

Bulletin 3 - 24 November 2022

Morocco 0 – 0 Croatia

The third stalemate of the tournament opened up proceedings on Wednesday with 2018 runners up Croatia held to a goalless draw by an enterprising Morocco side who aren't to be underestimated and have only lost twice since the beginning of 2021. It certainly won't be the most memorable game of the tournament (or even the day) as a tame Croatia side looked to be content with a draw from the outset but plenty to build on for the Atlas Lions who are looking to progress out of the group stage for the first time since 1986.

Germany 1 – 2 Japan

The lunchtime clash provided the next big upset of the tournament with Japan overturning a one goal deficit to beat the Germans for the first time in their history. Ritsu Doan and Takuma Asano scored the comeback goals for the Samurai Blue – both are products of the Bundesliga, and both were brought on from the bench by coach Hajime Moriyasu. It was arguably Germany's game to lose, dominating possession and having twenty-five shots versus Japan's seven but defensive errors proved costly and leaves the four-time champions plenty to do if they don't want fall at the group stage for the second successive tournament.

Spain 7 – 0 Costa Rica

The biggest winning margin of the tournament so far, dwarfing England's romp against Iran earlier in the week, came in the Spaniard's opening fixture against a poor Costa Rica side, who put up little fight after falling behind early on. Amongst the plethora of goal scorers was eighteen-year-old Gavi, who became the third youngest goal scorer in World Cup history. The ideal start for La Furia Roja who are now in a commanding position in Group E despite tricky fixtures against Germany and Japan ahead. For Costa Rica it looks like an uphill struggle, surprising (or maybe not) for a side who helped England crash out at the group stage eight years ago.

Belgium 1 – 0 Canada

Rounding off the day's football was another cracking encounter, with many feeling that Belgium's so-called "Golden Generation" were lucky to walk away with any points at all – let alone all three. The Maple Leaf's put on an entertaining display as De Bruyne and Co misfired. Maybe the early penalty miss from Alfonso Davies was the Canadian's downfall as Michy Batshuayi capitalised on the break in the only goal in the game. In a confusing conclusion to the match, Kevin De Bruyne was awarded Man of the Match for what many thought was a below par display – including himself as in a post-match interview he explained he "didn't know why" he'd been handed the trophy!

Passmasters

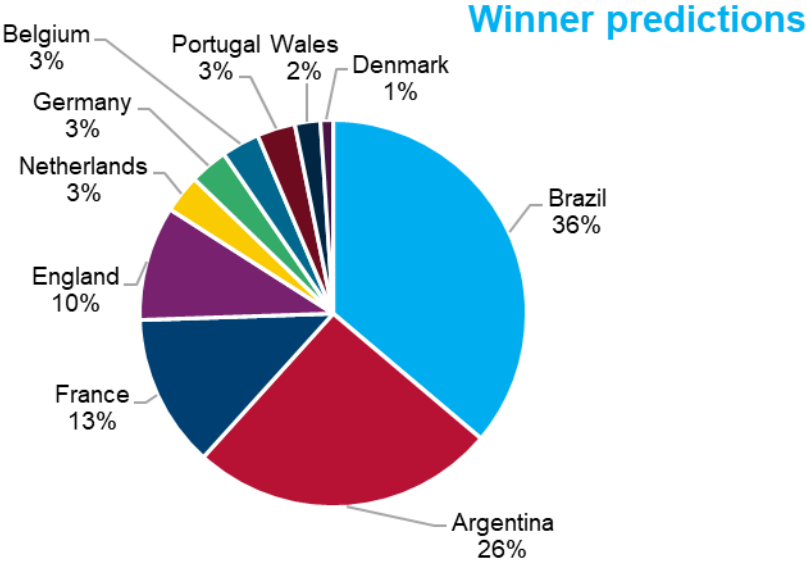
Spain looked a real threat on Wednesday albeit against a poor Costa Rican outfit, amplified by the fact they gave the ball away less times than their opposition (62-67) despite making almost five times as many passes.

A perhaps more insightful stat is that during the first half, Spain completed six more passes than Wycombe Wanderers have in League One in the entire month of November.

I'm sure one person who is absolutely chuffed with these stats is **Andrés Iniesta**, who was of course the man who scored the only goal for Spain in the 2010 World Cup Final, the answer to yesterday's question - well done to those who got it right.

It's coming home?

A quick analysis of the entries shows that Brazil are your favourites to take home the World Cup trophy in just over three weeks, with one rogue prediction for Denmark to go all the way...



Results

As promised, the group stages bring plenty of changes to the Monkey League leaderboard as **Mel Wilson** becomes the new leader. Kudos to the five players who picked up 20 points or more, including **Andrew Hall** and **Eddie Hopkin**, who both rose 35 places in the standings. Great to see we now have a three-way tie at the bottom of the table too! Still all to play for as the final eight sides get their campaigns underway today.

George Metcalf



| Ranking | Player | Points | Daily Ranking Change | Daily Points Change |
|---------|-------------------|--------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Mel Wilson | 61 | +1 | +18 |
| 2 | Mark Warnes | 54 | +11 | +20 |
| 3 | Bailey Coe | 53 | +1 | +11 |
| 3 | Emma Robinson | 53 | -2 | +8 |
| 5 | Eesha Savani | 52 | +8 | +18 |
| 6 | Jamie McLeod | 50 | +32 | +21 |
| 7 | Andrew Hall | 49 | +35 | +21 |
| 7 | Andrew Pritchard | 49 | -1 | +8 |
| 7 | Eddie Hopkin | 49 | +35 | +21 |
| 7 | Henry Tapper | 49 | +15 | +17 |
| 7 | Richard Stoddart | 49 | -5 | +6 |
| 12 | Rob Walker | 48 | -2 | +9 |
| 13 | Ashraf Mitha | 47 | -1 | +9 |
| 13 | Mara Aleixo | 47 | -9 | +5 |
| 13 | Talha Gulzar | 47 | -7 | +6 |
| 16 | Tim Jones | 46 | -10 | +5 |
| 16 | Tim Poil | 46 | -10 | +5 |
| 18 | Dan Chapman | 45 | -8 | +6 |
| 18 | Wendy Ludman | 45 | -1 | +12 |
| 20 | James Milligan | 44 | -3 | +11 |
| 21 | Dale Walmsley | 43 | -4 | +10 |
| 22 | Benjamin Robinson | 42 | +27 | +18 |
| 22 | George Bilsby | 42 | +4 | +11 |
| 22 | James Gardner | 42 | -5 | +9 |
| 22 | Oliver Nicholls | 42 | -5 | +9 |
| 22 | Olly Roper | 42 | -9 | +8 |
| 27 | Daniel Sirl | 41 | -1 | +10 |
| 27 | Richard Noutch | 41 | -1 | +10 |
| 29 | Graham Edmonds | 40 | -3 | +9 |
| 29 | Stuart Briely | 40 | -7 | +8 |
| 31 | Chas Goddard | 39 | -5 | +8 |
| 31 | Derek Allen | 39 | -18 | +5 |
| 31 | Lance Havell | 39 | -5 | +8 |
| 31 | Paul Marriott | 39 | -5 | +8 |
| 31 | Ross Bennett | 39 | -5 | +8 |
| 36 | Charlotte Adshead | 38 | +23 | +18 |
| 36 | Darren Goodall | 38 | -14 | +6 |
| 36 | Duncan Carter | 38 | +2 | +9 |
| 36 | Gary Symons | 38 | -1 | +8 |
| 36 | Josh Titley | 38 | +2 | +9 |
| 36 | Neil Kennedy | 38 | -10 | +7 |
| 42 | Chris Marson | 37 | -20 | +5 |
| 42 | Ivan Taylor | 37 | +30 | +20 |
| 44 | Luke Vickers | 36 | -2 | +8 |
| 44 | Marcus Johansson | 36 | -6 | +7 |
| 46 | Owen Adams | 35 | -11 | +5 |
| 47 | Jonathan Hugh | 33 | -1 | +6 |
| 47 | Matthew Allen | 33 | +5 | +11 |
| 47 | Tim Barlow | 33 | -5 | +5 |
| 50 | Ed Winstanley | 32 | -4 | +5 |
| 50 | Nick Saxton | 32 | +22 | +15 |
| 50 | Sharon Royston | 32 | +5 | +11 |
| 53 | Claire Herbert | 31 | -18 | +1 |
| 53 | Craig Moran | 31 | -3 | +8 |





| Ranking | Player | Points | Daily Ranking Change | Daily Points Change |
|---------|--------------------|--------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 53 | Jasper Ellis | 31 | -3 | +8 |
| 53 | Kieran Armstrong | 31 | -5 | +5 |
| 57 | George Hinkley | 30 | -5 | +8 |
| 58 | Amrita Dasgupta | 29 | -3 | +8 |
| 58 | Andy Wyatt | 29 | +1 | +9 |
| 58 | James Saxton | 29 | +6 | +10 |
| 58 | John Small | 29 | +6 | +10 |
| 58 | John Stock | 29 | -3 | +8 |
| 63 | Bex Thompson | 28 | -4 | +8 |
| 63 | Chris Williams | 28 | +1 | +9 |
| 63 | Mark Rowlinson | 28 | -11 | +6 |
| 66 | Hilary Salt | 27 | +2 | +9 |
| 66 | Michael O'Donnell | 27 | +2 | +9 |
| 68 | Charlotte White | 26 | -4 | +7 |
| 68 | Dan Jinks | 26 | - | +8 |
| 68 | George Kennedy | 26 | -9 | +6 |
| 68 | Max Mauchline | 26 | -13 | +5 |
| 68 | Usman Asif | 26 | +4 | +9 |
| 73 | Rob Young | 25 | +3 | +9 |
| 73 | Sean Delaney | 25 | +8 | +15 |
| 75 | James Allen | 24 | +1 | +8 |
| 76 | George Metcalf | 22 | +5 | +12 |
| 76 | Michael Garland | 22 | -8 | +4 |
| 76 | Peter Norman | 22 | +5 | +12 |
| 76 | Steve Higginbottom | 22 | +14 | +16 |
| 80 | Phil Mann | 21 | -8 | +4 |
| 81 | John McLeod | 18 | -3 | +4 |
| 81 | Sam Ashworth | 18 | -3 | +4 |
| 81 | Stan Hutchinson | 18 | - | +8 |
| 84 | Ian Metcalf | 17 | +7 | +12 |
| 84 | Michael Johnson | 17 | +2 | +9 |
| 86 | Larisa Wood | 16 | -27 | -4 |
| 87 | Joe Bronstein | 15 | -1 | +7 |
| 87 | Katie Sutton | 15 | +1 | +8 |
| 89 | William Rose | 14 | +3 | +12 |
| 90 | Stephen Kilgannon | 11 | -2 | +4 |
| 91 | Toni Johnson | 7 | -6 | -2 |
| 92 | Katie Morgan | 5 | +2 | +5 |
| 92 | Mike Common | 5 | +1 | +4 |
| 92 | Zoe Sadler | 5 | -12 | -6 |

