

FIFA WORLD CUP 2018

RECAP



AP Photo/Dmitri Lovetsky

Argentina’s Lionel Messi, front, competes for the ball during the Group D match between Argentina and Nigeria at the 2018 soccer World Cup.

Messi finally scores, Argentina advances

By STEVE DOUGLAS
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — From his thigh to his foot to the back of the net, Lionel Messi finally scored a goal at this year’s World Cup.

The exquisite strike from the Argentina great sparked the first of several celebrations from an animated Diego Maradona, who screamed, shouted and made obscene gestures — and raised concerns for his health.

Argentina staved off elimination with a 2-1 victory over Nigeria on Tuesday, getting a late goal from Marcos Rojo.

Messi’s goal — his 65th for Argentina — was from a long pass over the defense by Ever Banega.

Messi caressed the ball with his left thigh, took another touch with his left foot, and then delivered a smooth right-footed finish into the corner.

Messi fell to his knees and pointed his fingers upward in celebration. At the same time, Maradona crossed his arms with his hands on his shoulders and looked to the sky.

“I knew that God is with us,” Messi said, “and he wouldn’t let us get eliminated.”

Rojo finished it off in the second by cushioning a volley with his right foot into the bottom corner and ensuring Messi’s quest for a first World Cup title continued.

Argentina will play France in the last 16 in Kazan on Saturday. If Argentines win and Portugal beats Uruguay on Saturday, Messi would face Cristiano Ronaldo in the quarterfinals.

Before Rojo’s goal, Nigeria had been only a few minutes from qualifying for the last 16 for the fourth time.

Javier Mascherano gave away a penalty with a pull on Leon Balogun at a 49th-minute corner. Victor Moses converted — and marked the goal with a somersault — to put Nigeria back in control of the race for second place in the group.

Croatia ends Iceland’s chances at World Cup with 2-1 win

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — Croatia ended Iceland’s chances at the World Cup and helped out Argentina at the same time.

Ivan Perisic capitalized on a defensive error to score a 90th-minute winner Tuesday, giving Croatia a 2-1 win over Iceland and first place in Group D on Tuesday.

Iceland could have finished second in the group with a victory because Argentina beat Nigeria 2-1 at the same time. Instead, the Croats will face Denmark on Sunday in Nizhny

Novgorod and Argentina will take on France on Saturday in Kazan.

Fielding a side filled with reserves after already being assured of a spot in the round of 16, Croatia started to take control of the match in the second half.

Milan Badelj, moments after hitting the bar, scored the opening goal in the 53rd minute. He sprinted into the area and sent a bouncing shot past goalkeeper Hannes Halldorsson.

Iceland equalized in the 76th when Gylfi Sigurdsson scored from the penalty spot after substitute Dejan Lovren handled the ball.

Denmark advances at World Cup in drab 0-0 draw with France

MOSCOW — A game neither France nor Denmark needed to win produced the World Cup’s first 0-0 draw amid boos and whistles from fans on Tuesday.

A slow-paced game out of step with a vibrant tournament ensured already-qualified France won Group C and Denmark advanced as runner-up.

A draw ensured that outcome, though Peru’s 2-0 victory over Australia playing at the same time meant the Danes would have advanced to the round of 16 even had they lost to France. A French team with six starters resting barely tested Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel until substitute Nabil Fekir tried two long-range shots.

Australia eliminated, Peru leaves World Cup on high note

SOCHI, Russia — Already-eliminated Peru ended Australia’s hopes of advancing to the knockout round at the World Cup with a 2-0 victory on Tuesday.

The Australians had to beat Peru and hope Denmark lost to France in the other Group C match, but neither result happened. France and Denmark drew 0-0 in Moscow.

Andre Carrillo’s 18th-minute goal — a half-volley from inside the area — was Peru’s first in a World Cup since 1982, the last time the South Americans played in the tournament. Peru hadn’t won a World Cup match since defeating Iran in 1978.

Peru captain Paolo Guerrero, who almost missed the tournament because of a doping suspension, scored the other goal in the 50th with a left-footed strike after getting to a loose ball inside the area.



AP Photo/Gail Burton

Seattle Mariners’ Kyle Seager, right, is congratulated by third base coach Scott Brosius after hitting a solo home run during the fourth inning of baseball game Tuesday.

Seager lifts M’s past Orioles

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Nelson Cruz wasn’t available, so Kyle Seager assumed the role of big bopper for the Seattle Mariners.

And what a job he did. Seager homered and hit a pivotal two-run single in the eighth inning to back a fine pitching performance by James Paxton and help Seattle beat the Baltimore Orioles 3-2 Tuesday night.

Cruz, who leads the team with 20 home runs, was a late scratch with lower back tightness. Seager took over at cleanup and accounted for all the Mariners runs.

“Couple of coaches felt going into the game that Seags was going to be our guy,” manager Scott Servais said. “Sometimes guys have to step up. We had the right guy at the right time.”

Though Seager came through in a pinch, he knows his place in the lineup isn’t cleanup.

“No, I don’t think that’s a good idea,” Seager said. “I like when Mr. Nelson is in there.”

Paxton (7-2) struck out 10 over seven innings, allowing two runs and six hits. It was the sixth time this sea-



AP Photo/Gail Burton

Seattle Mariners pitcher James Paxton delivers against the Baltimore Orioles in the first inning of Tuesday’s game in Baltimore.

son he’s reached double figures in strikeouts.

The Mariners came to town with six losses in seven games, and now they’ve won two in a row to open a four-game series against the team with the worst record in the majors.

“We’re supposed to come in here and beat this team,” Paxton said. “We’re doing a good job so far.”

Alex Colome worked the eighth and Edwin Diaz got three outs for his big league-best 29th save.

Seattle trailed 2-1 before rallying against the weary Baltimore bullpen.

Dee Gordon led off the

eighth with a double and Jean Segura got his third hit of the game on a bunt down the third-base line. Orioles reliever Darren O’Day (0-2) hurt himself trying to field the ball and was replaced by Tanner Scott, who walked Mitch Haniger before Seager hit a liner to center.

O’Day’s injury was a troublesome hamstring that has been bothering him for weeks and will likely land him on the disabled list.

“Yeah, it’s frustrating,” the right-hander said. “I was throwing well and helping the team.”

In the fourth inning, Seager hit his 14th home run to

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	52	25	.675	—
Boston	53	27	.663	½
Tampa Bay	39	40	.494	14
Toronto	37	42	.468	16
Baltimore	23	55	.295	29½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	43	35	.551	—
Minnesota	34	41	.453	6
Detroit	36	44	.450	8
Chicago	27	51	.346	16
Kansas City	24	55	.304	19½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	53	28	.654	—
Seattle	49	31	.613	3½
Oakland	42	38	.525	10½
Los Angeles	41	39	.513	11½
Texas	35	46	.432	18
Tuesday’s Games				
Tampa Bay 1, Washington 0				
N.Y. Yankees 6, Philadelphia 0				
Seattle 3, Baltimore 2				
Boston 9, L.A. Angels 1				
Oakland 9, Detroit 7				
San Diego 3, Texas 2				
Houston 7, Toronto 0				
Milwaukee 5, Kansas City 1				
St. Louis 11, Cleveland 2				
Chicago White Sox 8, Minnesota 4				
Wednesday’s Games				
Kansas City (Duffy 3-7) at Milwaukee (Suter 8-4), 11:10 a.m.				
Toronto (Estrada 4-7) at Houston (Keuchel 4-8), 11:10 a.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Cessa 0-0) at Philadelphia (Eflin 5-2), 4:05 p.m.				
Seattle (LeBlanc 3-0) at Baltimore (Cobb 2-9), 4:05 p.m.				
L.A. Angels (Heaney 4-5) at Boston (Porcello 9-3), 4:10 p.m.				
Oakland (Bassitt 0-3) at Detroit (Fiers 5-4), 4:10 p.m.				
San Diego (Richard 7-6) at Texas (Minor 5-4), 5:05 p.m.				
Minnesota (Gibson 2-5) at Chicago White Sox (Shields 2-3), 5:10 p.m.				
Cleveland (Bieber 2-0) at St. Louis (Flaherty 3-2), 5:15 p.m.				
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	45	33	.577	—
Philadelphia	41	36	.532	3½
Washington	41	37	.526	4
New York	32	45	.416	12½
Miami	32	48	.400	14
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	46	32	.590	—
Chicago	43	34	.558	2
St. Louis	42	36	.538	4
Pittsburgh	37	42	.468	9½
Cincinnati	33	46	.418	13½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	45	34	.570	—
Los Angeles	42	36	.538	3
San Francisco	41	39	.513	4½
Colorado	38	41	.481	7
San Diego	36	46	.439	10½
Tuesday’s Games				
Tampa Bay 1, Washington 0				
N.Y. Yankees 6, Philadelphia 0				
Arizona 5, Miami 3				
N.Y. Mets 4, Pittsburgh 3, 10 innings				
Cincinnati 5, Atlanta 3				
San Diego 3, Texas 2				
Milwaukee 5, Kansas City 1				
St. Louis 11, Cleveland 2				
San Francisco 3, Colorado 2				
Chicago Cubs 9, L.A. Dodgers 4				
Wednesday’s Games				

MLB				
Northwest League				
North Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Everett (Mariners)	7	4	.636	—
Tri-City (Padres)	6	6	.500	2
Spokane (Rangers)	4	7	.364	3
Vancouver (Blue Jays)	4	8	.333	4
South Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Salem-Keizer (Giants)	7	4	.636	—
Hillsboro (D-backs)	6	5	.545	1
Boise (Rockies)	6	5	.545	1
Eugene (Cubs)	5	6	.455	2
Tuesday’s Games				
Boise 7, Hillsboro 5				
Spokane 7, Everett 5				
Salem-Keizer 10, Eugene 5				
Vancouver 7, Tri-City 1				
Wednesday’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)				
Arkansas 1, Oregon State 0				
Monday: Arkansas (47-19) vs. Oregon State (53-11-1), ppd., rain				
Tuesday: Arkansas 4, Oregon State 1				
Wednesday: Arkansas vs. Oregon State, 4 p.m.				
x-Thursday: 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				
Monday, June 25				
At Kaliningrad, Russia				
Spain 2, Morocco 2				
At Saransk, Russia				
Iran 1, Portugal 1				
GROUP C				
	W	T	L	GF GA Pts
x-France	2	0	0	3 1 6

Denmark	1	1	0	2	1	4
Australia	0	1	1	2	3	1
Peru	0	0	2	0	2	0
x-advanced to second round						
Tuesday, June 26						
At Sochi, Russia						
Australia vs. Peru, 7 a.m.						
At Moscow						
Denmark vs. France, 7 a.m.						
GROUP D						
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Croatia	3	0	0	7	1	9
x-Argentina	1	1	1	3	5	4
Nigeria	1	0	2	3	4	3
Iceland	0	1	2	2	5	1
x-advanced to second round						
Tuesday, June 26						
At St. Petersburg, Russia						
Argentina 2, Nigeria 1						
At Rostov-on-Don, Russia						
Croatia 2, Iceland 1						
GROUP E						
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
Brazil	1	1	0	3	1	4
Switzerland	1	1	0	3	2	4
Serbia	1	0	1	2	2	3
Costa Rica	0	0	2	0	3	0
Wednesday, June 27						
At Moscow						
Serbia vs. Brazil, 11 a.m.						
At Nizhny Novgorod, Russia						
Switzerland vs. Costa Rica, 11 a.m.						
GROUP F						
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
Mexico	2	0	0	3	1	6
Germany	1	0	1	2	2	3
Sweden	1	0	1	2	2	3
South Korea	0	0	2	1	3	0
Wednesday, June 27						
At Kazan, Russia						
South Korea vs. Germany, 7 a.m.						
At Yekaterinburg, Russia						
Mexico vs. Sweden, 7 a.m.						
GROUP G						
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Belgium	2	0	0	8	2	6
x-England	2	0	0	8	2	6
Tunisia	0	0	2	3	7	0
Panama	0	0	2	1	9	0
x-advanced to second round						
Thursday, June 28						
At Saransk, Russia						
Panama vs. Tunisia, 11 a.m.						
At Kaliningrad, Russia						
England vs. Belgium, 11 a.m.						
GROUP H						
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
Japan	1	1	0	4	3	4
Senegal	1	1	0	4	3	4
Colombia	1	0	1	4	2	3
Poland	0	0	2	1	5	0
Thursday, June 28						
At Volgograd, Russia						
Japan vs. Poland, 7 a.m.						
At Samara, Russia						
Senegal vs. Colombia, 7 a.m.						

Basketball

WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	9	5	.643	—
Connecticut	8	6	.571	1
Atlanta	7	6	.538	1½
Chicago	4	9	.308	4½
New York	4	9	.308	4½
Indiana	1	13	.071	8
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	11	3	.786	—
Phoenix	11	5	.688	1
Seattle	10	5	.667	1½
Minnesota	8	6	.571	3
Dallas	6	7	.462	4½