

How the Soccer Ball Evolved

By Steven

Soccer is more popular now than it has been for a long time. This is because David Beckham is so popular that he has helped draw a lot of people to professional soccer games. Over the summer my parent's bought tickets to watch David Beckham play on L.A. Galaxy. While I was there watching the game it got me thinking. I began to wonder, how it all started. What was the first soccer ball like? How was the game played? Let's check it out.

How it all started

The first soccer balls were made out different materials in different countries. In China they used sewn up leather balls stuffed with light materials like straw and animal hair. In other countries like Europe and Asia they used inflated animal bladders. But there was one type of animal bladder that wasn't very good for making soccer balls and that was pig. Why pig you might say? Well it was too light and would float like a balloon. So pig bladder wasn't a good choice.

The improvement

In 1836, Charles Goodyear patented



vulcanized [more durable] rubber.

The first vulcanized rubber soccer ball was also made by Charles Goodyear.

This invention took the soccer ball another step further.

From 1855, until today the soccer

ball and the game itself has improved tremendously. Every 4 years manufactures try to create a new world cup ball. In 2006, at the Germany world cup, a new soccer ball was introduced. This new soccer ball frustrated many goalkeepers. This is because the ball is specifically made to give the strikers the advantage. The soccer ball is built to stay low and to make it harder for the goalies to stop.

The final product

Even though today's soccer balls are based on the old ones they're made out of different materials. Animal bladder has been replaced by a rubber balloon that sits in the middle of the soccer ball. Although leather is still a common exterior the good balls are made out of



synthetic leather, plastics and latex. The soccer ball has evolved a lot through the last past years and will continue to get better and better. Who knows, maybe one day they will have microchips inside.



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