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No surprises from Dutch

REUTERS



Brasil

Coach Louis van Gaal cut six players from his preliminary squad on Saturday as the Netherlands named their final 23-man roster for the World Cup in Brazil, just hours before a warm-up international against Ghana in Rotterdam.

There was only one surprise as 20-yearold centre back Terence Kongolo kept his place in the squad despite being taken off

at half-time on his international against Ecuador last week, while Patrick van Aanholt fell out of contention when he was expected to be chosen as a back-up left back.

Van Gaal also dropped PSV Eindhoven goalkeeper Jeroen Zoet and four players from the Dutch under-21 side who had not been at last week's training camp in Portugal but were preparing for a European Championship qualifier against Scotland.

A hat-trick for Quincy Promes in that game on Wednesday led Dutch media to speculate he might be picked but he was left out, along with team mates Jean-Paul Boetius, Karim Rekik and Tonny Vilhenna.

Experienced midfielder Rafael van der Vaart was ruled out of contention on Wednesday after suffering a calf injury in Portugal.

The final selection for Brazil includes four players who have been to the last two World Cups in Germany and South Africa - Dirk Kuyt, Arjen Robben, Wesley Sneijder and Robin van Persie.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Jasper Cillessen (Ajax Amsterdam), Tim Krul (Newcastle United), Michel Vorm (Swansea City)

Defenders: Daley Blind (Ajax Amsterdam), Stefan de Vrij, Daryl Janmaat Terence Kongolo, Bruno Martins Indi (all Feyenoord Rotterdam), Paul Verhaegh (FC Augsburg), Ron Vlaar (Aston Villa), Joel Veltman (Ajax Amsterdam)

Midfielders: Jordy Clasie (Feyenoord Rotterdam), Jonathan de Guzman (Swansea City), Nigel de Jong (AC Milan), Leroy Fer (Norwich City), Arjen Robben (Bayern Munich), Wesley Sneijder (Galatasaray), Georginio Wijnaldum (PSV Eindhoven)

Forwards: Memphis Depay (PSV Eindhoven), Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Schalke 04), Dirk Kuyt (Fenerbahce), Jeremain Lens (Dynamo Kiev), Robin van Persie (Manchester United)



England striker Daniel Sturridge (L) scores a stunning opening goal against Peru during their international friendly at Wembley on Friday.

Sturridge steals the show

AFP, London



England will head to the Americas with optimism intact after overcoming Peru 3-0 in their final pre-

World Cup friendly game on home soil at Wembley Stadium on Friday.

In the first of his side's three warm-up matches, manager Roy Hodgson saw man-of-the-match Daniel Sturridge put England ahead with a sweet 20-yard strike midway through the first half.

Centre-backs Gary Cahill and Phil Jagielka got on the scoresheet in the second period to complete a straightforward evening for England, who travel to Miami for a pre-tournament training camp on Sunday.

They will face Ecuador and Honduras there next week before opening their World Cup campaign against Group D rivals Italy in the

Brazilian city of Manaus on June 14. "It was a wonderful send-off to

the World Cup by a quite incredible crowd," Hodgson told ITV. "We had to be patient, but we

were dominant throughout. It is the perfect end to a perfect two weeks. I am delighted that 85,000 fans came here to wish us well on our way.

"When you play against teams with 10 men behind the ball you have to be patient, but I had no doubt we would win."

Hodgson was also able to hand a debut to young Everton defender John Stones, while he will have drawn encouragement from the performance of Adam Lallana and a late cameo from the fit-again Jack Wilshere.

Defeat took Peru's run of games without victory to seven, but new coach Pablo Bengoechea had selected an experimental squad shorn of big-name players such as Claudio Pizarro and Jefferson Farfan.

Hodgson opted to select Danny Welbeck instead of in-form Liverpool winger Raheem Sterling, with the Manchester United man lining up on the left flank in a conventional 4-2-3-1 system. It was the teams' first meeting

since 1962 and Peru threatened first, with Joe Hart leaping to field a deflected shot from Montpellier youngster Jean Reza, but England cranked into gear in the last 20 minutes of the first half.

Having wastefully lashed wide with his weaker right foot following a buccaneering run from Lallana, Sturridge made amends in the 32nd minute with an excellent strike that took his international goal tally to four.

After collecting a throw-in from Glen Johnson wide on the England right, he worked his way inside two defenders to the edge of the box

Germany host Cameroon

in their penultimate World

Cup warm-up on Sunday

with head coach Joachim

Loew missing several first-

Phlipp Lahm, who is nurs-

Germany captain

choice stars.

"Marcel Schmelzer and Bastian

"It's an important opportunity for me to

Schweinsteiger should be available and I'll

learn a few things, both tactically and also

try and make the most of the substitutions.

before whipping a glorious left-foot shot into the top-left corner. Wayne Rooney then headed over

from a corner but it took a smart block from Hart to keep the scores level after the ponderous Johnson played Luis Ramirez onside moments before half-time. For all Lallana's darting enter-

prise, England continued to toil somewhat early in the second half and Deza almost embarrassed Hart with an ambitious 35-yard shot that landed on the roof of the net. Jagielka was obliged to slide in to

thwart the livewire Deza after Johnson gave the ball away, but Cahill headed in from a Leighton Baines corner in the 65th minute to give England breathing space.

Five minutes later Jagielka stabbed home the third goal after visiting goalkeeper Raul Fernandez allowed another Baines corner to squirm from his grasp.

The 28-year-old Neuer is expected to play

In Neuer's place against Cameroon,

His Dortmund team-mate Erik Durm is

Real Madrid's Sami Khedira should fea-

The defensive midfielder has spent the

He took a knock to the same knee in the

"You can't say it was an injury but I took a

ture at some stage despite suffering an injury

last six months on the sidelines after tearing

senior side's 8-0 win over Germany's Under-

20 side in a practice match at their north

blow to the knee, which was a bit unfortu-

Italian training camp on Thursday.

in Germany's final friendly against Armenia

in Mainz next Friday before the squad flies to

Borussia Dortmund shot-stopper Roman

Weidenfeller, 33, will deputise to make only

his second international appearance.

set to make his debut at left-back.

his cruciate knee ligament.

scare in training.

nate," said Khedira.

about individual players."

Brazil.

Zia finishes 23rd

AFP

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman finished 23rd, securing 6.5 points in the 6th KIIT International Chess Festival which concluded in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on Saturday. In the 10th and last round, Zia lost against IM Prasanna Raghuram Rao of India to take the 23rd spot. A total of 147 players, including 22 grandmasters, 2 women grandmasters and 21 international masters from 19 countries took part in the meet.

Ribery will be fit for World Cup

AFP, Paris

French playmaker Franck Ribery will be fit to play in the World Cup, French Football Federation president Noel Le Graet said Saturday.

The 31-year-old Bayern Munich star, a veteran of the 2006 final when France lost to Italy on penalties, has been unable to train with the rest of the squad since joining them last week because of back pain.

However, Le Graet said that Ribery had been given the all clear after he underwent tests in a hospital in Paris on Saturday and is due to travel to Nice where the French squad is preparing for a friendly with Paraguay

on Sunday. "The French team is counting on Ribery," said Le Graet, who was speaking after the annual general meeting of the federation in Paris.



Spain striker Fernando Torres celebrates after scoring a penalty during their international friendly against Bolivia at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Reigning world champions

AFP, Seville

Spain barely had to break sweat as they coasted to a 2-0 win over Bolivia in Seville on Friday night. Fernando Torres opened

Spain brush

aside Bolivia

the scoring with a penalty on 51 minutes before Andres Iniesta wrapped up victory six minutes from time with a stunning goal. With two weeks to go

before their first match in Brazil, Spain dominated throughout against unheralded opponents, ranked just 68 in the world, but struggled to find the finishing touch.

Bolivia adopted an ultradefensive formation with five at the back and four across the middle, with just one forward, a tactic and mindset that Spain will likely have to overcome in Brazil as well.

Even so, Spain still created many good chances with Cesar Azpilicueta hitting the outside of the post on the half hour mark.

Torres proved a constant menace to the Bolivian backline in his first start for "La Roja" since the Confederations Cup final almost a year ago.

Del Bosque gambles on Costa

AFP, Madrid



Experienced strikers Fernando Torres and David Villa were both included in Spain coach Vicente del Bosque's final 23-man World Cup squad on Saturday as he sought to provide cover for Diego

Brasil Costa's injured hamstring.

Brazil-born Atletico Madrid striker Costa has battled an ongoing hamstring problem that limited him to just nine minutes in the Champions League final defeat to city rivals Real, a week after he was forced off 15 minutes into his side's La Liga title decider with Barcelona.

And he did not feature in the reigning World Cup champions' 2-0 win over Bolivia in Seville on Friday.

But his goal-scoring prowess - Costa was the third highest goal scorer in La Liga last season with 27 -- convinced Del Bosque to take a calculated risk, backed up the presence of Chelsea hitman Torres, 30, and Costa's Atletico teammate Villa, 32.

Del Bosque also left strikers Jesus Navas, Alvaro Negredo and Fernando Llorente, midfielder Ander Iturraspe, and defenders Alberto Moreno and Dani Carvajal out of his squad, the six having been named in his initial 30-man list, along with Thiago Alcantara, earlier ruled out with a knee injury.

Manchester City winger Navas has been

sidelined with an ankle injury since mid-April and failed to find the favour Del Bosque granted Costa.

But it was heartbreak for Llorente, world champion in 2010 and European champion in 2012, after scoring 16 goals in his debut season for Juventus in Serie A, and Manchester City's Negredo, who has seemingly paid for his lack of game time with the English champions.

Spain face Chile, the Netherlands and Australia in World Cup Group B. Their first match pits them on June 13 against the Netherlands -- their opponents in their 2010 World Cup final triumph.

Goalkeepers: Iker Casillas (Real Madrid), Jose Manuel Reina (Napoli/ITA), David De Gea (Manchester United/ENG) Defenders: Sergio Ramos (Real Madrid), Gerard Pique (Barcelona), Jordi Alba (Barcelona), Javi Martinez (Bayern Munich/GER), Cesar Azpilicueta (Chelsea/ENG), Raul Albiol (Napoli/ITA), Juanfran Torres (Atletico Madrid) Midfielders: Xavi Hernandez (Barcelona), Sergio Busquets (Barcelona), Andres Iniesta (Barcelona), Cesc Fabregas (Barcelona), Xabi Alonso (Real Madrid), David Silva (Manchester City/ENG), Koke Resurreccion (Atletico Madrid), Santiago Cazorla (Arsenal/ENG), Juan Mata (Manchester United/ENG)

Forwards: Pedro Rodriguez (Barcelona), Diego Costa (Atletico Madrid), David Villa (Atletico Madrid), Fernando Torres (Chelsea/ENG)

Sanchez inspires Chile

REUTERS, Santiago

Barcelona striker Alexis Sanchez set up all three goals as Chile fought back from 2-0 down to beat Egypt 3-2 on Friday in their penultimate World Cup warm-up match.

The Chileans, who play Australia in their World Cup opener on June 13, fell behind to two early goals on the counterattack.

Then Sanchez took over. On 26 minutes, he surged down the right and fired in a low cross for Marcelo Diaz, who teed the ball up with his first touch before volleying home off the far post.

On the hour mark, Sanchez drifted in from the right flank and lofted the ball over the visiting defence for Eduardo Vargas, whose right-foot shot brought Chile level.

With 12 minutes to play, Sanchez split the Egyptian defence with an inchperfect pass for Vargas to stroke home his second of the night.



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