

# The Magical Magyars



## 1) Discussion

- a) What is the best moment in your country's football history?
  - b) Has your national team ever been the best in the world?
  - c) What do you know about Hungarian football? Do you know any famous players?
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## 2) Vocabulary

### a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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|--------------------------|---|
| 1) Colloquially (adverb) | a) To confuse, deceive, or trick someone by elaborate means or through clever manipulation.                 |
| 2) To emerge (verb)      | b) To come forth, appear, or become visible or known, especially after being concealed or obscure.          |
| 3) Daunting (adjective)  | c) In everyday conversation or informal language usage.   |
| 4) Bamboozle (verb)      | d) Evidence or proof of something, often serving as a tribute or confirmation of its existence or validity. |
| 5) Transcend (verb)      | e) To rise above or go beyond the limits of something, often in a spiritual or abstract sense.              |
| 6) Testament (noun)      | f) Intimidating or discouraging due to the perceived difficulty or enormity of a task or challenge.         |
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**b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.**

Colloquially

To emerge

Daunting

To bamboozle

To transcend

Testament

- 1) Despite their initial struggles, the young footballer managed to \_\_\_\_\_ as a rising star in the world of soccer.
- 2) The team faced a \_\_\_\_\_ challenge as they prepared to compete against the reigning champions.
- 3) The legendary coach's innovative tactics often seemed to \_\_\_\_\_ opposing teams, leaving them uncertain how to counterattack.
- 4) Marcus Rashford's charity work allowed him to \_\_\_\_\_ football and have a positive effect on society.
- 5) The remarkable comeback victory served as a \_\_\_\_\_ to their unwavering dedication and resilience on the field.
- 6) Brazilian Romário de Souza Faria, \_\_\_\_\_ known as Romário, was one of the most exciting players in the mid-90's



### 3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

- a) What were some of the significant challenges faced by the Hungarian football team of the 1950s

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#### The Magical Magyars

The Hungarian football team of the 1950s remains etched in history as one of the most formidable and innovative squads to grace the sport. Known colloquially as the "Magical Magyars," this team left an indelible mark on the world of football with their fluid style of play and exceptional talent. Led by the legendary coach Gusztáv Sebes, Hungary emerged as a dominant force on the international stage during this period.

Central to the team's success were its iconic players, including the legendary forward Ferenc Puskás, who is widely regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time. Puskás's incredible goal-scoring ability and vision on the pitch made him a formidable opponent for any defence. Alongside him, players like Sándor Kocsis, Zoltán Czibor, and Nándor Hidegkuti formed a daunting attacking unit that struck fear into the hearts of their opponents.

One of the most famous results achieved by the Hungarian team during this era was their historic 6-3 victory over England at Wembley Stadium in 1953. This result stunned the footballing world, marking the first time England had been defeated on home soil by a team from outside the British Isles. The match showcased Hungary's innovative tactics, with Hidegkuti's deep-lying centre-forward role bamboozling the English defence and allowing for devastating attacking moves.

However, the success of the Hungarian team was not just confined to the football pitch. They played under the shadow of political turmoil and social unrest in their homeland. The 1950s saw Hungary under the grip of Soviet influence, with the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 being a significant point of contention. Despite the political climate, the Hungarian football team provided a source of national pride and unity for the Hungarian people, transcending the barriers imposed by the government.

Tragically, the golden era of Hungarian football in the 1950s was relatively short-lived. The team's peak came at the 1954 FIFA World Cup, where they reached



the final but were narrowly defeated by West Germany. Nevertheless, their legacy lives on as a testament to the power of skill, innovation, and resilience in the face of adversity. The Hungarian football team of the 1950s remains an enduring symbol of excellence in the beautiful game.

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#### **4) Discussion**

- a) What are your thoughts on Hungary's team of the 1950s?
- b) Had you heard of any of the players mentioned in the article before?
- c) Why do you think this team is not as well known as other famous teams?

