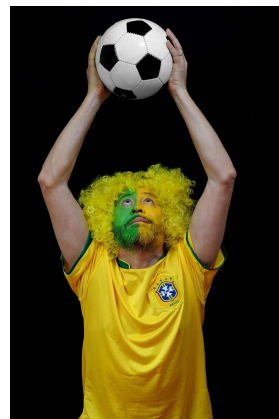


The Greatest Never to Win it



1) Discussion

- a) Who are your favourite international teams?
 - b) Has your country ever been to or won a World Cup?
 - c) What has been your country's best ever team?
-

2) Vocabulary

a) Match the verbs to the definition.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) To wow | a) To make up for a mistake. |
| 2) To pick up | b) To get or acquire something. |
| 3) To consider | c) To damage the appearance or quality of something. |
| 4) To Mar | d) To think about something carefully. |
| 5) To eliminate | e) To completely remove or get rid of something, or to defeat or remove someone from a competition or process. |
| 6) To redeem | f) To greatly impress or astonish someone. |



b) Complete the sentences with the verbs from exercise 2a.

To Wow

To Pick up

To Consider

To Mar

To Eliminate

To Redeem

- 1) Unfortunately, an injury _____ James Rodriguez at the 2018 World Cup.
- 2) The Man City's performance vs Real Madrid in the 2023 Champions League _____ the fans.
- 3) The team hoped to _____ themselves after a disappointing result by beating their rivals the next week.
- 4) It's important for young players to _____ good habits early in their careers, such as proper training and discipline.
- 5) Before the final, the Coach had to carefully _____ the strengths and weaknesses of her opponents choosing the starting 11.
- 6) With a goal in the final minutes, Porto _____ Manchester United in the 2004 Champions League.



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

a) What teams does the article mention?

The Best Never to Win it

In the FIFA World Cup's long history, some teams stand out despite not winning the tournament. These teams captured fans' hearts with their amazing skills and style of play. Let's look at a few of the best teams that didn't lift the World Cup trophy.

Led by Johan Cruyff and managed by Rinus Michels, the Netherlands team of 1974 played a style called Total Football. They wowed fans with their fluid, attacking play, picking up admiration and love by fans all over the world. However, they lost in the final to West Germany, leaving fans wondering what could have been.

Considered one of the greatest teams ever, Brazil's 1982 squad played with flair and skill. Players like Zico and Socrates amazed audiences worldwide. Despite their brilliance, they lost in the quarter-finals to Italy in a heartbreaking match.

With stars like Ronaldo and Rivaldo, Cafu, Romario...the list goes on. Brazil's 1998 team were favourites to win the tournament. They reached the final but suffered a surprising defeat to hosts France in the final, a game marred by an incident before the match when Ronaldo had a seizure.

In 2006, Argentina had a talented squad, including Lionel Messi, Hernan Crespo, a young Carlos Tevez and the maestro Juan Riquelme.. They played well but were eliminated in the quarter-finals by Germany. Despite their early exit, they left a mark on the tournament, scoring one of the greatest team goals ever seen against Serbia and Montenegro (well worth a YouTube).

France's 1982 team, featuring Michel Platini, played exciting football. They faced West Germany in a thrilling semi-final that ended 3-3. but eventually lost on penalties. It was a heartbreaking moment for France. However the team redeemed itself by winning the 1984 Euros.

Although these teams didn't win the World Cup, they left lasting memories with their style and skill. They showed that football is about more than just winning trophies.



4) Discussion

- a) Why do you think these teams didn't win
- b) Which of these teams *should* have won the World Cup in your opinion?
- c) Can you think of any other amazing teams that didn't win big trophies, internationally or domestically?

