



France vs Morocco: World Cup 2026 Quarter-Final â?? MbappÃ© Hunts His Century at Gillette Stadium

Description

Four years ago, a nation held its breath. France and Morocco met in the 2022 World Cup semi-final, and Les Bleus emerged 2-0 winners in a contest that left an entire continent heartbroken but immensely proud of what the Atlas Lions had achieved. Tonight, history offers Morocco a second chance â?? and this time, the stakes are arguably even higher.

At Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, the two nations renew acquaintances in the quarter-finals of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Kick-off is at 22h00 French time on 9 July, which translates to 4:00am Singapore time on 10 July â?? but for fans of either side, sleep can wait.



Mbappé's Milestone Moment

The biggest story heading into this match concerns Kylian Mbappé, who arrives at Gillette Stadium on 99 goal involvements — goals and assists combined — for France. A contribution tonight would

bring up his century in Les Bleus colours, a milestone that speaks to his extraordinary longevity and impact at the very highest level of international football. Even by the standards of the greatest players of their generation, 100 goal involvements for a national team is a number that commands respect.

Didier Deschamps, chasing his own piece of history, has spoken of this France squad as one of the most cohesive he has managed. The most victorious coach in World Cup history, Deschamps led Les Bleus to the trophy in 1998 as captain and in 2018 as manager. A third triumph would be unprecedented for any individual in World Cup lore. France arrive having won 11 of their last 12 official matches – a run that showcases both defensive solidity and attacking brilliance.

Morocco's Road to the Quarter-Final

Morocco's journey to Foxborough has been defined by character as much as quality. In the Round of 32, they ground out a tense victory over the Netherlands on penalties – nerves of steel from every man who stepped up, and in particular from their goalkeeper who made his country proud. They then announced their tournament credentials in emphatic fashion in the Round of 16, dismantling a well-organised Canada 3-0 in what many observers considered the most complete team performance of the knockout stage to that point.

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Under coach Walid Ouahbi, who took over from the widely respected Walid Regragui earlier this year, Morocco have retained their characteristic tactical discipline and pace on the counter-attack. The team's identity runs through the full-backs, particularly the irrepressible Achraf Hakimi, who has been one of the standout individuals of the entire tournament – dangerous going forward, disciplined

defensively, and utterly composed on the ball.

The PSG Connection

One of the most compelling subplots of this quarter-final is the PSG triangle. Three of the most influential players on the pitch — Hakimi for Morocco, and Ousmane Dembélé and Bradley Barcola for France — are all club teammates at Paris Saint-Germain. They train together, understand each other's movements intimately, and know each other's strengths in a way that no scouting report can fully replicate. For one night in Foxborough, that familiarity becomes a battlefield.

Dembélé has been creative and dangerous throughout this tournament, while Barcola's explosive pace off the left has been a constant headache for opposition defences. For Morocco, Hakimi's overlapping runs from right-back remain one of the most potent weapons in African football. How these individual matchups unfold could well determine the outcome of the tie.

What to Expect

France will seek to control the match through possession and patience, using Mbappé's intelligent movement to stretch Morocco's defensive block and create space for the midfield runners behind him. Morocco will be dangerous on the break — capable of transitioning from defence to attack at speed — and their disciplined defensive shape will test France's creative resources.

The [dramatic upsets elsewhere in the knockout stages](#) — including Norway's stunning win over Brazil — have demonstrated that no result can be taken for granted in this World Cup. And just as the [quarter-final drama has already delivered](#), this rematch promises everything a neutral could wish for: history, pride, a century for one of football's all-time greats, and 90 minutes of genuine uncertainty.

Set your alarm. This is the quarter-final of the tournament.

Match Details: France vs Morocco | FIFA World Cup 2026 Quarter-Final | Gillette Stadium, Foxborough | 9 July 2026, 22h00 French time (10 July 2026, 4:00am SGT)

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