



高等体育院校教材

# 体育英语新闻

*News In The World of Sports*

主 编 史建红

副主编 李铁军



陕西人民出版社



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## Preface

This book has been compiled mainly as a optional textbook for college students majoring in news and presentation art. It will help students to learn about different kinds of sports items in that on the one hand, students can learn lots of technical terms about foreign physical culture; and on the other hand, it will aid them in understanding sports news in English. It goes without saying that this book will contribute a lot to those students in learning English.

Each unit consists of four parts:

Part I is General Characteristics, particularly focused on the origin and development of the game. The new words and expressions with Chinese equivalents help students understand well the game. Part II is Constructive dialogue based on the game, discussing everything related to the game. The readers are not only to learn some special terms, but to familiarize themselves with how to put your ideas into words.

Part III is News Comprehension. There are four pieces of news related to the game, which will definitely broaden the readers' horizon and insight into game.

Part IV is English Journalism introducing to readers some knowledge about journalism. In this part the readers will get to know sports news better in form and depth as well.

After the four parts, there are some comprehension exercises in which students are exposed to various sports news, providing students with a chance to check their mastery of words and expressions and knowledge as well.

We do our best to provide the latest news reports, comments and, interviews. Aiming at the popular and Olympic sports events such as soccer, basketball, tennis, badminton, table-tennis, swimming and diving, volleyball, track and field, and gymnastics.

This book functions both as a textbook and a complement material for self-taught learners. The author pays special attention to its interest, knowledge and diversity. It is firmly believed that this book will make English learning both time-saving and interesting.

Due to the limited time and knowledge, the author will absolutely be responsible for all the mistakes and inadequacy in this book.

The book is compiled by Shi Jian-hong and Li Die-jun, and participated in by the staff of the English teaching section: Lu Xiao-ling, Guo ji-zhou, Tang Yang-ming, Wang Rei-fang, Fan Dong-ju, Xu Chun-lei, Geng Jie and Hu Fen.



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## Unit 1 Modern Soccer

### I General Characteristics

The modern game of soccer started with the foundation of the Football Association of England in 1863. And in 1904, the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) was founded, becoming soccer's worldwide administrative body.

Soccer was the first team sport added to the Olympics. Great Britain dominated the early tournaments, winning three of the first four. Although the sport made its medal debut in 1900, it was not until 1908 that the tournament attracted reasonable international representation. And the first World Cup was finally held in 1930, coming two years after the 1928's Olympics. The host Uruguayans became the first World Cup champions.

After a brief look-over of its history, let's talk kicking, shall we?

Kicking the ball, we are pleased to discover, is an important part of soccer. The basic soccer kick is made with the foot turned sideways, using the instep rather than the toe. The technique assures greater accuracy because more of the foot is in contact with the ball. The best kickers can make the ball travel more than 70 miles per hour. Lateral passing, or flick passing, can be accomplished by kicking the ball with the outside of the foot.

As you know, games are divided into 45-minute halves. While goals are few and far between, scoring opportunities are frequent. Tempo is one of the keys to watch which team is completing more passes? Who is getting off the most shots on goal? which side is controlling the ball at midfield with the most consistency?

Ball control is a fundamental part of soccer. In addition to the feet, soccer players use their heads and chests for passing and controlling the ball. A popular strategy during corner kicks is for one or more players to hang in front of the net hoping to get a piece of the ball with his head and jam it past goalie.

As a player moves up the field with the ball, he often resorts to dribbling. Drib-

bling is accomplished via a series of short kicks as the player alternately hits the ball with first one instep and then the other. Attackers take much of their running diagonally across the field, rather than straight down, since this creates more problems for the defense.

Each team fields 11 players. Of these 11, only the goalie is allowed to use his hands during play, and only when he occupies his penalty area. When in possession of the ball, the goalie is allowed four steps before he must get rid of it.

The nine serious fouls in soccer include dangerous charging from behind, holding, striking, pushing, tripping, kicking or jumping at an opponent, and handling the ball (for a foul to be called, the handling must be judged by the referee or line-man to be intentional) These offenses will result in a direct free kick against the guilty team, or a penalty kick if the foul occur in the penalty area. During a penalty kick, the ball is placed 12 yards from the goal, and the player taking the kick has only the goalkeeper to beat. The goalie must stand on his goal line and is not allowed to move his feet until the ball is kicked.

### **Words and Expressions :**

1. administrative: *adj.* of administration. e. g. An administrative post, problem  
Her duty are purely administrative.

2. dominate: *v.* rule or control by power or authority/ hold a commanding post over

3. debut: *n.* first appearance of actors e. g. He marked his debut by beating the champion. She's making her New York debut at Carnegie Hall.

4. instep: (in football) the fore part of . foot. e. g. an instep pass 前脚背踢球

5. score: *v.* to gain points in a game. e. g. The home team has yet to score.

6. lateral: *adj.* (in football) e. g. a lateral pass 横传

7. flick: *n.* a quick and repeated tap on something

8. midfield: *n.* (in football) 中后卫

9. resort: *v.* go to for help e. g. If negotiation fail we shall have to resort to strike action.

10. goalie: *n.* (in football) 守门员

11. penalty: *n.* (in football) 点球

12. intentional: *adj.* an intentional foul in football. / e. g. If I hurt your feeling



it is not intentional.

## II Constructive Dialogue

A: All that you say Brazil played well in the World Cup soccer of this year, but I can't feel it.

B: Indeed, because you are blind in football and know nothing about it.

A: Then, you tell me anything about it?

B: What fancy you most?

A: Anything in soccer! Football field or you call what? "Pitch" or something?

B: Sure. Football field is a little larger in ball fields. Football is played on a field of  $100 - 110\text{m} \times 64 - 75\text{m}$ . The size of the goal is set at 7.34 m wide and 2.44 m high.

A: What's the name of the parts of it?

B: Oh... it includes the front field, the center field and the back field, besides these, the goal area, the corner area, and the penalty area, etc.

A: So many! How long does a formal football game last?

B: It lasts for 90 minutes. It is divided into two 45-minute halves with an interval of 15 minutes.

A: By the end of the 90-minute game if two teams get tied. What happen then?

B: A playoff. But it depends on the competition system.

A: You are filled with rich data about soccer. Well, It seems that all players on the field take their individual tasks, do they?

B: It couldn't be more true, Well, there are totally 6 kinds of players on each side of the team.

A: Then how could I name these apparently identical players? Seems impossible to tell them apart.

B: An easy job. Their names are more or less related with their positions and functions.

A: Interesting! Tell me. I am waiting.

B: They are **goalkeeper or goalie**, the only player who is allowed to handle the ball, whose special duty is to prevent the ball from going into the goal, **Defender or Fullback or Back**, one of the players generally positioned in the defensive half of the

field and primarily responsible for preventing the opposition from scoring. Then, **sweeper** who is usually applied to a central defender playing behind the stopper and wing fullbacks with responsibility for “sweeping up” loose through balls which are played in behind the other defenders. Then, the stopper who is a special defender that marks the best scorer, generally positioned in front of the Sweeper.

A: Oh, What else then ?

B: **Midfielders or Halfbacks**, sometimes; they are called **linkmen**, one of the players generally positioned near the middle of the field and primarily responsible for creating scoring opportunities for the strikers. And then **attacking Midfielder**, they are the most forward-playing midfielder, playing right behind the forwards; they support the offense by proving passes to forwards to set up goals. Then, **defensive Midfielder** whose position is in front of their team's defense.

A: Well, there seems definitely more people in defensive position than those in attacking one.

B: Not necessarily. These players' positions are highly movable. For example, when someone hits the injuries, others will take this place.

A: Oh, what about real **attackers**? I mean those whose chance of goal is much higher than the rest of players.

B: Well. Maybe, you mean **attackers or strikers**. They are offensive players who generally play for up-fieled and concentrate on trying to score goals. And **wingers** whose main duty is to provide the strikers with accurate crossing passes so they shoot at the goal; often the fastest players and best dribblers on a team. Certainly, wingers get lots of opportunities to make a goal.

A: Well. I have to admit that the knowledge would be quite helpful for me to enjoy this great game.

### *Words and Expressions:*

1. goalkeeper or goalie: *n.* (in soccer) 守门员
2. defender/ Fullback/Back: *n.* (in soccer) 后卫
3. sweeper: 中后卫
4. Midfielder or Halfback: *n.* (in soccer) 前卫
5. linkmen: (in soccer) 前卫
6. attacking Midfielder: *n.* (in soccer) 进攻型前卫



7. defensive Midfielder; *n.* (in soccer) 防守型前卫**III News Comprehension****Item 1****Beckham, the “virus”**

He's one of the famous humans who have ever lived—even though he's not that cute, not that smart and not that great a soccer player. But Becks bewitches. The man who once said that “all he wanted to do was to kick a football around” has now free kicked himself beyond stadia. He's football's first and only Spice Boy, adored and worshiped for his looks, skills, and peccadilloes. That's temptingly tangy for a game that has always put skills above everything else. With Becks, football has come to mean much more. It's as much about glam as about class. It's as much about branding as about flair.

It hasn't been like this since the death of Diana. Britain has been suffering from a national nervous breakdown ever since David Beckham, handsome icon of the Manchester United soccer team, announced last week that he was leaving to play for Real Madrid. The Sun, a tabloid, set up a Beckham “grief helpline” and has been swamped with calls from distressed fans. One caller said he was considering suicide. A man who has “Beckham” tattooed on his arm threatened to cut it off. “I cried myself to sleep after hearing the awful news,” said grandmother Mary Richards, age 85. A London cabby, ever the voice of reason, asked, “Has the world gone mad? He's only footballer! But he was mistaken. A footballer is the least of what David Beckham is.

In the era of soccer that will come to be known as B. B—Before Beckham—The sport was a team game. What mattered were the club, the team and the player in that order. Then in the mid-1990s, David Beckham—or “Becks” as he is known in that familiar affectionately foreshortened form the British like to address their working class heroes—came along, flicked his (then) Diana-style blond fringe and changed the face of soccer. It wasn't his legendary right foot that altered the game, but his photogenic face. And the fact that he used it to become one of the most recognizable, richest and valuable athletes in the world, receiving a salary of \$ 8 million per year,

earning at least \$ 17 million more in endorsements and commanding a record transfer fee for his move to Real Madrid of \$ 41.6 million.

"Beckham is a package. Don't ever forget that. Watch him; he has too many facets," says a fan who's been watching him since his first 50-yard success. "Beckham perfectly represents the current age because he is a curious mixture of technical ability, pleasant personality, and philosophical emptiness," says a columnist in the Church of England Newspaper.

This is the world of David Beckham. This is the world of Victoria, his wife, who has had a big hand in the way Brand Becks has managed itself. Brand Becks is not just about hairdos-floppy, Mohican, skinhead, corn-row that the footballer has sported. Or about his bewildering wears: diamond earrings and sarongs. It's about taking football across the world. Of course, football was already a global sport before Becks arrived at Man U. But the Becks-Vicks combo has taken the game across nine seas, wowing fans and stylists. Beckham's greatest value is his crossover appeal—he interests not only those who have no interest in the club for which he plays, but those who have no interest in soccer. He is the most recognized sportsman in Asia, where soccer is still relatively new. Possibly only Buddha himself is better known—though Beckham is catching up there too: In Thailand someone has already fashioned a golden "Beck" Buddha. He's even managed to interest Americans, for god's sake. The 27-year-old, tongue-tied, surprisingly shy working class boy from London's East End has succeeded in turning the mass, globalsport of soccer into a mass, global promotional vehicle for himself, reproducing his image in countless counties. He has turned himself into a soccer virus, one that has infected the media, replicating him everywhere, all over the world, endlessly, making him one of the most famous men having ever lived.

### ***Words and Expressions :***

1. David Beckham: The famous soccer star of Great Britain. He is world icon for his looking and superb and fabulous skill of soccer.
2. virus: simple organism, smaller than bacteria, and causing infectious disease
3. cute: *adj.* clever, smart or attractive. e. g. A cute boy. It was cute of you to spot that.
4. bewitch: *v.* delight somebody very much; enchant somebody. e. g. She was bewitched by the sunset.



5. freekick; *n.* (in soccer) kick taken, without interference of a ball, into goal as a penalty against the opposing team 任意球

6. 'Spice Boy: It refers to Beckman who married the Spice girl Victoria.

7. peccadillo; small unimportant offence or sin. e. g. Some of the peccadilloes should have been avoided.

8. glam; glamour. e. g. He lost glamour forever.

9. flair; (for) natural ability to do something well. e. g. She has real flair for language.

10. be swamped with something; be very much occupied by something

11. tattoo; mark somebody's skin with a permanent picture or pattern

12. cabby; (informal) taxi driver

13. fringe; front hair cut so that it hangs over the forehead.

14. take/ have a hand in something; be partially responsible for something e. g. I bet he had a hand in it.

15. floppy; soft and flexible; falling loosely. e. g. She keep wearing floppy clothes, as it is her style.

16. skinhead; with very short hair

17. corn-row; be combed like strands of corn

18. Mohican; hairdo of Mohican people

19. sarong; long strip of cotton or silk cloth worn as a skirt by Malay and Indonesian man and woman

20. wow; (slang in USA) fill sb. with admiration or enthusiasm; impress greatly. e. g. The new music wow them on Broadway.

## Item 2

### Costa Rica step into the next round

San Jose, Costa Rica

Costa Rica blew a late two-goal lead, but a 90th-minute score by striker Paulo Wanchope saved the home team, 3-2 against Guatemala in a World Cup qualification Wednesday. Carlos Hernandez scored in the 34th minute and when Ronald Gomez made it 2-0 in the 66th, Costa Rica appeared headed for an easy victory. But Edwin Villatoro cut the lead in the 75th minute and Mario Ramirez stunned the crowd at Ri-

cardo Saprissa Stadium by tying it two minutes later. Costa Rica spent much of the night pressing on offense and the strategy paid off when a give-and-go between Gomez and Wanchope ended in a penalty kick. Hernandez easily converted for a 1-0 advantage.

More crisp passing helped Gomez get open in the 66th minute to stretch the advantage to two goals. That's the way things stood until the 75th minute, when Villatoro pounced on a loose ball deep inside the Costa Rican zone and fired from close range past goalkeeper Alvaro Mesen. Just two minutes later, Ramirez found a window of daylight ahead of advancing defenders and got the angle he needed to make it 2-2.

Just before injury time, Wanchope made the winner look routine, taking a pass off a set offense and drilling the shot. With the win, Costa Rica (2-2-1) took sole possession of third place in the region with seven points, behind Mexico with 13 and the United States.

### ***Words and Expressions :***

1. stun; *v.* cause loss of strength or consciousness a fall or a blow or other violence. e. g. The punch stunned me for a moment.
2. goal; *n.* (in soccer) e. g. score or kick a goal. Our team wins by three goals to one. Score an own goal.
3. strategy; *n.* plans involving tricks and surprises used in politics, business or personal affairs. e. g. By careful strategy she negotiated a substantial pay rise.
4. daylight; *n.* e. g. the colors look different when viewed in daylight.

### **Item 3**

## **Romanians take to the streets in their millions**

### ***Bucharest, Reuters***

Romania's 3-2 win over England at Euro 2000 brought about a quarter of the country's 22 million population onto the streets to celebrate, police estimated. Festivities went on into the early hours but passed off largely without incident.

"All of Romania's 300 small and medium-sized towns had at least 10,000 people on the streets," Police Colonel Haralambie Neda said.

Half a million massed in the central Bucharest, but only three arrests were made.





"We are the best, we are the champions," the crowd shouted.

Fans streamed out of Bucharest bars and homes with bottles of alcohol in their hands and headed for the University Square, waving tricolour flags and shouting "victory, victory".

Police cars, which started cruising Bucharest with lights flashing as soon as the final whistle was blown, were unable to get through the human sea which filled the city's main avenues.

"It's total madness, but so far we are able to keep it under control," a police officer said as a young man draped a police armoured car with a Romanian flag. Spraying champagne, young men ripped off their shirts and danced on car roofs. Garbage can lids, blaring horns and whistles filled the city with noise.

**Words and Expressions:**

1. tricolour: *n.* having three different colors. e. g. flags of tricolors
2. spray: *v.* extend the liquid drops through air e. g. She sprayed the deodorant under her arm.
3. armoured: *adj.* covered with armor

**Item 4**

**Dejected fans in quiet exit**

*Charleroi, Reuters*

Dejected England fans trooped out of Charleroi on Tuesday night as their team were knocked out of Euro 2000 after losing 3-2 to Romania.

The majority made their way peacefully towards the bus and train stations and only a couple of hundred remained in the central square of the southern Belgian town.

Police kept a low profile, eyewitnesses said.

Shortly after midnight, only about 50 England fans remained in the city square, bemoaning a sorry England performance against the Romanians.

It was a sharp contrast to Saturday when England played Germany in the city and hooligan violence in Charleroi and Brussels prompted UEFA to threaten England with expulsion from the tournament if there was a repeat.

**Words and Expressions:**

1. troop: *v.* gather or move in crowd. e. g. We all trooped into room.