



Royal Netherlands Football Association

Region: Union of European Associations (UEFA)

World Cup appearances: 8 (1934, '38, '74, '78, '90, '94, '98, 2006)

Best World Cup finish: Second (1974, '78) **Current FIFA Ranking:** 4th

Continental titles: European Championship (1988)

Country's population: 16,783,092 **GDP (per inhabitant):** \$39,200 **Life expectancy:** 79.55



Group D	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA
Netherlands						
Denmark						
Cameroon						
Japan						

Name	Pos	No.	Club (league)	Caps	G
Sander Boschker	G	22	Twente (Netherlands)	0	0
Maarten Stekelenburg	G	1	Ajax (Netherlands)	25	0
Michel Vorm	G	16	Utrecht (Netherlands)	3	0
Name	Pos		Club (league)	Caps	G
Khalid Boulahrouz	D	12	Stuttgart (Germany)	29	0
Edson Braafheld	D	15	Bayern Munich (Germany)	6	0
John Heitinga	D	3	Everton (England)	52	6
Andre Ooijer	D	13	PSV (Netherlands)	53	3
Giovanni van Bronckhorst	D	5	Feyenoord (Netherlands)	97	5
Gregory van der Wiel	D	2	Ajax (Netherlands)	8	0
Joris Mathijsen	D	4	Hamburg (Germany)	53	3
Ibrahim Afellay	M	20	PSV (Netherlands)	21	0
Nigel de Jong	M	8	Manchester City (England)	40	1
Demy de Zeeuw	M	14	Ajax (Netherlands)	24	0
Stijn Schaars	M	18	AZ (Netherlands)	12	0
Wesley Sneijder	M	10	Internazionale (Italy)	59	12
Rafael van der Vaart	M	23	Real Madrid (Spain)	76	15
Mark van Bommel	M	6	Bayern Munich (Germany)	54	9
Ryan Babel	F	19	Liverpool (England)	38	5
Eljero Elia	F	17	Hamburg (Germany)	6	2
Klaas-Jan Huntelaar	F	21	Milan (Italy)	31	15
Dirk Kuyt	F	7	Liverpool (England)	61	14
Arjen Robben	F	11	Bayern Munich (Germany)	46	11
Robin van Persie	F	9	Arsenal (England)	42	16

TEAM NOTES

Top players:

Arjen Robben and his left foot will be the Oranje's biggest threat, but with so many matches in a condensed period of time, his ability to hold-up will be a concern.

Wesley Sneijder has gone from elite skill to elite performance. He will slot into a role similar to the one he has at club level.

Mark van Bommel and **Nigel de Jong** may be the team's most important players, having to break up opponents' play before it reaches a vulnerable back line.

Keys to success:

The Dutch have all the talent they need going forward. Their two pitfalls have always been defense and temperament. Their relatively weak back four will need to be augmented, and we won't know about their temperament until they are in their first close, meaningful match.

Outlook:

The Netherlands are likely to make the quarterfinals before being stressed, but once there will have that temperament (and defense) tested. If they can pass that test, they have the talent to get the next two wins.