

Gareth Southgate to ring the changes for England's U20's clash with Colombia

GARETH SOUTHGATE will take a major gamble for tonight's crunch Under-20s clash against Colombia.

By **Phil Cadden** / Published 30th May 2014



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RINGING IN THE CHANGES: Gareth Southgate will make seven changes to his England side for their final game against Colombia on Sunday [GETTY]

The Young Lions boss is ready to rest his most experienced players in a game England must not lose to stay involved in the tournament.

Southgate's side need at least a point to book a place in the third/fourth place play-off on Sunday, following a frustrating 1-1 draw with South Korea.

But he will make seven changes and won't risk the likes of James Ward-Prowse, Nathaniel Chalobah and Nathan Redmond because of the punishing schedule in Toulon.

Ahead of the team's third game in five days Southgate said: "We have got to manage how many minutes they play.

"The only difficulty of this tournament is the fact there is just one day between the games. You could play two games but to then do a third you will be risking it.

"We will have to make seven changes. If we get through, we would then do the same again. It is impossible for the lads who have played - Brazil was such an intense physical game that it impacted on the boys who played against South Korea.

"To ask James and Nathaniel to go again would be asking for trouble really. If they did that, there would be no way they could play on Sunday.



RESTED: Southgate won't risk Southampton star James Ward-Prowse for Sunday [GETTY]

“We will have to make seven changes”

Gareth Southgate

“There is a risk of not playing all your more experienced players as you could end up going out and not getting the game on Sunday.

“But I think we are prepared to take that risk because it is important some people are rested and others play.

“We have got to trust the rest of the group. It is good because everybody gets a game. And they are playing in a game that means something. It is part of what this should be about.”

Southgate has players from Manchester United, Chelsea and Liverpool in his ranks, but he claims there has been no pressure applied by any of England's top clubs.

He added: "No, they have not been in contact.

"But if I was a club manager and I saw my player playing three games in five days, they could understandably say we were negligent if they suffered an injury.

"But it's about an opportunity for players who haven't had much international football before and seeing how they cope with it.

"Whether they can play in different positions and deal with different problems. You always want to win but we have to understand that when you put new players in, it's a big challenge."

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