



## France 3-1 Senegal World Cup 2026 Match Report: Mbappé Makes History At MetLife Stadium

### Description

The France 3-1 Senegal World Cup 2026 showdown at MetLife Stadium on Tuesday 16 June will go down as one of the great individual performances in the history of Les Bleus. Kylian Mbappé scored twice – both as a record-breaker – as France ground out a nervy but ultimately convincing Group I victory in front of 80,545 supporters under the New Jersey sun.

### A Tentative First Half – Senegal Push France To The Limit

Manager Didier Deschamps named an unchanged lineup from the 3-1 friendly win over Northern Ireland, fielding a dynamic attacking quartet of Dembélé, Olise, Doucoure and Mbappé from the start. But it was Aliou Cissé’s Senegalese Lions who came closest to opening the scoring.

Nicolas Jackson was the chief tormentor in the first period. The Chelsea striker saw a left-footed effort in the 25th minute rattle the post and then clip the heel of goalkeeper Mike Maignan – a double miracle that kept the scoreline goalless. Then in the sixth minute of first-half stoppage time, Ismaïla Sarr was fed perfectly by Sadio Mané, only to fire wide from a position that begged for a goal. France had barely threatened: just a single shot on target from Ousmane Dembélé in 45 minutes.



Nicolas Jackson (25â??) â?? Photo: ICON SPORT via FFF

## Second-Half Blitz â?? MbappÃ© Breaks The Record

Deschamps made a positional adjustment at the break and France were transformed. Goalkeeper Édouard Mendy was called upon to deny both Michael Olise (53<sup>rd</sup>) and Mbappé himself (57<sup>th</sup>) with outstanding saves, keeping the Lions alive longer than the scoreline eventually suggested they deserved.

The breakthrough finally arrived in the 66th minute and it was vintage France. Olise played a perfectly weighted pass into the path of Mbappé, who swivelled and unleashed a pivoting right-foot drive that left Mendy rooted to the spot. His 57th international goal equalling Olivier Giroud's all-time record for Les Bleus.

The second came in the 82nd minute through substitute Bradley Barcola, who had barely touched the ball before demonstrating exactly why he was trusted to come off the bench in a World Cup opener. Adrien Rabiot slipped a sumptuous through-ball into Barcola's run; the Paris Saint-Germain winger skipped past Koulibaly and chipped a delicate finish over Mendy. France were in full control or so it seemed.

## Drama In Stoppage Time: History Written In The Final Minutes

Eight minutes of stoppage time were signalled and Senegal reduced the deficit in the 95th minute through substitute Ibrahim Mbaye, who burst down the right flank, beat Théo Hernandez and drove a composed finish past Maignan. Suddenly the MetLife crowd were on edge.

Within 60 seconds, Mbappé ended any doubt with one of the most significant goals of his career. Picking the ball up roughly 20 metres from goal, he shaped onto his right foot and thundered a drive into the bottom corner that gave Mendy absolutely no chance. His 58th international goal and with it, sole ownership of France's all-time scoring record, overtaking Giroud's mark of 57. Mbappé also broke Just Fontaine's record of 13 French World Cup goals, now standing on 14.



France's starting lineup at MetLife Stadium - Photo: Baptiste FERNANDEZ / ICON SPORT via FFF

## What They Said

Deschamps was measured in his post-match assessment: *“We had a bit of apprehension, a bit of tension at the start, against a good team. Barcola made an impact when he came on. It’s always good in a group of four to win the first game, even if it’s not decisive.”*

Mbappé, playing in his 99th international, urged caution ahead of the next test: *“I don’t think we’re fully in our stride yet. It’s always important to start well it gives a little more comfort, even if you’re never comfortable at a World Cup. We already have the game against Iraq in six days, where we must win to qualify.”*

## Group I Standings And What’s Next

France lead Group I with three points and a +2 goal difference. Elsewhere, Iraq and Norway face off in Boston on Wednesday 17 June. France’s second match comes on Monday 22 June in Philadelphia against Iraq a result that could, if combined with a Norway win over Senegal, seal France’s passage to the Round of 32.

Group I standings: **1. France 3 pts (+2)** · 2. Iraq 0 pts · 3. Norway 0 pts · 4. Senegal 0 pts (-2).

Singapore football fans have no shortage of World Cup action to follow – check out our guide to [where to watch the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Singapore](#), including free screenings and fan zones. If you missed the other Group stage shocks from the first round, read our report on [Spain’s surprise 0-0 draw with Cabo Verde](#) and the [Germany 7-1 Curaçao demolition](#).

### Date Created

17/06/2026

### Author

jadeyeo