



Asociacion Paraguaya de Futbol

Region: South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL)

World Cup appearances: 7 (1930, '50, '58, '86, '98, 2002, '06)

Best World Cup finish: 9th (1930) **Current FIFA Ranking:** 31st

Continental titles: Copa América (1953, '79)

Country's population: 6,375,830 **GDP (per inhabitant):** \$4,100 **Life expectancy:** 75.99



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

| Name | Pos | No. | Club (league) | Caps | G |
|----------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|------|---|
| Justo Villar | G | 1 | Valladolid (Spain) | 72 | 0 |
| Diego Barreto | G | 12 | Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) | 3 | 0 |
| Aldo Bobadilla | G | 22 | Independiente Medellin (Col.) | 19 | 0 |

| Name | Pos | No. | Club (league) | Caps | G |
|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------|------|----|
| Dario Veron | D | 2 | UNAM (Mexico) | 28 | 0 |
| Claudio Morel | D | 3 | Boca Juniors (Argentina) | 27 | 0 |
| Denis Caniza | D | 4 | Leon (Mexico) | 97 | 1 |
| Julio Cesar Cacaeres | D | 5 | Atletico Mineiro (Brazil) | 62 | 2 |
| Carlos Bonet | D | 6 | Olimpia (Paraguay) | 30 | 1 |
| Paulo de Silva | D | 14 | Sunderland (England) | 70 | 2 |
| Aureliano Torres | D | 17 | San Lorenzo (Argentina) | 28 | 2 |
| Antolin Alcaraz | D | 21 | Wigan Athletic (England) | 4 | 0 |
| Edgar Barreto | M | 8 | Atalanta (Italy) | 47 | 1 |
| Jonathan Santana | M | 11 | Wolfsburg (Germany) | 23 | 0 |
| Enrique Vera | M | 13 | Atlas (Mexico) | 27 | 2 |
| Victor Caceres | M | 15 | Libertad (Paraguay) | 26 | 0 |
| Cristian Riveros | M | 16 | Sunderland (England) | 48 | 8 |
| Nestor Ortigoza | M | 20 | Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) | 5 | 0 |
| Oscar Cardozo | F | 7 | Benfica (Portugal) | 29 | 4 |
| Roque Santa Cruz | F | 9 | Manchester City (England) | 69 | 21 |
| Edgar Benitez | F | 10 | Pachuca (Mexico) | 12 | 1 |
| Nelson Valdez | F | 18 | Borussia Dortmund (Germany) | 38 | 9 |
| Lucas Barrios | F | 19 | Borussia Dortmund (Germany) | 3 | 3 |
| Rodolfo Gamarra | F | 23 | Libertad (Paraguay) | 3 | 0 |

TEAM NOTES

Top players:

Lucas Barrios got his citizenship in late summer, when he was playing like on of the best players in the German Bundesliga. He slides into Salvador Cabanas's spot.

Cristian Riveros will be the midfield distributor with a huge amount of talent to find in front of him.

Riveros's new teammate, Sunderland central defender **Paulo da Silva**, will be the linchpin at the back and will need to keep a defense together behind a midfield that may struggle.

Keys to success:

Barrios and Roque Santa Cruz (or potentially Dortmund teammate Nelson Valdez) must find the chemistry which will replace Salvador Cabanas's goal scoring. Paraguay can play very responsibly in defense, but if they do not find a new source for goals, Gerardo Martino's men will be relatively boring.

Outlook:

Paraguay is thought to be battling Slovakia for second in this group, but in a group with an Italy team that has not looked good, the Paraguayans can dare to dream of finishing top of Group F.