



Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio

Region: Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

World Cup appearances: 16 (1934, '38, '50, '54, '62, '66, '70, '74, '78, '82, '86, '90', '94, '98, 2002, '06)

Best World Cup finish: First (1934, '38, '82, 2006) **Current FIFA Ranking:** 5th

Continental titles: European Championships (1968)

Country's population: 58,090,681 **GDP (per inhabitant):** \$30,300 **Life expectancy:** 80.33



| Group F | Pts | W | D | L | GF | GA |
|-------------|-----|---|---|---|----|----|
| Italy | | | | | | |
| Paraguay | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | | | | | | |
| New Zealand | | | | | | |

| Name | Pos | No. | Club (league) | Caps | G |
|--------------------|-----|-----|------------------|------|---|
| Gianluigi Buffon | G | 1 | Juventus (Italy) | 101 | 0 |
| Federico Marchetti | G | 12 | Cagliari (Italy) | 5 | 0 |
| Morgan De Sanctis | G | 14 | Napoli (Italy) | 3 | 0 |

| Name | Pos | No. | Club (league) | Caps | G |
|---------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------|------|----|
| Fabio Cannavaro | D | 5 | Al-Ahli (United Arab Emirates) | 133 | 2 |
| Gianluca Zambrotta | D | 19 | Milan (Italy) | 94 | 2 |
| Giorgio Chiellini | D | 4 | Juventus (Italy) | 29 | 2 |
| Domenico Criscito | D | 3 | Genoa (Italy) | 5 | 0 |
| Christian Maggio | D | 2 | Napoli (Italy) | 5 | 0 |
| Salvatore Bocchetti | D | 13 | Genoa (Italy) | 5 | 0 |
| Leonardo Bonucci | D | 23 | Bari (Italy) | 2 | 1 |
| Gennaro Gattuso | M | 8 | Milan (Italy) | 72 | 1 |
| Andrea Pirlo | M | 21 | Milan (Italy) | 66 | 8 |
| Daniele De Rossi | M | 6 | Roma (Italy) | 54 | 8 |
| Mauro Camoranesi | M | 16 | Juventus (Italy) | 53 | 5 |
| Angelo Palombo | M | 17 | Sampdoria (Italy) | 17 | 0 |
| Simone Pepe | M | 7 | Udinese (Italy) | 15 | 0 |
| Riccardo Montolivo | M | 22 | Fiorentina (Italy) | 13 | 0 |
| Claudio Marchisio | M | 15 | Juventus (Italy) | 4 | 0 |
| Alberto Gilardino | F | 11 | Fiorentina (Italy) | 41 | 16 |
| Vincenzo Iaquinta | F | 9 | Juventus (Italy) | 37 | 5 |
| Antonio Di Natale | F | 10 | Udinese (Italy) | 33 | 9 |
| Fabio Quagliarella | F | 18 | Napoli (Italy) | 20 | 4 |
| Giampaolo Pazzini | F | 20 | Sampdoria (Italy) | 8 | 1 |

TEAM NOTES

Top players:

Daniele De Rossi is one of the best central midfielders in the world, and one of the few holdovers from the world championship side that's still playing at an elite level, he will be leaned-upon.

Alberto Gilardino is the striker most likely to see playing time in a system that can feature three, two, or one forward. **Marcello Lippi's** array of tactics will augment Italy's age.

Gianluigi Buffon is one of the two or three best goalkeepers in the world. He will cover up a number of his defense's mistakes.

Keys to success:

The formational flexibility that has become Lippi's trademark will be needed, as the Azzurri coach tries to create the match-ups which will see Italy to another title. First things first, Italy has to get out of Group F, which means Lippi finding the right formula to defeat Paraguay and Slovakia.

Outlook:

Italy is a good bet to make it out of their group, but unless they take first place, they're looking at a match against the Dutch in the next round. Even if that can be avoiding, the Italians are unlikely to reproduce Germany 2006's success.