**Match highlights**

**Uruguay – France**

- France return to the World Cup semi-finals for the first time in 12 years.
- On five of the six times France have reached the semi-finals, the World Cup has been held in Europe: Sweden 1958, Spain 1982, France 1998, Germany 2006 and Russia 2018. The only exception was Mexico 1986.
- Oscar Tabarez went joint-fourth on the list of coaches with the most World Cup appearances, alongside Bora Milutinovic and Mario Zagallo (all 20 matches).
- France are unbeaten in their last 10 World Cup meetings with South American opposition (six wins; four draws) since a 2-1 defeat by Argentina in 1978.

**Brazil – Belgium**

- Belgium qualified for the World Cup semi-finals for the first time since 1986.
- Belgium won five successive World Cup matches for the first time ever.
- Brazil tied Germany’s record for the most World Cup matches played (109).
- Fernandinho’s own-goal ended Brazil’s run without conceding in the competition at 323 minutes.
- Kevin De Bruyne became the ninth Belgian to score at Russia 2018. A World Cup record ten players scored for France in 1982 and Italy in 2006.
- Roberto Martinez became the first foreign coach in 12 years to guide his team into the World Cup semi-finals. Luiz Felipe Scolari had been the last with Portugal. No foreign coach has ever won the World Cup.
- Fernandinho scored the 11th own-goal of Russia 2018 and Brazil’s second in the World Cup following Marcelo’s in favour of Croatia in 2014. Coincidentally, both own-goals were netted in the first 13 minutes.
- For the fifth time, the World Cup will have all-European semi-finals. It happened previously in 1934, 1966, 1982 and 2006.

**Stats wrap-up (status after 58 of 64 matches)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Matches</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Yellow / Red Cards</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58 of 64</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>197 / 4</td>
<td>3.4 / 0.07</td>
<td>2’662’776</td>
<td>45’910</td>
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</table>
On this day in the past

1974

Germany FR defeat the Netherlands 2-1 in the FIFA World Cup final in Munich, and captain Franz Beckenbauer lifts the newly designed trophy for the first time.

Photo by Popperfoto/Getty Images
Next matches – 7 July

Quarter-final

<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>59</td>
<td>07-07-2018</td>
<td>Sandro RICCI (BRA)</td>
<td>SOCHI</td>
<td>21:00</td>
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3 previous head-to-heads (click [here](#) for full matchlist)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MP</th>
<th>W</th>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Facts & figures

- This is the fourth meeting between the pair, who fought out two 0-0 draws in qualifying for the UEFA European Championship 2008, before Croatia earned a 3-1 friendly win in Rostov-on-Don in November 2015, following goals by Fyodor Smolov, Nicola Kalinic, Marcelo Brozovic and Mario Mandzukic.
- Russia return to the quarter-finals for the first time since 1970, when the Soviet Union lost 1-0 to Uruguay.
- Croatia have not reached the last eight for 20 years, having gone all the way to the semi-finals in France 1998, their all-time best placing in the competition.
- Before the game against Spain, Russia had never experienced penalties in a FIFA World Cup. Playing as the Soviet Union, Russia lost two games after extra time, 1-0 against Uruguay in 1970 and 4-3 against Belgium in 1986.
- The match against Denmark was also Croatia’s first experience of a penalty shoot-out (and extra time) in the global showpiece.
- The Croats are on a four-match unbeaten run in the World Cup, their longest in the competition, consisting of three wins and a draw. The Balkan team have also scored in eight consecutive games, having last drawn a blank in the 0-0 draw with Japan in 2006.
- Croatia face the host team of a World Cup for the third time in five participations. On both previous occasions, the *Vatreni* were eliminated despite having taken the lead, losing 2-1 to France in the 1998 semi-finals and 3-1 to Brazil in the Opening Match in 2014.
- If Luka Modric plays this game, it will be his 10th World Cup appearance, making him the second-highest-ranked Croat in the event’s appearance ranking, one behind leader Dario Simic and just above Stipe Pletikosa and Mario Stancic who remain on nine.
Quarter-final

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Match #</th>
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<th>Referee designation</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time (LT) UTC +4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
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<td>Bjorn KUIPERS (NED)</td>
<td>SAMARA</td>
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23 previous head-to-heads (click here for full matchlist)

<table>
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<th></th>
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<th>GF</th>
<th>GA</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Facts & figures

- This is the 24th meeting between the two sides, who have an even head-to-head record with seven wins apiece and nine draws. Their first encounter was played in Stockholm on 21 May 1923 and won 4-2 by England. The most recent one produced the same result, but in favour of Sweden, and was a friendly match held in Solna on 14 November 2012. Zlatan Ibrahimovic netted all four Swedish goals during that game, the last of which was a spectacular overhead kick from well outside the area.

- This is the first time that the teams have faced each other in the knockout stage of a major competition. In the group round of the UEFA European Championship, the Swedes prevailed 2-1 in 1992, whereas England ran out 3-2 winners in 2012.

- In the FIFA World Cup™ the pair have fought out two draws. The respective scorelines were 1-1 in 2002 (Sol Campbell and Niclas Alexandersson the scorers), when Gareth Southgate was an unused substitute, and 2-2 in 2006 (goals from Joe Cole, Markus Allback with the 200th goal in World Cup history, Steven Gerrard and a 90th-minute Henrik Larsson equaliser). Swedish tactician Sven Goran Eriksson was in the Three Lions' dugout for both matches.

- Sweden have won back-to-back World Cup fixtures for the first time since 1958, when they overcame the Soviet Union and Germany FR. The Blågult have only recorded three consecutive victories once, between the 1950 and 1958 editions. The Scandinavians also kept clean sheets in their last two games of this campaign.

- The last time Sweden qualified for the quarter-finals was in 1994, when they went on to outsmart Romania on penalties and reach the last four.

- England return to the quarter-finals of a World Cup after losing a penalty shoot-out to Portugal in 2006.

- Sweden have been involved in just one World Cup match that was decided in extra time, losing to Senegal in the Round of 16 in 2002. By contrast, their only experience of a penalty shoot-out ended in victory over Romania in 1994.

- England boast three wins, one draw (in 1954, before the introduction of penalty shoot-outs) and one defeat in games decided in extra time. Against Colombia the Three Lions finally won a World Cup penalty shoot-out at the fourth time of asking, after losing their first three.

- England have already contested one World Cup fixture on 7 July, losing the Play-Off for Third Place 2-1 in 1990 against Italy.

- Gareth Southgate took to the field against Sweden three times as a player but never beat them, playing in a 2-1 defeat in 1998, a 1-1 draw in 2001 and a 1-0 loss in Gothenburg in 2004. In that last game, Southgate won his 57th and final England cap, replacing Jonathan Woodgate at the start of the second half and wearing the captain's armband for the final half-hour, after Steven Gerrard was substituted.
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.

8 days to the FINAL

A Russian led an African nation to the last 8 of the FIFA World Cup for the first time in history at Italy 1990. Coached by the relatively inexperienced Valery Nepomnyashchy, Cameroon shocked the world when they secured a sensational 1-0 victory over reigning world champions Argentina in their opening match before eventually reaching the quarter-finals. Nepomnyashchi could not speak French and only had brief experience coaching in Turkmenistan, but this did not prevent him from taking a country from Africa to the quarter-final stage at the World Cup.

Russian Football Dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How to say...</th>
<th>in Russian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bar</td>
<td>Перекладина / perekladeena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post</td>
<td>Штанга / shtanga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal line</td>
<td>Линия ворот / leen'ya varot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From Russia with Love

Remembering previous participants missing out in this year’s FIFA World Cup

Chile

FIFA World Cup™ facts & figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best achievement</td>
<td>3rd place 1962</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chile were the first side to face teams from all six confederations in the FIFA World Cup, completing the set with CAF representatives Algeria in 1982.

In all four campaigns in which Chile reached the knockout stage, they were ultimately eliminated by Brazil. It happened first in the 1962 semi-finals and subsequently in the Round of 16 during the Chileans’ last three participations, when they lost 4-1 in 1998, 3-0 in 2010 and on penalties in 2014.

In the 1962 edition, when La Roja finished third on home soil, Leonel Sanchez netted four goals to finish the tournament as joint-top scorer along with another five players.
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.

SAFET SUSIC

The talented midfield playmaker, who divided his club career between Sarajevo and Paris Saint-Germain, represented Yugoslavia in two editions of the FIFA World Cup, playing three matches in 1982 and five in 1990, when he netted once against United Arab Emirates. Susic was in charge of debutants Bosnia and Herzegovina four years ago in Brazil.

Photo by Jeff Mitchell - FIFA/FIFA via Getty Images & Bob Thomas/Getty Images
Football Fashion
Serbia in 2010

...and now
Striking snaps from tournaments past

Back to the future? First indoor World Cup match back in 1994 with USA playing Switzerland in the Pontiac Silverdome in Detroit – might become a more regular sight in the future.

Photo by Mike Powell / Allsport

Tantalizing World Cup Trivia

Today’s question

Franz Beckenbauer, Juergen Grabowski, Horst-Dieter Hottges, Miroslav Klose, Sepp Maier and Wolfgang Overath have all finished first, second and third with their squad in the FIFA World Cup. Who is the only non-German player to share the same record?

⇒ Solution will be revealed in tomorrow’s edition

Yesterday’s solution

Of all the coaches with experience managing in at least one edition, which one scored the most FIFA World Cup goals as a player?

⇒ Juergen Klinsmann with 11 goals
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.

2010

Football boots worn by Iker Casillas in the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ Final

The boots that won the 2010 FIFA World Cup for Spain... No, not the boots worn by Andres Iniesta, the scorer of the winning goal in the 2010 FIFA World Cup Final. These are the boots of Spanish goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas. With an hour of the Final played and the score still 0-0, Arjen Robben broke through and was one on one with the Spanish keeper. Had he scored, perhaps the Dutch would have left South Africa celebrating a first world title. Instead, Casillas flung out his foot and deflected the shot just wide of the goal leaving Robben to reflect on what might have been - just like his compatriot Rob Rensenbrink whose last minute shot in the 1978 Final hit the post with the scores at 1-1. Instead it was the Spanish celebrating as Casillas became the first goalkeeper since Dino Zoff in 1982 to lift the World Cup.