

# WHY PHAN FOR CURAÇÃO?



Curaçao is heading to the FIFA World Cup™ for the first time in history after finishing atop Group B in the final round of Concacaf qualifying.



Known as “The Blue Wave,” the island nation enters the tournament as an underdog—but one with momentum and growing international experience.

Built on Caribbean pride and strengthened by players competing across Europe, Curaçao’s rapid rise reflects a program gaining confidence on the international stage and embracing the opportunity to compete with the world’s best.

This is an underdog story with momentum—and Philadelphia knows a little something about rising against the odds.



## Player to Watch

**Juninho Bacuna:** Curaçao’s midfielder brings leadership and top-level experience from more than a decade in European leagues. With more than 40 international appearances and double-digit goals, Bacuna will be central to Curaçao’s midfield as the team makes its World Cup debut.

*Curaçao's Catalyst*  
**Juninho Bacuna**

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## Show the World How You Phan

Bring your Curaçao pride to life!

Tag **@FWC26Philly** and use **#HowDoYouPhan** for a chance to be featured on our social channels. Whether it’s your jersey, your chant, or your pre-match dance, we want to see it!

[DOWNLOAD SOCIAL MEDIA KIT](#)

## Phan Gear: Print, Color, Create

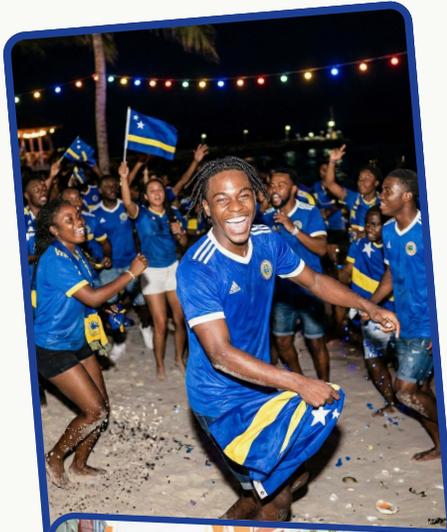
Make your own Curaçao-inspired fan flair! Perfect for watch parties, classrooms, or pre-match hype.

[DOWNLOAD PRINTABLE](#)



# How Curaçao Phans Get Hype

For Curaçao's "Blue Wave," match day begins by the sea.



Inspired by the unifying fan anthem of the same name, the island's energy builds long before kickoff. While you won't always find packed sports bars on every corner, you will see fans gathered along the shoreline in beachfront cafés, open-air restaurants, and neighborhood bars where the ocean is always in sight.



With waves rolling in and island pride on full display, supporters sing and celebrate together, carrying the anthem's rhythm from the sand to the streets. The music, the sea breeze, and the collective chant become one, turning the coastline into a living show of support.

## Extra Time | Bonus Phan Content

Curaçao is the smallest nation ever to qualify for a FIFA World Cup, surpassing the previous record set by Iceland. With a population of fewer than 157,000 people (compared to more than 1.5 million in Philadelphia!), the team's qualification is one of the most striking underdog stories of the tournament.



# PHAN WITH US AT THE FIFA FAN FESTIVAL™

The Beautiful Game is better together! Join the ultimate global watch party at Philadelphia's official FIFA Fan Festival™ at Lemon Hill in Fairmount Park. Here's what you can expect at this free, high-energy celebration of football, culture, and connection:

- Live broadcasts of matches on massive screens
- Cultural performances and entertainment
- Interactive fan experiences and photo moments
- Family-friendly activities and sponsor activations
- A sea of jerseys from every corner of the globe

Don't miss the chance to feel the roar, learn new chants, and celebrate the game together. No matter how you Phan, this is your home base!



## STAY IN THE PHAN LOOP

**Don't miss a moment.  
Sign up for the Philadelphia  
Soccer 2026 newsletter for  
updates, events, and  
exclusive fan content:**

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