



# Mexico stuns champs

Hirving Lozano goal takes Mexico past luckless Germany

AFP | Moscow

Defending champions Germany crashed to the first defeat in their opening game of a World Cup since 1982 as Hirving Lozano's clinical finish earned Mexico a shock 1-0 victory yesterday.

The highly-rated PSV Eindhoven forward struck the winner on 35 minutes after a blistering counter-attack at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow as Mexico beat Germany for just the second time in history.

Germany's preparations for the tournament were plagued by poor results and controversy, and their problems were magnified in the Russian capital, leaving their proud record of never being eliminated in the group stage of a World Cup already in danger.

Joachim Loew started eight of the nine 2014 World Cup winners in his squad, with Mesut Ozil returning from a knee injury and Manuel Neuer back in goal following his lengthy absence for the Group F clash.

Jerome Boateng's build-up to the finals was also hampered by a groin injury, but the Bayern Munich centre-back was on the alert inside 60 seconds to thrust himself desperately in front of a Lozano effort.



Mexico's Hirving Lozano celebrates scoring their first goal with Andres Guardado

A remarkably open start saw Timo Werner sprint in behind the Mexico defence before dragging across the face of goal, while Mats Hummels shot straight at Guillermo Ochoa after a botched clearance.

Neuer held well twice in quick succession, first from a long-range Hector Herrera strike and then again to keep out Hector Moreno's header, as Mexico at-

tacked the Germany backline with regularity.

Carlos Salcedo nearly diverted a teasing cross into his own net, while Timo Werner hit tamely at Ochoa when an unmarked Julian Draxler appeared better option.

Mexico continued to threaten, Miguel Layun narrowly unable to latch onto a through ball, but their goal arrived 10 minutes before the break as Germany

were again sliced apart.

After Sami Khedira lost possession, Javier Hernandez triggered a lightning counter before finding a charging Lozano, who cut inside a covering Ozil and lashed low inside Neuer's near post to spark deafening roars from sizeable Mexico support.

Germany hit back, Toni Kroos rattling the crossbar with a 25-yard free-kick that needed the

GERMANY 0 1 MEXICO

Hirving Lozano (35')

Possession



25	Shots	12
9	On target	4
10	Fouls	15

fingertips of a scrambling Ochoa to keep it out, but Mexico barely clung on to their advantage.

Marco Reus was introduced on the hour as Loew sought to invigorate a struggling side, while 39-year-old Rafael Marquez became just the third player to feature at five World Cups as he was brought on the tightest Mexico's defence.

Joshua Kimmich's acrobatic overhead kick looped onto the roof of the net, with substitute Edson Alvarez then blocking bravely to thwart Draxler.

Reus also hammered a volley over from a narrow angle before a frenetic finale saw Julian Brandt, just on for Werner, smack the outside of the post with a thunderous effort from 20 yards.

GROUP F

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
Mexico	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0

factbox

- It was only the second defeat in an opening match at the World Cup finals for Germany (and West Germany until 1994). The first came against Algeria in 1982 - when the Germans still managed to reach the final
- After a draw with Uruguay in 1986, Germany had won their opening game in each of the last seven World Cups
- Germany had won every one of their previous tournament openers at European Championships and World Cups since Joachim Loew took over as coach in 2006
- Germany had scored 20 goals in their previous four opening matches at World Cups



Mexico deserved the win. Our cover was often not good and we were left many times with just Jerome (Boateng) and myself in the back. We were warned days ago (in the warm-up games)

GERMAN DEFENDER MATS HUMMELS

# Captain fires Serbia to victory

Reuters | Samara, Russia

Aleksandar Kolarov produced a moment of captain's inspiration, curling home a superb free kick as Serbia got their World Cup Group E campaign up and running with a 1-0 victory over Costa Rica yesterday.

With Costa Rica proving a tough nut to crack, Kolarov stepped up to bury a 25-metre effort from wide on the right, lighting up an otherwise tight game in the southern Russian city of Samara.

Serbia had dominated against a Costa Rica side who had rarely threatened after a bright start, but chances were thin on the

ground until Kolarov made the breakthrough in the 56th minute.

With Brazil heavy favourites to win the group, which also features Switzerland, the vic-

tory delivered a potentially vital three points for Serbia and left Costa Rica in a precarious position.

After a furious start in which Serbia's Aleksandar Mitrovic



Serbia's Sergej Milinkovic-Savic attempts an overhead kick

Costa Rica 0 - 1 Serbia  
Aleksandar Kolarov (56')

had a header scooped off the line and Costa Rica's Giancarlo Gonzalez failed to convert two headed chances, the match settled into a more predictable pattern.

Serbia bossed the ball as their enterprising midfield, fusing the experience of Manchester United enforcer Nemanja Matic and the raw talent of Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, got on top.

The Lazio playmaker was Serbia's most creative influence, although his blushes were spared by the linesman's flag when he fluffed a first-half chance after racing through on goal.



I don't know if it's the biggest win in (Mexico's) history but doubtless it is one of the biggest for sure

MEXICO'S HIRVING LOZANO

WORLD CUP PREDICT AND WIN

Football is unpredictable! Of the three matches yesterday, only three readers could predict at least two correct answers. And the lucky winner is Hubert Satheesh

Winner will be contacted



THE DAILY tribune  
NEWS OF BAHRAIN

PREDICT & WIN  
A Gift Pack from Coca-Cola

DAY 5, 18th JUNE 2018

SWEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOUTH KOREA	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>
BELGIUM	<input type="checkbox"/>	PANAMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>
TUNISIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	ENGLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: ..... Mob: .....  
CPR No.: ..... Email: .....

Send a photo of the filled in form to whatsapp No. 33609505 or email: mail@newsofbahrain.com.

Alternatively you can participate in the contest on our website www.newsofbahrain.com

Winner's photo will be published in The Daily Tribune.

Entry should be submitted before 2pm