



THE 90TH MINUTE

The monthly watch-newsletter for the world of football

DEAR READERS

As summer approaches, we're proud to present the May edition of Horology Masters. The response to our inaugural issue has been overwhelming, thank you. Your engagement confirms what we believe: that knowledge and passion are the foundation of any great collection.

In this edition, we dive into the rare and extraordinary Patek Philippe GMT ref. 2597-1, a timepiece that embodies everything this legendary manufacture stands for. We also spotlight Cartier specialist Jossip Wille, whose deep expertise and genuine passion for the brand offer a unique lens into Cartier's enduring legacy. We'll also share four areas of special collector interest, fresh insights from our recent visit to the Geneva auction days, and emerging trends that may shape your collecting strategy going forward.

As always, your feedback drives us. What topics would you like us to cover next? We're here to serve your horological journey, thank you for being part of the community. Your feedback is invaluable as we strive to enhance your experience with The Horology Masters. Thank you for being part of our community. We look forward to embarking on this enlightening horological journey together!

EXTRA TIME



The golden era of the soccer time

By Igor Prahin ~ April 2026

In today's elite sporting world, performance is measured by satellites and wearable sensors. But for the professional who appreciates mechanical soul, the 1960s and 70s represent a more visceral era, a time when the tension of a 45-minute half was measured by the manual wind of a crown and the snap of a mechanical pusher.

While common luxury chronographs dominate the locker room, a niche corner of horology offers something far more specific to the athlete's life: the Soccer Timer. As tool watches, they were designed for one purpose: tracking the halves of a match and the tension of injury time. For the collector who values technical purpose and a direct link to the pitch, these four references are the "Man of the Match" of the vintage world.

Breitling "Referee" ref. 34-31 [\$3500-\$4000]

The Ref. 34-31 captures the minimalist cool of the late-60s touchline. It utilizes a "slowmotion" chronograph where the large central hand sweeps once per hour rather than once per minute. The genius is the aperture at 6 o'clock: an indicator that turns green when the timer is running and orange when paused. It is a masterclass in legibility, essential when managing the closing minutes of a cup final under the floodlights.



Omega Seamaster Soccer Timers ref. 145.016, 145.019, 145.020) [\$4500-\$8000]

Omega's contribution is the most visually arresting. Produced in the late 60s and early 70s, these Seamasters feature "Roulette" style sub-dials with a prominent "45" indicator below the arc. These watches are explosions of color; the vibrant orange and white accents against sunburst grey dials evoke the bold kit designs of the era. Rugged and waterproof, they are powered by the legendary Caliber 861; the same manual-wind engine found in the Moonwatch.



Omega “FIFA” ref. ST 11003 [\$5500-\$7000]

For the professional seeking a true “Grail,” the Ref. 11003 bridges the gap between the lunar surface and the penalty box. Its heart is the Cal. 1045 (derived from the Lemania 5100), but its history is even more compelling. This model was born from the “Alaska III” prototype submitted for NASA space-flight recertification in 1978.

Though the prototype passed NASA’s rigorous testing, this specific version was adopted by FIFA in 1979 and issued exclusively to referees. It was never available to the general public. It is instantly recognizable by its tonneau-shaped case and a unique dial layout: the standard 24-hour indicator is removed to make room for the FIFA logo.





Seiko 8M32-6010 “Sports 150” [\$400-\$550]

As the industry moved into the 1980s, Seiko introduced a technical marvel. The 8M32-6010 features a “Dancing Hands” movement where the hands mechanically reset to zero to become a dedicated 45-minute countdown timer. When the match ends, the hands can track the exact duration of extra time. It represents the pinnacle of 80s sports-tech—functional, precise, and distinctly avant-garde.

The Verdict: Sourcing a Legend

For the modern athlete, these watches offer a rare connection to the history of competitive sport. However, finding these references in original condition is the ultimate challenge, particularly the Omega FIFA, which never saw a retail shelf. Because these watches were tools of the trade, finding “collector grade” examples requires a specialized eye. Renowned curators like Vintage.ey have built a reputation within this niche, having successfully sourced and curated all of these references for discerning clients. Securing a piece from this golden era ensures you aren’t just wearing a watch, but a piece of genuine sporting history.



Igor Prahin, specialist in 1970s Sports Chronographs

Founder of Vintage.eye, Igor bridges the worlds of elite performance and horology. An avid cyclist and classic car racer, he brings a competitor's precision to the bold designs of Heuer, Omega, and Breitling. He provides the sports community with expert guidance, sourcing commanding, rare but affordable references that capture the grit, style, and high-octane spirit of sport's most creative and colorful era.

THE TEAM



Stan Duin

Football Community & Omega Specialist
Founder of Vintage Masters.

A specialist in vintage Omega's, most notably the legendary Speedmaster, Stan Duin has built Vintage Masters into a trusted reference point for collectors across Europe. His long-standing relationships within the professional football world give him a rare bridge between elite athletes and the craft of horology. Through these connections, he helps educate a new generation of collectors on the depth, history, and dynamic evolution of vintage watchmaking.



Frank Smits

Content & Strategy

The world of Frank Smits revolves around the stories held within watches, the craft, the rarity, the quiet precision that rewards a trained eye. Co-founding The Horology Club Europe allowed him to turn that passion into purpose, shaping strategy, content, and community in equal measure. Horology is more than collecting; it's about sharing knowledge, connecting perspectives, and building a space where genuine passion becomes a collective force.



Johannes van Blerk

Customer Service & Content

The way of thinking of Johannes van Blerk has been shaped by sport, tennis and sailing - where timing, precision, and reading the moment matter most. As a watch enthusiast, working in the watch industry, he is drawn to watches because they express those ideas through mechanics, design, and detail. What connects both worlds is the same quiet logic behind performance and time. He looks forward to assist the members of our community with your questions and enquiries.



Alessio Zenga

Specialist vintage Patek Philippe & Rolex

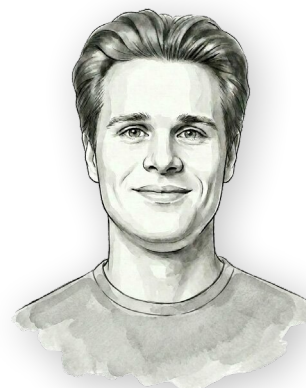
A true specialist in the highly specialized world of vintage Patek Philippe and vintage Rolex, Alessio Zenga has built a reputation grounded in authenticity, transparency, and uncompromising provenance. Together with his team, he navigates the complexities of this demanding field with precision and integrity. Through his guidance, our community gains access to true horological treasures, pieces whose histories are as compelling as their craftsmanship.



Marc Dijkhuizen

Tennis Community & Advisor

As a tennis player Marc Dijkhuizen's mindset always used to be around precision, discipline, and the pursuit of perfection, qualities that resonate seamlessly with watches. Just as every point and break on a tennis court is defined by timing and intent, every watch tells a story of craftsmanship, heritage, and detail. For him the connection between both worlds lies the elegance of movement, the beauty of precision, and the timeless pursuit of mastery.



Jossip Wille

Specialist vintage Cartier

Jossip Wille's passion for vintage Cartier began with the Tank, created by Louis Cartier in 1917, a design that revealed Cartier's mastery of shape. It has been reinterpreted for more than a century through multiple variations. Today, he specializes in sourcing vintage pieces that embody the maison's timeless design language. Jossip Wille will guide our collectors into the world of Cartier with a focus on authenticity and enduring style, in a market that recognizes its iconic design and value.