

FIFA WORLD CUP 2018

RECAP



AP Photo/Manu Fernandez

Spain's Isco scores his side's opening goal in the group B match between against Morocco at the Kaliningrad Stadium in Kaliningrad, Russia, Monday.

Spain draws 2-2 with Morocco, reaches round of 16

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

KALININGRAD, Russia — It took a video review of an injury-time equalizer to give Spain first place in its World Cup group.

Spain substitute Iago Aspas scored the late goal Monday in a 2-2 draw with Morocco. His clever deflection off a cross from Dani Carvajal was initially disallowed for offside, but the video assistant referee overruled the call at Kaliningrad Stadium.

“Until the last minute, we weren’t sure who was going to finish first and second,” Spain coach Fernando Hierro said. “And I have to say we were lucky to finish first.”

The decision set off a touchline melee among players from both sides.

“Obviously we can improve,” Hierro said. “Five goals in three matches, that is not the way forward. That is what I have told my players, and they understand that.”

A rare mix-up by Andres Iniesta and Sergio Ramos gifted Morocco its first goal of the World Cup, with Khalid Boutaib pouncing on the loose ball and scoring in the 14th minute. Iniesta made amends five minutes later by setting up Isco at the other end with a clever cut back pass to bring Spain level at halftime.

Youssef En Nesyri then headed in a goal in the 81st minute to give already-eliminated Morocco hope of a victory.

With Portugal also drawing with Iran, Spain progressed as group winner because it scored more goals. Next up, Spain plays host Russia on Sunday in Moscow, while Portugal plays Uruguay in Sochi a day earlier.

“We haven’t really won anything yet. It’s been a very tough match,” Isco said. “Maybe we weren’t focused from the very beginning. We needed them to score on us to force us to react.”

Spain may be through and is now on a 23-match unbeaten run, but it was far from convincing in group play and again displayed defensive frailties to concede twice against a Morocco team that hadn’t scored a goal in its two previous group matches.

Earlier in the tournament, Cristiano Ronaldo scored a hat trick against Spain in a 3-3 draw with Portugal and only managed a 1-0 win against Iran.

In the round of 16, Spain faces a Russian team that proved in its first two matches that it can slice through weak defenses. Russia scored eight times in its first two matches before falling to a 3-0 defeat to Uruguay earlier Monday.

“We’re going to play against the host. They’ll have the audience, they’re in their home, but in the end, football is played on the pitch,” Hierro said.

Portugal draws 1-1 with Iran

SARANSK, Russia (AP) — Cristiano Ronaldo’s missed penalty cost Portugal first place in its World Cup group.

It could have been worse if not for Ricardo Quaresma, who started for the first time in the tournament and scored his maiden World Cup goal with a shot that had about as much flair as any in the tournament.

Portugal finished second in Group B after a 1-1 draw with Iran on Monday. The 2016 European champions will next face Uruguay on Saturday in the round of 16.

Quaresma became the only player other than Ronaldo to score for the Portuguese in three games in Russia. The 34-year-old midfielder also became Portugal’s oldest scorer in World Cup play by hitting a curling shot from the edge of the penalty area that went beyond the reach of diving Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand.

Ronaldo — who had scored all four Portugal goals in its first two games of Group B play — was denied on his penalty by Beiranvand’s dive toward the right post in the second half.

Karim Ansarifard scored a late penalty for Iran, which need to win to advance, but couldn’t break through a second time despite a furious charge in the waning minutes. The Mordovia arena momentarily vibrated from the sound of Iran fans’ roars when Mehdi Taremi hit the side of the net from 6 yards out.

Saudis beat Egypt 2-1

VOLGOGRAD, Russia (AP) — The oldest person to play in a World Cup match made some spectacular saves Monday. He also watched two go past him.

Egypt goalkeeper Essam El Hadary, who is 45, took the field for his team’s final group match to set the record. Although he saved one penalty, he couldn’t stop Saudi Arabia from winning 2-1 in a game between two teams that had already been eliminated.

Salem Aldawsari scored the winner for the Saudis with almost the last kick of the match, volleying past El Hadary from a tight angle inside the penalty area.

Mohamed Salah had put Egypt ahead in the 22nd minute after deftly controlling a long ball from Abdalla Said and then lobbing goalkeeper Yasser Almosailem.

It was Salah’s second goal at the World Cup, and Egypt’s first in open play at the World Cup since 1934.

Salman Alfaraj got the Saudis level with a penalty kick in first-half stoppage time after Ali Gabr brought down Fahad Almuwallad in the area. The decision was confirmed after a video review.

Houston’s Harden wins NBA MVP, Casey named top coach

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — James Harden of the Houston Rockets was voted the NBA’s Most Valuable Player, beating out four-time winner LeBron James and Anthony Davis of the Pelicans at the NBA Awards on Monday night.

Harden joined Michael Jordan as the only players to average at least 20 points, eight assists, five rebounds and 1.7 steals in a season.

He led the league in scoring, 3-pointers and 50-point games with four while helping the Rockets to an NBA-leading 65 wins.

James didn’t attend the show in Barker Hangar at the Santa Monica Airport amid speculation about his future. He has until Friday to tell the Cavaliers if he will pick up his \$35.6 million option for next season or opt for free agency.

Harden, who is from Los Angeles, led his mother on stage before he accepted the trophy from Commissioner Adam Silver.

“I’m not going to get emotional,” he said from behind dark sunglasses. “She’s my backbone in good times and bad times.”

Ben Simmons of the Philadelphia 76ers won Rookie of the Year.

The guard averaged 15 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, joining Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson as the only rookies to post those numbers in a season.

Simmons helped Philadelphia to a 52-30 record, including ending the season with a 16-game winning streak.

He beat out finalists Donovan Mitchell of Utah and Jayson Tatum of Boston.

Guard Victor Oladipo of the Indiana Pacers earned



Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP

James Harden, of the Houston Rockets, left, accepts the MVP award as his mother Monja Willis looks on at the NBA Awards on Monday in Santa Monica, Calif.

Most Improved Player.

He averaged 23.1 points in his first season with the Pacers while nabbing his first All-Star berth. He also led the league in steals for the first time.

The Defensive Player of the Year went to center Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz.

He was the leading vote-getter for the league’s All-Defensive first team while anchoring a Jazz defense that ranked second in the NBA in defensive rating.

Lou Williams of the Los Angeles Clippers took Sixth Man honors.

The guard became the first player to average at least 20 points for the first time in his 13th season or later. He led the league in fourth-quarter points and scoring average.

Williams kissed his two young daughters on his way to the stage after becoming the Clippers’ third winner in the last five years.

Dwane Casey was cho-

sen Coach of the Year for his work with the Toronto Raptors, who fired him last month. He has since become coach of the Detroit Pistons.

“Can’t look in the rear view mirror,” Casey said backstage. “Winston Churchill said success is measured by failure, failure, and then come back with enthusiasm, and that’s what I’ve done.”

Casey led the Raptors to the No. 1 seed in the East for the first time in franchise history after winning a team-record 59 games. Casey coached the East in the All-Star Game for the first time.

Casey won over Quin Snyder of Utah and Brad Stevens of Boston.

Robertson received the Lifetime Achievement Award from presenters Charles Barkley and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

After Barkley mentioned last year’s recipient Bill Russell, Boston’s Hall of Fame center flipped his middle fin-

ger in Barkley’s direction.

Robertson is the career leader in triple-doubles and was the first player to average one for a season. His antitrust case against the NBA also ushered in free agency for players, which Robertson said was his most important assist.

Backstage, Robertson commended the activism of today’s players, although he wondered why more white athletes aren’t speaking out.

“The only thing that really bothers me is where are the white athletes when this is happening?” he said. “This is not a black athlete problem. You see injustice in the world. It’s all around.”

Robertson went on to say he hopes “the whites and the blacks get together, even with the football,” a reference to NFL players who have taken a knee or sat in silence during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racial inequality.

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

MLB				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	51	25	.671	—
Boston	52	27	.658	½
Tampa Bay	38	40	.487	14
Toronto	37	41	.474	15
Baltimore	23	54	.298	1½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	43	34	.558	—
Minnesota	34	40	.459	7½
Detroit	43	35	.552	8
Chicago	26	51	.338	17
Kansas City	24	54	.308	19½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	52	28	.650	—
Seattle	48	31	.608	3½
Los Angeles	41	38	.519	10½
Oakland	41	38	.519	10½
Texas	35	45	.438	17

Sunday's Games				
Boston 5, Seattle 0				
Cleveland 12, Detroit 2				
Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 6, 12 innings				
Houston 11, Kansas City 3				
Minnesota 2, Texas 0				
Chicago White Sox 10, Oakland 3				
Toronto 7, L.A. Angels 6, 10 innings				
Monday's Games				
Oakland 5, Detroit 4				
Kansas City 2, L.A. Angels 0				
N.Y. Yankees 4, Philadelphia 2				
Seattle 5, Baltimore 3				
Tampa Bay 11, Washington 0				
Texas 7, San Diego 4				
Toronto 6, Houston 3				
St. Louis 4, Cleveland 0				
Tuesday's Games				
Washington (Scherzer 10-3) at Tampa Bay (Eovaldi 1-3), 9:10 a.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Severino 11-2) at Philadelphia (Arrieta 5-5), 4:05 p.m.				
Seattle (Paxton 6-2) at Baltimore (Gausman 3-6), 4:05 p.m.				
L.A. Angels (Lamb 0-0) at Boston (Price 8-5), 4:10 p.m.				
Oakland (Montas 4-1) at Detroit (Hardy 3-1), 4:10 p.m.				
San Diego (Ross 5-5) at Texas (Bibens-Dixx 1-1), 5:05 p.m.				
Kansas City (Junis 5-8) at Milwaukee (Peralta 2-0), 5:10 p.m.				
Minnesota (Lynn 5-9) at Chicago White Sox (Lopez 2-5), 5:10 p.m.				
Toronto (Borucki 0-0) at Houston (Morton 9-1), 5:10 p.m.				
Cleveland (Kluber 11-3) at St. Louis (Martinez 3-4), 5:15 p.m.				

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	45	32	.584	—
Philadelphia	41	35	.539	3½
Washington	41	35	.532	4
New York	31	45	.408	13½
Central	32	47	.405	14
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	45	32	.584	—
Chicago	42	34	.553	2½
St. Louis	41	36	.532	4
Pittsburgh	37	41	.474	8½
Cincinnati	32	46	.410	13½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	44	34	.564	—
Los Angeles	42	35	.545	1½
San Francisco	40	39	.506	4½
Colorado	38	40	.487	6
San Diego	35	46	.432	10½

Sunday's Games				
Cincinnati 8, Chicago Cubs 6				
L.A. Dodgers 8, N.Y. Mets 7, 11 innings				
Arizona 3, Pittsburgh 0				
St. Louis 8, Milwaukee 2				
Miami 8, Colorado 5				
San Francisco 3, San Diego 2, 11 innings				
Washington 8, Philadelphia 6				
Monday's Games				
N.Y. Yankees 4, Philadelphia 2				
Miami 9, Arizona 5				
Pittsburgh 6, N.Y. Mets 4				
Tampa Bay 11, Washington 0				
Atlanta 5, Cincinnati 4, 11 innings				
Texas 7, San Diego 4				
St. Louis 4, Cleveland 0				
L.A. Dodgers 2, Chicago Cubs 1				
Tuesday's Games				
Washington (Scherzer 10-3) at Tampa Bay (Eovaldi 1-3), 12:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Severino 11-2) at Philadel-				

phia (Arrieta 5-5), 7:05 p.m.				
Arizona (Godley 8-5) at Miami (Hernandez 0-4), 7:10 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Kuhl 5-5) at N.Y. Mets (Matz 3-5), 7:10 p.m.				
Cincinnati (Harvey 2-5) at Atlanta (Sanchez 3-1), 7:35 p.m.				
San Diego (Ross 5-5) at Texas (Bibens-Dixx 1-1), 8:05 p.m.				
Kansas City (Junis 5-8) at Milwaukee (Peralta 2-0), 8:10 p.m.				
Cleveland (Kluber 11-3) at St. Louis (Martinez 3-4), 8:15 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Lester 9-2) at L.A. Dodgers (Stripling 6-2), 10:10 p.m.				
Colorado (Bettis 5-1) at San Francisco (Holland 5-7), 10:15 p.m.				

MLB				
Northwest League				
North Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Everett (Mariners)	7	3	.700	—
Tri-City (Padres)	5	5	.500	2
Spokane (Rangers)	4	7	.364	4
Vancouver (Blue Jays)	3	8	.273	5
South Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Salem-Keizer (Giants)	7	4	.636	—
Boise (Rockies)	6	5	.545	1
Hillsboro (D-backs)	6	5	.545	1
Eugene (Cubs)	5	6	.500	2

Sunday's Games				
Spokane 4, Vancouver 3				
Everett 8, Tri-City 5				
Hillsboro 12, Salem-Keizer 2				
Boise 5, Eugene 1				
Monday's Games				
Spokane 6, Vancouver 0				
Boise 7, Eugene 2				
Hillsboro 6, Salem-Keizer 5				
Tri-City at Everett, late finish				
Tuesday's Games				
Hillsboro at Boise, 6:15 p.m.				
Everett at Spokane, 6:30 p.m.				
Eugene at Salem-Keizer, 6:35 p.m.				
Tri-City at Vancouver, 7:05 p.m.				

NCAA				
College World Series				
Championship Series				
(Best-of-3, x-if necessary)				
Monday, June 25: Arkansas (47-19) vs. Oregon State (53-11-1), ppd., rain				
Tuesday, June 26: Arkansas vs. Oregon State, 4 p.m.				
Wednesday, June 27: Arkansas vs. Oregon State, 4 p.m.				
x-Thursday, June 28: Arkansas vs. Oregon State, 4 p.m.				

Soccer

FIFA WORLD CUP				
FIRST ROUND				
GROUP A				
	W	T	L	GF GA Pts
x-Uruguay	3	0	0	5 0 9
x-Russia	2	1	0	8 4 6
Saudi Arabia	1	0	2	2 7 3
Egypt	0	0	3	2 6 0
x-advanced to second round				

Monday, June 25
At Samara, Russia
Uruguay 3, Russia 0
At Volgograd, Russia
Saudi Arabia 2, Egypt 1

GROUP B

	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Spain	1	2	0	6	5	5
x-Portugal	1	2	0	5	4	5
Iran	1	1	1	2	2	4
Morocco	0	1	2	2	4	1

x-advanced to second round