

CAN ENGLAND WIN THE 2010 WORLD CUP?

“England finally have a manager who understands how to produce team-work. In previous decades the players have tended to play for themselves rather than the unit”.



“In Capello, England have their most tactically astute manager in years and the team’s record in qualifying points to a new-found consistency”.

“OF COURSE THEY CAN WIN IT, BUT IT REQUIRES FOUR THINGS TO FALL INTO PLACE FOR THEM...”

- 1) Wayne Rooney needs to encase his metatarsals in cotton-wool.
- 2) A reliable, top-class goalkeeper has to emerge. Maybe that man is Ben Foster, we will see.
- 3) A goalscorer capable of breaching the very tightest defences has to come to the fore. Could it be that Jermain Defoe proves to be that talisman?
- 4) Steven Gerrard, Frank Lampard and the other key players have to avoid injury and fatigue. It would help England if the English teams are removed from the Champions League before the latter stages”.

“This is England’s best chance to win the World Cup since Italia ’90”.

“Excellent in boiler-suits, or overalls, for the qualifying job, they do not have the men who can change into evening wear and dance like Fred Astaire.”

“England can win the World Cup... but England WON’T win the World Cup”.

“A lot can change between now and June, but if the World Cup were to kick off tomorrow, England would probably only be behind Brazil and Spain”.

“It’s a good thing that Capello’s strength is defence, because that’s where England’s credentials will be most sorely tested”.

“Not since 1998 have England looked so good going forwards and even then not in qualifying, the problem is that defensively there are too many unanswered questions, notably between the posts and the right-back position. It’s one thing for Brazilian teams to win World Cups with suspect defenders, quite another for the rest of the world”.

“Capello’s track record gives the Three Lions that X-factor and puts them in contention”.

“They’ve a good chance of reaching the semis, which is as far as they have got in the last 20 years, but they look inferior to Spain and Brazil, both of whom pass the ball better and have better goalkeepers”.