

1978 : FIFA wanted to continue with alternating the World-Cup between Europe and South-America, but that proved difficult as fewer countries in South-America were equipped to host such a big arrangement. The choice of Argentina was a crisis solution. They had the capacities to be hosts, but not a good economical and political situation. The tournament itself was not of high standard as stars as Beckenbauer had retired and Cruyff did not show up. England had not qualified and Brazil was rebuilding their side. Argentina won the championship as hosts.



12th. World Cup in Spain, 1982 : The World-Cup in 82 was remarkable in many ways. It seemed like the Spanish team suffered under the pressure of playing on home ground. The two teams, who ended up in the final, were the teams who suffered the hardest critics in the early rounds. In this World-Cup the discipline prevailed and Italy and West-Germany met in the final. Italy won the final 3-1, while the rest of the world cried for France and Brazil.



13th. World Cup in Mexico, 1986 : Diego Armando Maradona is the name everybody remembers after Mexico 86. He stunned the world, after he almost on his own won the championships for Argentina. They beat Federal Republic of Germany 3-2 in the final, and never before had one player had such influence in a victory. He scored five incredible goals and had a lot of support.



14th. World Cup in Italy, 1990 : It was 56 years since Italy last hosted the World-Cup. Italy, therefore it was the natural favorite. Argentina, East-Germany and Brazil were also hungry for a gold medal. Italy's dream ended when Maradona sent them out in the semi finals. Argentina met West-Germany and lost 1-0.



15th. World Cup in USA, 1994 : In many ways the World-Cup in USA represented something new: For the first time it was hosted in another place than Europe and South-America and also in a country where the interest was smaller. Norway qualified for the first time in modern time. Brazil and Italy conflicted together in the final. Italy, led by Roberto Baggio struggled through after beating Bulgaria in the semi finals. Brazil, led by striker Romario and Bebeto sent Sweden out in the semi. For the first time the final ended 0-0, and a penalty shootout had to decide a winner. Brazil won for the fourth time with Baggio missing one of them.



16th. World Cup in France, 1998 : France is one of football world powers even though their national league is rather poor. FIFA was created in an alley in Paris in 1904, UEFA was created by Frenchmen. For that France was chosen as World-Cup hosts. This World-Cup was the big breakthrough for the French playmaker Zinedine Zidane. Norway shocked the world by beating Brazil in the first round. Even though Brazil passed through and made it to the final. They faced a strong French side and lost 3-0 after two goals by Zidane.



17th. World Cup in Japan and South Korea, 2002 : For the very first time the World-Cup went to Asia. And for the very first time it was



split between two nations, Co-hosted Japan and South-Korea. Argentina was the big favorite, followed by the title holder France, and as always Brazil. This tournament turned up to be a big failure to the big teams. France was defeated by Senegal by a solitary goal in the opening match. Both France and Argentina failed to qualify through the first rounds. An incredible comeback of Ronaldo helped Brazil and in the final they faced Germany and won 2-0 after two goals by Ronaldo.

18th. World Cup in Germany, 2006 :



The FIFA World Cup was last held in Germany in 1974. Italy won the tournament on penalties against 10-man France - who had Zinedine Zidane sent off for a head butt in extra-time. The Italians won for a record of fourth time in their history - one fewer than Brazil, and it was the first time they managed to win a World Cup match on penalties after three failed attempts.

19th World Cup 2010 South Africa, 2010:



The 19th FIFA World Cup is taking place between 11 June and 11 July 2010 in South Africa. It was awarded the rights to host the tournament, defeating Morocco and Egypt by FIFA president on 15 May 2004 in Zurich. This is the first time that the tournament has been hosted by an African nation. Being the host nation, South Africa qualified automatically for the tournament. The official mascot for the 2010 FIFA World Cup is an anthropomorphized leopard with green hair, name Zakumi., born in 16 June 1994,. His name comes from "ZA", the international abbreviation for South Africa, and "kumi", a word that means "ten" in various African languages. The mascot's colors reflect those of the host nation's playing strip - yellow and green.

The Zakumi's official motto is "Fair Play". The total prize for this tournament was announced by FIFA as \$420 million, an addition of 60% as compared to the last tournament. Each of the participating team would receive \$1 million as preparation costs before the tournament. Once at the tournament, teams exiting at the group stage would receive \$8 million. Subsequently, \$9 million - Round of 16, \$18 million - Quarter-finals, \$20 million - Semi-finals, 24 million - Runners up and the Winner gets \$30 million.

20th. World Cup in Brazil, 2014 :

Brazil Will Host FIFA 2014 World Cup: The 2014 FIFA World Cup will

take place in eleven cities around Brazil, including Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Salvador, Manaus, Curitiba and Porto Alegre. This nation has since won no less than five FIFA World Cups. Rio de Janeiro is literally translated to mean 'January River,' which dates back to 1502 when Portuguese explorers mistook, a bay for the mouth of a river. This 2014 World Cup venue has long since been an extremely popular tourist destination, renowned for being a cultural centre and home to the world famous Rio Carnival. In less than 6 years, the greatest football spectacle of them all will be heading to the country that introduced the notion of the beautiful game. For the first time in 64 years, football's biggest event will grace Brazil's shores and a feast of football is sure to be served up in front of passionate crowds. True, there is the small matter of the World Cup in South Africa in 2010 to contend with first, but football fans across Brazil and indeed the world are rubbing their hands in anticipation of the 2014 Brazil World Cup.



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