

CrossTalk

June CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2006

Football

What is the **fascination** humans have for kicking balls around paddocks? It's World Cup time again this year in Germany and **massive** attention is being focused on the world's best players and teams. Many people are convinced that much can be gained in the way of international understanding every four years from this world "festival".

But, is "football", by its nature, a tool for good? When witnessing the behaviour of "football hooligans" and other over-**zealous** fans, the argument is hard to sustain, even today.

It is not certain when or where "football" was first played. There is strong evidence **indicating** that football was played in China as far back as 2,500BC! The ancient Chinese are said to have played a game called "Tsu Chu" –"Tsu" meaning to kick a ball with the feet, and "Chu" meaning, a **stuffed** leather ball. In the earliest times, records tell us that Tsu Chu was played to celebrate the Emperor's birthday. Latter, during the Ts'in Dynasty (255BC-206BC), a form of Tsu Chu was used for training solders! So, "football" has had a connection to the "martial arts" for at least 2,000 years, or more, in Asia.

In Japan, "Kemari" was first developed and played between 300AD and 600AD.

And, even today, there are many enthusiasts playing it here.

But the Far East is not the only region that can claim to have **spawned** the "beautiful game". There is evidence from Egyptian tombs that a football-type game was played there, also around 2,500BC. And around 2000BC, the Greeks developed a kicking/throwing game, called Episkyros (or Phaininda). Next, the Romans "picked up the ball" and developed a game called Harpastum, which was actually more like rugby. Julius Caesar used this game to **maintain** the physical fitness of his soldiers and keep them battle ready.

The Romans took Harpastum to Britain, and over time many variations of "football" developed there. The most popular form of the game in ancient times was called "Mob football" and it was extremely violent.

There are many theories on how "football", as we recognize it today, started in Britain. One claims that the original game was played with the **severed** head of a **vanquished** Danish prince!

It would seem that, although football has passed through many changes over the ages, it, perhaps, has retained some of its original character to this day....



Glossary

(These words are in **colour** in the story)

fascination 魅了

massive 絶大な

zealous 熱狂的な

indicating 示している

stuffed ぬいぐるみにした

spawned 発祥した

maintain 維持する

severed 切断された

vanquished 征服された

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: Well, she's making a habit of it, isn't she? This is the second time to say (a partial) "good-bye" to Natacha in 2 years. She is heading back to Canada where her heart is.... But, as before, we will continue her French lessons through the Internet, so it is, again, not a complete "good-bye". I know her students will miss her, as we all will. Good luck in Canada, Natacha!

Junko Says: As you all know, Natacha is going back to Canada and we will all miss her very much. Many students feel sad when a teacher leaves Crossroads to rejoin family and friends back home, but this is only natural. Recently, I have noticed that many students are starting to see the value of changing teachers every once in a while so they can broaden their experience of learning English. Speaking and studying with different teachers is very useful for your progress!



Natacha Says: Another good-bye! Thank you everybody for this lovely stay in Japan. I feel that half of my heart is here in Matsuyama...while the other half is in Canada. One of my friends call me Bohemian, I think she is right. But I have to admit that one part of me wishes to make a nice little home somewhere...where I hope you will come and visit. I will keep teaching at Crossroads through the Internet, so if you feel like talking, let me know!

Greg Says: AUSTRALIA won. Yeah!!!! Word of advice for the Japanese teams.....you have to learn to adopt a killer instinct when playing a sport at the top level. The team who will win when the skills of both teams are level is the team who really wants to win so much they will do whatever it takes. When you watch Brazil, Germany, France, etc... they play with so much PASSION and WILL to win it is hard to match them. Skill will only go so far before fatigue takes over and your skill level drops.....passion and determination will drive you to success.



Iain Says: The other day I came to a shocking realization! Professional Wrestling is REAL! I had been told all my life, as far back as I can remember, that it was all just an act that they weren't really fighting. But who cares if the guys aren't actually fighting? They still have to be tremendously athletic to do what they do. Professional wrestling isn't a combat sport like boxing. It is a display sport like Gymnastics. Calling it fake would be like calling a Shakespeare play or a Monet painting fake. It is REAL entertainment.

Adrienne Says: Again, my children have complained that their socks did not match. As usual, I apologized without explaining that socks frequently disappear. As a professional housewife, this is the most disturbing aspect of my life. Are socks sucked into some portion of the washing machine? Or is there some mysterious vortex that they fall into while hanging out to dry, much like a black hole? Or, is it incompetence?



Marita Says: This month Germany will host the world's greatest soccer event, the FIFA World Cup 2006. Millions of people around the world are eagerly awaiting this unique festival of sport and friendship. Friendship? Well, I hope the spark of passion and enthusiasm will leap into an international understanding among the fans: no hooligans, no streetfights. Soccer for me is still "a virus from outer space" as language was for William S. Burroughs. The performing artist, Laurie Anderson, added: "That's why I'd rather hear your name than see your face." And that defines my personal view on soccer. Anyway, for the enthusiast among you, I hope it will be great fun!

William Says: Now in the guitar-English class we are learning "Heart of Gold" by the great Canadian songwriter Neil Young. It's a good song to learn because the rhythm is not fast. The lyrics are also fun because the images are simple yet poetic.



Yuka Says: The other day I went to see an exhibition of Picasso's and Modigliani's art. Though I had read the article about cubism in the March issue of Crosstalk, I couldn't understand why so many people loved Picasso's deformed figures and things. I felt his paintings were powerful and I understand he is one of the great artists, but I still prefer to see the Impressionist's work like Monet's or Renoir's.

A Word From You



Miho Says: I'm a hairdresser in Matsuyama. I have been a student here for six years. Many people don't know this, but I like to help women put on kimonos. It isn't easy to wear a kimono. If a woman wants to wear, she needs a helper to put on all the different garments. That's my job I got a license to do this three years ago. In the photo on the right you can see me standing next to a model wearing a bridal kimono and obi. This is one of the most difficult styles to master. I'm smiling here after a tough job well done!



Nozomi Says: Hello, everyone! I have been learning English here for about three years. I work in a pharmacy in eastern Matsuyama. I like making crafts. A few years ago, I took a short class in bead making. We made the beads out of glass. It was quite difficult for me, but I really enjoyed it. I think you might like it too! Check out some of my creations on the table in the picture on the right.



Notice Board

Dean is going to take over the YOGA classes at Crossroads. He has been studying Yoga for 20 years, 4 years in India, and is proficient in Hatha Yoga, Andanda Yoga, Nada Yoga and Kriya Yoga. Dean has also been teaching English in Japan for some years now.



This is going to be a great opportunity for our students to benefit from Dean's many years experience in both yoga and English teaching!

Big

Roof-top B-B-Q Party
at Crossroads! On Sunday, August 27
at 5:00pm -
Bring your favourite food and drinks, and invite your friends to join in the fun with us!



Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet!* -- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

For information on ancient football, go to:
<http://www.expertfootball/history>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week
1 x's 90mins / week
Private 1 x / week
Semi-Private 1 x /week

MOTHER & CHILD, group or private
KIDS, group or private

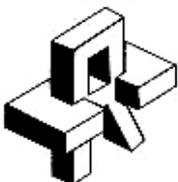
COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with William
Yoga with Dean
Guitar with William
"Cooking in English" with Dean
"Magic in English" with Iain
Piano with Adrienne
Drumming with William

GERMAN with Marita
SPANISH with Leo
RUSSIAN with Natasha
FRENCH with Natacha
CHINESE with Noriko
KOREAN with Kim



NETLESSONS:
group or private



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