

# The beautiful game needs a radical change

## Instant replay is the answer after England and Mexico suffered over the weekend from shoddy officiating

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In the early stages of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, the naysayer talk was all about the lack of goal scoring. I believe that was unjustified. Don't judge things too soon. But now their focus has been directed at the scandalous officiating that has plagued the round of 16 games involving Argentina versus Mexico and England versus Germany. Let's also not forget some of the farcical red cards that have been handed out to the likes of Brazil's Kaka or USA's third goal against Slovenia being annulled for a mysterious foul. FIFA and the World Cup have deservedly received its fair share of criticism here.

To briefly recap, Argentina's Carlos Tevez scored the game's first goal from a clearly offside position against

Mexico. The goal should not have counted but it was. Even worse, England's Frank Lampard lobbed a ball over German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer that hit the underside of the crossbar and bounced at least two feet over the goal line before being grabbed by Neuer. The officials allowed play to continue as if no goal was scored. FIFA will not be using the referees who committed the above-mentioned blunders for future matches in the tournament. The world's biggest sporting event is at a crossroads as it has failed to use technology to counteract the inevitable human officiating error. Errors like Frank Lampard's goal not being awarded have to make people question the integrity of soccer at the highest level. North American sports fans are acutely aware of the presence

technology has in the NFL, NHL, and even tennis, for example. With the use of instant replay and the accompanying rules surrounding its use, these sports have changed and players and fans have adapted for the better. Soccer, meanwhile, does not employ instant replay and even unlike the NHL, which moved to two on-ice referees years ago, has not even added additional officials other than the four (one of which remains off the field for mostly administrative purposes). For the longest time, FIFA has held on to tradition and backed the human element as a part of the game. Even more recently FIFA president Sepp Blatter said instant replay would be too expensive to implement. Sorry, nothing that important is too expensive for the World Cup. Do we want more "Hand of God"

goals? Is that the tradition we want to be proud of in the world's most popular sport? But, to Blatter's credit, he said on Tuesday that they would definitely revisit the situation. He actually had no other choice. Blatter also apologized to both England and Mexico. Hope that makes them feel better. Soccer purists worry about the delay of instant replays, slowing down the flow of the game, when to use it, when not to use it and so on. The "flow of the game" in soccer is not what it used to be. Soccer games can be very chippy depending on the referee and the teams involved. Players argue with referees, which introduces stoppages that can last upward of two minutes. (Mexico players argued emphatically with referee Roberto Rosetti after Tevez's goal.) Introduce instant replay for goal line situations. It is black or white. Has the ball wholly crossed the goal line? For situations like Tevez's goal, instant replay should be used to determine if the offending player was



NOT A GOAL? Frank Lampard's shot clearly crosses the goal line in the England vs. Germany round of 16 match on Sunday. CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES

offside if a goal is scored. Protecting the integrity of the game is what's most important. The game will change but everybody will adapt. Years down the road after the change has been adopted, fans, coaches, players, and managers will all wonder how the game could be played without it. Follow Rahul on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/RV\\_ETSports](http://www.twitter.com/RV_ETSports)

# England's World Cup debacle could have been foreseen

## Not producing successful coaches or developing talented youth

By JAMES POULTER  
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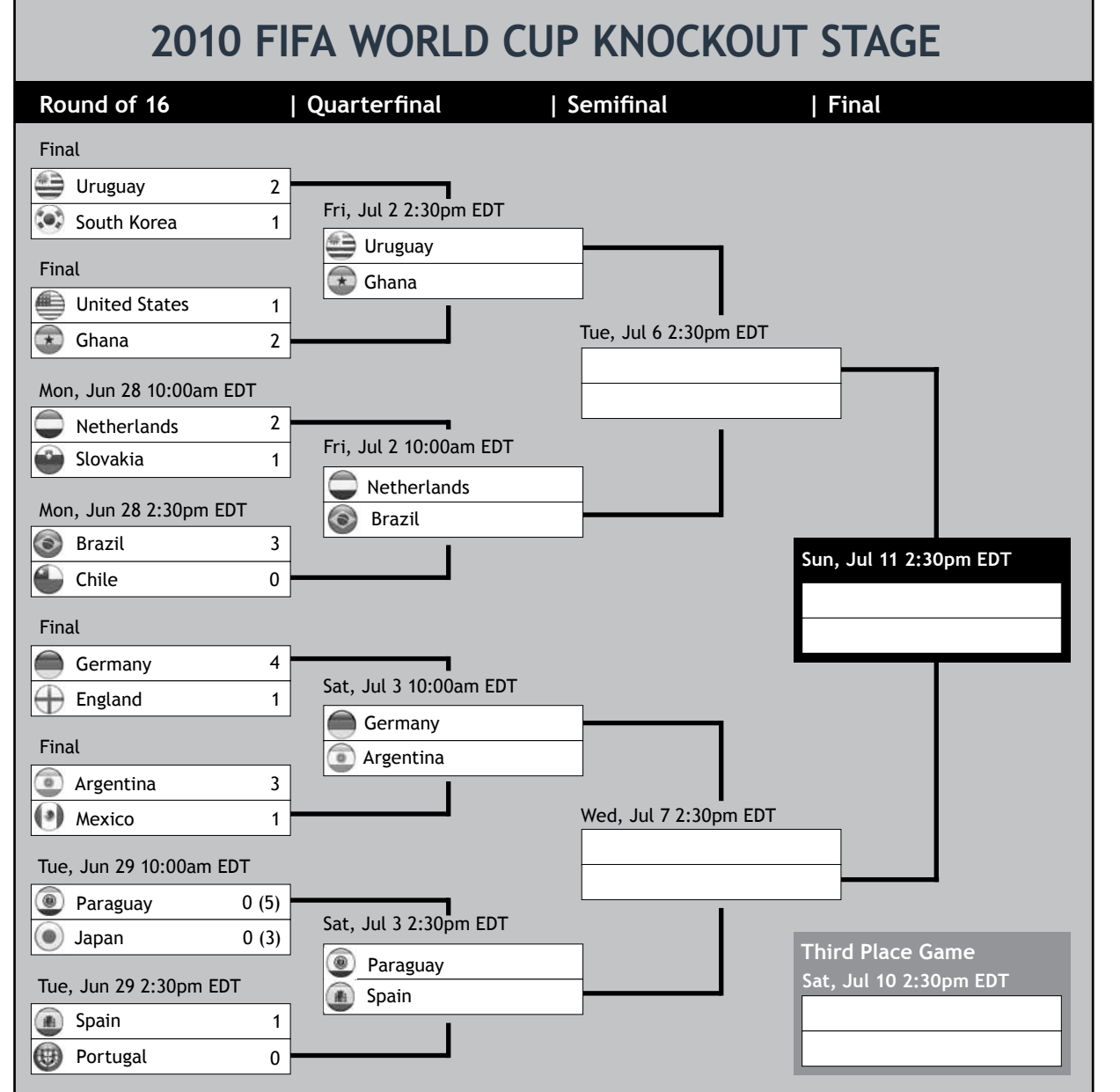
LONDON—As England's sorry World Cup campaign came to a shuddering halt, the usual round of regret and recrimination began anew. Fabio Capello, previously one of the most highly respected football managers in the world, must now wait for at least two weeks for the Football Association (FA) to make a decision on his future. If they do let him go, there is the little matter of the two years and approximately 12 million pounds (\$18 million) left on his contract. It is customary to blame the coaches at this stage, and it cannot be a coincidence that apart from England, no other major European footballing nation has employed a foreign manager. Whilst it may make sense for a developing football nation to utilize the greater experience of men who have taken the helm at the highest level of the sport, for those countries already at the summit more subtle characteristics are required. Fabio Capello may have a great footballing brain, but the English culture is a unique one, particularly where football—"the nation's pride"—is concerned. Many reports have arisen of the "joylessness" experienced by the England squad in the austere conditions of the purpose built Royal Bafokeng hotel complex, and the players certainly looked ill at ease during their World Cup contests. So why this dearth of home grown managerial talent? The figures themselves tell a story. In England, there are only a meager 2,769 coaches holding UEFA's top qualification. In France, there are 17,588; in



MAJOR LETDOWN: Dejected England players prepare to restart the match after Germany's fourth goal. MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Spain 23,995; in Italy 29,420; and in Germany, there are 34,970. Whereas other European nations have spent many years building up a culture of nurturing and developing talent from the grass-roots level, England has simply slumped to decline. Indeed, England were taken apart in the second round by Germany's youngest squad since 1934. By contrast, England's squad was their oldest ever, and Sir Trevor Brooking, the FA's director of football development, has recently made public his concern that there are "no obvious quality [players] coming through." The Premier League's status as the best league in the world has not helped the national side. The FA ceded control of the top flight in 1992, and has since seen it run in the interests of the clubs. Homegrown players in the top 20 English clubs now stands at just 37 percent. Although new rules have been recently introduced to try and redress this balance, they still fall short of the measures that have been in place in Germany for many years. The FA's German counterpart, the DFB, has a much more balanced relationship with the Bundesliga, the top German league. Wayne Rooney, expected to be England's talisman in the World Cup campaign, specifically mentioned the German model of a winter break

midseason, and the players certainly looked tired throughout the tournament. This was actually originally used as a selling point for the Premier League—to reduce the number of clubs to 18, and ease fixture congestion—but it never became reality. On a final note, watching Brazil storm to success in the round of 16, two contrasting qualities on display highlight yet more clearly the malaise in the English game. Firstly, the discipline and dedication of the two holding midfield players, be it Felipe Melo or Ramires accompanying Gilberto Silva, is striking. Seeing players so committed to the success of their national side accentuates the lack of cohesion and unity in the England set up. Secondly, the ball control is exceptional. At some point England will have to concede that emphasis on power, pace, and strength is not going to compete at the highest level against technique, imagination, and skill. This must begin at the youngest age, with players honed into a culture of intelligent, passing football. The wait for English success may be long time coming. The stark reality is that England have not beaten a top-flight nation in a World Cup knockout stage since the 1966 final, and that was of course held on home soil.



# 2011 Kia Sorento Ex

## Designed to transport you beyond conventional thinking

By DURHL CAUSSEY



2011 Kia Sorento COURTESY OF KIA MEDIA

Kia engineers told me that Sorento was designed to maximize capabilities. I found this trendy crossover that offered three-row seating with room for up to seven passengers more than I imagined. I had someone drive me around while I rested comfortably in a middle-row seat and was pleasantly surprised to see just how spacious Sorento was. The underbody was sleek and provided a smooth ride, rewarding you with control of four-wheel drive. The standard 2.4L 16-valve DOHC CVT 4-cylinder engine with 6-speed automatic transmission delivered 6.9L and 9.7L per 100km highway and city respectively. You can get the Sorento in a 3.5-liter V6, which delivers a best-in-class 276 horsepower. Sorento delivers the power on demand and in an appreciative style while combining numerous state-of-the-art features, including Bluetooth wireless technology, a voice-command navigation system, push-button-start, and advanced safety systems. It offers hill-assist control, a tractor control system,

electronic stability control, and front active headrests, to name just a few safety features. In doing a little research, I found that each Kia vehicle comes with a 5-year/100,000-km comprehensive warranty program. The coverage also includes a 5-year/100,000-km limited powertrain warranty, 5-year/100,000-km roadside assistance, a 5-year/unlimited km anti-perforation warranty, and an 8-year/130,000km basic emissions system warranty. The Kia Sorento has 18" alloy wheels, a panoramic sunroof, AM/FM/CD/MP3 and Sirius Satellite Radio, navigation system, rear-camera display, leather seat trim, and dual-zone automatic temperature control with ionized air filter. My wife likes that dual-control air conditioner feature because she likes a cabin temperature of around 20 degrees Celsius while I prefer mine near 15. I like the dual control because that way she has more time to tell me

how to drive and the direction we should go, and doesn't have to worry about getting too cold. We all know how challenging times are concerning our economy. Factories are shutting down and the auto industry has laid off tens of thousands of workers in the U.S. as they ship their jobs overseas and to Mexico and Canada. Well, Kia did something that I am very proud of. I already knew that Kia did their design work and research in places such as California and Michigan, and I have been to their proving grounds in California. Now they are manufacturing cars in Georgia. The car that Kia Motor Company builds in Georgia is the Sorento. Sorento, a great car built in the United States by Americans. The recommended price is C\$29,795. Durhl Caussey writes a car column read around the world. He may be reached at [thispaper@dcaussey@sbcglobal.net](http://thispaper@dcaussey@sbcglobal.net).

# Michael Bradley Autographed Soccer Jersey Raffle

Hey soccer fans, with the World Cup upon us, *The Epoch Times* wants to hear from you!

We want to know who you think is going to win the World Cup and who is going to win the golden boot as the tournament's top scorer.

Please e-mail us at [response@epochtimes.com](mailto:response@epochtimes.com) with the subject World Cup: your name, age, answers to both questions, and mailing address (U.S. & Canada only) so that if you are chosen, we can send you the autographed Borussia Mönchengladbach jersey of American midfielder Michael Bradley.

Deadline for your responses is July 7 when the matchup for the final on July 11 has been set.

The random draw for the jersey will be on July 11 during the World Cup final. The result will be posted on the



Web at the conclusion of the game with the jersey to be mailed to the winner immediately thereafter.

Be sure to follow the World Cup along with us at *The Epoch Times* and [RV\\_ETSports](http://RV_ETSports) on Twitter.