

# Australia win sudden death battle with Peru for World Cup place

Substitute goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne's dancing antics help Australia claim shootout win over Peru

● Australia claim sixth ticket to World Cup finals

AFP | Doha

Australia yesterday celebrated the antics of dancing goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne whose penalty shootout save against Peru saw them to a fifth straight World Cup finals.

The 33-year-old clowning his way along the goal line as Peru's players prepared to take their penalty kicks and his block of Alex Valera's shot gave Australia a 5-4 win after the two sides had been deadlocked without a goal for 120 minutes.

Australia coach Graham Arnold brought Redmayne on for team captain Mathew Ryan for the final minutes of extra time as a ploy for the shootout.

Martin Boyle missed Australia's first penalty but the next five were all on target.

Redmayne danced and jiggled along the line to unnerve the Peru players and Luis Advincula's shot cannoned off a post. Redmayne's save of Valera's shot set off wild celebrations among the Soccerroos and their band of a few hundred supporters.

Arnold said that Ryan is a "fantastic goalkeeper" but Sydney FC's Redmayne "is a good



Australia's Andrew Redmayne and Australia's Aziz Behich celebrate after qualifying to the FIFA World Cup



**Redmayne had trials for Arsenal as a teenager but has played his entire career in the A-League, winning the league title for Sydney FC with two saves in the shootout that decided the 2019 championship final**

penalty saver and at that stage of the game I was just trying to do something that could affect them (Peru) mentally."

"Maybe that's why they hit the post," Arnold said. "They thought they had to put it closer to the post to score. It's a risk but it worked."

Redmayne denied he was the hero of the night, saying his routine was "a little thing I do" for Sydney that has "proved quite successful".

"If I can gain one percent by making a fool of myself then I will," he said.

"I love this team, I love this country and I love this sport. I am under no illusions that all I did was to save one penalty."



He's a very good penalty saver and I did something that could affect them mentally. They were probably asking themselves the question, 'Why is this guy being brought on? He has to be good'. Maybe that was the reason they hit the post. It's a 1% mental effort to trouble the Peru penalty takers. It was a risk but it worked out

AUSTRALIA COACH GRAHAM ARNOLD

## France start

Victory gave Australia the penultimate place available for the tournament that starts on November 21. They will play defending champions France in Group D one day later to start their sixth appearance at the World Cup in all.

Peru, 22nd in FIFA's list and who beat Australia 2-0 at the 2018 World Cup group stage, were roared on by 10,000 fans, most of whom had flown halfway round the globe for the playoff only to see a frustrating encounter between the rivals with few clearcut chances.



Peru's Pedro Flores, left, and Australia's Jamie McLaren fight for the ball

Arnold insisted that his whole team were heroes for getting through.

"What we have been through in the last year and a half with the pandemic, not being able to get back into Australia, players getting Covid, not being able to get the best squad together a lot of the time.

"I am so proud and happy for the players," said Arnold.

"The sacrifices they have made. No-one thought they could do it but they kept on believing."

Peru's Argentine coach Ricardo Gareca said the whole side felt "enormous disappointment" at the way in which they were beaten but would not criticise Redmayne.

"It hurts not to make it as we were doing well in the game," added Gareca.

Peru's red and white army of supporters gave the conservative Gulf state a taste of what they can expect in November when some 1.4 million visitors are predicted to come to town. Their distinctive red and white shirts dominated the streets.

For more than two hours the fans chanted "Come on Peruvians, tonight we must win." Most of the team were left in tears of disbelief after the defeat.

The final place for the finals will be decided yesterday when Oceania champions New Zealand take on Costa Rica who were in the central and north American qualifying contest.

## Bahrain fall to Australia, bow out of Asian U16 basketball

● Bahrain's youth national team fall to Aussie counterparts 41-88

● Nationals suffer third straight defeat to end tournament campaign

TDI | Manama

Bahrain were yesterday eliminated from further contention in the FIBA U16 Asian Championship 2022 in Doha following a 41-88 loss to Australia.

The nationals faced an early



Bahrain's Hasan Ghareeb dribbles past Australia's Jacob Furphy during their game yesterday

deficit and never challenged their heavily favoured opponents. They went behind by as many as their final losing mar-

gin of 47 points.

The result marked the Bahrainis' third defeat in as many outings in Group A of the competition's preliminary round.

Hasan Nayem scored 10 points to lead Bahrain while Hasan Ghareeb added nine and Mohamed Ramadhan had seven.

Kye Savage paced the Aussies with a game-high 16. Carlin Briggs added 14, while Roman Siulepa and James O'Donnell scored 11 apiece.

Bahrain were the only team to end their tournament campaign yesterday, with all the other participating nations either qualifying directly to the quarter-finals or the playoff round.

## Matic joins old boss Mourinho at Roma

AFP | London

Nemanja Matic was reunited with his old boss Jose Mourinho at Roma yesterday after the Serie A club announced the Serbian's arrival as a free agent.

In a statement, Roma said that former Serbia midfielder Matic has signed a one-year deal with an option for a second season, with Italian media reporting that he will earn 3.5 million euros the coming campaign.

"I am pleased and honoured to be joining this club and I cannot wait to start the new season with my teammates," Matic said.

"Roma is a big club, with amazing fans and a coach, Jose Mourinho, who is well known to everyone - making the decision to come here very straightforward.

"I hope that by working together we are able to achieve some great things."

The 33-year-old was released by Manchester United after five seasons at the Premier League giants in which he failed to win a single trophy.

He had been taken to United by Mourinho in 2017 after having been signed for Chelsea while the Portuguese was in his second spell in charge at the London club.

He won the Premier League title twice at Chelsea, under Mourinho and Antonio Conte



Jose Mourinho (R) gestures as he speaks with Nemanja Matic (file photo)



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NEMANJA MATIC

and was reportedly requested explicitly by the Roma coach.

Mourinho took over at Roma last summer and has rehabilitated his reputation as a coach after difficult spells at United and then Tottenham Hotspur.

Seen by many as yesterday's man, Mourinho won Roma the inaugural Conference League last month, their first ever major European honour and first trophy of any type since 2008.

## Bayern confirm signing of Dutch midfielder Gravenberch

AFP | Munich

Bayern Munich on Monday confirmed the signing of Netherlands midfielder Ryan Gravenberch on a five-year deal.

The 20-year-old is the second player the German champions have signed from Ajax since the end of last season.

"When the offer came from FC Bayern, I didn't have to think about it for long," he said in a statement.

"FC Bayern are one of the big-



Ryan Gravenberch

gest clubs around. I'm coming to Munich to win lots of titles."

Gravenberch follows in the footsteps of right-back Noussair Mazraoui who joined Bayern from Ajax last month on a free transfer.

"Ryan Gravenberch offers a lot to our team," said Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic.

"He's one of the biggest talents in Europe, has superb technical ability, always finds solutions in tight spaces, is very

dynamic and a goal threat."

According to reports, Bayern will pay Ajax an initial fee of 18.5 million euros (\$19.5 million) which could rise by 5.5 million euros in add-ons.

Having joined the Ajax academy as an eight-year-old, Gravenberch was just 16 when he made his first-team debut in 2018.

He has made 10 appearances for the Netherlands, having also played for their youth national teams at each level from Under-15s upwards.