

Tite experiments with Brazil's trio

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● Tite used defenders Marquinhos and Miranda during the entire hour, suggesting former captain Thiago Silva will be on the bench for the moment

Independent | Rio de Janeiro

Brazil's second pre-World Cup training session featured Willian in attack alongside Neymar and Gabriel Jesus, a hint that coach Tite might change his starting line-up.

Willian played with the two star strikers for about one hour on Thursday at the Granja Comary ground in Teresopolis, outside Rio de Janeiro.

Tite did not use his starting midfield to play with the trio. He also used defenders Marquinhos and Miranda during the entire hour, suggesting former



Brazil's Neymar and teammates during the warmup

captain Thiago Silva will be on the bench for the moment.

If Willian is brought in to the team, Tite could remove midfielder Renato Augusto from the starting line-up, put Philippe Coutinho in his place, and open a gap up for Willian.

Since last year, Tite has said he needs a "pacemaker," and considers Coutinho one of his main options for the role.

Beijing Guoan's Augusto is under pressure after unconvincing performances in Brazil's midfield.

Augusto's spot is also eyed by Fred, one of the surprise inclusions of Tite's squad.

The midfielder said he admired Brazil players who began a World Cup on the bench and later became starters, such as Mazinho (1994) and Kleberson (2002).

"We can get inspiration from them, these players worked very hard to get their spot," Fred said. "But if I have to be out I will keep working hard."

Fred also said he was torn between a transfer to Manchester



19 days to go.....

United or Manchester City.

Fred, who has said he believes his future is outside Ukraine, admitted he received an offer from City in January. It's understood both United and City are now in talks with Shakhtar Donetsk over a summer transfer.

"Maybe after the World Cup I will make the choice," the midfielder said. "Now I am only thinking about the World Cup."

Tite currently has 18 out of his 23 players available to him for Brazil's pre-World Cup training.

Winger Douglas Costa and Fagner are still recovering from injury while Liverpool's Roberto Firmino and Real Madrid's Casemiro and Marcelo will join on Monday after the Champions League final.

FIFA World Cup 2018 official song released

Espn | London

FIFA has revealed their official tournament song that they hope will go on to help define the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

"Live It Up" is a collaboration between Nicky Jam, Era Istrefi and the Fresh Prince himself, Will Smith -- who features for roughly 30 seconds of the entire anthem.



"Live It Up" is a collaboration between Jam, Istrefi and Smith



"One life, live it up" seems to be the central theme, though Will Smith does actually mention a "team" at one point

Without wishing to sound overly snobby, it's quite repetitive and... bad.

"One life, live it up" seems to be the central theme, though Smith does actually mention a "team" at one point -- perhaps the only semi-direct reference to football in the whole song.

In short, The Toe Poke forgot absolutely everything about the song already and we only heard it a minute or two ago. "Live it Up?" Turn it down, more like.

Pogba only cares about haircuts: Demark Coach

AFP | Stockholm

Denmark coach Age Hareide gave a withering assessment of his World Cup first-round rivals France on Thursday claiming they have no real leader and have little chance in Russia.

"I don't believe in this team," Hareide told Danish daily Jyllands-Posten, a month ahead of their 26 June game in Russia.



Paul Pogba

"They are nothing special," he said.

"They don't have a leader such as Zinedine Zidane to lead them, someone who knew how to galvanise them," said the Norwegian who has been Denmark coach for three years.

"They need to play as a team."

The 64-year-old singled out Manchester United's Paul Pogba for criticism -- over his flashy haircuts.

"He played against Manchester City with his hair dyed blue and white, maybe he'll have it red and white to play us." "Good grief, does he only think about his haircuts?" asked the coach.

Hareide said he hoped to lead Denmark on a fine campaign.

PLAYER OF THE DAY



James Rodriguez

The adidas Golden Boot winner at Brazil 2014 Rodriguez will hope to provide more goals for Colombia at Russia 2018. Currently on loan at Bayern Munich, the Cafeteros star won two FIFA Club World Cup titles with Real Madrid.



Carlos Vela

Mexico can beat Germany in opener

Espn | London

Mexico's Carlos Vela believes that on his national team's best day they can beat anyone in the world, even prohibitive Group F favorites Germany.

Vela, 29, chose not to play for El Tri at the World Cup four years ago, but says he is determined to make Russia 2018 count if he makes the cut for Juan Carlos Osorio's final 23-man squad.

The LAFC striker rejoined the national team fold in November 2014 and has been in solid form of late, netting seven goals in his first 11 games since joining MLS from Real Sociedad.

Vela told reporters: "[Germany] is one of the best teams in the world, but Mexico has the chance to win that game. We have to play like [we can win] against any opponent. It doesn't matter if it is Germany, Haiti or Portugal, we want to win."

The History Makers exhibit to open June 9 in Moscow



Hyundai teams with FIFA World Football Museum for 'History Makers' exhibition at Hyundai Motorstudio

● The exhibition will focus on the history of the tournament and the fan cultures that make the event unique

● The ground floor of the exhibition will be devoted to messages from fans from as well as a growing collection of the official match balls

FIFA | Moscow

The budget beleaguered FIFA World Football Museum that has been a major casualty under FIFA president Gianni Infantino's sweeping cost cuts, has phoenix-like re-emerged for the Russian World Cup to

host major exhibition at Hyundai Motorstudio Moscow.

Titled "The History Makers", the exhibition will open June 9, and will focus on the history of the tournament and the fan cultures that make the event unique.

"Central to the whole experience is a giant circular LED screen, showing highlights and memorable moments from past finals and some of the greatest players to have featured in them," said a FIFA press release.

Two World Cup trophies will be displayed. The FIFA World Cup Winner's Trophy will be exhibited on the June 9 opening day, while the Jules Rimet Cup will be brought from the FIFA Museum in Zurich and be on display for the duration of the exhibition.

The facade of the Hyundai Motorstudio Moscow will be

transformed into a giant World Cup scoreboard, allowing fans in the street to follow the progress of the tournament.

Wonhong Cho, chief marketing officer of Hyundai Motor, a FIFA partner, said: "We are committed to supporting and furthering the development of world football by providing fans with unique and enjoyable experiences like this."

The ground floor of the exhibition will be devoted to messages from fans from as well as a growing collection of the adidas Telstar official match balls. After each of the 64 matches in the competition the ball used for the kick-off will be added to the exhibition.

The upstairs exhibition area will showcase the stories of the 20 World Cups so far and the playing legends that shaped them.