

---

## What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Dynamo Kev - 22-04-2008 22:53

---

The draw was Sunday:

Group A: Ivory Coast, Serbia, Argentina, Australia.

Group B: Netherlands, United States, Nigeria, Japan.

Group C: China, Belgium, New Zealand, Brazil.

Group D: South Korea, Italy, Cameroon, Honduras.

I guess it depends on who is allowed to play.. I would put my money on a full strength Netherlands squad.. Isn't this the one tournament Brazil hasn't won yet? They should have it pretty easy in their group.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Rory Bunk - 23-04-2008 04:59

---

As an Australian, I'd have to say we are well and truly fucked.  
Interesting to have Argentina, Ivory Coast and Serbia together again, like in the WC.

Is there an overlap between the tournament and the European seasons? I read somewhere that Argentina would likely use Mascherano as an overage player.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 23-04-2008 06:52

---

Interesting draw. It may not be that easy for Brazil, as the home support for China is going to be insane and this is one level that Belgium are quite good at. Italy, on the other hand, looks to have a genuinely easy group.

There has been a reasonable amount of speculation over who the Azzurri's overage players will be (and even whether they will take any). Pippo Inzaghi has been lobbying for a place for months now. I confess to not knowing when the squads have to be announced.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Dynamo Kev - 23-04-2008 11:44

---

The games run between August 6th - 23rd.. So no overlap with Euro 2008, but with the start of the League seasons.

There has been talk of Brian McBride playing for the US. I can only see this happen if he leaves Fulham for the MLS after this year..

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by SamLKelly - 23-04-2008 22:48

---

Rory, yes there's an overlap with the European season - the tournament being, of course, played at the same time as the rest of the Olympic Games.

Argentina's three over-age players will be Javier Mascherano, Juan Román Riquelme and Martín Demichelis.

[Argentina's full squad list here.](#)

---

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Rory Bunk - 24-04-2008 00:42

---

Thanks Sam. I was too lazy to look up the dates of the Olympics.  
I notice Messi's not being used, but they are three shrewd choices of overage player.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 24-04-2008 23:55

---

Rory, I don't think we are well and truly stuffed....We were in a group in Athens last olympics with Argentina and Serbia, and still scraped into the quarter finals...

Nothing is very certain in olympic football.. often depends on who is using what overage players, if any. And that often isn't known until the last minute. And, even then, overage big name players do not always mean success.

UA, why are Belgium good at this level? I can't remember them ever playing in an olympic finals tournament before.....

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 27-04-2008 00:30

---

..... And it looks like our wayward olyroo goalkeeper Danny Vukavic has had his suspension reduced so that he can play in Beijing.

That should give us a boost...

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 27-04-2008 08:52

---

Trimster, what I was trying to say in that Belgium's U-21 team is significantly more competitive than their "senior" team. They won their qualifying group (featuring Ireland and Greece) without a loss, then beat Bulgaria in a playoff, and made it to Beijing by finishing second in a finals group that included Portugal.

The year before, they won a qualifying group that featured both Spain and Serbia (who are also going to Beijing).

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by harbinger of hope - 27-04-2008 16:27

---

I can't help thinking of the whole UK team question, when the Olympics are mentioned.

In the past getting all 4 FAs to agree to this calling has been nigh on impossible. The FA are normally for it, but i believe the Scottish FA is normally most against the idea.

This is mainly due to the fact that a UK team would basically be the England team with the odd other player thrown in. For example, at previous Games Ryan Giggs certainly would have made the squad.

However with London winning the Games, the other FAs are considering this much more openly and it would be nice too see it happen. Even if it was only for this one occasion.

---

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 27-04-2008 23:46

---

Sounds promising for Belgium, but success in the European U21 championship has never translated itself into success in the olympic tournament... whose last three winners have been Argentina, Cameroon and Nigeria.

On the subject of a British team for 2012- it would be nice to see one, but there has always been so much downright hostility towards the idea, on this forum and elsewhere, that you wonder whether it would be a worthwhile exercise.....

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Etienne - 28-04-2008 07:32

---

Harbinger, the reason why the Scottish and Welsh FA's have always opposed the plan has little to do with the make-up of the team, and much more to do with a (in my opinion, largely groundless) fear that the entering of a united team would undermine their right to take part as independent countries, rather than part of the UK in other tournaments.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 10:22

---

Messi has just been cleared to play for Argentina.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 13-05-2008 10:39

---

Is it true Kaka will be suiting up for Brazil?

Milan without Kaka and Barca without Messi could both struggle in their Champions League qualifiers...

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 10:48

---

There hasn't been any definitive word on Kaka, and Milan have generally been making discouraging noises.

Of course, if the football gods are kind, the question of Milan's Champions League qualifiers will be moot.

And if Barca can't beat Artmedia Bratislava (or a reasonable equivalent) without Leo, we don't deserve to make the group stages.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by mnb098mnb - 03-06-2008 19:38

---

[http://www.fifa.com/mm/photo/tournament/competition/trhkg1222713\\_45636\\_full-Ind.jpg](http://www.fifa.com/mm/photo/tournament/competition/trhkg1222713_45636_full-Ind.jpg)

=====

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by SamLKelly - 03-07-2008 02:43

---

Here we go. Turns out what I linked to above was only a preliminary squad. Argentina's final squad for the tournament has been announced. It includes Lionel Messi, as Ursus says. It also includes Sergio Agüero, Ezequiel Lavezzi and - if you're not a regular reader of my site remember this as (probably) the first time you came across the name - Diego Buonanotte.

Who's taking the silver, then?

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-07-2008 12:33

---

I don't think it will be Italy.

Here is the Azzurrini squad, with Rocchi of Lazio the only over-age player: Abate (Milan), Acquafresca (Cagliari), Bocchetti S. (Genoa), Candreva (Udinese), Cigarini (Parma), Coda (Udinese), Consigli (Atalanta), Criscito (Genoa), De Ceglie (Juventus), De Silvestri (Lazio), Dessena (Parma), Giovinco (Juventus), Marchisio (Juventus), Montolivo (Fiorentina), Motta (Udinese), Nocerino (Palermo), Ranocchia (Arezzo), Rocchi (Lazio) Rossi (Villarreal), Russotto (Treviso), Sirigu (Palermo), Viviano (Brescia).

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by SamLKelly - 03-07-2008 14:17

---

I recognise a few of those names Ursus, principally Dessena (who I think United may have been interested in last summer), Montolivo and of course Rossi, who I still can't quite bring myself to believe hasn't just been on loan at Villarreal for the last season.

Can you tell us anything about the others?

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-07-2008 14:26

---

Abate is likely to be the starting keeper and is Milan's great hope for the post-Dida era. Acquafresca was one of the most impressive young strikers in Serie A last season; his registration belongs to Inter. Giovinco, a small but highly talented offensive midfielder, may be the best of the lot. After being on loan to Empoli last year, he is expected to get more for a few starts for Juve this season. Nocerino is another (now ex) Juventino, who went to Palermo as part of the deal that brought Amauri to Juventus. They should be reasonably entertaining going forward, but risk being less than water tight at the back (though Gentile has been working on that).

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by SamLKelly - 03-07-2008 17:54

---

Excellent. Typical Italian stereotypes out the window, then. Pity the tournament will be played at such an hour as to render it invisible to us in Europe...

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-07-2008 19:13

---

---

Indeed; unless Gentile manages to pull off several of those brain transfers beloved of Looney Tunes cartoons, the defence will leak like a sieve as soon as they come up against a quality team.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by the cantering captain - 03-07-2008 19:30

---

I've got a ticket to the final, I'll let you know how it goes.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by bull bull - 03-07-2008 22:22

---

I'll let you know how it goes right now. Argentina 5, someone-or-other 0.

If Mascherano gets injured, I will personally raise the Belgrano, and sink it again.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-07-2008 05:43

---

Ronaldinho, Robinho and Diego have been named to the Brazil squad, as Dunga tries to win back the Great Brazilian Public after the Seleccion's recent inept performances in World Cup qualifiers.

That squad in full (from l'Equipe): GARDIENS : Diego (Almeria), Renan (Internacional)

Défenseurs: Marcelo (Real Madrid), Ilsinho (Chaktior Donetsk), Rafinha (Schalke 04), Thiago Silva (Fluminense), Alex Silva (Sao Paulo), Breno (Bayern Munich).

MILIEUX : Lucas (Liverpool), Anderson (Manchester United), Hernanes (Sao Paulo), Ronaldinho (FC Barcelone), Diego (Werder Brême), Thiago Neves (Fluminense)

ATTAQUANTS : Robinho (Real Madrid), Alexandre Pato (AC Milan), Rafael Sobis (Betis Séville), Jo (Manchester City).

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Merengue - 08-07-2008 16:21

---

Based on his most recent form you can't help but think selecting Ronaldinho is a major risk by Dunga. He already has Diego and Thiago Neves to run the team. Adding Ronaldinho also meant dropping Cruzeiro's Wagner a pretty darn good player. The upside if Ronaldinho comes in shape and plays up to potential Brasil will be a medal contender. The down side is a failed team and the likely end of Dunga's time as coach of the seleccion.

I like the look of the rest of the team though. How about this as a starting XI: Diego Alves- Rafinha, Thiago Silva, Alex Silva (Breno), Marcelo- Anderson, Lucas- Diego, Ronaldinho- Alexandre Pato, Robinho

If Ronaldinho is on, that is a team which can contend for the title.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-07-2008 16:29

---

Benvenidos, Merengue (he says through clenched teeth, being a Barca socio).

I think your first paragraph is spot on, though there are other people on here who watch the Brasileiro more closely (principally Sid James and Pitaco da Gringo, who does it for a living).

---

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 08-07-2008 16:33

---

Abate is likely to be the starting keeper and is Milan's great hope for the post-Dida era

He's a winger though, isn't he? You might be confusing him with Christian Abbiati, or even Beniamino Abate, the former Inter 'keeper, or both, or neither.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-07-2008 16:36

---

You're right.

Both about the mistake and its source(s), though I was also misled by a Milanista colleague.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jon - 08-07-2008 16:45

---

Otro Madridista! Genial! Bienvenidos, merengue. You'll find we're very much in the minority here. Well, it's just you and me in fact. Hence my excitement.

ursus - I've always meant to ask - why do you always write Benvenidos? Are you mangling Italian/Spanish or (possibly) Catalan/Spanish on purpose or by accident?

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-07-2008 16:47

---

In this case it was on purpose, but it may well not have been in other cases. My typing and spelling are decreasing in quality as my post count increases.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Merengue - 08-07-2008 18:24

---

Gracias Jon! I am surprised there aren't any other madridistas here. I guess that explains why I couldn't find any threads on Madrid or really on Spanish football yet. I am sure some will turn up soon.

pitacodogringo is the one who referred me to this message board by the way. He and I also post on another board too.

I just read a wire service story that Werder Bremen and Schalke are trying to prevent Diego and Rafinha from playing in the Olympics but my understanding is clubs are obligated to release U-23 players. It is only overage players where the clubs, if they wish, may block a player going to the Olympics. This is what Bayern Munich did to Martin Demichelis who Argentina wanted to call up.

We'll learn some other Olympic team rosters soon too. I am curious to see who Holland, Nigeria, Cameroon and Ivory Coast will call up.

=====

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Inca - 08-07-2008 18:30

---

D'oh--two madridistas now? A while back, we ranked clubs in order of feelings towards them, assigning more points to "main" clubs and less to others. I think Jon put West Brom higher than Real Madrid, so my choice of the Galaxy as my top club meant that they were more followed than Real Madrid on the board.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-07-2008 20:36

---

Merengue, the board moved recently to a new location.

The current Futbol Espanol thread is here.

And last season's (rather longer and read only) thread is here.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-07-2008 21:20

---

Breaking News.

Barca are refusing to release Ronaldinho for Beijing.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 08-07-2008 21:29

---

Why on earth are clubs allowed to do this?

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jon - 08-07-2008 22:02

---

"I think Jon put West Brom higher than Real Madrid, so my choice of the Galaxy as my top club meant that they were more followed than Real Madrid on the board."

No, I'm fairly sure I put them both on the same number of points, Inca. 'Swhat I usually do anyway. Maybe there were a few other sympathisers of the Galaxy.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by sidjames - 08-07-2008 23:37

---

The Brazil Olympic squad is a significant improvement on the one Dunga's been picking for the World Cup qualifiers.

I'm not sure why Ronaldinho was picked in the first place unless there's some sort of marketing tie-in. In his current physical and mental state I don't think his absence would significantly affect Brazil's chances.

=====

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 08-07-2008 23:46

---

Australia's olympic football coach Graham Arnold has just sprang a surprise by not selecting two of Australia's most promising young players- Bruce Djite and Nathan Burns. Both played in most of the qualifying matches, but have both recently joined European clubs- Genclerbirligi and AEK Athens respectively.

Newcastle Jets' captain Jade North, Melbourne Victory's famous Archie Thompson ("13 goals in one international match"), and Sheffield United's Dave Carney have been selected as overage players.

So I suppose Messi and co. will be shaking in their boots.....

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 09-07-2008 06:25

---

Bignutz, my understanding is that an integral part of the deal that allowed Olympic teams to include three over-age players was that their respective clubs would have the right to veto their selection. No such right exists for under-23 players, because the Olympics are considered an official FIFA U-23 tournament, but the clubs were able to convince FIFA that the concession with respect to overage players was necessary.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 09-07-2008 10:04

---

Well, it's a bit depressing, nonetheless.

On a more specific note, mightn't the Olympics be quite good for Ronaldinho? I understand the tournament is quite a big deal for Brazil, as they've never won Gold, so maybe it could give him the motivation he needs.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 09-07-2008 10:08

---

No argument with it being depressing, but then the entire history of football in the Olympics is rather depressing.

I agree with your second point too. Laporta is clearly massively pissed off at Ronaldinho (and with good reason), but I think that letting him go to Beijing is significantly more likely to result in him being motivated than imprisoning him in a training camp.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jon - 09-07-2008 22:46

---

Madrid have vetoed Heinze for Argentina too. Cannavarro is still injured and we have the 'vital' Supercopa against Valencia to worry about.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 09-07-2008 23:46

---

I agree that the history of the olympic football tournament is a fairly depressing one... the current format, Under 23 with three overage players, is a nonsense one really, and is just a half-baked compromise brought about by a standoff

---

between FIFA and the IOC. All it means is that three "stars" walk into a team at the last minute and displace three developing young players who have done all the hard work in the qualifying matches. Which is crap, really, and I don't know why people are getting all excited by the prospect of Ronaldinho, etc playing in Beijing.

Ronaldinho played for Brazil in the 2000 olympic tournament. Why would he want to go through it again as a mature player? Why would someone like him want to play in an under 23 tournament?

Argentina fielded the likes of Saviola, Tevez, Heinze and Mascherano to win olympic gold in 2004. They beat Paraguay 1-0 in an extremely dull and foul-ridden final; and only scraped in 1-0 against Australia if I recall. Why would they call on some of the same players again?

I actually hope New Zealand or Belgium upset Brazil, and Honduras slam Italy 4-0 (like Zambia did in '88!)

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Dynamo Kev - 17-07-2008 18:30

The US team:

GOALKEEPERS (2): Brad Guzan (Chivas USA), Chris Seitz (Real Salt Lake)

DEFENDERS (5): Patrick Ianni (Houston Dynamo), Michael Orozco (San Luis), Michael Parkhurst (New England Revolution), Nathan Sturgis (Real Salt Lake), Marvell Wynne (Toronto FC)

MIDFIELDERS (7): Freddy Adu (SL Benfica), Michael Bradley (SC Heerenveen), Maurice Edu (Toronto FC), Benny Feilhaber (Derby County), Stuart Holden (Houston Dynamo), Sacha Kljestan (Chivas USA), Danny Szetela (Brescia Calcio)

FORWARDS (4): Jozy Altidore (Villarreal), Charlie Davies (Hammarby IF), Brian McBride (out of contract), Robbie Rogers (Columbus Crew)

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by goldstone97 - 17-07-2008 19:09

And on the women's side, there's the bad news that Abby Wombach has broken her leg and won't make it.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Inca - 17-07-2008 19:16

I'm going to try to post this again--I did before, and my post was eaten and didn't appear.

I think there's an article to be written (by someone more talented than myself) about why the US seems to value the Olympics tournament more than other countries. I don't know if it's part of the US valuing the Olympics as a whole, or if it has something to do with realistic expectations--the chance of success in the Olympics for a country like the US is better than at the World Cup--or something else. Either way, it seems like we care more than other countries.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 17-07-2008 23:30

I think it is the same in Australia as the US. Australian soccer fans (but not olympic games fans in general, who usually have little interest in soccer) also tend to get excited about the olympic football tournament. Back in 1992, when our senior national side was struggling to make any sort of impact on the world stage, the "olyroos" reached the olympic semi finals. So the olympic football tournament was perceived as something we could make a mark in, even though the senior side couldn't even qualify for the World Cup finals.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Nogoalsnoglory - 18-07-2008 08:27

---

I originally read Abby's surname as if it had an e on the end

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by goldstone97 - 18-07-2008 15:44

---

Inca, it might also be that for most of the English-language press you might read, the Olympic football tournament may as well not exist given the lack of a British team.

Also, Americans care more about women's football than many other countries, and that has more credibility than the men's version in the Olympics, given it doesn't have the same silly age restrictions.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ad hoc - 31-07-2008 13:02

---

Some judgement has been passed down obliging Barcelona to release Messi for this. I can't tell you exactly what it is because I've only read stuff about it in Catalan, and I can't speak Catalan.

Also, what does this mean? I am pretty sure I know all the words, but as a sentence I'm not really sure (though I do get the gist)?

<http://www.ole.clarin.com/diario/2008/07/29/tapapapel.html>

Edit: for some reason that picture doesn't show up, but it's the front page a newspaper called Ole and it reads in massive 1000pt font "DEJEN YA DE JODER CON MESSI"

( I think the whole thing has sparked some semi-diplomatic incident with half of Argentina calling for Messi to be released from his cruel enslavement at the Camp Nou)

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 31-07-2008 13:18

---

New York Times article on this.

"Soccer's world governing body ruled Wednesday that professional clubs must release players 23 or under for the Beijing Olympics, clearing the way for Lionel Messi to play for Argentina despite opposition from his professional club, FC Barcelona.

Slim Aloulou, a Tunisian judge on the governing body's player status committee, said the release of under-23 players was "mandatory for all clubs."

Barcelona are threatening to appeal the ruling to the CAS in Lausanne.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Merengue - 31-07-2008 20:04

---

ad hoc, that headline from Ole, a sports daily from Argentina, translates roughly as, "Now stop screwing around with Messi"

Messi is already on his way to join up with his Argentina teammates. I am not sure yet if Diego and Rafinha, the two

---

Brasilian U-23 players that German clubs were stopping from playing in the Olympics are on their way to join up with Brasil's team now but they'll be on their way soon.

In an Olympic warm up tourney in Hong Kong, Holland scored two late goals to defeat Cameroon 2-0 while Ivory Coast and the US drew 0-0. Tomorrow, Holland plays Ivory Coast and Cameroon vs US.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 06-08-2008 13:48

---

They're coming home . . .

"Argentina forward Lionel Messi is set to miss the Olympic Games soccer tournament after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said Barcelona was not obliged to release him.

CAS, meeting in Beijing, upheld an appeal from the Spanish club after FIFA, soccer's world governing body, said clubs must release eligible players for the tournament."

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 06-08-2008 13:56

---

Fuck's sake.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 06-08-2008 14:35

---

Grondona and Batista are insisting that Messi is going to stay and play against Ivory Coast.

I wouldn't be at all surprised if Barca allow him to stay there until their preliminary Champions League match next week. That's always been their primary concern; the trip to Beijing is arguably less of a drain on him than the club's current tour of North America.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 07-08-2008 12:47

---

Barca have agreed to let Messi stay in Beijing for as long as Argentina are in the competition.

In return, the AFA have agreed to take out insurance on him with Barca being the beneficiary and not to call him up for any friendlies this season.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 07-08-2008 12:54

---

Giovinco scores a cracker, so I read, not seen it yet, in 3-0 win for Italy over Honduras.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by sidjames - 07-08-2008 13:00

---

---

And Messi's put Argentina 1 up against Ivory Coast - who have just equalised.

Couldn't get up in time for Brazil's debut but, by all accounts they were unimpressive in a 1-0 win over Belgium, Hernanes getting the goal.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 07-08-2008 13:04

---

Well some good news at least.

Also, I note that one of Holland's overage players is Gerald Sibon.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 07-08-2008 13:31

---

A name to conjure with.

And we have some results:

Brazil 1 Belgium 0

Italy 3 Honduras 0

Australia 1 Serbia 1

USA 1 Japan 0

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Harri Saer - 07-08-2008 14:01

---

The BBc seem to have completely ignored the Aus v Ser & USA v Jap games, when did they happen?

Edit: ah, found them, it's website isn't very informative.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 07-08-2008 14:04

---

They seem to have ended about noon your time.

The others have now finished:

Argentina 2 Ivory Coast 1

China 1 New Zealand 1

Cameroon 1 South Korea 1

Netherlands 0 Nigeria 0

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 07-08-2008 14:07

---

Belgium went down to nine men, by all accounts\*.

\* an account.

---

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 07-08-2008 14:09

---

Yeah, the reports I've read are not very kind to Brazil.

Argentina also seem to have fallen into the Barca-like of standing around to watch what Messi might be able to do.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 07-08-2008 14:18

---

Dong Fanzhou scored for China. I'd almost forgotten he existed you know.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Harri Saer - 07-08-2008 14:30

---

Jimmy Bignutz wrote:

Belgium went down to nine men, by all accounts\*.

\* an account.

There appeared to be two bookings in the first 90 seconds in that game and my colleague who watched the highlights said both sendings-off were down to dives by Brazilians.

I hadn't realised that the k/o times and simultaneous games are going to make (the early part at least) of this tournament a bugger to follow.

I presume Belgium were wearing a cheapish-looking Adidas version of their usual Nike kit without their federation's badge due to adidas exclusively supplying their whole Olympic team?

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by mnb098mnb - 07-08-2008 18:40

---

Football in the Olympics doesn't look anywhere near Olympicky enough. All players should wear numbers on the front like the athletes do. I'd be far happier then.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Inca - 07-08-2008 18:50

---

Mentioned this in the Olympics thread in Sport: an American-born player scored a goal today. He wasn't playing for the US, though--Guiseppe Rossi, scoring for Italy. The US goal came from Stuart Holden, who was born in Scotland.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 08-08-2008 00:03

---

---

Serbia dominated for much of the game against Australia, the "olyroos" seemingly relying on long balls from midfield to Archie Thompson, or long throw-ins into the box for their main attacking options. Australia somehow took the lead in the 69th minute through Ruben Zadkovich in a rare all-out attack.

Rajkovic headed home a corner in the 79th minute to equalise for Serbia. The Serbs had won 14 corners to Australia's 1 in the course of the match; and they had 14 shots at goal to Australia's 5 or 6. Both sides hit the woodwork once, and I think the yellow card count was 3 to Australia and 1 to Serbia.

With Argentina beating Ivory Coast 2-1, this particular "group of death" looks like it might be close!

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-08-2008 11:35

---

Has anyone heard an explanation of why all of the groups are playing matches on the same day? It's unfortunate that there aren't any matches until Sunday, and doesn't seem to be in any way mandated by stadium or rest considerations.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by teerex - 08-08-2008 11:52

---

The Oly-Whites (yes, really) were just 2 minutes away from the greatest result in the history of New Zealand football. Getting a draw with China was still one of the greatest results in the history of NZ football. This tells you all you need to know about the history of NZ football.

The game was stuck out on DigiSatNet Channel 26 or whatever it is. The main terrestrial channel had the rights, but didn't bother with the game. This also tells you (etc ...).

Incidentally, NZ's women (the Football Ferns - no, the names don't get any better) qualified for Beijing by playing one game, against Papua New Guinea I think. Thanks to the Asian-Australians.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 08-08-2008 23:34

---

Fantastic result for the Kiwis.... almost as good as THE greatest result in NZ football history when they defeated China 2-1 to qualify for the World Cup finals in 1982!

SBS are covering their game against Brazil on Sunday; I think I might watch it, as I've got a feeling that channel 7 might stuff up their coverage of Australia vs Argentina by constantly cutting to swimming, diving, tiddleywinks or whatever else is on that Australians are supposed to be more interested in....

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 10-08-2008 10:14

---

Brazil are playing with New Zealand with Ronaldinho doing his trademark tricks before standing still for 5 minutes catching his breath.

He has the skills but is still badly unfit.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 10-08-2008 10:20

---

FSC on the kit question raised earlier.

"Brazil's players complained on Saturday after being told they would play the rest of the Olympic games without their traditional badge on their shirts.

The badge, which consists of five stars representing the five World Cups won by Brazil above the letters CBF (Brazilian Football Confederation), has been removed because it contravenes Olympic policy, officials said.

Some critics said their official shirts with the five stars representing their five World Cup wins and the logo of their sponsors Nike went against the amateur spirit of the games. Teams are not permitted to wear national football federation badges."

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by jefe - 10-08-2008 20:47

---

Up 2-1 on the Dutch in injury time, Stuart Holden commits the stupidest of stupid fouls, and from the ensuing freekick Gerald Sibon goes UNDER the damn wall for the draw. Now we get to play Nigeria with no Freddy and no Michael Bradley. Argh.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 10-08-2008 23:22

---

Messi didn't quite get things his own way against Australia...

Graham Arnold must be the most unpopular coach in the history of Australian football. He has taken to China an olympic squad of varying abilities, weakened by some shock omissions, and has got them playing an even less inspiring brand of football than most people thought possible. They look like an olympic version of Perth Glory.

But despite all this, and despite looking totally outplayed for most of the game, the "olyroos" might have sneaked a point out of this match. Argentina didn't break the deadlock until the 76th minute, when Lavezzi scored... and they seemed happy with that for the rest of the game.

With Ivory Coast beating Serbia 4-2, Australia has to beat them by more than two goals in the final match, and hope that Serbia don't beat Argentina, to stand a chance of progressing to the quarters.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Dynamo Kev - 11-08-2008 01:17

---

jefe wrote:

Up 2-1 on the Dutch in injury time, Stuart Holden commits the stupidest of stupid fouls, and from the ensuing freekick Gerald Sibon goes UNDER the damn wall for the draw. Now we get to play Nigeria with no Freddy and no Michael Bradley. Argh.

It was heartbreaking- not sure why the Dutch stopped playing after 30 minutes. Wynne (RB) has been fantastic and I wouldn't be surprised if someone comes in for him before September..

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 11-08-2008 11:18

---

I watched the highlights of the Argentina game on RTE, and was very impressed by Riquelme. I get the impression that if Riquelme was born 20 years earlier, he would have been considered one of the all time greats. Today he's just not athletic enough to be a really top player, but what he does with the ball is beautiful, and when he decides to dribble past

---

opponents, it's practically impossible to stop him.

I get the same impression from Tevez. He isn't quite fast enough to play the way he wants to today, but in the 80's he'd have been almost as good as maradona.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 11-08-2008 16:09

---

FSC on the kit question raised earlier.

"Brazil's players complained on Saturday after being told they would play the rest of the Olympic games without their traditional badge on their shirts.

The badge, which consists of five stars representing the five World Cups won by Brazil above the letters CBF (Brazilian Football Confederation), has been removed because it contravenes Olympic policy, officials said.

I sympathize but on the the up-side we're spared all the manufacturers marks and signifiers that plague modern kit design. Just one small logo. Ah what a shame!

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 11-08-2008 16:14

---

Some of us happen to like those manufacturers' marks and signifiers, thank you.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 11-08-2008 16:18

---

Though the South Korean approach, which is to use their usual blue shield without any image or adornment whatsoever, just looks generic.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 11-08-2008 16:46

---

I don't agree. The presence of the badge itself makes it unique.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 12-08-2008 05:14

---

And I am the Life wrote:

I watched the highlights of the Argentina game on RTE, and was very impressed by Riquelme. I get the impression that if Riquelme was born 20 years earlier, he would have been considered one of the all time greats. Today he's just not athletic enough to be a really top player, but what he does with the ball is beautiful, and when he decides to dribble past opponents, it's practically impossible to stop him.

I get the same impression from Tevez. He isn't quite fast enough to play the way he wants to today, but in the 80's he'd have been almost as good as maradona.

Yes.... Riquelme did look more than half interested at times. Although I don't think that the ability to dribble past Trent McLennehan and Jade North would ever really qualify anyone to be an "all time great".

---

Argentina scored a nicely crafted goal... the surprise was that there was only one of them. Saving themselves for the quarter finals, I suppose.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Kowalski - 12-08-2008 05:50

---

How adidas lost its stripes

<http://www.cbc.ca/money/story/2004/12/01/adidas-041201.html>

<http://www.brandrepublic.com/bulletins/br/article/526565/adidas-plans-3-solution-olympic-stripe-ban/>

Spot the differences

[http://www.football-shirts.co.uk/fans/olympic-football-tournament-beijing-08-team-kits\\_1573](http://www.football-shirts.co.uk/fans/olympic-football-tournament-beijing-08-team-kits_1573)

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 12-08-2008 16:02

---

An article about a family friend who was a goalkeeper for the USA in 1956, but didn't get to play.

The story of how he got recruited to play soccer and then go to the olympics shows you how far USA soccer has come in a relatively short period.

<http://www.centredaily.com/news/local/story/769746.html>

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 12-08-2008 22:52

---

Reed of the Valley People wrote:

An article about a family friend who was a goalkeeper for the USA in 1956, but didn't get to play.

The story of how he got recruited to play soccer and then go to the olympics shows you how far USA soccer has come in a relatively short period.

<http://www.centredaily.com/news/local/story/769746.html>

Interesting story... I hadn't realised the US had played in the '56 olympics. The story implies that the US military played a significant role in organising American soccer in those days!

Yugoslavia weren't "champions", however. Hungary were reigning olympic champions at the time, and the USSR won the tournament in Melbourne in '56.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 13-08-2008 03:02

---

My first employer, The Centre Daily Times is known to make a mistake from time to time.

---

I don't know the details, but there was still a draft on in the 1950s so it stands to reason that the military sports system would play a big part in amateur sports, as it still does in some sports, because most of the player pool was in the service. Olympic soccer was still amateur back then, I think. It certainly was in the US.

That was certainly true during the War. A lot of the best professional baseball players and best hockey players were playing for military teams in the US and Canadian military, respectively.

=====

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by godot - 13-08-2008 03:42

---

Seeing as the US will be taking on Nigeria, I was trying to dig up a quote I heard about Nigeria at the 1994 World Cup, about their fixture against Italy, something like "Who are you? We are the champions of Africa." I thought it was in John Foot's excellent Calcio but I can't seem to find it.

=====

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 13-08-2008 14:02

---

2-1 to Nigeria, and they will face ivory Coast in the Quarters on Saturday.

My girlfriend is coming over for the weekend and she has no idea what she is in for. Wall to wall olympics and Premiership footie all weekend. This will severely test her love for me. I will be cashing all those brownies points earned in barcelona.

=====

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-08-2008 14:49

---

what on earth was the nigerian goalkeeper doing to give away the penalty. The first goal was very slick

=====

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 13-08-2008 14:56

---

godot wrote:

Seeing as the US will be taking on Nigeria, I was trying to dig up a quote I heard about Nigeria at the 1994 World Cup, about their fixture against Italy, something like "Who are you? We are the champions of Africa." I thought it was in John Foot's excellent Calcio but I can't seem to find it.

That year, Nigeria were managed by a Dutch guy called Clemens Westerhof who came out with a couple of good lines during the tournament.

After Nigeria lost 2-1 to Argentina in a great match, he said: "Any player who is not inspired by that kind of a match, and that kind of an atmosphere, should fuck off and play golf with his grandmother."

Another time, a hack asked him if he had imposed a sex ban on his squad, and he replied: "It's not the sex that tires them out -- it's staying up all night looking for it."

=====

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Inca - 13-08-2008 15:01

Fuck.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 13-08-2008 15:04

---

Westerhoff is another Redknapp type of coach who alongside Keshi made alot of dough peddling Nigerian footballers to Europe.

He is now back in Nigeria working as a tv pundit (usually putting a large does of badmind) and has a football academy\child labour camp depending on how you see things.

Have not seen the goals yet, but nigeria are sporting a decent team with a very menacing looking strikeforce.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 14-08-2008 00:05

---

Ivory Coast are looking good... they will give Nigeria a good game in the quarter finals.

Italy are through too, but spoilt the good impression they made in the first two games in a farcical match with Cameroon. After Cameroon missed a penalty, and a Cameroonian was sent off in the first half, neither side made any attempt to win for the rest of the match. Both sides just passed the ball around at the back and made no attempt to go forward- much to the disgust of the crowd (who had no doubt paid a month's salary to watch what should have been the game of the group.)

Australia are out: they put on an improved performance against the Ivory Coast, but were still woefully short of attacking ideas. Only Reading goalkeeper Adam Federici and FC Nurnberg defender Mathew Spiranovic emerged from the tournament with any real credit. Ivory Coast won 1-0 with an 80th minute goal.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Nogoalsnoglory - 14-08-2008 02:28

---

Complete inadequacy in front of goal was Australia's biggest problem, Arnold now has to explain why Djite and Burns didn't get picked.

Australia has consistently played overly defensive football, getting into a pickle requiring a last game win, or qualifying second and getting a tougher opponent in the quarters.

If we are paying Pim Verbeek megabucks he should be able to find the time to coach the Olympic squad. I smell yet another case where the FFA did not want to pay out a contract so had to find a job for Arnold.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Rory Bunk - 14-08-2008 02:42

---

I think that Burns' omission can be excused, but that of Djite cannot. Whenever someone got to or near the by-line for a cross, there was no-one there to meet it.

Your man Nikita looks like a good winger there. In the middle, his touch and decision-making was too poor for the level.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Rory Bunk - 14-08-2008 02:46

---

Oh, and ex-Australian cricket captain (and bloke you'd want in your corner if your life depended on it) Steve Waugh has described Leo Messi as the best athlete he's seen at the games.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 14-08-2008 03:42

---

Arnold's non-selection of Djite and Burns was bizarre... but what made him look an even bigger prat were the reasons he gave for not selecting them. First saying that they "couldn't take the heat"; then saying that they were "too young". Both reasons being nonsense, and obviously covering up some hidden agenda.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Nogoalsnoglory - 14-08-2008 04:13

---

Nikita's selection was, I suspect, because of the Ron Smith, Dave Mitchell, Graham Arnold triangle.

You've summed him up well. Young, quick, raw and a one chance in 10 finisher. Destined for a year overseas in a lower league or a reserves side and then back to the A-League.

Anyone who picked Billy Celeski based on last season's performances (bar one) is quite mad.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-08-2008 05:46

---

Bravo Mr. Waugh.

The Italy match is actually engendering some negative comment here, with a number of commentators arguing that the "realism-based" approach was "contrary to the Olympic spirit."

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by StephL - 16-08-2008 12:15

---

Unbelievable, Belgium beat Italy 3-2 and are in the semi-finals! We played for 70 minutes with 10 vs 11 and scored 3 goals in inferiority (the first goals Italy conceded in the tournament). Watch out for Moussa Dembele, a great player already who won't stay too long at AZ if he repeats performances like that.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by StephL - 16-08-2008 12:16

---

And Italy's 2 goals were penalties (genuine penalties I should add).

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by hobbes - 16-08-2008 12:26

---

Brazil's second against Cameroon was a bit special. If you get a chance to see it, do so. Liquid football.

---

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by SamLKelly - 16-08-2008 15:07

---

Messi scored a cracker to put Argentina 1-0 up against the Netherlands and almost got an even better one in the 90th minute at 1-1. It's now in extra time. Holland are closing Argentina down well all over the place, frustration's showing a bit on both sides at times, and whilst Argentina look more adventurous they also don't look like they can be bothered to step it up a gear or two, with the exception of Messi.

Riquelme's spraying it about all over the place as beautifully noncholantly as ever, though.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by SamLKelly - 16-08-2008 15:17

---

And Angel Di María makes it 2-1 to Argentina just before half-time in extra time, courtesy of possibly the most perfectly judged pass Lionel Messi will ever make in his career.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by SamLKelly - 16-08-2008 15:42

---

2-1 it ends. Brazil in the semis will be an interesting challenge...

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 16-08-2008 16:56

---

No comment about Nigeria V Ivory Coast?

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 17-08-2008 02:32

---

Didn't get to see Nigeria vs Ivory Coast, which finished 2-0 to Nigeria.

Cameroon were not a very good advert for African football in their quarter final with Brazil. They had very few attacking ideas, and relied mainly on their physicality and endless niggling fouls to try and wear Brazil down. They had one player sent off and about six yellow cards as well- and the commentators thought the ref was being lenient!

Both Brazil's goals came well into extra time. Ronaldinho kept going throughout, but didn't seem to be that influential.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Hofzinsler - 18-08-2008 16:25

---

Great result for Belgium but that was an absolute shocker of a decision for their first goal, wasn't it? It didn't look close to being over the line, and I struggle to conceive of any angle where it might have looked otherwise.

---

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 10:22

---

Nigeria have been all over Belgium using skill and alot of pace.  
Odemwingie is coming off the left Belgium must be glad they are only 1-0 down.  
Obassi looks very very good.  
It's like 96 all over again.  
No doubt if we win this, Dalliance will claim nobody gives a shit about it.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by StephL - 19-08-2008 10:28

---

Yes, Nigeria are fully deserving their lead at the moment, especially as we are playing with 10 vs 12, as Van den Borre is doing his best for the Green Eagles. There have been a couple of chances for Belgium, so you never know.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 10:58

---

Not sure about 10 v 12.  
Have you seen our left back Okwonko?  
He is doing his best in trying to make your right-midfielder look good.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by StephL - 19-08-2008 11:18

---

"your right-midfielder "

It's Van den Borre! Anyway, it's all over now, we miss a sitter and 2-0 2 mins later (could have been offside, but that's history now). Good luck in the final.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 19-08-2008 11:21

---

how many of these olympians would have been playing against liverpool last week?

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by dalliance - 19-08-2008 11:21

---

Nobody gives a shit about this if Nigeria win.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 11:27

---

Dalliance would not give a shit because:

1. His beloved Argentina with thier thug defenders and midget strikers didn't.
2. He knows nothing about african fottball (he is wilfully ignorant) so cannot look clever predicting up and coming players from the continent.
3. It is keeping players away from his precious CL Qualifyers.
4. None of the Nigerians would be stupid enough to sign for Rangers.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 19-08-2008 11:32

And I am the Life wrote:

how many of these olympians would have been playing against liverpool last week?

One member of Belgium's squad went home from Beijing to play against Liverpool.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 11:33

StephL

Belgium have a few chances in a two minute spell that they failed to convert. If truth be told, Nigeria had about 2 or three gears to go up in as they have appeared to use.

Isaac promise has come on for Obassi (or Chinedu Ogbuke as Otto katz and Bellhaven would recognise him as) Just before coming off, Obassi scored the third with a thunderbolt that nearly tore the net.

Now Nigerians are peppering the belgium goal with long range shots.

Anichibe misses an open goal with a terrible miss from 4 yards.

Argentina and Brazil will need to be at their best to beat this lot.

I wonder how much flights are to China?

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 11:38

I really feel sorry for the Belgium keeper who has had a great game.

But they are 4-0 down after a 30 yard daisy cutter from Okwonkwo.

Okwonkwo is a Stuart Pearce without the positional sense.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 11:44

After spending alot of time slagging off the Nigerian Keeper, commentators finally admit he is actually very good.

Well they didn't say he was good, they called him eccentric.

the Scottish co-commentator (no surprise there) is giving praise through gritted teeth.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 19-08-2008 11:48

---

4. None of the Nigerians would be stupid enough to sign for Rangers.

Nonsense, Nigerians will sign for absolutely anyone. is obassi the 'edu' who was involved in that whole mikel mess.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 11:50

---

Nigeria are playing total football.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 19-08-2008 12:01

---

Fantastic performance by Nigeria, coached by ex-Perth Glory legend Sampson Siasia. Result: 4-1, with Belgium scoring a consolation goal from a free kick almost at the end. Two cracking long range goals from Nigeria...

Commentators were dreadful.. they sounded like the goals were an unwelcome interruption to their dreary private conversation. Kevin Gallacher should never be allowed to commentate again....

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 12:02

---

"Nonsense, Nigerians will sign for absolutely anyone."

Apart from Rangers.....

Obassi, is the Edu from the Mikel saga and would grace any premiership team outside the top 4. If you are from Brazil or Argentina, you better stay away from the final. And if you must attend bring some tissues or a large hankie to mop up the tears of shame and sorry. Also drink plenty of water as fluid loss can cause severe dehydration.

I would prefer Argentina as this is very much the nucleus of the WYC2005 team that were cheated by Messi's crew.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 12:08

---

Ahhh, so it was Kevin Gallagher?

Now I can see how he was unaware of the good football he saw in front of him having played for Blackburn all those years.

Every bad pass from a Nigerian was down to their "rawness" which would be ironed out the longer they stay in Europe. Every bad pass from a Belgium was due to their last game against Italy.

Can't wait to hear these cunts during the final.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by rick derris - 19-08-2008 14:02

---

fuck me. argentina v brazil is on on that channel with the red button and I have had that cuntin' high jump competition on!

second half 0 0

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by rick derris - 19-08-2008 14:11

---

fantastic

1 0 argentina

nice goal

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 19-08-2008 14:12

---

who scored? Come on argentina, I want anderson back as quickly as possible.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Duncan Gardner - 19-08-2008 14:14

---

Sergio breasted in Di maria's cross. Then Brazil hit the post within a minute.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by rick derris - 19-08-2008 14:15

---

Sergio Agüero

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by rick derris - 19-08-2008 14:16

---

2 0

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 19-08-2008 14:16

---

Tactical Genius wrote:  
Apart from Rangers.....

Dan Shittu came within a whisker of joining the Huns a month ago. The deal fell apart because of his wage demands.

Rangers probably dodged a bullet there.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

---

Posted by And I am the Life - 19-08-2008 14:24

Dunga is going to get the sack isn't he?

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by rick derris - 19-08-2008 14:26

he may go back to qpr

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by rick derris - 19-08-2008 14:34

3 0 riquleme

pen

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Harri Saer - 19-08-2008 14:38

rick derris wrote:

fuck me. argentina v brazil is on on that channel with the red button and I have had that cuntinng high jump competition on!

here too, Rick.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 14:41

Shittu is too good for Rangers.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by rick derris - 19-08-2008 14:42

whooooooo whooooooo

brazil down to 9 men

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 19-08-2008 14:52

Congratulations Mascherano, for drawing two red cards.

=====

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 19-08-2008 14:52

---

Or as our friendly NBC announcers liked to call him, Motcherano.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 19-08-2008 14:55

---

Tactical Genius wrote:  
Shittu is too good for Rangers.

Shittu looked awful in the Premiership in 06/07, miles out of his depth. I doubt he would have been a roaring success at Rangers, especially in Europe.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 19-08-2008 15:32

---

They're showing th whole match on RTE now. Mascherano is just after clearing out diego from behind and giving the ref a mouthful of abuse. There wasn't even the hint of a card. How the hell does he get away with it?

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 19-08-2008 17:36

---

he may go back to qpr

Where'd you hear that Rick? It was a rumour earlier in the summer but faded even before we bought Gorkss. To date the club has shown no inclination to spend that kind of money, especially on a defender. The latest word I've heard is that we're sniffing around Cranie from Portsmouth again.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by rick derris - 19-08-2008 18:37

---

I made it up cosmos, didn't imagine for a second there was a degree of authenticity about it

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by dalliance - 19-08-2008 19:02

---

TG, your boys are going to take one hell of a beating in the final. They'll be walking like John Wayne for days afterwards.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 19:02

---

"Shittu looked awful in the Premiership in 06/07, miles out of his depth. I doubt he would have been a roaring success at Rangers, especially in Europe."

---

Rangers are not in Europe.  
If the likes of Varga, Cuellar 40 year old Weir and Caldwell can look good in the SPL, then so can Shittu.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by dalliance - 19-08-2008 19:04

---

Nah, Shittu is rubbish. Rangers have been skirting around him for a few years actually and this was the first time they got close to signing him.

£ 25k per week he wanted. Yeah right.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by rick derris - 19-08-2008 19:23

---

shittu is not a bad player. saw him in a very average qpr team many times and he always looked the best player on the field.

his move from charlton had been paid for by a few qpr fans

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 19-08-2008 19:31

---

obassi looks fucking slick. The problem that nigeria had against Argentina in 05 was that they couldn't score if they were going to be there til now. Do they have a midfielder now as good as mikel was then?

What has happened to marcus Chisanthus (?) nigeria's striker at the u-17 world cup last year.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 19-08-2008 19:40

---

Tactical Genius wrote:

Rangers are not in Europe.

If the likes of Varga, Cuellar 40 year old Weir and Caldwell can look good in the SPL, then so can Shittu.

You're sticking up for Shittu because he shares nationality with you. He's utter crap.

Stan Varga was hardly one of the all-time greats, but he had a handful of storming performances in places like the Nou Camp and the San Siro in his time. I wonder how Dan Shittu would get on against Barcelona and Milan?

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by dalliance - 19-08-2008 19:43

---

It must be said he has plenty of previous on that charge !

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 19-08-2008 19:54

---

---

I thought that the two straight red cards were very harsh indeed. the second one was no worse than what mascherano got away with after about 10 minutes.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 19-08-2008 20:05

---

Big Dan's not crap but it must be said he hasn't yet turned into the player many of us were hoping he would and the period where "promising" can still be applied has pretty much run out.

It's too bad he went to Watford. Nothing against them but in order to move up he really needed to go to a Prem team with a settled defence and not one that was newly promoted. He needs an experienced on-field coach beside him till he settles down. I think he has the tools to do well at that level but he needs someone to build him a decent toolbox.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Squid Ink - 19-08-2008 22:44

---

Amor de Cosmos wrote:

...but he needs someone to build him a decent toolbox.

Is that like one of those things cricket players wear to stop themselves getting hit in the goolies when the ball whizzes towards their danglies?

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 19-08-2008 23:00

---

Shittu is good enough to get into the Celtic team.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 19-08-2008 23:05

---

Is that like one of those things cricket players wear to stop themselves getting hit in the goolies when the ball whizzes towards their danglies?

No, it's an ice-hockey metaphor, toolbox= head/mind. The thing you're talking about is the "ashtray."

I'd like to think you're right TG.

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 20-08-2008 00:24

---

Tactical Genius wrote:

Shittu is good enough to get into the Celtic team.

If all the club's centre-backs were killed in a plane crash and there was somehow no money available to buy replacements, Shittu might then stand a chance of nailing down a place at Celtic.

We've bought four defenders from the Championship in the last few years (Virgo, Tebily, Naylor, Camara) and they've all turned out to be absolute shite. I'm praying Glenn Loovens isn't made of the same bad stock.

---

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 20-08-2008 03:12

---

On a related issue. What's the status with any British football teams playing in the 2012 Olympics? I know that there's a lot of wailing and knashing of teeth about a unified British team, but are you all really going to allow an Olympics in Britain to go by without playing in the football?

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Rory Bunk - 20-08-2008 03:26

---

Nigeria looked well tasty in that. I can only imagine that TG would have needed to reach for Seppings' bucket after that net-busting 3rd finish. It was a good old fashioned cracker.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 20-08-2008 03:53

---

On a related issue. What's the status with any British football teams playing in the 2012 Olympics? I know that there's a lot of wailing and knashing of teeth about a unified British team, but are you all really going to allow an Olympics in Britain to go by without playing in the football?

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 20-08-2008 06:53

---

Yes, it will be really interesting to see what happens. The Brits will look like stuck up prats if they don't enter a team in their own olympic football tournament. On the other hand, if they do enter one, there will be so much weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth over the supposed implications, that you will never hear the end of it...

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 20-08-2008 08:16

---

If the home associations are that precious about not having a "unified" GB team at 2012, then there should be a home international series, with the winning country "representing" Britain at the games. That would only be the same as what happens in some other sports, where various "teams" compete in qualifiers with only one eventually representing the country (doubles pairs in badminton, for example).

A home international championship in the summer of 2011 could be quite a crowd-puller, as well, I reckon.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 20-08-2008 10:48

---

oh god, imagine the outcry if england didn't actually win the home championship.

=====

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 20-08-2008 11:53

---

Indeed and the GB team will be playing in Half-empty stadiums.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 20-08-2008 17:40

---

I think it would be an especially big crock of shit if they can't come to some accomodation for the women. Olympic men's football is a nice two-week U-23 tournament, but the players have a of other great competitions to play for in their careers, both at the club and international level.

For the women, Olympic Gold is a very big prize, possibly bigger than the World Cup, and certainly more important than any club competition going on these days.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Inca - 21-08-2008 15:24

---

C'mon USA, just a few more minutes...

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 21-08-2008 15:25

---

Germany has won bronze for the third consecutive time. Given that they're World Champions, this must be fairly frustrating.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Inca - 21-08-2008 15:26

---

Rodriguez hits the post...

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Inca - 21-08-2008 15:28

---

Brazil hit the side netting in the 31st minute of extra time!

And it's all over--gold for the US. Good for Hope Solo--shutting out Brazil in the gold medal game.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 21-08-2008 15:33

---

I'm very pleased for Hope Solo. She was treated so poorly by USS and her teammates after the World Cup. The article about her in SI made me angry. These are supposed to be professional athletes and a lot of them behaved like a junior high school clique.

---

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 21-08-2008 15:50

---

It sounds like it was a fantastic match, but NBC is showing the replay at 2 am tonight. WTF?

Great day for USA soccer. Last night's win in Guatemala and now this.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 22-08-2008 12:12

---

Brazil 2-0 up in the bronze medal match.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 23-08-2008 04:37

---

35 mins gone and Nigeria is bossing this game.  
Argentina's only tactic is to get the ball to Messi who is running towards goal and diving.

Nigeria are missing chances that they have put away in other games.  
It Kicked off midday in China, what ridiculous scheduling by the organisers.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Tactical Genius - 23-08-2008 05:17

---

Come on Siasia, time to put on Ogbuke.  
1-0 to Argentina.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 23-08-2008 05:35

---

Messi is starting to carve your boys up, TG.

Quite a finish from Di Maria for the goal.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 23-08-2008 05:50

---

FIVE minutes of time added on??

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 23-08-2008 12:17

---

---

Why was this match played at noon, local time?

It meant the players had to run around in searing heat, and it also meant that almost nobody in the western hemisphere saw the match because it was the middle of the night.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by ursus arctos - 23-08-2008 12:51

---

I think it was because they decided to have the final in the "Bird's Nest", which is also being used for athletics. A midafternoon start for half a dozen athletics finals would have been even harder on the athletes (and US and European television).

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by SamLKelly - 23-08-2008 13:12

---

I thought that too, HoH. Especially after the entire tournament's been played in the early evening Chinese time. They wanted a massive crowd for the final, but they didn't want to put that final on at a time that would have been more conducive to good football actually being played.

Ironic that Javier Mascherano is now a double Olympic Gold medallist, but has won them in the one sport where pretty much no-one will be impressed by that boast...

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by SamLKelly - 23-08-2008 13:12

---

trimster wrote:

Yes, it will be really interesting to see what happens. The Brits will look like stuck up prats if they don't enter a team in their own olympic football tournament. On the other hand, if they do enter one, there will be so much weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth over the supposed implications, that you will never hear the end of it....

That's before we even think about the wailing and gnashing of teeth that will come after we get dumped out in the first round with no goals scored.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 23-08-2008 18:56

---

Well, if they're not , they should be. It's a fantastic achievement.

=====

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by trimster - 23-08-2008 23:54

---

It wasn't a bad Final, considering the heat and the state of the pitch... certainly a better one than four years ago. Argentina had that little bit of extra edge in coolness and class in their attacking play, otherwise there was not that much between the two teams. Argentina certainly didn't dominate to the extent that people were predicting here at the start of this thread (I think someone said that Argentina would win the final 5-0, no matter whom they played against...)

Messi was involved in a bit of niggles with the Nigerians at half time. He and Riquelme showed glimpses of class throughout the tournament, but I really think it was their defence that won it for them.

---

---

## Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Kowalski - 24-08-2008 12:48

---

Some of the more well-known medallists down the years

2004

Gold Argentina

Roberto Ayala

Fabrizio Coloccini

Andrés D'Alessandro

Cristian 'Kily' González

Gabriel Heinze

Javier Mascherano

Javier Saviola

Carlos Tévez

Bronze Italy

Andrea Barzagli

Giorgio Chiellini

Daniele De Rossi

Alberto Gilardino

Andrea Pirlo

Coach: Claudio Gentile

2000

Gold Cameroon

Samuel Eto'o

Lauren

Carlos Kameni

Patrick Mboma

Geremi

Patrick Suffo

Silver Spain

David Albelda

Miguel Angel Angulo

Joan Capdevila

Xavier Hernández

Albert Luque

Carlos Marchena

Carles Puyol

Raúl Tamudo

Bronze Chile

Iván Zamorano

1996

Gold Nigeria

Daniel Amokachi

Celestine Babayaro

Victor Ikpeba

Nwankwo Kanu

Jay-Jay Okocha

Taribo West

Silver Argentina

Roberto Ayala

Christian Bessedas

José Chamot

Hernán Crespo

---

Marcelo Gallardo  
Claudio Lopez  
Ariel Ortega  
Roberto Sensini  
Diego Simeone  
Javier Zanetti  
Coach: Daniel Passarella

Bronze Brazil  
Dida  
Aldair  
Ronaldo  
Flavio Conceicao  
Roberto Carlos  
Bebeto  
Juninho  
Rivaldo  
Savio  
Coach: Mario Zagallo

1992  
Gold Spain  
Santiago Cañizares  
Abelardo Fernández  
Albert Ferrer  
Josep Guardiola  
Luis Enrique

Silver Poland  
Dariusz Adamczuk  
Marek Kozminski  
Piotr Swierczewski

Bronze Ghana  
Nii Lamptey  
Samuel Osei Kuffour  
Alex Nyarko

1988  
Gold Soviet Union  
Igor Dobrovolski  
Dmitry Kharin  
Oleksiy Mykhaylychenko

Silver Brazil  
Bebeto  
Careca  
Jorginho  
Romário  
Cláudio Taffarel

Bronze West Germany  
Thomas Häßler  
Jürgen Klinsmann  
Karl-Heinz Riedle

1984  
Gold France  
Guy Lacombe  
Coach: Henri Michel

Silver Brazil  
Dunga

Bronze Yugoslavia

---

Tomislav Ivkovic  
Srecko Katanec  
Dragan Stojkovic

1980  
Bronze USSR  
Rinat Dasaev  
Alexandre Chivadze  
Oleg Romantsev  
Vladimir Bessonov  
Sergej Baltacha

1976  
Gold East Germany  
Jürgen Croy

Silver Poland  
Jan Tomaszewski  
Wladyslaw Zmuda  
Grzegorz Lato  
Henryk Kasperczak  
Kazimierz Deyna  
Andrzej Szarmach

Bronze USSR  
David Kipiani  
Oleg Blokhin

1972  
Gold Poland  
Kazimierz Deyna  
Grzegorz Lato

Bronze USSR  
Oleg Blokhin

Bronze East Germany  
Jürgen Croy  
Jürgen Sparwasser

1964  
Gold Hungary  
Ferenc Bene  
János Farkas  
Károly Palotai

1960  
Bronze Hungary  
Flórián Albert

1956  
Gold USSR  
Lev Yashin  
Eduard Streltsov

1952  
Gold Hungary  
Gyula Grosics  
Ferenc Puskás  
Zoltán Czibor  
Jenő Buzánszky  
József Bozsik  
Nándor Hidegkuti  
Sándor Kocsis  
Péter Palotás

---

1948  
Gold Sweden  
Gunnar Gren  
Gunnar Nordahl  
Nils Liedholm

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by And I am the Life - 24-08-2008 12:52

---

why wasn't nigeria's best player playing?

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 24-08-2008 13:35

---

Alfonso, Kiko, Amavisca and Mikel Lasa also played for Spain in 1992.

The Careca who won silver for Brazil in 1988 was a different Careca from the famous one who played for Napoli.

That USSR-Brazil game was fantastic. I remember each side had a player sent off in extra-time, and then Yurii Savichev scored the winner with a great lob over Taffarel after being put clean through.

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by SamLKelly - 24-08-2008 23:32

---

Trimster - in Toro's defence, I doubt he realised the final would be scheduled quite so ridiculously when he wrote that.

And going back to the early pages of the thread reminded me of Canterng Captain - how did it go, if you're reading this?!

=====

### Re:What? No Olympics Thread?

Posted by Kowalski - 24-08-2008 23:37

---

Hieronymus of Hesselink wrote:  
Alfonso, Kiko, Amavisca and Mikel Lasa also played for Spain in 1992.

I was a bit tired when I did it.

=====