

## **MYSA THROW-INS: June 2010**

### **Question: Who will win the World Cup and why?**

#### **Ivan Woyno**

I believe that Spain has the best chance to win the 2010 World Cup (even though my national pride always hopes Argentina will make a dashing run to win the WC). The reasoning behind this prediction is based on strength of group, possible second round opponent and the fact that I think they possess the best balance between defense and offense. Fabregas, Xabi and Iniesta provide a very creative midfield to Villa and Flores up front. My one disagreement with the squad of 23 selections was the fact that Senna was not included as a contention center midfielder. This will add some pressure to the rest of the midfield as they will need worry about their defensive recovery, compared to their previous play. The defense continues to be anchored by Pique, Puyol and Ramos, with the only doubt being Capdevilla. Iker Casillas provides security in net. Overall a very balanced team that I think will mimic the Italy of 4 years ago in their run to the title.

#### **Mike**

Argentina will win World cup 2010. Here is why: 1) Argentina have the most talented players in the tournament. 2) Most pundits are not picking Argentina to win due to their tumultuous qualifying campaign and lack of confidence in Diego Maradona. I think it is a mistake to ignore a team as talented and with pedigree as this one. 3) Every world cup staged in the southern hemisphere has been won by a southern hemisphere team. 4) Argentina has an "easier" route to the 1/4 finals. Spain might draw Portugal or Brazil in the 2nd round. 5) Brazil are sweating over Kaka's fitness, Spain's top two key players Torres and Xavi are battling fitness, Italy brought an aging squad, Germany is missing key players, England are overrated as always, Portugal cannot find a reliable number 9, Holland is weak defensively. France is an enigma. The talented African teams don't defend well. The rest of the pool don't have enough quality 6) Lionel Andres Messi. The most gifted player to emerge in the last 20 years.

#### **Andy Coutts**

A plug for the USA. What the Yanks lack in technical prowess or tactical sophistication, they try to make up for through collective mentality and attitude. I watched the Costa Rica qualifier in D.C. last fall when the team came back from 2 down to win the game after having already clinched a spot in the W.C. Call it American work ethic, eternal optimism, or relishing the underdog role. The US players could play for each other to greater effect than some of the powerhouses who are loaded with talent but perhaps where egos will sabotage the team or where club carries more weight than country. (Think USA Dream Team II, III, etc. in hoops.) US will fall in semi's after knocking off a couple big boys. Holland will win – they're good and they're due.