

## South America soccer title won after riot

15<sup>th</sup> December, 2012



One of Brazil's most famous football clubs has won South America's top club tournament. The Brazilian club Sao Paulo won the final of the Copa Sudamericana.

However, there are big questions about how they got their victory. They were declared winners after the other team, Tigre from Argentina, refused to come onto the pitch for the second half of the game. The players and coaches from the Argentine club said they feared for their lives. Tigre officials said security guards at Sao Paulo's Morumbi Stadium beat them and pulled guns on them as they went to the dressing room after the first half. The whole footballing world is now concerned about safety and security at the FIFA World Cup in 2014.

Sao Paulo were winning the game two-nil before the referee called the game off. Sao Paulo president Juvenal Juvencio told the club's website that Tigre were afraid of losing badly so they started causing trouble in the half-time break. He said: "They were going to lose by a big score. Our biggest victory is the fact that the Argentines ran away." Sao Paulo goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni said of Tigre: "They came here to fight, not to play." Tigre's players totally disagreed. They said about 20 police and security staff waited for them and attacked them. Argentina's newspapers were full of photographs of a dressing room covered in blood. Tigre coach Nestor Gorosito told Argentine television: "It was crazy."

Sources: BBC World News / Sambafoot.com

### Writing

*Sports teams should always respect their opponent. Any team that is violent should be banned from the sport.* Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*famous football clubs / final / victory / second half / dressing room / FIFA World Cup / winning / losing badly / causing trouble / big score / totally disagreed / photographs*

### True / False

- Rioting fans in a South American soccer stadium stopped a cup final. T / F
- A Brazilian team won the Copa Sudamericana tournament. T / F
- The other team's players were too afraid to play the second half. T / F
- The Argentinian team said security guards pulled guns on them. T / F
- It was nil-nil as the two teams went to the dressing rooms at half time. T / F
- Brazil's president said on a club website the other team feared losing. T / F
- Sao Paulo's goalkeeper said the Tigre team came to play, not fight. T / F
- Argentina's press showed photos of a blood-covered dressing room. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. tournament | a. announced   |
| 2. victory    | b. zero        |
| 3. declared   | c. worried     |
| 4. pitch      | d. coated      |
| 5. concerned  | e. frightened  |
| 6. nil        | f. competition |
| 7. afraid     | g. completely  |
| 8. causing    | h. win         |
| 9. totally    | i. field       |
| 10. covered   | j. creating    |

### Discussion – Student A

- What does this story do for the image of football?
- What do you think of Mr Juvencio saying Tigre were afraid of losing?
- What do you think of Mr Juvencio saying the biggest victory was Tigre running away?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- Is it possible the Tigre players came to fight and make trouble?
- Should Sao Paulo's police and security guards be investigated?
- Is football (soccer) the best game in the world?
- What questions would you like to ask the Sao Paulo president?

## Phrase Match

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. South America's top          | a. disagreed             |
| 2. big questions about how they | b. half of the game      |
| 3. refused to come              | c. by a big score        |
| 4. the second                   | d. losing badly          |
| 5. pulled                       | e. got their victory     |
| 6. the referee called           | f. room covered in blood |
| 7. afraid of                    | g. club tournament       |
| 8. lose                         | h. guns on them          |
| 9. Tigre's players totally      | i. the game off          |
| 10. photographs of a dressing   | j. onto the pitch        |

## Discussion – Student B

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'football'?
- Which word is better – 'soccer' or 'football'?
- What do you think about what you read?
- What should happen to this year's Copa Sudamericana title?
- Should there be an investigation into what happened?
- Should Sao Paolo have got the victory after what happened?
- Should this game be played again?
- Who do you think is telling the truth?

## Spelling

- Brazil's most msoufa football clubs
- South America's top club atoruethmn
- how they got their tovyric
- ufdeers to come onto the pitch
- The whole footballing world is now rocneidce
- safety and ietscryu
- the ererfee called the game off
- afraid of nligso
- they started nasciug trouble
- Tigre's players aoytltl disagreed
- waited for them and tceatak them
- covered in oldob

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. b	7. e	8. j	9. g	10. d

## Role Play

**Sao Paolo president** - You are very happy with the victory. Tell the others three reasons why. You are shocked the Tigre players did not want to play the second half. You think they should be banned from playing again. You want an apology from Tigre for saying Sao Paolo security guards attacked them.

**Tigre president** - You are totally shocked at what happened. Tell the others three reasons why. You think Sao Paolo should never play again. The police should arrest all the security guards. You want an apology from Sao Paolo's president. You also want the Copa Sudamericana title.

**World soccer boss** - You are very worried about this news. It is terrible for the image of football. You want the presidents of Sao Paolo and Tigre to shake hands. You also want the game to be replayed in a different city. If the police did attack Tigre's players, Brazil should not get the 2014 World Cup.

**World Cup 2014 boss** - You are worried about the image of the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. You are very angry with the Sao Paolo president. You want him to resign. He should apologise to the Tigre players and fans. You are also shocked the world soccer boss said Brazil could lose the 2014 World Cup. That will never happen.

## Speaking – Soccer Position

What position would you like to play in soccer? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top.

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| • goalkeeper | • coach          |
| • defender   | • player's agent |
| • winger     | • centre forward |
| • midfielder | • centre back    |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.