



TALKING FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA

JANUARY 2009

H.S. girls' soccer underway

FFAS Media

At the time of this printing, the Leone Lions' road to back-to-back titles in the ASHSAA girls' soccer varsity division is well underway with a 1st place showing through four rounds of play since the competition kicked off on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009.

Second to them is a familiar foe, the Samoana Sharks. Familiar because for the last six years only two schools have walked away with a varsity title in the girls' competition – it's been either Leone or Samoana.

Leone leads the pack of 7

(Continued on page 2)



Football Federation of American Samoa President Iuli Alex Godinet, left, with FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter in Zurich, Switzerland during the eve of the 2008 FIFA World Player Gala in early January of 2009.

"My trip to Zurich was very interesting in many different ways. I was glad to meet with FIFA President Joseph Blatter at the reception after gala honoring the Male and Female Player of the year.

It was a warm welcoming of the two committees that were scheduled to meet in Zurich the following day, a joint session between the FIFA Football Committee and FIFA Technical and Development Committee. I also had a chance to meet with OFC President Reynald Temarii and updated them about the development of our association. They were very pleased with the progress FFAS is making.

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Filiga Ioapo nominated for OFC women's player of the Year 2008 Award

FFAS Media

2007 South Pacific Games goalkeeper Filiga Ioapo has notched one for women's soccer in the territory by being, according to Oceania Football Confederation's website oceaniafootball.com, "the first ever

American Samoan soccer player to be nominated" for such an award in a "regional stage for her on-field performances."

The nomination was announced in early January and Ioapo's name goes alongside

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Filiga Ioapo in action in Samoa during XIII South Pacific Games. [photo: Courtesy oceaniafootball.com]

(Continued from page 1)

competitors with 10 points while Samoana and Faga'itua are tied at 7 points apiece. The Sharks get the nod for second place because of the 15 goal difference tiebreaker they hold to the Vikings' 5.

Only the top three teams advance to the playoffs with the No. 1 team getting a free pass to the championship match while the second and third seeds duke it out in a playoff game. The winner then faces off against the No. 1

seed.

The Kanana Fou Stallions are

fourth while the Tafuna Warriors are fifth, Fa'asao Marist Cougars sixth and Nu'uuli Voc-Tech Wildcats seventh.

In the junior varsity bracket, the Warriors are 1st, defending champs Faga'itua 2nd, Leone third, Samoana fourth, Cougars fifth and Wildcats sixth. The winner of this contest is determined by best record.

In this issue, read the rundowns of the first three rounds played on Jan. 17, 24 and the 31st as well as photos galore of these



Leone Lions' varsity team in action during their 2nd game of the season against Fa'asao Marist Cougars on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009 at Pago Park Soccer Stadium. The Lions won 4-2.

(Continued from page 1)

14 others from the Oceania region. The website also stated that this is the first time OFC is offering such an award in the women's category and most of the names on the list are of players from New Zealand. Five of the 15 players hail from New Zealand, there is one Tongan, two from New Caledonia, two from Papua New Guinea, two from Fiji, and one each from Tahiti and the Solomon Islands.

April of this year is when the winner will be announced.

What's remarkable about Filiga is that she is a senior at Leone High School, playing fullback on her school's varsity team in its quest for back-to-back titles.

She is being nominated because of her heroics while only an 11th grader in high school on the American Samoa Football Association's (the forerunner of Foot-

ball Federation of American Samoa) women's soccer team that participated in the XIII South Pacific Games in Samoa.

In particular, American Samoa pulled off a 1-1 tie against New Caledonia, said to be the territory's best performance ever on the soccer pitch according to the OFC website. "Filiga is worthy of her nomination – her performances in Samoa were simply sensational and worthy of recognition," said OFC Media and Communications Officer Gordon Glen Watson in the OFC website press release.

"When the list of nominees was assembled a number of factors were taken into account – star performances, attitude, bravery, personality and ability. Filiga ticked all those boxes. The world and pacific media found her to be very quiet and unassuming off the pitch but during matches she show[ed]

scant regard for her own safety and was kept busy throughout."

On the national stage, she is no stranger to championships.

Her club Black Roses has won quite a few with her and siblings Lela and Meleane in the starting lineup and last year was the first time Black Roses failed to win the women's title, she said, since she

joined the team as an 8th grader. They finished second to Pansa Women.

She also plays softball but soccer is her favorite sport.

Filiga's parents are Ioapo and Sinei Kersiano from the village of Vailoa.



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Girls HS soccer league kicks off

FFAS Media

[Editor's Note: This story is a recap of Rd. 1 of the competition]

The 2008-2009 girls' high school soccer league kicked off on Saturday, January 17, 2008 at the Pago Park Soccer Stadium in Pago Pago with defending champs Leone Lions (varsity) and Faga'itua Vikings (J-V) walking away winless in the first round of the seven-round competition.

The Lions managed to score an equalizer late in the second half on a goal by Jeannine Leausa as their match against the Kanana Fou Stallions ended in a 3-3 tie.

As for the Vikings, they played a tough one against Tafuna and were edged out 1-0 to start their season with a loss.

In other junior varsity games, Samoana Sharks' J-V won by forfeit against the Nu'uuli Voc-Tech Wildcats while Fa'asao-Marist and Leone had a bye. In varsity games, Samoana got its way with an undermanned Wildcats squad by dropping 12 goals against them to none. Nu'uuli Voc-Tech started the match by fielding only eight players.

Only seven teams – Fa'asao-Marist, Faga'itua, Kananafou, Leone, Nu'uuli Voc-Tech and Samoana – are competing in the varsity division. Each team will play six games with the top three advancing to the playoffs where the No. 1 seed gets a free ticket straight to the championship match while the No.'s 2 and 3 seeds play in a postseason match scheduled

for Feb. 23, 2008 at the Pago Park Soccer Stadium.

The title match is set for Feb. 25.

As for the junior varsity



bracket, six teams – Fa'asao-Marist, Faga'itua, Leone, Nu'uuli Voc-Tech and Samoana – are competing in the division with the team finishing the season with the best record being crowned champions.

All regular season games are being held on Saturdays at the Pago Park Soccer Stadium and it is \$1 to enter for all spectators. Children 10-years-old and under are allowed in free of charge.

Below is a rundown of Saturday, Jan. 17, 2008's games.

LIONS 3, STALLIONS 3

Leone took control of this match in the first half with a commanding 2-0 lead on goals by Meleane Ioapo (3rd minute) and Momi Ene (8th).

But in the second half, the Stallions galloped their way to a 3-2 lead with a goal by Yena Kang (32nd) during a 1-2 combo with Tuiemanu Ripley and then Kang struck a corner kick so perfectly

that it went straight to teammate Katrina Magele for a header in the 39.th They led after a goal in the 52nd minute by Ripley.

A desperate Leone kept attacking and attacking until they eventually succeeded in drawing even with Kananafou 3-3 on a shot at goal by Leausa with only minutes to spare.

VIKINGS 1, WARRIORS 0

The goalkeepers worked overtime in this game, making save after save in a well contested match.

The only score was a shot at an open goal on a rebound off of the post by Eleele Peni when Tafuna's goalkeeper had attempted a diving save to her left in the 22nd minute of the match.

After that the girls just kept running and running with many scoring opportunities being blocked by excellent saves from both goalies.

SHARKS 12, WILDCATS 0

The striking pair of Rete Tago and Kristina Vaeao showed their experience from competing in the FFAS 2008 National League as they racked up 8 goals between the two of them. Tago led with five while Kristina finished with a hat trick while Rosary Wright had two goals. Scoring a goal apiece were Telesia Tominiko and Mosana Evagelia.

WARRIORS 1, VIKINGS 0 (J-V)

Yvonne Samiu's only goal of the game for Tafuna was the decider in the 1-0 game last Saturday that saw the defending champions drop back in the race for the best record and the championship of the division.

ASHSAA Girls Round 1 Action



JPN 0-0 AUS: Little drama in Yokohama

[Story courtesy the-afc.com]

YOKOHAMA - Australia held Japan to a goalless draw at the Yokohama International Stadium to remain top of Group A in the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

Pim Verbeek's side will undoubtedly be the happier of the two sides with the point after frustrating their opponents throughout, managing just a solitary shot on target.

Japan, meanwhile, had plenty of possession but failed to really make it count in the final third with their best chance falling to Yasuhito Endo in the second-half but his drive was superbly saved by Mark Schwarzer.

Australia now top of Group A with 10 points while Japan remain two points behind in second place.

The hosts attacked from the outset and issued an early warning when Tatsuya Tanaka sprung the offside trap in the fourth minute before squaring a pass to Keiji Tamada in the box but the Nagoya Grampus forward hit the side-netting from a tight angle.

Japan continued to have the better of the opening 20 minutes as they looked to grab an early goal while Australia had yet to trouble goalkeeper Ryota Tsuzuki.

Celtic's Shunsuke Nakamura should have done better with a free-kick in the 23rd minute as he could only send the ball over bar.

Japan were successfully nullifying the danger of Tim Cahill and consequently Australia continued to struggle to forge opportunities, although Lucas Neill failed to profit from a scramble in the box five minutes before the break.

Japan, meanwhile, saw a chance go begging soon after when Nakamura's smart pass found the onrushing Makoto Hasebe in the box but no player was able to get on the end of the mid-

fielder's pullback.

Cahill finally managed to shake off his markers on the stroke of half-time but the Everton midfielder's speculative strike from 35 yards failed to trouble Tsuzuki.

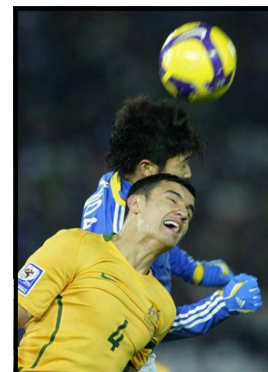
Japan continued to trouble the Australia defence after the break as Tamada wrong-footed Neill in the 59th minute to almost create an opening only for the defender to quickly recover and smash the ball out for a corner.

But Schwarzer kept Australia in the game 11 minutes later minutes later when Endo unleashed a 20-yard drive that the Fulham stopper did well to palm over the bar.

Tamada headed over from close range soon after before Japan came agonisingly close to a winner four minutes before full-time when Hasebe's shot deflected off Tamada but rolled inches wide of the post.



Australia's Tim Cahill (R) fights the ball with Japan's Yuji Nakagawa during the 2010 FIFA World Cup Asia final qualifiers Group A match in Yokohama on February 11, 2009. AFP PHOTO / JJI PRESS



Australis's Tim Cahill (4) fights for the ball with Japan's Atsuto Uchida during their soccer match for the World Cup Asia final qualifying in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Japan, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009.

Japan were successfully nullifying the danger of Tim Cahill and consequently Australia continued to struggle to forge opportunities, although Lucas Neill failed to profit from a scramble in the box five minutes before the break.

Varsity competition ladder crowded at the top

FFAS Media

[Editor's Note: This story is a recap of Rd. 2 of the competition]

The girls' high school soccer's varsity ladder is crowded at the top with four teams all tied with four points apiece – Kanana Fou Stallions, Samoana Sharks, Leone Lions and Faga'itua Vikings.

The junior varsity division is also tied at the top with four teams at 3 points each – Leone Lions, Faga'itua Vikings, Tafuna Warriors and the Samoana Sharks.

VARSITY

With these four teams atop the leader board, if the playoffs were to occur this Saturday, Faga'itua would be left out of the top 3 play-off system with the Stallions getting a free pass to the title match while the Sharks and Lions would duke it out in a postseason contest.

That is the top three at the moment – Kanana Fou, Samoana and Leone because of the goal difference: the Stallions and Sharks are tied with 12 apiece while the Lions have 7 and the Vikings 1.

Kanana Fou has the edge of 15 goals for to Samoana's 14.

But, luckily for Faga'itua, there are still five games left in the season before the final three can be determined for the playoffs.

Last week Round 2 was played at Pago Park Soccer Stadium with the Vikings and Sharks drawing 2-2, Leone defeating Fa'asao Marist 8-1 and the Stallions beating the Nu'uuli Voc-Tech Wildcats 12-0. Tafuna had a bye.

SHARKS 2, VIKINGS 2

Christina Macomber's second goal of the day with five minutes to go to full time helped the Vi-

kings escape their first loss of the season as they drew 2-2 with Samoana on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009 at Pago Park Soccer Stadium.

Macomber's first goal was also an equalizer in the 35th to make it 1-1.

Samoana's Rete Tago, the varsity division's co-leader in goals

with most goals scored. They each have 7.

The other Kanana Fou striker, Yena Kang, contributed with a hat trick for the Stallions while scoring one goal apiece were Trixie Mavaega, Tuiemanu Ripley and Elisapeta Tafaovale.

JUNIOR VARSITY

In a division where the best record counts towards determining the champions, Leone, Faga'itua, Tafuna and Samoana are all tied with three points apiece.

The Wildcats and Warriors were off on Saturday while Leone won their first match of the season by holding off the Cougars 4-2 and the Vikings won their first of the season by beating the Sharks 4-1.

LIONS 4, COUGARS 2

The Cougars let a huge opportunity slip away as they were called offside numerous times in the match and then missed easy shots at goal when they weren't flagged for running offside.

Scoring the four goals for Leone were Gloria Nu'usila, Imelda Pei, Losi Toilolo and Mary Ipuniu.

Rosemarie Mano scored the Cougars' two goals.

VIKINGS 4, SHARKS 1

Faga'itua, the defending champs, rebounded from a loss in Round 1 to Tafuna with a 4-1 defeat of the Sharks on Saturday.

For Samoana, it was their first time playing an actual game after winning their Round 1 match by forfeit against the Wildcats.

Tasi Alailesulu scored twice for the Vikings while Samoana's Selaina Vaovasa had the lone goal for her team.



scored with 7 (tied with the Stallions' Katrina Magele), gave her team a 1-0 lead 15 minutes into the match on the first of two goals for her on the day.

Tago's second goal gave her team a 2-1 lead in the 40th minute, five minutes after Macomber's first equalizer.

LIONS 8, COUGARS 1

The Lions doubled their first half score to finish the match with an 8-1 win over the Cougars last Saturday.

Jasmine Makiasi scored the lone goal for the Cougars while Momi Ene had a 4-goal performance on the day to teammate Meleane Ioapo's hat trick. Malia Sefo also scored for Leone.

STALLIONS 12, WILDCATS 0

Striker Katrina Magele scored six goals on the day to tie with Samoana's Rete Tago for the lead

ASHSAA Girls Round 2 Action



Robinho ends Italian hopes as Brazil wins 2-0

[Story courtesy FIFA.com]

Brazil forward Robinho shattered Italy coach Marcello Lippi's record bid with a breathtaking display in his side's 2-0 international friendly win over the world champions in London. Robinho made the opener for Manchester City

club-mate Elano with a defence-splitting pass, and then scored a sublime second himself to give Brazil an impressive victory at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium.

Lippi was attempting to set a new

world record for consecutive unbeaten matches by an international coach, but his run ended at 31 as he suffered a first loss with Italy since defeat against Slovenia during his first spell in charge way back in 2004. As Lippi reacquaints himself with the unpleasant taste of defeat, Brazil coach Dunga is finally looking more comfortable in one of football's most demanding jobs. Dunga's perceived penchant for cautious tactics has riled some in Brazil but this performance should earn him some respect at last.

Italy had the ball in the net in the opening moments when Fabio Grosso met Andrea Pirlo's lofted pass with a volley past Julio Cesar, only the left-back's effort was ruled out for offside.

The absence of AC Milan play-maker Kaka gave Dunga a chance to bring Ronaldinho back from a three-match exile, while Adriano was also in the Seleção's forward line. While those two remain two of Brazil's star attractions, the relatively unheralded Elano

has become an integral part of the team under Dunga, with the right-sided midfielder underlining his importance as he opened the scoring in the 13th minute.

Robinho artistry

A swift and incisive exchange of passes with Robinho opened up the Italian defence and Elano gracefully applied the finishing touch as he guided his shot past Gianluigi Buffon.

If Elano's opener had been a tasty appetiser, then Robinho's strike in the 27th minute was a truly sumptuous main course.

Quickly dispossessing Pirlo as he dwelt

on the ball in his own penalty area, Robinho teased Nicola Legrottaglie with a series of elaborate step-overs before wrong-footing his marker with a neat back-flick and driving a low shot into the far corner.

Debutant midfielder Felipe Melo was driving Brazil forward impressively and the Italians were being made to look distinctly ordinary. There was no sign of Brazil easing off, with Elano sending a stinging drive inches over on the stroke of half-time.

The capacity crowd of 60,077 were lapping up every feint and flick from Brazil's showmen, but Italy emerged after half-time determined to salvage some pride. Luca Toni beat Cesar with a bundled effort midway through the second half, only to see his strike disallowed because he had handled while trying to control Pirlo's pass. Both teams were fiercely competitive until the end. It was Italy though who finished on top and it took a brilliant reflex stop from Cesar to deny Toni a late consolation goal.



Brazil's midfielder Elano (C) celebrates scoring a goal during their International friendly match against Italy at the Emirates Stadium, London, on February 10, 2009. Others are unidentified. AFP PHOTO / Adrian Dennis

Top 10 the same

(FIFA.com) Wednesday 11 Feb. 2009

After a slow start to the year, things have started to pick up with a total of 57 'A' matches being played since the last FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking in January. With none of the top teams taking part in any of these matches, however, there have been no changes within the top 10 this month. Spain still lead by a clear margin, followed by Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Brazil and Argentina. Newly ranked within the top 20 are Romania, who have gained four places (17th, up 4).

Of the 57 matches played, 26 were friendlies, while 31 were qualifying matches for continental championships - 14 played in the CONCACAF region and 17 in the AFC region. The UNCAF Nations Cup had a big impact on the top 50 this month, with the two finalists - Costa Rica (38th, up 9) and Panama (50th, up 33) - moving up the ranks. Making history, Panama not only secured their first victory in this competition, but also succeeded in gaining a place among the world's 50 best teams for the first time.

Notable winners outside the top 50 include Bahrain (74th, up 15), Benin (81st, up 18), Bermuda (116th, up 15) and Nicaragua (132nd, up 50). Qualifying for the CONCACAF Gold Cup for the first time ever, Nicaragua are the biggest movers this month, securing their highest placing since the inception of the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking, together with Australia (27th, up 2), Gambia (73rd, up 2) and Montenegro (111th, up 2).

Kananafou Stallions drop out of varsity top 3

[Editor's Note: This story is a recap of Rd. 3 of the competition]

A 5-0 loss to Faga'itua (1-1) saw the Kananafou Stallions (1-1-1) drop out of first place and the top three in the varsity division after Round 3 on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009 at Pago Park Soccer Stadium.

They are now fourth while Leone (2-0-1), the defending champs, jumped two spots up, going from third last week to first place, after a 5-0 win against the Nu'uuli Voc-Tech Wildcats (0-3).

In other games played last Saturday for the junior varsity division it was Leone over the Wildcats by forfeit and Tafuna 5, Fa'asao Marist 1 while Samoana and Faga'itua were off. In varsity games it was Lions 5, Wildcats 0 and Warriors 6, Cougars 1 while the Sharks were off with a bye.

Moving away from fourth and into the top three was Faga'itua (2-0-1) as they are now in second place while idle Samoana (1-0-1) dropped from second to third.

Tafuna is 5th while Fa'asao Marist Cougars (0-2) are 6th and the Wildcats 7th.

Only the top three teams can advance to the postseason after the round robin competition runs its course.

Leone and Faga'itua are tied with 7 points apiece but the Lions have the upper hand in goal difference with 12 to the Vikings' 6.

As for the junior varsity division, Leone (2-0) also holds the top spot by most goals scored with 7 to Tafuna's (2-0) 6. They both have 6 points apiece and 5 goals in the goal difference category.

Faga'itua (1-1) is third, followed by Samoana (1-1), Fa'asao Marist (0-2) and Nu'uuli Voc-Tech

(0-2).

The team that finishes the round robin competition with the best record or most points will be crowned champs.

Varsity

VIKINGS 5, STALLIONS 0

Two goals each by Marrisa Vagaia and Emele Tulafono helped



the Vikings earn their first win of the season after the first two rounds were followed by a loss and a tie, respectively.

Scoring a solo goal was Horonaima Tulafono.

Vagaia's goals came in the 16th and 24th minutes of the match to give Faga'itua a 2-0 lead going into the half. Horonaima made it 3-0 with a goal in the 40th minute while older sibling Emele's last two goals came in the 47th and 50th minutes of the match.

LIONS 5, WILDCATS 0

The Wildcats lost, again, but this time they showed much improvement on the field after successive 12-0 blowouts to Samoana and Kananafou from the first two rounds.

Their defense was much better

three games into the season as they held Leone at bay with three goals in the first half and two in the second.

It was Meleane Ioapo's tenacity that helped Leone win their second game to vault into first place of the division as she completed a hat trick with her third goal coming in the 42nd minute.

Her first two were scored in the 7th and 11th minutes while Telesia Pei (30th) and Sophia Savaii (50th) scored one goal apiece.

WARRIORS 6, COUGARS 1

Two hat tricks led Tafuna to its second win coming off of a bye weekend as they defeated Fa'asao Marist 6-1.

The hat tricks were by freshman Tutasi Smith who scored her first just two minutes into the match and then the other two in the 34th and 40th while senior Roseta Ah Siu had the other one with goals coming in the sixth, 45th and 49th minutes of the match.

The lone scorer for the Cougars was Jasmine Makiasi (8th) on a penalty kick just outside of the right corner of the penalty box that sailed over the head of Tafuna's goalie. This goal made it a competitive 2-1 score at the end of the first half.

Junior Varsity

WARRIORS 5, COUGARS 1

A tenuous 2-1 lead was expanded to a 5-1 win by the Tafuna Warriors last Saturday in just their second match of the season.

Leading them in goal scoring was Beulah Oney with two goals while Sialei Tuitasi, Anita Fuafiva and June Canales scored one goal each.

Scoring for Fa'asao Marist was Yvette Steffany.

ASHSAA Girls Round 3 Action





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FIFA 2008 Player of the Year Gala

(Story courtesy FIFA.com)

Cristiano Ronaldo collected his first FIFA World Player title while Marta claimed her third successive FIFA Women's World Player award at the 18th FIFA World Player Gala at the Zurich Opera House on Monday, Jan. 12, 2009.

Ronaldo had a remarkable 2008, in which he scored 31 goals for Manchester United in the Premier League and propelled his club not only to another league title but also to the UEFA Champions League crown. He performed creditably at international level at UEFA EURO 2008, although Portugal were eliminated in the quarter-finals. Ronaldo reaped 935 points in the vote in which the coaches and captains of 155 national teams took part. Argentina's Lionel Messi finished second (678 points) and was trailed by Spain's Fernando Torres (203), Brazil's Kaká (183) and Spain's Xavi (155).

Marta delivered an outstanding performance at the Women's Olympic Football Tournament in Beijing 2008, and equalled the record set by Birgit Prinz by claiming her third consecutive FIFA Women's World Player title. For the women's vote, 139 coaches and captains cast their vote and Marta won comfortably (1,002 points) ahead of Germany's Birgit Prinz (328), Brazil's Cristiane (275), Germany's Nadine Angerer (198) and England's Kelly Smith (150).

For the first time ever, a distinction was awarded for one of the many development programmes supported by



FFAS President Iuli Alex Godinet inside the Zurich Opera House during the 18th FIFA World Player Gala on Monday, Jan. 12, 2009 in Zurich, Switzerland.

FIFA. The purpose of the FIFA Development Award is to recognise the work carried out by FIFA and the 208 FIFA member associations in the area of football development. The Palestinian Football Federation was honored for having maintained, under difficult circumstances, their football organization and their national team. FA-President Jibril Al Rajoub as well as the captain of the women's team, Honey Thaljiyeh and the captain of the mens team, Ahmad Kashkash received the award on stage.

Together with the help of FIFA and some donators, the FA completed a major refurbishment of the Al-Husseini Stadium, in the city of Al-Ram near Ramallah, which has become the first stadium in the Palestinian territories to meet the requirements to stage an international game. As a result, on 26 October 2008, Palestine were able to play their first international match at home, against Jordan, since the affiliation of their football association to FIFA in 1998.

The FIFA Presidential

Award went to women's football in general in acknowledgement of its tremendous development worldwide. It was presented to the US women's national team in recognition of their outstanding

performances on the field and their immense contribution to increasing the popularity of the women's game. Amongst others, US women have clinched gold at the Olympics three times (1996, 2004, 2008) and won the FIFA Women's World Cup twice (1991, 1999), and they were also victorious at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in 2008. At the Gala, US international midfielder Heather O'Reilly collected the trophy from FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter and Football Committee member Charmaine Hooper.

The FIFA Fair Play Award went to the President and team captain of the Turkish Football Association, Mahmut Özgener and Tuncay Sanli respectively, as well as their counterparts at the Football Federation of Armenia, President Ruben Hayrapetyan and team captain Sargis Hovsepyan. During the 6 September Armenia v. Turkey FIFA World Cup qualification match, the Presidents of both countries shook hands after decades of distrust and diplomatic silence between the two countries.