


WhoScored.com

FIFA WORLD CUP 2018 E-MAGAZINE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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With the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia on the horizon we bring you our team-by-team guide ahead of the tournament, assessing some of the top players on show and some that are well worth keeping an eye on. With 64 games to fit into 32 days, our calendar and wall planner will ensure you don't miss a kick of the world's greatest sporting event. Game on!



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2018 PLANNER
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WRITERS' PREDICTIONS



SKIPTO 61-62

GET REVVED UP FOR RUSSIA



CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

Sports spread betting involves risk. Losses can exceed deposit.



VENUES AND CALENDAR



LUZHNIKI STADIUM, MOSCOW
CAPACITY: 80,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 7
TOP MATCH: FINAL



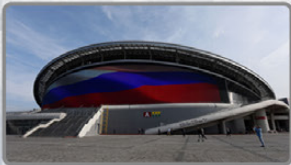
ST. PETERSBURG STADIUM
CAPACITY: 67,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 7
TOP MATCH: SF 1



FISHT STADIUM, SOCHI
CAPACITY: 48,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 6
TOP MATCH: PORTUGAL-SPAIN



YEKATERINBURG ARENA
CAPACITY: 45,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 4
TOP MATCH: FRANCE-PERU



KAZAN ARENA
CAPACITY: 45,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 6
TOP MATCH: QF 2



NIZHNY NOVGOROD STADIUM
CAPACITY: 45,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 6
TOP MATCH: ARGENTINA-CROATIA



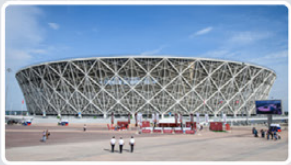
ROSTOV ARENA
CAPACITY: 45,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 5
TOP MATCH: BRAZIL-SWITZERLAND



SAMARA ARENA
CAPACITY: 45,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 6
TOP MATCH: QF 3



MORDOVIA ARENA, SARANSK
CAPACITY: 45,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 4
TOP MATCH: COLOMBIA-JAPAN



VOLGOGRAD STADIUM
CAPACITY: 45,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 4
TOP MATCH: TUNISIA-ENGLAND



SPARTAK STADIUM, MOSCOW
CAPACITY: 42,000
TOTAL MATCHES: 5
TOP MATCH: SERBIA-BRAZIL



KALININGRAD STADIUM
CAPACITY: 35,212
TOTAL MATCHES: 4
TOP MATCH: ENGLAND-BELGIUM



WhoScored.com

	14 TH	15 TH	16 TH	17 TH	18 TH	19 TH	20 TH	21 ST	22 ND	23 RD	24 TH	25 TH	26 TH	27 TH	28 TH	29 TH	30 TH	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH	9 TH	10 TH	11 TH	12 TH	13 TH	14 TH	15 TH
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PM			CRO 8 NIG									IRN 36 POR	NIG 40 ARG	SWI 44 CRI	ENG 48 BEL																	
																								W57 61 W58	W59 62 W60						L61 63 L62	W61 64 W62

GROUP A



GROUP A EGYPT

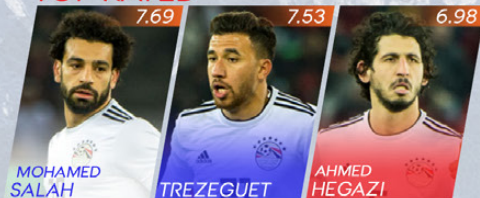
HEAD COACH **HECTOR CUPER**
CAPTAIN **ESSAM EL HADARY**



FIXTURES		
	URUGUAY	15.06
	RUSSIA	19.06
	SAUDI ARABIA	25.06

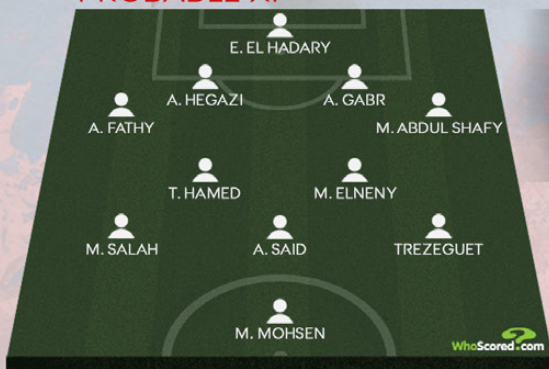
In charge of the Pharaohs for a little over three years now, Hector Cuper has put an end to years of hurt for a former giant of the game in Africa. Having failed to qualify for three successive AFCON tournaments Egypt finished as runners-up last year, while this will be their first appearance at a World Cup since 1990. Their place was secured with a game to spare by that man Mo Salah, who scored six of their eight goals in the final phase of CAF qualification, and there's no hiding the fact that the Liverpool man will be relied upon this summer.

TOP RATED



Set up with a solid base in Cuper's favoured 4-2-3-1 formation, Egypt will be sweating on the match fitness of Mohamed Elneny in the engine room in order to protect West Brom pairing Ahmed Hegazi and Ali Gabr at the back. While Salah, if fit, will understandably steal focus, Trezeguet is one worth keeping an eye on on the opposite flank having earned the highest WhoScored.com rating in the Turkish Super Lig last season, scoring 13 goals and completing more dribbles than any other player.

PROBABLE XI



There aren't enough superlatives to do justice to Mo Salah's debut season at Liverpool, with a direct hand in 42 league goals. The shoulder injury sustained in the Champions League final has put his participation this summer in doubt and without him the Pharaohs hopes of escaping the group would be slim.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Sherif Ekramy, Mohamed El Shenawy DEFENDERS: Ahmed Elmohamady, Omar Gaber, Saad Samir, Ayman Ashraf, El Wensh MIDFIELDERS: Sam Morsy, Kahraba, Ramadan Sobhi, Shikabala, Amr Warda FORWARDS:

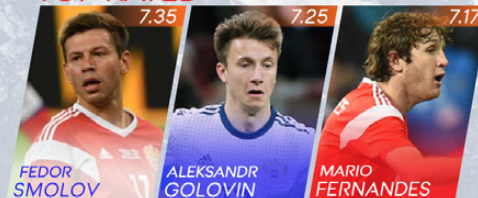
GROUP A RUSSIA

HEAD COACH **STANISLAV CHERCHESOV**
CAPTAIN **IGOR AKINFEEV**

FIXTURES		
	SAUDI ARABIA	14.06
	EGYPT	19.06
	URUGUAY	25.06

Without a qualification process and competitive action to contend with, Russia will have been relieved by the group draw that came their way but are by no means well-placed to progress. Since taking the reins following a pretty dismal showing at Euro 2016, Stanislav Cherchesov has done little to encourage hope of sparking life into an ageing squad. Meanwhile injuries have left the hosts with a makeshift defence and devoid of a key attacking threat in Aleksandr Kokorin, and a string of high profile friendlies have given little to no indication as to the capabilities of what is a modest squad.

TOP RATED



Cherchesov's favoured XI is seemingly undefined, though he looks likely to ditch his usual back three following injuries to first choice centre-backs Viktor Vasin and Georgi Dzhikiya. Veteran Yuri Zhirkov looks favourite to start on the left wing following the surprise omission of Dmitri Kombarov, while Roman Zobnin seems set to start in midfield after Denis Glushakov was also left out. There's goals in the form of Aleksei Miranchuk and Fedor Smolov in particular, but chances may be few and far between.



PROBABLE XI



The creative burden in this Russia side may fall on the young shoulders of Aleksandr Golovin (above), who is the one player in the squad with some star quality. Ensuring the 21-year-old has the license to support the attack will be key, with the playmaker capable of making the difference on his day.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Vladimir Gabulov, Andrey Lunev DEFENDERS: Ilya Kutepov, Andrey Semenov, Igor Smolnikov MIDFIELDERS: Yuri Gazinskiy, Aleksandr Erokhin, Alan Dzagoev, Anton Miranchuk, Denis Cheryshev FORWARDS: Artem Dzyuba, Aleksei Miranchuk

GROUP A SAUDI ARABIA

HEAD COACH JUAN ANTONIO PIZZI
CAPTAIN OSAMA HAWSAWI



FIXTURES		
	RUSSIA	14.06
	URUGUAY	20.06
	EGYPT	25.06

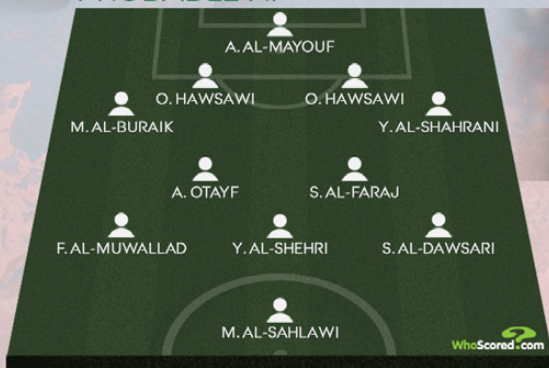
Having failed to secure a place in Russia as head coach of Chile, Juan Antonio Pizzi will lead Saudi Arabia this summer hoping to do something that no man has in charge of the Green Falcons since 1994 and win a World Cup match. The Argentinean was only appointed in November after Bert van Marwijk secured qualification but not a new contract, so there is some tactical uncertainty to say the least. By the time of the tournament, however, Pizzi will have overseen seven friendlies and seems most likely to adopt a 4-2-3-1 formation.

TOP SCORERS IN QUALIFYING



Some very experienced players have been left out of Pizzi's squad, though captain Osama Hawsawi and midfielder Taisir Al-Jassim have both earned well over 100 caps. An experiment to send a trio of the nation's finest to LaLiga on loan in January backfired, however, with Fahad Al-Muwallad, Salem Al-Dawsari and Yahya Al-Shehri all likely to start despite having failed to do so at club level since the turn of the year. Elsewhere the loss of talented playmaker Nawaf Al-Abed due to injury problems is a severely damaging blow.

PROBABLE XI



REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Yasser Al Mosaillem, Mohammed Al-Owais DEFENDERS: Mansoor Al-Harbi, Motaz Hawsawi, Ali Al Bulaihi MIDFIELDERS: Taisir Al-Jassim, Abdulmalek Al-Khaibari, Housain Al-Mogahwi, Mohamed Kanno, Abdullah Al-Khaibari, Hattan Bahebri FORWARDS: Muhannad Assiri



In the absence of Nawaf Al-Abed, Saudi Arabia will need another of their attack-minded players to step up and this could be Fahad Al-Muwallad's chance to impress having failed to get a sniff at Levante. The young winger has pace to burn and scored the goal that secured the Falcons' spot in Russia.

GROUP A URUGUAY

HEAD COACH OSCAR TABAREZ
CAPTAIN DIEGO GODIN

FIXTURES		
	EGYPT	15.06
	SAUDI ARABIA	20.06
	RUSSIA	25.06

In a hugely competitive qualification process, Uruguay made a strong start before a run of three consecutive defeats either side of the new year in 2017 put their prospects of a third successive World Cup in doubt. Their record away from home was dismal, winning just two of nine matches, but the campaign still ended as Uruguay's strongest in qualifying for the finals since Oscar Tabarez was appointed 12 years ago, finishing second to runaway leaders Brazil. With the benefit of the longest serving coach at the tournament, Uruguay have a relatively settled style dictated by their star strikers.

TOP RATED



One of very few teams destined to line-up with two strikers, Uruguay really have no choice given the quality at their disposal in Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani. The pair scored 53 league goals combined last season and will be confident of continuing their form into the summer. Elsewhere the fact that centre-back pairing Diego Godin and Jose Gimenez are clubmates for one of the strongest defences in Europe is a huge positive, while young Serie A midfielders Rodrigo Bentancur and Lucas Torreira are ones to watch in midfield.

PROBABLE XI



While Cavani had a better record in qualifying, if Uruguay are to live up to their dark horse status Luis Suarez will need to shine. Despite not being at his best for much of last season, he still had a hand in 37 league goals and his link up play is important in the power struggle to be the main man.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Martin Silva, Martin Campana DEFENDERS: Maxi Pereira, Sebastian Coates, Gaston Silva MIDFIELDERS: Cristian Rodriguez, Carlos Sanchez, Diego Laxalt, Jonathan Urretaviscaya, Lucas Torreira FORWARDS: Cristhian Stuani, Maxi Lopez



GROUP B



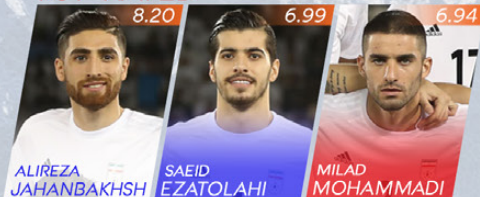
GROUP B IRAN

HEAD COACH **CARLOS QUEIROZ**
CAPTAIN **MASOUD SHOJAEI**

FIXTURES		
	MOROCCO	15.06 
	SPAIN	20.06 
	PORTUGAL	25.06 

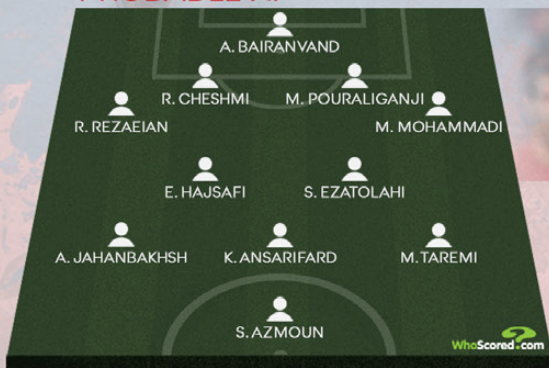
While the quality of opposition must of course be taken into account, Iran's qualification for the World Cup was mightily impressive, playing 18 games in total without defeat and keeping 14 clean sheets in the process. Under the tutelage of former Portugal boss Carlos Queiroz, who has been at the helm for seven years, the side have become very tricky to break down and have some exciting players in attack too. They're far from prolific but picked up more points in AFC qualifying than any of the other four nations from that confederation in Russia and aren't to be underestimated.

TOP RATED



Sardar Azmoun is the focal point of the attack and in many respects the star player, boasting a sensational international record. Elsewhere the veteran centre-back Jalal Hosseini has surprisingly been cut from the squad, with three players now in competition to partner Morteza Pouraliganji. The absence of young defensive midfielder Saeid Ezatolahi through suspension for the crucial opener with Morocco - a must win game for both sides - could be key to Iran's hopes of upsetting the odds.

PROBABLE XI



While Azmoun may steal focus at international level, if Queiroz can get a tune out of Alireza Jahanbakhsh this summer then Iran could spring a surprise. The 24-year-old plays in a different system at club level for AZ but from the right of a front three he led the Eredivisie scoring charts last season with 21 goals.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Mohammad Rashid Mazaheri, Amir Abedzadeh
DEFENDERS: Mohammad Reza Khanzadeh, Pejman Montazeri, Majid Hosseini
MIDFIELDERS: Masoud Shojaei, Omid Ebrahimi, Vahid Amiri, Saman Ghoddos, Ashkan Dejagah, Mehdi Torabi
FORWARDS: Reza Ghoochannejhad

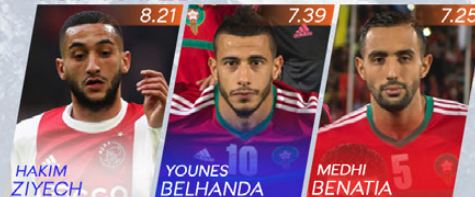
GROUP B MOROCCO

HEAD COACH **HERVE RENARD**
CAPTAIN **MEDHI BENATIA**

FIXTURES		
	IRAN	15.06 
	PORTUGAL	20.06 
	SPAIN	25.06 

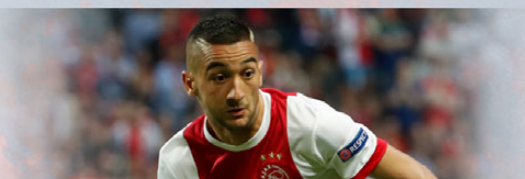
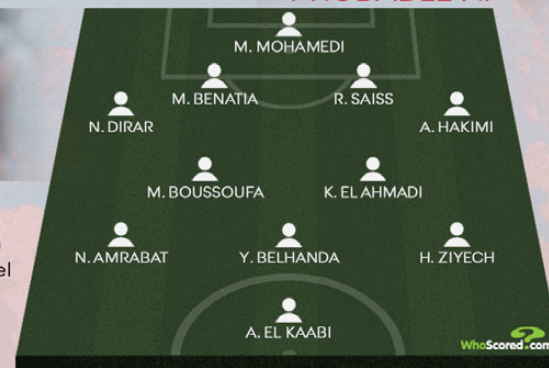
Making their first appearance at a World Cup in 20 years, the man behind Morocco's return is becoming a legend of management in Africa, with Herve Renard gracing the grand stage for the first time. The Frenchman is the only coach to have won the AFCON with two different nations; Zambia in 2012 and Ivory Coast in 2015. He took the reins for the Atlas Lions a year later and secured qualification against the latter of his former employers with a 2-0 victory away from home back in November. Morocco were the only side not to concede a goal in the final phase of qualifying for the tournament.

TOP RATED



Captain Medhi Benatia is the rock at the back for this squad while Real Madrid youngster Achraf Hakimi offers great hope for the future and may well play out of position at left-back. Elsewhere the experience of Mbark Boussoufa and Karim El Ahmadi allows for an enviable crop of attacking midfielders - of which Sofiane Boufal was left out - to impress. Exciting Schalke winger Amine Harit may also have to make do with a place on the bench along with Sofyan Amrabat, the younger brother of likely starter Nordin.

PROBABLE XI



The top performer in the Eredivisie two seasons running according to our statistical ratings, Hakim Ziyech tends to play from wide at international level but remains an influential creative force. The 25-year-old scored nine goals and registered 15 assists in the league for Ajax last season.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Yassine Bounou, Ahmed Reda Tagnaouti
DEFENDERS: Manuel da Costa, Hamza Mendyl
MIDFIELDERS: Faycal Fajr, Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez, Youssef Ait Bennasser, Sofyan Amrabat, Amine Harit
FORWARDS: Khalid Boutaib, Aziz Bouhaddouz, Youssef En-Nesyri

GROUP B PORTUGAL

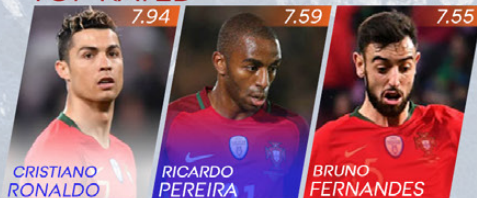
HEAD COACH FERNANDO SANTOS
CAPTAIN CRISTIANO RONALDO



FIXTURES		
	SPAIN	15.06
	MOROCCO	20.06
	IRAN	25.06

With nine wins from ten in qualifying, one could be forgiven for assuming Portugal are coming into the tournament in great form but in truth they only edged out Switzerland in a straight shoot out for top spot. Aside from the Swiss, the European champions had an extremely favourable group but that said they made light work of the competition, scoring 32 goals and conceding just four. Results and performances since have been far less encouraging, however, and Fernando Santos has a number of selection dilemmas to resolve ahead of a mouth-watering opener against neighbours Spain.

TOP RATED



The biggest decision the coach has to make will pertain Pepe's partner at centre-back. Benfica youngster Ruben Dias may well have forced himself into the reckoning ahead of the ageing Jose Fonte and Bruno Alves, while Portugal are so well stocked at right-back that Nelson Semedo and Joao Cancelo failed to make the cut. Bruno Fernandes' excellent form may yet be rewarded with a starting berth but there was no room for Ruben Neves in midfield, and a lack of action for Andre Silva at Milan last season will be a concern.

PROBABLE XI



While Portugal's future looks promising the unavoidable presence of Cristiano Ronaldo still dominates Santos' side. The 33-year-old silenced some doubters after a slow start to last season by his standards with a remarkable return following the turn of the year and is still very much the main man.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Beto, Anthony Lopes DEFENDERS: Bruno Alves, Jose Fonte, Ricardo Pereira, Mario Rui MIDFIELDERS: Joao Moutinho, Adrien Silva, Manuel Fernandes FORWARDS: Ricardo Quaresma, Gelson Martins, Goncalo Guedes

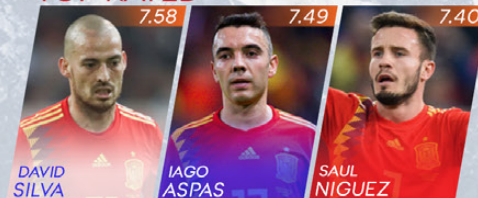
GROUP B SPAIN

HEAD COACH JULEN LOPETEGUI
CAPTAIN SERGIO RAMOS

FIXTURES		
	PORTUGAL	15.06
	IRAN	20.06
	MOROCCO	25.06

Having been drawn against a big name in qualifying in the form of Italy, Spain will have to overcome European champions Portugal to come out on top in Group B but have looked strong since beating the aforementioned Azzurri in September. With the leadership of former U21 head coach Julen Lopetegui, La Roja have made encouraging progress having stagnated under Vicente del Bosque and are playing some irresistible football. The starting XI is similar from two years ago but the squad depth is much stronger and has put pressure on the mainstays to play at a greater intensity.

TOP RATED



As far as selection dilemmas are concerned there is only really one heading into the tournament, with Diego Costa and Iago Aspas the likeliest candidates to lead the line. The latter has enjoyed a fantastic season at Celta and could yet be a shock inclusion in the starting line-up given his work rate. The likes of Cesar Azpilicueta, Koke, Saul Niguez and Marco Asensio would probably start for any other team at the tournament but may have to make do with places on the bench at first, offering Lopetegui the chance to rotate thereafter.



PROBABLE XI



He may not be a nailed on starter at Real Madrid but for his country Isco has become a standout player since Lopetegui took charge. His late runs into the box have led to eight goals in nine caps since the start of last year. The 26-year-old is at the peak of his powers and may well be a star of this World Cup.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Pepe Reina, Kepa Arrizabalaga DEFENDERS: Nacho Monreal, Cesar Azpilicueta, Nacho, Alvaro Odriozola MIDFIELDERS: Koke, Marco Asensio, Saul Niguez FORWARDS: Iago Aspas, Lucas Vazquez, Rodrigo Moreno

GROUP C



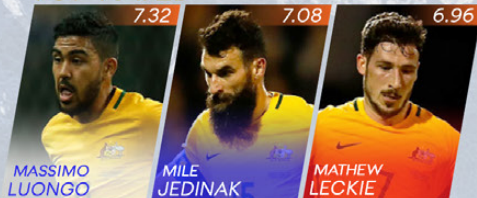
GROUP C AUSTRALIA

HEAD COACH - BERT VAN MARWIJK
CAPTAIN - MILE JEDINAK



Having led Australia to the World Cup for the fourth time running - their second under his stewardship - Ange Postecoglou resigned just weeks after a decisive play-off victory over Honduras, after the Socceroos made hard work of qualifying. They needed extra time to get past Syria over two legs after finishing below Japan and Saudi Arabia in their group and have since poached the man that steered the latter to the finals in Bert van Marwijk. He led the Netherlands to the final in 2010 but hasn't been able to get to grips with a competitive squad so it is unclear who the Dutchman will favour.

TOP RATED



Captain Mile Jedinak, who scored the unlikely of hat-tricks to get Australia to the finals, will start in midfield but with the likes of Tom Rogic and Jackson Irvine also providing competition in the middle ground, Van Marwijk has some decisions to make. Tim Cahill has made the cut for the fourth World Cup running but will be an impact sub at best at the age of 38. The new coach opted for Andrew Nabbout in attack for friendlies with Norway and Colombia, but he is struggling with a shoulder injury.

PROBABLE XI



There's no real star man for the Socceroos, who are a hard-working, unglamorous squad, but Mathew Leckie does provide quality from the right flank. Australia need the winger to recapture his form from the start of last season for Hertha, however, having flattered to deceive since the turn of the year.

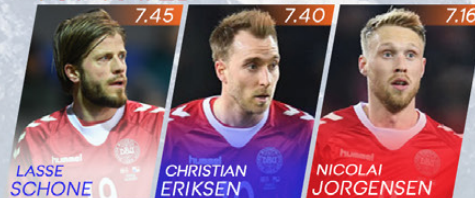
REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Brad Jones, Danny Vukovic DEFENDERS: Milos Degenek, James Meredith, Matthew Jurman MIDFIELDERS: Jackson Irvine, Tom Rogic, Dimitri Petratos, Daniel Arzani FORWARDS: Tim Cahill, Robbie Kruse, Jamie Maclaren

GROUP C DENMARK

HEAD COACH - AGE HAREIDE
CAPTAIN - SIMON KJAER

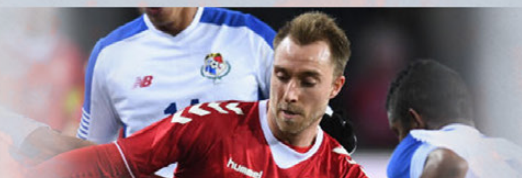
After losing two of their first three matches in qualifying Denmark left themselves with a mountain to climb but went unbeaten thereafter, tightening up defensively in particular. With a play-off with the Republic of Ireland in the balance following a stalemate in Copenhagen, their quality showed in the away leg and the Danes are approaching the tournament in good form. In eleven matches since the start of last year Age Hareide's side are unbeaten, drawing with Germany and thumping Poland 4-0, conceding just five times over that period.

TOP RATED



Deploying a 4-3-3 formation with two deep lying midfielders affording star man Christian Eriksen the license to dictate play further forwards, Age Hareide has found a balance that works for this side. Denmark can also mix up their play by going direct to the height of Yussuf Poulsen and Nicolai Jorgensen in attack. Chelsea defender Andreas Christensen could start out of position at right-back, with the likes of Mathias Jorgensen and Jannik Vestergaard also hoping to partner captain Simon Kjaer.

PROBABLE XI



The only technical player in Hareide's XI, Eriksen carries the vast majority of the creative burden for Denmark and was also the main goal threat in qualifying. His hat-trick in the play-offs secured Denmark's place this summer and the Spurs star will be relied on heavily to take his side even further.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Frederik Ronnow, Jonas Lossl DEFENDERS: Jannik Vestergaard, Mathias Jorgensen, Jonas Knudsen MIDFIELDERS: Michael Krohn-Dehli, Lasse Schone, Viktor Fischer, Lukas Lerager FORWARDS: Andreas Cornelius, Martin Braithwaite, Kasper Dolberg

GROUP C FRANCE

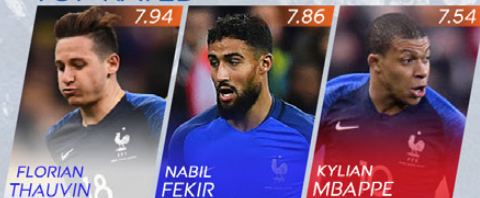
HEAD COACH **DIDIER DESCHAMPS**
CAPTAIN **HUGO LLORIS**



FIXTURES		
	AUSTRALIA	16.06
	PERU	21.06
	DENMARK	26.06

France's qualifying campaign certainly wasn't the stroll that one would expect from a pre-tournament favourite, and there's a real sense that what is a hugely exciting crop of players haven't come close to realising their potential under Didier Deschamps. The former French captain has been at the helm for six years now and the fans remain unconvinced to say the least. With just 18 goals scored across ten matches to reach the tournament - drawing 0-0 with both Belarus and Luxembourg - les Bleus are hardly firing on all cylinders and have issues at the back too.

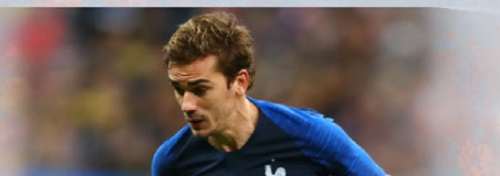
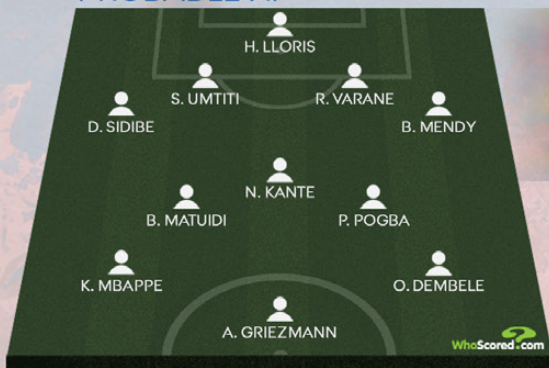
TOP RATED



Laurent Koscielny will miss the tournament through injury, while Didier Deschamps has taken a risk on Benjamin Mendy's fitness, with Atletico youngster Lucas Hernandez in line to deputise at left-back.

Elsewhere Dimitri Payet picked up a cruel injury in the Europa League final and misses out, while Adrien Rabiot, Kingsley Coman, Alexandre Lacazette and Anthony Martial were among those cut. France's strength in depth is perhaps the best in the world, but the left flank may be their weak point.

PROBABLE XI



Having potentially played his last game for Atletico, Antoine Griezmann will be looking to impress his prospective employers and hold the Euro and World Cup golden boots simultaneously. With 29 goals and 13 assists in all last season, the 27-year-old will be key to both finishing and creating chances.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Steve Mandanda, Alphonse Areola DEFENDERS: Benjamin Pavard, Presnel Kimpembe, Adil Rami, Lucas Hernandez MIDFIELDERS: Corentin Tolisso, Steven Nzonzi FORWARDS: Olivier Giroud, Ousmane Dembele, Nabil Fekir, Florian Thauvin

GROUP C PERU

HEAD COACH **RICARDO GARECA**
CAPTAIN **PAOLO GUERRERO**

FIXTURES		
	DENMARK	16.06
	FRANCE	21.06
	AUSTRALIA	26.06

Reaching the finals for the first time since 1982 at the expense of Chile, with a six-game unbeaten streak to end their campaign, Peru aren't to be underestimated. A point against Colombia in their final game was enough to see Ricardo Gareca's side earn the play-off spot from CONMEBOL qualifying on goal difference and they progressed past New Zealand to book their place in Russia. With an energetic midfield and pace on the flanks they could cause some problems this summer, though there was a huge blow to the South Americans' prospects ahead of the tournament.

TOP RATED



Leading scorer Paolo Guerrero tested positive for cocaine consumed in a contaminated tea but an appeal by the three other captain's in Group D to FIFA has seen his suspension overturned for the World Cup. Jefferson Farfan may drop out or could move back into a wide berth at the expense of Andre Carrillo, having led the line for much of the season for Russian champions Lokomotiv Moscow. Elsewhere Renato Tapia is one to watch in midfield, while Edison Flores has an excellent scoring record from the wing.

PROBABLE XI



Peru's best chance of progression is to utilise their pace on the counter and playmaker Christian Cueva is key to picking the crucial final pass. Since the start of last season the Sao Paulo man has registered nine league assists and his ability to keep the ball in advanced areas should relieve some pressure.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Carlos Caceda, Jose Carvallo DEFENDERS: Aldo Corzo, Miguel Araujo, Anderson Santamaria, Nilson Loyola MIDFIELDERS: Paolo Hurtado, Andy Polo, Pedro Aquino, Wilder Cartagena FORWARDS: Raul Ruidiaz, Jefferson Farfan



**RODRIGO
BENTANCUR**

He may have only started five league matches since joining Juventus from Boca Juniors last summer but Bentancur has already established himself as a favourite of Uruguay boss Oscar Tabarez. Since making his debut last October the 20-year-old has started five consecutive internationals and provides the energy in midfield along with former clubmate Nahitan Nandez.

The youngster starts ahead of Serie A counterpart Lucas Torreira - a regular at Sampdoria and highly sought after talent himself - and will be looking to hold down a place of his own in the Bianconeri midfield next season.

An excellent passer and accomplished ball winner in the middle ground, he forms part of an industrious midfield trio that allows Uruguay's star strikers to do what they do best. Bentancur averaged a whopping 83.5 passes per 90 minutes in Italy last season, with an outstanding 88.2% accuracy, and that figure jumped to 91% in five Champions League outings, so he's proven more than assured on the grandest stage.



**ACHRAF
HAKIMI**

Having only turned 19 in November, the fact that Zinedine Zidane handed Hakimi ten starts across La Liga and the Champions League last season suggests that Real Madrid are confident that the full-back will have a big future at the club. He impressed when called upon to deputise for Dani Carvajal in the league, earning a WhoScored.com rating of 7.34, significantly superior to los Blancos' first choice right-back.

The teenager scored twice in nine league appearances in total and looked comfortable at both ends of the pitch, leading Madrid in dribbles per game (2.4) whilst ranking third for tackles (2.3).

However, while Hakimi only broke into the first team at the Bernabeu last season he had already made his senior Morocco debut back in 2016, scoring on his very first start a year later. With Nabil Dirar likely to assume his favoured right-back role, the starlet will have the chance to show his versatility by starting of the left this summer but is accustomed to doing so for the Atlas Lions.



**GONCALO
GUEDES**

While Portugal have a number of promising youngsters, Guedes stands out as having had a particularly impressive season at Valencia. On loan from PSG having made the move to France at the start of last year, the winger showcased why the Ligue 1 champions splashed €30m for his services and it will be interesting to see what lies ahead of him after the World Cup.

First and foremost he'll hope to make a mark in Russia, and with the left midfield spot in Fernando Santos' favoured 4-4-2 double six formation perhaps up for grabs, Guedes will hope to take any opportunity that comes his way. The competition comes in the form of veteran trickster Ricardo Quaresma and Joao Mario, who often operates from wide for the reigning European champions.

The 21-year-old is certainly a worthy candidate for the spot having ended the league season in Spain with five goals and nine assists in just 25 starts. Only top scorer Rodrigo Moreno had a direct hand in more goals as the former LaLiga winners secured a return to the Champions League.

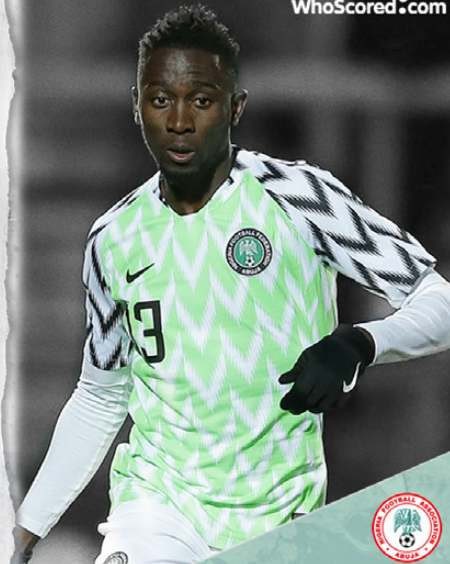


**KYLIAN
MBAPPE**

Such are the outrageously high standards that Kylian Mbappe has set in his short career thus far, his debut campaign at PSG didn't really draw a great deal of praise. The controversial nature of his transfer from Monaco last summer perhaps didn't help in the eyes of the French press and public at large, but it's easy to forget that the forward is still just 19.

Fighting for some of the limelight in a team of individuals, the teenager was at times criticised for being selfish in possession but his figures still speak for themselves. Indeed, in 35 appearances across Ligue 1 and the Champions League the youngster scored 17 goals and registered 11 assists and, along with Antoine Griezmann, looks sure to start in France's attack this summer.

Operating from the right as he has for much of the season to great success in Paris, Mbappe can utilise his electric pace and trickery, having completed 2.9 dribbles per game in the league. A player to get bums off seats, the Frenchman will hope to put his name in lights in Russia.



**WILFRED
NDIDI**

Another player whose age is often overlooked, such has been the ease with which Ndidi has adapted to the Premier League, many won't realise he is just 21. Signed by Leicester to fulfil the ball-winning void left by N'Golo Kante, the Nigerian has been an undoubted success in that regard, even if he can't replicate the Frenchman's ability to get from box-to-box.

Ndidi has become a regular fixture in the side for over a year for the Super Eagles and will partner captain John Obi Mikel in the middle of the park, assuming he can recover from a hamstring strain in time for the Africans' group opener with Croatia. He will be pivotal to breaking up play and distributing the ball to the pacy attackers at coach Gernot Rohr's disposal.

A dominating midfield presence both in the air and on the ground, Ndidi won the second most aerial duels of any Premier League midfielder last season and went one better in terms of tackles. A total of 138 was a full 21 more than any other player in England's top-flight.

GROUP D



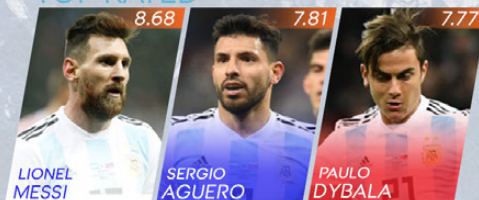
GROUP D ARGENTINA

HEAD COACH **JORGE SAMPAOLI**
CAPTAIN **LIONEL MESSI**



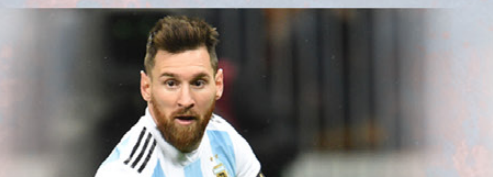
To say Argentina's route to the World Cup was troubled would be an understatement, with Jorge Sampaoli taking over with just four qualifiers remaining. Appointing a coach with such intense demands and a departure from the existing approach was a risk that just about paid off. A place in Russia was only assured in their final game, with Lionel Messi the unsurprising hero with a hat-trick against Ecuador. Three draws preceded what was only a seventh win in 18 group games and a team with such an embarrassment of attacking riches haven't come close to striking the right balance yet.

TOP RATED



Such is the plethora of attacking talent at Sampaoli's disposal that Mauro Icardi couldn't make the squad and Paulo Dybala is only expected to play a bit part this summer. First choice keeper Sergio Romero was forced to withdraw through injury so the spot in goal is likely to go to Willy Caballero. Gabriel Mercado, Lucas Biglia and Manuel Lanzini are also knocking on the door for a start. The coach has chopped and changed between a 3-4-2-1 and 4-2-3-1 formation but the team doesn't look particularly comfortable in either.

PROBABLE XI



For a squad with such individual quality the amount that Argentina rely upon Lionel Messi is staggering. Ending the league season with typically remarkable figures of 34 goals and 12 assists, some still say he needs a World Cup to be the greatest player ever. His chances of achieving that are increasingly slim.

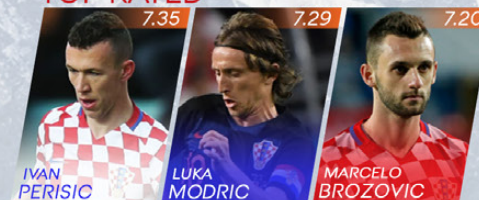
REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Nahuel Guzman, Franco Armani DEFENDERS: Marcos Rojo, Gabriel Mercado, Cristian Ansaldi MIDFIELDERS: Marcos Acuna, Ever Banega, Lucas Biglia, Manuel Lanzini, Maximiliano Meza FORWARDS: Gonzalo Higuain, Paulo Dybala

GROUP D CROATIA

HEAD COACH **ZLATKO DALIC**
CAPTAIN **LUKA MODRIC**

Having taken the bold decision to sack former coach Ante Cacic - an unpopular figure with some of the players in the squad, let alone the fans - with just one qualifier remaining, former U21 boss Zlatko Dalic overcame a crucial qualifier with Ukraine and subsequent play-off with Greece. Croatia still aren't quite the sum of their impressive parts but do tend to show up at major tournaments and have good strength in depth. They approach the summer with very few injury concerns and a score to settle against an Iceland side that finished above them in qualifying.

TOP RATED



With regards to selection dilemmas, there may only be two for Dalic to contend with. Dejan Lovren has been in and out of the international fold and is in competition with Vedran Corluka at the back, while Mario Mandzukic isn't guaranteed a start up front with Nikola Kalinic in reserve. Neither front men have been prolific by any stretch of late, so Andrej Kramaric and Ivan Perisic will hope to chip in from wide, while Marcelo Brozovic has impressed alongside the latter in a deeper role for Inter since the turn of the year.



PROBABLE XI



Captain Luka Modric is still the star man, afforded the freedom of a more attacking berth than he is used to for Real Madrid. With Ivan Rakitic also in midfield, the centre of the park is in outstanding hands once more, though it's Modric that will look to run the show in what may be his last World Cup.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Lovre Kalinic, Dominik Livakovic DEFENDERS: Vedran Corluka, Josip Pivacic, Tin Jedvaj, Duje Caleta-Car MIDFIELDERS: Mateo Kovacic, Milan Badelj, Filip Bradaric FORWARDS: Nikola Kalinic, Marko Pjaca, Ante Rebic

GROUP D ICELAND

HEAD COACH HEIMIR HALLGRIMSSON
CAPTAIN ARON GUNNARSSON



FIXTURES		
	ARGENTINA	16.06
	NIGERIA	22.06
	CROATIA	26.06

The Euro 2016 fan favourites are almost unchanged from two years ago in terms of approach and likability. Still upsetting the odds, topping a qualifying group containing Croatia, Ukraine and Turkey and still exceptionally functional, Heimir Hallgrímsson has managed to carry on where his former mentor Lars Lagerback left off. In a competitive group Iceland will be unfancied once more and wouldn't have it any other way, though the absence of star man Gylfi Sigurdsson for much of 2018 hasn't been ideal, even if the playmaker has been declared fit for the tournament.

TOP RATED



There are a few changes in personnel from France, most notably at the back where Hordur Magnusson is expected to start ahead of Ari Skulason on the left. Meanwhile veteran Kari Arnason may drop to the bench, with Sverrir Ingi Ingason set to partner Ragnar Sigurdsson having had the benefit of playing alongside one another this year for Rostov. Elsewhere Augsburg's Alfred Finnbogason should get the nod up front in Kolbeinn Sigthorsson's absence after 18 months out through injury.

PROBABLE XI



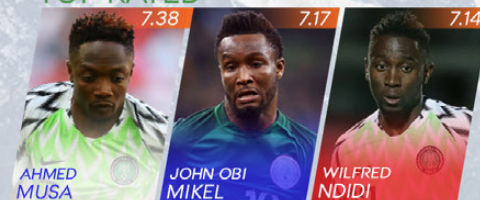
While four of the likely midfield five ply their trade in England it's Sigurdsson that remains Iceland's key man. Johann Berg Gudmundsson enjoyed a strong season for Burnley but if the Scandinavians are to upset the odds again they will need the stricken Everton star to return to both form and fitness.

GROUP D NIGERIA

HEAD COACH GERNOT ROHR
CAPTAIN JOHN OBI MIKEL

Making an appearance for the third tournament running, there is more excitement surrounding this Super Eagles squad than their predecessors for good reason. Gernot Rohr, a well-travelled German coach in Africa, led them to this stage after four wins and a draw from five matches of what promised to be a troublesome group involving AFCON champions Cameroon and Algeria. A 3-0 defeat was awarded against them after a draw with the latter in their final game for fielding an ineligible player but Nigeria still qualified comfortably courtesy of some well known Premier League names.

TOP RATED



The entire front six that looks likely to line-up in an adaptable 4-4-2 formation have all either played or play in England's top-flight, with captain John Obi Mikel partnered by the league's top tackler Wilfred Ndidi in midfield. Alex Iwobi and Kelechi Iheanacho are the stars of the future though the latter may have to make do with a place on the bench initially alongside Foxes clubmate Ahmed Musa, with Odion Ighalo leading the line. The decision as to who starts in goal is unclear and teenager Francis Uzoho may get the nod.



PROBABLE XI



Playing in what remains a favoured position further forward on the right at international level, Victor Moses is a key player in attack. Since opting to turn out for his country of birth, the 27-year-old has scored 11 goals in 29 international appearances, with Nigeria utilising both flanks as often as possible.



REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Ikechukwu Ezenwa, Daniel Akpeyi DEFENDERS: Elderson, Leon Balogun, Chidozie Awaziem, Tyrone Ebuehi MIDFIELDERS: Ogenyi Onazi, John Ogu, Joel Obi FORWARDS: Ahmed Musa, Simeon Nwankwo, Kelechi Iheanacho

WORLD CUP 2018 PLANNER

GROUP A

RUSSIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	SAUDI ARABIA
EGYPT	<input type="checkbox"/>	URUGUAY
RUSSIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	EGYPT
URUGUAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	SAUDI ARABIA
URUGUAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	RUSSIA
SAUDI ARABIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	EGYPT

GROUP B

MOROCCO	<input type="checkbox"/>	IRAN
PORTUGAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPAIN
PORTUGAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOROCCO
IRAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPAIN
IRAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTUGAL
SPAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOROCCO

GROUP C

FRANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUSTRALIA
PERU	<input type="checkbox"/>	DENMARK
DENMARK	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUSTRALIA
FRANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	PERU
DENMARK	<input type="checkbox"/>	FRANCE
AUSTRALIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	PERU

GROUP D

ARGENTINA	<input type="checkbox"/>	ICELAND
CROATIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NIGERIA
ARGENTINA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CROATIA
NIGERIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	ICELAND
NIGERIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	ARGENTINA
ICELAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	CROATIA

GROUP E

COSTA RICA	<input type="checkbox"/>	SERBIA
BRAZIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	SWITZERLAND
BRAZIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	COSTA RICA
SERBIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	SWITZERLAND
SERBIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAZIL
SWITZERLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	COSTA RICA

GROUP F

GERMANY	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEXICO
SWEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOUTH KOREA
SOUTH KOREA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEXICO
GERMANY	<input type="checkbox"/>	SWEDEN
MEXICO	<input type="checkbox"/>	SWEDEN
SOUTH KOREA	<input type="checkbox"/>	GERMANY

GROUP G

BELGIUM	<input type="checkbox"/>	PANAMA
TUNISIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	ENGLAND
BELGIUM	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUNISIA
ENGLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	PANAMA
PANAMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUNISIA
ENGLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	BELGIUM

GROUP H

COLOMBIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAPAN
POLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	SENEGAL
JAPAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	SENEGAL
POLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	COLOMBIA
JAPAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLAND
SENEGAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	COLOMBIA

KNOCKOUT 1 30.06 / 15:00
GROUP C WINNER ☐ ☐ GROUP D RUNNER UP

KNOCKOUT 2 30.06 / 19:00
GROUP A WINNER ☐ ☐ GROUP B RUNNER UP

KNOCKOUT 3 01.07 / 15:00
GROUP B WINNER ☐ ☐ GROUP A RUNNER UP

KNOCKOUT 4 01.07 / 19:00
GROUP D WINNER ☐ ☐ GROUP C RUNNER UP

QUARTER-FINAL 1 06.07 / 15:00
KNOCKOUT 1 WINNER ☐ ☐ KNOCKOUT 2 WINNER

QUARTER-FINAL 2 06.07 / 19:00
KNOCKOUT 5 WINNER ☐ ☐ KNOCKOUT 6 WINNER

SEMI-FINAL 1 10.07 / 19:00
1/4 FINAL 1 WINNER ☐ ☐ 1/4 FINAL 2 WINNER

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF 14.07 / 15:00
SEMI-FINAL 1 LOSER ☐ ☐ SEMI-FINAL 2 LOSER

FINAL 15.07 / 16:00
SEMI-FINAL 1 WINNER ☐ ☐ SEMI-FINAL 2 WINNER

KNOCKOUT 5 02.07 / 15:00
GROUP E WINNER ☐ ☐ GROUP F RUNNER UP

KNOCKOUT 6 02.07 / 19:00
GROUP G WINNER ☐ ☐ GROUP H RUNNER UP

KNOCKOUT 7 03.07 / 15:00
GROUP F WINNER ☐ ☐ GROUP E RUNNER UP

KNOCKOUT 8 03.07 / 19:00
GROUP H WINNER ☐ ☐ GROUP G RUNNER UP

QUARTER-FINAL 3 07.07 / 15:00
KNOCKOUT 7 WINNER ☐ ☐ KNOCKOUT 8 WINNER

QUARTER-FINAL 4 07.07 / 19:00
KNOCKOUT 3 WINNER ☐ ☐ KNOCKOUT 4 WINNER

SEMI-FINAL 2 11.07 / 19:00
1/4 FINAL 3 WINNER ☐ ☐ 1/4 FINAL 4 WINNER

GROUP E



GROUP E BRAZIL

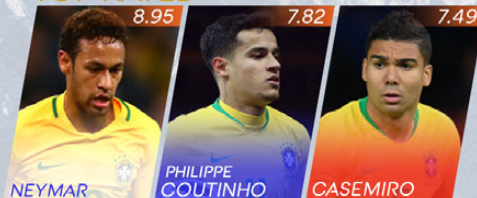
HEAD COACH **TITE**
CAPTAIN **UNCONFIRMED**

FIXTURES

	SWITZERLAND	17.06	
	COSTA RICA	22.06	
	SERBIA	27.06	

The favourites with many, Brazil are justifiably considered among the top three teams at the tournament given the ease with which they topped a notoriously difficult group process. Twelve wins from 18 games was three more than they had managed in their three previous CONMEBOL qualification campaigns and came after losing their very first game in Chile. In fact, after six matches Brazil sat sixth when Tite was appointed in place of Dunga back in 2016, and the Selecao haven't looked back since, with the former Corinthians boss working wonders in his first job in international management.

TOP RATED



The big blow for Brazil is that Dani Alves has been ruled out through injury, and as such right-back is a very clear weakness in the side. Danilo will likely take the spot ahead of Fagner having started just 13 league matches all season. Elsewhere Tite is spoilt for choice but tends to favour Renato Augusto and Paulinho in midfield over Fernandinho and Fred. Coutinho could also play in a three but is more likely to start on the right, meaning Douglas Costa and Willian would have to make do with a place on the bench.

PROBABLE XI



The news that all Brazil fans and neutrals were hoping for is that Neymar is back in training in good time and will start in a front three spearheaded by Gabriel Jesus. The former Barca-man dazzled before sustaining an injury earlier in the year for PSG, with 19 goals and 13 assists in just 20 league outings.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Ederson, Cassio DEFENDERS: Thiago Silva, Filipe Luis, Fagner, Pedro Geromel MIDFIELDERS: Willian, Fernandinho, Fred FORWARDS: Douglas Costa, Roberto Firmino, Taison

GROUP E COSTA RICA

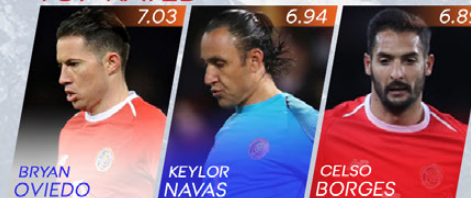
HEAD COACH **OSCAR RAMIREZ**
CAPTAIN **BRYAN RUIZ**

FIXTURES

	SERBIA	17.06	
	BRAZIL	22.06	
	SWITZERLAND	27.06	

Despite reaching the quarter-finals four years ago, Costa Rica still know that emerging from the group will be a real achievement, but one they are very capable of. The squad is largely unchanged from 2014, which is largely a positive despite a lack of young talent to get excited about. Instead the group is very familiar and as such remain well organised despite a change in management. Oscar Ramirez took the reins three years ago, qualifying with room to spare having only lost away in Mexico before a dramatic last gasp defeat to World Cup debutants Panama.

TOP RATED



Having seen his predecessor's experiment with a back four fall flat, Ramirez has reverted to the 5-4-1 formation that saw Costa Rica spring a surprise in 2014 and the team is well settled. From the previous World Cup David Guzman may well start ahead of Yeltsin Tejada in midfield, while Bryan Oviedo will play at left wing-back having missed out through injury in Brazil. LAFC forward Marco Urena should lead the line, meaning Joel Campbell will move to the right and Bryan Ruiz will start ahead of Christian Bolanos on the left.

PROBABLE XI



In a side that will have to do its fair share of defending this summer, goalkeeper Keylor Navas will be busy once more and is the high profile star in the line-up. The Real Madrid number one certainly has an error in him but is one of the finest shot stoppers around on his day and will hope to prove as much.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Patrick Pemberton, Leonel Moreira DEFENDERS: Francisco Calvo, Kendall Watson, Ronald Matarrita, Ian Smith MIDFIELDERS: Christian Bolanos, Randall Azofeifa, Yeltsin Tejada, Rodney Wallace, Daniel Colindres FORWARDS: Johan Venegas

GROUP E SERBIA

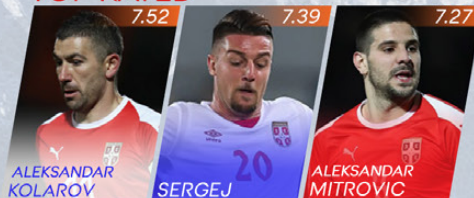
HEAD COACH **MLADEN KRSTAJIC**
CAPTAIN **ALEKSANDAR KOLAROV**



FIXTURES		
	COSTA RICA	17.06
	SWITZERLAND	22.06
	BRAZIL	27.06

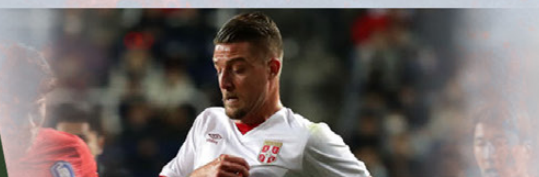
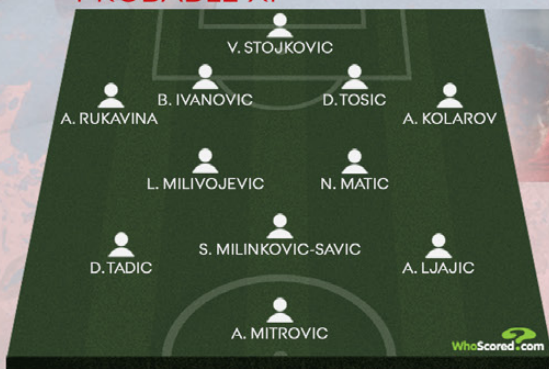
Serbia haven't made the best of an impressive group of players until now but qualified from a competitive group having gone eight games unbeaten to all but assure top spot. Indeed, their only defeat of the campaign came in Austria, who were one of three sides they faced that reached Euro 2016 where the Eagles had failed. There has been a change at the top since booking their place in Russia, with new coach Mladen Krstajic's first competitive game in management coming at a World Cup finals. He's already taken the bold decision to change captain and looks likely to change the formation too.

TOP RATED



Serbia have switched from a back three to a four since Krstajic took charge, with Matija Nastasic dropping out of the squad entirely. The issue now is that new captain Aleksandar Kolarov is the youngest player in the backline at 32. They are protected by the imposing pair of Nemanja Matic and Luka Milivojevic though, and there's youth throughout the squad elsewhere. Dusan Tadic and Adem Ljajic should get the nod out wide, with Aleksandar Mitrovic leading the line fresh from firing Fulham back into the Premier League.

PROBABLE XI



One player consistently and bizarrely overlooked by the previous management was Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, who will almost undoubtedly be playing for a move this summer. The Lazio star has been a standout performer in Serie A for two seasons and scored 12 goals from midfield last time around.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Pedrag Rajkovic, Marko Dmitrovic DEFENDERS: Uros Spajic, Milos Veljkovic, Nikola Milenkovic, Milan Rodic MIDFIELDERS: Filip Kostic, Andrija Zivkovic, Marko Grujic, Nemanja Radonjic FORWARDS: Aleksandar Prijovic, Luka Jovic

GROUP E SWITZERLAND

HEAD COACH **VLADIMIR PETKOVIC**
CAPTAIN **STEPHAN LICHTSTEINER**

FIXTURES		
	BRAZIL	17.06
	SERBIA	22.06
	COSTA RICA	27.06

Despite nine wins from ten in qualifying, beating Portugal before a decisive defeat to the European champions, Switzerland were forced into the play-offs to make it this far. They overcame Northern Ireland 1-0 over two legs via a penalty that shouldn't have been awarded and going forwards they still lack any real spark. Xherdan Shaqiri has been the one player to provide it in attack for years and while there are some decent youngsters in Petkovic's squad, most of the same faces from the previous World Cup are likely to remain for what will be the nation's fourth consecutive appearance at the finals.

TOP RATED



The likes of Valon Behrami, Gelson Fernandes and Blerim Dzemaili have all been on the scene for years now but at least one may have to make way. Remo Freuler has enjoyed a decent season at Atalanta, while Denis Zakaria is one of the prospects coming through. The Gladbach man could start alongside former Foal Granit Xhaka in midfield. Manuel Akanji may also get to a spot at centre-back, while at the opposite end another Bundesliga talent Breel Embolo may have to make do with being understudy to Haris Seferovic.



PROBABLE XI



One of a number of players hoping to impress potential employers this summer, Xherdan Shaqiri's time at Stoke will surely come to an end following their relegation. He has a similar burden at international level in terms of carrying the creative threat and packs a punch from distance.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Roman Burki, Yvon Mvogo DEFENDERS: Johan Djourou, Michael Lang, Francois Moubandje, Nico Elvedi MIDFIELDERS: Valon Behrami, Gelson Fernandes, Remo Freuler FORWARDS: Josip Drmic, Breel Embolo, Mario Gavranovic



**GABRIEL
JESUS**

The starting striker for the pre-tournament favourites, Gabriel Jesus only turned 21 in April and arrives in Russia full of confidence having scored the goal that ensured Manchester City became the first ever Premier League club to record 100 points in a season. A sumptuous finish against Southampton last month was the ideal way to end a campaign that had been blighted by the frustration of injuries from a personal perspective.

Despite an absence of a matter of months earlier this year the striker still posted impressive figures, scoring 17 goals across the league and Champions League at a rate of one every 134 minutes. His record for the Selecao is equally impressive having established himself as the number nine as a teenager back in 2016, going on to score nine goals from 15 caps as things stand.

It's Jesus' work rate that is equally important for Brazil, in turn alleviating some of the defensive responsibility from Neymar, allowing the poster boy to flourish rather than stealing focus.



**ANDRIJA
ZIVKOVIC**

The strength in depth in the Serbia midfield is such that Zivkovic may find a starting berth hard to come by but rookie coach Milen Krstajic will know just what the Benfica youngster can offer to his side. A diminutive and tricky playmaker, the 21-year-old has taken to a deeper berth in midfield for the Portuguese giants with aplomb and will hope that his versatility is an asset that is not overlooked this summer.

Having made his senior international debut way back in 2013, Zivkovic was later held back with the youth sides for a number of years but has since forced his way into the reckoning for this World Cup after a notable Liga NOS campaign. A regular for the former champions since the start of February, the Serbian started 20 games across the league and Champions League last season from as many as six different positions.

Three goals and four assists in Portugal's top-flight helped the youngster to an impressive WhoScored.com rating of 7.22 and he's capable of finding the killer pass through any opposition defence.



**DENIS
ZAKARIA**

Having not started any of his previous seven international appearances, Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic's faith in Denis Zakaria became clear when he started the 21-year-old in both crucial play-off legs against Northern Ireland. The Borussia Monchengladbach midfielder shone when it mattered most for his nation, earning a WhoScored.com man of the match rating of 8.10 in the decisive 1-0 win in Belfast.

His composure on the ball was plain to see, completing 92% of his passes on the night, and that ability to keep play ticking over is something that suits the Swiss' patient approach. As such Zakaria may well get the nod alongside Granit Xhaka in midfield, forging a combative and metronomic partnership in the centre of the pitch.

The Gladbach star was a mainstay in the Bundesliga last season, boasting an excellent 89.3% pass accuracy and winning 2.5 tackles per game. However he, like Xhaka, will need to work on his discipline as the pair cannot afford to lose their heads under pressure in Russia.



**TRENT
ALEXANDER-ARNOLD**

The only uncapped player in Southgate's England squad, if the coach was in two minds as to whether Alexander-Arnold could cope in the spotlight of the watching world, the teenager's performance in the Champions League final will have given him something to think about. The Liverpool star had the courage to support the Reds' attacks and Southgate will demand the same of his wing-backs this summer.

Given three right-backs have been called up it seems likely that Kyle Walker may well play in a back three once more, and the 19-year-old's chances of featuring would certainly improve with Kieran Trippier as his competition. His willingness to bomb forward and show for the ball is refreshing, and an ability to pick out a teammate in the final third could be a real asset, averaging 1.3 key passes per game last season.

The potential debutant will no doubt get a rest for the friendly with Nigeria but a start against Costa Rica ahead of the tournament would give him an opportunity to stake what would be a worthy claim based on an impressive debut season at senior level.



**ISMAILA
SARR**

With a high bar to rise to having reached the quarter-finals in their only ever World Cup appearance back in 2002, Senegal have a more talented squad this time around, with Sarr the latest example of the exciting players that the country has produced in recent years. A regular fixture in a side that earned a Europa League finish of fifth in France last season, the 20-year-old drew comparisons with former Rennes star Ousmane Dembele.

His pace and trickery is a joy to watch and while Sarr may not start the opening match against Poland, with Sadio Mane and Keita Balde to compete with, he could be a real weapon from the bench. Capable of playing on either flank or as a centre-forward put in place to stretch the opposition defence, the youngster can be a real handful.

Figures of five goals and three assists from 24 league appearances last season highlight that Sarr's end product needs work, but an average of 2.7 dribbles per game was enough to rank among the top ten players in Ligue 1.

GROUP F



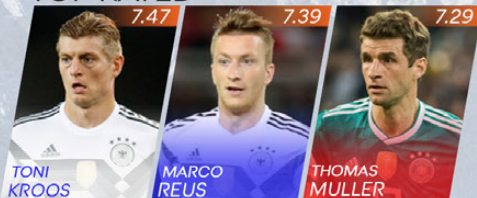
GROUP F GERMANY

HEAD COACH JOACHIM LOW
CAPTAIN MANUEL NEUER

FIXTURES		
	MEXICO	17.06
	SWEDEN	23.06
	SOUTH KOREA	27.06

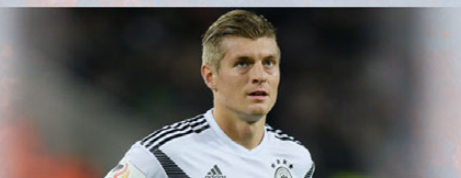
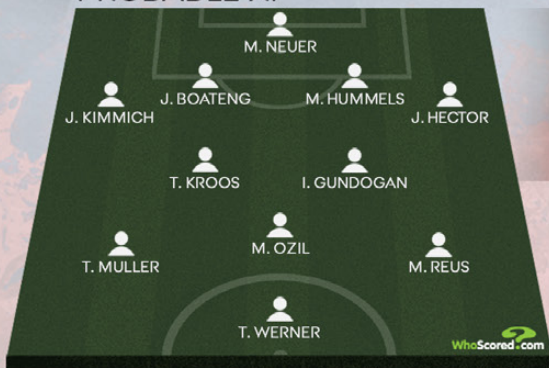
With a worst World Cup finish since the turn of the millennium of third, Germany's pedigree is unrivalled in the modern era and Joachim Low's side are tipped to maintain that record this summer. The holders are well balanced in terms of youth and experience and qualified for the tournament from an admittedly favourable group with a 100% record and plus 39 goal difference. That being said, in recent friendlies the side has looked a little blunt but the support cast to the chosen striker, in terms of depth, is outstanding yet again and capable of becoming the first German side to retain their crown.

TOP RATED



Low has a number of big decisions to make, starting in goal after Manuel Neuer sustained a broken foot back in September and has not played a competitive match since. Elsewhere Niklas Sule featured more for Bayern than Jerome Boateng last season and is putting real pressure on his more experienced clubmate, while Julian Draxler and Marco Reus are vying for a start after the shock omission of Leroy Sane. Sami Khedira and Ilkay Gundogan fight for the spot alongside Toni Kroos, while Timo Werner may lead the line.

PROBABLE XI



One of those certain to be on the teamsheet, Kroos makes Germany tick from deep and was integral to their success in Brazil. Fresh from winning a third consecutive Champions League, completing an astonishing 94% of his passes in the tournament, the 28-year-old is at the top of his game.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Kevin Trapp, Marc-Andre ter Stegen DEFENDERS: Marvin Plattenhardt, Matthias Ginter, Antonio Rudiger, Niklas Sule MIDFIELDERS: Sami Khedira, Leon Goretzka, Sebastian Rudy, Julian Brandt, Marco Reus FORWARDS: Mario Gomez

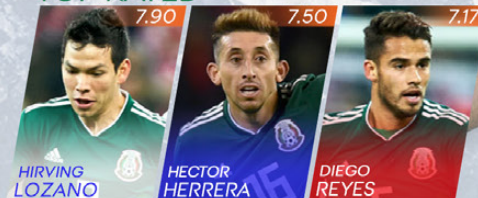
GROUP F MEXICO

HEAD COACH JUAN CARLOS OSARIO
CAPTAIN ANDRES GUARDADO

FIXTURES		
	GERMANY	17.06
	SOUTH KOREA	23.06
	SWEDEN	27.06

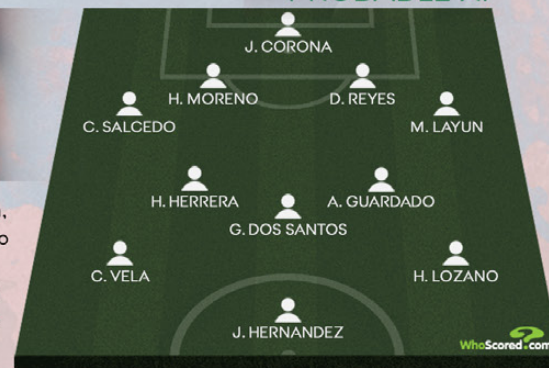
Comfortably the strongest team of the CONCACAF nations at present, Mexico qualified for the World Cup with relative ease. Juan Carlos Osario has been at the helm for two and a half years now and has built a very strong record in that time. The coach has plenty of options to choose from, particularly in attacking positions, and will be confident of steering this side through the group stages for an impressive seventh tournament running. Getting past the round of 16 has been the problem on each of the previous six occasions and that will no doubt be the aim this time around.

TOP RATED



Having not even featured in the squads for well over a year now, veteran defender Rafael Marquez has been recalled, with defender Nestor Araujo missing through injury. The 39-year-old will hope to make an appearance at a record-equalling fifth World Cup but is unlikely to start. Captain Andres Guardado and Diego Reyes both approach the tournament with injuries, while brothers Giovanni and Jonathan dos Santos could be competing for the same spot. Exciting winger Hirving Lozano scored 17 goals for PSV last season.

PROBABLE XI



One sure fire starter in Osario's XI is Hector Herrera, who has been a mainstay for both Mexico and Porto for some time now. The 28-year-old enjoyed an excellent season to help the latter to the Liga NOS title and provides the energy in midfield alongside veteran playmaker Andres Guardado.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Guillermo Ochoa, Alfredo Talavera DEFENDERS: Rafael Marquez, Hugo Ayala, Jesus Gallardo, Edson Alvarez MIDFIELDERS: Jonathan dos Santos, Marco Fabian, Javier Aquino FORWARDS: Oribe Peralta, Raul Jimenez, Jesus Manuel Corona

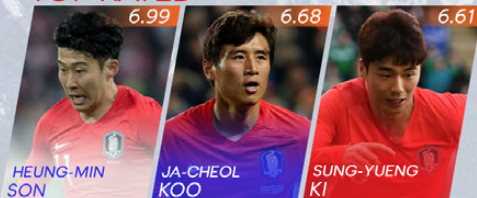
GROUP F SOUTH KOREA

HEAD COACH **SHIN TAE-YONG**
CAPTAIN **KI SUNG-YUENG**

FIXTURES		
	SWEDEN	18.06
	MEXICO	23.06
	GERMANY	27.06

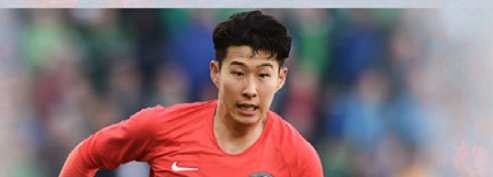
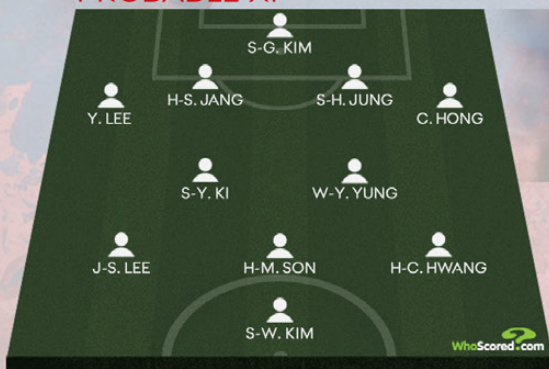
Scraping through AFC qualifying by the skin of their teeth, South Korea won just four of their ten group games and finished seven points behind winners Iran. Former international midfielder Shin Tae-yong was appointed following a defeat to Qatar last June but only managed two 0-0 draws to see the Reds over the line and reach the World Cup for the ninth successive tournament. They've made it past the group stages just twice, notably finishing fourth on home soil in 2002, but the odds are stacked against them to do so for a third time this summer.

TOP RATED



The loss of promising forward Kwon Chang-hoon is a big blow to South Korea from an attacking perspective and piles more pressure on Son Heung-min. Swansea midfielder Ki Sung-yueng will captain the side having recently reached 100 international caps, while experienced Augsburg man Koo Ja-cheol may have to make do with a place on the bench. Kim Shin-wook may start as a focal point to the attack and a target man to for the quicker players around him to work off of, including Salzburg prospect Hwang Hee-chan.

PROBABLE XI



The undisputed star of this side and leading scorer, Son will be hoping to fire his nation to an unlikely escape route from Group F. The 25-year-old often hits the goal trail in fits and starts, scoring 12 in the league for Tottenham last season, so he'll need to be in form this summer for South Korea to progress.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Kim Jin-hyeon, Cho Hyun-woo DEFENDERS: Kim Young-gwon, Park Joo-ho, Go Yo-han, Kim Min-woo, Yun Young-Sun, Oh Ban-suk MIDFIELDERS: Koo Ja-cheol, Ju Se-jong, Moon Seon-min FORWARDS: Lee Seung-woo

GROUP F SWEDEN

HEAD COACH **JANNE ANDERSSON**
CAPTAIN **ANDREAS GRANQVIST**

FIXTURES		
	SOUTH KOREA	18.06
	GERMANY	23.06
	MEXICO	27.06

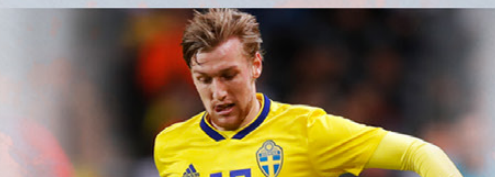
There were plenty that felt Sweden wouldn't appear at a major finals for some time following the retirement of former talisman Zlatan Ibrahimovic. However, Janne Andersson inspired a great achievement to even make it this far having replaced Erik Hamren after the Euros. Sweden finished second to France, taking four points from les Bleus in their group to earn a play-off. They stunned Italy to qualify for this summer's major tournament and will have the opportunity to upset another European giant when they face defending champions Germany in Group F.

TOP RATED



Following Ibrahimovic's departure there is no star name in Andersson's ranks and they will rely upon defensive solidity from an experienced spine to the side. Captain Andreas Granqvist is key in that regard, partnered at the back by Manchester United defender Viktor Lindelof, while the likes of Mikael Lustig, Sebastian Larsson and Marcus Berg are all the wrong side of 30 but almost certain to start. A lack of young talent coming through is a concern, but Sweden know their limitations and will set up to frustrate their opponents.

PROBABLE XI



Emil Forsberg endured a difficult second season in the Bundesliga having set it alight upon RB Leipzig's promotion in 2016. His ability over a set piece in particular will be vital and the 26-year-old will hope to recapture the form that made him a target for a number of high profile clubs last summer.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Karl-Johan Johnsson, Kristoffer Nordfelt DEFENDERS: Martin Olsson, Filip Helander, Emil Krafth, Pontus Jansson MIDFIELDERS: Gustav Svensson, Oscar Hiljemark, Marcus Rohden, Jimmy Durmaz FORWARDS: John Guidetti, Isaac Kiese Thelin

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SPORTINGINDEX

GROUP G



GROUP G BELGIUM

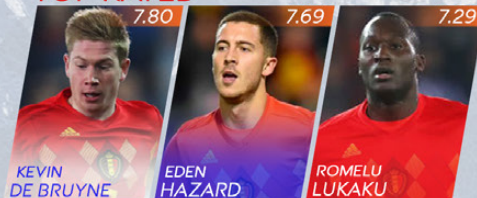
HEAD COACH **ROBERTO MARTINEZ**
CAPTAIN **EDEN HAZARD**



FIXTURES		
	PANAMA	18.06
	TUNISIA	23.06
	ENGLAND	28.06

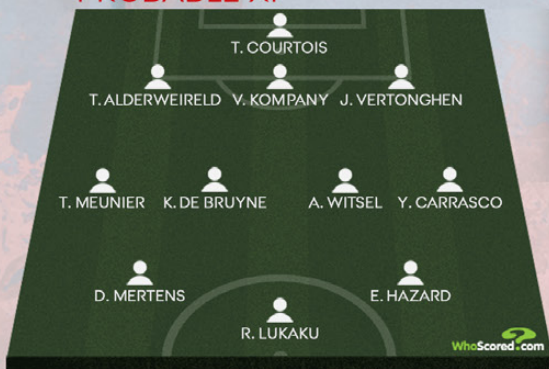
Having underwhelmed in the previous two major tournaments, Belgium parted ways with unpopular coach Marc Wilmots to make way for another controversial appointment in Roberto Martinez. The Spaniard still hasn't really been tested but their qualification campaign was impressive nonetheless, with 28 points from 30 available. The former Wigan boss was quick to implement his own system so the team is well settled into their 3-4-2-1 formation and the Red Devils have a squad capable of going the distance. Getting further than the quarter finals has to be the aim.

TOP RATED



The big omission from the squad is Radja Nainggolan, though the Roma man barely featured in qualifying as Martinez doesn't feel he suits the formation. The midfielder has since announced his retirement from international football. Axel Witsel is a staple of the side, despite playing his trade in China, and will partner Kevin De Bruyne in midfield, while Yannick Carrasco will start on the left flank having made the move East in February. Belgium enter the tournament with both Vincent Kompany and Thomas Vermaelen struggling with injuries.

PROBABLE XI



While it's Eden Hazard that has taken the armband under the new management, De Bruyne is the key playmaker for Belgium. Able to pick the passes for his captain, not to mention Dries Mertens and Romelu Lukaku, the 26-year-old registered a high of 16 assists across Europe's top 5 leagues last season.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Simon Mignolet, Koen Casteels DEFENDERS: Thomas Vermaelen, Dedryck Boyata MIDFIELDERS: Marouane Fellaini, Mousa Dembele, Nacer Chadli, Youri Tielemans, Adnan Januzaj, Leander Dendoncker FORWARDS: Michy Batshuayi, Thorgan Hazard

GROUP G ENGLAND

HEAD COACH **GARETH SOUTHGATE**
CAPTAIN **HARRY KANE**

FIXTURES		
	TUNISIA	18.06
	PANAMA	24.06
	BELGIUM	28.06

There's some positivity heading into this World Cup for England born out of the knowledge that there are teams expected to perform far greater than the Three Lions. The pressure is lessened as a result, and

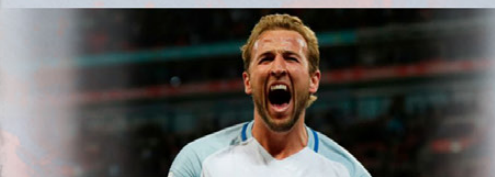
Gareth Southgate has named a squad that he is confident will approach the tournament without fear. There's a clear style of play too, opting for a back three capable of passing out from defence and a group of players that have the legs to press high up the pitch and pace on the counter when needed. A quarter final appearance and some positive attacking football should be considered a success.

TOP RATED



Southgate was bold enough to leave out Joe Hart and Jack Wilshere and call up the likes of Trent Alexander-Arnold and Ruben Loftus-Cheek. There's uncertainty over who will start in goal but there's healthy competition throughout the side. Kyle Walker played on the right of the back three in the March friendlies and may well do so this summer, while Gary Cahill, Harry Maguire and Phil Jones are likely to fight for one spot. Jesse Lingard has been favoured over Dele Alli of late and may start alongside Raheem Sterling ahead of the midfield.

PROBABLE XI



There's a strange sense that last season wasn't one of Kane's very best despite reaching 30 league goals for the first time, and having missed out on the golden boot he'll be aiming to put that right in Russia. If he's fully fit and in form then there are few better finishers at the World Cup this summer.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Jack Butland, Nick Pope DEFENDERS: Ashley Young, Phil Jones, Harry Maguire, Trent Alexander-Arnold MIDFIELDERS: Dele Alli, Ruben Loftus-Cheek, Fabian Delph FORWARDS: Danny Welbeck, Jamie Vardy, Marcus Rashford

GROUP G PANAMA

HEAD COACH: **HERNAN DARIO GOMEZ**
CAPTAIN: **ROMAN TORRES**



FIXTURES		
	BELGIUM	18.06
	ENGLAND	24.06
	TUNISIA	28.06

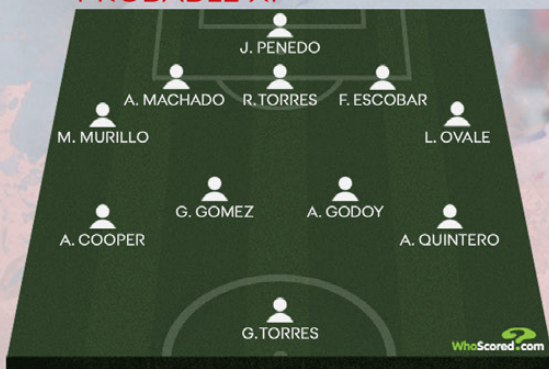
One of two World Cup debutants, Panama qualified in dramatic fashion courtesy of an 88th minute winner against Costa Rica and will look to their fellow Central Americans for inspiration. That said, for Hernan Gomez's side to escape the group stages would be an even greater shock, without a single player playing their trade in a major European league. They will likely adopt a similar approach to their CONCACAF counterparts, lining up with a back five in an attempt to frustrate their esteemed opponents and give themselves a shot in the final group game against Tunisia.

TOP RATED



The face of this side following his winning goal to get Panama to their first ever World Cup is Roman Torres, who will captain the side from centre-back. The veteran will start at the heart of a defence comprised entirely of players from MLS while Jaime Penedo is a very experienced goalkeeper starting for Dinamo Bucuresti at present. Strikers Blas Perez and Luis Tejada both have strong international records but at 37 and 36 respectively will probably be called upon in the latter stages of games, with Gabriel Torres leading the line.

PROBABLE XI



Sidelined through injury in the weeks leading up to the tournament, Panama will be sweating on the fitness of their skipper Roman Torres. The Seattle Sounders defender has spent three years at the club without scoring a goal but has done so ten times for the national side and will hope to lead by example.

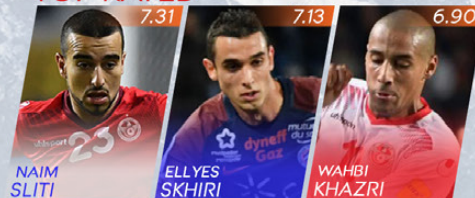
GROUP G TUNISIA

HEAD COACH: **NABIL MAALOUL**
CAPTAIN: **AYMEN MATHLOUTHI**

As far as CAF qualifying was concerned, Tunisia could hardly have wished for an easier group and reached the finals unbeaten in their six matches. Nabil Maaloul oversaw the final four games of the campaign, with a draw in DR Congo last September - secured with two goals in as many minutes having fallen 2-0 behind - ultimately proving crucial to their progression. It will be the nation's first appearance at a World Cup finals since 2006, which was the culmination of three consecutive qualifications each of which ended with just a single point from the group stages.

FIXTURES		
	ENGLAND	18.06
	BELGIUM	23.06
	PANAMA	28.06

TOP RATED



Winger Youssef Msakni is a miss given his absence through injury and would have been a shoo-in for the squad, not to mention the top international scorer in Maaloul's ranks. Wahbi Khazri may have to carry the goal threat in his stead and has been utilised out of position as a centre forward of late. The alternative would perhaps be to opt for target man Fakhreddine Ben Youssef up front as an out ball against the stronger sides in the group, with Montpellier's Ellyes Skhiri and Ferjani Sassi sitting deep in midfield.



PROBABLE XI



The player that may carry the biggest threat to Tunisia's opponents this summer, winger Naim Sliti ended the season in strong form for Dijon and will be keen to impress. The 25-year-old had a hand in 13 goals in Ligue 1 last season and completed over 100 dribbles at a superb 80% success rate.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Farouk Ben Mustapha, Mouez Hassen DEFENDERS: Syam Ben Youssef, Rami Bedoui, Oussama Haddadi, Dylan Bronn MIDFIELDERS: Mohamed Amine Ben Amor, Ghailene Chaalali, Ahmed Khalil, Saif-Eddine Khaoui, Bassem Srarfi FORWARDS: Saber Khalifa

GROUP H



GROUP H COLOMBIA

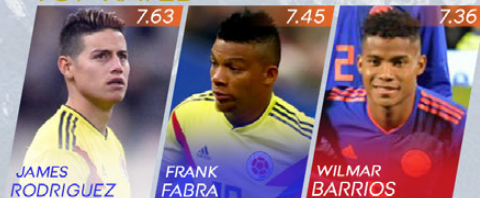
HEAD COACH JOSE PEKERMANN
CAPTAIN RADAMEL FALCAO



FIXTURES		
	JAPAN	19.06
	POLAND	24.06
	SENEGAL	28.06

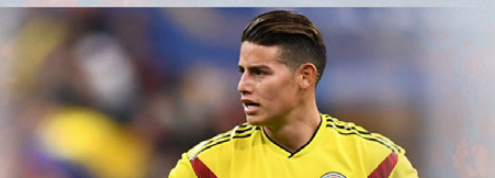
Having been in a strong position with four games remaining in qualifying Colombia came close to an embarrassing collapse, picking up just three points from said matches to finish just one above the cut off point. They failed to beat any of the usual suspects in the form of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay so the fact that they have avoided a big hitter in the group stages will be a relief. This may well be Jose Pekerman's swan song after six years in charge but the side haven't really made progress since the previous World Cup so getting beyond the round of 16 would be an achievement.

TOP RATED



There weren't any great shocks when the squad was announced, though the likes of Edwin Cardona, Teofilo Gutierrez and Duvan Zapata have had to make do with a place on the standby list. Radamel Falcao will captain the side having missed the last World Cup through injury, with a decision to make as to whether Yerry Mina should start after a difficult beginning to his Barcelona career. Wilmar Barrios and Abel Aguilar are likely to fight for a spot in midfield, while Luis Muriel may have to make do with a place on the left flank.

PROBABLE XI



One of the real stars of the World Cup in Brazil four years ago, James Rodriguez will be hoping to back up his performance from the last tournament having won the Golden Boot and Goal of the Tournament. He enjoyed an excellent first season at Bayern, registering 11 assists in just 19 league starts.

GROUP H JAPAN

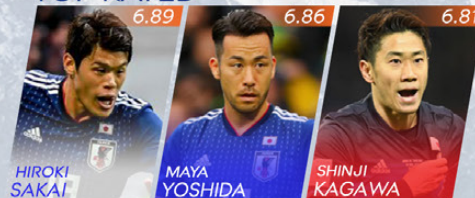
HEAD COACH AKIRA NISHINO
CAPTAIN MAKOTO HASEBE

FIXTURES		
	COLOMBIA	19.06
	SENEGAL	24.06
	POLAND	28.06

Qualifying at the top of their group to reach the finals for the sixth time running, Japan certainly didn't make light work of the process.

After finishing just one point ahead of both Saudi Arabia and Australia, former coach Vahid Halilhodzic eventually lost his job earlier this year after a humiliating defeat to rivals South Korea in the East Asian championships. Akira Nishino has since taken the reins as recently as April, becoming the first native manager of Samurai Blue since 2010. The new coach will have just three friendlies to figure out his best line-up and formation.

TOP RATED



Having utilised a 4-3-3 formation in qualifying, Nishino lined up with a back three in his first game in charge but a 2-0 defeat to Ghana suggests that may be a risk. Yasuyuki Konno is out through injury, while Hiroshi Kiyotake is also absent after missing much of the year with calf problems. Genki Haraguchi and Keisuke Honda may adopt the wide positions, while veteran captain Makoto Hasebe is back in the fold and should anchor the midfield. Young keeper Kosuke Nakamura is putting pressure on long-standing number one Eiji Kawashima.

PROBABLE XI



Despite a frustrating campaign for Dortmund, making just 19 league appearances, Shinji Kagawa is still the most talented player in the Japan squad. His composure in attack will be pivotal to ensuring that the side isn't constantly on the back foot, having completed 87.5% of his passes last season.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Kosuke Nakamura, Masaaki Higashiguchi DEFENDERS: Gotoku Sakai, Gen Shoji, Wataru Endo, Naomichi Ueda MIDFIELDERS: Takashi Inui, Takashi Usami, Gaku Shibasaki, Ryota Oshima FORWARDS: Shinji Okazaki, Yoshinori Muto

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Camilo Vargas, Jose Fernando Cuadrado DEFENDERS: Cristian Zapata, Oscar Murillo, Johan Mojica MIDFIELDERS: Abel Aguilar, Juan Fernando Quintero, Mateus Uribe, Jefferson Lerma FORWARDS: Carlos Bacca, Miguel Borja, Jose Izquierdo

GROUP H POLAND

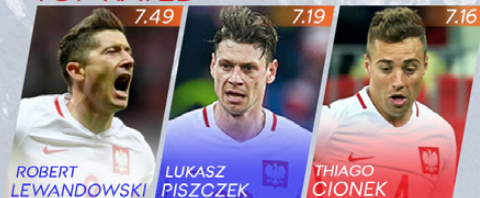
HEAD COACH **ADAM NAWALKA**
CAPTAIN **ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI**



FIXTURES		
	SENEGAL	19.06
	COLOMBIA	24.06
	JAPAN	28.06

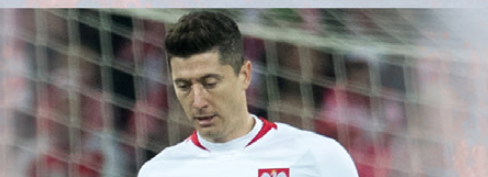
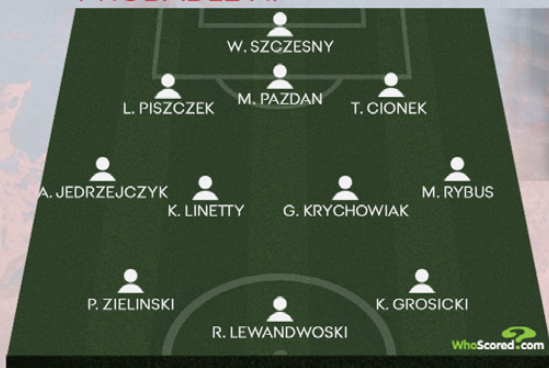
In the most part Poland's qualification for the finals was very impressive and secured with some comfort, though a 4-0 defeat in Denmark was a significant blotch on their record. That was the only game in which Adam Nawalka's side not only failed to score but to do so at least twice, racking up 28 goals in their remaining nine matches. They were rewarded with a pot one seeding but will be lamenting the fact that there is no obvious weak opposition in what may be a very competitive group. The line-up is relatively settled, however, spearheaded by one of the most deadly strikers around.

TOP RATED



A late blow has ruled Kamil Glik out due to a shoulder injury, with Thiago Cionek in line to replace the Monaco man. There's an experienced spine to the side, with some new faces freshening up the midfield from the Euros. Serie A pairing Karol Linetty and Piotr Zielinski are set to start having been on the fringes in France, with the latter given a free role. Nawalka experimented with a 3-4-3 formation in the March friendlies, with Lukasz Piszczek moving to the right of a back three and Artur Jedrzejczyk coming in on the right wing.

PROBABLE XI



Bagging a remarkable 16 goals in qualifying for the tournament, Robert Lewandowski's international strike rate is now better than one in two. If he can fire Poland past the group stages there's a chance the Bayern striker - who scored 29 league goals last season - will reach 100 caps at the tournament.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Lukasz Fabianski, Bartosz Bialkowski DEFENDERS: Marcin Kaminski, Jan Bednarek, Bartosz Bereszynski MIDFIELDERS: Jakub Blaszczykowski, Jarek Goralski, Slawomir Peszko, Rafal Kurzawa FORWARDS: Arkadiusz Milik, Lukasz Teodorczyk, Dawid Kownacki

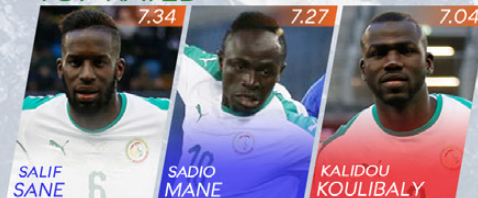
GROUP H SENEGAL

HEAD COACH **ALIOU CISSE**
CAPTAIN **CHEIKHOU KOUYATE**

FIXTURES		
	POLAND	19.06
	JAPAN	24.06
	COLOMBIA	28.06

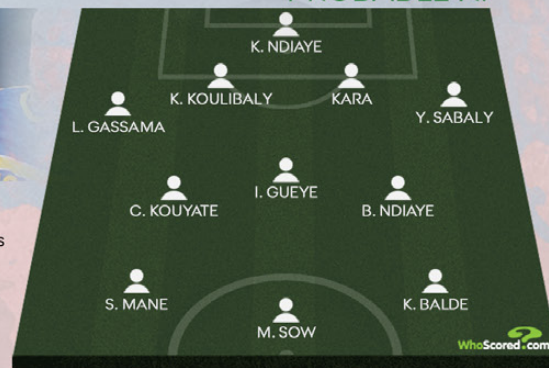
There was some controversy in Senegal's qualification having lost in South Africa only for the match to be re-played after the referee awarded an unwarranted penalty to the hosts. The Lions of Teranga won the fixture last November to book their place at the finals for only the second time, last doing so in 2002 when they caused a shock to reach the quarter-finals. The captain was a certain Aliou Cisse, who will now hope to lead another historic campaign in his capacity as head coach. This is something of a golden generation for Senegal, and they shouldn't be underestimated.

TOP RATED



The overwhelming majority of Cisse's party ply their trade in one of Europe's major leagues, with goalkeeper Khadim N'Diaye the only man still playing in Africa. Elsewhere the centre-back options are giant, with Kalidou Koulibaly the star and Salif Sane likely having to make do with a place on the bench. West Ham midfielder Cheikhou Kouyate captains the side and will line up in midfield with Everton ace Idrissa Gueye and Stoke's Badou Ndiaye, while there's electric pace out wide, with youngsters Keita Balde and Ismaila Sarr hoping for game time.

PROBABLE XI



Having ended the club season on a high from an individual perspective, with a goal in the Champions League final, Sadio Mane ran hot and cold at times but can be a real goal threat. Said strike in Kiev was his 20th in all competitions for the Reds and he is the attacking star in an exciting squad.

REST OF THE SQUAD GOALKEEPERS: Abdoulaye Diallo, Alfred Gomis DEFENDERS: Salif Sane, Saliou Ciss, Moussa Wague MIDFIELDERS: Cheikh N'Doye, Alfred N'Diaye FORWARDS: Mame Biram Diouf, Moussa Konate, Ismaila Sarr, Diafra Sakho, M'Baye Niang

WRITERS' PREDICTIONS



@BENMCALEER1
 WINNER: **GERMANY**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **MULLER**
 DARK HORSE: **MOROCCO**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **PORTUGAL**
 GOLDEN BALL: **MBAPPE**



@VOSTOK1981
 WINNER: **BRAZIL**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **LEWANDOWSKI**
 DARK HORSE: **MOROCCO**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **PORTUGAL**
 GOLDEN BALL: **SERGEJ**



@DAN_BU
 WINNER: **SPAIN**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **JESUS**
 DARK HORSE: **URUGUAY**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **PORTUGAL**
 GOLDEN BALL: **ISCO**



@SIMONHFOOTBALL
 WINNER: **SPAIN**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **MESSI**
 DARK HORSE: **URUGUAY**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **PORTUGAL**
 GOLDEN BALL: **NEYMAR**



@ERICDEVIN_
 WINNER: **SPAIN**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **GRIEZMANN**
 DARK HORSE: **BELGIUM**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **COLOMBIA**
 GOLDEN BALL: **ISCO**



@TIAGOESTV
 WINNER: **BRAZIL**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **NEYMAR**
 DARK HORSE: **SENEGAL**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **ARGENTINA**
 GOLDEN BALL: **NEYMAR**



@_WRIGHTJOSH
 WINNER: **SPAIN**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **JESUS**
 DARK HORSE: **SENEGAL**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **ARGENTINA**
 GOLDEN BALL: **INIESTA**



@MARTINLAURENCE7
 WINNER: **SPAIN**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **LUKAKU**
 DARK HORSE: **SERBIA**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **PORTUGAL**
 GOLDEN BALL: **ISCO**



@JACKLANG
 WINNER: **GERMANY**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **NEYMAR**
 DARK HORSE: **PERU**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **ARGENTINA**
 GOLDEN BALL: **MULLER**



@GOLAZOARGENTINO
 WINNER: **GERMANY**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **MESSI**
 DARK HORSE: **URUGUAY**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **BELGIUM**
 GOLDEN BALL: **ISCO**



@MRACCONCI
 WINNER: **BRAZIL**
 GOLDEN BOOT: **NEYMAR**
 DARK HORSE: **PORTUGAL**
 UNDERACHIEVER: **GERMANY**
 GOLDEN BALL: **NEYMAR**