

Japan squad named Nakamura not in



AFP, Tokyo

Shunsuke Nakamura, the Yokohama Marinos midfielder who has attracted interest from Spanish giants Real Madrid, has surprisingly missed out on a place in Japan's World Cup squad, announced here on Friday.

Nakamura, a 23-year-old regarded as one of the most technically gifted players in Japan, was thought to have done enough to ensure a place in the squad after scoring two impressive goals when Japan drew with Honduras 3-3 in a friendly earlier this month.

But he missed out to a midfield brimming with talent that includes Parma playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata, Feyenoord's Shinji Ono, Junichi Inamoto of Arsenal and Alessandro "Alex" Santos of Shimizu S-Pulse.

The inclusion of the Brazilian-born Alex, who only obtained Japanese nationality late last year, effectively cost Nakamura his place as they both play down the left side of midfield – a position that Ono can also fill.

Jubilo Iwata veteran Hiroshi Nanami, the player of the tournament when Japan won their second Asian Cup in 2000, was also sidelined from the midfield line-up. The former Venezia midfielder has only just recovered from a foot injury.

Striker Masashi Nakayama, who scored Japan's only World Cup goal four years ago in France, returns to the squad after missing seven of the national team's eight pre-World Cup friendlies.

Other forwards included Kashima team-mates Takayuki Suzuki and Atsushi Yanagisawa and Cerezo Osaka's Akinori Nishizawa, who is still recovering from an emergency operation to remove his appendix last week.

Japan's French coach Philippe Troussier was absent from the press conference announcing the squad as he is in Europe to watch Belgium, one of Japan's first round group opponents, play France this weekend. Russia and Tunisia make up the group.

In a statement, Troussier said he had made his choice after considering the physical, technical, tactical and mental balance of the squad.

"They must be responsible for a mission to represent Japan," he said.

"I 100 percent trust the players whom I selected. I just hope that they believe in their own football, are proud of being chosen, and do their best."

"I also hope that they keep their concentration high until the end of our mission, and take responsibility," he added.

Troussier's decision to miss the squad announcement in Tokyo has been fiercely criticised here with some newspapers even suggesting he was too busy attempting to negotiate a move to a European club after the World Cup.

The inclusion of Alex came as no surprise. The dreadlocked 24-year-old, who only made his debut against Ukraine in June, is considered the best dribbler in the J-league.

His driving runs down the left earned him the league's player of the year award in 1999 and he was a key force behind his club's Asian Cup Winners Cup victory the following year.

Nakamura had been expected to move to Real Madrid after signing a deal with Yokohama which allows him to leave after the World Cup but the deal has since fallen through, according to press reports here.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi (Portsmouth/Eng), Seigo Narazaki (Nagoya Gramпус Eight), Hitoshi Sogahata (Kashima Antlers)

Defenders: Yutaka Akita (Kashima), Toshihiro Hattori (Jubilo Iwata), Ryuzo Morioka (Shimizu), Tsuneyasu Miyamoto (Gamba Osaka), Naoki Matsuda (Yokohama Marinos), Koji Nakata (Kashima)

Midfielders: Hiroaki Morishima (Cerezo Osaka), Takashi Fukunishi (Jubilo Iwata), Hidetoshi Nakata (Parma/Ita), Alessandro Santos (Shimizu S-Pulse), Kazuyuki Toda (Shimizu), Tomokazu Miyaji (Kashima Reysol), Mitsuo Ogasawara (Kashima), Junichi Inamoto (Arsenal/Eng), Shinji Ono (Feyenoord/Ned), Daisuke Ichikawa (Shimizu)

Strikers: Masashi Nakayama (Jubilo Iwata), Takayuki Suzuki (Kashima), Akinori Nishizawa (Cerezo Osaka), Atsushi Yanagisawa (Kashima).

big toe broken in half after he was stepped on by a Jamaican defender as he scored. He was expected to miss a day or two of training and would be evaluated before the Netherlands match.

Keller, who was tested only once in the match when Linval Dixon forced the Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper to stretch to his left to stop a seventh-minute bid, said he took a knock just below the knee.

"It was a World Cup game, I don't think I would have come out," Keller said. "It just started to swell up so it made sense to come out and get it checked. I'm not worried. I think it is just a bone bruise."

Although primarily used as a reserve, Wolff made a strong case for inclusion in the team with a pair of superb strikes, the first, a diving header at the left-hand post after a Joe-Max Moore cross in the 32nd minute.

He notched his second at 60 minutes as he took a pass from Landon Donovan and struck a 15-metre blast to the upper right corner for the 3-0 lead.

Donovan struck a fourth for the U.S. six minutes from time before substitute DaMarcus Beasley capped the scoring in stoppage time with a drive from 12 metres.

Mathis, who has scored six times in 10 matches this year, struck a brilliant goal two minutes after the interval, limped off in the 63rd minute, 10 minutes after Keller left with a bruised knee.

Bastia defender Greg Vanney also left the game in the second half with a sprained left knee and will be evaluated before Sunday's friendly with the Netherlands in Massachusetts.

U.S. coach Bruce Arena, who lost Chris Armas for the World Cup after the midfielder tore his anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee at the weekend in a friendly against Uruguay, said the injuries were not serious.

Mathis said he had the nail on his

Pele expects the unexpected



AP, London

World Cup superstar Pele fears for the standard of play at this summer's championship but believes it will be full of surprises.

The three-time winner, who burst onto the scene as a 17-year-old in 1958, believes that the Brazilian team he served for four World Cups will, for a change, be something of a dark horse in the 17th championship and outsiders such as Portugal and Cameroon might prove strong contenders.

But Pele is alarmed that the thousands of fans who travel to Japan and Korea for the May 31-June 30 championship to see 32 nations chase soccer's biggest title could be let down by what they see.

He fears many of the players are so tied to their clubs by lucrative contracts that they no longer perform 100 percent for their countries.

"One of my concerns is the quality of football," Pele told World Soccer magazine. "I was worried about what I saw in the friendlies that the teams have been playing over the past few months."

"Many of the players were more concerned about their club tournaments. They were frightened of

getting injured because that would upset their club coach and that, in turn, would have given the club's directors an excuse to stop them going off to play for their country again."

"It's more difficult for the Latin American countries because, if they



PELE

wanted their best players, they had to send to Europe for them. If they didn't, they had to use home-based players who knew they had little chance of making the final squad of 23."

Pele cited examples that title candidates Argentina, Paraguay and rookie Ecuador played warm up games far away from their homelands.

"If teams do not play in the sort of emotional atmosphere their own fans produce, how can they consider that adequate preparation for a World Cup?" Pele said.

"There's nothing quite like the passion of a World Cup crowd. You need to rehearse properly just as actors need to get the feel of a theater ahead of opening nights."

Pele believes that holder France, Argentina, Italy and England will be major forces in the competition ahead of four time titlist Brazil.

"I am certainly not writing off Brazil," said Pele who believes that, because of the format of the competition and the likely results of the group games, the leading contenders might meet each other in the second rounds or quarterfinals.

"Maybe that is good news for Brazil because I expect to see a very different side in Korea and Japan compared with the one that struggled through the qualifying competition."

"Out traditions mean Brazil in the finals are a very different force to Brazil in the preliminary matches or in friendlies."

"Spain, Portugal and Croatia could be among the surprises. I also think one of the African teams, perhaps Cameroon, because of their experience, could easily reach the semifinals. It's one of the most open tournaments for a long time."



PHOTO: INTERNET
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING! Soccer fans, many of them non-Japanese, watch a video of the European Champions Cup final at "THE FooNIK", a bar for football fans, in Tokyo on May 16. Japanese soccer aficionados are hoping that the low-grade fever will catch fire as kick-off nears on May 31.

Costly US rout



REUTERS, East Rutherford, New Jersey

Josh Wolff grabbed two goals to lead the United States in their 5-0 drubbing of Jamaica in a World Cup warm-up.

The match, played before a crowd of 30,659 at Giants Stadium, was marred by minor injuries to three U.S. players, including potential World Cup starters goalkeeper Kasey Keller and forward Clint Mathis.

Mathis, who has scored six times in 10 matches this year, struck a brilliant goal two minutes after the interval, limped off in the 63rd minute, 10 minutes after Keller left with a bruised knee.

Bastia defender Greg Vanney also left the game in the second half with a sprained left knee and will be evaluated before Sunday's friendly with the Netherlands in Massachusetts.

U.S. coach Bruce Arena, who lost Chris Armas for the World Cup after the midfielder tore his anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee at the weekend in a friendly against Uruguay, said the injuries were not serious.

Mathis said he had the nail on his

big toe broken in half after he was stepped on by a Jamaican defender as he scored. He was expected to miss a day or two of training and would be evaluated before the Netherlands match.

Keller, who was tested only once in the match when Linval Dixon forced the Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper to stretch to his left to stop a seventh-minute bid, said he took a knock just below the knee.

"It was a World Cup game, I don't think I would have come out," Keller said. "It just started to swell up so it made sense to come out and get it checked. I'm not worried. I think it is just a bone bruise."

Although primarily used as a reserve, Wolff made a strong case for inclusion in the team with a pair of superb strikes, the first, a diving header at the left-hand post after a Joe-Max Moore cross in the 32nd minute.

He notched his second at 60 minutes as he took a pass from Landon Donovan and struck a 15-metre blast to the upper right corner for the 3-0 lead.

Donovan struck a fourth for the U.S. six minutes from time before substitute DaMarcus Beasley capped the scoring in stoppage time with a drive from 12 metres.

Mathis, who has scored six times in 10 matches this year, struck a brilliant goal two minutes after the interval, limped off in the 63rd minute, 10 minutes after Keller left with a bruised knee.

Bastia defender Greg Vanney also left the game in the second half with a sprained left knee and will be evaluated before Sunday's friendly with the Netherlands in Massachusetts.

U.S. coach Bruce Arena, who lost Chris Armas for the World Cup after the midfielder tore his anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee at the weekend in a friendly against Uruguay, said the injuries were not serious.

Mathis said he had the nail on his

Heroes back in Madrid



REUTERS, Madrid

catching a glimpse of the team, fans dangled flags and scarves from the bridges along the route, while many more decided to congregate in the city's Puerta del Sol where the team made its first official stop.

The players, led by club captain Fernando Hierro and striker Raul, later emerged on the balcony of the city's town hall to show off the massive silver trophy to the delirious fans.

Zinedine Zidane, the star of Wednesday's triumph against Bayer Leverkusen with his spectacular winning goal, kept a characteristically low profile, but the constant chants of "Zizou, Zizou" eventually forced the quietly-spoken Frenchman to hold the trophy aloft for the fans.

A special cheer was also reserved for young Iker Casillas, who became a hero after coming on to replace the injured first-choice

goalkeeper Cesar mid-way through the second half.

The 20-year-old local-born player made a string of superb reflex saves in the dying minutes of the match to help Real to hang on for victory and claim their third Champions League title in five years.

The team is due to give thanks for their victory at the city's cathedral before moving on to the Cibeles fountain, the traditional site used by the club to celebrate its triumphs.

Real have then arranged a special reception for the team in its Santiago Bernabeu stadium, whose 75,000 capacity is expected to be stretched to the limit to accommodate the fans wanting to join in the celebrations.

But the city-wide party is expected to continue long after tonight's official festivities have been drawn to a close.

The tough Dutchman insisted the Koreans, who won 4-1 Thursday to lift their World Cup hopes, should have finished off the Scots in the first half when they led 1-0 and completely dominated the game.

"I wasn't happy with the last 10-12 minutes of the first half. We got a bit 'showey' which I don't like."

"When your opponents are on the ropes then you must finish them off and we were not ruthless enough in the box," said Hiddink.

Despite his complaints, Hiddink still insists the Koreans, now unbeaten in six matches, can put on a show to really impress their fans at the World Cup which starts in two weeks.

"We are on schedule for the World Cup, but now we have to prepare for tougher teams ahead. We still have some problems but we didn't make any big mistakes," said Hiddink.

Italian-based Ahn escaped the coach's criticism this time because he came on as a second half substitute to score two brilliant goals.



PHOTO: INTERNET

USA striker DaMarcus Beasley leaps to avoid a collision with Jamaica goalie Aaron Lawrence during their friendly international at the Giants Stadium in New Jersey on May 16.



PHOTO: INTERNET

Japanese police check the first consignment of the World Cup balls that arrived at the Narita Airport yesterday.

Round 3, Draw in Rajshahi

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

Information

A. **The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2002** is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in Japan & South Korea from May 31 to June 30.

B. There will be **SIX** rounds of competition.

C. Each round will have a special draw with attractive prizes from the house of **RANGS TOSHIBA** as per announcement.

D. Participants of all the **SIX** rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes.

E. For each round, a set of questions including a photographic Quiz will be published in **The Daily Star**.

F. Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in **The Daily Star**.

G. Winners will have to collect their prizes from **The Daily Star** office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.

H. Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS

Item	Model	Winner
1st	One 21" Toshiba Flat TV	CT 21D3XE YOU
2nd	One 8.5 CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	GR 188PBT YOU
3rd	One Toshiba Semi Auto Washing Machine V/H 7000B1	YOU
4th	One Toshiba Rice Cooker 1.8Ltr.	RC 186KE YOU
5th	One Toshiba Dry Iron	TA-A20C and YOU
6th	A SPECIAL PRIZE WILL BE UP FOR GRABS FOR THE LOCALS WHO ATTEND A QUIZ DRAW. SPECIAL PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN IN EVERY ROUND. SO, WATCH OUT FOR THE DRAW IN YOUR AREA.	

QUIZ SCHEDULE

Round & Draw	Starts	Answers must reach by noon	Lucky Draw for prizes
1 Barisal	12 April	25 April	26 April
2 Khulna	26 April	9 May	10 May
3 Rajshahi	10 May	23 May	24 May
4 Sylhet	24 May	6 June	7 June
5 Chittagong	7 June	20 June	21 June
6 Dhaka	21 June	28 June</	