

## soccer stars/ football stars

Every four years a very unique fever grabs young (and older), mainly male, but more and more female people. With fire in their eyes they storm the kiosks of the world, buying overpriced packs of three small stickers and attempt to fill up quite plainly laid-out albums.

What with? – With little football pictures of course.

The firm that earns a shameful amount of money every four years with the World Cup and age-old tradition of collecting is called Panini. Most people are more than convinced that the Panini firm doesn't print the same amount of stickers for all players. The firm itself furiously denies these claims every four years but all those who ever searched for Johann Cruyff in 1974 or Diego Armando Maradona in 1986 plus Ronaldo & Zidane in 1998 (not forgetting darling David Beckham too) are quite sure that they've been lied to.

This wrong-doing can't even be put right by Fumetto, of course not, Fumetto can't even fill up the incomplete albums from days gone by. Fumetto can put another project into the spotlight though with a lovely exhibition, which hopefully will become a serious competitor for the Italian firm in this 2006 World Cup year: "Soccer Stars".

The illustrator Kai Jerzö (born 1971 in Zürich) organised 50 illustrators from 17 countries to draw portraits and caricatures of the 60 national teams that took part in the World Cup between 1930 and 2006. He received around 800 pictures (from which 100 originals will be on display at Fumetto) and, just like the spirit of Panini stickers, they can be collected and stuck into a fat collector's book. The stickers themselves though aren't bought in little packs like the commercial version, but can be acquired singly by the fan or collector. (It's definitely worth buying certain stickers more than once - let's face it, the most fun is had wheeling and dealing, swapping stickers and chatting about the game itself.)

ausstellungspartner