

COLE

calls time on England

AFP, London

Chelsea left-back Ashley Cole announced Sunday he was retiring from international football after being told he'd been left out of England manager Roy Hodgson's squad for the World Cup.

"I got the call from Roy and agree England team should be about the young players," the 33-year-old Cole told his Twitter followers.

"We have a great manager and team and I wish them only success. I will be supporting them like a true fan. Thanks to everyone for everything," the 107-times capped Cole added ahead of Hodgson's official squad announcement on Monday.

Cole's words indicated his failure to hold down a regular first-team spot at Chelsea this season, where he has been displaced by Spain's Cesar Azpilicueta, had cost him his England career.

His omission means that Everton's Leighton Baines is set to be confirmed as England's leading left-back when Hodgson unveils his 23-man squad for the World Cup finals, with Southampton teenager Luke Shaw providing cover for the 29-year-old.

"#Baines and #shaw are great players, proved this season, and are the future of this country, it was a pleasure to get #107 caps #eng," added Cole, who earlier on Sunday started in Chelsea's final league game of the season, a 2-1 victory away to already-relegated Cardiff, on Twitter.

Former Arsenal defender Cole made his international debut against Albania in 2001 and has been an England regular ever since, starting every tournament game since his final bow against Sweden at the 2002 World Cup.

Back in March, Hodgson said he understood he might have to disappoint a "big name" player when it came to selecting his squad for Brazil and Cole fits that bill.

Now it appears that the 18-year-old Shaw is set for his first major tournament as an England player despite having just the one cap behind him.

Shaw received a glowing report from Hodgson after making a 45-minute substitute appearance during his England debut in the friendly win over Denmark two months ago, with the manager saying: "Anyone who has watched him play would not deny he deserves a place."

"We are very well off in this position but he wants to compete for a place on the plane to Brazil."

The fact Cole, who moved across London from Arsenal to Chelsea eight years ago, was pictured crying after the Blues' final home Premier League game of the season last weekend also raised questions about his club future.

It is understood Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho would like Cole to remain at Stamford Bridge but several clubs in Europe and the United States have reportedly expressed an interest in signing the player.

England will face Italy, Uruguay and Costa Rica in the group stages of the World Cup which gets under way on June 12.



Japan fear nobody

AFP, Tokyo



Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni promised the Asian champions will fear nobody at the World Cup as he named a full-strength 23-man squad on Monday, spearheaded by Shinji Kagawa and Keisuke Honda.

The 61-year-old Italian backed his Blue Samurai to give Ivory Coast a severe test in their opening game in Brazil on June 14, insisting that reputations will count for nothing.

"We will respect our opponents but certainly won't be frightened," Zaccheroni told reporters a little over a month before Japan square off against the West Africans, led by Didier Drogba and Yaya Toure.

"If you go into a game with fear, you're in trouble. We need to go in prepared and bring our own qualities. We have a lot of attacking players."

Asian Cup-holders Japan also face Colombia and Greece in Group C, which on paper gives them a decent chance of progressing to the knockout stage, as they did in 2010.

"I've had the squad in my head a while but I wanted to have a look at as many players as possible," said Zaccheroni, who expressed confidence that captain Makoto Hasebe and right-back Atsuto Uchida would recover from injury in time for the tournament.

"It was a struggle to get the list down to 23. I wanted to call up (FIFA president) Sepp Blatter and ask him to let me pick more. But this group of players knows how I want them to play tactically and understands the team ethic."

Zaccheroni sprung a surprise in recalling striker Yoshito Okubo from the international wilderness.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Eiji Kawashima (Standard Liege/BEL), Shusaku Nishikawa (Urawa Reds), Shuichi Gonda (FC Tokyo)

Defenders: Yasuyuki Konno (Gamba Osaka), Masahiko Inoha (Jubilo Iwata), Yuto Nagatomo (Inter Milan/ITA), Masato Morishige (FC Tokyo), Atsuto Uchida (Schalke/GER), Maya Yoshida (Southampton/ENG), Hiroki Sakai (Hannover 96/GER), Gotoku Sakai (Stuttgart/GER)

Midfielders: Yasuhiro Endo (Gamba Osaka), Makoto Hasebe (Nuremberg/GER), Toshihiro Aoyama (Sanfrecce Hiroshima), Hotaru Yamaguchi (Cerezo Osaka), Keisuke Honda (AC Milan/ITA), Shinji Kagawa (Manchester United/ENG)

Forwards: Yoshito Okubo (Kawasaki Frontale), Shinji Okazaki (Mainz/GER), Hiroshi Kiyotake (Nuremberg/GER), Yoichi Kakitani (Cerezo Osaka), Manabu Saito (Yokohama F-Marineros), Yuya Osako (1860 Munich/GER)

Juve break another record

AFP, Milan

An injury-time strike by Juventus marksman Pablo Daniel Osvaldo sealed a 1-0 win over former club Roma and handed the Turin giants yet another record in Italy's Serie A on Sunday.

Juventus's 32nd win of the season, a new league record, means they have amassed 99 points to overtake the previous record of 97 set by Inter in 2007.

Antonio Conte's men also will be confident of extending that to 102 points when they host Cagliari in their final game of the season at home next week.

And while doubts swirl about his future with the club after three title-winning seasons under his helm, the 44-year-old said there was plenty to celebrate.

Roma hosted Juve hoping to make amends to fans for the stunning 4-1 defeat to Catania last week which handed the Turin giants their 30th title a day ahead of celebrating in front of their home fans with a 1-0 victory over Atalanta.

However Rudi Garcia's men failed to produce the goal that would have also made up for their 3-0 away defeat to Juventus earlier this season.

The match looked to be heading for a scoreless draw until Argentinian-born Italian international Osvaldo, who quit Roma in 2013 for an unsuccessful spell with Southampton latched on to a Stephan Lichtsteiner ball in the fourth minute of injury time to beat Lukasz Skorupski in the Roma net.

Ibra best in France

AFP, Paris

Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Ligue 1 champions Paris Saint-Germain was named France's players' player of the year for the second season running on Sunday.

With a game of the season still to go, Swedish striker Ibrahimovic is the French top flight's leading scorer with 25 goals and has netted 40 in all competitions, beating the all-time club record of 39, set by the Argentine Carlos Bianchi in 1978.

His performances helped PSG retain the Ligue 1 title and he has now won nine national league titles in 13 years, encompassing spells with Ajax, Juventus, Inter Milan, Barcelona and AC Milan as well as Paris.

Another PSG player, Italian midfielder Marco Verratti, was named Ligue 1's young player of the year, while the coach of the year went to Rene Girard of Lille.

Barkley in, Carrick out

AFP, Luton



Everton breakthrough star Ross Barkley, 20, was named in a youthful England World Cup squad on Monday, but Manchester United midfielder Michael Carrick only made the standby list.

Chelsea left-back Ashley Cole announced his international retirement on Sunday after being informed by England manager Roy Hodgson that he would not be selected and 18-year-old Southampton defender Luke Shaw took his place.

Liverpool's 19-year-old winger Raheem Sterling was the second teenager in a squad that featured only six players with previous World Cup experience.

Cole's Chelsea team-mate Frank Lampard was also selected, despite doubts about the 35-year-old's inclusion, but Tottenham Hotspur right-back Kyle Walker missed out due to a pelvic injury.

Phil Jones, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Jack Wilshere all overcame injury scares to be included in the 23-man list, while Southampton striker Rickie Lambert was preferred to West Ham United rival Andy Carroll.

Carroll was also named on the standby list, alongside Carrick, Norwich City goalkeeper John Ruddy, Liverpool full-back Jon

Flanagan, Everton centre-back John Stones, Manchester United midfielder Tom Cleverley and Jermain Defoe, now of Canadian side Toronto FC.

England have been drawn in Group D at the World Cup in Brazil alongside Italy, Uruguay and Costa Rica.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Joe Hart (Manchester City), Ben Foster (West Bromwich Albion), Fraser Forster (Celtic/SCO)

Defenders: Leighton Baines (Everton), Gary Cahill (Chelsea), Phil Jagielka (England), Glen Johnson (Liverpool), Phil Jones (Manchester United), Luke Shaw (Southampton), Chris Smalling (Manchester United)

Midfielders: Ross Barkley (Everton), Steven Gerrard (Liverpool), Jordan Henderson (Liverpool), Adam Lallana (Southampton), Frank Lampard (Chelsea), James Milner (Manchester City), Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal), Raheem Sterling (Liverpool), Jack Wilshere (Arsenal)

Forwards: Rickie Lambert (Southampton), Wayne Rooney (Manchester United), Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool), Daniel Welbeck (Manchester United)

Standby: John Ruddy (Norwich City), Jon Flanagan (Liverpool), John Stones (Everton), Michael Carrick (Manchester United), Tom Cleverley (Manchester United), Andy Carroll (West Ham United), Jermain Defoe (Toronto FC/CAN)

Nadal's 4th Madrid title

AFP, Madrid

Rafael Nadal won his fourth Madrid Masters title on Sunday when Kei Nishikori was forced to quit their final with a back injury having had the Spaniard on the back foot.

Japanese 10th seed Nishikori had taken the first set 6-2 and led 4-2 in the second before the back pain which had plagued him all week forced him to retire.

That allowed top seed Nadal to claim a 2-6, 6-4, 3-0 win for his 27th Masters title and 63rd career crown after one hour and 41 minutes on court.

Maria Sharapova fought back to defeat Simona Halep 1-6, 6-2, 6-3 on Sunday to win her second clay title of the season at the Madrid Open.

Mumbai win comfortably

AGENCIES

Mumbai Indians thumped Hyderabad in their own den by seven wickets at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium yesterday night. Batting first Hyderabad rode on half centuries from Australians David Warner (55 off 31) and Aaron Finch (68 off 62) to post 157. In reply, a 130-run stand for the second wicket between Lendl Simmons and Ambati Rayudu, both of who scored 68 runs each, helped Mumbai ease to their target. Despite the defeat Hyderabad are two points ahead sixth-placed Mumbai. After nine games, Hyderabad have eight points while Mumbai have six.

SCORES IN BRIEF

HYDERABAD: 157 for 3 (Finch 68; Malinga 2-35)

MUMBAI: 160 for 3 in 18.4 overs (Simmons 68, Rayudu 68; Kumar 2-21)

Result: Mumbai won by seven wickets.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The first Omera Cup golf tournament was held at the Ghatail Golf Club in Tangail over May 9-10. Here the participants are seen posing with the guests during the opening ceremony on the first day.

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The Daily Prothom Alo, a leading newspaper of Bangladesh circulated countrywide for its unbiased, impartial and factual information is looking for the qualified and motivated individuals to take up a career for Head office, Dhaka for the following position.

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- Timely alert to newsroom for breaking issues broadcasted or uploaded in the other Media sources.
- Record TV talks shows and making short summaries of opinion and views, preserve the full text for customer support and reference.
- Record the speeches of head of states/opposition leader(s) or any important person, broadcasted on TV channels/radio and contribute to the newsrooms.
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