

# "A count for 2017 in the world of Soccer"

**By Manuel Blas,  
Economist, Mexican, passionate about sports**

(Kingston, NY) We are running out of time. 2018 is around the corner. Let's recount what happened in the soccer world in 2017 and see what the events for 2018 are. The final list of selections for the 2018 FIFA World Cup are: for the African continent: Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Nigeria and Senegal. From Asia: Australia, Iran, Japan, Republic of South Korea and Saudi Arabia. From Europe we will see: Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Iceland, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. For North and Central America: Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama. And finally, for South America the selections are: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay and Peru. No teams from Oceania will be represented.

<http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2017/m=11/news=meet-the-32-finalists-for-russia-2018-2921492.html>

Although our community rooted for the teams from Honduras and Italy, sadly they have not qualified for the World Cup. Better luck for the next time for *Los Catrachos* and *La Azzurra*. Senegal, Australia, and Peru, got into the classification and are celebrating with their fans. In Senegal, *The Teranga Lions* have climbed to 23rd place in the world, leading the rank in Africa. It has been 36 years since Peru last appeared in the World Cup and the country is overjoyed that they will be playing in Russia. Australia reached the penultimate ticket to

the World Cup by beating *Los Catrachos* in a 3-1 that endangers the job of their Coach Jorge Luis Pinto.

<https://www.nytimes.com/es/2017/11/16/cuando-peru-vaya-al-mundial/>

Some highlights from the 2017 Championship of the Confederations Cup from Russia: It is impossible to forget the match between Portugal and Mexico, where Cristiano Ronaldo led Portugal to a win. During the semifinal between Portugal and Chile, the Chilean goalkeeper made a spectacular showing by stopping the three penalties. The Germans won this Cup thanks to their forwards who were very wise. Goretzka, did what had to be done; he thought quickly and moved fast, achieving the Crown and Championship. The Golden Ball went to Julian Draxler (Germany). The Goal of the Tournament went to Marco Fabián (Mexico) with that goal from outside of the area, which was spectacular to watch.

<http://www.fifa.com/confederationscup/stories/y=2017/m=6/news=russia-2017-in-review-2900297.html>

In the Mexican soccer league, Las Chivas from Guadalajara were crowned Champions for the Cup MX as well the League Tournament. They received the double crown and established themselves as the most winning Club, only shared by their arch rival Club America. Today, Nov 29th, the semifinals of the 2017 Opening Tournament are still being played between Monterrey, Tigres UANL, Club America, and Monarcas to reach a spot in the final.

<http://www.chivasdecorazon.com.mx/presitio>

In Argentine soccer the Boca Junior beat the River Plate to be crowned Champion of the season 2016-17. After this season, we will see important changes, for 2017-2018. Will see the first tournament organized by the Argentine Superliga, reducing the number of teams participating in it.

In Spanish football, *Los Merengues* from the Real Madrid achieved the crown of the Spanish League and the Spanish Super Cup leaving Barcelona with the sub-championship on both occasions. However, the Copa del Rey got out of *Merengues* hands and Barcelona became Champion of it.

In the FIFA Intercontinental tournaments, the Club World Cup: the Real Madrid was crowned as a Champion, and left as sub-champion to Kashima Antlers from Japan. In 2018 we will see the Club World Cup in the cities of Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, with the participation of the Pachuca Club (Mex.) to represent the North and Central America region. While in South America, it is still to be determined who will attend as a representative.

<http://www.foxdeportes.com/espana/gallery/real-madrid-zinedine-zidane-ya-recupero-lo-que-los-merengues-invirtieron-por-el/>

The European Tournament Champions are, for the UEFA Champions League: Real Madrid, which defeated Juventus. UEFA Europe League: Manchester United, which defeated Ajax. In the European Super Cup: Real Madrid beat Manchester United 2-1, with goals from Casemiro and Isco.

The South American Tournament Champions from Copa Libertadores: Atlético Nacional de Colombia. Copa Sudamericana:

Chapecoense (of Brazil and Championship of Honor). Recopa Sudamericana: Atlético Nacional de Colombia.

While the North and Central America Champions are Champions League: Club Pachuca (Mexico). The Champions of the League in Africa: Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa). Asia: Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors (Japan) and Oceania: Auckland City FC (New Zealand)

<http://www.fifa.com/clubworldcup/index.html>

Next Friday, December 1st, 2017, the draw for the 2018 World Cup will take place. We will see which group each team is assigned to. The event will be hosted in Moscow at 6:00 pm Russian time, 10:00 am local time.

The FIFA eWorld Cup 2018 will reach its annual end on the same dates of the FIFA World Cup. It will culminate with more followers, adding millions of e-players around the world. We will see the realization of the 2018 FIFA eWorld Champion. The eWorld Cup has become one of the most anticipated events for its players. For example, in 2016 we saw how Al-Bacha from Denmark became Champion playing on two different consoles: Xbox One and PlayStation 4. While for 2017 the champion was the English player GORILLA. In the last World Cup Brazil 2014 the Brazilian legend, Ronaldo showed up to the event where Rosenmeir from Denmark took the Cup home. This time we will see which superstar will show up to the event, maybe, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who is huge fan of the FIFA eWorld Cup.

<http://www.fifa.com/fifaeworldcup/index.html>