

Paul Cuadros

2007 Summer Reading Committee

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Soccer Facts & Stats

International

- Soccer is played in almost every country in the world.
- The World Cup, played every four years, is the most watched sporting event in the world. An estimated 25% of the world's population watched the final game of the 2006 World Cup.

The United States

- U.S. teams participated in the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis.
- The 1920s are widely considered the first Golden Era in American soccer.
- The American Soccer League (ASL) was founded in 1921.
- During the mid 1920s, the crowds for games were large, with 10,000 a common attendance figure.
- In 1930, the U.S. team placed third in the first World Cup held in Uruguay.
- The U.S. National team stunned the world by defeating England in the 1950 World Cup.
- The U.S. Women's team was inaugurated in 1985.
- The U.S. Women's team permanently altered the landscape of women's sports with their historic win at the 1999 Women's World Cup. The team won six tournaments in 2000 as well as an Olympic silver medal.
- The U.S. National Soccer Team programs have qualified for 19 consecutive FIFA outdoor world championships (a number currently surpassed only by Brazil).

Youth soccer in America

- There are four times as many players participating in youth soccer than in Little League Baseball.
- Soccer is a more popular sport for girls in the U.S. than in Europe and Latin America, traditional soccer regions.
- Unlike in the rest of the world, soccer in the U.S. is mainly a middle-class sport.

Local

- ASU has had a men's soccer program since the 1960s. In the 1970s it won three consecutive Southern Conference titles.
- With a current overall cumulative GPA of 3.02, ASU's men's soccer team is one of only 13 out of 195 teams nationally to earn the NSCAA team academic award.
- ASU's women's soccer program began in 1994.
- Megan Farrell was selected to the Academic All-American second team for 2005–2006.
- University Recreation sponsors close to 200 men's, women's, and co-ed intramural soccer teams as well as club teams for men and women.
- In Watauga County there are more than 70 organized youth soccer teams.

World Cup champions

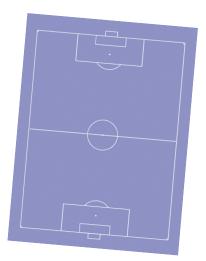
Men's

BEST U.S. FINISH: 3RD PLACE, 1930

2006: Italy 2002: Brazil 1998: France 1994: Brazil

1990: West Germany

Women's 2003: Germany 1999: United States 1995: Norway 1991: United States



Standard soccer field, or pitch

Length: 100-130 yards Width: 50-100 yards Goal: 24 feet wide \times 8 feet deep Penalty area: 44 yards \times 18 yards Center circle: 10 yards diameter

Soccer teams

11 players maximum

1 goalkeeper

Other players at positions such as sweeper, full-back, midfielder, winger, forward, and striker.

SOURCES: SOCCER IN THE SUN
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AGAINST THE ENEMY (KUPER);
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