

TALL TASK FOR TEAM USA

The US World Cup soccer team is lacking in one key area against European opponents: height.

Height is important to win balls in the air from corner kicks or long crosses. It is important for central defenders to stop opponents' aerial attacks. The U.S. team has gained experience and skills but still comes up short overall. The Americans will need to use speed to make up for their smaller size.

Average height of starters

USA: **5' 9"**

Czech Republic: **6' 1"**

Game time: **Monday, June 12, noon**

Channel: **ESPN 2**

In Goal

USA

Czech Republic

6' 2"

6' 5"



Kasey Keller
Weight: **194 lbs**
Age: **36**
Team: **Borussia Monchengladbach** (Germany)

Petr Cech
Weight: **183 lbs**
Age: **24**
Team: **Chelsea** (England)

Forward

USA

Czech Republic

6' 0"

6' 0"

6' 8"

6' 0"



Brian McBride
Weight: **176 lbs**
Age: **33**
Team: **Fulham** (England)

Eddie Johnson
Weight: **190 lbs**
Age: **22**
Team: **KC Wizards** (MLS)

Jan Koller
Weight: **227 lbs**
Age: **33**
Team: **AS Monaco** (France)

Milan Baros
Weight: **172 lbs**
Age: **24**
Team: **Aston Villa** (England)

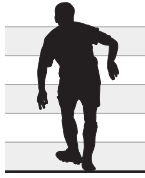
Midfield

5' 10"

5' 10"

5' 10"

5' 11"



Claudio Reyna
Weight: **159 lbs**
Age: **32**
Team: **Manchester City** (England)

Pablo Mastroeni
Weight: **172 lbs**
Age: **29**
Team: **Colorado Rapids** (MLS)

Tomas Rosicky
Weight: **150 lbs**
Age: **25**
Team: **Arsenal** (England)

Tomas Galasek
Weight: **165 lbs**
Age: **33**
Team: **FC Nurnberg** (Germany)

5' 8"

5' 8"

5' 10"

5' 9"



DaMarcus Beasley
Weight: **146 lbs**
Age: **24**
Team: **PSV Eindhoven** (Netherlands)

Landon Donovan
Weight: **148 lbs**
Age: **24**
Team: **LA Galaxy** (MLS)

Pavel Nedved
Weight: **154 lbs**
Age: **33**
Team: **Juventus** (Italy)

Karel Poborsky
Weight: **154 lbs**
Age: **34**
Team: **Ceske Budejovice** (Czech)

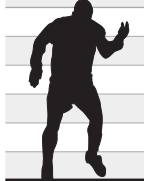
Defense

6' 5"

6' 1"

6' 3"

6' 1"



Oguchi Onyewu
Weight: **216 lbs**
Age: **24**
Team: **Standard Liege** (Belgium)

Eddie Pope
Weight: **190 lbs**
Age: **32**
Team: **Real Salt Lake** (MLS)

David Rozehnal
Weight: **174 lbs**
Age: **25**
Team: **Paris St.-Germain** (France)

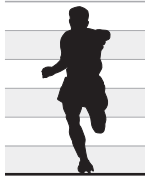
Tomas Ujfalusi
Weight: **168 lbs**
Age: **28**
Team: **Fiorentina** (Italy)

5' 10"

5' 6"

6' 0"

6' 0"



Eddie Lewis
Weight: **157 lbs**
Age: **32**
Team: **Leeds United** (England)

Steve Cherundolo
Weight: **146 lbs**
Age: **27**
Team: **Hannover 96** (Germany)

Zdenek Grygera
Weight: **174 lbs**
Age: **26**
Team: **Ajax** (Netherlands)

Marek Jankulovski
Weight: **168 lbs**
Age: **29**
Team: **AC Milan** (Italy)

*The U.S. may start in a more defensive posture by starting mid-fielder Bobby Convey (5'9", 150 lbs) instead of Johnson and pushing Donovan forward as a withdrawn striker. This shortens the average height of the team.

Source: espn.com

*Czech starters Rosicky, Galasek, Koller and Baros are all recovering from injuries. Possible replacements include Vratislav Lokvenc (6'3"), Jan Polak (5'11", 170 lbs) and Jaroslav Plasil (5'11" 159 lbs).