

# England must be more clinical

Reuters | Repino, Russia

England need to be more clinical if they are to take care of Panama in their second game in Group G and put themselves on the brink of qualification to the knockout stage.

If England beat Panama and Belgium beat or draw with Tunisia then England are through to the last 16.

Gareth Southgate's side beat Tunisia 2-1 in their opening game but missed a series of first-half chances and needed a stoppage time winner from captain Harry Kane to secure the three points.

Defender John Stones says England have done their homework on Panama and says it is clear where the biggest area for improvement needs to be.

"Being more clinical," he told reporters, "I think we know how the games are going to play out now and who we are going to play," he said.

What England have learnt from their study of the Central American side, playing in their first World Cup, is that 'Los Canaleros' will aim to play a high-paced, physical game.

Southgate has prided himself on building a team that enjoy pass and movement football. Stones says they won't change that approach because of their opponents.

"It is something we have spoken about and we are going to stick to our game plan. We're going to cause them as many threats as we can using our own styles of play," he said.



Harry Kane

13



England

Nickname | The Three Lions

**Possible line-ups:** Pickford, Walker, Stones, Maguire, Henderson, Trippier, Rose, Lingard, Loftus-Cheek, Rashford, Kane

Dele Alli picked up a thigh strain against Tunisia and is expected to miss out for England today. Ruben Loftus-Cheek is expected to deputise.

Gareth Southgate is reportedly contemplating replacing Raheem Sterling with Marcus Rashford for their second group game.

The England manager has no reason to make any further changes, although might be tempted to rotate Jordan Henderson and Eric Dier, Ashley Young and Danny Rose and Harry Maguire and Gary Cahill.



England Coach Gareth Southgate

ENG 2-1 TUN Match 1 PAN 0-3 BEL

HEAD-TO-HEAD		
First meeting		
WORLD CUP RECORD		
27	Wins	0
20	Draws	0
16	Losses	1
1.29	Goals for*	0.00
0.92	Goals against*	3.00

### Fact box

- » England secured all three points against Tunisia courtesy of a late Harry Kane winner and now they will aim to pick up momentum with a comprehensive win over Panama.
- » Panama lost 3-0 to Belgium in their first game of the 2018 World Cup and will hope to follow Tunisia's blueprint of frustrating England.
- » England, however, should have no difficulty beating Panama but need to be more clinical in front of goal. This match should boost England's confidence further ahead of their final group game against Belgium.

Panama



55

Nickname | The Red Tide

**Possible line-ups:** Penedo, Murillo, Torres, Escobar, Davis, Gomez, Barcenas, Cooper, Godoy, Rodriguez, Perez



Luis Tejada

Roman Torres overcame a slight knock to face Belgium in their group opener and will be fine to continue here. Head coach Hernán Darío Gómez is expected to use a compact setup to try and frustrate Belgium.



Panama Coach Hernan Darío Gomez

## Poland to make changes for Colombia match

Reuters | Sochi, Russia

Poland will make changes for their match against Colombia and start "more aggressively" in what will be a key match against

ponents who also lost their opening contest, striker Dawid Kownacki said.

Both sides were defeated 2-1 in their first Group H games -- Poland at the hands of Senegal and Colombia to Japan -- meaning another defeat is unthinkable for either of them.

"We have to play more aggressively," Kownacki said. "In

the Senegal match, we did not show the aggression, we did not attack the rival as we should have. We should have played sharper. This was a key mistake.

"This (aggression) will be important in the match with Colombia. We have to get close to them, they have great players, a lot of individuals who can do a lot when they have control of the ball.

"When we get possession we need to make faster decisions. We kept the ball too long with Senegal, we could not get into the rhythm."

Assistant coach Hubert Malowiejski said some of those who disappointed against Sen-

egal would be dropped but he did not name names.

"There will be certainly be changes, it is not very likely that we will play with Colombia with the same players," Malowiejski said.

"How many changes, and which positions, this decision has not been made yet. We have training sessions ahead of us, especially today's training. The skeleton of the team will remain the same but there will be changes."

The results in Group H have been one of the most surprising in World Cup with the underdogs winning both opening ties.



Poland

Nickname | The Polish Eagles

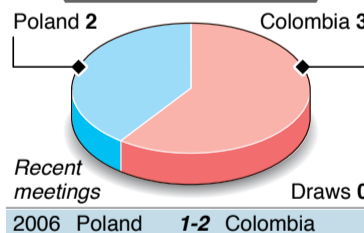
**Possible line-ups:** Szczesny, Bereszynski, Cionek, Pazdan, Rybus, Krychowiak, Zielinski, Grosicki, Blaszczykowski, Miliak, Lewandowski

Poland switched to a three-man defence at half-time of their 2-1 defeat to Senegal and may persist with that system here.

8 FIFA rank 16

POL 1-2 SEN Match 1 COL 1-2 JPN

HEAD-TO-HEAD



Recent meetings

2006 Poland 1-2 Colombia

Colombia

Nickname | The Coffee Growers

**Possible line-ups:** Ospina, Arias, Sanchez, Murillo, Mojica, Lerma, Barrios, Cuadrado, Rodriguez, Quintero, Falcao

Carlos Sanchez is suspended for Colombia after his red card in their 2-1 defeat to Japan. Wilmar Barrios should deputise. James Rodriguez wasn't fit enough to start last time out but will return to the team here. The Bayern Munich creator may have to start from the left, with Juan Quintero in the No.10 role. Yerry Mina may have to settle for a place on the bench with Óscar Murillo preferred at centre-back.



James Rodriguez



Robert Lewandowski



Japan

61

FIFA rank

27



Maya Yoshida

Japan have no reason to make any changes after pulling off an impressive 2-1 win over Colombia in their World Cup opener.

**Possible line-ups:** Kawashima, Sakai, Yoshida, Shoji, Nagatomo, Shibusaki, Hasebe, Haraguchi, Kagawa, Inui, Osako



Senegal

JPN 2-1 COL Match 1 SEN 2-1 POL

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Draws 1

Senegal 2

Japan 0

Recent meetings

2003 Japan 0-1 Senegal



Sadio Mane

Cheikhou Kouyaté may have to settle for another place on the bench after surprisingly being left on the bench against Poland last time out.

**Possible line-ups:** N'Diaye, Wague, Sane, Koulibaly, Sabaly, Gueye, N'Diaye, Sarr, Mane, Diouf, Niang

## Neymar 'fully recovered'

AFP | Moscow

Neymar has now "totally recovered" from the foot injury that required surgery and saw him miss the end of the club season. Brazil's team doctor said yesterday.

However, winger Douglas Costa will miss the side's final World Cup Group E outing against Serbia on Wednesday.

"I would like everyone to understand Neymar's situation, and that he no longer has any problem with his right foot," Rodrigo Lasmar told journalists at Brazil's World Cup training base in Sochi.

"He has totally recovered but he is still building up his rhythm and his confidence. He is feeling better with every game."

## Southgate plays down team leak

Reuters | Samara, Russia

England manager Gareth Southgate played down any confrontation with the media after a photograph was taken allegedly showing the line-up for today clash.

In the build-up to Group C clash, photographs emerged of England assistant coach Steve Holland holding a sheet of pa-

per with line-up on it. Journalists have faced criticism for publishing the contents of the sheet but Southgate says he is unfazed.

"There's no drama," Southgate told reporters yesterday. "The picture the other day wasn't even the team so it was even less of a drama, it was a list of runners and riders for the training session."