



The first Soccer World Cup was inaugurated on July 13, 1930 at the Centenario Stadium in Uruguay and had the participation of thirteen countries: seven from South America, four from Europe and two from North America.<sup>25</sup><sup>26</sup> It should be noted that this is the only edition in which a qualification process was not carried out and, anecdotally, the teams of France and the United States won the first two historic matches of a World Cup, while Lucien Laurent scored the first goal of this type of competitions.<sup>27</sup> The final was played on July 30 and Uruguay won the victory after defeating Argentina 4:2. After



several sessions to choose the World Cup host for the 1934 Soccer World Cup, the FIFA executive committee chose Italy and, in June 1933, the qualifying matches began to be played to define the sixteen participants of the competition. As a result, only six of the national teams that had competed in the previous World Cup were selected - Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, France, Romania and the United States - and the



rest were debutants. It is worth mentioning that the host also had to participate in the qualification stage to earn a place in the competition.<sup>30</sup> Italy and Czechoslovakia met in the final held on June 10, 1934, which ended with the Italian victory with a score of 2 :1.<sup>31</sup> Italy retained the championship in the 1938 Soccer World Cup held in France, after defeating Hungary 4:2 in the last match.



Argentina, Brazil and Nazi Germany presented their candidacies for the 1942 edition, however FIFA suspended this World Cup and the 1946 World Cup due to the Second World War.<sup>33</sup> The organization held its next congress in 1946 in Luxembourg, where Brazil and Switzerland were chosen as hosts of the 1950 and 1954 World Cups.<sup>34</sup> Likewise, the name of the trophy awarded to the winning team of the competition was changed to the Jules Rimet Cup, in homage to the homonymous FIFA president responsible for the creation of the Football World Cup.<sup>2435</sup> The 1950 edition saw the inclusion of the four English football federations after having rejected



previous invitations due to a number of factors, including their rejection of what they perceived as an "excessive foreign influence" in football.<sup>36</sup> This event was commemorated with a match, described as "the match of the century" by the press, between the England team and a European team made up of footballers from France, Switzerland, Ireland, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark. FIFA allocated the profits obtained from this match, quantified at GBP 35,000, to the organization's "financial recovery" after the absence of World Cups in the previous decade. Another relevant aspect of the 1950 World Cup consisted of a change in the competition format: Uruguay won the victory after defeating the leaders of the four participating groups in a final home run, specifically after a match played against the Brazilian hosts. They were also the favorites to win the cup, which is why it has been colloquially referred to as the "Maracanazo" - in reference to the stadium where the game was played.





**Nombre:**  
**Luis Angel Garcia Merida**

**Materia:**  
**Inglés 2**

**Docente:**  
**Ivan**

**Cuatrimestre:**  
**3**

**Fecha:**  
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