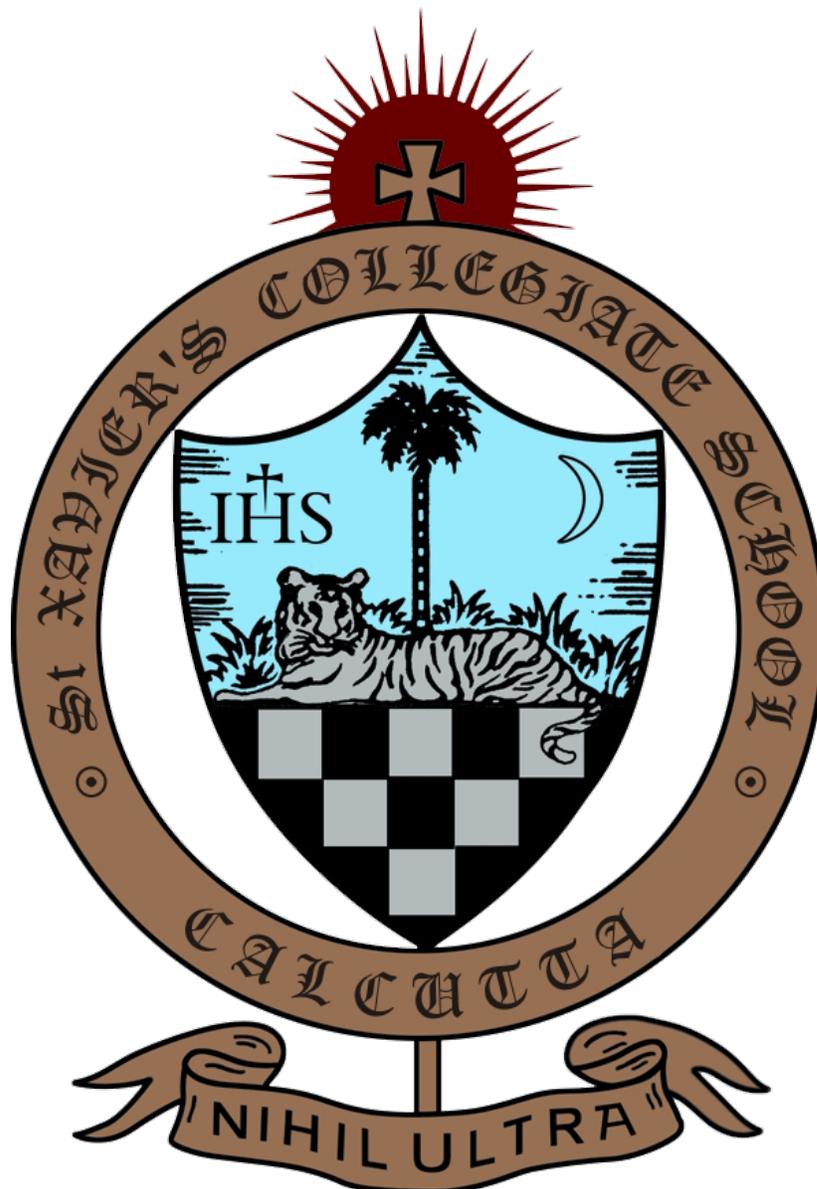


Nihil Ultra

The School Newsletter from the Writer's Club



The Fifa World Cup

The Festival of the World, the 2018 Fifa world cup was held in Russia. Enthralling matchmaking and unexpected outcomes characterized this year's championship. Let's find out what Xaverians have to say about this event.

The World Cup is finally over, and while this 2018 edition will be remembered primarily for the fall of all the superpowers - Brazil, Germany, Argentina and Spain at early stages, there are some lessons to be learnt from this tournament for all of us.

LESSONS THAT THE WORLD CUP TAUGHT US

Super-achievers also need support

Stars also need the support, skills, training and resources to become super-achievers. Messi was unable to do anything as there was hardly any support for him from other Argentina players.

Teamwork is important

It is far better to work in a team with others than to try to do everything by yourself.

Keep in mind the vision and mission

Always focus on the end result. What you have set out to do and how you plan to do it.

Don't fake and whine

Faking problems and unnecessarily complaining about them will not help. You will only lose respect. Neymar was an example where his antics were noticed during replays.

Be gracious in defeat and win hearts

You can't always be a winner, so be gracious when you lose. Take it as part of the cycle or spiral of life and recoup to fight another day. Identify the real causes of defeat and plug those gaps. Japanese players, support staff and even supporters used to clean up their respective areas, thereby getting praises after every match, irrespective of whether they won or lost.

Look at the broader ecosystem

You are only a part of a larger ecosystem, shaped by society. Always try to re-position yourself as per the needs. England team's transformation within a period of less than one year was phenomenal.

Learn from your mistakes

Mistakes are inevitable, they are a part of human nature and bad luck. So learn from your mistakes and don't repeat them, treat them as a new form of learning or a source

for next practices. Argentina did not learn from its mistakes in the first two matches and paid the price.

Learn from others' mistakes

Mistakes are costly, so keep an eye on others mistakes. There's a lot to learn from the mistakes of others. France learnt well from watching other team's matches and changed its strategy accordingly.

Be prepared for the long haul

Success is short-lived, and you have to plan to achieve success in the long run. Croatia eventually lost because they had played three matches of 120 minutes before the final, and had one less rest day than France. They were just too tired for a final push.

Purav Madia
Class 7A
Roll No. 24

THE FIGHT FOR GLORY

Four Years after Germany lifted the trophy in 2014, the football fans were back to square one and the world stood still as 32 nations fought for glory and the players from the respective teams ran up and down the 120 metre long field chasing after the football, clashing, but not faltering. Each Individual in the respective squad carries not only immense responsibility on their shoulders but also a lot of respect.

It all started all over again for the 21st time on the 14th of June with the group stage matches. Arguably, the most balanced groups in the history of the world cup witnessed some of the most unpredictable setbacks. The Champions' curse which was carried by Spain in 2014 set its eyes on the German National Football team this year as they faced an astonishing elimination in the group stage matches after being bullied by South Korea at the face of a 2- 0 defeat. The legendary Argentine Team found the extra bit of luck as they somehow managed to escape elimination, thanks to Croatia that they absolutely demolished the Icelandic football team to give the Argentines a leeway. However, luck couldn't carry them any further as they faced crushing defeat at the hands of the French who proved European superiority with all their might.

As the teams progressed through the different stages of the competition certain teams proved to the audience that in order to stand out they have to be outstanding. The Belgium National Football team appalled the world as they escaped a 2-0 defeat by scoring thrice in the last three minutes against Japanese, proving that dedication is just an ingredient to success and no matter how much one might argue against it, physical superiority by virtue of inheritance always plays a role in such conflicts.

The finals were much anticipated but it failed to satisfy the viewers and in simplest terms was a bland one sided conflict where the French National team casually over powered their immediate neighbours, the Belgians. The Croatian National team lost to the French in the Semis though their captain went on to win the golden ball. The French National Team triumphed over all other nations and their glory shadowed the hard work of their opponents. However, football isn't a means to assert dominance. It is the way to make peace and spread love. As we wait for the return of this international festival, the teams who couldn't succeed will work harder and the team that did, well, kudos to them!

Srimon Bose
Class 8C

STOPPAGE TIME

It happens once every four years, 32 countries, 736 players and millions of fans. That is the World Cup, thirty-two nations will come together as one to support their country, tears will be shed, hearts will be broken, and spirits will be lifted as the nations battle it out for the trophy. The World Cup is truly the biggest sporting event in the world.

The 2018 FIFA World Cup was the 21st FIFA World Cup, an international football tournament contested by the men's national teams of the member associations of FIFA once every four years. It took place in Russia from 14 June to 15 July 2018. It was the first World Cup to be held in Eastern Europe, and the 11th time that it had been held in Europe. At an estimated cost of over \$14.2 billion, it was the most expensive World Cup. It was also the first World Cup to use the video assistant referee (VAR) system.

The finals involved 32 teams, of which 31 came through qualifying competitions, while the host nation qualified automatically. Of the 32 teams, 20 had also appeared in the previous tournament in 2014, while both Iceland and Panama made their first

appearances at a FIFA World Cup. A total of 64 matches were played in 12 venues across 11 cities.

The final took place on 15 July at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, between France and Croatia. France won the match 4–2 to claim their second World Cup title, marking the fourth consecutive title won by a European team.

Attiksh Ansool Panda

FIFA WORLD CUP 2018

The world of today is a diverse place, filled with walls that divide people on the basis of narrow considerations. However, history has seen people uniting together at times of crisis and those of global importance. And one such "crisis" is the FIFA World Cup- the most prestigious month-long international soccer meet that takes place once every four years. Surprised to read that I am calling this tournament a "crisis" ? Well, I will be coming to it in some time.

The 2018 World Cup saw an incredible celebration of the world's most popular sport, delivering a daily dose of thrilling goals, saves, comebacks, triumphs and heartbreaks. The 21st edition of this esteemed meet comprised 32 countries, while a total of 64 matches were played in 12 venues across 11 cities of Russia. The tournament kicked off on the 14th of June at Moscow, with Russia locking horns with Saudi Arabia. Since then, each day passed by with showcases of great temperament, zeal and frequent nerve-crackers. Each morning, the dailies would be filled with statistics of records being broken and new ones established, and the thrill went on ceaselessly till the late hours of the 15th of July, when France defeated the highly spirited Croatia by a margin of 4-2 to lift the coveted trophy.

Indeed, this tournament was a spectacle to witness. The world was treated with a total 169 goals- the highest till date in the history of FIFA. The 45 knockout stage goals, 12 own goals and 10 game-winners scored after the 90th minute were each all-time highs. Penalty kicks were awarded more frequently than ever before, with 29 given and 22 converted. The increase was undoubtedly spurred by the introduction of "Video Assistant Referee" technology.

The World Cup was full of great games to watch, but a few in particular, which will be talked about for years to come, need to be mentioned. The very second day saw a thrilling 3-3 draw between Spain and Portugal, with Ronaldo scoring the equaliser in the dying minutes. France's nail-biting 4-3 win over Argentina in the first round kick-started the

momentum for their title run, with Benjamin Pavard scoring one of the most spectacular goals in World Cup history to snatch off a victory. Among the four matches that were decided by penalty shootouts, special mention is needed for Russia's stunning victory over Spain in the 'Round of 16'.

Now coming to my comment at the very beginning: "Crisis". Yes, indeed the event was full of crisis. Bizzares. A bizzare of expectations. A bizzare of bruises. A bizzare of dreams, both cherished and failed ones. Major upsets were in stock for the viewers, that contributed great disappointment and frustration amongst the fans. The crores of football fanatics who switched on their television sets every day hoping to witness scores from the likes of Messi and Neymar were in for a complete shock. The young generation who were ready with their mobile phones to post online updates about the performances of the countries they support- primarily those for Spain, Argentina and Germany, witnessed the worst nightmare ever- the "titans" making early exits from the clash. Social media was flooded with "expert" comments from soccer 'pundits' all around the globe regarding the future of the stalwarts of the game. The underdogs such as Japan and Belgium showed great temperament in their performances and gained praise from all. However, above all pains, the world also witnessed the meteoric rise of a team that was, by far, never expected to even qualify for the quarter-finals: Croatia. In fact, the Croats were a surprise package for all. Their consistency with the ball and the scoring boards won over the hearts of all football lovers. Their attack was spearheaded by Luke Modrić, who went on to win the "Golden Ball" (award for the most outstanding player). Their quarter-final clash against the hosts was an epitome of their performance in this World Cup. Though they finished runners-up, the 2018 World Cup shall always be remembered for the jitty spirit and determinism shown by this nation, who started off as mere underdogs but finished as winners...perhaps not of the tournament, but certainly of the hearts of people all over the globe. Epic.

Thus, it is needless to say that FIFA World Cup 2018 was a fabulous and spectacular sporting event with heavy doses of adrenaline rush. The world will now wait more than four years for the next men's World Cup, which will take place in the winter of 2022 because of the extreme summer heat in the host nation, Qatar.

Soumitri Chatterjee
Class 12B

St. Xavier's has for the longest time been a beacon of happiness and radiance. The House system has been dedicated to our Patron Saints. The Feast of St. Aloysius is celebrated in our school as the Gonzaga house day.

BEING A GONZAGA HOUSE BOY

It's been 8 years, eight whole years since I first put my hands on that size XS green vest. Little did I know that I won't even realise when the XS will turn into a L. Very few things in life give us more pride than being a Xaverian. And even fewer things make us prouder than to have been a part of Gonzaga house.

As a custom, every year, on the 21st of June, we celebrate Gonzaga house day, in the loving memory of our dear patron saint, St. Aloysius of Gonzaga. Every year's assembly is organised in a certain format. The captain of our house starts the proceedings by giving us a short introduction to our beloved patron. Swarup didn't disappoint us at all with his charisma on stage as our Captain-o-Captain. He was followed by Vaibhav Arora, our vice-captain, who enlightened us further about the life of St. Aloysius Gonzaga. This is more or less the same speech that is given every year in the house assembly, yet, every time we hear it, it's as if we had time travelled back to class 5. We felt like the clueless little kids, standing in front of the stage in the gymnasium of our primary school, where for the very first time, we had heard about our patron saint, from our then house teacher, Mr. Peter Hailey. Those memories come rushing back to us as little kids who didn't know what it actually meant to be a part of this green family. Talking about what it means to be a part of this great family, my friend Digvijay and I myself were chose to deliver this "great" speech. Only then did realisation hit us that this was where we start with our goodbyes, this is where we prepare for a life outside that of Gonzaga, a life that will never be the same shade of green. Scared as I may have been about my speech, I soon realised that I didn't have many facts to state there. It was all about emotions, all about my family, about our family. Trust me, 8 years is not a short time, however fast may it seem to pass by. Memories, good and bad, feelings, happy and sad, came flooding to us. To limit them were impossible. However, as we had a time constraint, we both had to limit our speech to 5 minutes. Moving on we had Sayanho, who delighted us with an amazing solo performance with the violin. It was a self-composed raaga, dedicated to St. Aloysius, which symbolised the purity of heart of our great patron.

We will have uncountable more house days to come where other boys will uphold this house and its virtues. However, to be a part of this last assembly for me was more than words can ever explain. To be very honest, even fifty years down the line I doubt I'll ever be able to truly answer what is actually means to be a Gonzaga house.

Ayush Maiti
Class 12 B