



# The Young Greek Australian HERMES



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What does the recent loss to the South Korean football team mean for Greece? The obvious answer is that in order for the Greek football team to remain in the 2010 World Cup, it has to beat both Nigeria and Argentina. A task that seems impossible to many, even among the most fanatical Greek supporters. However, many supporters continue to believe in the unbelievable although all odds seem to be against them. That is a

behavioural trait, evidently common in Greeks, as well as many other societies around the globe. A simple insufficiency in a football match suddenly questions the very core of our sense of national pride, which many refer to as Hellenism. Is this kind of behavioural characteristic of Greeks only or is it rather a constituent of the cultural inheritance that we succeed as human beings?

Recent history preaches that leaders like Nelson Mandela have had used team sport, rugby, to develop the South African public's sense of belonging to a nation during critical times of social division and turmoil. In comparison, the same pages of the history tome, teach its most noble students a cautionary tale, where leaders like Adolf Hitler have manipulated the spirit of sportsmanship and use it as propaganda to exhibit their nation's dominance to the World for political reasons.

Therefore, if thought in a logical manner one might ask, how can popular sport competitions like the Olympic Games or FIFA World Cup promote peace and equality in a war-ridden world society? The very meaning of the word "games" implicates a not-for-benefit interaction between two groups or more of individuals. Just by tuning on the TV or nowadays attending the IMAX 3-D showing of the Australia vs. Germany football match, all one can

see is a 90-minute struggle to beat the opponent. Even worse, as observed in Greece and elsewhere over the years, the end of a football game, even a friendly on a sunny day, is usually dreaded by some attendees, as it is bound to end with violence.



Experiences like these raise many difficult questions, but one of them could be, can the words sport and world peace be used in the same sentence? As FIFA's slogan says: "*For the Game. For the World*". I ask, is it really?

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**Did this article get you thinking? [Hermes@nugas.org.au](mailto:Hermes@nugas.org.au)**

**Want to write in the next HERMES?**

**The HERMES is open to any and every young Greek Australian who believes he or she has something to share!**

Send your submission to [hermes@nugas.org.au](mailto:hermes@nugas.org.au)

or call Harry on 0401 937 870

14 Jun	15 Jun	16 Jun	17 Jun	18 Jun	19 Jun	20 Jun
					NATIONAL NUGAS MEETING - Canberra	NATIONAL NUGAS HELLENIC DAY - Meetings
21 Jun	22 Jun	23 Jun	24 Jun	25 Jun	26 Jun	27 Jun
NATIONAL NUGAS HELLENIC DAY - Lobbying				MUnGA Tavern Night		
28 Jun	29 Jun	30 Jun	1 Jul	2 Jul	3 Jul	4 Jul
			CUGA Ski Trip	CUGA Ski Trip	CUGA Ski Trip	CUGA Ski Trip
5 Jul	6 Jul	7 Jul	8 Jul	9 Jul	10 Jul	11 Jul
12 Jul	13 Jul	14 Jul	15 Jul	16 Jul	17 Jul	18 Jul

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