

# THE GEO-SAMPLER

Welcome to a sporting summer edition of the Geosampler. Americans may think it's a bit too early to be asking, "Are you ready for some football?" But to the rest of the world football means soccer, and much of the planet is working itself into a frenzy over the World Cup, which starts this month. In the age of globalization, England's most famous export has exploded in popularity. So in case you want to know what all the fuss is about, we offer some information about past and present tournaments that could be useful if you find yourself discussing footy this month. We hope everybody has a beautiful and enjoyable summer!

## Everything you always wanted to know about the World Cup (minus the hooligans).

This summer, for the first time since the 1936 Olympics, a unified Germany will host the world when 32 national teams and their fans arrive to decide Soccer's World Champion, nearly seventeen years after the Wall came down. From the opener in Munich June 9th to the final one month later in Berlin, the eyes of the world will be focused on stadiums in twelve cities scattered throughout the Bavarian nation. In fact, Soccer's World Championship is undoubtedly the biggest sporting event on the planet. A cumulative 28.8 billion viewers in 213 countries watched some of the 41,100+ hours of television coverage in 2002. In 1998, 1.3 billion people watched the final between France and Brazil.

So here is a little background information to get you prepared just in case you decide to hop on the soccer bandwagon, which should be arriving early this month. It took approximately two grueling years of qualifying matches for the finalists to earn their invitations to the Championship tournament. The teams have been placed into 8 groups (A-H), in which they will play a round-robin schedule. Two points for a win, one for a tie, top two teams in each group advance to a single-elimination tournament.

A few familiar names did not make the finals, including Russia and Ireland. Of those that did, many have reason to believe that this could be their year. England, Netherlands, Spain and the Czech Republic all expect big things on their home continent in 2006.

The United States fields its most experienced and internationally successful team ever, and hopes to better its first ever quarterfinal appearance in 2002. However, enthusiasm has been tempered a bit after a brutal draw that saw the US placed in what some are calling this year's "group of death." The team must face traditional power Italy, world number two Czech Republic



and Ghana. Many were upset because Mexico, despite losing 8 of the last 9 matches against its northern neighbor, received the number one seed in the North American region, landing them in a seemingly easier group.

After falling in the final 4 years ago, a suddenly young German team is hoping to ride the home-field advantage to their fourth championship. The host country has won 6 of the 17 tournaments, including West Germany's 1974 triumph. But geography doesn't seem to matter to the powerhouse Brazilian national team; they are the only team that has been crowned champion while playing on a foreign continent. More impressively, they have done it three times: Sweden 1958, The United States 1994, and Korea/Japan 2002.

The Brazilians are known for their fast, precise, and flamboyant style of play, which Pele described as "the beautiful game." They have won the most World Cups with five, and have finished runner-up twice. In fact, there has only been one final since 1970 that did not involve either Brazil or Germany, making a repeat of 2002's final at least somewhat likely.

While those teams may be favored, they are by no means safe from upstart teams thirsty to pull off an upset. Ghana will have ample opportunity to topple a favorite. The Ivory Coast has enough talent to defeat Argentina or the Netherlands, and Paraguay could advance to the round of 16 with a victory over Sweden or England.

One of many matches with an intriguing subplot takes place on June 11th when Angola makes their first appearance at the tournament. The team should have no trouble working up motivation for its first opponent. They will face Portugal, who occupied the West African nation from 1575 to 1975, and whose exit was followed by a 27-year civil war.

**"If everything is coming your way,  
you're in the wrong lane."**

—Anonymous



## How to write good.

**Prepositions are not words  
to end sentences with.**

**Avoid clichés like the plague—  
they're old hat.**

**Contractions aren't necessary.**

**One should never generalize.**

**Exaggeration is a billion times worse  
than understatement.**

**One word sentences?  
Eliminate. Always!**

**Don't use commas, that,  
are not, necessary.**

**Be more or less specific.**

**Don't repeat yourself, or say again  
what you have said before.**

**Poofread carefully to see  
if you any words out.**

**Parenthetical remarks (however  
relevant) are unnecessary.**

**And always be sure to finish what**

**Web Site Updates.  
[www.geotechnics.net](http://www.geotechnics.net)**

**ACCREDITED BY**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers.**

# WORLD CUP WONDERS

The pressure-cooker environment of the World Cup has produced many of the most memorable, as well as tragic, moments in sports history. What makes the tournament so exciting is that anything can happen, and it usually does.

One fraction of a second can lift a nation, create a legend, symbolically settle an old score, and even be the difference between life or death. In the World's biggest international competition the games can transcend the playing field, crossing over to become national and cultural events and milestones that are talked about for generations. Here are just a few of the famous moments in finals history:

Perhaps the most infamous match took place in 1986 between perennial Soccer superpowers England and Argentina. Just four years after the Falklands War, in which England removed Argentina from the Falkland Islands, the teams met in the quarterfinals. The game was won by Diego Maradona when he illegally used his hand to score the game's only goal. After the game Maradona told reporters that the goal was scored, "A little bit by the Hand of God, another bit by the head of Maradona." In 2002 he wrote that it was, in fact, just his hand that had propelled Argentina to its second World Championship.



Maybe it was a little bit of karma four years later when the defending champions were shocked by Cameroon in their first match in Italy. Since then African teams have been threatening to make a habit out of knocking-off defending champions early in the tournament. Senegal defeated France in 2002, fortytwo years after it achieved independence from the colonial superpower.

England, the country credited with inventing the modern version of the sport, entered the tournament for the first time in 1950 and were heavy favorites to win it all. But in one of Soccer's biggest upsets, the English, boasting a virtual all-star team, were defeated by a 400 to 1 tournament underdog USA team that featured just one professional player.

One of the more tragic moments in recent years took place off the field, thousands of miles from where the game was played. On June 22nd 1994 in Los Angeles, Colombia's Andres Escobar accidentally scored against his own team, allowing the United States to move on to the round of 16 with a 2-1 victory. A little over two weeks later, upon returning to Colombia, he was killed by a gunman. An isolated incident, but one that shows the magnitude of each moment of each match in the Championship tournament of the people's game.



## GEOTECHNICS: OUR QUALITY COMMITMENT

Quality has been our driving force since our inception in 1984. The following is just a sample of our commitment to quality.

- Accredited by 3 internationally recognized agencies.
- Geotechnics has participated in the AASHTO Proficiency sample-testing program for nearly 15 years.
- Geotechnics was selected by the ASTM Institute for Standards Research to participate in a national prestigious comprehensive inter-laboratory testing program.
- Geotechnics coordinates and participates in numerous international round-robin testing programs for various ASTM Task Groups.
- Geotechnics personnel are active with ASTM activities including Task Group Chairman of:
  - Transmissivity
  - Geocomposite Ply Adhesion
  - Unreinforced PE & FPP Tensiles
  - CBR Puncture
  - Radial Transmissivity
  - Gradient Ratio and
  - GM Asperity Height.



Our two facilities serve projects across the country.

In Pittsburgh – 544 Braddock Avenue • East Pittsburgh, PA 15112 • Phone (412) 823-7600 • Fax (412) 823-8999 • [dbackstrom@geotechnics.net](mailto:dbackstrom@geotechnics.net)  
 In Raleigh – 2200 Westinghouse Boulevard • Raleigh, NC 27604 • Phone (919) 876-0405 • Fax (919) 876-0460 • [msmith@geotechnics.net](mailto:msmith@geotechnics.net)