

Soccer America's Youth Soccer Letter, developed by Dan Woog in the mid-1980s, was conceived as a tool for adults working in youth soccer.

A look at this week's feature on the Soccer Club of Baltimore (see Page 15) reveals why the Youth Soccer Letter has evolved into a reference for youth working in adult soccer.

The club features two high school underclassmen — Santino Quaranta and Devin Barclay — taken in the first 14 picks of the 2001 MLS SuperDraft.

Paul

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WORLD CUP 2002 The mad scramble is on

World Cup ticketing entered the digital age but not without a hitch.

Ticket applications to the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan are available online for the first time.

FIFA activated a ticket link (www.FIFAWorldCup.com) on Feb. 15 to give fans from around the world the opportunity to apply for tickets online and participate in a lottery for tickets.

Unfortunately, the ticketing process had an inauspicious kickoff.

Shortly before the planned start, FIFA said Web glitches meant that fans in Korea and Japan had to rely on paper application forms — available at post offices and local government offices.

FIFA hoped to have online ticketing available in Japan and South Korea a week after its database crashed.

Japanese World Cup organizers are printing an extra 3 million domestic ticket application forms and shipping them to 25,000 post offices and official World Cup shops nationwide after being overwhelmed by demand.

Nearly 3 million forms were snapped up just hours after hitting post office and official World Cup shop counters.

In South Korea, a recent poll



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found as many as 9 million fans wanted tickets.

FIFA is insisting that, for the first time, every fan will have an equal opportunity to get tickets.

The problem is only a fraction of the applications can be filled.

Around 260,000 tickets will be put on sale for the general public outside Japan and South Korea.

Japanese and Korean fans will have access to approximately double that amount.

The rest of the tickets will be controlled by FIFA and its commercial partners.

Many of the problems with the ticketing at France '98 were tied to individuals who had access to tickets through commercial partners and federations and scalped them.

FIFA expects to sell 3.18 million tickets to the 64 World Cup 2002 games.

Tickets in the cheapest category range from \$60 for the group matches to \$300 for the final. In the most expensive category, they range from \$150 for group matches to \$750 for the final.

Average prices are almost three times higher than they were in France.

BRAZIL

Leao issues Carnival warning

Brazil is taking seriously its trip to North America, where it will face the United States March 3 at the Rose Bowl and Mexico March 7 in Guadalajara.

How seriously?

Brazil coach Emerson Leao has warned his players that partying too

hard during Carnival week, which ends Feb. 27, could spoil their national team future.

Leao, known for imposing strict discipline on his players, made it clear he would be watching to see if anyone overstepped the mark.

"If I switch on the television and see a Brazilian athlete parading in a samba school, that's one thing," said Leao. "But if I see him parading in five different schools, that's going over the top. The players have to define their hearts."

This is no "B" team Leao is taking to North America.

With the exception of defender Roberto Carlos, who hasn't played for Brazil since last August, and midfielder Rivaldo, Leao is taking his first team.

Rivaldo and Roberto Carlos are unavailable because the tour coincides with the Spanish showdown between Barcelona and Real Madrid, their respective clubs.

The U.S. game will be Leao's second since replacing Wanderley Luxemburgo.

Leao's first match produced an unconvincing 1-0 win, gained on a stoppage-time goal, over Colombia in a World Cup qualifier.

Veteran striker Romano, who scored 66 goals for Vasco da Gama last year, was included, along with young striker Ronaldinho Gaucho, recently signed by French club Paris St. Germain for the 2001-02 season from Gremio.

The squad includes seven European-based players: defenders Cafu (Roma), Silvinho (Arsenal), Edmilson (Lyon) and Roque Junior (AC Milan), midfielders Vampeta (Paris St. Germain) and Emerson (Roma), and forward Christian (Paris St. Germain).



YUN SUK BONG/REUTERS

South Korea doesn't need to promote the lottery for 2002 World Cup tickets.



Lyon defender Edmilson (left) is one of seven European-based players called in for Brazil's match with the United States on March 3.

Indicative of the massive changes in the Brazilian team since the 1998 World Cup, Cafu and Emerson are the only holdovers in Leao's squad from the France '98 team.

PETER SCHMEICHEL

Great Dane steps down

Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, one of the longest-serving players in international soccer, is quitting the Danish national team at the age of 37.

Schmeichel rose to prominence when he helped the Danes win the 1992 European Championship.

His 128 caps put him third all-time among goalies, behind Saudi Mohamed Al-Deayea and Swede Thomas Ravelli.

After 14 years with the Danish national team, Schmeichel said it was time to quit.

"I always said that I would stop when it was no longer fun to take part, and that moment has come," he said. "I had many fantastic times as goalkeeper of this team, culminating in our triumph in the 1992 European Championships."

Schmeichel debuted for Denmark in a 5-0 win over Greece in 1987.

He was one of the stars of the Danish team that won Euro '92.

The Danes were a last-minute replacement for Yugoslavia, banned from international competition because of the Balkan conflict.

After scraping through the first round, the Danes beat the Netherlands on penalty kicks in the semifinals and shut out Germany, 2-0, in the final.

Schmeichel's only appearance in the World Cup came in 1998, when he helped the Danes reach the quarterfinals, where they fell to Brazil, 3-2, in one of the tournament's most exciting games.

The Danes struggled at Euro 2000, losing all three games by shutouts, but Schmeichel remained with them for the first three games of World Cup 2002 qualifying last fall.

At 6-foot-4 and 225 pounds, Schmeichel was an imposing presence in goal. He could often be heard barking orders at his defenders.

"The Great Dane" fit in perfectly in the rough-and-tumble world of English soccer, serving as Manchester United's goalkeeper for eight seasons (1991-99).

In his final season, he helped United win an unprecedented treble (English Premier League, English FA Cup and European Cup).

Schmeichel moved to Sporting Lisbon and led it to the 2000 Portuguese First Division title, its first in 18 years.

He intends to remain with Sporting until his three-year contract expires in 2002.