

THE NUMBER 12

CHANGED EVERYTHING IN THE
FIFA WORLD CUPS

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CHAPTER ONE

*The number 12 carries religious, mythological, and magical
Symbolism, generally representing perfection, entirety, or
Cosmic order in traditions since antiquity ...*

THE TWELVE

"In recent times Italy has been in a World Cup final every 12 years and I hope to still be there in 2018..."

- Gianluigi Buffon

HALF-TIME. I

When I looked in-depth into the major FIFA World Cup match statistics and the results of all tournaments and the players, I suddenly saw an impressive number, that "decided" the destiny of the World Cups. The first looking it seemed a coincidence and bullshit to me. But how far I have looked at the depths of this topic, I have understood that the number 12 might be crucial for the Mundials. Of course, it's possible to see any number in the football results and statistics. But the number 12 seemed to me bizarre and eccentric. After reading this book, you may also feel the same emotions I felt while I was writing this book. And now it's time for facts. So, here are the cases of World Cup Winner Players that are related to the number 12:

Pelé played a total of fourteen games in World Cups and won 12 Games;

Of Pele's seventy-seven goals, 12 were scored in World Cups, with his biggest tally for a single tournament being six in the successful 1958 campaign;

World Cup 1966, 12th July, when Brazil played against Bulgaria, Pelé scored Brazil's first goal from a free kick;

Pelé became the most World Cup winner in 12 years period;

In World Cup 1958, Pelé entered the All-Star Team of the tournament and after 12 years he accomplished again;

In the final match of the World Cup 1958, Pelé scored the goal and after 12 years he scored again in the final game of the World Cup 1970;

In the semi-final game of the World Cup 1958, Pelé scored a goal in the 55th minute of the game, and after 12 minutes he scored again;

The Brazil team won the game against Peru in World Cup in 1970. It was his 12th game of the World Cup;

If Pelé didn't injure himself in 1962, he would be able to play in the final game in his 12th World Cup game;

Pelé scored a goal in the World Cup in 1970, and it was the 12th winning game in his World Cup career;

Pelé scored goals for the 12 countries in his World Cup career;

Garrincha played a total of 12 games in the three World Cups (1958, 1962, and 1966) and won ten games, and lost only one game;

Garrincha had played a total of fifty international appearances and he scored 12 goals for the Brazil team;

Garrincha scored Brazil's second goal against Bulgaria on 12th July in the World Cup 1966;

Franz Beckenbauer played his first World Cup match on 12th July World Cup 1966;

Franz Beckenbauer scored his first goal for World Cup on 12th July 1966 and 12 minutes later he scored his second;

Franz Beckenbauer was the "Best Young Player" of the World Cup 1966 after 12 years when West Germany was the World Cup Winner;

Mario Kempes played his first match on 2nd June in World Cup 1978 and after 12 days he scored two goals against Poland;

In the final game of the World Cup 1978, he had a chance to score in the 25th minute of the game but

after 12 minutes he scored the first goal of the game;

David Villa played a total of 12 games in the three World Cups (2006, 2010, and 2014) and won nine games;

Dino Zoff started his first World Cup on 12-number Jersey in World Cup 1970;

After 12 years of his first entrance into the World Cup, he was the Champion (1982);

Dino Zoff won the 12 edition of the FIFA World Cup in the 1982 year;

Diego Maradona played a total of twenty-one games in World Cups and won 12 games, lost five games, and drew four games;

On average Diego Maradona won more than seven fouls per game in his World Cup career, or one every 12 minutes;

Fouls on him resulted in 12 cards being dished out, ahead of Arjen Robben (eleven) for the most in tournament history;

Zinedine Zidane played a total of 12 games in the three World Cups (World Cup 1998, 2002, and 2006) and won seven games, lost one game, and drew four games;

Zinedine Zidane scored twice in the World Cup 1998 final (12.07.98) to help secure a 3-0 win for France over Brazil;

Zinedine Zidane scored the first match goal in the World Cup 2006 Final. 12 minutes later Italy leveled the score;

Thierry Henry's first international goal came in the World Cup 1998 against South Africa in the 12th minute of the match;

Thierry Henry started his first World Cup on 12-number Jersey World Cup 1998;

Thierry Henry played a total of seventeen games in the World Cups and 12 times he was a starter and scored the goal against Brazil in World Cup 2006, in the 12th minute of the second half-time;

Ronaldo scored the first goal in the final match against Germany in the World Cup 2002. 12 minutes later he scored another one;

In the final game of the World Cup 2002, Ronaldo scored his 12th goal in World Cup;

In the World Cup 2006, Ronaldo scored two goals against Japan. 12 minutes later the game ended;

Alessandro Del Piero played his first match for the FIFA World Cup 2006 on 12 June;

Alessandro Del Piero played a total of 12 games in three World Cups (World Cup 1998, World Cup 2002, World Cup 2006);

Alessandro Del Piero scored one of the goals of 12 goals for Italy in the World Cup 2006;

Gerard Piqué played a total of 12 games in three World Cups (World Cup 2010, World Cup 2014, World Cup 2018) and won seven games;

In World Cup 2010, Spain played against Paraguay. The first time the match ended 0-0. After 12 minutes Piqué took a yellow card;

In World Cup 2010, Piqué and his team won the game against Portugal (1-0). After 12 days they stayed champions with the same score;

Thomas Müller played a total of sixteen games in the World Cups and won 12 games;

Thomas Müller scored his first goal in World Cup 2014 against Portugal in the 12th minute of the match;

Daniel Passarella played a total of 12 games in the World Cups and won seven games;

Jairzinho scored the goal in World Cup 1974 against Zaire in the 12th minute of the match;

Dunga played a total of eighteen games in the World Cups and won 12 games;

Ronaldinho had taken his first red card for Mundials in World Cup 2002, the 12th minute of the second half-time;

Patrick Vieira played a total of 12 games in the World Cups and won six games;

Youri Djorkaeff scored his first and ever goal for Mundials in World Cup 1998, against Denmark in the 12th minute of the match;

David Trezeguet played a total of 12 games in the World Cups and won six games;

Benjamin Pavard scored his first goal for Mundials in World Cup 2018, in the 12th minute of the second half-time;

Raphael Varane played a total of 12 games in the World Cups and won nine games;

Antoine Griezmann played a total of 12 games in the World Cups and won nine games;

Olivier Giroud played a total of 12 games in the World Cups and won nine games;

Benjamin Pavard scored his first goal for Mundials in World Cup 2018, in the 12th minute of the second half-time;

Juergen Klinsmann scored the goal against South Korea in World Cup 1994, the 12th minute of the first half-time;

Juergen Klinsmann scored the goal against Iran in World Cup 1998, the 12th minute of the second half-time;

Mesut Ozil had taken his first yellow card for Mundials in World Cup 2010, the 12th minute of the first half-time against Australia;

Marco Tardelli scored his first goal for Mundials in World Cup 1982, the 12th minute of the second half-time;

Paolo Rossi scored his last goal for Mundials in World Cup 1982, the 12th minute of the second half-time;

Xavi played a total of fifteen games in the World Cups and 12 times he was a starter;

HALF-TIME. II

The number 12 isn't related only to the players. It's also marked the World Cup statistics. There were twenty-one Mundials held until nowadays. We would find this magic number in any of them. But we will look into only one of them. Let's choose the 12th edition of them and it would be the symbolic choice. Here are the cases about the World Cup 1982, that is related to the number 12:

CASE. 1

The 1982 FIFA World Cup was the 12th FIFA World Cup, a quadrennial football tournament for men's senior national teams, and was played in Spain between 13 June and 11 July 1982. The tournament was won by Italy, who defeated West Germany 3-1 in the final, held in the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium in the Spanish capital of Madrid.

CASE. 2

Italy scored 12 goals to win this competition. It was the third World Cup trophy for "Azurri". Here are the countries that conceded goals against Italy:

- *PERU*
- *CAMEROON*
- *ARGENTINA*
- *BRAZIL*
- *POLAND*
- *W. GERMANY*

CASE. 3

The most dramatic game was the "Disgrace of Gijón" which is the name given to a 1982 FIFA World Cup football match played between West Germany and Austria on 25 June 1982.

CASE. 4

In World Cup 1982 every six groups made a total of 12 points. The first round was a round-robin group stage containing six groups of four teams each. Two points were awarded for a win and one for a draw, with goal difference used to separate teams equal on points. The top two teams in each group advanced. In the second round, the twelve remaining teams were split into four groups of three teams each, with the winner of each group progressing to the knockout semi-final stage. The composition of the groups in the second round was determined before the start of the tournament. Groups A and B were to include one team from Groups 1 through 6, and Groups C and D included the remaining six teams. The winners of Groups 1 and 3 were in Group A while the runners-up were in Group C. The winners of Groups 2 and 4 were in Group B while the runners-up were in Group D. The winner of Group 5 was in Group D while the runner-up was in Group B. The winner of Group 6 was in Group C while the runner-up was in Group A. Therefore, Group A mirrored Group C, and Group B mirrored Group D with the winners and runners-up from the first round being

placed into opposite groups in the second round.

The second-round groups that mirrored each other (based on the first-round groupings) faced off against each other in the semifinals. Therefore, the Group A winner played the Group C winner, and the Group B winner played the Group D winner.

It's not strange. Because until the 1990 FIFA World Cup, two points were conceded for a win, and one point was conceded for a draw. Since the 1994 FIFA World Cup, three points have been conceded for a win and one for a draw. For that reason, every group could be made 12 points. But the fact is a fact. Nothing more;

CASE. 5

Two teams of each group would advance to the next round, another group stage. Because of the increase in participants, 12 countries entered the second stage.

CASE. 6

England made a semi-successful return after a 12-year absence, exiting in the second-round group stages without losing a match. Though they had struggled to qualify, Ron Greenwood's side impressed when winning all three of their first group games and was then held to goalless draws by Spain and West Germany. Also, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, and the Soviet Union were all back in the finals after 12-year absences;

CASE. 7

12 thousand fans watched Czechoslovakia against Kuwait at Estadio José Zorrilla, Castilla y León in World Cup 1982. Estadio José Zorrilla is a municipally-owned football stadium in Valladolid, Spain. The capacity of the stadium is 26,451 seats, making it the 22nd-largest stadium in Spain and the largest in Castile and León;

CASE. 8

The "Azzurri" eliminated Diego Maradona's Argentina on 29th June in World Cup 1982. Marco Tardelli scored the first goal of the match in the 56th minute. 12 minutes later Antonio Cabrini scored the second one. 12 days later "Azzurri" became champion on 11th July in World Cup 1982:

CASE. 9

On 8 July in World Cup 1982, West Germany played against France. Despite several good chances for both sides, including Manuel Amoros hitting the crossbar in stoppage time, the score remained at 1-1 at full time. 12 minutes later, West Germany began their comeback, by Rummenigge's goal. There was a penalty shootout in this game (3-3). There were 12 kicks in the penalty shootout and West Germany won this shootout (5-4)

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