

2014 world cup:

The world cup in 2014 in Rio de Janeiro is edging closer. I'm going to take a look at the top nations and predict where they will finish in the tournament.

Brazil: Manager: Luis Felipe Scolari Top players: Thiago Silva, Oscar, Neymar

Brazil are the hosts of the competition, which gives them a slight edge. They possess various talents in all positions. However, if they opt to play David Luiz at center back that would leave them with a weak link in defence. Although their attack is potent with the talents of Neymar, Oscar, Diego and Hulk. They have won the world cup 5 times already but I predict that they won't hold it for the 6th time this year.

Predicted finish: 3rd

Spain: Manager: Vicente Del Bosque Top players: Iniesta, Sergio Ramos, Diego Costa

Spain holds the trophy after their extra time win against Holland in 2010. Their squad has no weakness in it after the great form of Azpilicueta (Chelsea) solidifying the right back position. As a nation they possess the best midfield in the world with Iniesta, Xavi, Fabregas and David Silva. They now have a born goal scorer in Diego Costa up front after he opted to play for them. I think as soon as Spain turn up on that pitch they'll want to hold that trophy and it will be extremely difficult for anyone to stop them.

Predicted finish: 2nd

Germany: Manager: Joachim Low Top players: Phillip Lahm, Bastian Schweinsteiger, Neuer

Germany are no doubt one of the strongest nations in the competition. They have strength all over the pitch with a

great defence, strong and technical midfield. However they don't have a striker who will score plenty of much needed goals unless they opt to play Thomas Muller up top. They have won the world cup plenty of times (3) but unfortunately without that striker they won't be lifting the trophy.

Predicted finish: 4th

Argentina: Manager: Alenjandro Sabella Top players: Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero, Angel Di Maria

Argentina has Messi and Aguero. They don't really need any other players. That is two of the most prolific strikers in the world. Messi is now Barcelona's top goal scorer and Aguero is a natural predator. Although they have weak links in defence and central midfield the attack will carry them forward.

Predicted finish: 1st

England: Manager: Roy Hodgson Top player: Steven Gerrard, Wayne Rooney, Daniel Sturridge

England are quite the let down team. Once there was quite a buzz around the golden generation with Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard, John Terry and Ashley Cole. Unfortunately they turned out to be great players but struggled for us on the international stage. The frustrating thing for England is that they possess the talent but can't seem to show it.

Predicted finish: Knockout stages

The 2014 world cup will definitely be something to look forward to. It's going to have the usual talents in all squads but as usual there will be a rising star ready to show his talent to the world with the exciting names to look out for are Thorgan Hazard, Luke Shaw and Raphael Varane. World cup success for any nation will be remembered for generations.

By Dominic Christopher