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☞ **GREETINGS FROM SOUTH AFRICA**

One year out from the decision on who will host the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cup tournaments, Football Federation Australia (FFA) is in Cape Town this week in the first of three significant opportunities for bidding nations to present their case to the international football community.

But before getting the formal promotional program underway, Football Federation Australia Chairman, Frank Lowy AC and CEO, Ben Buckley, will first visit Tygerberg Children's Hospital outside of Cape Town as the guest of the hospital's Patron, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

Also accompanying Lowy and Buckley are the eight state and territory winners of the 'Come Write! Come Play!' competition- the eight children from around Australia who will help promote Australia's bid for the 2018-2022 FIFA World Cup throughout the week as 'emissaries'.

There are nine other bidders representing 11 countries. The decision on the the winners will be made on 2nd December 2010.

☞ **2014 WORLD CUP HEADACHES?**

Whilst on the World Cup, Brazil's sports minister has reported this week that, "bureaucracy could keep key infrastructure work from being completed in time for the 2014 World Cup".

Orlando Silva says bureaucratic delays in the construction sector could undermine the nation's ability to successfully host football's biggest showcase in five years.

Silva called for streamlined bid processes and faster approval decisions if Brazil wants to avoid the risk of not completing the necessary infrastructure in time for the competition.

Silva is especially worried about the nation's airports. No problems like that here in Australia!

☞ **CHILE CLEARED FOR WORLD CUP**

Chilean club Rangers has dropped a court case that threatened the national team's participation at next year's World Cup.

FIFA had said it could kick Chile out of the World Cup unless Rangers withdrew the court case, which contested the club's demotion to the second division of the national league.

The move clears the way for Chile to play in the tournament, its first appearance since 1998.

FIFA statutes prohibit soccer clubs, players, officials and organizations from taking disputes to civil courts instead of a sports arbitration panel.



With **LAKIS KONISTIS**

Sports World

Chile is one of five South American nations, along with Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay, to have qualified for the finals.



Messi

☞ **MESSI WINS GOLDEN BALL**

Argentina's Lionel Messi has won the Golden Ball awarded to the European

Footballer of the Year, becoming the sixth Barcelona player to take the award and the first since Brazilian Ronaldinho in 2005.

Messi beat last year's winner Cristiano Ronaldo into second place in the poll results.

Hailed by Argentina great Diego Maradona as his successor, Messi won an unprecedented treble in Spain last season with Barcelona as the Catalan side swept the Champions League, the Spanish title and the Copa del Rey.

Messi was the top scorer in last year's Champions League with nine goals, including his superb header in the 2-0 victory over Manchester United in the final.

☞ **HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE ROUND 17**

After a weekend that has seen Melbourne Victory create a 5-point gap at the summit of the Hyundai A-League and the chasing pack congest themselves even further, Round 17 is set to test the resolve of those currently in the six to keep their place in the march towards the finals.

We start our Round in Wellington where the Phoenix take on league leaders Melbourne Victory. Melbourne look to continue their recent form but with the New Zealand outfit preparing to keep

their impressive home record intact this will be a major battle as Victory look to retain the gap and Phoenix work to stay in the six.

In Adelaide the heat will most definitely be on when the Reds take on the Newcastle Jets at Hindmarsh Stadium in a match that both team will be desperate to gain maximum points from. Adelaide, following their 2-1 loss to North Queensland Fury, will be looking to rebound from the bottom of the ladder but will be up against it against the Jets following their impressive 3-1 away win over Sydney FC.

On Saturday, Sydney FC take on North Queensland Fury at the SFS. The Sky Blues will look to turn around their recent form slump that has seen them lose their last three matches while Ian Ferguson's Fury will look to continue the play that saw them earn all-3 points on the weekend. At one win a piece so far between these two clubs this will be a massive test for both sides.

On the Gold Coast, 3 plays 4 when the Mariners come to town in a match that looks to see which Coast team has the best Hyundai A-League credentials. Equal on points but separated by a massive goal difference this will be a major test for Lawrie McKinna's men as they take on a Gold Coast side that will see the return of the majority of their first-choice defence for this crucial encounter.

Finally it's across to ME Bank Stadium where Perth Glory host Brisbane Roar. Glory's consistent form has seen them occupy 5th place for the past five weeks and continue to trouble most teams they face. The Roar, coming off a solid 4-1 win against the Phoenix, will look to continue that goal-scoring form and start their march towards March football.

☞ **PARASKEVAS' TEAM OF THE WEEK**

According to fellow sports journalist Chris Paraskevas the A-League Team-of-the-Week in Round 16 was as follows:

- GK - Justin Pasfield (North Queensland Fury)
- CB - Topor-Stanley (Newcastle Jets)
- CB - Ben Kantarowski (Newcastle Jets)
- CB - Craig Moore (Brisbane Roar)
- LM - Tommy Oar (Brisbane Roar)
- CM - Jobe Wheelhouse (Newcastle Jets)
- CM - Nick Ward (Melbourne Victory)
- RM - Charlie Miller (Brisbane Roar)
- ST - Reinaldo (Brisbane Roar)
- ST - Archie Thompson (Melbourne Victory)
- ST - Michael Bridges (Newcastle Jets)

I agree wholeheartedly with NOT ONE Sydney FC player appearing in the lineup after last week's abysmal showing. You would expect the Blues to bounce back this weekend though.

☞ **GOLDEN BALL ROLL OF HONOUR**

- 1956 - Stanley Matthews, Blackpool
- 1957 - Alfredo Di Stefano, Real Madrid
- 1958 - Raymond Kopa, Real Madrid
- 1959 - Alfredo Di Stefano, Real Madrid
- 1960 - Luis Suarez, FC Barcelona
- 1961 - Omar Sivori, Juventus
- 1962 - Josef Masopust, Dukla Prague
- 1963 - Lev Yashin, Dynamo Moscow
- 1964 - Denis Law, Manchester United
- 1965 - Eusebio, Benfica
- 1966 - Bobby Charlton, Manchester United
- 1967 - Florian Albert, Ferencvaros
- 1968 - George Best, Manchester United
- 1969 - Gianni Rivera, AC Milan
- 1970 - Gerd Muller, Bayern Munich
- 1971 - Johan Cruyff, Ajax
- 1972 - Franz Beckenbauer, Bayern Munich
- 1973 - Johan Cruyff, FC Barcelona
- 1974 - Johan Cruyff, FC Barcelona
- 1975 - Oleg Blokhin, Dynamo Kiev
- 1976 - Franz Beckenbauer, Bayern Munich
- 1977 - Allan Simonsen, Borussia Moenchengladbach
- 1978 - Kevin Keegan, Hamburg SV
- 1979 - Kevin Keegan, Hamburg SV
- 1980 - Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Bayern Munich
- 1981 - Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Bayern Munich
- 1982 - Paolo Rossi, Juventus
- 1983 - Michel Platini, Juventus
- 1984 - Michel Platini, Juventus
- 1985 - Michel Platini, Juventus
- 1986 - Igor Belanov, Dynamo Kiev
- 1987 - Ruud Gullit, AC Milan
- 1988 - Marco Van Basten, AC Milan
- 1989 - Marco Van Basten, AC Milan
- 1990 - Lothar Matthaus, Inter Milan
- 1991 - Jean-Pierre Papin, Marseille
- 1992 - Marco Van Basten, AC Milan
- 1993 - Roberto Baggio, Juventus
- 1994 - Hristo Stoichkov, FC Barcelona
- 1995 - George Weah, AC Milan
- 1996 - Matthias Sammer, Borussia Dortmund
- 1997 - Ronaldo, Inter Milan
- 1998 - Zinedine Zidane, Juventus
- 1999 - Rivaldo, FC Barcelona
- 2000 - Luis Figo, Real Madrid
- 2001 - Michael Owen, Liverpool
- 2002 - Ronaldo, Real Madrid
- 2003 - Pavel Nedved, Juventus
- 2004 - Andriy Shevchenko, AC Milan
- 2005 - Ronaldinho, FC Barcelona
- 2006 - Fabio Cannavaro, Real Madrid
- 2007 - Kaka, AC Milan
- 2008 - Cristiano Ronaldo, Manchester United
- 2009 - Lionel Messi, FC Barcelona