



2010 World Cup. Lippi dreams final Italy-Brazil: “Fantastic”

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Marcello Lippi dreams of playing against Brazil in the final of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. This is what he said during the radio show “La Politica nel Pallone”. The head coach of the National team and World Champion, has begun the road towards the upcoming world Cup in the best way possible. Wednesday, with the win against Montenegro, Lippi equaled the record of Vittorio Pozzo with 30 positive matches. “There is only one real meaning of this sequence – said the head coach – and that is, thirty matches without a loss means that the team is growing and is becoming more and more aware of its strength. If this positive streak leads us to another World Cup win, then it means that the streak was not just a streak and this is a reason to be satisfied. Let us hope that we can continue like this. In the 10 fantastic days of preparation for the two qualifying matches, I saw the veterans willing to give advice to the younger players. Their humbleness is very nice, we still have a lot of work to do, but I am confident. And if there were to be a final against Italy and Brazil in the next World Cup, it would be fantastic”. The league season with a difficult moment for two of the “big” teams, Roma and Juventus, and the revelation Napoli; the Golden Ball candidates; the young players on the National team: the head coach of the National team, Marcello Lippi, talks about these issues.

NATIONAL TEAM AND FUTURE - Mario Balotelli, indicated by many as the next player to land on the National A team, has to wait: “We should not have him take too many steps – said Lippi – because he is still young. Yes, he scored two important goals against Israel with the Under 21 team, but he should get some experience. It is important for the younger players to get some the right experience. It is also true that Rooney or others like him abroad debuted very young on the major team, but these were players who had already had international experience on their teams. It is difficult to let a player play on the National team when he is not even a starter on his club team. This does not mean that there is no space for young players: I put Daniele DeRossi on the National team when he was twenty years old. I think it is a little too much to give this responsibility to an eighteen-year old.”

ROMA – “Spalletti has dressed Roma in a great way during these past years, but yesterday he found himself against a stronger team and against stronger teams there is nothing you can do. But Spalletti did very well last year and he was even Italian champion for one hour. Against Inter, unfortunately Roma took in a goal after just five minutes, on the limit of offside. The Roma team reacted and created some good scoring occasions. I was impressed about what Mourinho said and this proves how strong their team is: he said that he put on the field the players with whom he was able to work during the week. In fact, Obinna played, even if the South American players had returned: this is a sign of a strong team”.

JUVENTUS – The head coach had this to say about his former team: “Can Juve beat Real Madrid? Objectively, I can say that the Juventus team is conditioned by injuries, and to be frank, you cannot give up too much in quality and quantity to the opponents. In Madrid, however, they know that they have always lost in Turin even if we have always lost in Madrid, and so perhaps at a psychological level Juve can win”.

THE REVELATION – “Napoli is the team that has shown the most interesting type of football, speed, and verticalization. They have undertaken the right road with two or three players a year. They knew how to choose players and continue to

grow”.

GOLDEN BALL – “I think that there are only three candidates for the Golden Ball award, the other twenty-seven do not count. The three players are Cristiano Ronaldo, Torres and Messi. Ibrahimovic? No, he is a great player but who have to win some important at an International level. After the World Cup, Cannavaro won the Golden Ball award and the Fifa World Player award. You have to win the World Cup or Champions League to win the Golden Ball. Who is the best player in the world? I think it is Leo Messi.” ,