

23 June 2018

Match highlights

Brazil-Costa Rica

- ⚽ Neymar's 97th-minute goal was the latest scored in normal time of a World Cup game. Four goals had previously been scored in the 95th minute.
- ⚽ The last time Brazil wore all blue kit was against Sweden in the 1994 semi-finals. On that occasion it was 0-0 until Brazil's No11 (Romario) broke the deadlock from close range in the 80th minute, and on this one it was 0-0 until Brazil's No11 (Philippe Coutinho) broke the deadlock from close range in the 91st minute.
- ⚽ Costa Rica have gone 368 minutes without scoring in the World Cup since Bryan Ruiz scored against Greece in the Round of 16 at Brazil 2014.
- ⚽ Brazil extended their undefeated streak in group-stage games at the World Cup to 14 (11 wins; three draws).

Nigeria-Iceland

- ⚽ Nigeria won their sixth World Cup game in their 20th appearances, with all their victories having come against European opposition.
- ⚽ Ahmed Musa, who bagged a brace against Argentina at Brazil 2014, became the second African to score more than one goal in multiple World Cup matches. Roger Milla had managed the feat in 1990, scoring doubles against Romania and Colombia.
- ⚽ Ahmed Musa is now Nigeria's outright leading marksman in the World Cup (four goals). He had previously shared that distinction with Daniel Amokachi, Emmanuel Amunike and Kalu Uche (two goals apiece).
- ⚽ Ahmed Musa ended Nigeria's World Cup goal drought at 272 minutes. The diminutive forward had got their last one, against Argentina in the group stage in 2014.
- ⚽ Nigeria avoided conceding from a penalty for the first time courtesy of Gylfi Sigurdsson's attempt. Italy's Roberto Baggio in 1994, Sweden's Henrik Larsson in 2002 and Croatia's Luka Modric earlier this tournament had successfully converted spot-kicks against the Super Eagles.

Serbia-Switzerland

- ⚽ Stephan Lichtsteiner made his ninth World Cup appearance to become the most-capped Swiss in the competition.
- ⚽ Xherdan Shaqiri and Granit Xhaka joined Andre Abegglen and Jackie Faton as the only Swiss players to score in two World Cups.
- ⚽ 19 per cent of the goals thus far at Russia 2018 (11 from 58) were scored in or after the 86th minute (including injury time).

On this day in the past

1994

Italy edge out Norway 1-0 despite Gianluca Pagliuca becoming the first goalkeeper to receive a red card in the history of the competition.



1998

Scotland lose 3-0 to Morocco in St. Etienne and are knocked out of their eighth FIFA World Cup.

Next matches – 23 June



Germany - Sweden











Group F				
Match #	Date	Referee designation	City	Time (LT) UTC +3
27	23-06-2018	Szymon MARCINIAK (POL)	SOCHI	21:00

36 previous head-to-heads ([click](#) to view full match list)

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA
Germany	36	15	9	12	70	60
Sweden	36	12	9	15	60	70

Facts & figures

-  Of all the group-round games at Russia 2018, Germany-Sweden is historically the most-played fixture. The two sides are meeting for the 37th time and the Germans lead the head-to-head series with 15 wins to 12, the other nine encounters having ended drawn.
-  The pair have crossed paths four times in the FIFA World Cup and Germany have had the better of the previous meetings with three victories to one, by the scorelines of 2-1 in 1934, 4-2 in 1974 and 2-0 in 2006. Sweden's only success was a 3-1 win in the 1958 semi-finals.
-  The sides first locked horns over a century ago on 18 June 1911, when the Germans plundered a 4-2 win in Stockholm. The last encounter in October 2013 was also a high-scoring affair, finishing 5-3 in favour of Germany on the qualification trail for Brazil 2014.
-  The loss to Mexico ended Germany's eight-game unbeaten run in the competition and is their first opening-matchday defeat as reigning World Cup holders. *Die Nationalmannschaft* are also the sixth team to lose the opening match of their title defence after Italy in 1950, Argentina in 1982 and 1990, France in 2002 and Spain in 2014.
-  Sweden have kicked off a World Cup campaign with victory for the first time in 60 years, since overcoming Mexico 3-0 in 1958.
-  Sweden have not beaten Germany for exactly 40 years. Their last victory in this fixture dates back to 19 April 1978, when the *Blågult* won a friendly match 3-1 in Stockholm.
-  Germany won both of the past World Cup matches that they played on 23 June, seeing off Turkey 7-2 in 1954 and Ghana 1-0 in 2010. Sweden also won their only previous fixture contested on 23 June, overpowering Uruguay 3-0 in 1974.
-  This is the third meeting between Sweden and defending champions in the World Cup. The Swedes emerged victorious on both previous occasions, beating Italy 3-2 in 1950 and Germany FR 3-1 in 1958.



Korea Republic - Mexico












Group F				
Match #	Date	Referee designation	City	Time (LT) UTC +3
28	23-06-2018	Milorad MAZIC (SRB)	ROSTOV-ON-DON	18:00

12 previous head-to-heads ([click](#) to view full match list)

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA
Korea Republic	12	4	2	6	15	24
Mexico	12	6	2	4	24	15

Facts & figures

-  This is the 13th encounter between the two teams. Mexico have marginally the better track record with six wins to four, plus two draws. The pair first faced each other 70 years ago in the Olympic Football Tournament 1948 in London, which produced a 5-3 Korean victory. The last meeting was a friendly held in January 2014 in San Antonio, USA, which was won 4-0 by Mexico.
-  Besides the Olympic tournament in 1948, Mexico and Korea Republic have squared up in another three competitions: in the FIFA Confederations Cup in 2001 (when the Taeguk Warriors prevailed 2-1), in the 2002 quarter-finals of the Gold Cup (another Korean victory but on penalties) and in the 1998 World Cup, when Mexico emerged 3-1 victors in the group round, with Pelaez netting once and Luis Hernandez twice after Ha Seokju had opening the scoring.
-  Mexico have won three out of three showdowns against Asian opposition in the World Cup, beating Iraq 1-0 in 1986, Korea Republic 3-1 in 1998 and IR Iran 3-1 in 2006.
-  Korea Republic have faced CONCACAF representatives twice in the World Cup and are yet to win. After losing 3-1 to Mexico in 1998, the East Asians drew 1-1 with USA in 2002.
-  The defeat by Sweden extended Korea Republic's winless streak in the World Cup to seven games (two draws and five defeats). The South Koreans last won in 2010, overcoming Greece 2-0.
-  Against Germany, Rafael Marquez became only the third player to take to the field in five World Cups, after Antonio Carbajal and Lothar Matthaeus.
-  For the second consecutive edition, Mexico play a match on 23 June. Four years ago, *El Tri* saw off Croatia 3-1 in Recife.
-  Korea Republic have never scored in World Cup fixtures contested on 23 June, having drawn 0-0 with Bolivia in 1994 before losing 2-0 to Switzerland in 2006.
-  Shin Taeyong was also in the Korea Republic dugout when his charges edged Mexico 1-0 in the Olympic Football Tournament 2016.



Belgium - Tunisia










Group G				
Match #	Date	Referee designation	City	Time (LT) UTC +3
29	23-06-2018	Jair MARRUFO (USA)	MOSCOW	15:00

3 previous head-to-heads ([click](#) to view full match list)

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA
Belgium	3	1	1	1	3	3
Tunisia	3	1	1	1	3	3

Facts & figures

-  The pair are evenly matched in tournament history, having met three times with one victory apiece and one draw. The last skirmish was a friendly in 2014 in Brussels, where Dries Mertens struck to earn the Europeans a 1-0 win.
-  On 26 February 1992, Tunisia became the first African side to play Belgium. The match was a friendly that took place in Rades and culminated in a 2-1 Tunisian victory.
-  The two sides previously went toe-to-toe in the 2002 World Cup, drawing 1-1 after goals from Marc Wilmots and Raouf Bouzaiene inside the first 17 minutes of play.
-  Tunisia are winless in their last 12 World Cup matches (four draws, eight losses) since recording the momentous first victory by an African team in the World Cup, beating Mexico 3-1 in 1978.
-  Belgium remain undefeated after playing three matches against African opposition in the World Cup, with two victories and one draw. Besides that stalemate with Tunisia, the Red Devils edged Morocco 1-0 in 1994 and 2-1 Algeria four years ago.
-  The 3-0 opening-day victory over Panama equalled Belgium's most emphatic win in the World Cup, which dates back to 1970, when they achieved an identical result against El Salvador.
-  This is the second time that Tunisia have played a World Cup match on 23 June. In 2006 the *Eagles of Carthage* were defeated 1-0 by Ukraine.

Next matches – 24 June








England - Panama



Group G				
Match #	Date	Referee designation	City	Time (LT) UTC +3
30	24-06-2018	Ghead GRISHA (EGY)	NIZHNY NOVGOROD	15:00

No previous head-to-heads

Facts & figures

-  This is the first meeting at any level between the sides.
-  Since suffering a historic defeat by USA in 1950, England have remained unbeaten against CONCACAF representatives in the global showpiece, collecting two wins and two draws.
-  This is England's second showdown with a CONCACAF team making their World Cup debut, after the Three Lions defeated Trinidad and Tobago 2-0 in 2006.
-  The only previous World Cup fixture contested by England took place four years on 24 June in Brazil. Their opponents, Costa Rica, were also CONCACAF representatives and the final result was 0-0.
-  *Canaleros* coach Hernan Gomez faced England on two occasions while in charge of the Colombian national side. The first was a goalless friendly played at Wembley in 1995 (the one where Rene Higuita pulled off his famous scorpion-kick save). The second was in Lens at the 1998 World Cup, when Colombia lost 2-0. In that game Gareth Southgate was an unused substitute for England, who were managed by Glenn Hoddle.



Poland - Colombia










Group H				
Match #	Date	Referee designation	City	Time (LT) UTC +3
31	24-06-2018	Cesar RAMOS (MEX)	KAZAN	21:00

5 previous head-to-heads ([click](#) to view full match list)

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA
Colombia	5	3	0	2	7	8
Poland	5	2	0	3	8	7

Facts & figures

-  The pair lock horns for the sixth time. All five of their previous encounters were friendly matches and none produced a draw. Colombia lead the head-to-head series with three wins to two. The last meeting dates back to May 2006, when the South Americans prevailed 2-1.
-  Poland coach Adam Nawalka won the last of his 34 international caps against Colombia in the pair's first showdown in 1980, which Poland won 4-1 in Bogota.
-  None of Poland's nine prior meetings with South American sides in the FIFA World Cup ended in a draw. CONMEBOL representatives have historically had the edge over Poland with five victories to four.
-  This is Colombia's 20th World Cup match. Their first outing ended in a 2-1 defeat by Uruguay on 30 May 1962 in Arica.
-  Thiago Cionek's own goal against Senegal was the first own goal by a Polish player in the World Cup.
-  Colombia also played on 24 June four years ago, overpowering Japan 4-1 in Cuiaba.
-  Carlos Sanchez's sending-off after two minutes and 56 seconds was the second-earliest expulsion from kick-off in World Cup history, beaten only by the red card shown to Uruguay's Jose Batista after just 52 seconds against Scotland in 1986.



Japan - Senegal









Group H				
Match #	Date	Referee designation	City	Time (LT) UTC +5
32	24-06-2018	Gianluca ROCCHI (ITA)	EKATERINBURG	20:00

3 previous head-to-heads ([click](#) to view full match list)

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA
Japan	3	0	1	2	2	5
Senegal	3	2	1	0	5	2

Facts & figures

-  Senegal have faced Japan three times before, all in friendly matches contested between 1987 and 2003, and remain unbeaten with two wins and one draw.
-  For the third consecutive edition, Japan are playing a World Cup match on 24 June. In 2010 the Samurai Blue defeated Denmark 3-1, before losing 4-1 to Colombia four years ago.
-  Three teams have never lost a match in the group stage of the World Cup, namely Wales, Germany DR and Senegal. Of this trio, the West Africans have played the most games, with four compared with the other teams' three.
-  None of the three past World Cup encounters between Japan and African opposition ended in a draw. The East Asian side's record stands at two victories (2-0 over Tunisia in 2002 and 1-0 against Cameroon in 2010) and one defeat (2-1 to Côte d'Ivoire in 2014).
-  Senegal have never encountered Asian opponents before in the World Cup.
-  The penalty converted by Shinji Kagawa six minutes into the game against Colombia was the earliest goal scored by Japan in the World Cup, surpassing Keisuke Honda's 16th-minute strike against Côte d'Ivoire in 2014.

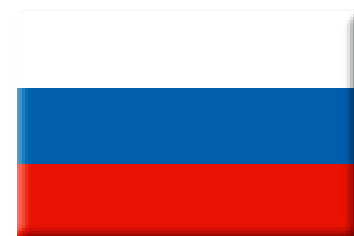
Metro to Moscow

A 33-stop journey through Russian and Soviet football history as we countdown towards the FIFA World Cup Final at the Luzhniki on July 15th.

22 days to the FINAL

The 22 national championships won by Spartak Moscow is more than any other Russian club. The Moscow side won the Soviet Top League 12 times and have added a further ten titles in the Russian top flight. Thanks to their attractive, easily recognisable style of football, Spartak became popularly known as the People's Club. Interestingly, nine of the last ten league titles came between 1991 and 2001, after which Spartak fans had to wait another 16 years for their next triumph in 2017.

Russian Football Dictionary



How to say...

Goal
Goal for
Goal against
Goal difference

in Russian

Гол / gol
Забитый гол / zabeety gol
Пропущенный гол / prapuscheny gol
Разница мячей / raznitsa myachey

Happy Birthday

Players, coaches and referees celebrating their Birthday

When	Turning...
23 JUNE	
Fakhreddine BEN YOUSSEF (TUN)	27
Kristoffer NORDFELDT (SWE)	29

From Russia with Love

Remembering the teams missing out in this year's FIFA World Cup

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

FIFA World Cup™ facts & figures

Participations	3 (1990, 1994, 2002)
Best achievement	Quarter-finals 1990

Republic of Ireland have drawn the highest percentage of matches in the FIFA World Cup: 61.5%, or eight of their 13 games.

The two coaches who led Republic of Ireland in their three World Cup outings had already played in previous tournaments. Jack Charlton won the title with England in 1966 and also played in the 1970 edition, whereas Mick McCarthy, manager in 2002, made five appearances for Republic of Ireland in the 1990 campaign.



The Boys in Green advanced beyond the group round in all three of their participations, reaching the quarter-finals in 1990 and the Round of 16 in 1994 and 2002.



Photo by Bob Thomas/Getty Images & Ben Radford/Getty Images

Switching Roles

Nine of the coaches competing in Russia 2018 have playing experience in the FIFA World Cup. They will feature in our Stats of the Day together with other players/managers who have shaped the competition's history.

FERNANDO HIERRO

Fernando Hierro participated in three editions of the FIFA World Cup as a player, in 1994, 1998 and 2002. The former centre-back also captained Spain at the tournament hosted by Korea Republic/Japan. Hierro netted five goals in the World Cup and is his country's joint-second-highest scorer in the event, behind David Villa (nine goals) and level with Emilio Butragueno, Fernando Morientes and Raul. On the two occasions that Spain went on penalties, against Republic of Ireland and Korea Republic in 2002, Hierro took and converted his team's first penalty.



Photo by Clive Brunskill/Getty Images & Simon Hofmann - FIFA/FIFA via Getty Images

Football Fashion

Morocco in 1976



...and now



Photo POZZO Archive / FIFA Museum & Ryan Pierse - FIFA/FIFA via Getty Images

Striking snaps from tournaments past



Backstroke, freestyle or butterfly? Chile and Australia showing off their swimming skills at the 1974 World Cup

Photo FIFA Archive

Tantalizing World Cup Trivia

Today's question

What is the most frequent scoreline?

→ *Solution will be revealed in tomorrow's edition*

Yesterday's solution

Who is the most substituted player?

→ *Miroslav Klose, 16 times*



Memorabilia marvel

Designed to showcase the extraordinary history of the FIFA World Cup, the FIFA World Football Museum in Zurich covers all aspects of international football's rich heritage and shows how the beautiful game connects and inspires the world. With an interactive, multimedia display of exhibits, the museum explores the emotions that football awakens around the world on a daily basis. Exhibition space of more than 3,000 square meters offers a fascinating journey through time. During the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ we are happy to present a few of the many objects.

2002

Shirt worn by Korea Republic's Hwang Sun Hong during the 2002 FIFA World Cup™

It took Korea Republic 15 games to finally chalk up a win at the FIFA World Cup finals, but for fans of the 2002 co-hosts it was worth the wait. A 2-0 victory in Busan over Poland in the opening match of the finals dispelled any lingering doubts about the ability of the team and kick-started a campaign that saw the Koreans progress all the way to the semi-finals. It was the first time that a nation outside of Europe and the Americas had progressed so far. In that opening match against Poland, it was Hwang Sun Hong who scored the first goal. Huge crowds thronged the streets to watch public screenings of their games and the idea of the fan fest was born. Hwang is one of a select club of players to have played 100 matches and scored 50 goals for their national team, having made his World Cup debut in 1990.



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