

**GROUP B**  
By Camille Powell

**FIRST-ROUND SCHEDULE**

All times Eastern

SATURDAY

**England vs. Paraguay**, 9 a.m. (ABC) in Frankfurt  
**Trinidad and Tobago vs. Sweden**, Noon (ABC) in Dortmund

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

**England vs. Trin. and Tobago**, Noon (ESPN2) in Nuremberg  
**Sweden vs. Paraguay**, 3 p.m. (ESPN) in Berlin ★

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

**Sweden vs. England**, 3 p.m. (ESPN) in Cologne ★  
**Paraguay vs. Trin. & Tob.**, 3 p.m. (ESPN2) in Kaiserslautern

★  
KEY MATCHES

**TEAMS AT-A-GLANCE**



**ENGLAND**  
Coach:

Sven-Goran Eriksson.  
**Appearance:** 12th.  
**How Qualified:**  
Won Europe's Group 6.



1966



**PARAGUAY**  
Coach:

Anibal Ruiz.  
**Appearance:** Seventh.  
**How Qualified:**  
Finished fourth in South America.



**SWEDEN**  
Coach:

Lars Lagerback.  
**Appearance:** 11th.  
**How Qualified:**  
Finished second in Europe's Group 8.



**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**  
Coach:

Leo Beenhakker.  
**Appearance:** First.  
**How Qualified:**  
Finished fourth in CONCACAF; beat Bahrain in a playoff.

**STAR PLAYER »**  
**STEVEN GERRARD** | MF | ENGLAND

# A Leading Man Studies New Role

When England's players took the field for a warmup match against Hungary on May 30, the number 9 shirt was with them. But it was Steven Gerrard who was wearing Wayne Rooney's No. 9 and it was Gerrard who was filling Rooney's role as a deep-lying striker behind Michael Owen.

With Rooney recovering from a broken foot, Coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has had to find ways to compensate for the loss of such a driven, game-changing offensive player. His solution appears to be taking Gerrard, one of the world's best midfielders, and giving him the freedom to push further into the attack.

"I thought Gerrard was excellent, but why should I be surprised?" Eriksson told reporters following Gerrard's one-goal performance in England's 3-1 win. "Wherever I play him he is always excellent. He is the complete football player."

Gerrard, 26, missed the 2002 World Cup with a groin injury but will figure heavily in this one. He is a hard tackler and a good passer, and he has a hard shot from 30 yards. He has always done everything as captain of his club team, Liverpool, but has been criticized for not offering similar performances with the national team. That will have to change this month if England is to advance.

"There was a lot of pressure on me because it meant I was playing the role where Wayne Rooney usually plays," said Gerrard, who will be back in his usual No. 4 jersey in Germany. "I am never going to be as good as Wayne in that position, but I enjoyed it. I have played a more holding role in the past, but the shackles were off tonight and I was allowed to break free."

**Steven Gerrard will be wearing his familiar No. 4 after wearing No. 9 against Hungary.**

BY ALEX LIVESSEY — GETTY IMAGES

## GROUP B Note For Nuts

Possible changes for England without Wayne Rooney: Coach Sven-Goran Eriksson experimented with a 4-1-4-1 when attacking, with Steven Gerrard playing behind F Michael Owen. On defense, Gerrard drops into midfield for a 4-5-1. England used a 4-4-2 with Rooney.

## ENGLAND OUTLOOK

Four syllables that make an England fan shudder: metatarsal. Forwards Wayne Rooney and Michael Owen have each been sidelined with fractured metatarsal bones, and Rooney's injury threatens to keep the 20-year old star out of the tournament. With Rooney, England is one of the favorites. Without him, it still has a world-class midfield — Steven Gerrard, Frank Lampard, David Beckham and Joe Cole — but lack his game-changing offensive ability.

- » **Best-Case Scenario:** With Rooney back in the knockout stages, England makes the final.
- » **Worst-Case Scenario:** Finishing second in the group, losing to (gasp) Germany in the round of 16.

## PARAGUAY OUTLOOK

Paraguay is one of only six teams in this year's field that has advanced to the round of 16 in the past two tournaments, and

the others are soccer royalty: Italy, Brazil, England, Germany and Mexico. Flamboyant goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, the face of the past two teams, is gone, replaced by unassuming Justo Villar. Paraguay relies on three German-based players: MF Julio Dos Santos (Bayern Munich) and Fs Roque Santa Cruz (Bayern Munich), who is recovering from a knee injury, and Nelson Haedo Valdez (Werder Bremen).

- » **Best-Case Scenario:** Stealing a win against England or Sweden to return to the round of 16.
- » **Worst-Case Scenario:** Losses to England and Sweden render the finale against Trinidad and Tobago meaningless.

## SWEDEN OUTLOOK

The Swedes are known as a well-organized, defensive-minded side — they gave up only four goals in 10 qualifying matches — so a 3-0 loss to Ireland in early March was cause for concern. Sweden has a dynamic trio of attackers, starting with temperamental 6-foot-3 F Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Juventus). F Henrik Larsson is still reliable at age 34 (consider his impact on the Champions League final for Barcelona) and MF Fredrik Ljungberg is fast and clever. Also of note: the Swedes have six wins and four draws in their last 10 meetings with England.

- » **Best-Case Scenario:** Continued mastery over England allows Sweden to win group and advance to quarterfinals.
- » **Worst-Case Scenario:** Surprised by Paraguay and out in the first round.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO OUTLOOK

Just getting to this point was an accomplishment for Trinidad and Tobago, the smallest country in the tournament (population: 1.1 million) and the last to qualify. Dennis Lawrence, a 6-foot-7 defender, scored the goal against Bahrain that put the Soca Warriors into the finals and set off a national celebration. Fifteen players are currently in leagues in Britain, including all-time goal leader Stern John, an MLS veteran now with Coventry.

- » **Best-Case Scenario:** Not losing three lopsided games in a tough group.
- » **Worst-Case Scenario:** Soca Warriors leave without a goal or a win.

