



Chelsea's players celebrate with the trophy alongside US President Donald Trump

# Chelsea stun PSG for world title

Cole Palmer's brace guides Chelsea to stunning 3-0 Club World Cup final victory over PSG

● **Palmer scores two, assists one**

● **Chelsea won \$125 million**

● **Joao Neves received red card**

● **Trump attends final in New Jersey**

AFP | East Rutherford

Cole Palmer scored two goals and made another as Chelsea stunned Paris Saint-Germain in the final of the Club World Cup on Sunday, beating the European champions 3-0 before lifting the trophy alongside US President Donald Trump.

PSG were the favourites after coming to the United States fresh from winning the Champions League and having destroyed Real Madrid 4-0 in the semi-finals.

But having been three goals ahead early on in the semis, this time the roles were reversed as PSG found themselves 3-0 down by the break.

Palmer opened the scoring midway through the first half

and struck again to make it two on the half-hour mark, before taking advantage of passive defending to set up Joao Pedro for the third on 43 minutes.

A bad day for PSG was summed up when Joao Neves was shown red following a VAR review four minutes from the end for pulling Marc Cucurella by the hair off the ball.

"Being Club World Cup champion is something for us to be proud of. We are very happy, especially against a team in PSG who I consider the best in the world with one of the best managers in the world," said Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca, before hailing match-winner Palmer.

"These are the games where we expect Cole to appear because it is a big game, a big moment, and once again he showed how good he is."

Before Chelsea got to lift the trophy, tensions spilled over at full-time with players facing off on the pitch and Paris coach Luis Enrique raising his arm to the neck of Joao Pedro.

"There was a lot of pushing and shoving. It was a situation that obviously should have been avoided, but my intention was clearly just to try to separate

the players," said Luis Enrique.

The scoreline was one few could have predicted as Chelsea capped what has been a long but memorable season -- they are the first ever winners of the 32-team Club World Cup having also won the UEFA Conference League and finished fourth in

the Premier League.

They will also take away around \$125 million in prize money, meaning the prospect of a drastically curtailed summer break before returning for next season will surely feel worth it.

For PSG, meanwhile, the financial rewards are similar but there will be genuine disappointment at falling short of adding this title to their Champions League triumph and French league and cup double.

Nevertheless, conquering Europe was always the main aim this season for Luis Enrique's team, who now have exactly a month to digest this and take a holiday before returning to action in the UEFA Super Cup against Tottenham Hotspur.

## Trump in attendance

There was a real sense of occasion at the MetLife Stadium, with the backdrop of the Manhattan skyline and with Trump in attendance along with First Lady Melania



The match saw a heated post-game scuffle where PSG's Luis Enrique appeared to grab Joao Pedro by the neck while trying to separate players

bottom-left corner.

Palmer has been the face of Chelsea on billboards in the United States during the tournament and he lived up to his star status by scoring again on the half-hour.

Released on the right with PSG left-back Mendes out of position, Palmer advanced towards the box before stroking a low shot into the same corner.

Joao Pedro played a part in the build-up to that goal and the Brazilian, signed during the tournament from Brighton, then got his name on the scoresheet to make it 3-0.

Scorer of both goals against Fluminense in the semi-finals, he clipped a shot past Gianluigi Donnarumma after being supplied by Palmer.

PSG had conceded a single goal in their previous eight matches and they never really looked like producing a comeback, even if Neves headed just wide in first-half stoppage time.

Substitute Liam Delap almost got a fourth for Chelsea midway through the second half, before Neves was shown red to complete a bad day for PSG.

## Scuffle 'should have been avoided' says Luis Enrique

Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique said he was "just trying to separate the players" after being caught up in a scuffle on the pitch at the end of his team's 3-0 defeat to Chelsea in the Club World Cup final on Sunday.

Television footage showed the PSG boss raising his arm to the neck of Joao Pedro, who had earlier scored Chelsea's third goal following a Cole Palmer brace at the MetLife Stadium.

"There was pushing and shoving, a lot of tension and pressure. The situation obviously should have been avoided," Luis Enrique told reporters.

"My intention was clearly to just try to separate the players."

He admitted that Chelsea were deserved winners as he urged his team to enjoy a short summer break at the end of a remarkable campaign.

Defeat for PSG denied them what would have been a stunning clean sweep of trophies as they failed to add the Club World Cup to the UEFA Champions League and French league and cup double they claimed in May.

"I think over the course of the game they deserved their win. They played very well," Luis Enrique said.



Paris Saint-Germain's Spanish coach Luis Enrique (L) grabs the face of Chelsea's Brazilian forward #20 Joao Pedro



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LUIS ENRIQUE

"I said beforehand that Chelsea were a very good team and they deserve their victory and the trophy."

A historic season for PSG ends after 11 months and 65

matches, and they now have exactly one month before returning to action in August -- there will be another trophy on the line in their next game, against Tottenham Hotspur in the UEFA Super Cup.

"I think is important for us to enjoy our holidays. They will be very short. But we need to make the most of them," he said.

PSG's victory in this year's Champions League also means they will have another crack at winning the Club World Cup when they participate in the next edition, which is due to take place in 2029.

## Chelsea boss Maresca hails 'great triumph'

Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca insisted winning the Club World Cup meant as much as winning the Champions League.

"I have the feeling that this competition is going to be as important, if not more important than, the Champions League," said Maresca after adding the trophy to the UEFA Conference League title his team won in May.

Maresca only took over at Chelsea a year ago but was previously on the coaching staff under Pep Guardiola at Manchester City when they won the Champions League in 2023.

"I was lucky to be on the coaching staff of a team that won the Champions League a few years ago, but this competition features the best teams



Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca lifts the trophy

in the world and I think we can value it on the same level," said the Italian.

"It is a great triumph for us and it will allow the Chelsea fans to have that on our shirt for the next four years, so it is a source of pride."

Maresca said he instructed

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ENZO MARESCA

his players to go out and take the game to PSG from the off -- they went on to net all three goals in the first half with Cole Palmer netting a brace before Joao Pedro added his name to the scoresheet.

"The message was to let them understand that we were here to win the game and I think in the first 10 minutes we showed them that," Maresca said.

Chelsea's #10 Cole Palmer celebrates scoring his team's first goal

To score the goals was a great feeling, as was the way the team showed fire out there -- the gaffer's game plan was spot on. I just try to do my job every time I go onto the pitch and hopefully I will continue

COLE PALMER