

## Lions finish 1-2

Contrary to the Gold Cup's five 2002 World Cup finalists, who were missing on average half their first-team players, the African five at Mali 2002 had no excuses.

The 23rd edition of the African Nations Cup was a huge disappointment.

Cameroon's shootout victory over Senegal in the final was the ninth game that ended 0-0, dropping the tournament's average goals per game to 1.56. Cameroon didn't allow a goal in six games, and Senegal gave up one goal in 600 minutes.

Cameroon's Indomitable Lions became the first team to win back-to-back titles since Ghana in 1965.

German Winfried Schaefer, who took over as Cameroon coach after World Cup qualifying, has injected discipline into the Lions' midfield.

Cameroon got timely finishing by Patrick Mboma and midfielder Salomon Olembe — three goals apiece — and striker Samuel Eto'o was one of the few strikers at Mali 2002 who didn't disappoint.

With an average age of 24.5, Senegal, defending champion France's opponent in the opening game of the World Cup, has a bright future ahead of it. The Lions of Teranga showed remarkable physical strength and organization to reach the final for the first time.

Uncertainty surrounds Africa's three other World Cup finalists.

The Nigeria Football Association fired Coach Shaibu Amodu and replaced him with Adegboyega Onigbinde, who worked most recently in Trinidad & Tobago. It promised to make other personnel changes.

Portuguese Carlos Queiroz, who was for several years considered the U.S. national team coach-in-waiting, was confirmed as South Africa head coach, although former Cosmos player Jomo Sono was brought in as technical director following the Bafana Bafana's loss to host Mali in the quarterfinals.

Tunisia's Henri Michel, who is seeking to take his fourth team to the World Cup, was at odds with his players throughout the tournament. Tunisia went scoreless in three games.

— Paul Kennedy



**German Winfried Schaefer (standing with his Cameroon players during the shootout against Senegal) got high marks at the African Nations Cup.**