

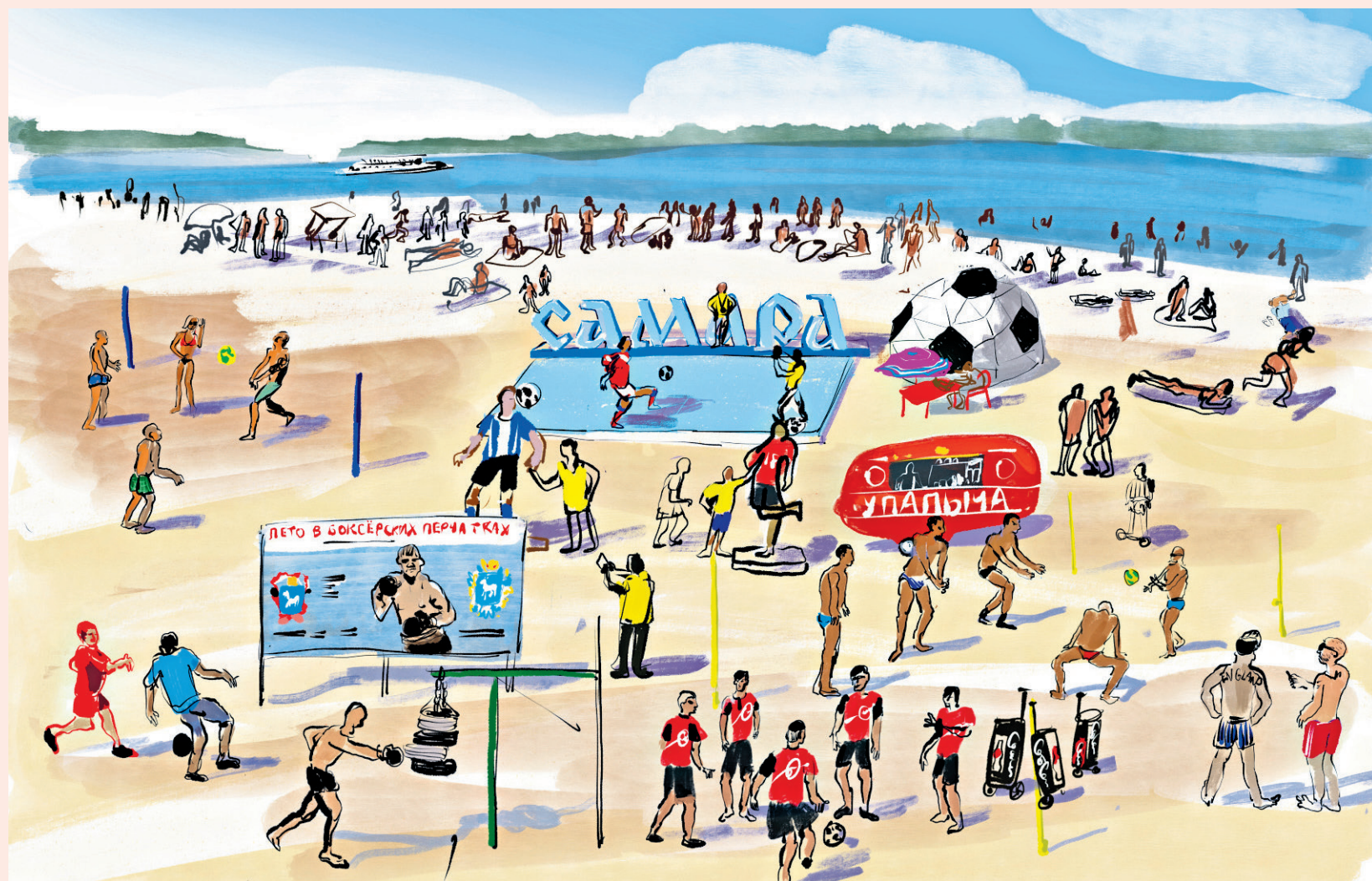
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**TIM
VYNER**
WORLD CUP
DRAW
No 26 SAMARA

The quarter-finals are over and it is time to reflect. It was odd being at such an important game with just a pocket of England fans at one end of the ground and even fewer Swedes at the other.

Samara's participation in the 2018 World Cup is over and the next day sees a packed promenade of locals and a few fans who remain wandering along the River Volga. England supporters are full of hope and excitement for Moscow, while Russians are coming to terms with the disappointment of losing a shoot-out. But they also recognise how well their team have performed.

As I walked past the giant Samara sign on the waterfront a young Russian in full replica kit was doing faultless kick-ups in the sun, suggesting the future of football here is bright.



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