

10 Players to look out for at the World Cup



It's finally here. And there are so many statistics that we could talk about, whether it be Brazil having won more times than any other country, or that the highest scoring game was Hungary 9 – 0 South Korea. But we have decided to focus on the players who will be keeping us at the edge of our seats throughout all 30 days of the competition. Now that in itself is a challenge - trying to pin down the Top 10 Soccer Players at this years event is like trying to find the perfect uncut diamond. 32 countries, 736 players to choose from.... and here are our Top 10:

1 **Leo Messi, 22**

Country: Argentina Position: Forward

Starting off our countdown, Messi is said to be the best soccer player in the world, and perhaps of all time. Messi has mesmerising ball control that is said to be "unpredictable and magnificent". The only thing holding him back is his current position instead of being able to play on the right and cut in on his left foot.

2 **Kaka, 27**

Country: Brazil Position: Midfielder

Kaka is a rarity among soccer players. Kaka, despite being one of the only Brazilian players to come from an upper-middle class background, doesn't believe that one needs heaps of money to be happy and donates a portion of his earnings to his church. Kaka has suffered a few knee injuries which have slowed him down somewhat, but his strength lies in being able to break down defences with his dribble and passing techniques.

3 **Christiano Ronaldo, 25**

Country: Portugal Position: Midfielder

Ronaldo is one of the better known soccer players, being sold for a record setting \$132 million. Renowned for his energy, speed and long range goals, Ronaldo is a sniper with a lethal dribble and a threat to any opposing team.

4 **Wayne Rooney, 24**

Country: England Position: Forward

Becoming an international star at the tender age of 17 means that Rooney knows the ropes. Rooney is a mean striker who plays an intelligent game. He has an aggressive attitude and strong build to create a challenge for any defence.

5 **Xavi, 30**

Country: Spain Position: Midfielder

"The pulse of the Spanish team" - Xavi is quick and

precise. He is said to have superb organisation skills and an uncanny ability to keep a ball.

6 **Didier Drogba, 31**

Country: Ivory Coast Position: Forward

Having come out of "no-where" when Chelsea bought him in 2004, he has proved to be one of the most dynamic strikers soccer has ever seen. Drogba, a good line front man, is nimble and at times needs several defenders to keep a track on him.

7 **Andre Iniesta, 25**

Country: Spain Position: Midfielder

Nicknamed "The Illusionist", Iniesta has the skill to create chances for whoever plays in front of him. He is multifunctional and slots in, like a dream, wherever he is placed. Iniesta is small and plays a technical, well calculated game with incredible ball control.

8 **Fernando Torres, 25**

Country: Spain Position: Forward

Some say Torres was "Born to score". He is fast and well-rounded and can score from anywhere with either foot. Torres boasts a vast amount of technique and works well in this dynamic team.

9 **Steven Gerrard, 29**

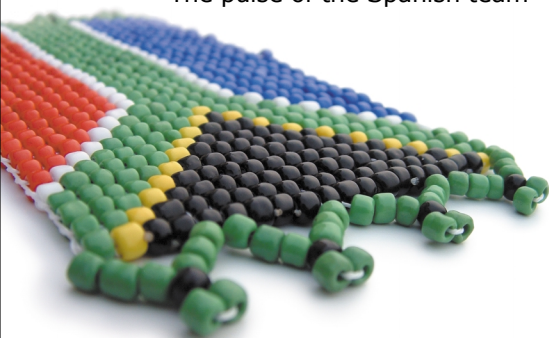
Country: England Position: Midfielder

Gerrard is well known for his combination of aggressive tactics and long-range shots. Gerrard has outstanding attacking abilities and forms part of a dynamic duo with Frank Lampard.

10 **Steven Pienaar, 28**

Country: South Africa Position: Midfielder

Described as the hottest player to come out of South Africa, Pienaar entertains fans with versatile techniques and an energetic demeanour. South Africa should look to Pienaar for not only scoring goals, but creating the opportunities for his teammates to score as well.



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