

An even bigger Sky

SKY goes international for the Copa America and it will be interesting to see how it adapts its coverage. Andy Gray's Cuarto del Utillero perhaps?

Hopefully, the event will not go unrecognised by BBC and ITV. After all, BBC claims its Cup Final broadcast outscored by 90 per cent Sky's coverage of the Premiership climax.

As we noted last month, there's a major soccer audience out there which is NOT tuned in to satellite or cable. And soccer means ratings. Why e'se are ITV into the Champions League?

Anyone who wants to improve their knowledge of the Copa. America in the meantime might see if the specialist book sellers have copies of Andrzej Gowarzewski's latest statistical masterpiece which sets out the Copa America, goal by goal, match by match, line-up by line-up, right back to 1910.

This latest volume in Gowarzewski's one-man statistical history of world football is entitled Copa America and is volume 13 in his Fuji Football Encyclopedia series. Text is in Polish but most of the book is statistical so the language barrier is minimal.

Another book worthy of mention here is the second edition of the Atlas Mondial du Football by Jean-Luc Kit and Alain Belaid (published by AMF Editions, BP 8, Chaumont/Yonne, 89340 France). All the basic demographic information you could want plus all past champions and cup-winners and championship structure. Ideal for the serious student of the world came.

Also on the statistical side. The European Football Clubs and Players Records 1955-94 is a spiral-bound three-volume work featuring every club which has competed in European competition with all their results. A number of publications have addressed the subject but this appears the most comprehensive and easiest to get around. Further information from Terry O'Neill (39 The Wye, Grange, Daventry NN11 4PU).

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French farce

MANY Arsenal fans did not enjoy their visit to Paris for the Cup-winners Cup Final – and not only for the obvious reason.

Supporter Ian Castle has complained to UEFA president Lennart Johansson about the 40-minute wait they had after the final whistle before being 'released' from Parc des Princes and then the indiscriminate and unjustified manner in which the CRS riot police sprayed a mild form of tear gas over a crowd of men, women and children.

A number of aspects of French organisation in Paris were not particularly impressive. Hopefully the French, with the 1998 World Cup in mind, will learn from their mistakes.

Hopefully, also, UEFA will make a point of telling them . . . and FIFA.

All for charity

AN Italian cancer charity benefited at the Champions Cup Final from Marcel Desailly's award as Man of the Match.

Sponsors Eurocard-Mastercard promised a donation of \$2,500 to the winner's chosen charity and Milan's squad, before the match, nominated the children's section of the Lega Italiana per la Lotta Contro i Tumori. If an Ajax player had won, the Dutch choice would have been the Dutch Cancer Society. More than \$300,000 has now been handed over by Eurocard-Mastercard through its award-conation programme.

Surf city

ARE you surfing the soccer Internet?

WORLD SOCCER readers have been invited to join, as observers, the North American Soccer Mailing List (NA-Soccer, Start by contacting hopitelorg with the message subscribe has soccer-didest.

Mystery coach

THE mystery man of world football is the coach who masterminded Argentina's world Youth Cup success: Jose Nestor Pekerman. Wem

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