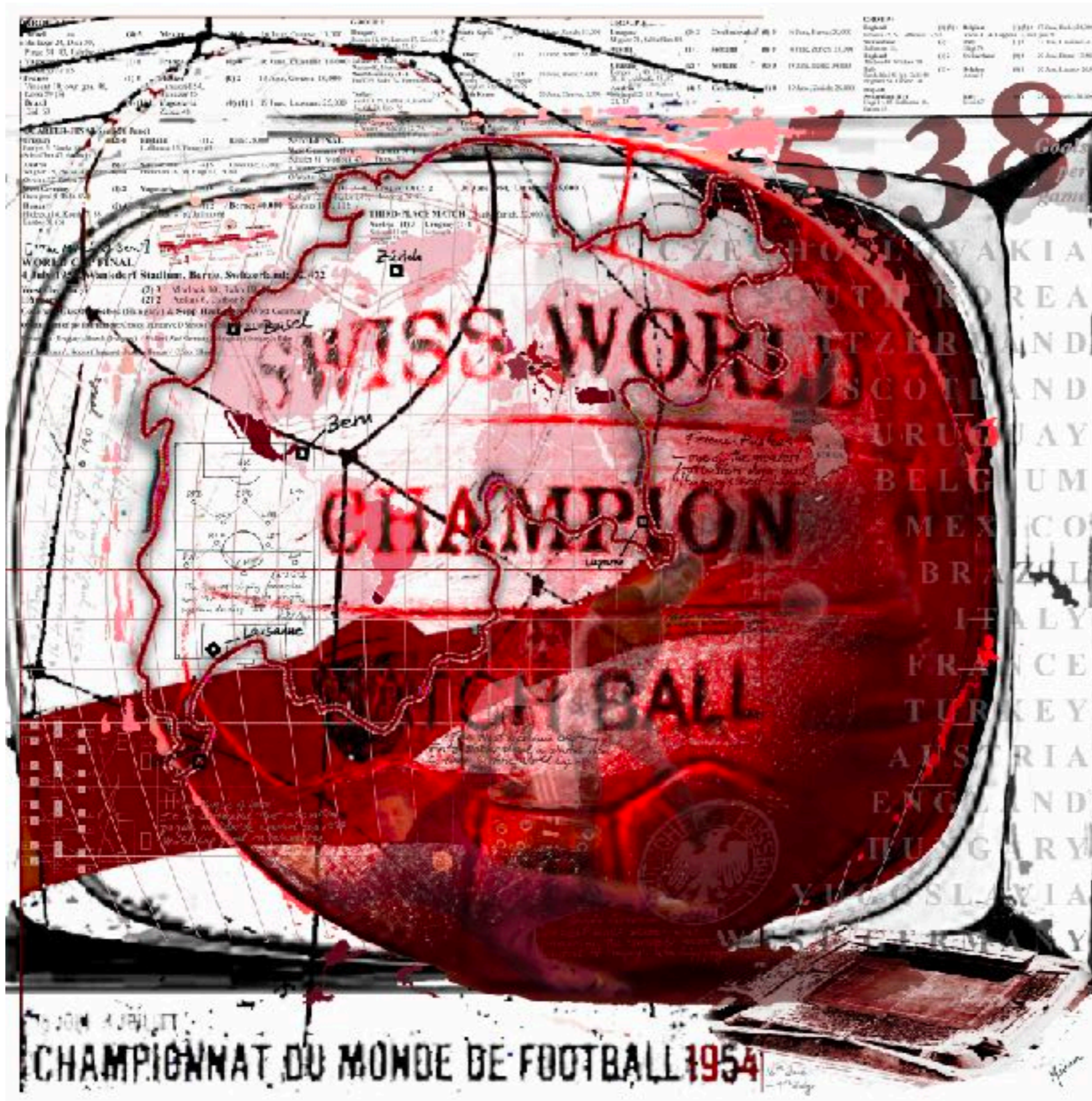


Content guide for 1954 World Cup



The **1954 FIFA World Cup** was a tournament of brilliance and heartbreak, a showcase of football's evolution and its power to inspire. Hungary's Golden Team had redefined the game with their breathtaking style, fluid movements and tactical intelligence. They entered the tournament unbeaten in four years. Yet, the match that should have crowned their greatness instead became one of sport's greatest lessons in the unpredictability of destiny. West Germany's 3-2 victory in the *Miracle of Bern* was more than just a footballing upset—it was a nation's resurrection. Still recovering from the devastation of World War II, Germany was seeking redemption on the global stage. Their triumph, led by Fritz Walter and masterminded by coach Sepp Herberger, was a symbol of resilience, proving that determination and belief can overcome even the most insurmountable odds. It was a moment that transformed German football forever, paving the way for future dominance. For Hungary, the defeat was the end of an era, a heartbreaking loss that remains one of football's greatest "what if" stories. But their influence endured, shaping the way football would be played for decades. The 1954 World Cup was a testament to football's power—to surprise, to inspire, and to change history.

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

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

Ticket for the final in Bern between West Germany and Hungary

The official **Team of the Tournament**

Dates and statistics about the 1954 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.

The **tournament structure** was unique and controversial. Teams were divided into 4 groups of 4, but instead of a full round-robin, each team played only two matches, with the 2 seeded teams playing the 2 unseeded teams. If two teams tied for second place, a playoff match determined advancement rather than goal difference. The top two teams from each group advanced to the quarterfinals, where matchups were decided by drawing one team from Group 1 vs. Group 2 and one from Group 3 vs. Group 4, resulting in group winners playing each other. This structure and seeding system led to attacking football and high-scoring games, but unbalanced group play, arbitrary quarterfinal pairings, and unnecessary playoff matches, giving some teams an easier path.

Key design elements of the official **FIFA poster** produced for the 1954 World Cup by Swiss commercial artist Herbert Leupin.

Gyula Grosics, Hungary's legendary goalkeeper and **Golden Glove** winner, played a crucial role in the 1954 World Cup. Known as the "Black Panther" for his agility and commanding presence, he was a pioneer of the sweeper-keeper role, often rushing off his line to support the defense. His innovative style influenced goalkeeping for generations.

World map highlighting the **16 finalists** countries participating in the 1954 World Cup.

The panel design of the **Swiss World Champion**, the official match ball of the 1954 World Cup. Manufactured by Kost Sport, it was a breakthrough in soccer ball design featuring yellow coloring for better visibility and 18 leather panels in a unique zigzag pattern, improving its roundness and flight stability. It's improvements helped the growing emphasis on precision and consistency in the game and in match ball technology.

With the **end of the Korean War** in 1953, the 1954 World Cup was a chance for South Korea to focus on rebuilding and international relations. South Korea's became the first Asian team to qualify for a World Cup by defeating Japan twice.

Ferenc Puskás, one of soccer's greatest players, was the leader of Hungary's legendary Golden Team. Undefeated for 4 years coming into the 1954 World Cup, Hungary dominated early, with Puskás scoring in their opening win over West Germany. However, an ankle injury sidelined him until the final where he, despite not being fully fit, scored as Hungary took a 2-0 lead. Despite limited playing time, he was retrospectively named the tournament's best player (**Golden Ball Award**), underscoring his brilliance and influence. Though Hungary fell short, Puskás' legacy as a goal-scoring genius and football icon remains unmatched.

Listing of **the 16 finalists**

Sándor Kocsis was the **Golden Boot winner** of the 1954 FIFA World Cup in Switzerland, netting an incredible 11 goals in just 5 matches. His highlights included two hat-tricks and two crucial extra-time goals in Hungary's semifinal victory over Uruguay. Kocsis's aerial dominance and clinical finishing were instrumental in making Hungary the tournament's highest-scoring team with 27 goals. His performance remains one of the most remarkable by a striker in World Cup history.

Wankdorf Stadium built in 1925 in Bern, Switzerland, was the main venue of the 1954 FIFA World Cup. It hosted the historic final between West Germany and Hungary on July 4, 1954, later named the "Miracle of Bern". The stadium, originally and expanded for the tournament, had a capacity of around 64,000 spectators.

Fritz Walter (holding **The Jules Rimet World Cup trophy**) was the inspirational captain and playmaker of West Germany orchestrating Germany's comeback to defeat Hungary in the final, securing Germany's first World Cup title. His career was interrupted by military service during WWII and POW imprisonment before returning to the national team.

Crest of the 1954 World Cup Champions (Germany)

