

A dynamic action shot from a soccer match. In the foreground, a player in a white and red striped jersey (USA) is leaning forward, focused on the ball. Behind him, a player in a dark blue jersey (Mexico) is also leaning in, attempting to challenge for the ball. The ball is a white and blue patterned soccer ball. The background is a blurred stadium filled with spectators. The entire image is framed by a large blue circular graphic on the right side.

# TECHNICAL REPORT SUB-20 CHAMPIONSHIP

Puebla, Mexico. February 2013





**TECHNICAL REPORT  
UNDER 20 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Puebla, Mexico.  
February 18 to March 3 2013.



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## FOREWORD OF PRESIDENT

# FOREWORD OF PRESIDENT

Dear CONCACAF Friends,

Over the past year we have been committed to developing football throughout the region and inspiring participation in the game. To illustrate, the recent CONCACAF U-20 Championship has revealed the unequivocal level of sport advancement and professional excellence of our young talent. Similarly, it has also proven an outstanding competition that promoted fair play on the pitch and showcased first-class football in all the games as well as the impressive essential skills of our players.

During the exceptional performance of all the 12 participating teams not only did we witness some of the best level of football in this category but the attendance figures were outstanding. The tournament is clearly growing in popularity with an average stadium attendance of 13,781 and over 40,000 spectators at the final. The exceptional team play provided a valuable platform that allowed to showcase a number of individual players who are destined to shine not only in the upcoming FIFA U-20 World Cup in Turkey but also in the extended careers ahead of them. In only 20 games, 65 goals were scored and two historic qualifications were obtained by Cuba and El Salvador, both of whom will participate in their first FIFA U-20 World Cup.

Moreover, this tournament has been of particular significant importance for some teams within the region, such as Curaçao, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico, who have reached a historic peak by making their way to the finals for the first time in history. All the qualified teams including Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico and the United States will now have to test their skills against the best talent the world has to offer in this category. Likewise, this year Mexico earned a second consecutive Under 20 title after defeating the USA 3-1 with two goals on aggregate time in a very exciting final. The tournament MVP went to Antonio Briseno from Mexico and our tournament leading scorer was Amet Ramirez from Panama.

I have a great deal of gratitude to this year's host who showed the world that, once again, Mexico is at the highest level of organization in the world of football tournaments. A special mention goes to the Governor of Puebla, Rafael Moreno Valle Rosas, the Mexican Football Federation, led by its President Justino Compean, as well as the members of the Local Organizing Committee.

Furthermore, we would like to thank our commercial partners, who played a key role in this event, and contribute to fulfilling our mission to develop, promote and manage football throughout the region with integrity, transparency, and passion in order to inspire participation in the game.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Webb".

**JEFFREY WEBB**  
Presidente



## I Introduction

The Technical Studies Group (TSG) was composed of Luis Hernández (Cuba) and Keith Look Loy (Trinidad & Tobago), with the support of Andrés Portabella (CONCACAF). The TSG participated in all games in the tournament in the following capacities:

- Technical and tactical analysis, with reports presented following each game.
- Interviews with team coaches via questionnaires.
- Compilation of statistics from each game.
- Selection of most valuable player (MVP) in each game.
- Selection of the tournament's most outstanding player.
- Selection of the most outstanding goalkeeper.
- Selection of the leading goal scorer.
- Selection of players for the All Star Tournament.
- Selection of the Fair Play team.
- Preparation of provisional and final tournament reports.

## II Preliminary Analysis

Las siguientes son estadísticas importantes y conclusiones del GET, incluyendo la fase de grupos, la ronda de cuartos de final y la ronda semifinal del torneo:

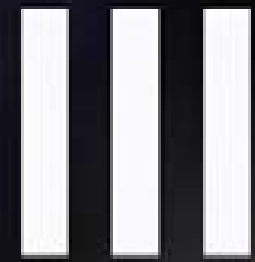
The following TSG statistics and conclusions include the group stage and quarter- and semifinals:

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| - Tournament MVP:   | Antonio BRISEÑO (Mexico) |
| - Lead Goal Scorer: | Amet RAMIREZ (Panama)    |
| - Best Goalkeeper:  | Richard SANCHEZ (Mexico) |
| - Fair Play Award:  | El Salvador              |

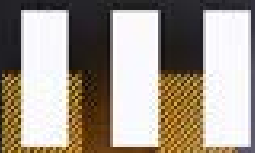
All Star team featuring the tournament's most outstanding players:

- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| - Goalkeeper:        | Richard SANCHEZ (1, Mexico)         |
| - Right-winger:      | Francisco FLORES (2, Mexico)        |
| - Left-winger:       | Bernardo HERNANDEZ (5, Mexico)      |
| - Center right:      | Edgardo MARIN (3, Mexico)           |
| - Center left:       | Antonio BRISENO (4, Mexico)         |
| - Center midfielder: | José Carlos Van RANKIN (15, Mexico) |
| - Center midfielder: | William TRAPP (6, USA)              |
| - Right midfielder:  | Jairo HENRIQUEZ (7, El Salvador)    |
| - Left midfielder:   | Luis GIL (10, USA)                  |
| - Forward:           | Amet RAMIREZ (14, Panama)           |
| - Forward:           | José VILLAREAL (7, USA)             |

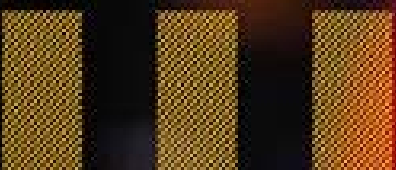
Based on a 4-4-2 formation, the one most commonly used by the participating teams (8 of 12).



# TECHNICAL TACTICAL TRENDS



TECHNICAL  
TACTICAL  
TRENDS



## TECHNICAL/TACTICAL TRENDS

The following are some of the TSG's top conclusions about technical and tactical trends among the tournament's under-20 teams:

### Systems of play:

4-4-2 was the formation most commonly used by the participating teams (8 of 12). One of the most popular variants was 4-5-1, and three of the teams used 3-5-2. Some teams displayed tactical flexibility as needed and changed their formation according to the characteristics of the game.

### Technical level:

Individual and collective technical levels varied among teams. Mexico demonstrated world-class technique far superior to the rest of the participating teams.

El Salvador also deployed individual players with an extremely high level of technical expertise. The other teams, while not achieving the same level as Mexico or El Salvador, also demonstrated good control of the ball. All of the teams performed well with regard to defensive headers and one-on-one play, and goalkeepers were competent across the board.

# TECHNICAL TACTICAL TRENDS

## Tactical organization and focus:

Regardless of their system of play, the majority of the teams varied their basic formation during attack or defense according to the characteristics of the opponent and different playing situations. For example, some teams using a 1-4-4-2 formation shifted to 1-2-4-4 for offensive play (deploying their lateral defense to centerfield, for instance, as in the cases of Mexico and the United States) and 1-5-4-1 for defense (by having a forward player fall back to centerfield, as in the cases of Costa Rica and Panama). Teams using a 1-3-5-2 system (Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Haiti) had significant problems fending off flanking counterattacks due to the lack of a permanent defense and excessive space between their lines.

The tournament's most outstanding teams demonstrated mobility and organized rotation of forward and midfield positions, allowing them to dominate the ball.

All of the teams deployed one or two defensive centerfielders in front of their central defense, a crucial factor in their general defense and attack organization. While collective defense strategy varied (for example, Mexico generally tried to recover the ball immediately after losing it, while Puerto Rico relied on a deep defensive position, generally in midfield), all of the teams attempted to apply pressing tactics. The most successful ones demonstrated effective marking of opposing players and defensive coverage. The less successful teams had more disorganized and incoherent strategies in

this sense, failing to achieve compact play between lines and leaving wide spaces for their opponents to move through.

Certain teams (Mexico, El Salvador, the US, Cuba) were better at spearheading attacks with midfield combinations, while others (Puerto Rico, Nicaragua) displayed serious technical problems. Canada, Costa Rica and Curacao, which relied excessively on long passes to isolated attackers, frequently lost possession of the ball. All of the teams, however, attempted counterattack strategies, again with varying success. (Mexico, Panama and Cuba were most successful in this sense).





# TECHNICAL TACTICAL TRENDS

## Goals:

A slight majority of goals (33, or 51%) were scored in the second half of the game. The teams began and ended games effectively: 11 goals were scored in the first and final minutes (17% in each period), but the number of goals increased progressively in the second half, with 8 (12%) scored in the fourth 15 minutes, 11 in the fifth period (17%), and 14 in the final period (22%). These figures indicate the following:

**A** Some teams (Curacao, Puerto Rico and Nicaragua) did not have sufficient physical conditioning, resulting in 14 goals (22% - almost one-fourth - in the final minutes of the game.

**B** Most of the teams did not warm up effectively, failing to achieve a gradual increase in the intensity of play and leading to poor concentration and mistakes early on in the game. Only Mexico displayed effective warm-up techniques, allowing it to score promptly.

**C** Strikers scored 27 goals (42% of the total), fewer than midfielders (32, or 49%), demonstrating that rotation of positions, constant support between lines and midfield scoring characteristic of modern soccer are effective attack strategies. Defensive players were not key to scoring goals, accounting for a total of only 6 (9%). These goals came mostly during penalty vs. open play, relying on midfield combinations rather than mid-distance kicks.

**D** Most goals (26, or 40%) were scored from inside the penalty area. Twenty-three (35%) were scored from the immediate goal box, indicating poor aim. Only 8 goals (12%) were scored from outside the penalty area, due to compact defensive lines, poor striking decisions and technical deficiencies.

- Stationary plays (e.g., free or corner kicks) were used productively, resulting in 13 goals (20%). Seven penalties were called in the entire tournament, accounting for six goals.

**E** Most of the teams made changes to their initial lineups as the tournament progressed.

## Effective playing time:

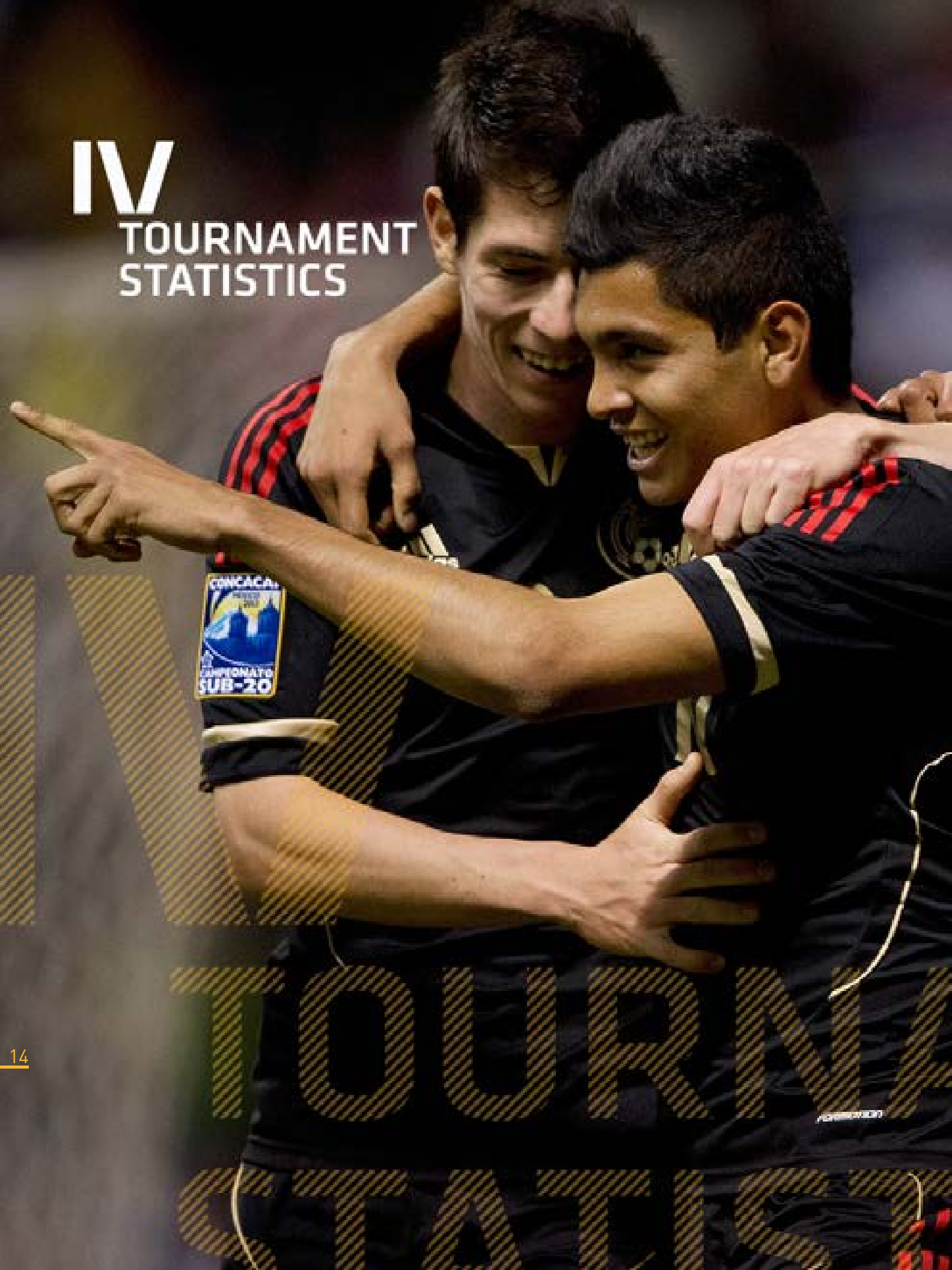
The average real playing time during this tournament was 49:30 minutes, below the average for the following international events: 55:29 (2012 U-17 Women's World Cup, Azerbaijan), 55:40 (2012 U-20 Women's World Cup, Japan) and 55:36 (2012 U-20 World Cup, Colombia). Mexico's games came closest to reaching average FIFA playing times. These figures suggest a need to give serious consideration to physical training for teams participating in the CONCACAF finals, as well as for the Confederation's representatives in FIFA tournaments. They also indicate that technical and tactical training, especially regarding control, passing and possession of the ball, should be a top concern for all CONCACAF member associations.

## Warm-up:

Warm-up techniques varied among the different teams. The most effective team in this regard was Mexico. The host team followed a gradual high-intensity routine before games that mentally prepared players to seize the initiative early on in the game, resulting in high-intensity attacks and defensive pressing against opponents from the very beginning. In this sense, Mexico was able to take maximum advantage of the first minutes in the game. By comparison, the warm-up routines of other participating teams were not sufficiently intense, reflected in mistakes they made in the first 15 minutes of play.



# IV TOURNAMENT STATISTICS



## IV. I. Results First Round

**February 18**  
Haiti 1 - 2 United States  
Cuba 2 - 1 Canada

**February 19**  
Puerto Rico 1 - 4 Jamaica  
Mexico 3 - 0 Curacao

**February 20**  
Costa Rica 1 - 0 Haiti  
Nicaragua 0 - 3 Cuba

**February 21**  
Panama 4 - 0 Puerto Rico  
El Salvador 2 - 1 Curacao

**February 22**  
United States 1 - 0 Costa Rica  
Canada 5 - 1 Nicaragua

**February 23**  
Jamaica 0 - 4 Panama  
Mexico 3 - 0 El Salvador

## IV. II. List of Goal Scorers

Players with 4 Goals

1- Amet Ramírez. Panama  
(2 goals vs. Puerto Rico, 2 goals vs. Jamaica).

Players with 3 Goals

2- Maikel Reyes. Cuba  
(2 goals vs. Canada, 1 vs. Nicaragua).

3- Jesús Corona. Mexico  
(2 vs. Curacao, 1 vs. USA).

4- José Villarreal. USA  
(1 vs. Costa Rica, 2 vs. Canada)

Players with 2 Goals

5- Kendan Anderson. Jamaica  
(2 goals vs. Puerto Rico)

Quarterfinals

**February 26**  
United States 4 - 2 Canada  
Cuba 2 - 1 Costa Rica

**February 27**  
Panama 1 - 3 El Salvador  
Mexico 4 - 0 Jamaica

Semifinals

**March 1**  
United States 2 - 0 Cuba  
Mexico 2 - 0 El Salvador

3rd Place and Final

**March 3**  
Cuba 0 - 1 El Salvador  
Mexico 3 - 1 United States

6-Marco Bueno. Mexico  
(1 vs. Curacao, 1 vs. Jamaica)

7-Caleb Clarke. Canada  
(2 vs. Nicaragua)

8- Daniel Cuevas. USA  
(1 vs. Haiti, 1 vs. Cuba)

9- Jesús Escoboza. Mexico  
(1 vs. El Salvador, 1 vs. Jamaica)

10-Luis Gil. USA  
(1 vs. Haiti, 1 vs. Canada)

11-Julio Gómez. Mexico  
(1 vs. El Salvador, 1 vs. USA)

12-Jairo Henríquez. El Salvador  
(2 vs. Panama)

# IV TOURNAMENT STATISTICS

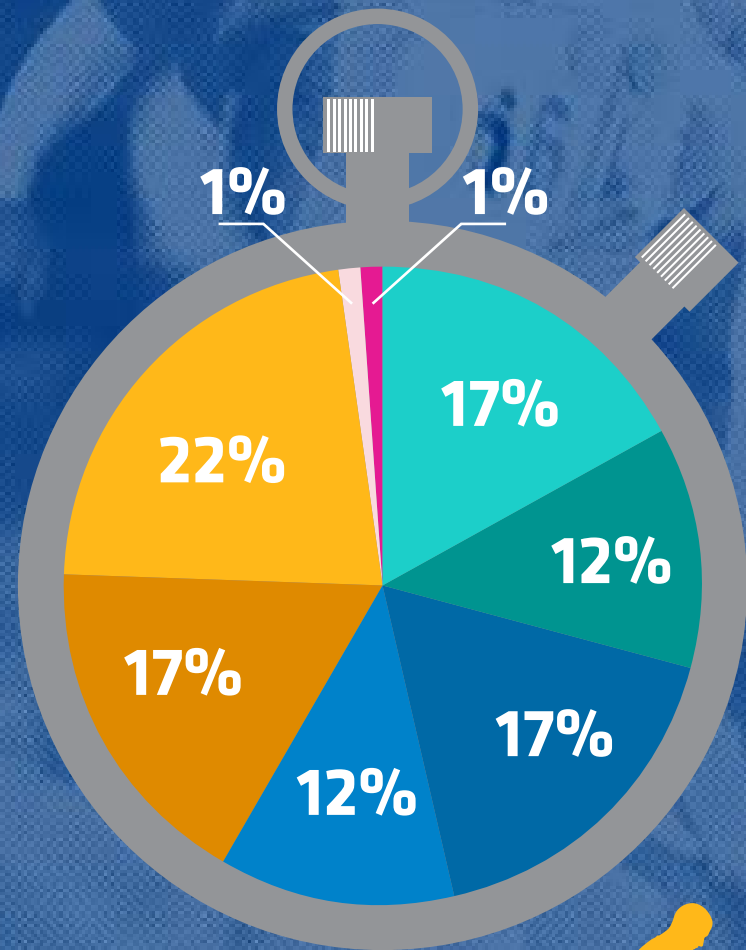
- 13-Arichell Hernández. Cuba (2 vs. Costa Rica)
- 14-Jairo Jiménez. Panama (1 vs. Jamaica, 1 vs. El Salvador)
- Players with 1 Goal
- 15-Olivier Ayala. El Salvador (1 vs. Curacao, own goal vs. Mexico))
- 16-Roberto Chen. Panama (1 vs. Puerto Rico)
- 18-Adrián Arturo Diz Pe. Cuba (1 vs. Nicaragua)
- 19-Jorge Espericueta. Mexico (1 vs. USA)
- 20-Mauro Eustaquio. Canada (1 vs. Nicaragua)
- 22-Francisco Flores. Mexico (1 vs. Jamaica)
- 23-Alejandro González. Panama (1 vs. Puerto Rico)
- 24-Roberto Gonzales. El Salvador (1 vs. Cuba)
- 25-Omar Holness. Jamaica (1 vs. Puerto Rico)
- 26-Benjamin Joya. USA (1 vs. Mexico)
- 27-Damion Lowe. Jamaica (1 vs. Puerto Rico)
- 28-Daniel Luis Sáez. Cuba (1 vs. Nicaragua)
- 29-Dany Jean-Maurice. Haiti (1 vs. USA)
- 30-Ben McKendry. Canada (1 vs. Nicaragua)
- 31-Romel Mejía. El Salvador (1 vs. Curacao)
- 32-Vidarrell Merencia. Curacao (1 vs. El Salvador)
- 33-Eulises Pavón. Nicaragua (1 vs. Canada)
- 34-José Peña. El Salvador (1 vs. Panama)
- 35-Samuel Piette. Canada (1 vs. Nicaragua)
- 36-Romario Piggott. Panama (1 vs. Jamaica)
- 37-David Ramírez. Costa Rica (1 vs. Cuba)
- 38-Mario Rodríguez. USA (1 vs. Cuba)
- 39-John Jairo Ruiz. Costa Rica (1 vs. Haiti)
- 40-Reid Strain. Puerto Rico (1 vs. Jamaica)
- 41-William Trapp. USA (1 vs. Canada)
- 42-Stefan Vuckovic. Canada (1 vs. Cuba)
- 43-Armando Zamorano. Mexico (1 vs. Jamaica)

## IV. III. GOALS AND YELLOW /RED CARDS

TEAM	GP	GS	GA	YC	RC
CANADA	3	8	7	6	1
COSTA RICA	3	2	3	7	0
CUBA	5	7	5	3	1
CURAZAO	2	1	5	8	0
EL SALVADOR	5	6	7	10	0
HAITI	2	1	3	4	0
JAMAICA	3	4	9	5	0
MEXICO	5	15	1	6	0
NICARAGUA	2	1	8	4	1
PANAMA	3	9	3	6	0
PUERTO RICO	2	1	8	4	1
USA	5	10	6	9	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>5</b>

# IV TOURNAMENT STATISTICS

# TOURNAMENT STATISTICS



## IV. IV. Goals scored (by minute)

Time	Goals
0-15	11
16-30	8
31-45	11
46-60	8
61-75	11
76-90	14
91-105	1
106-120	1

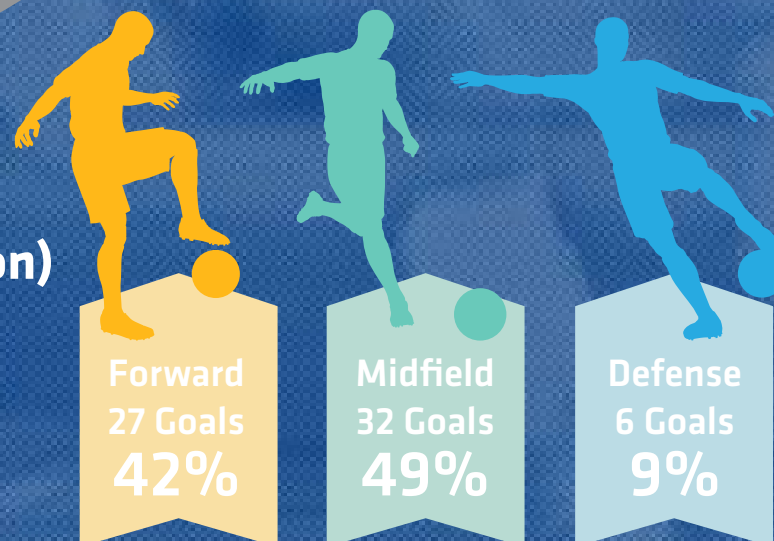


## IV. VI. Goals scored (by area)

Inside the goal box	23	35%
Inside the penalty area	26	40%
Outside the penalty area	8	12%
Penalties	6*	9%
Free kicks**	2	3%

NOTES: \*Panama missed a penalty kick against El Salvador  
\*\*Mexico scored on two free kicks against Jamaica

## IV. V. Goals scored (by player's position)



## IV. VII. Averages per game

Goals	3.25
Yellow cards	3.65
Red cards	0.25

# IV

## TOURNAMENT STATISTICS

### IV. VIII. Effective playing time per game

Game:	Effective playing time per game
1. Haiti vs. USA	48:01
2. Cuba vs. Canada	48:56
3. Puerto Rico vs. Canada	54:11
4. Mexico vs. Curacao	53:12
5. Costa Rica vs. Haiti	52:00
6. Nicaragua vs. Cuba	46:01
7. Panama vs. Puerto Rico	47:46
8. El Salvador vs. Curacao	47:29
9. USA vs. Costa Rica	43:56
10. Canada vs. Nicaragua	45:58
11. Jamaica vs. Panama	49:14
12. Mexico vs. El Salvador	52:11
13. USA vs. Canada	48:00
14. Cuba vs. Costa Rica	49:53
15. Panama vs. El Salvador	46:09
16. Mexico vs. Jamaica	51:04
17. USA vs. Cuba	51:09
18. Mexico vs. El Salvador	51:01
19. Cuba vs. El Salvador	54:08
20. Mexico vs. USA	48:25
<b>Average effective time:</b>	<b>49:30</b>

### IV. IX. Audience attendance at games

Game:	Audience attendance at games
1. Haiti vs. USA	3,827
2. Cuba vs. Canada	3,827
3. Puerto Rico vs. Canada	21,000
4. Mexico vs. Curacao	21,000
5. Costa Rica vs. Haiti	3,128
6. Nicaragua vs. Cuba	3,128
7. Panama vs. Puerto Rico	4,635
8. El Salvador vs. Curacao	4,618
9. USA vs. Costa Rica	3,123
10. Canada vs. Nicaragua	3,123
11. Jamaica vs. Panama	12,886
12. Mexico vs. El Salvador	36,602
13. USA vs. Canada	1,500
14. Cuba vs. Costa Rica	1,685
15. Panama vs. El Salvador	9,980
16. Mexico vs. Jamaica	39,700
17. USA vs. Cuba	10,568
18. <b>Mexico vs. El Salvador</b>	<b>33,525</b>
19. <b>Cuba vs. El Salvador</b>	<b>17,140</b>
20. <b>Mexico vs. USA</b>	<b>40,621</b>
<b>Average attendance:</b>	<b>13,781</b>

### IV. X. Average Age Of Teams

Canada	19
Cuba	19
Costa Rica	19
Curaçao	20
El Salvador	19
Haití	19
Jamaica	19
Mexico	19
Nicaragua	19
Panama	19
Puerto Rico	19
United States	19



# IV

## TOURNAMENT STATISTICS

# V CONCLUSIONS

**The tournament was a success from a technical standpoint, clearly demonstrating:**

- The world-class level of some of the participating teams, especially Mexico.
- The participation of countries that rarely make it to the CONCACAF finals, among them Puerto Rico, Curacao and Nicaragua.
- Cuba and El Salvador's classification for FIFA's U-20 tournament for the first time.
- Friendly rivalry among teams seeking to emerge as winners.
- The teams' willingness to adapt their tactics and systems of play.
- The clean play the teams engaged in and their adherence to Fair Play principles.
- The participation of many talented players.
- Public support in attending the games and cheering on the teams.



# VI RECOMMENDATIONS

**Analysis of the 12 teams participating in the tournament and the 20 games played indicates a need to address the following areas in training the players and their teams:**

- Adequate physical conditioning for engaging in high-level games.
- Preparation of an appropriate training plan for competing in CONCACAF finals.
- Development of warm-up routines with a gradual buildup of intensity.
- Ability to execute technical skills under pressure and in a restricted space.
- Consistent defense and midfield organization.
- Increase possession of the ball and improve combination plays.
- Avoid depending on counterattacks alone.
- Inconsistent striking techniques and shots rarely attempted outside the penalty area.
- Achieving organized and compact offensive and defensive plays.
- Developing a training schedule with a sufficient number of games.
- Giving players with the appropriate competitive and playing experience access to these events.
- Work closely on the technical aspects of scoring in real game situations.
- Keep the player lineup stable from game to game.
- Improve the execution, number and timing of substitutions during games.
- Hold CONCACAF finals in countries with a tradition of soccer, excellent infrastructure and public support, to make such events true showcases for the sport.

# VII

## VIII. TEAM ANALYSIS (TECHNICAL, TACTICAL AND PHYSICAL)



Mexico, the 2013 champion



The USA wins second place in the Pre-World Cup.



Third-place El Salvador celebrates its first-ever classification for a U-20 World Cup after a 3-1 defeat over Panama.



Cuba takes fourth place in Mexico with a 2-1 win over Costa Rica, joining El Salvador in classifying for a U-20 World Cup (to be held in Turkey later this year) for the first time in the team's history.



With an average player age of 19, the winner of the U-17 championship relies on a core of 8 players. Decisive wins in all five of its games easily elevated Mexico to the top position in the U-20 category as well. Mexico scored a total of 15 goals and gave up only one to its opponents. Six of the 11 players on the CONCACAF All Star team are from Mexico, the most from any country.



### TACTICAL

Formation:  
1-4-4-2 to 1-3-5-2



### TECHNICAL

A collection of highly skilled individual players working together toward a common goal. Excellent 1-on-1 skills and fluid performance in a restricted space. The team's high technical level allows it to execute precise combination plays regardless of pressure from the opposing side.

### PHYSICAL

The players displayed very good physical conditioning throughout the tournament, allowing them to maintain a compact formation for attacks and defense. Fast and powerful. An excellent warm-up routine before matches enabled players to perform effectively from early on in the game.

### TACTICAL

Basic 1-4-4-2 formation with 1-3-5-2 and 1-4-3-3 variations when on the attack thanks to the mobility of midfield players and offensive strikes by lateral defensive players. Compact play in both defense and attack. Excellent centerfield organization allows the team to execute complicated plays. Well-organized and effective system of play.

### DEFENSE

Very well organized and compact with great ability to anticipate plays. Excellent aerial and 1-on-1 plays. Use of pressing tactics throughout the field, disorganizing the opposing team. Excellent coverage and defensive support.

### ATTACK

Based fundamentally on the excellent individual technique of its players and the mobility of its midfielders and forwards. Skilled forwards who execute effective combination plays and shift fluidly from defense to attack. Confident and eager to score. The tournament's MVP was the Mexico team captain, #4 Antonio Briseño (center defense).

### DEFICIENCIES

Maintaining concentration in the final minutes of the game.

### OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

#1 / #2 / 4# / #6 / #15 / #18 / #5 / #10 / #9 / #20.



# UNITED STATES 19

Classified directly for the pre-World Cup. Average player age: 19, including several players who play for foreign clubs. The team gradually improved its performance in the 5 games it played and faced Mexico in the final, winning second place in the tournament. Three players (#6, #7, #10) were chosen for CONCACAF's ideal 11.



## TACTICAL

Formation:  
1-4-5-1 to 1-4-4-2



## TECHNICAL

Good individual technique and dangerous on the counterattack. Good control of the ball and possession in mid-field. Needs to improve the precision of its passes under pressure from the opposing team.

## PHYSICAL

Good level of physical conditioning. Players are fast, strong and able to maintain the rhythm of play. Thanks to their physical conditioning, players are confident in defense and aerial play. Positive mental outlook.

## TACTICAL

Basic 1- 4-5-1 formation alternating with 1- 4-4-2 according to the circumstances of the game. Good possession of the ball and successful at setting up midfield plays thanks to its midfield centers, especially #6. Well-organized and effective counterattacks thanks to the individual skills of players #20 and #7 #8 and #10. After the team classified, 3 of its best players returned to the US and did not participate in the tournament's final games.

## DEFENSE

Fast, confident and good control of the ball, and combination plays incorporating defensive lines. Effective marking of opposing players in midfield, especially in the match vs. Mexico. Capable goalkeeper; solid, compact and organized defense. Good aerial plays.

## ATTACK

Employed according to the circumstances of the game and opposing team. Offensive strikes incorporate 1, 2 or even 3 forwards with the support of the midfield and lateral defense. Skilled, strong players with the ability to define plays.

## DEFICIENCIES

Needs to improve the precision of its passes under pressure from the opposing team.

## OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

#1 / #2 / 4# / #6 / #15 / #18 / #5 / #10 / #9 / #20.



# EL SALVADOR

Won third place in the tournament. Average player age: 19. Began in Group 3 with Mexico and Curacao, classifying in 2nd place. Made it to the quarterfinals for the first time in a world championship, eliminating Panama 3-1. Scored 6 goals in 5 games, with 7 scored against (5 by Mexico, the tournament's champion). Player #7 was chosen for the tournament's All Star lineup.

## TACTICAL

Formation: 1-4-4-2



## TECHNICAL

Good individual and collective technique. Good control and possession of the ball in a restricted space under pressure from the opposing team. Effective defensive headers. Very good individual ability to shift into attack mode. Excellent individual play thanks to skillful players.

## PHYSICAL

Excellent physical conditioning with great aerobic and anaerobic capacity in all games. Strong 1x1 marking. Fast, extremely mobile players who shift positions throughout the game. Thanks to this physical capacity, the team maintains compact play between lines in all games.

## TACTICAL

Basic 1-4-4-2 formation changing to 1-4-5-1 for defense and attack, and 1-3-4-3 or 1-3-3-4 thanks to midfield and defensive support. Well organized and disciplined in both defense and attack. Play based in centerfield using the center defense (players #4 and #6) and center midfielders (#15 and #2) to organize and create plays. Good organization after gaining possession of the ball to shift rapidly to counterattack, with compact play between lines. Press opponents to recover ball. Intensive midfield presence.

## DEFENSE

Vary basic 1-4-5-1 formation to close up spaces in midfield and pressure opponents to maintain compact play between lines. Good marking and midfield and defensive coverage, demonstrating a collective spirit of sacrifice for defensive recovery of the ball. Deficient defensive organization against standard plays.

## ATTACK

Basic 1-4-4-2 formation with 1-3-4-3 and 1-3-3-4 variants used offensively according to the characteristics of the opponent and game situations. Lateral defense supports attacks, going in deep and wide. Rapid shift from defense to counterattack organized and supported by skilled individual players and offense.

## DEFICIENCIES

- 1- Deficient defensive organization against standard plays.
- 2-Need to go deeper on attacks.
- 3-Need more defensive players to face opponent's counterattacks.

## OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

#1 / #5 / #7 / #10 / #11 / #9



Average player age: 19. Part of Group B along with Canada and Nicaragua; defeated both. Beat Costa Rica in the quarterfinals, classifying for the upcoming U-20 World Cup for the first time in the country's history. Came in 4th place in the tournament.



## TACTICAL

Formation: 1-4-5-1



## TECHNICAL

Average technical skill with serious problems passing the ball under pressure. Technical difficulties when attempting to score, receiving the ball and executing combination plays. Limited control and handling of ball. Good heading techniques.

## PHYSICAL

Good physical conditioning. Tall, strong and fast players. Need to improve mobility among players and lines.

## TACTICAL

Basic 1-4-5-1 formation with a center forward on point. This player was key to the team's performance in the first three games. Strategy relies on direct attack and swift counterattack. Little possession of the ball due to technical limitations and poor mobility of midfielders and forwards. Maintained a stable lineup of players throughout the tournament.

## DEFENSE

Defensive bloc of 7-8 players stays far behind and relies mostly on long, direct passes. Difficulty in 1 x 1 situations against skilled players. Good on aerial defense and attack given the generally tall stature of the players. Failed to achieve compact defensive play between lines.

Capable goalie.

Defensive line has serious difficulties passing when the team gets the ball, especially under pressure from the opponent.

## ATTACK

Mostly relies on counterattacks and swift combination plays by forwards #9 and #14 effective in creating scoring opportunities. Very dangerous in standard plays (penalties and corner kicks) due to stature, jumping ability and good heading technique. Little support from the midfield and lateral defensive lines. Failure to achieve compact attacks. Little development of combination plays for attack or possession of the ball.

## DEFICIENCIES

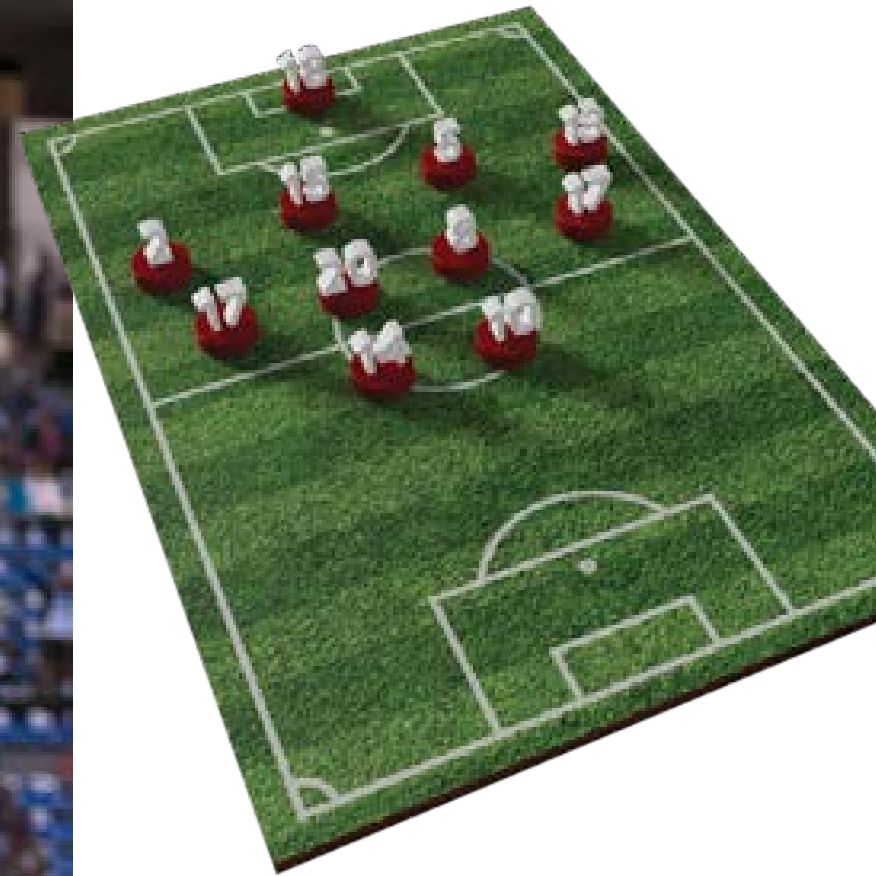
- 1-Low level of technical skill under pressure from opponents, leading to bad passes in all games.
- 2-Little possession of the ball or development of plays in midfield.
- 3-Serious difficulties in passing the ball from the defensive line.
- 4-Little mobility among midfielders and forwards to allow the team to advance.

## OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

#14 / #1 / #2 / #9



Average player age: 19. Part of Group C alongside Jamaica and Puerto Rico and scored goals against both, ranking as the team with the most goals in the group stage of play. Eliminated in the quarterfinals after a 3-1 loss against El Salvador. Player #14 was the tournament's top scorer and named to CONCACAF's All Star lineup.



## TACTICAL

Formation:  
1-4-4-2 to 1-4-5-1



## TECHNICAL

Good individual technique to support team goals. Good control of the ball and midfield play development. Effective aerial play and scoring attempts. Players are skilled and capable of defining the course of games.

## PHYSICAL

Good physical performance in the team's first two games but not in the match against El Salvador, where top players did not hold up well. Tall, strong and fast players. Good physical conditioning allows them to achieve compact play between lines.

## TACTICAL

Basic 1-4-4-2 formation, changing to 1-4-5-1 in accordance with conditions of play and opponents. Starts off well from the defensive and midfield lines with effective combinations and organized counterattacks. Players shift focus rapidly and use the breadth of the field, maintaining possession of the ball. Compact play between lines in both defense and attacks. Skilled players capable of unbalancing the opposition (#14, #7, #10).

## DEFENSE

Organized and disciplined; press opponents in midfield. Strong and confident in aerial and 1 x 1 play. Compact defense between lines.

## ATTACK

Good combination play. Effective use of individual play thanks to skilled offense, especially #14, the tournament's leading goal scorer. Deep and effective offense. Dangerous and organized counterattacks. Mostly attack from the right using wingman #2.

## DEFICIENCIES

1-Poor concentration in decisive quarterfinals game against El Salvador.  
2-Poor physical performance in the second half of the El Salvador game.

## OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

#14 / #7 / #10 / #2



Average player age: 19. Played in Group B along with Cuba and Nicaragua, classifying in second place. Six goals in favor, three against. Made it to the quarterfinals, where it lost 4-2 against the USA.



## TACTICAL

Formation:  
1-4-5-1 to 1-4-4-2



## TECHNICAL

Good level of individual and collective technical skill. Competent control of the ball in a restricted space with pressure from the opposing team. Technical deficiencies on long passes. Good heading technique by centerfielders and defense.

## PHYSICAL

Good level of collective physical conditioning. Fast players with a good capacity to recover from mistakes; fast and decisive in 1-on-1 situations. Good physical performance throughout the tournament.

## TACTICAL

Basic 1-4-5-1 formation with a 1-4-4-2 variation according to the conditions and circumstances of play. Four defensive players, 2 midfielders and one floater who supports the center forward in attacks and the midfield line in defense. Effectively mark opposing midfield players to close up spaces. Swift counterattacks supported by the midfield and lateral defense. Changed its system in the match against the US to rely on direct attacks from the goal line and defensive plays by the center forward, which were mostly ineffective.

## DEFENSE

Line of four supported by two midfielders. Intensive midfield presence to recover the ball. Center defense sometimes vulnerable in 1x1 plays. Problems blocking the opponent's offense and insufficient defensive coverage. The team captain was injured and left the field in minute 33 of the USA game, weakening the defensive line.

## ATTACK

Good midfield possession of the ball, using the breadth of the field thanks to lateral defensive support on offense. Counterattack strategy sends player #9 deep into the opponent's territory. Good use of space behind the opposing lateral defense in counterattacks.

## DEFICIENCIES

- 1-Disorganized defensive teamwork.
- 2-Inconsistent 1 x 1 marking and defensive coverage.
- 3-Lose possession of the ball due to bad midfield passes.
- 4-Failure to execute combination offensive plays and poor coordination between lines.

## OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

#4 / #6 / #13 / #9



Average age of players: 19. Played in Group A of the tournament alongside the USA and Haiti, classifying in second place. One goal in favor, one against with one victory and one loss. Eliminated after 2-1 defeat against Cuba in quarterfinals.



## TACTICAL

Formation:  
1-4-4-1 to 1-4-3-3



## TECHNICAL

Good level of individual and collective technique. Good defensive and midfield possession of the ball. Slow transitioning from defense to attack. Good level of skill in individual play. Good defensive headers. Technical difficulties when trying to score when the ball is in play.

## PHYSICAL

Physical performance improved as the tournament progressed, but generally weaker in the second half of games, making it difficult to maintain compact play between offensive and defensive lines. Strong players, especially in aerial plays.

## TACTICAL

Basic 1-4-4-2 formation with 1-4-3-3 variation according to conditions of play and the opponent's level. System of play based mostly on direct attacks with the goalkeeper moving far from the goal and the defensive line advancing to the center forward (#17) position. Little offensive support from the midfield and defensive lines. Unable to achieve compact play between lines in attacks or defense. Do not go deep enough in attacks and ineffective strikes at goal. Only two goals scored in favor in three games.

## DEFENSE

Modified formation from 1-4-4-2 to 1-4-5-1 to close midfield spaces and pressure opposing team to recover ball. Good aerial defensive play. Slow transition to defensive coverage, allowing the opposing team to advance up the side of the field.

## ATTACK

Offensive strategy based mostly on direct and counterattacks. Poor mobility during attacks. Little depth and infrequent proximity to the opponent's goal (only 2 goals scored in 3 games). Inability to achieve compact play and insufficient support from midfield and defensive lines. Only rarely achieved effective midfield-forward combinations.

## DEFICIENCIES

- Failure to maintain compact play between lines, whether in attacks or defense.
- Generally poor physical performance in the second half of games.
- Attacks do not go deep enough; poor strikes at goal.
- Lack of creative attack strategies.

## OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

#11



Jamaica hosted the final elimination match for the Caribbean division and came to the tournament undefeated as CFU champions. Average player age: 19. In Group C with Panama and Puerto Rico; eliminated after losing 4-0 to Mexico in the quarterfinals.

### TACTICAL

Formation: 1-3-6-1



### TECHNICAL

Average individual and collective techniques, especially when pressured by the opposing team in a restricted space. Technical difficulties when trying to score. Ineffective use of midfield kicks.

### PHYSICAL

Good physical conditioning. Tall, fast players. Strong aerial play.

### TACTICAL

Formation: 1-3-6-1, with a 3-5-2 variant. Against Mexico, 1-5-4-1, including personal marking of opponents. Players concentrated in midfield and use the breadth of the field in this area, with ample mobility and rotation. The team demonstrated good possession of the ball in its first two games but not against Mexico. For this game, the team changed its tactic to counterattacks but suffered from long, disorganized passes.

### DEFENSE

Three dedicated defensive players in the first two games, increasing to 5 against Mexico. Reliance on only 3 defensive players opened spaces for the opposing team to counterattack. Used pressure tactics against opponents in midfield. Defense became disorganized under pressure from opponent. More priority given to offense than to a solid defense. Jamaica gave up 9 goals in 3 games, demonstrating serious problems with defense.

### ATTACK

Play based in midfield but lacking offensive clarity, depth or combinations. Serious technical difficulties when attempting to score. More priority given to individual players rather than teamwork during attacks. Ineffective scoring attempts from midfield.

### DEFICIENCIES

- 1-A generally disorganized defense throughout the event.
- 2-Too much space along the sides of the field for the opponent to penetrate.
- 3-Failure to achieve compact defensive play.
- 4-Difficulty with defensive 1x1 encounters.
- 5-Lack of offensive depth and effectiveness.
- 6-Slow transitioning from defense to deep attack mode.

### OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

# 10 / #11



Included in Group A with the USA and Costa Rica, Haiti lost against both and was eliminated after scoring only 1 goal and giving up 3. Average age of players: 19.



**TACTICAL**  
Formation: 1-3-5-2



**TECHNICAL**

Good individual and collective technique. Good control and handling of the ball in a restricted space with pressure from the opposing team. Individually skilled and effective players but deficient in scoring goals. Good defensive heading technique.

**PHYSICAL**

Strong and fast individually and as a team. Excellent anaerobic and aerobic capacity. Strong marking 1 x 1 and disputing the ball.

**TACTICAL**

Basic 1-3-5-2 formation with a 1-4-4-2 variant according to game situations and the opponent's characteristics. 5-6 midfielders with good mobility and rotation, resulting in excellent possession of the ball in this zone. Use the breadth of the field to launch attacks on the left flank by player #17. Emphasis on offense with serious problems on the defensive line. Excessive number of players deployed for marking opposing forwards, who were often forced to resort to individual play to overcome the Haitian defenders.

**DEFENSE**

3 defensive players and one midfielder, who in reality played a more offensive role, weakening the team's defenses. Slow transitioning from defense to offense. Poor concentration in the first 15 minutes of the game, allowing opposing teams to score goals that later proved decisive in deciding the outcome of matches.

**ATTACK**

Compact play in midfield with excellent mobility and rotation of positions, contributing to effective possession of the ball in this area. Offense based on combination plays and counterattacks with little depth, definition or precision in scoring attempts. Excellent lateral play, especially on the left side, led by player #17.

**DEFICIENCIES**

- 1-Weak and fragile defensive organization.
- 2-Poor concentration in the first 15 minutes of play.
- 3-Little depth or effectiveness in attack.

**OUTSTANDING PLAYERS**

#9 / # 4 / #10 / #14 / #20



This was the first time the Caribbean team classified for a CONCACAF final in this category. Most team members play abroad for Dutch teams. Curacao began the tournament in Group D with Mexico and El Salvador and was eliminated after losing to both. It scored only one goal in the tournament, giving up four goals in turn.



### TACTICAL

Formation: 1-4-4-2



**TECHNICAL**  
Technical problems controlling the ball and passing. Team-wide deficiencies impeded possession of the ball and effective scoring. Good defensive headers and a capable goalie.

**PHYSICAL**  
Tall, strong players. Deficient physical conditioning most pronounced in the second half of play, when performance deteriorated.

**TACTICAL**  
Basic 1-3-5-2 formation with a 1-4-5-1 variant according to the opponent and situation. Defense relies on 4 defenders and two midfielders. Poorly organized defense and attack owing largely to direct attacks and counterattacks from the goal and defensive line to center forward, foiled by bad passes and lost balls. Undisciplined personal tactics impeded compact play in both defense and attacks. Substitutions in the second half improved the team's performance and level of play.

**DEFENSE**  
Defensive bloc of 6 to 7 players in midfield. Failure to achieve compact play between defensive lines opened up big spaces for the opponent. Good defensive heading and a capable goalie. Deficient in 1x1 defensive coverage.

**ATTACK**  
Relies mostly on disorganized direct attacks and counterattacks. Lack of depth and effectiveness in culminating offensive plays. Deficient compact play to support attacks. Poor possession of the ball in midfield and ineffective development of plays and attack combinations.

- DEFICIENCIES**
- 1-Disorganized offense and defense.
  - 2-Low level of technical skill, leading to lost balls and failed plays.
  - 3-Bad passes.
  - 4-Ineffective 1 x 1 marking and defensive coverage.
  - 5-Failure to achieve compact play between lines.

**OUTSTANDING PLAYERS**  
#1





This was the first time the team classified for a CONCACAF final, by eliminating one of the top Central American teams, Honduras. Average player age: 19. The team entered the tournament in Group B alongside Cuba and Canada and was eliminated after losing to both. Nicaragua scored one goal in the tournament and gave up seven.

### TACTICAL

Formation: 1-4-4-2



### TECHNICAL

Average individual ability and control of the ball in restricted spaces. Technical difficulties in attempts to score while the ball is in play. Trouble heading the ball due to the short stature of most players.

### PHYSICAL

Fast players with the greatest mobility in midfield. Physical performance declined in the second half of games, contributing to the team's disorganization. Average physical conditioning played a factor in the team's negative results.

### TACTICAL

Basic 1-3-5-2 formation with a 1-4-5-1 variant according to the conditions of the match and the opponent. Good mobility and rotation of midfield players, but ineffective attacks that do not go deep enough. Players use the breadth of the field with support from lateral defense.

### DEFENSE

Initial system of 3 defenders grouped in midfield to maintain an intensive presence in this area. Difficulty with aerial play given the players' generally short stature. Decline of physical performance in the second half of games results in a disorganized defense, leaving space for opponents to counterattack up the side of the field. Compact play between lines broke down in the second half of games.

### ATTACK

The team scored only one goal, showing a lack of depth and precision. Poor communication and combination play foiled attempts to strike at the opponent's goal. Offensive play was based mainly in midfield.

### DEFICIENCIES

- 1-Little depth or effectiveness on the part of offense.
- 2-Decline in physical performance in the second half of games.
- 3-Disorganized defense.

### OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

#17



# PUERTO RICO

Average age of players: 19. In Group C with Jamaica and Panama, and losing to both (1 goal for, 8 against). This was Puerto Rico's first appearance in a CONCACAF U-20 final.



## TACTICAL

Formation: 1-4-5-1



## DEFENSE

Disorganized when only 3 defenders deployed, opening up spaces for the opposing team to attack on the flanks. Failure to achieve compact defensive play. Difficulty in 1 x 1 play against skilled players.

## ATTACK

Mostly rely on direct attacks from the defensive line and disorganized and isolated counterattacks. Few combinations and little communication among attackers. Little depth or effectiveness in scoring attempts.

## DEFICIENCIES

- 1-Disorganized offensive and defensive play.
- 2-Little possession of the ball or creation of offensive plays.
- 3-No support from the rear lines for offensive plays.
- 4-Lack of depth or ability to finalize attacks.
- 5-Lack of mobility, rotation of positions or development of offensive or midfield plays.

## OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

#9

## TECHNICAL

Technical limitations passing the ball under pressure from the opposing team. Little possession of the ball due to these technical limitations. Problems when attempting to score the ball during ongoing play.

## PHYSICAL

Poor physical conditioning, especially in the second half of games, making it impossible to achieve compact play between lines and mobility throughout the game.

## TACTICAL

Basic 1-4-5-1 formation with 1-3-6-1 variant. A defined system for counterattacks with one forward isolated on point.

Defensive bloc of 7-8 players relies on direct attacks from the goal line. In most cases, the defensive line is poor at passing. Little development of midfield plays and the team loses possession of the ball under pressure from the opposing team. Failure to achieve compact play between lines.





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