
Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 08-05-2008 12:47

Post #1. Hooray!

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by blameless - 08-05-2008 12:49

On Saturday 17th November 2007 I was briefly an ABI myself, but I'd recovered by about a week later.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Alderman Barnes - 08-05-2008 12:52

Marvellous, it's up.

Now that the old board has disappeared down a black hole, I suppose we'll never know who posted the last message on the World Cup forum.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 08-05-2008 13:07

Ma che cazza? 's wrong with Italy? Siamo campioni del mondo! And we did it playing some reasonably attractive football along the way, too.

Just because you English treat defensive organization as an afterthought doesn't mean you have to slag off those who treat it with respect.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 08-05-2008 13:32

Why? Too long spent working in a brazenly corrupt Italian bank. And because of the endemic corruption within Italian football. Because of knife usage as part of the standard method of supporting ones club. And because the British cultural cringe towards Italy makes me want to puke. And because of Materazzi. And because of that thing they do with their hands.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 08-05-2008 13:55

I love that thing they do with their hands. Like Italian design, it subtly and efficiently achieves what an English player would take five expletives to do.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by EIM - 08-05-2008 14:01

I used to love Italian football. It was a channel 4 thing, that festered long enough to blossom in to full blown Azzuriism in USA 94. Oh whilst all my friends in the playground were Platt, Gascoigne or Walker, I was Albertini, Donadoni AND II

Divino Codino. I wore only lotto boots. I ate only pasta and pizza. I over gelled my hair to try and make me look less like the awkward English kid I was and more like the passionate Mediterranean man I wanted to be.

Then I grew up and realised Italy were a bunch of dicks, and I wanted no more to do with them. Football wise. Besides, I was too busy being French by then to have any time to be Italian any more.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 08-05-2008 14:11

But you have that fabulous mediterannean beard...kind of Zambrotta-ish.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by EIM - 08-05-2008 14:17

Ah Zambrotta-ish. Sums me up perfectly. I aim for Cantonesque, I peak at Zambrotta-ish. I can't even manage Gattuso-like.

I wish Italy no real harm. That is saved for Spain, who I now regard as the Scousers of Europe. Not for any major cultural reason - you'd have to go some to mirror the cultures of Liverpool and Spain - but because so much of the personnel will be similar. Torres, Xabi Alonso, Reina (is he even in the squad, you'd hope not), all those anonymous other reserves that Fat Rafa signed.

Oh, I hope they fail. I hope Hobbes with his one eight Spanishness cries himself to sleep every game night. I hope the people of the Basque region, and of Catalunya dance their traditional regional dances (should they entertain anti-national team sympathies, obv) as Spain get knocked out painfully early once more.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 08-05-2008 14:24

ABI for the foreseeable future. I'll reassess after the retirement of Totti, Daniela Rossi, Materazzi, General Zod's henchman, Buffoon, and Del Piero.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by The_Liquidator - 08-05-2008 14:27

Siamo campioni del mondo!

The best bit about this thread is understand Italian phrases such as this one.

It means 'call me a taxi, I'm late for my plane', yes?

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 08-05-2008 14:27

Oh, and because of Inzaghi.

Wow, I'd actually forgotten all about him for a while there. I wondered why I was feeling so cheerful. Then I remembered and a cloud passed across the sun.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by The_Liquidator - 08-05-2008 14:30

Don't forget their appalling pop music and television. For that alone they deserve to suffer.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 08-05-2008 14:32

jv, how can you possibly hate Buffon? They dragged the man out of Plato's cave, for Christ's sake. He is the Idea of a Goalkeeper.

EIM - Your beard might make Gattuso in a pinch. The problem is you're tall and thin while Gattuso is short and squat. And deep-down, you're not a Scotsman.

Liq, I just hope someone is meeting you at the airport when you get to Rome.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by The_Liquidator - 08-05-2008 14:48

They'll all be too busy gelling their hair, or latching at tits to notice the inherent rightness of my statement.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 08-05-2008 14:53

No, I meant about getting a taxi.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Matej - 08-05-2008 15:43

I'm in. In fact I'll be as passionately ABI (or AIB) as I can muster for the tournament. I hope they don't get a point or score a goal.

I'd love it especially if they went out due to Netherlands v Romania result that looked a statistical improbability (like a 5-4 Netherlands win) and immediately have the Italian team crying 'fix' and so forth.

But if Totti isn't there, my ire may fade a bit.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 08-05-2008 15:46

He's not. Even if he weren't crocked for four months (which he is), he's retired from international duty.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 08-05-2008 16:02

What about this cnut?

<http://lh6.ggpht.com/swanandw/Rb9rO9KPSsl/AAAAAAAAAj8/4UzspwoSUJo/06D1A1F4-E7B2-48B9-BCC5-6BCDD649FC3E.jpg?imgmax=576>

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by blameless - 08-05-2008 16:25

What, that cunt who apologised to McBride for elbowing him, and served a ban commensurate for the offence he committed?

This DeRossi-hate is weird: as far as I can recall, Leonardo wasn't similarly demonised long after the event for the far worse foul he committed on Tab Ramos.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Harry Parsons - 08-05-2008 16:32

Now come on, blameless.

I think all of us concede that no other teams at this or any other tournament finals except Italy ever have any players who commit serious fouls. Be sensible.

I am just waiting for the debut appearance of "the Italians are divers" (which I recall was seriously aired during WC 06 by a few people).

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 08-05-2008 16:32

Because hardly anyone in the US cared about the team seriously in 1994. Plus, the US media loves Brazil as much as they do the US team.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 08-05-2008 16:36

Surely just a matter of time, Harry.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Hofzinsler - 08-05-2008 16:42

This is a particularly hilarious example.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 08-05-2008 16:42

Sign me up as an enthusiastic vice-captain in Purv's ABI squad.

I haven't really given much thought to who I will be supporting. Spain, I guess. It's usually Spain.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 08-05-2008 17:31

See, the nice thing about supporting Italy is that win or lose, we always have nice meals before, during and after the matches.

Spain is alright but the lack of vegetables is alarming.

The less said about Saxon cuisines (Anglo or otherwise) the better.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by E10 Rifle - 08-05-2008 17:36

My footballing Italo-phobia has waned in recent times - I grudgingly but genuinely admired their 06 team - but then last week I observed Christian Vieri's skyed penalty hand Rangers a place in a European final and it all came flooding back.

That, and their voting patterns make those of the outer London suburbs seem rational and enlightened.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by gerontophile - 08-05-2008 17:43

count me in with the ABI's. that smug twat (Inca's pic)... bastard

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 09-05-2008 01:37

Me too.

This June I'm deleting my Mina links (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKSuG1LOaYI>), downing the last bit of balsamic vinegar and boycotting the Fellini retrospective at the local rep theater.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 09-05-2008 01:39

OK, maybe not the Mina part. But I'm totally serious about the rest.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 09-05-2008 01:45

Alright, in case the last youtube link may have had caused some of you to defect from Team ABI:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFIUe9hFda0>

Welcome back!!!

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 09-05-2008 02:00

I have even more hate for Leonardo. Di Cunti apoligized only because Lippi made him.

It's funny how two of the worst dangerous fouls were committed against Americans, both by World Champion teams. But of course, that's allowed because of the second-class citizen thing. See if Di Cunti threw that against Ronaldo.

To boot, my girls high school team played the defending state champions this year, and their best player looked behind her and threw an elbow at our #10, shattering her nose. She's on her third plastic surgery operation.

So fuck Di Cunti.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 09-05-2008 08:01

I'd not thought of the Italians as divers, to be honest, but some of the clips on the links are horrendous. This one, in particular, seems somewhat familiar - where I have seen Materazzi do this before?

Materazzi and Toni bump together, and fall dramatically to the floor clutching completely untouched parts of their bodies

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by King On The Rye - 09-05-2008 09:50

See, the nice thing about supporting Italy is that win or lose, we always have nice meals before, during and after the matches.

how nice.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Harry Parsons - 09-05-2008 11:06

Rogin the Armchair Fan wrote:

I'd not thought of the Italians as divers, to be honest, but some of the clips on the links are horrendous. This one, in particular, seems somewhat familiar - where I have seen Materazzi do this before?

Materazzi and Toni bump together, and fall dramatically to the floor clutching completely untouched parts of their bodies

If it's a dive involving Materazzi, you've probably "seen it before" from Torres.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by gerontophile - 09-05-2008 11:06

King, you should have added: 'the long winter nights must surely ooze by'

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ad hoc - 09-05-2008 11:10

I remember the best thing about supporting Italy to win the last WC final, was the waves of hate coming from various OTFers. Linus's post final breakdown was quite possibly the most amusing thing that happened related to that tournament.

I'm slowly getting that vibe again, and while I don't want to support those Berlusconi voting, Northern League interior minister scummers, I can see myself doing it come June.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by blameless - 09-05-2008 11:24

"Their league's shit, they're all corrupt, their players are weak and stupid and slow and lazy and cheats and they can't possibly win it, come on Germany, oh shit, come on France, no, no, no, no, oh fuck Zidane why did you do that, no, no, NNNNOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!"

It was ace, wasn't it?

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 09-05-2008 11:59

I quite liked Italy the one time I went there, I must admit. "World's best ice cream" isn't a bad boast, just on its own; then you've got the coffee, and the red wine (which at its best is lovely: all black cherries, with just a bit of bitterness) and the random little churches that just happen to have original Fra Angelicos, and the nice countryside, and risotto nero, and stuff.

I haven't had a yearning to go back, and I don't love the place the way I love, say, Spain, and of course they play quite defensively--but I mean, so sue them: it's a perfectly legit tactic.

Are we not judging Italy by UK Italophiles, a bit? Which would be silly.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 09-05-2008 12:07

Spearmint Rhino wrote:

Sign me up as an enthusiastic vice-captain in Purv's ABI squad.

I haven't really given much thought to who I will be supporting. Spain, I guess. It's usually Spain. I see little to argue with in this post.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 09-05-2008 12:47

(link fixed to post three or so above - it's hilarious)

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 09-05-2008 17:35

Don't mean to post this again, but I'm not that bitter about Italy winning and beating Zidane and France. As I've said, it was a French gangster film. A brilliant French film. Like Rififi or Le Trou or Cercle Rouge, there's a crack team of grizzled old vets (ZZ, Thuram) and young bucks (Ribery) who somehow pull it together and pull off a brilliant heist (beating Spain & Brasil & getting to the final.) when they fall just short because of a double-dealing no-code-of-honor-or-respect bitch-ass slimy immoral slug. In this case slugs.

Italy was a great pro-wrestling heel. They were slightly feminine and good looking. They were cheaters. They had no code of honor or respect. They would do or say whatever it took to win. They had enough balls to pull it off. They had skill, but used the dark side to ensure the win.

1982 is my favorite World Cup, but it was the Raiders of the Lost Ark of World Cups. 2006 was The Godfather, Dostoyevsky, Sopranos, The Wire, Cercle Rouge, Socrates, Plato, and King Lear rolled into one. It will never be topped for drama or intrigue.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 09-05-2008 18:06

Double post

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 09-05-2008 18:08

Don't mean to post this again, but I'm not that bitter about Italy winning and beating Zidane and France. As I've said, it was a French gangster film. A brilliant French film. Like Rififi or Le Trou or Cercle Rouge, there's a crack team of grizzled old vets (ZZ, Thuram) and young bucks (Ribery) who somehow pull it together and pull off a brilliant heist (beating Spain & Brasil & getting to the final.) when they fall just short because of a double-dealing no-code-of-honor-or-respect bitch-ass slimy immoral slug. In this case slugs.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 10-05-2008 18:04

Brilliant, JV.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by SpanglyPrincess - 15-05-2008 06:38

hahaha I love all this, it makes me happy. Gosh how bitter people are.

Totti officially retired last summer, so you don't have to waste your hatred.

I am bewildered by the idea that De Rossi somehow "got away with" his atrocious elbowing. He apologised to McBride (how on earth does anyone presume to know whether Lippi "made him" or not? were you there?) served a 3 match ban, he was reviled in the Italian and world press, and he is still asked about it in interviews, with hostility. What would have been an appropriate penance, public self-flagellation? He's hardly the first nor will he be the last player to lose his head totally for a second and brutally assault a fellow professional.

Oh and the diving thing is also hilarious. Right, cos players from other countries never dive, is that it?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 15-05-2008 13:54

Did anyone ever claim that he got away with it?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by SpanglyPrincess - 15-05-2008 15:35

Inca: that seemed to me the clear implication of this comment -

"It's funny how two of the worst dangerous fouls were committed against Americans, both by World Champion teams. But of course, that's allowed because of the second-class citizen thing. See if Di Cunti threw that against Ronaldo."

and they say Italians are paranoid.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-05-2008 15:44

If De Rossi had thrown that against Ronaldo, he would have broken his elbow.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 15-05-2008 16:56

SpanglyPrincess wrote:
and they say Italians are paranoid.

Nonsense.

Why would anyone say a thing like that?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Fred Keenor - 15-05-2008 18:45

Purves Grundy wrote:
SpanglyPrincess wrote:
and they say Italians are paranoid.

Nonsense.

Why would anyone say a thing like that?

Two words;

Urs Meier

I don't think Italy are unique as a major footballing nation in their reaction to such things. In fact they're the norm.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Mr Kite - 15-05-2008 19:31

Speaking of Italian cheats, Juventus are back in the Champions League next season. Sales of Swiss sim cards are going up already

Good piece on Moggi in current WSC. It'll be interesting to see how the media react to Cappello if he gets dragged into many more court proceedings

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-05-2008 20:00

Ah, Mr. Kite.

Should you be interested in how the Moggi saga played out on OTF in real time (and have a few days with nothing to do), may I point you to the 50 page thread on the old board.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by TonTon - 18-05-2008 05:16

So who's the fella in Inca's photo, the one getting sent off? He's kinda cute, isn't he?

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by gerontophile - 18-05-2008 08:16

Daniele De Rossi

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by TonTon - 18-05-2008 09:50

Hmmm...photos seem to range wildly. Not enough to tip the balance away from Portugal, for me. Assuming they're in it, of course.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by TonTon - 18-05-2008 09:59

They are, super.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by gerontophile - 18-05-2008 09:59

Sorry TT. I have no point of reference for what you are on about.

Now if you are talking managers...

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by TonTon - 18-05-2008 10:00

The good thing, ger, is that we'd never fight over a man.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by gerontophile - 18-05-2008 10:10

probably not near one, either.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 18-05-2008 10:56

Fred Keenor wrote:

I don't think Italy are unique as a major footballing nation in their reaction to such things. In fact they're the norm.

It wasn't so much their reaction after the game (everyone, as you rightly say, is prone to sour grapes) as their behaviour before the game that screamed of paranoia. They spent the whole three or four days bleating about how the whoel Denmark - Sweden was obviously going to be a carve up designed specifically to freeze Italy out. The old problem of judging people by their own standards. It was so clearly what Italy would connive to do in the same circumstances that it was inconceivable to them that anyone might behave otherwise (Italy v Poland 1974, anyone?). I lacked the time to go and root out the stories from before the Denmark - Sweden game, but they're there somewhere.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 22-05-2008 22:03

linus wrote:

Alright, in case the last youtube link may have had caused some of you to defect from Team ABI:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFIUe9hFda0>

Welcome back!!!

Blimey.

Just followed that link.

Why do people insist on banging on about that tedious old git Scott Walker when there is stuff like this around?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by TonTon - 22-05-2008 22:08

Why would that video make you hate Italy?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 22-05-2008 22:40

No idea. Doesn't even make me love France.

It just makes me feel, you know. The way I expect you felt during that shot of Luis Cumbers on Nuts TV tonight.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by TonTon - 22-05-2008 23:18

Hahahaha

I'm sure I don't know what you mean.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by pengedragon - 23-05-2008 07:26

i like italy, always have done. it's probably not the full blown love affair it was when roby baggio was around but i cant think of a team i want to win it more than the azzurri

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Alderman Barnes - 23-05-2008 07:39

How's Luis Cumbers doing for your lot? Do you think he's anywhere close to Fourth Division standard yet?

He came on for Gillingham against Franchise in the Paint Pot and missed the crucial penalty in the shoot-out (although to be fair, he had to wait around a long time while the ref insisted that some sort of crowd kerfuffle be sorted out before he took it), so it's nice to see him fighting the good fight in a different way.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ad hoc - 23-05-2008 07:56

I've always liked Italy, buit the current political climate there with the government inciting people to set fire to Rroma camps and now deciding to make immigration a criminal offence, has convinced me that it would be better iuf they got stuffed. Particularly by Romania, one of the countries that is a focal point of the Berlusconi government's xenophobia. Fuck them. Hai Romania.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 23-05-2008 08:39

I actually fear for the real life repercussions on the ground here where Romania to put Italy out. Life is hard enough for the Romanian and Rom populations as it is, given the increasingly poisoned environment that ad hoc describes.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by TonTon - 23-05-2008 09:28

He did well for us, we like him a lot. He's signed a one-year contract with the Gills this summer, and I would expect to see him play a good few games for you.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Bogzilla - 23-05-2008 12:50

I really don't understand the level of hate aimed at De Rossi. As mentioned by others, he was caught in the act and punished accordingly. If people think the punishment was too lenient, then that's a different issue, but he can hardly be blamed for that, can he? It's not like the crime went unnoticed or unpunished (Schumacher-style) is it? That it's a bad piece of foul play is indisputable, but it's no worse than a thousand other similar challenges or fouls.

Also, that '06 Italy team were good to watch. I'm afraid you'll have to count me out of the ABI brigade.

JV, sorry to hear about your girl. Hope the docs can put her right.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 23-05-2008 14:18

Purves Grundy wrote:

Fred Keenor wrote:

I don't think Italy are unique as a major footballing nation in their reaction to such things. In fact they're the norm.

It wasn't so much their reaction after the game (everyone, as you rightly say, is prone to sour grapes) as their behaviour before the game that screamed of paranoia. They spent the whole three or four days bleating about how the whole Denmark - Sweden was obviously going to be a carve up designed specifically to freeze Italy out. The old problem of judging people by their own standards. It was so clearly what Italy would connive to do in the same circumstances that it was inconceivable to them that anyone might behave otherwise

Haven't we just had a week where a huge topic of conversation in football was if Wigan would really try and derail Man Utd's title challenge in the final game? With Ferguson throwing some pretty poor barbs out at Bolton's players as well? These conspiracies abound in all of modern Big Football.

And the Sweden/Denmark game was the 2-2 it needed to be in the end.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Bryan - 24-05-2008 12:45

Didn't De Rossi once admit to the ref that he'd used his hand to put the ball in the net, or was that somebody else?

As for the elbow, Brian McBride complimented De Rossi on his apology in the post match interview. If Brian McBride is happy, then that's all that matters, surely?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 24-05-2008 13:18

Nothing matters. F him.

To commit a foul like that, only to take a winning penalty and lift the trophy isn't my definition of what is right. People seem to sidestep the two hard fouls in the box against Ghana that he didn't get called for.

And yes I am bitter about Italy '06 winning, just as I'm bitter about Bush stealing the election in 2000. They were a nasty team throughout the tournament, had one scorcher of a game in the semifinal, and did and said whatever it took to win. No one will even convince me they were an honorable team, as I've had 2 years to think about what scumbags they were/are, so that's that. Feel free to disagree. But the "they're no different than other scumbags" argument will go nowhere with me.

I mean were talking about Totti and Del Piero, who campaigned against a resurgent Baggio coming to the team in 2002 because it was their turn. So the team was built on that attitude.

Then we have "Italy does best when there's a horrible scandal at home" bullshit. Ok, then have a scandal every 4 years.

To say it for the hundredth time, my first coach was Italian, the one who gave me my love of the game and all of that. I grew up with Giorgio Chinaglia, who scored the first goal of the first game I went to. The 82 team especially left a mark on my concious, as did watching Serie A on WNYC for most of the 80s. This team was the antithesis of all I grew up with.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by blameless - 24-05-2008 13:45

The 82 team especially left a mark on my concious, as did watching Serie A on WNYC for most of the 80s. This team was the antithesis of all I grew up with

Antithesis? Antithesis? The 1982 team contained the most violent player in the world in Claudio Gentile, and in Paolo Rossi had a star player who was just returning after a 2-year ban for a betting scandal. Fucking antithesis, indeed.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 24-05-2008 15:09

Rossi didn't have any cheap dives, he went all out to prove himself. Gentile's fouls were normal for the time against Zico and Maradona. Now because of players like Gentile, those fouls are now regarded as horrific, but at the time they were within the laws of the game.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 24-05-2008 15:14

I really struggle to see how Italy were a nasty team throughout the tournament in 2006, De Rossi's elbow aside. He should have been banned for the whole tournament though, as it was a shocker.

I miss Gentile, Benetti, Tardelli et al. Those were the days. Hard players that could play.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 24-05-2008 17:04

Indeed. However, I will always keep an open mind and will hope to be surprised by this year's team. I am grateful to Donadoni for helping to give some credence to the MLS and the MetroStars, and I owe him that much to wish him a smidgen of buona fortuna.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

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Indeed. However, I will always keep an open mind and will hope to be surprised by this year's team. I am grateful to Donadoni for helping to give some credence to the MLS and the MetroStars, and I owe him that much to wish him a smidgen of buona fortuna.

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Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 24-05-2008 23:38

Harry Carpenter wrote:

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That counterpoint would work better if I didn't also fervently desire Man Utd and Chelsea to lose every game they ever play in.

And the Sweden/Denmark game was the 2-2 it needed to be in the end.

Woo. Case closed.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 25-05-2008 07:05

Harry Parsons wrote:

Rogin the Armchair Fan wrote:

I'd not thought of the Italians as divers, to be honest, but some of the clips on the links are horrendous. This one, in particular, seems somewhat familiar - where I have seen Materazzi do this before?

Materazzi and Toni bump together, and fall dramatically to the floor clutching completely untouched parts of their bodies

If it's a dive involving Materazzi, you've probably "seen it before" from Torres.

Hahaha, you're obsessed with Torres. Get a room.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by pawlu - 26-05-2008 15:54

Well, there's no way Italy are going to win it if they keep having their training interrupted likethis.

Disgraceful.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 26-05-2008 16:05

One of them first came to public attention by giving unsolicited "lap dances" in the Milan metro.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by pawlu - 26-05-2008 16:48

Italy eh? Who'd want to live there?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 02-06-2008 17:27

Breaking news from Austria. Cannavaro has injured his ankle in a clash with Chiellini in training and may be out of the Euros. Final decision in 24-48 hours, but the early word out of the Azzurri camp is not very promising.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 02-06-2008 18:22

Bloody hell.

I was just writing to a friend that the only 3 players I consider irreplaceable for the azzurri are:

Buffon (I am worried about his back, and balls whipped into the near post and six yard box in general, as it has hampered him in this regard in recent weeks, too)

Pirlo

Toni

Possibly Cannavaro, though not on his last 2 season's form.

Though this news was received like a big big blow to the guts.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 02-06-2008 18:33

sixmartletsandaseagull wrote:

Buffon (I am worried about his back, and balls whipped into the near post...

Crucial comma there.

I too was wondering if this will be a huge loss for the team, but I haven't seen any of Italy's games since 2006, and I don't know if he could be as mediocre for them as he was for Real.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 02-06-2008 18:44

The loss will be very very big, psychologically, I think anyway. I am increasingly spooked by the minute now!

He hadn't played that well for Juve before the 2006 WC, but he put together a series of performances that was extraordinary. Big time big player. At least he has been.

Though he is two years on, by no means young and I don't follow Spanish football closely, though from what I have seen and read he isn't the colossus he was in June/July 2006.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by tactictoe - 02-06-2008 19:09

No pithy comments from me on this thread, just wanted to say, totally agree with its title. Please, anyone but Italy.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 02-06-2008 19:22

And for those who don't feel that way . . .

Cannavaro's form with the Azzurri has been very different from his club form with Real Madrid. There was a post-World Cup hangover in the early qualifiers, but when the chips were down, he was extremely important. Though as sixmartlets notes, he may be even more important psychologically.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 02-06-2008 19:29

So what's the central defense pairing? Materazzi and Barzagli? Or will Chiellini play in the center?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 02-06-2008 19:32

A very good question. No one is really willing to go there right now, but my money would be on Materazzi and Barzagli, with Gamberini being the last minute call-up if Cannavaro is out for the entire tournament. Buffon would get the armband.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 02-06-2008 19:47

Merda.

It didn't take 24 hours, Cannavaro is going home for a possible operation on his ankle and Gamberini is on a plane to Austria.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 02-06-2008 20:16

Bloody hell!

I am very sad for Cannavaro, he really comes across as a lovely man too.

Donadoni will go for Materazzi/Barzagli if he is consistent in his selection. I hope Chiellini is not too demoralised by the whole incident and aftermath!

Going for a lie down.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 02-06-2008 21:23

La Gazzetta just posted a video.

You can't see the contact, but it looks like clumsiness from Chiellini more than anything else. He has to feel absolutely awful about it.

No doubt Domenech will have an astrological explanation for this calamity.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 03-06-2008 00:32

That footage is pretty rare. You hardly ever see azzuris grabbing their legs in pain while actually being injured.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by loose cannon - 03-06-2008 08:31

It's also remarkable the speed at which concerned players and staff ambled over to him and administered healing pats on the shoulder as he writhed in pain.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Matej - 03-06-2008 13:12

Shame, without Cannavaro I have even less ability to accept an Italy win.

Please, if Italy wins, it better be because Pirlo absolutely plays like a god.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by And I am the Life - 03-06-2008 14:47

This italian squad really doesn't set the heather ablaze does it

There seems to be a real lack of pace in that team, and not a whole heap of attacking strength from midfield. However, one thing that could really make a big difference for Italy is that the World cup was too big a stage for Luca Toni the last time out, but now that he's played at Bayern Munich for a year there's every chance he could score six or seven goals, and Italy will need that if they're going to win.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-06-2008 14:59

"There seems to be a real lack of pace in that team, and not a whole heap of attacking strength from midfield."

In other words, much like the team that won the World Cup.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Message Board - When Saturday Comes - The Half Decent Football Magazine

FireBoard Forum Component version: 1.0.2

Generated: 3 December, 2008, 08:32

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 03-06-2008 15:08

I thought Toni did well in the WC.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-06-2008 15:17

You need to see his performance through aiatl's eyes . . .

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by And I am the Life - 03-06-2008 15:20

ursus arctos wrote:

"There seems to be a real lack of pace in that team, and not a whole heap of attacking strength from midfield."

In other words, much like the team that won the World Cup.

Well kind of. Just that each member of the back four has been fairly shite since winning the world cup, and It is very unlikely that Italy are going to win a second consecutive tournament with only the back half of a football team.

Toni managed only two goals against a shite ukrainean team. Which wasn't that special compared to the hype surrounding his 745 goals for Fiorentina. He could actually do the business this time though, now that he's a proper famous footballer.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 03-06-2008 15:40

Toni did hit more woodwork than Joseph during the tournament and led the line very well.

His all round contribution was impressive I thought. I certainly wouldn't dismiss two goals against Ukraine so easily, in a QF, too. They were coming on strong before his goals.

I am not really following the: the stage was too big for him, he could do the business now as he's a proper famous footballer argument and I have to assume you are joking.

I don't see Italy reaching the final. But then I seldom do, and they often do.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by And I am the Life - 03-06-2008 15:47

I thought that at the World cup he was a little clumsy and a little off the pace. He was the european golden boot, and it didn't really work out for him. to be fair thoug, he had very little big game experience and will probably be a lot less overawed now.

and as for the ukraine, they were just utter shite. That ukraine switzerland game will live on in infamy right beside Ireland Norway or Italy norway or Ireland egypt or Ireland holland.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 03-06-2008 16:03

He is a little clumsy at times, I would agree.

But he did crash the ball against the woodwork of Ghana and Australia and France, and scored what I still think was an on-side header in the final.

I also see that he may be better still given his experiences of the past 2 years.

I definitely have him as one of three irreplaceables (for me) which I didn't in 2006.

I am sure Donadoni won't, but I wouldn't be adverse to a midfield of De Rossi-Pirlo-Perrotta which might offer a greater goal threat from midfield.

What no Rino? I would seriously consider it. Though with Cannavaro out Gattuso may be too important a personality/heartbeat of the team to leave out.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 03-06-2008 19:22

In other words, much like the team that won the World Cup.

You can make a solid argument about Italy 2006's run as the easiest path and least convincing world cup win in the modern era.

Australia (1-0 on a phantom PK call), the Ukraine, Germany in extra time and France in PKs under dramatic circumstances.

Let's see how they do the next few weeks...

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-06-2008 19:30

Two years on and the grapes are still sour, hein?

Though one does have to admit that the opposing finalists were embarassingly weak

On verra.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 03-06-2008 19:32

I liked Ireland-Holland '94, aiatl, but I agree with the rest of everything you were saying.

Not only was Swiss-Ukraine horrible, but it even had the worst penalty shootout of all time. Even worse than Juve-Milan '03.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 03-06-2008 20:05

jason voorhees wrote:

Not only was Swiss-Ukraine horrible, but it even had the worst penalty shootout of all time. Even worse than Juve-Milan

'03.

Relive the magic: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5fKlxQ7mQc>

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 03-06-2008 20:12

linus wrote:

In other words, much like the team that won the World Cup.

You can make a solid argument about Italy 2006's run as the easiest path and least convincing world cup win in the modern era.

Seriously you couldn't and haven't.

Australia (1-0 on a phantom PK call), the Ukraine, Germany in extra time and France in PKs under dramatic circumstances.

Ghana, USA and Czech Republic was widely viewed as the toughest group after the Dutch/Arg/Ivory Coast one.

Australia: pen in my opinion, though I can see why some might think not. As impt in terms of your weak/desperate argument Italy played for 70 mins with 10 men and were still comfortably the better team and deserved to win I thought, esp once Totti came on for a 15-20 min cameo/masterclass.

Ukraine. yes should beat them and except for possibly England the weakest team left in at that stage.

Germany in their citadel? On an amazing high. Only in ET. Breathtaking.

France? yes give you that one they are tosh. Hells bells almost a bye to the trophy.

Let's see how they do the next few weeks...

Isn't the WC safely in a vault in Italy somewhere. Nowt to see in terms of the WC.

I'd like them to win the Euros in Aus/Switz but only if like in Germany they thoroughly deserve it.

Priceless. I am so disappointed I wasn't on OTF in the summer of 2006

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 03-06-2008 20:40

Thanks Inca, I needed a good laugh.

Put the distances away from the keeper of the first and third shots of the Swiss together and it still wouldn't have been a hard shot to save.

And WTF was that tounge-wag before the 1st shot ?

See, that's why penalty shootouts are an art and science. I can tell you I'd teach all of my players DO NOT wag your tounge before a shot.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 03-06-2008 21:46

OK martlets, if you are going to argue that the Australian penalty was a good call, we really shouldn't have any debate

because there is no point, but I'll bite.

"Germany in their citadel" got trounced 5-1 by England, 3-0 by France. You'd have to go back to the 19th century for such levels of extreme mediocrity by the Mannschaft. That was not Franz or Lothar's team...

Advancing in their first stage group is hardly a great feat, the format is forgiving as you basically have to finish in the top two with three good teams.

The soft path played very well to Italy's strengths of consistency and defense (and a good dose of Italian cynicism, as in knowing how to earn a PK when the defender isn't fouling and gauding opponents into losing their tempers), they do have a good ability to edge out successive average to above average teams.

UA: that final wasn't quite a Seville-level trauma, but hmmm, ouais, it's still not sitting well.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-06-2008 21:47

Linus, it's ok; I cried after Seville.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ad hoc - 04-06-2008 05:43

As you weren't here martlets, you will have missed the spectacular post-final meltdown of our friend linus in 2006. It was pretty much clear to everyone but him that Italy were the best team in the tournament (with the possible exception of Argentina who blew it).

It was a brilliant thread, but you don't necessarily have to treat with any seriousness the idea that La France all but swept to a glorious and totally deserved World Cup triumph, only to be undone at the final hurdle by the perfidious Materazzi.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 04-06-2008 05:45

Linus: by citadel I meant Dortmund. Partisan home crowd, 13 wins and one draw for Germany there, which is why it was the made the venue for a possible Germany semi at the outset.

Italy put in the World Cup defining performance and result in Dortmund that night I thought. Which is quite something.

The Germany of June/July 2006 had nothing in common with the one that played England in whatever year that was and were formidable opponents that glorious summer, as Sweden, Argentina and Italy found out.

Advancing in the first stage when there is no weak team in the group is always an achievement and when each one is a good one it is even better. And I think makes your "solid" argument about Italy having the easiest path and least convincing WC fall rather clumsily at the first.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 04-06-2008 06:19

Ad Hoc: well I certainly do not wish any one to melt down, especially in support of as spectacularly unworthy a cause as the French football team and its manager/players.

I like to think that I am far from a Nobody But Italy (rather than ABI)and I certainly do not want them to win at any cost.

I would agree that Argentina have a strong claim to have been the best team in the competition and that they "blew" it to an extent, though I maintain that was an inspired Germany on its own patch.

It certainly isn't always the best team that wins WCs, Euros, but the best tournament side often does.

Italy, is as one old international said, good at tournament football because they work bloody hard at it or something like that.

But the following argument is plainly tosh: You can make a solid argument about Italy 2006's run as the easiest path and least convincing world cup win in the modern era.

However, I thought the 2006 Italy vintage far removed from the some true often simply perceived dark arts of old that it still surprises me how much rancour Lippi's team attracts.

I thought France were only the 4th best team in 1998 (after Holland, Brazil and Italy- another 5 mins in that QF and the French would have been out!) But that's another matter, and let's not even talk about 2000.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by You Are The Ref - 04-06-2008 09:04

Ha, I can guess why a France badminder would prefer to skirt round Euro 2000.

But back to 2006, I think linus is well off beam claiming Italy had some kind of easy route to the final- but in the final itself, I thought France were the better side for most of the game. If you're saying that

I thought France were only the 4th best team in 1998 (after Holland, Brazil and Italy- another 5 mins in that QF and the French would have been out!)

Then I'm saying that France would have won in Berlin in extra time if Zidane hadn't gone mental.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 04-06-2008 09:19

You are the ref and if you say it is a christmas pudding it is a christmas pudding.

However, I thought France and Holland the best teams in Euro 2000, but Italy much the better team in the final. Though Holland should have beaten them 3-0 in the semi final.

I thought Italy much the better team in the first half in Berlin, France in the second and both devoid of much imagination in ET, so I find it hard to agree with the Zidane effect.

He might have been useful in the penalty shoot out but he was more than capable of missing one, too.

Italy certainly suffered most from their semi final exertions but then WC defining games, or epoch defining games if you like will do that for you. France were crap in ET too.

I am not a France badminder I always think it impressive that a country with so little interest in football does so well, relatively.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by You Are The Ref - 04-06-2008 09:28

That's true about Zidane in the penalty shoot-out. He seemed to be trying for the most embarrassing penalty miss of all time in the first half, which somehow crept over the line.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 05-06-2008 20:33

Advancing in the first stage when there is no weak team in the group is always an achievement and when each one is a good one it is even better. And I think makes your "solid" argument about Italy having the easiest path and least convincing WC fall rather clumsily at the first.

Hang on.

USA were not very good.
Ghana were brainless.
Czech Republic were past it.

It might have looked a tough group on paper, but on grass it was nothing to write home about.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 06-06-2008 10:14

Let's have a look at that "phantom PK" again in Zapruderesque detail.

Now, I don't think that footage is totally conclusive but it does show there's a strong claim at least for the penalty, Neill makes contact with Grosso two or three times with no hope of getting the ball. Why do you think coaches tell defenders not to dive in?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 06-06-2008 17:03

Goddamn it's even worse than I remembered. Too bad there's not the same ending as the Zapruder film for that scumbag. He's not even moving towards the ball, he's intent on tripping himself.

Not nearly the dirtbags as 78' Argentina, not quite Germany '82, but they're up there.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 06-06-2008 17:12

Purves Grundy wrote:
Ghana were brainless.

How so?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by minky240206 - 06-06-2008 18:34

Never mind the Krauts old boy.Bad eggs the lot of them.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Sempronio Carpentiere - 06-06-2008 18:38

jason voorhees wrote:

Goddamn it's even worse than I remembered. Too bad there's not the same ending as the Zapruder film for that scumbag. He's not even moving towards the ball, he's intent on tripping himself.

I'm impressed by the denial here that a defender sliding along the ground completely away from the ball making contact with an attacker's leg with his hand elbow and shoulder is somehow a fair tackle!

Grosso exaggerates the fall, no doubt about that, but he's going down.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 06-06-2008 19:06

He's going down because he wants to go down. It's completely and totally unsportsmanlike (something completely out of the ordinary for this team, I know.) He saw there was another defender to beat, and made no attempt to follow the ball that he just cut.

Italians slide all the fucking time to slow people up. Watch in 1994 and they spent half the tournament on the ground.

He cuts the ball, and doesn't follow the ball. Ball goes right, Grosso goes straight. He intentionally trips over his shoulder, like those diving pieces of garbage always do. Only Totti was the only one who rightfully got busted for it.

I'm so happy I don't follow that shitstain of a league anymore.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 06-06-2008 19:15

I agree with all of that, but I can't help feeling--as I did at the moment in the game and thereafter--that as a defender you don't give the other player the opportunity to pass off a dive as a foul. Sliding in for tackle, you knew Grosso was going to dive. You can't rely on the ref knowing it was a dive.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 06-06-2008 21:16

Hmmmmm. Perhaps it is time to re-examine Henry's artful elaboration of the ankle tap from a falling Carvalho in the semi-final.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 07-06-2008 05:16

Inca wrote:

Purves Grundy wrote:

Ghana were brainless.

How so?

Not once but twice ending up offside when faced with a three-on-one against the Czechs in Cologne is teh prime example.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ant259 - 07-06-2008 06:03

Grosso was already going down like a sack of shit before the contact (that he himself provoked) occurred. If you slow any images down enough you can find conclusive evidence for or against a penalty.

Lucas Neill was a bit naïve but that doesn't excuse Grosso, the dirty cheat.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 07-06-2008 12:26

HI PEOPLE!

Stop arguing about Fabio Grosso! It's Euro 2008 already! Every World Cup, every tournament, is won with a little guile and a little luck. There have been many questionable penalties awarded over the years. Italy did a lot of things right to win in '06, it didn't all come down to Grosso.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 07-06-2008 12:28

Besides, Italy weren't poised to lose against Australia, they were poised to go into overtime. Anything could have happened. Grosso did well to penetrate into the box the way he did.

Here I go doing what I told people not to do.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 07-06-2008 12:40

Allright Signori Maggiore. I won't say one more word on the subject.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 07-06-2008 14:23

As for "anyone but Italy" that will surely happen if the other teams can manage to score on them, which they did not at World Cup. It will be interesting to see how the absence of Cannavaro impacts their ability to defend. I put Italy's chances of winning this tournament at definitely equal to any of the other strong contenders. (How's that for bold.) But I tend to think they are stronger now than they were in '06. More confidence, for one, and Antonio di Natale for another. If there's a cleverer striker playing I'd like to know about him.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Sempronio Carpentiere - 07-06-2008 16:14

"contact...he provoked"?!

I have heard it all now.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 08-06-2008 21:24

ESPN is running a rather anti-Italy commercial:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axqZ7HoOLtQ>

Contrast that with their one for Portugal:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_7fKzasYjA

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 09-06-2008 21:41

http://ylym.files.wordpress.com/2008/04/kyuyuiytui_laughing_horse.jpg

As it goes I thought Italy played reasonably well tonight except for having Vieri channelling through Luca Toni. Oh, and the comedy defending for each of the goals. They will absolutely destroy Romania and France and thus get out of the group with relative ease. And they'll beat Holland in the semis. Holland always shoot their bolt too early - remember the demolition of Yugoslavia in 2000.

Anyway. I shall enjoy tonight while I can.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by And I am the Life - 09-06-2008 21:53

And I am the Life wrote:
This italian squad really doesn't set the heather ablaze does it

There seems to be a real lack of pace in that team, and not a whole heap of attacking strength from midfield. However, one thing that could really make a big difference for Italy is that the World cup was too big a stage for luca Toni the last time out, but now that he's played at bayern munich for a year there's every chance he could score six or seven goals, and Italy will need that if they're going to win.

well he hasn't made that much of a difference, but there's still time. the rest of it seems rather prescient though. now if only could reach my back to give it a good slap.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 09-06-2008 23:30

Good outing tonight by the, uhm, World Champions. Good thing Van Persie and Robben were out, or things could have really gotten out of hand.

On to Australia and the Ukraine.

Oh wait, the schedule says Romania and France are next. One game, zero points, minus three GA. Mama mia.

Don't despair, martlets and Co. With a bit of luck (and the usual heavy dose of transalpine cynicism) a bronze medal in Group C is within reach.

Forza Azzuri!

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 09-06-2008 23:30

Let's see how they do the next few weeks...

That really should have been "in the next week".

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Matej - 09-06-2008 23:39

Have to say, with today's games, Italy still look fit to come out of the group. They can easily tonk France and get a result against Romania.

Hope they don't, mind, but I'm not burying them yet.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 10-06-2008 03:42

You're starting with the assumption that Italy is actually good. They're really aren't, especially up front. They were exposed today, quite overrated. And they're out of their element tactically, needing two regulation time wins in their next two games.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by blameless - 10-06-2008 09:09

You're starting with the assumption that Italy is actually good. They're really aren't, especially up front. They were exposed today, quite overrated. And they're out of their element tactically, needing two regulation time wins in their next two games.

Remove the word "Italy", replace with "France".

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 10-06-2008 11:13

linus wrote:

You're starting with the assumption that Italy is actually good. They're really aren't, especially up front.

Ahem, compared to France they created quite a few good chances. Ukraine looked pretty untroubled; Holland had its share of near misses.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Sempronio Carpentiere - 10-06-2008 11:14

linus wrote:

You're starting with the assumption that Italy is actually good. They're really aren't, especially up front. They were exposed today, quite overrated. And they're out of their element tactically, needing two regulation time wins in their next

two games.

Might not four points get them through, depending on other results?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 10-06-2008 11:17

Of course it would, but this is linus on the comparative worth of Italy and France; we are several universes away from the one you are familiar with.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Aidan - 10-06-2008 11:18

France & Italy are both too old (Del Piero, Makelele) but one will qualify at Romania's expense. Dutch look the real deal for now, Germany the next best-looking bet. What was with those sky-blue socks, tho ?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Sempronio Carpentiere - 10-06-2008 11:20

Is there a bit of an anti-Italian slant from a lot of the US based posters? Or am I reading it wrong?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 10-06-2008 11:21

"Nassau blue", the colour of the Dutch royal house (and a clever marketing ploy by Nike who claim that it was Van Basten's idea).

Fact fans will note that the reason why Italy wears blue (rather than some combination of red, white or green) is that it is the colour of the royal house of Savoy, which was still providing the country with kings and queens when Italian teams began to compete internationally.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Matej - 10-06-2008 11:25

There is no doubt the US based posters generally hate Italy. (Not the country, which to be frank, most of us probably love, but the team.)

See various "diving, cheating cunts" comments over the past 8+ years.

My personal emnity comes from hating Totti with a passion (though he's a brilliant player on many occasions), and the lingering disgust at Italy from the last Euro.

I also hate their kits. There you have it.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 10-06-2008 11:26

ursus arctos wrote:

"Nassau blue", the colour of the Dutch royal house (and a clever marketing ploy by Nike who claim that it was Van Basten's idea).

Fact fans will note that the reason why Italy wears blue (rather than some combination of red, white or green) is that it is the colour of the royal house of Savoy, which was still providing the country with kings and queens when Italian teams began to compete internationally.

So tell me, oh dispenser of fact, why does Australia wear green and yellow?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 10-06-2008 11:30

Matej wrote:

There is no doubt the US based posters generally hate Italy. (Not the country, which to be frank, most of us probably love, but the team.)

Yes, it is a bit lonely for us stateside Azzurri fans.

My personal emnity comes from hating Totti with a passion (though he's a brilliant player on many occasions), and the lingering disgust at Italy from the last Euro.

Yes, there was the Totti spitting incident which you could say karmically ruined it for them. They were hard done by nonetheless what with the unlikely 2-2 draw between Denmark and Sweden.

I also hate their kits. There you have it.

The current pixelated number look and goofy lower case font sucks. I also dislike Holland's big square numbers which look like they were done with strips of masking tape.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 10-06-2008 11:33

They were hard done by nonetheless what with the unlikely 2-2 draw between Denmark and Sweden.

coughcoughcoughBOLLOCKScoughcoughcough

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Hot Orangey Thing - 10-06-2008 11:44

Regardless of how fortunate or otherwise Italy may have been to progress in the last World Cup, we should all be grateful that they did to provide us with that utterly fantastic semi-final with Germany, which was quite simply one of the best games I have ever seen.

There are too many pumas on their shirts this time round, though.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Nico Rijnders - 10-06-2008 11:45

In common with all of the sides afflicted by those terrible template Puma kits.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 10-06-2008 11:57

Bruno, I was just about to ask you if you were in North America.

Australia wear green and gold because the cricket team picked it during one of their early tours of England (might have been the first, I don't remember).

Agreed that the kits are meh, though at least they don't have the "sweat stains" from 2006. I really don't like the numbers, though, and the combination of the gold trim and all of the pumas is tacky.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 10-06-2008 12:29

ursus arctos wrote:

Bruno, I was just about to ask you if you were in North America.

I must have given myself away somehow.

Australia wear green and gold because the cricket team picked it during one of their early tours of England (might have been the first, I don't remember).

Next question: do they imagine that "Socceroos" is a flattering epithet. Apart from the cutesy marsupial reference it distinctly recalls "Underoos" to this North American.

Agreed that the kits are meh, though at least they don't have the "sweat stains" from 2006. I really don't like the numbers, though, and the combination of the gold trim and all of the pumas is tacky.

Seems like if you're going to go with the same basic kit theme year in year out (no nonsense, solid azure) you should just do what Brazil appears to me to do, keep it classy and understated and predictable. I remember how my wife (also one of the faithful) called the sweat stain look instantly when it came out.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 10-06-2008 12:39

It was the reference to a "layup" (I'm American, but I live in Milano).

I have no clue about Socceroos, and share your frame of reference. The Olympic football team is called the "Olyroos", which sounds even dumber to me. Perhaps one of our Aussies has a view. In fact, I find the whole Southern Hemisphere thing of naming each of your national teams something different to be quite bizarre and inevitably forced. Black Sticks (New Zealand field hockey); Black Ferns (NZ women's rugby); Proteas (South African cricket)? WTF???

I don't know what Puma and the FIGC were thinking with the 2006 shirts. As you probably know, Italians don't really go in for the replica shirt thing on adults, but given that they won it, I'm sure that they could have sold quite a few more jerseys here if they hadn't been so hideous.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 10-06-2008 12:51

matej: There is no doubt the US based posters generally hate Italy. (Not the country, which to be frank, most of us

probably love, but the team.)

See various "diving, cheating cunts" comments over the past 8+ years.

To be kind: yawn.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 10-06-2008 13:43

sixmartletsandaseagull wrote:

matej: There is no doubt the US based posters generally hate Italy. (Not the country, which to be frank, most of us probably love, but the team.)

See various "diving, cheating cunts" comments over the past 8+ years.

To be kind: yawn.

Uh, he's simply pointing out the existence of the comments. Matej is not as anti-Azzuri as JV (or myself, at times). Maybe he is, but he isn't rabid about it.

I'd also like to say that I'm generally anti-France, so this back-and-forth (which really seems more pronounced now than it did in 2006) is really tiresome to me.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 10-06-2008 14:16

Inca wrote:

sixmartletsandaseagull wrote:

matej: There is no doubt the US based posters generally hate Italy. (Not the country, which to be frank, most of us probably love, but the team.)

See various "diving, cheating cunts" comments over the past 8+ years.

To be kind: yawn.

Uh, he's simply pointing out the existence of the comments. Matej is not as anti-Azzuri as JV (or myself, at times). Maybe he is, but he isn't rabid about it.

I'd also like to say that I'm generally anti-France, so this back-and-forth (which really seems more pronounced now than it did in 2006) is really tiresome to me.

I didn't say he was, I used his quote, which was said to encapsulate the general feeling of the US-based block.

I simply said I find it dull as ditchwater and in terms of "diving, cheating cunts", selective in the extreme.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 10-06-2008 14:57

Might not four points get {the divers in the puffy gold-trimmed blouses} through, depending on other results?

Ahem, they are not sitting pretty right now with a minus three on goal differential. Do you think that forwards like Toni can make that up? Do you realize that Italy's leading scorer in WC06 was Materazzi...

Ahem, compared to France {the divers in the puffy gold-trimmed blouses} created quite a few good chances.

They {the divers in the puffy gold-trimmed blouses} were already down two goals, Holland was satisfied to let them come and counter.

Is there a bit of an anti-Italian slant from a lot of the US based posters? Or am I reading it wrong?

In North America, Italy is the second-most popular team in Europe right after England. It is the official Eurotrash team, and the team for everyone with an Italian grandma (that's about 150,000,000 people). France is the European team everyone loves to hate in North America, by a wide margin.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Matej - 10-06-2008 15:01

Heh. You must have missed my previous posts re: "all footballer are diving cheating cunts". Which of course, they are.

Although its true the Italian team gets on my nerves more than most...

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Inca - 10-06-2008 15:03

linus wrote:

In North America, Italy is the second-most popular team in Europe right after England. It is the official Eurotrash team, and the team for everyone with an Italian grandma (that's about 150,000,000 people). France is the European team everyone loves to hate in North America, by a wide margin.

I'd have to agree with that. Plus, for Americans that don't really follow soccer, Italy is the European country, along with England, that they assume is the best.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Coffy - 10-06-2008 15:07

I live in a neighborhood that used to be almost all Italian (but is becoming very diverse), and after WC 2006, all of a sudden a lot of Azzurri shirts and jackets and banners came out of the woodwork. Never noticed them before. I'm curious about whether these people who jumped on the gravy train are even watching now.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Sempronio Carpentiere - 10-06-2008 15:14

linus wrote:

Ahem, they are not sitting pretty right now with a minus three on goal differential. Do you think that forwards like Toni can make that up? Do you realize that Italy's leading scorer in WC06 was Materazzi...

Head to head results are used before goal difference in the groups.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 10-06-2008 15:15

You and your damn facts, Harry.

He was just getting warmed up.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 10-06-2008 15:16

Matej wrote:

Heh. You must have missed my previous posts re: "all footballer are diving cheating cunts". Which of course, they are.

I did miss that. Apologies to you out of the US block at least.

Although its true the Italian team gets on my nerves more than most...

Which is your right and that even I can understand that.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 10-06-2008 15:20

Linus pure comedy gold mate. Italy were poor last night, largely because Holland were very good, which seems to have largely been forgotten. France stank too I'm afraid. No divers, cheats or cynical dirty gits in that French team of course.

In my youth 70s and 80s France had some talented players (largely Platini who is Italian ethnically. What? You thought it a coincidence!) culled from the very few people who were interested in football in that footballing backwater, but it was not until its players went to play in Italy that they developed the tactical ability or psychological mindset (and possibly some more nefarious footballing arts) to compete. Their footballers are still flaky of course but less so.

We made the French national team. Now there's a thought.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Sempronio Carpentiere - 10-06-2008 15:24

Where are the Italian American Anti-Defamation League when we need them?

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Aidan - 10-06-2008 15:27

That's not actually a bad question : why some countries' national teams play in colours other than those on their flag. Holland and Italy we know, Germany & Australia anyone ? Any more ?

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 10-06-2008 15:29

Of course, for anyone new, I was rabidly pro-Azzuri for most of my life, and my first few coaches were Italian and Juve supporters. My first WC was 1982, so each goal I scored in club games I'd celebrate like Paolo Rossi did (arms straighted at my hips.) Or Giorgio Chinaglia (one hand in the air like Shearer.) Besides the Cosmos, the only games available were the Bundesliga on Soccer Made In Germany and Serie A on WNYC. So every Sunday morning I'd watch Platini, Boniek, and my hero Dino Zoff (as I was a burgeoning goalkeeper) for Juve.

I spent years defending calcio on this board, and defending Juve against any allegation of phantom penalties or what have you. Del Piero and Totti conspiring to keep Baggio out in 02 started the decline, the scandal ripped my heart out, and De Rossi's 2 not-called penalties against Ghana and subsequent decapitation of McBride sealed the deal for me. Whatever I despise about the game, Italy has become.

But go into any pizzeria in NY/NJ, and there's a poster of the 82 team, so add me into the fact that Italy is quite well-supported in the USA. The only thing that surprises me is that they're not more supported in NYC. With so many Italian patriots in Brooklyn and Manhattan, they still see soccer as a sissy sport - even though their country is one of the best at it.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 10-06-2008 15:41

Australia is covered above.

The German flag at the time the country started to play internationally (and through WWI) was white, black and red.

Japan wearing blue is another high profile one, and while I don't know the answer, I bet Furtho does.

I also don't know why India wears sky blue for cricket, though imagine that test nations needed to choose a distinctive colour for their caps given that all of the other kit was/is white for everyone.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 10-06-2008 16:00

jason Vorhees: yes, I know I have you in my little black book already, without even looking.

Even I as a long time Juve fan would not defend the Juve hierarchy against any what have you. It has embarrassed many of us over the years and in retrospect at least diluted some of the joy of previous successes.

Though much of it is down to top powerful clubs getting decisions, including Milan, Inter, Man utd, liverpool Real madrid whoever, human nature almost . Let us not forget Milan were relegated in 1980 I think it was for nefarious doings.

Juve's favouritism is complicated by (Italy being Italy) and the owners being the unofficial Italian "royal" family. Moggi... terrible for us all. No style or grace in his corruption.

My memory of Del Piero and Totti supposedly conspiring to keep Baggio out in 02 is almost non-existent, not that you are wrong but I don't remember that.

De Rossi's 2 not-called penalties against Ghana and subsequent decapitation of McBride sealed the deal for me.

The attack on McBride was shocking, deliberate and disgusting and he should have been banned for 10 games. Tassotti on Lusi Enrique in 94 equally. But is that even Italian players?

But getting away with pens, diving, tripping, holding at corners (Desailly's elbow off the ball on Canavaro in 2000, Malouda's dive in 2006 etc etc etc and it's not just the players from the footballing backwater of France) they all do that.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 10-06-2008 16:04

I meant it's not just Italian players, which is my problem with it all. I certainly cannot argue that Italy have been as cynical as they come, maybe even starting it, maybe I don't know.

But I personally don't think they are the worst these days or have been for a long time.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 10-06-2008 22:13

sixmartletsandaseagull wrote:

Linus pure comedy gold mate. Italy were poor last night, largely because Holland were very good, which seems to have largely been forgotten. France stank too I'm afraid. No divers, cheats or cynical dirty gits in that French team of course.

In my youth 70s and 80s France had some talented players (largely Platini who is Italian ethnically. What? You thought it a coincidence!) culled from the very few people who were interested in football in that footballing backwater, but it was not until its players went to play in Italy that they developed the tactical ability or psychological mindset (and possibly some more nefarious footballing arts) to compete. Their footballers are still flaky of course but less so.

We made the French national team. Now there's a thought.

I thought it was Al Gore that made the French national team, non?

The "footballing backwater" happens to have one world cup, one world cup final and one european championship in the last ten years.

If the Squadra's footballers aren't flaky, how did they still manage to be crushed 3-0? perhaps they are plain inept? "Comedy gold" would accurately describe Toni's first touch on the ball when he was all alone in front of VdS...

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Rinoceronte Mentaverde - 14-06-2008 15:41

Another recruit (although perhaps not one we'd want to be associated with).

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 14-06-2008 15:52

Oh my.

Where is this "racism is cool again" memo, and who's passing it out ?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Huh? Man - 14-06-2008 17:04

I'm sure he was only referring to Berlusconi's government

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 14-06-2008 23:15

jason voorhees wrote:

Where is this "racism is cool again" memo, and who's passing it out ?
Don't worry, he's Welsh, so it doesn't count...

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 17-06-2008 08:48

(from another thread)There was a nauseating quote from the head of the Italian FA in today's papers: "It's a natural worry . The credibility of the tournament and European football at large is at stake. If you look at the way Holland beat both Italy and France, the match with Romania should end similarly. If not, we're going to have to take a deeper look."

Nuff said.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 17-06-2008 08:49

Come to think of it, if France could beat Italy tonight I'd be laughing my arse off regardless of the outcome of Holland-Romania.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Broken Clock - 17-06-2008 09:26

Ive always been pro Italian football (corruption, cheating, defensive tactics, diving excepted) but this quote from the Italian FA head says it all. Fuck em. Cmon Romania.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Hofzinsler - 17-06-2008 11:22

Yeah, for all the shrill anti-Italianism you can get on here, there's no denying that the Italians are a thoroughly charmless, graceless, dislikeable lot of whiners.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by blameless - 17-06-2008 11:25

It should be pointed out that Domenech is being every bit as cunt, paranoid and pathetic as the Italian FA guy with his conspiracy theories.

As I've said on the other thread, I'd like both France and Italy to be knocked out now.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 17-06-2008 11:28

Hofzinsler wrote:

Yeah, for all the shrill anti-Italianism you can get on here, there's no denying that the Italians are a thoroughly charmless, graceless, dislikeable lot of whiners.

Erm, I think you'll find...

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-06-2008 12:12

Hofzinsler wrote:

Yeah, for all the shrill anti-Italianism you can get on here, there's no denying that the Italians are a thoroughly charmless, graceless, dislikeable lot of whiners.

I'll give this one last try: can we at least except coach Donadoni and the players, from whom I haven't heard any whining?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 18-06-2008 09:27

So, given how contemptibly supine both France and Romania were last night when Italy needed them to obligingly roll over to progress to the QFs does the head of the Italian FA maybe think this needs to be looked at more deeply?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 22-06-2008 21:52

'We'll have a heavenly time alone', said Sebastian and when next morning, while I was shaving, I saw from my bathroom window Julia, with luggage at her back, drive from the forecourt and disappear at the hill's crest, without a backward glance, I felt a sense of liberation and peace such as I was to know years later when, after a night of unrest, the sirens sounded the 'All Clear'.

A couple of proper nouns replaced and you'd have exactly how I feel right now. Clever man, Waugh.

Eat that you despicable, gutless worms. Your entire philosophy encapsulated by the behaviour of di Natale, rolling back onto the pitch to prevail on the referee to interrupt a Spanish counter attack so your non-existent knee injury could get attention. You missed your penalty like a useless big div. I hope you cry yourself to sleep tonight.

"The army that stays within its fortifications has already lost the battle" said Napoleon, and tonight gave a perfect illustration of that. World Champions? World Champion crybaby scaredy-cats, perhaps.

Ha.

ha.

ha.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Ant van Oviedo - 22-06-2008 21:54

No, go on, say what you really think.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 22-06-2008 21:59

There's just one song that's appropriate at this time.

It's one written in 1929 by Milton Ager and Jack Yellen, and one that was used for FDR's election campaign in 1932. Just as this song was about the escape from the Great Depression, it's appropriate for now, on this day, on our escape from the shitball dirtbag lowdown slimy Great Depressing Tactics of the Ass-uri.

So for the ABI's, this one's for you;

So long sad times
Go long bad times
We are rid of you at last

Howdy gay times
Cloudy gray times
You are now a thing of the past

Happy days are here again
The skies above are clear again
So let's sing a song of cheer again
Happy days are here again

Altogether shout it now
There's no one
Who can doubt it now
So let's tell the world about it now
Happy days are here again

Your cares and troubles are gone
There'll be no more from now on
From now on ...

Happy days are here again
The skies above are clear again
So, Let's sing a song of cheer again

Happy times
Happy nights
Happy days
Are here again!

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BurroMajorca - 22-06-2008 22:20

You know, Schadenfreude is never as rhetorically impressive as people want to believe it is.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 22-06-2008 22:21

Hey, welcome to the party. Here, have a sangria.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BurroMajorca - 22-06-2008 22:25

Way ahead of you, drinking Stoli tonight.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 22-06-2008 22:26

No, it sounds like you got ahead of yourself...

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 22-06-2008 22:27

"You know, Schadenfreude is never as rhetorically impressive as people want to believe it is."
Eh, shaddap you big stiff, we're havin a party over here
http://thelemans.com/Jayson/TimeLife/V-E_day.JPG
<http://d.yimg.com/news.aunz.yimg.com/xp/cosmos/20071114/12/4263737396.jpg>
[http://www.vintageperiods.com/sites/Phenderson/_files/Image/5%20Charleston%20Lesson\(3\).jpg](http://www.vintageperiods.com/sites/Phenderson/_files/Image/5%20Charleston%20Lesson(3).jpg)
<http://www.suntimes.com/realchicago/1960s/1960s/11-27f.jpg>
<http://www.eurodisco2007.com/gallery/image5.jpg>

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BurroMajorca - 22-06-2008 22:31

<http://www.fortunecity.com/tattooine/bester/250/images/bullbth.jpg>

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 22-06-2008 22:32

Damn straight, this is an entire City of Fortune now that Italy's Out

HAW HAW

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 23-06-2008 00:02

I have to laugh at the sight of English posters slagging off Italy for being too craven and shit.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by E10 Rifle - 23-06-2008 00:06

Ah come on, Hieronymous. You know the people gloating at Italy aren't exacgtly the most partisan of England fans. Join the party. Tuck into some olives. It would be rude and anti-social not to.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Impact Substitute - 23-06-2008 00:13

Good God. A limited side who lack guile because they just don't have the players, attempt to play to their strengths by containing the opposition, and they're held up as some evil force and a blot on the beautiful game.

People here need to get over themselves.

And don't give me any guff over Di Natale. He's not the only person in this tournament to attempt to cheat the game.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 23-06-2008 00:26

E10 Rifle wrote:

Ah come on, Hieronymous. You know the people gloating at Italy aren't exactly the most partisan of England fans. Join the party. Tuck into some olives. It would be rude and anti-social not to.

Nah, I'm not buying into this one. The Italian national team are a totally different animal from what Serie A has become. What little good football there was in the last World Cup, they provided a big chunk of it against Germany and Ghana and the Czech Republic.

Let's not kid ourselves here. As if Spain don't ever dive, or didn't execute any dives tonight, or haven't been renowned for diving over the years. And on the only occasion that they have ever got anywhere in a tournament in modern times (1984), they did it by brutally hacking the shit out of superior, more talented teams like Denmark and West Germany. The only reason that someone like Victor Munoz doesn't have the same reputation in the English-speaking world as Claudio Gentile is because Euro 84 wasn't televised in Britain.

Italy had to play a deep-lying game tonight because Pirlo wasn't there. In earlier matches they attacked, specifically against Romania and France, and also in patches against the Dutch. But even if they had played Arshavin-style football in all their matches there would still be people on here willing them to lose. That's fine, we all have our own prejudices, but don't dress it up as some kind of moral crusade. If you were making a league table of entertaining football at Euro 2008, Italy would be about 7th out of 16.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by E10 Rifle - 23-06-2008 00:35

What little good football there was in the last World Cup

I think Argentina, and even Germany, might have things to say about that - not to mention the role played by Italy's other actual opponents whom you mention.

But of course there's prejudices kicking in, based on the times Italy have been negative and nasty and thrived, notably in 94 and - to a slightly lesser extent - 2000. These things linger, just as Greece's negative triumph four years ago did after all eh?

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 23-06-2008 00:38

I have to laugh at the sight of English posters slagging off Italy for being too craven and shit.

I'm an English poster ? I'm an English supporter ?

BWWWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA HAAAAAAAA HAAAAAAAA HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH

Here's what I heard from H of H's post:

Blah, blah'h blah blahing blahto blah blah. Blah Blahian blah blah blah blahhy blah blah blah blah Blahblah Blah blah blah blah. Blah blahblah blah blah blah blah blah Blah Blah, balh blah blah blah of it blah blah Blahblah and Blahblah and Blahblah.

Blah'h blah blah blah blah. Blah blahblahblah (1984) blahblah 7 of 16 blahlahblah.

Fuck that shit. Italy sucks, they've sucked since Baggio left, and they suck and they suck.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 23-06-2008 00:39

I wasn't talking about you.

I didn't read your post, I just saw a load of song lyrics in bold type and skimmed past it.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Impact Substitute - 23-06-2008 00:40

OTF has gone to pot.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 23-06-2008 00:42

OTF is smokin pot tonight.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by E10 Rifle - 23-06-2008 00:47

And I do find it slightly odd that HofH wouldn't countenance any excuse for a very limited Greece squad being cautious and defensive four years ago, yet when an altogether more talented and varied Italy squad loses one player their lack of adventure is OK.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 23-06-2008 00:49

You're not seriously comparing the way Italy have played in this tournament, over their four games, to the way Greece played in 2004?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by harbinger of hope - 23-06-2008 01:10

Euro 2004 was a strange tournament. At least 6 teams in that tournie were capable of beating Greece, but due to superior tactics (mostly defensive) and a bit of luck, they managed to squeeze past teams they really shouldn't have.

It'd be like Barnsley beating Chelsea and Liverpool thru sheer strength of character. Oh hang on, didn't.....

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by NetzerHölzenbeinHrubesch - 23-06-2008 05:47

You know, Schadenfreude is never as rhetorically impressive as people want to believe it is

I think most people just think it's enjoyable and don't do it for external reasons. It's taking pleasure in others' misfortune, not taking pleasure in others misfortune in order to impress others.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Juallaterpe - 23-06-2008 10:31

BurroMajorca wrote:

You know, Schadenfreude is never as rhetorically impressive as people want to believe it is.

You really want that pomposity award this year, don't you?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 23-06-2008 10:37

NetzerHölzenbeinHrubesch wrote:

You know, Schadenfreude is never as rhetorically impressive as people want to believe it is

I think most people just think it's enjoyable and don't do it for external reasons. It's taking pleasure in others' misfortune, not taking pleasure in others misfortune in order to impress others.

No, sorry, posting something in a chatroom is by definition done for external reasons.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 23-06-2008 10:41

Juallaterpe wrote:

BurroMajorca wrote:

You know, Schadenfreude is never as rhetorically impressive as people want to believe it is.

You really want that pomposity award this year, don't you?

If I affected not to seek it, would that seem pompous enough to make me more likely to get it?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 23-06-2008 11:03

Nah, it would just look like you were trying to fit in with the rest of us . . .

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Guille Cerrito - 23-06-2008 11:20

Hieronymous wrote:

I have to laugh at the sight of English posters slagging off Italy for being too craven and shit

Er, what's the problem in slagging a team slightly less bad than one's own? Still shit in the grand scheme of things, surely? In that game at least.

Mind, I quite enjoyed Italy's performances against Romania and France. The criticism seems over the top.

Anyway, power to Hablacojones' elbow.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by NetzerHölzenbeinHrubesch - 23-06-2008 12:26

BrunoMajorsky wrote:

No, sorry, posting something in a chatroom is by definition done for external reasons.

1) In this part of the Information Superhighway, we call it a messageboard

2) That's cockrot

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 23-06-2008 12:30

Guille Cerrito wrote:

Mind, I quite enjoyed Italy's performances against Romania and France. The criticism seems over the top.

And I rather enjoyed their play against Spain. I thought it was an absorbing, nay, fascinating game. Maybe just depends on what your preexisting ideas about football are. I feel like for some, no team is safe from blistering criticism unless they win every match 4-0 in the most brilliant style imaginable. Often 1-0 or 0-0 between two excellent sides is all that can be eked out. Italy played a smart game with the reasonable hope that one of the chances they created might go in. Against a latently dangerous team like Spain that was a sensible enough approach.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Étienne - 23-06-2008 12:46

See, what I don't get is the idea that it was a sensible decision for Italy to play so defensively. The Spanish defence is there for the taking, in particular Ramos whose long hair is doing a good job of hiding the lobotomy scars (if I can paraphrase Calvin). And even without Pirlo, Italy have some perfectly decent attacking players. They didn't have to play negatively, they chose to do so. And apart from it being an unentertaining choice, it was a poor one. If you're going to rely on creating the occasional chance on the break, then you should probably make sure you have attacking players who are likely to take that chance (for all his faults, it'd have made more sense to play that way with Inzaghi in the line-up).

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 23-06-2008 13:03

It was only a poor choice because Italy's perfectly decent attacking players collectively decided not to show up. It's not as though Italy were so negative that they played like they were down a man or anything. They were perfectly willing to get forward when the opportunity presented itself, but the players supposed to be actual threats (Cassano, di Natale, del Piero, Perrotta) didn't turn out to be all that threatening. And still, as with every game I've ever seen the Italians play, they might have scored.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 23-06-2008 13:10

You're getting positively Colm-esque...

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 23-06-2008 13:12

"Colm-esque" is lost on me, please explain so that I can better serve you.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 23-06-2008 13:24

The real name of a regular poster who spends his life pointing out that his particular football clubs haven't actually lost, just that the result is wrong...

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 23-06-2008 13:39

Gangster Octopus wrote:

The real name of a regular poster who spends his life pointing out that his particular football clubs haven't actually lost, just that the result is wrong...

Oh, well, you aren't paying attention to what I actually wrote then. I'm already on record! Italy lost! Here's my eminently judicious assessment from yesterday, in full:

I won't go as far as saying Spain deserved to win or Italy deserved to lose tonight, but that was a fair enough result. Casillas came up big (the save on Camoranesi's shot that is, that was Italy's goal).

Donadoni, having started the tournament with the new, attacking Azzurri, hastily reverted to the Italy of old. Kinda nice to see they still know how to defend, they rarely looked too troubled against a very good attacking side. (Of course Spain were going to get their chances, but they didn't exactly convince with all those 30-40 yard shots.)

Too many disappointing performances from the Italians to count. Still a good team, though. Clearly wasn't their year.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 23-06-2008 13:41

I mean, my pro-Italian bias is virtually undetectable in that post. :)

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by E10 Rifle - 23-06-2008 15:44

You're not seriously comparing the way Italy have played in this tournament, over their four games, to the way Greece played in 2004?

Not at all, I'm talking about how they played in one game last night against a side whose own defence has yet to prove itself, and your defence of it as making the best of limited resources, given Italy's dearth of available skillful attacking players. In last night's game (if not their others in this tournament), Italy essentially adopted the same reasoning as a much less talented Greece did throughout Euro2004.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Etienne - 23-06-2008 15:47

I think the Italian players broadly "failed to turn up" because it's very hard to do anything when you only have 3 players in the opposition half.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 23-06-2008 15:48

E10 Rifle wrote:

Not at all, I'm talking about how they played in one game last night against a side whose own defence has yet to prove itself, and your defence of it as making the best of limited resources, given Italy's dearth of available skillful attacking players.

Spain's defense may not have yet proved itself, but then neither had Italy's offense. Going up against a team that had scored, what, 8 goals, to Italy's 1, I'd say their approach made some sense. Especially considering some of the 8 were pretty great goals.

In last night's game (if not their others in this tournament), Italy essentially adopted the same reasoning as a much less talented Greece did throughout Euro2004.

Well, that's the point. Their other games in this tournament didn't turn up all that much, which is why they adopted the reasoning they did for the Spain match.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by 1890 - 23-06-2008 18:11

Italy's play was negative but they made Spain look pretty ordinary, that's the same Spain that hammered the Russians earlier with players upfront like Villa and Torres, both very average yesterday. Italy was also very weak upfront. Put those two elements together and most coaches would have gone for that approach which is no different than that of a Walter Smith or even Premiership coaches of smaller sides.

As for the cheating and gamemanship, it is endemic and one of its most feted practionner was practically the main selling point of the English media to convince people to keep an eye on Euro2008.

I'm not holding my breath as to how the Shearers of this world will react when England plays the same way and snatches a 1-0 away in Zagreb, I had a taster of it when the wonderful Zenit tried to break Rangers down...

Fair enough, Italy did not set out to entertain the neutrals, they never really looked convincing during this Euro and a 1/4 exit is about right as Spain, despite not going anywhere near to fulfil the hype we heard about them, were better.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 23-06-2008 21:15

Purves Grundy wrote:

'We'll have a heavenly time alone', said Sebastian and when next morning, while I was shaving, I saw from my bathroom window Julia, with luggage at her back, drive from the forecourt and disappear at the hill's crest, without a backward glance, I felt a sense of liberation and peace such as I was to know years later when, after a night of unrest, the sirens sounded the 'All Clear'.

A couple of proper nouns replaced and you'd have exactly how I feel right now. Clever man, Waugh.

Eat that you despicable, gutless worms. Your entire philosophy encapsulated by the behaviour of di Natale, rolling back

onto the pitch to prevail on the referee to interrupt a Spanish counter attack so your non-existent knee injury could get attention. You missed your penalty like a useless big div. I hope you cry yourself to sleep tonight.

"The army that stays within its fortifications has already lost the battle" said Napoleon, and tonight gave a perfect illustration of that. World Champions? World Champion crybaby scaredy-cats, perhaps.

Ha.

ha.

ha.

Tee hee. You got it real bad.

Italy are simply not good enough, in terms of personnel or outlook.

This morning after the initial disappointment at having verily frightened the Spaniards into a stalemate the talk was of lunch plans.

We have moved on and we sincerely wish the same for you one day.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Floating Tramp - 23-06-2008 23:01

Should've taken off Toni towards the end of normal time, if not sooner, Quagliarella was waiting. Cassano tried to create, but movement was poor and other times it was just him. But still looked their most potent creative threat. As he has been throughout the tournament.

I've said before, Italy's full backs didn't push forward and provide the width and general attacking threat like they should've. Aquilani was average and Ambrosini did what he could. The midfield deffo missed Pirlo's distribution and flair whilst Gattuso's absence meant a drop in tempo and willingness to be a bit more adventurous.

Defence held out and Chiellini's built on his Serie A form this season and was Italy's best defender, probably. But it was nonetheless a makeshift defensive pairing (Panucci and Chiellini).

All the above played it's part in Italy not creating enough chances when going forward (though they did have the best chance of the game) and not showing enough ambition (thought an extra man supporting them when they attacked was required but never there). It wasn't the 'they played for penalties' and 'same old Italian catenaccio' the fools who base their opinion on stereotypes made it out to be. It was more the fact they couldn't do much when they got into the final third and were fearful of a counter attacking Spain side against their weakened midfield and defence.

No begrudging Spain and Donadoni never seemed up to the job. Italy were poor and Spain were less so. That's all there was to it.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by van Pelt - 24-06-2008 18:50

This has been a great weekend. I didn't see any of the games but I left the beach on Sunday afternoon just in time to catch the PKs.

Priceless.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Otto Katz - 25-06-2008 08:15

Right, I should have posted this on the Spain v Italy thread prior to the QF, but somehow it seems appropriate to put it here now. It's what, Oddmund Vaagsholm, a relatively unknown Norwegian author and (part-time) footballer responded when asked about his thoughts on the upcoming quarter-finals, and it goes some way of explaining my ABI stance, I guess. Not that I necessarily agree with all of it, but I found the Godfather analogy especially interesting.

Starting with a footballing analysis, Italy are a more skillful version of Greece. Italy are Greece with drugs, bribes and exaggerated body language, including provocative and unelegant diving. Italy are the team who more than anyone cynically suppress any trace of improvisation, creativity, playfulness and uncontrolled initiative, precisely because those possibilities are there, ready to be taken advantage of. It reminds me of another great, who didn't stand for anything ad hoc: Vito Corleone. In that scene in the first Godfather movie where he realizes that Sonny can never become a Don. In that scene where Sonny breaks into the conversation with another mafia family, and reveals his concerns, his nature, his human intuition, his uncontrolled temper. Whereupon Vito solemnly tells him: Don't let anyone outside the family know what you think ever again. That is Italian football to me. That is Andrea Pirlo to me. Concealed greatness. Suppressed artistry. Sticky matter. Boring affair.

Italy will go out of the European Championships in the quarter final against Spain. We can hope for that, can't we? Spain deserves this so much. They leave so much sawdust behind when the circus leaves town every single time. They call up the artists and the football lovers and the lightweights every time, and reveal their naked and naive faces every time. That's why they don't get a penalty when little David Silva is run over by the elephant Johan Elmander. Now obviously Spain could have done what Italy do, and played with the Spanish Marco Materazzi or the Spanish Luca Toni or the Spanish dog Gattuso, but Spain loves itself too much to drag the elephants to these tournaments. That's why they're weak. That's why they're naive, that's why they're a bit pathetic, but it's also why I support them. For the same reason I originally started supporting football teams: Because the potential to outplay another team and outclass them is manifestly there. Without this potential the magic of football disappears. Italy have forgotten this childhood, forgotten that football is about the chance to outplay your opponent and win by many goals, forgotten that also those of us *outside the family* want to see someone get comprehensively outplayed. Spain has the better memory.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Otto Katz - 25-06-2008 08:16

Um, I guess that means Spain are Sonny Corleone. That does not bode well for tomorrow.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Floating Tramp - 25-06-2008 09:39

Otto Katz wrote:

Right, I should have posted this on the Spain v Italy thread prior to the QF, but somehow it seems appropriate to put it here now. It's what, Oddmund Vaagsholm, a relatively unknown Norwegian author and (part-time) footballer responded when asked about his thoughts on the upcoming quarter-finals, and it goes some way of explaining my ABI stance, I guess. Not that I necessarily agree with all of it, but I found the Godfather analogy especially interesting.

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That's why they don't get a penalty when little David Silva is run over by the elephant Johan Elmander. Now obviously Spain could have done what Italy do, and played with the Spanish Marco Materazzi or the Spanish Luca Toni or the Spanish dog Gattuso, but Spain loves itself too much to drag the elephants to these tournaments. That's why they're weak. That's why they're naive, that's why they're a bit pathetic, but it's also why I support them. For the same reason I originally started supporting football teams: Because the potential to outplay another team and outclass them is manifestly there. Without this potential the magic of football disappears. Italy have forgotten this childhood, forgotten that football is about the chance to outplay your opponent and win by many goals, forgotten that also those of us *outside the family* want to see someone get comprehesively outplayed. Spain has the better memory.

That's the biggest load of stereotypical twaddle i've heard in a long time about Italy.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 25-06-2008 09:46

Floating Tramp: you obviously haven't read the rather lame ramblings on and "rationale" for ABI on previous pages?

You ought to, it's somewhat disturbing but funny in places.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 25-06-2008 10:23

Something tells me Oddmund Vaagsholm's days as a relatively unknown Norwegian author aren't yet behind him. What a load of pretentious bullshit.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 25-06-2008 10:50

BrunoMajorsky wrote:
pretentious

Ding!

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by meregreen - 25-06-2008 13:16

1890 wrote:

As for the cheating and gamemanship, it is endemic and one of its most feted practionner was practically the main selling point of the English media to convince people to keep an eye on Euro2008.

I'm not holding my breath as to how the Shearers of this world will react when England plays the same way and snatches a 1-0 away in Zagreb, I had a taster of it when the wonderful Zenit tried to break Rangers down...

England win 1-0 in Zagreb? Result! I bet Owen dives to win a penalty.

Has anyone else noticed that the people who complain on about the Anglocentric coverage of the tournament in this country, are often the same people who bring England/English football/English media, into every thread.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by loose cannon - 25-06-2008 14:05

Wooah!

Mind bending drugs time! There are people who actually like they way Italy play?!

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by loose cannon - 25-06-2008 14:10

Italy could have taken Spain if Donadoni had got rid of Luca Toni and replaced him with a potted geranium. Grosso could have made his cross to a stationery target that would ricochet the ball into the net. Toni was not capable of that.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by linus - 25-06-2008 14:26

Good take cannon, if a bit flawed. If Italy was going to line up a potted plant, it wouldn't have been a geranium. It would have been a bushfull of nettles surrounded by thorny vines and fed with a special preparation from Dr Ferrari.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Bryantop - 25-06-2008 17:47

If Toni had gotten out of the way for Camoranesi then Italy would have won.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 25-06-2008 19:06

That Norweigan author goes right up there with Garcia-Marquez, Camus, and Sartre. And Shakespeare.

Brilliant. The biggest load of truth I've ever heard.

I disagree that they're the Corleones. They're the Turk...if Michael didn't know what restaurant they were going to go to. I mean Italian teams buying refs, the Turk buying cops, same thing.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by The_Liquidator - 25-06-2008 19:40

I can't believe people here are trying to make out Spain winning is some kind of moral victory. They've got all the worst traits of Arsenal (the fannyness, the self-aggrandisement, the sycophants wibbling on about their style of play - which was just as toilet as Italy's the other day but not hampered by having a novice managing them) and that jelly-kneed albino cheat shitcunt Torres up front, who has a face that needs a iron slamming into it. Fuck Spain and their racist cunt manager, I can't wait to watch you fail agonisingly again.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by blameless - 25-06-2008 19:47

Now that's up there with Shakespeare.

The idea of holding Spain up as some sort of dainty and fragile ballet-football angels in need of protection is fucking laughable.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 25-06-2008 21:52

jason voorhees wrote:

That Norweigan author goes right up there with Garcia-Marquez, Camus, and Sartre. And Shakespeare.

Sartre? Oh what a giveaway.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Nico Rijnders - 25-06-2008 22:09

The_Liquidator wrote:

albino cheat shitcunt
racist cunt

Can't be easy to take the high ground, while you're throwing "albino" around as a cheap insult.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by The_Liquidator - 25-06-2008 22:36

I'm not taking any moral highground. By the way, the insult is shitcunt, not albino; I used it because he's a pasty twat.

Incidentally if albino is a mortally offensive racial epithet then I apologise. I've not seen anything in my time that suggests it is though.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Sempronio Carpentiere - 25-06-2008 23:39

Bryantop wrote:

If Toni had gotten out of the way for Camoranesi then Italy would have won.

It was Grosso no? He was winding himself up for another WC 06 semi-final clincher and manic bulgy-eyed Tardelli celebration as well.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Purves Grundy - 26-06-2008 08:33

Albino stuff.

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by The_Liquidator - 26-06-2008 12:43

Ugh. I had no idea.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 26-06-2008 14:02

He's Gone.

Donadoni officially relieved of his duties.

The Lippi announcement should follow tomorrow or Monday.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 26-06-2008 16:31

Ah. Il ritorno di Lippi in patria.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by ursus arctos - 26-06-2008 17:17

And now it's official; they didn't even wait a few hours for Donadoni to get some media time.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 26-06-2008 17:27

albino ... I used it because he's a pasty twat

Er, you realise there some very attractive but undeniably, well, ginger, people on this board, don't you, Liq? One in particular who I think you know rather well ...?

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by BrunoMajorsky - 26-06-2008 17:43

Thanks! Try the veal!

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by jason voorhees - 26-06-2008 22:19

Good luck to Donadoni in the future. Maybe he'll end up in MLS one day.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 26-06-2008 22:20

Sadist!

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 27-06-2008 02:21

GO, Donadoni played in the MLS at the very end of his career in the mid-1990s.

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Alessandro Nesta Marley - 27-06-2008 09:34

By the way, the insult is shitcunt, not albino; I used it because he's a pasty twat.

Leaving aside the albino specifics, this isn't a great argument- when Luis Aragones called Henry a 'black shit', it wouldn't have made it ok if he'd tried to explain that the insult was 'shit', not 'black'.

(I don't think what you said is in the same league as that, obviously).

=====

Re:Anyone but Italy

Posted by Alessandro Nesta Marley - 27-06-2008 09:34

That post in no way motivated by me being pastier than John Arne Riise with flu, no way, not at all.

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