

The History of the Football World Cup under the Eye of Philately

1982 – June 13th to July 11th, SPAIN

In the first Cup contested by 24 countries, Algeria, Cameroon, Honduras, Kuwait and New Zealand debuted. 17 stadiums in 14 different cities were used. The biggest thrashing of the Cups was recorded in this edition: Hungary beat the El Salvador National Team by 10 to 1.

The Spanish mail paid tribute to the painter Joan Miró in one of the stamps alluding to the World Cup, depicting a poster made by him. In total, 10 Spanish stamps were issued remembering the tournament. For the first time, a country hosting a Cup received more than 2 million fans: 2,109,723 distributed in 52 games.

23/05/1980: Football on the move



02/05/1981: Football in dispute

Champion: **Italy**
Runners-up: **West Germany**

02/24/1982: World Cup poster,
a painting by Joan Miró



06/15/1982: The Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, in Madrid, inaugurated in 1947, hosted the 1982 World Cup final



06/15/1982: In the spotlight, "Naranjito", the mascot of the 1982 World Cup, an orange dressed in the uniform of the Spanish national team

1986 – May 31st to June 29th, MEXICO

Initially scheduled for Colombia, the 1986 World Cup ended up being played in Mexico due to economic problems faced by Colombia at the time. It had, again, 24 competing teams distributed in 10 cities and using 12 stadiums. This edition marked the debut of the National Teams from Canada, Denmark and Iraq. A new record of fans present was reached: 2,394,031.

Hosting its second World Cup, Mexico's post office honored the late Mexican painter Angel Zarraga in the centenary year of his birth, depicting his paintings on 5 stamps, as well as the Olimpico and Azteca stadiums. In total, 9 stamps were issued.



12/15/1985: Estadio Azteca, one of the biggest in the world, hosted the two cup finals in Mexico (1970 and 1986) being the stadium where most cup matches have been played to this day: 19 matches



05/31/1986:
Painting *Tres futbolistas con boina*, by Angel Zarraga

Champions: **Argentina**
Runners-up: **West Germany**



05/31/1986: Painting *Dimanche*, by Angel Zarraga