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Gudmundsson took his choice: Denmark reduced squad for the World Cup

Gudmundur Gudmundsson named his sixteen players for the upcoming World Cup in France. The coach of the Danish team also named one player as reserve. "It was a very hard decision, all players showed a good performance", said the coach of the Olympic Champion after crossing off the list two names.

Past week Denmark played the Bygma Cup and won all three matches against Hungary, Egypt and Iceland. After this tournament Gudmundur Gudmundsson announced his decision, he crossed Kevin Møller, goalkeeper of SG Flensburg-Handewitt, and Simon Hald Jensen, pivot of Danish Aalborg, off the list. Most of the players of the Danish team play in neighbour country Germany, ten are under contract at a club of Bundesliga.

Gudmundsson also decided to name a seventeenth player as reserve. Niclas Kirkeløkke of GOG Gudme is not filed as one of the sixteen players to the International Handball Federation, but he will travel with the team to France. 'It is a dream coming true. I hope to learn a lot and I am locking forward to be a part of the team', said the 22-year old backfielder. Coach Gudmundsson added on the website of the federation: 'Niclas will be close to the team, he will join our training session and will be ready if we need his help.'

On 13. January Denmark will start into group D of the preliminary round of the World Cup against Argentina. The other opponents in the group are Sweden, Qatar, Bahrain and Egypt. 'Highest priority is to win the preliminary round, so we get the chance to face in the round of last sixteen and the quarterfinals maybe not as strong opponents', said Gudmundur Gudmundsson, who added: 'If we achieve this, we want to be at the race for a medal.'

World Cup France 2017: Squad Denmark:

Goalkeepers:

Niklas Landin (THW Kiel/GER), Jannick Green (SC Magdeburg/GER)

Backfielder:

Mikkel Hansen (Paris St. Germain/FRA), Lasse Andersson (FC Barcelona/ESP), Michael Damgaard (SC Magdeburg/GER), Henrik Møllgaard (Paris St. Germain/FRA), Kasper Søndergaard (Skjern Håndbold/DEN), Morten Olsen (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf/GER), Mads Mensah Larsen (Rhein-Neckar Löwen/GER)

Winger

Lasse Svan Hansen (SG Flensburg-Handewitt/GER), Hans Lindberg (Füchse Berlin/GER), Casper U. Mortensen (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf/GER), Magnus Landin Jacobsen (KIF Kolding Kopenhagen/DEN)

Pivots

Henrik Toft Hansen (SG Flensburg-Handewitt/GER), Jesper Nøddesbo (FC Barcelona/ESP), Rene Toft Hansen (THW Kiel/GER)

Reserve

Niclas Kirkeløkke (Rückraum, GOG Gudme/DEN) googletag.cmd.push(function() { googletag.display('div-gpt-ad-1380148910362-0'); });

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