



“Soccer is a magical game.”
David Beckham

“Football (soccer) is a matter of life and death, except more important.”
Bill Shankly

“Soccer is simple, but it is difficult to play simple.”
Johan Cruijff

Welcome to the fifth edition of the *Crowder College Melting Pot*, a newsletter in which advanced students from the English Language Institute share their culture; the students have chosen soccer as the theme of this edition. Perhaps no other sport unites the world as much as soccer (or football, as it is called outside of America); so it is fitting that, for this edition of the newsletter, students write about the important role soccer plays (no pun intended) in their countries, cultures, and around the world. In the pages that follow you will find information about notable soccer players, such as Hugo Sanchez and Ji Sung Park. You will learn how social and family life revolves around watching soccer in Mexico. You will discover how soccer fans in South Korea exhibited national pride during the World Cup games in 2002, and the way that the World Cup brings together countries from all over the world. Finally, you will find information about the

up-coming 2014 World Cup in Brazil, and the special preparations that are being made for the games. But first, let’s go back to the basics and learn the rules of the game, and then let the games begin!

Rosie Speck
ELI Coordinator



How to Play Soccer

by Chun Soo Kim



Many people like soccer, but not everyone may know exactly how to play so I will explain basic soccer rules. Soccer is a rather simple game. The main concept in soccer involves one team trying to get possession of the ball and passing it to other players so they can either “head” the ball or

kick it into the goal. The opposing team tries to take the ball away, so a team’s possession of the ball can change quite often during the game. The major rule is that the players can never touch the soccer ball with their hands or arms while the ball is in play. However, the exception to this rule is the goalie.

The goalie guards the goal and can use all parts of the body, including hands and arms. Players also cannot tackle, push, hit, or knock down the goalie. Each team has eleven players, including the goalie. Each player is assigned a certain position. Only one person has the position of goalie, but the other positions can have multiple players. The first position is called the striker or target man. This position focuses on getting a goal. The second position is the midfielder. This position is very hard because the players are positioned in the middle of the field where they will get a lot of rough physical contact from the other players; this position requires audacity and determination. The midfielders also play a dual role; they can either play defense or offense depending on the situation of the game. The last position is the defender. These players hang back toward their own goal to help the goalie defend the goal.

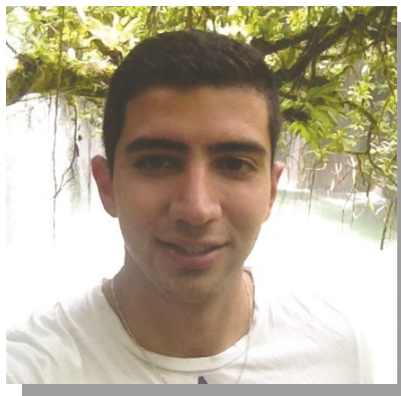


To begin a game players line up on the soccer field and, sometimes, like during a national game, they listen to the national anthem. Afterwards, the players on each team shake hands. Then, the referee calls forward the captain of each team and they do a coin toss to choose what team gets the ball first. Soccer is a very easy game to learn, and now that you know the rules, I hope that you will enjoy playing and watching soccer.

This is a typical soccer team consisting of 11 players in their team uniforms.

Hugo Sanchez

by Christian Ramirez



One of the most important soccer players who helped Mexico establish credibility in the soccer world is Hugo Sanchez. He is the best Mexican player. Hugo Sanchez stands out by his extraordinary

agility, smart off-ball runs, and great capacity for kicking to the goal. He also is very good with his left leg which allows him to master the bicycle kick. When he scores, he has several different victory dances that he does which also make him popular. He is without a doubt the most famous international Mexican soccer player. His fame impacts Mexico greatly and results in having major European leagues recruiting more Mexican soccer players for their teams.

Sanchez started playing soccer at an early age. When he was 14 years old, he formed part of the Mexican national team for youth. After this, he went on to play for the Mexican national team. In 1976, when he was 18 years old, he started in the first division of the Mexican League, the Pumas. During the 1976-77 seasons, the Pumas won their first championship in the history of the Mexican League. Two years later, in a successive tournament, he scored the most goals and became the MVP. By the 1980s, he was

considered to be one of the most important soccer players in Mexico.

After this, he played for only one summer in the U.S. with the San Diego Sockers before returning to Mexico to play five seasons at the University Autonoma de Mexico. There he scored a personal best of 99 goals, and then left to begin his professional career in Spain. He made the transition to professional soccer easily, and won the Cup of King and the Pichichi Trophy.

Sanchez was then signed on by Real Madrid, and entered the prime of his career. With Real Madrid he won:

- The UEFA Champion League (1986)
- Five consecutive league titles (from 1986-1990)
- A Cup (1989)
- Two Super Cups of Spain (1988, 1990)
- Four Pichichi Trophies as the League Top Scorer

Sanchez has since retired from professional soccer and currently works as a soccer coach.

Hugo Sanchez



Soccer's Influence in Mexico

by Jesus Reyes Rodriguez (Chuy)



Soccer is popular in my country, Mexico. In my culture, we see soccer games as a time to enjoy family and friends, as well as a time to meet new people and make new friends. We also have special occasions to watch soccer games. We call them "The League MX" games,

which are games played by local teams. Each weekend during soccer season, we begin watching the games on Friday night and continue until the last game on that Sunday afternoon.

The most viewed game of the season, and one many people cannot wait to watch, is Club America and the Chivas. We call this game "el clasico" or "the classic" because they only play against each other once in the season.

People in my culture also love to watch the Mexican National Team. When Mexico plays, it is time to call together family, friends, or anybody who wants to watch the game and enjoy food and drinks, but, most importantly, to enjoy our common passion for the game.

Right now, countries and their national teams are playing each other and eliminating one another's chances to go to the World Cup that will be celebrated in Brazil next year.

Soccer is the most important Mexican sport. The people in my country are passionate about this particular sport. By the age of five, every boy is introduced to soccer mania by his father. Some people go to the extreme. For example they miss work, stay up late, skip class, and even worse, people gamble high bets on their favorite team and can lose a lot of money. Soccer is not just a sport, but it is the life of most Mexicans in my country.



Chuy and his friends in Mexico during the halftime of a soccer game.

South Korean Fans during the 2002 World Cup

by Eiline Hong



Patriotism in South Korea is very important. One of the reasons why patriotism is important is because Korea has had a history of countries trying to colonize it. Maintaining a strong Korean nationality is a priority for many Koreans, and one of the most prominent

ways this could be seen was in the enthusiasm Koreans showed during the 2002 World Cup held in South Korea. Koreans had waited a long time, and they finally got the opportunity to jointly host the 2002 World Cup with Japan, which was the first World Cup event in Asia. It was a proud moment for Koreans. More than ever before, Koreans felt a national harmony and unity, and,

as a result, Koreans created an overwhelming “cheering” or “fan” culture for the soccer game.

As an example of Korean national pride, at their own initiative, Koreans cleaned the cheering spots after each match, which is impressive since there were more than one million people gathered at the center of Seoul to cheer on the games. Every city was the same, and foreign media described the cheering culture of Koreans as remarkable and praised it highly. Even Koreans were surprised at the unity they felt!

Korean patriots who passionately cheered on the soccer games came to be known as the “Red Devils,” or “The Reds,” because they wore the red jerseys associated with the Korean national soccer team. Many images from this World Cup game included pictures of the “red waves,” or crowds of people wearing the red shirts that filled the Korean peninsula at that time. The crowd’s enthusiasm inspired

celebrities, such as world-famous soprano Sumi Jo, to hold free concerts for the soccer players and the Red Devils. I watched the Sumi Jo concert on television at that time, and I felt the patriotism and earnestness, and was very impressed.

In the end, the Korean national soccer team moved up to the semifinals. It gave Koreans an incredible feeling of joy. We were thrilled with this news, and we were proud of our players and ourselves. All Koreans, including me, cannot forget the 2002 World Cup.



Koreans showing their national pride during the 2002 World Cup.

Ji Sung Park: Hard Work Pays Off

by Hyeon Seong Noh



Ji Sung Park is a very famous Korean soccer player known all over the world. He played in the 2002 World Cup, which was hosted in South Korea and Japan. After the 2002 World Cup, people began to

recognize him as a good soccer player, and he went to play for the PSV Eindhoven League in the Netherlands. Then a scout recruited Park to play for Manchester United F.C. (MU). At that time, many people still did not know about Park. Most people said that he would not play well on the MU team, but Park responded to this criticism saying that even if he only played for a few minutes, he would be satisfied if he played well. He told reporters that if he never gave up and did his best, one day he would play with Rooney and Ronaldo, two world-famous soccer players. After that

interview, many people were impressed with Park.

Park is now retired from the Korean national team, but he continues to play for the PSV league. Many people did not want him to retire because he is still young. However, Park said that he may retire from soccer soon so that younger generations have a chance to take his position on the team. Park is an example of why hard work pays off. Even though people criticized him, he kept working hard until his efforts and skills were recognized world wide.



Famous South Korean soccer player Ji Sung Park.

The World Cup World-Wide

by Irakiza Kamanzi



The World Cup is a major event in all countries because almost every country has a soccer team. It is also a major event because many people from different countries come to watch the World Cup. There are 32 countries that participate in the World Cup, and there is nothing

else like this sporting event, except for the Olympics, which is dedicated to many sports and not just one. Some people might not like soccer, but every country has the game. When the World Cup is happening, lots of people are there. This event happens every four years, and it looks like the entire country is at one place watching soccer. There are 1.4 million people who are at the soccer game. It is so loud because the people are screaming, yelling, and shouting all kinds of things. It is really loud because the World Cup is a big celebration, not

just a little event. I really think it is amazing how many people attend the games.

Even



The World Cup is a big event for all soccer players.

Must Love Soccer

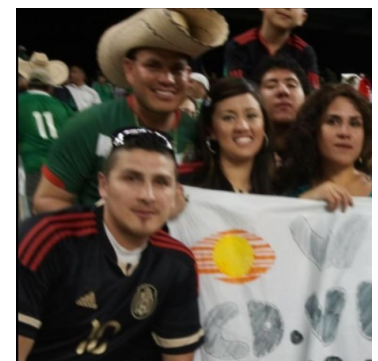
by Thalía Salcido



though soccer is an important part of Mexican culture, soccer was not mentioned in my house when I was growing up. Soccer was not very important to my family because my brothers played basketball, and I used to play volleyball, so those were the important sports in my family. Now

that I am married the topic of soccer is present at all times. My husband is also from Mexico and, like typical Mexican men, he loves to play soccer, and watching soccer games on TV is one of his favorite hobbies. I have realized that soccer unites families. When my husband's favorite team plays, we get together with other families and have a great time watching the games. Everyone brings food to share, which usually consists of different kinds of snacks and typical Mexican food. There is one thing that we always have: beer.

I like to watch soccer only when Mexico's national team plays. When my husband plays soccer, I also like to watch him play. I support him when he plays soccer because it helps him to be physically fit and active. So while I did not grow up liking soccer, now that I am married, I have learned to enjoy soccer to have a happy marriage!



Caption: Thalía and her husband with friends at a soccer game.

World Cup in Brazil 2014

by Felipe Yamada



The 2014 World Cup will be the twentieth edition. The World Cup in Brazil will start on June 12. This will be the second time that Brazil hosts the World Cup. For this event Brazil will spend around 13 billion dollars to improve security for airports, public transportation, and stadiums. In addition,

corporations will invest money to build hotels, restaurants, malls and stores to attract the people of surrounding cities and countries.

The games will be held between June 12 and July 13. Twelve cities will host the World Cup: Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Cuiaba, Curitiba, Fortaleza, Manaus, Natal, Porto Alegre, Recife, and Salvador. Tickets are already available to purchase. The price of the tickets varies from \$220 to \$3,350. You can buy tickets on FIFA's website. Thirty-two countries will participate in the World Cup.

The opening ceremony will be in Sao Paulo in the stadium Arena de Sao Paulo. The finals will be in Rio de Janeiro in the stadium Estádio do Maracana. You can find all the information about the World Cup in Brazil, including information about tickets, hotels, and the

schedule of the games, on FIFA's website: www.fifa.com.

This World Cup will be the first time that FIFA will use technology to help referees. There will be 12 cameras inside the goal that can indicate if the ball crossed the line.



The name of the ball in this World Cup will be Brazuca.



Brazil chose an armadillo to be the mascot of the World Cup 2014. His name is Fuleco. This is a combination of "futebol" (soccer) and "ecologia" (ecology)