



Argentina's Nicolas Tagliafico (3) heads the ball challenged by Uruguay's Matias Vecino during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)

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Chile maintain chances of qualifying to WC; Ecuador lose at Venezuela

Argentina rout Uruguay as Colombia hold Brazil

France win Nations League



French players react with their trophy after defeating Spain to win the UEFA Nations League final soccer match at the San Siro stadium, in Milan, Italy. (AP)

SAO PAULO, Oct 11, (AP) — Lionel Messi was among the scorers as Argentina beat rivals Uruguay 3-0 on Sunday, hours after Brazil's run of consecutive wins in South American World Cup qualifying ended in a 0-0 draw with Colombia.

Messi's team were preparing for a long, tense night at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires. Uruguay coach Óscar Tabárez selected a back-five tasked with stopping Argentina's powerful offense and his team created most of the best early opportunities, with Luis Suárez hitting the post once.

But a stroke of luck helped Argentina in the 38th minute. Messi gave an overhead pass in an attempt to assist Nico González, who failed to touch it. But the ball gently and unexpectedly passed by goalkeeper Fernando Muslera, into the right corner.

Luck once more was on the Argentinean side in the 44th. A series of passing mistakes by both teams gave a clear opportunity to Lautaro Martínez on the edge of the box. Lautaro failed to hit it cleanly, but it was enough to move the ball into the path of a Rodrigo de Paul.

The second half started with Uruguay trying to charge up front with substitutes Edinson Cavani and Darwin Núñez, but once again Argentina scored. Messi found de Paul on the right flank, and the midfielder sent a low cross into the penalty box. Lautaro Martínez scored from close range.

"I think we are growing a lot in the level of our game," Messi said. "We are now used to having the ball. Tonight was a tough match and we had to win it. It all came out perfectly." Argentina's next challenge will be against Peru. Uruguay will travel to Brazil.

Brazil had the best opportunities of the encounter and forced Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina to make three key saves. The most important was in the 84th minute in a close range finish by substitute Antony.

Neymar returned to the Seleção after a suspension, but was off pace, missing several passes and running with apparent difficulty. He left the pitch immediately after the final whistle. Brazil coach Tite said in a news conference too much is expected from his star player all of the time.

"He is an exceptional player because he makes exceptional plays, he does it exceptionally and not ordinarily," Brazil's coach said. "He is a special player, we know it. And he was also well marked, sometimes by two players." Tite tested out lineup or formation changes, as he promised. His defensive midfield was Fabinho and Fred for the first time. He also used wingers Raphinha and Antony in the second half, following their impressive performances in the 3-1 win at Venezuela.

Colombia's next match will also be at home against Ecuador.



Messi

Mbappé scores late, Blues edge Spain

MILAN, Oct 11, (AP) — Kylian Mbappé scored late as world champions France came from behind to win the Nations League with a 2-1 victory over Spain in the final.

Mbappé netted with 10 minutes remaining as France were again forced to fight back, just as they had done in the semifinals against Belgium.

There were few chances in a cagey final in Milan but the match burst into life shortly after the hour mark.

Moments after France hit the woodwork, Mikel Oyarzabal fired Spain in front but their lead lasted less than two minutes before a magnificent finish from Karim Benzema. "This is the first piece of silverware I've won with France so I'm very proud and delighted," said Benzema, who only recently returned to the France squad after a five-year absence.

SOCCER

There was a video review for a possible offside on Mbappé but the goal was given as Spain defender Eric García was the last to touch the ball as he attempted to intercept the pass to the France forward.

Spain beat Italy 2-1 in their semifinal game with Ferran Torres netting both goals. There had been doubts about Torres' fitness but he recovered to start the final. Midfielder Adrien Rabiot was absent for France after testing positive for the coronavirus.

France started well and almost took an early lead as Benzema rounded Spain goalkeeper Unai Simón and attempted to roll across for Mbappé but the ball was cleared by César Azpilicueta.

Spain went closer five minutes later as Torres threaded the ball through to Pablo Sarabia but his fairly tame shot was an easy catch for France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

Spain dominated possession but created few chances. It was the only side to have a shot on target in the first half though.

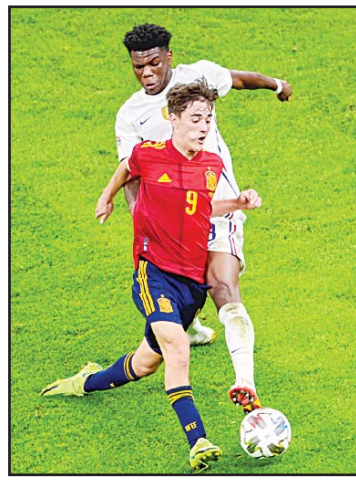
Theo Hernández had scored the last-minute winner for France against Belgium and he ignited Sunday's final when his effort crashed off the underside of the bar and out in France's first real sight of goal in the 63rd minute.

Moments later, however, it was Spain which broke the deadlock as Oyarzabal raced onto Sergio Busquets' ball over the top and fired into the bottom right corner.

Oyarzabal had set up both of Torres' goals in the semifinal match.

But France were swiftly back on level terms as Benzema cut in from the left and curled a sumptuous effort into the top right corner.

And the stage was set for Mbappé to score the winner as he and France continue their revival. Mbappé was



France's Aurelien Tchouameni (right) tackles Spain's Gavi during the UEFA Nations League final soccer match between Spain and France at the San Siro stadium, in Milan, Italy. (AP)

judged to have sprung the offside trap as he raced onto Theo Hernández's through ball and placed it into the bottom right corner.

Lloris pulled off two great saves from point-blank range to deny first Oyarzabal and then Yeremi Pino as France survived a late siege by Spain.

Mbappé has now scored in successive matches, after two goals in his previous 13 internationals.

It was the third straight victory for France.

Berhalter shuffles lineup

Panama upend US in WCup qualifier

PANAMA CITY, Oct 11, (AP) — Anibal Godoy scored in the 54th minute and Panama upended the United States 1-0 in a World Cup qualifier Sunday night when American coach Gregg Berhalter started a largely second-string lineup in the middle of another hectic stretch of three matches in seven days.

Christian Pulisic, Gio Reyna and Weston McKennie were out with injuries, Tyler Adams and Brenden Aaronson were on the bench, and Antonee Robinson didn't travel because of British COVID-19 restrictions that would have required a quarantine on his return to England.

With the US lineup far from their best, the Americans looked both nervous and overplayed for stretches of the first half.

Adams entered at the start of the second half and gave away a corner kick that led to the goal on a ball he may have been able to clear. Eric Davis' corner was headed by the 31-year-old Godoy past goalkeeper Matt Turner and inside the far post, causing a crowd of three-quarters full to shake Estadio Rommel Fernández.

Aaronson gave the US more energy and pace, and Ricardo Pepi, DeAndre Yedlin and Christian Roldan entered in the 67th. During the final hectic minutes, the game was interrupted twice when fans ran onto the field, and a ball was thrown from the stands. The ball

boys didn't help, occasionally throwing multiple balls onto the pitch after one went out of bounds.

SOCCER

"I had like two or three," Turner said. "I was just trying to get them off the field as quickly as I could. I didn't want the

game to stop anymore. People running on the field. The ball boys were throwing, kicking the balls onto the field as high as they could. And I was just trying to keep the chaos off the field as much as I could and keep our momentum going." The Americans began the night atop the eight-nation final round of North and Central America and the Caribbean, on goal difference over Mexico.



Panama's Rolando Blackburn (left) and United States' Kellyn Acosta fight for the ball during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at Rommel Fernandez stadium, Panama City, Panama. (AP)

Hug, Schär win wheelchair titles

Kenyans sweep Boston Marathon

BOSTON, Oct 11, (AP) — Kenya's Benson Kipruto won the pandemic-delayed Boston Marathon on Monday when the race returned from a 30-month absence with a smaller, socially distanced feel and moved from the spring for the first time in its 125-year history.

Although organizers put runners through COVID-19 protocols and asked spectators to keep their distance, large crowds lined the 26.2-mile course from Hopkinton to Boston as an early drizzle cleared and temperatures rose to the low 60s for a beautiful fall day.

They watched Kipruto run away from the lead pack as it turned onto Beacon Street with about three miles to go and break the tape in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 51 seconds. Diana Kipyogei won the women's race to complete the eighth Kenyan sweep since 2000.

MARATHON

A winner in Prague and Athens who finished 10th in Boston in 2019, Kipruto waited out an early breakaway by American CJ Albertson, who led by as many as two minutes at the halfway point. Kipruto took the lead at Cleveland Circle and finished 46 seconds ahead of 2016 winner Lemi Berhanu; Albertson, who turned 28 on Monday, was 10th, 1:53 back.

Kipyogei ran ahead for much of the race and finished in 2:24:45, 23 seconds ahead of 2017 winner Edna Kiplagat.

Marcel Hug of Switzerland won the men's wheelchair race earlier despite making a wrong term in the final mile, finishing the slightly detoured route just seven seconds off his course record in 1:08:11.

Manuela Schär, also from Switzerland, won the women's wheelchair

race in 1:35:21.

Hug, who has raced Boston eight times and has five victories here, cost himself a \$50,000 course record bonus when he missed the second-to-last turn, following the lead vehicle instead of turning from Commonwealth Avenue onto Hereford Street.

"The car went straight and I followed the car," said Hug, who finished second in the Chicago Marathon by 1 second on Sunday. "But it's my fault.

I should go right, but I followed the car."

With fall foliage replacing the spring daffodils and more masks than mylar blankets, the 125th Boston Marathon at last left Hopkinton for its long-awaited long run to Copley Square.

A rolling start and shrunken field allowed for social distancing on the course, as organizers tried to manage amid a changing COVID-19 pandemic that forced them to cancel the race last year for the first time since the event began in 1897.

"It's a great feeling to be out on the road," race director Dave McGillivray said. "Everyone is excited. We're looking forward to a good day."

A light rain greeted participants at the Hopkinton Green, where about 30 uniformed members of the Massachusetts National Guard left at 6 a.m. The men's and women's wheelchair racers - some of whom completed the 26.2-mile (42.2 km) distance in Chicago a day earlier - left shortly after 8 a.m., followed by the men's and women's professional fields.

"We took things for granted before COVID-19. It's great to get back to the community and it puts things in perspective," said National Guard Capt. Greg Davis, 39, who was walking with the military group for the fourth time. "This is a historic race, but today is a historic day."



Benson Kipruto, (left) and Diana Kipyogei, (right), both of Kenya, celebrate at the finish line after winning the men's and women's division of the Boston Marathon in Boston. (AP)

SOCCER

Brazil lead the qualifying competition with 28 points from nine wins and the draw, six points clear of second-place Argentina after 10 matches. Brazil's tally so far would have been enough to qualify for all World Cups directly since 2002.

Also on Sunday, third place Ecuador lost 2-1 at Venezuela. Enner Valencia opened the scoring for from the spot in the 37th, but Venezuela turned their fortunes with goals by Darwin Machis late in the first half and Eduard Bello in the 64th.

Ecuador remain on 16 points and last-place Venezuela have seven.

Ninth-placed Bolivia frustrated seventh position Peru with a 1-0 win at La Paz. Ramiro Vaca scored the only goal of the encounter in the 85th. Peru remained on 11 points and Bolivia improve to nine points in the standings.

Eight-placed Chile beat sixth place Paraguay 2-0 to reach 10 points in the standings and maintain their chances of qualifying. Ben Bretteon opened the scoring in the 68th and Mauricio Isla added a second in the 72nd. Paraguay remains in sixth place with 12 points.

The top four teams earn direct entry to the World Cup in Qatar next year. The fifth-place team can still qualify via an inter-continental playoff.

All teams in South American World Cup qualifiers will play again on Thursday.