

Bulletin 12 – 7 December 2022

Morocco 0 – 0 Spain (0 – 0 AET, Morocco win on penalties)

Morocco continue to defy odds in Qatar and progress to the quarter finals thanks to some penalty heroics from 'keeper Yassine Bounou (Bono). Before all that, the game played out as expected to an extent - Spain dominated possession with Morocco's best chance to score being on the counter. Many would have thought Spain's controlling style would yield some goalscoring opportunities, but it rarely did. Didn't Gary Neville say he was worried about Spain's frontline?

It wasn't all down to Spain's lack of ruthlessness in front of goal though, Morocco's defence was strong and resolute. The Atlas Lions were dealt the home dressing room and the stadium itself sounded like it was in the middle of Marrakesh's Medina – a cauldron of noise.

After Spain's Pablo Sarabia's volley hit the post in the 123rd minute, the match was set for penalties. Luis Enrique instructed his side to practice over 1,000 penalties in training but their practice did not pay off as they failed to convert one in the shootout. Abdelhamid Sabiri, Hakim Ziyech and Madrid-born Achraf Hakimi all coolly converted, the latter using the high-risk high reward 'Panenka' method to do so.

Portugal 6 – 1 Switzerland

Portugal's starting line-up had one glaring omission – Manchester City's Joao Cancelo. Oh, and Cristiano Ronaldo too. Was Ronaldo's replacement up to the task of firing Portugal into the quarters? You bet, and it didn't take him long. Benfica striker Goncalo Ramos scored the tournament's first hat-trick in emphatic style with three very different goals. The first after 17 minutes was a left-foot piledriver into the roof of the net, the second was a typical poacher's finish at the near post and the third was a delicate chip over Jan Sommer.

Ramos's goals were amongst some beautifully crafted team goals that only their Portuguese-speaking counterparts Brazil could match the night before. At times like this, Switzerland may wish they had an army to battle this onslaught. Maths genius Manuel Akanji did manage to score a consolation, but even he may have had difficulty adding up the scores at full-time.

Tiki-taka but goals-lacka

Tiki-taka football stills reigns in Spain but is it ineffective now? After La Furia Roja's 7-0 thrashing of Costa Rica, Spain scored just two goals from a mammoth 3,480 touches. It also means that Spain have failed to win a single World Cup knock-out game since their victory in 2010.

Goals galore for everyone else

The round of 16 in Qatar has produced 28 goals, which is the most scored at this stage since it was re-introduced in 1986.

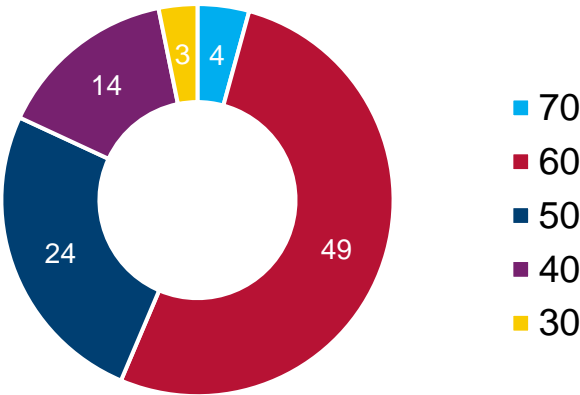
Results

With little movement since yesterday, **Matthew Allen** retains top spot.

69% and 0% of players predicted Portugal and Morocco would advance to the quarters – I'll let you decide which figure corresponds to each country.

In terms of the total points for predicting the quarter-finalists, just 4 players correctly predicted 7 teams would qualify (**Bailey Coe, Jonathan Hugh, Mike Common** and **Sean Delaney**). More than half of everyone correctly predicted 6 teams would qualify.

Quarter-finalist points totals



Neil Kennedy

Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
1	Matthew Allen	306	-	+10
2	Oliver Nicholls	291	-	+10
3	Gary Symons	288	-	+10
4	James Gardner	285	-	+10
5	Andrew Pritchard	284	-	+10
6	Dan Jinks	278	-	+10
7	Mark Warnes	277	-	+10
8	Andrew Hall	275	-	+10
8	Tim Jones	275	-	+10
10	Craig Moran	274	-	+10
11	Steve Higginbottom	273	-	+10
12	Mara Aleixo	271	-	+10
13	Neil Kennedy	268	-	+10
14	Talha Gulzar	266	+1	+10
15	Bailey Coe	265	+1	+10
16	Mel Wilson	263	+3	+10
17	Emma Robinson	261	+4	+10
18	Daniel Sirl	260	+4	+10
19	Dan Chapman	258	+4	+10
19	Rob Walker	258	+4	+10
19	Usman Asif	258	+4	+10
22	Ashraf Mitha	257	-8	-
22	John Stock	257	+4	+10
24	Ross Bennett	255	+4	+10
25	James Milligan	254	-8	-
25	Larisa Wood	254	-8	-
27	Luke Vickers	253	-8	-
28	John Small	251	+3	+10
29	Olly Roper	250	+3	+10
30	Sharon Royston	249	+3	+10
31	Stephen Kilgannon	248	+4	+10
32	George Kennedy	247	+4	+10
33	Ed Winstanley	246	-6	-
34	Amrita Dasgupta	244	-5	-
35	Duncan Carter	243	+3	+10
35	Stan Hutchinson	243	-5	-
35	Wendy Ludman	243	+3	+10
38	Eesha Savani	242	+2	+10
39	Jasper Ellis	239	+2	+10
39	John McLeod	239	-6	-
39	Nick Saxton	239	+2	+10
42	Josh Titley	237	-6	-
42	Tim Poil	237	+1	+10
44	James Saxton	235	-	+10
44	Paul Marriott	235	-	+10
46	Peter Norman	234	+1	+10
46	Sean Delaney	234	+1	+10
48	Michael Johnson	233	+1	+10
49	Charlotte White	232	+1	+10



Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
50	Richard Stoddart	231	+1	+10
51	Chris Williams	230	+1	+10
52	Eddie Hopkin	228	+1	+10
53	Marcus Johansson	227	+2	+10
54	Darren Goodall	225	-10	-
55	Jonathan Hugh	224	+3	+10
55	Sam Ashworth	224	+3	+10
57	Katie Sutton	222	+4	+10
58	George Bilsby	220	+5	+10
58	Stuart Briely	220	+5	+10
58	Toni Johnson	220	+5	+10
61	Charlotte Adshead	218	+6	+10
61	Ian Metcalf	218	-8	-
63	Mark Rowlinson	216	-7	-
64	George Hinkley	215	+4	+10
64	George Metcalf	215	-7	-
66	Tim Barlow	214	+3	+10
67	Chris Marson	213	-7	-
68	Derek Allen	212	-7	-
68	William Rose	212	+2	+10
70	Jamie McLeod	210	-7	-
71	Joe Bronstein	208	-	+10
72	Katie Morgan	207	+1	+10
73	Max Mauchline	205	+2	+10
74	Bex Thompson	204	+2	+10
74	James Allen	204	+2	+10
76	Phil Mann	201	+2	+10
77	Mike Common	199	+3	+10
77	Richard Noutch	199	+3	+10
79	Henry Tapper	198	-8	-
79	Ivan Taylor	198	+4	+10
81	Michael Garland	196	-7	-
82	Graham Edmonds	195	+2	+10
83	Chas Goddard	190	-4	-
84	Hilary Salt	189	-4	-
84	Rob Young	189	+2	+10
86	Zoe Sadler	181	-1	-
87	Benjamin Robinson	177	-	-
88	Lance Havell	172	-	-
88	Owen Adams	172	-	-
90	Dale Walmsley	167	-	-
91	Claire Herbert	166	-	-
92	Kieran Armstrong	165	-	-
93	Andy Wyatt	137	-	-
94	Michael O'Donnell	112	-	-

