

WORLD CUP PLAYERS *continued*

Togo

Unknown quantity Togo, will be hard pressed to qualify to the next round at the tournament, with only Arsenal reserve Sheyi Adebayor likely to catch the eye.

GROUP H:

Spain - Tunisia - Ukraine - Saudi Arabia

Perennial under-achievers, **Spain's** midfield of Xabi Alonso (Liverpool), Cesc Fabregas (Arsenal), Andres Iniesta (Barcelona), Xavi (Barcelona), and Luis Garcia (Liverpool) is world class. But can they combine to do the side justice in this World Cup?

Ukraine

Arguably the world's number one striker, Andriy

Shevchenko of AC Milan, can be the one to spoil Spain's progress party on the world stage.

Tunisia

The players are based all over Europe with strikers Haykel Guemamdia & Salim Benachour (Paris S.G) the stars of the show. Tunisia must get points from Spain and Ukraine to qualify.

Saudi Arabia

Out to restore lost pride from its last World Cup encounter when they were hammered 8-0 by Germany, the Saudis are more experienced this time around but still may well struggle to impress. None of the squad play outside the Saudi league.

Crystal Ball final 4: France (1) Brazil (2), England (3) and Argentina (4).

SBS TV BROADCASTING TIMES

All times shown are in AEST and are SBS TV broadcasting times only. Actual kick off times may vary.

Group A

Gemany v Costa Rica	10 Jun 01:30 am.
Poland v Ecuador	10 Jun 04:30 am.
Germany v Poland	15 Jun 04:30 am.
Ecuador v Costa Rica	15 Jun 10:30 pm.
Ecuador v Germany	20 Jun 11:30 pm.
Costa Rica v Poland	21 Jun 02:00 am.

Group B

England v Paraguay	10 Jun 10:30 pm.
Trinidad v Sweden	11 Jun 01:30 am.
England v Trinidad	16 Jun 01:30 am.
Sweden v Paraguay	16 Jun 04:30 am.
Sweden v England	21 Jun 04:30 am.
Paraguay v Trinidad	21 Jun 07:00 am.

Group C

Argentina v Ivory Coast	11 Jun 04:30 am.
Serbia v Holland	11 Jun 10:30 pm.
Argentina v Serbia	16 Jun 10:30 pm.
Holland v Ivory Coast	17 Jun 01:30 am.
Holland v Argentina	22 Jun 04:30 am.
Ivory Coast v Serbia	22 Jun 07:00 am.

Group D

Mexico v Iran	12 Jun 01:30 am.
Angola v Portugal	12 Jun 04:30 am.
Mexico v Angola	17 Jun 04:30 am.
Portugal v Iran	17 Jun 10:30 pm.

Portugal v Mexico	21 Jun 11:30 pm.
Iran v Angola	22 Jun 02:00 am.

Group E

Italy v Ghana	13 Jun 04:30 am.
USA v Czech Rep.	13 Jun 01:30 am.
Italy v USA	18 Jun 04:30 am.
Czech Rep. v Ghana	18 Jun 01:30 am.
Czech Rep. v Italy	22 Jun 11:30 pm.
Ghana v USA	23 Jun 02:00 am.

Group F

Brazil v Croatia	14 Jun 04:30 am.
Australia v Japan	12 Jun 10:30 pm.
Brazil v Australia	19 Jun 01:30 am.
Japan v Croatia	18 Jun 10:30 pm.
Japan v Brazil	23 Jun 07:00 am.
Croatia v Australia	23 Jun 04:30 am.

Group G

France v Switzerland	14 Jun 01:30 am.
Korea v Togo	13 Jun 10:30 pm.
France v Korea	19 Jun 04:30 am.
Togo v Switzerland	19 Jun 10:30 pm.
Togo v France	24 Jun 04:30 am.
Switzerland v Korea	24 Jun 07:00 am.

Group H

Spain v Ukraine	14 Jun 10:30 pm.
Tunisia v Saudi Arabia	15 Jun 01:30 am.
Spain v Tunisia	20 Jun 04:30 am.
Saudi Arabia v Ukraine	20 Jun 01:30 am.
Saudi Arabia v Spain	24 Jun 02:00 am.
Ukraine v Tunisia	23 Jun 11:30 pm.



KIAMA SOCCER CLUB PRESENTS YOUR ARMCHAIR WORLD CUP GUIDE 2006



"204 countries started, 32 made the finals, but there can only be one winner of the world game."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT THE WORLD CUP STARS TO WATCH AND A COMPLETE SBS TV ARMCHAIR GUIDE TO ALL THE ACTION!

Kiama Quarrier's freelance football journalist, Chris Hudson, attempts to sift through the squads to bring you the players most likely to be remembered after July 2006:

GROUP A:

Germany - Poland - Costa Rica - Ecuador

Hosts **Germany** have goalkeepers Jens Lehmann of Arsenal and Oliver Kahn, Bayern Munich, both worthy of any international side. In midfield Michael Ballack, now of Chelsea, is important to them and is the creative mind of the team.

Costa Rica

Only former Man City and Aston Villa striker Paulo Wanchope, now of Herediano, looks capable of causing concern for the opposition at this level.

Poland

Celtic striker, Maciej Zurawski, is their star player while the ageing defence pair of Jacek Bak and Mariusz Jop, is Poland's foundation, but it will be tested.

Ecuador

Have skilled individuals, but will now need to prove their effectiveness on the world stage as a team. Defender Ivan Hurtado is the most capped player (128) and dependable, while 20 year-old winger, Luis Antonio Valencia, on the books at Spain's Villarreal, could be anything! Up front Ecuador are blessed with former Crystal Palace hot-head, Ivan Kaviedes now of Argentinos Juniors, while Agustin Delgado (Liga de Quito) will be the main target man.

GROUP B:

England - Sweden - Paraguay - Trinidad

The worry for all **England** fans will be the fitness of Wayne Rooney (Man Utd), undoubtedly the star of the show, if fully fit. But for the first time in a long time, England have real class in the midfield... David Beckham (Real Madrid), Frank Lampard (Chelsea) and Steven Gerrard (Liverpool) can all make an indelible impression on this tournament. Even Aaron Lennon of Spurs and young Theo Walcott could steal the show from their more illustrious colleagues.

Paraguay

A durable side with many talented individuals which could surprise. Two players in particular; Bayern Munich's Roque Santa Cruz and

Werder Bremen's Nelson Haedo Valdez, should pose the most threat to the opposition.

Trinidad and Tobago

Possibly out of their depth, keeper Shaka Hislop (West Ham United) will be well tested to keep a clean sheet throughout the group phase. Dwight Yorke (Sydney FC), will be hoping for some pity from his former rival Premier League colleagues.

Sweden

Arsenal's Fredrik Ljungberg is always a player to watch and is the creative heart of the Scandinavian's midfield. Up front, Sweden have one of Europe's leading marksmen with Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Juventus, while Henrik Larsson (Barcelona), could be a surprise package.

GROUP C:

Argentina - Holland - Ivory Coast - Serbia

A gifted squad, **Argentina** are in the infamous "Group of Death", which will either make or break the spirit of the temperamental South Americans. Quality in midfield comes in the shape of Juan Roman Riquelme (Villarreal), but it's the forwards of Lionel Messi (Barcelona) and Hernan Crespo of Chelsea, which could give them the edge to win the group. Another to watch is Carlos Tevez, if he gets a run, voted recently as the best foreign player in Brazil.

Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire)

Many of the squad play at a good level in France, but Chelsea's Didier Drogba is the class act of the side, while supported by the exciting prospect of Abdoul Kader Keita, of Lille.

Serbia and Montenegro

Former basketballer, Nikola Zigic of Red Star Belgrade, is the star performer for Serbia while strike partner, Mateja Kezman, formerly of Chelsea and now at Atletico Madrid, can make amends for his sorry time in the Premiership.

Holland

A highly talented side, Holland have the squad to go far in the tournament. Midfielder Phillip Cocu (PSV Eindhoven) will be the workhorse in the middle, but it largely depends on how the opposition can deal with the 4-3-3 formation and Ruud van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Dirk Kuyt of Feyenoord and Arjen Robben (Chelsea) up front.

GROUP D:

Mexico - Portugal - Iran - Angola

Only **Mexican** forwards Jared Borgetti of Bolton, and Guillermo Franco of Villarreal, play outside of Mexico, but it's a workmanlike team with no true individual talent but which could surprise.

Iran

Midfielders, Mehdi Mahdavia (Hamburg), Feyyoon Zandi (Kaiserslautern) and Ali Karimi of Bayern Munich are the only noteworthy players to keep an eye on.

Angola

Former Leeds Utd defender, Rui Marques (now of Hull), and forward Mantorras (Benfica) are the ones to watch from the African outsiders.

Portugal

The Chelsea pair of Paulo Ferreira and Ricardo Carvalho are the mainstay of the rearguard, but the Portuguese have a formidable strike force to choose from in Luis Figo (Inter Milan), Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester United), Luis Boa Morte (Fulham), Simao (Benfica), Nuno Gomes (Benfica), Pedro Pauleta (Paris SG) or Helder Postiga (Saint-Etienne).

GROUP E:

Italy - Czech Rep - USA - Ghana

Italy's goalkeeper, Gianluigi Buffon of Juventus, is being hailed as the world's number one, now he has the stage to prove it in a very talented team which includes the likes of Alessandro Nesta (AC Milan), Andrea Pirlo (AC Milan), Francesco Totti (Roma), and Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus).

Ghana

Not as strong as in previous campaigns, but watch out for Michael Essien (Chelsea), Eric Addo (PSV Eindhoven) and Udinese's Sulley Muntari in midfield, while Matthew Amoah (Borussia Dortmund) should be among the goals.

United States of America

USA are a well organised outfit full of running which play with overlapping fullbacks who push forward often. Both Leeds Utd's Eddie Lewis and Steve Cherundolo (Hanover) will be seen to do this. Others to catch the eye could be Landon Donovan (Los Angeles).

Czech Republic

Another 'keeper to steal the limelight should be Petr Cech of Chelsea, while key players Pavel Nedved (Juventus), Tomas Rosicky (Arsenal), Milan Baros (Aston Villa), and the giant, Jan Koller (Borussia Dortmund) up front, should see the Czechs progress.

GROUP F:

Brazil - Croatia - Australia - Japan

No real weakness in the **Brazil** side but ones to look out for, apart from the obvious; freekick specialist Roberto Carlos of Real Madrid; the tireless Emerson (Juventus); Ze Roberto (Bayern Munich) and Kaka of AC Milan.

Croatia

Play maker Niko Kranjcar (Hajduk Split), could be the difference between Australia qualifying or coming home, while Robert Kovac (Juventus), Dario Simic (AC Milan), and Dado Prso (Rangers), should entertain.

Australia

It's the engine room of Marco Bresciano (Parma), Tim Cahill (Everton), Jason Culina (PSV Eindhoven), Vince Grella (Parma) and Harry Kewell (Liverpool), which will enable the long suffering Aussies to clinch a qualifying berth.

Japan

Junichi Inamoto (West Brom), Hidetoshi Nakata (Bolton), Shunsuke Nakamura (Celtic) and Naohiro Takahara of Hamburg SV, will shine for the Japanese.

GROUP G:

France - Switzerland - South Korea - Togo

"Fabulous Fabien" Barthez of **France** & Marseille will hopefully be up to his old antics in goal for a few laughs. A new player to keep an eye on is midfielder Florent Malouda, from Lyon, while Zinedine Zidane of Real Madrid and Thierry Henry (Arsenal), should be enough big guns to get them through to at least the semis.

Switzerland

Midfielder Johann Vogel (AC Milan), is the main man for the Swiss, while up front Alexander Frei (Rennes) should be scoring goals.

South Korea

Midfielder, Park Ji-sung (Manchester United) is the heartbeat of the side.

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