

# FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup New Zealand 2008 – Korea DPR continue their winning streak



Julia Roberts (USA)  
tussles with Kim Uj  
(Korea DPR).

**Korea DPR won the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Russia in 2006. Two years on, they emulated that success by winning the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in New Zealand, coming out on top after a closely-fought final against the USA. Special praise is due to hosts New Zealand, with more than 200,000 spectators attending the matches.**

The USA and Germany have long been the two superpowers of women's football, but it seems they have now been joined by a third, at least at youth level. Following their victory at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in 2006, Korea DPR also carried off the inaugural FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in New Zealand. Once again, the North Koreans impressed with their

outstanding technique and formidable tactical prowess. The team did not display any weaknesses and was therefore a worthy winner of the competition. However, they only managed to overcome the USA in the final after extra time. The Americans, meanwhile, not only produced an outstanding performance on the pitch, but also impressed the 16,000 crowd with two great gestures – firstly, by forming a guard of honour for the victors, and secondly by unveiling a banner thanking their hosts New Zealand. The organisation and marketing of the tournament was indeed perfect and proved the New Zealanders' ability to host this World Cup successfully.

Another team to impress, alongside Korea DPR, was Japan, who reached the quarter-final and provided the best player of the tournament, playmaker Mana Iwabuchi. Germany, not unexpectedly, finished among the top three (bronze), while the South and Central American teams failed to record a single victory.

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