

Sports

by Jerry Keys

WORLD CUP 2010



Bob Bradley: Eyes a Cup win in '10



Landon Donovan: Looking forward to showdown with Beckham

In the next couple of weeks, expectations will be made. Deals will be made by players with their monotheistic or polytheistic higher power(s). Lives will be changed forever. If a certain player reaches down and performs seven games with a passion, which only comes along once in a lifetime, he will be a hero in his native land the rest of his days.

Because the Cup occurs every four years, some players "window of opportunity" may be a once in a lifetime chance. A prime example is Freddy Adu who was left off the United States roster for the '10 Cup. He was once thought to be the greatest player for soccer since Pele. He is only 21 and most likely will resurrect his career, but it is a stark reminder of how roster spots are never guaranteed; even for a player of Adu's stature.

The United States roster was recently announced. The roster consists of 30 players. The players are listed in the box below.

The American club will be led by Bob Bradley, a

former assistant to the U.S. coach in the 2002 and 2006 Cup, Bruce Arena. Arena replaced Steve Sampson after the U.S.'s dismal performance in the 1998 Cup. Anyone see a pattern here? After the 1994 Cup surprise, soccer fans did not accept a first round exit. Sampson was one Cup appearance and out, Arena was provided with an exceptional Cup display in '02 but after a disappointing '06 showing, he was dismissed. Bradley may

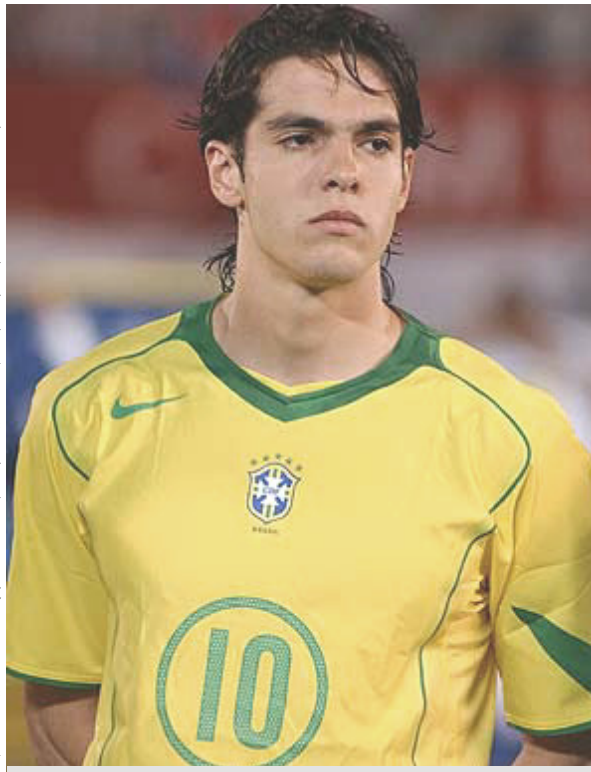
already feel the heat.

Bradley has been in the soccer hierarchy since

1981 when he started out coaching at Ohio University. As history proves, the group seeding has a moderate amount to do with

of advancement in the '06 Cup and Germany defeated the U.S. in Round 1 of the '98 Cup and in the quarterfinals (Elite 8) in '02. Conventional wisdom would place the U.S. as the Group C winner and a historical upset in Group D, placing an unknown as the runner-up.

In reality, the U.S. will play England extremely well, probably better than any other opponent. It would take at least one win and two draws to advance. England should escape Round 1 with two wins and a draw. England and the U.S. on paper should each defeat Algeria and Slovenia, leaving the head-to-head critical. As of April 2010, the U.S. was ranked 14th in the world, England 8th, Algeria 31st, and Slovenia 23rd.



Kaka: Brazil's hope for Cup victory

Countries from Group D were ranked as follows: Germany 6th, Serbia 16th, Australia 20th and Ghana 32nd.

The first round of Cup play will begin June 11th. The Round of 16 is slated for June 26th, the quarter-finals July 2nd, semi-finals July 6th, and

The Round of 16 "Should Be" Countries			
Group A: Uruguay France	Group B: Argentina Greece	Group C: England United States	Group D: Germany Australia
Group E: Netherland Cameroon	Group F: Italy New Zealand,	Group G: Brazil Portugal	Group H: Chile Spain

the finals on July 11th. The Round of 16 "should" include the following countries listed in the box above.

After Round one, anything is possible. The U.S. would match-up favorably against Australia if they could capture Group C. If England prevails, Germany will await the C runner-up. The last time the Cup was mentioned,

incorrect times were posted. The following are the three Round one games the U.S. is scheduled for:

- Vs. England 6/12 @ 2:30 P.M. (televised by ABC)
- Vs. Slovenia 6/18 @ 10:00 A.M. (televised by ESPN)
- Vs. Algeria 6/23 @ 10:00 A.M. (televised by ESPN)

United States World Cup 2010 Roster

Goalkeepers (3):

- Brad Guzan
- Tim Howard
- Marcus Hahneman

Midfielders (12):

- DaMarcus Beasley
- Alejandro Bedoya
- Michael Bradley
- Ricardo Clark
- Clint Dempsey
- Landon Donovan
- Maurice Edu
- Benny Feilhaber
- Stuart Holden
- Sacha Kljestan
- Robbie Rogers
- José Torres

Defenders (9):

- Carlos Bocanegra
- Jonathan Bornstein
- Steve Cherundolo
- Jay DeMerit
- Clarence Goodson
- Chad Marshall
- Oguchi Onyewu
- Heath Pearce
- Jonathan Spector

Forwards (6):

- Jozy Altidore
- Edson Buddle
- Brian Ching
- Robbie Findley
- Herculez Gomez
- Eddie Johnson

how far a team advances. Whether the U.S. is in a group of world powers or a weak pool, nothing short of a Round of 16 is accepted. Even though the U.S. tied eventual '06 champion Italy, they fell to the Czech Republic and Ghana and Arena was dismissed.

The U.S. is positioned in Group C (with England, Algeria and Slovenia). The Group C winner will face the Group D runner-up and the Group C runner-up will face the Group D winner. Group D consists of Germany, Australia, Serbia and Ghana. Ghana dashed any hopes

Note: Ongoing chart from May 2010 issue.

Albert's Ascension

Homeruns

Frank Howard	382
Jim Rice	382
Albert Belle	381
Orlando Cepeda	379
Tony Perez	379
Matt Williams	378
Norm Cash	377
Jeff Kent	377
Carlton Fisk	376
Rocky Colavito	374
Albert Pujols	374

RBIs

Vada Pinson	1170
Steve Finley	1167
Bobby Veach	1166
Earl Averill	1164
Willie Horton	1163
Rocky Colavito	1159
Scott Rolen	1156
B.J. Surhoff	1153
Rudy York	1152
Roy Sievers	1147
Mark Grace	1146
Albert Pujols	1141