



## USA vs Australia: World Cup 2026 Group D Showdown in Seattle

### Description

A blockbuster Group D showdown awaits at Seattle Stadium on Friday as the United States men's national team face Australia in what could define who tops their group at FIFA World Cup 2026. Both sides arrive unbeaten after opening-match victories, setting up a genuine top-of-the-table clash with a place in the round of 16 all but assured for the winner.

The USMNT, buoyed by a rousing win over Paraguay in their opener, will be eager to extend their perfect 6-0 record at Seattle Stadium. Australia, meanwhile, arrive full of confidence after a disciplined 2-0 victory over Türkiye in Vancouver – a result that announced Tony Popovic's side as serious contenders in the AFC bracket and earned them plaudits across the football world.



A top-of-table Group D clash as USA meet Australia at Seattle Stadium (Image: U.S. Soccer)

## When and Where

The match kicks off on Friday, 19 June 2026 at 3:00 p.m. ET (12:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 a.m. SGT Saturday) at Seattle Stadium in Seattle, Washington. It will be broadcast live on FOX and Telemundo in the United States.

## The Socceroos' Stunning Opener

Australia's 2-0 win over Türkiye last weekend was built on two extraordinary individual performances. Twenty-two-year-old goalkeeper Patrick Beach, making only his third senior appearance for the Socceroos, produced a record eight saves – the most by any goalkeeper on his World Cup debut since 2002 – to keep a clean sheet against a Turkish side that dominated possession for long stretches.

The goals came from the tournament's brightest new talent. Nestory Irankunda, just 20 years old, latched onto a Paul Okon-Engstler pass and slotted a composed finish to become Australia's youngest-ever World Cup goalscorer. Connor Metcalfe then curled a superb left-footed strike into the far corner to seal the win. Head coach Tony Popovic – who made history by becoming the first person both to play for and coach Australia at a World Cup – had his side purring.



Australia's Socceroos were impressive in defeating Türkiye 2-0 in their World Cup opener (Image: Football Australia)

## USMNT's Home Advantage

Mauricio Pochettino's United States side carry the weight of host-nation expectation, and the partisan Pacific Northwest crowd will be firmly behind them. The Americans' perfect record at Seattle Stadium is a genuine psychological edge, and in their most recent meeting with Australia, striker Haji Wright bagged a brace in a 2-1 come-from-behind victory in Commerce City last October — a result that gives the USMNT considerable confidence heading into this rematch.

Seventeen of the 24 players who featured in that October match earned places on Pochettino's final World Cup squad, suggesting this was precisely the core he built towards. The connection between squad members is deep, and against an Australian side who prefer to sit compact and counter, the USA's ability to break down a low block in front of a home crowd could prove the difference.

## Players to Watch

For Australia, all eyes will be on Irankunda once again. The Adelaide-born winger has the pace and directness to trouble any backline, and his composed finish against TÃ¼rkiye showed maturity well beyond his 20 years. Should he be available from the start, the USMNT defence will need a plan. Australia's midfield, built around Cristian Volpato (Sassuolo), Aiden O'Neill, and Kai Trewin who are New York City FC teammates of USMNT goalkeeper Matt Freese add creativity and a physical edge in equal measure.

Whether captain Mathew Ryan retakes his goalkeeping berth from the impressive Beach will be one of Popovic's big calls. In midfield, the returning Jackson Irvine brings experience at moments when composure is most needed. Meanwhile the USA will rely on the pace of their forwards and the creative spark of midfielders who excelled in their Copa AmÃ©rica campaign under Pochettino.

## Head to Head

The sides have met four times previously all friendly matches. Australia won the first encounter 1-0 in 1992, but the USA have been unbeaten in the three meetings since: a 0-0 draw in 1998, a 3-1 warm-up win ahead of the 2010 World Cup, and October's 2-1 win. Friday's clash will be their first official competitive meeting, raising the stakes considerably.

With both nations sitting atop Group D and the winner likely confirming passage to the round of 16, this is one of the standout fixtures of the tournament's opening phase. It is a match that neither side can afford to treat lightly and for the neutral, one not to miss.

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