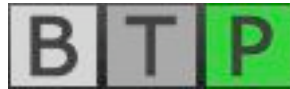


Copa America Argentina 2011 Guide

by [Steve Amoia, World Football Commentaries](#)
for [Beyond The Pitch](#)



[@worldfootballcm](#)



Image courtesy of CONMEBOL. (1)

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I. History

The 43rd Copa America, or America's Cup, will take place in Argentina from 1 July to 24 July 2011. This quadrennial competition represents the continental championship of the Americas and is one of the oldest football competitions in the world. The first Copa America was held in 1916 in Argentina and the winner was Uruguay.

I had the opportunity to watch many games from the last two competitions. There were many exciting matches, and the 2011 edition should be equally entertaining with a number of stars who play in top global leagues. South America is known as prime exporter of football talent. As you will see in the team rosters below, footballers at the Copa America ply their trades at the highest levels around the world.

This tournament has been dominated by Argentina and Uruguay with 14 titles, respectively. Brazil is second in the historic table with eight triumphs. Paraguay and Peru have won the competition twice, respectively. Bolivia and Colombia have won the Copa America once each. Argentina has finished second twelve times and Brazil has been runners-up on 11 occasions. Argentina has won the competition only twice since 1960 (last won in 1993.) Brazil has won four out of the last five events. Colombia was the last host nation to win in 2001 and Uruguay has not won the Copa America since hosting the event in 1995.

It may be hard to believe, but neither Pelé or Diego Maradona won this competition during their brilliant international careers. (2)

Defending Champion: Brazil who has defeated Argentina in the last two Cup finals in 2004 and 2007, respectively.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uv-NpaliMNk&feature=related>

II. Eight Playing Venues



Image and stadium data courtesy of Copa America Argentina 2011. (3)

Buenos Aires: Estadio Monumental. Built in 1938. Capacity: 66,449. Dimensions: 105 m x 70 m.
Cordoba: Estadio Mario A. Kempes. Built in 1978. Capacity: 57,000. Dimensions: 105 m x 70 m.
Jujuy: Estadio 23 de Agosto. Built in 1973. Capacity: 23,000. Dimensions: 105 m x 78 m.
La Plata: Estadio Ciudad de la Plata. Built in 2003. Capacity: 53,000. Dimensions: 105 m x 70 m.
Mendoza: Estadio Malvinas Argentinas. Built in 1978. Capacity: 40,268. Dimensions: 105 m x 70 m.
Salta: Estadio Padre Ernesto Marterena. Built in 2001. Capacity: 20,408. Dimensions: 105 m x 70 m.
Santa Fe: Estadio Brigadier General Estanislao Lopez. Built in 1946. Capacity: 47,000. Dimensions: 105 m x 70 m.
San Juan: Estadio del Bicentenario. Built in 2010. Capacity: 25,000. Dimensions: 105 m x 70 m.

Trivia: The 1978 World Cup final between Argentina and The Netherlands was played at the Estadio Monumental. The ground in Cordoba, Estadio Mario A. Kempes, is named after a living former player of the 1978 Argentina World Cup winning team.

III. Winter Competition Plus Altitude Factors

The month of July is winter in the Southern Hemisphere. Similar to last year's World Cup in South Africa, Copa America will be another start-to-finish winter international event with several venues (five out of the eight) at altitude. Since the majority of participating players have just finished long domestic seasons, physical recovery time might be a factor in a colder climate. **Uruguay** was the only South American team that went as far as the semi-final round at last year's World Cup in South Africa for comparative purposes. **Bolivia**, when playing at home at high altitudes, has enjoyed a significant advantage along with an impressive win over Argentina (6-1) during the last World Cup qualification cycle.

Let's take a look at average monthly temperatures, rainfall and altitude for the eight venues:

Buenos Aires: Average July Temperatures: 46-58 F | 8-14 C | Rainfall: 2.4" | 61 mm. Altitude: 120 feet | 37 m.

Cordoba: Average July Temperatures: 41-65 F | 5-18 C | Rainfall: 0.5" | 12.7 mm. Altitude: 1555 feet | 474 m.

Jujuy: Average July Temperatures: 43-70 F | 6-21 C | Rainfall: 0.1" | 3 mm. Altitude: 3198 feet | 975 m.

La Plata: Average July Temperatures: 47-59 F | 8-15 C | Rainfall: 2.2" | 56 mm. Altitude: 21 feet | 6 m.

Mendoza: Average July Temperatures: 37-58 F | 3-14 C | Rainfall: 0.3" | 7.6 mm. Altitude: 2310 feet | 704 m.

Salta: Average July Temperatures: 37-68 F | 3-20 C | Rainfall: 0.1" | 2.5 mm. Altitude: 3990 feet | 1216 m.

Santa Fe: Average July Temperatures: 44-62 F | 7-17 C | Rainfall: 1.30" | 33 mm. Altitude: 56 feet | 17 m.

San Juan: Average July Temperatures: 32-61 F | 0-16 C | Rainfall: 0.2 " | 4 mm. Altitude: 1959 feet | 597 m.

Sources: (4) (4a) (4b)

Match Officials

Carlos Amarilla (Paraguay), Francisco Chacon (Mexico), Sálvio Spínola Fagundes Filho (Brazil), Raul Orosco (Bolivia), Enrique Osses (Chile), Sergio Pezzotta (Argentina), Walter Quesada (Costa Rica), Víctor Rivera (Peru), Wilmar Roldan (Colombia), Roberto Silvera (Uruguay), Juan Ernesto Soto Arvalo (Venezuela), Carlos Vera (Ecuador).

Source: [World Referee; 7 June 2011](#).

IV: 12 Participating Teams and Ratings



*Dr. Nicolas Leoz, the President of CONMEBOL.
Image courtesy of CONMEBOL.*

Ten members from CONMEBOL, which is the South American football confederation:

- Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
- Two invitees from CONCACAF: Costa Rica and Mexico.
- The AFC Champion, Japan, was originally invited but had to withdraw due to the earthquake.

Team Ratings by ELO

Brazil (3), Argentina (5), Chile (7), Uruguay (11), Mexico (12), Paraguay (20), Colombia (26), Ecuador (35), Venezuela (36), Costa Rica (43), Peru (52), Bolivia (69).

Source: [World Football ELO Ratings](#): 6 June 2011.

Please Note: I used ELO figures instead of FIFA because the former analyzes [more comprehensive data](#).

V: Groups, Rosters and Fixtures

Group A

Argentina: 39th participation.

Colombia: 20th participation.

Costa Rica: 4th participation.

Bolivia: 24th participation.

Argentina Roster:

Goalkeepers: Sergio Romero (AZ Alkmaar), Juan Pablo Carrizo (River Plate), Mariano Andujar (Catania).

Defenders: Javier Zanetti (Internazionale), Nicolas Burdisso (AS Roma), Gabriel Milito (Barcelona), Marcos Rojo (Spartak Moscow), Nicolas Pareja (Spartak Moscow), Luciano Monzon (Boca Juniors), Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City), Ezequiel Garay (Real Madrid).

Midfielders: Esteban Cambiasso (Internazionale), Ever Banega (Valencia), Fernando Gago (Real Madrid), Javier Mascherano (Barcelona), Javier Pastore (Palermo), Lucas Biglia (Anderlecht), Enzo Perez (Estudiantes), Diego Valeri (Lanus).

Forwards: Lionel Messi (Barcelona), Angel Di María (Real Madrid), Ezequiel Lavezzi (Napoli), Sergio Aguero (Atlético Madrid), Gonzalo Higuain (Real Madrid), Diego Milito (Internazionale) y Carlos Tevez (Manchester City).

Source: Clarin de Buenos Aires: 31 May 2011.

Players To Watch: Sergio Aguero, Mariano Andujar, Esteban Cambiasso, Angel Di Maria, Fernando Gago, Gonzalo Higuain, Javier Mascherano, Lionel Messi, Diego Milito, Enzo Perez, Javier Pastore, Carlos Tevez, Javier Zanetti.

Manager of Argentina: Sergio Batista (A World Cup winner with Argentina in 1986.)

Colombia Roster:

Goalkeepers: David Ospina – Nice (France), Luis Martinez – Once Caldas (Colombia)

Defenders: Mario Yepes – Milan (Italy), Aquivaldo Mosquera – Club America (Mexico), Luis Perea – Atletico Madrid (Spain), Cristian Zapata – Udinese (Italy), Pablo Armero – Udinese (Italy), Camilo Zuniga – Napoli (Italy), Yulian Anchico – Pachuca (Mexico), Juan David Valencia – Junior (Colombia)

Midfielders: Juan Cuadrado – Udinese (Italy), Elkin Soto – Mainz (Germany), Abel Aguilar – Hercules (Spain), Fredy Guarin – Porto (Portugal), Carlos Sanchez – Valenciennes (France), Gustavo Bolivar – Tolima (Colombia)

Forwards: Hugo Rodallega – WIGAN (England), Adrian Ramos – Hertha Berlin (Germany), Teofilo Gutierrez – Racing (Argentina), Falcao Garcia – Porto (Portugal), Jackson Martinez – Jaguares (Mexico), Dayro Moreno – Once Caldas (Colombia)

Source: Federación Colombiana de Fútbol "COLFUTBOL": 6 June 2011.

Players To Watch: Pablo Armero, Radamel Falcao Garcia, Fredy Guarin, Teofilo Gutierrez, Dayro Moreno, Luis Perea, Juan Pablo Pino, Hugo Rodallega, Elkin Soto, Carlos Valdes, Mario Yepes, Cristian Zapata, Juan Zuniga.

Manager of Colombia: Hernan Dario Gomez

Costa Rica Roster:

Goalkeepers: 1. Keylor Navas / Albacete, España (Spain) 2. Donny Grant / San Carlos 3. Leonel Moreira / Herediano.

Defenders: 4. Bryan Oviedo / Nordsjaelland, Dinamarca (Denmark) 5. Óscar Duarte / Saprissa 6. **Dennis Marshall / Aalborg BK, Dinamarca (Denmark)** 7. Heiner Mora / Saprissa 8. Jhonny Acosta / Alajuelense 9. Junior Díaz / Brujas, Bélgica (Bruges, Belgium) 10. José Salvatierra / Alajuelense 11. Francisco Calvo / Liga Universitaria USA (College player). (**Dennis Marshall** died in a vehicular accident on 23 June 2011.)

Midfielders: 12. David Guzmán / Saprissa 13. Diego Madrigal / Cerro Porteño, Paraguay 14. Celso Borges / Fredrikstad, Noruega (Norway) 15. José Miguel Cubero / Herediano 16. Allen Guevara / Alajuelense.

Forwards: 17. Marco Ureña / Kuban Krasnodar, Rusia (Russia) 18. Josué Martínez / Saprissa 19. Cristian Bolaños / Copenhagen, Dinamarca (Denmark) 20. Bryan Ruiz / Twente, Holanda (The Netherlands) 21. Randall Brenes / Cartaginés 22. Joel Campbell / Saprissa 23. Álvaro Saborio / Real Salt Lake, Estados Unidos (MLS/USA).

Source: [Jorge Caamaño de Fox Sports](#): 31 May 2011.

Players to Watch: Cristian Bolaños, Celso Borges, Joel Campbell, Junior Diaz, Diego Madrigal, Keylor Navas, Bryan Oviedo, Alvaro Saborio, Marco Ureña.

Manager of Costa Rica: Ricardo La Volpe (A World Cup winner with Argentina in 1978.)

Bolivia Roster:

Goalkeepers: Carlos Arias (Maccabi Netanya), Sergio Galarza (Blooming), Daniel Vaca (The Strongest).

Defenders: Miguel Hoyos (Oriente Petrolero), Christian Vargas (San Jose), Ronald Raldes (Colon, Argentina), Ronald Rivero (Bolivar), Luis Mendez (The Strongest), Edemir Rodriguez (Bolivar), Lorgio Alvarez (Bolivar), Luis Gutierrez (Oriente Petrolero).

Midfielders: Joselito Vaca (Oriente Petrolero), Miguel Loaiza (Real Potesi), Ronald Garcia (Bolivar), Jaime Robles (Aurora), Walter Flores (Bolivar), Jose Luis Chávez (Blooming), Alejandro Gomez (Blooming), Rudy Cardozo (Bolivar), Jhasmani Campos (Oriente Petrolero), Edivaldo Rojas (Naval, Portugal).

Forwards: Marcelo Martins Moreno (Shakhtar Donetsk), Ricardo Pedriel (Sivasspor, Turkey), Alcides Pena (Oriente Petrolero), Mauricio Saucedo (Oriente Petrolero).

Source: CA2011.com: 24 May 2011.

Players To Watch: Lorgio Alvarez, Carlos Arias, Ronald Garcia, Marcelo Martins Moreno, Ricardo Pedriel, Ronald Raldes, Joselito Vaca.

Manager of Bolivia: Gustavo Quinteros

Fixtures

1 July at 2145 and 0045 GMT: Argentina v. Bolivia from La Plata.

2 July at 1530 and 1830 GMT: Colombia v. Costa Rica from Jujuy.

6 July at 2145 and 0045 GMT: Argentina v. Colombia from Santa Fe.

7 July at 1915 and 2215 GMT: Bolivia v. Costa Rica from Jujuy.

10 July at 1600 and 1900 GMT: Colombia v. Bolivia from Santa Fe.

11 July at 2145 and 0045 GMT: Argentina v. Costa Rica from Cordoba.

Group B

Brazil: 33rd participation.

Paraguay: 34th participation.

Ecuador: 26th participation.

Venezuela: 15th participation.

Brazil Roster:

Goalkeepers: Julio Cesar - Internazionale, Victor - Grêmio, Jefferson - Botafogo, Fábio - Cruzeiro.

Defenders: Daniel Alves - Barcelona, Maicon - Internazionale, André Santos - Fenerbahçe, Adriano - Barcelona, Lúcio - Internazionale, Thiago Silva - Milan, Luisão - Benfica, David Luiz - Chelsea,

Midfielders: Lucas Leiva - Liverpool, Sandro - Tottenham, Ramires - Chelsea, Elias - Atlético de Madrid, Henrique - Cruzeiro, Anderson - Manchester United, Elano - Santos, Jadson - Shaktar Donetsk, Thiago Neves - Flamengo, Lucas - São Paulo.

Forwards: Robinho - Milan, Nilmar - Villarreal, Alexandre Pato - Milan, Fred - Fluminense, Neymar - Santos, Leandro Damiano - Internacional.

Source: CBF - Confederação Brasileira de Futebol: 19 May 2011.

Players To Watch: Dani Alves, Julio Cesar, Ganso (if he recovers from injury), Lucas Leiva, Lucio, David Luiz, Maicon, Neymar, Nilmar, Alexandre Pato, Ramires, Robinho, Sandro, Thiago Silva.

Manager: Manolo "Mano" Menezes

Paraguay Roster:

Goalkeepers: Justo Villar (Valladolid), Joel Silva (Guarani).

Defenders: Paulo Da Silva (Zaragoza), Marcos Caceres (Racing, Argentina), Antolín Alcaraz (Wigan Athletic), Dario Veron (Pumas, Mexico), Aureliano Torres (San Lorenzo, Argentina), Miguel Samudio (Libertad), Elvis Marecos (Guarani).

Midfielders: Víctor Caceres (Libertad), Cristian Riveros (Sunderland), Nestor Ortigoza (San Lorenzo, Argentina), Jonathan Santana (Kayserispor), Enrique Vera (Liga de Quito, Ecuador), Edgar Barreto Atalanta, Italy), Hernan Pérez (Villarreal).

Forwards: Roque Santa Cruz (Blackburn), Osvaldo Martínez (Monterrey), Orlando Gaona Lugo (Boca Juniors), Nelson Haedo (Hércules), Marcelo Estigarribia (Newell's Old Boys), Lucas Barrios (Borussia Dortmund), Federico Santander (Toulouse).

Source: Univision.com: 30 May 2011.

Players To Watch: Antolin Alcaraz, Lucas Barrios, Edgar Barreto, Marcos and Victor Caceres, Oscar Cardozo, Rodolfo Gamarra, Hernan Perez, Cristian Riveros, Roque Santa Cruz, Jonathan Santana, Dario Veron, Justo Villar.

[Ralph Hannah](#) is a British journalist who covers South American football with an emphasis on Paraguay. He discussed his insights about Paraguay on the 30 May 2011 edition of "[Hand of Pod](#)":

“Lucas Barrios (An Argentine born to Paraguayan parents) is the person you are looking to replace Salvador Cabanas and lead the attack... Paraguay beat Argentina 0-1 away and defeated Brazil 2-1 at home during the last World Cup qualification cycle...

Victor Caceres played during the World Cup. He's by far the most comfortable on the ball in the domestic sphere. I'm surprised he hasn't gone to Mexico or Argentina... Oscar Cardozo has been on great club form at Benfica but has a mental block with the national team. Lucas Barrios is really a key player. He can make the difference...

If they don't face Argentina (in the elimination round), I can see them reach the semis. It's definitely a possibility. The last team to beat them was Mexico, 6-1, but they are sending a U-23 team.” (4c)

Manager: Gerardo Martino

Ecuador Roster:

Goalkeepers: Marcelo Elizaga (Deportivo Quito), Maximo Banguera (Barcelona, Ecuador), Alexander Dominguez (Liga de Quito).

Defenders: Juan Carlos Paredes (Deportivo Quito), Neicer Reasco (Liga de Quito), Giovanni Caicedo (Liga de Quito), Diego Calderon (Liga de Quito), Gabriel Achilier (Emelec), Luis Checa (Deportivo Quito), Frickson Erazo (El Nacional), Walter Ayovi (Monterrey).

Midfielders: Segundo Castillo (Deportivo Quito), Oswaldo Tilson Minda (Deportivo Quito), Luis Fernando Saritama (Deportivo Quito), Michael Arroyo (San Luis, Mexico), Flavio Caicedo (El Nacional), Edison Mendez (Emelec), Cristian Noboa (Rubin Kazan), Antonio Valencia (Manchester United).

Forwards: Jaime Ayovi (Toluca, Mexico), Christian Benítez (Santos, Mexico), Felipe Caicedo (Levante), Joao Plata (Toronto, MLS).

Source: Associated Press: 28 May 2011.

Players To Watch: Michael Arroyo, Walter Ayovi, Christian Benitez, Felipe Caicedo, Edison Mendez, Cristian Noboa, Joao Plata, Neicer Reasco, Antonio Valencia.

Manager of Ecuador: Reinaldo Rueda

Venezuela Roster:

Goalkeepers: Renny Vega (Caracas), Dani Hernandez (Real Murcia)

Defenders: Gabriel Cichero (Newells Old Boys), Roberto Rosales (FC Twente). Grenddy Perozo (Boyaca Chico), Alexander Gonzalez (Caracas), William Diaz (Zamora), Andre Tunez (Celta de Vigo).

Midfielders: Franklin Lucena (Caracas), Tomas Rincon (Hamburger SV), Edgar Jiminez (Caracas), Yohandy Orozco (VL Wolfsburg), Cesar Eduardo Gonzalez (Gimnasia), Luis Miguel Seijas (Santa Fe), Louis Angelo Pena (Caracas), Jesus Meza (Zamora), Francisco Flores (Deportivo Lara), Juan Arango (Borussia Monchengladbach).

Forwards: Alejandro Moreno (Chivas USA), Nicolas Fedor (Getafe), Giancarlo Maldonado (Atlante), Jose Salomon Rondon (Malaga).

Source: Federacion Venezolana De Fútbol: 1 June 2011.

Players To Watch: Juan Arango, Gabriel Cichero, Nicolas Fedor, Cesar Eduardo Gonzalez, Dani Hernández, Giancarlo Maldonado, Alejandro Moreno, Yohandy Orozco, Tomas Rincon, Jose Salomon Rondon, Roberto Rosales.

Manager of Venezuela: Cesar Farias

Fixtures

3 July at 1600 and 1900 GMT: Brazil v. Venezuela from La Plata.
3 July at 1830 and 2130 GMT: Paraguay v. Ecuador from Santa Fe.
9 July at 1600 and 1900 GMT: Brazil v. Paraguay from Cordoba.
9 July at 1830 and 2130 GMT: Venezuela v. Ecuador from Salta.
13 July at 1915 and 2215 GMT: Paraguay v. Venezuela from Salta.
13 July at 2145 and 0045 GMT: Brazil v. Ecuador from Cordoba.

Group C

Uruguay: 41st participation.

Chile: 36th participation.

Mexico: 8th participation.

Peru: 29th participation.

Fixtures

4 July at 1915 and 2215 GMT: Uruguay v. Peru from San Juan.
4 July at 2145 and 0045 GMT: Chile v. Mexico from San Juan.
8 July at 1915 and 2215 GMT: Peru v. Mexico from Mendoza.
8 July at 2145 and 0045 GMT: Uruguay v. Chile from Mendoza.
12 July at 1915 and 2215 GMT: Chile v. Peru from Mendoza.
12 July at 2145 and 0045 GMT: Uruguay v. Mexico from La Plata.

Uruguay Roster:

Goalkeepers: Fernando Muslera (Lazio), Juan Castillo (Colo Colo).

Defenders: Diego Lugano (Fenerbahce), Diego Godín (Atlético de Madrid), Mauricio Victorino (Cruzeiro), Martín Cáceres (Sevilla), Andrés Scotti (Colo Colo), Jorge Fucile (Porto), Maximiliano Pereira, (Benfica).

Midfielders: Alvaro Pereira (Porto), Diego Pérez and Gastón Ramírez (Bologna), Egidio Arévalo Ríos (Botafogo), Walter Gargano (Napoli), Sebastián Eguren (Sporting Gijón), Alvaro González (Lazio), Alvaro Fernández (Seattle Sounders), Nicolás Lodeiro (Ajax).

Forwards: Diego Forlán (Atlético de Madrid), Edinson Cavani (Napoli), Luis Suárez (Liverpool), Sebastián Abreu (Botafogo), Abel Hernández (Palermo), Sebastián Fernández (Málaga).

Source: Associated Press: 2 June 2011.

Players to Watch: Sebastian Abreu, Martin Carceres, Edinson Cavani, Alvaro Fernandez, Diego Forlan, Jorge Fucile, Walter Gargano, Abel Hernandez, Nicolas Lodeiro, Diego Lugano, Fernando Muslera, Diego Perez, Luis Suarez.

Manager of Uruguay: Oscar Washington Tabarez

Chile Roster:

Goalkeepers: Claudio Bravo (Real Sociedad), Miguel Pinto (Atlas), Paulo Garces (Universidad Catolica), Raul Olivares (Colo Colo).

Defenders: Gonzalo Jara (West Bromwich Albion), Pablo Contreras (Paok, Greece), Waldo Ponce (Cruz Azul), Arturo Vidal (Bayer Leverkusen).

Midfielders: Marco Estrada (Montpellier), Bruno Romo (Palestino), Gary Medel (Sevilla), Rodrigo Millar (Colo Colo), Carlos Carmona (Atalanta, Italy), Felipe Seymour (Universidad de Chile), Francisco Silva (Universidad Catolica), Mauricio Isla (Udinese), Gonzalo Fierro (Flamengo), Fernando Meneses (Universidad Catolica), Matias Fernandez (Sporting), Jorge Valdivia (Palmeiras), Luis Jimenez (Cesena, Italy), Felipe Gutierrez (Universidad Catolica).

Forwards: Jean Beausejour (Birmingham), Alexis Sanchez (Udinese), Esteban Paredes (Colo Colo), Humberto Suazo (Monterrey), Carlos Munoz (Santiago Wanderers), Diego Rubio (Colo Colo).

Source: Associated Press: 01 June 2011.

Players to Watch: Jean Beausejour, Claudio Bravo, Carlos Carmona, Matias Fernandez, Gonzalo Jara, Gary Medel, Mauricio Isla, Luis Jimenez, Diego Rubio, Alexis Sanchez, Humberto Suazo.

Manager of Chile: Claudio Borghi

Mexico Roster:

Goalkeepers: Luis Michel (Guadalajara), Carlos Rodriguez (Morelia), Liborio Sanchez (Veracruz).

Defenders: Miguel Ponce (Guadalajara), Darwin Chavez (Atlas), Nestor Vidrio (Atlas), Hiram Mier (Monterrey), Nestor Araujo (Cruz Azul), Paul Aguilar (Pachuca), Israel Jimenez (Tigres), Fernando Navarro (Atlate).

Midfielders: Jorge Enriquez (Guadalajara), Marco Fabian (Guadalajara), Edgar Pacheco (Atlas), Javier Aquino (Cruz Azul), Jorge Hernandez (Jaguares), David Cabrera (Pumas), Diego Reyes (Club America), Jonathan dos Santos (Barcelona 'B').

Forwards: Erick Torres (Guadalajara), Rafael Marquez (Morelia), Javier Cortes (Pumas), Nestor Calderon (Toluca), Oribe Peralta (Santos), Giovanni Dos Santos (Tottenham).

Source: Mexico is sending a U-22 team since their senior club will be competing at the CONCACAF Gold Cup in June. (5)

Players To Watch: Paul Aguilar, Giovanni and Jonathan Dos Santos, Israel Jimenez, Rafael Marquez (not the same Rafael Marquez of the NY Red Bulls), Luis Michel, Edgar Pacheco.

Manager of Mexico: José Manuel De La Torre manages the senior side but Luis Fernando Tena will handle coaching duties in Argentina.

According to Contacto Deportivo (A US-based Spanish language nightly television show) on 30 May 2011, Arsenal (England) refused to release **Carlos Vela** for the tournament since it was not an official continental competition for Mexico.

Peru Roster:

Goalkeepers: Salomon Libman (Allianza Lima), Raul Fernandez (Universitario), Erick Delgado (Sporting Cristal).

Defenders: Santiago Acasiete (Almería), Irvén Avila (Sport Huancayo), Giancarlo Carmona (San Lorenzo), Orlando Contreras (San Martín), Aldo Corzo (San Martín), Adán Balbín (San Martín), Christian Ramos (Allianza Lima), Renzo Revoredo (Universitario), Jesús Rabenal (Universitario), Alberto Rodríguez (Sporting Braga), Walter Vilchez (Sporting Cristal), Carlos Zambrano (St. Pauli).

Midfielders: Rinaldo Cruzado (Juan Aurich), Michael Guevara (Sport Boys), Antonio González (Universitario), Carlos Lobaton (Sporting Cristal), Josepmir Ballón (River Plate), Leao Butron (San Martín), Jean Tragodara (Allianza Lima), Yoshimar Yotun (Sporting Cristal), Luis Ramírez (Corinthians), Juan Vargas (Fiorentina).

Forwards: Luis Advíncula (Sporting Cristal), Andre Carrillo (Allianza Lima), William Chiroque (Juan Aurich), Cristian Cueva (San Martín), Jefferson Farfán (Schalke 04), **Claudio Pizarro (Werder Bremen-ruled out due to injury)**, Raul Rudiaz (Universitario), Paolo Guerrero (Hamburg).

Source: Depor.pe: 06 June 2011. This Peru roster will be reduced to 23 at a later date.

Players To Watch: Santiago Acasiete, Josepmir Ballón, Giancarlo Carmona, Rinaldo Cruzado, Jefferson Farfan, Paolo Guerrero, Luis Ramirez, Alberto Rodriguez, Juan Vargas, Walter Vilchez, Carlos Zambrano.

Manager of Peru: Sergio Markarian

VI: Kick-off Time Conversion Factor

Argentina is UTC -3.

[Time zone converter](#)

World time chart

London: +4
Jakarta: +11
New York: -1
Mexico City: -2
Milan: +5
Rio de Janeiro: 0
Los Angeles: -4
Sydney: +13

VII: Elimination Round Chart

Please Note: The first two teams in each group, along with the two best third place teams, will qualify for the elimination round. There will be 30 minutes of extra time and then spot kicks to determine the winner.
(6)



Chart source: (7)

Quarterfinal Round on 16/17 July

- Game 1: A1 v. Best 3rd place team (BT1) from Cordoba at 1600 and 1900 GMT.
- Game 2: A2 v. C2 from Santa Fe at 1915 and 2215 GMT.
- Game 3: B1 v. Second best 3rd place team (BT2) from La Plata at 1600 and 1900 GMT.
- Game 4: C1 v. B2 from San Juan at 1915 and 2215 GMT.

Semi-Final Round on 19/20 July

- Game 5: Game 1 Winner v. Game 2 Winner from La Plata at 2145 and 0045 GMT.
- Game 6: Game 3 Winner v. Game 4 Winner from Mendoza at 2145 and 0045 GMT.

Third Place: 23 July from La Plata

- Game 7: Loser of Game 5 v. Loser of Game 6 at 1600 and 1900 GMT.

Cup Final: 24 July from Buenos Aires

- Game 8: Winner of Game 5 v. Winner of Game 6 at 1600 and 1900 GMT.

VIII: Expert Local Voice: Interview with Dan Colasimone



Images courtesy of Dan Colasimone.

Dan Colasimone ([@Argentina FW](#) on Twitter) is an Australian journalist who lives in Buenos Aires. Dan has an informative website called [Argentina Football World](#) which covers Argentinean football for English-speaking enthusiasts. The Guardian of London named Dan's site in their top 100 football blogs last year. He also hosts [Hand of Pod](#), which is a weekly series that features a team of Buenos Aires-based journalists. Dan will be covering the Copa America tournament from various venues and I asked him to provide us with his insights in a few areas:



SA: *"Ganar, gustar y golear" is an Argentinean expression that carries more than a literal meaning. Could you please translate and describe that particular mindset from the Argentinean footballing perspective?*

DC: Argentineans in general are a hard bunch to please. Despite living in a beautiful country with a great deal going for it, they can almost always be found complaining about something. When it comes to football, they are especially picky. For many fans, it is not enough for their team to simply win. It also must play nice football and score lots of goals too. To win, to delight and to score. To condense it even more, it is the concept of *"La Nuestra"*. Our way.

This philosophy harks back to River's wonderful *"La Máquina"* team of the early 1940's and even further to the great Huracán teams of the amateur era. The focus is on skill and fluid passing movements – attacking, attractive football. Menotti won Argentina's first World Cup in 1978 playing with a similar ethos. When Argentina won it a second time in 1986, despite Maradona's individual brilliance, the coach Bilardo was very much a pragmatist who focused on results rather than style.

Ever since, debate has raged among fans and in the media about whether Argentinian teams should stay true to the footballing traditions of flair and trickery, or practice a more direct, results-driven style of football. *"Ganar, gusta y golear"* is, in a way, the belief that results and finesse are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

Current coach Sergio Batista, when he was first appointed, made it clear he wants his team to continue the tradition of *La Nuestra*. He has identified modern football's incarnation of this idea, the Barcelona of

Messi, Xavi and Iniesta, and is attempting to recreate *La Selección* in its image. Whether his is on the right track or not, we will find out during the Copa America.

SA: Given the early departure by Argentina at the 2010 World Cup, how much pressure is on the host nation to win this tournament?

DC: The last time Argentina won a senior international tournament was at the Copa America in 1993. A period of 18 years is an extremely long time to remain trophy-less for a nation which regards itself as one of the powers of world football. For that reason, and due to the fact that the tournament is being played at home, pressure on *La Selección* will be high. Looking long term, it probably would have been wiser to use this competition as an early form of preparation for the 2014 World Cup by testing out young players and different formations. However, I think the priority will be to win the Copa America in front of the home fans. Anything else will be considered a disappointment.

SA: For soccer fans used to European and World Cup tournaments and perhaps new to a South American competition, how will Copa America be different in styles of play and stadium atmosphere?

DC: The Copa America still has an air of volatility about it that other major tournaments are lacking in the modern era. It may be cliché, but when Latin American teams play each other, you sometimes get the impression that any sense of calm professionalism gets left somewhere outside the stadium. Games are often played with the heart and not the head, and this makes for cracking entertainment. These teams play each other so often and this tournament has such a long history that every match is a grudge match. Every match is a derby. That, and the natural attacking tendencies of most teams mean that in the heat of battle, tactical discipline can fall by the wayside. That can often result in lots of goals, lots of red cards, unpredictability and sumptuously enjoyable matches for us spectators. In terms of stadium atmosphere, at international level, one would expect that much of the nastiness that sometimes pervades club football here will not be so prominent, so all the positive aspects; the color, the singing, the passion, will all come to the fore.

SA: Five of the eight venues at Copa America are at various levels of altitude. Uruguay was the only South American side to reach the semi-finals last summer in South Africa. In your opinion, how much of a factor will altitude, along with the winter climate, have at this tournament?

DC: Many of the competing countries will be used to be playing at altitude, I would expect, so I don't think it will have a huge impact in terms of results. However, many South American players are not afraid to shoot at goal from seemingly ridiculous distances, so don't be surprised if we see a few of those Exocet missiles, aided by the thinner air at altitude, hitting the target.

SA: You watch and cover many of the Copa Libertadores matches (a continental competition similar to the UEFA Champions League) in South America. Who are some of the lesser-known-names to viewers outside of the Americas who might raise their international profiles during Copa America?

DC: The teams who are expected to go far in the Copa America are likely to be dominated by European-based players, but there could be a few guys who make an impression coming out of the continental leagues. Look out for the veteran defender Dario Verón for Paraguay, who plays for Pumas in Mexico. They also have Rodolfo Gamarra, a 22-year old forward who has done well for Libertad in the Paraguayan League. Enzo Pérez has been brilliant for Estudiantes for a couple of seasons and may shine for Argentina if he gets some game time. Colombia has a couple of strikers, Dayro Moreno and Teo Gutierrez, who will be itching to prove their worth. The locally-based players who are likely to have the

biggest influence on the tournament, though are Brazil's Ganso, if he can recover from injury, and the phenomenal Neymar, whom most people have no doubt heard of already.

IX: Global Television Coverage in HD

The tournament will be broadcast to 196 countries in High Definition (HD) for the first time according to the official Copa America 2011 Argentina website. (8)

YouTube will live stream the entire event: <http://www.youtube.com/copaamerica>

[Live Soccer TV](#) is a great resource that shows daily global broadcast schedules, channels and providers.

Broadcast Coverage in the USA:

The Univision Network will provide live Spanish-language coverage of each match.

Contacto Deportivo (Telefutura), Fox Deportes, Fox Soccer Channel, Go!TV and Telemundo most likely will have highlights and news.

X: Specific Links of Interest

[101 Great Goals](#) (Daily goal videos and highlights from the UK.)

[Argentina Football World: @ArgentinaFW](#) (Twitter in English and Spanish: "Copa America accredited. Available for hire." Dan Colasimone from Buenos Aires who is also the host of [Hand of Pod](#).)

[Bira Brasil Lima: @Bira_Brasil](#) (Twitter in English and Portuguese: A Brazilian from São Paulo who grew up in Las Vegas. I happily work as a commentator for TV GLOBO covering the Campeonato Brasileiro and Campeonato Paulista!)

[Jorge Caamano: @jorgecaamano](#) (Twitter in English and Spanish: "Comentarista de Fox Sports. Corresponsal de medios informativos de Costa Rica. Director Técnico Licencia Fifa Clase A. Columnista de FoxSportsla.com." "Fox Sports Commentator. Correspondent for Costa Rican media outlets. FIFA Class A coaching license. Columnist for FoxSportsla.com.")

[Andres Cantor: @AndresCantorGol](#) (Twitter in English and Spanish: "Relator de fútbol de la cadena Telemundo. Presidente de FDP Radio, la radio del fútbol de los EE.UU. 'Football commentator on the Telemundo Network. President of FDP Radio, the soccer radio station in the USA.' Soccer anchor/TV Personality.")

[CONMEBOL Official Site for Copa America](#)

[Copa America Argentina 2011 Official Site](#) (English, Portuguese and Spanish.)

[Copa America Argentina 2011: @-CA2011](#) (Official Twitter in English, Portuguese and Spanish.)

[ESPN SoccerNet: Copa America](#) (Updated group tables and scores.)

[Cecilia Lagos: @CeciliaLagos](#) (Chilean football expert. Twitter in English and Spanish: "Comentarista de fútbol en [@Juego De Damas](#) de ESPN Radio-BioBio Deportes." "Football commentator at Juego De Damas for ESPN Radio-BioBio Sports.")

[LandingPadBA.com](#): Tickets and tour packages to various Copa America venues from Buenos Aires.

[Live Soccer TV](#) is a great resource to show daily global broadcast schedules, channels and providers.

[Lonely Planet Argentina Travel Guide](#) provides a detailed look into the land of futbol and Tango Argentino.

[Mundoalbiceleste](#) (English language site about Argentinean football by Sebastian Garcia.)

[Paraguay Ralph \(Hannah\): @paraguayralph](#) (Twitter in English and Spanish: "Honorary Asuceno tweeting about Paraguayan football and South America generally. Paraguay correspondent for Goal.com also contributed to IBWM. Views my own.")

[Joel Richards: @joel_richards](#) (Argentina expert and frequent contributor at Beyond The Pitch. Twitter in English and Spanish: "Journalist--tv and radio producer/reporter.")

[Jonathan Wilson: @jonawils](#) (Twitter: "Football writer, author of Behind the Curtain, Inverting the Pyramid and the Anatomy of England, editor of The Blizzard.")

[YouTube Copa America Channel](#)

XI: Facts About Argentina



Image of Patagonia courtesy of Silvina Colicchia. All rights reserved. (10)

Spanish colonizers arrived in present-day Argentina in the early 1500s. In 1816, the Provinces of the Rio Plata declared their independence from Spain. Argentina (from the Latin, *Argentum*) was the land mass that remained after Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay decided to pursue their own independence. The newly-formed country experienced their prime immigration period from 1860 to 1930 and was predominantly from two countries: Italy and Spain.

Argentina has an eclectic geographical mixture: The majestic Andes mountains that run north to south, the mystical pampas which are home to *los gauchos*, along with the ice shelves and natural beauty of Patagonia. According to the CIA Factbook as of July 2011, Argentina has over 5,000 kilometers of coastline, is about 30 percent the size of the United States, has 42 million inhabitants and is the eighth-largest country in the world. Buenos Aires is the largest city with a population of close to 13 million. Argentina's main exports are soybeans, petroleum products, wheat and corn. (10)

One of Argentina's main exports is not tracked by the CIA: Some of the best footballers in the world.



 [Getty Images.](#)

Lionel Messi of FC Barcelona and Argentina at the UEFA Champions League final at Wembley Stadium in London. Messi is a native of Rosario, Argentina and was a youth product at Newell's Old Boys.

I hope that you enjoy La Copa America and please stay tuned for updates from [Beyond The Pitch](#).

Who do you think will raise the Cup on 24 July?

Who are your favorite players to watch and/or up-and-coming talents? Please let us know in the comments section.

Preliminary Roster Information

At the time of this writing, all players were members of their indicated club teams. Final rosters will be released on 27 June 2011 and submitted to CONMEBOL and may deviate slightly from the ones provided in this guide.

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- (10) [Photo credit of Patagonia: Silvina Colicchia, 2006. All rights reserved](#).

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