

Soccer

Mexico’s late goal hands USA a gut-wrenching loss

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Rafa Marquez scored a tiebreaking goal on a header in the 89th minute, giving Mexico a 2-1 win Friday night and its first victory at the United States in World Cup qualifying since 1972. Miguel Layun put Mexico ahead in the 20th minute in the opener of the final round of qualifying in North and Central America and the Caribbean, but Bobby Wood tied the score in the 49th. The U.S. dominated the second half before the 37-year-old Marquez, unmarked and drifting across the penalty area at the near post, got the back of his head on Layun’s corner kick. The Mexican captain lifted the ball over goalkeeper Brad Guzan for his 17th international goal. “It gets a sense of anger in us. It gets a sense of absolutely urgency,” U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. “It’s not a problem, but it’s obviously disappointing.” The U.S. had beaten Mexico four straight times by 2-0 scores in home qualifiers — all at Columbus



— and Marquez had gotten two yellow cards and a red in those matches. The Americans had been 30-0-2 at home in qualifying since a 3-2 loss to Honduras at Washington’s RFK Stadium in September 2001. Mexico’s previous win at the U.S. in qualifying was also by a 2-1 score, at Los Angeles. “I think we deserved this match,” Layun said. “We were focused.” Klinsmann said John Brooks was supposed to mark Marquez on the corner kick. “We lost him there. Individual mistake,” Klinsmann said. Guzan had lost the U.S. goalkeeper job to Tim Howard, who started at the last two World Cups. But Howard pulled a muscle in his right leg on a goal kick and was replaced in the 40th minute. The Americans play Tuesday at Costa Rica,



Mexico’s Carlos Vela, left, keeps the ball away from United States’ Fabian Johnson during Friday’s match in Columbus, Ohio.

AP Photo/ Jay LaPrete

where it has never won in qualifying, in the second of its 10 games in the round, and Klinsmann said Howard likely will miss the match. Mexico hosts Panama. The top three teams in the six-nation round qualify for the World Cup, and the fourth-place country advances to a playoff. With the U.S. struggling early in what Klinsmann called a 3-4-3 formation, Mexico could have led 3-0. Howard tipped Jesus Corona’s 10th-minute shot

off a post and Carlos Vela’s 25th-minute header hit a crossbar. “Out midfielders didn’t get into the one-on-one battles we expected them to,” Klinsmann said, citing Jermaine Jones and Michael Bradley. After switching to a more familiar 4-4-2 formation in the 27th minute, the Americans began to find their rhythm, and Wood scored off a pass from Jozy Altidore. It was 44 degrees at game

time, half the 90-degree temperature for the 2013 match in Columbus, when the U.S. clinched its seventh straight World Cup berth. A pro-American crowd of 24,650 chanted “Dos a cero!” at the start, but Mexican supporters yelled “Dos a uno!” as they left. Mexico went ahead after Bradley and Giovani dos Santos battled for the ball 30 yards out. The ball skipped to Layun, who took a touch, and his right-footed shot deflected off Timmy Chan-

dlar and in to Howard’s left for his fourth international goal in 46 appearances, Wood tied the score after John Brooks forced a turnover. Jozy Altidore turned his defender and passed to Wood, who took two touches as he split defenders. His 8-yard, left-footed shot deflected off a leg of Layun for his eighth goal in 28 international appearances. Wood also scored against Mexico last fall during an extra-time loss in the playoff for a berth in the 2017 Confederations Cup. Altidore and Wood have combined for seven goals in 11 games they’ve started together. **NOTES:** All three visiting teams had victories in their openers. Costa Rica won 2-0 at Trinidad and Tobago on goals by Christian Bolanos in the 65th and Ronald Matarrita in second-half injury time, and Panama won 1-0 at Honduras on Fidel Escobar’s 22nd-minute goal. ... CONCACAF and Fox extended their Gold Cup agreement to cover the 2017 and 2019 tournaments.

Motorsports

Bowman wins pole at Phoenix as Chase drivers seek more speed

By JENNNA FRYER
Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Alex Bowman still has no ride for next season. On a weekend the championship contenders are making a bid for the title race, Bowman made a case for a full-time job. Bowman won his first career pole Friday with a strong run at Phoenix International Raceway. Bowman, the replacement driver for concussed Dale Earnhardt Jr., turned a lap at 140.521 mph to earn the top starting spot. “I’m still waiting for the right opportunity to come along,” Bowman said. “There’s nothing that has really fit that has come along. I’ll still probably have my day job at Hendrick Motor-

sports driving the simulator. We’ll go from there.” Bowman, who is from Tucson, ran Earnhardt’s car to the top of the leaderboard with NASCAR’s most popular driver in attendance. “This is his hometown, kind of, so it’s awesome that all his friends are around to see him do this,” Earnhardt said. “This is great for his career, this is exactly what we were hoping to happen for him. Hopefully, he can put it together on Sunday.” Kyle Larson and Chase Elliott qualified second and third as Chevrolets swept the top three. They also shut out the championship contenders from the top of the scoring pylon. Only Jimmie Johnson and Carl Edwards have spots locked down for next week’s season finale, and there are



AP Photo/Ralph Freso

Alex Bowman drives down the front straightaway during qualifying for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Phoenix International Raceway, Friday, Nov. 11, 2016, in Avondale, Ariz.

six drivers vying for the remaining two slots. Of those trying to race their way into the final four, Joey Logano qualified fourth and was followed by Denny Hamlin and Kevin Harvick. “We are in good position

right now,” said Logano. “If that was the end of the race we would move on, I think. We just have to keep looking ahead and make sure we keep the big picture in mind.” Hamlin, who is racing against three of his team-

mates for a spot at Home- stead-Miami Speedway, was pleased with his fifth-place qualifying lap. “Four cars stand in my way. Just four, it’s not that big of a deal,” Hamlin said. Harvick is the favorite to win Sunday and has won six of his last eight races at Phoenix. When asked why he’s so good at Phoenix, Harvick joked that he found a magic wand at Disney that he waves over PIR. His mood was light considering he’s in a must-win situation, and the law of averages predicts he can’t beat 39 other drivers at Phoenix time and time again. But Harvick noted he didn’t win last November’s race and didn’t appear to be the least bit concerned about odds. He also wasn’t worried about any potential paycheck

from Austin Dillon , the driver Harvick accidentally wrecked last week. “Everybody is in the same position we are,” he said. “If somebody wins, there’s only going to be one points guy that goes through. You need to pretend like you are in a must-win situation if you want to plan on going to Homestead.” The only Chase drivers not to make it into the final round were Johnson and defending series champion Kyle Busch. Johnson already has a spot clinched in next week’s finale, but Busch will start 19th on Sunday. Martin Truex Jr. wrecked during practice and was forced into his backup car. But it couldn’t pass inspection before qualifying began and Truex will start last Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP FOOTBALL	
Today	#5 Grant Union at #4 Heppner (2A quarterfinals), 1 p.m.
COLLEGE FOOTBALL	
Today	Eastern Oregon at Carroll, 11 a.m.
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL	
Today	Corban vs. Eastern Oregon (CCC Finals, at La Grande), 3 p.m.
COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL	
Today	Simpson (Calif.) at Eastern Oregon, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	Simpson (Calif.) at Eastern Oregon, 1 p.m.
COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	
Today	Eastern Oregon at Warner (Fla.), 1 p.m.

Football

NFL							
AMERICAN CONFERENCE							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
New England	7	1	0	.875	217	132	
Miami	4	4	0	.500	173	182	
Buffalo	4	5	0	.444	237	203	
N.Y. Jets	3	6	0	.333	173	235	
South							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Houston	5	3	0	.625	137	167	
Tennessee	4	5	0	.444	217	226	
Indianapolis	4	5	0	.444	239	256	
Jacksonville	2	6	0	.250	153	215	
North							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Baltimore	5	4	0	.556	182	160	
Pittsburgh	4	4	0	.500	184	171	
Cincinnati	3	4	1	.438	167	189	
Cleveland	0	10	0	.000	175	301	
West							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Oakland	7	2	0	.778	245	223	
Kansas City	6	2	0	.750	185	151	
Denver	6	3	0	.667	214	166	
San Diego	4	5	0	.444	268	247	
NATIONAL CONFERENCE							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Dallas	7	1	0	.875	223	140	
N.Y. Giants	5	3	0	.625	161	164	
Washington	4	3	1	.556	186	189	
Philadelphia	4	4	0	.500	202	145	
South							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Atlanta	6	3	0	.667	305	259	
New Orleans	4	4	0	.500	242	238	
Tampa Bay	3	5	0	.375	180	232	
Carolina	3	5	0	.375	204	206	
North							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Minnesota	5	3	0	.625	155	126	
Detroit	5	4	0	.556	205	206	
Green Bay	4	4	0	.500	198	187	
Chicago	2	6	0	.250	131	179	
West							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Seattle	5	2	1	.688	162	134	
Arizona	3	4	1	.438	179	140	
Los Angeles	3	5	0	.375	130	167	
San Francisco	1	7	0	.125	167	260	
Thursday's Game							
Baltimore 28, Cleveland 7							
Sunday's Games							
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 10 a.m.							
Denver at New Orleans, 10 a.m.							
Houston at Jacksonville, 10 a.m.							
Los Angeles at N.Y. Jets, 10 a.m.							
Kansas City at Carolina, 10 a.m.							
Chicago at Tampa Bay, 10 a.m.							
Minnesota at Washington, 10 a.m.							
Green Bay at Tennessee, 10 a.m.							
Miami at San Diego, 1:05 p.m.							
San Francisco at Arizona, 1:25 p.m.							
Dallas at Pittsburgh, 1:25 p.m.							
Seattle at New England, 5:30 p.m.							

Open: Detroit, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Oakland
Monday
Cincinnati at N.Y. Giants, 5:30 p.m.

NCAA									
Top 25									
Tuesday									
#14 Western Michigan 37, Kent State 21									
Thursday									
Duke 28, #17 North Carolina 27									
#13 Utah 49, Arizona State 26									
Friday									
#20 Florida State 45, Boston College 7									
Today									
#1 Alabama vs. Mississippi State, 9 a.m. (ESPN)									
#2 Michigan at Iowa, 5 p.m. (ABC)									
#3 Clemson vs. Pittsburgh, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)									
#4 Washington vs. Southern Cal, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)									
#5 Louisville vs. Wake Forest, 4 p.m. (ESPN2)									
#6 Ohio State at Maryland, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)									
#7 Wisconsin vs. Illinois, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN2)									
#9 Auburn at Georgia, 12:30 p.m. (CBS)									
#9 Oklahoma vs. #25 Baylor, 9 a.m. (ABC/ESPN2)									
#10 Texas A&M vs. Mississippi, 4:30 p.m.									
#11 West Virginia at Texas, 9 a.m.									
#12 Penn State at Indiana, 9 a.m. (ABC/ESPN2)									
#16 Colorado at Arizona, 7 p.m. (FS1)									
#17 Oklahoma State vs. Texas Tech, 12:30 p.m. (FS1)									
#18 Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech, 12:30 p.m. (ESPNU)									
#19 LSU at Arkansas, 4 p.m. (ESPN)									
#21 Nebraska vs. Minnesota, 4:30 p.m.									
#22 Florida vs. South Carolina, 9 a.m. (CBS)									
#23 Washington State vs. California, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)									
#24 Boise State at Hawaii, 4 p.m. (CBSSN)									

PAC
