

## Contents of **"World Cup 2010 - Group Stage Special" – abridged version**

- Tournament overview.....Page 1
- Groups tables and schedule.....Page 4
- Venues information.....Page 6
- Group A predictions.....Page 9
- Group B predictions.....Page 16
- Group C predictions.....Page 22
- Group D predictions.....Page 28
- Group E predictions.....Page 34
- Group F predictions.....Page 40
- Group G predictions.....Page 46
- Group H predictions.....Page 52

### Notes:

- The 'Recent International Form' indicator takes into account the official games played by every team since March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010. Since the mentioned games have been played in different locations, most of the time unrelated with the teams playing, the results have been considered to be 'Home' results for every team.
- All the information presented in this document is complete and has been checked to be accurate as for June 9<sup>th</sup> 2010. Any events, injuries or any further developments after this date have not been taken into account, regardless of the date and time this document has been delivered to you.
- Where there are two outcomes presented for one game we suggest you consider both on separated slips as there is a reasonable degree of uncertainty about each one.

## Tournament overview

The modern history of the World Cup and the World Cup Finals began with the 1930 edition held in Uruguay. Helped by the technological developments of the last decades the tournament's popularity just kept on growing ever since, and just to get an idea about the global reach of the phenomenon it's relevant to mention that a confirmed audience of more than three quarters of a billion viewers worldwide watched the last tournament final game, back in Germany in 2006.

While the history of the World Cup Finals can make an interesting reading in itself this is not the point of this part of our material and we'll focus only on some of the most interesting aspects of it here, particularities that unwillingly influence our consideration of the outcomes of some games and even the entire finals.

One such fact is that out of the eighteen World Cup Finals played so far (the 1942 and 1946 editions were not held due to World War II) Brazil are the winners of five titles, the record number to date. They are also the only team that was present to all the editions so far. Six other nations have won the World Cup beside Brazil to join them in this very exclusive club, the second place being held by Italy with four wins and also the current cup holders.

There are a lot of interesting facts concerning the awarding of the World Cup, like the fact that all six other winners except Brazil have won at least one of their titles while playing on home ground, as organizers of the tournament. For some, as England and France, it remained the only title so far. Or the certainty that this year's edition will represent a milestone in the competition's long term rivalry between the European and the South American nations – up until now the overall situation is a perfect tie, with nine titles for each continent. The tournament was actually never won by a team from another continent in its entire history. This year's edition is also the first one to be hosted by an African nation.

Facts like that are interesting and sometimes some of them can create misleading and preconceived ideas or can involuntarily substantiate 'hitches' and influence judgment. The point of this introduction is to make you aware that you should only base your assessment of a game between the two sides only on your present information and experience and not to allow any of the myths and history affect your betting. Taking a close look at the long history of the competition can only prove that some nations are able to 'breed' really good players and thus achieve constant performance in the long run and that old rivalries and feuds between countries can provide an extra incentive and therefore result in motivation driven performances from certain sides. To substantiate this point please consider Hungary's case, two times World Cup runners-up in 1938 and 1954, credited with the invention of the 'Total Football' in the time of Puskas and his teammates, the first team outside the UK to ever defeat England on Wembley, holding the record for the biggest score difference in a World Cup game with their ten to one win over El Salvador in 1982 and holders of countless other records and awards. Despite this impressive history, they've failed to qualify to a World Cup Finals since 1986.

So, please consider only the clear and present facts when making a decision or betting.

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This year's edition is the nineteenth World Cup competition and, as mentioned above, the first ever on African soil. It will take place in South Africa between June the 11<sup>th</sup> and July the 11<sup>th</sup>. The final game will be played in Johannesburg on July the 11<sup>th</sup>. The games will be played on ten stadiums in nine cities.

More information about all the aspects of the tournament is available freely over the internet, so there is no point in providing it here. For instance, the official tournament ball is called 'Jabulani' and the official mascot is Zakumi. This is memorabilia information, it doesn't change a thing about the game itself, right? We consider that a very important aspect of every sporting event is the venue where is held, so in one of the following sections we'll take a brief look at the concerned arenas.

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## Groups tables and games schedule - summary

### Group A

No.	Match	Date / Time	Venue	Pick 1X2
1.	South Africa vs. Mexico	11/06 17:00	Johannesburg - JSC	X
2.	Uruguay vs. France	11/06 21:30	Cape Town	X
3.	South Africa vs. Uruguay	16/06 21:30	Tshwane/Pretoria	2
4.	France vs. Mexico	17/06 21:30	Polokwane	2
5.	Mexico vs. Uruguay	22/06 17:00	Rustenburg	X / 2
6.	France vs. South Africa	22/06 17:00	Bloemfontein	2

### Group B

No.	Match	Date / Time	Venue	Pick 1X2
1.	Argentina vs. Nigeria	12/06 17:00	Johannesburg - JEP	1
2.	Korea Republic vs. Greece	12/06 14:30	Port Elizabeth	1
3.	Greece vs. Nigeria	17/06 17:00	Bloemfontein	1
4.	Argentina vs. Korea Republic	17/06 14:30	Johannesburg - JSC	1
5.	Nigeria vs. Korea Republic	22/06 21:30	Durban	X
6.	Greece vs. Argentina	22/06 21:30	Polokwane	2

### Group C

No.	Match	Date / Time	Venue	Pick 1X2
1.	England vs. USA	12/06 21:30	Rustenburg	X / 2
2.	Algeria vs. Slovenia	13/06 14:30	Polokwane	2
3.	Slovenia vs. USA	18/06 17:00	Johannesburg - JEP	X / 2
4.	England vs. Algeria	18/06 21:30	Cape Town	1 / X
5.	Slovenia vs. England	23/06 17:00	Port Elizabeth	2
6.	USA vs. Algeria	23/06 17:00	Pretoria	1 / X

### Group D

No.	Match	Date / Time	Venue	Pick 1X2
1.	Germany vs. Australia	13/06 21:30	Durban	1
2.	Serbia vs. Ghana	13/06 17:00	Pretoria	X / 2
3.	Germany vs. Serbia	18/06 14:30	Port Elizabeth	X / 2
4.	Ghana vs. Australia	19/06 17:00	Rustenburg	X
5.	Ghana vs. Germany	23/06 21:30	Johannesburg - JSC	2
6.	Australia vs. Serbia	23/06 21:30	Nelspruit	X

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### Group E

No.	Match	Date / Time	Venue	Pick 1X2
1.	Netherlands vs. Denmark	14/06 14:30	Johannesburg - JSC	1
2.	Japan vs. Cameroon	14/06 17:00	Bloemfontein	1 / X
3.	Netherlands vs. Japan	19/06 14:30	Durban	1
4.	Cameroon vs. Denmark	19/06 21:30	Pretoria	2
5.	Denmark vs. Japan	24/06 21:30	Rustenburg	2
6.	Cameroon vs. Netherlands	24/06 21:30	Cape Town	X / 2

### Group F

No.	Match	Date / Time	Venue	Pick 1X2
1.	Italy vs. Paraguay	14/06 21:30	Cape Town	X
2.	New Zealand vs. Slovakia	15/06 14:30	Rustenburg	X / 2
3.	Slovakia vs. Paraguay	20/06 14:30	Bloemfontein	2
4.	Italy vs. New Zealand	20/06 17:00	Nelspruit	1
5.	Slovakia vs. Italy	24/06 17:00	Johannesburg - JEP	X
6.	Paraguay vs. New Zealand	24/06 17:00	Polokwane	1

### Group G

No.	Match	Date / Time	Venue	Pick 1X2
1.	Côte d'Ivoire vs. Portugal	15/06 17:00	Port Elizabeth	X
2.	Brazil vs. Korea DPR	15/06 21:30	Johannesburg - JEP	1
3.	Brazil vs. Côte d'Ivoire	20/06 21:30	Johannesburg - JSC	1
4.	Portugal vs. Korea DPR	21/06 14:30	Cape Town	1
5.	Portugal vs. Brazil	25/06 17:00	Durban	X / 2
6.	Korea DPR vs. Côte d'Ivoire	25/06 17:00	Nelspruit	2

### Group H

No.	Match	Date / Time	Venue	Pick 1X2
1.	Honduras vs. Chile	16/06 14:30	Nelspruit	2
2.	Spain vs. Switzerland	16/06 17:00	Durban	1
3.	Chile vs. Switzerland	21/06 17:00	Port Elizabeth	1
4.	Spain vs. Honduras	21/06 21:30	Johannesburg - JEP	1
5.	Chile vs. Spain	25/06 21:30	Pretoria	X / 2
6.	Switzerland vs. Honduras	25/06 21:30	Bloemfontein	1

## Venues information

### **Cape Town**

Cape Town Stadium - Purposely built for the World Cup it takes the place of the Green Point Stadium and this was the original designated name for the new structure. The current arena has a maximum capacity of 69.000 for the official FIFA events of this summer. It will host eight games, five of them counting for the group stage as well as three games from the final stages, including one of the semifinals.

### **Durban**

Moses Mabhida Stadium - Constructed in the place of the old Kings Park Soccer Stadium, the new structure is going to be the second largest stadium for the finals judging by World Cup seating capacity alone. The new Durban venue is an architectural masterpiece, both in terms of beauty and functionality and it can accommodate a maximum of 70.000 fans. The futuristic structure has a special feature, the central arch, that together with the more than a hundred columns of the facade, the countless other beams and the Teflon roof will certainly let the attendance think they are sailing the largest soccer ship ever. There will be seven games hosted by the Moses Mabhida, five of the groups stage, one second round and a semi final.

### **Johannesburg**

Johannesburg Ellis Park (JEP) - Used for both soccer and rugby games, the Coca-Cola Park, as it is known since 2008 is going to have its usual seating capacity increased to 65.000 for the World cup events that it will host. The first stadium in SA to be owned by a company with 51 percent black ownership since 2005, the Elis park's long history has recorded both glory and agony moments. It hosted the 1995 Rugby world Cup final game that has seen the crowning of the Springboks (South Africa's national rugby team) as world champions in front of the NZ All Blacks long time rivals. It has also been the scene of the worst sports related incident in SA to date in April 2001, when a massive stampede at a soccer game has resulted in 42 being killed. During last year Confederation's Cup, a dressed rehearsal for the World Cup it hosted three group games, one semi final and the thrilling final game (USA-Brazil, won 3-2 by the Brazilians). For this year's finals it is scheduled to host five group games, one second round game and a quarter final.

Johannesburg Soccer City (JSC) - The World Cup tournament's journey thru South Africa will begin on the grass of Soccer City on June 11th and it will also end here one month later, on July 11th. Located in the Soweto region of Johannesburg and also known as the FNB Stadium (First national Bank) this is the venue that is scheduled to host both the opening and the final games of the tournament. In addition to this 'alpha and omega' status it will also see the action of four group games, one second round game and one semi final. This series of matches is fitting for the largest arena in South Africa, its capacity upgraded to a little fewer than 95.000 seats. The venue's relative short history has seen landmark moments, like the first public speech of Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg after being released from prison or the 1996 African's Cup of Nations final game, won 2-0 by home side Bafana Bafana against Tunisia. On the evening of July the 11th this will be *the* place to be for every soccer fan in the world!

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## Port Elizabeth

Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium - Being one of the most recent stadiums to be built in South Africa it has been an architectural challenge for its designers to present one of the finest arenas to the worldwide media covered event as this year's competition will most certainly be. And a great job they've done, indeed! In spite of its lack of proven history the downtown Port Elisabeth five-tier arena is surely one of the most beautiful modern arenas with its unique roof structure resembling a flower's petals. On the rye grass pitch a maximum of 48.000 vuvuzelas using fans will be able to see action from five group matches, one second round match, one semi final and the third place decider match.

## Bloemfontein

Free State Stadium - This arena was built in anticipation of another world Cup competition hosted by SA, the 1995 Rugby World Cup. It has seen its fair share of international soccer action during the 1996 edition of the African Cup of Nations as well as during last year's Confederations Cup, when it hosted the exceptional semi final between USA and Spain, a shocking 2-0 US victory. A significant addition for this year's tournament is the second tier added to the former structure, enhancing the total capacity to 48.000 seats. There are five groups round matches as well as one second round match to be played on the pitch of the Vodacom Park, as 'The City of Roses' arena is also known.

## Nelspruit Host City / Mbombela

Mbombela Stadium - This venue is also one of the five new arenas built in anticipation of this year's World Cup finals. It has a unique architectural feature, eighteen giraffe shaped towering structures that give these modern times 43.500 seats arena a very traditionalistic look and the all too obvious nickname 'The giraffe stadium'. Purposely built for the finals this venue hasn't hosted any international game yet and in the future if you were to look for its location don't be surprised if you'll find that the stadium won't change, but the city name will - since October 2009 Nelspruit has officially changed its name to Mbombela. However, the former name will be used in the form of 'Nelspruit Host City' for the finals to avoid confusion. The initial project for the black and white zebra seats arena's pitch was to have a reinforced natural grass surface, but due to failure to accommodate this type of turf the officials have reversed their decision and stuck to the proven rye grass. On this brand new green pitch there are scheduled to take place four matches from the group stage.

## Polokwane

Peter Mokaba Stadium - The new Peter Mokaba Stadium was built just opposite the old Polokwane stadium bearing the exact same name, a bold, yet strange decision of the Polokwane municipality. However, even if it hasn't seen any international games action yet the new arena has managed to already attract enough attention due to its audacious shape, a concrete and steel two tiers structure creating a modern baobab tree that can accommodate 46.000 spectators. Its reinforced natural grass pitch will host four group stage matches.

## Rustenburg

Royal Bafokeng Stadium - Located in Phokeng, close to Rustenburg the arena was opened in 1999 and is owned by the Royal Bafokeng Nation, the 'People of the grass'. That was a good year for this nation, because it was back in 1999 they've won the final legal battle that gave them a 22 percent royalty on all the platinum mined from their soil, one of the richest in the world. For this year finals the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace's capacity was upgraded to 44.500 seats

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and some other improvements have been made in order to host in proper conditions five group stage matches and one second round match.

### **Pretoria**

Loftus Versfeld Stadium - It makes perfect sense that one of the oldest and most important cities of South Africa is going to host one of the traditional venues of the country. This arena was named after the founder of organized sports in the old capital city of Pretoria. There is a long way from the original 2000 seats arena of the early 1920s to the 51500 plus capacity of the modern venue and its grass pitch has seen all kinds of sporting action and special events through these years. Lately, it hosted three group matches during the last year edition of the Confederations Cup. Only minor improvements were needed for this year finals, during which it will host five group stage matches and one second round game.

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## Group A

### *Teams overview*

#### France

<b>National Team</b>	France
<b>Nickname</b>	Les Bleus, L'Equipe Tricolore
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	9
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	World Champions - 1998
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Second place in UEFA Group 7. Winners of the play-off round against the Republic of Ireland, 2 - 1 on aggregate.
<b>Recent international form 2010</b>	France vs. Spain : 0 - 2, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; France vs. Costa Rica: 2 - 1, on May 26 <sup>th</sup> ; France vs. Tunisia: 1 - 1, on May 30 <sup>th</sup> ; France vs. China: 0 - 1, on June 4 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Raymond Domenech
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: C. Carrasso, H. Lloris, S. Mandanda.  Defenders: E. Abidal, G. Clichy, P. Evra, W. Gallas, M. Planus, B. Sagna,  A. Reveillère, S. Squillaci.  Midfielders: A. Diaby, A. Diarra, Y. Gourcuff, F. Malouda, J. Toulalan.  Forwards: N. Anelka, D. Cissé, A. Gignac, S. Govou, T. Henry, F. Ribéry, M. Valbuena.
<b>Star players</b>	Thierry Henry (Barcelona FC), Nicolas Anelka (Chelsea), Sidney Gouvou (Olympique Lyonnais), Franck Ribery (Bayern Munich), Djibril Cisse (Panathinaikos)
<b>Captain</b>	Thierry Henry

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<b>World Cup host</b>	1938, 1998
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Mexico

<b>National Team</b>	Mexico
<b>Nickname</b>	El Tricolor
<b>Current title holders</b>	CONCACAF Gold Cup
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	17
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Quarter finals
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Second place in CONCACAF qualifiers.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Mexico vs. New Zealand: 2 – 0, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Mexico vs. Korea DPR: 2 – 1, on March 17 <sup>th</sup> ; Mexico vs. Iceland: 0 – 0, on March 24 <sup>th</sup> ; Mexico vs. Ecuador: 0 – 0, on May 7 <sup>th</sup> ; Mexico vs. Senegal: 1 – 0, on May 10 <sup>th</sup> ; Mexico vs. Angola: 1 – 0, on May 13 <sup>th</sup> ; Mexico vs. Chile: 1 – 0, on May 16 <sup>th</sup> ; Mexico vs. England: 1 – 3, on May 24 <sup>th</sup> ; Mexico vs. Netherlands: 1 – 2, on May 26 <sup>th</sup> ; Mexico vs. Gambia: 5 – 1, on May 30 <sup>th</sup> ; Mexico vs. Italy: 2 – 1, on June 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Javier Aguirre Onaindia
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: L. E. Michel, G. Ochoa, O. Perez. Defenders: P. Aguilar, E. Juarez, J. Magallon, R. Marquez, H. Moreno, R. Osorio,

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	F. J. Rodriguez, C. Salcido. Midfielders: I. Castro, J. Torres, A. Guardado, G. Torrado. Forwards: A. Bautista, C. Blanco, G. dos Santos, G. Franco, C. Vela, J. Hernandez, A. Medina, P. Barrera.
<b>Star players</b>	Cuauhtemoc Blanco (Veracruz), Carlos Vela (Arsenal FC), Rafael Marquez (Barcelona FC), Adolfo Bautista (Guadalajara)
<b>Captain</b>	Rafael Marquez
<b>World Cup host</b>	1970, 1986
<b>Other information</b>	-

### South Africa

<b>National Team</b>	South Africa
<b>Nickname</b>	Bafana Bafana
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	83
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 1.
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Host nation
<b>Recent international form 2010</b>	South Africa vs. Namibia : 0 – 0, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Paraguay vs. South Africa : 1 – 1, on March 31 <sup>st</sup> ; South Africa vs. Korea DPR : 0 – 0, on April 22 <sup>nd</sup> ; South Africa vs. Jamaica : 2 – 0, on April 28 <sup>th</sup> ; South Africa vs. Thailand : 4 – 0, on May 16 <sup>th</sup> ; South Africa vs. Bulgaria: 1 – 1, on May 24 <sup>th</sup> ; South Africa vs. Columbia: 2 – 1, on May 27 <sup>th</sup> ;

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	<p>South Africa vs. Guatemala: 5 – 1, on May 31<sup>st</sup>;</p> <p>South Africa vs. Denmark: 1 – 0, on June 5<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<b>Coach</b>	Carlos Alberto Parreira
<b>Tournament team</b>	<p>Goalkeepers: I. Khune, S-A. Walters, M. Josephs.</p> <p>Defenders: M .Booth, S.Gaxa, B. Khumalo, T. Masilela, A. Mokoena, A. Ngcongca, S. Sangweni, L. Thwala.</p> <p>Midfielders: S. Moriri, L. Davids, K. Dikgacoi, T. Modise,R. Letsholonyane, S. Tshabalala, T. Khuboni, S. Pienaar, M. Sibaya.</p> <p>Forwarders: K. Mphela, S. Nomvete, B. Parker.</p>
<b>Star players</b>	Steven Pienaar (Everton), Syiabonga Nomvete (Moroka Swallows), Katlego Mphela (Mamelodi Sundowns).
<b>Captain</b>	Aaron Mokoena
<b>World Cup host</b>	2010
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Uruguay

<b>National Team</b>	Uruguay
<b>Nickname</b>	Los Charruas, La Celeste
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	16
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	World Champions - 1930, 1950
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Fifth place in CONMEBOL group. Winners of the play-off game against CONCACAF fourth place Costa Rica – aggregate 2 - 1.
<b>Recent international form 2010</b>	Uruguay vs. Switzerland: 3 - 1, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ;

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	Uruguay vs. Israel: 4 – 1, on May 26 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Oscar Washington Tabarez Silva
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: F. Muslera, J. Castillo, M. Silva. Defenders: M. Caceres, J. Fucile, D. Godin, D. Lugano, A. Scotti, M. Pereira, M. Victorino. Midfielders: W. Gargano, E. Arevalo Rios, S. Eguren, D. Perez, A. Pereira, A. Fernandez, I. Gonzalez, N. Lodeiro. Forwards: D. Forlan, S. Abreu, L. Suarez, S. Fernandez, E. Cavani
<b>Star players</b>	Diego Forlan (Atletico Madrid), Sebastian Abreu (Botafogo), Luis Suarez (Ajax Amsterdam)
<b>Captain</b>	Diego Lugano
<b>World Cup host</b>	1930, first World Cup finals
<b>Other information</b>	Most games played against Mexico (17) having won 3 times, 7 loses and 7 draws.

South Africa vs. Mexico – X (Draw)

The World Cup opener will be a true corner stone for the high hopes of the tournament's hosts and there is no doubt that the home crowd will fire up the atmosphere on the Johannesburg Soccer City. However, despite the good late performances that Bafana Bafana has displayed lately there remains still a big gap between their ambitions and their real strengths. The Mexican side, although usually dependable on Blanco's form is a more mature team, with a whole lot more experience altogether and haven't made the trip just for pleasure. They are somehow slow in getting started and we believe that the first game of the finals will end in a tie.

Uruguay vs. France - X (Draw)

The French side is slowly, but surely going on a descending slope and it is highly unlikely that the last official results will have the effect of a cold shower on Domenech's team. Their poor performances are in fact an accurate mirror of Les Bleus' current form and their opening game will not see any improvement. Despite having almost all their stars available the Uruguayan squad will prove to be a much tougher nut to crack than expected. Offensive players such as Forlan, Suarez and Abreu will certainly find gaps in the French defenses and the highly motivated South American side will secure a positive result and one valuable point at least.

South Africa vs. Uruguay – 2 (Uruguay to win)

After the initial expected draw with the Mexicans the home side with their backs against the wall will be extremely motivated to ensure a place in the second stage of the tournament and therefore will undoubtedly try to overcome the powerful South American team. But, having secured the most valuable point from their opener against France and looking to capitalize on their good recent form, the Uruguayans will be prudent and will play this game not to lose. They will, however, take advantage of the gaps that will undoubtedly appear in Bafana Bafana's defense and they'll be able to convert those opportunities without a doubt.

France vs. Mexico - 2 (Mexico to win)

The French side will be one of this finals edition's biggest disappointments and although they'll try their best there is little they can do against a very motivated and results hungry Mexican team. After their initial draw with Uruguay Les Bleus will give everything in an all-or-nothing struggle against the other South American side, but we think that won't be enough. The Mexican side will put up a fight and will rely on their deadly counterattack to win the day. At best for the European side the game will end with a relatively normal score, but we can expect a Mexican goal bonanza.

Mexico vs. Uruguay - X / 2 (Draw / Uruguay to win)

Played at the same hour with the encounter between France and South Africa this confrontation can be a very simple one or a quite tricky one. It all depends of the group standings before the kickoff. If both sides will have already amounted enough points to qualify before this game, it will be just a final act to a so far pleasing journey and will try to spare their key players. If one of them is still in an unsure situation before the final game and will have four points so far it will push a little harder, but will still settle for an all pleasing draw. The simplest situation is if they both have just four points each so far. In all the above mentioned situations the draw will be the most desired and likely outcome of this game. Even if finishing top of the group means an easier opponent in the next stage and there is a well known fact that the national pride is always a factor to reckon when we speak about South American teams this draw will please both sides. La Celeste is anyway a strong side and we can expect a better performance from Forlan & company than from the Tricolor.

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France vs. South Africa - 2 (South Africa to win)

The former World Champions will give it all in this final game, hoping that a victory against the home side combined with a favorable result in the other final game of the group between Uruguay a Mexico will enable them to somehow squeeze thru the next round. Bafana Bafana will try hard to please the home crowd and to give them something to blow their vuvuzelas about, so they'll throw everything at the French from the starting whistle blow of the game. Both sides will perform at their desperate best and hopefully none will have too many injured or suspended key players this could lead to one of the most entertaining matches of the finals. While the overall performances of both sides will be at their maximum capacity we consider that the home side greater determination will see them thru and will grant the final three points.

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## Group B

### *Teams overview*

#### **Argentina**

<b>National Team</b>	Argentina
<b>Nickname</b>	La Albiceleste
<b>Current title holders</b>	Olympic Soccer Champions
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	7
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	World Champions – 1978, 1986
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Fourth place in CONMEBOL group.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Argentina vs. Germany: 0 – 1, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Argentina vs. Haiti: 4 – 0, on May 5 <sup>th</sup> ; Argentina vs. Canada: 5 – 0, on May 24 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Diego Armando Maradona
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: M. Andujar, D. Pozo, S. Romero. Defenders: N. Burdisso, M. Demichelis, A. Garce, G. Heinze, W. Samuel, N. Otamendi, C. Rodriguez. Midfielders: M. Bolatti, A. di Maria, J. Gutierrez, J. Mascherano, J. Veron, J. Pastore, M. Rodriguez. Forwards: S. Aguero, L. Messi, G. Higuain, M. Palermo, C. Tevez, D. Milito.
<b>Star players</b>	L. Messi (Barcelona FC), W. Samuel (Internazionale Milan), C. Tevez (Manchester City), S. Aguero (Atletico Madrid), D. Milito (Internazionale Milan), M. Palermo (Boca Juniors), J. Mascherano (Liverpool)
<b>Captain</b>	Javier Masquerano

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<b>World Cup host</b>	1978
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Greece

<b>National Team</b>	Greece
<b>Nickname</b>	Galanoleyki, The Pirate Ship, Ethniki
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	13
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 1
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Second place in UEFA Group 2. Winners of the play-off round against the Ukraine, 1 - 0 on aggregate.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Greece vs. Senegal: 0 – 2, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Greece vs. Korea DPR: 2 – 2, May 25 <sup>th</sup> ; Greece vs. Paraguay: 0 – 2, on June 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Otto Rehagel
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: C. Chalkias, A. Tzorvas, M. Sifakis. Defenders: L. Vyntra, G. Seitaridis, N. Spyropoulos, V. Moras, A. Papadopoulos, V. Torosidis, S. Kyrgiakos, S. Malezas, S. Papastathopoulos, C. Patsatzoglou. Midfielders: K. Katsouranis, S. Ninis, G. Karagounis, A. Tziolis, S. Prittas. Forwards: D. Salpingidis, T. Gekas, G. Samaras, A. Charistead, P. Kapetanios.
<b>Star players</b>	Angelos Charistead (Nurnberg FC), Theofanis Gekas (Eintracht Frankfurt), Georgios Samaras (Celtic Glasgow), Kostas Katsouranis (Panathinaikos).
<b>Captain</b>	Georgios Karagounis

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Korea Republic

<b>National Team</b>	Korea Republic (South Korea)
<b>Nickname</b>	Tigers of Asia, Red Devils, Taegeuk Warriors
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	47
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Fourth place
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of AFC Group B.
<b>Recent international form</b>	<p>Korea Republic vs. Cote d'Ivoire: 3 – 1, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>;</p> <p>Korea Republic vs. Ecuador: 2 – 0, on May 16<sup>th</sup>;</p> <p>Korea Republic vs. Japan: 2 – 0 , on May 24<sup>th</sup>;</p> <p>Korea Republic vs. Belarus: 0 – 1, on May 30<sup>th</sup>;</p> <p>Korea Republic vs. Spain: 0 – 1, on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.</p>
<b>Coach</b>	Huh Jung-Moo
<b>Tournament team</b>	<p>Goalkeepers: Lee W-J, Jung S-R, Kim Y-K.</p> <p>Defenders: Oh B-S, Kim H-I, Cho Y-H, Lee Y-P, Lee J-S, Kim D-J, Cha D-R, Kwak T-H.</p> <p>Midfielders: Kim N-I, Park J-S, Kim J-W, Kim J-S, Ki S-Y, Lee C-Y, Kim B-K, , Yeom K-H.</p> <p>Forwards: Ahn J-H, Lee S-Y, Lee D-G, Park C-Y.</p>
<b>Star players</b>	<p>Park Ji-Sung (Manchester Utd.), Lee Dong-Gook (Jeonbok Motors),</p> <p>Ahn Jung-Hwan (Dalian Shide), Cha Du-Ri (Freiburg SC)</p>

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>Captain</b>	Park Ji-Sung
<b>World Cup host</b>	2002, together with Japan
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Nigeria

<b>National Team</b>	Nigeria
<b>Nickname</b>	Super Eagles
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	21
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 1
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of CAF third round Group B.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Nigeria vs. Congo DR: 5 – 2, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Nigeria vs. Saudi Arabia: 0 – 0, on May 25 <sup>th</sup> ; Nigeria vs. Colombia: 1 – 1, on May 30 <sup>th</sup> ; Nigeria vs. Korea DPR: 3 – 1, on June 6 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Lars Lagerback
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: V. Enyeama, A. Ejide, D. Aiyengub. Defenders: J. Yobo, T. Taiwo, D. Shittu, C. Odiah, R. Afolabi, U. E. Echiejile, D. Adeleye. Midfielders: I. Brown, N. Kanu, Y. Ayila, K. Uche, S. Kaita, D. Etuhu, L. Haruna. Forwards: Y. Aiyegbeni, P. Odemwingie, J. Utaka, V. Obinna, O. Martins, C. Ogbuke Obasi.
<b>Star players</b>	Nwankwo Kanu (Portsmouth), Yakubu Aiyegbeni (Everton), Obafemi Martins (Wolfsburg), Victor Obinna (Malaga), Taye Taiwo (Marseille).

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<b>Captain</b>	Nwankwo Kanu
<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

Argentina vs. Nigeria - 1 (Argentina to win)

There is no doubt about it that the South American side is one of the strongest candidates to take this year's trophy. There are a lot of stars in Maradona's line-up and they will waste no time to do their magic against every opponent they'll encounter. The Super Eagles are one of Africa's best, nobody can dispute that. But they are going to be no match to the Argentineans. Despite fears that Maradona's skills as a coach are not to match that of his players there is clear that Argentina will prevail against Nigeria's best efforts.

Korea Republic vs. Greece - 1 (Korea Republic to win)

The Asian nation is still a strong team with highly motivated players that still have the competitive edge and the fighting spirit that earned them the fourth place eight years ago. The current Greek line-up is a long way away from the European champions of 2000, even if an important part of the team is the same. The poor recent form of the Pirate Ship is not going to change so suddenly and they will not have what it takes to overtake the more flexible Korean team.

Greece vs. Nigeria - 1 (Greece to win)

The Super Eagles are faced with not such an easy flight over the Greek phalanx, and their superior form and the almost home ground home advantage seem to give them the upper hand against the Europeans. The extra motivation will be the fact that in this group there is in theory only one eligible place other than Argentina's. Considering the fact that the Greeks are most likely to have an easier last game at the hands of the already qualified by then South Americans the Africans must get the most out of this encounter to keep their chances for a place in the second stage alive. But 'the old and wise' Greeks will have one last trick up their sleeve to throw at them and they will prevail over the not so mature African team.

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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Argentina vs. Korea Republic - 1 (Argentina to win)

In order to confirm their claim to this year's title the Albiceleste will do what it takes to ensure their access to the upper stages without too many emotions. Therefore they will not treat this game lightly, after what we expect to have been a convincing performance from the Asian team against Greece. The South Koreans will try to put up a fight and not to get hammered by the big favorites, but they will however wisely and expectedly conserve their strengths for the decider against Nigeria on June 22nd.

Nigeria vs. Korea Republic - X (Draw)

The real final of the group, this will be the game that will decide who joins Argentina to the knock-out round. If the situation is too close to call, meaning that both teams have the same number of points, and if there are no significant injuries and suspensions then we're in for one of the most exciting games of the groups stage, because the two teams are pretty evenly matched. No matter what, both sides will try to take the points and will play in a rather cautious manner. Although there will be chances to break the deadlock and there is always the unpredictable factor of a penalty shot or a lucky final touch that could destabilize the balance the odds are greater that this game will end in a tie that will not satisfy any side.

Greece vs. Argentina – 2 (Argentina to win)

The last game of the group for Argentina and most likely the last of the tournament for the Greeks will be a relaxed one for Maradona's pupils. However, they will not allow the Europeans to get too much out of this relaxation because the Albiceleste hate to lose. Their entire qualification campaign was a struggling journey and they want to make the finals a perfect tournament, without any mishaps. Being sure of their place in the second stage and group leaders they will not stretch too much, but will not surrender either. On the other side, the Pirate Ship will try to go down with a bang, and even a loud one, but a victory against Argentina is going to involve more chance than skill, and the gods of the Olympus seem not to like the mortals of Peloponnese anymore.

## Group C

### *Teams overview*

#### Algeria

<b>National Team</b>	Algeria
<b>Nickname</b>	The Desert Foxes
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	30
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 1
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of CAF third round Group B, alongside Egypt. Winners of the decisive play-off game against Egypt, 1 – 0.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Algeria vs. Serbia: 0 – 3, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Algeria vs. Ireland: 0 – 3, on May 28 <sup>th</sup> ; Algeria vs. United Arab Emirates: 1 – 0, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Rabah Saadane
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: L. Gaouaoui, F. Chaochi, R. M'Bohli. Defenders: N. Belhadj, A. Yahia, M. Bougherra, R. Halliche, A. Laifaoui, C. Medjani, H. Bellaid, D. Mesbah. Midfielders: Y. Mansouri, K. Ziani, H. Yebda, D. Abdoun, M. Lacen, F. Kadir, R. Boudebouz, A. Guedioura, K. Matmour. Forwards: R. Saifi, A. Ghezzal, R. Djebbour.
<b>Star players</b>	Rafik Saifi (Istres FC), Nadir Belahdj (Portsmouth), Antar Yahia (Bochum), Madjid Bougherra (Glasgow Rangers), Karim Ziani (Wolfsburg).
<b>Captain</b>	Anther Yahia
<b>World Cup host</b>	-

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>Other information</b>	-
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### England

<b>National Team</b>	England
<b>Nickname</b>	The Three Lions
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	8
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	World Champions - 1966
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of UEFA Group 6.
<b>Recent international form</b>	England vs. Egypt: 3 – 1, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; England vs. Mexico: 3 – 1, on May 24 <sup>th</sup> ; England vs. Japan: 2 – 1 , on May 30 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Fabio Capello
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: J. Hart, D. James, R. Green. Defenders: J. Carragher, A. Cole, M. Dawson, G. Johnson, L. King, J. Terry, M. Upson, S. Warnock. Midfielders: G. Barry, M. Carrick, J. Cole, S. Gerrard, F. Lampard, A. Lennon, J. Milner, S. Wright-Phillips. Forwards: P. Crouch, J. Defoe, E. Heskey, W. Rooney.
<b>Star players</b>	Wayne Rooney (Manchester Utd.), Peter Crouch (Tottenham ), Frank Lampard (Chelsea), Steven Gerrard (Liverpool), Jermaine Defoe (Tottenham).
<b>Captain</b>	Steven Gerrard
<b>World Cup host</b>	1966
<b>Other information</b>	-

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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### Slovenia

<b>National Team</b>	Slovenia
<b>Nickname</b>	-
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	25
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 1
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Second place in UEFA Group 3. Slovenia qualified to the finals through away goal rule, after drawing against Russia 2 – 2 on aggregate in the play-offs.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Slovenia vs. Qatar: 4 – 1, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Slovenia vs. New Zealand: 3 – 1, on June 4 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Matjaz Kek
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: S. Handanovic, J. Handanovic, A. Seliga. Defenders: M. Brecko, B. Cesar, B. Ilic, R. M. Mavric, B. Jokic, S. Filekovic, M. Sulcer, E. Dzinic. Midfielders: A. Kirm, R. Koren, V. Birsa, A. Komac, R. Krhin, D. Stevanovic, A. Radosavljevic. Forwards: M. Novakovic, Z. Dedic, Z. Ljubijankic, N. Pecnik, T. Matavz.
<b>Star players</b>	Milivoje Novakovic (Koln FC), Robert Koren (West Bromwich Albion), Zlatan Ljubijankic (Gent).
<b>Captain</b>	Robert Koren
<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

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### USA

<b>National Team</b>	United States of America
<b>Nickname</b>	The Yanks, The Stars and Stripes
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	14
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Third place - 1930
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of the CONCACAF final Fourth Round.
<b>Recent international form</b>	USA vs. Netherlands: 1 – 2, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; USA vs. Czech Republic: 2 – 4, on May 25 <sup>th</sup> ; USA vs. Turkey: 2 – 1, on May 29 <sup>th</sup> ; USA vs. Australia: 3 – 1, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Bob Bradley
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: B. Guzan, T. Howard, M. Hahnemann. Defenders: C. Bocanegra, J. Bornstein, S. Cherundolo, J. DeMerit, C. Goodson, O. Onyewu, J. Spector. Midfielders: DM. Beasley, M. Bradley, R. Clark, C. Dempsey, L. Donovan, M. Edu, B. Feilhaber, S. Holden, J. Torres. Forwards: J. Altidore, E. Buddle, R. Findley, H. Gomez .
<b>Star players</b>	Landon Donovan (Los Angeles Galaxy), Clint Dempsey (Fulham), DaMarcus Beasley (Glasgow Rangers), Carlos Bocanegra (Rennes), Jozy Altidore (Villareal).
<b>Captain</b>	Carlos Bocanegra
<b>World Cup host</b>	1994
<b>Other information</b>	-

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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England vs. USA – X 2 (Draw / USA to win)

One of the most expected games of the World Cup finals, this encounter will most likely see the reenactment of 'The Miracle on Grass' from sixty years ago, even if the English will not wear anything blue for sure. The American side is not such a traditional World Cup presence, but it made a constant appearance since 1990 to every tournament. Their opponents however haven't missed one finals tournament since the first World Cup in 1930. This will not make a lot of a difference in Rustenburg, considering the poor form that 'The three lions' have displayed lately and taking into account the major loss of their captain Rio Ferdinand, injured just days before the beginning of the tournament. The Yanks are in far better shape and the opportunity of writing a page of history will make them a fierce opponent with a good fighting chance.

Algeria vs. Slovenia – 2 (Slovenia to win)

The Desert Foxes is one of the teams that experience some degree of inconstance during the past few months. They've performed rather well and showed some determination during the African Cup of Nations earlier this year. There is hope among the Fennecs that they'll take a better start in the World Cup finals and they're aware that this game is paramount if they are to stand a chance. In a group where England is a strong favorite on paper and the USA are coming from behind the Slovenians are seen as sure victims. They will surely give their best and will try to confirm that their qualification was no accident, and in the end the higher determination of the Europeans will give them the points.

Slovenia vs. USA – X / 2 (Draw / USA to win)

The Yanks are clearly in a good shape and represent an ambitious, highly motivated team. Having obtained a positive result in their opener against England that it is considered to be their hardest obstacle in this group they'll stay focused and will try to secure the qualification to the second stage from this game. They know that the remaining confrontation with Algeria is going to be a tough one, so they'll treat this game with the outmost concentration. The Slovenians are also going to be extremely determined, so the game should be a very disputed one. Despite the Europeans determination and will to fight, the maturity of the present USA team should see them not lose this game.

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

England vs. Algeria – 1 X (England to win / Draw)

The Three Lions are going to be keened on wining this match, as their chances of advancing to the next stage are depending on it. They will mobilize their entire strategy resources and will show what made the British teams so great over time - responding well while under pressure. England's game will be a totally offensive one from the kickoff and there is little hope that the Fennecs will be able to hold them back for long. Algeria will play their best, no doubt about it, but they will try to get the most desirable draw and the needed point that will theoretically keep them in the race for the second stage. Counting on the fact that the USA will have a good situation before the last games of the group and that will enable the Yanks to reduce the pace for the direct game on June 23rd the Desert Foxes will try to fend off England's charges and to walk away with the much needed point.

Slovenia vs. England – 2 (England to win)

England will continue their dash for the points that will secure them the presence in the next round of the tournament. They will spare no effort, that's sure, so this game will go pretty much the same way as the previous encounter with the Algerians from the English point of view. However, the Slovenians will have nothing to lose, so they'll try to make the best impression and it's possible that they'll play in a more aggressive and uninhibited manner. England will use their experience to their advantage though and will win this one.

USA vs. Algeria – 1 / X (USA to win / Draw)

The USA should have already sorted out the qualification by the time of this game or to be just one point away from this. Either way they will aim for the draw against a highly motivated Algerian team that will go full throttle for a much needed victory. The Desert Foxes will be spurred ahead by their position in the group standings as well as by their ambition to prevail over the Yanks, an obvious ambition required by the general world context. However, even if there are going to be no significant injuries or suspensions in their side there is very hard to believe that the Americans will not get one point out of this game, that presents itself as one harsh battle for sure.

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## Group D

### Teams overview

#### Australia

<b>National Team</b>	Australia
<b>Nickname</b>	Socceroos
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	20
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 1
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of AFC fourth round Group A.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Australia vs. Indonesia: 1 – 0, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Australia vs. New Zealand: 2 – 1, on May 24 <sup>th</sup> ; Australia vs. Denmark: 1 – 0, on June 1 <sup>st</sup> ; Australia vs. USA: 1 – 3, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Pim Verbeek
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: M. Schwarzer, B. Jones, A. Federici. Defenders: S. Chipperfield, L. Neill, C. Moore, L. Wilkshire, D. Carney, M. Miligan, M. Beauchamp. Midfielders: B. Emerton, J. Culina, V. Grella, C. Valeri, M. Jedinak, D. Vidosic. Forwards: H. Kewell, J. Kennedy, N. Rukavytsya, T. Cahill, B. Holman, R. Garcia, M. Bresciano.
<b>Star players</b>	Harry Kewell (Galatasaray), Tim Cahill (Everton), Brett Emerton (Blackburn), Scott Chipperfield (Basel).
<b>Captain</b>	Lucas Neill
<b>World Cup host</b>	-

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>Other information</b>	-
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### Germany

<b>National Team</b>	Germany
<b>Nickname</b>	Die Mannschaft, Turniermannschaft – especially for final stages.
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	6
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	1974 (as West Germany), 1990
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of UEFA Group 4.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Germany vs. Argentina: 0 – 1, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Germany vs. Malta: 3 – 0, on May 13 <sup>th</sup> ; Germany vs. Hungary: 3 – 0, on May 29 <sup>th</sup> ; Germany vs. Bosnia and Herzegovina: 3 – 1, on June 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Joachim Low
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: H-J. Butt, M. Neuer, T. Wiese. Defenders: D. Aogo, H. Badstuber, J. Boateng, A. Friedrich, P. Lahm, S. Tasci, P. Mertesacker. Midfielders: S. Khedira, T. Kroos, M. Marin, M. Oezil, B. Schweinsteiger, M. Jansen, P. Trochowski, T. Mueller. Forwards: Cacau, M. Gomez, S. Kiessling, M. Klose, L. Podolski.
<b>Star players</b>	Miroslav Klose (Bayern Munich), Lukas Podolski (Koln FC), Bastian Schweinsteiger (Bayern Munich), Mario Gomez (Bayern Munich), Cacau (VfB Stuttgart).
<b>Captain</b>	Philipp Lahm
<b>World Cup host</b>	1974 (as West Germany), 2006

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>Other information</b>	-
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### Ghana

<b>National Team</b>	Ghana
<b>Nickname</b>	The Black Stars
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	32
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 2
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of CAF third round Group D.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Ghana vs. Bosnia and Herzegovina: 1 – 2, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Ghana vs. Burkina Faso: 5 – 2, on March 14 <sup>th</sup> ; Ghana vs. Burkina Faso: 1 – 0, on March 27 <sup>th</sup> ; Ghana vs. Netherlands: 1 – 4, on June 1 <sup>st</sup> ; Ghana vs. Latvia: 1 – 0, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Milovan Rajevac
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: R. Kingson, D. Agyei, S. Ahorlu. Defenders: J. Paintsil, John Mensah, S. Inkoom, H.A. Sarpei, R. Ayew, L. Addy, I. Vorsah, Jonathan Mensah. Midfielders: K. Asamoah, A. Annan, S. Muntari, S. Appiah, A. Ayew, D. Boateng. Forwards: A. Gyan, D. Adiyiah, M. Amoah, K-P. Boateng, Q. Owusu-Abeyie, P. Tagoe.
<b>Star players</b>	Asamoah Gyan (Rennes), Sulley Muntari (Internazionale Milan), Matthew Amoah (NAC Breda).
<b>Captain</b>	Stephen Appiah

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Serbia

<b>National Team</b>	Serbia
<b>Nickname</b>	The White Eagles
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	15
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Fourth place – 1930, 1962, considered as Yugoslavia
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of UEFA Group 7.
<b>Recent international form</b>	<p>Serbia vs. Algeria: 3 – 0, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>;</p> <p>Serbia vs. Japan: 2 – 0, on April 7<sup>th</sup>;</p> <p>Serbia vs. New Zealand: 0 – 1, on May 29<sup>th</sup>;</p> <p>Serbia vs. Poland: 0 – 0, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>;</p> <p>Serbia vs. Cameroon: 4 – 3, on June 5<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<b>Coach</b>	Radomir Antic
<b>Tournament team</b>	<p>Goalkeepers: V. Stojkovic, B. Isailovic, A. Djuricic.</p> <p>Defenders: B. Ivanovic, A. Rukavina, N. Vidic, N. Subotic, A. Lukovic, A. Kolarov, I. Obradovic .</p> <p>Midfielders: D. Stankovic, N. Milijas, M. Krasic, M. Jovanovic, M. Ninkovic, Z. Kuzmanovic, Z. Tosic, G. Kacar, R. Petrovic.</p> <p>Forwarders: N. Zigic, M. Pantelic, D. Lazovic, D. Mrdja.</p>
<b>Star players</b>	Dejan Stankovic (Internazionale Milan), Nikola Zigic (Valencia), Danko Lazovic (Zenit St. Petersburg), Marco Pantelic (Ajax), Milan Jovanovic (Liverpool).

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>Captain</b>	Dejan Stankovic
<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

Germany vs. Australia – 1 (Germany to win)

An open and shut case from one end to the other that is what this game will be. The Socceroos will not be able to resist the German blitz and the National Mannschaft should have just the problem of the final score to consider.

Serbia vs. Ghana – X / 2 (Draw / Ghana to win)

The proud White Eagles will keep their mind to the lead of the group from the first second of the game and will go hard on the opposition with just one thing in mind: victory. The Black Stars will try to disrupt the pace that the Serbs will force upon them from the kickoff and will exploit every counterattack chance they'll get. That could be a serious threat for the Serb net, the Africans being known for their simple and deadly efficient offensive actions. Nevertheless, the overall performance of both teams will be almost equal and there is most likely going to be a tie if nothing goes wrong.

Germany vs. Serbia – X / 2 (Draw / Serbia to win)

The real thriller - this is the decider, the game that will theoretically yield the winner of the group. The German panzers and the White Eagles are two of the most effective and efficient soccer machines of the moment, robust and finely tuned at the same time. This game will be too close to call, because the tactics of both Antic and Low are perfectly adaptable to give their teams the flexibility needed to counter the opponents moves. The individual skills of the players or unforeseeable events like a late moment penalty shot could tip the balance one way or another, but chance cannot be taken into account. We feel that the teams will succeed in neutralizing each other and the game will most likely end in a tie, not helping or harming either side's qualification chances. If the scale is going to tip, it will do so in favor of the Serbs, desperately seeking to ensure better qualification chances before the last game of the group.

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

Ghana vs. Australia – 1 / X (Ghana to win / Draw )

The realistic chance for Ghana to score easy points at this tournament is this game, their rivals lacking the ingredients that Serbia and Germany have. The Aussies are willing and motivated, and they will most certainly know that this is going to be their last theoretical chance at making an impression at this tournament, so they'll give it all here and now. We'll see if that's going to bring them the needed point.

Ghana vs. Germany – 2 (Germany to win)

The Germans cannot afford not to win this game and aim for the top spot of the group. The Serbs are expected to have a walk in the park in their game against Australia, so the Mannschaft must be certain of the maximum points and to try to improve their goal count if they want to overcome the White Eagles.

Australia vs. Serbia – 2 (Serbia to win)

As in the case of the game against Germany, the Socceroos will give their best and try to limit the score line, but the Serbs will hammer them as hard as they can and thus trying to ensure the first place in the group standings. The aim is to meet an easier opponent for the next game and to smoothen their way to the quarter finals.

## Group E

### Teams overview

#### Cameroon

<b>National Team</b>	Cameroon
<b>Nickname</b>	The Indomitable Lions
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	19
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Quarter finals
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of CAF third round Group A.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Cameroon vs. Italy: 0 – 0, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Cameroon vs. Georgia: 0 – 0, on May 25 <sup>th</sup> ; Cameroon vs. Slovakia: 1 – 1, on May 29 <sup>th</sup> ; Cameroon vs. Portugal: 1 – 3, on June 1 <sup>st</sup> ; Cameroon vs. Serbia: 3 – 4, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Paul Le Guen
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: S. Hamidou, I. C. Kameni, G. Ndy Assembe. Defenders: J. P. A. Ndzana, B. Assou-Ekotto, S. Bassong, G. Bong, A. Chedjou, S. Mbia, N. Nkoulou, R. Song, G. Njitap. Midfielders: E. Enoh, J. Makoun, G. Mandjeck, J. Matip, A. Song, L. Nguemo. Forwards: V. Abubakar, E. Choupo-Moting, A. Emana, S. Eto'o, M. Idrissou, A. Webo.
<b>Star players</b>	Samuel Eto'o (Internazionale Milano), Geremi Njitap (Ankaragucu), Pierre Webo (Mallorca).
<b>Captain</b>	Samuel Eto'o

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<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Denmark

<b>National Team</b>	Denmark
<b>Nickname</b>	The Olsen Gang, Olsen's Eleven
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	36
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Quarter finals – 1998
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of UEFA Group 1.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Denmark vs. Austria: 1 – 2, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Denmark vs. Senegal: 2 – 0, on May 27 <sup>th</sup> ; Denmark vs. Australia: 0 – 1, on June 1 <sup>st</sup> ; Denmark vs. South Africa: 0 – 1, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Morten Olsen
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: J. Christiansen, S. Andersen, T. Sørensen. Defenders: D. Agger, L. Jacobsen, P. Mtiliga, P. Krøldrup, S. Poulsen, S. Kjær. Midfielders: C. B. Poulsen, C. D. Eriksen, D. Jensen, W. Kvist, T. Enevoldsen, T. Kahlenberg, M. Jørgensen, J. Poulsen. Forwards: D. Rommedahl, J. Grønkjær, J. D. Tomasson, S. Larsen, M. Beckmann, N. Bendtner.
<b>Star players</b>	Dennis Rommedahl (Ajax Amsterdam), Jon Dahl Thomasson (Feyenoord Rotterdam), Niklas Bendtner (Arsenal), Søren Larsen (MSV Duisburg), Martin Jørgensen (Arhus AGF).

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<b>Captain</b>	Jon Dahl Thomasson
<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Japan

<b>National Team</b>	Japan
<b>Nickname</b>	Okkada Japan, Samurai Blue Team
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	45
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 1
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Second place in AFC fourth round Group A.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Japan vs. Bahrain: 2 – 0, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Japan vs. Serbia: 0 – 3, on April 7 <sup>th</sup> ; Japan vs. Korea Republic: 0 – 2, on May 24 <sup>th</sup> ; Japan vs. England: 1 – 2, on May 30 <sup>th</sup> ; Japan vs. Cote d'Ivoire: 0 – 2, on June 4 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Takeshi Okada
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: Y. Kawaguchi, S. Narazaki, E. Kawashima. Defenders: Y. Komano, M. T. Tanaka, Y. Nagatomo, A. Uchida, D. Iwamasa, Y. Konno, Y. Nakazawa. Midfielders: Y. Abe, Y. Endo, D. Matsui, S. Nakamura, K. Nakamura, M. Hasebe, K. Honda, J. Inamoto. Forwards: S. Okazaki, K. Tamada, K. Yano, Y. Okubo, T. Morimoto.
<b>Star players</b>	Yuji Nakazawa (Yokohama F. Marinos), Shunsuke Nakamura (Yokohama F.

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	Marinos), Shinji Okazaki (Shimizu S-Pulse), Keiji Tamada (Nagoya Grampus).
<b>Captain</b>	Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi
<b>World Cup host</b>	2002, together with Korea Republic
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Netherlands

<b>National Team</b>	Netherlands
<b>Nickname</b>	Clockwork Orange, Flying Dutchmen, Oranje
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	4
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Second place – 1974, 1978
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of UEFA Group 9.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Netherlands vs. USA: 2 – 1, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Netherlands vs. Mexico: 2 – 1, on May 26 <sup>th</sup> ; Netherlands vs. Ghana: 4 – 1, on June 1 <sup>st</sup> ; Netherlands vs. Hungary: 6 – 1, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Bert van Marwijk
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: S. Boschker, M. Stekelenburg, M. Vorm.  Defenders: K. Boulahrouz, J. Mathijsen, A. Ooijer, G. van Bronckhorst, G. van der Wiel, J. Heitinga, E. Braafheid.  Midfielders: I. Afellay, W. Sneijder, M. van Bommel, D. de Zeeuw, R. van der Vaart, N. de Jong, S. Schaars,  Forwards: R. Babel, E. Elia, D. Kuyt, R. van Persie, A. Robben, K-J. Huntelaar.
<b>Star players</b>	Rafaël van der Vaart (Real Madrid), Wesley Sneijder (Internazionale Milan), Dirk

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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	Kuyt (Liverpool FC), Robin van Persie (Arsenal), Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (AC Milan), Arjen Robben (Bayern Munich).
<b>Captain</b>	Giovanni van Bronckhorst
<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	Arjen Robben uncertain until June 13 <sup>th</sup> after left hamstring injury.

Netherlands vs. Denmark – 1 (Netherlands to win)

The Oranje team will attack from the beginning and will try to secure all the three points as soon as possible. Olsen's Band as the Danish are known will not be able to rely on their neighbors for a lighter treatment and will be present in the game, but will more concerned to defend themselves against the Dutch pressure than to attack. This doesn't mean that if they'll see a chance for a deadly counterattack they will not take it. Anyway, the final result will be nothing less than a first victory for the Netherlands.

Japan vs. Cameroon – 1 X (Japan to win / Draw)

Despite the Lions' appetite for a positive result the Blue Samurais will most certainly capitalize on their opponents uncertainty and lack of confidence. After the unbelievable series of recent unlucky own goals during the last friendlies, the Japanese are going to be extra careful not to give away any presents to the hungry Lions. Nevertheless, the Africans will try to find some ways to breach the Japanese defenses, but the Japanese will at least hold, if not take away all the points.

Netherlands vs. Japan – 1 (Netherlands to win)

The Dutch will have another flawless performance and will get one step closer to their initial goal to secure the first place of the group after this game. The Samurais will give their best to get at least one point out of this encounter, but there is almost no chance of that happening and the Dutch will get the desired result without a doubt.

Cameroon vs. Denmark – X / 2(Draw / Denmark to win)

The Indomitable Lions will hunt for points here and will try to get them quickly by pressing the Danes hard even from the kickoff. The problem is that they are not so overwhelmingly stronger than the Europeans, so if the Olsen Gang will be able to fend the initial charges of the Africans then the game can take a rather stationary course, one that the Lions don't like. The Danes are be able to tame the Lions so much as to steal all the points, or at least they might get a draw.

Denmark vs. Japan – 2 (Japan to win)

The Olsen's Gang will go after all the points in this match, dashing for the second place that they could theoretically still clinch if they've beaten Cameroon in their direct match. The victory will be a must in that eventuality for the Danes. Either way, they'll try to get the most out of this game and the Japanese opposition will be fierce. The Samurais on the other hand will fight not just for honor in this game, but for their place in the knock-out stage, and combining national pride with a positive result is what inspires them the most. We'll get a fine game that most likely will end in the Blue Samurais' favor.

Cameroon vs. Netherlands – X 2 (Draw / Netherlands to win)

If the Dutch have obtained maximum points before the kickoff, this will be one of the most intense games of the groups stage. The balance will eventually tip in favor of the Europeans, their squad being more solid and more aggressive. There is always the possibility of a draw that will see both teams qualify for the next round, but only if the Dutch are seated first before the game and would not mind to just conserve the status quo. Otherwise, they'll begin the game all geared up and won't stop until they'll secure the desired result. The Africans will fight a lot harder, but they don't have enough strength to overcome the Dutch. And the Clockwork Orange doesn't break off or give away presents.

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## Group F

### Teams overview

#### Italy

<b>National Team</b>	Italy
<b>Nickname</b>	Azzurri
<b>Current title holders</b>	FIFA World Cup Champions
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	5
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	World Champions - 1934, 1938, 1982, 2006
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of UEFA Group 8.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Italy vs. Cameroon: 0 – 0, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Italy vs. Mexico: 1 – 2, on June 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Italy vs. Switzerland: 1 – 1, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Marcello Lippi
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: G. Buffon, M. de Sanctis, F. Marchetti. Defenders: S. Bocchetti, L. Bonucci, F. Cannavaro, G. Chiellini, D. Criscito, C. Maggio, G. Zambrotta. Midfielders: M. Camoranesi, D. de Rossi, G. Gattuso, C. Marchisio, R. Montolivo, A. Palombo, S. Pepe, A. Pirlo. Forwards: A. di Natale, A. Gilardino, V. Iaquinta, G. Pazzini, F. Quagliarella.
<b>Star players</b>	Alberto Gilardino (Fiorentina), Antonio Di Natale (Udinese), Riccardo Montolivo (Fiorentina), Andrea Pirlo (AC Milan), Fabio Cannavaro (Juventus), Gianluca Zambrotta (AC Milan).
<b>Captain</b>	Fabio Cannavaro
<b>World Cup host</b>	1934, 1990

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>Other information</b>	Andrea Pirlo is still uncertain, but hopes of recovery are high.
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### New Zealand

<b>National Team</b>	New Zealand
<b>Nickname</b>	All Whites
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	78
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 1
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of OFC second round. Winners of the play-off against Bahrain (AFC 5 <sup>th</sup> place) : 1 – 0 aggregate.
<b>Recent international form</b>	New Zealand vs. Mexico: 0 – 2, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; New Zealand vs. Australia: 1 – 2, on May 24 <sup>th</sup> ; New Zealand vs. Serbia: 1 – 0, on May 29 <sup>th</sup> ; New Zealand vs. Slovenia: 1 – 3, on June 4 <sup>th</sup> ; New Zealand vs. Chile: 0 – 2, on June 9 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Ricki Herbert
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: J. Bannatyne, G. Moss, M.Paston.  Defenders: A. Boyens, T. Lochhead, R. Nelsen, W. Reid, B. Sigmund, T. Smith, I. Vicelich.  Midfielders: A. Barron, L. Bertos, T. Brown, J. Christie, A. Clapham, S. Elliot, M. McGlinchey, D. Mulligan .  Forwards: R. Fallon, C. Killen, S. Smeltz, C. Wood, J. Brockie.
<b>Star players</b>	Shane Smeltz (Gold Coast Utd.), Chris Killen (Middlesbrough), Ryan Nelsen (Blackburn Rovers).

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>Captain</b>	Ryan Nelsen
<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Paraguay

<b>National Team</b>	Paraguay
<b>Nickname</b>	Guaranies, La Albirroja
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	31
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 2
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Third place in CONMEBOL World Cup qualification tournament.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Paraguay vs. South Africa: 1 – 1, on March 31 <sup>st</sup> ; Paraguay vs. Korea DPR: 1 – 0, on May 15 <sup>th</sup> ; Paraguay vs. Ireland: 1 – 2, on May 25 <sup>th</sup> Paraguay vs. Cote d'Ivoire: 2 – 2 , on May 30 <sup>th</sup> ; Paraguay vs. Greece: 2 – 0, on June 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Gerardo Martino
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: J. Villar, A. Bobadilla, D. Barreto. Defenders: D. Caniza, P. da Silva, J. C. Cáceres, D. Verón, A. Torres, A. Alcaraz, C. Morel. Midfielders: É. Barreto, E. Vera, V. Cáceres, J. Santana, C. Riveros, N. Ortigoza, C. Bonet. Forwards: R. S. Cruz, N. H. Valdez, O. Cardozo, É. Benítez, R. Gamarra, L. Barrios.
<b>Star players</b>	Roque Santa Cruz (Manchester City), Oscar Cardozo (Benfica), Nelson Haedo

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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	Valdez (Borussia Dortmund).
<b>Captain</b>	Denis Caniza
<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Slovakia

<b>National Team</b>	Slovakia
<b>Nickname</b>	The Fighting Jondas
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	34
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	none – this is their first World Cup appearance.
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of UEFA Group 3.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Slovakia vs. Norway: 0 – 1, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Slovakia vs. Cameroon: 1 – 1, on May 29 <sup>th</sup> ; Slovakia vs. Costa Rica: 3 – 0, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Vladimir Weiss
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: J. Mucha, D. Kuciak, D. Pernis.  Defenders: P. Pekarik, M. Petras, M. Skrtel, J. Durica, R. Zabavnik, M. Cech, K. Salata.  Midfielders: K. Kopunek, J. Kozak, J. Kucka, M. Sapara, M. Hamsik, V. Weiss, M. Stoch, Z. Strba.  Forwards: : E. Jendrisek, R. Vittek, M. Jakubko, F. Holosko, S. Sestak.
<b>Star players</b>	Robert Vittek (Ankaragucu), Stanislav Sestak (Bochum).
<b>Captain</b>	Marek Hamsik

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

Italy vs. Paraguay – X (Draw)

I Azzurri will have an interesting opponent in the Paraguayans, the strongest theoretical opponent in this group. The Guaranies have a particularly good offensive pack and haven't made the journey to South Africa just for the sights. They'll put up quite a fight and will give the reigning world champions a good run for their money, but there is little hope that they'll be able to break thru the 'catenaccio' defenses of the Italians. However, the Albirroja has also a strong defensive compartment and players with good aerial skills, having received only 16 goals out of the 18 games played in the CONCACAF World Cup qualification campaign. That in itself is food for thought for the Italian coach Lippi, since his attackers should try to somehow pass this defensive shield.

New Zealand vs. Slovakia – X / 2 (Draw / Slovakia to win)

New Zealand has qualified for the first time in 28 years to a World Cup finals tournament, and only for the second time in its entire history. In itself these facts alone are pretty revealing about the All Whites experience at this level, no matter how well prepared are the New Zealanders in every other aspect. The Slovaks are, however, at their very first World Cup appearance since the break-up of the Czechoslovakia. Anyway the Flying Jondas have far more experienced players and more international experience than their Oceania rivals, so they'll find a way to penetrate Ricki Herbert's defensive web. Most likely this outsiders' duel will end up in a draw.

Slovakia vs. Paraguay – 2 (Paraguay to win)

Paraguay is going to have to get the points needed to qualify and it their opener against Italy is the hardest game of the group for them they will surely look to secure their progress to the round of sixteen by winning the remaining two games. The Flying Jondas are not going to represent much of an opposition for the Albirroja, especially since they'll have more points after winning their opener against the New Zealand. So, the offensive couple made of Roque Santa Cruz and Oscar Cardozo will waste no time in converting all the opportunities presented to them.

Italy vs. New Zealand – 1 (Italy to win)

The World Champions will not have such an easy ride as they'll expect against the All Whites, but there is little doubt that they'll take away all the points from what should be a clear cut game. The difference of experience and class will give the Azzurri the upper hand and only a total utter miracle for the New Zealanders is needed to record a different result.

Slovakia vs. Italy – X 2 (Draw / Italy to win)

Slovakia will go for the shocking surprise of this edition and, with their backs against the wall they'll try to eliminate the Italians in what would be an historical win. However, the iron chain of the Azzurri defense will make this mission close to impossible for the Flying Jondas and the World Champions will try to secure the qualification to the next round with a win that could place them on the first place in the group standings. But there have been countless times in the Italians' history that they've stumbled and suffered at the hands of motivated underdogs and their recent form was not so convincing, hence the likeliness of a surprising draw.

Paraguay vs. New Zealand – 1 X (Paraguay to win / Draw)

The Paraguayans should have this game under their complete control from start to finish and without stepping to hard on the gas. The All Whites will try to leave a lasting impression by winning their first World Cup points in 2010, but this is hard to consider that will happen after this game. A draw will be the best they can hope to get out of this encounter.

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## Group G

### *Teams overview*

#### **Brazil**

<b>National Team</b>	Brazil
<b>Nickname</b>	A Seleção, Canarinho, The Samba Kings, Auriverde
<b>Current title holders</b>	Confederations Cup
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	1
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	World Champions - 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of CONMEBOL qualification tournament.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Brazil vs. Ireland: 2 – 0, on March 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; Brazil vs. Zimbabwe: 3 – 0, on June 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; Brazil vs. Tanzania: 5 – 1, on June 7 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Dunga (Carlos Caetano Verri)
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: J. Cesar, Doni, Gomes. Defenders: Maicon, D. Alves, M. Bastos, Gilberto Melo, Lucio, Juan, Luisao, T. Silva Midfielders: G. Silva, F. Melo, Ramires, Elano, Kaka, J. Baptista, Kleberson, Josue. Forwards: Robinho, L. Fabiano, Nilmar, Grafite.
<b>Star players</b>	Kaka (Real Madrid), Luis Fabiano (Sevilla), Robinho (Santos), Julio Baptista (AS Roma).
<b>Captain</b>	Lucio (Lucimar Ferreira da Silva)
<b>World Cup host</b>	1950
<b>Other information</b>	The most successful team in World Cup history, five times tournament winners.

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### Côte d'Ivoire

<b>National Team</b>	Cote d'Ivoire
<b>Nickname</b>	The Elephants
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	27
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 1
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of CAF third round Group E.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Cote d'Ivoire vs. Korea Republic: 0 – 2, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Cote d'Ivoire vs. Paraguay: 2 – 2, on May 30 <sup>th</sup> ; Cote d'Ivoire vs. Japan: 2 – 0, on June 4 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Sven-Goran Eriksson
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: B. Barry, A. Zogbo, D. Yeboah. Defenders: S. Bamba, A. Boka, B. B. Angoua, G. Demel, E. Eboué, S. Gohouri, S. Tiéne, K. Toure. Midfielders: J-J. Gosso, E. Kone, Romaric, C. I. Tiote, Y. Toure, D. Zokora. Forwards: A. Dindane, S. Doumbia, D. Drogba, S. Kalou, A.K. Keita, Gervinho.
<b>Star players</b>	Didier Drogba (Chelsea), Abdul Kader Keita (Galatasaray), Aruna Dindane (Racing Lens), Salomon Kalou (Chelsea).
<b>Captain</b>	Didier Drogba
<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	Drogba's critical elbow injury might cost him the finals. He's still uncertain.

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### Korea DPR

<b>National Team</b>	Korea Democratic People's Republic (North Korea)
<b>Nickname</b>	'Choilima'
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	105
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Quarter finals - 1966
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Second place in AFC fourth round Group B.
<b>Recent international form</b>	<p>Korea DPR vs. Venezuela: 1 -2, on March 6<sup>th</sup>;</p> <p>Korea DPR vs. Mexico: 1 - 2, on March 17<sup>th</sup>;</p> <p>Korea DPR vs. South Africa: 0 - 0, on April 22<sup>nd</sup>;</p> <p>Korea DPR vs. Paraguay: 0 - 1, on May 15<sup>th</sup>;</p> <p>Korea DPR vs. Greece: 2 - 2, on May 25<sup>th</sup>;</p> <p>Korea DPR vs. Nigeria: 1 - 3 , on June 6<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<b>Coach</b>	Kim Jong-Hun
<b>Tournament team</b>	<p>Goalkeepers: Ri M-G., Kim M-G, Kim M-W.</p> <p>Defenders: Cha J-H., Ri J-I., Ri K-C., Nam S-C., Ri K-H., Pak C-J., Pak N-C, Ji Y-N., Jong T-S.</p> <p>Midfielders: Mun I-G., Kim Y-J., Ri C-M., Pak N-C., An Y-H., Kim K-I, Kim K-I, Pak S-H.</p> <p>Forwarders: Hong Y.-J., An C-H., Choe K-C.</p>
<b>Star players</b>	Jong Tae-Se (Kawasaki Frontale), Hong Yong-Jo (FC Rostov), An Chol-Hyok (Rimyongsu)
<b>Captain</b>	Hong Yong-Jo
<b>World Cup host</b>	-

## FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa - Groups Stage - Bet-Helper.com

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<b>Other information</b>	-
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### Portugal

<b>National Team</b>	Portugal
<b>Nickname</b>	Seleção das Quinas - meaning " The Team of ( the Five) Escutcheons "
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	3
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Third place - 1966
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Second place in UEFA Group 1. Winners of the play-offs against Bosnia and Herzegovina, aggregate score 2 – 0.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Portugal vs. Cape Verde: 0 – 0, on May 24 <sup>th</sup> ; Portugal vs. Cameroon: 3 – 1, on June 1 <sup>st</sup> ; Portugal vs. Mozambique: 3 – 0 , on June 8 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Carlos Queiroz
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: Beto, D. Fernandes, Eduardo. Defenders: F. Coentrao, P. Ferreira, R. Carvalho, B. Alves, Rolando, R. Costa, Duda, Miguel. Midfielders: Tiago, Deco, R. Meireles, M. Veloso, P. Mendes, Pepe. Forwards: S. Sabrosa, H. Almeida, Liedson, C. Ronaldo, Danny, R. Amorim.
<b>Star players</b>	Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid), Simao Sabrosa (Atletico Madrid), Raul Meireles (Porto FC), Hugo Almeida (Werder Bremen).
<b>Captain</b>	Cristiano Ronaldo
<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

Côte d'Ivoire vs. Portugal – X (Draw)

The Portuguese have always looked good on paper, but despite their collection of stars and the impressive potential they've always struggled and have rarely managed to confirm their fans' great expectations. The Elephants are relatively in the same situation, having a lot of excellent players with individual skills, but despite that failing to perform as expected when needed. The outcome of this encounter is questionable, each team having almost the same strengths and weaknesses. There is little doubt that there is going to be any significant advantage for one side that could eventually disrupt the equilibrium.

Brazil vs. Korea DPR – 1 (Brazil to win)

A one sided game that will only count for the overall goals statistics of the competitions. The communist team will theoretically try just to limit the score line, but there is one interesting side to consider while betting on this game – there is a strong possibility that the Canarinho will treat the game a little bit lightly, which could just leave enough room for a North Korean goal, preferably an early first one of the game. The odds might just worth.

Brazil vs. Côte d'Ivoire – 1 X (Brazil to win / Draw)

Selecao will have a relatively hard time against Côte d'Ivoire and the game will be a passionate encounter, one that could decide their qualification to the next round. The South Americans will give their best in this game, keeping in mind that the last one of the group is going to be, theoretically, the hardest for them. The Brazilians will constantly press for a good result, but there is going to be a fierce opposition from the Elephants that will have their backs against the wall as well. The individual actions of the Africans always have the potential of converting into goals, so the eventuality of a draw is not going to be ruled out.

Portugal vs. Korea DPR – 1 (Portugal to win)

The lowest ranked team in the FIFA official listings before the beginning of the finals, Choilima will not be able to gather any points in this edition of the World Cup, and every one of their opponents are already counting the three points resulting from the direct match even before the kickoff. This is to be the case of this match also and despite Jong Tae-Se and his teammates best efforts Portugal will not give them any breaks.

Portugal vs. Brazil – X 2 (Draw / Brazil to win)

This is one of the hardest game to predict an outcome for, and it is most likely going to decide the winner of the 'Group of Death' as G group is called. Both teams are playing almost the same kind of football and they both have great individual players that can singlehandedly turn a game around if provided the chance, even if just before the start of the competition Portuguese winger Nani was ruled off the squad injured. Therefore we are convinced that they'll both try to win the game and undoubtedly the group. This will most likely see the match going to end up in a draw, but the Brazilians might just get a little lucky and capitalize on the infamous Portuguese bad luck when it comes to deciding tournament games.

Korea DPR vs. Côte d'Ivoire – 2 (Côte d'Ivoire to win)

The easiest game of the group for the Elephants will see them just trying to decide it quickly and afterwards just to conserve the advantage and their energy. The score will be the only unknown element of this equation.

## Group H

### Teams overview

#### Chile

<b>National Team</b>	Chile
<b>Nickname</b>	The Red One, La Roja
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	18
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Third place – 1962
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Second place in CONMEBOL qualification tournament.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Chile vs. Venezuela: 0 – 0, on March 31 <sup>st</sup> ; Chile vs. Trinidad Tobago: 2 – 0, on May 5 <sup>th</sup> ; Chile vs. Mexico: 0 – 1, on May 16 <sup>th</sup> ; Chile vs. Zambia: 3 – 0, on May 27 <sup>th</sup> ; Chile vs. Northern Ireland: 1 – 0, on May 30 <sup>th</sup> ; Chile vs. Israel: 3 – 0, on May 31 <sup>st</sup> ; Chile vs. New Zealand: 2 – 0, on June 9 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Marcelo Bielsa
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: C. Bravo, M. Pinto, L. Marin. Defenders: P. Contreras, I. Fuentes, M. Isla, G. Medel, G. Jara, W. Ponce. Midfielders: C. Carmona, M. Estrada, M. Fernandez, G. Fierro, R. Millar, R. Tello, J. Valdivia, A. Vidal. Forwarders: J. Beausejour, M. Gonzalez, H. Mancilla, F. Orellana, E. Paredes, Alexis Sanchez, H. Suazo.
<b>Star players</b>	Humberto Suazo (Real Zaragoza), Alexis Sanchez (Udinese), Esteban Paredes

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	(Colo Colo), Matias Fernandez (Sporting Lisbon)
<b>Captain</b>	Claudio Bravo
<b>World Cup host</b>	1962
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Honduras

<b>National Team</b>	Honduras
<b>Nickname</b>	Los Catrachos, La Bicolor
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	38
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Round 1
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Third place of CONCACAF fourth round.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Honduras vs. Turkey: 0 – 2, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Honduras vs. Venezuela: 0 – 1, on April 22 <sup>nd</sup> ; Honduras vs. Belarus: 2 – 2, on May 27 <sup>th</sup> ; Honduras vs. Azerbaijan: 0 – 0, on June 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; Honduras vs. Romania: 0 – 3, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Reinaldo Rueda Rivera
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: R. Canales, N. Valladares, D. Escobar. Defenders: V. Bernardez, M. Figueroa, B. Garcia, S. Mendoza, E. Izaguirre, J. Palacios, M. Sabillon, O. Chavez. Midfielders: E. Alvarez, J. C. de Leon, A. Guevara, R. Nunez, W. Palacios, H. Thomas, D. Turcios. Forwards: D. Suazo, G. Welcome, C. Pavon, W. Martinez, R. Espinoza.

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<b>Star players</b>	Carlos Pavon (Real Espana), Amado Guevara (Motagua), David Suazo (Genoa), Julio Cesar de Leon (Torino).
<b>Captain</b>	Amado Guevara
<b>World Cup host</b>	-
<b>Other information</b>	-

### Spain

<b>National Team</b>	Spain
<b>Nickname</b>	The Red Fury
<b>Current title holders</b>	UEFA European Champions
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	2
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Fourth place – 1950
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of UEFA Group 5.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Spain vs. France: 2 – 0, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Spain vs. Saudi Arabia: 3 – 2, on May 29 <sup>th</sup> ; Spain vs. Korea Republic: 1 – 0, on June 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Spain vs. Poland: 6 – 0, on June 8 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Vincente del Bosque
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: I. Casillas, J. Reina, V. Valdes. Defenders: R. Albiol, A. Arbeloa, J. Capdevila, C. Marchena, G. Pique, C. Puyol, S. Ramos. Midfielders: X. Alonso, S. Busquets, C. Fabregas, A. Iniesta, J. Martinez, D. Silva, Xavi. Forwards: F. Llorente, F. Torres, J. Navas, J. M. Mata, D. Villa, Pedro.

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<b>Star players</b>	Fernando Torres (Liverpool FC), David Villa (Barcelona FC), Xavi (Barcelona FC), Xabi Alonso (Real Madrid), Cesc Fabregas (Arsenal), David Silva (Valencia FC).
<b>Captain</b>	Iker Casillas
<b>World Cup host</b>	1982
<b>Other information</b>	Injured Andres Iniesta can miss out at least the first game of the group.

### Switzerland

<b>National Team</b>	Switzerland / Suisse
<b>Nickname</b>	Schweizer Nati
<b>Current title holders</b>	none
<b>Current FIFA ranking</b>	24
<b>Best World Cup performance</b>	Quarter finals
<b>Road to South Africa 2010</b>	Winners of UEFA Group 2.
<b>Recent international form</b>	Switzerland vs. Uruguay: 1 – 3, on March 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Switzerland vs. Costa Rica: 0 – 1, on June 1 <sup>st</sup> ; Switzerland vs. Italy: 1 – 1, on June 5 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Coach</b>	Ottmar Hitzfeld
<b>Tournament team</b>	Goalkeepers: D. Benaglio, J. Leoni, M. Woelfli. Defenders: S. Lichtsteiner, S. Grichting, S. von Bergen, P. Senderos, R. Ziegler, M. Eggimann, L. Mangnin. Midfielders: H. Yakin, V. Behrami, G. Inler, B. Huggel, G. Fernandes, X. Shaqiri, P. Schwegler, T. Barnetta, M. Padalino. Forwards: A. Frei, B. Nkufo, E. Derdiyok, A. Bunjaku.
<b>Star players</b>	Alexander Frei (FC Basel), Hakan Yakin (Lucerne), Blaise Nkufo (Twente), Tranquillo Barnetta (Bayer Leverkusen).

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<b>Captain</b>	Alexander Frei
<b>World Cup host</b>	1954
<b>Other information</b>	-

Honduras vs. Chile – 2 (Chile to win)

There is no doubt that Chile, who finished second in the CONMEBOL qualification tournament ahead of Paraguay and Argentina is not going to have too many problems in defeating Los Catrachos. That is even clearer especially if one takes into account the fact that the Hondurans have failed to win any game since January this year. The Red One will need this first victory if it is to stand a fighting chance to qualify further, so they'll go for it from the first seconds of the game.

Spain vs. Switzerland – 1 (Spain to win)

The Red Fury will show to the traditionally neutral Schweitzer Nati that on the pitch there is no mercy. The Spaniards will try to secure the qualification now, by taking away all the three points and they have all the means to do it. Even if the Swiss will try to obtain a vital point out of this encounter, Vicente del Bosque's pupils will not give them any chance. This will enable them to be a little more relaxed in their last game against The Red One, that is Chile.

Chile vs. Switzerland – 1 (Chile to win)

La Roja will be only too aware that this is going to be the decisive game if they are to advance to the next round. The next confrontation with Spain is their toughest challenge of the group and they'll want to have the qualification issue pretty much sorted out by then. The Schweitzer Nati are also going to be pondering their qualifications hopes and will react as firm as they can, attacking the South American defenses and eventually trying to wall-up their own, to ensure at least a point and hope that the Chileans will get hammered harder than they got by the Spaniards.

Spain vs. Honduras – 1 (Spain to win)

The Red Fury will just carry on doing what they do best and that is scoring as many goals as they can. Los Catrachos will be no match for the Spaniards and the outcome of the game is never in question. The only thing uncertain is the score.

Chile vs. Spain – X 2 (Draw / Spain to win)

The Chileans will hope for a draw that will grant them a moral boost for the next round, because they'll be equals with one of the moment's great forces. Already qualified, both teams will not push too hard, fearing injuries or suspensions and considering resting some of the important players for what lays ahead. The Spaniards will want to finish first in the group and that means that they'll do anything to ensure that. If they have already secured the first place before this game they won't mind so much about the draw, but if chances are that they might fall second behind Chile, that's going to be a different story then and Spain will get into gear, winning without a doubt.

Switzerland vs. Honduras – 1 (Switzerland to win)

The Schweizer Nati is going to attack the Hondurans defenses from kickoff until they'll be certain of a positive result, one that will have just a historic importance. Los Catrachos poor form will continue to the last minute of their 2010 international record so far, despite their best efforts. The Swiss are going to be more decided and will finish their South African adventure with the taste of victory.

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