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]
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 tactics, such as teams that focus on scoring. The former—dribbling and passing but not scoring—are surely all tactics with 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 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.
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 irrepresible 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 Aguris
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 semi World Cup will open the World Cup competition's play playing Costa Rica opening a month of football frenzy around the world. Belgium will be glued to their television sets when the games are being played - this means early morning in Latin America for the evening games. For the first time in three weeks there will be three matches a day as the

showpiece of a global competition that started three years ago with initial group play, eight in each in group stages of eight, with the top two teams each group advancing to a sudden death round culminating in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Three 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. Belgium will try in many ways to interrupt their work schedules. The national morale is high and losses will be affected particularly by the sudden death condition of games.
I will be one of these voices and have arranged my schedule to accommodate it.
That voice must find it difficult to share necessities. What it is about the game that so
must the world identify it with their passionate adherence to their favorite team
-a passion that in America is shared only by the passionate adherents of major college football teams. I grew up in Eurex, a little town in southern Germany, where
I once had the status of football in Green Bay. 
It happened that Eurex won their championship the
time in a decade. Although I have not lived in
Germany for many more decades than I am to admit
I still follow the fortunes of that club, which has followed
in the age of high pointy radius, and has
on hard times, becoming been relegated to the second division,
but makes periodic efforts to emerge from this condition,
and always manages to fall short of the critical place
in the standings which would enable it to advance.
Thusly guaranteeing the amortization of money
and hope that secures the typical football fan.
(This is true even of Brazil’s fans when national
team wins every third World Cup - which
is not a higher number than many other nations had
with far less frequent and lengthy
and satisfactory to the devoted fans.)

But close fans_radical beyond
the frenzy evoked by eleven men on each side maneuvering
a ball along a 100-meter long field with an opposing
goal additional mysteries of the game reveal themselves.
For merely manipulating a ball by foot for prolonged
distances requires an activity and begins to develop.
Especially teams that concentrate on the technique of
- like the Yugoslav
- and many build American teams
- astonish one with their versatility and abandon.

On the other hand they sometimes are so infatuated by
activity
one starts 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

around - Pele for Brazil, Taradonna for Italy, Pelé for France - can score goals by essentially solitary efforts. For almost all cases, circumstance it is team

and players which win games. The reduction quality

of mere resides in the intellectual penetration with

which teams move the ball down the field to score the

challenge which seems so minute that its prime time
clearly

with a notice. How to get a half past eleven opponent

with each side moving at high speed - one of whom

is - the finale - is permitted since his hands to

interscept the ball. This team the forms with an essence
like a mathematical equation, an ability to find

and uncovered open space, lead to a passing

from which it launched an unexpected shot etc.
the goal. The great field generals like Constance or Beckenbauer had the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seemed inevitable in its abstract and irresistibly self-evident in execution. None at its highest level is thus a game of complicated simplicity.

And so tactics for the decades in strategic, deciduous campaigns the game was increasing complexity. When first strategy to become a game, the field 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 more often played were not as well conditioned as to stay as they kept on the field in their assigned positions, thus the attacks, deployment has taken place. It started with the midfield becoming in effect a front defensive line, and one of the forwards taking his place at midfield. By now it has evolved into redeeming the attacking
forwards to 2 and deploying the remaining plays in various ways 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 intended to act as
a "sweeper" in defense North smith remaining
the most threatened positions on the field. Bekenbauer
gave this role an additional significance by acting
as a quarterback in defense and like an American
quarterback on the attack. His
function
the speed of modern games and the conditioning of
the players leads 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 on
defense depending on the situation.
The practical consequence is that for all
much harder to come by that defense tends to diminish
once offense as least compared to the situation when
I first became acquainted with the game, because the play suited all my tactics and rarely found all-out attacks unless of course they found themselves far behind. Since the number of goals scored yields a high percent of leading to a goal, infinite a disciplined defense can occasionally thrust a technically superior team. Thus a reputedly weak Greek team defeated a Polish team of the most superior individual players in the 2004 European cup, and a very disciplined German team overcame a non-dominating team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974. National teams over 1st place to wear down the opponent. These theoretical aspects can be illustrated by the Howard at the finals of the World Cup over the last 25 years. They extended never of the best mine and never ceased to be mesmerized by their different character.

1970 over very fast counter in the counter all or nothing style of Brazilian
football, led by its incomparable Pelé, took an
ide to Brazil,
all the rest of unprecedented victories, the Brazilian
literally came out a very good Italian
team literally came back good team with this
framed up a score of 4:1. The Italian team very
faint which usually in international football gives
it the opportunity to apply its technical skill to
neutralizing the opponent in this round only
a give-no-quarter defence. But Brazil did not
play by the book. It abandoned relative theoretical
formation it entered the game with and then every
player with a wild offence literally running the field.
Penalty was audit
team in with the ground. The unexpected result precisely
high altitude of Baltic City and defending his
me battle by the semifinal between Italy and Germany.

Penned by the Argentinians in overtime and against
the same with the accom-
pany
that Argentina having dispatched in, stepped completed
White trumpet offensive triumphed in 1970
help
a psychological shift France to tables in 1974.

Game between the Netherlands and Germany, The Dutch
was elegant + offensive-minded. The quick game
of the all-time greats. Cruyff. It had deflected
Brazil in the semifinal by the cleverness of a move -
in the final very
rail from the unindividualist. But it looked
a penalty kick to the Netherlands
which turned out to be a goal. A penalty kick in the first minute gaining 1:0 lead. It was
a primed delight. For it tempted the Dutch to abandon
their finely tuned game in favor of an attacking style
defense. The Germans led by Beckenbauer changed
then everything into an all-out attack successfully
by a firepower from the public. This led to 2:1 lead
which Germany defended tenaciously through its
class. But in 918 the Netherlands found itself once
more in a final before a rabid lunatic crowd.
In an extraordinary game, the Dutch tried an Argentine
team playing with Brazilian flair and European
tactics. It was a setpback victory in the last minutes. But three
years earlier they could not stage the course and
May 27 06 08:27a

Proceeding

but in accordance to the same teams. Argentina

a demonstration of its leading power of course.

Argentina was saved political misunderstandings

that official

but for forty-eighth hour of the Argentine warning

celebrating with end

between twice, worst unexpected, understanding

that to observe for a brief moment the burden of

the national stake.

In the end, we won, altogether in

the seven games I watched I saw Brazil twice

Argentina

and Italy three times and the Netherlands twice. The

only team that better their third game in France

What fascination for the

What a thrust the World Cup elite is

historically small! Well this elite be subdued.

again. Not unseen in the World Cup drawn to it the need to judge

the national teams it is also

prediction: I expect England to reclaim a place

in the role through the recent signing of its star

mam
In the remaining games, Italy beat Germany in Sfian and reached the final in 1982. A German team that had been hit hard by the 1974 World Cup emergence emerged as champions, as West Germany became champions in its finals.

In 1990, an uninvited France emerged as a systematic German team overcome a lack of cold and uninvited Argentine risk. In 1998 and 2002, France team overcome a Brazilian team, which after a brilliant semi-final victory over the Netherlands faced inexplicably at stake.

The most disappointing match for fans was the final of the 1994 World Cup won by the host team in Pasadena. As honorary chairman of the organizing committee, I lost hope for a lift-saving match that might do for American soccer what it meant for football fans of 1987 and inspired the public interest in professional football.

Unfortunately, the game was delayed.
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 hence far been averted by the ruling. The United States plays in a very difficult virtual group. It would have to overcome parity both established soccer powers and legal Republics to reach the quarter-finals. The German team has been a mystery. It has never materialised well and a passionate public support. If it gets on a roll it could go far. Then there is always Brazil which will guarantee excitement and fans arriving for happenings rather than sadness by July 9. But we must know the answer by the meaning of the group.

38 two games guarantee to make the answer for football of even the most fervent fans. It is to be said that this adduction to the game permits it.