

WC 2026 Group Stage Game 1 Log



Impartial observer Pierre.

Group Stage Game 1 Play

Mexico vs South Africa Jun 11 2026 3:00 PM THURSDAY

MEX 2 - SAF 1

Mexico played a certainly weaker South African team.

Their offensive players struck me as very exciting because for one thing they wandered a bit and remained cohesive. Wandering is very disconcerting for defenders. So I was thinking this team has some hope.

They were obviously the better team, but after that first goal by #16 Julian Quiñones at 9'. They did not manage to score another. Then South Africa got a red card and had to play a man short. Still no scoring. Another South Africa red card. Mexico managed another goal by Raúl Jiménez at 67' but with a two man advantage and a two goal lead, they did not have the discipline nor composure to control the game enough to avoid getting a red card of

their own. Not only did they fail to take advantage while the going was good, they undermined their own chances in the tournament by drawing a red card.

That is not the caliber of play that lets one dare to hope to win the cup. Not the Mexico I had hoped to watch. Talent yes, so I surmise the issue is coaching.

I will not be surprised if South Korea and the Czech Republic squeeze past them by the end of the group stage.

South Korea vs Czech Republic Jun 11 2026 10:00 PM

South Korea 2 - Czechia 1

Czechia and Korean republic are both pretty decent teams. Czechia is more physical, South Korea has their usual high energy and fitness. Korea came out with energy and created some chances. They slowed that for a while and came back in the end of the half with lots of energy. Some scary moments but no goals.

The Czechia side is more physical and goes more for set plays. They are comfortable not having the ball.

I like South Korea better, they have flair and energy and can be creative and have a kind eagerness to attack, and totally zen composure in the heat of the moment around the goal.

My kind of team!

Many close calls against Czechia in the game so far.

Czechia scored first 57' headed in on a set play.

I love this Korea team, that extra hesitation, calm in the storm around the goal. . Hydration break.. I get to pee.

Czechia set piece 59' uhoh. Gol eek!. But offside.

gol Korea 67'

Korea is going to absolutely pepper South Africa. Czechia is going to smother Mexico.

gol Korea 80'

6 minutes extra time to go.

Gihyk yellow card Korea -1 (these affect team fairplay standing).

Korea 2 - Czechia 1 Final.

Korea won, and I am glad they did. But Czechia is no slouch team, they can beat Mexico and South Africa. Don't count them out.

I am predicting this group to end like this.

1- Korea 2- Czechia 3- Mexico 4- South Africa

Canada vs Bosnia Herzegovina Jun 12 2026 3:00 PM FRIDAY

CAN 1 - BIH 1

Bosnia looks pretty decent.

Bosnia 21' very good corner headed in, no chance of stopping it. Half time. Bosnia 1 - 0.

The game went on to be a lot of good offensive play by Canada, Buchanan won them 10 corner kicks. Yet with 10 corners they didnt manage a shot on goal. While Bosnia's 1 corner yielded the goal.

I liked Bucanan, I liked Qoné. I liked Eustáquio, the one wearing the captain's armband. Our superstar stikers are toothless. None of them seem to have that composure around the goal that a real striker needs to have.

We were lucky to pull a draw out of the jaws of defeat.

Cyle Larin, a substitute - another of those hotshot strikers who had not scored a goal in years - did score and managed to tie it up for us.

The announcers all got to hyping a lot about it. I am not impressed by any of our star strikers. Those who kept us in that game were the unsung players who fought tooth and nail to keep the momentum going. Like Qoné and Bucanan. Ali Ahmed, Promise David, Alistair Johnston and more. Until we have a striker who can be composed, calm, inventive, deliberate amid the chaos around the goal, someone to cash in on everyone's hard work, we will not be a contender.

Canada the dragon with no fire on its breath.

United States vs Paraguay Jun 12 2026 9:00 PM

USA 4 - PARA 1

It is looking like irresistible force meets immovable object, but at about 7' Paraguay own goal put the US up 1.

The immovable object crumbled under the onslaught!

Impressive team U.S.A. Very dangerous attack. Very nice one touch football.

U.S. has a world class devastatingly quick attack, this team can take the cup. They showed their stuff against what was supposed to be one of the best defenses in the world. They slam dunked them.

Qatar vs Switzerland June 13 2026 3:00 PM SATURDAY

QAT 1 SUI 1

Super save, after super save by Qatar keeper Abunada.

Qatar played way too far back, giving the Swiss too much room to pummel them with attacks.

A penalty against Abunada for impeding the attacker at 16' gave the Swiss their 1 goal lead.

Abunada in my opinion, despite conceding a penalty shot is the man of the match. He kept Switzerland out of his net despite many, many very scary attacks.

Qatar were not strong, whether on attack or on defense, but they didn't give up. Abunada kept them close enough to have hope.

In the dying minutes of extra time #15 Yusuf Abdurisag scored a beautiful header to even up the score and cash in on the hope that Abunada won them.

Awesome underdog comeback! And it helps Canada's chances in the group.

Brazil vs Morocco June 13 2026 6:00 PM

BRA 1 - MAR 1

Morocco is looking like a really good side. They have taken the initiative and have kept their side attacking. Good passes, good energy, talented up front and steady in the back.

Gol 20' Ismael Saibari for Morocco.

Gol 32' Vinícius Júnior for Brasil.

Yellow card Casemiro 37'

Half time

Second half pretty uninspiring.

It is a fair draw, equally matched teams, I think Morocco is the better team.

Haiti vs Scotland June 13 2026 9:00 PM

HAI 0 - SCO 1

Haiti is pretty daring. As soon as a midfielder gets the ball, five of them run towards the box.

28' goal by John McGinn Scotland

Scotland hangs on against a full onslaught attack by Haiti up to the last minute.

Australia vs Türkiye June 14 2026 12:01 AM

AUS 2 - TUR 0

Gol Nestory Irankunda 27' for Australia

Australia is a tight defensive unit very effective at frustrating Türkiye time and time again.

Türkiye have had a few chances but have not managed to crack through. A long haul for Australia.

Not a pretty style of football, but they are effective at it.

Gol Connor Metcalfe 75' For Australia.

Türkiye with Many many shots without a goal.

Germany vs Curaçao June 14 2026 1:00 PM SUNDAY

GER 6 - CUW 1

Gol Felix Nmecha 6' for Germany Gol Livano Comenencia 21' for Curaçao Gol Nico Schlotterbeck 38' for Germany Gol Havertz, Kai 45+5' (Penalty) Germany half time. Curaçao is too satisfied with just being here IMHO. Gol Nathaniel Brown 46' for Germany Gol Nathaniel Brown 68' for Germany Gol Deniz Undav 78' for Germany

Netherlands vs Japan June 14 2026 4:00 PM

NED 2 - JPN 2

Gol Virgil Van Dijk 51' for Netherlands Gol Keito Nakamura 57' for Japan Gol Crysencio Summerville 64' for Netherlands Gol Daichi Kamada 89' for Japan

Two strong sides, both offense and defense. Except for falling apart a bit in the start of the second half, Japan has the stronger defense, more focused, more composed. Netherlands has a bit the stronger offense, quick to finish, composed, pretty accurate, precise set pieces. Japan has really good playmaking, strikers a bit short of precision.

Ivory Coast vs Ecuador June 14 2026 7:00 PM

CIV 1 - ECU 0

Good teams, Ecuador forwards are good at forcing mistakes on the defense. Côte d'ivoire is fast and dangerous on the attack, but Ecuador are strong defenders.

CIV leave a few openings and it is looking like ecuador can make them pay for it.

Yan Diomande a CIV forward on the right side is giving ecuador a lot of grief, he is fast and gets his crosses in. He is a persistent pressure on the defense.

Half time. No goals. Ecuador were unlucky on a few attacks, they have been taking advantage of CIV leaving space but have not managed a goal.

2nd half Côte d'ivoire is a little bit the better team. Winning more duels, controlling the ball more, being more threatening. Anybody can win this.

Gol Amad Diallo 89' for Côte d'ivoire. Good game.

Sweden vs Tunisia June 14 2026 10:00 PM

SWE 5 - TUN 1

Gol Yasin Ayari 7' for Sweden

Gol Alexander Isak 30' for Sweden

Gol Omar Rekik 43' for Tunisia

half time

Gol Viktor Gyökeres 61' for Sweden defensive mistake

Gol Mattias Svanberg 84' for Sweden

Gol Yasin Ayari 90'+6 for Sweden

Sweden dominated.

Spain vs Cabo Verde June 15 2026 12:01 PM MONDAY

SPA 0 - CPV 0

First half Cabo Verde did a good job of holding off Spain.

Spain had most of the ball, and managed some close calls, but Cabo Verde managed to hang on until the half.

Their 40 YEAR old Keeper did a great job.

Cabo Verde seems able to launch a counter attack, but they arrive at the box seemingly without a plan, and slow it down too much at that point. Also instead of jumping on the moment and moving the ball forward quickly they

control the ball, face their own goal and lose the moment.

68' and Spain is not getting through. They need a Juan Fernando Quintero to show them the key hole in the defense he could always find.

Wow! Cabo Verde Held Off Spain for 90 minutes plus extra time of Spain onslaught. Amazing defense for their first appearance in the World Cup. Cabo Verde is officially on the soccer map!

Belgium vs Egypt June 15 2026 3:00 PM

BEL 1 - EGY 1

Gol Emam Ashour 20' for Egypt.

Gol Romelu Lukaku 66' for Belgium.

Good Game. Evenly matched teams.

A nail biter, I was keen to see Egypt win it.

But Belgium scored the tie goal and the rest of the game was neck in neck.

I think the coach of Egypt might well be a guru.

Saudi Arabia vs Uruguay June 15 2026 6:00 PM

KSA 1 - URU 1

Gol Abdulelah Alamri 41' for Saudi Arabia

Pretty boring game, Saudi Arabia a little more deserving.

Uruguay started livening up the game in the late 70 minutes.

They won their equalizer, and then attacked relentlessly until the dying seconds of the game.

Gol Maxi Araujo (80') for Uruguay.

Saudi Arabia clung on desperately to the tie.

Many saves from Nawaf Al-Aqidi their keeper.

Iran vs New Zealand June 15 2026 9:00 PM

IRN 2 - NZL 2

Gol Elijah Just 7' for New Zealand

Gol Ir Iran 33' for Iran

Gol Elijah Just 55' for New Zealand

Gol Mohammad Mohebbi 64' for Iran

Good support for Iran in the stands.

France vs Senegal June 16 2026 3:00 PM TUESDAY

FRA 3 - SEN 1

Half time. No score yet.

Senegal is a fairly strong side.

They had better chances than France in the first half. But no luck.

Boy that Mbappé is greased lightning!

Gol Kylian Mbappé 66' for France.

Gol Bradley Barcola 82' for France.

Gol Ibrahim Mbaye 90+5' for Senegal

Gol Kylian Mbappé 90+6' for France.

France took a while to get going, but the quality of Mbappé came through.

Iraq vs Norway June 16 2026 6:00 PM

IRQ 1 - NOR 4

Gol Erling Haaland 29' for Norway.

Gol Aymen Hussein 39' For Iraq.

Gol Erling Haaland 43' for Norway.

second half.

Gol Leo Ostigard 76' for Norway

Gol Kristian Thorstvedt 90+7'

This was a blowout.

Argentina vs Algeria June 16 2026 9:00 PM

ARG 3 - ALG 0

Game on with geriatric Messi playing into old age and him scoring a hat trick to make me eat my words.

Austria vs Jordan June 16 2026 11:59 PM

AUS 3 - JOR 1

I fell asleep and missed this game.

Portugal vs Congo DR June 17 2026 1:00 PM WEDNESDAY

POR 0 - COD 0

Gol Joao Neves 6' for Portugal

Gol Yoane Wissa 45+5' For DR Congo

Portugal were a bit flat. Portugal are going to have to want to win more if they want to get somewhere.

England vs Croatia June 17 2026 4:00 PM

ENG 2 - CRO 1

Gol Harry Kane 12'(PEN on second try) For England

Gol Martin Baturina 36' for Croatia

Gol Harry Kane 42' - nice header - For England

Gol Petar Musa 45+6' for Croatia

Gol Jude Bellingham 47' for England

Ghana vs Panama June 17 2026 7:00 PM

GHA 0 - PAN 0

Uzbekistan vs Colombia June 17 2026 10:00 PM

UZB 1 - COL 3

Gol Daniel Munoz 40' For Colombia

Gol Abbosbek Fayzullaev 60' for Uzbekistan

Gol Luis Diaz 65' for Colombia

Gol Jaminton Campaz 90+9' for Colombia

That gol was totally hernandez Ran to the corner, fought it off the defender, made a spot on perfect cross for Campaz to head it in.

Give Uzbekistan a lot of credit here. They played well, scared the colombians a few times, did not take any of this lying down.

Group Stage Game 1 Summary

My notes. Teams to watch.

Underdogs who impressed me.

1- South Korea 2- Japan 3- Côte d'Ivoire 4- Morocco 5- Egypt 6- Cabo Verde defense

Africa, Korea, Japan are all coming along strong to be real serious contenders.

1- **Messi** may not be too old after all, not as quick, but smart enough to adapt.

2- **Mbappé** is continuing awesome.

3- **Lucho Diaz** and the whole Colombian team showed they are all ready to go for it.

Regarding **France**, every other team has to hope someone else eliminates them so you don't have to. They have greased lightning - with brains - ready to drag them to the cup. It will not be easy to stop them.

3- **Norway has a formidable organized team - la roja mecanica. I fancy their**
chances to be the ones to snuff out the hopes of France.

Underwhelming

1- Brasil

2- Portugal - Renaldo is a drag on his team.

Group Stage Game 2 Play

Still to come.