# England remains unfazed by Eddie Jones' mind games ahead of Tokyo clash with Japan



Jamie George has stated that England will not be unsettled by any psychological tactics from former head coach Eddie Jones as they prepare to face Japan in Tokyo on June 22, 2024. This will be the first encounter between England and Jones, who was sacked 18 months ago after a decline in results and is now coaching Japan following a brief and troubled tenure with Australia.

Jones, known for his strategic mind games, is expected to adopt a high-tempo, fast-moving game style with Japan, as he prepares them for their opening match against England. Steve Borthwick, England’s current head coach and Jones’ former assistant, leads the squad in what promises to be an intriguing subplot to England’s summer tour, which includes two subsequent matches against New Zealand.

England captain Jamie George, who was given his first England start by Jones in 2017, expressed respect for the former coach, acknowledging his ability to effectively prepare his teams. However, George emphasized that England remains focused and will not be distracted by any mind games.

The Test week features a notable contest for the fly-half position between Marcus Smith of Harlequins and Fin Smith of Northampton, following George Ford’s absence due to an Achilles injury. The squad views this situation as an opportunity for both players to step up and demonstrate leadership.

The summer tour extends beyond the Japan match, with England set to face New Zealand in two additional Tests, fostering an atmosphere where team morale and unity are deemed crucial for success.