

# WORLD CUP 2014: THE TALE OF TEETH AND FUTBOL

June 26th, 2014 By Jovel Johnson

---

## Luis Suarez takes a bite out of the World Cup

If you've been on the up and up with the 2014 World Cup happenings, you'll know that the tournament has totally turned upside down. Teams deemed dominant have been losing. Spain, the team that STILL holds the World Cup champion title (also UEFA champions) was recently sent packing, and former champion, Italy, is also joining them on the trip back home. Underestimated teams like Costa Rica, Mexico, Colombia, Ghana, and even Chile have been surprising everybody with stellar performances, while teams like Portugal, Argentina and England have been performing below par, even with world renowned players from each team (Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Wayne Rooney, respectively). It's a World Cup gone loco! And as the United States valiantly tries to fight its way out of the "group of death", Brazil, the Netherlands, and Germany have kept their reputations intact...for the time being anyway. And apparently there's a little time for some teeth baring.

## Full Contact Sport

Soccer (or football to the rest of the world) is one of the only sports where there is no protection for the players. They are bare (well, not BARE, they're wearing clothes...duh!) and have nothing that's going to protect them from the repercussions of wrongly placed kicks, flailing hands or well-meaning headers. There's a thin line between a foul and a normal tackle, and some tackles find players with minor to severe injuries. Think back on Germany's Muller's bleeding face and Ghana's Boye's injured shoulder after **their collision** right before the ending whistle in their equalizing match (the end result was 2-2).



*Suarez is captured biting Italian player, Giorgio Chiellini on the shoulder. (mirror.co.uk)*

But I don't think any contact really compares to teeth on skin. Yes, I said teeth on skin (or teeth through shirt). Under normal circumstances teeth shouldn't be in play during a soccer match. Never. But don't tell that to Uruguay's Luis Suarez who for some reason thinks it's regular behavior to bite an opposing player, especially during the game. During the deciding match between Uruguay and Italy, Suarez decided to bite opposing team member, Giorgio Chiellini. Chiellini, baring the bite mark on his shoulder, desperately tried to get some kind of retribution for Suarez's infraction; however, his appeal to the referee fell on deaf ears. Did the referee see it? I don't know. At least, I don't think so. Judging from the video of the incident it DID happen, and if the referee saw it, it would have warranted a red card which would have thrown Suarez out of the game. But he wasn't reprimanded and kept on playing. A minute later, Uruguay scored a goal, sealing Italy's defeated state. They were sent home.

### **Bite Pattern**

Unbelievably, this isn't Suarez's first biting incident. It's his third. Yes, there were **two other times** he bared his teeth and bit into someone from an opposing team. The first "victim" was PSV Eindhoven midfielder Otman

Bakkal during a league match back in 2010. The incident was missed by the referee and Suarez went unpunished. That earned him the nickname “Cannibal of Ajax” in the Netherlands (he was playing for the Dutch club Ajax at the time).



*Branislav Ivanovic reacts to the bite from Suarez. (skysport.com)*

Bite number two happened three years later. At the time, he was playing for Liverpool, and during a game, he bit the arm of Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic. This time he was given a 10-match ban, one of the most severe punishments given out by the English Premier League. He later released a statement:

“I acknowledge that my actions were not acceptable on the football pitch.”

### **Results and Repercussions**

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee opened up an investigation against Suarez and **reached a decision** that has him banned from nine official matches and an additional ban of four months “from taking part in any kind of football related activity....” That’s a major blow to the Uruguayan team which depends on Suarez for results in their matches. He’s also ordered to pay a fine.

But the blows don’t stop there. It seems as soon as Suarez’s teeth left Chiellini’s shoulder, the Internet took the incident and ran with it. There were **memes galore** buzzing around the Internet, showing Suarez in different states

of appearance – the most popular look being him as a vampire. Goes to show that in this day and age, there is no room for a major slip up. You WILL get ‘memed’.



*"We're gonna need a bigger boat." (news.com.au)*

Talking heads offer their take on the whole situation, condemning the media and wider world for the treatment of the situation (memes and such), citing irresponsible and callous behavior towards a man who's clearly sick and needs help. With this second ban for biting, let's hope he'll get the proper help he needs. But he has to want it...and he'll have to get it if he wants to continue playing soccer.



## RECENT POSTS

- [FOX News Channels Return To DISH](#)
- [‘Resurrection’ Enters The Ominous](#)
- [12 Monkeys: TV’s Latest Time Travel Drama](#)
- [Samsung Galaxy A7: A Lean Metallic Machine](#)
- [DISH Unveils Sling TV At CES 2015](#)

## CATEGORIES

- [Shows And Movies](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Sports Re-Cap](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [TV](#)

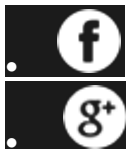
### ABOUT DISH

- [Order DISH Now](#)
- [Dish Deals](#)
- [Dish Ordering FAQs](#)
- [DISH Equipment](#)

### ABOUT US

- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Sitemap](#)

### CONNECT WITH US



DishTVSignup.com is an authorized contractor retailer of DISH Network L.L.C. DISH, DISH Network and DISH Network logos are registered trademarks and/or service marks of DISH Network L.L.C. and/or its affiliate(s). The DISH Network trademarks and/or service marks are used by authority of DISH Network L.L.C. and/or its applicable affiliate(s). [Click here for offer terms](#)

