
Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by steveeeeeeeee - 14-05-2008 14:15

The main surprise in Scolari's 23 man squad for Euro 2008 is the absence of Maniche, who's been too fat and ineffective for far too long. However his brother, Jorge Ribeiro, has been chosen after a great season for Boavista. Many people are also complaining about the choice of Petit who has been injured more or less all season.

New faces playing in their first major tournament from Portugal:

Rui Patricio (sh1te keeper, 3rd choice)

Bosingwa (to my knowledge, the best right back in European football)

Pepe (well known €30m centre back of Real Madrid)

Bruno Alves (nasty, truly old-school centre back)

Miguel Veloso (vain holding midfielder, thinks he's the dog's bollocks, I hate him)

Jorge Rebeiro (Maniche's brother, I love him, runs his nuts off at either left back or on the left wing)

Raul Meireles (great centre midfield player, creative and defensive, a like for like replacement for Maniche)

João Moutinho (tiny but brilliant, a great team player for me, a better choice than Deco)

Nani (you all know him)

Quaresma (amazingly, this will be his first major tournament. Probably the closest thing the world has seen to Garrincha.

Untrustworthy, crazy, annoying, lazy yet also a complete and utter genius with the ball at his feet)

Hugo Almeida (I've heard lots of people say this quote but he really is one of the most improved strikers in European football, I like him a lot)

So, who are the big names missing in other teams and who are the new faces ready to take their place?

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by And I am the Life - 14-05-2008 14:17

I hear that Steven Gerrard, Wayne Rooney, Michael Owen, Rio Ferdinand, John Terry and Frank Lampard aren't going to be there.

How will the tournament survive.

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by Inca - 14-05-2008 14:32

Well one of the biggest surprises (to me, at least, maybe this was expected) must be who is in the Sweden squad-- Henrik Larsson, out of international retirement.

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-05-2008 17:24

Maniche's exclusion indicates that Scolari has been watching Inter and/or talking to Mancini. For all of the Interisti's braying that Mancini doesn't know what he's doing when it comes to team selection, every time Maniche has stepped on the pitch he has demonstrated why he isn't being picked notwithstanding the epidemic of injuries in Inter's midfield.

Looks like Italy are going to wait until the absolute last minute to name their squad. Del Piero will make it, and Cassano won't.

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by steveeeeeeeee - 14-05-2008 18:32

How is Pelé doing at Inter ursus? Every time I've seen him he's looked very solid and seems to have great potential. His performance against Lazio last week was excellent. Do you think he has a chance of becoming one of the first 11 at Inter

next season?

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-05-2008 20:15

I really like Pele. I had huge doubts when he first arrived (in large part due to his name), but just as you said, he has been at least solid in pretty much every appearance this year, and was much more than solid against Lazio in the Coppa. I would have been playing him instead of Vieira for the last month or so.

If he isn't a regular in the first 16 next season, lots of Interisti will be very upset, but I'm not sure that he is quite ready to hold down a starting XI place. That said, if Inter's midfield suffers anywhere near the injuries they have this year, anyone in the first 16 will get a lot of games.

In a lot of ways, he's been everything that Maniche hasn't been.

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by Mr Kite - 15-05-2008 19:37

A Portuguese journalist on R5 reckoned Bosingwa was vastly over priced and said he was a good but not great player.

Anyone seen much of him and can offer some thoughts? 16 million is a hell of a lot of money (for a full back!) even though we all seem to be a bit blase about the prices Chelsea pay. I think they could have got Alves for that money, and this furthers my theory that their transfer policy is based soley on blocking/annoying the hell out of Man U and Arsenal

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-05-2008 19:59

wrong thread

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by steveeeeeeeee - 15-05-2008 20:25

Quick reply for you Mr Kite, Paulo Ferreira cost £13m, Pepe cost £22m, Ricardo Carvalho cost £20m.

Porto sell their best defenders for a high price but rightly so. Of the above, I'd say only Ferreira was slightly overpriced. Bosingwa is an excellent player and there really isn't a right back like him in the world. Chelsea have bought a great player in his prime, they've paid a lot for him and certainly some of that price is to prevent Man Utd from having him. But it is not stupid money, he will definitely prove his worth at Chelsea.

edit: Also, in terms of the Alves comparison. Well, there are lots of Alves style players knocking around Portugal and Brazil (Benfica's Nelson will impress many when he moves to Aston Villa). Bosingwa is different, he's a big guy, graceful on the ball and a fantastic defender. Unlike most full backs, pace is not the only attribute to his game. Think Micah Richards with more experience in the position, less weight, better passing and much more composure on the ball. I f Chelsea wanted to buy him, how much would they have to pay?

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-05-2008 20:40

steveeee, have you seen any of Maicon since he's been at Inter?

Your description of Boswinga reminds me of Maicon (who is second only to Javier Zanetti in terms of Inter players for whom I have a very deep respect).

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by SamLKelly - 18-05-2008 02:32

I'm surprised no-one else has mentioned this yet. Raúl's not in the Spanish squad, which is a big headline-getter but not actually very surprising.

But Bojan Krkic has also been left out. Apparently Aragones talked to him and the kid told him he felt absolutely shattered. It's not as big a shock as it would be if he got left out in, say, six or eight years' time*, but it's still a surprise...

*Presuming he develops as well as expected.

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by ursus arctos - 18-05-2008 09:54

The Bojan discussion is on the Spain thread, Sam.

The "big surprise" in Aragones' squad (once everyone knew Bojan wasn't going) was actually the inclusion of Villarreal's Cazorla, who has been one of the more impressive midfielders in this year's Liga, but does not have any caps. Cazorla is the only one of the 23 who wasn't among those "pre-selected" for vaccinations against this rare form of encephalitis that the Spaniards seem to be particularly concerned about for some reason (perhaps only because it gives the hacks something to write about).

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by ursus arctos - 18-05-2008 12:53

Domenech has left Trezeguet out of France's "pre-selection" of 30 players, while including Bafe Gomis of St. Etienne, who has yet to be capped.

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by Kurt Mondschein - 18-05-2008 12:59

The squad surprises in the preliminary German squad are

- a) the exclusion of Timo Hildebrandt. Enke was expected, but Adler's inclusion shows Löw is already looking to the future.
 - b) the Gladbach duo of Marin and Neuville, especially Marin. I think only one of them will survive the final cut
 - c) Jermaine Jones. I thought defensive midfield was covered, and Jones is a bit of a risky personality, but it's certainly deserved.
 - d) Odonkor. A bit of a lucky charm, I think.
 - e) Leaving out Stefan Kießling. Undeservedly.
- =====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by Bogzilla - 20-05-2008 12:06

ursus arctos wrote:

Domenech has left Trezeguet out of France's "pre-selection" of 30 players, while including Bafe Gomis of St. Etienne, who has yet to be capped.

From what I've seen, Trezeguet hasn't looked particularly interested for club or country for a while now. He's been a fixture for too long, in my opinion.

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by ursus arctos - 20-05-2008 13:42

Well, Trezeguet scored 20 goals for Juve in the league this year, so he must have been paying a bit of attention.

In any event, as noted on the squad thread, the big surprise in Italy is that Antonio Cassano has made the last 24 after not being expected to be in the last 30.

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by Bogzilla - 20-05-2008 16:35

20? Really? He always seems to be strolling about disinterestedly when I see him.

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by ursus arctos - 20-05-2008 16:49

Yup. He had 20 (2 pens) and Del Piero had 21 (3 pens).

And yet I've heard similar criticism from a number of Juventini.

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by Janik - 20-05-2008 21:21

There are no real surprises in the Czech squad, as the strength in depth leaves a lot to be desired (see my recent post on the squads thread about Rudi Skacel being likely to travel).

However a new face to watch for would be Martin Fenin. At least for those who don't watch the Bundesliga, or the U-20 World Cup last summer, who will already know who he is. A good young centre-forward, tall and decent in the air, but with good skill on the deck as well. If the Czech's do anything, it will be via Fenin.

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by erwin - 21-05-2008 00:17

Raúl was the third top scorer in Spain. The only reason he's not going to be at Euro 2008 is that Aragonês is an utter imbecile (not altogether a surprise).

Thus spaketh my mate Miguel.

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by linus - 21-05-2008 04:04

Trézéguet is only 30. He has over 70 caps for France, scoring nearly .5 goal per cap. Surely he is worthy of at least making the second team.

France will have to win despite Domenech, once again.

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by gerontofiel - 21-05-2008 06:22

your mate doth spake the truth, erwin... however, there are better and faster, Spanish forwards, and while I think Aragones is a dog, I think he may be right in this case. Not as if he has anything to lose.

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by And I am the Life - 21-05-2008 14:38

Trezeguet has always struck me as one of those players who had everything necessary to be a world class striker, and could have been absolutely amazing but just fucked around and never really got going, like a sober argentinian kluyvert.

Raul isn't going because he's the fourth best striker available to aragones and made such a cunt of himself the last time he wasn't in the team that he can't be brought.

=====

Re:Squad surprises and new faces

Posted by Inca - 21-05-2008 17:47

What's ironic is that Raul has had a very good season this time around, and now he's not in the squad.

=====