



Haaland scores winner to send Norway into last-16 Brazil clash



Norway's forward #09 Erling Braut Haaland (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's second goal.

AFP | Arlington, United States

Erling Haaland scored a late winner as Norway set up a last-16 showdown with Brazil at the World Cup after taming the Ivory Coast 2-1 in Texas on Tuesday.

The Manchester City striker prodded in from close range, the ball dribbling in on 86 minutes for his fifth goal of the tournament.

It was the first time Norway had won a knockout game in the history of the competition.

After an even first half that was slow to get going, Antonio Nusa fired Norway into the lead six minutes before the break with one of the goals of the tournament.

Manchester United's Amad Diallo was sent on for the Ivory Coast after an hour and was immediately in the thick of it, stopping a certain second Norway goal and then grabbing a

terrific equaliser on 74 minutes.

With extra time looming, predator supreme Haaland got on the end of a cross by Patrick Berg to make some Norwegian history.

They face five-time champions Brazil on Sunday in New Jersey with the quarter-finals at stake.

A match between two physical teams was tepid to begin with at the impressive air-conditioned home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Ivory Coast had a sight of goal after 20 minutes, defender Ghislain Konan burst into the Norway box from the left but found the side netting.

The Ivory Coast players and fans were irate just before the drinks break when the livewire Yan Diomande was brought down on the break just inside his own half.

Referee Jesus Valenzuela surprisingly did not even book defender David Moller Wolfe.

The 19-year-old winger Diomande, who appears set to join European champions Paris Saint-Germain from RB Leipzig, was growing into the game.

The African side, one of the youngest at the tournament, was on top and particularly threatening down Diomande's left-hand side of the pitch.

Haaland had little to feed on but might have done better with a tame header that bounced into the hands of goalkeeper Yahia Fofana.

Then came a moment of genuine class as Nusa, fed by captain Martin Odegaard, cut inside and bent the ball wonderfully into the top corner.

Odegaard put his hands on his head in disbelief at the strike by the 21-year-old, Diomande's Leipzig team-mate.

Stale Solbakken's Norway finished the first half on the hunt for a second and Haaland was denied by a last-gasp block by

Ibrahim Sangare, who celebrated as if scoring a goal.

The Ivory Coast, into the knockout rounds for the first time, won their 10th corner to start the second half.

Nicolas Pepe was denied by the legs of Norway stopper Orjan Nyland as the Ivory Coast piled on the pressure.

Norway, runners-up to France in the group stage, were inches away from a second when Diallo blocked the ball on the goal line following a corner.

The Norway fans, sensing the next round was close, began their now-famous rowing in the stands.

Almost as soon as they stopped, Diallo danced into the box past two challenges for a spectacular equalizer.

Then up popped Haaland to break Ivorian hearts, with goalkeeper Nyland pulling off a flying stop from Diallo's well-struck free kick at the death to send Norway through.

Golden season takes shape

TDT | Manama

The Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) has announced a new race for this year's Bahrain International Trophy meeting, as part of a season marking the club's 50th anniversary.



Yusuf Osama Buhiji

The Bahrain Long Distance Cup, an open handicap run over 14 furlongs (2,800m), will be staged for the first time on the Trophy card, with organisers aiming to draw strong staying horses from international stables. Its introduction means the meeting will feature two international races for the first time.

The race forms part of the eighth edition of the Bahrain International Trophy, set for Friday, 13 November 2026, which follows the Trophy's promotion to Group 1 status, the first such race held in Bahrain.

The expanded card comes as REHC marks its Golden Jubilee, celebrating 50 years since its founding in 1977. The club credited the continued support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, alongside the leadership of High

Committee Chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for the sport's growth in the kingdom.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Yusuf Osama Buhiji said the anniversary season would build on the club's achievements through stronger organisational and competitive standards for local and international racing.

REHC also confirmed its 2026/27 calendar, comprising 30 meetings starting 30 October 2026 and concluding 16 April 2027. Highlights include the Crown Prince's Cup Festival on 28-29 January and the King's Cup Festival on 4-5 March.

The Bahrain Turf Series will expand from 12 to 14 races with a new mile division, while the Future Stars Series returns for a third edition supporting locally bred horses.



Tuchel defensive headache as England ready for DR Congo clash

AFP | Atlanta

Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham produced the magic to carry England through to the World Cup knockout stages, but questions remain over the balance of Thomas Tuchel's squad.

The Three Lions face DR Congo tonight in what they hope will be the first of five games leading to glory.

England are heavy favourites for the clash in Atlanta, but face a tough road to the final that could include facing Mexico on home soil, Brazil and Argentina if they are to end a 60-year wait to win a major tournament.

Former Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Bayern Munich boss Tuchel was recruited by the English FA to get a team that has lost the past two finals of the European Championship over the line.

Evidence from the group stages has left many unconvinced that England have progressed from where they were under Tuchel's predecessor, Gareth Southgate.

The German was praised for his attacking substitutions in a thrilling 4-2 win over Croatia in England's opening game at the 2026 tournament.

But a dull 0-0 stalemate with

Ghana followed and England needed moments of inspiration from Bellingham and Kane to break down a stubborn Panama in an unconvincing 2-0 victory as they topped their group.

"Huge impact," said Tuchel of the influence of Bellingham and Kane, who have five goals between them.

"That's what we need. That's what we want. That's why we pick them. They make us dangerous. They make us a top team and that's why our expectations are high."

Coming into the tournament, there were doubts over whether Bellingham would even be a certain starter following an injury-hit season at Real Madrid.

And there have been tensions between player and manager.

A year ago the England boss said even his own mother found some of Bellingham's antics "repulsive", though he subsequently apologised for that remark.

Already in his fourth major tournament at just 22, Bellingham has silenced any debate over whether he or Aston Villa's Morgan Rogers should start behind Kane after catching the eye in the United States.

"He's in a sweet spot after his injury, he is free again," said Tuchel. "He loves to play on this



England's German head coach Thomas Tuchel and forward #11 Marcus Rashford talk during the hydration break

kind of stage."

- Right-back a problem position -

Whether the England boss can conjure the best out of the rest of his squad remains uncertain.

The decision to leave the creative talents of Cole Palmer, Phil Foden and Morgan Gibbs-

White at home has been further questioned after England's struggles against deep-lying defences.

Even more puzzling has been Tuchel's approach at right-back, which now appears a problem position.

The head coach decided

World Cup Schedule (Round of 32)

Today

Time	Match	Venue
07:00 PM	England vs DR Congo	Atlanta Stadium
11:00 PM	Belgium vs Senegal	Seattle Stadium

Tomorrow

03:00 AM	USA vs Bosnia and Herzegovina	San Francisco Bay Area Stadium
10:00 PM	Spain vs Austria	Los Angeles Stadium

(All games in Bahrain time)

against calling up another specialist when Tino Livramento was injured before England's first game.

The injury-prone Reece James is expected to miss the Congo clash with a hamstring strain.

Jarell Quansah, a centre-back by trade, started at right-back against Panama, but also had to be replaced due to an ankle twist.

Djed Spence looks likely to deputise in the position on Wednesday but the injury troubles have brought Tuchel's decision to overlook Real Madrid's Trent Alexander-Arnold into sharp focus.

The former Liverpool defender did not even get the call when Livramento was forced to withdraw, with Trevoh Chalobah called up instead -- bringing the

number of centre-backs in the squad to six.

In midfield, a concern over Declan Rice has exposed a lack of midfield options.

Jordan Henderson, 36, is understood to be in the squad for his leadership qualities, but it meant there was no place for Crystal Palace's Adam Wharton after an impressive season.

Tuchel knows if things do not come good in the coming weeks, an avalanche of criticism is coming his way.

"We believe we will get better, and we will... it is no problem putting the work in and growing into a tournament like this," said the German.

"It is important now that we keep believing, focusing on what we can influence and every game will be different."