

FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2008

Manchester United crown their year

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter congratulates Wayne Rooney (Manchester United) on his team's victory.



A goal from Manchester United and England star Wayne Rooney was enough to decide the FIFA Club World Cup 2008 final against Liga Deportiva Universitaria de Quito. Gamba Osaka claimed third place ahead of CF Pachuca.

Rooney also found the back of the net twice in his team's spectacular 5-3 victory over Japanese giants Gamba Osaka in the semi-finals. Rooney's third goal in the competition ensured that he finished as top goalscorer and it also secured yet another trophy for his club in 2008. After triumphing in the English Premier League and the UEFA Champions League, Manchester United added the title of "club world champions" to their collection to crown a fabulous year.

The English champions did not have it all their own way against the Ecuadorian *Copa Libertadores* 2008 winners, however, and they even had to play most of the second half with ten men after Serbian defender Nemanja Vidic was sent off for elbowing Claudio Bieler. Gamba Osaka emulated Urawa Red Diamonds' 2007 showing by finishing in third place. Masato Yamazaki's spectacular strike in the match for third place secured victory for the AFC Champions League winners over Mexican side CF Pachuca. Adelaide United (Australia) claimed fifth place with a 1-0 victory over Al Ahly (Egypt), leaving Waitakere United of New Zealand in seventh and final place despite an impressive performance against Adelaide in the opening game. More than 355,000 fans – an average of 44,000 per game – flocked to the matches in Tokyo, Toyota and Yokohama, a clear indication of the ongoing popularity of the event.