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SECOND PHASE WORLD CUP TICKETS ON SALE

The second phase of ticket sales for the 2010 FIFA World Cup has commenced all of this week. This means that football fans around the world only have a limited time to secure a seat for the FIFA World Cup in 2010 in South Africa before the third and main ticketing sales phase starts on 5th December – the day after the Final Draw.

A total of 668,525 tickets have been sold to date, 356,285 of those in the host country. This total accounts for 82.5% of the inventory available in this sales phase. Tickets can still be purchased online via FIFA.com and also at FNB branches across South Africa. The US (84,034) leads the way in terms of tickets sold in other countries, followed by the UK (48,274) and Germany (25,024).

This phase is a great opportunity for fans who are captivated by the prospect of experiencing the unique atmosphere of the World Cup firsthand to purchase their tickets, before the customary scramble after the Final Draw,” advises Horst R. Schmidt, chairman of the FIFA Ticketing Sub-Committee.

“The next phase of ticket sales will see an increase in interest across the



With LAKIS KONISTIS

Sports World

globe once fans know not only that their national team has qualified but also where their team will play as a result of the Final Draw, which will take place in Cape Town on 4 December,” emphasises 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee CEO Danny Jordaan.

The third sales phase, which will last for 49 days, will start on 5th December and end on 22nd January 2010, during which time tickets will be available for all categories and all matches.

Fans can also purchase authorised travel packages through participating tour operators appointed by FIFA through MATCH.

FIFA PLAYER OF THE YEAR?

Who will be honoured with the title of FIFA World Player and FIFA Women's World Player for 2009? FIFA has announced the names of the players on the short lists (see below)

and the final decision will be made by the captains and head coaches of the men's and women's national teams.

At the beginning of December, FIFA will announce the names of the five men and five women who have received the most votes and the winners will be revealed at the 19th FIFA World Player Gala at the Zurich Kongresshaus on 21st December 2009.

It should be noted that coaches and captains may not vote for players from the national team they coach or play for.

The lists of 23 male and ten female candidates for these prestigious awards have been drawn up by football experts from the Football Committee and the Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup.

The following 23 men (in alphabetical order) are in contention for the title of FIFA World Player 2009;

Michael Ballack (Germany), Gianluigi Buffon (Italy), Iker Casillas (Spain), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Diego (Brazil), Didier Drogba (Cote d'Ivoire), Michael Essien (Ghana), Samuel Eto'o (Cameroon), Steven Gerrard (England), Thierry Henry (France), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Sweden), Andrus Iniesta (Spain), Kaká (Brazil), Frank Lampard (England), Luis Fabiano (Brazil), Lionel Messi (Argentina), Carles Puyol (Spain), Franck Ribery (France), Wayne Rooney (England), John Terry (England), Fernando Torres (Spain), David Villa (Spain) and Xavi (Spain).

The following ten women (in alphabetical order) are in contention for the title of FIFA Women's World Player 2009;

Nadine Angerer (Germany), Sonia Bompastor (France), Cristiane (Brazil), Inka Grings (Germany), Mana Iwabuchi (Japan), Simone Laudehr (Germany), Marta (Brazil), Birgit Prinz (Germany), Kelly Smith (England) and Abby Wambach (USA).

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2009/10 SEASON ROUND 15

No matter where you are on the ladder this week there's a chance to get a place in the Hyundai A-League top six with teams from 5 to 10 only separated by three points and goal difference playing the most significant factor in where teams will end up at the conclusion of Round 15.

With home matches for all but one of the bottom five teams it's never been more likely to see the table take another twist this week that could see the table congested to within 7 points

as we move into the second half of the Hyundai A-League season.

With the 2010 FIFA World Cup looming and spots now up for grabs on both sides of the Tasman the Hyundai A-League is set to heat up as players look to make an impression for a coveted spot in South Africa in 2010.

Adelaide United (8th) v Gold Coast United (3rd)

This match marks Adelaide United's 150th official match since the commencement of the Hyundai A-League in 2005 (the first club to achieve this milestone), incorporating Hyundai A-League, Pre-Season Cup, AFC Champions League and FIFA Club World Cup (and Qualifying) matches. Adelaide United's record in their 149 matches to date stands at W62-D42-L45, with a goals for-and-against record of 193-172

Brisbane Roar (7th) v Melbourne Victory (2nd)

Having scored in each of their previous 13 away matches, Melbourne Victory are aiming to maintain a new Hyundai A-League record of scoring in consecutive away matches – Victory created a new record of scoring in consecutive away matches (13) in their previous away match, a 2-1 win in Round 13 against Perth Glory.

North Queensland Fury (10th) v Central Coast Mariners (4th)

With the table as congested as it is, a win for North Queensland could see the Fury move into the top six for the first time.

Newcastle Jets (9th) v Wellington Phoenix (6th)

Newcastle Jets captain Matt Thompson is set to make his 200th Australian national league appearance. Thompson made 93 appearances with Parramatta Power and has so far played 106 Hyundai A-League matches for the Newcastle Jets.

Perth Glory (5th) v Sydney FC (1st)

Having scored one goal in each of their past seven matches, Perth Glory might break a quirky all-time Australian national league record if they again score one goal against Sydney FC. Never before in over 6000 Australian national league matches has a team scored the same number of goals in eight consecutive matches. The previous record of scoring the same number of goals in seven consecutive matches is held by Blacktown City (1984-1985), Sunshine (1986), Morwell Falcons (1993/94), South Melbourne (1996/97) and Sydney Olympic (1996/97), when one goal was scored in each match of these streaks.

ΕΓΙΝΑΝ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΕΘΝΗ ΦΙΛΙΚΑ...

Στον πάγκο η φανέλα του Ένκε!

Σε ιδιαίτερα φορτισμένο κλίμα και τη φανέλα του Ένκε να «κάθεται» στον πάγκο, η Γερμανία αναδείχθηκε ισόπαλη 2-2 με την Ακτή Ελεφαντοστού στο «Γκελζενκίρχερ». Τα «πάντσερ» προηγήθηκαν με το πέναλτι του Ποντόλσκι στο 11', όμως οι «ελέφαντες» πήραν κεφάλι στο σκορ με τα γκολ των Εμπούε (57') και Ντούμπια (85'). Το τελικό σκορ διαμόρφωσε και πάλι ο Ποντόλσκι στις καθυστερήσεις.

Στην Τσεξένα, η Ιταλία υποδέχτηκε την Σουηδία της οποίας επιβλήθηκε με 1-0 χάρις στο γκολ του Κιελίνι. Όλαφ Μέλμπεργκ και Ντάνιελ Μαϊστόρόβιτς αγωνίστηκαν βασικοί σε όλο το ματς για τους Σκανδιναβούς.

Η πρωταθλήτρια Ευρώπης Ισπανία έκανε επίδειξη ισχύος, καθώς επιβλήθηκε με 5-1 της Αυστρίας στην Βιέννη. Οι γηπεδούχοι έκαναν το... λάθος να προηγηθούν μόλις στο 8' με τον Γιάντσερ, όμως στη συνέχεια το... πλήρωσαν ακριβά. Ο Φάμπρεγας δύο λεπτά αργότερα έφερε το ματς στα ίσα και ο Βίγια με δύο γκολ στο 40' και στο 45' έδωσε προβάδισμα δυο τερμάτων στους «φούριες ρόχας». Οι Ίβηρες σημείωσαν άλλα δύο γκολ στην επανάληψη μέσα σ' ένα δίλεπτο (56', 57') με τους Γκουίθα, Πάμπλο Ερνάντεθ και στη συνέχεια... έσβησαν τις μηχανές. Τέλος, η Πολωνία, με τον Μίχαλ Ζεβλάκοφ να αγωνίζεται βασικός σ' όλο το ματς, επιβλήθηκε με 1-0 του Καναδά.

Αναλυτικά τα αποτελέσματα και οι σκόρερ των διεθνών φιλικών:

Νότια Κορέα-Σερβία	0-1
Πολωνία-Καναδάς	1-0
Μαυροβούνιο-Λευκορωσία	1-0
Μάλτα-Βουλγαρία	1-4
Δανία-ΗΠΑ	3-1
Αυστία-Ισπανία	1-5
Γερμανία-Ακτή Ελεφαντοστού	2-2
Ιταλία-Σουηδία	1-0