

EARLY YEARS 1924 - 1930

At the 1924 Congress, FIFA agreed to assume responsibility for the organisation of the Olympic Football Tournament by ratifying the proposal that "on condition that the Olympic Football Tournament takes place in accordance with the Regulations of FIFA, the latter shall recognise this as a world football championship".

The 1924 tournament was a great success with 60,000 spectators following the final between Uruguay and Switzerland. The South Americans won 3-0 and were celebrated as World Champions in Montevideo.

South America's predominance was even more impressive at the Olympic Football Tournament in Amsterdam in 1928. Against next-door neighbour Argentina, Uruguay did not want to relinquish their victory on that occasion.

This resonance at the Olympic Games intensified FIFA's wish for its own World Championship. FIFA President Jules Rimet was the driving force in the search for the means to materialise this dream. Following a proposal of the Executive Committee, the FIFA Congress in Amsterdam on 28 May 1928 decided to stage an official FIFA World Championship: the World Cup was born!

One year later Uruguay, twice Olympic Champions, planning the celebration of its 100th anniversary of independence in 1930, were assigned the organisation of the first FIFA World Cup™.

THE FIRST FIFA WORLD CUP™

FIFA's decision to hold the first World Cup in Uruguay did not only meet acclaim, as Europe was plunged in the midst of an economic crisis. Participation in a World Cup taking place overseas, involved a long sea journey. Moreover, for the clubs it meant they had to renounce their best players for two months. Thus, more and more European associations broke their promise to participate. Thanks to Rimet's personal efforts, at least four - Belgium, France, Yugoslavia and Romania - set off on the long journey.

The World Cup, opened at the Estadio Centenario on 18 July 1930, became a remarkable success, both in a sporting and financial sense. On 30th July, the first World Cup final saw the same fixture as two years before at the Olympic Football Tournament. Being 2-1 down at half-time, Uruguay raised the rhythm of their play, regained the lead and - cheered on by the majority of the 93,000 crowd - finally won 4-2. The organisers on the other hand were disappointed at the fact that only four European teams participated. The anger in Montevideo was so intense that four years later, the World Champions - for the first and only time - renounced defending their title

Competition Records

Total Matches:	644
Total Goals:	1,916 (Ø 2.98)
Spectators:	27,570,669 (Ø 42,812)
Participating Teams:	70
Record Winner:	Brazil (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002)
Best Goalscorers:	14 - Gerd MÜLLER, FRG (10 - 1970; 4 - 1974) 13 - Just FONTAINE, FRA (1958)
Highest win:	9-0 HUN v. KOR 17.06.1954 9-0 YUG v. ZAI 18.06.1954 10-1 HUN v. SLV 15.06.1982
Highest-scoring match:	7-5 AUT v. SUI 26.06.1954
Trophy:	Jules Rimet Cup 1930 - 1970 FIFA World Cup Trophy since 1974