



Match Report

Star Suarez left in tears as Uruguay, Ghana both exit

Suarez finished the match on the bench in tears as the news came in of South Korea’s last-gasp victory over Portugal

AFP
Doha

Uruguay crashed out of the World Cup yesterday despite beating Ghana 2-0 after South Korea scored a late winner in the other Group H match to leapfrog the South American side.

Georgian De Arrascaeta netted twice in quick succession in the first half, with 35-year-old Luis Suarez having a hand in both goals.

However, Suarez finished the match on the bench in tears as the news came in of South Korea’s last-gasp victory over Portugal, which meant the Asian side had moved above the Uruguayans into second place in Group H on goals scored.

Veteran striker Suarez had been at the centre of the pre-match build-up because of his infamous handball in the 2010 quarter-finals, which helped eliminate Ghana.

His name was booed loudly by the Ghana fans when it was read out by the stadium announcers and he got the same treatment every time he touched the ball.

He was also leading the protests when Ghana were awarded a penalty in the 19th minute.

Mohamed Kudus had initially been ruled offside when he was brought down by Uruguay goalkeeper Sergio Rochet but after that decision was overturned referee Daniel Siebert gave the spot-kick after checking the pitchside monitor.

But Andre Ayew’s tame effort was easily saved by Rochet and

with Ghana’s fans silent in disbelief, Uruguay made them pay.

Darwin Nunez was denied by Mohamed Salisu’s brilliant goal-line clearance but in the 26th minute De Arrascaeta nodded in from close range after brilliant work from Suarez.

Collecting a poor cross from the right which evaded two Ghana defenders, Suarez cut inside Alidu Seidu and hit a powerful low shot that squirmed through Lawrence Ati Zigi’s hands. It was edging towards the goal when De Arrascaeta pounced.

Six minutes later Uruguay gave Ghana a mountain to climb when Arrascaeta hit a sublime volley at the end of superb team move, Suarez providing a first-time assist from Nunez’s knockdown.

Ghana were let off the hook by Siebert just before the hour mark when he ruled that Daniel Amartey had touched the ball while tackling Nunez in the area.

That decision would turn out to be crucial as another goal would have put Uruguay through.

Suarez was booed and cheered in equal measure by the crowd when he was substituted for Edinson Cavani in the 66th minute.

Ghana struggled to create anything in response. The closest they came to pulling a goal back came with nine minutes remaining, when Rochet brilliantly tipped away Kudus’s powerful low drive.

Uruguay then realised they needed another goal and poured forward but were unable to find make the breakthrough.

The match ended with pushing and shoving, with Suarez distraught at his team’s fate.

Match Stats	
	
GHANA	URUGUAY
10	12
4	7
7	8
5	2
4	4
50.5%	49.5%
2	2
18	11
2	5
0	0

Ghana centre-back Daniel Amartey yesterday admitted that his team were determined that if they could not qualify for the World Cup knockout stage, they would at least prevent Uruguay from doing so.

The bad blood between the two nations dates back 12 years to the infamous Suarez handball that prevented a certain goal for Ghana but helped Uruguay go through to the World Cup semi-finals in South Africa.

Suarez was sent off but Asamoah Gyan missed the subsequent penalty and Uruguay triumphed in the shoot-out.

Ghana were thus prevented from becoming the first African side to reach a World Cup semi-final.

And in a drama-filled Group H clash in Qatar yesterday, Uruguay triumphed 2-0 but both sides were eliminated due to South Korea’s 2-1 win over Portugal.



Uruguay's Luis Suarez looks dejected after his team was eliminated from the World Cup in Doha yesterday. (Reuters)

Late in the game, with Ghana chasing two goals to go through, Uruguay also realised they needed another one, creating a frantic end-to-end final 20 minutes.

“I just told my teammates that we need a goal now but they need a goal now so we have to defend for ourselves so that if we can’t

against five or three against two but we managed to defend.” Amartey denied the Ghanaians had revenge on their minds for what happened in 2010, pointing out that no-one in the current squad, except captain Andre Ayew, was even at the South Africa World Cup. And he admitted

the team did have some regrets after Ayew missed a penalty minutes before Uruguay opened the scoring in the first half.

“It’s football, it happens. If we score that penalty I think we kill them but we miss the penalty and you can see the game changed,” he said.

Preview

Dutch can overcome strong US threat, says coach Van Gaal

Reuters
Doha

Netherlands will not underestimate the United States when they meet in the World Cup last 16 this weekend, manager Louis van Gaal told a media conference yesterday that had almost as many questions about his future as it did about the knockout clash.

Van Gaal described today’s opponents as very strong, while reporters from neighbouring Belgium made overtures for the combative coach to take over their national team after Roberto Martinez stepped down following Belgium’s exit on Thursday.

“You’ve got to convince my wife,” he told the Belgians, which prompted a follow-up question from an African reporter about whether or not he would be prepared to move there.

“I don’t think so but you’ve got to keep your options open,” Van Gaal joked, before getting back to the business in hand.

“The USA has demonstrated that it has an excellent team, I would even say one of the best teams, a team that is fine-tuned (but) it’s nothing we can’t overcome,” Van Gaal added ahead of the game at the Khalifa International Stadium.

“The USA that is a very energetic squad, they have physically strong players and that is tough for any opponent, and you can tell from their results, but we will do everything we can to win and to beat USA, that’s it.”

The Dutch made it through by winning Group A with Senegal joining them in the last 16 as runners-up, but Van Gaal’s side have failed to impress so far, with the exception of forward Cody Gakpo, who netted three goals in their three group games.



Netherlands' Frenkie de Jong, Cody Gakpo, Nathan Ake, Tyrell Malacia, Xavi Simons and Wout Weghorst during training in Doha yesterday. (Reuters)

As the Netherlands coach has done throughout the tournament, Van Gaal rejected criticism of his side’s performances.

“In principle I would say that we started off with a squad with lots of people who were not match fit, they’ve all been given the opportunity to play and we went through the group stage quite smoothly,” he said.

Striker Memphis Depay, who netted 12 goals in qualifying for the Dutch, has said his recent injury problems are behind him and that he would prefer to play alongside Steven Bergwijn with Gakpo as the playmaker, but Van Gaal quickly shot that down.

“These things happen, that players ventilate their views, but whether it’s sensible or not, that’s another issue.

“Everybody has their own opinion, particularly in the

Netherlands,” the 71-year-old said. The winners of today’s game will advance to a quarter-final meeting with either Argentina or Australia on Dec. 9.

US coach Gregg Berhalter said Christian Pulisic was on track to return for today’s last 16 tie after sustaining a pelvic injury during Tuesday’s nerve-shredding 1-0 win over Iran in their final Group B match.

Chelsea forward Pulisic scored the goal that secured the Americans’ passage to the knockout round but clattered into Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand in the process and was forced off at half-time.

“It looks pretty good, but we’ll have to see him today on the pitch to get confirmation of that,” Berhalter said.

Pulisic said he was feeling better and hoped to recover in time to face the Netherlands.

**USA vs Netherlands**

When: Today, 10pm
Where: Khalifa International Stadium, Doha
Capacity: 45,857

Key stats:

- ◆ The Netherlands have been World Cup runners-up three times - in 1974, 1978 and 2010 - but have yet to win it.
- ◆ The Dutch secured a spot in the Round of 16 by finishing top of Group A, beating African champions Senegal 2-0, hosts Qatar 2-0 and drawing 1-1 draw Ecuador.
- ◆ The Dutch are unbeaten in their last 18 games after their elimination at Euro 2020.
- ◆ Cody Gakpo has three goals in three games for the Dutch.
- ◆ The United States reached the knockout stage by finishing second behind England in Group B, beating Iran and drawing with England and Wales.
- ◆ The United States are returning to the World Cup after failing to qualify for Russia 2018.
- ◆ DeAndre Yedlin is the only player in the US squad with any World Cup experience.

Previous meetings: US and the Dutch have met 5 times with the latter winning 4. The Americans won their last meeting in 2015.

Focus

Berhalter hoping to draw on Dutch lessons in last 16 tie

Reuters
Al Rayyan

United States coach Gregg Berhalter said he will look to draw on the lessons he learnt in the Netherlands during his playing career when the two teams face off today for a place in the World Cup quarter-finals.

Former American international Berhalter signed his first professional contract with Dutch side PEC Zwolle and also played for Sparta Rotterdam and Cambuur Leeuwarden during an 18-year playing career.

The US, who have not reached the quarter-finals since 2002, will be underdogs against three-times finalists Netherlands but will fancy their chances against a Dutch team that stuttered through the group stage.

“I learnt so much in Holland,” Berhalter old reporters yesterday. “It’s almost like, what concepts haven’t I taken from Dutch football? It was a great experience being there.

“After every training session

and every game, you have a debate with your players about it. People love to discuss soccer and you really learn a lot. And it was a great time for me.

“If I wasn’t in Holland, I don’t think I would have had that background that really helped shape my ideas.”

Berhalter is not the only person in the American camp with Dutch experience. Right back Sergino Dest was born to a Dutch mother and Surinamese-American father in Almere, Netherlands and grew up in Holland.

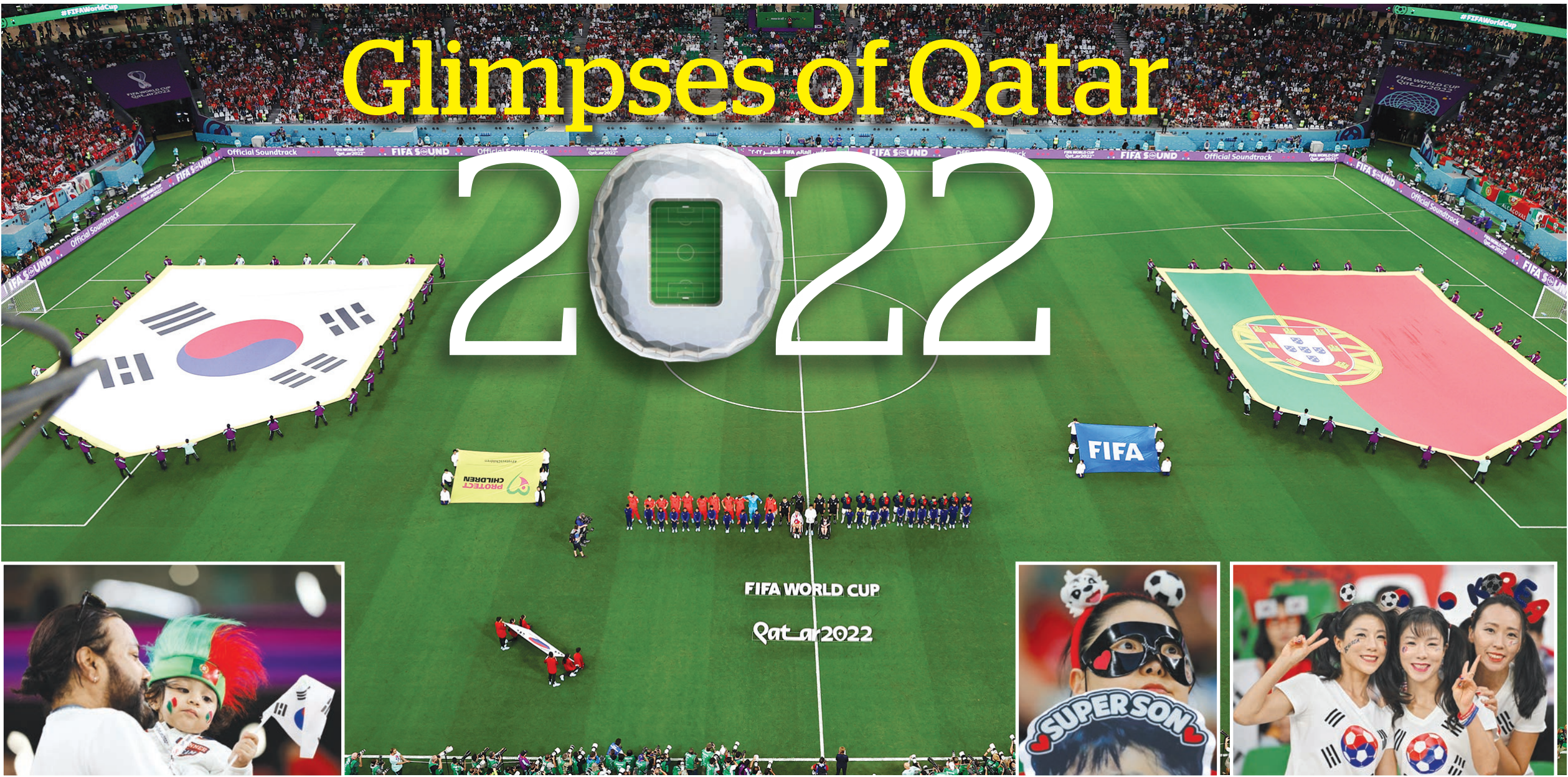
Dest, currently at AC Milan on loan from Barcelona, rose to prominence with Dutch giants Ajax and was eligible to represent both US and the Netherlands at international level.

“When you’re at a club like Ajax, there’s a lot of attention on you, especially as a young player. It’s a very good club to develop players and he did really well there,” Berhalter said.

“He has been fantastic for us this camp. I’m really happy for him and hopefully he has a great game tomorrow.”



USA's players take part in a training session at Al Gharafa Stadium in Doha on the eve of the Qatar 2022 World Cup match against the Netherlands. (AFP)





QATAR



FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022

Gulf Times
Saturday, December 3, 2022

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SPORT





Spotlight

Canada head home with lessons learned

‘I think for all of us we need to take a deep breath and enjoy what we have experienced here and ask the hard questions because that is part of growth...’

Reuters
Doha

Back at the World Cup for the first time in 36 years, Canada came to Qatar with high expectations and a bit of swagger but stumbled out of the tournament on Thursday after a third straight loss and head home licking their wounds.

Coach John Herdman praised his men for their fearlessness and attacking style but after Thursday's 2-1 defeat by Morocco the end result was the same as in Canada's only other World Cup appearance in 1986 — three losses.

Canada arrived in Doha with a long to-do list and to prove they belong among the top soccer nations.

Reaching the round of 16 was a bridge too far however and so was a first win — the highlight of their tournament being the country's first ever goal in a men's World Cup from Alphonso Davies in a 4-1 shellacking by Croatia.

But it was in the hard lessons learned on and off the pitch that Canada can find some value as the country looks ahead to co-hosting the 2026 World Cup with the United States and Mexico.

"I think there's been some big moments," said Herdman.

"As a football country we can definitely be proud of the performances.

"We always said the world level is the next level and I don't think we were far off tonight...from getting our first result.

"I think for all of us we need to take a

deep breath and enjoy what we have experienced here and ask the hard questions because that is part of growth as we move through to 2026.

"This isn't Canada walking away with our heads down, we can keep our heads up."

MASSIVE STEP UP

After finishing top of CONCACAF qualifying ahead of regional powerhouses the United States and Mexico, Canada discovered there is a massive step up in class and quality at a World Cup.

At times Canada, while playing with boundless energy, appeared overwhelmed on the pitch and off it, fumbling routine tasks like showing up on time for news conferences.

Herdman was also tripped up by his own words, claiming after the 1-0 loss to Belgium that Canada was going to defeat Croatia. A few days later Croatia provided Herdman with their response, a 4-1 thrashing.

Canada produced another exuberant performance against Morocco but again could not deliver the result they came for.

"When you talk about that opportunity to grow through a tournament that's part of it," said Herdman.

"This is the first time we have been here in 36 years.

"We've enjoyed the ride. Our players turned up here to compete and we showed that we've been fearless over each of the three games.

"We're a young team, we're developing, we're here for the first time in a long time. It's been a hell of an experience."



Canada's English coach John Herdman watches his players from the touchline during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group F match against Morocco at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha on Thursday. (AFP)

Opinion



Griezmann says Euro exit memories still fresh ahead of clash with Poland

France are back in the last 16 of a major tournament after reaching that stage at last year's European Championship and memories of their shock elimination by Switzerland will still be fresh when they take on Poland at the World Cup tomorrow.

Les Bleus were 3-1 up against the Swiss but conceded two goals in the last 10 minutes before going out on penalties.

"I think we were too relaxed against Switzerland," attacking midfielder Antoine Griezmann told a news conference yesterday. "When we were 3-1 up we thought it was over. In big competitions you realise that there are no easy opponents, it's going to be the same against Poland. Nothing is guaranteed, we will need to be focused from the first to the last second. "We have to bear in mind that nothing can be taken for granted."

France's forward Antoine Griezmann (right) during a training session at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, yesterday. (AFP)

Poland have two major assets — striker Robert Lewandowski, and goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, who has already stopped two penalties in three games here. The best way not to test Szczesny from the spot would be to seal qualification within regulation time. "We're going to do everything to avoid going to penalties," said defender William Saliba. "We however have to work on that during training."

France have not been awarded a penalty at this World Cup yet and Griezmann would not say who would be taking them should the opportunity present itself at the Al Thumama stadium. "Who takes penalties is very clear for us. But I will not give Szczesny any info, he's already good enough. Let's keep it a surprise," said Griezmann.

"We're going to work on this today, or more likely tomorrow because today's training session is open to the media," he added with a smile. The winner of the France versus Poland clash will face either England or Senegal in the quarter-finals.

Tunisia striker Khazri announces retirement from national team

Reuters
Tunis

Tunisia striker Wahbi Khazri announced his retirement from international soccer after the national side were eliminated at the group stage of the World Cup in Qatar.

Khazri scored to give Tunisia a 1-0 win over holders France on Wednesday, joining Saudi duo Salem al-Dawsari and Sami al-Jaber as the all-time leading Arab scorers at World Cups with three goals each.

"After the Tunisia match, and in a meeting that included all the players and the technical and administrative staff, I told everyone that this moment is appropriate, and I thanked everyone and wished them success," Khazri told Bein Sports French. "I am proud of what I gave my country over the past years, and I believe that the future for this generation is bright."

The 31-year-old Montpellier striker said: "To beat France, to score and be decisive, that is more beautiful." Tunisia began their World Cup campaign with a goalless draw against Denmark, then



Tunisia's Wahbi Khazri celebrates scoring their first goal during the match against France at the Education National Stadium in Al Rayyan, on Wednesday.

lost 1-0 to Australia.

The win against France was not enough to save Tunisia as Australia beat Denmark to book their place in the last 16 where they will meet Argentina. Khazri, who was born in France and played one game for the French national side in 2012, switched to play for Tunisia and won 74 international matches with them, scoring 25 goals along the way.

Focus

Over the line? Japan goal adds fuel to VAR debate

Reuters
Doha

England's fiercely disputed third goal in the 1966 World Cup final was often cited as the kind of incident that VAR would erase from the game forever but Japan's victory over Spain on Thursday triggered a new "was it over the line?" debate.

Kaoru Mitoma's cutback for Ao Tanaka to give Japan a 2-1 lead was initially adjudged by the referee to have been from outside the field of play but the official reversed his decision after a lengthy VAR consultation.

TV and still pictures immediately swamped the Internet apparently showing clear green grass between the ball and the line before winger Mitoma was able to play it back to his teammate. Retired Spanish referee Iturrealde Gonzalez, however, said such incidents were not always clear to the naked eye and expressed his full confidence in

FIFA's technology.

"It is a matter of perspective, making the images very tricky. The perspective that is clear is from above, and the belly of the ball is very big," he said.

"If there's a little of it inside the pitch, it's in play. Everyone can take and use the photo they want, it doesn't matter, but the ball didn't go out."

While the laws require part of the ball to be on the line to remain in play, that does not mean it has to be touching the ground as the curvature of the ball overhanging the white stripe also counts. As with Geoff Hurst's strike at Wembley 56 years ago, the country which the decision impacted most was Germany, who would have progressed to the last 16 if the Japan-Spain match had finished as a 1-1 draw but instead went home.

FIFA, who declined to comment on the incident yesterday, have invested heavily in VAR technology since introducing it at the World Cup four years ago in Russia.

The match ball now contains a chip that transmits data to the VAR operations room 500 times a second, while 12 cameras in each stadium track 29 points on the body of each player.

A simulation of offside decisions is later displayed in the stadium and to TV viewers but, unlike in the English Premier League, fans cannot see the images the VAR officials are considering or hear their deliberations. Former Scotland midfielder Graeme Souness said FIFA needed to be more transparent over VAR decisions. "There are 80mn Germans right now going mad, waiting for a picture that shows that ball didn't go out of play," he told ITV.

"Why would you create confusion and not want to clear it up immediately?"

MARGINAL CALLS

While most will accept the evidence when and if it is produced, others are concerned about how VAR is being used at this World Cup to overturn marginal calls made by referees over

incidents technology was not previously involved in.

Two of the highest-profile penalties at the tournament, involving Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Argentina's Leo Messi, were highly debatable calls, one initially given and one waved away by the referee.

Robert Wurtz, considered by many to be the best Frenchman ever to have wielded a whistle, said FIFA risked fatally undermining match officials.

"When I have to decide on a penalty in the fifth minute and I say 'It's a penalty', and then VAR tells me 'No it's not a penalty', then my authority is gone," the 80-year-old told L'Alsace newspaper.

"So how can I have the respect of the players for the remaining 85 minutes?"

That is all the more a possibility when decisions are highly technical and subjective, such as ruling on whether a defender made a "deliberate play" at the ball and therefore played an opponent onside or not.



Japan's forward Kaoru Mitoma (left) crosses the ball for his team's second goal during the World Cup Group E match against Spain at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha on Thursday. (AFP)



Match Report

Hwang the hero as South Korea reach Round of 16

‘I believe these tears are tears of happiness. We waited really long for this moment and we believed we could do this’

By Rizwan Rehmat
Doha

There were tears of joy at Education City Stadium for South Korean players and fans while there were tears of dejection at Al Janoub Stadium among the Uruguay supporters and team players.

An injury-time goal by Hwang Hee-chan last night helped South Korea to a stunning 2-1 win over Portugal in the last group stage match of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The late goal by the Wolverhampton Wanderers' forward was enough to push out Uruguay who beat Ghana yesterday 2-0 in the other Group H clash as the South Americans fell short in their bid to reach the Round of 16.

Luis Suarez sobbed uncontrollably at Al Janoub Stadium whereas South Korea skipper Son Heungmin had tears of joy as his team reached the Round of 16 in the most dramatic of finishes.

"I believe these tears are tears of happiness," he said. "We waited really long for this moment and we as players believed altogether we could do this."

"There were moments when I wasn't able to do my best and I am thankful for my teammates that they were able to cover me in the moments I wasn't able to fulfil my duties, and I'm very proud of them."

Already-qualified Portugal, the 2016 Euro champions, finished top of the group with 6 points with Cristiano Ronaldo starting the game yesterday despite a big concern over his injury. South Korea and Uruguay ended with 4 points each but the



South Korea players celebrate at the Education City Stadium after qualifying for the knockout stages yesterday. (Reuters)

Asians went ahead by virtue of scoring more goals in the three matches of the group stage.

Seconds before the first goal of the match, a fan seated behind banned Paulo Bento, remonstrated with the Portuguese coach for blocking his view. Bento, who picked up a red card during his team's match against Uruguay for a verbal spat against the referee, could barely restrain himself while arguing with the fan.

South Korea's Son Heung-min celebrates after winning their Group H match against Portugal yesterday. (Reuters)

Ricardo Horta scored for Portugal in the 5th minute in what was the first genuine attempt at goal. Horta charged into the box with a defender in tow but he wasted little time in deflecting from close range to the right of the outstretched hand of keeper Kim Seunggyu.

Pepe found Diogo Dalot with a long ball from the Portuguese half line. Dalot picked up the cross and went far to the edge of the Korean box. Dalot found Horta with a low shot which was easily sent into the net by the Braga forward from seven yards.

Korea continued to press on in the first 12 minutes of the match with numerous moves but with a goal's advantage, the Portuguese backline remained firm to every threatening move.

In the 17th minute, Kim Jinsu tapped a loose ball into the Portuguese net after keeper Diego Costa had effected a save on an indirect corner kick. Jinsu's tap from close range was on target but the linesman rightfully correctly called it off-side.

In the 23rd minute, Ronaldo was in the right position for a close range deflection - on a long cross from Mathheus Nunes - but Korea's Kim Younggwon outpaced the Portuguese captain with a clearance for a corner.

Three minutes from the first half hour, Younggwon was quick to drill home a ball that landed at his feet off Ronaldo's body who was trying to duck away on a corner kick. Ronaldo turned his back to the ball which

Stats

	SOUTH KOREA	PORTUGAL
13	Shots	13
6	Shots on Target	6
8	Chances Created	8
5	Corners	4
5	Saves	4
38.5%	Possession	61.5%
1	Offsides	5
9	Fouls	10
2	Yellow Cards	0
0	Red Cards	0

tonio Silva blocked a shot of Korean captain Heungmin who was inside the Portuguese box. Moments later, Korean midfielder Lee Kangin and Mathheus Nunes rammed into each other causing a stoppage in play. At this point, the camera panned on Bento in the stands talking to one of his assistants.

The irritated fan who was infuriated with Bento for blocking his view at the start of the match seemed to have probably swapped his seat with somebody else. Five minutes later, Ronaldo walked off after being benched. Before he took off, Ronaldo handed his captain's armband to Pepe, 39.

Hwang Inbeom, in the 66th minute, unleashed a rasping shot that hit the palms of keeper Costa and trickled away.

In a missed opportunity, Jinsu sent a cross to Heungmin who connected with a bullet shot that hit Cancelo on his elbow inside the Portuguese box.

South Korea vainly pleaded with the referee for a penalty in the 70th minute.

Six minutes later, Dalot found Horta with a neat cross but Portugal's goal scorer for some strange reason backtracked inside the six yard box.

Just as everyone thought the game was over, South Korea turned things around in dramatic fashion in injury time. Korean captain Heungmin ran from his own box to the rival team's box. He found Hee-chan with a neat cross near the edge before the substitute slotted home on his first attempt.

Spotlight

Reuters
Doha

Switzerland reached the World Cup knockout round for the third successive tournament after prevailing 3-2 over Serbia yesterday to finish runners-up in Group G and set up a last 16 showdown with Portugal.

In a contest that ebbed and flowed at breakneck speed in the first half at Stadium 974, Xherdan Shaqiri put Switzerland ahead but Serbia swiftly scored twice within 10 minutes through Aleksandar Mitrovic and Dusan Vlahovic to flip the game on its head.

Breel Embolo delivered another twist in an absorbing opening period by pulling Switzerland side level just before the break, while Remo Freuler scored three minutes after the restart to restore their one-goal advantage again.

Switzerland had fired warning shots with barely 30 seconds on the clock, as captain Granit Xhaka's strike was blocked by the Serbian defence before goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic denied both Embolo one-on-one and also Xhaka on the rebound.

Serbia enjoyed a spell of pressure after that early scare, with Nikola Milenkovic heading wide from Dusan Tadic's corner before Andrija Zivkovic took aim from outside the penalty area and rattled the left post with a powerful effort.

Ricardo Rodriguez's cross in the 20th minute was cleared and fell to Djibril Sow, who picked out Shaqiri on the right. The midfielder fired home a strike that took a slight deflection off Strahinja Pavlovic on its way into the net.

Fulham frontman Mitrovic headed in Tadic's cross to deservedly draw Serbia level six minutes later. Tadic was involved again and slipped the ball through to Vlahovic, who steered a low shot past goalkeeper Gregor Kobel to complete the Serbian turnaround. But Embolo slotted home Silvan Widmer's low cross in the 44th minute and Freuler kept the momentum going by thumping in the fifth goal of the evening, as two wonderfully worked moves from the Swiss attack proved to be Serbia's undoing. Midway through the second half, Mitrovic went down too easily after a challenge from Fabian Schaer but his appeals for a penalty were turned down, and the Serbian

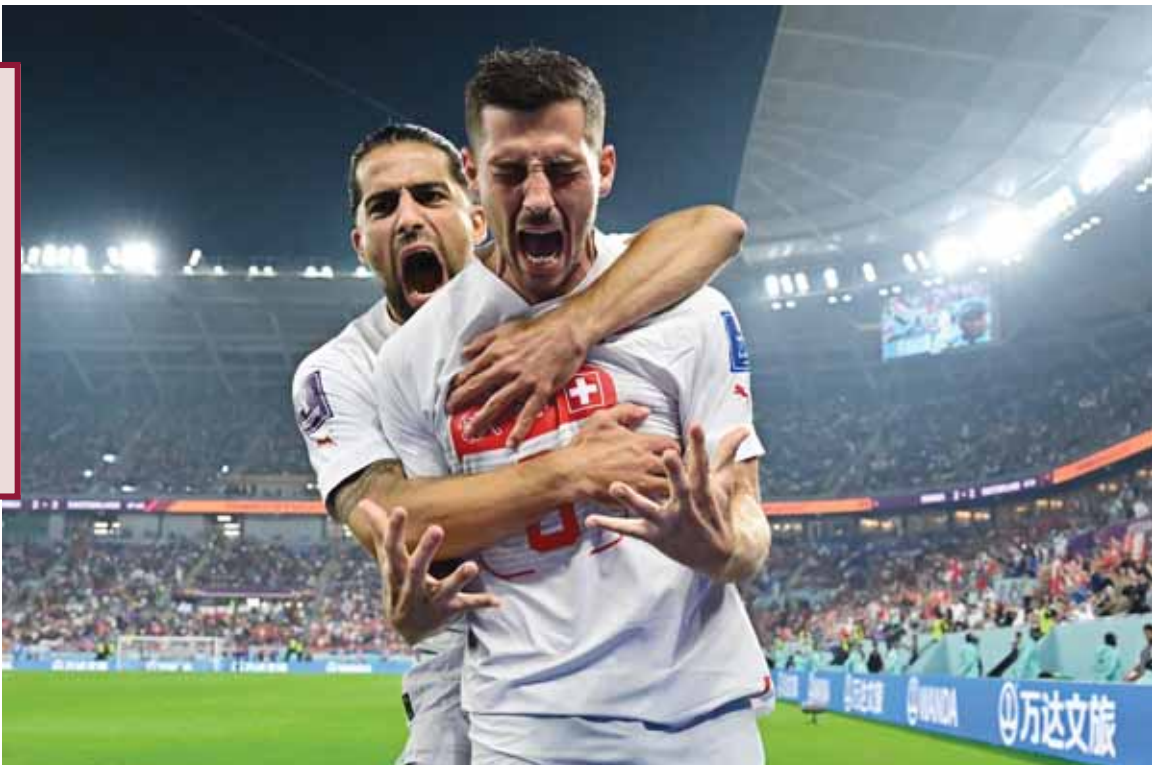
Stats

	SWITZERLAND	SERBIA
14	Shots	12
7	Shots on Target	4
11	Chances Created	9
0	Corners	2
2	Saves	4
46.4%	Possession	53.6%
0	Offsides	0
14	Fouls	18
4	Yellow Cards	6
0	Red Cards	0

dugout spilled onto the pitch protesting the referee's decision.

Switzerland finished with six points, level with group G winners Brazil but behind on goal difference. Serbia, who needed a win to give themselves a fighting chance of advancing, finished bottom of the group with only one point.

They have never moved past the World Cup group stage since the breakup of Yugoslavia.



Switzerland's Remo Freuler (right) celebrates with teammate Ricardo Rodriguez after scoring his team's third goal during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group G match against Serbia at Stadium 974 in Doha yesterday. (AFP)

STANDINGS
GROUP STAGE

Group A								Group B								Group C								Group D							
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS	Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS	Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS	Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Netherlands (Q)	3	2	1	0	+4	7	1	England (Q)	3	2	1	0	+7	7	1	Argentina (Q)	3	2	0	1	+5	6	1	France (Q)	3	2	0	1	+3	6
2	Senegal (Q)	3	2	0	1	1	6	2	USA (Q)	3	1	2	0	+1	5	2	Poland (Q)	3	1	1	1	0	4	2	Australia (Q)	3	2	0	1	-1	6
3	Ecuador	3	1	1	1	1	4	3	Iran	3	1	0	2	-3	3	3	Mexico	3	1	1	1	-1	4	3	Tunisia	3	1	1	1	0	4
4	Qatar	3	0	0	3	-6	0	4	Wales	3	0	1	2	-5	1	4	Saudi Arabia	3	1	0	2	-2	3	4	Denmark	3	0	1	2	-2	1

Group E								Group F								Group G								Group H							
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS	Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS	Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS	Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Japan (Q)	3	2	0	1	1	6	1	Morocco (Q)	3	2	1	0	3	7	1	Brazil (Q)	3	2	0	1	+2	6	1	Portugal (Q)	3	2	0	1	+2	6
2	Spain (Q)	3	1	1	1	6	4	2	Croatia (Q)	3	1	2	0	3	5	2	Switzerland (Q)	3	2	0	1	1	6	2	South Korea (Q)	3	1	1	1	0	4
3	Germany	3	1	1	1	1	4	3	Belgium	3	1	1	1	-1	4	3	Cameroon	3	1	1	1	0	4	3	Uruguay	3	1	1	1	0	4
4	Costa Rica	3	1	0	2	-8	3	4	Canada	3	0	0	3	-5	0	4	Serbia	3	0	1	2	-3	1	4	Ghana	3	1	0	2	-2	3

P- Played • W- Won • D-Draw • L-Loss • GD- Goal Difference • PTS- Points • Q- Qualified into last 16

P- Played • W- Won • D-Draw • L-Loss • GD- Goal Difference • PTS- Points • Q- Qualified into last 16