

SPORTS
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Cavani heads Uruguay over Chile

● A late header from Edinson Cavani gave Uruguay top spot in Group C

● Uruguay to meet Peru in quarter-final

● Heartache for Japan, Ecuador as draw sends Paraguay into Copa quarters

Reuters | Rio De Janeiro

A late header from Edinson Cavani gave Uruguay a 1-0 win over Copa America holders Chile on Monday which saw them snatch top spot in Group C at their opponents' expense and set up a quarter-final meeting with Peru.

The striker glanced Jonathan Rodriguez's cross into the net in the 82nd minute to break the deadlock in a finely balanced game played with a fierce competitive edge even though both



Uruguay's Edinson Cavani (C) is marked by Chile's Charles Aranguiz (L) and Paulo Diaz

teams had already sealed their place in the last eight.

Cavani had been sent off in

Uruguay's 1-0 defeat to Chile in 2015 Copa America quarter-finals after being provoked

by Gonzalo Jara and he and his team mates celebrated the goal as if it had won them a trophy.



Luis Suarez appealed for a penalty when goalkeeper Gabriel Arias blocked a shot with his arm - inside the his own six-yard box

Chile, who had eased to victory in their first two games with Japan and Ecuador, came close to taking the lead in the second half when Paulo Diaz headed towards goal, but Uruguay defender Jose Gimenez nodded the ball off the line.

Uruguay's Luis Suarez had the best opportunity before the interval when he found space in the area but opted to shoot rather than pass to his unmarked team mates and his attempt was

deflected wide.

A spectator got onto the pitch late in the game and after evading security guards was tripped by Chile defender Jara.

Uruguay finished top of Group C with seven points, with Chile coming second on six and having to settle for a more challenging last-eight fixture with Colombia, who are the only side to have won all their three games in the tournament.

Meanwhile, Japan and Ecuador were left heartbroken as their 1-1 draw in Belo Horizonte on Monday saw them miss out on the Copa America quarter-finals, with Paraguay qualifying instead.

Japan and Ecuador faced a must win match in their bid to reach the knock-out stages as one of the two best third-placed finishers.

Peru had already secured their spot from Group A while Paraguay, in Group B, were left sweating on Monday's result having finished their campaign on Sunday with two points from three games.

Wimbledon seeding system disrespects rankings: Nadal

AFP | Madrid

Rafael Nadal has complained about Wimbledon's seeding system after the Spaniard was placed at number three, behind Roger Federer, for next week's grand slam in London.

The other three major tournaments all match their seeding to the official world rankings but Wimbledon uses its own formula to dictate the order, combining ranking points with form in grass-court competitions.

It means Nadal will be seeded three and Federer two at the All England Club this year, despite their positions being the reverse in the rankings list.

"Wimbledon is the only tournament of the year that does it like this," Nadal told Spanish television channel Movistar on Monday night.

"Obviously it would be better to be two than three but if they think I have to be three I will accept three and fight to win the

matches I have to win.

"Having said that, the only thing that doesn't seem right about this issue is that it is only Wimbledon that does it. If they all did it, it would seem more correct.

"It's not only about my particular case. There have been many occasions when players have played well all year on all surfaces but Wimbledon does not respect the ranking they have earned.

"And for this reason they get more complicated draws."

Nadal is yet to play an official match on grass this year while Federer warmed up for Wimbledon last week by winning his 10th title at the grass-court tournament in Halle.

Federer and top seed Novak Djokovic will be at opposite ends of the Wimbledon draw, separated until the final, but Nadal is guaranteed to have either Federer or Djokovic in his half, and could meet them in



Rafael Nadal celebrates recording match point in his final match against Dominic Thiem at Roland Garros (file photo)

the semis.

"For me personally, it means if I am three, to get to the final, Djokovic or Federer will be in my half," Nadal added.

"But that can only happen in the semi-finals and to get there I have to win five matches. Today

I'm far away."

Nadal claimed his 18th major title earlier this month by winning the French Open for a record-extending 12th time. He now sits behind only Federer's 20 grand slam triumphs in the all-time list of male champions.

Brazil's Coutinho owns up to poor Barca season

AFP | Porto Alegre, Brazil

Brazil midfielder Philippe Coutinho admitted on Monday he had a poor season with Barcelona over the last 10 months but insisted it would serve as a "lesson" for the future.

Coutinho was widely criticized this season for his performances at the Camp Nou but it hasn't stopped him retaining the favor of Brazil coach Tite, playing every minute for the Selecao at their home Copa America so far.

"Honestly, it wasn't a good season. It didn't produce what I



Coutinho joined Barcelona for a reported 160 million euros in January 2018

wanted, it didn't go as I hoped," said the 27-year-old, who joined Barca for a reported 160 million euros in January 2018.

"But I hope it serves me as an example, as a lesson so that I want more, concentrate even more to be able to succeed."

Coutinho scored in Brazil's opening 3-0 Group A victory over Bolivia, was pretty anonymous in their 0-0 draw with Venezuela but then played his best game yet in the 5-0 thrashing of Peru.

"Here with the national team there's always the same responsibility: showing the right commitment to be able to play," he said.

"Whether a good or bad season it doesn't change anything: the desire to win is always the same, or maybe even more so."

Coutinho has scored just 13 La Liga goals since joining Barca and was confined to the substitutes bench a few times last season.

Philippe Coutinho



Ross Taylor

Imam-ul-Haq

- With five wins from five completed games (plus one no result), New Zealand were top of the 2019 Cricket World Cup table after six games.
- Pakistan have won just twice, but one of those wins was in their most recent match - beating South Africa by 49 runs.
- New Zealand beat West Indies last time out, having previously won at Edgbaston against South Africa - Kane Williamson scoring back-to-back centuries.

New Zealand

New Zealand have won all five of their completed matches so far at this Cricket World Cup, only missing out when the rain forced a no result against India. The rain and the schedule meant a long wait between fixtures for Kane Williamson's side, but the captain has led from the front on their return. Against South Africa, he scored an unbeaten century as New Zealand chased 242 to win by four wickets in the final over.

Pakistan

Pakistan got back to winning ways last time out, posting 308/7 against South Africa at Lord's before restricting the Proteas to 259/9. They had lost their previous two matches - batting second on both occasions. They could only reach 212/6 from 40 overs in reply to India's 336/5 from 50 at Old Trafford, losing by 89 runs on the DLS method. Against Australia, meanwhile, they folded for 266 at Taunton in reply to the Aussies' 307.

Probable XI

Martin Guptill, Colin Munro, Kane Williamson (c), Ross Taylor, Tom Latham (wk), Colin de Grandhomme, Jimmy Neesham, Mitchell Santner, Trent Boult, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry

Probable XI

Imam-ul-Haq, Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam, Mohammad Hafeez, Haris Sohail, Imad Wasim, Wahab Riaz, Sarfaraz Ahmed (c, wk), Shadab Khan, Mohammad Amir, Shaheen Afridi

Head to Head

New Zealand and Pakistan drew their most recent ODI series, in the UAE in November 2018, with one win apiece and one result. New Zealand won the opening game, with Ross Taylor's 80 leading them to 266/9 before Trent Boult and Lockie Ferguson helped restrict Pakistan to 219 all-out. Taylor's 86 not out could not lift New Zealand beyond 209/9 next up, however. Ferguson took three more wickets, but Fakhar Zaman's 86 helped Pakistan home with 9.3 overs - and six wickets - to spare. Pakistan have now won 54 of their 106 previous games against New Zealand, while the Black Caps have won 48.