

Bulletin 13 – 12 December 2022

Croatia 1 – 1 Brazil AET (P 4 – 2)

The first quarter-final saw a shock exit for the tournament favourites Brazil who were dumped out of the competition on penalties (4-2) against Croatia after their quarter-final clash ended 1-1. The Selecao's European World Cup curse continues – since winning the tournament in 2002, they've lost all six knockout stage encounters against European sides. A brilliant goal by Neymar in the 106th minute looked to be sending Brazil through to the semi-final, only for Croatia to level in the 117th minute via Bruno Petkovic who scored with Croatia's only shot on target in the match. In the shoot-out, Croatian keeper Dominik Livakovic saved Rodrygo's spot-kick before Marquinhos' penalty hit the post to send the Brazilian's crashing out of the tournament and Croatia through to their second consecutive World Cup semi-final.

Netherlands 2 – 2 Argentina AET (P 3 – 4)

In what turned out to be the most carded match in World Cup history (15 players), Argentina managed to sneak through against the Netherlands on penalties despite their own best efforts, having surrendered a 2-0 lead late in the second half. Lionel Messi proved to be the difference maker up until that point, setting up Molina's first-half goal with a needled through ball, then doubling Argentina's with a 73rd minute penalty. 83rd and 101st minute goals from Netherlands substitute Wout Weghorst, who is likely the only player in history to score 2 world-cup quarter final goals despite not being good enough to play for Burnley, took the game into extra-time and then penalties. Two brilliant Emi Martinez penalty saves ensured the South American side progressed through to the next round, setting up a Croatia – Argentina semi-final.

Morocco 1 – 0 Portugal

Morocco made history by becoming the first African side in history to reach a World Cup semi-final. A 42nd minute opener from Youseff En-Nesyri turned out to be the decider, as a Moroccan masterclass in defending ensured the European side were unable to find the back of the net. While it was all celebrations for the African side, Ronaldo's World Cup fairy-tale couldn't have ended much worse – eliminated by the lowest ranked team in the competition, on the bench for the majority of his final two games, with the globe's final World Cup memory of the great Cristiano Ronaldo being him walking down the tunnel with tears streaming down his face. Brutal.

England 1 – 2 France

The long wait for football to come home continues as England, despite playing the best football they've played all tournament, were unable to overcome the 12-men French team (11 if we're not including the referee). France took the lead early in the first half courtesy of a long-range strike from Tchouameni, a goal which arguably shouldn't have stood due to the foul on Bukayo Saka at the other end of the pitch. A 54th minute Harry Kane penalty levelled the game before a close-range Olivier Giroud header in the 78th minute restored the French lead. A foul on Mason Mount in the 82nd minute awarded England a penalty, a chance to level the game. The stage was set for captain Harry Kane, England's best penalty taker, with the opportunity to not only overtake Wayne Rooney as England's all-time leading goal-scorer, but to give England the chance to progress through to the World Cup semi-final. He steps up, places the ball down, steps back, and he sends the ball out of the roof of the stadium, crushing the dreams of England fans and players alike, and the French go through. Morocco – France semi-final. Hooray.

Counting cards

Before the turn of the century, the highest number of cards dealt during a World Cup clash was a poultry nine, just half of what were shown in Friday evenings quarter final. In the last two decades however, referees have become seemingly keen to caution and dismiss both players and coaching staff with the Dutch also involved in a couple of other booking frenzies, firstly versus Portugal back in 2006 but again four years later in the World Cup final against Spain, on both occasions ending up on the losing side.

Results

Matthew Allen still out in front with four fixtures left in the tournament, the six players behind him also matching th leader in terms of points over the quarter finals.

90 players still have at least 1 team left in the competition (unlucky **James Milligan, Charlotte White, Toni Johnson** and **Andy Wyatt**) but no one managed to pick more than two sides to make the last four.

With most backed Brazil now out of the competition, will we see some some last minute movements in the table?

Rob Walker

Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
1	Matthew Allen	346	-	+40
2	Oliver Nicholls	331	-	+40
3	Gary Symons	328	-	+40
4	James Gardner	325	-	+40
5	Andrew Pritchard	324	-	+40
6	Dan Jinks	318	-	+40
7	Mark Warnes	317	-	+40
8	Steve Higginbottom	313	+3	+40
9	Neil Kennedy	308	+4	+40
10	Bailey Coe	305	+5	+40
11	Emma Robinson	301	+6	+40
12	Daniel Sirl	300	+6	+40
13	Rob Walker	298	+6	+40
13	Usman Asif	298	+6	+40
15	Ashraf Mitha	297	+7	+40
16	Andrew Hall	295	-8	+20
16	Tim Jones	295	-8	+20
18	Craig Moran	294	-8	+20
19	John Small	291	+9	+40
19	Mara Aleixo	291	-7	+20
21	Olly Roper	290	+8	+40
22	Stephen Kilgannon	288	+9	+40
23	Ed Winstanley	286	+10	+40
23	Talha Gulzar	286	-9	+20
25	Amrita Dasgupta	284	+9	+40
26	Duncan Carter	283	+9	+40
26	Mel Wilson	283	-10	+20
26	Stan Hutchinson	283	+9	+40



Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
29	Jasper Ellis	279	+10	+40
29	John McLeod	279	+10	+40
31	Dan Chapman	278	-12	+20
32	John Stock	277	-10	+20
32	Tim Poil	277	+10	+40
34	James Saxton	275	+10	+40
34	Paul Marriott	275	+10	+40
34	Ross Bennett	275	-10	+20
37	Larisa Wood	274	-12	+20
38	Luke Vickers	273	-11	+20
38	Michael Johnson	273	+10	+40
40	Richard Stoddart	271	+10	+40
41	Chris Williams	270	+10	+40
42	Sharon Royston	269	-12	+20
43	Eddie Hopkin	268	+9	+40
44	George Kennedy	267	-12	+20
44	Marcus Johansson	267	+9	+40
46	Darren Goodall	265	+8	+40
47	Jonathan Hugh	264	+8	+40
48	Wendy Ludman	263	-13	+20
49	Eesha Savani	262	-11	+20
49	Katie Sutton	262	+8	+40
51	George Bilsby	260	+7	+40
52	Nick Saxton	259	-13	+20
53	Charlotte Adshead	258	+8	+40
53	Ian Metcalf	258	+8	+40
55	Josh Titley	257	-13	+20
56	Mark Rowlinson	256	+7	+40
57	George Hinkley	255	+7	+40
57	George Metcalf	255	+7	+40
59	James Milligan	254	-34	-
59	Peter Norman	254	-13	+20
59	Sean Delaney	254	-13	+20
59	Tim Barlow	254	+7	+40
63	Chris Marson	253	+4	+40
64	Derek Allen	252	+4	+40
64	William Rose	252	+4	+40
66	Jamie McLeod	250	+4	+40
67	James Allen	244	+7	+40
67	Sam Ashworth	244	-12	+20
69	Stuart Briely	240	-11	+20
70	Mike Common	239	+7	+40
70	Richard Noutch	239	+7	+40
72	Ivan Taylor	238	+7	+40
73	Graham Edmonds	235	+9	+40
74	Charlotte White	232	-25	-
75	Rob Young	229	+9	+40
76	Joe Bronstein	228	-5	+20
77	Katie Morgan	227	-5	+20
78	Max Mauchline	225	-5	+20





Ranking	Player	Points	Daily Ranking Change	Daily Points Change
79	Bex Thompson	224	-5	+20
80	Phil Mann	221	-4	+20
81	Toni Johnson	220	-23	-
82	Henry Tapper	218	-3	+20
83	Michael Garland	216	-2	+20
84	Chas Goddard	210	-1	+20
85	Hilary Salt	209	-1	+20
86	Dale Walmsley	207	+4	+40
87	Zoe Sadler	201	-1	+20
88	Benjamin Robinson	197	-1	+20
89	Lance Havell	192	-1	+20
89	Owen Adams	192	-1	+20
91	Claire Herbert	186	-	+20
92	Kieran Armstrong	185	-	+20
93	Michael O'Donnell	152	+1	+40
94	Andy Wyatt	137	-1	-

