

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996210792703316
Titolo	The Cambridge companion to football // edited by Rob Steen, Jed Novick, Huw Richards [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-107-42396-1 1-139-04704-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxx, 313 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	SPO000000
Disciplina	796.334
Soggetti	Soccer Soccer - Cross-cultural studies Soccer - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 09 Nov 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	; Foreword / Sir Michael Parkinson -- 'And did those feet ... ' : introduction / Alan Tomlinson -- Kicking off : the origins of association football / Dave Russell -- The game-changers : Billy Meredith / Huw Richards -- Uruguay : the first world power / Chris Taylor -- The game-changers : Henri Delaunay / Huw Richards -- Austria and Hungary : the Danubian school / Huw Richards -- The game-changers : Alfredo Di Stefano -- Italy : football as politics : Mussolini to Berlusconi / Paddy Agnew -- The game-changers : Pele / Huw Richards -- Brazil : rhythm and grooves / Jim White -- The game-changers : Diego Maradona / Huw Richards -- Africa : towards global football citizenship? / Paul Darby -- The game-changers : Eusebio -- Money, money, money : the English Premier League / Peter Berlin -- The game-changers : Didier Drogba / Jed Novick -- The Boss : a very British convention / Colin Shindler -- The game-changers : Sir Alex Ferguson / Will Tidey -- David Beckham and the celebrity phenomenon / Jed Novick -- The game-changers : George Best / Rob Steen -- Football and feminism / Jean Williams -- The game-changers : Mia Hamm / Huw Richards -- Fans : consumers, hooligans and activists / John Williams -- The game-changers : Franz Beckenbauer / Rob Steen -- Sheepskin coats and nannygoats : the view from the pressbox / Rob Steen -- The game-changers : Havelange, Blatter and Platini : the

ruling class / Rob Steen and Jon Vale -- Brought to book : football and literature / Peter Stead -- The game-changers : Johan Cruyff / Jon Vale --What took you so long? Spain conquers the world / Huw Richards -- The game-changers : Jose Mourinho / Jed Novick -- Where next? Football's new frontiers / Toby Miller -- The game-changers : Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo / Jed Novick.

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## Sommario/riassunto

Football is the world's most popular sport. It is a cultural phenomenon and a global media spectacle. For its billions of fans, it serves as a common language. But where does its enduring popularity come from? Featuring essays from prominent experts in the field, scholars and journalists, this Companion covers ground seldom attempted in a single volume about football. It examines the game's oft-disputed roots and traces its development through Europe, South America and Africa, analysing whether resistance to the game is finally beginning to erode in China, India and the United States. It dissects the cult of the manager and how David Beckham redefined sporting celebrity. It investigates the game's followers, reporters and writers, as well as its most zealous money makers and powerful administrators. A valuable resource for students, scholars and general readers, The Cambridge Companion to Football is a true and faithful companion for anyone fascinated by the people's game.

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