



Ronaldo Makes History: Portugal Rout Uzbekistan 5-0 As CR7 Becomes First To Score At Six World Cups

Description

Cristiano Ronaldo made footballing history on Monday evening as Portugal dismantled Uzbekistan 5-0 in Houston to record their first convincing win of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The 41-year-old struck twice to become the first player in history to score at six different World Cup tournaments – a record that underscores just how extraordinary his career has been, and one that may never be broken.

Portugal were utterly dominant from the first whistle, leaving the disappointment of [their 1-1 opening draw with DR Congo](#) firmly behind them. Roberto Martínez's side were clinical, incisive, and full of attacking intent – precisely the performance their supporters had been demanding after a stuttering start to their Group K campaign.

The Moment History Was Made

The record books were rewritten just six minutes in. Nuno Mendes played a cutting pass down the left channel, and Ronaldo showed the predatory instinct that has defined his career, sliding in to steer the ball past the goalkeeper from close range. The NRG Stadium erupted as the significance of the moment became clear: a goal scored at a sixth consecutive World Cup, spanning from Germany 2006 to this remarkable night in Texas.

Ronaldo had previously netted at the 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022 tournaments. No player in history had ever managed the feat across six editions of football's greatest stage. Just as Lionel Messi rewrote the record books with his [World Cup appearance record](#) at this very tournament, his eternal rival has now claimed a milestone of his own that is equally untouchable.



Portugal's 26-man squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America (Source: FPF official website)

Portugal Turn On The Style

Nuno Mendes doubled the advantage with a wonderfully executed free-kick, curling the ball into the top corner to make it 2-0. Uzbekistan, making their World Cup debut, struggled to cope with the relentless pressure Portugal applied throughout the first half, with their defensive lines stretched at every turn.

Ronaldo added his second and Portugal's third when Bruno Fernandes slipped a perfectly weighted throughball in behind the Uzbek defence. The Al Nassr striker needed only one touch to control and convert, cementing his place as the greatest individual scorer in World Cup tournament history. His tally of goals across six editions of the competition is, quite simply, without parallel.

Uzbekistan suffered further misfortune shortly after the hour mark when Nematov turned the ball into his own net under pressure, making it 4-0. Any lingering hopes of a comeback had long since dissipated, and substitute Rafael Leão put the gloss on proceedings with a fifth goal late in the match, showcasing the extraordinary depth of attacking talent at Martínez's disposal.

What This Means For Portugal



Portugal's world-class attacking stars have been the foundation of their 2026 World Cup campaign (Source: FPF official website)

Portugal now sit in a commanding position in Group K following this result. With Ronaldo, Bernardo Silva, Bruno Fernandes, Leão, and Gonçalo Ramos all in the squad, Martínez possesses perhaps the most potent attacking unit in the tournament. The question was always whether they could convert their quality into goals – on Tuesday, they answered it emphatically.

Uzbekistan, making their World Cup debut, competed gamely in the early stages before Portugal's class simply overwhelmed them. Their players and coaching staff will take plenty from the experience, even if progression from the group stage looks unlikely given the quality arrayed against them.

For Ronaldo personally, the applause he received from Uzbek supporters throughout the match spoke to the global admiration his career commands. At 41, he continues to defy expectation and time itself. Whether he adds further to his remarkable World Cup tally in the group finale against Colombia remains to be seen – but on this evidence, he has lost none of the hunger that has driven him throughout an unprecedented international career. His name is in the history books once more, and this time, no one

will ever be able to match it.

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