



Dutch players jog during their first practice session at their training camp in Seefeld on Thursday.

Chokers tag hang heavy

AFP, Berlin



The Oranje of Holland will be bidding to reach their first final in 32 years in South Africa and shake off their image of group-stage giants, knock-out-phase chokers at the World Cup.

The last time Holland reached a World Cup final was in 1978 when hosts Argentina captured their first world title with a 3-1 win as the Netherlands suffered final heartache for the second tournament running.

Holland tend to come to major championships with form players and flowing football: setting a breath-taking pace in the group stages, only to freeze in the knock-out stages.

In their eight World Cup appearances, the Oranje have reached the showpiece match twice, falling narrowly short in both 1974 and 1978.

Their best recent effort was fourth at France 1998.

Often seen as spectacular, but mentally fragile, the Dutch made a Last 16 exit at the hands of Portugal in a bruising match four years ago in Germany.

They also had a disappointing Euro

2008 after blasting both 2006 World Cup finalists France and Italy off the park in the group stages, only to lose to Russia in the quarterfinals.

In the wake of the disappointment, Bert van Marwijk took over as coach from Marco van Basten and the Oranje have set themselves lofty targets for South Africa.

The current squad have made no secret of their ambition to reach the final and they were impressive in qualifying with eight wins from eight games, conceding just two goals in the campaign to minnows Iceland and FYR Macedonia.

Van Marwijk has kept the 4-2-3-1 formation favoured by Van Basten and was rewarded with a flawless qualification campaign with a two-year contract extension.

Both goalkeeper Edwin van der Saar and striker Ruud van Nistelrooy have retired, but Van Marwijk has inherited a key core of players.

With the likes of Arjen Robben, Rafael van der Vaart, Robin van Persie, Nigel De Jong and Wesley Sneijder playing well, the Oranje are in form.

Real Madrid's loss could well be Holland's gain in South Africa with Sneijder and Robben both prospering after two inconsistent years in the Spanish capital.

Robben has been a revelation in the

Bundesliga since swapping Madrid for Bayern Munich and having scored twice on his arrival in the Bundesliga as Bayern won their 22nd German league title.

He also played a huge role in putting Bayern in their first Champions League final since 2001.

Sneijder completed his transfer to Inter desperate to prove his worth as soon as possible, and he made a stunning start to the 2009/10 campaign with a role in the 4-0 derby win over neighbours AC Milan.

Thanks to his reading of the game and pinpoint passing, not to mention his powerful shooting and deadly free-kicks, he has since become one of the most influential playmakers in Serie A.

"The arrival of a player of his class changes the whole team," said Chelsea's Michael Ballack, who has kept a close eye on the Bundesliga.

"Arjen is quick and he's a great dribbler. I don't see any other players like him in Germany today."

The Netherlands were the first side from Europe to book their ticket to South Africa.

This year's tournament could allow Robben, who boasts 11 goals from his 45 appearances, and Sneijder, scorer of 12 in 58, the platform to show the world what they can do.

Spain include injured trio

AFP, Madrid

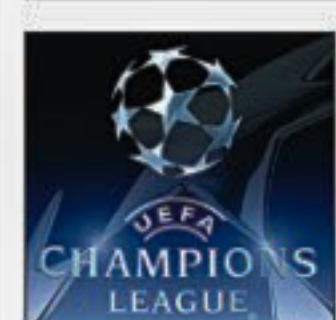
Spain coach Vicente del Bosque Thursday named injured players Cesc Fabregas, Fernando Torres and Andres Iniesta in his final squad for the World Cup in South Africa.

He also included Barcelona's uncapped keeper Victor Valdes and winger Pedro Rodriguez in the list of 23 players.

Arsenal midfielder Fabregas, Barcelona's Iniesta and Liverpool striker Torres have all missed the latter part of the season through injury.

Arjen blasts Jose

AFP, London



Bayern Munich winger Arjen Robben has taken a swipe at Inter Milan boss Jose Mourinho's negative tactics ahead of Saturday's Champions League final.

Robben, who will face Inter in the final in Madrid this weekend, played under Mourinho for three years at Chelsea and grew tired of his safety-first philosophy.

The Holland international believes Mourinho was too

concerned with winning at all costs and didn't let his players express themselves.

"He puts out a winning team, it doesn't matter if it's done with nice football or not," Robben told BBC Sport.

"The philosophy at Bayern is the coach (Louis van Gaal) wants to win games by playing nice football."

The 26-year-old added: "As a player you want to play and enjoy the game, that's also an important part."

Robben gradually fell out of favour with Mourinho at Chelsea because the Portuguese coach was unimpressed with his player's poor injury record and switched to a

formation that made less use of wingers.

"I was working with him three years at Chelsea. It was a successful time, he's a big personality and as a coach of a top team you need to be," Robben said.

"He knew how to work with big players and put them together and let them work together."

"He certainly knew what he was talking about and had the respect of every single player."

"But we started to play more in this diamond without wingers, which is not good for me. The system changed a bit so I made my decision and left."

Blanc chosen Domenech's successor

AFP, Bordeaux

Bordeaux coach Laurent Blanc was on Thursday officially confirmed as the chosen successor to Raymond Domenech as manager of France after the World Cup.

In a statement the French Football Federation said that the federal council had "confirmed the choice of Laurent Blanc for the post of national coach following the 2010 World Cup".

"The FFF will not comment further on this dossier before the signing of the contract which will finalise the recruitment of Laurent Blanc," the statement added.

The announcement followed a meeting between Bordeaux president Jean-Louis Triaud and his FFF counterpart Jean-Pierre Escalettes concerning the departure of Blanc who still has one year left on his current contract.

Triaud had previously expressed his anger at the "very premature" announcement of Blanc as a possible candidate and estimated that the "loss of profit" by the move would cost his club 20 million euros.

"A federation cannot simply go at will and hire a coach who is already working. This contributed to our sporting failure," said Triaud.

According to sports daily L'Equipe, Bordeaux will finally settle for 1.5 million euros in compensation. Blanc also wants to bring his current deputy coach Jean-Louis Gasset with him to the France team.

Blanc, a World Cup and Euro winning defender with France as a player, led Bordeaux to the 2009 league title and to the quarterfinals of this season's Champions League, losing to league rivals Lyon.

However his side could only finish sixth and out of the European places in Saturday's final round of league matches.

Villa reject Milner bid

AFP, Birmingham

Aston Villa have rejected Manchester City's 20-million-pound (28-million-dollar) bid to sign England midfielder James Milner.

City boss Roberto Mancini has made Milner his first target as he prepares to revamp City's squad following their failure to qualify for the Champions League.

Mancini has been given around 150 million pounds (216 million dollars) to spend by City's Abu Dhabi-based owners, but he will have to improve his offer to land Milner, who is currently at England's training camp in Austria ahead of the World Cup finals.

Villa manager Martin O'Neill is desperate to keep Milner and plans to hold talks over a new contract with the former Leeds star.

A Villa spokesman said: "We have received an offer from Manchester City for James Milner and this has been firmly rejected."

"We plan to sit down with James and his representative after the World Cup to agree a new long-term deal and this remains our position."

Milner, 24, enjoyed a successful season in a new central midfield role after previously spending most of his time on the wings and was recently voted the PFA Young Player of the Year.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS: Iker Casillas (Real Madrid), Jose Manuel Reina (Liverpool/ENG), Victor Valdes (Barcelona)

DEFENDERS: Raul Albiol, Sergio Ramos, Alvaro Arbeloa (all Real Madrid), Joan Capdevila (Villarreal), Gerard Pique, Carles Puyol (both Barcelona), Carlos Marchena (Valencia)

MIDFIELDERS: Xabi Alonso (Real Madrid), Cesc Fabregas (Arsenal/ENG), Sergio Busquets, Xavi Hernandez, Andres Iniesta (all Barcelona), Javier Martinez (Athletic Bilbao)

FORWARDS: Juan Manuel Mata, David Silva, David Villa (all Valencia), Jesus Navas (Sevilla), Fernando Torres (Liverpool/ENG), Pedro Rodriguez (Barcelona), Fernando Llorente (Athletic de Bilbao)

Prandelli set for Italy job

AFP, Rome

Fiorentina coach Cesare Prandelli is set to take over as coach of the Italian national football team after this summer's World Cup, according to reports here on Thursday.

The daily Gazzetta dello Sport reported that Prandelli would take over from Marcello Lippi after the world champions title defence.

The newspaper claimed that Italian football federation president Giancarlo Abete had contacted Fiorentina president Andrea della Valle on Wednesday concerning the move.

He requested "the authorisation to make a proposal to the club coach (Prandelli) for the new season until June 30, 2011," the newspaper said.

Prandelli leaves on a tour of Canada with Fiorentina on Thursday and is set to meet Abete on his return next week when the Italian team take part in an alpine training camp at Sestriere.

Prandelli, 52, is under contract with Fiorentina until the end of the 2010-2011 season. He joined the Tuscan side in 2005 and has proved hugely popular with the fans.

He has also been linked with a move to Juventus next season but dismissed this by pledging his allegiance to Fiorentina in March.

The club finished 11th in the Serie A this season.

Sevilla lift King's Cup

AFP, Barcelona

FC Sevilla prevented Atletico Madrid from celebrating a cup double on Wednesday as they beat the recently-crowned Europa League champions 2-0 to take the King's Cup here for the fifth time in their history and second in four years.

Sevilla - who took the fourth and final Champions League place in the last minutes of the final match of the league season - lifted the Cup thanks to a fifth minute goal by diminutive wing Diego Capel and a second in time added on by Jesus Navas.

Sevilla captain Andres Palop, who made several good saves during the match, said it was mission achieved for the season.

"It was a difficult and extraordinary final," he said. "This is what we wanted, qualify for the Champions League and win the King's Cup. We are very happy."

Atletico coach Quique Sanchez Flores was proud of his side's efforts.

"My players put in an impressive effort," he said. "They gave everything they had, but congratulations nevertheless to Sevilla."



Sevilla players celebrate with the Spanish King's Cup after defeating Atletico Madrid in the final at Nou Camp on Wednesday.

Juve unveil Delneri

AFP, Rome

New Juventus coach Luigi Delneri on Thursday vowed to justify the club's faith in him as he takes over possibly the toughest job in Italian football.

Speaking at his official unveiling the 59-year-old, who has only been given a two-year deal, said he wanted to turn the club into a winning outfit to bring joy to the fans.

"I need to convince the club that they have made the right choice, Juventus have decided to put their faith in staff that have succeeded in the past."

and most number of goals conceded (56) while finishing a lowly seventh and only just scraping into next season's Europa League.

"I want to thank Juventus for the opportunity, I will be committed to giving the team the right face, I want a compact formation and I want results," he said.

"It's a tough job but I have the desire. I'll give it my all, I want results and fan satisfaction."

"I need to convince the club that they have made the right choice, Juventus have decided to put their faith in staff that have succeeded in the past."

"When you're asked to coach Juventus it's normal that you feel a bit emotional in the beginning but I assure you I know what I'm doing."

"This is an important challenge, the most important of my career."

Delneri arrives on the back of his best season as a coach having just guided Sampdoria to fourth place and Champions League football next season.

He takes over from interim boss Alberto Zaccheroni who replaced the sacked rookie Ciro Ferrara at the end of January.

Delneri, a former midfielder, is one of Italy's most respected coaches.

The Daily Star

RANGS TOSHIBA

World cup QUIZ 2010

...THIS CAN BE YOURS

ROUND 1, DRAW IN BARISAL

Competition Information Prizes and Rules

INFORMATION **RULES**

- The Daily Star Rangs-Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2010 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer to be held in South Africa from June 11 to July 11.
- There will be **SIX** rounds of competition.
- Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of **RANGS TOSHIBA** as per announcement.
- For each round, a set of questions including a photographic quiz will be published in The Daily Star.
- Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in The Daily Star.
- Winners will have to collect their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.
- Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.
- Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2010. Employees of The Daily Star and Rangs Toshiba and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.
- All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- Forms will have to be cut along the dotted lines.
- Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box alongside their answer to each question.
- A person may send numerous entries for each round.
- Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.
- Name, address, father's name and particulars of participants must be clearly written. Each entry form must also bear the signature of the participant and date.
- Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
- Entries must reach the office of The Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 1".
- Entries may be hand delivered or posted to The Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
- Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the draw to be held on a notified date in public in presence of invited guests and Quiz participants, if any.
- Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.
- Entering this Quiz competition shall be construed as the respective agreement by each participant to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines as may be issued by The Daily Star.
- Any decision of The Daily Star in the conduct of the Quiz competitions including the answers selected as correct shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.
- The Daily Star management, in their absolute discretion, reserves the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of the Quiz competitions under any circumstances.

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS (ROUNDS 1-5)

Prize	Item	Winner
1st	One 8CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU
2nd	One Toshiba 24" LCD TV	YOU
3rd	One Toshiba 21" Colour TV	YOU
4th	One Toshiba 21" Colour TV	YOU
5th	One Toshiba Microwave Oven (23L)	and YOU

PRIZES FOR BUMPER ROUND

Prize	Item	Winner
1st	One Toshiba 32" LCD TV	YOU
2nd	One 15CFT Toshiba Refrigerator	YOU
3rd	One TOSHIN Heat & Cool AC (11Ton)	YOU
4th	One Toshiba 24" LCD TV	YOU
5th	One 21" TOSHIN Colour TV	and YOU

Prizes for the audience (For First Five Rounds) Prizes for the audience (For Bumper Round)

1st.	20L TOSHIN Microwave Oven	1st.	Toshiba Washing Machine
2nd.	14" TOSHIN Colour TV	2nd.	21" TOSHIN Colour TV
3rd.	3 Toshiba DVD Players	3rd.	20L TOSHIN Microwave Oven
		4th.	Two Toshiba DVD Players

QUIZ SCHEDULE

Round & Draw	Starts	Ends	Answers must reach by 12pm	Lucky Draw for prizes
1. Barisal	May 19	May 27	May 29	June 2
2. Chittagong	May 28	June 05	June 07	June 11
3. Rajshai	June 06	June 14	June 15	June 16
4. Khulna	June 15	June 23	June 25	June 27
5. Sylhet	June 24	July 02	July 04	July 06
Bumper Round	July 03	July 11	July 13	July 16

The Daily Star - RANGS TOSHIBA World Cup Quiz, Round 1 Ends May 27, 2010

Tick (✓) the correct answers

- Who scored the first-ever goal in World Cup history? Stabile Laurent Monti
- Who is the highest scorer in World Cup history? Maradona Pele Ronaldo
- What is the name of the official ball of the 2010 World Cup? Teamgeist Fevernova Jabulani
- When did South Africa play their last World Cup? 1994 2002 2006
- Who is this player? Materazzi Zidane Figo

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms)..... Age.....
 Father's name..... Occupation.....
 Address.....
 Telephone (if any)..... Signature..... Date.....

Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters. Cut along the dotted lines and mail to OR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star World Cup Quiz 1".

READ The Daily Star TO CATCH THE WORLD CUP FEVER

