



What to WATCH

T SPORTS FIFA World Cup South Korea vs Portugal Live from 09:00 pm Cameroon vs Brazil Live from 01:00 am	(Saturday) GTV FIFA World Cup Ghana vs Uruguay Live from 09:00 pm Serbia vs Switzerland	Live from 01:00 am (Saturday) TEN 2 Pakistan vs England 1st Test, Day 2 Live from 11:00 am
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Emulate Suarez if need be, says Addo

AGENCIES

Ghana coach Otto Addo called on his players to be ready to sacrifice themselves like Luis Suarez did in 2010 as they aim for a place in the World Cup knockout stage at Uruguay's expense.

Uruguay striker Suarez broke Ghanaian hearts 12 years ago in South Africa when his deliberate handball stopped a certain goal in the dying moments of their quarterfinal.

Suarez was sent off but Asamoah Gyan missed the resulting penalty and Uruguay then beat the Black Stars in a shootout after the game ended 1-1.

"If the same incident would have happened the other way around and Ghana would have proceeded to the semi-finals, everyone would have said 'OK, it's normal that a player would do anything he can to help his team to go to the semi-finals'," Addo said on Thursday.

"This is what I wish from every player, to do all he can to help his team qualify, sacrificing himself with a red card."

A win on Friday would guarantee Ghana passage from Group H and eliminate Uruguay but Addo said he was not thinking about dumping out Suarez, who was unrepentant over his actions when told he was considered "the devil himself" by Ghanaians earlier on Thursday.

"It was a very sad day for me... but this is my perspective," said Addo. "If I see it from another perspective it's a normal thing so for me it's not a big topic."

"It's not a normal game because the public is making it a different game. But for me it's a normal game. We want to qualify for the next stage, we surely want to win."

"For us what happened in 2010 is very sad but we can't



Already through to the last 16, Brazil might turn to their bench to show off the enviable riches it holds against Cameroon in their final Group G game at the Lusail Stadium on Friday. While Brazil will look to keep the top spot, Cameroon will have to win the tie in order to have any hopes of qualifying to the next stage. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brazil fancy showing off embarrassment of riches

AGENCIES

Brazil coach Tite is expected to rotate his World Cup squad for their final Group G match against Cameroon on Friday, with a view to keeping some players fresh for a likely last-16 match on Monday if they finish top of their group.

With their ticket already booked for the knockout stages after two wins, Brazil can rest players and wait for the return of others including Neymar, Alex Sandro and Danilo from injury.

Juventus left back Alex Sandro suffered a hip injury in Brazil's 1-0 win over Switzerland, while Paris St Germain forward Neymar and Juventus right back Danilo picked up ankle injuries in the opening 2-0 win over Serbia. Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar has given no specific timetable for their return.

Several Brazil players were also ill on Sunday, including midfielder Lucas Paqueta who missed Saturday's training session and was substituted off at halftime in the game against Switzerland.

According to Brazilian television station Globo, Tite has already told the squad that he plans to give some players their first start at a World Cup match when they meet the African side.

Rodrygo, the youngest player in Tite's squad, came off the bench in both of Brazil's game in the World Cup so far, and he is likely to begin from the beginning in the game against Cameroon.

The five-time World Cup winners have an embarrassment of riches in the attacking department, even with Neymar injured and Roberto Firmino and Philippe Coutinho left out of the squad.

Raphinha, Antony, Vinicius Junior, Gabriel Jesus, Gabriel Martinelli, Pedro and Richarlison are all providing competition for Rodrygo.

But Rodrygo has one major advantage over the others.

"We've seen him playing as a false nine, a 10, the 'Neymar' of Real Madrid, with the ability to play on the left and right," Matheus Bach, an assistant coach with Brazil, who is also Tite's son, said recently.

"He's a chameleon, but a chameleon who does all these functions very well."

Cameroon, meanwhile, still have a chance of qualifying.

But Brazil are World Cup favourites for a reason, and have a bench packed with a flurry of attacking talents and also Manchester City number 1, Ederson.

Brazil will top their group if they draw or win. If they lose and Switzerland win against Serbia, top spot will be decided by goal difference.

CAMEROON VS BRAZIL

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Matches 6
Cameroon 1
Brazil 5

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting (Cameroon)	Rodrygo (Brazil)
Caps 71	Caps 9
Goals 20	Goals 1

Serbia hoping for cheese-like holes in Swiss defence

REUTERS, Doha

Serbia coach Dragan Stojkovic hopes to find holes in Switzerland's defences, like in their famous cheese, when they meet in their final World Cup Group G game as they bid to qualify for the knockout stages for the first time.

Bottom side Serbia sit two points behind second-placed Switzerland and must win to have any hope of progressing to the last 16, while the Swiss would need only a draw if Cameroon do not beat Brazil.

"We'd really like to talk about their cheese and find their weak spots - the holes - to get the result we aspire to," Stojkovic told reporters ahead of Friday's game at Stadium 974.

"We knew after the (group stage) draw was held that Brazil is an entirely different dimension and we would be fighting for second place with Cameroon and Switzerland. These forecasts brought us to this point."

"We knew the match with Switzerland would be of major importance as the last one in the group, and this is what we're now faced with... We've witnessed a lot of surprises at this World Cup, but we will be ready." Serbia played the first two group games with just Aleksandar Mitrovic spearheading the attack. Stojkovic said Dusan Vlahovic is fit but would not confirm his participation.

SERBIA VS SWITZERLAND

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Matches 1
Serbia 0
Switzerland 1

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Sergej Milinkovic-Savic (Serbia)	Granit Xhaka (Switzerland)
Caps 38	Caps 109
Goals 7	Goals 12



change it. We're looking forward and we want to win this game."

Perennial wild cards Uruguay must win in Al Wakrah to go through and will need to fire up their big-name forwards - Suarez, Edinson Cavani, Darwin Nunez - and shake off some dire form that saw them held by South Korea and outclassed by Portugal. If Ghana play for the draw they will be gambling on already-qualified Portugal beating South Korea, a team famous for their fighting spirit, as proven when they came back from two goals down against Ghana on Monday, before losing 3-2.

GHANA VS URUGUAY

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Matches 1
Ghana 0
Uruguay 1

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Mohammed Kudus (Ghana)	Federico Valverde (Uruguay)
Caps 20	Caps 46
Goals 7	Goals 4



After the tears, South Korea turn eyes to Portugal

REUTERS

South Korea let their emotions pour out when they lost a five-goal thriller to Ghana this week, but they can expect no sympathy on Friday from Portugal, who are determined to clinch top spot in their World Cup group.

South Korea must beat the 2016 European champions - as they did at the 2002 World Cup on home soil - and hope that the result of the other final Group H match between Ghana and Uruguay goes their way too.

Striker Son Heung-min was in tears after Monday's 3-2 loss to Ghana and coach Paulo Bento was shown a red card for arguing with the referee after he blew the final whistle with his team about to take a corner.

Bento will not be on the bench against Portugal.

Assistant coach Sergio Costa said South Korea would bounce back from their disappointment.

"We clearly deserved a win," Costa said. "Count on us for the next match."

South Korea have only one point after drawing their opening game against Uruguay and must beat Portugal to have any chance of progressing.

At the World Cup 20 years ago, South Korea beat a 10-man Portugal - whose team included Bento - in their final group game. The result meant Portugal did not qualify for the next round while the Koreans went on a run that took them to the semifinals.

Portugal opened their campaign in Qatar with a 3-2 victory against Ghana before enjoying a more controlled 2-0 win over Uruguay on Monday.

SOUTH KOREA VS PORTUGAL

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Matches 1
South Korea 1
Portugal 0

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Son Heung-min (South Korea)	Bruno Fernandes (Portugal)
Caps 106	Caps 51
Goals 35	Goals 13

But they are not assured of finishing top of their group, a position that would likely see them avoid Brazil in the last 16.

"First place isn't guaranteed," coach Fernando Santos said on Monday. "We will go for top spot, and not just because of Brazil."

Santos is likely to be forced into more

changes to his starting 11 after left-back Nuno Mendes suffered an injury in the first half against Uruguay and was replaced by Raphael Guerreiro.

Captain Cristiano Ronaldo could be rested against South Korea even if fit, informed coach Santos. The 37-year-old Portugal captain missed Wednesday's practice and stayed at the gym to do recovery and specific exercises.

"I think it is 50-50 if he plays or not, we'll see," Santos told a news conference about Ronaldo's availability for the game.

If Ronaldo starts, he will have a chance to equal the record of World Cup goals scored for Portugal held by Eusebio, who racked up nine goals in 1966 in England, the only tournament he played in.

Ronaldo has scored eight goals in his five World Cups and he claimed his ninth in the win over Uruguay on Monday, only for the goal to be awarded to team mate Bruno Fernandes.

Centre half Danilo Pereira is sidelined with broken ribs so 39-year-old defender Pepe is likely to keep his place and be tasked with marking South Korean striker Cho Gue-sung, who scored twice in three minutes against Ghana.

Midfielder Otavio also missed the game against Uruguay due to injury.