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 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. [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 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 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 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 was 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. If it 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 enrants 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 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 will open the World Cup competition in Argentina. The national team of Costa Rica is facing a month of football frenzy. Worldwide, fans will be glued to their television sets whenever the games are being played. This means early morning hours in South America, for the evening games. For the first time in weeks, there will be three matches a day as the 32 survivors of a global competition that started three years ago are reduced down to 8 by playing in 6 and in some groups of eight, with the top two teams each group advancing to a sudden death round. After 62 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. Williams wrote:

"in many ways to interrupt their work schedules. The national morale is immense, and losses will be affecting particularly by the sudden death condition of games"
I will be one of those voices and have arranged my schedule to accommodate it. The two voices would find it difficult to blend necessarily. What it is about the game that so undoubtedly identifies it with the passionate adherence to their favorite team—a passion that in America, in stand only to the passionate adherents of major college football teams. I grew up in Freiburg, a little town in southern Germany where I was the student of football in Green Bay. The Green Bay Packers played by the coaches in the 20's and 30's were acknowledged as the championship team 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 as falter in the age of high quality, balance, and less on hard times, bearing been relegated to the second division. It makes periodic efforts to emerge from this condition, but always manages to fall just short of the aerial place in the standings which would enable it to continue.
- thereby guaranteeing the machinery of success and hope that maintains the typical football fan. This is true even of Brazil's fans when their team wins only every third World Cup — and not necessarily to the benefit of the fans. 

But these fans extend 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 instance, manipulating a ball by foot for prolonged distances requires an activity analogous to track. This aspect of the game — like the innumerable twists and turns — astounds one with its versatility and subtlety.

On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by this activity 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 most patient

players can achieve - Pele for Brazil, Tardeville for trapping

Pele in for France - can score goals by essentially solitary

efforts. For almost all other circumstances it is teams

and players which win games. The reductive quality

of soccer resides in the intellectual penetration of

the best, which means moving the ball down the field to solve the

crash, which seems so mighty that it seems to turn

everything. How to get a half-year show against

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

is a - the finale 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 maneuver open space, restart it & passing

from which to launch an unimagined shot or to
the goal. The great field generals like Blomqvist or Beckenbauer had the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seemed inevitable in its abstract and inevitably self-evident in execution. Even at its highest level it's a game of uncomplicated simplicity. 

And look back over its decades into...
In one of the most widely used systems, the 4-4-2, forwards tend to end deploying the remaining players 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 widefielders is usually assigned the role of libero not only to act as a "sweeper" or defense midfielder, but with reinforcing to most threatened positions on the field. Bedward gave this role an additional significance by attacking as a "plumber" on defense and also an "assistant" in attacking. When the football quarterback on the attack got punched, the most common thing he did was push and punch the speed of modern games and the conditioning of the players toward a kind of total football which means that whatever the original position of the players, his task is to reinforce the center of gravity, attack or defense depending on the situation.

The practical consequence is that for all much harder to come by that defense tends to dominate over offense at least compared to the situation when
I first became acquainted with the game because the play suited all needs and rarely found all attacks unless of course they found themselves out behind. Since the number of possession field from which a good kick was 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 Polish team of the notably superior non-soldier players in the 2004 European cup and a very disciplined German team overcame a supposedly strong team from the Netherlands in the World cup of 1974. National teams over 24 clubs to seven down to seven. These theoretical aspects can be illustrated by the bowing of the finals of the World cup over the last 25 years. There extended never of the last nine and never seen to be uncommonly by their different character.

1970 over my first exposure to the1970 over my first exposure to the Bundeslad team, all on nothing else.
According to the incomparable Pelle, the Dutch, with the rest of their unique style, the Dutch, decisively put a very good Italian team literally into a very good team with the ground by a score of 4:1. The Italian team was a joint which usually in international football gave it the opportunity to apply its remarkable skill in frustrating the opponent with rest and accuracy

a give-no-quarter defence. But the Dutch did not play by the book. It abandoned relative traditional formation and entered the game with and there every player with a wild offence literally running the risk. Pressure was a solid team with the ground. The bottom line, is a precise high altitude of robust but well-enduring to me little by the semifinal between Italy and Germany, that Backenburan losing solutions in, then steel, completed their triumph. Offense triumphed in 1970, and a psychological shift from the table in 1974. The Dutch game between the Netherlands and Germany.
was elegant and offensively-minded. It was one of the all-time greats - Cruyff. It had defeated Brazil in the semifinal by the simplicity of its movement, rather than the individual virtuosity. And it had, in a penalty kick in the extra time, which turned out to be a tidy one, awarded a penalty kick in the first minute gaining it a 1:0 lead. It was a promised delivery. For it tempted the Dutch to abandon their finely tuned game in favor of an attacking style defense. The Germans led by Beckenbauer, however, thenervously, into an all-out attack, successfully by a frenzied home public. This led to a 2:1 lead which Germany defended tensely through the extra half. And 1978 the 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 killer instinct in its best moments. But after years earlier, they could not stay the course.
premature
but in accordance to the same team, Argentina
a demonstration of the leaking power of force.

Argentina was marked different, was untrained
or that official

But for forty-eight hours after the Argentina meeting
celebrated with coal,

Buenos Aires, went for local committees,

was to observe for a brief moment the bitterness of

the national referee.

In the three games I watched, I saw Brazil play,

Argentina, and Italy three times each the Netherlands twice.

The

Two their threats meant for France

What forgetting for the

France... what the United Costelini in

historically stand it? Well this shit is储存

in the World Cup almost. It has to stand to judge

the national teams it is too


predictive. I expect England to reclaim a place

in the role through the recent signing of its star
In the remaining papers, and Italy beat Germany in Spain in 1982. An Italian team that had been deflated in the
group stage emerged to dominate early and became dominant in its finals. In 1990, an uninvited genome a systematic
German team overcome a lackluster and
uninvited Argentine side. In 1998, an elite
French team overcome a Brazilian equal
which, after a brilliant semi-final victory over
the Netherlands, seemed inexplicably outplayed.

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 lift-saving match
that might do for American soccer what its cient
lacks football fame of 1985 with inspired the
public interest in professional football.
Unfortunately, its game was decided
in a penalty shootout after 120 minutes of scoreless tactical maneuvering.

What next?
player Rooneys reduces its prospects. This may be the year for an African team to emerge, their lack of technical brilliance being far more accentuated by the occasion.

The United States placed in a very difficult

virtual group. It would have to overcome Italy's

both established soccer power

+ legal republic to reach the final elimination

round. If it fours did face the US team, it could

read the post-official. The German team

has been a mystery. It too was inconsistent

and a passionate public support.

If it gets on a role it could go far.

Then and this is always Brazil which

will guarantee excitement and fun.

Many for happiness rather than endurance.

But we will know the answer for the meantime.

& Thirty two games guarantee to make the chaos

for football of even the most frenetic fans. To its extent

that their addiction to the game permits it.