Sir:

The editor at Newsweek who is working on your piece called to say, in order to save time, he prefers to ask you the following questions in advance of sending the proof for approval (so that your responses can be incorporated beforehand). (Following is a single-spaced version of the piece as submitted so you have it to refer to.):

1) You say in the piece that you saw seven World Cup finals, but you only specifically mention '70, '74, '78, '82, '94 & '98. ('86 is mentioned only in a reference to Maradona).
   a) Was '86 one of the seven? If so, he asks you to clarify this.
   b) He asks that you insert a brief sentence explaining why you did not attend the '86 (if that is the case) & '90 final (in order to maintain the flow of the piece).

2) He is considering switching the order of the two paragraphs on the 1998 final & 1994 final so they appear in chronologic order and asks if this would be okay with you, should he decide to do so.

3) And finally, he would like you to insert a brief sentence about whether or not you plan to attend the final this year.

Thank you,

Theresa Amantea
Home tel: (201) 689-1622
ARTICLE

On June 9, host country Germany will inaugurate a month of football frenzy by playing Costa Rica in the opening match of the 2006 soccer World Cup. For two weeks there will be three matches a day, as the thirty-two survivors of a global competition involving more than a hundred teams over a period of three years are whittled down to sixteen. In eight groups of four, each team plays the others in its group. The top two teams of each group advance to a sudden-death round also lasting two weeks and culminating in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets at all hours of the day and night; millions will find ways to interrupt their work schedules to watch at least some of the sixty-four matches. National morale in winners and losers will be affected, particularly as the competition nears its end.

I will be one of those viewers and have arranged my schedule to accommodate its necessities. Most fans would find it difficult to describe what it is about soccer that so enchalls them. They would probably identify it with their passionate adherence to their favorite club team – a passion that, in America, is matched only by the most fanatical adherents of football teams.

I grew up in Fuerth, a little town in southern Germany, where soccer had the status of football in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Though playing with local amateurs, its team inexplicably won the German championship three times during my boyhood. I have not lived in Germany for many more decades than I care to admit, yet I still follow the fortunes of that team which, in the age of high salary professionalism, has been relegated to the second division. Fuerth periodically seems on the verge of rising to the top league but, as this year, always manages to fall just short – guaranteeing the mixture of misery and hope that is the loot of the soccer addict.

The emotions evoked by club teams are, to those inspired by the national team, like a raging stream compared to Niagara Falls. Club teams play at least once a week, between August and June. Club teams play only a half-dozen games a year and, for the highest prize, only once every four years. There is no margin for error or for
deferred passions. Victors are heroes; losers are treated as if they have inflicted a personal insult. A Colombian player, who had contributed to the elimination of his team in the 1998 Cup by an own goal, was assassinated when he returned home.

Manipulating a ball by foot along a 100-meter long field into an opposing goal requires skills analogous to ballet. Especially teams that concentrate on individual skills – like the Brazilians – astonish with their virtuosity and abandon. On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by their individual artistry that they forget to score goals and are overcome by more single-minded, strategically-oriented teams.

Only the rarest players – like Maradona for Argentina, dribbling past four or five English players in the 1986 World Cup, are able to score by essentially solitary efforts. Typically, games are won by team efforts. The seductive quality of soccer resides in the almost intellectual focus with which the best teams move the ball down the field to solve the riddle of how, with each side moving at high speed, to get a ball past eleven opponents, one of whom – the goalie – is permitted to use his hands to intercept the ball. This turns the game into a kind of geometry in finding uncovered open spaces from which to launch an unimpeded shot on the goal. The great field generals like Zidane of France or Beckenbauer of Germany had the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seemed unimaginable in the abstract and self-evident in execution. Soccer at its highest level is a game of complicated simplicity.

Over the decades, the game has become increasingly strategic: When I first became a fan, the ten field players were distributed as five forwards, three midfield players, and two defenders. As a result, the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders – especially as the players, not as well conditioned as today, more or less stayed in their assigned positions. Since then, a radical change in deployment has taken place. Forwards rarely exceed two, and the remaining players are deployed in various ways available to the defense, of which the 4:4:2 system is among the most widely used. One of the midfielders is usually assigned the role of “sweeper,” charged with reinforcing the most threatened position on the field. Beckenbauer gave this role an additional significance by acting as a sweeper on defense and like an American football quarterback in directing the attack with his subtle passing. The result is a kind of total football: whatever the assigned position of the player, he has the additional task of reinforcing the center of gravity, attack or defense, depending on the situation.
The practical consequence is that goals are harder and harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense (in contrast to most other sports which, with the passage of time, have increased scoring). Teams – especially national teams – play first of all not to lose. Since the number of points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of succeeding is finite, a disciplined defense can occasionally thwart a technically superior team. Thus a superbly coached Greek team defeated a Portuguese team of probably superior individual players in the final for the 2004 European Cup, and a very disciplined German team overcame a marvelous team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974. I have attended seven World Cup finals, each has produced a distinctive drama. My first exposure was in 1970 in Mexico City, and it introduced me to the exuberant style of Brazilian football. Led by the incomparable Pelé and an all-star cast of irrepressible virtuosos, the Brazilians overwhelmed a very good Italian team by a score of 4:1. The Italian team scored first, which usually gives the so-called Azurris (because of their blue jerseys) an opportunity to apply their Machiavellian skill in frustrating the opponent into rash errors by a give-no-quarter defense. But Brazil did not play by the book. It abandoned whatever theoretical formation with which it had entered the game and threw every player into a wild offense, literally running the Italian team into the ground. Brazilian panache was aided no little by the high altitude of Mexico City, which wore down the defenders already exhausted from a brutal semifinal between Italy and Germany. This match was won by Italy 4:3 in overtime (with five of the goals scored in the extra time) and was so rough that Beckenbauer, having dislocated his shoulder, completed the game with his arm in a sling.

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In 1978, the Netherlands found itself once more in a final before a rabid hometown crowd in Buenos Aires. In a game of wild fluctuations, the Dutch, in the last minute, tied an Argentine team playing with Brazilian flair and European killer instinct. But as four years earlier, the Dutch could not stay the course and lost in overtime. The Argentine victory produced a moment of respite from the near-civil war conditions and brutal official repression wracking Argentina. For forty-eight hours, Buenos Aires celebrated with such tumultuous abandon as to hide the bitterness of the national divisions.

In 1982, it was the semifinals that provided the drama. In one, Germany defeated France in overtime after falling behind against a French team demoralized when its star attacker was flattened by the German goalie as he was heading for another score. In the other, Italy overcame the most attractively playing of all Brazilian teams by one of its deadly counterattacks, exploiting the recklessness of the Brazilians, who played to win, not satisfied with the tie that, under the rules of the period, was their admission ticket into the final and which was only minutes away.

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The most disappointing match for me was the final of the 1994 World Cup at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. As honorary chairman of the American organizing committee, I had hoped for a high-scoring match that might do for American soccer what the Giants-Colts football game of 1957 did by generating public interest in professional football. Unfortunately, the game was decided in a penalty shootout after 120 minutes of scoreless tactical maneuvering.

Altogether, in the seven finals I watched, I saw Brazil, Germany and Italy three times each, the Netherlands and Argentina twice. The only other start went to France.

Will this elite be broadened in the World Cup about to begin? Not having seen most of the national teams, I dare not make a prediction. The United States plays in a very difficult initial group. To reach the elimination round, it would have to overcome two teams it has never beaten, Italy and the Czech Republic, both established soccer powers. England has the players to reclaim a major role,
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On June 9, host country Germany will inaugurate a month of football frenzy by playing Costa Rica in the opening match of the 2006 soccer World Cup. For two weeks, there will be three matches a day as the 32 survivors of a global competition (involving more than 100 teams over a period of three years) are whittled down to 16. In eight groups of four, each team plays the others in its group. The top two teams of each group advance to a sudden-death round also lasting two weeks and culminating in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets for all hours of the day and night. Millions will find ways to interrupt their work schedules to watch at least some of the 64 matches. National morale in winners and losers will be affected, particularly as the competition nears its end.

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I grew up in Fuerth, a little town in southern Germany, where soccer had the status of football in Green Bay, Wisc. Though playing with local amateurs, its team inexplicably won the German championship three times during my boyhood. I have not lived in Germany for many more decades than I care to admit, yet I still follow the fortunes of that team which, in the age of high-salary professionalism, has been relegated to the second division. Fuerth periodically seems on the verge of...
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The emotions evoked by club teams are, compared to those inspired by the national team, like a raging stream compared to Niagara Falls. Club teams play at least once a week, between August and June. National teams play only a half dozen U.S. national team played 20 times this year/are, games a year and, for the highest prize, only once every four. There is no margin for error or for deferred passions. Victors are heroes; losers are treated as if they have inflicted a personal insult. A Colombian player who had contributed to the elimination of his team in the 1994 Cup by scoring on his own goal was assassinated/murdered. Latest news suggests his death may have been unrelated to Cup/bbe when he returned home.

Manipulating a ball by foot along a 100-

End of column

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE:       June 1, 2006
TO:         John Bentes, Hotel Guest
            The Regent Berlin
FROM:       Theresa Amantea
            Home tel: (201) 689-1622

NO. OF PAGES:  1 incl. cover
PLEASE DELIVER
IMMEDIATELY UPON
ARRIVAL

Sir:

The editor from Newsweek said to let you know they won’t have the proof until tomorrow. Apparently he doesn’t have the layout of the space into which the piece will be printed yet.

I conveyed the changes we discussed to him, and he was more than satisfied.

I will get the proof off to you as soon as I have it.

[Signature]

Theresa
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The practical consequence is that goals are harder and harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense (in contrast to most other sports which, with the passage of time, have increased scoring). Teams – especially national teams – play first of all not to lose. Since the number of points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of succeeding is finite, a disciplined defense can occasionally thwart a technically superior team. Thus a superbly coached Greek team defeated a Portuguese team of probably superior individual players in the final for the 2004 European Cup, and a very disciplined German team overcame a marvelous team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974.
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The Italian team scored first, which usually gives the so-called Azurris (because of their blue jerseys) an opportunity to apply their Machiavellian skill in frustrating the opponent into rash errors by a give-no-quarter defense. But Brazil did not play by the book. It abandoned whatever theoretical formation with which it had entered the game and threw every player into a wild offense, literally running the Italian team into the ground. Brazilian panache was aided no little by the high altitude of Mexico City, which wore down the defenders already exhausted from a brutal semifinal between Italy and Germany.

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The final in 1998 in Paris supplied a mystery. An elegant French team defeated a Brazilian squad which, after a brilliant semifinal victory over the Netherlands, turned inexplicably lethargic. Its star player Ronaldo was scratched from the public lineup an hour before the game and then reinserted without participating actively.

The most disappointing match for me was the final of the 1994 World Cup at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. As honorary chairman of the American organizing committee, I had hoped for a high-scoring match that might do for American soccer what the Giants-Colts football game of 1957 did by generating public interest in professional football.

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Not having seen most of the national teams, I dare not make a prediction. The United States plays in a very difficult initial group. To reach the elimination round, it would have to overcome two teams it has never beaten, Italy and the Czech Republic, both established soccer powers. England has the players to reclaim a major role, though the recent injury of its star forward Rooney reduces its prospects. In qualifying, Argentina won more games than any South American team, including Brazil. But its composure is not always equal to its talent. Italy looked overwhelming when defeating Germany a few months ago, unless it is held back by a developing scandal regarding refereeing. The German team has been a puzzle. It
has an inventive new coach and passionate public support. But in the preliminary games, it had trouble against major opponents. This may be the year for an African team to emerge; their technical brilliance has so far been thwarted by lack of international experience. In the last World Cup, two Asian teams – Korea and Japan – showed great progress. This World Cup will reveal how much of this had been owed to the fact that the Cup was played before admiring home fans. And there is always Brazil, which will guarantee excitement and exuberant fans. We will know the answer by July 9. In the meantime, sixty-four games in a month guarantee to slake the thirst for football of even the most frenetic fans – to the extent that their addiction to the game permits it.
Theresa,

Please tell Henry that Fareed passed along his piece for me to read, and that I think it's terrific and will also plan to run it in our domestic edition. Please also tell him that we're looking forward to his doing occasional taped commentary during the World Cup for our Web site and that editors from Newsweek.com will be in touch to discuss logistics.

Regards,

Mark Whitaker
ARTICLE

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I will be one of those viewers and have arranged my schedule to accommodate its necessities. Most fans would find it difficult to describe what it is about soccer that so enthralls them. They would probably identify it with their passionate adherence to their favorite club team — a passion that, in America, is matched only by the most fanatical adherents of football teams.

I grew up in Fuerth, a little town in southern Germany, where soccer had the status of football in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Though playing with local amateurs, its team inexplicably won the German championship three times during my boyhood. I have not lived in Germany for many more decades than I care to admit, yet I still follow the fortunes of that team which, in the age of high salary professionalism, has been relegated to the second division. Fuerth
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Sir:

I noticed that on the bottom of p. 1 you refer to 63 matches, but then on the last page, you say 64. (I was not certain which is correct and therefore did not make a change.)

As you requested, I did check the internet for the score of the 1970 final between Brazil and Italy, and it was indeed 4:1.

Since you did not want it printed at the top, just as a reference, the word count for this draft (#3) is 1834.

Theresa
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I have attended seven World Cup finals. Each has produced a distinctive drama. My first exposure was in 1970 in Mexico City, and it introduced me to the exuberant style of Brazilian football. Led by the incomparable Pelé and an all-star cast of irrepressible virtuosos, the Brazilians overwhelmed a very good Italian team by a score of 4:1.

The Italian team scored first, which usually gives the so-called Azurris (because of their blue jerseys) an opportunity to apply their Machiavellian skill in frustrating the opponent into rash errors by a give-no-quarter defense. But Brazil did not play by the book. It abandoned whatever theoretical formation with which it had entered the game and threw every player into a wild offense, literally running the Italian team into the ground. Brazilian panache was aided no little by the high altitude of Mexico City, which wore down the defenders already exhausted from a brutal semifinal between Italy and Germany.

This match was won by Italy 4:3 in overtime and was so rough that
Beckenbauer, having dislocated his shoulder, completed the game with his arm in a sling.

While offense triumphed in 1970, an unintended shift of emphasis helped turn the tables in 1974 between the Netherlands and Germany in Munich. The Dutch team was elegant and offensive-minded, inspired by one of the all-time greats, Johan Cruyff. A penalty kick gave it the lead in the first minute before a stunned crowd. It proved a poisoned chalice. For it tempted the Dutch team to abandon its finely tuned offense in favor of an Italian-style defense.

The Germans, led by Beckenbauer, thereupon threw everything into attack, reinforced by a frenzied home public. This led to a 2:1 lead just before halftime, which Germany defended tenaciously through the second half.

In 1978, the Netherlands found itself once more in a final before a rabid hometown crowd in Buenos Aires. In a game of wild
fluctuation in the last minute the Dutch tied an Argentine team playing with Brazilian flair and European killer instinct. But as four years earlier, the Dutch could not stay the course and lost in overtime.

The Argentine victory produced a moment of respite from near-civil war conditions and brutal official repression wracking Argentina. For forty-eight hours, Buenos Aires celebrated with such tumultuous abandon as to hide the bitterness of the national divisions.

In 1982, it was the semifinals that provided the drama. In one, Germany defeated France in overtime after falling behind against a French team demoralized when its star attacker was flattened by the German goalie as he was heading for another score. In the other, Italy overcame the most attractively playing of all Brazilian teams by one of its deadly counterattacks, exploiting the enthusiasm of the forward-thrusting Brazilians not satisfied with the tie that, under the
rules of the period, was their admission ticket into the final and which was only minutes away.

(Handwritten: The final in 1998 supplied a mystery. An elegant French team)

The final in 1998 supplied a mystery. An elegant French team defeated a Brazilian squad which, after a brilliant semifinal victory over the Netherlands, turned inexplicably lethargic. Its star player Ronaldo was scratched from the public lineup an hour before the game and then reinserted without playing any role in the final.

The most disappointing match for me was the final of the 1994 World Cup at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. As honorary chairman of the American organizing committee, I had hoped for a high-scoring match that might do for American soccer what the Giants-Colts football game of 1957 did by generating public interest in professional football.

Unfortunately, the game was decided in a penalty shootout after 120 minutes of scoreless tactical maneuvering.
Altogether, in the seven finals I watched, I saw Brazil, Germany and Italy three times each, the Netherlands and Argentina twice. The only other start went to France.

Will this elite be broadened in the World Cup about to begin?

Not having seen most of the national teams, I dare not make a prediction. I expect England to reclaim a major role, though the recent injury of its star player Rooney reduces its prospects. Italy looked overwhelming when defeating Germany a few months ago, unless it is held back by a developing scandal regarding refereeing.

The German team has been a puzzle. It has an inventive new coach and passionate public support. But in the preliminary games, it had trouble against major opponents. This may be the year for an African team to emerge; their technical brilliance has so far been thwarted by lack of international experience. In the last World Cup, two Asian teams – Korea and Japan – showed great progress. This World Cup
will reveal how much of this had been owed to the fact that the Cup was played before admiring home fans. The United States plays in a very difficult initial group. It would have to overcome Italy and the Czech Republic, both established soccer powers, to reach the elimination round. And there is always Brazil, which will guarantee excitement and exuberant fans. We will know the answer by July 9.

In the meantime, sixty-four games in a month guarantee to slake the thirst for football of even the most frenetic fans – to the extent that their addiction to the game permits it.
On June 9, host country Germany will open the competition for the 2006 soccer World Cup by playing Costa Rica, inaugurating a month of football frenzy. For the first two weeks, there will be three matches a day, as the thirty-two survivors of a global competition involving more than a hundred teams over a period of three years are whittled down to sixteen teams of each group advance to a sudden-death round, culminating after some sixty-two matches in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Each team is guaranteed a minimum of three games over the course of a month, winner-must-prevail in seven games over the course of a month. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets, the billions will mean early-morning hours in Asia for the evening games.
find ways to interrupt their work schedules. The national morale in
winners and losers will be affected, particularly as the competition
nears its end.

I will be one of those viewers and have arranged my schedule to
accommodate its necessities. Most fans would find it difficult to
describe what it is about soccer that so enthralls them. They would
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soccer had the status of football in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Soccer in
the 1920s and 1930s was played by amateurs, and it happened that
Fuerth won the German championship three times in a decade. I have not lived in Germany for decades
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Hard times in the age of high salary professionalism has been relegated to the second division. Fuerth periodically strives to emerge from this condition but always manages to fall just short of the third place in the standings, which would enable it to advance—thereby guaranteeing the mixture of misery and hope that is the lot of the soccer addict.

The emotions evoked by club teams are, to those inspired by the national team, like a tranquil stream compared to Niagara Falls. Club teams play weekly between August and June. National teams play only a half-dozen games a year and, for the highest prize, only once every four years. There is no margin for error or for deferred passions. Victors are heroes; losers are treated occasionally as if they had inflicted a personal insult. A Colombian player, who had contributed to the elimination of his team in the 1998 Cup, was assassinated when he returned home.
For fans who go beyond the frenzy evoked by eleven men on each side seeking to maneuver a ball along a 100-meter long field into an opposing goal, discover additional mysteries of the game. For one thing, manipulating a ball by foot for prolonged distances requires skills analogous to ballet. Especially teams that concentrate on the skill aspect of the game — like the Brazilians — astonish with their versatility and abandon. On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by their individual artistry that they forget to score goals and are overcome by more single-minded, strategically-oriented teams.

Only the rarest players — Pelé for Brazil, Maradona for Argentina, Platini for France — scored goals by essentially solitary efforts. Typically it is teams, not players, which win games. The seductive quality of soccer resides in the almost intellectual form with which the best teams move the ball down the field to solve the riddle of how, with each side moving at high speed, to get a ball past eleven
opponents, one of whom – the goalie – is permitted to use his hands to intercept the ball. This turns the game into a kind of mathematical equation in finding uncovered open spaces from which to launch an unimpeded shot on the goal. The great field generals like Zidane of France or Beckenbauer of Germany had the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seemed inconceivable in the abstract and self-evident in execution. Soccer at its highest level is thus a game of complicated simplicity.

Over the decades, the game has become increasingly strategic:

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and the remaining players are deployed in various ways available to the defense, of which, for illustrative purposes, the 4:4:2 system is among the most widely used. As a practical matter, one of the midfielders is usually assigned the role of libero that is to act as a "sweeper" in defense, charged with reinforcing the most threatened position on the field. Beckenbauer gave this role an additional significance by acting as a sweeper on defense and like an American football quarterback in directing the attack with his subtle passing.

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The Dutch team was elegant and offensive-minded, inspired by one of the all-time greats, Johan Cruyff. In the final, it was awarded a penalty kick in the first minute, giving it a 1-0 lead. It proved a poisoned chalice. For it tempted the Dutch team to abandon its finely tuned offense and national style in favor of an Italian-style defense. The Germans, led by Beckenbauer, thereupon threw everything into an all-out attack, reinforced by a frenzied home public. This led to a 2:1 lead just before halftime, which Germany defended tenaciously through the second half.

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Despite the unifying power of soccer, Argentina was wracked by near-civil war conditions and brutal official repression. For forty-eight hours after the Argentine victory, Buenos Aires celebrated with such tumultuous abandon as to hide for a brief moment the bitterness of the national crisis.

In other finals, I saw Italy beat Germany in Madrid in 1982. In the semifinals that preceded the drama, the Italian team that had been lethargic in the early group matches emerged as dominant in the finals. The two semifinals that led up to it belong to the most dramatic in World Cup history. In one, Germany falling behind defeated France in overtime after making up a two-goal deficit, against something cognoscenti would declare impossible. The French team had been demoralized when its star attacker was flattened by the German goalie as he was heading for a score. In the other, Italy overcame the most attractively playing of all Brazilian teams by one of its deadly counterattacks, exploiting the enthusiasm of the forward-
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Sir:

Tony Day read the article and said he loved it, as he always does your soccer columns. He had no line edits to speak of, but he thought the last three pages needed tightening as they struck him as a bit repetitive of earlier material. He said he would be available to review further drafts if you need him to.

Theresa
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I will be one of those viewers and have arranged my schedule to accommodate its necessities. Most viewers would find it difficult to describe what it is about the game that so thralls the world. They would probably identify it with their passionate adherence to their favorite team—a passion that, in America, is shared only [by] the fanatical adherence of major college football teams.

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standings, which would enable it to advance – thereby guaranteeing
the continuation of misery and hope that sustains the typical football
fan. (This is true even of Brazilian fans, whose national team wins
every third World Cup – a higher number than any other nation – but
not satisfactory to its irrepressible and buoyant fans.)

For those fans who go beyond the frenzy evoked by eleven men
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This is because only the rarest players – Pelé for Brazil, Maradona for Argentina, Platini for France – can score goals by essentially solitary efforts. For almost all other circumstances, it is teams, not players, which win games. The reductive quality of soccer resides in the almost intellectual penetration with which the best teams move the ball down the field to solve the challenge, which seems so simple but is prone to turn into a riddle: how to get a ball past eleven opponents, with each side moving at high speed, one of whom – the goalie – is permitted to use his hands to intercept the ball. This turns the game into an exercise like a mathematical equation, an ability to find uncovered open space, leading to a position from which
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The practical consequence is that goals are much harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense, at least compared with more traditional forms in the passage of time. Even now, to the situation when I first became acquainted with the game. Teams, especially national teams, therefore play first of all not to lose and rarely launch all-out attacks.
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overcame a marvelous team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of
1974. Similarly, almost every Italian national team over the decades
has relied on its tenacious defense to wear down the opponent. These
theoretical aspects can be illustrated by looking at the finals of the
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My first exposure to the exuberant all-or-nothing style of
Brazilian football [was in 1970.] led by the incomparable Pelé and an
all-star cast of irrepressible virtuosos, the Brazilians overwhelmed a
very good Italian team by a score of 4:1. The Italian team scored
first, which usually in continental football gives the opportunity to
apply its Machiavellian skill in frustrating the opponent into rash errors
by a give-no-quarter defense. But Brazil did not play by the book. It
abandoned whatever theoretical formation it entered the game with
and threw every player into a wild offense, literally running the Italian
team into the ground. This was aided no little by the high altitude of Mexico City, which wore down the defenders in the brutal semifinal between Italy and Germany. It was won by the Argentins 3:2 in overtime and was so rough that Beckenbauer, having dislocated his shoulder, completed the game with his arm in a sling.

While offense triumphed in 1970, a psychological shift helped turn the tables in 1974 in the game between the Netherlands and Germany. The Dutch team was elegant and offensive-minded,
inspired by one of the all-time greats, Johan Cruyff. It had defeated Brazil in the semifinal by the complexity of its maneuver rather than individual virtuosity. In the final it was awarded a penalty kick in the first minute, giving it a 1:0 lead. It proved a poisoned chalice. For it tempted the Dutch to abandon its finely tuned offense in favor of an Italian-style defense. The Germans, led by Beckenbauer, thereupon threw everything into an all-out attack, reinforced by a frenzied home public. This led to a 2:1 lead, which Germany defended tenaciously through the second half.

In 1978, the Netherlands found itself once more in a final before a rabid hometown crowd. In an extraordinary game, the Dutch tied an Argentine team playing with Brazilian flair and European killer instinct in the last minute. But as four years earlier, they could not stay the course and lost in the overtime to the home team, providing a demonstration of the healing power of soccer. Argentina was wracked
by near-civil war conditions and brutal repression so that official guests had to move with armed escorts. But for forty-eight hours after the Argentine victory, Buenos Aires celebrated with such tumultuous abandon as to observe for a brief moment the bitterness of the national win.

In the remaining finals, I saw Italy beat Germany in Madrid in 1982. An Italian team that had been lethargic in the early group matches emerged as dominant in the finals. In 1990, in an uninspired game a systematic German team overcame a hard-boiled and uninspired Argentine side. In 1998, an elegant French team overcame a Brazilian squad which, after a brilliant semifinal victory over the Netherlands, turned inexplicably lethargic in the final - a performance so uncharacteristic that its cause still remains a mystery.

The most disappointing match for me was the final of the 1994 World Cup at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. As honorary chairman of the organizing committee, I had hoped for a high-scoring match that
The two semi-finals led to a World Cup final to the most dramatic in World Cup history. For one in reality,

Germany defeated France after making up a loss

- and deficit something cognoscente around the

The French team had been eliminated when its star attacker was

blunted by the German goalie at three attempts. The only

impossible to its after Italy overcame Brazil

attractively playing of Brazil, France, France by one

of its deadly undealt attacks. Enthusiasm of the

quickly turned to exploiting the forward threat. Not satisfied with the

Brazilians, another assault of the trio that ended,

the rules of the quarter were all Brazil seemed

to make it into the final and which was unfurled

away.
might do for American soccer what the Giants-Colts football game of
1957 did [by inspiring] the public interest in professional football.

Unfortunately, the game was decided in a penalty shootout after 120
minutes of scoreless tactical maneuvering.

Altogether, in the seven games I watched, I saw Brazil, Germany
and Italy three times each, the Netherlands and Argentina twice. The
only other start went to France.

Will this elite be broadened in the World Cup about to begin?

Not having seen the national teams, I dare not make a prediction. I
expect England to reclaim major role, though the recent injury of its
star player Rooney reduces its prospects. This may be the year for an
African team to emerge; their technical brilliance has so far been
thwarted by lack of experience. The United States plays in a very
difficult initial group. It would have to overcome Italy and the Czech
Republic, both established soccer powers, to reach the elimination
round. It if goes that far, the US team might reach the quarterfinals.

The German team has been a mystery. It has an inventive new coach and passionate public support. If it gets on a roll, it could go far. And there is always Brazil, which will guarantee excitement and fans aiming for happiness rather than endurance. We will know the answer by July 9. In the meantime, thirty-two games guarantee to stoke the thirst for football of even the most frenetic fans – to the extent that their addiction to the game permits it.