



Argentine Football Association

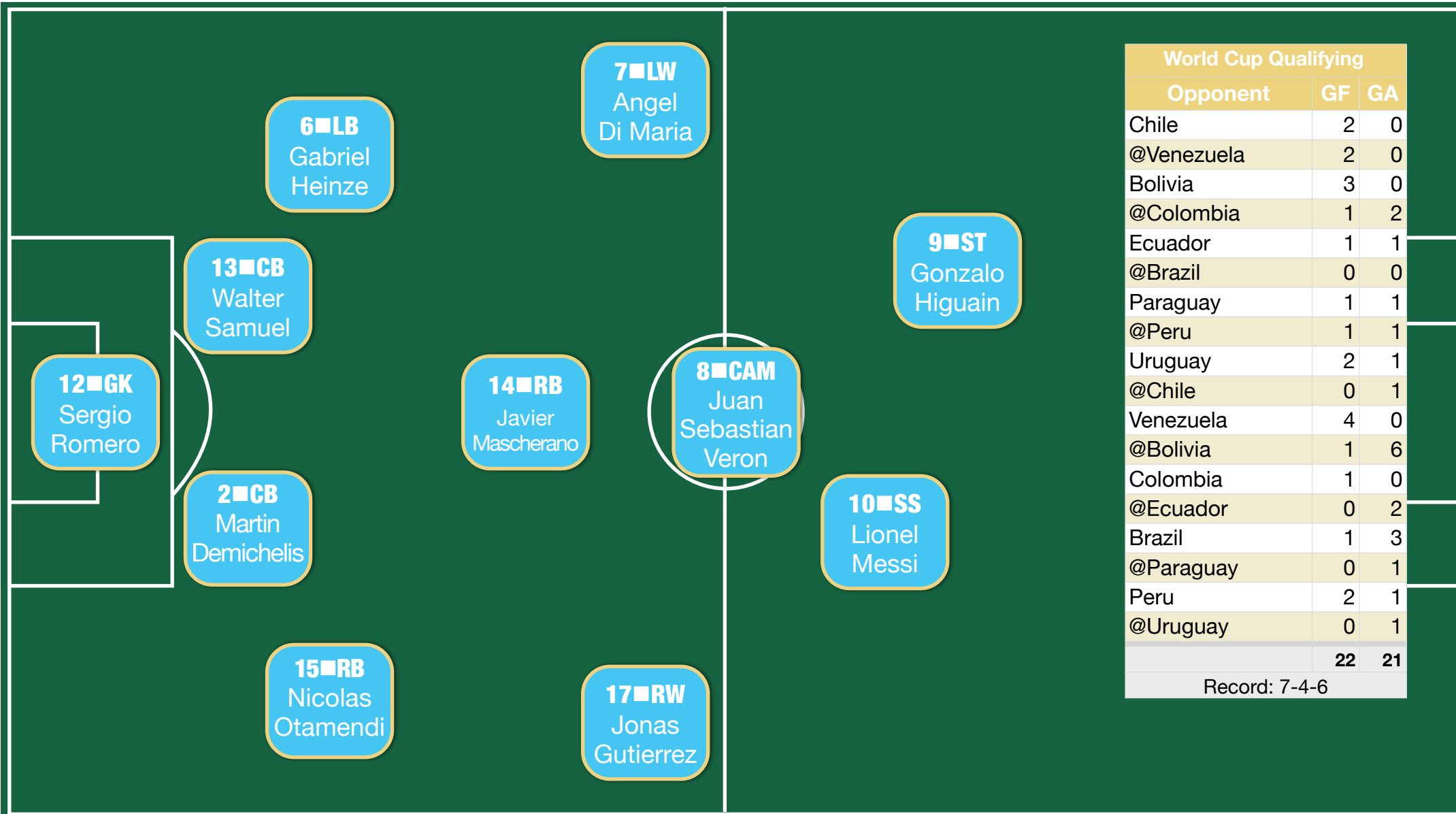
Region: South American Football Association (CONMEBOL)

World Cup appearances: 14 (1930, '34, '58, '62, '66, '74, '78, '82, '86, '90, '94, '98, 2002, '06)

Best World Cup finish: First (1978, '84); **Current FIFA Ranking:** 7th;

Continental titles: South American Championship of Nations (1921, '25, '29, '37, '41, '45, '46, '47, '55, '57, '59), Copa América (1991, '93)

Country's population: 41 million; **GDP (per inhabitant):** \$13,800; **Life expectancy:** 76.76



World Cup Qualifying		
Opponent	GF	GA
Chile	2	0
@Venezuela	2	0
Bolivia	3	0
@Colombia	1	2
Ecuador	1	1
@Brazil	0	0
Paraguay	1	1
@Peru	1	1
Uruguay	2	1
@Chile	0	1
Venezuela	4	0
@Bolivia	1	6
Colombia	1	0
@Ecuador	0	2
Brazil	1	3
@Paraguay	0	1
Peru	2	1
@Uruguay	0	1
Total	22	21
Record: 7-4-6		

Group C	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA
Argentina						
South Korea						
Nigeria						
Greece						

Name	Pos	No.	Club (league)	Caps	G
Sergio Romero	G	12	AZ (Netherlands)	6	0
Mariano Andujar	G	23	Catania (Italy)	4	0
Diego Pozo	G	1	Colon (Argentina)	3	0
Name	Pos	No.	Club (league)	Caps	G
Martin Demichelis	D	2	Bayern Munich (Germany)	25	1
Nicolas Otamendi	D	15	Velez Sarsfield (Argentina)	7	0
Nicolas Burdisso	D	4	Roma (Italy)	29	2
Gabriel Heinze	D	6	Marseille (France)	64	2
Walter Samuel	D	13	Internazionale (Italy)	54	5
Clemente Rodriguez	D	3	Estudiantes (Argentina)	12	1
Ariel Garcé	D	21	Colon (Argentina)	4	0
Mario Bolatti	M	5	Fiorentina (Italy)	5	1
Angel Di Maria	M	7	Benfica (Portugal)	8	1
Juan Sebastian Veron	M	8	Estudiantes (Argentina)	70	9
Javier Mascherano	M	14	Liverpool (England)	57	2
Jonas Gutierrez	M	17	Newcastle (England)	16	1
Maxi Rodriguez	M	20	Liverpool (England)	36	12
Javier Pastore	M	22	Palermo (Italy)	1	0
Gonzalo Higuain	F	9	Real Madrid (Spain)	5	2
Lionel Messi	F	10	Barcelona (Spain)	44	13
Carlos Tévez	F	11	Manchester City (England)	52	9
Sergio Agüero	F	16	Atletico Madrid (Spain)	21	8
Martin Palermo	F	18	Boca Juniors (Argentina)	14	8
Diego Milito	F	19	Internazionale (Italy)	20	4

TEAM NOTES

Top players:

- Lionel Messi** - Reigning FIFA World Player of the Year has failed to carry his club form into the Albiceleste.
- Javier Mascherano** - Inherited captaincy from Javier Zanetti when Diego Maradona took over.
- Juan Sebastián Verón** - Two time defending South American Player of the Year.
- Martin Demichelis** - Return from achilles injury helped solidify defense.

Keys to success:

Will need Mascherano's ball-winning and Verón's ability to possess to protect a back line projected to start four center halves. Going with a 4-4-2 that may start none of Tévez, Agüero or Milito, Maradona is relying on an international awakening from Messi.

Outlook:

Will get out of Group B and could have formable match-ups into the semifinals, but will need to realize more of their potential to make such a run.