



Sports

by Jerry Keys

The World Cup is played out each summer after the Winter Olympics take center stage earlier in the year (since 1994, previously the Winter / Summer Olympics

were held the same year until 1992). Elsewhere in the World, the Cup is their version of America's Super Bowl, World Series, NBA and NHL Championship. To put in perspective, there



Italy hopes to repeat their 2006 Cup performance

During Cup action, each nation will rival the three other teams in their group. Points are awarded in two ways, three points for a win and one point for a draw. A loss receives, nor deducts points. In the United States' 2002 Cup display, they compiled a round one record of 1-1-1. They received four points by one draw and one win. Three win equate to nine points. Three draws...3 points. Three defeats...0 points. Two wins and one draw would earn seven points.

The schedule for the United States team in the first round will be:
 6-12: vs. England @ Rustenburg 20:30 (8:30 P.M.)
 6-18: vs. Slovenia @ Johannesburg 16:00 (4:00 P.M.)
 6-23: vs. Algeria @ Tshwane/Pretoria 16:00 (4:00 P.M.).

Nothing is set in stone after the first round. 16 teams will advance, 16 teams will go home. After the first

round, the eight group winners will be pitted against the eight runners-up. From the final 16 on, it is a "one game and advance or go home" scenario, something very similar to NCAA's March Madness tournament. In 2002, the United States reached the "Elite 8". After a team survives the first round, four wins equals a Cup championship.

Ready for the catch? The game times will be played with a seven-hour differential. For example, if a game is scheduled at 4:00 P.M. in Johannesburg, it would be aired live in Chattanooga at 9:00 A.M., Nashville at 8:00 A.M., Denver at 7:00 A.M., and Seattle at 6:00 A.M. It could be worse, the Sweet 16 match-up for the United States in '02 was aired at 2:00 A.M.

For further information, go to www.fifa.com Check back later this spring for further activities with FIFA and the 2010 World Cup team.

has been one Cup tournament since 2003.

The 2010 World Cup was mentioned in the June 2009 edition of *The People News* during the preliminary rounds. Since that publication, all 32 teams have been announced. As the host country, South Africa received an automatic bid. Five other countries from Africa will participate: Cameroon, Nigeria, Algeria, Ghana, and Cote d'Ivoire. Thirteen teams from Europe will participate, nine receiving automatic bids and four play-off bids. The nine auto's are: Denmark, Switzerland, Slovakia, Germany, Spain, England, Serbia, Italy, and the Netherlands. The four play-in teams are: Slovenia, Greece, France, and Portugal.

Four of the remaining six

divisions were able to send countries but the number of teams had "strings attached". North America was guaranteed to send three teams and South America four. The #4 NA team (Costa Rica) and #5 SA team (Uruguay) faced-off for a final position in Cup action. Uruguay prevailed and became the #5 team to advance from SA. The top four teams from SA are: Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Argentina. By Costa Rica's loss, NA sends only three teams: the United States, Mexico, and Honduras.

Asia was assured of sending four teams to Cup action. Asia was divided into two groups of five teams. The #1 and 2 seeds both advanced to the Cup. Both #3 seeds faced-off for a future match against the

Oceania champion New Zealand for the final Cup spot. The two #3 seeds from each Asian group were Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain advanced but was defeated by New Zealand. Therefore all six divisions were able to send a representative.

2010 World Cup Preview



Zakumi, 2010 World Cup Mascot

Cup play will begin June 11th and the 32 teams will be separated into eight groups of four teams. The eight groups are as follows:

Group A South Africa Mexico Uruguay France	Group B Argentina Nigeria Korean Republic (South Korea) Greece	Group C England United States Algeria Slovenia	Group D Germany Australia Serbia Ghana
Group E Netherlands Denmark Japan Cameroon	Group F Italy Paraguay New Zealand Slovakia	Group G Brazil Korea DPR (North Korea) Cote d' Ivoire Portugal	Group H Spain Switzerland Honduras Chile



Johannesburg takes center stage after a century of strife

Not a lot of money in your budget? Place your ad with The People News without making a sacrifice.
423-559-2150