

Japan and Sweden play to 1-1 draw in World Cup

Both advance to knockout round

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Texas — Daizen Maeda gave Japan the lead and Anthony Elanga took it away six minutes later, helping Sweden to a 1-1 draw Thursday night that sent both teams to the knockout round of the World Cup.

Elanga's impressive left-footed strike from just outside the right corner of the box in the 62nd minute was his second goal of this year's tournament. Elanga has scored only three goals in 49 games for Newcastle, but zero in 32 Premier League matches.

Six minutes earlier, Maeda settled a nifty pass from Ritsu Doan with his left foot in the penalty area and easily beat Jacob Widell Zetterstrom with his right foot.

It was Japan's seventh goal of the tournament, the country's most for an entire World Cup. That topped the six the Japanese scored while reaching the round of 16 in Russia eight years ago.

Japan is advancing out of the group stage for the third consecutive World Cup and fifth time in seven tries since first reaching the round of 16 as co-hosts in 2002. The Japanese team finished second in Group F behind the Netherlands and will play Brazil in Houston on Monday.

"For the good of football in Japan, I think it would be a very good experience," coach Hajime Moriyasu said through a translator of his 16th-ranked team facing No. 5 Brazil. "We do believe there's a chance for us to win. And then we hope that we will be able to move one step further move on to the next stage."



AP Photo/Julio Cortez

Japan's Daizen Maeda (11) scores their opening goal during the World Cup Group F soccer match between Japan and Sweden in Arlington, Texas, near Dallas, on Thursday.

NETHERLANDS 3, TUNISIA 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The lightning that streaked over Arrowhead Stadium on Thursday night only briefly slowed the Oranje Fanwalk, as Dutch supporters marched en masse to watch the Netherlands play Tunisia in the World Cup, the top spot in Group F hanging in the balance.

Nothing else seems to be slowing down the Dutch these days.

Certainly not a Tunisian team in chaos.

Brian Brobbey scored his third goal of the tournament, and the Netherlands got two more goals that deflected off Tunisian players and into their own net, sending the Dutch to a 3-1 victory and ultimately first place in their group.

The Netherlands had begun the day tied at the top with Japan. But when the Samurai Blue only managed a 1-1 draw with Sweden in a game played simultaneously in Arlington, Texas, that left Virgil van Dijk and his teammates looking forward to a matchup with Group C runner-up Morocco on Monday in Monterrey,

Mexico — and Japan with the heavy task of playing Brazil in the round of 32.

"These are the kind of games you want to play. These are the big games, why you want to play in the World Cup," Dutch defender Jan Paul van Hecke said. "I think the team is prepared for a big game, and everyone knows it's game on."

Tunisia, which sacked its coach after a loss to open the World Cup, had already been eliminated from the tournament.

ECUADOR 2, GERMANY 1

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — A little flick of Gonzalo Plata's big toe helped Ecuador make a great escape.

Plata poked the ball past Manuel Neuer in the 77th minute and lifted Ecuador to a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Germany on Thursday and into the knockout round of the World Cup for the first time since 2006.

"Life is different now. We suffered a lot," said Plata, a 25-year-old winger who scored his ninth international goal. "We suffered too much in the first two

matches. We would have liked to secure qualification much earlier, but now we're going forward more hungry, knowing we have to give it our all."

Ecuador, which has lost only one of its last 22 games, finished third in Group E with four points and advanced past the group stage for the second time, headed to a possible matchup with Mexico on Tuesday in Mexico City.

A four-time champion already assured of advancement by winning its first two games, Germany will play its round of 32 game Monday at Foxborough, Massachusetts, most likely against Paraguay, Australia or Sweden.

"On Monday it's important that we start well," Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said through a translator.

Germany's winning streak was stopped at 11 games, one shy of the team record set in 1979-80.

IVORY COAST 2, CURACAO 0

PHILADELPHIA — Ivory Coast rejoiced as players dropped to their knees on the pitch for a team photo — peerless in national team history — and they all pointed one finger toward the sky.

One, for the West African team's first-ever trip to the World Cup knockout round.

Why stop there? "We aren't setting any limits for ourselves," star forward Nicolas Pépé said. "I think we have huge potential."

Les Éléphants have crashed the party and made it out of their group for the first time in four World Cup appearances. Pépé scored in each half and Ivory Coast advanced

with a 2-0 victory over Curaçao on Thursday.

Players stripped off their jerseys and danced and partied in the locker room for the well-earned and overdue celebration.

Ivory Coast beat Ecuador 1-0 in its tournament opener — at the same Philadelphia stadium as Thursday's game — and lost to Germany in its Group E second game.

Ivory Coast will play June 30 against either France or Norway — whichever is the runner-up in Group I.

"If we aim to go all the way, it doesn't matter who we play," Pépé said.

Curaçao needed to win and instead failed to become the smallest nation to qualify for the knockout stages.

AUSTRALIA 0, PARAGUAY 0, DRAW

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Australia and Paraguay played to a 0-0 draw Thursday night in a result that clinched a spot in the knockout round of the World Cup for the Socceroos and will likely be enough for the Paraguayans to advance.

The expanded tournament to 48 teams that provides a spot in the knockout round for eight of the 12 third-place teams in the group stage led to the cautious approach for both teams in their final Group D match after they each entered with three points thanks to wins over Turkey.

The winner of this game was assured second place behind the United States in the group with Australia also clinching that spot with a draw thanks to a better goal differential than Paraguay. But the draw that gave Paraguay four points in the

group also was likely to be enough barring a string of bad results in the final two days of group play.

This marks the third time that Australia has advanced to the knockout round after losing in the round of 16 in 2006 and 2022. The Socceroos will play in the round of 32 on July 3 in Arlington, Texas, against the second-place finisher from Group G that will be determined Friday night.



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING REGARDING

5620 OLD HIGHWAY 54
A request has been filed with the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission by Lion & Crown Holding, LLC to rezone 1.917-acres of land from I-2 Heavy Industrial to B-4 General Business, located at the address noted above, between Ed Foster Road & Highway 142. The above proposal is to be considered at a meeting of the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission on July 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY.

BILL WEIKEL
SECRETARY
SKYLER STEWART
CHAIR



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING REGARDING

2070 SOUTHTOWN BLVD
A request has been filed with the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission by Sien, LLC to rezone 1.615-acres of land from B-1 Neighborhood Business to I-1 Light Industrial, located at the address noted above, at the southwest intersection of Discovery Lane & Southtown Blvd. The above proposal is to be considered at a meeting of the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission on July 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY.

BILL WEIKEL
SECRETARY
SKYLER STEWART
CHAIR



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING REGARDING

435 E. 14th STREET
A request has been filed with the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission by Ervin Physical Therapy & Endurance B B, LLC c/o Bostwick Braun Company to rezone 0.416-acres of land from I-1 Light Industrial to B-5 Business/Industrial, located at the address noted above, at the northwest intersection of Sweeney Street & E. 14th Street. The above proposal is to be considered at a meeting of the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission on July 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY.

BILL WEIKEL
SECRETARY
SKYLER STEWART
CHAIR



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING REGARDING TEXT

AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 8 OF THE OWENSBORO METROPOLITAN ZONING ORDINANCE
The Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on July 9, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY. The purpose of the hearing is to consider amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance for Owensboro, Whitesville and Daviess County, Kentucky, regarding Article 8-Schedule of Zones specifically regarding accessory dwelling units. Copies of the proposed text amendments are available in the Planning Office, 2nd Floor, Owensboro Commerce Center, weekdays from 8:00am-4:30pm. Text amendments may also be viewed at www.iompc.org

BILL WEIKEL
SECRETARY
SKYLER STEWART
CHAIR

54 of 104 World Cup matches complete

The drama is just getting started

BY TIM REYNOLDS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — It's halftime at the World Cup. Take a break, everyone.

Wednesday marked the midpoint of the 104-match tournament — technically, just past the midpoint, with 54 matches now in the books and 50 remaining before a World Cup champion is crowned in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on July 19.

The U.S. has reached the Round of 32, which shouldn't be surprising. Mexico and Canada, the other host nations for this biggest World Cup in history, are also through to the knockout stage. And the stars are positively shining: Argentina's Lionel Messi has five goals to kick-start what he hopes is a run toward a second consecutive World Cup title. France's Kylian Mbappé has four, as do Norway's Erling Haaland and Brazil's Vinicius Júnior.

Stadiums are mostly filled; FIFA is touting record attendance. And there have been some feel-good stories, most notably the tale of Cape Verde goalie Vozinha and how his mother was able to come to this World Cup.

"The best is yet to come," FIFA President Gianni Infantino told SNTV earlier this week.

In other words, the second half of this tournament — just like the second half of matches — is when things might get really good.

WHO'S IN

Through Wednesday's games, 13 teams have clinched spots in the Round of 32.

Mexico won Group A, Switzerland won Group B, Brazil won Group C, the U.S. won Group D, Germany won Group E and Argentina won Group J.

France, Norway, Canada, Morocco, Colombia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and South Africa also are assured of moving into the knockout stage.

"I know how it feels, but it's very difficult to explain how it feels," South Africa coach Hugo Broos said after his team clinched its first-ever appearance in the knockout stage. "I'm very happy for the guys."



AP Photo/Julio Cortez

Argentina's Lionel Messi, center, celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the World Cup Group J soccer match between Argentina and Austria in Arlington, Texas, near Dallas, on Monday.

WHO'S OUT

A handful of teams already know they'll be among the 16 that don't survive the group stage and reach the Round of 32.

The Czech Republic, Haiti, Turkey, Tunisia, Jordan, Qatar and Panama are certain to not advance.

STILL HOPING

With 13 teams into the knockout round and seven eliminated, that leaves 28 teams for 19 remaining spots in the Round of 32.

Some key matches left

— Australia-Paraguay is a win-and-you're-in game.

— A winner of Japan-Sweden would be assured a Round of 32 spot, as would a winner of Austria-Algeria.

— Tiny Cape Verde would be into the knockout round with a win over Saudi Arabia.

— Colombia-Portugal will decide the winner of Group K.

THE U.S. PATH

This much is clear: The only match the U.S. might play in the Eastern time zone will be the World Cup final.

The Americans will begin the Round of 32 in Santa Clara, California, on July 1. If they win, they'll go to Seattle for the Round of 16. Win that, and it'll be off to Inglewood, California, for the quarterfinals. Win that, and Arlington, Texas, will be calling for the semifinals.

The most likely opponent for

the U.S. in the Round of 32 is Bosnia and Herzegovina. After that, it would seem likely that Egypt could be waiting.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW (OR STARTING SUNDAY)

Once group play ends, the drama really begins.

It's called the knockout stage for a reason — if you don't win in this round, you're knocked out of the tournament. (The only time that won't apply is the semifinals, since the losers of those games will get sent to Miami Gardens, Florida, to decide third place.)

A team will have to win five elimination games to win the World Cup title.

SCORING IS UP

Everybody should have predicted that the record for total goals in a World Cup would get smashed in this tournament. After all, there are 104 matches in this event, compared with just 64 matches in the format that was used over the previous seven World Cups.

And the record for most goals will fall, almost certainly on Thursday or Friday. There were 172 scored at Qatar four years ago; there have been 161 goals through 54 matches so far this year.

But what is noteworthy in this tournament is that scoring per game is at its highest level in more than 50 years — 2.98 goals per match.

An average of 2.81 goals per

match were scored at Spain in 1982, 2.97 goals per match at Mexico in 1970, and 3.60 goals per match at Sweden in 1958.

That said, this year's games have been defensive battles compared to what happened in 1954 in Switzerland, when games featured a staggering 5.38 goals on average. That tournament included a game with a 7-5 final score, still the highest-scoring game in men's World Cup history.

THE PACE

By the end of Day 17 of the World Cup on Saturday, 72 matches will be done, 32 will remain. That's the day the group stage ends and the knockout stage — where every match until the semifinals is of the win-or-go-home variety — begins.

And then things slow down. A bit, anyway.

There is only one Round of 32 game on the schedule for Sunday — South Africa vs. Canada at Los Angeles. Things pick up again after that and matches are planned every day until July 8. That means the tournament will have 27 consecutive days of play before everyone gets a day off.

A REMATCH?

Argentina and France gave us an epic World Cup final in 2022. It's not outside of the realm that we get a rematch this year; the way the bracket is looking at this point (and this could easily change), they should be on opposite sides, making a collision in the final possible.

Argentina has five goals through its first two matches, and Messi — who turned 39 on Wednesday — has all five of them. Messi now has 18 goals in World Cup play, an all-time record.

When Argentina plays in the Round of 32, Messi will basically get a home game in Miami. It won't be at the stadium that he and Inter Miami call home, but it will be in Miami Gardens and in what has been his home market for the last three years since he came to MLS.

Mbappe has four goals for France so far in this tournament, giving him 16 in World Cups, tying for second-most all-time with Miroslav Klose of Germany — who held the record before this year's tournament started.