

Mexico: The Underachievers



1) Discussion

- a) Does your country do well at World Cups? What is the result?
 - b) What do you know about Mexican football? Who are your favourite players?
 - c) Does your country have a lot of good young players?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) Undiscovered (adjective) | a) A belief or condition causing harm, misfortune, or trouble. |
| 2) Underachiever (noun) | b) To make a choice or reach a conclusion after considering different options or possibilities. |
| 3) To decide (verb) | c) Having or showing intelligence, quick-wittedness, or good judgment. |
| 4) Curse (noun) | d) In football - searching for new or young players. |
| 5) Struggle (noun) | e) Not yet found or known about. |
| 6) Smart (adjective) | f) To have difficulty or face challenges in achieving something. |
| 7) Scouting (noun) | g) People or things that do not perform as well as expected or as well as they could. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

Undiscovered

Underachievers

To decide

Curse

Struggle

Smart

Scouting

- 1) Some footballers have _____ to move to a different country because of the language and the culture.
- 2) Diego Simeone is famous for making _____ decisions.
- 3) Many talented players stay _____ and never make it to a professional level.
- 4) They had a really good team but were called _____ because they didn't win any trophies.
- 5) England's "penalty shootout _____" ended in 2018 when they beat Colombia.
- 6) _____ is very important in modern football and a lot of teams look for players all over the world.
- 7) In 2022, Erling Haaland _____ to join Manchester City from Borussia Dortmund.



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

- a) What are the ideas that can help Mexico be more successful?

Mexico: The Underachievers

Mexico loves football a lot. It's a big part of the country's culture and history. It is the 6th most watched league in the world, with fans going to stadiums every weekend to watch their favourite teams. But even with so much love for the game, Mexico isn't always successful in international football.

A big reason for this problem is that Mexico doesn't do well in finding and helping young talent grow. There are many talented players, but they don't always get the chance to develop because there isn't enough support for them. A lot of amazing players go undiscovered and never make it to the professional level.

Another issue is deciding whether Mexico should play in CONCACAF (The North American Football Association) or CONMEBOL (The South American Football Association) tournaments. CONCACAF is easier to qualify for, with very little competition in North America. However, if they move to CONMEBOL they will have tougher competition, which could help Mexico improve.

One big problem is the "5th game curse" in the FIFA World Cup. Mexico have failed to advance past the round of 16 (4th game) in every World Cup since 1986. Mexico usually gets to the tournament but struggles to go past the Round of 16. Some say this is because they always play a strong team in the 4th game, however some people say it is a psychological problem.

To fix these problems, Mexico needs to change how it supports football. This means helping young players grow, improving the scouting system, and making smart choices about which tournaments to play in. Only then can Mexico reach its full potential in football and do better on the international stage.



4) Discussion

- a) What do you think of Mexican football?
- b) Do you think they should join CONMEBOL?
- c) Do you think they will go past the Round of 16 in the next World Cup?
- d) How can Mexico improve their scouting of young players?

