

# Haaland knocks Brazil out

Nyland's heroics and Haaland's double send Norway into historic first World Cup quarter-final

● Haaland nets two late goals

● Norway defeat Brazil 2-1

● Nyland saves crucial penalty

● Neymar scores consolation in stoppage time

AFP | East Rutherford

Erling Haaland scored two late goals to send Norway through to a first World Cup quarter-final with a stunning 2-1 win over Brazil that condemned the five-time champions to their earliest exit since 1990.

Norway goalkeeper Orjan Nyland produced a sensational display and saved a first-half penalty from Bruno Guimaraes before Haaland struck twice in the last 11 minutes to shock Brazil at MetLife Stadium.

Neymar pulled a goal back deep into stoppage time with Brazil's second spot-kick of the match, his final contribution in a record-breaking international career, but one that ultimately never delivered World Cup glory.

Haaland's brace took him level with Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe on seven goals for the tournament as

**7** goals is the tally Haaland now shares with Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe after his brace in Norway's 2-1 win over Brazil at MetLife Stadium

Norway booked a showdown against either England in Miami on July 11.

For Brazil, who hired Carlo Ancelotti in a bid to end a 24-year World Cup drought, it is the sixth straight tournament where they have been knocked out by European opposition.

The last time Brazil failed to reach at least the quarter-finals came 36 years ago, when they lost 1-0 to arch-rivals Argentina in the last 16.

"This is just an insane day," said Haaland.

"It is one of the most

sane days in Norwegian history."

Gabriel Martinelli was rewarded for scoring the stoppage-time winner against Japan in the previous round, as the Arsenal winger replaced the injured Lucas Paqueta in the lone change to Brazil's line-up.

Patrick Berg thought he had given Norway the lead inside three minutes, but his effort was ruled out for offside in the build-up.

## Inspired Nyland

After a rocky start, Brazil won a penalty when Kristoffer Ajer clattered into Matheus Cunha in the box.

The Brazilians were left furious as referee Ismail Elfath initially waved away their appeals, but VAR intervened and the decision was overturned.

Guimaraes stepped up, but 35-year-old Nyland guessed correctly, diving to his left to

push away the Newcastle midfielder's tame penalty.

Nyland again came to Norway's rescue, getting a crucial touch to Martinelli's low drive as it flashed across goal, denying Guimaraes a simple tap-in.

When Martin Odegaard lost possession on the edge of his own box, Nyland once more saved Norway as he stuck out a leg to thwart Vinicius Junior.

Haaland had struggled to make a significant impact, but his strength created a glorious opening for Norway before half-time.

The striker caused problems for Gabriel Magalhaes and Marquinhos in the Brazil defence before the ball broke kindly for Odegaard, whose effort was well saved by Alisson Becker.

Norway coach Stale Solbakken brought on Oscar Bobb and Andreas Schjelderup at the break for Antonio Nusa and Alexander Sorloth, but it was the introduction of Endrick that almost changed the game immediately.

Vinicius slipped Endrick through on goal with a delightful outside-of-the-foot pass, only for the teenager to dink wide as Nyland closed him down.

Nyland continued to frustrate Brazil, producing a good save to claw away

Ryan's fierce strike before another outstanding stop to deny Guimaraes, although it was offside.

The arrival of Neymar in the 67th minute drew huge roars from the largely pro-Brazil crowd.

## Neymar calls time on Brazil career

Brazil superstar Neymar indicated Sunday that his international career was over after the five-time World Cup winners went out of the tournament.

Neymar came on as a late substitute at the MetLife Stadium and scored a penalty deep in injury time.

The 34-year-old is Brazil's all-time top scorer and ironically he got his first goal for his country in the same stadium, in a 2-0 win against the United States back in 2010.

"I tried and I tried. Now it's over. It began here and it ends here," Neymar said in a brief exchange with a journalist from Brazil's Globo Esporte after the game.

He collapsed in tears when the final whistle went, and had to be consoled by teammates.



Worn down by injuries in recent years, the former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain player, now back at first club Santos, was a surprise inclusion in Carlo Ancelotti's Brazil squad for the World Cup.

Injury prevented him from featuring in Brazil's first two group games at the tournament, but he did come on in the 3-0 win over Scotland in Miami which completed the opening round.

That was his first international appearance since October 2023, but his only other appearance in the United States came against Norway.

It was Norway who eventually broke the deadlock though, and it came through an inevitable source.

Schjelderup whipped in a cross from the left and Haaland soared above Gabriel to power a header into the corner.

As Brazil desperately chased an equaliser, an incredible fingertip save from a backpedalling Nyland prevented Ajer from looping the ball into his own net. Haaland gave Norway breath-

ing space as he hammered low into the corner from the edge of the box in the 90th minute.

It proved vital when Neymar converted a penalty in the 10th minute of stoppage time, preceded by an unseemly spat with 'keeper Nyland, following an elbow on Casemiro.

Neymar slumped to the turf in tears at the end, his 16-year and 80-goal career in a Brazil shirt over in the very stadium where it started.

# FIFA have 'crossed a red line' in Balogun reprieve: UEFA

AFP | Lausanne

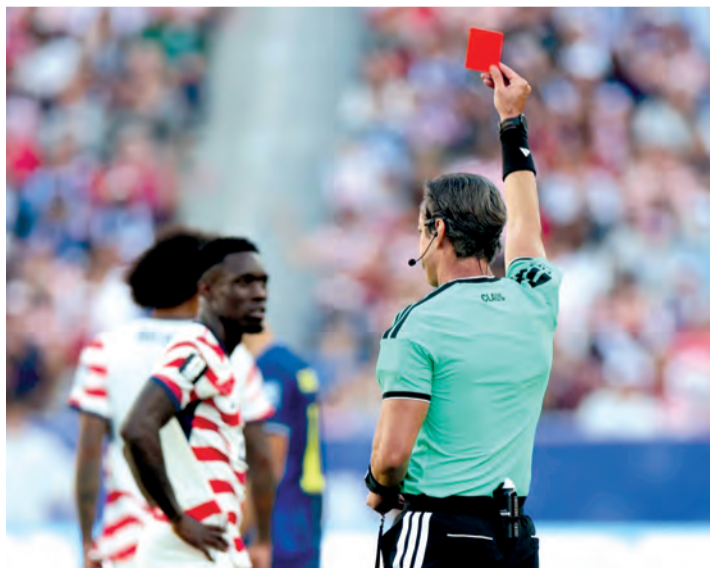
FIFA "crossed a red line" with the controversial decision to suspend US star Folarin Balogun's one game ban for a year, European football's governing body UEFA said yesterday.

FIFA's ruling, which came after the intervention of Donald Trump, permitted Balogun to play in the co-hosts' World Cup last 16 match with Belgium later yesterday.

"Yesterday's decision to suspend for a probationary period of a year the implementation of the one-match automatic suspension following the red card issued to the player Folarin Balogun crossed a red line," read UEFA's strongly worded statement.

"Football, like any other sports, relies on rules, which are the basis for fair, honest and transparent competition. Sometimes rules are open to interpretation. In this case not."

UEFA warned of the ramifications for the sport as a whole. "Football is the most loved



Referee Raphael Claus shows Folarin Balogun #20 of the United States a red card

sport in the world because it is a beautiful game and is trusted because it is played everywhere with the same laws," it said.

"A tournament is never a pure standalone and, if the tournament in question is the World Cup, it has the power to drive positive or negative consequenc-

es on the game as a whole.

"We express our disbelief at such an unprecedented, incomprehensible and unjustifiable decision."

Balogun, who has scored three goals at the World Cup, had been set to miss the clash in Seattle after receiving a straight red

card following a video review for stepping on a Bosnia-Herzegovina defender's foot in the round-of-32 match the US won 2-0.

Under FIFA rules, a straight red card automatically triggers a one-game ban.

Trump called FIFA chief Gianni Infantino asking him to review Balogun's punishment, two sources familiar with the matter said.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also publicly called for the card to be rescinded.

The decision to suspend the ban was taken by FIFA's disciplinary committee.

World football's governing body said Sunday the ban will now be suspended for a year, in a stunning move for which no specific explanation was offered.

"Thank you to FIFA for doing what was right, and reversing a great injustice!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

The Belgians were stupefied by the ruling.

## 'Our game, not theirs': Klopp

Former Liverpool coach Jürgen Klopp, who is set to become the next Germany manager after Julian Nagelsmann's resignation on Friday, hit out at the decision.

"It's a red card, even if it's a shame because Balogun can't play, but it's there in the rules," Klopp said.

"This is our game, not theirs... If Trump and Infantino really worked this all out between

themselves, that's crazy. It calls everything into question...

"These two individuals, neither of whom has a clue about football, shouldn't have anything to do with it," the 59-year-old added.

German FA (DFB) president Bernd Neuendorf demanded an explanation from FIFA, saying the decision jeopardised the tournament's credibility.

## Blatter questions 'political power' after Trump's FIFA phone call

Disgraced former FIFA president Sepp Blatter said he questioned the football governing body's decision to suspend the red card ban.

"Red cards are not overturned by political phone calls," scandal-hit Blatter said on X.

"They are overturned by

rules, evidence and independent bodies.

"If a US President intervenes with the FIFA President - and a player is suddenly cleared before a World Cup knockout match - the question is unavoidable: Quo vadis (Where are you going), FIFA?"