

CONTENTS

Introduction	10
1. Where Did Soccer Begin?	12
2. Who Wrote the First Rules of Soccer?	18
3. Did the Goal Ever Have a Different Value?	21
4. What Was the First “Official” Soccer Regulation? . . .	23
5. What Was the First “Official” Match?	28
6. Why Is Soccer Played Eleven Against Eleven?	31
7. Why Do Soccer Matches Last 90 Minutes?	35
8. When Were Goalkeepers Allowed to Use Their Hands?36	
9. Who Was the First Referee?	40
10. Which Is the Oldest Soccer Club?	44
11. Why Do We Say “Score a Goal,” “Derby,” “League,” and “Hooligan?”	46
12. What Was the First Match Played Outside of Great Britain?	52
13. What Was the First International Match?	54
14. What Was the First Official Soccer Tournament? . . .	56
15. What Was the Strangest Soccer Game Ever?	59
16. How Were the Designs and Colors of the First T-Shirts Determined?	60
17. Did a Team Ever Become Champion of a Tournament Without Playing a Single Game?	63
18. What Was the First Time That a Team Included Two Father and Son Players for an Official Competition? . .	66
19. What Was the First Official Tournament for National Teams?	68

WHY IS SOCCER PLAYED ELEVEN AGAINST ELEVEN?

20. What Was the Biggest Thrashing in an Official Premier Division Championship? 70
21. Who Invented the Penalty Kick Shootout? 75
22. Who Was the Oldest Player to Play in an Official Match? . 77
23. Which Team Is Considered the First Champion of the World? 78
24. How Did the Round-Robin League System Come About in Soccer? 80
25. Who Was the First Professional Soccer Player? 82
26. What Is the Most Unusual Recruitment in the History of Soccer? 85
27. Who Scored the First Own Goal in an Official Match? . . 89
28. Who Was the First Goalkeeper to Score a Goal in an Official Match? 91
29. Who Was the First Coach? 94
30. Who Was the First Black Player to Play in an Official Match? 96
31. Which Was the First Soccer Match Played Using Artificial Light? 98
32. When Did the First Player Substitution in an Official Tournament Occur? 100
33. Who Invented the Goal Net? 102
34. Which Team Was the First to Be Relegated? And Which One Was the First to Be Promoted? 104
35. Why Was the Penalty Kick Invented? 106
36. What Was the Biggest Difference in Number of Players Between Two Teams in an Official Match? . . 109
37. Was There Ever a Goalkeeper With Glasses? 111
38. What Was the Longest Match? 114
39. Who Was the First Professional Soccer Player to Cling to a Curious Superstition? 116

40. Which Country Was the First to Become a “World Power” in Soccer?	118
41. Who Were the Riskiest Players?	120
42. Who Was the Biggest Professional Soccer Player in History?	124
43. What Was the Shortest Official Tournament Ever? . .	127
44. Can You Follow Your Favorite Team After Death? . .	129
45. How Did the Copa America Begin?	131
46. When Was the First Olympic Soccer Tournament Played?	133
47. Who Was the First Goalkeeper to Wear Gloves?	134
48. Which First Division Team Holds the Record for Playing With the Most Siblings?	136
49. Who Invented the Red and Yellow Cards?	138
50. Who Scored the First Goal of a South American Team Against a European Team?	139
51. Which Official Competition Allowed Matches of 30-Minute Halves?	141
52. Why Did the World Cup Start in 1930 and Not Before?	143
53. Why Did Uruguay Organize the First World Cup? . .	145
54. Who Was the Most Eccentric Goalkeeper in Soccer History?	147
55. Who Was the First Team to Win Second and First Division Championships in Consecutive Seasons? . .	149
56. Can a Referee Score a Goal?	150
57. Who Was the First Player to Suffer Racist Attacks? . .	152
58. What Was the First Game to Be Suspended Due to Fireworks?	154
59. Has a Team Ever Won the League From a Country Other Than Their Own?	156

WHY IS SOCCER PLAYED ELEVEN AGAINST ELEVEN?

60. Can a Team Be a Champion of a Tournament for Which It Has Not Qualified?	157
61. Which Was the First Rigged Match in History?	159
62. Which Champion Waited the Longest to Receive His Trophy?	162
63. What Was the Christmas Truce?	164
64. Can a Referee Red-Card Himself?	167
65. Has a Spectator Ever Been Invited to Play a Soccer Match Between National Teams?	168
66. Did a Player Ever Expel a Referee?	170
67. When Were Numbers on Soccer Jerseys First Used? .	171
68. What Is the "White Horse Final?"	173
69. What Is the Most Heated Rivalry in the World?	174
70. Did a Player Who Had Left the Field Ever Return to Play?	176
71. What Was the Most Extraordinary Transfer in Soccer History?	178
72. Can You Score a Goal Without Stepping on the Field? .	181
73. Who Invented the First Soccer Shoes?	182
74. Who Developed the First Soccer Tactics?	184
75. Which Match Had the Most Players Red-Carded? . . .	186
76. What Is the Highest Number of Goals Scored By a Team That Still Lost the Game?	188
77. Which Player Scored the Most Goals in a Single Official Match?	189
78. Who Is the Player to Score the Most Goals in an Entire Career?	191
79. Which Professional Soccer Player Suffered the Most Relegations From the First Division?	193
80. Who Was the Most Useless Scorer in an International Tournament?	195
81. Has a Referee Ever Expelled a Line Judge?	196

82. Which Is the Worst National Team in Soccer History?.	198
83. Can a Team Lose a Game Despite Having Scored More Goals Than Its Opponent?	199
84. Can a Team Lose a Penalty Kick Shootout Without Missing a Shot?	202
85. Who Invented the Penalty Kick With a Pass?	203
86. Who Created the Substitutes' Bench?	205
87. Has Team Ever Played More Than One Official Match on the Same Day?	206
88. When Was the Horizontal Post Added to the Goal? . .	208
89. In Which Match Occurred the Most Suspensions Due to Bad Weather?	210
90. How Did the Champions League Begin?	211
91. How Did the Copa Libertadores Begin?	214
92. When Was a Whistle First Used to Referee a Match? .	216
93. When Did Soccer Players' Cards First Appear?	217
94. Which Goalkeeper Holds the Most Penalties in One Game?	219
95. Was There Any Infallible Player in the Penalty Shootout?	221
96. What Was the Biggest Comeback in an Official Competition?	223
97. What Was the Most Evenly Matched Official League Tournament?	227
98. What Was the Most Unusual Relegation and Which Team Was Saved in the Most Curious Way?	228
99. Was There a Professional Soccer Player Who Played All Positions?	230
100. Has a Tournament Ever Had More Than One Winner?	232
Bibliography	234