

Nicaragua ready to test Reggae Boyz

President of the Nicaraguan Football Federation, José Jacinto Reyes, believes it will be youthful exuberance versus experience and a proven track record of Jamaica's Reggae Boyz when both teams meet in a first leg CONCACAF World Cup qualifier at the National Stadium on Friday night.

"The Nicaraguan team is a young one. They don't have the same experience that Jamaica has, but we are prepared," Jacinto Reyes said shortly after the Nicaraguan delegation arrived at the Norman Manley International Airport late yesterday. Jamaica will go into the match as the first Caribbean team to play in a Gold Cup final. Prior to that, they featured in the Copa America tournament as a guest team and played well against top-rated South American teams Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. Meanwhile, Nicaragua are unbeaten in the early rounds of the CONCACAF qualifiers. In the first round, they defeated Anguilla 8-0 on aggregate (5-0 and 0-3) then got past Suriname 4-1 (1-0 and 1-3) in the second round. "Even though it's a young team, we are playing with our hearts, and even though we have a young team, we are here (in Jamaica) to win," added the president. The Reggae Boyz will travel to Nicaragua for the second leg which is set for Tuesday, September 8.