

Orlando Sentinel

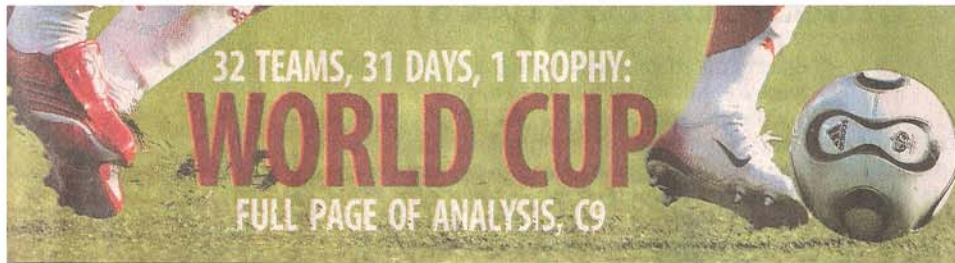
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FINAL EDITION

FOUNDED 1876



SUMMER home design



KIDDIE RIDES USA

Enjoy a ride on the mild side: Coin-operated kiddie rides bring whimsy to your private playground.

Score some big fun on a smaller scale

If the cost of elaborate outdoor sporting venues is too steep for your budget, you still can add an element of fun and amusement to your backyard. Instead of going all-out on a field of dreams, plan your leisure activities on a smaller scale.

Outdoor pool tables, portable basketball hoops and volleyball nets are far less expensive and still can yield plenty of playtime for kids and adults.

Or, for a true bit of whimsy, why not add a nostalgic coin-operated ride to your backyard porch or lanai?

Damon Carson, president of Kiddie Rides USA (1-800-448-6888; kiddieridesusa.com), restores and customizes classic kids' rides for home use. Dol-

phins, airplanes, buckin' broncos and motorcycles are among the rides homeowners can purchase for \$3,000 and more.

Based in Denver, Carson receives calls from customers all over seeking to create their own backyard amusement park.

"I just had a customer call the other day," he says, "wanting to build an elaborate play area to provide a safe sanctuary for his family."

With home-use customers, Carson says he tries to match the ride with the child or family's interests. "In this case," he adds, "it was a Jet Ski because they were on the water."

— DENISE BATES ENOS