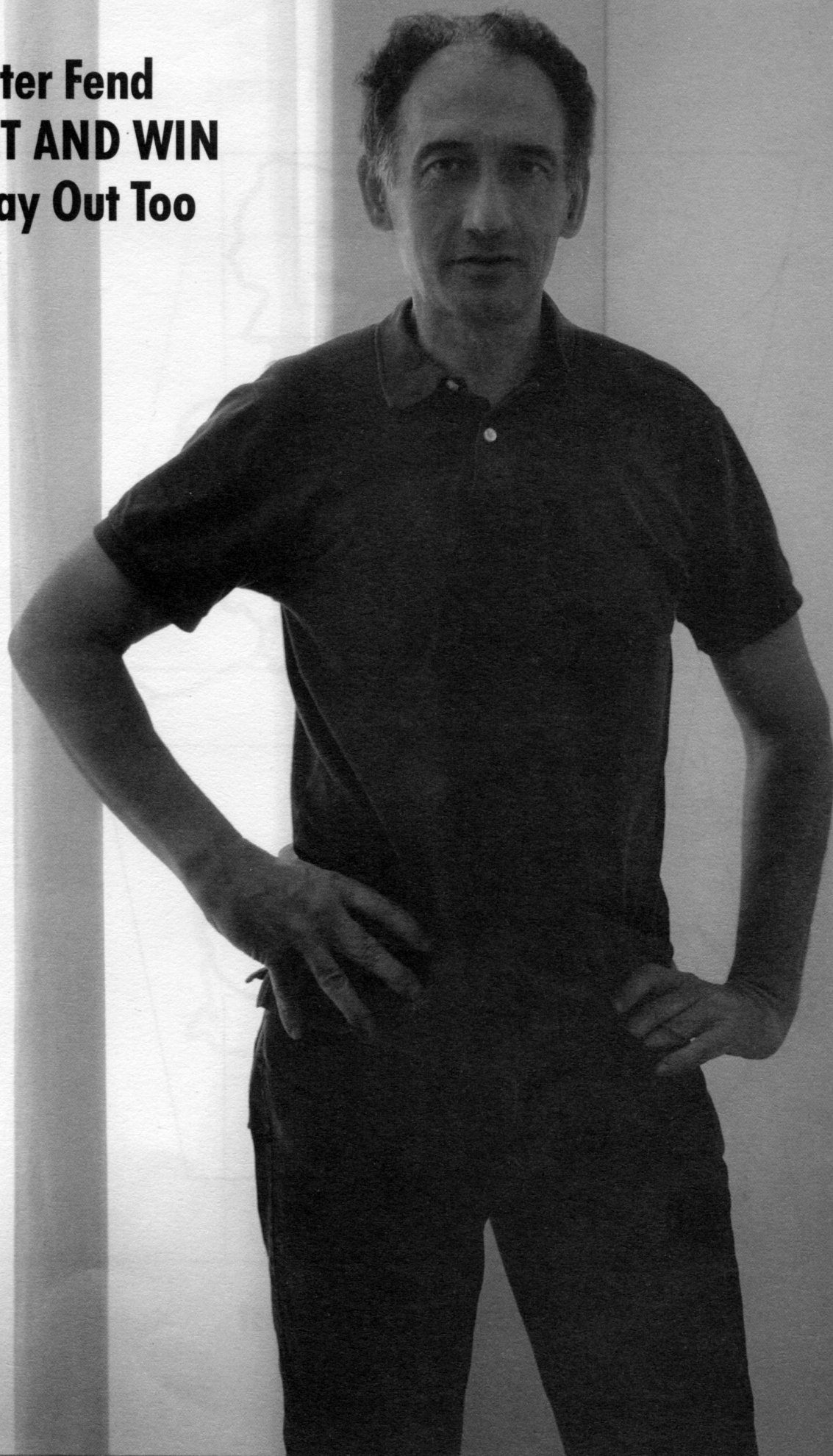


Peter Fend
BET AND WIN
Way Out Too



BET AND WIN

To gamble, go to The City.

To nuclear-gamble, visit Unit 2 (nearby).

Human beings often fight. It's in their nature. But while there is much talk of a "level playing field," or fair contest between near-equals, there has been little notice of the territory over which fights occur. That territory is usually oblong. It is not rectangular or square, but trapezoidal, with one end very wide, the other end narrow. The struggle for dominance in any such territory, defined as such and turned into an object of value, something worth fighting for, becomes a struggle between the narrow and wide ends.

To show this, we take a much-known field of play, the football field, and obey the FIFA regulations, in letter but not in spirit, to let one end be the minimum allowed 45 meters wide and the other end be the maximum allowed 90 meters wide. Then we superimpose on this new template the outlines of the named territories which people identify and, consequently, fight over. We do this for entities now identified, quite artificially, as Territory: Europe, The Americas, East Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, Africa, The Arctic, Korea. Every one of these areas has been a field of play in global geopolitics, often with nuclear arms at the ready, and every one of these areas has a narrow end and a wide end, with a consequent pattern of efforts from either end to become dominant.

For Europe, the football game is clear. The narrow end, under Napoleon or Hitler or, now, the "expanding" European Union, seeks also to enter the wide end, and it ends up, always, being over-extended and ultimately losing out. Whenever the struggle has reached catastrophe and someone, disgraced, surrenders, there is much inflated talk about harmony across great vistas, with phrases like "from the Atlantic to the Urals." But in the expanse "from the Atlantic," i.e., Portugal, "to the Urals," i.e., the edge of Siberia, unity has not been possible, and anyone attempting such is bound to be seen as a monster.

Witness what happens now as the European Union and NATO extend into the former Soviet bloc, only to find themselves submitting to a gas monopoly from Russia and, en bloc, Iran. George Bush can say this bloc, enforced by joint nuclear programs, could lead to a "World War III." But in saying that, he simply confirms that the West, or narrow end, might end up losing to the East, wide end, so that war may be the only way to avoid such a fate. Would a war succeed? The Germans found out in 1942-3 that overrunning France may be easy football, but a three-pronged attack to overrun Russia becomes tougher and tougher, at least because the field is getting wider and wider. There is also,

worrisome for the Bush team, another shift: just this month, German and Russian generals hold a conference in Berlin to discuss the threats to them both from the US anti-missile defenses being installed in between, in Poland and the Czech Republic. Advantage is shifting to wide end.

The wide-narrow game appears also in other well-labeled parts of the world. In the Americas, the insurgent Latins led by Chavez lead a movement along the eastern flank, from Argentina through Brazil and Venezuela on to Cuba and, given his "aid", New Orleans. But the powers to the north, the "Gringos," counter that movement with a consolidation of alliances along the western flank, from Costa Rica through Columbia to a disciplined Peru and Chile. Any attempt by the Gringos to control the entire trapezoid, as in Kennedy's "Alliance for Progress," meets with derision and grief. And any attempt at incursion from the south, albeit for social justice, be that from Che Guevera, Pancho Villa or Hugo Chavez, rouses a backlash from up north. Never shall the wide and narrow become one.

In East Asia, we see a chart of ebb and flow through the past century. For nearly half the century, Japan, at the wide end, pushed west, deep into China, but ultimately lost. Nowadays, Japan goes behind China to set up major investments and projects to the rear, in Uzbekistan. There, the field of play has narrowed to just the oil-rich fields around the Caspian and Aral Seas. A microcosm of this struggle appears on a peninsula, called Korea. The Government of China issues maps, even now, claiming that the peninsula is traditionally theirs. But 100 years ago, it was owned by a wide-end state, Japan. Elsewhere too, there exists a tension between the Chinese mainland, physically tied to the deserts in the narrow end, and something just a few miles beyond its coast, e.g., Taiwan. As long as there is a concept called East Asia, and as long as people are thinking laterally east and west, influence will be sliding back and forth. Even now, while China persists in holding Japan accountable for crimes on its soil, it also welcomes Japanese electronics plants.

In the middle of the field, as in football, occurs the greatest stress. The middle of Europe is Krakow, site of both Auschwitz and a resurgent Polish attempt to wall out both Russia and Germany, on either flank. The middle of Africa is the Congo, where order is maintained with outside, UN troops. The middle of East Asia is Chungking, which in World War II was the base for US-led action against Japan's incursions, and which now is a transition point between the poor west and wealthier east of China. The middle of the Americas is around Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo, where the US defeated Spain to gain a foothold here, and there that foothold remains, as a base for unseeable practices by the US. The middle of the Arabian Peninsula is now an anchor

for the region, but one newly-minted, only set there since 1932: Saudi Arabia. The British heroist Lawrence of Arabia claimed to try unifying all this under a pan-Arabian flag. He failed, he died, it never happened. Instead, now we have trans-border movements from Turkey, in the narrow north, as in Lawrence's day, and we have a shifting set of borders in the ever-wider south, called an Empty Quarter. Such occurs also in the middle of the Korean Peninsula, the militarised border between North and South. And it occurs now in the Arctic Ocean Basin: the US submarine-cruised to the North Pole in the 1950s, and how the Russians go one better, submarine cruising and then planting a flag on the sea floor. What next?

The battles go on. Nobody ever fully wins. Such is life. But both sides invariably try, and they have no choice but to try. Such is life. We may want to be angels, but we are stuck to our trapezoidal football fields. "Peace in our time," to quote Neville Chamberlain's silly promise, can never be achieved. For peace requires stasis, and the trapezoid entails flux.

Here are the game boards. Here are the fields of play. Gamble you must. Fight you must. Struggle you must. You can never fully win. But if you don't try to win, you will surely lose. Annihilation has happened before, a lot. It could happen again. Play hard, play to win, but beware that, in the end, every move deep into the other side's territory, the wide or the narrow, entails defeat.

Someday, perhaps, the game boards will change. Someday, perhaps, people will not think of "Europe" or "Americas" or, east of what?, "East Asia." But it does seem that whenever a territory has an existence in popular psychology, then it becomes a football field in popular psychology. And in football, we all know, no victory endures.

Way Out Too

Where Russian and US
giant submarine designs
finally get put to use.

Every dialectical process, every war, every struggle, has a thesis and an anti-thesis, or a protagonist versus antagonist, and normally, as history goes, something new results: a synthesis.

One can wait for the war to really happen, then see if a synthesis comes out, somewhat the way the United Nations eventually came out of World War II.



Two-Pole Exchange

Or one can start the synthesis ahead of schedule. The avant-garde is typically ahead of schedule. That is its job. And in this room, on the wall facing the hopelessly intractable playing fields of armed struggle, one can witness a way out, a pre-emptive synthesis, a combining of the thesis and antithesis in ways not yet known.

So, there is hope in this show.

We start in one part of the world, the pump which conveys seawater between the now-melting Arctic and the now-melting Antarctic. This pump is called the Atlantic Ocean. We add in the two poles because they are oceanically part of the Atlantic. And we add in the Humboldt, or Peru, current of west coast South America, because that too has a primary function in the Atlantic Ocean Basin: of bringing clouds due north, which then fall on the by-far biggest-volume river flows of the Atlantic and the world: the Amazon and Orinoco.

Then we propose to take advantage of the natural bio-productivity of this pump. We propose to harvest the natural surplus in its seawaters. We propose to do that with some of the most advanced marine technology yet developed: the wide-body submarines of Russia and the US (and UK) which normally are meant to be able to launch nuclear missiles anywhere in the world at any time.

We show not just a wish but a plan, and not just a plan but actions on the ground. We display the initiatives by artists from around the Atlantic Corridor: Inga Svala Thorsdottir, with a zero-emissions region around Reykavíjk; Katza Gardea Brown, with her community build-up actions in the basin of Mexico City, with renewable-fuel supply from the Gulf; Christophe Barlieb, with his prize-winning plans for solar self-reliance in North Africa; Marcello Eusepi, with a modular solar-power structure, slated for Libya, which can become massive; Ocean Earth, the pioneering artists firm, with projects to restore circulation and remove excess biomass in damaged sites like Jamaica Bay, NY and the coast of Louisiana.

Peter Fend, November 2007

PETER FEND

is the only person to have exhibited in Documenta and the Aperto of the Venice Biennale, along with other world-ranking venues like the Sharjah Biennial, who has also:

- published scientific papers presented in an international scientific conference
- produced two press conferences at the UN, invited by the United Nations Correspondents Association
- produced an official report for the US Congress, commissioned by its Office of Technology Assessment
- produced imagery appearing as lead foreign news items in The Sunday Times, The Observer, L'Express, Die Weltwoche, Vrij Nederland
- produced in-depth ecological analysis published in New Scientist, with other appearances published by the US Natural Resources Defense Council
- lectured on military analyses at the Royal United Services Institute, London, and the NY Military Affairs Society, US
- sold a videotape exhibited in an art gallery in New York to a major TV news company, which broadcasted it as news, not as art
- been expelled from a member state of the European Union, due to these activities
- produced a drawing of the similarity in borders between NY-NJ-PA-CT in the US and Iraq-Kuwait-Saudi Arabia-Iran in The Gulf, foreshadowing what occurred one year later, an invasion from the country targeted in 9/11 into Iraq, from Camp NY, Camp NJ and Camp Pennsylvania
- been told by the Iraqi Government in October 1987 that they could no longer trust the UN, and being told by an Iranian UN official in January 1991 that an attempt to sell to Iran the earthworks on offer in 1978, now in models at Galerie Hans Meyer in Düsseldorf, must be a form of "extortion."

Peter Fend is still alive.

He is 57, and even though he could have attended some Ivy League colleges, he stuck to his Midwestern and Central-European roots to attend Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota. Unlike most people, he took the word "commencement" literally, and attended no graduate school. Instead, he descended into the art world and worked five years in the Fulton Fish Market. He left when, to escape

being an informer for the Government, with the consequence of changing his name and face and working in Disneyland, he ran a story about his adventures in New York Magazine.

A Wall Street lawyer read this, recognised a boyhood friend, and helped him start a reality-directed business corporation for artists, called Ocean Earth Construction and Development Corporation, in 1980.

Meantime, there had also been a cover story on earth art for Flash Art (German version), an invitation by Joseph Beuys to do an ecological project in the Ruhr, the formation of The Offices of Fend, Fitzgibbon, Holzer, Nadin, Prince & Winters (which begot the term "White Columns" and aspired to solve world problems, even at the UN) and groundbreaking research for Gordon Matta-Clark on structures he was never able to build – but which remain on deck.

He's probably the only alleged artist, and possibly one of very few people, to be the subject of a fiction book in his own name. The fiction is a projection of what the author, an Austrian, would like to have been a Fend life.

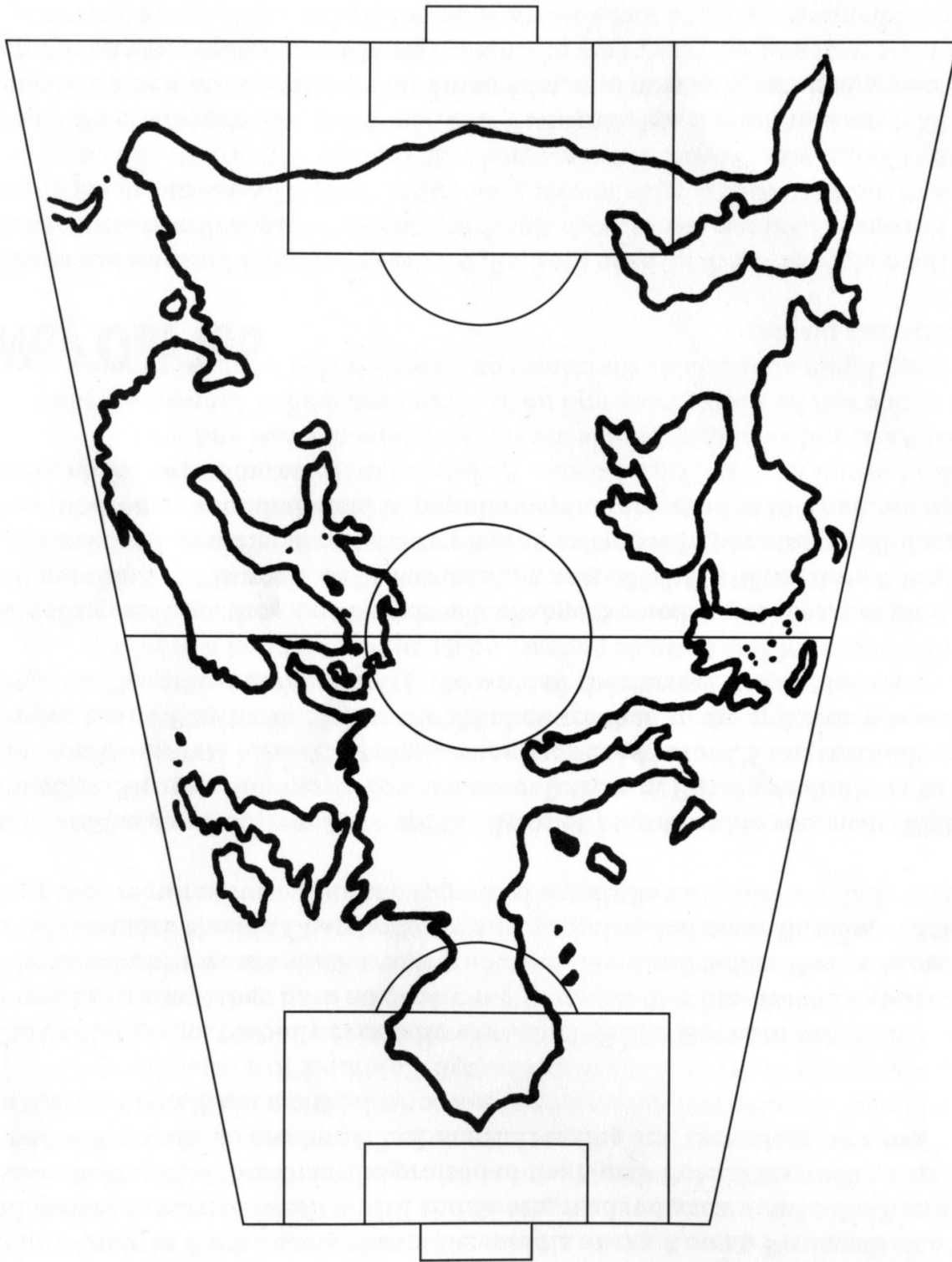
He's probably the only artists with authored pictures and analyses published in an educational textbook (Oxford University Press) for science students.

Amidst two exhibitions in the same city, he produced a third, in response to newspaper photographs of an alleged car bomb attack. The show, or rather "curating" of news imagery, revealed that the terrorist attack was actually staged by the government.

He was reported by the London Times to be an "expert" on Chernobyl, with findings published as authoritative in the Earth Observation Quarterly of the European Space Agency.

He's probably the only artist in London to publish a renunciation, in Art Monthly, of his own exhibition (due to actions by the gallerist, who soon after left London).

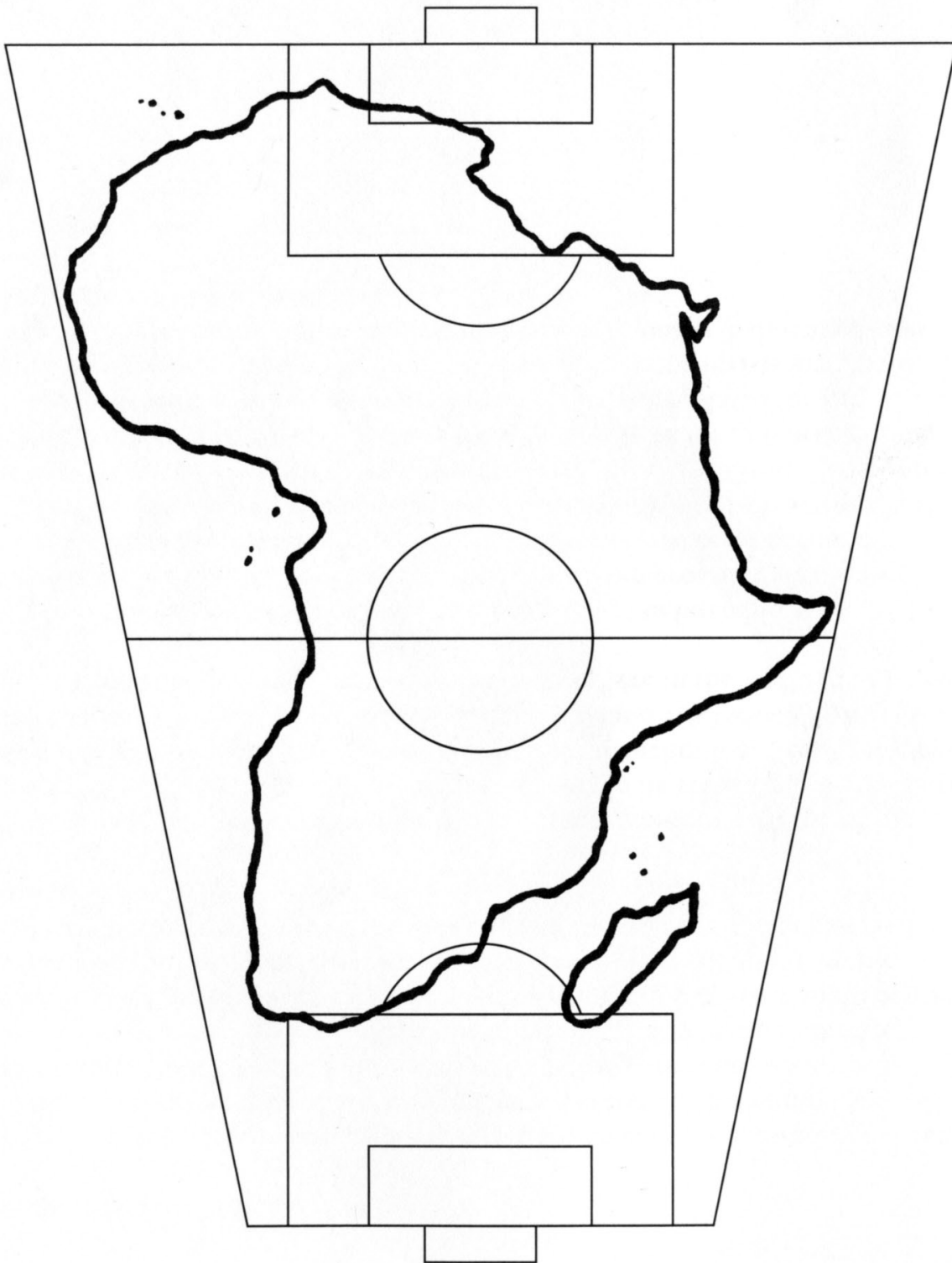
He played center halfback in US high school and college teams.



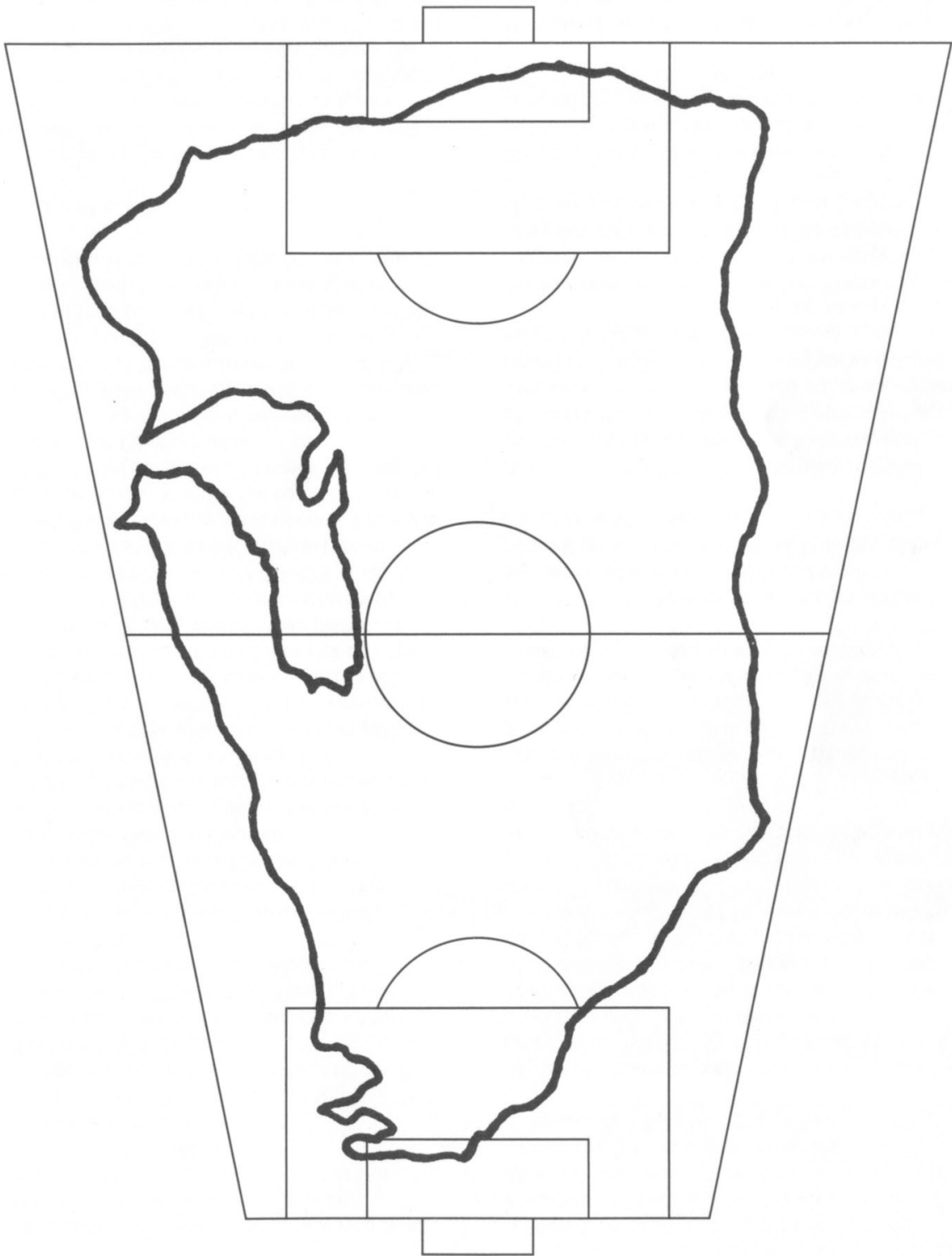
East vs. West



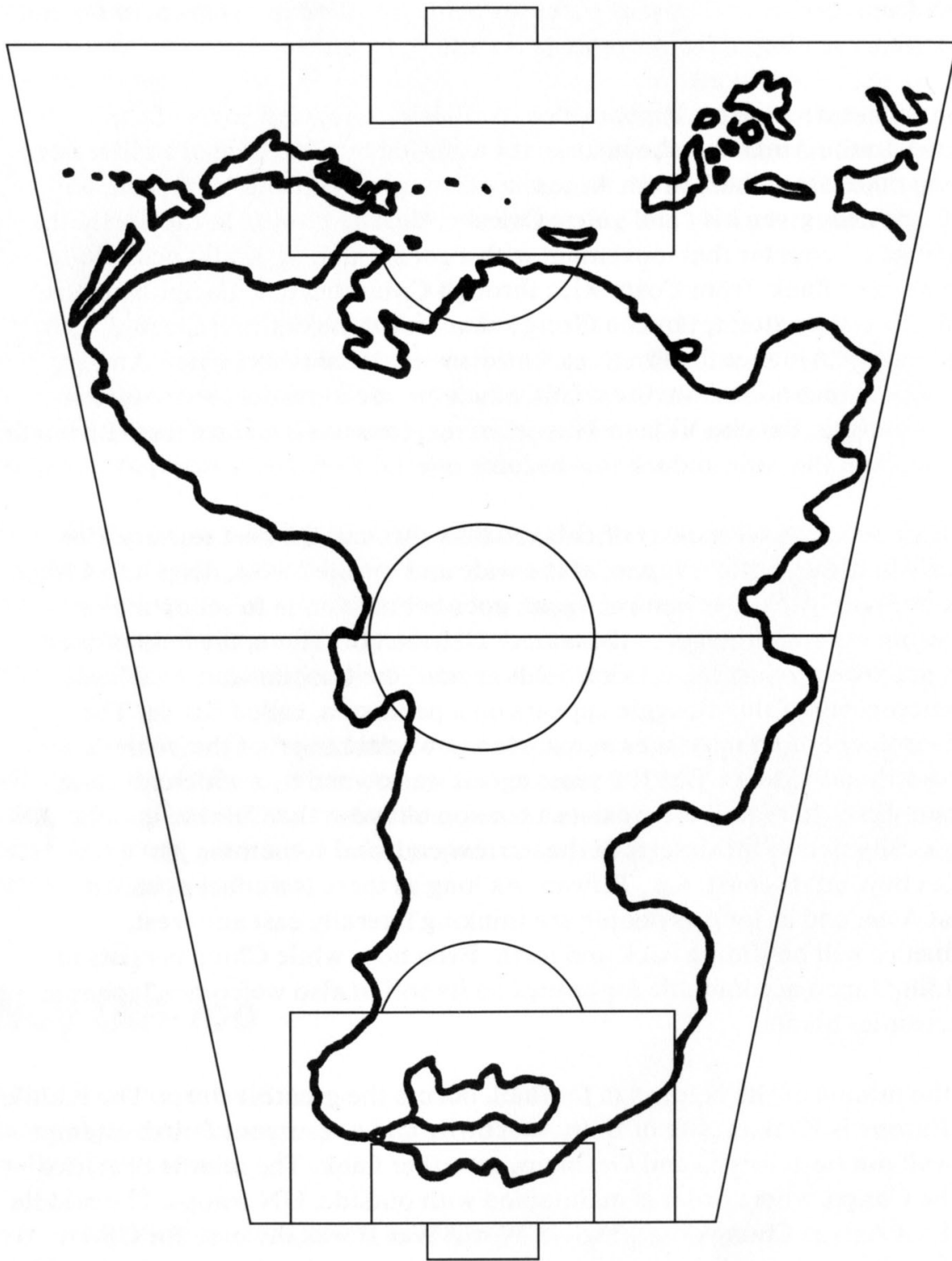
North vs. South



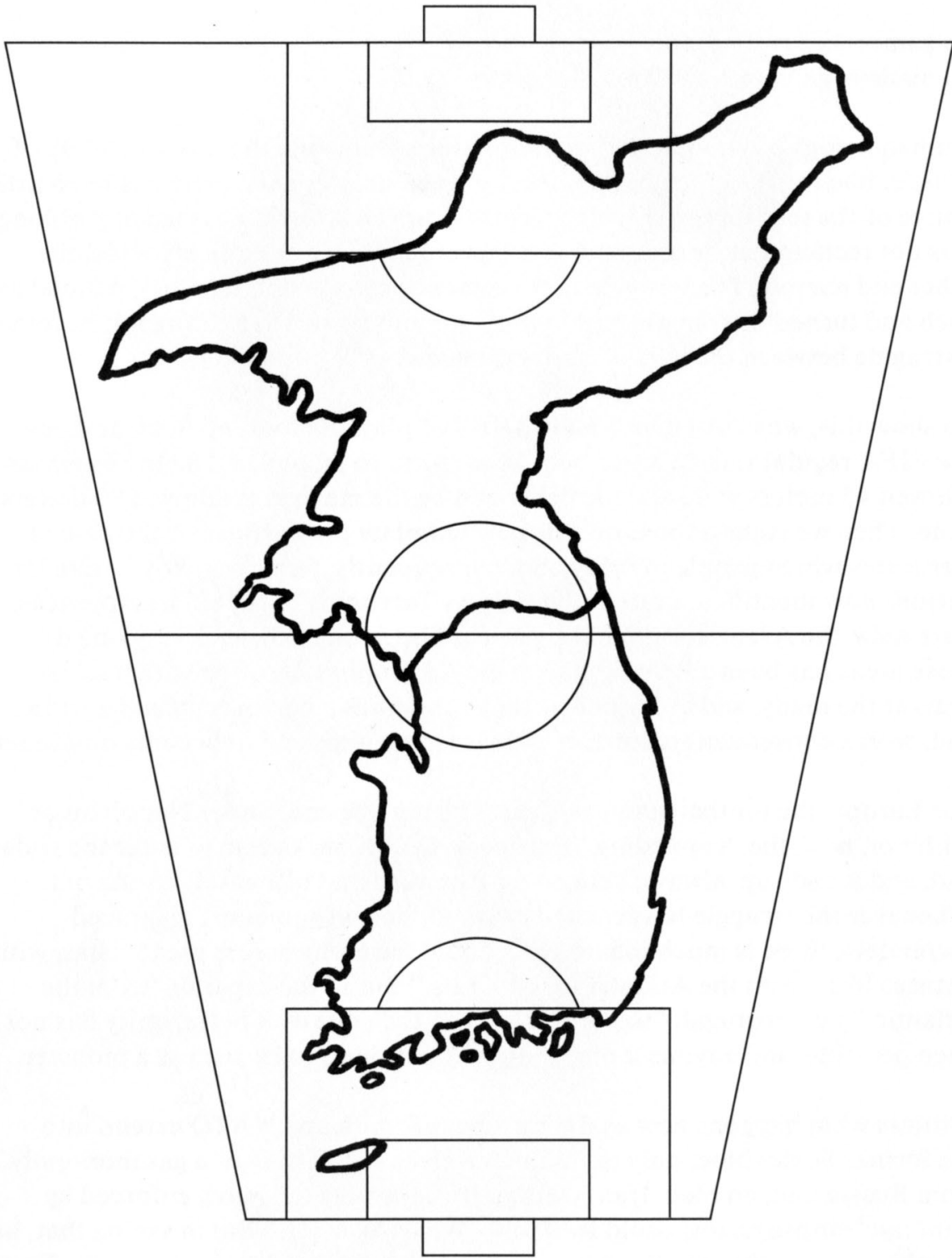
Dry North vs. Dry South



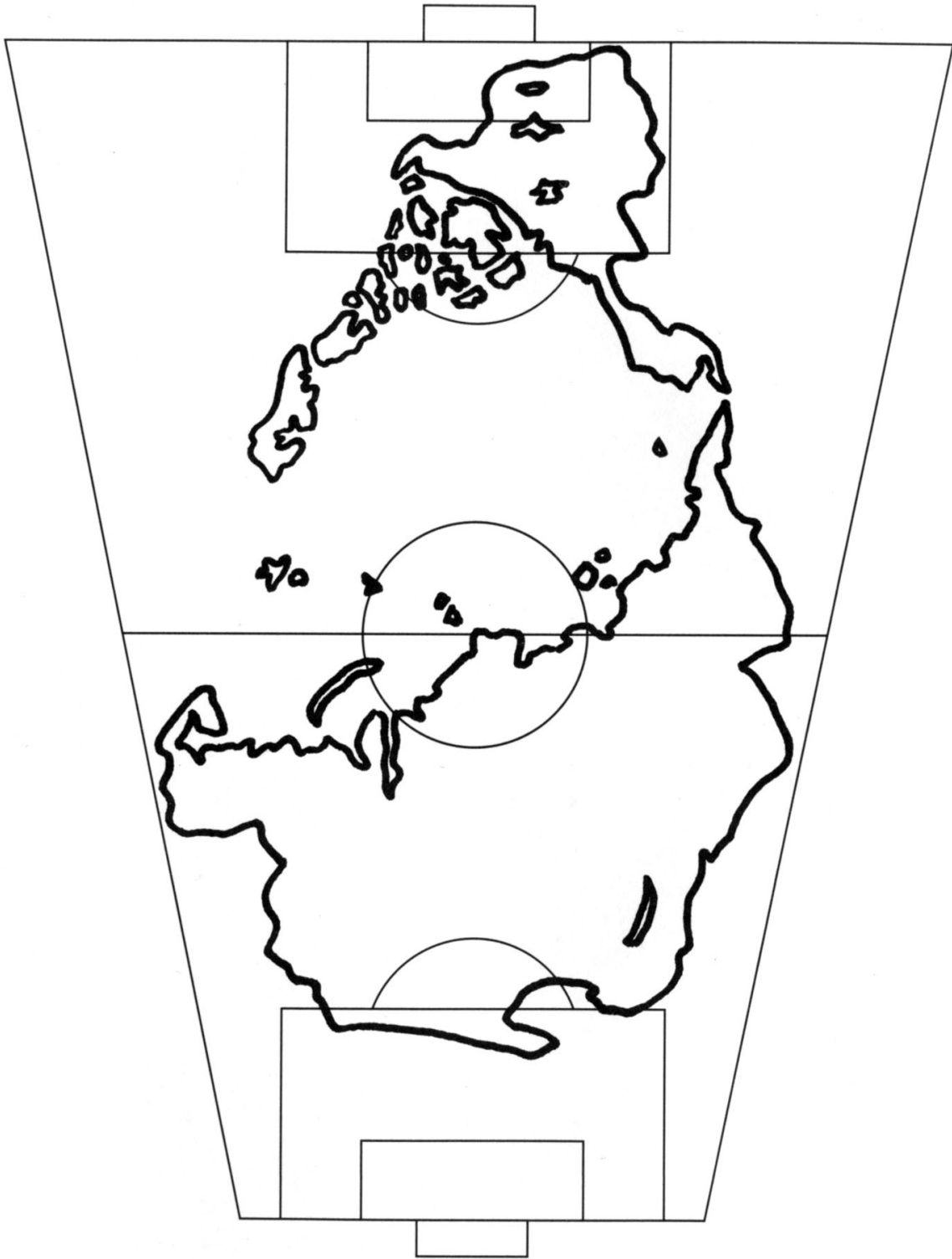
Dry South vs. Wet North



Ocean vs. Inland



North vs. South



Russia vs. The West

MARADONA HAS
PROPOSED THAT
THE U.S.ERS
LEARN "FOOTBALL"

FINE, LET'S
PLAY, BUT
WITH AN
ACTUALITY
SHAPE

FEND

vs. Maradona

**Peter Fend
BET AND WIN
Way Out Too**

**1 December 2007 –
19 January 2008**

**Opening with performance
by Peter Fend
Friday 30 November
6–8pm**

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Closed: Sunday–Monday and 16 December – 2 January 2008

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