

June 23 US versus Algeria

Now that the US has played two games with the same results, a tie in both, a showdown is in place that will determine the rest of their progression. This group of teams seems to be evenly matched when one views the scores and results, but this final game of the first round will separate the men from the boys. Slovenia top the group with 4 points, US and England both sit with 2 points and Algeria has 1 point.

Keeper – Tim Howard undisputed

Defenders – Always cautious, Bradley will go with the same four as before with Cherundolo, Onyewu, DeMerit, and Bocanegra. Defense has repeatedly shown their frailty down the center of the park with miscommunication between Onyewu and Demerit. This is not to mention the slow reads by the defense to shutdown the opposition's strikers in front of goal. This main fact could be the undoing of the US team if they are not careful.

Midfield – Well, it will be interesting to see if Bradley stays with the midfield that fought to get them back into the game versus Slovenia with Donovan, Dempsey, Bradley and Maurice Edu. For me Edu provides the experience (Rangers), size and pace needed to counter the crafty Algerian players. I would also see Bradley somewhat in a holding position to afford Donovan and Dempsey the freedom needed to roam, link with the strikers and attack goal. We will see.

Strikers – Altidore and Buddle should be the chosen two. The US could attack with flighted balls into the box with both Altidore and Buddle posing an aerial threat. The attack could be two pronged with Donovan and Dempsey on ground with runs through the middle and Altidore and Buddle connecting with balls out of the air.

This World Cup continues to be unpredictable and this is just what we want for the excitement value.