



Action from the first Everton Goodison game to be played against a South American side, with Vasco da Gama providing the opposition in April 1956

SOUTH AMERICAN VISITORS TO GOODISON PARK

EFC HERITAGE SOCIETY – SOUTH AMERICA

Everton's links with South America go back to 1909 when the Toffees toured both Argentina and Uruguay, inspiring the founding of many clubs in the area, most notably in Valparaiso, Chile. Subsequently, we have played numerous friendlies in the region against the likes of River Plate, Boca Juniors, Botafogo and Cruzeiro,

Back home, the first South American visit to Goodison took place in April 1956 when Rio club, Vasco da Gama, arrived at the end of a long European tour. With the visitors flagging after touching down from Italy at 4am that morning, the hosts ran out 6-3 winners, with a hat-trick from Cyril Lello. The contrast in styles of both sides was highlighted in the match report with Everton 'wasting no effort on unproductive embroidery'.

In April 1961, a hard-fought 1-1 draw with Bangu, also from Rio, was a precursor to a bruising re-match two months later at the Polo Grounds in New York, in the USA International Soccer League tournament. Bangu won 2-0 but with Billy Bingham dismissed for throwing a punch, the *New York Times* reported that, 'Bangu's infractions were not nearly so glaring as Everton's.' The Toffees went on to reach the final, only to be beaten by Dukla Prague.

Five years later, Brazil were once again represented at Goodison, this time by the national side. The reigning champions played their three World Cup '66 group

games at Goodison against Bulgaria, Hungary and Portugal. Although the locals were able to witness goals from Pele and Garrincha, the headlines were taken by the Hungarians, Bene and Florian Albert, and then by Eusebio of Portugal. Brazil, subjected to harsh treatment meted out by their opponents, were eliminated from the competition. Fortunately, the countless iconic images from these games will ensure that Goodison will live on in the memory of fans the world over.

Brazil returned to our home in June 1995 to face Japan in the Umbro Cup, a tournament played across a number of English venues. In front of almost 30,000 fans the [again] reigning world champions won 3-0 and later went on to claim the trophy, beating England in the final group match at Wembley.

The last South American encounter was the Brotherhood Cup fixture in August 2010 between Everton F.C. and C.D. Everton of Chile. The 2-0 victory for the Toffees was almost incidental as fans from both clubs celebrated the unique occasion.

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