Morocco has the support of many European countries, attracted by its geographical proximity, and most of Africa.
Last two defending champions – Italy and Spain – were ousted at the group stages

Ronaldinho

‘On the pitch there was a divide: tales behind England’s WCUp angles

Before kick-off in Russia, England squad members from each World Cup since 1998 reflect on key lessons to be learned

By Simon Burnton

1998: Lee Ferdinand

Knocked out by Argentina or Brazil

I had no idea whether I was going to get into the squad. I had no idea what that meant, and in April I was selected for an England training camp and Glenn Hoddle said: “I won’t take you if you’ve not played enough games!” I didn’t think I was going. Then he announced a 25-man squad with me in, and we were going to Japan to prepare for the World Cup. Every session you’re trying to decipher what it means to be in the squad. Eventually, those of us who made the 22 were told at the hotel, all of the same time. It quickly came out that Paul Gascoigne had been injured and was out, and that’s what people were really familiar with. And while all of a sudden you’re losing one of your best colleagues, and all of a sudden you’re an unknown number, you’re trying to play the game that wasn’t good for the game.

We had a strong team in Japan, built on a strong defence. It was the key that we had played together for a long time. How we lost to Holland’s goal, lost to Ashley Cole’s goal. I know Gary Neville’s goal, or Danny Mills’s goal. Neville seemed the tournament’s surprise player, and we were a stronger team than the one we had been in World Cup qualifying. When people were saying that England could not win World Cups, he was doing it. But the results are explained for you. Eventually, Gascoigne had been pretty unhappy with what happened. I haven’t been able to drive my team, like you can play for them, because you can’t play for them. At the end of the day you’re playing yourself. So that’s a different scenario.

There were a lot of injuries in the squad in the World Cup in 2002. We had to pick players who were in form, who were fit. They were just as you are that you’re not one of them, and you’re just as you are that you’re not one of them. And as you are that you’re not one of them, and you’re just as you are that you’re not one of them. And as you are that you’re not one of them. That’s the key. This is the first time I’ve seen a situation where you’re doing it.

2002: Rio Ferdinand

Knocked out 2-1 to Germany

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2006: Jermaine Jenas

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2010: Rickie Lambert

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2014: Ricehole Lambert

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2018: Harry Kane

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Defending champs Germany arrive in Russia

The first group game is always a sticking point, because it tingles. There is no reason to blubber now, we are world champions.'

German team disembark from their flight as they arrive at Moscow's Vnukovo International Airport for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia yesterday. (Shutterstock)

Russia will hope to be the first national team to win back to back World Cups since Brazil in 1958

Germany has won just one of their last six tournaments, but despite the heavy donor withdrawals, the focus is on their opponents. "There are many great players, who are exciting at the moment," Zlatan Ibrahimovic said, "but the biggest names are Neymar, after being injured and coming back, and Lionel Messi, who is playing in my home country and is larger than life as a player and a public figure." Germany's 'Naive' Miroslav Klose is bidding to become the third man after Pele and Gerd Muller to play in five World Cups if he makes an appearance against Brazil. Messi and Ronaldo will have been in the tournament for more than three decades before them. Mexico's Rafa Marquez will have netted in if he makes an appearance for the ninth time in nine World Cups. Australia's Tim Cahill and France's Didier Deschamps are the only men to have scored in more than three instalments of the competition.

Ten records that could fall in Russia

135 years and three months will be the combined age of Victor Baltaresu and Leonardo Santos if Uruguay and Peru meet in the Round of 16. It would be the oldest combined age for two coaches in a World Cup match. The current record is the 133 years and seven months between Germany's Ottmar Hitzfeld and Brazil's Luiz Felipe Scolari at the 2006 World Cup.

45 years, 307 days since Brazil's Carlos Alberto scored the only goal of the first World Cup final against Uruguay in 1950, will be the longest time between goals in a World Cup final. The last goal was scored by France's Thierry Henry in the 1998 final against Brazil.

6 weeks as captained the World Cup record belonging to Diego Maradona. Argentine skipper Lionel Scaloni repeated to be the third player to remain as captain for the 2018 Cup, followed by Germany's Michael Klinsmann and Paraguay's Carlos Alberto who were "naive". The only man has scored more than two goals in his World Cup career is Germany's Feliciano, who scored a hat-trick against Argentina at the 1990 World Cup. In contrast, Loew said that the record was the most successful of the group in Elimination.

5 weeks in total World Cup as a player and a coach (Ole Gunnar Solskjaer) is the only man to have won in each of his World Cups as a player and a coach. He scored the winning goal in the 1998 World Cup final for Walter Mazzarri's Argentina.

4 weeks since World Cup record won by Argentina in 1986. La Albiceleste lost to West Germany in the Round of 16 and then in the third place play-off to France. The last three World Cup trophies have all been taken by teams that are not among the top 16 in FIFA ranking, but the world champions.

3 men will have won the World Cup as a player and a coach (Didier Deschamps) nine years later. France's Didier Deschamps won as a player with France at Euro 2000 and as a coach with France at the 2018 World Cup. The next coach to win the World Cup as a player and a coach will be	

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is larger than life as a player and a public figure. Known for his brash comments and outrageous goals, the Swedish striker will not be at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia. If he were, he would be the fourth man to play as a goalkeeper in three World Cups. At 37 years and six months, he is not old, fellow German Miroslav Klose and Argentina's Lionel Scaloni achieved the feat, while Baggio Buitto went for five World Cups but did not make it to the finals. If he beat Brazil, Zlatan's future in football will be decided. Zlatan Ibrahimovic's 2018 World Cup debut is in the record Belgium set over USA 1994 and France 1998. Mexico recorded over USA 1994 and France 1998.

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Akinfeev out to save host Russia’s World Cup blushes

The Russian captain has played more games for club (565) and country (106) than Soviet goalkeeper legends Lev Yashin and Rinat Dasayev

Akinfeev said after a 1-0 loss in a friendly against Saudi Arabia tomorrow.

"Your job is to believe in us," Cherchesov told sceptical reporters after the match. "Things were not always this bleak. Cherchesov was Russia's goalkeeper coach under Stanislav Cherchesov and was linked in the top five for parts of the 2014 World Cup.

They showed flashes of brilliance in reaching the semi-finals of Euro 2004. Most of the decade since was supposed to have been spent building a team that could make the nation proud at their first World Cup since 1986. It has been fraught with failure.

"We are ready," he said. "Here, we know we have to be ready but we are positive," Massimo Busacca, the FIFA director refereeing, said.

"It is the second World Cup for Plaza following Brazil 2014 when he was in charge of four matches. "We went with referees with experience this year because of the World Cup," Plaza said. "At all of the FIFA referee centers, we fill in the officers at the World Cup match with the backup of the video assistant referee (VAR) system.

FIFA president has prepared referees with matches and seminars since his first use at a FIFA tournament at the World Cup.

"We are really going to be able to make the correct choice," Pierluigi Collina, chairman of the Program Committee of the International Football Association (IFAB) said yesterday.

The 32-year-old CSKA Moscow veteran will be assisted by compatriots Juan Pablo Sorin of Paraguay and Gustavo Amor of Argentina as first assistant, Carlos Astroza of Chile as second assistant and Daniele Orsato of Italy as third assistant.

"I’ve been waiting for this moment since the start of the season and I can’t wait to make it up," the 25-year-old told AFP. "I was a journalist at the Brazil training ground prior to Spain.

It is the ninth time Russia have hosted FIFA referees and assistant referees, Plaza said yesterday.

"We were practically negligible," former Gijon president and University of Oviedo football economics professor Placido Rodriguez told AFP.

"These kinds of agreements mean the Liga enters (Saudi Arabia) much more. "These kinds of agreements mean the Liga enters (Saudi Arabia) much more."

"The project is not based on whether they played more or less," Said said, adding some players gained "over four to five goals" due to the quality of the training. "The project is not based on whether they played more or less," Said said, adding some players gained "over four to five goals" due to the quality of the training."

Said said this was an "off sale" in Spain with such deals.

"From a sporting point of view, this is perhaps the biggest success of the agreement," said in charge of La Liga’s Referee and Quality Committee and the Spanish Football Federation’s (RFEF) Quality Committee and the Spanish Football Federation’s (RFEF) Quality Coordinator and University of Oviedo football economics professor Placido Rodriguez told AFP.

"We are concerned. We cannot act on an experiment forever. For now, we know when we make a mistake and we warn them, we are ready."

Attacking midfielder Yasin Al-Shahrani, who was included in Saudi – Sporting Goods journalist at a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Sports and Youth and with the Saudi Football Federation.

Al-Shahrani was included in the squad for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia. "These kinds of agreements mean the Liga enters (Saudi Arabia) much more."

The initiative was not popular in other countries either, miss the Saudi players – including several who are part of the Saudi team which will face Russia in the World Cup opening match on Thursday.

Russia's goalkeeper coach Mauricio Pochettino had his team in limbo. "This is not a question to discuss the Saudi players."

"It is the ninth time Russia have hosted FIFA referees and assistant referees, Plaza said yesterday."

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The training sites will each feature two floodlit, natural grass football pitches

**A number of the training facilities will be ready this year, while we are aiming to complete all construction by the end of 2020.**

The training sites and camps are FIFA compliant. Nilfisk Landscapes are responsible for building the pitches, landscaping and associated natural works. Gulf Contracting, responsible for delivering the pre-fabricated buildings.

Engineer Ahmed Al-Obaidly, Training Site Manager at the SC, had this to say with the planned works to date.

“We are making strong progress in our project to deliver state-of-the-art training facilities for all the teams that participate in the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The training facilities will be ready this year, which is a great achievement and to achieve this we are still working to complete all construction by the end of 2020.”

**Use to Qatar’s compact tournament plan, Al-Obaidly also mentioned the legacy aspect of the project.**

He continued: “We are also proud that two local contractors are delivering the sites – this is a clear sign of Qatar’s commitment to encourage Qatar’s local companies to participate in the 2022 FIFA World Cup and our aim to have a lasting economic impact to the country.”

**Despite tensions with Russia, World Cup countries pitch in for event.**

Police officers from several nationalities are pictured at the International Co-operation Centre in Doha. The Centre is used by the teams to relax and train at the same venue throughout the tournament.

**32 countries have sent police officers to help Russian authorities maintain law and order.**

The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), which is responsible for delivering the infrastructure designed for the tournament, is overseeing the project. Opposite: The training sites at various locations across the country, including Katar, Qatar University and near Doha Golf Club. The training sites, which will house the teams which qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, will each feature two floodlit natural grass football pitches. In addition, each site will include training facilities, as well as accommodation and changing rooms. Team parking areas will also be developed, along with spectator areas for public training sessions. Post-tournament, the training sites will still be used.

In May 2017, the SC appointed two Qatari companies – Nilfisk Landscapes and Gulf Contracting – to build

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School students benefit from QCA coaching camp

The Qatar Cricket Academy (QCA) has introduced its new coaching camp for local schools with an aim to foster the sport of cricket among the children. The coaches, who are some of the most experienced in the country, will impart the basics of the game to the students.

The camp started on June 6 and is set to continue until June 10. The coaches will cover various aspects of the game, including batting, bowling, and fielding, and will provide hands-on training to the students.

The QCA has been working with local schools to promote cricket and has received positive feedback from the students and educators.

Sponsoring the camp is the QCA, which is one of the leading cricket academies in the region. The QCA has a strong track record of producing top-level cricketers and has been instrumental in lifting the game to new heights in Qatar.

The QCA coaches are part of a highly experienced and well-qualified team, who have been selected based on their skills and experience. The coaches are well-versed in the latest techniques and strategies and will impart their knowledge to the students in an engaging and interactive manner.

The QCA coaching camp is an excellent opportunity for local schools to provide their students with a quality cricket education and to foster their interest in the sport. The QCA is committed to promoting cricket and providing top-quality coaching to young cricketers in Qatar.
Tiger Woods dominated the field of his great distance shots and flew his ball to the edge of the US Open, but slumped to a draw after his toppling in the final round. Finally, the number one player of the world had already avoided the trap of ending his hopes of winning the major title. Woods has three US Open titles to his name and has always been considered the most dominant player in the US Open in the past six years. But on this day, his hopes were dashed when he missed a short putt on the 18th hole, which meant he had to settle for a result of four rounds of 71, bringing his total to 285 and a four-shot defeat from the winner, who maintained his title by finishing four rounds of 68, netting a total of 281.

Woods said, "I had no expectation of getting this far. A lot of this is pure bonus because of where I was. It's a great feeling not to have to play any more holes (on Sunday)." He added: "Our success in Aspire Academy's students is the result of our comprehensive athletic program and the opportunity we have to gain experience and become exposed to the challenge of competing in unfamiliar environments. It's also about the teamwork and the opportunities we have to transform talented young athletes into world-class champions."

Aspire Academy's students Moaaz Mohamed Saber Ibrahim - his record stood at 14 after his victory - said, "I was not surprised. I knew I had the ability to win. I had been preparing for this for a long time. I trained hard for this and I wanted to win." He added: "I had no expectation of getting this far. A lot of this is pure bonus because of where I was. It's a great feeling not to have to play any more holes (on Sunday)." He added: "Our success in Aspire Academy's students is the result of our comprehensive athletic program and the opportunity we have to gain experience and become exposed to the challenge of competing in unfamiliar environments. It's also about the teamwork and the opportunities we have to transform talented young athletes into world-class champions."

Road to success: Aspire Academy's athletes shine at Asian Junior Athletics Championships

Mohan death shockwaves through the country just under a week before the fifth death in the country's embattled football federation, paving the way for its dissolution following explosive corruption allegations. The Football Association (GFA) and its officials, including investigatory journalist used a hidden camera to allegedly capture federation officials and referees soliciting bribes worth millions. There are reports of the fraud a day ago and the government's failure to take action in the matter so far. The football federation's officials have been accused of asking for bribes and refusing to play matches.

Spotlight

By Sports Reporter

O ver the past few years, Aspire Academy has turned into a powerhouse in Asian junior athletics, with students shining at the Asian Junior Athletics Championships. The Academy's athletes have consistently been among the top performers, earning medals and setting new records. The latest achievement was a historic win for the Academy in the 2018 Asian Junior Athletics Championships, where athletes from Aspire Academy secured a total of six medals, including three golds and three silvers. The achievements came as a testament to the hard work and dedication of the athletes and their coaches.

Aspire Academy's student-athletes have also showcased some remarkable talents that ensured further achievements, such as obtaining a world junior qualification standard, and new personal best records. The Academy's celebration of the students' success was an indication of the hard work and dedication put in by the coaches and athletes. The results we've seen are a result of the Academy's comprehensive athletic program, which emphasizes the importance of teamwork and the opportunities we have to transform talented young athletes into world-class champions.

Football

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Golf

Tiger Woods slams door shut on personal questions ahead of US Open

There's two ways of looking at Tiger Woods’ latest win at the US Open. The first is that it's a triumph for the golfer, who has been struggling with personal questions ever since Woods last won a major championship. The second is that it's a triumph for the media, who have been clamoring for Woods to come back and show what he's made of.

Woods' win at the US Open is a testament to his resilience and determination. He has been through so much, including personal questions and leg injuries, and yet he has managed to come back and win a major championship. This is a testament to his dedication and hard work, and it's a reminder that no matter what we face in life, we can always come back and succeed.

For Tiger Woods, this win is more than just a victory. It's a personal triumph, and it's about more than just golf. It's about the challenges we face in life and how we can overcome them. It's about the power of perseverance and the importance of never giving up. This win is a reminder that no matter what we face, we can always come back and succeed.
Pakistan rout Scotland in Edinburgh Twenty20

Australia agree to handshake on charm offensive

They are trying to turn around the image of the country in their way, and we're all for that.

Australians can win back the Loving Cup next year

The men have been working hard to show the world that Australia belongs in the big leagues in Twenty20 cricket.

England agree to handshake on charm offensive

go on charm offensive

But the hosts' showing.

Top stories

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Both teams are set to face Scotland in their next match.

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