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ENGLAND NAME MEN'S WORLD CUP SQUAD - free service

By Neil Goulding (English Lacrosse Press Officer, 07813 859986)

ENGLAND have named their 23-man team and seven reserves for this summer's World Cup in Manchester.

Head coach Dave Elwood and his coaching staff have had to make some tough decisions about who should and shouldn't be included.

But those decisions have been made and now the national men's side have just over three months to make sure they are ready for action when this year's senior competition kicks off on Thursday 15th July, with the hosts to face the Iroquois in the opening match of this year's event.

The majority of the team, barring a number of overseas players included in this year's line-up, will meet up in Manchester next week for their first training session since the final squad was announced.

And then squad will be joined by some of their overseas players on an intensive whistle-stop tour of the East Coast of America early next month, a weekend schedule which will see the national side test themselves against "high level" opposition according to Elwood.

"The vast majority of our players are based in England," said Elwood.

"We feel as though we've got a good mix of youth and experience.

"We've had to make some really tough decisions. It's the hardest part of my of my job when I have to tell a player he's not selected, but that's what I have to do. It's never easy."

In total there are 13 players selected from England's successful gold-medal winning side from 2008, while three players have made the jump up from Under-19 level for senior call-ups.

There are three overseas players included, as well as three American-based players and two Canadian-based players, all of whom have British passports and so have official international clearance to play for England.

"We have got three overseas players, but we have also selected a number of overseas-based players who are British passport holders and whom we feel will benefit the squad," added Elwood.

"It's always very difficult to replace a homegrown player with an overseas player, but our job is to put the best team on the field. We feel we've done that.

"All of the overseas players have impressed us and fitted into the squad. That was very important to us.

"The younger players will bring that youth and enthusiam we are looking for, while the more experienced players in the squad will provide cool heads and experience is something which we cannot buy."

In all there are 10 players in the squad who competed for England at the 2006 World Cup in Ontario, Canada with Elwood and his team not afraid to make changes.

Cuts have been made along the way since the national side trialled for players, but more recently Robin Foster (Heaton Mersey), Gordon Burdis (Cheadle), Chris Manwearing (unattached, overseas), Neil Marshall (Rochdale), Richard Wilson (Stockport), Simon Jones (Sheffield Steelers) and Simon McGuigan (Stockport) all missed the final squad cut.

"It's an exciting time for everybody, we're only a few months away from the tournament and this where we really start intensifying our training," said Elwood.

"We've got our long weekend on the East Coast of America, which will be a real test for all the players.

"And once the league season has finished it will give us more time to practice as a team and towards our goal of being successful in Manchester in July. That's the challenge we are looking forward to."

England's World Cup squad

Goalkeepers

Ben McAllister (Stockport)
Nick Anderton (Wilmslow)

Defenders

Andy Baxter (Brooklands Hulmeians)
Paul Ryan (Manchester Waconians)
Tom Williamson (Stockport)
Joe Duncan (NYAC)
Jordan Levack (Ohio State)

Face-off

Tom Gallon (Heaton Mersey)
Evan Roberts (Bryant University)

Long-stick midfielders

Sam Patterson (Stockport)
Jak Wawrzyniak (Heaton Mersey/ Avon Old Farms)

Midfielders

Alix Davidson (Wilmslow)
Andy Ellison (Heaton Mersey)
Tom Gosney (Stockport)
Mark Reynolds (Wilmslow)
Dave McCulloch (Heaton Mersey)
Matt Bagley (Walcountian Blues)
Sam Russell (Poynton & Whittier College)

Attackers

Nicky Watson (Rochdale)
Cayle Ratcliff (Nanaimo Timbermen)
Lewis Ratcliff (Nanaimo Timbermen)
Ady Bennet (Cheadle)
Todd Baxter (Denver University)

Reserves

Will Stelfox (Manchester Waconians)
Dave Cottam (Stockport)
Mike Worrall (Wilmslow)
Ian Davis (Wilmslow)
Ben Lyon (Sheffield Steelers)
Glenn Humphries (Rochdale)
Alistair Wallace (Mellor)

Head coach – Dave Elwood

Assistant coaches – Dan Green & Tom Wenham

Manager – Greg Caplin

Assistant manager/goalkeeping coach – Ravi Sitlani

Assistant manager – Bob Patterson

Physio – Matt Nugent

Sports Rehab – Rachel Lazenby

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