



Fantasy Football

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The 2010 FIFA World Cup

Summary of group play

Day 1:

NIG	0	1	GER	CAM	0	0	PER	GRE	2	0	EQU	USA	0	1	SUI
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In the opening match for Group A, Bastian Schweinsteiger's cross found Miroslav Klose, who headed in for the only score against Nigeria. In the other game, Cambodia and Peru played to a scoreless draw.

Meanwhile, in Group B, Antonis Petropoulos scored twice in a 2-0 win over surprise qualifiers Equatorial Guinea. Blaise Nkufo headed in the late winner for a 1-0 victory, as a controversial offside ruling overturned what would have been the equalizer for the Americans.

Day 2:

ARG	3	0	ENG	WAL	0	0	AUS	RSA	1	1	DJI	POR	0	1	VEN
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The much-touted opening matchup for Group C turned into a rout, as Diego Milito scored a hat trick against a hapless English defense. The second match was a scoreless draw, as both the Dragons and the Socceroos were content to play defensively.

In Group D, hosts South Africa played Djibouti to a 1-1 draw. Meanwhile, there was celebration in Caracas as Giancarlo Maldonado stunned the Portuguese with a screamer from 25 yards.

Day 3:

ESP	0	2	AFG	FRO	1	0	OMA	NOR	2	0	FRA	JAM	2	3	PHI
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With most of the roster injured when their team bus was struck by a tractor-trailer, Spain could only suit up 8 players for the Group E opener and lost to Afghanistan 2-0. The "battle of the minnows" resulted in a 1-0 victory for the Faroe Islands as Newcastle United signing Joan Edmundssen scored from the penalty spot in first half stoppage time.

With the arrests of Franck Ribery and Karim Benzema for solicitation, *Les Bleus* were in complete disarray as they lost the Group F opener 2-0 to Norway. Alexander Borromeo, Ian Araneta, and former Wimbledon defender Rob Gier all scored for the Philippines, who defeated Jamaica 3-2.

Day 4:

AND	0	6	BRA	URU	2	1	DEN	MEX	0	1	PRK	SVN	2	2	CMR
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The Samba Kings had no problems with minnows Andorra in Group G's opening match as Robinho and Adriano both bagged a brace in a 6-0 hiding. Goals from Diego Forlan and Luis Suarez gave Uruguay a 2-1 victory over the Danes.



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In Group H, “The People’s Rooney” Jong Tae-Se stunned *El Tri* with a surprise header 2 minutes into stoppage time, while Slovenia and Cameroon played to a 2-2 draw.

Day 5:

GER 0 0 CAM	PER 2 1 NIG	SUI 2 1 GRE	EQU 0 0 USA
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A heroic performance in goal by Phnom Penh native Oum Chandara held Die Mannschaft scoreless and gave each team a point in the standings. Two late goals from captain Juan Manuel Vargas gave the Peruvians the win despite Kalu Uche leading off the scoring for the Super Eagles.

The Swiss earned their three points, as Nkufo and Alexander Frei both scored to lead a 2-1 victory over a tough Greek defense. A dismal performance by the Yanks resulted in a scoreless draw.

Day 6:

WAL 0 5 ARG	ENG 1 2 AUS	DJI 1 0 VEN	RSA 1 0 POR
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In a match touted as “the past meets the future,” it was all future as Giggs and the Welsh side were put to the sword by Lionel Messi and company in a 5-0 romp. Despite an early goal by Rooney, the lads from Down Under came away with the win behind goals by Lucas Neill and Harry Kewell.

Venezuela’s luck failed to hold up this time, as Ahmed Daher scored to give Djibouti a 1-0 win. Meanwhile, the Bafana Bafana prolonged Portugal’s woes, winning 1-0.

Day 7:

AFG 2 1 FRO	ESP 0 0 OMA	FRA 0 1 PHI	NOR 1 0 JAM
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Kabul Bank F.C. striker Hashmutallah Barakzai struck in the 37th and 84th minute, overcoming the 8th minute opener by Faroese captain Frodi Benjaminsen. Meanwhile, Oman defended with ten men behind the ball even though Spain only had eight men, and the final shot by Xavi glanced off the crossbar and ended the game in a draw.

With Nicholas Anelka leading a players’ strike, the French team did not practice and stumbled to a 1-0 defeat at the hands of the Philippines. Meanwhile, Bjorn Helge Riise headed in past Jamaican goalkeeper Dwayne Miller for another 1-0 win.

Day 8:

BRA 4 1 URU	DEN 0 1 AND	PRK 0 2 SVN	CMR 0 3 MEX
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A goal from Forlan wasn’t enough as Brazil collected all three points by a 4-1 scoreline. Astoundingly, the Andorrans gained a 1-0 victory behind a free kick by Jordi Escura.

No upset for the Koreans this time, as captain Robert Koren scored two for the Slovenians. Mexico got the monkey of their back with a 3-0 win behind Giovanni dos Santos’ hat trick.

Day 9:

CAM 1 0 NIG	PER 0 4 GER	SUI 1 1 EQU	USA 0 3 GRE
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Misjudging a header from Cambodian striker Kouch Sokumpheak, captain Joseph Yobo made a stunning own goal, sending the Nigerian team home without a single point in the standings. Meanwhile, scores by Klose, Özil, Müller, and Badstuber gave Germany a comfortable 4-0 victory.

Captain Giorgio Karagounis led a 3-0 romp against a pathetic American back line to send Greece through to the next round. Though captain Juvenal finally opened the scoring for Equatorial Guinea, the Swiss got a late equalizer to give each team a point.

Day 10:

AUS	0	0	ARG	ENG	1	2	WAL	VEN	2	2	RSA	POR	0	1	DJI
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A scoreless game with little action gave Argentina and Australia each a point and a berth in the knockout stage. The Three Lions had nothing but pride to play for, and they couldn't even manage that, as the Welsh side celebrated a 2-1 victory.

Maldogol again lived up to his nickname, scoring two in the second half to earn a 2-2 draw, but that was enough to put the host nation through to the next round. Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz resigned in disgrace after Djibouti went top of the group with a 1-0 win.

Day 11:

FRO	1	1	ESP	AFG	1	0	OMA	PHI	1	0	NOR	FRA	1	3	JAM
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The Islanders nearly pulled off a win when Christian Holst scored in the 70th, but Spain threw caution to the winds and Carlos Puyol headed in the equalizer during stoppage time. The Afghans' miracle run continued as they gained a taut 1-0 victory.

The Philippines went top of the group as Borromeo volleyed home a rebound in the 81st for the win. French coach Raymond Domenech was attacked by enraged fans in the aftermath of a 3-1 drubbing which saw Colorado Rapids forward Omar Cummings score a hat trick for the Reggae Boyz.

Day 12:

DEN	2	1	BRA	AND	2	3	URU	CMR	2	1	PRK	SVN	0	2	MEX
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Early goals by Daniel Agger and Christian Poulsen gave Denmark a 2-1 win over Dunga's boys. Despite yielding two goals, Uruguay won behind a hat trick from Forlan, who looks the favorite to win the Golden Boot. With the two South American sides sitting on equal records, goal differential gave the top spot to Brazil.

Purported late-game tactical advice from Dear Leader was not enough to close the gap against Cameroon. Despite losing 2-0 to Mexico, Slovenia edged out Cameroon for the second spot.



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Final Group Standings:

	Nation	W	D	L	Points	Goals Scored	Goals Allowed	?
Group A								
Group B								
Group C								
Group D								
Group E								
Group F								
Group G								
Group H								