

Content guide for *1930 World Cup*



The **1930 FIFA World Cup** marked the dawn of a new era in international football, a bold experiment that would grow into the world's greatest sporting spectacle. Against a backdrop of economic hardship and logistical challenges, FIFA's vision took shape in Montevideo, Uruguay, where the host nation sought to affirm its dominance after back-to-back Olympic triumphs. The tournament's invitation-only format and the reluctance of many European nations to make the costly journey gave South American teams an advantage, and they delivered football of breathtaking quality. Argentina and Uruguay, already fierce rivals, embodied this new age of attacking play, their fluid passing and technical brilliance setting the standard for generations to come.

The final, a clash between these two giants, was more than a football match—it was a battle for pride and supremacy. In front of nearly 70,000 fans, Uruguay overcame a 2-1 halftime deficit to win 4-2, securing their place in history as the first World Cup champions. The "two-ball" controversy, the political tensions, and the sheer passion on display foreshadowed the drama that would define future tournaments. The 1930 World Cup, though small in scale, proved that football had the power to transcend borders, unite nations, and create legends.

World map highlighting the 13 countries participating in the 1930 World Cup.

Estadio Centenario was built for the 1930 World Cup and to commemorate the centenary of Uruguay's first constitution. It was declared a "Historical Monument of World Football" by FIFA in 1983.

Text from Eduardo Galeano 1995 book "**Football in Sun and Shadow**". Galeano was an Uruguayan journalist, writer and novelist, and an avid fan of football.

Guillermo Stabile, never played for Argentina before or after the 1930 WC, where he started out in the first game against France. Nonetheless, in his only 4 games for his country, he scored 8 goals and won the Golden Boot. He scored a hat trick in his debut game. Later, as a manager, he led Argentina to victory at six South American Championships.

Tournament structure: There was no qualifying tournament for the 1930 World Cup, and the 14 teams who accepted the invitation were divided into four groups, the winners of which went directly to the semi-finals (note Egypt's participation was prevented due to bad weather).

The **T-Model** was the ball provided by Uruguay. It was the game ball for the 2nd half of the final game between Uruguay and Argentina. It was made from 11 leather panels and had laces.

The **2-3-5 formation** was the most popular / used formation of the teams playing in the 1930 World Cup

The official **FIFA poster** produced for the 1930 inaugural World Cup tournament. The poster was designed by Guillermo Laborde (1886-1940), an Uruguayan painter, sculptor and draughtsman.

Torre de los homenajes (Tower of Tributes) at the Estadio Centenario in Montevideo, Uruguay. The tower stands as a landmark for the stadium and the city on top of the stadium's Olympic tribune.

The Italian ocean liner **SS Conte Verde** carried the Romanian, Yugoslavian, French, and Belgium teams on their 2-week journey from Europe to Montevideo, Uruguay. The ship stopped in Rio de Janeiro to pick up the Brazilian team.

The location and city map of **Montevideo**, the capital city of Uruguay, on the southern tip of the country on the Atlantic Ocean between Argentina and Brazil. Montevideo was the only city to host the 1930 World Cup tournament.

The Jules Rimet trophy — the World Cup trophy from 1930—1970. A 30cm tall 4 kg gold-plated sterling silver statue bearing the name of FIFA's 3rd president, and made by french sculptor Abel Lafleur in the image of the Greek goddess of victory (Nike).

Enrique Ballestrero retrospective Golden Glove winner

José Leandro Andrade ("The Black Marvel"), Uruguay, is considered one of the first great black international players, and one of the few black players in a South American side in the 1930 WC. In addition to the 1930 WC he won 2 Olympic gold medals and 3 Copa Americas.

Crest of the 1930 World Cup Champions

13 finalist countries in order of placement

John Langenus, Belgium, was the referee at the 1930 World Cup, including in the Final match, where he famously decreed that each side provide their own ball for one half of the game.

José Nasazzi ("The Great Marshall"), was the captain of the Uruguayan team that won the 1930 WC. He is regarded as one of the greatest Uruguayan players. He won the 1930 Golden Ball, 2 Olympic gold medals, and 4 Copa Americas.

Contours of the **country of Uruguay**, the host of the first ever soccer (football) World Cup in 1930.

The **Tiento** was the ball provided by Argentina. It was the game ball for the 1st half of the final game between Uruguay and Argentina. It was made from 12 leather panels and had laces.

