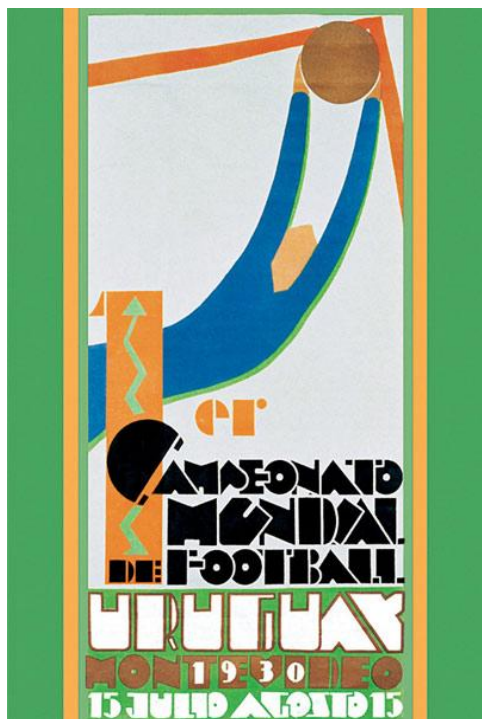


The First World Cup - Uruguay 1930

In 1930 FIFA introduced a new 'football olympics'. Named after FIFA President, Jules Rimet, it would take place every four years.



Because Uruguay were the Olympic Champions, the first tournament was held in Montevideo. All the matches were played there.

Thirteen countries participated in the inaugural World Cup in 1930. Seven were from South America: **Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru & Uruguay.**

Mexico & the USA represented Central & North America.

The English FA left FIFA in 1928, on the eve of its new tournament. It had joined in 1908 but had never been an enthusiastic member. The final dispute was over the payment of amateur players.

Despite a personal hand-written invitation from Jules Rimet, none of the UK nations participated. Some English players did, however, play for the USA.

With commercial transatlantic air travel still more than a decade away, the fledgling tournament faced a daunting logistical challenge. Only four countries made the long and expensive sea journey from Europe:

Belgium, Romania, Yugoslavia and France.

All the teams travelled to Montevideo on the same ship. It collected teams from all different ports in Europe and America. The Egyptian team were delayed by bad weather - they missed the boat and the tournament.

The French sailed first class, the others in third. But all the players trained together on the deck of the boat.

Romania entered on the personal instructions of King Carol. The King also selected the team.



The first official World Cup match was between **France** and **Mexico** in front of just 3,000

spectators. There were no television or film cameras present. **France** won 4-1 and Luicent Laurent's 19th minute goal was the first in World Cup history.

France went out against Argentina, losing 1-0 in very strange circumstances. The referee blew the final whistle six minutes early. Some players were already in the bath when they were called back to to finish the game.

On 30 July 1930 the First World Cup Final was a local 'derby' between **Uruguay** and **Argentina**. The two nations argued about everything - including the match-ball. In the end they played with Argentine-manufactured ball for the first 45 minutes. In the second half they swapped this for Uruguayan manufactured.

An estimated 93,000 fans watched in near silence as Argentina took a first half. 2-1 lead. But in the second half Uruguay came back for a famous 4 - 2 victory.

Uruguay were the first World Cup winners.

Quick Check: True or false?

1. The World Cup was started to compete with the Olympics.
2. Jules Rimet was the head of FIFA.
3. The first tournament was held in Paris
4. The majority of nations competing were from America
5. Argentina won the first World Cup.

Comprehension

6. Why is the World Cup called the Jules Rimet trophy?
7. Why were there only four European nations competing?
8. What did all the teams share on the boat?
9. Name three unusual things that happened during the first tournament?
10. What was the final score in the 1930 World Cup Final?