

## ***Week 7—Team Evaluation-Assessment of Future Opponents***

Teams: Honduras (Blue) v Guatemala (White) U-20  
Event: CONCACAF Final  
Date: May 2, 2011  
Venue: Estadio Mateo Flores, Ciudad Guatemala  
Scout: Allan H. Sloway

Hondura's Starting Lineup: 4 – 4 – 2 for both halves, but adjusted to a single striker after the Tobias red card in the middle portion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

Lozano #9 (lf)  
(Rivas #6 sub 65')

Zuniga #8 (rf)  
(Castillo #11 sub 54')

Martines #18 (lom) Lopez #10 (lcm) Fuentes #7 (rcm) Cardona #3 (rom)  
(Carias #20 sub 80')

Alvarado #4 (lod) Castro #5 (lcd) Rivera #16 (rcd) Tobias #13(rod)

Licono #12 (GK)

### **Player/Position Game Analysis**

Forwards:

#9 Antony Lozano (LFS) is a pure and true striker, tall and powerful both in the air and covering ground. The first early goal from a well placed, left-footed, Martines corner, Lozano was able to use his height and leaping ability to flick the ball into the upper left net corner. He is also used well to draw the Guatemalan defense to the left wing with well timed diagonal runs. This in turn creates space for the attacking midfielders, such as Martines to occupy. Lozano is certainly a target player for defensive back long balls and goalkeeper, Licono's accurate side volley punts.

#8 Clayvin Zuniga (RFS) is also a force on the right flank. Although not as strong or tall as Lozano, he is an exceptional dribbler and extremely fast with or without and can create space with massive runs down the right wing. Good with both feet, Zuniga can take on multiple defenders and can strike from distance. He too, draws defenders out of the middle for an midfield strike on goal.

Midfielders:

#18 Nestor Martines (LOM) is credited with a relatively solo dribbling and balance exhibition with the ball to beat two Guatemalan backs, playing the ball to his powerful left foot, faking a cross-goal shot, but then slamming it into the upper left corner. The Guatemalan goalkeeper (or any keeper for that matter) had no chance for a save or even a touch. It was a world class goal effort which gave Honduras a comfortable 2 - 0 lead late in the first half. Martines made many tireless runs up and down the left hand side of the pitch and took advantage of open space created by some clever striker runs to the wings. Didn't see any evidence of a strong right foot, but he was able to complete passes using it nevertheless. He was also the "chosen one" for all set plays using an accurate, curling left foot delivery.

#10 Alexander Lopez (LCM) played a solid midfield game, but appeared to be frustrated by the clinical quick, short, Brazilian style of midfield passing game of Guatemala. Both he and Fuentes spent much of their time chasing the opposition whom dominated the midfield. The Honduran style of playing the long ball from defender/keeper to attacking forwards caused much unnecessary ball chasing, either to catch up with an attack or to back track quickly to prevent a counter.

#7 Wilmer Fuentes (RCM) was assigned to play a bit deeper in the defense than Lopez and to also support Zuniga with some through passes to the right wing and then follow for support. He was also very effective in tracking back quickly for the first line of the defense. Both Fuentes and Lopez were not terribly effective tacklers, but were quick enough to make the Guatemalan midfielders beat them multiple times.

#3 Jorge Cardona (ROM) is a very fast, work horse of a player whose task it was to make overlapping runs with Zuniga. As the game wore on, however, Cardona was forced to assist a weaker Tobias on the right defense line. Cardona is a good soldier, decent in the air, can play with both feet, and an accomplished tackler and passer.

Defenders:

#4 Ever Alvarado (LOD) was the “player of the game,” in my view, for his tireless defensive efforts on the left side of Honduras being able to get the ball out of danger with great skill and a solid left foot clearance ability. He is a very strong, scrappy player who doesn't give up on the ball when tracking an attack or if he loses the ball. The only criticism of Alvarado was his inability to close down the cross from #2 Jose Aldrade to the head of #20 Lima for a Guatemalan goal.

#5 Bryan Castro (LCD) almost scored the second goal for Honduras off another Martines in-swinging corner kick and his overall performance was admirable. Not the strongest or smartest player with the ball, he tends to panic and blindly clear the ball sometimes resulting in a miss-kick deep in his own territory. He lacked being able to read the Guatemalan midfield and forward attack well and relied on the combined strength of Rivera and Alvarado to cover his mistakes. He was able to be apart of set plays and make some important overlapping runs through the middle of the pitch.

#16 Johny Rivera (RCD) is a solid, stable defender who pretty much played in a sweeper position throughout the game. He was assigned to stay deep and be the last man standing in front of his keeper, Licon. He is strong in the air, a solid tackler, can utilize both feet well, and was able to clear the ball to a teammate, rather than simple booting it upfield. Again, the only blemish to an excellent game was his not closing down the cross to Lima causing Guatemala to score.

#3 Danilo Tobias (ROD) next to Castro was the weakest defender out of the four. With the exception of the early goal line confusion which almost allowed Guatemala to score first, Tobias had a decent game. He played his

position and was not inclined (allowed?) to make many overlapping runs down the right flank. He has a solid right foot and can clear the ball efficiently, but was easily beaten to his left side.

Goalkeeper:

#12 Marlon Licon (GK) also up for “player of the game,” made some outstanding saves and was the primary force in executing a quick counter attack. He has perfected a laser-like, side footed volley punt two thirds down the field to his attackers, Lozano, Zuniga, and Castillo. He possesses an incredible leaping ability and defensive timing. The solo Guatemalan goal could not be blamed on him.

Substitutes:

#11 Rubilio Castillo (54' for Zuniga) kept the offensive pressure in the wake of Zuniga's departure. He is a strong, stocky player who is very tough to get off the ball. He played up top solo after Tobias's sending off for a silly late challenge. The only flaw in Castillo's presence was his missing an easy tap-in goal which certainly would have secured sure victory for his side.

#6 Allan Rivas (65' for Lozano) was assigned to beef up the defense and serve as a fifth midfielder. The ultimate goal for this change was to keep the lead and play long balls forward to kill time and hope for a late goal. He is a solid player in the air and like Martines has a strong left foot.

#20 Gustavo Carias (80' for Martines) was also brought in to defend and to not attack as much as martines. He played a solid 10+ minutes and helped close down some late Guatemala challenges just by adding players behind the ball.

### **Overall game plan for Honduras**

1. Play long balls to forwards Lozano, Zuniga, and Castillo to run onto.
2. Throw players forward on set plays to capitalize on height and strength advantage especially in the air.
3. After acquiring the lead, clear balls quickly and try to kill time off.

4. Use quick counter attack to deep opposing defense from pushing forward.

### **Overall game plan for Guatemala**

1. Utilize a series of short, accurate passing to get around Honduran defenders.
2. Dominate midfield play to draw out defenders and play well timed through balls to attack.
3. Keep opposition attack from coming through the middle of the pitch.
4. Use midfielder speed to counter attack when possible.

### **Advice for future opposition**

For Honduras:

Play the same game plan as this one, but sure up the defensive holes. Also play a wider game and use your quick wing players to attack. Don't panic and rush clearances. Try to pick the players out and get the ball to your best attacking forward and midfielders.

For Guatemala:

Play the ball forward more and keep pressure on the defense. Get more shot off and on target and capitalize on set plays. Don't play safe with the ball in your won half and keep moving forward. Keep possession and frustrate and tire your opposition.