



Spain 4-0 Saudi Arabia: Yamal Enters World Cup History as La Roja Light Up Atlanta

Description

Spain were simply irresistible at Atlanta Stadium on Sunday, dismantling Saudi Arabia 4-0 to surge to the top of Group H at the FIFA World Cup 2026. A brace from Mikel Oyarzabal, a clinical opener from Lamine Yamal, and an own goal completed one of the tournament's most emphatic victories so far and in the process, rewrote several entries in the World Cup record books.

Yamal Makes History at 18

Spain's night of records began in the tenth minute. A driving run from the left by Oyarzabal produced a cross that Lamine Yamal met at the near post, sliding in to open the scoring with a composed finish. The goal marked yet another milestone in the 18-year-old's extraordinary career but this time on the grandest stage of all.

At 18 years and 343 days, Yamal entered the top ten youngest goalscorers in World Cup history. More remarkably still, he became only the second player in history after Pelé to score in both a World Cup and a continental championship, having netted in Euro 2024. For a teenager still discovering the full scope of his abilities, the record books are becoming a familiar home.

[After Spain's stumble against Cabo Verde in their Group H opener](#), Sunday's display was a statement of the highest order. Luis de la Fuente had assembled his squad with world-class quality throughout as [Spain's World Cup 2026 squad preview details](#) and against Saudi Arabia, that quality was on full, unambiguous display.



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Oyarzabal Writes His Name in Spanish Football History

If Yamal set the tone, Mikel Oyarzabal wrote the defining chapter of the evening. The forward struck twice in the 21st and 24th minutes – both goals set up by precise passing from Aymeric Laporte and Dani Olmo respectively – to give Spain an unassailable 3–0 lead before the half-hour mark.

The second of those goals moved Oyarzabal to 27 international goals for La Roja, drawing level with Fernando Morientes and overtaking Emilio Butragueño to sit seventh on Spain’s all-time scoring list. De la Fuente, celebrating his 65th birthday on the night, had every reason to feel satisfied with what he was watching.

Just before half-time, Oyarzabal nearly completed a hat-trick, striking a superb outside-of-the-foot effort that beat the goalkeeper only to rattle the crossbar. The full house of around 70,000 at Atlanta Stadium rose as one – and had that shot gone in, it would have ranked among the tournament’s finest moments thus far.

Second Half Seals the Emphatic Win

Any lingering Saudi hope of a second-half comeback was extinguished four minutes into the second period. Marc Cucurella met a corner from Alex Baena with a powerful volley; after a save by goalkeeper Al-Owais, the ball deflected off Hassan Al-Tambakti and rolled into the net. The Saudi defender was unfortunate to be credited with the own goal, but Spain’s 4–0 lead was fully deserved.



Mikel Oyarzabal was named Player of the Match after his brace against Saudi Arabia. ©
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De la Fuente rotated his squad for the closing stages, introducing Ferran Torres, Y Jeremy Pino, and Nico Williams to maintain the tempo. Late on, Torres appeared to have added a fifth, but VAR ruled the effort out for offside following a pass from Pedro Porro. Saudi Arabia, marshalled by Georgios Donis and captained by Salem Al-Dawsari, struggled to impose themselves at any point against a disciplined Spain backline.

Spain Sit Atop Group H

Spain now sit provisional leaders of Group H, with their next fixture against Uruguay in Guadalajara, Mexico. A positive result there could see them seal a place in the Round of 16 as group winners. For Saudi Arabia, the road ahead has grown considerably more difficult.

But the story of this evening belongs to two players: Yamal, who once again reminded the world that generational talent knows no age limit, and Oyarzabal, whose brace cemented his standing as one of La Roja's most dependable finishers of his generation. Spain, it seems, have arrived at this World Cup in earnest.

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