



Britannica Publishes Fan's Guide to the World Cup

History, backstory, key players, venues covered

CHICAGO, June 10, 2010—As the world's most popular sporting event gets under way this week in South Africa, World Cup soccer fans new and old can learn what they need to appreciate the matches from an extensive new online feature about it by Encyclopaedia Britannica.

["World Cup 2010: Football in the Rainbow Nation,"](#) prepared by several experts in collaboration with the encyclopedia's editor's, provides a wide range of insights into the sport, the national teams competing in this year's event, and some of the players we can expect to see in the spotlight in the coming weeks.

The article includes flags and background on all of the teams, including their world rankings and how many times they've competed in the quadrennial World Cup since it began in 1930. It shows how the countries are grouped for competition, the various locations and stadiums in South Africa where the games will take place, and briefly profiles "players to watch," such as Landon Donovan of the United States, Samuel Eto'o of Cameroon and Lionel Messi of Argentina.

Sections of the article recount the history of football and the World Cup, present coverage of the last tournament, in 2006, highlight stars from the past, and give background on the culture and history of the host country, South Africa.

Contributors to the feature include: Richard C. Giulianotti, senior lecturer in sociology, University of Aberdeen, and author of "Football: a Sociology of the Game"; Bernard Joy, former football correspondent, Evening Standard, London, and author of

“Soccer Tactics”; and Jack Rollin, editor, Sky Sports Football Yearbook and Playfair Football Annual. Rollin is also author of “Soccer at War 1939–45” and coauthor of “The Forgotten FA Cup: The Competition of 1945–46.”

“The World Cup will be watched by millions around the world, from diehard football enthusiasts to the most casual fans, and our aim is to help all of them learn what they need to enjoy the games,” said Britannica executive editor Michael Levy. “New fans will get up to speed quickly on the sport, and serious ones will learn things they didn’t know.”

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Contact:

Tom Panelas
Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.
312-347-7309
tpanelas@eb.com