

CHILE



Brazilian star Garrincha earned his nickname for his love of songbirds



1962



Brazil plays Garrincha's tune

After winning the World Cup four years earlier in Sweden, Brazil became the second and last team to repeat as World Cup champion, running away with the 1962 title in Chile.

Pele, at 21, was the star of the Brazil '62 team, but he was injured the second game against Czechoslovakia and did not return.

The loss of Pele didn't deter the Brazilians, who returned eight other starters from the '58 team.

The top player in the tournament was Manuel Francisco Santos, known to his friends as Mane and dubbed Garrincha ("the little bird") for his love of songbirds.

In contrast to the powerful Pele, the 5-foot-7 Garrincha was born a cripple. After a childhood operation he walked with a left leg bent towards and the right leg three inches shorter than his right and bent outward.

Garrincha, who joined Pele on the all-world team of the 20th century, is considered the greatest dribbler in the history of soccer, but in Chile he was a complete player.

One of Garrincha's two goals in a 3-1 win over England in the quarterfinals was on a header. The right winger added two more — the first on a blast from 20 yards — in a 4-2 win over Chile in the semifinals. Garrincha was sent off late in the Chile game, but ejections didn't carry over automatically in those days, allowing him to play in the final against Czechoslovakia.

Brazil, whose only blemish was a 0-0 tie with Czechoslovakia in group play, recovered from an early 1-0 deficit to retain the Jules Rimet Trophy with a 3-1 win in Santiago.

Such was the importance of Garrincha to the Brazilian team that it lost only once with him in the lineup—a 3-1 defeat to Hungary at the 1966 World Cup. It was Garrincha's 54th and final international match.

Garrincha was plagued by alcoholism throughout his life, and he died of the disease at the age of 49 in 1983.

— Paul Kennedy

(Next issue: The World Cup Comes home to England)

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