

The Miracle of Bern



1) Discussion

- a) What has been your favourite World Cup final?
 - b) Has your favourite team been in any finals recently?
 - c) Have you watched any finals from the 60s or 70s?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) To Reel (verb) | a) Strong, sturdy, or vigorous; able to withstand harsh conditions or vigorous activity. |
| 2) To Steamroll (verb) | b) To make someone feel confident or happier about a situation. |
| 3) To Embody (verb) | c) To represent or personify a particular quality or idea; to be a tangible expression of something. |
| 4) Robust (adjective) | d) A critical turning point or event that marks a significant change or development. |
| 5) To Buoy (verb) | e) To feel shocked or angry about a situation. |
| 6) Watershed (adjective) | f) To completely dominate or crush with force. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

To Reel

To Steamroll

To Embody

Robust

To Buoy

Watershed

- 1) Pep Guardiola's appointment as FC Barcelona coach was a _____ moment in the history of world football. (watershed)
- 2) Inter Milan _____ their opponents in the first 20 minutes and were 4-0 up at halftime. (steamrolled)
- 3) The players seemed _____ by the manager's halftime speech. (buoyed)
- 4) The team's _____ defence stopped the opponent's relentless attacks, securing a crucial point in the match. (Robust)
- 5) _____ from their defeat the previous week, the team bounced back with a win. (Reeling)
- 6) Liverpool's performances _____ the intensity of Klopp during his time there. (embodied)



3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

- a) What was the final score in the 1954 World Cup final?
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TOR, TOR, TOR!

The 1954 World Cup final, famously dubbed the "Miracle of Bern," was a monumental clash that encapsulated the tensions, drama, and sheer determination of post-war Europe. Set against the backdrop of a continent still reeling from the scars of World War II, the final between Hungary and West Germany was much more than a football match – it was a symbolic showdown between two nations striving for redemption and glory.

In one corner stood Hungary, boasting a formidable team dubbed the "Magical Magyars." Led by legendary players such as Ferenc Puskás and Sándor Kocsis, Hungary had dominated the tournament, steamrolling past opponents with their fluid attacking style. They were the overwhelming favourites heading into the final, expected to cement their status as footballing giants.

On the other side was West Germany, a nation struggling to rebuild amidst the ruins of war. Football provided a glimmer of hope and unity for the German people, and the national team, spearheaded by captain Fritz Walter, embodied their resilience and resolve.

The final itself was a fiercely contested affair, filled with robust challenges and heated exchanges. Hungary surged ahead early, with Puskás opening the scoring within the first six minutes. The Magyars continued to press, and by halftime, they held a commanding 2-0 lead, seemingly on course for victory.

However, West Germany refused to concede defeat. Buoyed by their captain's inspirational leadership, they staged a remarkable comeback in the second half. Goals from Max Morlock and Helmut Rahn levelled the scores, setting the stage for a dramatic finale.



In the dying minutes of the match, Rahn unleashed a thunderous strike that found the back of the net, clinching a stunning 3-2 victory for West Germany. The triumph was a watershed moment for German football, marking their first-ever World Cup title and igniting a newfound sense of national pride and identity.

The legacy of the "Battle of Berne" endures to this day, serving as a testament to the transformative power of sport in overcoming adversity. It remains one of the most iconic matches in World Cup history, reminding us of the enduring spirit of competition and the unifying force of the beautiful game.

4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts on the 1954 World Cup final?
- b) Can you think of any comebacks in finals?
- c) The Hungarian team was extremely good, can you think of any other amazing teams to never win a World Cup?
- d) Do you think Germany have a chance to win the next World Cup?

