

# FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking

## Twin triumph for Spain

**A first in the history of the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking: by winning EURO 2008, Spain not only reigned supreme at the top of the ranking last year but also took the crown for Best Mover of the Year.**

Once again, a new record was set for "A" international matches in 2008, with 1,060 meetings in the men's game and 364 in the women's, thus creating an ideal environment for meaningful world rankings. Indeed, the men's total fell just short of the record of 1,065 matches set in 2004. These impressive figures were boosted both by the start of the qualifying matches for the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ around the world (425 matches) and also by the many friendly matches played by the men's (533) and women's teams (192).

### Argentina toppled

Leadership of the men's ranking changed hands six times in 2007, but in 2008 there was only one change at the top when, thanks to their victory at EURO 2008, Spain succeeded in ousting Argentina from top spot after the latter's nine-month reign. The Spaniards thus became only the sixth team to lead the world ranking since it was introduced in 1993, following in the footsteps of Germany, Brazil, France, Italy and Argentina. The Iberians' record in 2008 was outstanding: 16 wins from 16 matches, including one on penalties.

In the FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking, Germany did not end the year on top for once. The USA took pole position even before their victory at the Beijing Olympics and consigned the Germans to second spot. The USA's 34 victories from 36 matches (including one win on penalties) spoke volumes for their dominance. The two most valuable matches in

The Teams of the Year in the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking: Spain (left) and the USA (right).

