Match highlights

Costa Rica-Serbia

- Serbia’s last four World Cup wins have all been by 1-0 scorelines. They overcame Germany at South Africa 2010, while, as Yugoslavia, they beat IR Iran and USA by a solitary goal in 1998.

- Christian Bolanos became the first Costa Rican to play in the three World Cups and their most-capped player in it on eight appearances. At 34 years and 31 days, the winger also became the oldest Costa Rican to play in the tournament.

- Costa Rica’s undefeated run at the World Cup was ended at five matches – one shy of the CONCACAF record set by Mexico over USA 1994 and France 1998.

Germany-Mexico

- Rafael Marquez became the third player to play at five World Cups after fellow Mexican Antonio Carbajal and German Lothar Matthaus.

- Mexico are unbeaten in their last six opening matches at the World Cup. It was the third time they faced the defending champions first time out, and the first time they beat them, having lost 2-0 to Brazil in 1962 and 6-0 to West Germany in 1978.

- Mexico became the first CONCACAF team to beat Germany in the World Cup after six defeats and one draw.

- Germany’s eight-game unbeaten run in the World Cup was extinguished, while they also lost their opening game at the tournament for the first time in eight attempts.

- Germany lost as defending champions for the first time in their World Cup curtain-raiser. They beat Argentina 3-1 in 1958, drew 0-0 with Poland in 1978 and edged Bolivia 1-0 in 1994.

- Joachim Low (15) went outright third on the list of coaches to have overseen the most Germany games at the World Cup, out ranking Franz Beckenbauer (14). Helmut Schon leads the way (25), followed by Sepp Herberger (18).

- Germany were the sixth defending champions to lose their opening match at the World Cup (see table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>ITALY-Sweden</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>ARGENTINA-Belgium</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>ARGENTINA-Cameroon</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>FRANCE-Senegal</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>SPAIN-Netherlands</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>GERMANY-Mexico</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brazil-Switzerland

- Valon Behrami became the first Swiss to play in four World Cups. Stephan Lichtsteiner equalled Kiki Antenen as the Swiss to have played the most World Cup matches (8).

- Brazil ended a streak of nine successive win in their World Cup curtain-raiser, though they extended their unbeaten run in group-stage matches at the tournament to 13 (10 wins; 3 draws).

- Switzerland are unbeaten in their last five opening matches at the World Cup, since a 5-0 loss to West Germany in 1966.

- Brazil have conceded 11 goals in their last three World Cup games – the same total they conceded in their 18 previous outings in the tournament.

- Brazil have now conceded in six straight World Cup matches, equalling their worst-ever run, set between 1934 and '38 and 1998 and 2002.
On this day in the past

1974
Yugoslavia defeat Zaire 9-0 in Gelsenkirchen in the most emphatic victory in FIFA World Cup history at that time.

1982
Argentina beat Hungary 4-1 in Alicante. The second and third goals, struck by Diego Maradona, are the first of eight FIFA World Cup goals scored by the Argentinian during his FIFA World Cup career (1982-1994).

2010
American Michael Bradley becomes the first FIFA World Cup goalscorer to be coached by his own father when he equalises for the USA against Slovenia.

Photo by STAFF / AFP
Next matches - 18 June

**Sweden - Korea Republic**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Referee designation</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time (LT) UTC +3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>18-06-2018</td>
<td>Joel AGUILAR (SLV)</td>
<td>NIZHNY NOVGOROD</td>
<td>15:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MP</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>GF</th>
<th>GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korea Republic</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Facts & figures**

- The teams have gone head-to-head on four previous occasions and Sweden are unbeaten, with two victories and two draws.
- The current coach of Korea Republic, Shin Taeyong, was on the pitch on 16 May 1996 when Sweden earned the second of those wins, which ended 2-0 and was followed by two draws.
- The pair’s only meeting in an international competition took place in the Olympic Football Tournament 1948, when Sweden strolled to a 12-0 victory. That result remains the Scandinavians’ joint-biggest winning margin of all time, equalled by another 12-0 success over Latvia in a friendly in 1927.
- This is the third World Cup fixture played on 18 June by Korea Republic, who avoided defeat in both of the previous two, toppling Italy 2-1 in 2002 and tying 1-1 with France in 2006.
- Sweden have not won their opening match in a World Cup since 1958, when they defeated Mexico 3-0. Since then the Blågult have recorded five draws (including three in their last three outings: 2-2 with Cameroon in 1994, 1-1 with England in 2002 and 0-0 against Trinidad and Tobago in 2006) and two losses.
- Korea Republic have gone six games without winning in the World Cup. Their most recent success ended 2-0 against Greece in 2010 and preceded two draws and four defeats.
- This is Sweden’s second encounter against an Asian team in the global showcase. The only previous meeting yielded a 3-1 victory over Saudi Arabia in the Round of 16 in 1994.
- Four of Korea Republic’s five wins in 31 matches contested to date came against European sides, specifically Poland, Portugal and Italy in 2002, followed by Greece in 2010.
- Shin Tae Yong faced Sweden as a player in the 1992 Olympic Football Tournament when his Korea Republic side drew 1-1 with the team from Scandinavia.
Belgium - Panama

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Referee designation</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time (LT) UTC +3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>18-06-2018</td>
<td>Janny SIKAZWE (ZAM)</td>
<td>SOCHI</td>
<td>18:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No previous head-to-heads

Facts & figures

- This is the first engagement between the two sides.
- Panama are the 11th CONCACAF team to participate in the World Cup finals, following Trinidad and Tobago in 2006.
- Belgium’s last defeat in a World Cup opener was a 2-1 reverse against Mexico in 1986, since when they have kicked off with three victories and two draws.
- The most recent victory by a CONCACAF debutant in the World Cup dates back to 26 June 1998, when Jamaica stunned Japan 2-1 in Lyon.
- Panama are the fourth CONCACAF side that Belgium have faced in the World Cup after El Salvador (two meetings), Mexico (three) and USA (two). The Red Devils are all-square in the head-to-head series with three victories, a draw and three defeats.
Tunisia – England

Group G

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Referee designation</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time (LT) UTC +3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>18-06-2018</td>
<td>Wilmar ROLDAN (COL)</td>
<td>VOLGOGRAD</td>
<td>21:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MP</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>GF</th>
<th>GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Facts & figures

- The sides’ two previous showdowns resulted in one victory to England and a draw.

- Their last duel was a group match 20 years ago on 15 June 1998 in Marseilles, which ended 2-0 to England following goals from Alan Shearer and Paul Scholes.

- In the aforementioned game contested at the Stade Velodrome in 1998, current coach Gareth Southgate was in the starting line-up and played all 90 minutes.

- Tunisia have failed to beat European opposition in eight attempts in the World Cup, collecting three draws and five defeats. On the contrary, England are unbeaten in six meetings with African teams, with a track record of three victories and three draws, including 0-0 stalemates in the most recent engagements with Nigeria in 2002 and Algeria in 2010.

- England avoided defeat in both of the World Cup matches they have played on 18 June, overcoming Paraguay 3-0 in 1986 and drawing 0-0 with Algeria in 2010.

- Tunisia have gone 11 World Cup games without victory, the longest winless streak of all the teams qualified for Russia 2018, but some way short of Bulgaria’s tournament benchmark of 17. The North Africans won on their debut on 2 June 1978, dispatching Mexico 3-1 and in the process recording the first African victory in the competition. Since that success, however, the Eagles of Carthage have amassed four draws and seven defeats.
Next matches - 19 June

Poland - Senegal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Referee designation</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time (LT) UTC +3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>19-06-2018</td>
<td>Nawaf SHUKRALLA (BHR)</td>
<td>MOSCOW</td>
<td>18:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No previous head-to-heads

Facts & figures

- This is the sides’ first meeting at any level.

- Poland have not won or scored in their opening match of a World Cup since the 1974 edition, when they pipped Argentina 3-2 at the edition staged in Germany FR. Since then, the Poles have posted three consecutive 0-0 draws and two 2-0 defeats on the first matchday.

- Poland have contested two World Cup fixtures on 19 June. They outclassed Haiti 7-0 in 1974, in what remains the eastern Europeans’ most emphatic World Cup victory, and drew 0-0 with Cameroon in 1982.

- Poland are the fifth European opponents that Senegal have played in their six World Cup appearances. In their only previous participation in 2002, the Lions of Teranga faced - in order - France, Denmark, Sweden and Turkey, plus Uruguay who were the only non-European team.

- Poland’s past record against African sides in the World Cup stands at one victory and two draws, with no goals conceded. The Poles edged Tunisia 1-0 in 1978, before recording 0-0 draws with Cameroon in 1982 and Morocco in 1986.
Colombia - Japan

Group H

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Referee designation</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time (LT) UTC +3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>19-06-2018</td>
<td>Damir SKOMINA (SVN)</td>
<td>SARANSK</td>
<td>15:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MP</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>GF</th>
<th>GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Facts & figures

Colombia remain undefeated against Japan following three previous skirmishes, in which the South Americans picked up two victories and a draw. The most recent meeting, in the 2014 World Cup, ended 4-1 in favour of Los Cafeteros following strikes from Juan Cuadrado, Jackson Martinez (two), James Rodriguez and a temporary equaliser from Shinji Okazaki. Jose Pekerman watched on from the Colombian dugout.

No Asian team has defeated South American opposition in 17 showdowns in the World Cup. The head-to-head series stands at 14 victories and three draws in favour of the CONMEBOL representatives.

Besides Japan four years ago, Colombia have faced only one other Asian side in the event, namely United Arab Emirates, whom they prevailed against 2-0 in 1990.

Japan are winless in their last four fixtures in the competition, their most recent success being a 3-1 victory over Denmark in 2010. The Samurai Blue have never gone five World Cup games without winning.

Colombia have played two World Cup fixtures on 19 June, drawing 1-1 with the eventual world champions Germany FR in 1990 and beating Côte d’Ivoire 2-1 in 2014.

This is the third consecutive edition in which Japan have played on 19 June. The East Asians lost 1-0 to the Netherlands in 2010 and drew 0-0 with Greece in 2014.
Group A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Referee designation</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time (LT) UTC +3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>19-06-2018</td>
<td>Enrique CACERES (PAR)</td>
<td>ST. PETERSBURG</td>
<td>21:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No previous head-to-heads

**Facts & figures**

- This is the first meeting between the sides at senior level. In other FIFA competitions they faced off in the FIFA U-20 World Cup 1991, when the then Soviet Union edged a 1-0 win.

- Egypt are yet to win a match in the finals of the FIFA World Cup, having collected two draws and three defeats from five fixtures played.

- Russia have not won back-to-back games in the same World Cup since 1970, when the then Soviet Union respectively overcame Belgium 4-1 and El Salvador 2-0 in their second and third group matches.

- Egypt have not scored in the World Cup for 277 consecutive minutes, since Magdy Abdelghany netted from the penalty spot against the Netherlands.

- Russia/Soviet Union’s track record in World Cup fixtures contested on 19 June stands at one victory (3-0 over New Zealand in 1982) and one defeat (2-0 by Sweden in the 1958 quarter-finals).

- Russia/Soviet Union have encountered African opposition four times in the World Cup and remain unbeaten, with a tally of three victories (4-0 in 1990 and 6-1 in 1994, both against Cameroon, plus a 2-0 win over Tunisia in 2002) and one draw (1-1 with Algeria 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.

27 days to the FINAL

27 was the age at which Dynamo Kyiv academy product Anatoliy Byshovets had a short but bright career ended by injury. His peak as a footballer came during the 1970 FIFA World Cup in Mexico, where he scored four goals, the same amount as Pele. Byshovets won the Soviet championship four times and scored 15 times in 39 appearances for his country. However, persistent knee injuries, which first arose when he was 23, prevented him from achieving greater things. Byshovets also experienced success as a coach when he led the Soviet Union to a gold medal at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul.

Russian Football Dictionary

How to say... in Russian
Coach Главный тренер / glavny trener
Assistant coach Помощник главного тренера / pomoshnick glavnava trenera
Goalkeeper coach Тренер вратарей / trener vratarey
Physical coach Тренер по физподготовке / trener po fizpadgatofkee

Happy Birthday to...

Players, coaches and referees celebrating their Birthday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Turning...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 JUNE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amine HARIT (MAR)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miguel HERNANDEZ (MEX) - Assistant Referee</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From Russia with Love

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

ISRAEL

FIFA World Cup™ facts & figures
Participations 1 (1970)
Best achievement Group stage in 1970

During their only FIFA World Cup™ outing in 1970, Israel were drawn into a group with Italy and Uruguay, who would later cross paths in the semi-finals.

The only World Cup goal scored by the Blue and Whites was netted by Mordechai Spiegler in the 1-1 draw with Sweden.

The campaign in Mexico was Israel’s first and so far only participation in a FIFA World Cup™, but not in FIFA competitions. The Israelis have taken part in two Olympic Football Tournaments and exited in the quarter-finals each time, losing a coin toss against Bulgaria in 1968 and going down 4-1 against Brazil in 1976.

Photos by Getty Images & Imago – Sven Simon
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.

JUAN ANTONIO PIZZI

Argentina-born but a naturalised Spaniard, the current Saudi Arabia coach scored over 200 goals as a striker in the Mexican, Argentinian, Spanish and Portuguese leagues. After his second season with Barcelona, Pizzi (no 9) was included in Javier Clemente’s 22-man Spain squad for the 1998 finals in France, where he played only one game, lasting 52 minutes into the first-round 0-0 draw with Paraguay before being replaced by Fernando Morientes.

Photo by Mark Sandten/Bongarts/Getty Images & Lars Baron - FIFA/FIFA via Getty Images
Football Fashion
Portugal in 1966

...and now

Photos Imago & Stuart Franklin - FIFA/FIFA via Getty Images
Striking snaps from tournaments past

Italians Marco Materazzi overwhelmed with emotions, hugs referee Benito Archundia who happens to be standing closest to him as Italy scored in the semi-final against Germany at the 2006 World Cup.

Photo by Fotonet / FIFA Archive

Tantalizing Trivia

Today’s question
Which team holds the record for consecutive draws?

➡ Solution will be revealed in tomorrow’s edition

Yesterday’s solution
Which three teams have never lost in the group stage?

➡ Wales, Germany DR and Senegal
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.

1978
The 1978 FIFA World Cup accreditation badge for Sweden goalkeeper Ronnie Hellstrom

In the 1978 match against Brazil, Swedish goalkeeper Ronnie Hellström was beaten by a Zico header nine seconds into injury time following a corner. Controversially, however, the goal was ruled out by Welsh referee Clive Thomas who had blown for full time moments before the ball crossed the line. Argentina 78 was Hellstrom’s third successive World Cup and he has been lauded for joining the protests by the mothers of the disappeared in the Plaza de Mayo during the tournament. Not quite true according to Hellstrom. He was merely in the team bus with the rest of the squad when they passed by!