URGENT

To: DR. HENRY KISSINGER  860-927-1198
From: FAREED ZAKARIA

Dear Henry,

This is superb, not just more than I had hoped for but a fascinating meditation that abstracts out the essential elements of soccer. I would not dare to say this is your real expertise but clearly a real passion.

My tweaks are all suggestions. It is brilliant as is. Just have your office email me a final before you leave for Europe.

All best,

[Signature]
ARTICLE

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 that started three years ago are whittled down to sixteen by playing in eight groups of four. The top two teams [of] each group advance to a sudden-death round, culminating, after some 62 matches, in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Thus each team is guaranteed a minimum of three games, and the ultimate winner must prevail in seven games over the course of a month. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets when the games are being played; this means early morning hours in Asia for the evening games. Millions will find ways to
interrupt their work schedules. The national morale in winners and losers will be affected particularly by the sudden-death elimination games.

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 enthralls 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.

I grew up in Fuerth, a little town in southern Germany, where soccer had the status of football in Green Bay. Soccer in the 1920s and 1930s was played by amateurs, and it happened that Fuerth won the German championship there [for the first] time in a decade. I have not lived in Germany for many more decades than I care to admit, [but] I still follow the fortunes of that club, which has fallen on
hard times in the age of high salaries and has been relegated to the second division. It makes periodic efforts 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 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.)

But those fans who go beyond the frenzy evoked by eleven men on each side maneuvering a ball along a 100-meter long field into an opposing goal [see] additional mysteries of the game reveal themselves. For one thing, manipulating a ball by foot for prolonged distances requires an activity analogous to ballet. Especially teams that concentrate on this aspect of the game – like the Brazilians and many South American teams – astonish one with their versatility and
abandon. On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by their artistry that they forget that the purpose of the game is to score goals, and they are sometimes overcome by more elementary and single-minded teams. [The former — dribbling & passing but not scoring — are surely all tactics & no strategy.] 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
to launch an unimpeded shot on the goal. The great field generals like Zidane or Beckenbauer 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:

When I first became a fan, the ten field players were distributed as five attackers, three midfield players, and two defenders. As a result the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders – especially as the players were not as well conditioned as today, so they more or less stayed in their assigned positions on the field. Since then a radical change in deployment has taken place. It started with the center midfielder becoming in effect a third defender and one of the forwards taking his place at midfield. By now it has evolved into reducing the forwards to two and deploying the remaining players in various ways,
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. Whatever the formation, the speed of modern soccer and the conditioning of the players lead to a kind of total football, which means that, whatever the assigned position of the player, his task is to reinforce the center of gravity, attack or defense, depending on the situation.

The practical consequence is that goals are much harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense, at least compared to the situation when I first became acquainted with the game. Teams therefore play first of all not to lose and rarely launch all-out attacks.

[You might note this is an interesting contrast to most other sports than have become more high-scoring over time.]
unless, of course, they find themselves behind. Since the number of points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of leading to a goal 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 2004 European Cup, and a very disciplined German team 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 World Cup over the last twenty-five years. I have attended seven of the last nine and never cease to be mesmerized by their different character[s].

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 it 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. Panache 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 Agguris 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[s] 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 game 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 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 style. \[ I \text{ don't quite understand this. Why bitterness? } \]

In the remaining final, 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.

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
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 shake the thirst for football of even the most frenetic fans – to the extent that their addiction to the game permits it.
ARTICLE

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 that started three years ago are whittled down to sixteen, by playing in eight groups of four. The top two teams [of] each group advance to a sudden-death round, culminating, after some 62 matches, in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Thus each team is guaranteed a minimum of three games, and the ultimate winner must prevail in seven games over the course of a month. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets when the games are being played; this means early morning hours in Asia for the evening games. Millions will find ways to
Interrupt their work schedules. The national morale in winners and losers will be affected particularly by the sudden-death elimination games.

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 enthralls 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.

I grew up in Fuerth, a little town in southern Germany, where soccer had the status of football in Green Bay. Soccer in the 1920s and 1930s was played by amateurs, and it happened that Fuerth won the German championship there [for the first] time in a decade. I have not lived in Germany for many more decades than I care to admit, [but] I still follow the fortunes of that club, which has fallen on
hard times in the age of high salaries and has been relegated to the second division. It makes periodic efforts 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 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.)

But those fans who go beyond the frenzy evoked by eleven men on each side maneuvering a ball along a 100-meter long field into an opposing goal [see] additional mysteries of the game reveal themselves. For one thing, manipulating a ball by foot for prolonged distances requires an activity analogous to ballet. Especially teams that concentrate on this aspect of the game – like the Brazilians and many South American teams – astonish one with their versatility and
abandon. On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by
their artistry that they forget that the purpose of the game is to score
goals, and they are sometimes overcome by more elementary and
tactically-oriented teams.

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
to launch an unimpeded shot on the goal. The great field generals like Zidane or Beckenbauer 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: When I first became a fan, the ten field players were distributed as five attackers, three midfield players, and two defenders. As a result the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders – especially as the players were not as well conditioned as today, so they more or less stayed in their assigned positions on the field. Since then a radical change in deployment has taken place. It started with the center midfielder becoming in effect a third defender and one of the forwards taking his place at midfield. By now it has evolved into reducing the forwards to two and deploying the remaining players in various ways,
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. Whatever the formation, the speed of modern soccer and the conditioning of the players lead to a kind of total football, which means that, whatever the assigned position of the player, his task is to reinforce the center of gravity, attack or defense, depending on the situation.

The practical consequence is that goals are much harder to come by, and that defense tends to dominate over offense, at least compared to the situation when I first became acquainted with the game. Teams therefore play first of all not to lose and rarely launch all-out attacks
unless, of course, they find themselves behind. Since the number of points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of leading to a goal 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 2004 European Cup, and a very disciplined German team 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 World Cup over the last twenty-five years. I have attended seven of the last nine and never cease to be mesmerized by their different character[s].

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 it 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. Panache 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 Aggris 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[s] 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 game 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 style.

In the remaining final, 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.

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
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 a 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 shake 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 that started three years ago are whittled down to sixteen, by playing in eight groups of four. The top two teams [of] each group advance to a sudden-death round, culminating, after some 62 matches, in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Thus each team is guaranteed a minimum of three games, and the ultimate winner must prevail in seven games over the course of a month. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets when the games are being played; this means early morning hours in Asia for the evening games. Millions will find ways to
interrupt their work schedules. The national morale in winners and losers will be affected particularly by the sudden-death elimination games.

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 enthralls 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.

I grew up in Fuerth, a little town in southern Germany, where soccer had the status of football in Green Bay. Soccer in the 1920s and 1930s was played by amateurs, and it happened that Fuerth won the German championship there [for the first] time in a decade. I have not lived in Germany for many more decades than I care to admit, [but] I still follow the fortunes of that club, which has fallen on
hard times in the age of high salaries and has been relegated to the second division. It makes periodic efforts 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 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.)

But those fans who go beyond the frenzy evoked by eleven men on each side maneuvering a ball along a 100-meter long field into an opposing goal [see] additional mysteries of the game reveal themselves. For one thing, manipulating a ball by foot for prolonged distances requires an activity analogous to ballet. Especially teams that concentrate on this aspect of the game – like the Brazilians and many South American teams – astonish one with their versatility and
abandon. On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by their artistry that they forget that the purpose of the game is to score goals, and they are sometimes overcome by more elementary and tactically-oriented teams.

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
to launch an unimpeded shot on the goal. The great field generals like Zidane or Beckenbauer 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: When I first became a fan, the ten field players were distributed as five attackers, three midfield players, and two defenders. As a result the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders – especially as the players were not as well conditioned as today, so they more or less stayed in their assigned positions on the field. Since then a radical change in deployment has taken place. It started with the center midfielder becoming in effect a third defender and one of the forwards taking his place at midfield. By now it has evolved into reducing the forwards to two and deploying the remaining players in various ways,
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. Whatever the formation, the speed of modern soccer and the conditioning of the players lead to a kind of total football, which means that, whatever the assigned position of the player, his task is to reinforce the center of gravity, attack or defense, depending on the situation.

The practical consequence is that goals are much harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense, at least compared to the situation when I first became acquainted with the game. Teams therefore play first of all not to lose and rarely launch all-out attacks
unless, of course, they find themselves behind. Since the number of
points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of leading
to a goal 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 2004 European Cup, and a very disciplined German team
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
World Cup over the last twenty-five years. I have attended seven of
the last nine and never cease to be mesmerized by their different
character[s].

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 it 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. Panache 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 Agguris 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[s] 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 game 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 style.

In the remaining final, 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.

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
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 shake the thirst for football of even the most frenetic fans – to the extent that their addiction to the game permits it.
On June 9 a game for the World Cup will open the World Cup competition. Play will be inaugurated in Costa Rica opening a month of football frenzy.

Billions will be glued to their television sets when the games are being played. This means early morning games in Asia for the evening games. For the first two weeks there will be three matches a day as the tournament of a global competition that started three years ago unfolds. Each day, eight teams in four groups of four will play, with the top two teams in each group advancing to a round of 16, with more matches culminating in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Thus to each team is guaranteed a minimum of three games and the ultimate winner must prevail in seven games over the course of a month. Billions will watch in ways to intercept their work schedules. The natural outcome is sometimes cruel. Loses will be affected particularly by the sudden death overtime games.
I will be one of those voices and
have arranged my schedule to accommodate it.
It will in fact make it difficult to avoid
necessities. What it is about is a game that no
one will admit to complicated. They probably
identity it
with their passionate adherence to their favorite team
- a passion that in America is shared only by the familiar
adherents of major college football teams. I grew up
in Freiburg, a little town in southern Germany near
Freiburg, the center of football in Green Bay. The
Green Bay Packers were legend in the 20's and 30's
as champions and
In Germany it happened to that Freiburg was a championship the
time in a decade. Although I have not lived in
Germany for many more decades than I care to admit
I still follow the fortunes of that club, which has fallen
in the eyes of high prestige, value, and let
my hard times, being relegated to the second division,
not make periodic efforts to emerge from this condition,
but always manages to fall just short of the desirable place
in the standings which would enable it to advance.
- thereby precluding the mechanization of muscle and hope that sustains the original football fans.

This is true even of Brazil’s fans when national teams win only every third World Cup - which is a higher number than any other nation had frequently and satisfactorily to the benefit of fans.

But these fans extend beyond the frenzy evoked by eleven men in each side running a ball along a 100-meter long field with an opposing goal. Additional mysteries of the game reveal themselves. For instance, manipulating a ball by foot for prolonged distances requires an activity analagous to basketball. Especially teams that concentrate on this aspect of the game, like the Brazilians, baffle the best, and many will remain trumps.

And astonish one with their versatility and abandon.

On the other hand, they sometimes are as infatuated by artistry other state that they forget that the purpose of the game
is to score goals and they are sometimes overcome by more elementary and tactically oriented teams.

This is because only the recent players, 

unadjusted — Pelle for Brazil, Taradona for Argentina, 
Pele, for France: can score goals by essentially solitary efforts. For almost all circumstances, it is team

and player which win games. The reduction quality

certainly of scene resides in the intellectual penetration with

which teams move the ball down the field to solve the

challenge which seems so mighty but is found to turn

with a smile. How to get a ball past a keen opponent

[with each side moving at high speed] one of whom

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

and uncovered open space, almost to a point

from which to launch an unexpected shot on its
the goal. The great field generals like Zbigniew and Bekenbeuer had the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seemed inevitable in the abstract and inevitably self-evident in execution. Soccer at its highest level is then a game of unexplained simplicity.

And back to look five decades in.

Robert developed the game's increasing complexity. When I first saw strategy become a form, the ten field players were distributed with five attackers, three midfield players, and two defenders. As a result, the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders—especially as the players were not as well conditioned as today to stay on the field in their assigned positions. Thus, a radical change: deployment has taken place. It started with the midfielders becoming in effect a third defense, and one of the forwards taking his place at midfield. By now, it has evolved into redeeming the attackers.
furnished to 2 and deploying the remaining play.

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 intended to act as
a "sweeper" on defense and with responsibilities
to most threatened positions on the field. Bederman
gave this role an additional significance by acting
as a "quartet" on defense and also in assuming
in directing. Golden's football quarterback on the attack.

With this in mind, pushing the speed of modern soccer and the conditioning of
the players exceeds to a kind of total football which
means that whatever the original position of the player
his task is to reinforce the center of gravity, attack or

The practical consequence is that for all
much harder to come by so that defense trends to dominate
more offense at least compared to the situation when
I first became acquainted with the game. Because the play paid off all next to lose and rarely found all-attack unless of course they found themselves late behind. Since the number of goalkeeper field from which a goal could be a high prospect of leading to a goal infinite a disciplined defense can occasionally throw a technically superior team. Thus a reputedly weak Greek team defeated a Portuguese team of notably superior individual players in the 2004 European cup and a very disciplined German team overcome a supposedly strong team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974. National teams over 24,000,000 to wear down the opposition. These theoretical aspects can be illustrated by the bowing of the finals of the World Cup over the last 25 years. I have attended never of the last nine and never seen to be encompassed by their different character.

1970 over many fault concerning the continuous all-out nothing style of Brazilian.
football. Led by its incomparable Pele, the team played an all-out offensive game, utilizing its superior skill to overwhelm the Italian team, which was rated as a very good team with the

favored by a score of 4:1. The Italian team was just

just which usually in international football gives

it the opportunity to apply its technical skills

in frustrating the opponent. But Brazil did not

play by the book. It abandoned its tactical

formation and entered the game with every

player in a wild offense, literally running the other

Pennant was a solid
team  with the ball. The Scandinavian, with

high altitude of venue and intense pressure,

me little by little semifinal between Italy & Germany.

3:2

power by the Argentines in overtime and

same with its arm

that Pele outshone them completely

White triumphed offense triumphed in 1970

helped

a psychological shift France arrived on 1974-

games between the Netherlands and Germany, The Dutch
was elegant and offensive-minded to the point of the all-time greats — Cruyff. It had defeated Brazil in the semifinal by the cleverness of its movement. In the final, rather than the individual brilliance, Brazil had instead a penalty kick on the stroke was awarded and the French awarded a penalty kick in the first minute giving it a 1:0 lead. It proved a permised strike. For it tempted the Dutch to abandon their finely tuned game in favor of an attacking style defense. The Germans led by Beckenbauer, however, threw everything into an all-out attack successfully by a prudent home public. This led to a 2:1 lead which Germany defended tenaciously through its own half. At 78th Netherlands found itself once more in a final before a rabid hometown crowd.

In an extraordinary game the Dutch tried an Argentine team playing with Brazilian flair and European style, as if they were the last minutes. But they were years earlier they could not stay the course and...
proceeding
sent in accordance to the home team Argentina
a dissertation of the leading teams of soccer.

Argentina was meant to present an official
staff for future guests led on more public events.

But for forty-eight hours after the Argentine victory
celebrated with such

Buenos Aires was presented to Commemorate


It is to observe for a brief moment the bitterness of
the national stage.

In the Battle ground 4--4 together as
Germany

the seven games I watched in Brazil
+ Argentina

and Italy three times and the Netherlands twice.

the only team that left their marks on France

What does this mean for the

What At least the World Cup is

historically small. Well this will be broadband

in the World Cup about to left it in bad trouble

the national teams it is hard

to see hope

 prediction: I expect England to reclaim a place

in the top through the recent signing of its stars
In the remaining games, Italy beat Germany in Stuttgart in 1982. An Italian team that had been halted in the semi-finals, emerged as dominant as Italy’s team in the finals.

In 1990, an unimpeachable German team overcame a lackluster and unimpeachable Argentine side. In 1998, an elderly French team overcame a Brazilian squad which after a brilliant semi-final victory met the Netherlands. France inexplicably collapsed.

The most disappointing match for me was the final of the 1994 World Cup with Argentina in Pasadena. As honorary sookman of the organizing committee, I had hoped for a life-saving match that might do for American soccer what the Giants – last football team of 1984 which inspired the public interest in professional football. Unfortunately, the game was decided.
in a penalty shootout after 120 minutes of scoreless tactical maneuvering.

What next...
player Rooney reduces its prospects. This may
be the year for an African team to emerge, their
lack of
technical brilliance has so far been thwarted by the
United States, plays in a very difficult
classic group. It would love to overcome Italy
both established soccer powers,
and keep Republic for reach the final elimination
round. If it goes and face the US team, major
read to be disappointed. The German team
has been a mystery. If this was inevitable
well and a passionate public support.
If it gets on a roll it could go far.
Then and this is always Brazil which
will guarantee excitement and fans
arriving for happiness rather than endurance.
by July 9.
But we will know the answer for the meantime.
38 thirty-two games guarantee to make the choice
for football of over the next four weeks - to its end;
those their addiction to the game prevents it.