Match highlights

Sweden-Korea Republic
- Sweden won an opening match at the World Cup for the first time in 60 years. They beat Mexico 3-0 in 1958, before failing to win their next seven curtain-raisers.
- Sweden were awarded penalties in their opening victories at the 1958 and 2018 World Cups. On both occasions they were taken by their captain and No4 – Nils Liedholm and Andreas Granqvist respectively – and scored.
- Sweden have now netted five penalties out of eight taken in the World Cup (excluding shootouts).
- Korea Republic are winless in seven World Cup games since a 2-0 reverse of Greece at South Africa 2010. The Taeguk Warriors’ worst winless run in the competition was 14 matches, set between 1954 and 1998.

Belgium-Panama
- Belgium equalled their biggest World Cup win: 3-0 over another CONCACAF debutant, El Salvador, in 1970.
- Romelu Lukaku became the fifth player to score a brace for Belgium in the World Cup after Bernard Voorhoof, Pol Anoul, Willfried van Moer and Marc Wilmots.
- Since a 2-1 loss to Mexico in 1986, Belgium are unbeaten in their last six World Cup curtain-raisers, winning four and drawing two.
- Belgium’s last seven goals in their World Cup openers have come in the second half. The last in the first 45 minutes was Marc Depryse’s 11th-minute effort against Morocco at USA 1994.
- Dries Mertes has given Belgium the lead in their last two World Cup openers – both from a similar position, inside the 18-yard box, to the right. The diminutive attacker put them 2-1 up against Algeria in 2014, which is how it finished, and put them en route to a 3-0 victory over Panama.
- Janny Sikazwe became the first Zambian to referee in the World Cup.
- CONCACAF debutants have not won their World Cup curtain-raiser since Jamaica edged Japan 2-1 at France 1998.

England-Tunisia
- Harry Kane became the first England player in 28 years to score more than once in a World Cup game. The last was Gary Lineker, also against African opposition in Cameroon.
- Tunisia have gone 12 games without a World Cup win. Their first and only victory in the competition came in their maiden appearance in it, 3-1 against Mexico in 1978.
- Tunisia became just the second African side to score against England in the World Cup. England had, before this game, kept five clean sheets in six attempts against teams from Africa, only conceding against Cameroon at Italy 1990.
- Mouez Hassen, in the 16th minute, became the second-fastest goalkeeper to be substituted off in World Cup history. Argentina’s Nery Pumpido was the quickest after only 11 minutes against Soviet Union in 1990.
- England have never lost to African opponents in the World Cup, winning four and drawing three matches.
On this day in the past

1938
Italy defeat Hungary 4-2 in Paris to become the first team to win two consecutive FIFA World Cup titles, following on from their victory on home soil in 1934.

1958
Pelé scores the first of his 12 FIFA World Cup goals in Brazil’s quarter-final against Wales. Brazil advance to the semi-final thanks to their new superstar’s winner in the 66th minute and would go on to win the title, defeating Sweden in the final.

Photo by Getty Images
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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
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<td>Damir SKOMINA (SVN)</td>
<td>SARANSK</td>
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3 previous head-to-heads (click to view full match list)

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<td>1</td>
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<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 Rodríguez 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>
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<td>Enrique CACERES (PAR)</td>
<td>ST. PETERSBURG</td>
<td>21:00</td>
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</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).
Next matches - 20 June

Uruguay - Saudi Arabia

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<tbody>
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2 previous head-to-heads (click to view full match list)

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</table>

Facts & figures

Saudi Arabia are unbeaten against Uruguay after two previous meetings, both of them friendlies, having earned one victory and a draw in the last showdown. That stalemate took place in Jeddah in 2014 and ended 1-1, after an own goal by Hassan Muath Fallatah and a 90th-minute equaliser from Naif Hazazi.

Uruguay’s win over Egypt was their first opening-match success in the competition for 48 years, since they kicked off the 1970 tournament with victory over Israel. The last time the South Americans won their opening two games in a World Cup campaign was in 1954, when they dispatched Czechoslovakia 2-0 and Scotland 7-0.

Saudi Arabia are without a victory in their last 11 World Cup matches, the fifth-longest winless streak in the competition’s history.

Saudi Arabia are the second Asian team that Uruguay have faced in the World Cup. La Celeste previously tussled twice with Korea Republic, triumphing on both occasions by the scorelines of 1-0 in 1990 and 2-1 in 2010.

Uruguay’s Fernando Muslera could equal make his 13th World Cup appearance, equalling the national record set by Ladislao Mazurkiewicz.

The winner against Egypt, netted by Jose Gimenez, was the first goal scored by a Uruguayan player wearing the No2 shirt.

This match takes place exactly 24 years after Saudi Arabia made their World Cup debut. On 20 June 1994, the Saudis lost their maiden game 2-1 to the Netherlands in Washington. The Green Falcons’ historic first goal in the competition was netted by Fuad Amin.

The only previous World Cup fixture contested by Uruguay on 20 June dates back to 1970, when Los Charrúas were defeated 1-0 by Germany FR in the Play-Off for Third Place.

Oscar Tabarez enters two of the competition’s top-ten rankings, taking second place in the list of oldest coaches behind Otto Rehhagel and ninth position in the coaches’ appearance table. Tabarez is overseeing his 17th World Cup match, one fewer than the tally achieved by Enzo Bearzot, Sepp Herberger and Guus Hiddink.

Juan Antonio Pizzi scored the first of his eight goals for Spain in his second match, against Uruguay. The former striker netted in the first minute of a friendly encounter played in 1995 and which ended 2-2.
Portugal – Morocco

Group B

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<td>Mark GEIGER (USA)</td>
<td>MOSCOW</td>
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1 previous head-to-head (click to view full match list)

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<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Facts & figures

 dez The teams’ only prior skirmish dates back to 1986, when Morocco triumphed 3-1 in the group stage in Guadalajara thanks to a brace from Abdelrazak Khairi and one goal by Abdelkarim Krimau, with Diamantino netting for the Portuguese. That result eliminated Portugal and made Morocco the first African side to reach the second round of a World Cup.

dez The aforementioned defeat by Morocco was Portugal’s only reverse in four previous showdowns with Africa opposition in the World Cup. In the last three editions, the Lusitanians respectively edged Angola (1-0 in 2006), drew with Côte d’Ivoire (0-0 in 2010) and overcame Ghana (2-1 in 2014).

 dez All of Morocco’s positive results in the World Cup (two victories and four draws) have come against European teams.

dez Against Spain, Cristiano Ronaldo became only the fourth player to score in four World Cups, after Uwe Seeler, Pele and Miroslav Klose. He is also the competition’s oldest hat-trick scorer and the only Portuguese to play in four editions.

 dez The own goal by Aziz Bouhaddouz in the 95th minute of the defeat by IR Iran was the latest own goal scored in the competition’s history, three minutes later than the one scored by Nigeria’s Joseph Yobo against France four years ago.

 dez Portugal have converted all seven of the penalties awarded to them in the World Cup, the latest being Cristiano Ronaldo’s spot-kick against Spain.

 dez The substitution between Noureddine and Sofyan Amrabat was the first substitution between brothers in World Cup history.
IR Iran – Spain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Referee designation</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time (LT) UTC +3</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>20-06-2018</td>
<td>Andres CUNHA (URU)</td>
<td>KAZAN</td>
<td>21:00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

No previous head-to-heads

Facts & figures

- The senior sides are going head-to-head for the first time. Besides numerous encounters in beach soccer and futsal tournaments, the teams faced each other at youth level in the quarter-finals of the last FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017, when Spain triumphed 3-1.

- IR Iran are yet to beat European opposition in the World Cup, having mustered one draw (1-1 with Scotland in 1978) and five defeats.

- IR Iran’s win over Morocco was their first World Cup victory in eight games and ended a 16-game winless streak among AFC representatives.

- Masoud Shojaei became the first Iranian player to take to the field in three World Cups.

- Fernando Hierro is the fourth person to have played for and coached Spain in the World Cup, following in the footsteps of Jose Santamaria, Luis Suarez and Jose Camacho.

- If Sergio Ramos plays today it will be his 15th outing in the World Cup, making him the joint-third-highest Spaniard in the competition's appearance ranking, level with Xavi Hernandez and below Iker Casillas (17) and Andoni Zubizarreta (16).

- The only other World Cup fixture that Spain have played on 20 June dates back to 1982, when they overcame Yugoslavia 2-1 in Valencia.

- Spain are five strikes away from the milestone of 100 goals scored in the World Cup.

- Spain are unbeaten against AFC representatives. In five meetings with Asian sides, the Iberians have earned three wins and two draws, although one of those stalemates culminated in a penalty shoot-out defeat by Korea Republic in the 2002 quarter-finals.
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.

26 days to the FINAL

26 clubs are the most participants to have competed in the top flight of the Soviet football pyramid throughout its history. The remarkable campaign in question was held in 1938, the fourth season of the national football championship. There were only nine clubs in Group A in 1937, but the decision was taken to add a further 17 for the following year. Ten clubs represented Moscow and five were from Leningrad. Every club played each other once during the season, as records were set for the number of players (538), goals scored (1175), red cards (76) and penalties (nearly 180). Spartak Moscow were crowned champions at the end of it all. For the following season, the league organisers decided to reduce the number of teams to 14.

Russian Football Dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How to say...</th>
<th>in Russian</th>
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<tr>
<td>Right</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left</td>
<td>Лево / lyeva</td>
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<tr>
<td>Header</td>
<td>Удар головой / oodar galavoy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dribbling</td>
<td>Дриблинг / dribling</td>
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Happy Birthday to...

Players, coaches and referees celebrating their Birthday

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>19 JUNE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dylan BRONN (TUN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ragnar SIGURDSSON (ISL)</td>
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</table>
From Russia with Love

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

USA

FIFA World Cup™ facts & figures

Best achievement Semi-finals 1930

By reaching the semi-finals in 1930, USA achieved the best placing by a CONCACAF team in any FIFA World Cup.

USA failed to qualify for Russia, following a series of seven consecutive participations that started with Italy 1990.

Michael Bradley was the first, and so far the only, player to score in the World Cup coached by his father, Bob. The younger Bradley netted the final goal in the Americans’ 2-2 draw with Slovenia in 2010.

Photos by 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.

DIDI
Our first nod to bygone heroes focuses on Brazilian free-kick specialist Didi. A supremely talented midfielder, he participated in three FIFA World Cups (1954, 1958 and 1962), playing a pivotal role in two title wins and amassing 15 appearances and three goals. As a coach, he led Peru back to the World Cup finals in 1970 after a 40-year absence, where they reached the quarter-finals before losing 4-2 to Didi’s native team and eventual champions Brazil.

Photo by Popperfoto/Getty Images
Football Fashion
Australia in 1974

...and now

Photo by Anton Cermak / Fairfax Media via Getty Images & Maja Hitij - FIFA/FIFA via Getty Images
Striking snaps from tournaments past

Bolivian team at the 1930 World Cup paying tribute to the host, one player short - where are you?

Photo by Popperfoto

Tantalizing Trivia

Today’s question
Which shirt number (since they were introduced in 1954) has produced the most goals?

➤ Solution will be revealed in tomorrow’s edition

Yesterday’s solution
Which team holds the record for consecutive draws?

➤ Belgium, with five between 1998 and 2002
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.

2014

Hat worn by Colombian superfan Gustavo Llanos

In 1986, Colombian superfan Gustavo Llanos had a dream in which he saw himself as divinely appointed as the new mascot for the Colombian national team. Ever since, Llanos has attended matches in a colourful costume representing the condor, the national symbol of Colombia. Known as “El Cole”, he made his first appearance at the 1990 FIFA World Cup in Italy and has followed his team at USA 94 and France 98. At 65, the Birdman of Colombia is not about to retire and will be a familiar sight in Russia. His hat from 2014 is part of the FIFA World Football Museum Collection.

www.fifamuseum.com
@fifamuseum #fifamuseum