What Are the 10 Rare Football Records Most Fans Don't Know About?

Football history is full of unforgettable goals, dramatic comebacks and extraordinary performances. While most fans know about major achievements such as the FIFA World Cup and record-breaking goal scorers, the sport also has several unusual records that receive far less attention. Some involve incredible scorelines, while others highlight remarkable individual performances and unexpected moments.

This blog explores 10 rare football records that reveal a different side of the beautiful game. From historic international results to extraordinary individual achievements, these records show just how unpredictable football can be.



1. Australia Won an International Match 31–0

One of the most extraordinary results in international football took place on 11 April 2001. Australia defeated American Samoa by an incredible 31–0 scoreline during a FIFA World Cup qualifying match.

The result remains the highest-scoring international football match recognised by Guinness World Records. Australian striker Archie Thompson contributed 13 goals, setting another remarkable record for the most goals scored by one player in a men's senior international match.

The match is a reminder of how unusual circumstances and differences in team experience can produce results that are difficult to imagine in modern international football.

2. Damian Mori Scored a Goal in Just 3.69 Seconds

A goal can change a match in an instant, but Damian Mori managed to score almost immediately after kick-off. On 6 December 1995, he found the net after just 3.69 seconds for Adelaide City against Sydney United.

According to Guinness World Records, this is the fastest goal in a men's top-flight football match. Mori spotted the opposing goalkeeper away from his line and attempted a shot from around halfway.

The achievement demonstrates how awareness, quick decision-making and an unexpected attempt can create a historic football moment before the opposition has time to settle.

3. Hakan Şükür Scored the Fastest World Cup Goal

The FIFA World Cup has produced countless memorable goals, but few arrived as quickly as Hakan Şükür's strike in 2002.

During the third-place play-off between Turkey and South Korea on 29 June 2002, Şükür scored after only 11 seconds. This remains the fastest goal in a FIFA World Cup finals match.

Turkey eventually won the match 3–2, finishing the tournament in third place. Şükür's early strike became a major part of World Cup history and showed how quickly a high-pressure international match can change.

4. Tom King Scored a Goal From 96.01 Metres

Goalkeepers usually make headlines for preventing goals, but Newport County goalkeeper Tom King created a different kind of football history.

On 19 January 2021, King scored against Cheltenham Town with a goal kick that travelled an astonishing 96.01 metres before entering the opposition net. Guinness World Records recognised it as the longest goal scored in a competitive football match.

The ball bounced near the opposition penalty area before carrying over the opposing goalkeeper. Wind conditions played a role in the unusual goal, making it an especially memorable moment.

5. Just Fontaine Scored 13 Goals in One World Cup

Scoring goals consistently at the FIFA World Cup is a major challenge, but French forward Just Fontaine produced an extraordinary performance in the 1958 tournament.

Fontaine scored 13 goals across six matches, setting the record for the most goals by an individual player in a single men's FIFA World Cup edition.

His performances helped France reach the semi-finals, where they eventually lost to Brazil. Fontaine's record has stood for decades, despite several generations of outstanding forwards competing at the tournament.

6. Oleg Salenko Scored Five Goals in a Single World Cup Match

Scoring a hat-trick is considered a special achievement, but Oleg Salenko went even further during the 1994 FIFA World Cup.

Representing Russia against Cameroon, Salenko scored five goals in a single group-stage match. Russia won the game 6–1, and his performance established the record for the most goals scored by one player in a men's World Cup match.

What makes the achievement even more unusual is that Russia did not progress beyond the group stage. Salenko still shared the tournament's Golden Boot after finishing with six goals.

7. Pelé Became the Youngest Men's World Cup Goalscorer

Pelé made football history at a remarkably young age. During the 1958 FIFA World Cup in Sweden, he scored against Wales in the quarter-final at just 17 years and 239 days old.

This made him the youngest goalscorer in men's World Cup history, a record that remains one of the tournament's most recognised achievements.

Pelé went on to score twice in the final against Sweden, helping Brazil secure its first World Cup title. His early success marked the beginning of a legendary international career.

8. Roger Milla Became the Oldest Men's World Cup Goalscorer

While Pelé's record highlights the achievements of a young player, Roger Milla demonstrated that age does not necessarily limit footballing ability.

Milla scored for Cameroon against Russia at the 1994 FIFA World Cup when he was 42 years and 39 days old. This made him the oldest goalscorer in men's World Cup history.

His goal was especially memorable because Milla had already become a fan favourite during the 1990 tournament. His performances helped establish him as one of Africa's most recognisable football figures.

9. Walter Zenga Went 517 Minutes Without Conceding a World Cup Goal

Goalkeepers are often judged by their ability to maintain concentration and prevent opponents from scoring. Italian goalkeeper Walter Zenga delivered an exceptional performance during the 1990 FIFA World Cup.

Zenga remained unbeaten for 517 consecutive minutes without conceding a goal during the tournament. His impressive run ended in the semi-final against Argentina, when Claudio Caniggia scored.

Italy eventually finished third after defeating England in the play-off. Zenga's achievement remains one of the standout defensive records in World Cup history.

10. László Kiss Scored a World Cup Hat-Trick in Seven Minutes

A hat-trick is an impressive achievement in any football match, but scoring three goals within a few minutes makes it even more remarkable.

Hungary's László Kiss scored three times against El Salvador during the 1982 FIFA World Cup. His goals came in the 69th, 72nd and 76th minutes, giving him a hat-trick in approximately seven minutes.

Hungary won the match 10–1, making it one of the highest-scoring games in men's World Cup history. Kiss's quick sequence of goals remains a notable example of how rapidly a match can turn into a one-sided contest.

Why Are Rare Football Records So Interesting?

Football records help preserve the most extraordinary moments in the sport's history. Some achievements come from exceptional individual talent, while others are shaped by match conditions, tactical decisions and unexpected opportunities.

Records such as Tom King's long-distance goal and Hakan Şükür's 11-second World Cup strike demonstrate the unpredictable nature of football. Meanwhile, performances by Pelé, Roger Milla and Just Fontaine highlight how players from different generations have left their mark on the game.

For fans who enjoy reading about football history, player achievements, tournament performances and match statistics, following reliable sports coverage can make the experience even more engaging. **Cricash** also offers sports-related articles covering football, cricket and other interesting topics.

Conclusion

Football history is not limited to championship victories and famous rivalries. The sport's record books contain unusual achievements that deserve attention, from extraordinary scoring performances to remarkable goalkeeping milestones.

These 10 rare football records show the variety of moments that make the game special. Some may remain untouched for generations, while others could eventually be challenged by a new group of talented players. Either way, they offer fans another reason to explore the fascinating history of football.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the highest-scoring international football match?

Australia's 31–0 victory over American Samoa on 11 April 2001 is recognised by Guinness World Records as the highest-scoring international football match.

2. Who scored the fastest goal in a FIFA World Cup match?

Hakan Şükür of Turkey scored the fastest goal in a men's FIFA World Cup finals match, finding the net after 11 seconds against South Korea in 2002.

3. Who scored the most goals in a single FIFA World Cup tournament?

France's Just Fontaine holds the record with 13 goals during the 1958 FIFA World Cup.

4. Who is the youngest goalscorer in men's FIFA World Cup history?

Pelé holds the record after scoring against Wales in 1958 at the age of 17 years and 239 days.

5. Who scored the longest goal in a competitive football match?

Newport County goalkeeper Tom King scored a 96.01-metre goal against Cheltenham Town in January 2021, according to Guinness World Records.