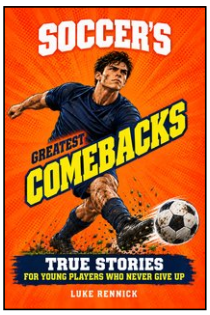
COMEBACK CARDS

A free bonus for Soccer's Greatest Comebacks by Luke Rennick



WHAT'S INSIDE

16 story cards, one for every story in Soccer's Greatest Comebacks, in book order. One of them, Pickles the dog, is a wild card. There is also a quick rules card and a blank card, so you can make a card for your own team's comeback.

HOW TO PRINT

Print pages 2 and 3 on card stock or thick paper, at actual size (100%), one side only. Black and white is fine. Cut along the gray lines around each card. A grown-up with a paper trimmer makes this much faster.

COMEBACK BATTLE (2 TO 4 PLAYERS)

1. Shuffle the 16 story cards and deal them all out, face down. Any spare cards go in the middle. Keep your pile face down and look only at your top card.
2. The youngest player goes first. Pick one of the three numbers on your top card and read it out: "Goals behind, 3!"
3. Everyone reads the number in the same spot on their own top card. The highest number wins the round. A bigger number means a bigger comeback, or a longer time ago.
4. The winner takes all the top cards, plus any cards in the middle. Before keeping them, the winner tells everyone one thing about the winning comeback. Stuck? Look it up on the page shown on the card.
5. A tie? Put the tied cards in the middle. The next winner takes them too.
6. Pickles is the wild card. When Pickles is your top card, you win the round, whatever number was picked.
7. The winner picks the number for the next round. Whoever has all the cards, or the most when time is up, wins the game.

TELL THE COMEBACK (ANY NUMBER OF PLAYERS)

Take a card from the pile without looking. Tell its comeback in 30 seconds, without the book. How far behind were they, and how did they get back? Everyone else checks the page. Get it right and keep the card.

ABOUT THE NUMBERS

Every card has three numbers, always in the same three spots. The first spot shows how deep the hole was. The second shows the fightback. The third is Years Ago, counted from 2026, the year this book came out. Most cards count goals. A few stories are about a whole season or a whole tournament, so their cards count something else the story tells you, like points or places in the table. The label says what it counts. Always compare the numbers in the same spot. Every number comes from the book.

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COMEBACK CARD 1



USA VS ALGERIA

World Cup group games, 2010

Pretoria, South Africa

2-0 down to Slovenia, then a winner against Algeria in stoppage time.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
2	3	16

Read the full story on page 6

COMEBACK CARD 2



LIVERPOOL VS AC MILAN

Champions League final, 2005

Istanbul, Turkey

3-0 down at halftime, 3-3 in about six minutes, then won on penalties.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
3	3	21

Read the full story on page 11

COMEBACK CARD 3



USA VS SPAIN

Confederations Cup semifinal, 2009

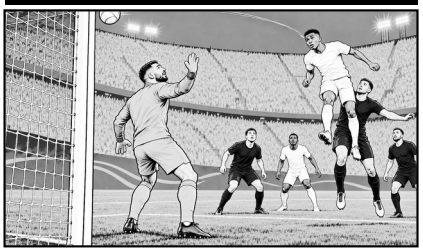
Bloemfontein, South Africa

Lost 3-0 to Brazil, beat Egypt 3-0, then beat Spain 2-0.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
3	5	17

Read the full story on page 16

COMEBACK CARD 4



REAL MADRID VS MANCHESTER CITY

Champions League semifinal, 2022

Madrid, Spain

5-3 down over two games at 90 minutes, then won 6-5.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
2	3	4

Read the full story on page 21

COMEBACK CARD 5



USA VS ENGLAND

World Cup, 1950

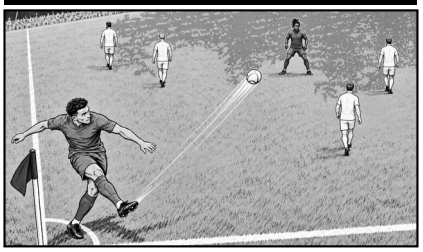
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Lost 3-1 to Spain, then a team of part-timers beat England 1-0.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
2	1	76

Read the full story on page 26

COMEBACK CARD 6



LIVERPOOL VS BARCELONA

Champions League semifinal, 2019

Liverpool, England

3-0 down after the first game, then won 4-0 at home.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
3	4	7

Read the full story on page 31

COMEBACK CARD 7



BARCELONA VS PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

Champions League, 2017

Barcelona, Spain

4-0 down after the first game, then won 6-1 with three late goals.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
4	6	9

Read the full story on page 36

COMEBACK CARD 8



MANCHESTER UNITED VS BAYERN MUNICH

Champions League final, 1999

Barcelona, Spain

1-0 down at 90 minutes, then two goals in stoppage time.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
1	2	27

Read the full story on page 41

COMEBACK CARD 9



MANCHESTER CITY VS QUEENS PARK RANGERS

Premier League, last day of the season, 2012

Manchester, England

2-1 down at 90 minutes, then won 3-2 at 93:20 to take the title.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
1	2	14

Read the full story on page 46

COMEBACK CARD 10



ARGENTINA'S WORLD CUP

World Cup, 2022

Lusail, Qatar

Lost the first game 2-1, then came out on top six times in a row.

GOALS BEHIND	GAMES WON AFTER	YEARS AGO
1	6	4

Read the full story on page 51

COMEBACK CARD 11



ICELAND VS ENGLAND

European Championship, round of 16, 2016

Nice, France

1-0 down after four minutes, then won 2-1.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
1	2	10

Read the full story on page 57

COMEBACK CARD 12



MOROCCO VS PORTUGAL

World Cup quarterfinal, 2022

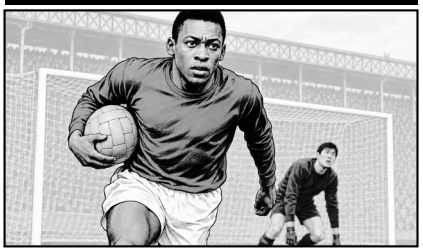
Doha, Qatar

Lost 1-0 to Portugal in 2018, then beat them 1-0 four years later.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
1	1	4

Read the full story on page 63

COMEBACK CARD 13



PORTUGAL VS NORTH KOREA

World Cup quarterfinal, 1966

Liverpool, England

3-0 down, then won 5-3. Eusébio scored four.

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
3	5	60

Read the full story on page 68

COMEBACK CARD 14



DENMARK VS GERMANY

European Championship final, 1992

Gothenburg, Sweden

Missed out by one point, got in late, then won the whole thing.

POINTS SHORT	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO
1	6	34

Read the full story on page 73

COMEBACK CARD 15



LEICESTER CITY

Premier League, 2015 to 2016

Leicester, England

Bottom of the league, then champions the next season.

POINTS FROM SAFETY	PLACES CLIMBED	YEARS AGO
7	19	10

Read the full story on page 79

WILD CARD



PICKLES THE DOG

The stolen World Cup trophy, 1966

South London, England

Wild card: when Pickles is your top card, you win the round.

DAYS MISSING	RANSOM IN POUNDS	YEARS AGO
7	15,000	60

Read the full story on page 84

QUICK RULES

COMEBACK BATTLE

2 to 4 players

1. Deal out all 16 story cards, face down.
2. Look only at your top card.
3. Pick a number on it and read it out.
4. Everyone reads the number in the same spot. Highest wins all the top cards.
5. Tell one thing about the winning comeback before you keep them.
6. A tie? Cards go in the middle. Next winner takes them.
7. Pickles wins any round he is on top.
8. Most cards at the end wins.

Full rules on page 1

YOUR COMEBACK

Draw your comeback here

Match: _____

Place and year: _____

What happened: _____

GOALS BEHIND	COMEBACK GOALS	YEARS AGO

Your team counts too