



Germany vs Paraguay World Cup 2026 Round of 32: Die Mannschaft Face Tricky Boston Test

Description

Germany face Paraguay in the Round of 32 of the 2026 FIFA World Cup at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Boston on Monday 29 June, with kick-off scheduled for 4:30pm ET. Julian Nagelsmann's side arrive at the knockout stage with a point to prove after a group stage that included a 2-1 defeat to Ecuador, and will be expected to demonstrate a sharper and more composed performance against a determined Paraguay outfit.

The match pits one of European football's most storied nations against a Paraguay side that has exceeded expectations throughout this competition and will be far from straightforward opponents at Gillette Stadium.

Germany: Talent in Abundance, Questions to Answer

Germany qualified for the Round of 32, but not without some difficulty. That 2-1 defeat to Ecuador in the group stage was a sharp reminder that Nagelsmann's high defensive line can be exploited by quick, intelligent transitional play and that individual defensive lapses at this level carry a heavy price.

The response from Germany's squad will define the trajectory of their tournament. The talent is unquestionable. Jamal Musiala and Florian Wirtz represent arguably the most exciting midfield partnership at this entire World Cup, combining technical brilliance with intelligent off-the-ball movement and a telepathic understanding built through years of playing alongside each other at Bundesliga and European level.



The Germany squad at the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Source: DFB – Deutscher Fußball-Bund official website (dfb.de). Photo: dpa Picture-Alliance

Musiala and Wirtz: The Most Dangerous Midfield Duo at the Tournament

When Germany are at their best, the Musiala–Wirtz combination is simply outstanding. Musiala’s ability to glide past opponents in tight spaces, combined with Wirtz’s exceptional range of passing and delivery into the penalty area, creates problems that no defensive system can fully neutralise over 90 minutes.

Paraguay will almost certainly set up in a deep, compact defensive block designed to minimise the space both players operate in. That in turn means Germany's full-backs must stretch the pitch effectively, providing width to open the central channels for Musiala and Wirtz to exploit. The relationship between Germany's wide defenders and their two creative midfielders will be crucial to unlocking what will be a well-organised defensive unit.

Nagelsmann will also look to target Paraguay from set pieces, where Germany's physical presence can be a weapon. Dead-ball situations could prove particularly important if Paraguay succeed in keeping the game tight through the opening exchanges.

Paraguay: Organised, Physical, and Dangerous on the Counter

Paraguay qualified as one of the best third-placed teams in the group stage – a genuine achievement that reflects real collective quality and a team that is tactically well-prepared and difficult to break down. Coach Gustavo Alfaro has built a side defined by defensive organisation, physical resilience, and a clear counter-attacking identity.

Their threat on the transition is real. When Paraguay win the ball in their own half, they are capable of moving it quickly through the lines and exploiting the spaces behind high defensive lines – precisely the vulnerability that Ecuador exposed against Germany in the group stage. Nagelsmann's backline must be significantly more alert to this threat than they were in that defeat.



Germany head coach Julian Nagelsmann addresses the media ahead of the Round of 32 clash with Paraguay. Source: DFB [Deutscher Fußball-Bund official website \(dfb.de\)](https://www.dfb.de). Photo: dpa Picture-Alliance

Tactical Outlook: Gillette Stadium, Boston

The atmosphere at Gillette Stadium will be a fascinating backdrop for this contest. Boston's sizeable Latin American community means Paraguay are likely to enjoy significant local support, potentially creating an environment more reminiscent of a South American stadium than a typical neutral-venue knockout fixture.

Nagelsmann will prepare his side for that atmosphere carefully, and Germany's experience of high-pressure European nights should mitigate any psychological factor. The greater concern is tactical: Germany must be sharper defensively while unleashing their attacking quality with the clinical efficiency that Musiala and Wirtz are capable of delivering.

Verdict

Germany are clear favourites and carry more than enough individual quality to win this fixture. A focused, disciplined performance – one that combines their attacking brilliance with improved defensive concentration – would signal that Die Mannschaft are genuine contenders for the title.

For more on the World Cup 2026 knockout stage, see our [complete Round of 32 preview and bracket guide](#) and our earlier [Germany vs Ecuador group stage preview](#).

Prediction: Germany 2-0 Paraguay. Musiala and Wirtz should prove the difference at Gillette Stadium, but only if Nagelsmann's side defend with the solidity the Ecuador result showed has occasionally been lacking.

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