

Paraguay name WC team

AFP, Evian-Les-Bains

The definitive 23-man list of players in Paraguay's World Cup squad, released on Monday.

Paraguay, based in France for a training camp, have been drawn in Group F with world champions Italy, New Zealand and Slovakia.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Justo Villar (Valladolid/ESP), Aldo Bobadilla (Deportivo Independiente de Medellin/COL), Diego Barreto (Cerro Porteno)
Defenders: Claudio Morel Rodriguez (Boca Juniors/ARG), Denis Caniza (Leon/MEX), Paulo da Silva (Sunderland/ENG), Dario Veron (Pumas UNAM/MEX), Julio Cesar Caceres (Atletico Mineiro/BRA), Carlos Bonet (Olimpia), Aureliano Torres (San Lorenzo de Almagro/ARG), Antolin Alcaraz (FC Bruges/BEL)
Midfielders: Edgar Barreto (Atalanta/ITA), Cristian Riveros (Cruz Azul/MEX), Victor Caceres (Libertad), Enrique Vera (Liga Deportiva Universitaria de Quito/ECU), Jonathan Santana (Wolfsburg/GER), Nestor Ortigoza (Argentinos Juniors/ARG)
Forwards: Roque Santa Cruz (Manchester City/ENG), Nelson Haedo Valdez (Borussia Dortmund/GER), Oscar Cardozo (Benfica/POR), Edgar Benitez (Toluca/MEX), Lucas Barrios (Borussia Dortmund/GER), Rodolfo Gamarra (Libertad)

Fiorentina slam Italian Federation

AFP, Rome

Fiorentina have launched a stinging attack on the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) for its handling of the appointment of Cesare Prandelli as national team coach.

After five years in the Fiorentina hotseat, Prandelli is due to take over from Marcello Lippi as Italy coach after the World Cup in South Africa.

But 'La Viola' have hit out at the FIGC for keeping them in the dark about the appointment.

"We only found out about the agreement between (FIGC) president (Giancarlo) Abete and Prandelli from the FIGC website and the press," said a club statement.

"We consider this seriously poor behaviour and a huge lack of respect for our club and our fans."

Prandelli is believed to have not yet actually signed a contract as some details are yet to be ironed out.

Barca might sell Ibra

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona have not ruled out the sale of Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the club's director general Joan Oliver said Monday following controversial comments made by the player's agent last week.

The agent, Mino Raiola, was quoted as saying by Spanish media that Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola should go to a psychiatric hospital if he did not make greater use of the 28-year-old in the upcoming season.

"We didn't like Mr Mino Raiola's statements at all, especially the tone. The reference to the coach is in very bad taste," Oliver said in comments published on the club's website.

"The club doesn't need money. We don't want to sell. But if things get too complicated, there will be no option but to sell the player. However, that's not the intention of the club at this moment," he added.

Ibrahimovic, who joined Barcelona in July 2009 from Inter Milan, has had a mixed first season at Barcelona.

He scored 16 times for the club in the Spanish league but failed to win over fans and ended the season on the substitutes' bench.

His centre-forward role was taken over by teenager Bojan Krkic and he will face even more competition next season from Spanish international striker David Villa who joined Barcelona from Valencia earlier this month.



South Africa captain Aaron Mokoena (2nd from L) celebrates a goal with teammates during their international friendly against Guatemala at the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane on Monday. Mokoena became the first South African to reach the 100-cap milestone during the match.

PHOTO: AFP

England cull Walcott

THE GUARDIAN



Fabio Capello has dropped Arsenal winger Theo Walcott from his final 23-man World Cup squad,

but Gareth Barry will travel after passing a last-minute fitness test on his injured ankle.

The Arsenal winger has always said that he could not take his place at the finals for granted, but he did not see Capello's rejection coming.

"I am very disappointed not to be included in the squad going out to South Africa, but completely respect Mr

Capello's decision," said Walcott. "I would like to wish the team the best of luck and hope they have a really successful tournament."

Capello had said that he could not find room for Walcott, Aaron Lennon and Shaun Wright-Phillips in his party, and opted to go with the

Manchester City winger.

The other five players who were called by Capello to be told they would not be travelling were Tottenham's Michael Dawson, West Ham's Scott Parker, Sunderland's Darren Bent, Everton's Leighton Baines, and Manchester City's Adam Johnson.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Joe Hart, David James, Robert Green.
Defenders: Jamie Carragher, Ashley Cole, Rio Ferdinand, Glen Johnson, Ledley King, John Terry, Matthew Upson, Stephen Warnock.
Midfielders: Gareth Barry, Michael Carrick, Joe Cole, Steven Gerrard, Frank Lampard, Aaron Lennon, James Milner, Shaun Wright-Phillips.
Forwards: Peter Crouch, Jermain Defoe, Emile Heskey, Wayne Rooney

Okada's few surprises

SOCCERNET



Under pressure Japan coach Takeshi Okada took few risks in naming his country's 23-

man World Cup squad.

Europe-based quartet Makoto Hasebe, Keisuke Honda, Daisuke Matsui and Takayuki Morimoto have all been included alongside Shunsuke Nakamura and 2009 Asian player of the year Yasuhiro Endo ahead of Japan's Group E opener against Cameroon on June 14.

Playmaker Nakamura is expected to be fit for Japan's final World Cup warm-up against the Ivory Coast on

Friday after the former Celtic midfielder missed the defeat by England due to an ankle injury, but played 90 minutes of a practice match on Monday.

Okada, who was in charge