



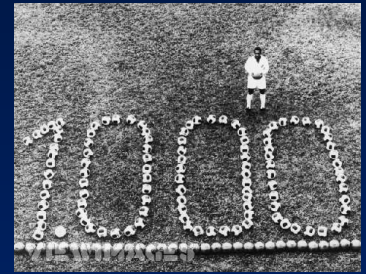
Pelé

“The Greatest Athlete of All Time”





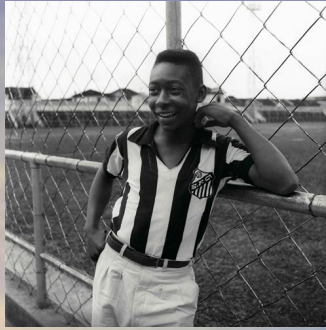
Who is Pele



Edson Arantes do Nascimento, or better known as Pele, was known to be the greatest soccer player of all-time. Born in 1940 in the poor village of Bauru (Brazil), he “surpassed the boundaries of logic”. At the end of his career, Pele won 3 World Cups, won 2 South American Cups, a NASL (currently known as MLS) Championship, scored 1,281 goals, and even won Player of the Century by FIFA.

Currently, Pele lives in the Brazilian City, of Sao Paulo, and is working with FIFA on the World Cup in Brazil (2014 summer).





and Childhood



On the 21st of October, 1940, the boy who would be later known as the greatest athlete who ever lived, was born. Born as Edson Arantes do Nascimento, Pele's parents were the Fluminense (Brazilian Professional Soccer Team based in Rio de Janeiro) soccer player, Dondinho, and his wife, Dona Celeste. Dondinho was not able to keep his spot on the team, making the Nascimento family live in poverty.

Although growing up with poor education, Edson was taught how to play the "beautiful game" by his father. Now known by his classmates as Pele, Pele was promoted into the Bauru Athletic Club for Juniors at the age of 11. Under Waldimir de Brito, Pele led his team to multiple consecutive tournaments.

At the age of 16, de Brito decided to get Pele into the professional leagues. Although discouraged by his mother, de Brito brought Pele and Dondinho to the city of Sao Paulo so he can try out for the team he will later make his name in, Santos. Pele got into the team after only one tryout as a Forward, and scored 4 goals on his debut match against Corinthians.

Fact: Pele sometimes sold soccer cards and peanuts, and even cleaned people's shoes to help his family financially.

Welcome to the World Cup

By 1958, it was time to call up players into the International Soccer Teams for the World Cup, which is going to be hosted by Sweden. At the age of 17, surprisingly, Pele made it to the Brazilian Team.

8 years ago, Brazil made it to the finals in their own country. While playing in the most attended sporting match in history (1950 World Cup Final at Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), they were shocked by Uruguay as they won 2-1. That day, Pele swore that he'll take get his revenge and win the World Cup himself for his country.

Now in Sweden, Brazil ended in Group D with England, Austria, and the USSR. Although not scoring a single goal in the group stage, he made brilliant performances that made got Brazil through the Group Stage.





First Win, First Fame



Now into the knockout stages of the World Cup, Pelé found his spot in the team at the age of 17.

In the Quarters, Brazil faced Wales, in which Pelé scored the only goal of the match, winning 1-0 for Brazil.

But while during the Semi Finals, Brazil faced the tournament favorites of France, led by the famous Striker of Just Fontaine. Ending up to be a thrilling match, Brazil won 5-2 as Pelé scored a hat-trick (3 goals).

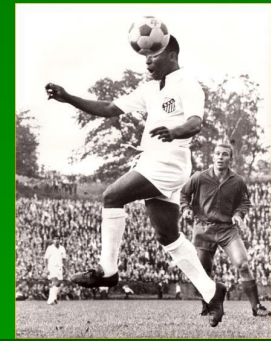
Finally, at the final, Brazil faced hosts- Sweden. As the final went through, the halftime score was 2-1 Brazil, in which Vava had scored a double for his country. Pelé then scored perhaps one of the best goals ever witnessed in a World Cup, making it 3-1 Brazil. At the end of the match, Pelé and Zagallo both scored to get Brazil to finally win it's first World Cup as the final ended 5-2.

Later on, during the World Cup award ceremony, Pelé won 2nd Best Player of the Tournament, behind teammate, Didi, and also won 2nd [Top Goalscorer behind Fontaine.](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1tKmCgF0sE> (Pelé's Goal)

Fact: During the 1958 World Cup, Pelé broke the record of the youngest player to ever

Eyes on Brazil



When Pelé returned to Brazil, he became a national hero. After returning, he won the Sao Paulo Cup, which would end up being the first tournament he won with Santos. During the tournament, he made a goalscoring record which is most goals in a single tournament.

A year after the Sao Paulo Cup win, Santos also won the Rio-Sao Cup after a 3-0 win over Vasco de Gama. Yet was unable to defend the title the year after.

1960 ended on good terms with Santos, as they won their first South American Cup along with Brazilian Serie A.

That same year, Pelé made his first Intercontinental Cup (now known as the Club World Cup) appearance and won it with Santos for their first time.

Fact: Pelé scored his 'unseen' spectacular goal in 1959 while facing Brazilian team, Juventus. In 2007, Pelé made a simulation of his goal. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xD70ECy5E2k>



The Wins, Records, and Heartbreaks of 1962

The season of 1962 ended with wins, records, yet heartbreaks for the young 22 year old.

In 1962, Santos entered the South American Cup, Brazilian Serie A, Sao Paulo Cup, and the Intercontinental Cup as defending champions.

Pele got Santos to fly by most of these tournaments, like the Brazilian Serie A and the Sao Paulo Cup. During the South American Cup, Pele led Santos with 2 goals as they won against defending champions from Uruguay, Penerol.

Perhaps Pele's most memorable tournament was that year's Intercontinental Cup. Pele scored 5 goals against his rival Eusebio and his Portuguese Benfica side as they won 8-4.

At the end of the season, Pele scored a record breaking 110 goals in a season, which holds the record for most goals in a season for an individual.

During the summer of that year, the World Cup was to be taking place in Chile, and as defending champions, Brazil was automatically qualified. Pele only played 2 games before he was to be injured for the rest of the tournament sadly. But at the end, his teammate, Garrincha, led Brazil to their 2nd World Cup in history after beating Czechoslovakia 3-1. As part of the squad, that counted as a winning World Cup for Pele.

Fact: Before Pele was injured, he scored what will be later recognized as the 2nd best goal in World Cup history



National Treasures

After winning his 2nd World Cup, many of Europe's big clubs wanted to sign the young striker, such as Real Madrid (Spain), Juventus (Italy), and Manchester United (England). Before the teams made a move, the Brazilian Government decided to make Pele a national treasure, keeping him tied down in Brazil. Pele later claimed that he wasn't going to leave anyway.

During the season of 1963, Pele led fabulous performances in the South American Cup, which he helped Santos get an impressive win over Botafogo (Brazil), and successfully defended their title with a

5-3 win over Boca Juniors (Argentina). This was to be Pele's last successful South American Cup.

Santos also lifted the Rio-Sao Cup and the Brazilian Serie A.



The Love, Losses, and Failures of 1966

After having 2 successful seasons with Santos, the World Cup was to be held in England, and it wouldn't be an enjoyable one for himself.

Pele was a big name, so every team would try to keep an eye on him on the pitch, and Brazil was to be the only country in history to win 3 World Cups in a row. Pele only scored 1 goal as Brazil was eliminated after the Group Stage.

Perhaps the most unfair game was that Pele kept getting tackled harshly against Eusebio's Portugal. Since there was no substitutions allowed in international tournaments (rule to change in 1972), Pele had to limp for the rest of the game. Portugal won 3-1, but FIFA investigations say that the referee wanted England to avoid the Brazilians.

By the end of the tournament, England won the World Cup at home after beating (West) Germany 4-2 after extra time.

Pele later said that this would be his last World Cup.

Pele later ended in debt after his advisors made poor choices, but was able to be married to Brazilian basketball player, Rosemari dos Ries Cholbi.



1,000 Goals



Year's after the World Cup and his marriage, Pele was about to hit his 1,000th goal in his career. That milestone was never achieved and still isn't achieved today.

After many tries, Pele finally got his goal from a penalty kick against Vasco de Gama at the Maracana on November 19, 1969. People ran on the pitch and greeted him with joy.

Now Pele has achieved a World Cup, the Treble (winning of all trophies (usually 3)), and 1,000 goals. Now Pele's next goal is to win a 3rd World Cup.

Pele's 1,000th Goal: <http://www.fifa.com/pele>



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Retirement

Pele was now at the age of 34, which in most cases would mean a retirement from the game. Pele then claimed he would retire, but before, he would gain an education in a university in Sao Paulo.

Pele then graduated and won his final game with Santos in 1974 with the winning goal against Flamengo, ending 1-0.

Now Pele retired, yet was helping out Brazilian soccer, but after his investments broke down, he had to come back into the game of soccer.



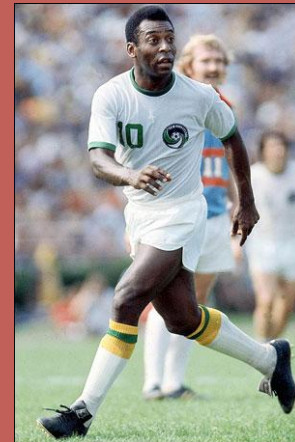
Coming to America

Starring: Pele

Pele now had to come back into soccer, but where, and who will pay him the millions he needs. That was when the U.S Secretary of State came in and brought Pele into the U.S and got him signed with the New York Cosmos in 1975. The Secretary then convinced the Brazilian Government to let go of Pele so they can improve the nation's relations.

After Pele came into New York, he brought in superstars from Europe to come such as Eusebio, Franz Beckenbauer, Gerd Muller, and George Best. Legendary German defender, Franz Beckenbauer, and famous Italian Striker, Giorgio Chinaglia, joined Pele at the 'retirement home of superstars'.

For the next 2 years, the trinity won a NASL (Now known as MLS) and the Atlantic Championship.



Loving Goodbyes

Now it was time for Pele to pack his cleats forever as he was to hit his last game. His final game was to be on October 1st, 1977 at the Giants Stadium in New York City. He will play with the Cosmos in the first half, then with Santos in the second. In the attendance, there were many people such as President Carter, Bobby Moore (Legendary defender from England), Garrincha, Dondinho, de Brito, and much more.

Before the game began, Pele made a speech on love and how to keep loving the game he loves.

During the first half, Pele scored his final goal against Santos from a free-kick, then gave his Cosmos jersey to his father. The final result was 3-1 New York Cosmos as Pele gave his Santos jersey to Waldimir de Brito.

Pele was then carried off the pitch holding the American and Brazilian Flags.





Today



Already at the age of 73, Pelé has done a lot to the world after his retirement.

Pelé wrote a best-selling autobiography called *My Beautiful Game* and played a role in a movie with Bobby Moore, Michael Caine, and Sylvester Stallone called *Escape to Victory*.

Edson worked as a UNICEF and FIFA ambassador since 1974 to help world peace, and is still doing it today.

Pelé later worked as Brazilian Director of Sports to get rid of the national treasure rule on soccer players, which led the way for big Brazilian transfers such as when Neymar left Santos for Barcelona in 2013.

The man also helped the United States while they were hosting the World Cup in 1994, which has the most average attendance throughout the whole World Cup.

Pelé later became Honorary President of the New York Cosmos 10 years after it shut down, and is currently helping Brazil in their plans for the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

Pelé later divorced Rosemari and married a singer named Assyrria Seixas in 1994, but divorced in 2007. Pelé currently has 5 children named Kelly, Jennifer, Edson, Joshua, and Celeste.



Quotes

Johan Cruyff- “Pele was the only player who surpassed the boundaries of logic.”

Romario- “Pele is like god to us.”

Bobby Charlton- “I sometimes feel as though soccer was invented for that magical player.”

Michel Platini- “To play like Pele is to play like god.”

Alfredo di Stefano- “Pele was better then Messi and Ronaldo combined”

Nelson Mandela- “To watch him play was to watch the delight of a child combined with the extraordinary grace of man.”

Tostao- “Pele was the greatest.”

Bobby Moore- “Pele was the most complete player I’ve ever seen.”

Ronald Reagan- “My name is Ronald Reagan, but you don’t need to introduce yourself, everyone knows who you are (talking to Pele)”