

England crush Panama

Harry Kane hits hat-trick as The Three Lions reach last 16

Reuters | Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

Harry Kane may not have known much about his third goal against Panama yesterday, but make no mistake, England have finally found the world class finisher they need to punch deep into international competitions.

Leading from the front, he marshalled England to their biggest World Cup victory, scored two superb penalties and got his hat-trick when a shot clipped the back of his heel.

Job done, Kane made way for Jamie Vardy for most of the second half, able to reflect on the biggest win of the tournament so far, England's biggest in any World Cup, and long-overdue ecstasy for the travelling English fans.

"A ball to be proud of," smiled Kane, taking the man-of-the-match award. "Not many players score a hat-trick in the World Cup, so I'm extremely proud of it. "Extremely proud of the way we played, the hard work... and we also had fun out there as well which was important."

Well might Kane feel pride after becoming top scorer at the 2018 World Cup, his five goals taking him ahead of Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Romelu Lukaku of Belgium.

Kane too became the first England player to score a hat-trick at a World Cup since Gary Lineker against Poland in 1986 and the third overall, with Geoff Hurst getting a treble in the 1966 final.

It is all so different to his last international competition when, at the European Championship in 2016, he arrived as the main goal hope of a supposedly hungry young team but from the first match looked weary and off the pace.

Things failed to improve but then-coach Roy Hodgson kept faith with the



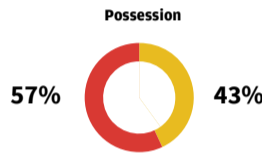
Kane celebrates his third goal of the tournament

striker -- even continuing with a bizarre policy of using his centre forward to take corners.

The introduction from the bench of razor-fast Marcus Rashford merely showed how sluggish Kane looked and he, along with his team mates, ended

ENGLAND 6 1 PANAMA

8', 40', 22' (pen), 45+1' (pen), 62', Kane, Lingard, Stones, Balozy



12	Shots	8
7	On target	2
14	Fouls	13



"I'm really pleased of course with the way we were ruthless for half an hour or so. It was a different type of win to the other day. Then we had to go right to the wire and show qualities that are going to be really importance to our resilience and sticking to our principles of play"

ENGLAND COACH GARETH SOUTHGATE

Six things we learned from England's 6-1 rout of Panama

Lingard is becoming an England star

Jesse Lingard scored England's best goal yesterday, did the shoo dance celebration and spent 90 minutes showing his increasing value to a team. "I am really pleased for Jesse, his performances have been top," said coach Gareth Southgate. Just a few months ago, Lingard was not considered a starter for England, now he is fast becoming one of its most integral parts.

England's fragile defence

It may sound harsh about a team who have only conceded two goals so far, but when pressed England's defence has looked fragile in both games. Lost in the euphoria of six goals and qualification, it should not be forgotten Panama should have scored first yesterday. At some point, a much better team will put Southgate's back three under a much stiffer examination.

Set plays

England have scored several goals from set plays this World Cup, including two John Stones headers yesterday. Set plays could become even more important for England in the next games as they will play more possession-based teams and have fewer chances. Southgate said afterwards they will keep practising them in preparation.

Panama are dreadful

Panama have been this year's fairytale, their qualification exceptional, their fans wonderful, and their goal against England tear-inducing for some. But they have also been dreadful. England should not get carried away after putting six past them.

Yellow cards

Two games played, six points, eight goals scored and two conceded. Belgium and England have identical records except for one thing, England have accrued two yellow cards, Belgium three. A draw between the two sides in Kaliningrad on Thursday and the last few minutes could be very interesting.

Stick or bust?

Gareth Southgate admits he now faces a dilemma, to keep the same side or keep his squad happy when it comes to team selection for the Belgium game. Roberto Martinez has already indicated he will make changes, will the England coach do the same?

Today's match

Group A
Uruguay vs Russia
Saudi Arabia vs Egypt
(5:00 PM)

Group B
Iran vs Portugal
Spain vs Morocco
(9:00 PM)

Point Table

GROUP A	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Russia	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Egypt	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Saudi	2	0	0	1	0	6	0

GROUP B	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Portugal	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Spain	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Iran	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Morocco	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

GROUP C	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
France	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Denmark	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Australia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Peru	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

GROUP D	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Croatia	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Nigeria	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Iceland	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Argentina	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

GROUP E	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Brazil	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Serbia	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Costa Rica	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

GROUP F	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Mexico	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Germany	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Sweden	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
S. Korea	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

GROUP G	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
England	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Belgium	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Tunisia	2	0	0	2	3	7	0
Panama	2	0	0	2	1	9	0

GROUP H	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Japan	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Senegal	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Colombia	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Poland	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Scorers

Ranking on June 24

1	Kane	ENG	5
2	Cristiano Ronaldo	POR	4
-	Lukaku	BEL	4
4	Cheryshev	RUS	3
-	Costa	ESP	3

Senegal, Japan keep hopes alive

Honda drives Japan to deserved 2-2 draw against Senegal

AFP | Yekaterinburg, Russia

Substitute Keisuke Honda equalised with 12 minutes left as Japan twice pegged back Senegal in a thrilling 2-2 draw yesterday that leaves World Cup Group H wide open.

All eyes will now be on the other group match later in the evening between Poland and Colombia following this stalemate at the Yekaterinburg Arena.

As it stands, Japan and Senegal have four points after two games, with Colombia and Poland on zero, though they have played a game less.

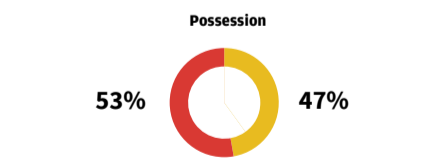
Midfielder Honda was hero for Japan, scoring deserved leveller after goalkeeper Khadim N'Diaye flapped at a cross.

Senegal, who reached the quarter-finals in the country's previous World Cup appearance in 2002, needed just over 10 minutes to go in front.

Japan failed to deal with a right-wing cross with Genki Haraguchi nodding the ball straight to Senegal defender Youssouf Sabaly in the box. He fired at

JAPAN 2 2 SENEGAL

34', 78', Inui, Honda, 11', 71', Mane, Wague



7	Shots	13
3	On target	7
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Honda score Japan's second equaliser

Eiji Kawashima and the goalkeeper made a mess of it, punching the ball into the lurking Liverpool star Sadio Mane.

The ball bounced off the striker and into the net for his first goal at this tournament -- cue raucous Senegal celebrations with Khadim N'Diaye racing the length of the pitch to join in.

This match was billed as the pace and power of Senegal against the tactical and technical nous of Japan, who took a gamble and replaced Wahid Halilhodzic with Akira Nishino as coach just weeks before the World Cup.

It appeared to pay off when the unfancied Asians stunned 10-man Colombia 2-1

in their opener, and on 34 minutes they were level with Senegal when Takashi Inui bent the ball wonderfully into the bottom corner.

Backed by a vocal Japanese following who never stopped singing and with the locals also on their side, Japan were now the better side after a nervous start.

Panama coach full of praise for 'beautiful' England

Reuters | Moscow

Panama were swept aside by a "spectacular and beautiful" England, said coach Hernan Dario Gomez yesterday, heaping praise on Gareth Southgate's side after seeing his team thrashed 6-1 in the World Cup Group G clash.

Gomez gushed over the record-breaking England performance at the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, which was the most one-sided result of the tournament in Russia.

The rout saw England through to the next stage, eliminated the World Cup debutants and handed Panama another harsh lesson after they lost their opening game 3-0 to Belgium.