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#### WHO WILL HOST 2018 WORLD CUP?

"The host nation which will host the 2018 World Cup will not be known until December 2010", according to Jerome Valcke, secretary general of world football's governing body FIFA. At this point in time, England looks

like being in the box seat. However there is a joint-bid coming

by Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as a possible proposals from Spain and Russia who are still yet do decide whether to add their names to the list.

According to Jerome Valcke, "In attributing the 2018 World Cup at the end of 2010 we will be sticking to a similar timetable to the one used for Brazil (2014 hosts) which was chosen seven years in advance".

### WHEN WILL **FERGUSON RETIRE?**

Just when Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson will retire is anyone's guess. But it sure looks like no time soon.....

and Champions League titles in May, the 66-year-old Ferguson announced plans to quit Old Trafford within three years.

But Ferguson, who had previously announced that the 2001-02 season was his last, is again having second thoughts once again.

"The retirement issue is completely out of my mind now," Ferguson said. "I don't ever think about it. I am not going to put myself in a situation where I say to myself I am retiring this year or next. It's difficult to say whether I will be a manager at 70. People ask why I should pack it in-and it is a good point."

Ferguson has managed Man United since 1986 and has won a staggering 10 Premier League titles along the way- as well as the Champions League twice!

It seems only health problems will bring the curtain down upon his illustrious career. Not even the pacemaker fitted to Alex Ferguson four years ago because of a heart irregularity has manged to stop him.

"If my health deteriorated, that solves the problem for everyone," he joked. "You would be rid of me for good! Secondly, it's about my team. If they are doing well, then there's no pressure on me."

## RONALDO AND **HIS GOLDEN BALL**

Cristiano Ronaldo has claimed the After winning the Premier League Golden Ball awarded to the European

Footballer of the Year, and moments later considered the feat as "one of the most beautiful days of my life".

The Manchester United winger was named as 2007 winner Kaka's successor after convincingly seeing off competition from Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Liverpool striker Fernando Tor-

He polled a massive 446 points from a maximum 480, finishing comfortably ahead of second-placed Messi (281) and third-placed Torres (179).

In doing so, the 23-year-old becomes the third Portuguese player to lift the famous trophy - after legendary pair Eusebio and Luis Figo - and joins fellow Red Devils George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton in taking the gong.

#### **JOEYS SQUAD ANNOUNCED**

Qantas Joeys Head Coach Martyn Crook has selected an 18-player squad to compete at the upcoming Nike International Friendlies which will be held at the Lancaster National Soccer Center in California from 5th-8th December 2008.

The majority of the players selected recently competed at the AFC U16 Championships in Uzbekistan where the Qantas Joeys were knocked out in the quarter final stage of the competition.

The Nike International Friendlies is an annual competition staged by U.S. Soccer and was first played in 2001 with national U17 teams invited to participate against the United States national teams.

This year's event includes the Under 17 National Teams from Brazil and Australia, as well as two U.S. squads comprising of all 40 players from U.S. Soccer's Under 17 Men's National Team Residency Program.

This will be the first time that the Qantas Joeys have participated in this tournament.

The Qantas Joeys play their first match of the tournament against USA-1 on Friday 5th December, and then face USA-2 on Sunday 7th December before playing their final match against Brazil on Monday 8th December.

#### **BETEZY BET-OF-THE-WEEK**

According to "The Scotsman" from Betezy, "We laid the right horses last week and are 2/2 lays although we were lucky that Apache Cat only got beaten by a nose.

This week we will be betting on the Kingston Town Classic at Ascot.

I like three horses Niconero, Gilded Venom and Annekov.

If we bet these three at best tote we will be eating lobster Saturday night".

Good Punting, from The Scotsman at Betezy.

Start your day with Yahoo!7 and win a Sony Bravia TV. Enter now.

# ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΑΣΤΕΓΩΝ: Γλέντι μετά τον αποκλεισμό!

Στην Ελλάδα ξέρουμε να περνάμε καλά, ακόμη κι όταν οι συνθήκες δεν είναι ευνοϊκές... Αυτό το μήνυμα έστειλε η εθνική ομάδα Αστέγων στην Μελβούςνη! Η ελληνική αποστολή γιόρτασε με μπάρμπεκιου και... κρίκετ τον αποκλεισμό της από την επόμενη φάση του παγκόσμιου κυπέλλου, έστω κι αν οι παίκτες ήταν πικραμένοι από τον τρόπο που προήλθε ο αποκλεισμός.

Βλέπετε, την Τετάρτη η ελληνική ομάδα ξεπέρασε τον εαυτό της, κέρδισε και τα δύο παιχνίδια που χρειαζόταν, όμως έμεινε εκτός πρώτης τριάδας με έ· ναν μόλις βαθμό λιγότερο! Όλα κρίθηκαν στον αγώνα της Γερμανίας με την Νότια Αφρική, εκεί όπου το αντιπροσωπευτικό μας συγκρότημα ήθελε ήττα των Αφρικανών για να προκριθεί. Παρότι οι Γερμανοί ήταν το μεγάλο φαβορί, κατάφεραν και... ηττήθηκαν από τη Ν. Αφρική, με αποτέλεσμα να μείνει εκτός η Ελλάδα.

Πάντως, η εθνική μας έκανε το χρέος της νικώντας τις Ν. Αφρική και Χιλή, στην διαδικασία των πέναλτι. Στο ματς με τους Αφρικανούς αναδείχτηκε ισόπαλη 1-1 (2 γκολ ο Λαζάρου και από ένα οι Φάκαθος και Φλυτζάνης) και στα πέναλτι πήθε μεγάλη νίκη με 6-5. Όσον αφορά το ματς με τη Χιλή, οι Έλληνας κατάφεραν να πάρουν το ματς στα πέναλ-



τι (4 γκολ ο Φάκαρος και από ένα οι Μπουργαζάς και Λαζάρου) αντιμετωπίζοντας, μάλιστα, μια «βρώμικη» ομάδα, με σκληρό και αντιαθλητικό παιχνίδι. Μεγάλος πρωταγωνιστής και στις δύο αναμετρήσεις ο Γιάννης Πετρόπουλος που πήρε, εκτάκτως, θέση τερματοφύλακα και έκανε εντυπωσιακή εμφάνιση!

Μετά το τέλος του αγώνα με την Χιλή, το πάρτι ξεκίνησε στο γήπεδο και επεκτάθηκε στις κερκίδες όΣτους ρυθμούς του Ζορμπά χόρεψαν ποδοσφαιριστές και φίλαθλοι στην Μελβούρνη

που 300 και πλέον ομογενείς είχαν δημιουργήσει εκοηκτική ατμόσφαιρα ενώ η γιορτή συνεχίστηκε, ακόμη κι όταν η αποστολή ενημερώθηκε για την ήττα της Γερμανίας! Ομογενείς με καταγωγή από την Πάρο μέχρι την Αμαλιάδα έφτασαν στο γήπεδο για να δουν από κοντά τους παίκτες της εθνικής Αστέγων ενώ δεν έλειψε και η συγκίνηση.

Η ελληνική ομάδα θα συνεχίσει στη διοργάνωση για τις θέσεις 25-48.