

Soccer seeks some respect

Theories abound as to why the United States doesn't like soccer. People here have about as much interest in watching soccer players as they have in watching a good plumber at work.

They won't even watch the sport on television. This is hard to explain in a country where people watch reenactments of convenience store robberies and change the channel to find out the time and temperature instead of looking at a clock and stepping outside.

Some soccer fans predict that the World Cup will bring a soccer boom to the United States. Some soccer fans also believe that the world's biggest sporting event will be the opportunity that Elvis has waited for to reveal that the special Bill Bixby hosted was correct, and he was alive and well all these years but was forced into hiding because of his work as a secret agent for the government.

Most people in the United States do not understand soccer very well. This fact does not bother them. But it's difficult to pinpoint why the world's most popular sport is so underappreciated here.

People have their theories. There's the I Haven't Got Time For It Theory: With baseball, basketball and football already taking up the entire year, there's no room for a soccer season in the average fan's viewing calendar.

There's the Blood and Guts Theory: Soccer just isn't enough of a contact sport for the average American sports fan. Right. This explains why baseball is popu-



SCOTT SIMONSON

lar and hockey has never caught on.

There's the Not Enough Action Theory. The old joke says that soccer has only three scores: 0-0, 1-0 and 1-1. Baseball, suffering from a similar malaise, has lowered the quality of major-league pitching to try to make the game more interesting.

Soccer fans say that ill feelings and misconceptions will vanish when Americans get a taste of big-time international soccer. They may have a point there.

Soccer has international superstars, players whose grace on the field and exploits off it transcend the realm of sports. Italy's Roberto Baggio is the best player in the world. He's nicknamed "Il Divino," Italian for "The Divine One." He's joined by such talents as Dino Baggio, nicknamed "Il Duce," (Italian for "alfresco") and PierLuigi Casiraghi, nicknamed "Fabio" (no English translation available).

Soccer has fan participation like no other sport in the world. Fans, also called "hooligans" in some countries, occasionally participate in intense displays of loyalty and rivalry, sometimes called "riots," that rival the action and intensity on the field.

The United States doesn't want the threat of spectator violence overshadowing the World Cup. In our country, violence has its place on the playing surface and in the streets outside the stadiums and shouldn't detract from the enjoyment of fans in the seats.

The fear of violence has caused Cup organizers to propose banning beer sales at soccer matches. The prospect of a ban on stadium beer sales exercised official beer manufacturer Anheuser-Busch (catchy slogan: "Nothing beats a Bud after a good soccer riot.") who had paid a considerable sum to become the Official Beer of the World Cup.

This will be one of the many interesting storylines worth watching when the games begin. When the World Cup begins, the honor and pride of entire nations rest on the shoulders of players and coaches that have waited years for this opportunity.

While the United States plays to gain respect and avoid humiliation, the World Cup is much more serious to many nations. Maybe Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi best explained the importance of the World Cup in his country when he told the Associated Press about his team, "I have been working for three years to build a good group, and I think I will have it ... If I'm wrong, I will pay for it."

No wonder Italy usually does so well.

Scott Simonson is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

RIM RESULTS

Soccer

Men's 1
Kappa Sigma 1-3, Spango's-2
He Shoots, He Scores beat Theta Chi by forfeit
Kappa Sigma-2, Clarence's Revenge-1
FC Copa beat Phi Psi A by forfeit
FC Copa-1, Theta Chi-1
Spangos-3, Delta Upsilon-2
Riley Hooligans-4, He Shoots, He Scores-0
Men's 2
Pikes beat Kappa Sigma 2B by forfeit
MBA-6, Kappa Sigma 2B-2
Hilyard Street Crew-2, Scabs-1
Parson's defeated ATO's by forfeit
Pikes-3, HEP-1
Kappa Sigma 2A-9, Beta 2-0
Scabs-4, HEP (Latinos)-2
Coed
Faarfignewton-3, Pucker Factor-1
The Last Crusade-2, C.L.M.S.S.-0
C.L.M.S.S.-6, Scory-1
Non-conforming Usen beat Hootymack for Christ by forfeit
B Sargo's Squad beat Baked Potatoes by forfeit
Los Toros beat Mac Roofers by forfeit
Green Nuggets beat FC Oregon by forfeit
Arsenal-2, Collier Coalers-0
Decou-5, Joe Mama's Kids-1
Pucker Factor-6, Sinners-0
Hott Stixx beat the Bundy's by forfeit
Sweetzer-14, Up Your Alley-13
The Softballs-11 Delta Upsilon/KD-3
MBAs beat a World Class by forfeit
Baked Potatoes-7, Scory-0
Decou-2, Sinners-0
Los Toros defeated Riley Hooligans 1 by forfeit

Volleyball

Coed 2
The Screaming Acorns beat Team Busted by forfeit
Chi Psi/Omega 2-2, I Need A Drink-0
Chi Psi/Omega 2, Thornton-1
Team Busted-2, I Need A Drink-0
Team Busted-2, Thornton-0
Coed 3
Power Hitters beat Phi A by forfeit
Tri Delt-2, Kappa Alpha Theta-0
Door Jam-2, Phi A-0
Power Hitters-2, Tri Delt-1

Intramural Track Meet

Team Results
1. Pikes-105; 2. Kappa Sigma-59; 3. Phi Kappa Psi-54; 4. Phi Kappa Tiki-39; 5. Beta-32; 6. Sig Ep-22.

Individual Winners

Men's 3,000 meters
Tim Kassler (Kappa Sigma)-9:49.0
Women's 3,000 meters
Ornah Medlovai-13:33.6
Men's 400
Kengo Aoki (Phi Kappa Tiki)-52.4
Men's 100
Chris Cota (Phi Kappa Tiki)-11.2
Women's 100
Shihd Sashihara-15.2
Men's 1,500
James Riddle (Phi Kappa Tiki)-4:45.4
Men's 80
Chad McHenry (Pikes)-2:23.6
Pre Mile
Brian Johnston (Sig Ep)-8:08.2
Men's High Jump
Keith Sperry (Pikes), Arthur LaRay (Kappa Sig)-5'8"
Women's High Jump
Karen Willoughby-4'4"
Shot Put
R. Liniger (Phi Kappa Psi)-45'9"
Triple Jump
B. Leong (Phi Kappa Psi)-39'11"

Tennis

Men's 1
Michael Williams beat Adam Mertz, 9-8

Softball

Men's 1
Beta 2-13, Cajun Rebels-11
Pikes-12, Delta Tau Delta-9
Kappa Sigma 2B-15, Phi Psi B1-1

Ultimate Frisbee

Men's 1
Raindaws-15, Robert Parish-3
Hi Bell-15, Catch N' Release-0
Disc for Brains-15, Catch n' Release-9
Raindaws-12, Hi Bell-11
Disc for Brains-15, Stoneball Jackson-5
Men's 2
Sweetzer beat Ugly Beotchies by forfeit
Robert Parish-15, El Moist-9
Sweetzer-15, El Moist-11
Coed
Bogus Figure Heads-15, Coprolites-4
Air Biscuit-15, The Jones-4
Coprolites-12, The Jones-7
Bogus Figurehead-9, The Jones-7
Air Biscuit-13, Coprolites-5

Snavelly looks to gain NCAA berth

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

Ted Snavelly will try to become the first Oregon men's golfer to advance to the NCAA Championships in four years when he competes in the West Regional beginning this morning in Tucson, Ariz.

The Ducks were not one of the 12 teams chosen from the Far West region to play in the tournament, but Snavelly was selected as the lone individual competitor from the region. The top 10 teams from the 18-team field advance to the NCAA Championships, along with the top two individuals whose team doesn't advance. For Snavelly to advance to the next month's national championship in McKinney, Tex., he must be one of the top two golfers from a team that doesn't qualify.

"I've got my goal of top 10," Snavelly said. "I think that would get me to nationals."

Oregon has not been represented at the NCAA tourney since the team qualified in 1990, but Snave-

ly believes he can end that streak. One thing working in Snavelly's favor is course familiarity, as the Ducks played Tucson National Golf Course two weeks ago at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships. Snavelly finished the conference tournament in 11th place with a four-round score of 293.

"I played the course five times this month," Snavelly said. "I know the course and have a good feeling about it."

Snavelly, a junior from Beaverton, was named first-team all-Pac-10 this year after five top 10 finishes to go along with 11th-place finishes in his last two tournaments. Snavelly had his best tournaments back-to-back when he finished second at the Southwestern Intercollegiate in Westlake Village, Calif. in March, before winning the Western Intercollegiate two weeks later.

The West Regional begins this morning and runs through Saturday with 18 holes played each day.

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