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Wherever you see this play button, there is video content available.

Please note that to view any associated video in this report, you will be taken to FIFA’s official YouTube page and internet access will therefore be required.
FOREWORD

Before getting into the details of the extraordinary work performed by the FIFA Technical Study Group, which you will have the pleasure of discovering in this revamped report, we need to thank all those who contributed to making the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ “the best FIFA World Cup to date”. That was the FIFA President’s stated aim and there has been widespread recognition that it was achieved, even by those who once doubted that Russia might be the right place to stage the most important sporting event in the world.

Our thanks go to the Russian authorities, who did an incredible job in providing magnificent, ultramodern facilities and a safe, hospitable environment that fostered a wonderful month-long celebration of football. We are also grateful to the tens of thousands of locals who welcomed us with genuine grace and warmth, and obviously to all those who were involved in the running of the tournament, from the Local Organising Committee (LOC) to the amazing volunteers and the FIFA administration.

Finally, although it goes without saying, we owe the biggest debt of all to those who played an active part in this tournament becoming such a beacon of hope and beauty. Therefore, a massive thank you to the players, coaches and officials, to the fans from all over the world and to all those behind the scenes, all of whom conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. Even with flawless organisation and stadiums, a spectacle of such grandeur simply would not have been possible without these people. It is undoubtedly thanks to them that we enjoyed every single moment and that this fantastic World Cup will live for so long in the memory. In Russia, they made us fall in love with our game all over again – a game with unique and unrivalled appeal, which belongs to everybody and is for everybody, now and forever.
From a tactical perspective, the brand of football was very measured, but this did not have a negative impact. Indeed, the level was evenly balanced and almost every encounter was impassioned, enthralling and eagerly contested right down to the very last minute. It is clear that the great tacticians are always searching for ways to further control matches and minimise risk, but what was even more evident is that even the best-laid plans can suddenly mean nothing when the ball spins in an unexpected direction amid the unpredictability of our beautiful game. However well prepared you are, matches can take an unforeseen turn at any given moment as a result of goals and other key incidents, whether these come about due to a mistake or a stroke of genius.

We also saw that the pressing game was far less prevalent than previously, in what is a highly understandable development. At a tournament of the magnitude of the World Cup, energy levels and mental sharpness need to be conserved as far as possible and teams must focus on being consistent and having the ability to read matches better than the opposition.

We witnessed several traditional powerhouses surprisingly struggle. Germany and Spain did not appear to be fresh, Argentina were lacking a clear style of play and Brazil were unbalanced, and they all ended up paying the price despite their reputations. At the same time, we also saw a number of so-called “small” teams – the likes of Japan, Senegal and Korea Republic, to name but a few – closing the gap tactically but then falling just short of really going to the next level. Uruguay, Sweden and Mexico, three other historic names, produced some good performances but did not manage to cause a shock in the knockout stage. Then there were hosts Russia, whose fairy-tale turnaround in form had a whole nation dreaming of glory.

France were worthy winners. Under the steady stewardship of Didier Deschamps, who had a clear and precise vision of how to make the most of the players at his disposal and go all the way, they were the most settled and assured performers overall.

The biggest surprise package were Croatia, who gave millions around the world hope that one of the “small” teams could actually win the World Cup. Driven on by an exceptional Luka Modrić, the Croatian side never lost their composure or focus, demonstrating remarkable maturity, character and spirit. Meanwhile, Belgium were great entertainers and England finally began to deliver on their potential.

The World Cup served up many other enjoyable and unique stories, but this report focuses on the numbers and the in-depth analysis of the FIFA Technical Study Group. It is an outstanding testimony to everything that took place on and off the pitch during Russia 2018, an unforgettable World Cup that will also go down as a milestone for refereeing. The revolution that is the VAR system fills us with pride and over time we will see even more clearly how beneficial it is for the entire world of football. Just as importantly, this progress has been achieved without affecting the game, because the essence and traditions of football must always be preserved in all their glory.

Yours in football,

Zvonimir Boban
The FIFA Coaching & Player Development Department was responsible for the activities of the Technical Study Group, which comprised the following members:

Marco van Basten (FIFA Chief Technical Development Officer), Carlos Alberto Parreira (Brazil) – Head of the TSG, Emmanuel Amunike (Nigeria), Bora Milutinović (Serbia), Andy Roxburgh (Scotland), Branimir Ujević (FIFA TSG Project Leader) and Pascal Zuberbühler (FIFA Goalkeeping Specialist).

From left to right: Branimir Ujević, Carlos Alberto Parreira, Emmanuel Amunike, Marco van Basten, Andy Roxburgh, Bora Milutinović, Pascal Zuberbühler
TOURNAMENT OBSERVATION
GOAL ANALYSIS

“The attackers looked very sharp: they created good opportunities and took them! The midfielders got forward in support and chipped in with goals. There was an attacking mentality”

CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA

There were some interesting stats in Russia and some new trends, too. This was a tournament of goals: we saw 169 goals, only two fewer than the record for a 32-team World Cup, which was set at France 1998 and equalled at Brazil 2014. Only one match out of 64 ended goalless (Denmark v. France), compared to five in Brazil and seven at South Africa 2010. We also saw more goals scored in the knockout stage than at the previous World Cup, up from 35 to 47.

“In the knockout phase, the matches were more open”

MARCO VAN BASTEN

“A lack of pressure on the man with the ball is the main factor that results in shots on goal. That is the number-one reason for goals being conceded in football and it won’t change any time soon”

CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA

This indicates that teams played with a lot of attacking firepower and were very good at taking their chances. The finishing was more clinical at Russia 2018, with teams averaging a goal from every 9.8 shots, three fewer than at South Africa 2010. Breaking this down further, shooting efficiency from outside the penalty area improved dramatically: the average strike rate was a goal per 29 long-range attempts, compared to one in 42 at Brazil 2014.

There were several strong counter-attacking sides at this World Cup and coaches were clearly wary of the threat of being caught on the break. One out of every two goals at Russia 2018 came from either set pieces or counter-attacks.

“In the past, only some teams used counter-attacks to great effect, but most sides are capable of doing so today”

EMMANUEL AMUNEKE
SET PLAYS

“As they say, ‘delivery is everything’”

CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA

Apart from penalties, the biggest change at this year’s tournament in terms of set plays concerned corners. At the 2018 World Cup, one in every 29 corners led to a goal, whereas the figure was 61 at South Africa 2010 and 36 at Brazil 2014. This trend of superior effectiveness continued through the knockout stage in Russia, where teams scored from one in every 31 corners compared to every 41 in Brazil.

There were some good dead-ball specialists at the World Cup in Russia and some good headers of the ball too. When you reach a stage when there’s not much difference between teams and defences are very well organised, then set plays become a vital weapon.

A lot of the matches at this World Cup came down to dead-ball situations. Eventual champions France offered a prime example of the importance of set plays at this tournament, notably in the semi-final against Belgium and then again in the title decider. Indeed, their first two goals in the final came from set pieces: a free kick and a penalty. When a match is tight, set plays can make all the difference and win trophies.

“If I think back to my playing days, we didn’t spend a lot of time working on set pieces in training – maybe five or ten minutes. Today, more attention is being paid to these things”

MARCO VAN BASTEN

“It’s a special situation because you can push as many players as you want into the box and practise routines beforehand”

CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA

Moreover, the number of penalties awarded in the group stage significantly increased from previous editions, partly due to the presence of VAR.
“Teams hardly had a chance to shoot from outside the box”
MARCO VAN BASTEN

Teams at this World Cup were more compact in defence, with a tournament average of 26m between a side’s deepest defender and highest attacker out of possession. The amount of space available has been dramatically reduced, making it challenging to find openings.

“Space between the lines was practically non-existent at this World Cup”
CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA

“It is not possible to defend in this manner without good communication”
EMMANUEL AMUNEKE

A result of tight, compact defending is a decrease in the number of shots from outside the penalty area. This figure has dropped by a remarkable 32% since South Africa 2010. Defending in this style requires efficient organisation, good teamwork, awareness and leadership, especially from the central defenders.

From an attacking perspective, the role of the traditional number 9 has become more challenging due to the limited space. Quick ball circulation can help to create space and overcome compact units.

“Players have to be very clever and technically skilful to create chances”
BORA MILUTINOVIĆ
ROLE OF THE FULL-BACKS

“I still subscribe to the idea that full-backs are first and foremost defenders”
CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA

Their first thought should always be to defend. They must be defensively solid in 1v1 situations, strong in the tackle and effective at closing down opposition attackers to deny them space. Full-backs perform a balancing act for the team.

However, they can be very useful in attack at the right moments. Previously, the left- and right-sided midfielders almost exclusively occupied the wide areas, operating as wingers, but the game has evolved and this is no longer the case. We typically only used to see one full-back joining in with attacks, whereas now both full-backs look to exploit the space down the flanks.

Playing with a back three or five affects the defensive and attacking responsibilities and impact of the wide players. Nevertheless, regardless of whether they are lining up in a 3-5-2 or a 5-3-2, they operate as wing-backs. In general, fewer traditional overlaps are occurring due to teams’ dynamic interchanging of positions.

“Holding midfielders have such an important role as they give the team balance, allowing you to release both full-backs at the same time”
CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA
IMPORTANCE OF THE PLAYMAKER

“You cannot manufacture a maestro”

ANDY ROXBURGH

We saw less of the so-called playmakers at this World Cup, perhaps as a result of the way teams played. However, there were still some outstanding individuals in this area. Paul Pogba of France excelled, but Luka Modrić stole the show.

“I love watching Modrić pull the strings in games; he’s a class act”

BORA MILUTINOVIĆ

With his amazing technique and tactical awareness, Modrić dictated the pace of games, defended, attacked and even scored goals. He was so important for Croatia and you cannot imagine them without him in midfield. His contribution was crucial in taking the team all the way to the final.

The previous three World Cup-winning teams all had prominent playmakers. Andrea Pirlo was instrumental for Italy in 2006, we saw Andrés Iniesta and Xavi controlling the tempo of the game for Spain in 2010 and Bastian Schweinsteiger successfully played a similar role for Germany four years ago in Brazil. We are eager to see who the next great playmakers to emerge will be and how they will stamp their mark on their teams.

“Playmakers can impose themselves on games, speed up or slow down the tempo, switch play, create and make things happen”

CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA
GOALKEEPING ANALYSIS

“The goalkeepers at this World Cup were really versatile”

PASCAL ZUBERBÜHLER
(FIFA Goalkeeping Specialist)

On countless occasions, goalkeepers came out on top of one-on-one situations inside the penalty box through good positioning, timing and use of the “X-block” technique. It was obvious that certain teams had a clear plan to quickly transition when their goalkeeper had the ball, with their outfield players providing various options. The goalkeeper nevertheless had a key role, having to display quick thinking and decision-making when playing the ball out.

“Defending with so many bodies and so close to goal has its advantages and disadvantages. For goalkeepers, it can be so crowded that they cannot see the ball”

MARCO VAN BASTEN

There was a higher number of penalties at this World Cup compared to previous editions and we saw some fantastic, game-changing saves, with 25% of spot kicks in the group stage either saved or missed. We also witnessed some decisive goalkeeping performances in the penalty shoot-outs in the subsequent knockout rounds.

The previous section, on defending, noted how compactly and deeply teams defended at this World Cup. As a result, goalkeepers’ vision will have been reduced and they will have had less time to react. Deep defensive units also increase the risk of wicked deflections and a number of goals were conceded in this manner.

“Goalkeepers often used quick, short throws or passes to launch attacks”

PASCAL ZUBERBÜHLER
THE FOUR SEMI-FINALISTS

“The successful teams had a distinct way of playing based on their players and coaching philosophy. They had a game plan and believed in it”

CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA

England:
The only team at the World Cup whose full 23-man squad was based domestically, England had a very clear style of play and used a five-man midfield throughout the tournament. They were very solid in defence and had two players who linked up well up front, where adidas Golden Boot winner Harry Kane showed his prowess at dead-ball situations. They surpassed expectations and almost made it to the final.

“They took initiative, playing out from the back”

MARCO VAN BASTEN

Belgium:
Belgium were probably the most free-flowing team at the World Cup and were very technically gifted and incredibly versatile. They looked to attack as a team and played very entertaining football, winning six of their seven matches. Moreover, they did not concede too many goals in spite of their attacking approach, helped in no small part by having adidas Golden Glove winner Thibaut Courtois between the sticks. The conclusion we can draw is that if you want to go far in a tournament, you need strength at both ends of the pitch.

“They had a variety of attacking options”

ANDY ROXBURGH
Croatia:
Croatia had an incredible World Cup and came through three matches that went to extra time, with the leadership of adidas Golden Ball winner Luka Modrić proving instrumental. The team showed mental toughness and their highly experienced players from top-level clubs were key to bouncing back when they were a goal down, which they did no fewer than three times, showcasing impressive maturity and a powerful will to win along the way.

“The midfielders had a strong mentality and the individual quality to dictate play”
EMMANUEL AMUNIKE

France:
France did not win the trophy on the back of one performance: they won it over seven matches. They turned up with a very clear philosophy, were well prepared and built on the experience of the EURO two years ago. France played in a very balanced, compact manner and had an excellent side, with Paul Pogba and Antoine Griezmann launching attacks with real purpose and FIFA Young Player Award winner Kylian Mbappé wreaking havoc with his speed. France did not rely on ball possession, but rather focused on getting into the opposition’s half as fast as they could. And they had the players to do just that.

“They didn’t come to impress, they came to win”
CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA
**ARGENTINA / CONMEBOL**

**2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad**

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**2018 FIFA World Cup™ Performance**

- **2014 FIFA World Cup™** - Runners-Up

**Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance**

- **2018 FIFA World Cup™** - Group Stage
  - 16 June: Argentina 1-1 Iceland
  - 21 June: Argentina 0-3 Croatia
  - 26 June: Nigeria 1-2 Argentina

- **Round of 16**
  - 30 June: France 4-3 Argentina

**GROUP STAGE**

- 16 June: Argentina 1-1 Iceland
- 21 June: Argentina 0-3 Croatia
- 26 June: Nigeria 1-2 Argentina

**HEAD COACH**

- JORGE SAMPALI (ARG)

**TECHNICAL STAFF**

- BECCACECE Sebastian (Assistant Coach)
- DIEZ Nicolas (Assistant Coach)
- SCALONI Lionel (Assistant Coach)
- TOCALLI Hugo (Goalkeeper Coach)
- DESIO Jorge (Physical Trainer)
- BRESSAN Martin (Physical Trainer)

**Goal Location**

- **83%** Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- **17%** Scored Outside Penalty-Area

**Shots**

- **3.0** Shots on Target per Goal
- **4.5** Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
- **9.5** Shots per Goal

**Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)**

- **6** Open-Play Goals
- **0** Set-Play Goals

**Average Possession**

- **64%**
Team Compactness In & Out of Possession

- In Possession
- Out of Possession

Pass Accuracy
- Argentina: 86%
- WWC average: 84%

Number of Zone 5 (>25 km/h) Activities
- Argentina: 739 m²
- WWC average: 574 m²

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height

- In Possession
- Deepest Defender

- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

273 Average Bypassed Opponents
- WWC average: 264

29 Average Bypassed Defenders
- WWC average: 33

Total Distance Covered
- Argentina: 99,880 m
- WWC average: 104,662 m

Distance Covered Above 20 km/h
- Argentina: 7,230 m
- WWC average: 7,554 m

Distance Covered Above 25 km/h
- Argentina: 1,968 m
- WWC average: 2,026 m

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- Argentina: 610 Total Average Number of Passes
- WWC average: 473

67 Average Final-Third Entries
- WWC average: 58

35 Average Penalty-Area Entries
- WWC average: 33

Number of Zone 5 (>25 km/h) Activities
- Argentina: # 313
- WWC average: 330
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

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</tbody>
</table>

NUM = Squad Number; 1 = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Goal Location

100% Scored Inside Penalty-Area

0% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

Shots

4.0 Shots on Target per Goal

17.5 Average Shots per Match

2.7 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

Total Goals

2

Open-Play Goals

0

Penalties

0

Throw-ins

2

Average Possession

51%
**2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™**

**Australia / AFC**

### Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

- **843m²**
- **454m²**

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average)

### Team Shape Data Explanation

#### Bypassed Opponents and Defenders
- **291** Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average: 264
- **26** Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average: 33

### Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
  - Deepest Defender

### Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- **29** Average Penalty-Area Entries
  - FWC average: 33
- **53** Average Final-Third Entries
  - FWC average: 58

### Team Passes and Accuracy
- **85%**
- FWC average: 84%

### Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- **89%**
- FWC average: 68%

### Total Distance Covered
- **110,187 m**
  - FWC average: 104,662 m

### Distance Covered Above 20km/h
- **8,323 m**
  - FWC average: 7,534 m

### Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities
- **# 368**
  - FWC average: 330

### Distance Covered Above 25km/h
- **2,377 m**
  - FWC average: 2,026 m
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Belgium 3-0 Panama
23 June
Belgium 5-2 Tunisia
28 June
England 0-1 Belgium

GROUP STAGE
18 June
Belgium 3-0 Panama
23 June
Belgium 5-2 Tunisia
28 June
England 0-1 Belgium

ROUND OF 16
2 July
Belgium 3-2 Japan

QUARTER-FINAL
6 July
Brazil 1-2 Belgium

SEMI-FINAL
10 July
France 1-0 Belgium

MATCH FOR 3RD PLACE
14 July
Belgium 2-0 England

Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance
2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Quarter-Finals

Goal Location

COURTOIS

Shots

2.5 Shots on Target per Goal

5.7 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match

6.7 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

Total Goals
16

15 Open-Play Goals

1 Set-Play Goals

Average Possession
53%
BELGIUM / UEFA

Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

In Possession
- Team Compactness
- Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height

Out of Possession
- Team Compactness
- Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height

Team Shape Data Explanation

Team Positional Insights

Team Passes and Accuracy
- 87%
- Pass Accuracy
  - FWC average 84% ▲

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- 80%
- Pass Accuracy
  - FWC average 68% ▲

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders
- 310
  - Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average 264 ▲
- 49
  - Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average 33 ▲

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- 30
  - Average Penalty-Area Entries
  - FWC average 33 ▼
- 54
  - Average Final-Third Entries
  - FWC average 58 ▼

Total Distance Covered
- 105,014 m
  - FWC average 104,662 m ▲

Distance Covered Above 20km/h
- 7,567 m
  - FWC average 7,334 m ▲

Distance Covered Above 25km/h
- 2,144 m
  - FWC average 2,026 m ▲

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
<th>MINS</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>PEDRO GOROMEL</td>
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<td>DOUGLAS COSTA</td>
<td>Juventus FC (ITA)</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NUM = Squad Number; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Average Possession: 56%

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Performance

2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Semi-Finals

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Goals</th>
<th>Open-Play Goals</th>
<th>Set-Play Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head Coach

Tite (BRA)

Technical Staff

XAVIER Cleber (Assistant Coach)
BACHI Mathews (Assistant Coach)
SYLVINHO (Assistant Coach)
TAFFAREL (Goalkeeper Coach)
MAHSEREDJIAN Fabric (Physical Trainer)
ROSA Ricardo (Physical Trainer)

2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Click On Match To See Highlights

GROUP STAGE
17 June
Brazil 1-1 Switzerland
22 June
Brazil 2-0 Costa Rica
27 June
Serbia 0-2 Brazil

ROUND OF 16
2 July
Brazil 2-0 Mexico

QUARTER-FINAL
6 July
Brazil 1-2 Belgium

SEMI-FINAL

FINAL

Average Number of Shots on Target per Match: 21.2

Shots on Target per Goal: 4.8

Shots per Goal: 13.3

Goals Scored Outside Penalty-Area: 12%

Goals Scored Inside Penalty-Area: 88%

Goal Location

Shots

Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance

2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Average Number of Shots on Target per Match: 21.2

Shots on Target per Goal: 4.8

Total Goals: 8

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Goals</th>
<th>Open-Play Goals</th>
<th>Set-Play Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Click On Match To See Highlights

GROUP STAGE
17 June
Brazil 1-1 Switzerland
22 June
Brazil 2-0 Costa Rica
27 June
Serbia 0-2 Brazil

ROUND OF 16
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Brazil 2-0 Mexico

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6 July
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Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Goals</th>
<th>Open-Play Goals</th>
<th>Set-Play Goals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Team Compactness In & Out of Possession

- In Possession
- Out of Possession

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height

- In Possession
- Deepest Defender

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders

- Average Bypassed Opponents: 332 (FWC average 264)
- Average Bypassed Defenders: 45 (FWC average 33)

Total Distance Covered

- 103,138 m
- FWC average 104,662 m

Distance Covered Above 20km/h

- 8,108 m
- FWC average 7,534 m

Distance Covered Above 25km/h

- 2,176 m
- FWC average 2,026 m

Team Passes and Accuracy

- Pass Accuracy: 89% (FWC average 84%)
- Total Average Number of Passes: 577 (FWC average 473)

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy

- Pass Accuracy: 89% (FWC average 68%)
- Total Average Number of Passes: 18 (FWC average 28)

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries

- Average Final-Third Entries: 37 (FWC average 58)
- Average Penalty-Area Entries: 54 (FWC average 33)

Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities

- #347
- FWC average 330
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
<th>MINS</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
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<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NUM** = Squad Number; **Tota** = Clean Sheet(s); **MINS** = Minute(s) Played; **G** = Goal(s); **A** = Assist(s); **CAPS** = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

2018 FIFA World Cup™

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP STAGE</th>
<th>19 June</th>
<th>Colombia 1-2 Japan</th>
<th>24 June</th>
<th>Poland 0-3 Colombia</th>
<th>28 June</th>
<th>Senegal 0-1 Colombia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROUND OF 16</td>
<td>3 July</td>
<td>Colombia 1-1 England (AET)</td>
<td>England win on penalties (3-4)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Head Coach

José Pékerman (ARG)

Technical Staff

CAMPS Patricio (Assistant Coach)
GARABELLO Pablo (Assistant Coach)
LORENZO Nestor (Assistant Coach)
NINO Eduardo (Goalkeeper Coach)
URTASUN Eduardo (Physical Trainer)

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Performance

2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Quarter-Finals

Goal Location

83% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
17% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

Shots

2.0 Shots on Target per Goal

7.8 Average Shots per Match

6.5 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL GOALS</th>
<th>2 Open-Play Goals</th>
<th>4 Set-Play Goals</th>
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<tr>
<td>FREE KICKS</td>
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<td>PENALTIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>THROW-INS</td>
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</table>

Average Possession

51%
**2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™**

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- **81%**
- Total Average Number of Passes: 453
- Pass Accuracy: FWC average 84%

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- **65%**
- Total Average Number of Passes: 27
- Pass Accuracy: FWC average 68%

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- Average Bypassed Opponents: 270
  - FWC average 264
- Average Bypassed Defenders: 33
  - FWC average 33

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- Average Final-Third Entries: 29
  - FWC average 33
- Average Penalty-Area Entries: 64
  - FWC average 58

**Total Distance Covered**
- **101,090 m**
  - FWC average 104,662 m

**Distance Covered Above 20 km/h**
- **7,585 m**
  - FWC average 7,594 m

**Distance Covered Above 25 km/h**
- **2,210 m**
  - FWC average 2,026 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
<th>MINS</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
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NUM = Squad Number; = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Average Possession
41%

Goal Location

Goal-Scored Inside Penalty-Area 100%
Goal-Scored Outside Penalty-Area 0%

Shots

4.5 Shots on Target per Goal
3.0 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
9.3 Average Shots per Match
14.0 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

Total Goals
1 Open-Play Goals
1 Set-Play Goals

Corner Players
Free Kicks
Penalties
Throw-Ins
**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

- Team Compactness
  - In Possession: 778m²
  - Out of Possession: 545m²

**Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height**
- In Possession
  - Deepest Defender: 32m
- Out of Possession
  - Deepest Defender: 38m

**In Possession**
- Deepest Defender: 32m

**Deepest Defender**
- Deepest Defender: 38m

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- Total Average Number of Passes
  - 380
  - FWC average: 473
- Pass Accuracy
  - 79%
  - FWC average: 84%

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- Total Average Number of Passes
  - 34
  - FWC average: 28
- Pass Accuracy
  - 60%
  - FWC average: 68%

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- Average Bypassed Opponents
  - 237
  - FWC average: 264
- Average Bypassed Defenders
  - 28
  - FWC average: 33

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- Average Final-Third Entries
  - 28
  - FWC average: 33
- Average Penalty-Area Entries
  - 46
  - FWC average: 58

**Total Distance Covered**
- 106,667 m
  - FWC average: 104,662 m

**Distance Covered Above 20km/h**
- 97,203 m
  - FWC average: 75,394 m

**Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities**
- # 307
  - FWC average: 330

**Distance Covered Above 25km/h**
- 1,853 m
  - FWC average: 2,026 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
### Croatia / UEFA

**2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
<th>MINS</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
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**Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance 2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Group Stage**

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<th>Match Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>2-0</td>
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<td>21 June</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 June</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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**GROUP STAGE**

16 June
Croatia 2-0 Nigeria
21 June
Argentina 0-3 Croatia
26 June
Iceland 1-2 Croatia

**ROUND OF 16**

1 July
Croatia 1-1 Denmark (AET)
Croatia win on penalties (3-2)

**QUARTER-FINAL**

7 July
Russia 2-2 Croatia (AET)
Croatia win on penalties (3-4)

**SEMI-FINAL**

11 July
Croatia 2-1 England (AET)

**FINAL**

15 July
France 4-2 Croatia

**Goal Location**

- 93% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- 7% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

**Shots**

- 2.0 Shots on Target per Goal
- 4.0 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
- 17.0 Average Shots per Match
- 8.5 Shots per Goal

**Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)**

- 12 Open-Play Goals
- 2 Set-Play Goals

**Average Possession**

- 56%

**Head Coach**

Zlatko Dalic (CRO)

**Technical Staff**

- Ladic Drazen (Assistant Coach)
- OLIC Ivica (Assistant Coach)
- MRMIC Marjan (Goalkeeper Coach)
- MILANOVIC Luka (Physical Trainer)

**2018 FIFA World Cup™**

**Click On Match To See Highlights**

**GROUP STAGE**

- 16 June
  - Croatia 2-0 Nigeria
- 21 June
  - Argentina 0-3 Croatia
- 26 June
  - Iceland 1-2 Croatia

**ROUND OF 16**

- 1 July
  - Croatia 1-1 Denmark (AET)
  - Croatia win on penalties (3-2)

**QUARTER-FINAL**

- 7 July
  - Russia 2-2 Croatia (AET)
  - Croatia win on penalties (3-4)

**SEMI-FINAL**

- 11 July
  - Croatia 2-1 England (AET)

**FINAL**

- 15 July
  - France 4-2 Croatia

**NUM = Squad Number; MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.**

**2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Squad**
CROATIA / UEFA

Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender

Team Shape Data Explanation

Pass Accuracy
- Total Average Number of Passes
- FWC average

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- Total Average Number of Passes
- FWC average

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders
- Average Bypassed Opponents
- FWC average

Average Bypassed Defenders
- FWC average

Total Distance Covered
- FWC average

Distance Covered Above 20km/h
- FWC average

Distance Covered Above 25km/h
- FWC average

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average)
## 2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
<th>MINS</th>
<th>G</th>
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NUM = Squad Number; MINS = Minutes Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

### Average Possession

45%

### Goal Location

- 100% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- 0% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

### Shots

- 4.0 Shots on Target per Goal
- 13.3 Shots per Goal
- 10.0 Average Shots on Target per Match
- 3.0 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
- 0 Corners
- 0 Free Kicks
- 0 Penalties
- 1 Throw-ins

### Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance

- 2010 FIFA World Cup™ - Group Stage

### Technical Staff

- Åge Hareide (NOR) - Head Coach
- TOMASSON Jon Dahl (Assistant Coach)
- HOGH Lars (Goalkeeper Coach)
- ROSEN Ben (Physical Trainer)

### Match Results

- 16 June
  - Peru 0-1 Denmark
- 21 June
  - Denmark 1-1 Australia
  - Denmark 0-0 France
- 1 July
  - Croatia 1-1 Denmark (AET)

Croatia win on penalties (3-2)

### Average Number of Shots

- 10.0 Average Shots on Target per Match
- 3.0 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match

### Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

- 2 Open-Play Goals
- 1 Set-Play Goal

### Statistical Highlights

- 2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad
- Average Possession: 45%
- Average Number of Shots on Target per Match: 3.0
- Average Number of Shots per Goal: 13.3
- Goals Scored (Including Own Goals): 3
- Corners: 0
- Free Kicks: 0
- Penalties: 0
- Throw-ins: 1

### Additional Information

- Click on Match To See Highlights
- DENMARK / UEFA

### Match Schedule

- 16 June
  - Peru 0-1 Denmark
- 21 June
  - Denmark 1-1 Australia
  - Denmark 0-0 France
- 1 July
  - Croatia 1-1 Denmark (AET)

Croatia win on penalties (3-2)
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Team Compacness In & Out of Possession

- In Possession
- Out of Possession

- 803m²
- 584m²

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height

- In Possession
- Deepest Defender

- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

Team Positional Insights

- Team Shape Data Explanation

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy

- 397 Total Average Number of Passes
  - FWC average 473
- 36 Total Average Number of Passes
  - FWC average 28

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries

- 238 Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average 264
- 35 Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average 33
- 33 Average Penalty-Area Entries
  - FWC average 33
- 65 Average Final-Third Entries
  - FWC average 58

Total Distance Covered

- 107,670 m
  - FWC average 104,662 m

Distance Covered Above 20km/h

- 7,373 m
  - FWC average 7,554 m

Distance Covered Above 25km/h

- 1,965 m
  - FWC average 2,026 m

Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities

- # 320
  - FWC average 330

Denmark / UEFA

Pass Accuracy

- 80%
  - FWC average 84%

Pass Accuracy

- 57%
  - FWC average 68%

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

**Goalkeepers**

1. ESSAM ELHADARY (C) - Al Taawoun FC (KSA) - 90’ 0 0 159
2. SHERIF EKRAMY - Al Ahly SC (EGY) - 0 0 0 23
3. MOHAMED ELSHENAWY - Al Ahly SC (EGY) - 180’ 0 0 5

**Defenders**

2. ALI GABR - West Bromwich Albion FC (ENG) - 270’ 0 0 25
3. AHMED ELMOHAMADY - Aston Villa FC (ENG) - 0 0 0 84
6. AHMED HEGAZY - West Bromwich Albion FC (ENG) - 270’ 0 0 48
7. AHMED FATHI (C) - Al Ahly SC (EGY) - 270’ 0 0 131
12. AYMAN ASHRAF - Al Ahly SC (EGY) - 0 0 0 3
13. MOHAMED ABDELSHAFY - Al Fateh FC (KSA) - 270’ 0 0 55
15. MAHMOUD HAMDY - Zamalek (EGY) - 0 0 0 1
20. SAMIR SAAD - Al Ahly SC (EGY) - 0 0 0 11

**Midfielders**

4. OMAR GABER - Los Angeles FC (USA) - 0 0 0 24
5. SAM MORSY - Wigan Athletic FC (ENG) - 40’ 0 0 6
8. TAREK HAMED - Zamalek (EGY) - 230’ 0 0 26
17. MOHAMED ELSHENAWY - Arsenal FC (ENG) - 244’ 0 0 64
19. ABDALLA SAID - Kuopion PS (FIN) - 225’ 0 1 41
21. TREZIGUET - Kasimpasa SK (TUR) - 239’ 0 0 29

**Forwards**

9. MARWAN MOHSEN - Al Ahly SC (EGY) - 209’ 0 0 25
10. MOHAMED SALAH - Liverpool FC (ENG) - 180’ 2 0 58
11. KHAHRABA - Al Ittihad FC (KSA) - 44’ 0 0 25
14. RAMADAN SOBH - Stoke City FC (ENG) - 56’ 0 0 28
18. SHIKABALA - Al Raed SC (KSA) - 0 0 0 32
22. AMR WARDA - Atromitos FC (GRE) - 153’ 0 0 20

**Average Possession**

44%

**Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance**

1990 FIFA World Cup™ - Group Stage

**Goal Location**

- 50% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- 50% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

**Shots**

- 2.5 Shots on Target per Goal
- 1.7 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
- 14.5 Shots per Goal

**Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Goals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Open-Play Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Set-Play Goals</td>
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**Technical Staff**

- ELGHAMRAWY Osama (Assistant Coach)
- FANTAGUZZI Jose (Assistant Coach)
- SHOUDAP Mahmoud (Assistant Coach)
- SALEM Ahmed (Goalkeeper Coach)
- SARIDOGLU Antonios (Physical Trainer)
- KIELY John (Physical Trainer)

**Head Coach**

Héctor Cúper (ARG)
Egypt / CAF

Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

- 786 m²
- 504 m²

Team Passes and Accuracy
- 78% Total Average Number of Passes
  - FWC average 84%

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- 52% Total Average Number of Passes
  - FWC average 68%

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders
- 227 Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average 264
- 30 Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average 33

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- 28 Average Penalty-Area Entries
  - FWC average 33
- 57 Average Final-Third Entries
  - FWC average 58

Total Distance Covered
- 109,157 m
  - FWC average 104,662 m

Distance Covered Above 20 km/h
- 7,887 m
  - FWC average 7,554 m

Number of Zone 5 (>25 km/h) Activities
- # 337
  - FWC average 330

Distance Covered Above 25 km/h
- 1,940 m
  - FWC average 2,026 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
ENGLAND / UEFA

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<th>CAPS</th>
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</table>

NUM = Squad Number; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Goal Location

83% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
17% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

Shots

2.3 Shots on Target per Goal
8.1 Shots per Goal
3.9 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

Total Goals
3 Open-Play Goals
9 Set-Play Goals

Technical Staff

Gareth Southgate (ENG)

BOOTHROYD Aidy (Assistant Coach)
HOLLAND Steve (Assistant Coach)
RUSSELL Alan (Assistant Coach)
MARGETSON Martyn (Goalkeeper Coach)
ROSENBLATT Ben (Physical Trainer)
CAVANAGH Bryson (Physical Trainer)
NAYLOR Michael (Physical Trainer)

Average Possession
53%

Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance

2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Group Stage

Click On Match To See Highlights

GROUP STAGE
18 June
Tunisia 1-2 England
24 June
England 6-1 Panama
28 June
England 0-1 Belgium

ROUND OF 16
3 July
Colombia 1-1 England (AET)
England win on penalties (3-4)

QUARTER-FINAL
7 July
Sweden 0-2 England

SEMI-FINAL
11 July
Croatia 2-1 England (AET)

MATCH FOR 3RD PLACE
14 July
Belgium 2-0 England
ENGLAND / UEFA

Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

- 767m²
- 537m²

Team Shape Data Explanation

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries

Total Distance Covered Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities

Team Passes and Accuracy
- 86%
- Pass Accuracy
- FWC average 84%

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- 77%
- Pass Accuracy
- FWC average 68%

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders
- 281 Average Bypassed Opponents
- FWC average 264
- 33 Average Bypassed Defenders
- FWC average 33

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- 39 Average Penalty-Area Entries
- FWC average 33

Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities
- # 335

Distance Covered Above 20km/h
- 9 106,986 m
- FWC average 104,662 m

Distance Covered Above 25km/h
- 9 7,801 m
- FWC average 7,554 m

ENGLAND / UEFA

86%
Pass Accuracy
FWC average 84% ▲

77%
Pass Accuracy
FWC average 68% ▲

281
Average Bypassed Opponents
FWC average 264 ▲

33
Average Bypassed Defenders
FWC average 33 ▲

39
Average Penalty-Area Entries
FWC average 33 ▲

# 335

1st Third
2nd Third
Final Third

106,986 m
104,662 m ▲
7,801 m
7,554 m ▲

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

**GOALKEEPERS**

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<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
<th>MINS</th>
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<th>CAPS</th>
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**DEFENDERS**

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**NUM = Squad Number; = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.**

**2018 FIFA World Cup™™ Performance**

2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Quarter-Finals

**Opponents**

GROUP STAGE
16 June
France 2-1 Australia
21 June
France 1-0 Peru
26 June
Denmark 0-0 France

ROUND OF 16
30 June
France 4-3 Argentina

QUARTER-FINAL
6 July
Uruguay 0-2 France

SEMI-FINAL
10 July
France 1-0 Belgium

FINAL
15 July
France 4-2 Croatia

**Average Possession**

48%

**Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Goals Scored</th>
<th>Set-Play Goals</th>
<th>Free Kicks</th>
<th>Corners</th>
<th>Penalties</th>
<th>Throw-Ins</th>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
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**Goal Location**

- **71%** Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- **29%** Scored Outside Penalty-Area

**Shots**

- **2.1 Shots on Target per Goal**
- **12.0 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match**
- **6.0 Shots per Goal**

**Average Number of Shots on Target per Match**

**Corners**

- 1

**Free Kicks**

- 1

**Penalties**

- 3

**Throw-Ins**

- 0
### Team Compactness In & Out of Possession

- **In Possession**
  - Compactness: FRANCE 748m², UEFA 542m²

- **Out of Possession**
  - Compactness: FRANCE 28m, UEFA 27m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average)

### Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height

- **In Possession**
  - Deepest Defender: FRANCE 263, UEFA 33

- **Out of Possession**
  - Deepest Defender: FRANCE 29, UEFA 33

### Team Shape Data Explanation

#### Team Positional Insights

#### Team Shape Data Explanation

### Pass Accuracy

- **FRANCE**
  - Pass Accuracy: 83%

- **FWC Average**
  - Pass Accuracy: 84%

### Goalkeeper Pass Accuracy

- **FRANCE**
  - Pass Accuracy: 68%

- **FWC Average**
  - Pass Accuracy: 68%

### Number of Passes

- **FRANCE**
  - Total Number of Passes: 460

- **FWC Average**
  - Total Number of Passes: 473

### Distance Covered

- **FRANCE**
  - Total Distance Covered: 100,953 m

- **FWC Average**
  - Total Distance Covered: 104,662 m

### Distance Covered Above 20km/h

- **FRANCE**
  - Distance Covered: 7,096 m

- **FWC Average**
  - Distance Covered: 7,554 m

### Distance Covered Above 25km/h

- **FRANCE**
  - Distance Covered: 2,007 m

- **FWC Average**
  - Distance Covered: 2,026 m

### Total Average Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities

- **FRANCE**
  - # 316

- **FWC Average**
  - # 330
### 2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

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<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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### Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance

2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Champions

### Technical Staff

- SCHNEIDER Thomas (Assistant Coach)
- SORG Marcus (Assistant Coach)
- KOEPKE Andreas (Goalkeeper Coach)
- BROOME Oliver (Physical Trainer)
- DIETRICH Nicklas (Physical Trainer)
- FORSYTHE Shad (Physical Trainer)
- NORMAN Darcy (Physical Trainer)

### Key Statistics

#### Average Possession

- **67%**

#### Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

- **Total Goals: 1**
  - **Open-Play Goals: 1**
  - **Set-Play Goals: 0**

#### Shots

- **10.0** Shots on Target per Goal
- **24.0** Average Shots per Match
- **36.0** Shots per Goal

#### Goal Location

- **100%** Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- **0%** Scored Outside Penalty-Area

#### Corners

- **0**

#### Free Kicks

- **1**

#### Penalties

- **0**

#### Throw-ins

- **0**
**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**
- **In Possession**: 731 m²
- **Out of Possession**: 590 m²

**Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height**
- **In Possession**
  - Deepest Defender: 28 m
- **Out of Possession**
  - Deepest Defender: 27 m

**Total Distance Covered**
- **In Possession**: 111,857 m
- **Out of Possession**: 1,887 m

**Distance Covered Above 20 km/h**
- **In Possession**: 7,660 m
- **Out of Possession**: 35 m

**Distance Covered Above 25 km/h**
- **In Possession**: 473 m
- **Out of Possession**: 28 m

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- **Pass Accuracy**: 91%
  - FWC average: 84%

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- **Pass Accuracy**: 93%
  - FWC average: 68%

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- **Average Bypassed Opponents**: 404
  - FWC average: 264
- **Average Bypassed Defenders**: 40
  - FWC average: 33

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- **Final Third**: 61
  - Average Penalty-Area Entries: 33
- **2nd Third**: 78
  - Average Final-Third Entries: 58

**Number of Zone 5 (>25 km/h) Activities**
- **Total**: 341
  - FWC average: 330
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance
First FIFA World Cup™ Appearance

Head Coach
Heimir Hallgrimsson (ISL)

Technical Staff
KOLVIDSSON Helgi (Assistant Coach)
HREIDARSSON Gumundur (Goalkeeper Coach)
BOXLEITNER Sebastian (Physical Trainer)

GROUP STAGE
16 June
Argentina 1-1 Iceland
22 June
Nigeria 2-0 Iceland
26 June
Iceland 1-2 Croatia

ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINAL

SEMI-FINAL

FINAL

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

GOALKEEPERS

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<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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DEFENDERS

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MIDFIELDERS

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FORWARDS

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NUM = Squad Number;  = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Average Possession
37%

Goal Location

100% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
0% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

Corners 0
Free Kicks 0
Penalties 1
Throw-ins 0
ICELAND / UEFA

Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

538m²
435m²

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession

Team Passes and Accuracy
- 70%
Pass Accuracy
FWC average 84%▼

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- 58%
Pass Accuracy
FWC average 68%▼

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders
- 201
Average Bypassed Opponents
FWC average 264▼

- 28
Average Bypassed Defenders
FWC average 33▼

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- 32
Average Penalty-Area Entries
FWC average 33▼

- 55
Average Final-Third Entries
FWC average 58▼

Total Distance Covered
- 104,790 m
FWC average 104,662 m▲

Distance Covered Above 20 km/h
- 7,170 m
FWC average 7,594 m▼

Number of Zone 5 (>25 km/h) Activities
- 304
FWC average 330▼

Distance Covered Above 25 km/h
- 1,837 m
FWC average 2,026 m▼

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

**Goalkeepers**

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<tr>
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**Midfielders**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
<th>MINS</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TORABI Mahdi</td>
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**Forwards**

<table>
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<th>MINS</th>
<th>G</th>
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**Technical Staff**

- AGHAJIAN Markar (Assistant Coach)
- CRUZ Oceano (Assistant Coach)
- MIGUENS Rodolfo (Assistant Coach)
- LOPES Alexandre (Goalkeeper Coach)
- KUIJALA Mikko (Physical Trainer)
- MacDIARMADA Mic (Physical Trainer)

**Head Coach**

Carlos Queiroz (POR)

**Average Possession**

33%

**Shots**

- Shots on Target per Goal: 2.0
- Average Number of Shots on Target per Match: 1.3
- Shots per Goal: 11.5

**Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)**

- Total Goals: 2
  - 1 Open-Play Goals
  - 1 Set-Play Goals

- Corners: 0
- Free Kicks: 0
- Penalties: 1
- Throw-ins: 0

**Goal Location**

- 100% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- 0% Scored Outside Penalty-Area
### Team Passes and Accuracy

- **Pass Accuracy**
  - IR Iran: 64%
  - FWC average: 68%

- **Total Average Number of Passes**
  - IR Iran: 244
  - FWC average: 473

### Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy

- **Pass Accuracy**
  - IR Iran: 39%
  - FWC average: 68%

- **Total Average Number of Passes**
  - IR Iran: 23
  - FWC average: 28

### Bypassed Opponents and Defenders

- **Average Bypassed Opponents**
  - IR Iran: 149
  - FWC average: 264

- **Average Bypassed Defenders**
  - IR Iran: 28
  - FWC average: 33

### Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries

- **Average Final-Third Entries**
  - IR Iran: 47
  - FWC average: 58

- **Average Penalty-Area Entries**
  - IR Iran: 23
  - FWC average: 33

### Total Distance Covered

- **Total Distance Covered**
  - IR Iran: 103,757 m
  - FWC average: 104,662 m

- **Distance Covered Above 20 km/h**
  - IR Iran: 8,200 m
  - FWC average: 7,534 m

- **Distance Covered Above 25 km/h**
  - IR Iran: 2,250 m
  - FWC average: 2,026 m

---

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Click On Match To See Highlights

GROUP STAGE
19 June
Colombia 1-2 Japan
24 June
Japan 2-2 Senegal
28 June
Japan 0-1 Poland

ROUND OF 16
2 July
Belgium 3-2 Japan

QUARTER-FINAL
-

SEMIFINAL
-

FINAL
-

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

Goallkeepers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
<th>MINS</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>KAWASHIMA Eiji (C)</td>
<td>FC Metz (FRA)</td>
<td>360</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>HIGASHIHIGUCHI Masaki</td>
<td>Gamba Osaka (JPN)</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>NAKAMURA Kosuke</td>
<td>Kashima Reysol (JPN)</td>
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Defenders

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<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
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<td>Kashima Antlers (JPN)</td>
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<td>Kashima Antlers (JPN)</td>
<td>270</td>
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<td>NAGATOMO Yuto</td>
<td>Galatasaray SK (TUR)</td>
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<td>ENDO Wataru</td>
<td>Urawa Reds (JPN)</td>
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<td>SAKAI Hiroki</td>
<td>Olympique Marseille (FRA)</td>
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<td>MAKINO Tomaaki</td>
<td>Urawa Reds (JPN)</td>
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<td>SAKAI Gotoku</td>
<td>Hamburger SV (GER)</td>
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<td>Southampton FC (ENG)</td>
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Midfielders

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<th>MINS</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>HONDA Keisuke</td>
<td>CF Pachuca (MEX)</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>INUI Takashi</td>
<td>SD Eibar (ESP)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>YAMAGUCHI Hotaru</td>
<td>Cerezo Osaka (JPN)</td>
<td>109</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>HASEBE Makoto (C)</td>
<td>Eintracht Frankfurt (GER)</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>OSHIMA Ryota</td>
<td>Kawasaki Frontale (JPN)</td>
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Forwards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
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<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>OKAZAKI Shinni</td>
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<td>OSAKO Yuya</td>
<td>1. FC Köln (GER)</td>
<td>308</td>
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<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Goal Location

- 83% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- 17% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

Shots

- 2.7 Shots on Target per Goal
- 4.0 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
- 6.7 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

- Total Goals
- 4 Open-Play Goals
- 2 Set-Play Goals

Average Possession

- 52%

NUM = Squad Number; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance

2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Group Stage

Head Coach

Akira Nishino (JPN)

Technical Staff

MORIYASU Hajime (Assistant Coach)
TEGURAMORI Makoto (Assistant Coach)
HAMANO Yukia (Goalkeeper Coach)
SHIMADA Takeki (Goalkeeper Coach)
HAYAKAWA Naoki (Physical Trainer)
OGAI Tomohiro (Physical Trainer)
KIKUSHIMA Ryuichi (Physical Trainer)
KUBOTA Takeharu (Physical Trainer)
KURODA Hiroshi (Physical Trainer)
IKEUCHI Makoto (Physical Trainer)

JAPAN / AFC
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

**JAPAN / AFC**

**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

- 802m²
- 580m²

**Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height**
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

- 29m
- 38m
- 32m
- 26m
- 34m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average)

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- **86%**
  - Pass Accuracy
  - FWC average 84% ▲

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- **69%**
  - Pass Accuracy
  - FWC average 68% ▲

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- **262** Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average 264 ▼
- **35** Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average 33 ▲

**Total Distance Covered**
- **9 104,425 m**
  - FWC average 104,662 m ▼

**Distance Covered Above 20km/h**
- **9 7,995 m**
  - FWC average 7,534 m ▲

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- **26** Average Final-Third Entries
  - FWC average 58 ▲

**Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities**
- **# 348**
  - FWC average 330 ▲

**Distance Covered Above 25km/h**
- **9 2,293 m**
  - FWC average 2,026 m ▲
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance
2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Group Stage

2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™
Click On Match To See Highlights

GROUP STAGE
18 June
Sweden 1-0 Korea Republic
23 June
Korea Republic 1-2 Mexico
27 June
Korea Republic 2-0 Germany

ROUND OF 16

11
H C HWANG

QUARTER-FINAL

14
HONG Chul

SEMI-FINAL

20
JANG Hyunsoo

FINAL

33%

Scored Outside Penalty-Area

Total Goals

3

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

11.3

Shots per Match

2 Open-Play Goals

3

1 Set-Play Goals

3.7

Average Number of Shots on Target per Match

67%

Scored Inside Penalty-Area

Goal Location

H C HWANG

3.7

Shots on Target per Goal

11.3

Shots per Goal

Average Possession

40%

Tae Yong Shin (KOR)

Head Coach

CHA Duri (Assistant Coach)
GRANDE Jose (Assistant Coach)
JEON Kyeonghoon (Assistant Coach)
MINANO Javier (Assistant Coach)
KIM Namil (Assistant Coach)
KIM Haewoon (Goalkeeper Coach)
LEE Jaehong (Physical Trainer)
KIM Seongjin (Physical Trainer)
KONG Youndeok (Physical Trainer)
LIM Hyuntaek (Physical Trainer)
SEONG Baeyoung (Physical Trainer)

Taeyong Shin (KOR)

Technical Staff

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

NUM NAME CLUB (COUNTRY) MINS G A CAPS

1 KIM Seunggyu Vissel Kobe (JPN) 0 0 0 33
21 KIM Jinhyeon Cerezo Osaka (JPN) 0 0 0 15
23 JO Hyeonwoo Daegu FC (KOR) 270 0 0 9

2 LEE Yong Jeonbuk Hyundai (KOR) 270 0 0 31
3 JUNG Seunghyun Sagan Tosu FC (JPN) 0 0 0 6
4 OH Bensuk Jeju United (KOR) 0 0 0 2
5 YUN Youngsun Seongnam FC (KOR) 90 0 0 7
6 PARK Joocho Ulsan Hyundai FC (KOR) 28 0 0 37
12 KIM Minwoo Sangju Sangmu FC (KOR) 146 0 0 22
14 HONG Chul Sangju Sangmu FC (KOR) 96 0 0 16
19 KIM Younggeun Guangzhou Evergrande FC (CHN) 270 1 0 56
20 JANG Hyunsoo FC Tokyo (JPN) 270 0 0 54
22 GO Yoham FC Seoul (KOR) 11 0 0 20
8 JU Sejong Asan Mugunghwa FC (KOR) 85 0 1 12
10 LEE Seungwoo Hellas Verona FC (ITA) 43 0 0 6
13 KOO Jacheol FC Augsburg (GER) 129 0 0 70
15 JUNG Wooyoung Vissel Kobe (JPN) 127 0 0 32
16 KI Sungyueng (C) Swansea City AFC (WAL) 180 0 0 104
17 LEE Jaesung Jeonbuk Hyundai (KOR) 270 0 1 38
18 MOON Seonmin Incheon United FC (KOR) 146 0 0 5
7 SON Heungmin (C) Tottenham Hotspur FC (ENG) 270 2 0 70
9 KIM Shinwook Jeonbuk Hyundai (KOR) 66 0 0 51
11 HWANG Heechan FC Red Bull Salzburg (AUT) 202 0 0 17

NUM = Squad Number; B = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.
**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**

- **In Possession**
  - Team Compactness: 751 m²
  - Out of Possession: 501 m²

**Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height**

- **In Possession**
  - Deepest Defender: 39 m
- **Out of Possession**
  - Deepest Defender: 35 m

**Team Passes and Accuracy**

- **Total Average Number of Passes**
  - FWC average: 473
  - 336
- **Pass Accuracy**
  - FWC average: 84%
  - 79%

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**

- **Average Bypassed Opponents**
  - FWC average: 264
  - 198
- **Average Bypassed Defenders**
  - FWC average: 33
  - 31

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**

- **Final third**
  - Average: 25
- **2nd third**
  - Average: 43
- **1st third**
  - Average: 33

**Total Distance Covered**

- **106,583 m**
  - FWC average: 104,662 m
- **7,953 m**
  - FWC average: 7,554 m

**Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities**

- **355**
  - FWC average: 330

**Distance Covered Above 20km/h**

- **106,583 m**
  - FWC average: 104,662 m
- **7,953 m**
  - FWC average: 7,554 m

**Distance Covered Above 25km/h**

- **2,167 m**
  - FWC average: 2,026 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
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<td>Cruz Azul (MEX)</td>
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<td>TALAVERA Alfredo</td>
<td>Deportivo Toluca FC (MEX)</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Standard Liège (BEL)</td>
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</table>

NUM = Squad Number; P = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Average Possession

54%
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

MEXICO / CONCACAF

Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

- 844m²
- 584m²

The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.

Team Shape Data Explanation

Team Positional Insights

Team Passes and Accuracy
- Pass Accuracy
  - 85%
  - FWC average 84%

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- Pass Accuracy
  - 72%
  - FWC average 68%

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders
- Average Bypassed Opponents
  - 270
  - FWC average 264

- Average Bypassed Defenders
  - 33
  - FWC average 33

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- Final third
  - 29
  - FWC average 33

Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities
- # 306
  - FWC average 330

Total Distance Covered
- 98,660 m

Distance Covered Above 20km/h
- 6,970 m

Distance Covered Above 25km/h
- 1,978 m

FWC average

FWC average

FWC average

FWC average
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

MOROCCO / CAF

Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance
1998 FIFA World Cup™ - Group Stage

Head Coach
Hervé Renard (FRA)

Technical Staff
BEAUMELLE Patrice (Assistant Coach)
HADJI Mustafa (Assistant Coach)
SENCE Philippe (Goalkeeper Coach)

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

GOALKEEPERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
<th>MINS</th>
<th>G</th>
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DEFENDERS

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FORWARDS

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<td>FC St. Pauli (GER)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NUM = Squad Number; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Goal Location

100% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
0% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

Shots

5.0 Shots on Target per Goal
11.3 Average Shots per Match
17.0 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

Total Goals
- 1 Open-Play Goals
- 1 Set-Play Goals

Average Possession
49%

NUM = Squad Number; G = Goal(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.
**2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™**

**MOROCCO / CAF**

**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

**Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height**
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

**Team Shape Data Explanation**

**Team Positional Insights**

---

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- **80%**
  - Pass Accuracy
  - FWC average: 84%

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- **62%**
  - Pass Accuracy
  - FWC average: 68%

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- **230**
  - Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average: 264
- **24**
  - Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average: 33

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- **29**
  - Average Penalty-Area Entries
  - FWC average: 33
- **52**
  - Average Final-Third Entries
  - FWC average: 58

**Total Distance Covered**
- **106,483 m**
  - FWC average: 104,662 m

**Distance Covered Above 20 km/h**
- **8,700 m**
  - FWC average: 7,534 m

**Number of Zone 5 (>25 km/h) Activities**
- **370**
  - FWC average: 330

**Distance Covered Above 25 km/h**
- **2,407 m**
  - FWC average: 2,026 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
**2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Squad**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
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</table>

**Goal Location**

- **100%** Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- **0%** Scored Outside Penalty-Area

**Shots**

- **3.0 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match**
- **13.0 Average Shots per Match**
- **3.0 Shots on Target per Goal**
- **13.0 Shots per Goal**

**Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)**

- **2 Open-Play Goals**
- **1 Set-Play Goals**

**Average Possession**

**46%**

**Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance**

- **2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Round of 16**

**2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Group Stage**

- **16 June**
  - Croatia 2-0 Nigeria
- **22 June**
  - Nigeria 2-0 Iceland
- **26 June**
  - Nigeria 1-2 Argentina

**2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Round of 16**

- **Quarter-Final**
- **Semi-Final**
- **Final**

**Head Coach**

- Gernot Rohr (GER)

**Technical Staff**

- AMAPAKABO Imama (Assistant Coach)
- YUSUF Salisu (Assistant Coach)
- AGU Alloy (Goalkeeper Coach)
- PIONETTI Enrico (Goalkeeper Coach)
- GINES Bernard (Physical Trainer)
- ROYER Jean Luc (Physical Trainer)
Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

767m²
536m²

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries

Number of Passes

Pass Accuracy
FWC average 84%

Team Passes and Accuracy

77%

Pass Accuracy
FWC average 68%

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy

56%

Pass Accuracy
FWC average 28%

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries

Average Bypassed Opponents
FWC average 264

257

Average Bypassed Defenders
FWC average 33

31

Total Distance Covered

99,343 m

FWC average 104,662 m

Distance Covered Above 20km/h

7,130 m

FWC average 7,554 m

Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities

313

FWC average 330

Distance Covered Above 25km/h

2,013 m

FWC average 2,026 m

Team Shape Data Explanation

(NIGERIA / CAF)

Pass Accuracy
FWC average 85%

Pass Accuracy
FWC average 68%

(Passer positions have been taken from one game.) Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.

Team Positional Insights
**2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad**

### GOALKEEPERS

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<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
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### DEFENDERS

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NUM = Squad Number; 0 = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

**Average Possession**: 40%

**Goal Location**

- 100% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- 0% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

**Shots**

- 4.0 Shots on Target per Goal
- 7.7 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
- 11.5 Shots per Goal

**Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)**

- Total Goals: 1 Open-Play Goals, 1 Set-Play Goals
- Corners: 0
- Free Kicks: 1
- Penalties: 0
- Throw-ins: 0
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

Team Passes and Accuracy
- 80%
- Pass Accuracy
- FWC average 84%

Total Average Number of Passes
- 356
- FWC average 473

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- 42%
- Pass Accuracy
- FWC average 68%

Total Average Number of Passes
- 21
- FWC average 28

Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities
- # 303
- FWC average 330

Total Distance Covered
- 97,117 m
- FWC average 104,662 m

Distance Covered Above 20km/h
- 96,953 m
- FWC average 7,554 m

Distance Covered Above 25km/h
- 1,897 m
- FWC average 2,026 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

**2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad**

**Goalkeeper**

1. GALLESE Pedro - CD Tiburones Rojos de Veracruz (MEX) - 270' 0 0 42
2. RODRIGUEZ Alberto (C) - Atletico Junior (COL) - 135' 0 0 75
3. CORZO Aldo - Universitario Lima (PER) - 0 0 0 24
4. SANTAMARIA Anderson - Puebla FC (MEX) - 135' 0 0 8
5. ARAUJO Miguel - Alianza Lima (PER) - 0 0 0 8
6. TRAUCO Miguel - CR Flamengo (BRA) - 270' 0 0 29
7. HURTADO Paolo - Vitória Guimarães (POR) - 27' 0 0 34
8. CUEVA Christian - Sao Paulo FC (BRA) - 262' 0 0 48
9. GUERRERO Paolo (C) - CR Flamengo (BRA) - 208' 1 1 92
10. FARFAN Jefferson - FC Lokomotiv Moskow (RUS) - 130' 0 0 86
11. RUIDIAZ Raul - CA Monarcas Morelia (MEX) - 13' 0 0 32
12. CARRILLO Andre - Watford FC (ENG) - 259' 1 0 49
13. FLORES Edison - Aalborg BK (DEN) - 242' 0 0 32

**Defender**

2. RODRIGUEZ Alberto (C) - Atletico Junior (COL) - 135' 0 0 75
3. CORZO Aldo - Universitario Lima (PER) - 0 0 0 24
4. SANTAMARIA Anderson - Puebla FC (MEX) - 135' 0 0 8
5. ARAUJO Miguel - Alianza Lima (PER) - 0 0 0 8
6. TRAUCO Miguel - CR Flamengo (BRA) - 270' 0 0 29
15. RAMOS Christian - CD Tiburones Rojos de Veracruz (MEX) - 270' 0 0 73
17. ADVINCULA Luis - Lobos BUAP (MEX) - 270' 0 0 68
22. LOYOLA Nilson - FBC Melgar (PER) - 0 0 0 3
7. HURTADO Paolo - Vitória Guimarães (POR) - 27' 0 0 34
8. CUEVA Christian - Sao Paulo FC (BRA) - 262' 0 0 48
13. TAPIA Renato - Feyenoord Rotterdam (NED) - 150' 0 0 33
14. POLO Andy - Portland Timbers (USA) - 0 0 0 17
16. CARTAGENA Wilder - CD Tiburones Rojos de Veracruz (MEX) - 11' 0 0 4
19. YOTUN Yoshimar - Orlando City SC (USA) - 180' 0 0 76
23. AQUINO Pedro - Lobos BUAP (MEX) - 138' 0 0 16

**Forwards**

9. GUERRERO Paolo (C) - CR Flamengo (BRA) - 208' 1 1 92
10. FARFAN Jefferson - FC Lokomotiv Moskow (RUS) - 130' 0 0 86
11. RUIDIAZ Raul - CA Monarcas Morelia (MEX) - 13' 0 0 32
18. CARRILLO Andre - Watford FC (ENG) - 259' 1 0 49
20. FLORES Edison - Aalborg BK (DEN) - 242' 0 0 32

**Technical Staff**

ALVES Hugo (Assistant Coach)
SANTIN Sergio (Assistant Coach)
SOLANO Nolberto (Assistant Coach)
HONORES Luis (Goalkeeper Coach)
BONILLO Nestor (Physical Trainer)
VACCARINI Adrian (Physical Trainer)

**Head Coach**

Ricardo Gareca (ARG)

---

**Average Possession**

52%
### Bypassed Opponents and Defenders

- **Average Bypassed Opponents**: 284 (FWC average: 264)
- **Average Bypassed Defenders**: 31 (FWC average: 33)

### Team Compactness In & Out of Possession

- **In Possession**: 592m²
- **Out of Possession**: 486m²

### Team Passes and Accuracy

- **Pass Accuracy**: 82% (FWC average: 84%)
- **Total Average Number of Passes**: 473 (FWC average: 473)

### Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy

- **Pass Accuracy**: 55% (FWC average: 68%)
- **Total Average Number of Passes**: 27 (FWC average: 28)

### Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries

- **Final Third**: 27 (Average Penalty-Area Entries: FWC average: 33)
- **2nd Third**: 50 (Average Final-Third Entries: FWC average: 58)
- **1st Third**:

### Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities

- **# 327**

### Total Distance Covered

- **9 102,277 m** (FWC average: 104,662 m)

### Distance Covered Above 20km/h

- **97,517 m** (FWC average: 7,594 m)

### Distance Covered Above 25km/h

- **1,947 m** (FWC average: 2,026 m)
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

POLAND / UEFA

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

Goalkeeper

1. SZCZESNY Wojciech (Juventus FC (ITA)) - 180 MINS, 0 Goals, 0 Assists, 37 Caps
2. PAZDAN Michal (Legia Warsaw (POL)) - 170 MINS, 0 Goals, 35 Caps

Defender

3. JEDRZEJCZYK Artur (Legia Warsaw (POL)) - 90 MINS, 0 Goals, 37 Caps
4. CIONEK Thiago (SPAL Ferrara (ITA)) - 90 MINS, 0 Goals, 20 Caps
5. BEDNAREK Jan (Southampton FC (ENG)) - 225 MINS, 1 Goal, 6 Caps
6. GÓRALSKI Jacek (PFC Ludogorets Razgrad (BUL)) - 180 MINS, 0 Goals, 7 Caps
7. MILIK Arkadiusz (SSC Napoli (ITA)) - 73 MINS, 0 Goals, 41 Caps
8. LEWANDOWSKI Robert (FC Bayern München (GER)) - 270 MINS, 0 Goals, 98 Caps
9. KOWNACKI Dawid (UC Sampdoria (ITA)) - 74 MINS, 0 Goals, 4 Caps

Midfielder

10. KRYCHOWIAK Grzegorz (West Bromwich Albion FC (ENG)) - 270 MINS, 1 Goal, 54 Caps
11. GROSIČKI Kamil (Hull City FC (ENG)) - 213 MINS, 0 Goals, 60 Caps
12. BEDNAREK Jan (Southampton FC (ENG)) - 225 MINS, 1 Goal, 6 Caps
13. RYBUS Maciej (FC Lokomotiv Moscow (RUS)) - 180 MINS, 0 Goals, 53 Caps
14. TEODORCZYK Lukasz (RSC Anderlecht (BEL)) - 29 MINS, 0 Goals, 19 Caps
15. GLIK Kamil (AS Monaco (FRA)) - 100 MINS, 0 Goals, 60 Caps
16. BLASZCZYKOWSKI Jakub (VfL Wolfsburg (GER)) - 45 MINS, 0 Goals, 100 Caps
17. PESZKO Slawomir (Lechia Gdansk (POL)) - 11 MINS, 0 Goals, 44 Caps
18. ZIELINSKI Piotr (SSC Napoli (ITA)) - 259 MINS, 0 Goals, 36 Caps
19. PISZCZEK Łukasz (Borussia Dortmund (GER)) - 173 MINS, 0 Goals, 65 Caps

Forward

20. LEWANDOWSKI Robert (FC Bayern München (GER)) - 270 MINS, 0 Goals, 98 Caps
21. KURZAWA Rafal (Gornik Zabrze (POL)) - 79 MINS, 1 Goal, 4 Caps
22. FABIANSKI Lukasz (Swansea City AFC (WAL)) - 90 MINS, 0 Goals, 46 Caps
23. ZIELINSKI Piotr (SSC Napoli (ITA)) - 259 MINS, 0 Goals, 36 Caps

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Performance

2006 FIFA World Cup™ - Group Stage

Average Possession

49%

Goal Location

100% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
0% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

Shots

4.0 Shots on Target per Goal
10.7 Average Shots per Match
16.0 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

Total Goals
2
0 Open-Play Goals
2 Set-Play Goals
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- 83%
- Total Average Number of Passes: 500
- Pass Accuracy: FWC average 82%

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- Average Bypassed Opponents: 271
  - FWC average: 264
- Average Bypassed Defenders: 39
  - FWC average: 33

**Total Distance Covered**
- 105,330 m
- Distance Covered Above 20km/h: 97,197 m
- Distance Covered Above 25km/h: 92,057 m

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- 80%
- Total Average Number of Passes: 28
- Pass Accuracy: FWC average 68%

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- 35
  - Average Penalty-Area Entries: FWC average 33
- 67
  - Average Final-Third Entries: FWC average 58

**Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities**
- # 313
  - FWC average: 330

**Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

**Team Positional Insights**
- Team Compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

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NUM = Squad Number; % = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

Total Goals: 6
- 2 Open-Play Goals
- 4 Set-Play Goals

Shots per Goal: 2.3
Average Number of Shots on Target per Match: 3.5

Scored Inside Penalty-Area: 67%
Scored Outside Penalty-Area: 33%

3.5

Average Possession: 54%
**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

- **744m²**
- **465m²**

*The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.*

---

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- **84%**
- Total Average Number of Passes
- FWC average 473

- **497**

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- **72%**
- Total Average Number of Passes
- FWC average 28

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- **299**
  - Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average 264
- **33**
  - Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average 33

---

**Total Distance Covered**
- **103,528 m**
- FWC average 104,662 m

**Distance Covered Above 20km/h**
- **6,853 m**
- FWC average 7,594 m

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- **32**
  - Average Penalty-Area Entries
  - FWC average 33
- **57**
  - Average Final-Third Entries
  - FWC average 58

**Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities**
- **304**
- FWC average 330

**Distance Covered Above 25km/h**
- **1,670 m**
- FWC average 2,026 m
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

**Goalkeepers**

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**Midfielders**

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**Forwards**

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**Technical Staff**

- ROMASHCHENKO Miroslav (Assistant Coach)
- STAUCIĆ Gintaras (Goalkeeper Coach)
- GRANERO Paulino (Physical Trainer)
- PANIKOV Vladimir (Physical Trainer)

**Average Possession**

- 38%

**Shots**

- 1.6 Shots on Target per Goal
- 9.8 Average Shots per Match
- 4.5 Shots per Goal

**Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)**

- Total Goals: 11
- Open-Play Goals: 6
- Set-Play Goals: 5
- Penalties: 4
- Corner Kicks: 0
- Throw-Ins: 1

**Goal Location**

- 82% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- 18% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

**Statistics**

- Total Goals: 38%
- Set-Play Goals: 5
- Open-Play Goals: 3
- Penalties: 1
- Corner Kicks: 0
- Throw-Ins: 0
**2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™**

**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

**Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height**
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- Pass Accuracy
  - Total Average Number of Passes
  - FWC average 473

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- Pass Accuracy
  - Total Average Number of Passes
  - FWC average 28

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average 264
- Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average 33

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- Final Third
- 2nd Third
- 1st Third
- Average Penalty-Area Entries
  - FWC average 33
- Average Final-Third Entries
  - FWC average 58

**Total Distance Covered**
- 9,110,716 m
- FWC average 104,662 m

**Distance Covered Above 20km/h**
- 98,246 m
- FWC average 7,554 m

**Distance Covered Above 25km/h**
- 2,066 m
- FWC average 2,026 m

**Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities**
- # 350
- FWC average 330

**(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average)**
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<th>G</th>
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NUM = Squad Number; = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Goal Location

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<tr>
<th>% Scored Inside Penalty-Area</th>
<th>% Scored Outside Penalty-Area</th>
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Shots

- 4.5 Shots on Target per Goal
- 3.0 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
- 18.5 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

- Total Goals
- 1 Open-Play Goals
- 1 Set-Play Goals

Average Possession

58%
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Team Compactness In & Out of Possession

- In Possession
- Out of Possession

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height

- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

Team Passes and Accuracy

- 88% Pass Accuracy
- FWC average 89%

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy

- 74% Pass Accuracy
- FWC average 68%

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders

- 302 Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average 264

- 22 Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average 33

Total Distance Covered

- 102,263 m
  - FWC average 104,662 m

Distance Covered Above 20km/h

- 97,917 m
  - FWC average 7,554 m

Distance Covered Above 25km/h

- 92,137 m
  - FWC average 20,262 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)

Team Positional Insights

- Team Shape Data Explanation
- Team Compactness
- Team Width
- Team Length
- Team Deepest Defender Line Height

Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities

- # 339
**SENegal / CAF**

**2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad**

**Goalkeepers**

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**Forwards**

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**Goal Location**

- **100%** Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- **0%** Scored Outside Penalty-Area

**Shots**

- **3.0** Shots on Target per Goal
- **7.5** Shots per Goal
- **4.0** Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
- **10.0** Average Shots per Match

**Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)**

- **4** Open-Play Goals
- **0** Set-Play Goals
- **0** Corners
- **0** Free Kicks
- **0** Penalties
- **0** Throw-Ins

**Average Possession**

- **44%**
**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

**Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height**
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- 79% Pass Accuracy
  - Total Average: 344 Number of Passes
  - FWC average: 473

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- 39% Pass Accuracy
  - Total Average: 24 Number of Passes
  - FWC average: 28

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- 217 Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average: 264
- 33 Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average: 33

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- 33 Average Penalty-Area Entries
  - FWC average: 33
- 58 Average Final-Third Entries
  - FWC average: 58

**Total Distance Covered**
- 101,977 m
  - FWC average: 104,662 m

**Distance Covered Above 20 km/h**
- 98,137 m
  - FWC average: 7,594 m

**Number of Zone 5 (>25 km/h) Activities**
- 354
  - FWC average: 330

**Distance Covered Above 25 km/h**
- 2,383 m
  - FWC average: 2,026 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

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NUM = Squad Number; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Average Possession

45%
Team Compactness In & Out of Possession

- **In Possession**
  - Team Compactness: 861m², 631m²

- **Out of Possession**
  - Team Compactness: 861m², 631m²

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height

- **In Possession**
  - Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height: 31m, 38m, 41m

- **Out of Possession**
  - Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height: 35m, 34m, 28m

Team Positional Insights

**Team Shape Data Explanation**

- **Pass Accuracy**
  - **Team Passes and Accuracy**
    - 78% Pass Accuracy
    - FWC average: 84%

- **Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
  - 64% Pass Accuracy
  - FWC average: 68%

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**

- **Average Bypassed Opponents**
  - 257 Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average: 264

- **Average Bypassed Defenders**
  - 35 Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average: 33

**Total Distance Covered**

- **Turkey**
  - 112,987 m
  - FWC average: 104,662 m

**Distance Covered Above 20km/h**

- **Turkey**
  - 97,747 m
  - FWC average: 7,594 m

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**

- **Total Average Number of Passes**
  - 408 Total Average
  - FWC average: 473

- **Average Penalty-Area Entries**
  - 26 Total Average
  - FWC average: 28

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**

- **Final Third**
  - 36 Average Penalty-Area Entries
  - FWC average: 33

- **2nd Third**
  - 59 Average Final-Third Entries
  - FWC average: 58

**Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities**

- **# 353**
  - FWC average: 330

**Distance Covered Above 25km/h**

- **Turkey**
  - 1,933 m
  - FWC average: 2,026 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average)
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia

Click on Match To See Highlights

GROUP STAGE
15 June
Portugal 3-3 Spain
20 June
IR Iran 0-1 Spain
25 June
Spain 2-2 Morocco

ROUND OF 16
1 July
Spain 1-1 Russia (AET)
Russia win on penalties (3-4)

QUARTER-FINAL

Semi-Final

Final

Previous FIFA World Cup Performance
2014 FIFA World Cup™ - Group Stage

2018 FIFA World Cup Squad

GOALKEEPERS

DEFENDERS

MIDFIELDERS

FORWARDS

NUM NAME CLUB (COUNTRY) MINS G A CAPS
1 DE GEA David Manchester United FC (ENG) 390 0 0 33
13 ARRIZABALAGA Kepa Athletic Bilbao (ESP) 0 0 0 1
23 REINA Pepe SSC Napoli (ITA) 0 0 0 36
2 CARVAJAL Daniel Real Madrid CF (ESP) 230 0 1 18
3 PIQUE Gerard FC Barcelona (ESP) 390 0 0 102
4 NACHO Real Madrid CF (ESP) 160 1 0 19
12 ODRIOZOLA Alvaro Real Sociedad (ESP) 0 0 0 4
14 AZPILICUETA Cesar Chelsea FC (ENG) 0 0 0 22
15 RAMOS Sergio (C) Real Madrid CF (ESP) 390 0 0 156
16 MONREAL Nacio Arsenal FC (ENG) 0 0 0 22
18 ALBA Jordi FC Barcelona (ESP) 390 0 0 66
5 BUSQUETS Sergio FC Barcelona (ESP) 390 0 1 107
6 INESTA Andres FC Barcelona (ESP) 284 0 1 121
7 SAUL Atletico Madrid (ESP) 0 0 0 10
8 KOKE Atletico Madrid (ESP) 229 0 0 43
10 THIAGO FC Bayern München (GER) 94 0 0 31
20 ASENSIO Marco Real Madrid CF (ESP) 131 0 0 15
22 ISCO Real Madrid CF (ESP) 390 1 0 32
9 RODRIGO Valencia CF (ESP) 23 0 0 9
11 VAZQUEZ Lucas Real Madrid CF (ESP) 83 0 0 9
17 ASPAS Iago Celta Vigo (ESP) 69 1 0 13
19 COSTA Diego Atletico Madrid (ESP) 320 3 0 24
21 SILVA David Manchester City FC (ENG) 327 0 0 125

NUM = Squad Number; G = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Average Possession

69%

Goal Location

86% Scored Inside Penalty-Area

14% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

Shots

3.3 Shots on Target per Goal

5.8 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match

10.3 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

Total Goals

7 4 Open-Play Goals

3 Set-Play Goals

Corners 2
Free Kicks 1
Penalties 0
Throw-ins 0
Team Passes and Accuracy
- Pass Accuracy: 92% (FWC average 84%)
- Total Average Number of Passes: 804 (FWC average 473)

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- Pass Accuracy: 83% (FWC average 68%)
- Total Average Number of Passes: 21 (FWC average 28)

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders
- Average Bypassed Opponents: 327 (FWC average 264)
- Average Bypassed Defenders: 29 (FWC average 33)

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- Average Final-Third Entries: 91 (FWC average 58)
- Average Penalty-Area Entries: 43 (FWC average 33)

Total Distance Covered
- Total: 103,830 m (FWC average 104,662 m)
- Above 20 km/h: 97,040 m (FWC average 7,594 m)

Number of Zone 5 (>25 km/h) Activities
- Total: 320 (FWC average 330)
- Above 25 km/h: 1,588 m (FWC average 2,026 m)

Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- Team Compactness
  - In Possession: 750 m² (532 m²)
  - Out of Possession: 29 m (44 m)

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height
- In Possession
  - Deepest Defender: 26 m (29 m)
- Out of Possession
  - Deepest Defender: 31 m (34 m)

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

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<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB (COUNTRY)</th>
<th>MINS</th>
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<th>A</th>
<th>CAPS</th>
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NUM = Squad Number; G = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Average Possession

39%
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

(Please refer to the diagrams for visual data representation.)

Team Passes and Accuracy
- SWEDEN / UEFA
- Total Average Number of Passes: 325
- FWC average: 473

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- Total Average Number of Passes: 27
- FWC average: 28

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders
- Total Number of Bypassed Opponents: 195
- FWC average: 264

- Average Bypassed Defenders: 36
- FWC average: 33

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- Total Average Number of Entries:
  - Final Third: 29
  - 2nd Third: 50
  - 1st Third: 195

Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities
- Total Number of Activities: 264
- FWC average: 330

Distance Covered and Zone 5 Activities
- Total Distance Covered: 105,134 m
- Distance Covered Above 20km/h: 5,966 m
- Distance Covered Above 25km/h: 1,392 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

Goal Location

80% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
20% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

2.8 Shots on Target per Goal
19.3 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
11.6 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

Total Goals
4 Open-Play Goals
0 Corners
0 Free Kicks
0 Penalties
0 Throw-ins
1 Set-Play Goals
Team Compactness In & Out of Possession
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

Bypassed Opponents and Defenders
- Average Bypassed Opponents
  - FWC average 264
- Average Bypassed Defenders
  - FWC average 33

Total Distance Covered
- 106,563 m
- FWC average 104,662

Distance Covered Above 20km/h
- 97,333 m
- FWC average 7,594

Distance Covered Above 25km/h
- 1,795 m
- FWC average 2,026

Team Passes and Accuracy
- 86%
- Pass Accuracy
  - FWC average 84%

Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy
- 75%
- Pass Accuracy
  - FWC average 68%

Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities
- # 322
- FWC average 330

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- 285
  - Average Final-Third Entries
    - FWC average 58
- 31
  - Average Penalty-Area Entries
    - FWC average 33

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- 2nd third
- 1st third

Total Average Number of Passes
- Switzerland: 555
- FWC average: 473

Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries
- 2nd third
- 1st third

Total Average Number of Passes
- Switzerland: 37
- FWC average: 28

Team Positional Insights
- Team Shape Data Explanation
- Team Compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represent the team tournament average
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Performance
Previous FIFA World Cup™ Performance
2006 FIFA World Cup™ - Group Stage

Goal Location

Shots

2.6 Shots on Target per Goal

12.3 Average Shots per Match

7.4 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

Total Goals

5

3 Open-Play Goals

1 Free Kicks

Penalties

1

2 Set-Play Goals

Throw-ins

0

Average Possession

51%
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

**TUNISIA / CAF**

**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

- **726m²**
- **511m²**

**Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height**
- In Possession
- Deepest Defender
- Out of Possession
- Deepest Defender

**Total Distance Covered**
- **103,813 m**
- FWC average 104,662 m

**Distance Covered Above 20km/h**
- **98,113 m**
- FWC average 7,554 m

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- **83%**
- Pass Accuracy
- FWC average 84%

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- **74%**
- Total Average Number of Passes
- FWC average 473

- **22**
- Total Average Number of Passes
- FWC average 28

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- **259**
- Average Bypassed Opponents
- FWC average 264

- **31**
- Average Bypassed Defenders
- FWC average 33

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- **30**
- Average Penalty-Area Entries
- FWC average 33

- **46**
- Average Final-Third Entries
- FWC average 58

**Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities**
- **# 350**
- FWC average 330

**Distance Covered Above 25km/h**
- **92,307 m**
- FWC average 20,263 m

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average)
2018 FIFA World Cup™ Squad

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</table>

NUM = Squad Number; 0 = Clean Sheet(s); MINS = Minute(s) Played; G = Goal(s); A = Assist(s); CAPS = Appearance as of 16th July 2018.

Goal Location

- 71% Scored Inside Penalty-Area
- 29% Scored Outside Penalty-Area

Shots

- 3.0 Shots on Target per Goal
- 4.2 Average Number of Shots on Target per Match
- 8.9 Shots per Goal

Goals Scored (Including Own Goals)

- 7 Open-Play Goals
- 4 Set-Play Goals

Average Possession

48%

Head Coach

Óscar Tabárez (URU)

Technical Staff

REBOLLO Mario (Assistant Coach)
OTERO Celso (Assistant Coach)
HERRERA Jose (Physical Trainer)
URRUTIA Sebastian (Physical Trainer)
ANTIVERO Enrique (Physical Trainer)
VARGAS Ciro (Physical Trainer)
2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

**Team Compactness In & Out of Possession**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

**Team Width, Team Length & Deepest Defender Line Height**
- In Possession
- Out of Possession

**Team Passes and Accuracy**
- 79%
- Total Average Number of Passes: 460
- FWC average 473

**Goalkeeper Passes and Accuracy**
- 73%
- Total Average Number of Passes: 28
- FWC average 26

**Bypassed Opponents and Defenders**
- Average Bypassed Opponents: 230
- FWC average 264
- Average Bypassed Defenders: 31
- FWC average 33

**Total Distance Covered**
- 104,256 m
- FWC average 104,662 m

**Distance Covered Above 20km/h**
- 6,774 m
- FWC average 7,594 m

**Distance Covered Above 25km/h**
- 1,724 m
- FWC average 2,026 m

**Final-Third and Penalty-Area Entries**
- 33
- Average Penalty-Area Entries: 33
- FWC average 33

**Number of Zone 5 (>25km/h) Activities**
- 300
- FWC average 330

(The representation of player positions has been taken from one game. Team compactness, team width, team length & team deepest defender line height represents the team tournament average.)
PERFORMANCE INSIGHTS
Average possession %

Spain 69%  
Germany 67%  
Argentina 64%  
Saudi Arabia 58%  
Switzerland 58%  
Croatia 56%  
Brazil 54%  
Portugal 54%  
England 53%  
Belgium 53%  
Japan 52%  
Peru 51%  
Tunisia 51%  
Australia 51%  
Colombia 51%  
Poland 49%  
Morocco 49%  
Uruguay 48%  
France 48%  
Nigeria 46%  
Denmark 45%  
Serbia 45%  
Senegal 44%  
Egypt 44%  
Costa Rica 41%  
Korea Republic 40%  
Panama 40%  
Sweden 39%  
Russia 38%  
Iceland 37%  
Iran 33%

FWC 2018™ winner
Average passes and success %

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<tr>
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<tr>
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FWC 2010 winner: 443
FWC 2014 winner: 442
FWC 2018 winner: 473
Average bypassed defenders

- Belgium: 49
- Brazil: 45
- Germany: 40
- Poland: 39
- Sweden: 36
- Japan: 35
- Serbia: 35
- Denmark: 35
- Russia: 35
- France: 33
- Mexico: 33
- Senegal: 33
- Colombia: 33
- England: 33
- Portugal: 33
- Peru: 31
- Korea Republic: 31
- Nigeria: 31
- Switzerland: 31
- Tunisia: 31
- Uruguay: 31
- Egypt: 31
- Croatia: 30
- Argentina: 29
- Spain: 29
- Iceland: 28
- Iran: 28
- Costa Rica: 28
- Panama: 27
- Australia: 26
- Morocco: 24
- Saudi Arabia: 22

FWC 2010: 39
FWC 2014: 38
FWC 2018: 33
Average final third entries

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<tr>
<td>Korea Republic</td>
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</table>
Average penalty area entries

Average number of crosses
Goals scored (including own goals)

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<th>Croatia</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>England</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
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<th>Sweden</th>
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<th>Senegal</th>
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<th>Panama</th>
<th>Peru</th>
<th>Poland</th>
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<th>Serbia</th>
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### Average shots per goal

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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
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**FWC 2018™ winner**
- Russia: 12.8
- France: 10.0
- Colombia: 9.8

**FWC 2010**
- 12.8

**FWC 2014**
- 10.0

**FWC 2018**
- 9.8
Average shots on target per goal

- **Russia**: 1.6
- **Colombia**: 2.0
- **Croatia**: 2.0
- **Iran**: 2.0
- **France**: 2.3
- **England**: 2.3
- **Portugal**: 2.5
- **Belgium**: 2.5
- **Egypt**: 2.6
- **Japan**: 2.7
- **Switzerland**: 2.8
- **Argentina**: 3.0
- **Nigeria**: 3.0
- **Senegal**: 3.0
- **Uruguay**: 3.0
- **Spain**: 3.3
- **Serbia**: 3.5
- **Sweden**: 3.5
- **Korea Republic**: 3.7
- **Australia**: 4.0
- **Denmark**: 4.0
- **Panama**: 4.0
- **Poland**: 4.0
- **Mexico**: 4.0
- **Costa Rica**: 4.3
- **Saudi Arabia**: 4.5
- **Peru**: 4.5
- **Iceland**: 5.0
- **Paraguay**: 5.5
- **Iceland**: 6.5
- **Germany**: 10.0

**FWC 2018™ winner**

- **France**: 4.0
- **Croatia**: 3.5
- **England**: 3.0
Average shots inside penalty area per goal

Russia 4.6

FWC 2018™ winner

7.3
6.1
6.7

Russia
Colombia
Tunisia
Belgium
France
Croatia
Senegal
Portugal
Japan
Panama
England
Iran
Denmark
Argentina
Korea Republic
Switzerland
Uruguay
Nigeria
Costa Rica
Sweden
Spain
Saudi Arabia
Brazil
Peru
Mexico
Poland
Australia
Morocco
Iceland
Egypt
Germany
Serbia
Average shots outside penalty area per goal

FWC 2018™ winner

Russia: 35.7
France: 41.5
Japan: 28.5

Countries: Russia, France, Japan, Serbia, Uruguay, Egypt, Portugal, England, Sweden, Colombia, Argentina, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Australia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Iran, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tunisia.
Average compactness (m²) in/out of possession

- **In possession**
- **Out of possession**
- **FWC 2018™ winner**

<table>
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<tr>
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Average team length (m) in/out of possession

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Average deepest defender height (m) in/out of possession

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Average total distance covered (km)

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Average distance covered (m) >20km/h

- 8,800: Morocco, Australia, Russia, Iran
- 8,000: Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 7,800: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 7,600: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 7,400: Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Uruguay, Sweden
- 7,200: England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Netherlands, Argentina, Switzerland, Sweden
- 7,000: France, Spain, Mexico, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, Wales, Portugal, Uruguay, Sweden
- 6,800: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 6,600: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 6,400: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 6,200: Brazil, Croatia, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Iran, Argentina, Switzerland, Sweden
- 6,000: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 5,800: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 5,600: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 5,400: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 5,200: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 5,000: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 4,800: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 4,600: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 4,400: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 4,200: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 4,000: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 3,800: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 3,600: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 3,400: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 3,200: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 3,000: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 2,800: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 2,600: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 2,400: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 2,200: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 2,000: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 1,800: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 1,600: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 1,400: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 1,200: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 1,000: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 800: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 600: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
- 400: Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, Poland, Iceland, Nigeria, France, Spain
- 200: Russia, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Tunisia, Brazil, Croatia, Japan
- 0: Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, England, Serbia, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, Peru, Denmark
Average distance covered (m) >25km/h

FWC 2018™ winner

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2,026
Average goalkeeper position (m)
## Average goalkeeper passes

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Average goalkeeper pass length
Goalkeeper activities

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Shots on target conceded: 30
Saves: 50
Goals conceded: 60
FWC 2018™ winner: England
FIFA AWARDS
This award goes to the best player in the final competition on the basis of a ranking compiled by the FIFA Technical Study Group. A Silver Ball and a Bronze Ball are awarded to the second and third best players.

**ADIDAS GOLDEN BALL**

Luka Modric (CRO, 10)

ADIDAS SILVER BALL: Eden Hazard (BEL, 10)

ADIDAS BRONZE BALL: Antoine Griezmann (FRA, 7)

**ADIDAS GOLDEN BOOT**

Harry Kane (ENG, 9)

ADIDAS SILVER BOOT: Antoine Griezmann (FRA, 7)

ADIDAS BRONZE BOOT: Romelu Lukaku (BEL, 9)

This award is given to the top goalscorer of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. Assists were included if two or more players were equal on goals scored. The FIFA Technical Study Group decided whether an assist was to be counted. If two or more players remained equal, the player who had played fewer minutes in the final competition was ranked first. A Silver Boot and a Bronze Boot are awarded to the second and third best goalscorers.
The FIFA Fair Play Trophy is awarded to the team with the best fair play record, according to a points system and criteria specified in the competition regulations.

The top goalkeeper award at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ is given by the FIFA Technical Study Group based on the performances throughout the final competition.

The FIFA Young Player Award was given to the best young player in Russia, as selected by the FIFA TSG. The player had to have been born on or after 1 January 1997.
MATCH INFORMATION
MATCH INFORMATION: GROUP A

Data provided by FIFA, text provided by FIFA.com.

Russia v. Saudi Arabia  5-0 (2-0)

1  14.06.2018  18:00  MOSCOW  78,011

RUS:  1 AKINFEEV (C); 2 MARIO FERNANDES, 3 KUTEPOV, 4 IGNASHEVICH, 8 GAZINSKY, 9 DZAGOEV, 10 SMOLOV, 11 ZOBINN, 17 GOLOVIN, 18 ZHIRKOV, 19 SAMEDOV

KSA:  1 ABDULLAH ALMUAIQOUF; 3 OSAMA HAWSAWI (C), 5 OMAR HAWSAWI, 6 MOHAMMED ALBURAYK, 7 SALMAN ALFAIAL, 8 YAHIA ALSHEHRI, 10 MOHAMMED ALSAHALWI, 13 YASSER ALSHAHRANI, 14 ABDULLAH OTAYF, 17 TASEER ALJASSAM, 18 SALEM ALDAWSARI

Scores:  1-0 12’ GAZINSKY (8), 2-0 43’ CHERYSHEV (6), 3-0 71’ DZYUBA (22), 4-0 90’+1 CHERYSHEV (6), 5-0 90’+4 GOLOVIN (17)

Referee:  Nestor PITANA (ARG)
Assistant referees:  Hernan MAIDANA (ARG), Juan Pablo BELATTI (ARG)
4th official:  Sandro RICCI (BRA)
Reserve assistant referee:  Emerson DE CARVALHO (BRA)
Substitutions:  RUS:  24’ out DZAGOEV (9), in CHERYSHEV (6), 64’ out SAMEDOV (19), in KUZIAEV (7), 70’ out SMOLY (10), in DZYUBA (22)
              KSA:  64’ out ABDULLAH OTAYF (14), in FAHAD ALMUWALLAD (19), 72’ out YAHIA ALSHEHRI (8), in HATAN BAHR (9), 85’ out MOHAMMED ALSAHALWI (10), in MUHANNAD ASRI (20)

Cautions:  RUS:  88’ GOLOVIN (17)
              KSA:  90’+3 TASEER ALJASSAM (17)

Expulsions:  –

Egypt v. Uruguay  0-1 (0-0)

2  15.06.2018  17:00  EKATERINBURG  27,015

EGY:  23 MOHAMED ELSENNAHY, 2 ALI GABR, 6 AHMED HEGAZY, 7 AHMED FATH (C), 8 TAREK HAMED, 9 MARWAN MOHSEN, 13 MOHAMED ABDEL SHAFY, 17 MOHAMED EL NENNY, 19 ABDULLAH SATAYF, 21 TREZEGUET, 22 AMR WARDA

URU:  1 MUSLERA; 2 GIMENEZ, 3 GODIN (C), 4 VARELA, 6 RENTENCUR, 8 NANDZ, 9 SUAREZ, 10 DE ARRASCAETA, 15 VECINO, 21 CAVANI, 22 CACERES

Scores:  0-1 89’ GIMENEZ (2)

Referee:  Bjorn KUIPERS (NED)
Assistant referees:  Sandor VAN ROEKEL (NED), Erwin ZEINSTRA (NED)
4th official:  Milorad MAZIC (SRB)
Reserve assistant referee:  Milovan RISTIC (SRB)
Substitutions:  EGY:  50’ out TAREK HAMED (8), in SAM MORSY (5), 63’ out MARWAN MOHSEN (9), in KAHIRABA (11), 82’ out AMR WARDA (22), in RAMADAN SOBYB (14)
              URU:  58’ out NANDZ (8), in SANCHEZ (5), 59’ out DE ARRASCAETA (10), in RODRIGUEZ (7), 87’ out VECINO (15), in TORREIRA (14)

Cautions:  EGY:  90’+3 SAM MORSY (5), 90+6 AHMED HEGAZY (6)

Expulsions:  –

Hosts Russia could not have wished for a better start to their own FIFA World Cup™ following their resounding 5-0 victory over Saudi Arabia. Igor Gazinsky scored the first goal of Russia 2018 with a firmly-placed header, before substitute Denis Cheryshev - who replaced the injured Alan Dzagoev - scored the second before the break. Artem Dzyuba’s goal came mere moments after being introduced before Cheryshev’s stunner and Aleksandr Golovin’s free kick sealed the victory.

See match highlights:  
Russia v Saudi Arabia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 1

Uruguay were made to work overtime before finally edging a late 1-0 win over Egypt in their opening Group A contest in Ekaterinburg. Defender Jose Gimenez was the unlikely hero with a towering last-minute winning header, after Egypt had impressed with their organisation. Star forwards Edinson Cavani and Luis Suarez were largely starved of opportunities, although the former hit the post with a free-kick, as Uruguay finished strongly. Egypt’s star forward Mohamed Salah failed to make an appearance after injury and the Pharaohs’ Russia 2018 opener ended on a sour note.

See match highlights:  
Egypt v Uruguay - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 2
Russia v. Egypt 3-1 (0-0)

17 19.06.2018 21:00 ST. PETERSBURG 64,468

RUS: 1 AKINFEEV (C); 2 MARIO FERNANDES, 3 KUTEPOV, 4 IGNASHEVICH, 6 CHERYSHEV, 8 GAZINSKY, 11 ZOBNIN, 17 GOLOVIN, 18 ZHIRKOV, 19 SAMEDOV, 22 DZYUBA
EGY: 23 MOHAMED ELSHENAWY; 2 ALI GABR, 6 AHMED HEGAZY, 7 AHMED FATHI (C), 8 TAREK HAMED, 9 MARWAN MOHSEN, 10 MOHAMED SALAH, 13 MOHAMED ABDELSHAFY, 16 MOHAMED ELNENY, 19 ABDALLA SAID, 21 TREZIGUET

Referee: Enrique CACERES (PAR)
Assistant referees: Eduardo CARDozo (PAR), Juan ZORRILLA (PAR)
4th official: Cuneyt CAKIR (TUR)
Reserve assistant referee: Bahattin DURAN (TUR)

Scores: 1-0 47' AHMED FATHI (7, own goal), 2-0 59' CHERYSHEV (6), 3-0 62' DZYUBA (22), 3-1 73' MOHAMED SALAH (10, pen.)

Cautions: RUS: 84' SMOLOV (10)
EGY: 57' TREZIGUET (21)

Russia’s delight in their home FIFA World Cup™ continued after a hotly-contested clash with Egypt burst into life in the second half. After a frenetic opening period, lacking the chances the energy and endeavour warranted, Egypt captain Ahmed Fathi handed Russia a gift by deflecting into his own net – already the fifth own-goal at Russia 2018. Denis Cheryshev and Artem Dzyuba then repeated their opening-match heroics by netting twice in three minutes to extinguish almost all of Egypt’s remaining hope. Mohamed Salah struck from the penalty spot, but the Pharaohs must rely on Saudi Arabia doing them a favour to keep their slender chance of progression alive.

See match highlights:
Russia v Egypt - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 17

Uruguay v. Saudi Arabia 1-0 (1-0)

18 20.06.2018 18:00 ROSTOV-ON-DON 42,678

URU: 1 MUSLERA; 2 GIMENEZ, 3 GODIN (C), 4 VARELA, 5 SANCHEZ, 6 BENITANCUR, 7 RODRIGUEZ, 9 SUAREZ, 15 VECINO, 21 CAVANI, 22 CACERES
KSA: 22 MOHAMMED ALOWAIS, 4 OSAMA HAWSAWI (C), 4 ALI ALBULAYHI, 6 MOHAMMED ALBURAJ, 7 SALMAN ALFARAJ, 9 HATAN BAHBR, 13 YASSER ALSHAHRANI, 14 ABDULLAH OTAYF, 17 TAISEER ALJASSAM, 18 SALEM ALDAWSARI, 19 FAHAD ALMUWALLAD

Referee: Clement TURPIN (FRA)
Assistant referees: Nicolas DANOS (FRA), Cyril GRINGORE (FRA)
4th official: John PITTI (PAN)
Reserve assistant referee: Gabriel VICTORIA (PAN)

Scores: 1-0 23' SUAREZ (9)

Cautions: –

With the temperatures reaching 32°C, La Celeste had good reason to conserve their energy. They took the lead after 23 minutes, when Luis Suarez sidefooted into an empty net after Saudi goalkeeper Mohammed Alowais had tried and failed to claim a corner.

After moving into pole position to qualify for the next round, the Uruguayans paced themselves, continuing to probe but without exerting themselves too much, despite the fact that a draw with Russia in their final game will leave them second in Group A.

In the lead-up to the match, Saudi Arabia coach Juan Antonio Pizzi had urged his players to be competitive, putting the emphasis more on the right mindset than on strategy and tactics. He has reason to be satisfied despite their elimination. Though not the strongest side in the competition, the Saudis battled hard and had chances to score.

See match highlights:
Uruguay v Saudi Arabia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 18
Uruguay beat Russia 3-0 thanks to goals from forward duo Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani, alongside an own goal from Denis Cheryshev, to finish as Group A winners.

Suarez opened the scoring in the tenth minute, curling in a free-kick from just outside Russia’s penalty area to score his seventh World Cup finals goal, surpassing Diego Forlan in second place all-time for Uruguay. La Celeste’s lead was then doubled when Cheryshev scored the sixth own goal at Russia 2018, equalling the record for a single World Cup (1998), after Diego Laxalt’s shot took a heavy deflection.

Things went from bad to worse for the hosts when defender Igor Smolnikov was given his marching orders in the 36th minute after receiving two yellow cards.

Attacking changes at the break from Russia head coach Stanislav Cherchesov brought goalscoring opportunities but they could not breach 100-cap Fernando Muslera’s goal. Cavani had the final say of the evening when he pounced on an Akinfeev parry following captain Diego Godin’s header. Cavani equalled team-mate Suarez’s record by scoring at three different World Cups (2010, 2014 and 2018).

See match highlights:
Uruguay v Russia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 33

Saudi Arabia and Egypt signed off their 2018 FIFA World Cup™ participation with an absorbing spectacle at Volgograd Arena that was only settled in the final minute. The match between Group A’s two already-eliminated sides had everything: fight, emotion, goals, broken records and a dramatic twist at the end.

Mohamed Salah’s neatly-taken lob over the onrushing goalkeeper looked to have knocked the wind out of the Saudi sails, and they almost conceded a second to the Liverpool forward immediately afterwards. However, Juan Antonio Pizzi’s team refused to give in and instead scored twice themselves – once at the end of each half.

But not before a unique piece of World Cup history: legendary Pharaohs shot-stopper Essam Elhadary, who at 45 years and 161 days is now the oldest player ever to feature at the tournament, superbly thwarted one penalty kick only to be beaten by Salman Alfaraj from 12 yards moments later. Salem Aldawsari rolled home a volley to snatch victory with the game’s final influential touch.

See match highlights:
Saudi Arabia v Egypt - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 34
Cristiano Ronaldo was Portugal’s saviour once again as he scored a hat-trick to secure a draw against Spain. It was the Real Madrid man’s highest goal tally in a FIFA World Cup™ match.

He kicked off with an early penalty, deceiving Nacho inside the box to win it and then stroking the ball home from the spot. Fortunately for *La Roja*, Diego Costa was also at his bristling best, getting the better of the Portugal defence to level the scores. Isco then thumped a rasping drive against the bar. Yet while Spain dominated possession they were vulnerable on the counter, and it was on the break that Ronaldo put his side back in front, firing in a drive that David de Gea was unable to hold.

Costa scored his second equaliser of the night just after the restart before Nacho atoned for his penalty-box trip on Ronaldo by powering a superb half-volley in off the post, his first goal for Spain. As the clock ticked down, however, Gerard Pique brought down CR7 just outside the box, with the Portugal star dusting himself down to complete the scoring with a sublime free-kick.

See match highlights:
Portugal v Spain - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 3

For the second time on Friday, a last-minute goal has transformed the state of a group at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, and cut down a North African side. While it was Uruguay in the earlier encounter, a heartbreaking own goal sunk Morocco in IR Iran’s favour for a 1-0 win. Morocco flew out of the traps in Saint Petersburg, carving out some sensational chances, but Iran easily could have gone in ahead at the break. By contrast, the second-half hardly had an opening worthy of note, until deep in stoppage time when Aziz Bouhaddouz headed into his own net.

See match highlights:
Morocco v IR Iran - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 4
Cristiano Ronaldo was the star man for Portugal at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ for the second match running, scoring the winner against Morocco at the Luzhniki Stadium to eliminate the North Africans. After his hat-trick heroics against Spain in his side’s opener claimed a single point, one goal was enough to secure all three today.

Morocco played their part in an enthralling match, their vociferous fans cheering their side on for consistent waves of attack against the stern Portuguese defence. Younes Belhanda came closest for the Atlas Lions, but his header was superbly kept out by Rui Patricio.

In the end, it was a decisive header from Ronaldo that claimed the win, his strike coming after just four minutes. Portugal will come up against a familiar face in Carlos Queiroz in their final Group B fixture, while Morocco will have purely pride to play for when they face Spain.

See match highlights:
Portugal v Morocco - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 19

IR Iran and Spain rounded off Matchday 2 in Group B, with La Roja securing a deserved 1-0 win to record their first victory at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™.

Fernando Hierro made two changes to Spain’s starting line-up following their opening match against Portugal, as Dani Carvajal and Lucas Vazquez respectively replaced Nacho and Koke. However, the Iberians struggled to break down a reshuffled Iranian defence that included Majid Hosseini in place of the injured Roozbeh Cheshmi. Indeed, Spain’s first clear opening did not arrive until around the half-hour mark, when David Silva went close with a sideways scissor kick, before narrowly missing the target again just before the break with a deflected shot.

The second half started brightly and Gerard Pique, earning his 100th cap for Spain, had a chance from a corner before Sergio Busquets tried his luck from the edge of the penalty area. Team Melli had a sight of goal at the other end of the pitch in the 53rd minute, but Karim Ansarifard’s shot could only brush the side netting. Spain took the lead with their next attack a minute later, the ball ricocheting into the net off Diego Costa, who registered his third goal in two matches. Iran grew more adventurous after falling behind and VAhid Amiri almost levelled matters with a header that flew just over.

See match highlights:
IR Iran v Spain - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 20
Portugal struggled to a 1-1 draw against Iran in Saransk, a result that leaves them on five points, just behind rivals Spain on goals scored. Iran finish with four points and are eliminated despite an encouraging performance, especially in the second half.

Ricardo Quaresma’s moment of brilliance just before half-time seemed to have been decisive for the Portuguese, but Karim Ansarifard scored a penalty deep in injury time after Cedric’s handball.

Despite the lion’s share of possession and chances, it was a frustrating night for the European champions, who could have had an insurance goal earlier except captain Cristiano Ronaldo saw his penalty saved by Iranian goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand.

See match highlights:
IR Iran v Portugal - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 35

Spain’s objective at the start of the match was simple: to stay top of Group B. Though already eliminated, Morocco had an objective of their own: to ensure they did not leave the competition goalless.

Morocco were the first to fulfil their aim, as forward Khalid Boutaib capitalised on a misunderstanding between Sergio Ramos and Andres Iniesta to sprint clear and slip the ball under David De Gea with 14 minutes on the clock. Clearly stung, *La Roja* took just five minutes to reply, with Iniesta slipping the perfect pass to Isco, who fired home from close range.

That was not the cue for the Spanish machine to click into gear, however, as the Atlas Lions continued to make life difficult for them. Boutaib scampered clear once more but was denied by De Gea, and though Diego Costa was inches away from converting another pinpoint Iniesta pass before the break, the Moroccans went close yet again when Nourredine Amrabat struck the angle of post and bar with a fizzing drive ten minutes into the second half.

Spain’s response to that scare was to keep the ball and bump up their possession stats, though it was the Africans who struck next when Youssef En Nesyri powered home a header from a corner with nine minutes remaining. But just when Morocco thought the points were theirs, Iago Aspas scored with a fine back-heeled flick in stoppage time as Spain ultimately made first place theirs.

See match highlights:
Spain v Morocco - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 36

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MATCH INFORMATION: GROUP C

France v. Australia  2-1 (0-0)

5 16.06.2018  13:00  KAZAN  41,279

FRA: 1 LLOIRS (C), 2 PAVARD, 4 VARANE, 5 UMTITI, 6 POGBA, 7 GRIEZMANN, 10 MBAPPE, 11 DEMBELE, 12 TOLISSO, 13 KANTE, 21 HERNANDEZ
AUS: 1 RYAN, 5 MILLIGAN, 7 LECKIE, 10 KRUSE, 11 NABBOUT, 13 MOOY, 15 JEDINAK (C), 16 BEHICH, 19 RISDON, 20 SANSBURY, 23 ROGIC

Scorers: 1-0 58' GRIEZMANN (7, pen.), 1-1 62' JEDINAK (15, pen.), 2-1 81' BEHICH (16, own goal)
Referee: Andres CUNHA (URU)
Assistant referees: Nicolas TARAN (URU), Mauricio ESPINOSA (URU)
4th official: Julio BASCUNAN (CHI)
 Reserve assistant referee: Christian SCHEIMANN (CHI)

Substitutions: FRA: 70' out GRIEZMANN (7), in GIRUGUD (9), 70' out DEMBELE (11), in FEKIR (18), 76' out TOLISSO (12), in MATUIDI (14)
AUS: 64' out NABBOUT (11), in JURIC (9), 72' out ROGIC (23), in IRVINE (22), 84' out KRUSE (10), in ARZANI (17)

Caution: FRA: 76' TOLISSO (12)
AUS: 13' LECKIE (7), 57' RISDON (19), 87' BEHICH (16)
Expulsions: –

The third matchday of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ began with the Group C encounter between France and Australia in Kazan. Although Les Bleus made a bright start, stars Kylian Mbappe, Paul Pogba and Antoine Griezmann were unable to capitalise on their chances. The Aussies gained a foothold in the game after the first 15 minutes, with Hugo Lloris palming their best first-half opportunity clear when team-mate Corentin Tolisso threatened to deflect a free-kick into his own net.

The action then came thick and fast after the interval. After consulting with the video assistant referees (VAR team), referee Andres Cunha awarded France a penalty that Griezmann coolly converted. Samuel Umtiti then handled the ball in the box just a few minutes later, with Mile Jedinak scoring the resulting spot-kick. Didier Deschamps’ side ultimately turned the match back in their favour, thanks to an own goal from Australia defender Aziz Behich.

Both teams will be back in action on Thursday 21 June, when France take on Peru, while Australia will be under pressure against Denmark.

See match highlights:
France v Australia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 5

Peru v. Denmark  0-1 (0-0)

6 16.06.2018  19:00  SARANSK  40,502

PER: 1 GALLESE; 2 RODRIGUEZ (C), 6 TRAUCO, 8 CUEVA, 10 FARFAN, 13 TAPIA, 15 RAMOS, 17 ADVINCULA, 18 CARRILLO, 19 YOTUN, 20 FLORES
DEN: 1 SCHMEICHEL; 4 KJAER (C), 6 CHRISTENSEN, 7 KVIST, 8 DELANEY, 9 JORGENSEN Mathias, 10 ERIKSEN, 14 DALSGAARD, 17 LARSEN, 20 POULSEN, 23 SISTO

Scorers: 0-1 59' POULSEN (20)
Referee: Bakary GASSAMA (GAM)
Assistant referees: Jean Claude BIRUMUSHAHU (BDI), Abdelhak ETCHIALI (ALG)
4th official: Mehdi ABID CHAREF (ALG)
 Reserve assistant referee: Anouar HMILA (TUN)

Substitutions: PER: 62' out FLORES (20), in GUERRERO (9), 85' out FARFAN (10), in RUDIAZ (11), 87' out TAPIA (13), in AGUINO (23)
DEN: 35' out KVIST (7), in SCHONE (19), 67' out SISTO (23), in BRAITHWAITE (11), 81' out CHRISTENSEN (6), in JORGENSEN Nicolai (13)

Caution: PER: 38' TAPIA (13)
DEN: 86' DELANEY (8), 90'+3 POULSEN (20)

Expulsions: –

Denmark edged out Peru thanks to Yussuf Poulsen’s second-half goal to join France on three points in Group C of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. The Peru fans were out in force in Saransk, making their players feel right at home. Suitably inspired, they dominated the first half but could not make the most of the opportunities they created.

Perhaps the pressure of Peru’s 36-year absence from the world finals weighed heavy on their shoulders, with Christian Cueva missing a penalty just before the break. Playing a more patient game, the Danes were unable to generate any clear-cut chances as the first half ended goalless.

Adapting a more adventurous approach after the restart, Denmark were rewarded when Christian Eriksen’s precise through-ball allowed Poulsen to open the scoring. Though the South Americans piled the pressure on in search of an equaliser, the Danes held firm, with keeper Kasper Schmeichel pulling off some fine stops.

See match highlights:
Peru v Denmark - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 6
France needed a lone first-half strike from teenage sensation Kylian Mbappe to edge past Peru and end the South American’s hopes of reaching Russia 2018’s Round of 16. France’s all-star side were made to work overtime before subduing a brave Peru in front of a buoyant South American-flavoured crowd.

La Blanquirroja enjoyed good periods throughout the match and were outplayed only in the final quarter-hour of the first half. It was at that point that Mbappe broke the deadlock with a close-range tap-in. It proved enough for France to maintain their lead at the top of Group C and shore up a ticket to the last 16.

Peru can consider themselves unlucky with Paolo Guerrero denied and Pedro Aquino hitting the post. Peru’s campaign is now over after successive 1-0 defeats.

See match highlights:
France v Peru - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 21

Denmark and Australia played in an evenly-fought, intense contest, ending in a 1-1 draw in their second match in Group C at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ in Samara. Christian Eriksen opened the scoring in the seventh minute when Nicolai Jorgensen laid off a well-placed pass for the Tottenham Hotspur star to beyond Socceroos keeper Mat Ryan. However a Yussuf Poulsen handball inside the Danish area - following a VAR review - presented Australia the break they need. Mile Jedinak converted the resulting penalty and a yellow card for Poulsen means he will miss Denmark’s next match.

With the high intensity continuing into the second period, both teams creating scoring opportunities, but to no avail. The result sees Australia end a run of four consecutive World Cup defeats, while Denmark are unbeaten in their last 17 games.

See match highlights:
Denmark v Australia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 22
The first goalless draw of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ has seen Denmark progress to the Round of 16, joining today’s opponents France - who top Group C ahead of the Danes. With ten changes across the two sides, there was a certain lack of cohesion to each team’s play. Christian Eriksen went closest for the Danes on two occasions, either side of the interval. The first chance saw him denied by a combination of Steve Mandanda - the oldest French player to make his World Cup debut, aged 33 - and Lucas Hernandez. After the break, the No10 snatched at an opening after some nice build-up play. France, for their part, looked largely uninspired - even with their talisman Antoine Griezmann starting up front. Kylian Mbappe made a late cameo, but his introduction could not break the deadlock.

See match highlights:  
Denmark v France - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 37

Yet to find the net at this FIFA World Cup™, Peru finally struck when it mattered least to see off Australia 2-0 in their last Group C encounter. Already eliminated, Los Incas set about their task with calmness and patience before breaking the deadlock with their first chance on 18 minutes, Andre Carrillo volleying a splendid effort inside the far post from a cross. It was a wonderful finish and a memorable moment, sparking joy among the sea of Peru supporters decked out in red. For Australia, that early goal was a damaging blow to their hopes of clinching a spot in the last 16. The Socceroos needed a victory combined with a France win against Denmark to advance, but the situation in the other game began to matter far less after Paolo Guerrero doubled the deficit five minutes after the break, adding to his assist for the opener. Although Tim Cahill came on for his first taste of action in three games, Australia remained short of ideas. Instead, Peru maintained their dominance to soften the blow of their early exit, the South Americans putting in another impressive performance – and this time ending with the goals to show for it.

See match highlights:  
Australia v Peru - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 38

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MATCH INFORMATION: GROUP D

Argentina v. Iceland

16.06.2018 16:00 MOSCOW

ARG: 23 CABALLERO, 3 TAGLIAFICO, 5 BIGLIA, 10 MESSI (C), 11 DI MARIA, 13 MEZA, 14 MASCHERANO, 16 ROJO, 17 OTAMENDI, 18 SALVIO, 19 AGUERO

ISL: 1 HALLDORSSON; 2 SAEVARSSON, 6 SIGURDSSON Ragnar, 7 GUDMUNDSSON Johann, 8 BURNASON, 10 SIGURDSSON Gylfi, 11 FINNBOGASON, 14 ARNASON, 17 GUNNARSSON, 18 MAGNUSSON, 20 HALFREDSSON

Scores: 1-0 ‘19 AGUERO (19), 1-1 ‘23 FINNBOGASON (11)

Referee: Szymon MARCINIAK (POL)

Assistant referees: Pawel SOKOLNICKI (POL), Tomasz LISTKIEWICZ (POL)

4th official: Wilmar ROLDAN (COL)

Cautions: –

Expulsions: –

Substitutions:
ARG: 54’ out BIGLIA (5), in BANEGA (7), 75’ out DI MARIA (11), in PAVON (22), 84’ out MEZA (13), in HIGUAIN (9)

ISL: 63’ out GUDMUNDSSON Johann (7), in GISLASON (19), 76’ out GUNNARSSON (17), in SKULASON (23), 89’ out FINNBOGASON (11), in SIGURDARSON (9)

Croatia v. Nigeria

16.06.2018 21:00 KALININGRAD

CRO: 23 SUBASIC; 2 VRSALJKO, 3 STRINIC, 4 PERISIC, 6 LOVREN, 7 RAKITIC, 9 KRAMARIC, 10 MODRIC (C), 17 MANZUKIC, 18 REBIC, 21 VIDA

NGA: 23 UZOHO; 2 IDOWU, 4 NDIDI, 5 EKONG, 6 BALOGUN, 8 ETBEBO, 9 IGHALO, 10 MIKEL (C), 11 MOSES, 12 SHEHU, 18 IWobi

Scores: 1-0 ‘32’ ETBEBO (8, own goal), 2-0 ‘71’ MODRIC (10, pen.)

Referee: Sandro RICCI (BRA)

Assistant referees: Emerson DE CARVALHO (BRA), Marcelo VAN GASSE (BRA)

4th official: Antonio MATEU (ESP)

Cautions: CRO: 30’ RAKITIC (7), 69’ BROZOVIC (11)

NGA: 70’ IGHALO (9)

Expulsions: –

Substitutions:
CRO: 60’ out KRAMARIC (9), in BROZOVIC (11), 78’ out REBIC (18), in KOVAČIC (8), 86’ out MANZUKIC (17), in PIJACA (20)

NGA: 62’ out IWobi (18), in MUSA (7), 72’ out IGHALO (9), in IHEANACHO (14), 88’ out MIKEL (10), in NWANKWO (13)

The action at Moscow’s Spartak Stadium got off to a thrilling start with the match between FIFA World Cup™ veterans Argentina and debutants Iceland. Despite stamping their authority on the game’s opening stages, La Albiceleste struggled to find space against a deep-lying Icelandic defence. The breakthrough came in the 19th minute when Sergio Aguero fired the ball home on the turn to give Argentina a 1-0 lead. The South Americans’ joy was short-lived, however, as Alfred Finnbogason made history by scoring his country’s first-ever World Cup goal just four minutes later.

See match highlights:
Argentina v. Iceland - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 7

No shots on target, one goal. The statistics at half-time during Croatia’s meeting with Nigeria reflected an opening 45 minutes shaded by the Balkan side – but largely dominated by defenders. Ivan Perisic went closest to hitting the target with an effort from 20m after a quarter of an hour, but in the end it was Nigeria’s Oghenekaro Etebo who brought joy to the huge Croatian contingent in Kaliningrad, beating his own goalkeeper following a corner.

Cautious in the first half, Nigeria came out with more purpose after the break, only for Dejan Lovren and Domagoj Vida to keep Odion Ighalo well and truly quiet. In fact, just as the Super Eagles began turning up the pressure on Danijel Subasic’s goal, the *Vatreni* (The Fiery Ones) responded by doubling their lead, Luka Modric converting from the spot after William Ekong held Mario Mandzukic in the box. It was no less than Modric deserved after a superb display that earned him the Budweiser Man of the Match award.

See match highlights:
Croatia v Nigeria - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 8
Croatia advanced to the Round of 16 for the second time in their history after cruising to victory over Argentina. With Lionel Messi lacking in inspiration, *La Albiceleste* paid for their defensive frailties on a dark night and are now on the verge of exiting the competition.

The eastern Europeans were content to sit back in the first half, aware that Jorge Sampaoli's side had the greater need to attack. Though Argentina tried to take the initiative and enjoyed the lion's share of possession, they were unable to convert it into chances, with Sergio Aguero and a visibly ill-at-ease Messi largely anonymous. And when the South Americans finally carved out a clear-cut opportunity, Enzo Perez contrived to shoot wide with the goal gaping.

Showing more ambition after the restart, the Croatians promptly revealed the shortcomings of their opponents' rearguard. A penetrating presence on the right, Ante Rebic capped a fine display by capitalising on a Willy Caballero error with a superb finish.

Sampaoli turned to his bench for an immediate solution, and though Gonzalo Higuain, Paulo Dybala and Cristian Pavon all showed flashes of inspiration after coming on, there was to be no revival. Taking full advantage of Argentina's lack of composure at the back, Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic both scored to compound their misery.

See match highlights: *Argentina v Croatia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 23*

Nigeria got their first win of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ by beating tournament debutants Iceland 2-0 in Volgograd. The result means the race for second place in Group D will go down to the last game on 26 June. Ultimately, three teams will compete for a spot in the Round of 16 on the final day, with the Super Eagles still able to top the pool ahead of already-qualified Croatia.

The hero of the match was undoubtedly Ahmed Musa, who came alive in the second half and played superbly, scoring both Nigerian goals. His first finish in particular will surely live long in the memory as one of the goals of the tournament: he controlled Victor Moses' cross with one touch, setting himself up for an unstoppable half-volley with his second. Both Musa's strikes were warmly received by the crowd at the Volgograd Arena, many of whom are familiar with the striker from his spells at CSKA Moscow.

Interestingly, while the Super Eagles took control in the second half, in the first they failed to register a single shot on target on Hannes Halldorsson's goal. The Icelanders came close to narrowing the deficit towards the end of the match, but their main star Gylfi Sigurdsson spurned a glorious chance from the penalty spot.

See match highlights: *Nigeria v Iceland - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 24*
A late Marcos Rojo goal sent Argentina into the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ knockout stages in dramatic style. Needing a win to have any chance of progression, the defender volleyed La Albiceleste 2-1 in front in the 86th minute to break Nigerian hearts.

Victor Moses's second-half penalty looked to be enough to earn Nigeria a crucial point, cancelling out a stunning Lionel Messi opener. A raucous and partisan crowd roared on the South Americans, with Messi's superb thigh control and finish providing a huge emotional release after a frustrating tournament.

Denied a second when Francis Uzoho tipped his free-kick onto the post, Argentina looked to be drifting out of the competition, only for Rojo to score the winner against the Super Eagles for the second finals running. In turn he inflicted Nigeria's fifth World Cup defeat from five meetings with Argentina, all by a solitary goal.

See match highlights: Nigeria v Argentina - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 39

Croatia beat Iceland 2-1 in Rostov-on-Don in an exciting match in which the Icelanders also had one eye on events in Saint Petersburg, where Argentina and Nigeria were also battling to qualify from Group D. Yet in compiling their third straight win, Croatia condemned their opponents to an early exit from the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. Iceland made them work for the points, though. Overrun by the Croatians in the early stages, they began to push forward on learning that Argentina had taken the lead in their game, creating four good chances in the closing ten minutes of the first half. Alfred Finnbogason passed up one of them, while Croatia keeper Lovre Kalinic did his bit to keep the game goalless.

Milan Badelj put Zlatko Dalic's side ahead with a right-footed strike eight minutes after the restart. Sverrir Ingason then thumped a header against the bar before Birkr Bjarnason contrived to miss a gilt-edged chance. Gygli Sigurdsson pulled the northerners level from the spot to send their fans wild, and when Argentina scored their late winner, Croatia's dreams were shattered in the final minutes when Ivan Perisic scampered clear to secure the points for Croatia.

See match highlights: Iceland v Croatia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 40

GROUP D

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BRAZIL LOOKED ALL SET TO PARTY AT ONE STAGE BUT ENDED UP TRAPPED IN SWITZERLAND’S INTRICATE DEFENSIVE WEB, WITH A 1-1 DRAW A FAIR RESULT AS THE TWO SIDES MADE THEIR GROUP E DEBUTS AT THE 2018 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA™.

HAVING DOMINATED POSSESSION BUT WITHOUT CREATING CLEAR-CUT CHANCES, THE TOURNAMENT FAVOURITES TOOK THE LEAD AFTER 20 MINUTES THANKS TO THE KIND OF STRIKE PHILIPPE COUTINHO HAS BECOME KNOWN FOR: A SPECTACULAR CURLING DRIVE FROM OUTSIDE THE BOX THAT CURLED RIGHT INTO THE FAR CORNER OF YANN SOMMER’S NET.

IT LOOKED AS IF THE ROSTOV NIGHT WOULD HAVE A SAMBA BEAT, BUT THE SWISS HAD OTHER IDEAS. MAINTAINING THEIR INTENSITY, THEY CONJURED UP AN EQUALISER JUST AFTER THE RESTART, WITH STEVEN ZUBER NODDING HOME FROM INSIDE THE SIX-YARD BOX. THE FIVE-TIME WORLD CHAMPIONS PROMPTLY LOST THEIR POISE, AND THOUGH THEY CREATED SOME LATE CHANCES, BOTH THEIR FINISHING AND THEIR PLAY WAS SLIGHTLY OFF KEY.

SEE MATCH HIGHLIGHTS:

BRAZIL v SWITZERLAND - 2018 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA™ - MATCH 9

SERAja EDGED COSTA RICA 1-0 AFTER ALEKSANDAR KOlarov SCORED THE THIRD DIRECT FREE-KICK OF THE 2018 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA™. IN A TIGHTLY-CONTESTED DUEL AT THE SAMARA ARENA, WITH BOTH TEAMS CREATING SEVERAL GOALSCORING CHANCES, IT WAS SERBIA’S DAY, AS THE ORLOVI PUT A PRECIOUS THREE POINTS ON THE BOARD.

SEE MATCH HIGHLIGHTS:

COSTA RICA v SERBIA - 2018 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA™ - MATCH 10
Brazil broke Costa Rican hearts as they snatched a last-minute 2-0 win in Saint Petersburg. While late goals from Philippe Coutinho and Neymar kick-start their 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, back-to-back defeats have ended the Central Americans’ hopes of progression.

A Seleção controlled the game from start to finish, averaging two-thirds of possession while largely camped in the Costa Rican half. Chances were slim in the opening period, with the best falling to Los Ticos’ Celso Borges as they threatened on the counter-attack.

Brazil got their eye in after the break, though, finally fashioning the clear-cut opportunities they had been threatening. While Gabriel Jesus rattled the bar, it took until the start of stoppage time for Coutinho to pounce on a loose ball before Neymar side-footed home with virtually the final kick of the game.

See match highlights: Brazil v Costa Rica - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 25

Brazil v. Costa Rica 2-0 (0-0)

25  22.06.2018  15:00  ST. PETERSBURG  64,468

BRA: 1 ALISSON; 2 THIAGO SILVA (C), 3 MIRANDA, 5 CASEMIRO, 9 GABRIEL JESUS, 10 NEYMAR, 11 PHILIPPE COUTINHO, 12 MARCELO, 15 PAULINHO, 19 WILLIAN, 22 FAGNER
CRC: 1 NAVAS; 2 ACOSTA, 3 GONZALEZ, 5 BORGES, 6 DUARTE, 8 OVIEDO, 10 RUIZ (C), 11 VENEGAS, 16 GAMBOA, 20 GUZMAN, 21 URENA

Scorers: 1-0 90'+1 PHILIPPE COUTINHO (11), 2-0 90'+7 NEYMAR (10)
Referee: Bjorn KUIPERS (NED)
Assistant referees: Sander VAN ROEKEL (NED), Erwin ZEINSTRA (NED)
4th official: Damir SKOMINA (SVN)
Reserve assistant referee: Jure PRAPROTNIK (SVN)

Substitutions: BRA: 46' HT out WILLIAN (19), in DOUGLAS COSTA (7), 68' out PAULINHO (15), in ROBERTO FIRMINO (20), 90'+3 out GABRIEL JESUS (9), in FERNANDINHO (17)
CRC: 54' out URENA (21), in BOLANOS (7), 75' out GAMBOA (16), in CALVO (15), 83' out GUZMAN (20), in TEJEDA (17)

Cautions: BRA: 81' NEYMAR (10), 81' PHILIPPE COUTINHO (11)
CRC: 84' ACOSTA (2)

Expulsions: –

Serbia v. Switzerland 1-2 (1-0)

26  22.06.2018  20:00  KALININGRAD  33,167

SRB: 1 STOJKOVIC, 3 TOSIC, 4 MILIVOJEVIC, 6 IVANOVIC, 9 MITROVIC, 10 TADIC, 11 KALJULIDIC, 15 MILUNKOVIC, 17 KOSTIC, 20 MILUNKOVIC-SAVIC, 21 MATIC
SUI: 1 SOMMER; 2 LICHTSTEINER (C), 5 AKANJI, 9 SEFEROVIC, 10 XHAKA, 11 BEHRAMI, 13 RODRIGUEZ, 14 ZUBER, 15 DZEMAILI, 22 SCHAER, 23 SHAQIRI

Scorers: 1-0 5' MITROVIC (9), 1-1 52' XHAKA (10), 1-2 90' SHAQIRI (23)
Referee: Felix BRYCH (GER)
Assistant referees: Mark BORSCH (GER), Stefan LUPP (GER)
4th official: Nawaf SHUKRALLA (BHR)
Reserve assistant referee: Yaser TULEFA (BHR)

Substitutions: SRB: 64' out KOSTIC (17), in LJAJIC (22), 81' out MILUNKOVIC (4), in RADONJIC (18)
SUI: 46' HT out SEFEROVIC (9), in GAVRANOVIC (18), 75' out DIEMERT (15), in EMBELO (7), 90'+4 out ZUBER (14), in DRMIC (19)

Cautions: SRB: 34' MILUNKOVIC-SAVIC (20), 39' MILUNKOVIC (4), 45'+2 MATIC (21), 87' MITROVIC (9)
SUI: 90'+1 SHAQIRI (23)

Expulsions: –

Knowing that victory over Switzerland would have taken them into the last 16, Serbia made a fast start to the match. After causing Yann Sommer problems with his first header of the night, Aleksandar Mitrovic made no mistake with his second to put his side ahead with five minutes gone.

Having done the hardest part, the Serbians wanted more. Driven on by Dusan Tadic, who was in inspired form down the right flank, they strove to extend their lead. The Swiss hung in, patiently putting moves together but without genuinely threatening. Blerim Dzemaili had their best chance half an hour in, forcing Serbia keeper Vladimir Stojkovic to push the ball clear.

Rejuvenated after the break, the Swiss took just seven minutes to pull level, thanks to Granit Xhaka’s sublime drive from outside the box. The angle of post and bar then denied Xherdan Shaqiri, though the diminutive Swiss forward would have the last laugh. Sprinting clear of the Serbian defence as injury time approached, Shaqiri planted the ball beneath the advancing Stojkovic to move his side into second place in the pool.

See match highlights: Serbia v Switzerland - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 26
Brazil will face Mexico in a FIFA World Cup Round of 16 clash in Samara after they won Group E by beating Serbia 2-0 at the Spartak Moscow Stadium. The South Americans thus finished on seven points from three matches, while Serbia were left facing an early flight home after failing to get the win they so desperately needed.

Brazil took the lead in the 36th minute when Paulinho raced through to on to through ball by Philippe Coutinho to lob over the on-rushing goalkeeper Vladimir Stojkovic. Serbia pushed for an equaliser but lacked the cutting edge and were caught by a classic suck-punch when Thiago Silva headed home powerfully from an outswinging Neymar corner on 68 minutes.

See match highlights:
Serbia v Brazil - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 41

Switzerland needed a point from their final Group E game to make sure of a place in the Round of 16 at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, and they got it with a 2-2 draw against Costa Rica. Though Los Ticos were already out of the competition, they at least had the consolation of scoring their first goals of the competition and collecting their first points.

The Central Americans made an enterprising start as they sought to atone for their two earlier defeats. Determined not to leave Russia as the only goalless side in the tournament, they struck the woodwork twice in the opening ten minutes. As in their two previous games, the Swiss were slow out of the blocks, but eventually managed to stem the Tico tide before taking the lead on 31 minutes, with Stephan Lichtsteiner crossing into the box and Blerim Dzemaili lashing home a loose ball. Die Nati struggled for inspiration after the break, their midfield short on ideas and their incursions into the opposition box proving all too rare. Finding themselves still in the game, Costa Rica levelled in stoppage time, when a Bryan Ruiz penalty cannoned off the bar, onto keeper Yann Sommer's head, and into the back of the net.

See match highlights:
Switzerland v Costa Rica - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 42

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2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

MATCH INFORMATION: GROUP F

Germany v. Mexico 0-1 (0-1)

11  17.06.2018  18:00  MOSCOW  78,011
GER: 1 NEUER (C); 2 PLATTENHARDT, 6 HUMMELS, 7 KHADEMIA, 13 MUELLER, 17 BOATENG, 18 KIMMICH
MEX: 13 OCHOA; 2 AYALA, 3 SALCEDO, 7 LAYUN, 11 VELA, 14 HERNANDEZ, 15 MORENO, 16 HERRERA, 18 GUARDADO (C), 22 LOZANO, 23 GALLARDO

Scores: 0-1 35' LOZANO (22)
Referee: Alireza FAGHANI (IRN)
Assistant referees: Reza SOKHANDAN (IRN), Mohammadreza MANSOUI (IRN)
4th official: Mohammad Abdulla ALHAWADDA (UAE)

Substitutions: GER: 60' out KHADEMIA (6), in REUS (11), 79' out PLATTENHARDT (2), in GOMEZ (23), 86' out WERNER (9), in BRANDT (20)
MEX: 58' out VELA (11), in ALVAREZ (21), 66' out LOZANO (22), in JIMENEZ (9), 74' out GUARDADO (18), in MARQUEZ (4)

Cautions: GER: 83' MUELLER (13), 84' HUMMELS (5)
MEX: 40' MORENO (15), 90+1 HERRERA (16)

Expulsions: –

Sweden v. Korea Republic 1-0 (0-0)

12  18.06.2018  15:00  NIZHNI NOVGOROD  42,300
SWE: 1 OLSEN; 2 LUSTIG, 4 GRANQVIST (C), 6 AUGUSTINSSON, 7 LARSSON, 8 EKDAL, 9 BERG, 10 FORSBERG, 17 CLAESSON, 18 JANSSON, 20 TOIVONEN
KOR: 23 JO; 2 LEE Yong, 6 PARK, 7 SON, 9 KIM Shinwook, 11 HWANG, 13 KOO, 16 KI (C), 17 LEE Jaesung, 19 KIM Younggwon, 20 JANG

Scores: 1-0 65' GRANQVIST (4, pen.)
Referee: Joel AGUILAR (SLV)
Assistant referees: Juan ZUMBA (SLV), Juan Carlos MORA (CRC)
4th official: Norbert HAUPA (TAH)

Substitutions: SWE: 71' out EKDAL (8), in HILJEMARK (15), 77' out TOIVONEN (20), in THELUN (22), 81' out LARSSON (7), in SVENSSON (13)
KOR: 28' out PARK (6), in KIM Minwoo (12), 66' out KIM Shinwook (9), in JUNG Wooyoung (15), 73' out KOO (13), in LEE Seungwo (10)

Cautions: SWE: 61' CLAESSON (17)
KOR: 13' KIM Shinwook (9), 55' HWANG (11)

Expulsions: –

Mexico pulled off a historic victory in the opening game of 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia Group F, defeating World Cup holders Germany 1-0 in front of a fervent - and full - Luzhniki Stadium.

Juan Carlos Osorio's masterplan worked to perfection, with El Tri soaking up the long spells of German possession and hitting Die Nationalmannschaft on the counter-attack. Hirving Lozano's strike was a result of a swift break, with green shirts swarming forwards and the PSV Eindhoven man coolly converting past Manuel Neuer.

Joachim Low's side played their part in an enthralling encounter, with Toni Kroos hitting a free kick against the crossbar. Their efforts were ultimately in vain, with the Mexicans claiming all three points.

See match highlights:
Germany v Mexico - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 11

Following an absence of 12 long years, Sweden marked their return to the FIFA World Cup™ in style in the opening match of Group F. The desire of Janne Andersson’s charges was there for all to see as they emerged victorious over a disappointing Korea Republic.

The Swedes were rewarded for an enterprising performance in which they created a series of goalscoring chances. As much due to their own profligacy as to the opposition backline, the hoards of Scandinavian fans in Nizhny Novgorod were made to wait until the second half before the deadlock was broken. The Taeguk Warriors conceded a penalty in the 65th minute following confirmation by VAR, and Swedish captain Andreas Granqvist shouldered the responsibility, coolly converting the resulting spot kick.

Korea Republic pushed hard to find a way back into the game, but to no avail. Their disappointing series of results at the World Cup continues: they have now gone six matches without a win, a run that dates back to their victory over Greece in 2010.

See match highlights:
Sweden v Korea Republic - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 12
The atmosphere at Fisht Stadium in Sochi was raucous and intense on Saturday as Germany and Sweden went toe-to-toe in a Group F match that more than lived up to expectations. Keeping supporters on the edge of their seat until the dying seconds, Toni Kroos’s incredible free-kick secured all three points for the reigning world champions with a 2-1 victory.

The game started as it would go on: Germany attacked Robin Olsen’s goal with abandon, but the Swedish rearguard stood firm. However, like against Mexico, the counter-attacking sucker punch was their downfall. Having already threatened, Ola Toivonen found a way past the imposing Manuel Neuer with a fantastic lob just after the half-hour mark.

Low rallied his troops and sent on Mario Gomez at half-time to bolster the German front line, but it was the irrepressible Marco Reus who conjured up an equaliser, the ball bouncing in off his knee. Despite enjoying the lion’s share of possession, Germany continued to squander chances, with Gomez missing the most clear-cut opportunity.

Jerome Boateng’s sending-off for a second yellow card in the 82nd minute hardly improved matters for Germany, nor did Olsen’s stunning reflex saves or a Julian Brandt shot that came back off the post. However, the Blagult No1 could do nothing about Kroos’ stoppage-time winner, which flew past him like a rocket and put an end to his team’s hopes of taking something from the game.

See match highlights: Germany v Sweden - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 27

Amid scorching heat in Rostov and a cauldron-like atmosphere created by almost 20,000 fans, Mexico beat Korea Republic 2-1 in Group F to put one foot in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ knockout stage.

El Tri initially struggled to break down the Koreans, who set up in a defensive tactical shape and left the livewire Son Heungmin to plough a lone furrow up front. However, after Carlos Vela’s 26th-minute penalty had broken the deadlock, the Mexicans were able to breathe easier and better guard themselves against counter attacks thereafter. Even so, Guillermo Ochoa was called into action to prevent Son from equalising shortly before half-time.

The Taeguk Warriors were forced to come out of their shell and push forward as the match wore on, but this more open approach suited Mexico down to the ground, paving the way for them to double their lead. El Tri fans in Rostov Arena were in full voice after Javier Hernandez struck in the 66th minute and will have gone away with high hopes that their country will finally break their Round of 16 hoodoo this year.

As for Korea Republic, Son’s stoppage-time screamer from outside the box will have served as scant consolation given that the result left them staring elimination in the face.

See match highlights: Korea Republic v Mexico - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 28
Korea Republic's historic 2-0 win over Germany in Kazan may not have been enough for the Taeguk Warriors to progress to the Round of 16 from Group F, but it will nevertheless go down as a result for the ages as the reigning champions were also eliminated from the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ at the first hurdle.

The pattern of the first half was as expected, with Germany trying to set the tempo and the South Koreans looking to hit them on the break. However, neither team seriously threatened to score and the only dangerous chance was from a swerving Koo Jacheol free-kick that caused Manuel Neuer some difficulty, but the goalkeeper managed to block it and then flick the ball away just in time before Son Heungmin could get to the rebound.

Die Nationalmannschaft had a glorious opportunity to break the deadlock at the start of the second period but Leon Goretzka's header was brilliantly saved by Jo Hyeonwoo. Timo Werner went close shortly after that following excellent interplay between Mesut Ozil and Marco Reus, as Germany started to push forward with greater purpose. That left the east Asians with room to exploit on the counter-attack, but they were unable to take advantage due to wayward final balls. However, ultimately it was a defender, Kim Younggwon, who scored to pave the way for the South Koreans' historic triumph, before Son sealed the victory with a late second.

Korea Republic v. Germany - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 43

Sweden turned in a perfect performance to reach the Round of 16 in style with a 3-0 victory over Group F pace-setters Mexico. El Tri were only saved from a cruel exit due to Germany's defeat against Korea Republic.

The Europeans started in powerful fashion, dominating goal-scoring opportunities and constantly looking dangerous in the air. However, they had to wait until five minutes into the second half to break the deadlock, as Ludvig Augustinsson swept home at the back post. Looking for a two goal win to guarantee progression, Sweden doubled their advantage when Andreas Granqvist converted from the penalty spot just past the hour mark. And the Blagula were in dreamland with 16 minutes remaining after Mexico defender Edson Alvarez forced the ball over his own line. Mexico built late momentum but Sweden remained impressively resolute at the back. And in remarkable scenes, a wave of noise swept through the arena in the dying minutes as the massive Mexican contingent received news of the unexpected result in Kazan.

See match highlights: Mexico v Sweden - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 44

GROUP F

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MATCH INFORMATION: GROUP G

Belgium v. Panama 3-0 (0-0)

13 18.06.2018 18:00 SOCHI

BEL: 1 COURTOIS; 2 ALDERWEIRELD, 5 VERTONGHEN, 6 WITSEL, 7 DE BRUYNE, 9 LUKAKU, 10 HAZARD Eden (C), 11 CARRASCO, 14 MERTENS, 15 MEUNIER, 20 BOYATA

PAN: 1 PENEDO; 2 MURILLO, 4 ESCOBAR, 5 TORRES Roman (C), 6 GOMEZ, 7 PEREZ, 8 BARCENAS, 11 COOPER, 15 DAVIS, 20 GODD, 21 RODRIGUEZ Jose Luiz

Scores: 1-0 47' MERTENS (14), 2-0 69' LUKAKU (9), 3-0 75' LUKAKU (9)
Referee: bunny SIKAZWE (ZAM)
Assistant referees: Jessy DOS SANTOS (ANG), Zakhele SIWELA (RSA)
4th official: Ryuji SATO (JPN)

Belgium v Panama - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 13

The first-half proceedings did not come as a major surprise, as Panama stuck together and worked for each other in building a wall that Belgium’s talented individuals were unable to breach. Though lacking imagination, Les Diables Rouges still created the clearest chances, with Panama captain Roman Torres working wonders to put a dangerous cross from Kevin De Bruyne out for a corner with 22 minutes gone.

Frustrated and empty-handed at the break, Romelu Lukaku, Eden Hazard and Dries Mertens returned reinvigorated, not least the Napoli man, who had the Belgium fans cheering when he fired a sumptuous volley past Jaime Penedo just two minutes into the second half. Having finally taken the lead, the men in red found their rhythm and the space in which to express themselves, with Lukaku getting in on the act. After opening his account with a header from a superb De Bruyne cross, he coolly clipped the ball home following a penetrating Hazard run. At last Belgium could breathe easy, their World Cup campaign safely under way. As for Panama, they will need to up their game when they take on England and Tunisia.

See match highlights:
Belgium v Panama - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 13

Tunisia v. England 1-2 (1-1)

14 18.06.2018 21:00 VOLGOGRAD

TUN: 22 HASSEN; 2 BEN YOUSSEF Syam, 4 MERIAH, 8 BEN YOUSSEF Fakhreddine, 9 BADRI, 10 KHAZRI (C), 11 BRONN, 12 MAALOUL, 13 SASSI, 17 SKHIRI, 23 SLITI

ENG: 1 PICKFORD; 2 WALKER, 5 STONES, 6 MAGUIRE, 7 LINGARD, 8 HENDERSON, 9 KANE (C), 10 STERLING, 12 TRIPPIER, 18 YOUNG, 20 ALLI

Scores: 0-1 11' KANE (9), 1-1 35' SASSI (13, pen.), 1-2 90'+1 KANE (9)
Referee: Wilmar ROLDAN (COL)
Assistant referees: Alexander GUZMAN (COL), Cristian DE LA CRUZ (COL)
4th official: Ricardo MONTERO (CRC)

Tunisia v England - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 14

England snatched victory in the dying moments of their opening fixture against Tunisia at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ at the Volgograd Arena. Immediately establishing a firm hold on their encounter, Gareth Southgate’s team created a series of excellent chances before Harry Kane scored the opener, reacting quickest to a rebound and slotting home from close range.

Nevertheless, the north Africans refused to lose heart after conceding or even when their goalkeeper Mouez Hassan was forced off through injury shortly afterwards. The Eagles of Carthage remained organised and disciplined, putting pressure on England all over the pitch and patiently waiting for an opening. Their opportunity finally came when Kyle Walker committed a foul in the English penalty area, allowing Ferjani Sassi to level from the spot.

In the second half, Tunisia sat deep and hardly created any promising chances, but captain Kane stepped up to the plate, heading home his second of the match in additional time, again from close range, to save the day for the Three Lions.

See match highlights:
Tunisia v England - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 14
Romelu Lukaku and Eden Hazard each scored twice and substitute Michy Batshuayi added a deserved fifth as Belgium cruised past Tunisia to edge closer to a place in the Round of 16.

Lukaku’s clinically taken brace, coming in the wake of a double against Panama in the Red Devils’ opening match, established him as Belgium’s most prolific scorer at a single FIFA World Cup™. Hazard kicked off the scoring by opening his account at Russia 2018 in the sixth minute from the penalty spot, before Lukaku doubled the Red Devils’ lead after 16 minutes with an angled left-foot finish.

The Carthage Eagles pulled a goal back courtesy of a Dylan Bronn header but Lukaku then made it 3-1 in first-half stoppage time with a dinked finish to convert Thomas Meunier’s clever through ball. Hazard then got his second in the 51st minute of a thrilling contest from a defence-splitting Kevin de Bruyne pass before Belgium substitute Batshuayi and Tunisia skipper Wahbi Khazri rounded off the scoring.

The North Africans’ World Cup hopes now hang by a thread and they will need Panama to beat England in tomorrow’s match to stand any chance of continuing in this competition.

See match highlights: Belgium v Tunisia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 29

England hit a brittle Panama side for six to seal qualification for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ knockout stage, a result that booked Belgium’s Round of 16 berth too while eliminating Los Canaleros and Tunisia. Only top spot in Group G will be on the line when the Three Lions and Red Devils do battle next time out.

Gareth Southgate’s team once again showcased their dead-ball prowess: two of their goals were penalties and a further two were headers from a corner and free-kick respectively. As for the Panamanians, they knew in advance that they would have to be clinical to stand any chance of getting something out of the game. Instead, they spurned the first two opportunities of the match and then promptly capitulated, finding themselves 2-0 down shortly after.

John Stones headed home a brace, while Harry Kane hit the tournament’s second hat-trick so far, twice converting convincingly from the spot and then completing his treble when a Ruben Loftus-Cheek shot flicked off him and be diverted into the net.

Despite taking a pummelling, Panama also had grounds to celebrate when they scored their first-ever World Cup goal courtesy of a fine finish from 12 yards from Felipe Baloy.

See match highlights: England v Panama - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 30
Panama v. Tunisia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 46

**Group G**

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**Score:** 1-2 (1-0)

**Scorers:**
- 46' HT out STONES (5), in MAGUIRE (6), 79' out ALEXANDER-ARNOld (22), in WELBECK (14)
- 74' out VERMAELEN (3), in KOMPANY (4), 86' out JANUZAJ (18), in MERTENS (14)

**Substitutions:**
- ENG: 46' HT out STONES (5), in MAGUIRE (6), 79' out ALEXANDER-ARNOld (22), in WELBECK (14)
- BEL: 74' out VERMAELEN (3), in KOMPANY (4), 86' out JANUZAJ (18), in MERTENS (14)

**Cautions:**
- BEL: 19' TIELEMANS (17), 33' DENDONCKER (23)

**Expulsions:**
- –

With both teams already through to the Round of 16 before a ball had been kicked and relatively little riding on this encounter, the England and Belgium coaches rang the changes compared to their previous fixtures. As a result, there was unsurprisingly a disjointed and somewhat subdued feel to the game right from the off, with many players struggling to find their bearings. That is not to say there were no chances. The Belgians were the first to threaten. Jordan Pickford denied Mousa Dembele early on before keeping out Marouane Fellaini. Trent Alexander-Arnold then saw his cross-shot whistle narrowly past the post on the half-hour mark and Ruben Loftus-Cheek failed to find the target with a header four minutes later. However, that was about as good as it got in the first half, leaving the crowd at the Kaliningrad Stadium craving more action after the break. Soon enough, Adnan Januzaj ensured that the fans would go home having got their money’s worth. With just six minutes on the clock in the second period, the Belgium attacking midfielder dropped a shoulder, skipped past Danny Rose and curled a sumptuous left-footed strike into the top corner. To their credit, the Three Lions did not lie down after going behind. Phil Jones had an opportunity to equalise after an hour and Marcus Rashford twice went close, but Belgium held on to secure their third win in as many matches at Russia 2018 and clinch top spot in the group.

**Panama v. Tunisia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 46**

**Score:** 1-2 (1-0)

**Scorers:**
- 44' SASSI (13), 71' BADRI (9), 90'+3 CHAALELI (20)
- 78' AVILA (19), 80' GOMEZ (6), 90'+6 TEJADA (18)

**Substitutions:**
- PAN: 46' HT out TORRES Gabriel (9), in CUMMINGS (3), 56' out TORRES Roman (5), in TEJADA (18), 81' out AVILA (19), in ARROYO (16)
- TUN: 46' HT out SASSI (13), in BADRI (9), 77' out SUPI (23), in KHALIL (15), 89' out KHALIL (15), in SRARFI (18)

**Cautions:**
- PAN: 78' AVILA (19), 80' GOMEZ (6), 90'+6 TEJADA (18)
- TUN: 44' SASSI (13), 71' BADRI (9), 90'+3 CHAALELI (20)

**Expulsions:**
- –

Tunisia will fly home with their first win at the FIFA World Cup™ in 40 years after beating Panama 2-1 at the Mordovia Arena in Saransk. Fakhreddine Ben Youcef made World Cup history during the finale of Russia 2018’s Group G action as his second-half equaliser marked the 2,500th goal in tournament history. The Carthage Eagles controlled the tempo of the game in the first half and created a few early chances, but Panama took the lead against the run of play from an own goal. Jose Luis Rodriguez’s strike from distance took a deflection off Tunisia defender Yassine Meriah, which sent goalkeeper Aymen Mathlouthi the wrong way. Tunisia came out firing in the second half, though, and it was not long before Ben Youcef’s milestone strike levelled the score. Eleven minutes later, Tunisia No10 Wahbi Khazri put the North African side in front, slotting past Jaime Penedo from close range. The win marked Tunisia’s first victory at the World Cup since Argentina 1978, while Los Canaleros are forced to head home without a point to pack up from their maiden encounter at the competition. Already eliminated from Russia 2018 prior to the start of today’s fixtures, Tunisia’s win secured third place in Group G as the Central Americans finished bottom.

See match highlights:
Panama v. Tunisia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 46
Senegal have recorded the first African win at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, beating Poland 2-1 at the Spartak Stadium in Moscow. It evoked memories of their most recent World Cup campaign - their debut 16 years ago - in which they defeated holders France in Seoul in their opening match. The Poles are not quite as huge a scalp as Les Bleus, but the African side were underdogs nevertheless, and belied that status with their energetic performance. Idrissa Gueye’s low drive was deflected into his own net by Thiago Cionek, but the Teranga Lions were good value for their lead. Mbaye Niang seized an opportunity in the hesitant Poland defence to round Wojciech Szczesny and double his side’s advantage after the break. Grzegorz Krychowiak’s decision-making was partly to blame for Senegal’s second and he made some amends by reducing the arrears with a late goal. But it was ultimately in vain as Aliou Cisse’s side held on to claim three points - their first World Cup win since Cisse captained the side to victory against Sweden in the Korea/Japan 2002 Round of 16.

See match highlights:
Poland v Senegal - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 15

In catching Colombia cold at the Mordovia Arena, Japan earned their first ever win over Los Cafeteros, avenging their 4-1 defeat to the same opponents at Brazil 2014, and picked up three precious points in their bid to advance from Group H. The game began at a frenetic pace, with Japan forcing a penalty that led to a red card for Colombia defender Carlos Sanchez allowing Shinji Kagawa to put the Asian side ahead from the spot. Cafetero coach Jose Pekerman shuffled his pack to give his side a chance of overcoming their numerical disadvantage and getting back into the game. Battling for every ball, Colombia captain Radamel Falcao earned the free-kick from which Juan Quintero equalised before half-time. Japan dominated the second half, creating a series of chances before Yuya Osako headed in the winner from a set-piece. This time there was to be no comeback, despite the arrival of James Rodriguez and Carlos Bacca on the pitch and a valiant late push by Los Cafeteros.

See match highlights:
Colombia v Japan - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 16
Colombia secured an important 3-0 (1-0) victory to leave their Group H fate in their own hands, while Poland’s 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ adventure will come to an end after the group stage.

Both teams came into this match under pressure after suffering defeats in their respective openers. The tension was palpable, with both sides starting tentatively and neither wanting to fall behind in front of a sell-out crowd of 42,873 at the Kazan Arena. The first real chance came in the 40th minute, when the consistently lively James Rodriguez crossed the ball into the penalty area for Yerry Mina to nod home.

The Biało-czerwoni were forced to throw caution to the wind in the second half, creating counterattacking space for their South American opponents in the process. The best opportunity for an equaliser fell to Robert Lewandowski, but his close-range effort was denied by the onrushing David Ospina. In the 70th minute Juan Quintero played a dream pass to Falcao, who stroked the ball past Wojciech Szczesny with the outside of his boot to double Colombia’s advantage. Juan Cuadrado made it 3-0 just a few minutes later to put the result beyond doubt, courtesy of another assist from James.

See match highlights: Poland v Colombia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 31

Japan twice came from behind to peg back Senegal as the two Group H leaders played out a pulsating 2-2 draw at the Ekaterinburg Arena. The result keeps the pair at the group summit after each had won their respective opening outings. Senegal started with real attacking intent and they were rewarded as star forward Sadio Mane took full advantage of some defensive hesitancy to score after 11 minutes. Despite enjoying more possession, Japan remained on the back foot until Takashi Inui netted just past the half-hour, with a smart curling finish from inside the penalty area.

Yuya Osako missed a golden opportunity on the hour mark, and Inui hit the crossbar minutes later as Japan’s attacking outlets found space. Senegal made Japan pay for their profligacy as 19-year-old Moussa Wague lashed home on 71 minutes, but substitute Keisuke Honda equalised seven minutes later, finishing off Inui’s cut-back pass from close range.

See match highlights: Japan v Senegal - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 32
Japan knew that a draw against Poland would guarantee their spot in the knockout phase at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, but events in Group H transpired in such a way that the Samurai Blue progressed on the back of a defeat. It is the third time the East Asians have made it past the group stage at a World Cup finals, having achieved the feat in back in 2002 and 2010.

Akira Nishino made six changes to the line-up that started against Colombia and Senegal, and it would be fair to say the large-scale rotation did his team no favours. The Japanese lacked a cutting edge in attack, and it was Poland who created the two best chances of the game. Shortly before the interval, Eiji Kawashima was forced into a spectacular diving save to claw Kamil Grosicki’s header off the goalline, but the goalkeeper could do nothing about Jan Bednarek’s short-range volleyed finish in the second half.

For the Poles, who even before the start of today’s match knew they were on their way home, it was their first win in the competition.

See match highlights: Japan v Poland - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 47

Senegal v Colombia

Yerry Mina scored his second goal at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ to see Colombia defeat Senegal 1-0 at Samara Arena and finish as Group H winners.

In the group’s other match, Poland edged Japan 1-0 meaning Senegal and the Blue Samurai finished level on four points, however the latter became the first team in history to advance to the World Cup knockout stage on the fair play rule. The game was played evenly throughout, with few significant goalscoring chances of note. The decisive moment came when Los Cafeteros’ towering centre-back Mina leapt above his markers to head in the winning goal in the second half.

See match highlights: Senegal v Colombia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 48

GROUP H

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ROUND OF 16

Uruguay v. Portugal 2-1 (1-0)

49  30.06.2018  21:00  SOCHI  44,287

URU:  1 MUSLERA; 2 GIMENEZ, 3 GODIN (C), 6 BENTANCUR, 8 NANDÉZ, 9 SUAREZ, 14 TORREIRA, 15 VECINO, 17 LAXALT, 21 CAVANI, 22 CACERES
POR:  1 RUI PATRICIO; 3 PEPE, 5 RAPHAEL GUERREIRO, 6 JOSE FONTE, 7 CRISTIANO RONALDO (C), 10 JOAO MARIO, 11 BERNARDO SILVA, 14 WILLIAM, 15 RICARDO, 17 GONCALO GUEDES, 21 CAVANI

Scores:  1-0 7’ CAVANI (21), 1-1 55’ PEPE (3), 2-1 62’ CAVANI (21)

Referee:  Alireza FAGHANI (IRN)
Assistant referees:  Reza SOKHANDAN (IRN), Mohammadreza MANSOURI (IRN)
4th official:  Jair MARUFO (USA)
 Reserve assistant referee:  Corey ROCKWELL (USA)

In the first of the Round of 16 encounters at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, France defeated Argentina 4-3 in a spectacular game to match their achievement from four years ago and book a place in the quarter-finals.

France v. Argentina - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 50

4-3 (1-1)

50  30.06.2018  17:00  KAZAN  42,873

FRA:  1 LLCORS (C), 2 PAVARD, 4 VARANE, 5 LMTTFI, 6 POGBA, 7 GRIEZMANN, 9 GIROUD, 10 MBAPPE, 13 KANTE, 14 MATUIDI, 21 HERNANDEZ
ARG:  12 ARMANI; 2 MERCADO, 3 TAGLIAFICO, 7 BANEGA, 10 MESSI (C), 11 DI MARIA, 14 MASCHERANO, 15 PEREZ, 16 ROJO, 17 OTAMENDI, 22 PAVON

Scores:  1-0 10’ GIROUD (7, pen.), 1-1 41’ DI MARIA (11), 1-2 48’ MERCADO (2), 2-2 57’ PAVARD (2), 3-2 64’ MBAPPE (10), 4-2 68’ MBAPPE (10), 4-3 90’+3 AGUERO (19)

Referee:  Cesar Ramos (MEX)
Assistant referees:  Jair MARUFO (USA), Jair MARUFO (USA)
4th official:  Leonardo BARTOLI (FRA)
 Reserve assistant referee:  Christian SCHIEBEN (CHI)

Substitutions:  FRA:  75’ out MATAUDI (14), in TOULSSO (12), 83’ out GRIEZMANN (7), in FEKIR (18), 89’ out MBAPPE (10), in THAUVIN (20)
ARG:  46’ HT out RODIO (16), in FAZIO (6), 66’ out PEREZ (15), in AGUERO (19), 75’ out PAVON (22), in MEZA (13)

Cautions:  FRA:  72’ TOLISSO (12), 73’ PAVARD (2), 90’+3 GIROUD (9)
ARG:  5’ JOAO MARIO (16), 19’ TAGLIAFICO (3), 43’ MASCHERANO (14), 50’ BANEGA (7), 90’+3 OTAMENDI (17)

Expulsions:  –

In the first of the Round of 16 encounters at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, France defeated Argentina 4-3 in a spectacular game to match their achievement from four years ago and book a place in the quarter-finals.

Proceedings began at a frenetic pace, with not even ten minutes played when Antoine Griezmann curled a free-kick against the crossbar after Kylian Mbappe had been fouled. A few minutes later Mbappe was again brought down, this time in the penalty area, and Greizmann made no mistake from the spot. Argentina needed a spell of possession to compose themselves and digest going behind. They also needed something special to get back into the game, and Angel Di Maria provided it with a stunning long-range strike to bring them level, against the run of play, before the interval.

Buoyed by that equaliser, the South Americans turned the game on its head in the second period. Lionel Messi collected the ball after a free-kick was only half-cleared, and his shot on the turn was diverted into the net by Gabriel Mercado. Les Bleus did not need to wait long to provide the perfect response to going behind, however. Benjamin Pavard scored a wonder goal of his own to make it 2-2, before the irrepressible Mbappe scored twice in four minutes. Argentina replied yet again late on through substitute Sergio Aguero, but it was too little, too late for the South Americans.

See match highlights:
France v Argentina - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 50

Uruguay, the team with the best defensive record in the group stage at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ with zero goals conceded, held firm to sink Portugal 2-1 in Sochi on Saturday to set up a quarter-final tie against France.

Edinson Cavani’s early opener from a superb Luis Suarez cross put La Celeste in the driving seat, enabling them to sit back and soak up the Portuguese pressure. The European champions huffed and puffed but could not blow down the Uruguayan house, searching in vain for a moment of magic from Cristiano Ronaldo, who passed up a presentable chance from a dangerously positioned free-kick.

It was from another sort of dead-ball delivery that Portugal found a chink in the armour, Pepe equalising with a header from a corner after the break. However, the veteran centre-back’s joy was short-lived, as Cavani restored the South Americans’ lead with a stunning side-footed finish not long afterwards.

The Uruguayans will have to be just as solid at the back if they are to emerge victorious from their quarter-final tie against France, who were scintillating going forward during their win over Argentina earlier in the day. The stage is set for a cracker in Nizhny Novgorod on 6 July.

See match highlights:
Uruguay v Portugal - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 49
### Spain v. Russia - 1-1 a.e.t. (1-1, 1-1) 3-4 PSO

**51 01.07.2018 17:00 MOSCOW 78,011**

**ESP**: 1 DE GEA; 3 PIQUE, 4 NACHO, 5 BUKSQUETS, 8 KOKE, 15 RAMOS (C), 18 ALBA, 19 COSTA, 20 ASUSNO, 21 SILVA, 22 ISCO

**RUS**: 1 AKINFEEV (C); 2 MARIO FERNANDES, 3 KUTEPPOV, 4 IGNASHEVICH, 7 KUZIAEV (11), 13 KUDIRASHOV, 17 GOLOVIN, 18 ZHIRKOV, 19 SAMEDOV, 22 DZYUBA

**Scores**: 1-0 12’ IGNA SHEVICH (4, own goal), 1-1 41’ DZYUBA (22, pen.)

**Penalty Shoot-out**: 1-0 INIESTA (6), 1-1 SAMEDOV (15), 2-1 PIQUE (3), 3-1 RAMOS (15), 3-4 CHE RYSHEV (6), 3-4 ASPA S (17)

**Referee**: Nestor PITANA (ARG)

**Assistant referees**: Sander VAN ROEKEL (NED), Erwin ZIENSTRA (NED)

**4th official**: Clement TURPIN (Fra)

**Reserve assistant referee**: Nicolas DANOS (Fra)

**Substitutions**: ESP: 23 SUBASIC, 2 VRSA LJKO, 3 STRINIC, 4 PERISIC, 6 LOVREN, 7 RAKITIC, 10 MODRIC (C), 11 BROZOVIC, 17 MANDZUKIC, 18 REBIC, 21 VID A

**RUS**: 46’ HT out ZHIRKOV (18), in GRANAT (14), 61’ out SAMEDOV (15), in CHERYSHEV (6), 65’ out DZYUBA (22), in SMOLYOV (10), 97’ out KUZIAEV (7), in EROKHIN (21)

**Cautions**: ESP: 40’ PIQUE (3)

**Expulsions**: RUS: 54’ KUTEPPOV (3), 71’ ZOBIN (11)

Russia defeated Spain on penalties to earn victory after the inaugural shootout of the 2018 FIFA World Cup™. Koke saw his effort saved by Igor Akinfeev, before Iago Aspas’s unsuccessful spot kick sent the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow into delirium.

It had all started so well for La Roja - who silenced the Luzhniki in the opening moments - a set-piece providing the opportunity for Spain to take the lead. Sergio Ramos proved a nuisance to Sergei Ignashevich, and the veteran defender turned the ball into his own net.

But Russia did not wilt in the sticky Moscow evening. The imperious Artem Dzyuba revelled in his battle with Ramos and Gerard Pique, and another one of his victorious skirmishes against the latter resulted in the Barcelona man handling the ball to win it when Kasper Schmeichel denied Modric from the spot with four minutes remaining.

A brave defensive performance from Russia in extra time earned them a penalty shootout against the 100 winners, where Akinfeev was ultimately the hero.

See match highlights: [Spain v Russia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 51](https://www.fifa.com)

### Croatia v. Denmark - 1-1 a.e.t. (1-1, 1-1) 3-2 PSO

**52 01.07.2018 21:00 NIZHNI NOVGOROD 40,851**

**CRO**: 23 SUBASIC, 2 VRSA LJKO, 3 STRINIC, 4 PERSIC, 6 LOVREN, 7 RAKITIC, 10 MODRIC (C), 11 BROZOVIC, 17 MANDZUKIC, 18 REBIC, 21 VID A

**DEN**: 1 SCHMIECHEL, 4 KIAER (C), 5 KNUSEN, 6 CHRISTENSEN, 8 DELANEY, 10 ERIKSEN, 11 BRAITHWAITE, 13 JORGENSEN Mathias, 14 DALSGAARD, 20 POULSEN, 21 CORNELIUS

**Scores**: 0-1 1’ JORGENSEN Mathias (13), 1-1 4’ MANDZUKIC (17)

**Penalty Shoot-out**: 0-0 ERIKSEN (10), 0-0 BADELI (19), 0-1 KIAER (4), 1-1 KRAMARIC (9), 1-2 KROHN-DEHLI (2), 0-2 KRAMARIC (9), 1-2 MANDZUKIC (19), 1-2 PERISIC (4), 0-1 KRAMARIC (9), 0-2 KRAMARIC (9), 0-2 PERISIC (4)

**Referee**: Nestor PITANA (ARG)

**Assistant referees**: Hernan MAIDANA (ARG), Juan Pablo BELATTI (ARG)

**4th official**: Enrique ACERES (PAR)

**Reserve assistant referee**: Eduardo CARDozo (PAR)

**Substitutions**: CRO: 71’ out BAZOVIC (11), in KOVACIC (8), 81’ out STRINIC (3), in PIVARIC (22), 97’ out PERSIC (4), in KRAMARIC (9), 108’ out MANDZUKIC (17), in BADELI (19)

**DEN**: 46’ HT out CHRISTENSEN (6), in SCHONE (19), 104’ out ASPO S (21), in CORNELIUS (22), 1-1 KRAMARIC (9), 1-2 MANDZUKIC (19), 1-2 PERISIC (4), 0-1 KRAMARIC (9), 0-2 KRAMARIC (9), 0-2 PERISIC (4), 1-2 MANDZUKIC (19)

**Cautions**: DEN: 115’ JORGENSEN Mathias (13)

**Expulsions**: –

After a thrilling start to the match, with both sides scoring in the opening four minutes, Croatia needed penalties to see off a brave Denmark side that played their most adventurous football of the competition but without reward.

The Danes opened the scoring in the opening minute, as Matthew Jorgensen shot though a sea of legs and saw the ball squirm under Danijel Subasic’s body and over the line. The Scandinavians’ joy lasted just three minutes. Presented with Croatia’s first chance, Mario Mandzukic tucked home a loose ball to restore parity.

Croatia became more dominant as the half wore on, with Luka Modric directing traffic from a more withdrawn position than in other games. Denmark had their chances, however, with Christian Eriksen clipping the crossbar.

The Scandinavians grew in belief as the minutes passed, but let themselves down with some wayward finishing. Short on energy, the Vatreni were unable to find the back of the net themselves, and the match ticked into extra time. Croatia tried to force the pace late on, and passed up a golden chance to win it when Kasper Schmeichel denied Modric from the spot with four minutes remaining. The Danes waited for the shootout, confident in Schmeichel’s penalty-saving expertise.

The keeper stopped two, but Subasic went one better to take his side through.

See match highlights: [Croatia v Denmark - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 52](https://www.fifa.com)
Brazil v. Mexico

Neymar scored his sixth FIFA World Cup™ goal, before substitute Roberto Firmino added one late on, to lift Brazil past Mexico 2-0 to advance into the quarter-finals at Russia 2018.

The first 20 minutes of the match started with El Tri pressuring the South Americans’ backline, but eventually Tite’s side were able to grow into the game, ultimately generating more goalscoring opportunities and looking the likelier to break the deadlock.

It took until after the break, though, and once the second half commenced, it wasn’t long until Neymar was wheeling away in celebration. He slid in to finish from close range after Willian sent in a dangerous, low cross on 51 minutes. Brazil continued to create scoring chances and, with full-time closing in fast, Firmino tapped in at the back post as Neymar turning provider to seal victory.

See match highlights:
Brazil v Mexico - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 53

Belgium v. Japan

Belgium’s team of stars demonstrated their strength of character by coming back from two goals down to claim victory over Japan in a wild game at the Rostov Arena. The manner of the win will surely fill the side with confidence as they now advance to the quarter-finals of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ where they will face none other than Brazil.

Following a tight first half in which both defences had the upper hand, barring the odd minor lapse in concentration, Japan took a commanding lead with two goals at the start of the second half. Genki Haraguchi put the Blues ahead with an angled finish in the 48th minute, before Takashi Inui fired in a wonderful long-range strike for his second goal of the tournament.

Nobody doubted the ability of Roberto Martinez’s side, but here was a true test of their resolve. After a frantic few minutes, the manager opted for a change in approach with the introduction of the 6’4” danger man Marouane Fellaini, and the tactical shift paid dividends. In the 69th minute, Jan Vertonghen’s looping header threw Les Diables Rouges a lifeline, before Fellaini himself headed home the equaliser five minutes later.

As the game progressed, extra time seemed an inevitability. Yet Nacer Chadli had other ideas, the substitute applying the finishing touch to a textbook counter-attack in the fourth minute of stoppage time to send the Belgium fans into delirium.

See match highlights:
Belgium v Japan - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 54
Sweden booked their place in the FIFA World Cup™ quarter-finals for the first time in almost a quarter of a century after Emil Forsberg forced a slender 1-0 win over Switzerland in Saint Petersburg.

A cagey encounter from the outset, Sweden fell back on their tried and tested formula: sit deep, defend solidly and strike on the counter-attack. As such, Switzerland were the more active influence in the game when it came to possession, but the reactive approach from Janne Andersson’s side proved the more fertile. Chances were limited, but the better of them fell at Swedish feet.

In something of a war of attrition, as time progressed glimpses of a potential pivotal moment began to shine through, with only poor finishing and good fortune snuffing them out. However, it was fortune that eventually brought about the winner.

Forsberg was given far too much space at the edge of the box and - having failed to live up to his pre-tournament billing as Sweden’s star attraction - saw his effort deflect wildly off Manuel Akanji into the top corner, sending them into the last eight.

See match highlights:
Sweden v Switzerland - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 55

England defeated Colombia to reach the quarter-finals of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. Penalties were needed at Moscow’s Spartak Stadium to decide the match and keep alive the Three Lions’ dream of a second World Cup title after 1966. After a frenetic opening, England began to dictate the tempo of the game. Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling and Jesse Lingard kept moving well between the lines and were rewarded with several set piece opportunities. Without injured superstar James Rodriguez, Colombia relied on quick counterattacks but rarely posed a threat in front of the opposition’s goal.

The second half got off to the perfect start for England. After being brought down in the penalty area, captain Kane converted the resulting spot-kick to give his team the lead. Undeterred, Colombia threw everything forward in the final quarter of an hour and snatched an equaliser through Yerry Mina in the 93rd minute.

Although both teams pushed for a winner in extra time, penalties were ultimately needed to determine the outcome. After Jordan Henderson’s shot was saved for England and Mateus Uribe and Carlos Bacca both failed to score for Colombia, Dier’s successful spot-kick sealed the Three Lions’ place in the last eight.

See match highlights:
Colombia v England - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 56
France won through to the World Cup semi-finals for the first time in 12 years after seeing off a combative Uruguay side that struggled in the absence of the injured Edinson Cavani. Los Charrúas made a strong start all the same, with Cavani’s replacement Cristhian Stuani shooting across the face of goal. At the back, meanwhile, La Celeste were their usual organised selves, giving away no space whatsoever. Seeing more of the ball, France put some good moves together only to struggle in the box, where the Uruguayans were quick to snuff out any danger. Ironically, France’s opener came from a set-piece, habitually one of La Celeste’s strengths, with Raphael Varane glancing a header home from Antoine Griezmann’s pinpoint delivery. The Uruguayans would have equalised on the stroke of half-time but for a miraculous stop from Hugo Lloris, who dived full-length to claw away a Martin Caceres header.

In a bid to turn the game around, Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez rang the changes in the second half, sending on Maxi Lopez and Cristian Rodriguez. Their Russia 2018 hopes came to an end, however, when a Griezmann shot deceived Fernando Muslera and slipped through the keeper’s hands and over the line.

See match highlights: Uruguay v France - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 57

Belgium beat Brazil 2-1 in Kazan to set the first semi-final of 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ in stone, and booked their return to the final four for the first time in three decades. A Seleção seized control of the match in the first half, seeing Thiago Silva’s effort hit the post, as the Red Devils relied on the counter-attack. The Belgians were ahead against the run of play after Fernandinho, replacing the suspended Casemiro, deviated a flicked-on corner into his own net. There was nothing fortunate about the European side’s second. Reminiscent of their on-the-break winner against Japan, Kevin De Bruyne polished off a flawless attack move with a sumptuously struck finish.

The South Americans tried to pile the pressure on their opponents again after half-time but a combination of the excellent Thibaut Courtois and feverish defending proved too much to break down. As the spurned chances stacked up, it was left to substitute Renato Augusto to head home a Coutinho cross to hand Brazil hope.

Belgium refused to fold, however, in the enthralling closing stages, ensuring Roberto Martinez’s side reached the World Cup semi-finals for only the second time in their history. See match highlights:

See match highlights: Brazil v Belgium - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 58
Sweden v. England  0-2 (0-1)

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### Russia v. Croatia

**2-2 a.e.t. (1-1, 1-1) 3-4 PSO**

**59  07.07.2018  21:00 SOCHI  44,287**

**RUS:**
- 1 Akinfeev (C), 2 Mario Fernandes, 3 Kutepov, 4 Ignashevich, 6 Cheryshev, 7 Kuzyaev, 11 Zobnin, 13 Kudryashov, 17 Golovin, 19 Samodov, 22 Dzyuba

**CRO:**
- 23 Subasic, 2 Vrsaljko, 3 Strinic, 4 Perisic, 6 Lovren, 7 Rakitic, 9 Kramaric, 10 Modric (C), 17 Mandzukic, 18 Rebic, 21 Vida

**Scores:**
- 1-0 3’ Cheryshev (6), 1-1 39’ Kramaric (9), 1-1 101’ Vida (21), 2-2 115’ Rakitic (7)

**Penalty Shoot-out:**
- 0-0 Smolov (10), 0-1 Brozovic (11), 1-1 Dzagoev (9), 1-1 Kovacic (8), 1-2 Modric (10), 2-2 Ignashevich (4), 2-3 Vida (21), 3-3 Kuzyaev (7), 3-4 Rakitic (7)

**Referee:** Sandro Ricci (BRA)
**Assistant referees:** Emerson De Sandro Ricci (BRA), Marcelo Van Gasse (BRA)
**4th official:** Janny Sikazwe (ZAM)
**Reserve assistant referee:** Jerson dos Santos (ANG)

**Substitutions:**
- Jerson Dos Santos (ANG)

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**Sweden v. England - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 59**

England advanced to their first FIFA World Cup™ semi-final since Italy 1990 with a 2-0 win over Sweden thanks to a pair of headed goals by Harry Maguire and Dele. After a tepid opening half hour, Maguire was able to spring above his marker and latch on to the end of a floated Ashley Young corner to give the Three Lions the lead. England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford was notably called into action early in the second half when he saved Marcus Berg’s header.

But Dele doubled the Three Lions’ lead when he timed his run at the back post and headed in a cross delivered by Jesse Lingard.

England held on to their two-goal cushion thanks to several Pickford saves to seal their place in the semi-finals for the first time since 1990.

See match highlights:
- Sweden v England - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 59
Samuel Umtiti's headed winner has returned France to the FIFA World Cup™ Final for the third time in 20 years, sealing a 1-0 win over Belgium in Saint Petersburg.

The first half saw chances at either end, with Belgium captain Eden Hazard going close before Hugo Lloris and Thibaut Courtois denied Toby Alderweireld and Benjamin Pavard respectively to ensure the opening period ended all square.

Having seen the best chances come from defenders, it was apt that a centre-back opened the scoring. After Raphael Varane performed heroics in the quarter-finals against Uruguay, this time it was Umtiti, stealing a march on his marker Marouane Fellaini to meet Antoine Griezmann’s corner at the near post and flick a header beyond Thibaut Courtois.

Once ahead, France locked down, robbing the Red Devils’ star names of space to pick through in the final third, grinding down the clock - while looking to strike on the counter - until their place in the Moscow finale was confirmed.

See match highlights:
France v Belgium - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 61

Croatia have reached their first FIFA World Cup™ Final, coming from behind to defeat England 2-1 after extra time at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow - with Mario Mandzukic’s extra-time goal the decisive strike.

The game had started so well for the Three Lions. Less than five minutes were on the clock when Kieran Trippier curled a delicious free-kick past the helpless Danijel Subasic. Croatia struck back after the break. After continually increasing the pressure on the Three Lions, Sime Vrsaljko’s pinpoint cross was met by Ivan Perisic, who snuck in to level from close range. Less than five minutes later, Perisic found himself in space in the English penalty area, but his effort struck the post, and the follow-up was gratefully held by Jordan Pickford.

The Inter Milan man’s effort off the woodwork was the closest either side came to taking the lead before the 90 minutes were up, meaning England faced a second period of extra time at Russia 2018 - with Croatia undertaking a third consecutive additional 30 minutes.

Vatreni did not need penalties this time though. Mandzukic ghosted in behind the English defence, who momentarily lost concentration, and the Juventus man hammered home a historic strike to send his country into their maiden World Cup Final.
Thomas Meunier and Eden Hazard struck at either end of their Play-off for Third Place with England to secure bronze at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - their best-ever performance at the global finals.

Belgium began superbly. Early pressure quickly turned into an early goal, with Meunier nipping in behind Danny Rose to tuck Nacer Chadli's cross past Jordan Pickford. Dominant and lively, they looked set to extend that lead until England regained their composure, dulling the incisive swipes of the Belgians' passing as the half wore on.

Gareth Southgate's side gritted their teeth and began to dominate possession either side of half-time, probing for openings in the final third. While these were not plentiful, they looked the more likely to score, though the spectre of a Belgian counter loomed throughout.

Eric Dier saw his cute, dinked effort hooked off the line by Toby Alderweireld in their best opportunity of the day, with Hazard sealing bronze on the break. Kevin De Bruyne slipped him in superbly and the final result was never in doubt as the Belgium captain tucked away assuredly.

See match highlights:
Belgium v England - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 63
France have won the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ after defeating Croatia 4-2 in a thoroughly entertaining Final at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow in what was a fitting end to an outstanding tournament.

Despite Croatia having the majority of possession in the opening stages, France took the lead in somewhat fortuitous circumstances. Antoine Griezmann’s lofted free kick from the French right was nodded into his own net by Mario Mandzukic.

Ivan Perisic levelled with a calm effort from the edge of the penalty area, but he would turn from hero to villain. A cross from the French right-hand side was handled by the Croatia No 4, with a penalty awarded after a VAR review.

After the interval, France increased their lead through Paul Pogba, whose performances in the tournament deserved a goal in its finale. After Kylian Mbappe stretched the Croatian defence, Griezmann teed up Pogba, who finished after seeing his initial effort blocked.

After his tireless running tired the Croatian defence, it was only fitting that Mbappe himself got on the scoresheet, hitting a sweetly-struck effort from the edge of the penalty area with which Danijel Subasic stood no chance.

Mandzukic then scored in the same net, but this time to Croatia’s advantage, capitalising on some carelessness by Hugo Lloris to reduce the deficit.

In the end, the big No17’s strike was not enough to spark yet another miraculous Croatian comeback, and Les Bleus emulate their heroes of 1998 - including coach Didier Deschamps - in securing their second World Cup title.

See match highlights: France v Croatia - 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ - Match 64
All data in this report was provided by a third party data provider.