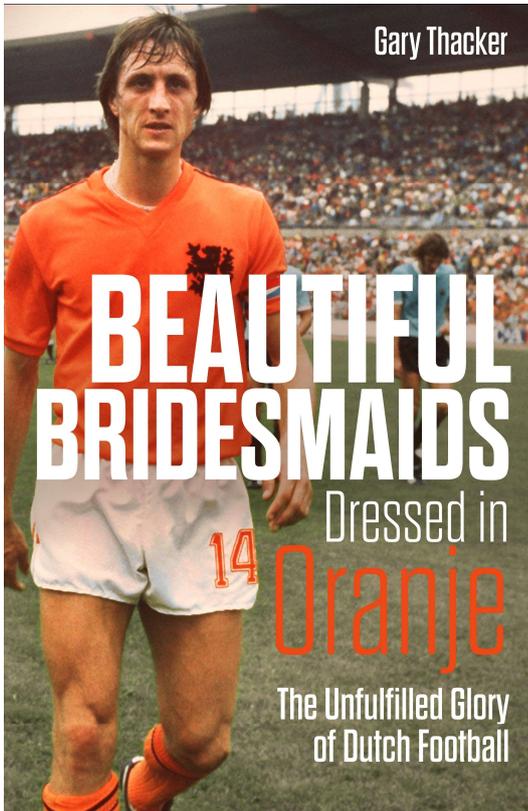




## Title information



### **Beautiful Bridesmaids Dressed in Oranje**

The Unfulfilled Glory of Dutch Football

By Gary Thacker

#### **Key features**

- Compelling story of the failed pursuit of World Cup glory for the great Dutch teams of the 1970s
- Brings to life the 1974 and 1978 World Cups, plus the 1976 Euro Championships, detailing why the Dutch should have won, and reasons they fell short
- Fresh insight from World Cup ref Abraham Klein, European football experts Graham Hunter and Raphael Honigstein, KNVB Director Nico-Jan Hoogma and Dutch journalist Jan-Hermen de Bruijn, among others
- Gary Thacker writes for numerous magazines and websites including *The Guardian* and *These Football Times*

Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

#### **Description**

*Beautiful Bridesmaids Dressed in Oranje: The Unfulfilled Glory of Dutch Football* is the story of a dazzling football dream. Built on the club successes of Ajax and Feyenoord, it's a utopian ideal that blazed with a bright but ephemeral Oranje flame, scorching the football pitches of the world in the 1970s. Although Dutch clubs dominated the European Cup from 1969 to 1973, until 1974 the Oranje had failed to qualify for a World Cup for 36 years. Two finals then followed in successive tournaments, as 'totalvoetbal' burst from its chrysalis, proudly revealing to the world its wings adorned with vivid shades of Oranje. The winners were the brides. It was their day, but the Dutch sides were more beautiful, yet so fragile, and football loved them for it. This isn't merely a tale of bridesmaids who came so close yet failed gloriously. It is the celebration of a footballing counter-culture, a revolution, a flame that burned so brightly, but so briefly. It's the story of those *Beautiful Bridesmaids Dressed in Oranje*.

#### **Details**

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