

Content guide for 1950 World Cup



1950 World Cup is the 4th in a series of visual art portraits of the quadrennial world championship tournament for the game of soccer (association football). The 1950 World Cup in Brazil was unique in many ways. It was the first tournament held after World War II, and political and economic factors, such as postwar rebuilding and Cold War tensions, led to the absence of several teams, including Germany and Japan, and most Eastern European nations. Unlike previous World Cups, it featured a round-robin final stage rather than a knockout format. The massive Maracanã Stadium in Rio, built for the tournament, became the site of one of football's biggest upsets, the *Maracanazo*, when Uruguay defeated Brazil in the final match to become world champions. The 1950 World Cup symbolized the world's recovery from war, but also introduced unprecedented drama and heartbreak in the sport. The artwork tells in pictures, diagrams, and words, the story of this 4th iteration of the world cup, and pays tribute to the host nation and cities, to legendary players, the ball of the tournament, the historical context, and more.

The official **FIFA poster** produced for the 1950 World Cup tournament. The poster was designed by Brazilian designer J. Ney Damasceno and picked in a competition from 114 submissions. It displays the leg of soccer player controlling a ball. The player's sock features the flags of all nations participating in the qualifying rounds of the World Cup.

The official Team of the Tournament

The **tournament structure** for the 1950 World Cup uniquely had no knockout stages; instead the winner was determined through a round-robin final group stage among the winners of the four initial groups. This was decided by Brazil, in part, to increase the number of games and thus revenue. The 1950 WC also had a unique qualification process influenced by global postwar economy and Cold War geopolitics. Scotland, India, and Turkey qualified, but withdrew. The Soviet Union and other Eastern Bloc nations didn't enter due to Cold War tensions, while Germany and Japan were barred due to their roles in World War II.

Crest of the 1950 World Cup Champions (Uruguay)

The pattern of the **DUPLU T** official 1950 World Cup match ball. The DUPLU T was made by the Argentinian company Superball. It was the first World Cup match ball to have no laces and a syringe valve, allowing it to be inflated without the use of laces, and giving it a more consistent and predictable shape. It was made from 12 leather panels and still used a cube-based design.

Dates and statistics about the 1950 World Cup tournament.

The W-M (3-2-2-3) formation was the most popular / used formation of by teams playing in the 1950 World Cup.

All **games and results** from the four initial groups and the final group. For each game the names of the goal scorers are listed, plus the name of the stadium and the number of spectators.

The **host country** and locations and names of the **6 host cities**.

World map highlighting the **13 finalists** countries participating in the 1950 World Cup.

The Jules Rimet trophy World Cup trophy by french sculptor Abel Lafleur in the image of the Greek goddess of victory (Nike).

USA president Truman signing **The Marshall Plan** in 1948 to provide economic aid to Western European countries after World War II. The plan helped many nations like England, Italy, and France to participate in the 1950 WC. Eastern Bloc countries, aligned with the Soviet Union and outside the plan's benefits, did not compete.

During World War II, fearing that the World Cup trophy would be stolen by the Nazis, **Ottorino Barassi**, the Italian vice-president of FIFA, secretly removed the Jules Rimet Trophy from a bank vault in Rome and hid it in a shoebox under his bed till after WWII.

Ademir de Menezes, "Queixada" ("The Jar"), the **Golden Boot winner**, was a Brazilian forward renowned for his speed, skill, and clinical finishing with both feet. Ademir scored 9 goals and made 6 assists during the tournament.

Alcides Ghiggia played a pivotal role in the 1950 World Cup. His dribbling and finishing were crucial for Uruguay throughout the tournament, but he will be remembered primarily for scoring the decisive goal in the final against Brazil (the "Maracanazo") silencing a crowd of nearly 200,000 in one of the most iconic moments in football history.

The 1949 **Superga air disaster** had a profound impact on the Italian national team, as many of the players who perished in the plane crash were key members of the squad.

Thomas Soares da Silva, "Zinho", Pelé's idol, was an attacking midfielder who's skills, vision, and playmaking abilities helped Brazil dominate most of the tournament. Despite their loss to Uruguay in the final game, Zinho's individual brilliance earned him the **Golden Ball award**.

Uruguayan goalkeeper Roque Máspoli was retrospectively selected as the best goalkeeper (**Golden Glove award**) for his performance throughout the tournament, and in the final game, where Uruguay famously defeated Brazil in the "Maracanazo."

The Maracanã Stadium, built in Rio de Janeiro for the 1950 World Cup. It was the largest stadium in the world at the time, constructed for ~200,000 spectators and designed to symbolizing Brazil's ambitions on the global stage. The stadium became iconic also for its open bowl-like structure, designed to maximize the visibility and atmosphere for the World Cup's major matches.

Brazil's white soccer uniforms with blue collars became a symbol of bad luck after their defeat to Uruguay in the final game of the 1950 World Cup (ticket to game displayed), a loss known as the "Maracanazo." The heartbreaking result, seen by ~200,000 fans in Rio's Maracanã Stadium, led to a national competition to design a new uniform that better represented Brazil's identity and flag.

