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Subject : Fans Recall Golden Moments in Soccer History

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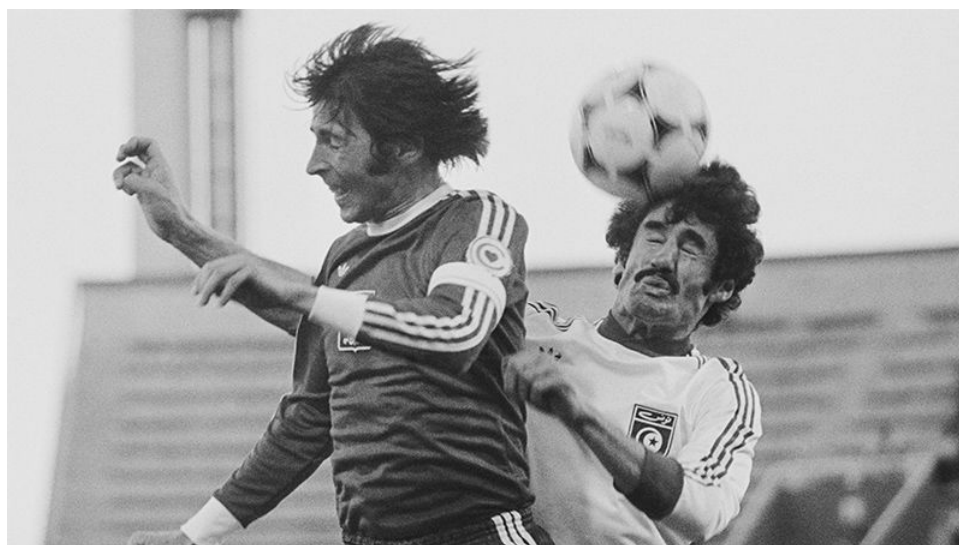
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the DROP

FANS RECALL GOLDEN MOMENTS IN SOCCER HISTORY

The 2022 FIFA World Cup starts tomorrow— which has us thinking about historic moments from the game's golden past.

Underdogs and Overperformers



1

When Tunisia Shocked the World

When Tunisia arrived at the World Cup in Argentina in 1978, it was a nation on a mission. At that point, only three African countries had qualified for the competition, and all had left with nothing more than straight losses and stories to tell their grandchildren. In a sport dominated by Europe and South America, there was no reason to believe that Tunisia could end the trend with its first kick at the cup. But the North African team had other plans.

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Nigerian Soccer's Dream Team

2 It remains one of the most enduring — and unlikely — triumphs in Olympic soccer history. Nigerian star Nwankwo Kanu masterfully spun Brazilian defenders Aldair and Guira as if they were a pair of rookies, beat goalkeeper Dida inside the far post and then triumphantly stormed to the corner of the field and paced in circles as if even he couldn't believe what had just happened. The incredible upset sent Nigeria to the gold medal match against Argentina in the 1996 Olympic soccer tournament.

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Hungary's Golden Soccer Team

3 Nearly 70 years ago, the underdog Hungarian soccer team stunned the world. "It was like playing people from outer space," choked England defender Syd Owen, as he walked out of the People's Stadium in Budapest on May 23, 1954. England had just been trounced by Hungary's Aranycsapat, the "Golden Team." Nearly 100,000 fans roared beside the stadium's giant scoreboard: Anglia 1, Magyarorszag 7. Football's imperialists had been humbled by a socialist sensation.

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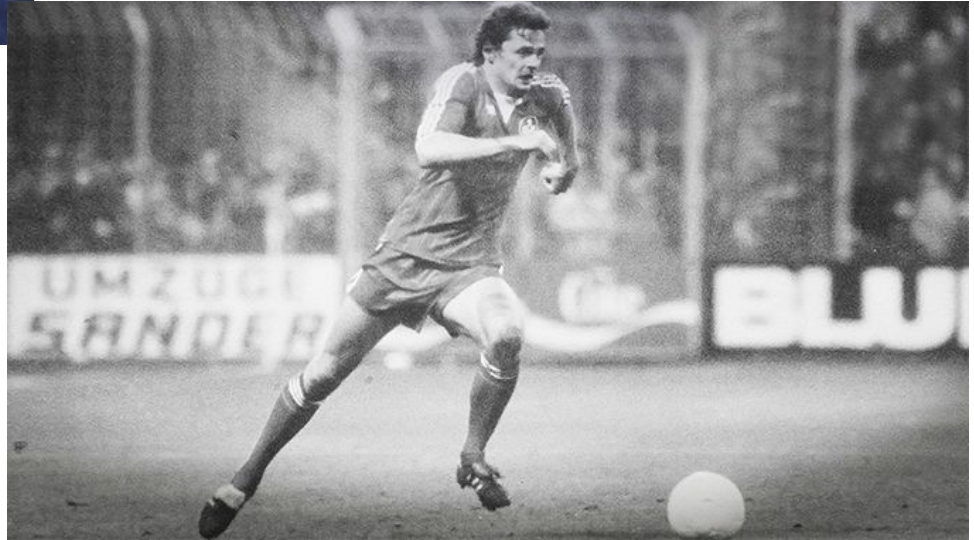


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Forgotten Characters and Legends of the Game



1

The Soccer Star From the Stasi

It was 1979. The Berlin Wall was up and the Cold War was on. Lutz Eigendorf was an acclaimed midfielder for the East Berlin soccer club BFC Dynamo (then closely linked to the Stasi, the former East German secret police), and he made a risky move. After an exhibition match between BFC Dynamo and FC Kaiserslautern from West Germany, Eigendorf's team had stopped on its way back at Giessen in the West German state of Hesse. It was then and there that Eigendorf seized his opportunity to flee from the team, defecting in search of a better life. Four years later, he died in a car accident that many regard as suspicious.

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The Man Who Brought Joy to Brazil

Manuel Francisco dos Santos, known as Garrincha, was an undersized right wing with deformed legs who, at first glance, seemed about as far from an ideal soccer specimen as one could get. But, after an underwhelming start to the 1958 World Cup tournament, Brazil's coaches decided to throw Garrincha and a promising teenager named Pelé into the lineup for the team's final group match against the mighty USSR. Garrincha electrified the crowd, and would go on to become regarded by many as the greatest dribbler of all time.

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The Dirtiest Soccer Play in History?

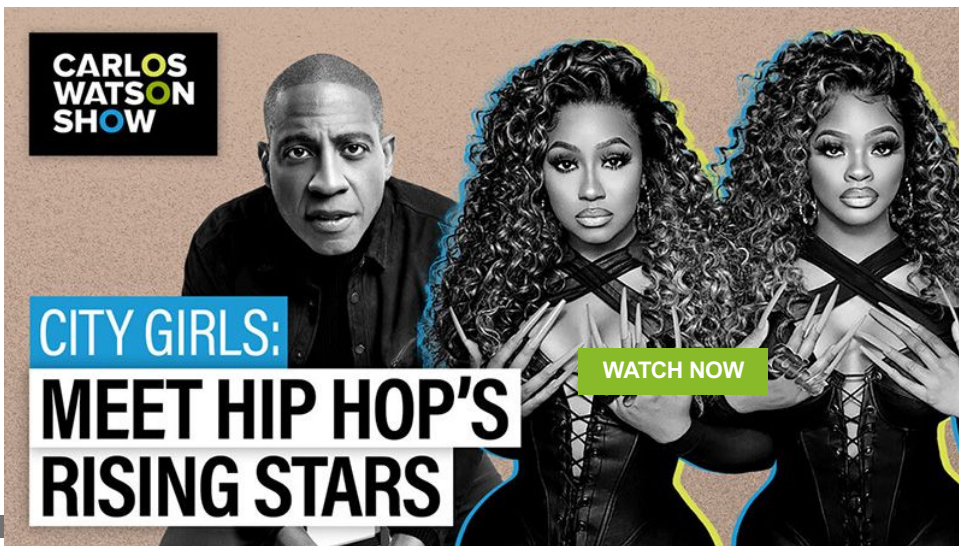
During the 2014 World Cup, playing for Portugal against Germany, Pepe walked away, leaving Thomas Müller on the ground, a victim of the sport's frequent and unavoidable collisions. Pepe returned to where Müller sat and leaned down, not so much to offer a helping hand as to head-butt Müller with all his might.

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Impactful Moments



1

How Brazil Saved the World Cup

From 1938 until 1950, the World Cup took a 12-year hiatus due to World War II, and with no one petitioning to host the first postwar tournament, it risked being canceled altogether. But in July 1946, Brazil — with a growing passion for the sport, though nowhere near the powerhouse it is today — stepped forward and volunteered to host the 1950 World Cup, and in effect saved the nascent global tradition.

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2

The Sudden Death That Scuttled a Nation's Soccer Dreams

When, in 1990, Cameroon became the first African nation in history to reach the World Cup quarterfinals, it sparked a global awareness of Africa in a footballing context. In the early 2000s, Cameroon again seemed ready for stardom, largely due to midfielder Marc-Vivien Foé, a conductor of skill and spirit not only on the pitch, but in the dressing room. Then, on June 26, 2003, Foé collapsed on the field without any apparent reason. He died soon after being carried away on a stretcher — and the team's chance for greatness died along with him.

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3

The Soccer Match That Halted a Civil War

In 2005, when the Ivory Coast was riven by civil war, the country's tightly knit national soccer team, known as the Elephants, was one of the most fearsome squads on the continent. Its triumph against Sudan to claim Ivory Coast's first trip to the World Cup sent people into the streets nationwide to celebrate, and within weeks the rebels and the government agreed to a temporary truce.

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What is your favorite moment from World Cup tournaments of the past?

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