

## Bulletin 5 - 28 November 2022

### Wales 0 – 2 Iran

Group B's lunchtime kick-off looked destined to be another 0-0 affair at the end of normal time but in a World Cup where fixtures frequently spill over 100 minutes, there is plenty of room for more twists and tales. In the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium, the sudden twists were from Roozbeh Cheshmi's long-range effort and Ramin Rezaeian's delicate dink shortly after Wayne Hennessey's reckless red card challenge. With Wales now looking unlikely to advance, Rob Page will be hoping a dragon-slaying from a St George inspired-England is not the final chapter of his book as Wales manager.

### Qatar 1 – 3 Senegal

Hosts Qatar will become a guest at their own party after Friday's crushing defeat to Senegal confirmed their exit. Qatar did however have a Mohammed Muntari header to celebrate before Bamba Dieng's clinical finish sealed their fate six minutes from time. The middle-eastern state become the second host country not to qualify for the knock-out stages after South Africa in 2010.

### Netherlands 1 – 1 Ecuador

Enner Valencia added to his goal tally to equalise against a frustrated Dutch side to ensure the shares were spoiled in the Khalifa International Stadium. Cody Gakpo gave the Oranje an early lead which they failed to build upon. A draw sets up an exciting finish to Group A where the Netherlands, Ecuador and Senegal can all finish as group winners.

### England 0 – 0 USA

USA's annual Thanksgiving celebration the day before provided an opportunity for Americans to be thankful for something – the privilege to watch this fixture probably shouldn't have been on the list. Football (nor soccer) was the winner in this prime-time viewing slot as the long-term allies played out a drab draw. Chelsea's Christian Pulisic believed the USA could win, only for the crossbar to deny his powerful first-half effort in what was the closest either team came to scoring.

### Tunisia 0 – 1 Australia

Mitchell Duke's glancing header was enough to give Australia their first world cup win since 2010. The celebration was just as cute as the finish as Duke and his young son (Jaxson) in the crowd both gestured the letter J to each other – a promise made by dad if he scored. The Socceroos now stand a good chance of qualifying if they can get at least a point from their final fixture against Denmark.

### Poland 2 – 0 Saudi Arabia

Robert Lewandowski broke his world cup duck to double Poland's lead against giant killers Saudi Arabia. The experienced striker pounced on an Abdulrahman Al Malki error to calmly slot home from 12 yards – rectifying his mistake from the same distance in Poland's first game.

### France 2 – 1 Denmark

Kyllian Mbappé continues to deliver on predictions he will be a future Ballon d'Or winner with imperious displays like this one. The Danes could not contain the star

striker's pace and movement which enabled him to bag a brace around an Andreas Christensen header. Surprisingly, France become the first defending champions since Brazil in 2006 to advance to the knockout stage.

### **Argentina 2 – 0 Mexico**

Cometh the hour, cometh the goat! For a game and a half, Argentina had not lived up to expectation at this World Cup but a crucial second half which spurned two goals have kept hopes alive for La Albiceleste. A drilled shot from Lionel Messi and a curling finish from Enzo Fernandez were enough to see off Mexico, who now face an uphill struggle to qualify for the last 16 – a round which they have reached and been knocked out at in every World Cup since 1994.

### **Japan 0 – 1 Costa Rica**

After Japan's shock win against Germany, they could have sealed qualification against a bruised Costa Rica side. However, the deadlock was broken by Keysher Fuller late on who squeezed a bending shot past Japan 'keeper Shuichi Gonda to leave qualification wide open in Group D.

### **Belgium 0 – 2 Morocco**

If Belgium looked unconvincing in their narrow victory against Canada, then they were even more so against bigger underdogs Morocco. The latest instalment of surprise results at this World Cup saw Hakim Ziyech inspire a lively Morocco to a deserved victory. The Red Devils likely require a win against 2018 finalists Croatia to qualify.

### **Croatia 4 – 1 Canada**

If some Belgium stars showed their age in the other Group F encounter, some of Croatia's ageing stars seemingly turned back time to thrash the north American side. Alphonso Davies scored Canada's first World Cup goal ever after 68 seconds, but the experienced Croatians did not panic and overturned the deficit with the confidence you would expect of a side who has lost just once in their last 18 outings.

### **Spain 1 – 1 Germany**

Two European giants battled it out in the Al Bayt stadium in a pulsating match which had more riding on it than you might have expected following Germany's dismal opener. Spain's youth toyed but did not destroy their German counterparts who fought back well from a neat Alvaro Morata finish. Germany must win their final fixture against Costa Rica to avoid crashing out at the group stage for the second World Cup in succession.

## **Super subs**

There have been 67 goals scored so far at Qatar, of which 17 have been scored by substitutes (25%). Compare this with Russia 2018 when just 15 out of a total 169 (9%) were scored by substitutes during the whole tournament. Has the introduction of five permitted substitutes instead of three meant that football is more of a squad game now?

## Results

Twelve fixtures to digest means there has been plenty of movement in the results. **Andrew Pritchard** and **Dan Chapman** both occupy top spot after a strong weekend. **Zoe Sadler's** meteoric rise up the table from bottom place up to 53<sup>rd</sup> with a whopping 61 points deserves credit but it is **Steve Kilgannon** who climbed the most places (56). **Derek Allen** is enjoying a rollercoaster ride – he drops 49 places after being singled out for praise in Friday's bulletin.

### Neil Kennedy

Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
1	Andrew Pritchard	124	+5	+51
1	Dan Chapman	124	+1	+45
3	Andrew Hall	120	+5	+48
4	Mark Warnes	116	+9	+49
5	Gary Symons	111	+20	+50
6	Matthew Allen	110	+35	+55
7	James Gardner	107	-4	+29
8	Daniel Sirl	106	+5	+39
9	Richard Stoddart	105	+16	+44
10	Mara Aleixo	104	-	+34
10	Rob Walker	104	-4	+31
12	Oliver Nicholls	103	+3	+38
13	Emma Robinson	102	-9	+25
13	Nick Saxton	102	+17	+44
13	Tim Jones	102	+8	+39
16	Eddie Hopkin	100	+4	+36
16	Mel Wilson	100	-15	+6
18	Ross Bennett	99	+6	+37
19	Steve Higginbottom	98	+38	+51
19	Usman Asif	98	+33	+50
21	James Milligan	97	-10	+28
22	Talha Gulzar	96	+3	+35
23	Olly Roper	95	-8	+30
24	Jasper Ellis	94	+21	+41
25	Craig Moran	92	+8	+35
26	Bailey Coe	91	-11	+26
27	Ashraf Mitha	90	-16	+21
27	George Metcalf	90	+38	+47
27	Neil Kennedy	90	+22	+39
30	Stan Hutchinson	89	+37	+47
31	Tim Poil	88	+6	+32
32	Josh Titley	85	-2	+27
33	Luke Vickers	84	+17	+35
33	Stephen Kilgannon	84	+56	+60
35	Paul Marriott	83	+12	+31
36	Eesha Savani	82	-7	+23
36	George Bilsby	82	-21	+17
36	Jamie McLeod	82	-3	+25
36	Marcus Johansson	82	+25	+36
36	Sharon Royston	82	+1	+26

Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
36	Wendy Ludman	82	-3	+25
42	Amrita Dasgupta	81	+22	+37
42	Chas Goddard	81	-27	+16
42	Henry Tapper	81	-34	+9
42	John Small	81	-1	+26
46	Darren Goodall	80	+1	+28
46	Tim Barlow	80	-18	+20
48	Duncan Carter	79	-27	+16
49	Charlotte White	78	+1	+29
49	Chris Williams	78	+3	+30
49	Dan Jinks	78	+3	+30
49	John Stock	78	-4	+25
53	Zoe Sadler	77	+41	+61
54	Charlotte Adshead	76	-10	+22
54	Chris Marson	76	+22	+39
54	Derek Allen	76	-49	+1
57	Ed Winstanley	75	+11	+34
57	James Saxton	75	+11	+34
59	Hilary Salt	72	-2	+25
60	Jonathan Hugh	70	+5	+27
60	Lance Havell	70	-23	+14
60	Richard Nutch	70	-39	+7
63	Stuart Briely	69	-33	+11
64	George Hinkley	68	+7	+28
65	Ivan Taylor	67	-8	+20
65	Larisa Wood	67	+28	+50
67	Bex Thompson	66	+19	+37
67	Dale Walmsley	66	-30	+10
67	Max Mauchline	66	+5	+27
67	Rob Young	66	+9	+29
71	Graham Edmonds	65	+1	+26
71	Ian Metcalf	65	+21	+47
71	Katie Sutton	65	+5	+28
74	Michael Johnson	64	-2	+25
75	James Allen	63	-	+25
75	Michael Garland	63	-12	+18
75	Sean Delaney	63	-18	+16
78	Benjamin Robinson	62	-37	+7
78	Mark Rowlinson	62	+3	+28
80	George Kennedy	60	-47	+3
80	John McLeod	60	+8	+34
82	Toni Johnson	59	-	+27
83	Phil Mann	56	-31	+8
84	Claire Herbert	55	-8	+18
85	Joe Bronstein	54	+2	+27
85	Katie Morgan	54	-	+24
85	William Rose	54	+4	+30
88	Mike Common	53	+1	+29
88	Peter Norman	53	-36	+5



Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
90	Owen Adams	51	-29	+5
91	Sam Ashworth	46	-11	+11
92	Kieran Armstrong	41	-9	+10
93	Andy Wyatt	34	-25	-7
94	Michael O'Donnell	16	-11	-15