

# American soccer needs color infusion

By Kenneth J. Cooper  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The United States has won more Olympic medals than any other country since the modern games started a century ago — almost twice as many as its closest competitor, the late Soviet Union. In another international athletic competition held every four years, though, the United States has not fared nearly as well in soccer's World Cup.

The early elimination of the best American team ever from the 18th World Cup tournament, still underway in Germany, has sports commentators bantering about what went wrong. How badly did it go? All you need to know is the U.S. team did no better than Trinidad and Tobago, a two-island nation of 1.3 million making its first appearance in the finals, in tying one game and losing two in the first round.

Poor coaching strategy, the underachieving of individual players, a mix of professionals from different leagues, unfair placement in a group of four tough teams and the relatively low level of pre-tourney competition have all been blamed.

However, none of those reasons quite explains why no squad fielded by one of the world's most populous and athletically dominant countries has ever made it to the championship game, even more than a decade after youth soccer leagues began priming young talent. You have to look more deeply at the evolution of both the sport and the competition at what is the most-watched athletic competition on the planet.

Unlike the nearly monochromatic Winter Olympics, you can see the color of the world at the World Cup. Every populated continent, except single-country Australia, is guaranteed berths in the 32-team tournament. Europe gets the most because of a high number of quality teams, drawn from the continent's professional leagues, which are the world's best. North America, South America, Asia and Africa are always represented.

Many commentators have observed that most teams reflect continental or even national styles of play.

The Europeans tend to be methodical and rough, exemplified by the strapping, rugged Teutons fielded by Germany. African teams are fast and physical. Latins, rhythmic with fancy footwork.

What, then, is the distinctive American style? There

isn't one.

The American squad would do better with a style of its own, especially if it resembles the improvisational approach adopted by most teams in the New World.

To pull it off, the team would need more African-Americans and Latinos, including immigrants. There aren't enough players from either minority group on the current team. A Latin American coach would be a good idea, too.

The 2006 squad recalls memories of the NBA in its formative decades, when players on all-White teams ambled up the court and passed the ball around until someone took a set shot or eventually got open for a lay up. The arrival of Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Elgin Baylor, Oscar Robertson and other Black players transformed pro basketball into a faster, more creative game, literally played at a higher level.

Other soccer-playing nations have figured out the value of Black players. Pelé,

the Afro-Brazilian, is regarded as the best player ever, and Ronaldo and Ronaldinho, his most talented successors on Brazil's 2006 team, obviously have some African ancestry. So too do two top players for France, which plays with more finesse than most European teams.

Even Sweden and Japan, neither known for social diversity, get it. The Swedes started a Black player of Cape Verdean ancestry, and

the Japanese squad featured a Brazilian who appears to have some African blood in his racial mix. Ecuador's starting 11 even looked more pepper than ginger, modern evidence of slavery in Spain's former colony.

More African-Americans and Latinos on the U.S. squad could create the athletic equivalent of the cultural blend heard in the musical beats of salsa, meringue, reggae and Afro-Cuban jazz.

That's not to say White players need not apply. Anyone can play jazz, and anyone could race up and down the field in tune with an Afro-Latin rhythm that flows and riffs its way into the goal. That style of play could take

the world's only superpower to the next level in the World Cup and, to boot, make the team much more interesting to watch.

*Kenneth J. Cooper is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who lives in Boston.*



## HOUSING AUTHORITY CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

5390 EAST FLAMINGO ROAD • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89122-5335  
PHONE (702) 451-8041 • FAX (702) 922-1626

### ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES QUALIFICATIONS-BASED SELECTION SOLICITATION (QBS) # 6179-0036

The Housing Authority of the County of Clark (HACC) is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms and/or individuals for architectural/engineering services. Respondents to this solicitation must have documented experience in providing architectural and engineering services to governmental agencies that have similar needs, or have housing inventory or developments similar to the properties represented in HACC's portfolio.

Submission of costs and/or fee schedules by Respondent will deem Respondent's proposal non-responsive, and ineligible to proceed to the review committee for project consideration.

A pre-proposal conference meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 10, 2006 at 1:30 PM** at Housing Authority Clark County, 5390 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89122, at which time the QBS documents, scope of services, and specifications will be discussed.

Responses to this solicitation will be received by HACC until **1:30 PM** local time on **Tuesday, August 8, 2006**. No late proposals will be accepted.

Respondents to this solicitation must have documented experience of comparable work similar to IFB requirements. Minority- and women-owned businesses are encouraged to respond.

Contact the Contracts Administration Department at 922-1624 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, for an QBS package. All QBS documents are also available online at [www.haccnv.org](http://www.haccnv.org) in Portable Document Format (PDF).  
Published Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — July 6, 2006



## HOUSING AUTHORITY CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

5390 EAST FLAMINGO ROAD • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89122-5335  
PHONE (702) 451-8041 • FAX (702) 922-1626

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) ENERGY AUDIT RFP # 6174-0035

The Housing Authority of the County of Clark (HACC) is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms and/or individuals for the provision of conducting an energy audit to the agency's public housing units, the locations of which are detailed within the RFP.

The energy audits will be conducted in accordance with all applicable U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations and guidelines. Respondents to this solicitation must have documented experience in performing energy audits, and be familiar with HUD regulations and guidelines. Firms and/or individuals who have experience in serving the needs of public housing authorities are preferred.

Proposals marked "Energy Audit - RFP # 6174-0035" will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Housing Authority of the County of Clark (HACC), 5390 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89122, in accordance with the RFP solicitation, at which time all proposals properly received will be tabulated, analyzed, and a recommendation for Award of Contract will be made.

Responses to this solicitation will be received by HACC until **2:00 PM** local time on **August 8, 2006**. No late proposals will be accepted. Disadvantaged-, minority-, and women-owned businesses are encouraged to respond.

Contact the Contracts Administration Department at 922-1624 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, for a RFP package. All RFP documents are also available on the HACC website at [www.haccnv.org](http://www.haccnv.org) in Portable Document Format (PDF).  
Published Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — July 6, 2006



## HOUSING AUTHORITY CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

5390 EAST FLAMINGO ROAD • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89122-5335  
PHONE (702) 451-8041 • FAX (702) 922-1626

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) HAMPTON COURT Clusters 7, 8, 9, 10

### Roof Replacement, Fascia Repair & Landing Repair/Replacement IFB #: B6179-0037

Invitations marked "IFB Hampton Court - Roof Replacement (IFB# 6179-0037)" will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Housing Authority of the County of Clark (HACC), 5390 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89122, in accordance with the RFP solicitation.

HACC is requesting sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms and/or individuals for roof replacement to Clusters 7, 8, 9, 10 of the Hampton Court development, located at 1030 Center Street, Henderson, Nevada 89015. Bidders to this solicitation must have documented experience of comparable work similar to the property listed above.

A pre-proposal conference meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 11, 2006 at 9:00 AM** at Hampton Court, located at 1030 Center Street, Henderson, Nevada 89015, at which time the IFB documents, scope of services, and specifications will be discussed. (Walk the job-site immediately following the meeting).

Responses to this solicitation will be received by HACC until **12:00 PM** local time on **August 8, 2006**. No late proposals will be accepted.

Respondents to this solicitation must have documented experience of comparable work similar to IFB requirements. Minority- and women-owned businesses are encouraged to respond.

Contact the Contracts Administration Department at 922-1623 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, for an IFB package. All IFB documents are also available online at [www.haccnv.org](http://www.haccnv.org) in Portable Document Format (PDF).  
Published Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — July 6, 2006

## • PUBLIC NOTICE •

### Public Hearing and Comment Period

### Las Vegas Resort Corridor Downtown Connector - Draft Environmental Assessment

The Las Vegas Resort Corridor Downtown Connector Project is proposed as a 3.8-mile rapid transit system that will provide an enhanced transit link between downtown Las Vegas and the southern resort corridor. The project will connect the Sahara Station of the Las Vegas Monorail system to the downtown area. Located in the City of Las Vegas and Clark County, the project will use rapid transit vehicles and include a dedicated transit lane along the majority of the route with nine passenger station locations.

#### Public Hearing:

4 - 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 19, 2006  
RTC Administration Building, Room 108  
600 S. Grand Central Pkwy • Las Vegas, NV 89106

#### Comment Period:

8 a.m., Monday, July 3, 2006 -  
5 p.m., Tuesday, August 1, 2006

The Draft Environmental Assessment will be available July 3, 2006 on the RTC Web site, at the RTC office or contact David Sheleheda at the address below. Send comments (postmarked by August 1, 2006) to:

Attn: David Sheleheda

Regional Transportation Commission  
600 S. Grand Central Pkwy, Ste. 350  
Las Vegas, NV 89106-4512

Questions: (702) 676-1500 ext. 1712  
TDD (702) 676-1834 • FAX (702) 676-1589  
[www.rtcnv.com](http://www.rtcnv.com)



## LEGAL NOTICES



### INVITATION FOR BID Bid Number: 07-1704

### PURCHASE OF STEEL BENCHES

Documents pertinent to this advertisement may be examined and obtained between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. To request a copy of bid documents call (702) 892-2950, or visit our website [purchasing.lvcva.com](http://purchasing.lvcva.com)

Las Vegas Convention and  
Visitors Authority  
Purchasing Department  
Room A203  
3150 Paradise Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

**Pre-Bid Conference:** Date/Time:  
9:00 A.M., JULY 18, 2006  
Location: SAME AS ABOVE

**Bid Opening:** Date/Time: 2:00  
P.M., JULY 31, 2006  
Location: SAME AS ABOVE

Sealed written bids must be received by the Purchasing Department, at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority Central Purchasing Office, Second Floor, Room 203A, on or until 2:00 PM, PST, JULY 31, 2006. Date/time stamps of 2:01 PM PST or later on JULY 31, 2006, will be rejected. Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud, immediately after the established closing time and date. Submittal by fax is not acceptable.

Note: This Invitation does not constitute an order for the goods or services specified. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the actual date of the bid opening.  
Published: Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice 07/06/06