



Spain 0-0 Cabo Verde: World Cup 2026 Shock as La Roja Stumble Against the Blue Sharks

Description

It was supposed to be the start of something special. Spain, two-time World Cup winners and one of the pre-tournament favourites, opened their 2026 FIFA World Cup campaign against Cabo Verde at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta on Sunday and were held to a jaw-dropping 0-0 draw.

The Blue Sharks of Cabo Verde, ranked 69th in the world, pulled off one of the greatest defensive performances in World Cup history, frustrating a Spain side that conjured 27 shots but could not find the net. For supporters of La Roja, it was a sobering reminder that at this tournament, no result can be taken for granted.

Spain had been flying coming into the tournament, and their build-up form suggested this would be a routine opening victory. Yet from the first whistle, Cabo Verde sat deep in a disciplined 5-4-1 shape, determined to make Spain work for every inch of space.



Spain dominated possession but could not find a way through the Cabo Verde defence.
(Photo: RFEF)

Vozinha: The Man Who Stopped La Roja

If one man deserves to have his name written into World Cup folklore after this match, it is Vozinha. The Cabo Verde goalkeeper was sublime, making save after save to deny Álvaro Morata, Nico Williams, Pedri, and Dani Olmo in what became an increasingly frantic Spain assault.

Vozinha did not face a single attempt in return – Cabo Verde registered zero shots on target – which only makes his heroics more remarkable. This was goalkeeping of the highest order, and Cabo Verde fans in Atlanta celebrated at the final whistle as if they had won the title itself.

The statistics tell a damning story from Spain’s perspective. Twenty-seven shots. Multiple corners. An expected goals figure that would have predicted a comfortable win. Yet the scoreboard read 0-0, and in a World Cup group stage, a dropped point can prove costly.

Group H Picture: Spain’s Road Gets Harder

Spain's Group H rivals will have watched this match with barely concealed delight. The group also features Brazil and Saudi Arabia, and with only two teams advancing from each group, every point now takes on amplified importance. A draw against Cabo Verde means Spain cannot afford any further slips.

Brazil, playing in the same group, will be licking their lips at the prospect of Spain being rattled this early. It sets up an enormous clash between the two footballing giants later in the group stage – a match that could well decide who tops Group H.



Vozinha was in inspired form throughout, keeping Spain's attackers at bay. (Photo: RFEF)

What This Means for Singapore Fans

For the many Singapore fans watching from fan zones around the island – whether catching the action at the [official FIFA screenings](#) or [local sports bars](#) – this was a match that delivered exactly the drama and unpredictability that makes the World Cup so compelling. There may have been no goals, but there was no shortage of entertainment.

Spain's stumble also adds intrigue to the broader tournament picture. Meanwhile, [Germany's stunning 7-1 demolition of Curaçao](#) earlier in the tournament showed that some favourites are living up to their billing. Spain will need to rediscover their clinical edge quickly.

What Happens Next

Spain will have very little time to lick their wounds. Their next Group H fixture comes in just a few days, and the pressure on manager Luis de la Fuente to produce a response will be enormous. With a squad brimming with talent — Pedri, Gavi, Nico Williams, Yamal, Morata — the ability is undeniable. The question is whether they can translate it into goals.

As for Cabo Verde, this result is nothing short of historic. The Blue Sharks have announced themselves on the world stage in emphatic fashion. Even if they do not progress from the group, Vozinha and his teammates have earned the admiration of football supporters everywhere — and given the World Cup yet another reason to be celebrated as the most unpredictable tournament on the planet.

The FIFA World Cup 2026 continues across the United States, Canada, and Mexico throughout June and July. Follow Little Big Red Dot for match previews, reports, and all the latest from the tournament. You can also check our guide to [watching the World Cup live in Singapore](#).

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