



# Nigeria Football Federation

**Region:** Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF)

**World Cup appearances:** 3 (1994, '98, 2002)

**Best World Cup finish:** Round of 16 (1994, '98) **Current FIFA Ranking:** 20th

**Continental titles:** African Cup of Nations (1980, '94)

**Country's population:** 152,217,341 **GDP (per inhabitant):** \$2,400 **Life expectancy:** 47.24



| Group B     | Pts | W | D | L | GF | GA |
|-------------|-----|---|---|---|----|----|
| Argentina   |     |   |   |   |    |    |
| South Korea |     |   |   |   |    |    |
| Nigeria     |     |   |   |   |    |    |
| Greece      |     |   |   |   |    |    |

| Name                   | Pos | No. | Club (league)                  | Caps | G  |
|------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------|------|----|
| Vincent Enyeama        | G   | 1   | Hapoel Tel Aviv (Israel)       | 52   | 0  |
| Austin Ejide           | G   | 17  | Hapoel Petah Tikva (Israel)    | 17   | 0  |
| Dale Aiyenugba         | G   | 20  | Bnei Yehuda (Israel)           | 9    | 0  |
| Name                   | Pos | No. | Club (league)                  | Caps | G  |
| Joseph Yobo            | D   | 2   | Everton (England)              | 65   | 4  |
| Taye Taiwo             | D   | 3   | Marseille (France)             | 36   | 7  |
| Danny Shittu           | D   | 6   | Bolton (England)               | 24   | 0  |
| Chidi Odiah            | D   | 17  | CSKA Moscow (Russia)           | 23   | 1  |
| Rabiu Afolabi          | D   | 5   | Red Bull Salzburg (Austria)    | 21   | 1  |
| Uwa Elderson Echiejile | D   | 21  | Rennes (France)                | 10   | 0  |
| Dele Adeleye           | D   | 15  | Sparta Rotterdam (Netherlands) | 6    | 0  |
| Ideye Brown            | M   | 10  | Sochaux (France)               | 0    | 0  |
| Ayila Yussuf           | M   | 13  | Dynamo Kyiv (Ukraine)          | 26   | 2  |
| Kalu Uche              | M   | 12  | Almería (Spain)                | 20   | 2  |
| Sani Kaita             | M   | 14  | Alania Vladikavkaz (Russia)    | 18   | 0  |
| Dickson Etuhu          | M   | 20  | Fulham (England)               | 12   | 0  |
| Lukman Haruna          | M   | 19  | Monaco (France)                | 3    | 1  |
| Peter Odemwingie       | F   | 11  | Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia)      | 44   | 8  |
| Chinedu Obasi          | F   | 7   | Hoffenheim (Germany)           | 23   | 4  |
| Nwankwo Kanu           | F   | 4   | Portsmouth (England)           | 82   | 13 |
| Yakubu Aiyegbeni       | F   | 8   | Everton (England)              | 51   | 19 |
| John Utaka             | F   | 22  | Portsmouth (England)           | 43   | 6  |
| Victor Obinna          | F   | 18  | Málaga (Spain)                 | 31   | 10 |
| Obafemi Martins        | F   | 9   | Wolfsburg (Germany)            | 30   | 16 |

## TEAM NOTES

### Top players:

Amongst a deep group for forwards, **Peter Odemwingie** is the most consistent, with his ability to act as an attacking midfielder and drop back to help the link-up play making him an automatic inclusion.

**Mikel John Obi** has been made into a defensive midfielder by Chelsea, but for Nigeria, in a more central role, he gets a change to play to his promise (while it lasts).

**Taye Taiwo** is as athletic a left back as you'll find and a beautiful striker of the ball, but his inconsistency led him to lose time at the Cup of Nations.

### Keys to success:

Nigeria must find a way to augment their deficiencies in midfield, where their talent is shallow and they lack the players who can create for their talented strikers. Without command performances from their starting three (and Mikel, in particular), the Super Eagles can be very frustrating to watch.

### Outlook:

Weaknesses at the back and in midfield mean it will be a feat for Nigeria to get out of a difficult group. It may be asking too much for Lars Lagerback to solve enough of the Super Eagles' problems to get two results from three group games.