



Though he is a reliable source of goals, Baraja faces stiff competition for a place in the Spanish team.

Baraja



NAME	Ruben Baraja
DATE OF BIRTH	21 July 1981
PLACE OF BIRTH	Valladolid
CLUB	Valencia
WORLD CUPS	2002
APPS	4
GOALS	0

DID YOU KNOW?

Ruben Baraja converted both his kicks in the two penalty shoot-outs Spain contested in 2002.

Luis Aragonés for the World Cup play-offs, is a unique player who must remain a candidate. Then there's Joaquin's club mate Alberto Rivera, who replaced the Betis winger in the squad that faced Slovakia, not to mention Malaga's Juanito, or Jose Antonio Reyes in a wide role.

Luis Aragonés may pair Albelda with Xavi in the centre of midfield and put the other two positions up for grabs. On current form the experienced Ruben Baraja could well take one of those places. He is a well-rounded midfielder who can play centrally or on the right and who has always been a reliable source of goals.

Sporting LEGENDS

Ruben Baraja has won two Spanish league titles, a UEFA Cup and a European Super Cup. He has also been a Champions League runner-up twice. He was shortlisted for the 2005 European Player of the Year award, but his place in the Spanish team is far from secure; there is a lot of competition.

Baraja will probably be joined in the squad by his Valencia team mates Vicente Rodriguez and David Albelda, at least. Then there's Barcelona's Xavi, Real Madrid's Guti, the Liverpool duo of Xabi Alonso and Luis Garcia. Joaquin, despite being dropped by

“When we become a team we will take the step forward that everyone wants.” Ruben Baraja



England's David Beckham scores the second goal in the 2006 World Cup qualifier against Azerbaijan at St James' Park.

Beckham



NAME David Beckham
DATE OF BIRTH 2 May 1975
PLACE OF BIRTH Leytonstone
CLUB Real Madrid
WORLD CUPS 1998, 2002
APPS 8 **GOALS** 2

DID YOU KNOW?

Come September, David Beckham will have been an England international for ten years.

two games of the finals but came back to score against Colombia from a free kick. In the next match, however, he was sent off for a petulant kick on Argentina's Diego Simeone. Beckham, who was a surprise choice for the captaincy in 2000, has since shown that he has the character to make amends. It was his last-minute free kick against Greece that qualified England for the 2002 tournament, and it was his penalty that defeated Argentina in the group stage.

Though his tackling and defensive work rate are good, Beckham's best position is on the right side of midfield, from where he can send crosses for the forwards. *Sporting* **LEGENDS**

Probably the best striker of a dead ball in the world, captain David Beckham brings an extra dimension to the England attack. He has developed a unique technique with the dead ball that involves contorting his body over backwards and which must place a lot of stress on his ankles. It looks strange, but it works. He can make the ball swerve and dip to his will and his shooting is deadly accurate from anywhere up to thirty yards.

Having played throughout England's qualifying campaign for the 1998 tournament, Beckham was left out of the side for the first

"As a footballer you always want to test yourself against the best." **David Beckham**