

# World Cup Football Germany 2006

## The Greatest Show on Earth

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The count down has already started for the biggest sporting event \_ The 18<sup>th</sup> **World Cup Football** finals to be held in **Germany**. Sporting purists might say the Olympic Games are the bigger and grander. But when host **Germany** kick-off the opening game against the **Costa Rica** in Munich on **June 9**; no sporting tournament will ever have received such global attention.

**World Cup 2006** will be considered to be the *biggest, most expensive, most technological festival* in the sporting history. From humble beginnings in **1930**, the World Cup Football has become the most watched and lucrative sporting event in the world. At the 2002 tournament in Korea and Japan, **FIFA** earned **\$A1.53 billion** and they are expected to bring in even more from this year's finals in Germany.

**Australia** will be making their first finals appearance since 1974. With five-time winners and reigning champions **Brazil** in their group (**Group F**), Australia are expected to be in a three-way fight with **Croatia** and **Japan** for the second qualifying spot in what promises to be a thrilling clash of very different cultures and footballing styles.

World-renowned Dutch coach **Guus Hiddink**, who led Netherlands and Korea to the semi-finals of the last two World Cups, is now in charge of Australia. They have dozens of players who have proven themselves in Europe's top leagues. **Kewell** is their best talent, while captain **Mark Viduka**, **Tim Cahill**, **Lucas Neill** and **Mark Schwarzer** are proven Premiership players. It is easy to dream of glory, not so easy to triumph in reality. Australia with the Premiership experience of such talented players will be tough to break down and could cause a surprise.

Australia will play against **Japan** on **June 12 (Live SBS at 11:30 PM AEST)**, against **Brazil** on **June 19 (Live SBS at 1:30 AM AEST)** and against **Croatia** on **June 23 (Live SBS at 4:30 AM AEST)**.

Over the previous three years, **197 teams** who entered the worldwide regional tournaments have been whittled down to the elite **32** competing in Germany for the greatest prize in football. The final tournament involves 32 nations competing over a four-week period from **June 9 to July 9** in the host nation of Germany. It is divided into two stages: **a group and a knockout stage**. In each group, a round-robin tournament is played, with each team playing three matches. Three points are awarded for a win, one for a draw and none for a loss.

The **top two teams** from each group advance to the knockout stage where teams play each other in sudden-death matches, with extra-time and penalty shootouts used to decide the winner if scores are level. In the Round of 16, the winner of each group plays against the runner-up from another group, followed by the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final. The losing semi-finalists also contest a third-place match. Details groupings and **LIVE TV (SBS)** broadcast timings are in the attached file.

So fastened your seatbelt for some bumper rides in **June and July** with many sleepless nights and bleary-eyed from countless hours of compulsive viewing and endless slow motion replays. So let the fun begin on **June 9 2006**.

## Here are some of the Fast Facts of the World Cup Football:

- All but one of the previous World Cup winners will take part in Germany 2006: **Brazil, Germany, France, Italy, Argentina and England**. The missing link? Uruguay, winners in 1930 and 1950.
- The inaugural World Cup was held in **Uruguay in 1930**. In total 13 nations competed in the event which was won by the host nation.
- **Trinidad and Tobago, Togo, Angola, Ivory Coast and Ghana** are all making their World Cup finals debut in Germany.
- **Brazil** is the most successful nation overall, having won the tournament five times, finished as runners-up twice and above all is the only nation to have participated in every World Cup.
- **Lothar Matthaus** (Germany) and **Antonio Carbajal** (Mexico) are the only two players to appear in **five World Cup finals**.
- **Just Fontaine** of France scored a record **13 goals** at the 1958 World Cup final in Sweden.
- Cameroon's **Roger Milla** is the **oldest player** to appear in World Cup finals, aged **42 years and 39 days**.
- The **fastest goal** in a World Cup match took place in 2002, when Hakan Suker scored for Turkey only after **11 seconds** against South Korea.
- **Franz Beckenbauer** (West Germany) and **Mario Zagallo** (Brazil) are the only persons to win the World Cup as both player and Manager. Beckenbauer won as a player in 1974 and manager in 1990; Zagallo was a dual winner with Brazil in 1958 and 1962 as a player, and in 1970 as a manager.
- In 1997, Australia became the only country not to qualify for the World Cup finals despite **not losing a single match** (drew with Iran 2-2 in the final match at Melbourne).
- Pickles the dog found the World Cup (then **Jules Rimet Trophy**) under a bush after it was stolen while on public display at Westminster Hall in London in 1966.
- A cumulative TV audience of **28.8 billion** people watched the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan. More than **30 billion** people are expected to watch this year.
- **Pele** played in the 1958, 1962, 1966 and 1970 World Cups. **Diego Maradona** took part in 1982, 1986, 1990 and 1994 World Cup finals.
- In 2002, **France** became the only defending champion to **fail to score a single goal in the tournament**.
- **Burma** was the only country excluded by FIFA from entering the qualification for the 2006 World Cup.
- The largest margin of victory in a World Cup match occurred in 1982 when Hungary defeated El Salvador **10-1**.

# World Cup history

<b>Year</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner up</b>	<b>Score</b>
1930	Uruguay	<b>Uruguay</b>	Argentina	4-2
1934	Italy	<b>Italy</b>	Czechoslovakia	2-1
1938	France	<b>Italy</b>	Hungary	4-2
1950	Brazil	<b>Uruguay</b>	Brazil	(No final)
1954	Switzerland	<b>West Germany</b>	Hungary	3-2
1958	Sweden	<b>Brazil</b>	Sweden	5-2
1962	Chile	<b>Brazil</b>	Czechoslovakia	3-1
1966	England	<b>England</b>	West Germany	4-2
1970	Mexico	<b>Brazil</b>	Italy	4-1
1974	West Germany	<b>West Germany</b>	Netherlands	2-1
1978	Argentina	<b>Argentina</b>	Netherlands	3-1
1982	Spain	<b>Italy</b>	West Germany	3-1
1986	Mexico	<b>Argentina</b>	West Germany	3-2
1990	Italy	<b>Germany</b>	Argentina	1-0
1994	USA	<b>Brazil</b>	Italy	0-0 (3-2)
1998	France	<b>France</b>	Brazil	3-0
2002	Japan/Korea	<b>Brazil</b>	Germany	2-0