



• Winnifred Ntumi opened the floodgates for Ghana's medal haul

• Black Princesses won gold in women's football

Our heroes, heroines, our pride!

• Samuel Takyi



• The Golden Arms swept 41 medals in armwrestling

Story: Kweku Zurek

In a momentous display of athletic prowess, Team Ghana left its footprints after sweeping an impressive 19 gold medals during the 13th African Games.

Surpassing all previous benchmarks, Ghana clinched a remarkable sixth place overall on the medal tally, bagging an impressive total of 68 medals—19 gold, 29 silver and 20 bronze. It was an impressive feat which eclipsed Ghana's previous best of 27 medals during the 1973 African Games in Lagos, marking an

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Voice of

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Ghana impressive show and 13th African Games legacy

With the curtain drawn down on the 13th African Games, attention will now shift to Egypt, the host country of the next continental competition in 2027.

As we reflect on the jubilant moments and historic achievements of this monumental event, it becomes evident that the legacy of Accra 2023 transcends mere medals, encapsulating a narrative of resilience, unity and sporting excellence.

Ghana's performance at the African Games stands as a beacon of triumph, marking its most successful outing in the history of the continental event.

With a record-breaking medal haul of 68, including 19 gold, 29 silver and 20 bronze, Team Ghana has not only surpassed its own

past achievements but has also raised the bar for future aspirations. From weightlifting to athletics, from boxing to hockey, Ghanaian athletes left an indelible mark on the continental stage, showcasing their prowess and resilience with each spirited performance.

The golden moments were abundant, each contributing to the narrative of Ghana's sporting renaissance. From Winnifred Ntumi's opening medal in weightlifting to Joseph Paul Amoah's electrifying victory in the men's 200m final, the Games were a showcase of talent, dedication and sheer determination. Ghana's emergence as a force to reckon with across various disciplines has not only ignited national pride but has also inspired a new generation of athletes to dream big and aim high.

Moreover, the Games served as a platform for fostering camaraderie and unity among African nations. With over 5,000 elite athletes and coaches from 54 countries converging in Accra, the event transcended mere competition to embody the spirit of Pan-Africanism. It provided an opportunity to celebrate diversity, forge friendships and strengthen bonds that transcend borders and cultures.

Beyond the thrill of victory and the camaraderie of competition, the legacy of the 13th African Games will endure through its

lasting impact on sports infrastructure and development. The extensive renovations and construction of world-class facilities, including the Borteyman Sports Complex, University of Ghana Stadium and Achimota Cricket Oval, signify Ghana's commitment to nurturing sporting talent and fostering a culture of active existence. These venues must not only serve as training grounds for future champions but also as hubs for hosting local and international tournaments. Such a strategic move will position Ghana as a sporting powerhouse on the continent.

As we bid farewell to the departing contingents, it is important to also congratulate the Local Organising Committee, officials and volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make Accra 2023 a success.

The Graphic Sports also commends President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo for his leadership and unwavering support in bringing this dream to fruition.

May the memories of this historic event in inspire Africans to continue pushing boundaries, breaking barriers and reaching for the stars, as each triumph, each victory, and moment of unity served as a beacon of hope for generations to come.

Endrick, Brazil's wonderkid with a 'touch of Romario'

FROM Pele to Ronaldo, Neymar to Vinicius Jr, Brazil has produced its fair share of teenage

superstars over the years — and now we have the new kid on the block.

The teenager came off the bench on

Saturday to score a late winner for Brazil against England and become the youngest male goalscorer for club or country at the stadium at just 17 years and 246 days.

He is also the youngest player to score for Brazil since Ronaldo in 1994.

His instant impact has already earned him comparisons with another Brazilian legend.

"I think he has got a little bit of Romario about him," former England midfielder Joe Cole told *Channel 4*. "The body shape, the way he tucks the ball away."

"And the joy on his face. The youngest player ever to score at Wembley for club or country. Outstanding."

Former Brazil and Arsenal midfielder Gilberto Silva said: "It is a great start, it could not have been better for him. We were expecting to see him and he came on and did great."

"But also for Brazil, this is the kind of game where you have to show up and take your opportunity. It is massive, it means a lot to the team and also to the manager."

Endrick — full name Endrick Felipe Moreira de Sousa — joined the Palmeiras youth team at the age of 11.

He first caught the attention of international scouts when he helped Brazil win the under-16 Montaigu Tournament in France in April 2022, finishing top scorer with five goals.

He made his senior debut for Palmeiras in October of that year, the same month his parents visited Chelsea's training ground. But when the Premier League club could not agree a deal, Real Madrid stepped in.

Endrick will move to Spain when he turns 18 this July and form a fearsome-looking forward line alongside Brazil teammates Vinicius Jr and Rodrygo, England's Jude Bellingham and France's Kylian Mbappe.

The teenager became the youngest player to play for the senior team since Ronaldo when he started World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina in November.

His appearance at Wembley was just his third international cap, with his goal arriving just nine minutes after coming on.

"In the stadium where Pele never managed to play... Endrick with his first international goal and a winning goal against England," South American football expert Tim Vickery told *BBC Radio 5 Live*.

"He comes off the pitch and talks to the Brazilian media about Bobby Charlton.

Brazil boss, Dorival Junior, added: "If he keeps up the attitude he has shown up to now, he will be a very important name in Brazilian football and world football."



• Endrick (right) is the youngest player to score for Brazil since 1994