

England has won the Jules Rimet trophy — the symbol of world supremacy — after a thrilling final requiring extra time to decide the winner; it had not only the entire England and German road deserted but also kept 400 million television viewers on tenterhooks (to keep someone in suspense). In these days of charged (thrilling, electric) political atmosphere it is but natural for a country's victory to be tarnished by charges of favouritism, unfair play and biased refereeing. England as the host faced most of these charges. England's victory over Argentina in the quarter-finals brought about a near revolt in the FIFA and irked the Latin American countries who felt that Europe had combined and loaded the dice against them. Perhaps never before were there so many shocks in a World cup as came this year. It started with the theft of the gold trophy and its strange recovery by a dog. No Englishmen will steal it now for the cup is proudly and rightfully won. Again the short odd favourites such as Brazil were literally booted out in the pre-quarter final stages as was another favoured football nation, Italy. The tiny North Koreans provided the greatest shock first by reaching the last eight and then by snatching an amazing three-goal lead from Portugal. The Koreans did prove that Asians, too, can play good football. Portugal produced 'black panther' Eusebio whose amazing score of goals rocked the world and knocked 'black pearl' Pele out of the "World's Best Forward" citadel. The matches also produced rough play and a very large number of players were sent off the field and later suspended for un-gentle play. England owed its success largely to good, efficient and combined efforts and a fine team spirit under the dictatorial guidance of the team manager, General Alf Ramsey who had predicted all along that England would win.

The victory has put England on top of the football world and it is perhaps only just, for it was England who gave the world this great and most popular game. And, in crisis-ridden England this is perhaps the happiest news for Prime Minister Harold Wilson who dashed back from Canada for the final. It may well prove to be a rallying point for the jittery pound. (376 words)

"England lifting up the Jules Rimet trophy"

In an end to a very suspenseful game that kept millions of televisions engaged around the globe, England rightfully lifted up the Jules Rimet trophy. Tensed geo-political environment accused England of biased refereeing. But this is not the beginning. In high frequency games like football, countries accuse each other. Like Italy was favoured over Brazil. The 'black panthers' of Portugal ousted 'black pearls' of Korea. Irrespective of such a competitive game England won the Jules Rimet trophy under the excellent guidance of General Alf Ramsey. Thus, England secured the title of no.1 football team. Moreover, this win proved a blessing in disguise for prime minister Harold Wilson.

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