

FIFA WORLD CUP 2018

RECAP



AP Photo/Matthias Schrader

Belgium's Axel Witsel, centre celebrates after the final whistle as Belgium defeat Brazil in their quarterfinal match between Brazil and Belgium at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Kazan Arena, in Kazan, Russia on Friday. Belgium won the game 2-1.

Europe assured of

extending World Cup

winning streak to 4

By GRAHAM DUNBAR  
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The World Cup is staying in Europe, and it's not even a close race.

All four semifinalists at this year's tournament in Russia will be European. The most powerful continent in world soccer is also assured of having its fourth straight title winner from a fourth different country. Europe's overwhelming dominance in club soccer — fueled by wealth to hire the best global talents — is also playing out on the World Cup stage.

South America's last hopes at the tournament were eliminated Friday in the first two quarterfinal games. Brazil, the last non-European title winner in 2002, was beaten by Belgium 2-1, and Uruguay lost to France 2-0.

The all-European final foursome will be completed Saturday: England plays Sweden and Russia faces Croatia in the other two quarterfinal matches.

Asked Friday about Europe's strength, Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said "reality from a financial point of view, from a historical point of view" could not be ignored.

"Don't ask me something that is self-evident," said the veteran coach, who led Uruguay to the semifinals in 2010.

Back then, Uruguay was eliminated by the Netherlands, who lost to Spain in the final.

Europe's winning run began with Italy in 2006, Spain followed four years later, and Germany took over in 2014.

A title for France or England in Moscow on July 15 would keep the glory within a closed circle of countries whose national teams, domestic leagues and television markets are known as Europe's "Big Five": Spain, Italy and Germany are the others.

They are home to the richest and most storied clubs, attract the most valuable broadcast deals worldwide, and place most teams in the Champions League. The five will have 21 of the 32 places next season.

It is a virtuous circle helping earn more prize money and build lucrative global brands.

It also attracts the best

players from other continents, and Neymar was almost a late arrival coming from Brazil to Barcelona when he was 21. If the wave of talent flowing to Europe denies playing time to domestic players, it also raises the overall level of play.

In those five countries, national federations and clubs have the money and an obligation to invest in youth coaching programs and keep producing talent. National centers such as Clairefontaine in France and more recently St. George's Park in England have their own strong identity.

Now even Croatia and Sweden are close to their first World Cup semifinal berths since the 1990s, revealing European depth that South America craves.

Since the 1982 World Cup, when a semifinal round was reinstated, 40 teams will have been involved and Europe has provided 31 of them. South America has eight, and 2002 co-host South Korea was the other.

Africa has never had a semifinalist and failed to advance any of its five teams from the group stage in Russia. Japan was the only one of five Asian confederation teams to reach the round of 16, losing to Belgium.

It adds up to another European semifinal sweep, following 2006 and 1982.

Europe got 14 places in the 32-team World Cup lineup in Russia (44 percent), even though it currently has 20 of the top 32 teams in the FIFA rankings. European dominance increases deeper into the bracket: 10 of the round of 16 teams (62 percent); six of the quarterfinalists (75 percent); all of the semifinalists (100 percent).

European club dominance is even greater when looking at World Cup rosters. A total of 74 percent of players selected across the tournament — 544 of 736 — are employed by teams in Europe.

This hegemony could be tough to maintain when the World Cup increases to 48 teams in 2026. Only three extra places were given to Europe, raising its guaranteed number to 16 — one-third of the total.

Regardless, the final World Cup week in Russia is all Europe, all the time.

Mariners baffled by Rockies

By CURTIS CRABTREE  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — German Marquez limited the Seattle Mariners to one run and five hits, and Tony Wolters drove in three runs on a pair of triples to help the Colorado Rockies cruise to a 7-1 victory Friday night.

Marquez (7-8) walked none and didn't allow a hit until the fourth inning, and struck out five in six innings.

Wolters wasn't even supposed to be in the lineup, but started at catcher after Tom Murphy was scratched before the game so he could return to Denver to be with his wife, Lindsay, who's giving birth to their second child. Wolters delivered an RBI triple in the second inning and a two-run triple in the sixth as the Rockies took a 6-0 lead.

Wolters also blocked a pitch in the dirt from Marquez and managed to flip the ball back to Marquez covering the plate to retire an advancing Dee Gordon in the bottom of the sixth.

Charlie Blackmon homered off Felix Hernandez (8-7) to give Colorado a 1-0 lead in the first. Hernan-



AP Photo/Stephen Brashear

Seattle Mariners' Ryon Healy sits in the dugout after the team's baseball game against the Colorado Rockies on Friday in Seattle. The Rockies won 7-1.

dez allowed hits to Carlos Gonzalez and Trevor Story before getting out of the early jam.

Raimel Tapia doubled over the right-field wall before Wolters' first triple extended the Rockies' advantage to 2-0. DJ LeMahieu's sacrifice fly scored Wolters.

Hernandez was driven

from the game after five innings, having allowed three runs and eight hits with two strikeouts.

Colorado quickly piled on against Roenis Elias in the sixth. After Ian Desmond reached on an error and Tapia walked, Wolters tripled again to drive them in. A double by LeMahieu

scored Wolters as the Rockies made it 6-0.

Denard Span hit a solo homer off Marquez in the sixth to get the Mariners on the scoreboard.

Gonzalez drove in Blackmon on a double in the eighth off Nick Rumbelow to extend Colorado's lead to 7-1.

Mariners give GM Jerry Dipoto multiyear extension

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Seattle Mariners signed general manager Jerry Dipoto to a multiyear contract extension on Friday, a reward for the club being on track to end the longest playoff drought in the four major professional sports in the U.S.

The agreement comes with the Mariners 24 games above .500, and striving to make the postseason for the first time since 2001.

"Jerry arrived here 2½ years ago with a specific plan for our franchise," Seattle president and CEO Kevin Mather said. "He has successfully executed that plan, resulting in a younger, more athletic and, most importantly, far more successful major league team."

Dipoto is in his third full

season with the Mariners, who are 56-32 and 1½ games out of first place in the AL West. Since the start of the 2016 season, his first full year, the Mariners have the eighth-best record in the majors at 220-192.

"As I said when I arrived here, I believe this organization has every opportunity to be successful on a consistent basis," Dipoto said in a statement.

While there are still issues in the farm system, Dipoto has succeeded in making the major league product better. He's turned over a roster that had gotten old and added key younger pieces like Mitch Haniger, Jean Segura and Dee Gordon, who are



Dipoto

all major contributors in Seattle's start to this season. The trade that landed Haniger and Segura from Arizona before the 2016 season now looks like a coup pulled off by Dipoto.

Dipoto also has locked up key parts of Seattle's core for the next several seasons, either by having club control through arbitration or by signing long-term extensions. All of Seattle's current starting rotation is under contract through the 2019 season and the only everyday player without club control beyond this season is designated hitter Nelson Cruz.

Dipoto arrived in Seattle in 2015 charged with finding stability after the final

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

| MLB              |    |    |      |     |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| AMERICAN LEAGUE  |    |    |      |     |
| East Division    |    |    |      |     |
|                  | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Boston           | 60 | 29 | .674 | —   |
| New York         | 56 | 29 | .659 | 2   |
| Tampa Bay        | 43 | 44 | .494 | 16  |
| Toronto          | 41 | 46 | .471 | 18  |
| Baltimore        | 24 | 63 | .276 | 35  |
| Central Division |    |    |      |     |
|                  | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Cleveland        | 49 | 37 | .570 | —   |
| Minnesota        | 37 | 48 | .435 | 11½ |
| Detroit          | 39 | 51 | .433 | 12  |
| Chicago          | 30 | 58 | .341 | 20  |
| Kansas City      | 25 | 62 | .287 | 24½ |
| West Division    |    |    |      |     |
|                  | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Houston          | 59 | 31 | .656 | —   |
| Seattle          | 56 | 33 | .629 | 2½  |
| Oakland          | 48 | 40 | .545 | 10  |
| Los Angeles      | 45 | 44 | .506 | 13½ |
| Texas            | 39 | 50 | .438 | 19½ |

| Friday's Games                                                       |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Toronto 6, N.Y. Yankees 2                                            |  |  |  |  |
| Detroit 3, Texas 1                                                   |  |  |  |  |
| N.Y. Mets 5, Tampa Bay 1                                             |  |  |  |  |
| Cleveland 10, Oakland 4                                              |  |  |  |  |
| Houston 11, Chicago White Sox 4                                      |  |  |  |  |
| Minnesota 6, Baltimore 2                                             |  |  |  |  |
| Boston 10, Kansas City 5                                             |  |  |  |  |
| L.A. Angels 3, L.A. Dodgers 2                                        |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado 7, Seattle 1                                                |  |  |  |  |
| Saturday's Games                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| Baltimore (Gausman 4-6) at Minnesota (Gibson 2-6), 11:10 a.m.        |  |  |  |  |
| N.Y. Yankees (Severino 13-2) at Toronto (Happ 10-4), 1:07 p.m.       |  |  |  |  |
| Chicago White Sox (Shields 3-9) at Houston (Morton 10-2), 1:10 p.m.  |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado (Freeland 8-6) at Seattle (Paxton 8-2), 1:10 p.m.           |  |  |  |  |
| Oakland (Jackson 1-0) at Cleveland (Kluber 12-4), 1:10 p.m.          |  |  |  |  |
| Tampa Bay (Snell 11-4) at N.Y. Mets (Matz 4-5), 1:10 p.m.            |  |  |  |  |
| Texas (Harnels 4-7) at Detroit (Fiers 5-5), 1:10 p.m.                |  |  |  |  |
| Boston (Price 9-6) at Kansas City (Keller 2-3), 4:15 p.m.            |  |  |  |  |
| L.A. Dodgers (Stripling 6-2) at L.A. Angels (McGuire 0-1), 4:15 p.m. |  |  |  |  |

| NATIONAL LEAGUE  |    |    |      |     |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| East Division    |    |    |      |     |
|                  | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Philadelphia     | 48 | 37 | .565 | —   |
| Atlanta          | 49 | 38 | .563 | —   |
| Washington       | 44 | 43 | .506 | 5   |
| New York         | 35 | 49 | .417 | 12½ |
| Miami            | 36 | 54 | .400 | 14½ |
| Central Division |    |    |      |     |
|                  | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Milwaukee        | 53 | 35 | .602 | —   |
| Chicago          | 49 | 36 | .576 | 2½  |
| St. Louis        | 45 | 42 | .517 | 7½  |
| Pittsburgh       | 40 | 47 | .460 | 12½ |
| Cincinnati       | 39 | 49 | .443 | 14  |
| West Division    |    |    |      |     |
|                  | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Arizona          | 49 | 40 | .551 | —   |
| Los Angeles      | 47 | 40 | .540 | 1   |
| Colorado         | 45 | 43 | .511 | 3½  |
| San Francisco    | 46 | 44 | .511 | 3½  |
| San Diego        | 38 | 52 | .422 | 11½ |

| Friday's Games                                                       |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Cincinnati 3, Chicago Cubs 5                                         |  |  |  |  |
| Philadelphia 17, Pittsburgh 5                                        |  |  |  |  |
| Washington 3, Miami 2                                                |  |  |  |  |
| N.Y. Mets 5, Tampa Bay 1                                             |  |  |  |  |
| Milwaukee 5, Atlanta 4                                               |  |  |  |  |
| Arizona 3, San Diego 1                                               |  |  |  |  |
| L.A. Angels 3, L.A. Dodgers 2                                        |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado 7, Seattle 1                                                |  |  |  |  |
| San Francisco 3, St. Louis 2                                         |  |  |  |  |
| Saturday's Games                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| Cincinnati (Harvey 4-5) at Chicago Cubs (Chatwood 3-5), 11:20 a.m.   |  |  |  |  |
| Philadelphia (Arrieta 5-6) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 5-6), 1:05 p.m.    |  |  |  |  |
| St. Louis (Martinez 5-4) at San Francisco (Samarzija 1-4), 1:05 p.m. |  |  |  |  |
| Atlanta (Sanchez 3-2) at Milwaukee (Wilkerson 0-0), 1:10 p.m.        |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado (Freeland 8-6) at Seattle (Paxton 8-2), 1:10 p.m.           |  |  |  |  |
| Tampa Bay (Snell 11-4) at N.Y. Mets (Matz 4-5), 1:10 p.m.            |  |  |  |  |

|                                                                      |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 4-5), 1:10 p.m.                                                      |  |  |  |  |
| L.A. Dodgers (Stripling 6-2) at L.A. Angels (McGuire 0-1), 4:15 p.m. |  |  |  |  |
| Miami (Chen 2-5) at Washington (Scherzer 10-5), 4:15 p.m.            |  |  |  |  |
| San Diego (Ross 5-6) at Arizona (Ray 3-1), 7:10 p.m.                 |  |  |  |  |

| MLB                      |    |      |     |    |
|--------------------------|----|------|-----|----|
| Northwest League         |    |      |     |    |
| North Division           |    |      |     |    |
|                          | W  | L    | Pct | GB |
| Everett (Mariners) 12    | 10 | .545 | —   |    |
| Tri-City (Padres) 10     | 12 | .455 | 2   |    |
| Vancouver (Blue Jays) 10 | 12 | .455 | 2   |    |
| Spokane (Rangers) 8      | 14 | .364 | 4   |    |
| South Division           |    |      |     |    |
|                          | W  | L    | Pct | GB |
| Hillsboro (D-Backs) 15   | 7  | .682 | —   |    |
| Salem-Keizer (Giants) 13 | 9  | .591 | 2   |    |
| Boise (Rockies) 12       | 10 | .545 | 3   |    |
| Eugene (Cubs) 8          | 14 | .364 | 7   |    |

| Friday's Games                       |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Eugene 4, Boise 3                    |  |  |  |  |
| Tri-City 7, Spokane 2                |  |  |  |  |
| Hillsboro 6, Salem-Keizer 3          |  |  |  |  |
| Vancouver 9, Everett 0               |  |  |  |  |
| Saturday's Games                     |  |  |  |  |
| Eugene at Boise, 6:15 p.m.           |  |  |  |  |
| Tri-City at Spokane, 6:30 p.m.       |  |  |  |  |
| Hillsboro at Salem-Keizer, 6:35 p.m. |  |  |  |  |
| Vancouver at Everett, 7:05 p.m.      |  |  |  |  |

Soccer

| FIFA WORLD CUP              |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| QUARTERFINAL                |  |  |  |  |
| Friday, July 6              |  |  |  |  |
| At Nizhny Novgorod, Russia  |  |  |  |  |
| France 2, Uruguay 0         |  |  |  |  |
| At Kazan, Russia            |  |  |  |  |
| Belgium 2, Brazil 1         |  |  |  |  |
| Saturday, July 7            |  |  |  |  |
| At Samara, Russia           |  |  |  |  |
| Sweden vs. England, 7 a.m.  |  |  |  |  |
| At Sochi, Russia            |  |  |  |  |
| Russia vs. Croatia, 11 a.m. |  |  |  |  |

| SEMIFINAL                   |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Tuesday, July 10            |  |  |  |  |
| France vs. Belgium, 11 a.m. |  |  |  |  |

| MLS                |    |    |   |           |
|--------------------|----|----|---|-----------|
| EASTERN CONFERENCE |    |    |   |           |
|                    | W  | L  | T | Pts GF GA |
| Atlanta United FC  | 11 | 4  | 4 | 37 40 23  |
| New York City FC   | 10 | 4  | 2 | 32 34 16  |
| Columbus           | 8  | 5  | 6 | 30 24 23  |
| New England        | 7  | 4  | 6 | 27 30 25  |
| Chicago            | 6  | 7  | 5 | 23 27 31  |
| Montreal           | 7  | 11 | 0 | 21 22 31  |
| Philadelphia       | 6  | 8  | 3 | 21 25 37  |
| Orlando City       | 6  | 10 | 1 | 19 24 37  |
| Toronto FC         | 4  | 10 | 3 | 15 27 34  |
| D.C. United        | 2  | 7  | 5 | 11 23 29  |

| WESTERN CONFERENCE |    |    |   |           |
|--------------------|----|----|---|-----------|
|                    | W  | L  | T | Pts GF GA |
| FC Dallas          | 10 | 2  | 5 | 35 28 19  |
| Sporting K.C.      | 9  | 4  | 5 | 32 37 27  |
| Los Angeles FC     | 9  | 4  | 4 | 31 37 22  |
| Real Salt Lake     | 8  | 8  | 2 | 26 25 34  |
| Portland           | 7  | 3  | 5 | 26 24 21  |
| Vancouver          | 6  | 7  | 5 | 23 26 35  |
| Houston            | 6  | 6  | 4 | 22 33 26  |
| LA Galaxy          | 6  | 7  | 4 | 22 27 38  |
| Minnesota United   | 6  | 10 | 1 | 19 23 23  |
| Seattle            | 4  | 9  | 3 | 15 15 22  |
| Colorado           | 4  | 10 | 3 | 15 21 30  |
| San Jose           | 2  | 9  | 6 | 12 28 35  |

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

| Friday's Games                                |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| No games scheduled.                           |  |  |  |  |
| Saturday's Games                              |  |  |  |  |
| Orlando City at Los Angeles FC, 1:30 p.m.     |  |  |  |  |
| Atlanta United FC at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.     |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.               |  |  |  |  |
| Seattle at New England, 4:30 p.m.             |  |  |  |  |
| Toronto FC at Sporting Kansas City, 5:30 p.m. |  |  |  |  |
| Minnesota United at Houston, 6 p.m.           |  |  |  |  |
| FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake, 7 p.m.           |  |  |  |  |
| Chicago at Vancouver, 7:30 p.m.               |  |  |  |  |
| Columbus at LA Galaxy, 7:30 p.m.              |  |  |  |  |
| San Jose at Portland, 8 p.m.                  |  |  |  |  |
| Sunday's Games                                |  |  |  |  |
| New York at New York City FC, 4 p.m.          |  |  |  |  |

| Monday-Tuesday's Games |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| No games scheduled.    |  |  |  |  |

Tennis

| THE CHAMPIONSHIP WIMBLEDON                                                                |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Men's Singles                                                                             |  |  |  |  |
| Second Round                                                                              |  |  |  |  |
| Alexander Zverev, Germany, def. Taylor Fritz, United States, 6-4, 5-7, 6-7 (0), 6-1, 6-2  |  |  |  |  |
| Third Round                                                                               |  |  |  |  |
| Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2           |  |  |  |  |
| Adrian Mannarino (22), France, def. Daniil Medvedev, Russia, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 5-7, 6-3      |  |  |  |  |
| Gael Monfils, France, def. Sam Querrey (11), United States, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2            |  |  |  |  |
| Kevin Anderson (8), South Africa, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber (25), Germany, 6-3, 7-5, 7-5 |  |  |  |  |
| John Isner (9), United States, def. Radu Albot, Moldova, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4                    |  |  |  |  |