

M is for

Maguire, Harry – The Manchester United and England defender sums up what it is like to be a footballer in the Premier League as, in the media, he alternates between being a world class leader and completely useless. In reality, he is a perfectly competent English-style central defender, who is also good at scoring with his head at set pieces. Affectionately known as “slab head” Harry is a grandmaster at chess, sorry cheese.



Majid – Majid are the exclusive manufacturers of the Iran team kit. Whether we will get to see any majid shirts at the 2026 World Cup is still an open question. And don't be surprised if President Trump puts a 200% tariff on them.....



Malen, Donyell – There may be some delusional Dutch fans out there thinking, as ever, that Holland has a chance at this World Cup. One player who might give them with this delusion dream is Donyell Malen. After an underwhelming time at Aston Villa the ex-PSV and Dortmund man is playing out of his skin for Roma and even has a chance of being the Capocannoniere (Serie A's top scorer) despite being in the league for less than four months! With Holland otherwise relying on goals from Cody Gakpo and Wout ‘the carthorse’ Weghorst an in-form Malen may prove important.

Man-to-man marking – term used to describe defensive marking at corners where each player of the defending team would select an opposing player and tightly mark them.

Man-to-man marking has fallen out of favour with modern coaches, who prefer ‘zonal marking’ (see under “Z”).

Mandelson, “Lord” Peter – We can reveal here that Peter Mandelson (known as ‘Mandy’ to his friends on Epstein Island) is planning to run for the presidency of FIFA. He has many attributes that make him the perfect candidate:

- Comfortable in the company of despots and sleazebags
- Knows nothing about football, so probably thinks women's football is equal to men's football
- Happy to say “today I am feeling gay” in public
- Is more popular than Gianni Infantino
- Likes money a lot

And he's not Swiss, which is a bonus.

Mané, Sadio – undoubtedly the star player for Senegal is striker Sadio Mané.

Mané was originally a protégé of coach Ralf Rangnick when he was at Red Bull Salzburg, though his first European club was Metz. From Salzburg he moved to Southampton and then bigger things at Liverpool and Bayern München. He is now playing his club football for Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia.



Mané is the record goalscorer for Senegal (56 goals) and is second in number of caps (126). He became famous during the notorious African Nations Cup Final in January by being the only Senegal player who did not participate in the team's walk off protest!

Maradona, Diego – Diego Maradona was undoubtedly the greatest player of his generation, even though he was as mad as a box of cocaine-addled frogs. In club football he broke the world transfer record twice and he led unfashionable Napoli to their only ever league title (twice).

But it is for his performances helping Argentina to win the 1986 World Cup that he will be largely remembered. In particular, in the quarter-final match v England he scored both what has been rated the all-time best World Cup goal as well as one of the most controversial goals

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when he punched the ball into the net (the so-called “Hand of God”). (*ed: not to condone cheating, but it was a brilliant reaction by him*).

[Diego Maradona Goal of the Century](#)

Sadly, he is also remembered for being kicked out of the 1994 World Cup for failing a drugs test, as well as his part in a bad tempered 1990 Final when Argentina lost to Germany.

What made Maradona so special was that he was short – only 1m 55cm – and stocky, but this gave him a low centre of gravity to weave through defences, and a core strength to ride challenges. Today, with referees more protective of strikers, it is frightening to think that Maradona would have been even more successful – though VAR would (possibly!) have disallowed his handball goals!!!

Marathon – An Ecuadorian company who are the manufacturers of Ecuador’s kit (It is also the real name for Snickers bars).



Marsch, Jesse – the coach of Canada is a native of America. He spent his playing career in the US MLS, chiefly with Chicago Fire (*ed: is that not a disease?*). His first job in football management was at the even more improbably named Montreal Impact (*ed: that’s a make of car*) before he joined the Red Bull family, first at Red Bull New York then moving to Red Bull Salzburg and then Red Bull Leipzig (sorry, RB Leipzig for all the German football purists). However, he became tired of drinking all that Red Bull and longed for a caffeine-free lifestyle, so he was lured to the Premier League by the bright lights of, er, Leeds. That went so well that Leeds were relegated and he was sacked. Hence the reason he applied for the Canada job in 2024.



From his time at Leeds he will probably have learned that in Northern England and Scotland the term ‘a big Jesse’ is not a complimentary one (*ed: you’ll be upsetting our LGBTPQRS++ readers.....*)

Record as coach of Canada: W11 D10 L5

Martínez, Roberto – Martinez is the Spanish-born manager of Portugal. Considered by many to be “the Brian Ferry of football” for his suave reputation and equal lack of talent, as a player he spent most of his career at teams in the lower divisions in England (Wigan Athletic, Swansea City). His managerial career progressed similarly – Swansea, Wigan, Everton.



Despite an undistinguished record the smooth-talking Martinez then got the job of managing Belgium. In six seasons with the “golden generation” Belgium were ranked no 1 in the world by FIFA for four years yet, under Martinez, the best they achieved was 3rd place at the 2018 World Cup (thus making Belgium the only country to have been ranked no 1 yet never to have won anything).

However,, rather than being kicked out on his arse, after Qatar 2022 Martinez got another plum job with another “golden generation” of players at Portugal. Needless to say Portugal did not get close to winning EURO2024.

It thus remains to be seen if his Teflon image remains when Portugal get knocked out of the World Cup by Uzbekistan and CR7 has the inevitable meltdown and blames Martinez. A job at West Ham or Crystal Palace beckons.....

Record as coach of Portugal: W25 D6 L5

Mattheus, Lothar – Legendary German player whose longevity saw him change from midfielder to libero and holds the record for playing in the most World Cup games - 25 over 5 tournaments. In 1990 he was both Captain of the World Cup winners and the winner himself of the Ballon d’Or.



Unfortunately, even by German standards he is not well loved due to his outspokenness. Not quite so reliable off the pitch Mattheus has been married five times (*ed: Lothar the lothario!*). Ladies: he is currently single so beware.....

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Mbappé, Kylian – Though CR7 would probably disagree, Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappé is currently the world's best footballer, noted for his blistering pace. At this World Cup he will be aiming to break Miroslav Klose's record of most goals (16) at World Cups – currently he stands on 12 goals (four in 2018 and eight in 2022) – although France is in “the Group of Death” which may put a dampener on that wish.



A product of the Paris banlieue his father hails from Cameroon and his mother Algeria. Dad is credited with developing the young Mbappe as he is a successful football coach. When he moved from Monaco to Paris St Germain in 2018 the transfer fee was an eye-watering €180 million. No wonder Madrid were happy when they got him on a free transfer!!

Kylian did not win the World Cup last time out, but it wasn't for lack of trying. He scored a hat-trick in the 2022 final yet still ended up on the losing side courtesy of his teammates missing in the penalty shootout – he, naturally, scored his penalty.

Mbappé's salary at Real Madrid is “only” €15 million per year, but he also received a “signing on fee” of €150 million which is spread over his five-year contract (*ed: so it is not a signing-on fee then, is it?!*). He also makes a lot of money from advertising endorsements - €14 million per year from Nike alone. And, as if he is still short of money, Mbappé last year won €60 million in a court case with former club PSG over unpaid bonuses.

McTominay, Scott – One of the most amazing stories in football has been the ascent of Scotland's Scott McTominay. A Manchester United player from the age of 6 (!) he was, for seven seasons, an average squad player who would work hard in midfield but was hardly a match winner. In 2024 he made the surprise move to Napoli where has become a game-changing box-to-box midfielder. Not only did he help them win the league (scoring 12 goals in the process) but he was voted the Serie A MVP!! A true conversion from carthorse to thoroughbred! Scotland will be expecting more of the same from him at the World Cup.....



Scott meets a fan in Rome

McCracken, Bill – William ‘Bill’ McCracken deserves his 15 minutes of fame. A footballer from Northern Ireland who played professionally from 1904 to 1924 McCracken is one of just a few players whose actions have brought changes to the Laws of the Game: as a right full back at Newcastle United he masterminded the technique of making opposition forwards ruled “offside” when the rules at the time stated that three defenders must be between the attacking player and the goal line.

So successful was McCracken's defensive ploy that the Offside Law was changed to “two defenders” between the foremost attacker and the goal line”. Who'd have thought that it was an Irishman and not an Italian who pioneered the tactic of ‘the offside trap’?!

Memorabilia – it's amazing how much people will pay for relatively mundane things because they have been ‘touched by greatness’. It's comparable to the vast amounts of money spent on religious artifacts in the Middle Ages.

Top amongst the expensive footballing memorabilia is Diego Maradona's shirt from the 1986 World Cup Quarter Final (the “Hand of God” game). In 2022 it sold for an unbelievable \$9.3 million. Not far behind was Lionel Messi's shirt from the 2022 Final. Someone paid \$7.8 million for that! In contrast the shirt Pele wore at the 1970 Final was sold for under \$200 000.

Men against boys – This seemingly innocuous term, to describe when one team is far superior to the other (as if an adult team were playing schoolkids), suddenly became unacceptable when the “wokerati” determined that it is sexist.

A similar outlawed term the verb “to man up”, once used to describe when a team needed to show more fight. (*ed: It's political correctness gone mad: the next thing you know they'll be having female football commentators*). Perhaps ‘Men against boys’ should be replaced by “Men against women” to denote the huge gulf between men's and women's football.....

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Messi, Lionel – Leo the dwarf is probably the greatest player of all time, especially if one measures greatness by the number of replica shirts bearing his name. Even today one can hardly pass through an airport without seeing a 10-year old kid wearing a ‘Messi’ football shirt.

Now in semi-retirement i.e. playing for Inter Miami in the MLS there is a constant rumour that he will finish his footballing career by returning to Argentina and playing for Newells Old Boys – the team of his hometown of Rosario. A wonderful return to his roots – except that he never played for Newells Old Boys as a professional, having left them at age 13 to go to Barcelona where they fed the dwarf-like boy growth hormones and the rest is history.....



When Lionel Messi hoisted the World Cup trophy aloft in Qatar, it felt like the perfect ending to a glittering career – the final triumph that had agonisingly eluded him for so long. But he has stuck around for another tournament, much to the delight of the American hosts. And, just like his nemesis CR7, Leo has been pictured hanging around with President Trump. Well, he has his shareholding in Inter Miami to protect.....

Messi v Ronaldo – the eternal debate amongst the Millennials and Gen Z as they play football on their game consoles is: who was the better player - Messi or Ronaldo? Here are the statistics to help you choose:

- Ballon d’Or wins: **Messi** 8 Ronaldo 5
- Golden Boot wins (for top scorer in European leagues): **Messi** 6 Ronaldo 4
- FIFA ‘World’s Best Player’ wins: **Messi** 8 Ronaldo 5
- International caps: Messi 198 **Ronaldo** 226
- International goals: Messi 116 **Ronaldo** 143
- Club appearances: Messi 984 **Ronaldo** 1094
- Club Goals: Messi 800 **Ronaldo** 827
- League titles won: **Messi** 12 Ronaldo 7
- Champions League trophies won: Messi 4 **Ronaldo** 5
- Tax fraud cases: **Messi** 1 **Ronaldo** 1
- Number of cars owned: Messi 15 **Ronaldo** 42
- Number of tattoos (cm²): **Messi** 60 (=1/3rd of his body surface area), Ronaldo 0
- Charm and modesty: **Messi** 9/10 Ronaldo 0/10

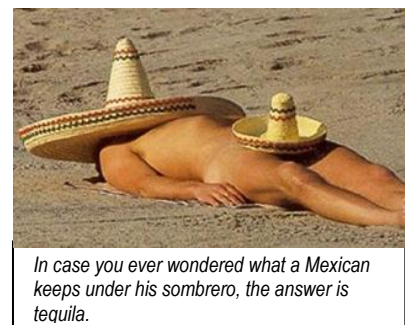


Metatarsals – Metatarsals are the bones at the “top” of the toes. They were first discovered by medical science in 2002 – or, to be more precise, the word was never used in the press until 2002. Prior to that date the term “foot injury” was sufficient for football fans.

England were robbed of not one, but two World Cups thanks to metatarsals. At least that is if you believe the English press. Just before the 2002 World Cup David Beckham suffered a broken metatarsal (caused by a foreigner in a Champions League game). He thus went into the tournament only partially fit – and that is why England lost.

Amazingly, the same thing happened in 2006 when Wayne Rooney broke a metatarsal before the World Cup – and that robbed England of another World Cup trophy.

Mexico - Not only has Mexico been in 17 previous World Cup finals – making them joint 4th in most appearances – but this will be the third time they have hosted the World Cup. This may be a good omen as the furthest they have ever gone in the finals – the Quarter Finals – was the two previous occasions they were hosts! Indeed, Mexico is one of those teams who appears at most World Cups yet never make any impact whatsoever. Be honest, you’ll only watch a game with Mexico at this World Cup if you are a fan of the opposition.... Even their nickname “El tricolor” is rubbish.



In case you ever wondered what a Mexican keeps under his sombrero, the answer is tequila.

Just to add a frisson of excitement in a “club v country” spat manager Javier Aguirre has threatened not to select any player who misses a pre-tournament training camp, despite this taking place before the end of the Mexican Liga MX season.

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The only saving grace for Mexico is that they are definitely better than their co-hosts, and their fans are genuine football aficionados (even if they did invent the bloody stupid “Mexican Wave”).

World Cup record: P1 60 W17 D15 L28
Current FIFA World Ranking: 15th
Star player: Santiago Giménez (AC Milan)

Mexican Wave 1. Hard to put into words, but you all know what a Mexican Wave looks like. Wikipedia defines it as being “*a type of metachronal rhythm achieved in a packed stadium or other large seated venue, when successive groups of spectators briefly stand and raise their arms. Immediately upon stretching to full height, the spectator returns to the usual seated position*”. Yawn.

Whether you think a Mexican Wave is great fun or extremely annoying probably depends on whether you are attending the game with free tickets or whether you’ve spent months of planning to be there and don’t want to miss any of the action because of the wally in the seat in front of you keeps throwing their arms into the air every thirty seconds. But you can guarantee that tv commentators (a group of persons who have not paid for their ticket) will ecstatically describe every Mexican Wave they see.

As with most stupid crazes the Mexican Wave actually originated in the USA in the 1980s but became a worldwide thing when it was done at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico (hence the name). An attempt to start a Mexican Wave in Westminster Abbey during the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II proved highly controversial and unsuccessful.

Mexican Wave 2. What illegal migrants do in the USA when ICE arrives outside their house/place of work.

Mexico City Stadium – the Estadio Banorte in Mexico City will host five games in this World Cup. It is better known by football fans as the Azteca Stadium, as it has already hosted 19 World Cup games (including two finals) at the 1970 and 1986 World Cups. The 1970 final was the legendary Brazil 4 Italy 1 match and 1986 saw Argentina beat West Germany 3-2. That day the crowd was 114 600. Today the capacity is only 83 000, but will still be the second-largest venue at this World Cup.



The temperature during matches at the Azteca should not rise above 20°C due to its high altitude (2240m above sea level) but as it will be the rainy season, it could be wet and humid. So bring an umbrella.....

The ground is also permanently soaked with English tears, since it is here that Diego Maradona cheated against England. Boo.

Milla, Roger – It is fair to say that Roger Milla was probably the first African player to catch the eye at a World Cup (*ed: what about Eusebio for Portugal in 1966?*). He played as a striker for Cameroon at the 1990 and 1994 World Cup finals. Not only was he a good player, but what made his performance even more impressive was that, by 1994, he was 42 years old! He thus holds the records for being both the oldest outfield player at a World Cup and also the oldest goalscorer. And his goal celebration – a dance at the corner flag – became famous. The fact that we even heard of him was only thanks to the president of Cameroon who begged Milla to come out of retirement to join *Les Lions Indomitable’s* 1990 World Cup campaign in Italy.



He subsequently went on to have a major hit record with ‘*King of the Road*’ (*ed: I think’s that’s Roger Miller.....*)

Miami – six meaningful World Cup games, plus the 3rd place game, will be played in Miami. The venue is the Hard Rock Stadium, home to the Miami Dolphins of the NFL.



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With its 65 000 capacity the stadium is open-air, which is fine for American football games in the mild Florida autumn/winter but in the 30°C heat and high humidity of July is an awful place to run around. Expect several Scottish players to die of heat exhaustion during their match v Brazil. Less Hard Rock and more Hard Luck.....

Micallef, Glenn – Glenn who? Surely you all know Mr Micallef? For he is the EU Commissioner responsible for Sport. He comes from that sporting powerhouse that is Malta.



In Glenn's defence sport is only part of his portfolio. His official title is Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport and Malta are world leaders not only in culture but in being fair to both intergenerations and youths.

Sadly, we were unable to find a picture of Mr M in a football shirt (or indeed participating in any form of sport) – I suspect he was the weedy kid who was always chosen last when the football teams were picked – but we did get this picture of him doing something vaguely cultural...

Migné, Sébastien – The next time you hear a football manager complaining how horribly he is treated in the press spare a thought for Sébastien Migné. A Frenchman, he is the manager of Haiti – a job he took up in 2024. Previously he has managed Congo, Kenya and Equatorial Guinea.



Due to the danger of kidnapping (or worse) he has yet to actually set foot in Haiti. If anyone deserves a Peace Prize from FIFA it is him – and to lead minnows like Haiti to World Cup qualification whilst playing all your games away from home is a remarkable feat. Regardless of what happens I think we can assume that few managers will enjoy being at the World Cup more than Sebby.

Record as coach of Haiti: W6 D3 L4

Milutinović, Bora – Bora Milutinovic has a place in the World Cup Hall of Fame for having managed teams at no fewer than five World Cups. Even more remarkably, he did it with five different countries!!

A native of Yugoslavia/Serbia (take your pick) he attended five consecutive World Cups between 1986 and 2002 with (in chronological order) Mexico, Costa Rica, USA, Nigeria and China.

He also holds the record for having managed the greatest number of international matches – a whopping 273 over a 26 year period! – with a total of eight countries (the five listed above plus Honduras, Jamaica and Iraq).

Miracles - World Cups have witnessed not one but two miracles: there has been the Miracle of Bern and the Miracle of Cordoba. However, the Vatican has yet to canonise Sepp Herberger or Helmut Senekowitsch.

Both miracles were matches that finished 3-2 to the underdogs. The Miracle of Bern was, in fact, the Final of the 1954 World Cup when West Germany took on the invincible Hungarian team. Given that Hungary had already beaten the Germans 8-3 in a qualifying round they were the hot favorites. But, to everybody's surprise, the Germans won the game (and thus the World Cup) 3-2. The unexpected win evoked a wave of euphoria throughout post-war Germany, with some historians considering it a turning point in the country's recovery. This was also the first time since World War 2 that the German national anthem was played at a global sporting event

The Miracle of Cordoba also involved West Germany and describes their game v Austria at the 1978 World Cup. This time Austria caused the shock by coming from behind to win 3-2 – and thus beating Germany for the first time in 47 years. The game is sometimes remembered by the losing Germans as "Die Schmach von Córdoba", or "The Disgrace of Cordoba". Strange that German fans are happy to accept that Bern was a miracle, but Cordoba was not.....

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Misconduct – Those of us who are not sad enough to be referees are probably unaware that, in the laws of football, there is a difference between a foul and misconduct.

A **foul** is an unfair act by a player, deemed by the referee to contravene the game's laws, that interferes with the active play of the game. **Misconduct** is any conduct by a player that is deemed by the referee to warrant a disciplinary sanction (caution or dismissal). Misconduct may include acts which are also fouls. Unlike fouls, misconduct may occur at any time, including when the ball is out of play, during half-time and before and after the game, and both players and substitutes may be sanctioned for misconduct.

Translating all of that into English, any time you are shown the yellow or red card it is misconduct, otherwise it is a foul. (And just to confuse things further, offside is neither a foul nor misconduct!!). And that is why/how a player can be booked for something they say/do when they are not even on the pitch – after all, you cannot commit a foul in the player's tunnel.....

(This also explains why the BBC Sports website match reports always record a player's yellow/red card as being for misconduct, not a foul.....)

Modric, Luka – mop-headed midfielder Luka Modric is living proof that you do not have to be physically big in order to be a successful footballer. Weighs about 50kg and resembles a Yorkshire terrier, yet his dexterity (plus big teammates) has ensured that he has never had a good kicking from thuggish opponents. After leading Croatia to the 2018 World Cup final Modric won the 'Ballon d'Or' – ending 10 years of victories by Messrs Messi and Ronaldo.



Despite now being 40 years of age Luka is still playing top level football for AC Milan, and will be hoping to become only the fourth player to achieve 200 international caps during the World Cup (he currently has 196)

Perhaps because of his diminutive physique Modric is a quiet person, reflected in his hobby of breeding salamanders.

Montella, Vincenzo – Vinny is the Italian manager of Turkey. A prolific goalscorer throughout his playing career in Italy, particularly at Roma, (though not in his brief spell at Fulham) Montella's nickname during his playing career was "Aeroplanino", in reference to his small stature and trademark goal celebration, in which he spread his arms like wings.



He was a surprise choice to replace Stefan Kuntz at the manager of Turkey in September 2023 as Morella had just ended an unspectacular two-year stint in charge of Turkish club Adana Demirspor. Yet, he has survived three years in the hot seat (*ed: surely you mean Turkish Bath?*)

Record as boss of Turkey: Pl 31 W18 D5 L8

Monterrey – The Mexican city of Monterrey will be hosting 4 World Cup matches at the Estadio BBVA. As it was built in 2015 it did not host matches at previous World Cups in Mexico. With a capacity of 53 500 this is a ground where heat may play a part as it will be in the 30°s on match days.

The stadium is notable for its view of nearby Cerro de la Silla Mountain, so expect many shots of it when South Africa vs South Korea turns out to be a boring game.....



Montezuma's Revenge – the official medical term for food poisoning inflicted on tourists by Mexico as their revenge for the actions of Hernan Cortez 600 years ago.

Mexican food is rubbish (even by English standards). Proof of this is their creation of tequila – a spirit that equals ouzo and raki in its awfulness - to liven the taste/deaden the pain of Mexican cuisine. All the food looks as if it has been regurgitated by a cat and is identical, no matter what you order: all that changes is the shape of the wrap that it is put in.

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Morata, Alvaro –battling with Romelu Lukaku and Kai Havertz for the title of “plonker d’or” for being the worst striker at the World Cup will be Spain’s Alvaro Morata. Alvaro – you can call me Al – has played for Real Madrid, Juventus, Chelsea and Atletico Madrid and now he is comatose, sorry playing for Como and yet can always be relied upon to not impress. He has gone on record as saying that he has suffered mental health issues as a result of the “constant criticism” he has faced in his career. Sorry Al, but that comes with the job: if you are paid to perform and fail to do so then don’t blame your paying audience for being dissatisfied.

Amazingly he is the captain of the Spanish team. Just think how good they’d be if they replaced him with a decent footballer?

Moriyasu, Hajime – Mr Moriyasu is the coach of Japan, a job that he has held since 2018. All that can be said about him is that he is inscrutable.

It is traditional for Japan coaches who fail to disembowel themselves after their last World Cup match but it is yet to be confirmed if the TSA will allow Mr Moriyasu to bring his ceremonial seppuku sword with him to the USA.

Current record as coach of Japan: W68 D14 L17

Morocco – The “Atlas Lions” have been six times to the World Cup. And who could forget them getting to the semi-finals in 2022 (*ed: especially if you were trying to get a taxi in Brussels on nights when they were playing!*). Indeed, Morocco became the first African nation to get to the semi-final stage of a World Cup.

The highest ranked team from Africa, they qualified convincingly for this World Cup, winning all eight of their group games and conceding only 2 goals in the process – earning them a very generous FIFA world ranking of 11th place. They are fresh from, er, winning the AFCON final on appeal – and with bad grace, too.

Their coach is Walid Regragui, who led them to their success at the last World Cup, but has been lucky to survive after their less-than-impressive performance at AFCON. Can he regain the love of the Moroccan public with another epic World Cup performance?

World Cup record: Played 23 W5 D7 L11 – but three of those wins were in 2022. Current FIFA World Ranking: 11th

Star Player: Achraf Hakimi (Paris St Germain)

Mourinho, Jose - It seems impossible to ever write this alphabet without mentioning Jose Mourinho. From being “the Special One” to “yesterday’s man” and despite having won only one trophy this decade he is now being linked with a return to Real Madrid. Perhaps someone should remind Madrid president Florentino Perez that, first time round, Jose won only one league title in his three seasons, and Real were knocked out of the CL at the semifinal stage every season.

In preparation for Jose’s possible arrival Real players have started fighting with each other at training. Still, Roberto Martinez will be pleased at the news as it makes his job in charge of Portugal more secure.....

Mudryk, Mykhailo – One player who you definitely will not see playing at this World Cup is Chelsea’s Mykhailo Mudryk. Not just because Ukraine is not at this World Cup, but also because Mudryk was recently given a 4 year ban for doping. The drug meldonium – normally used for heart conditions – was found in a urine sample in December 2024 but it has taken the English FA 16 months to decide what to do with him. In the meantime Chelsea can write off the €70 million they paid for Mudryk. What a dope.



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Müller – We’ve had Gerd, Hansi, Dieter and Thomas Müller playing football for Germany / West Germany. They made over 250 appearances between them. But this will be the first World Cup since 2006 that the “Towel Boys” will be Müller-light. (*ed: alternative yoghurt-based food is also available*).



Myung-bo, Hong – Mr Myung-bo is the coach of South Korea (*ed: the official name is Korean Republic*). He had an illustrious playing career, largely in Korea, winning 136 international caps. He is another boss who was promoted into the top job after first managing the U-21 team and this is his second spell in charge of South Korea.



Current record as coach of South Korea: W11 D5 L2