

WORLD CUP 2026

Digital Trading Card Album



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WORLD CUP 2026

Digital Trading Card Album

The World Cup is fast approaching! In true, playground style, we're creating special digital trading cards for you to celebrate with your class. One new country every school day, ready for an exciting summer ahead.

Each trading card includes stats and info, with clickable links to show location, football highlights and the snazziest kit designs. Perfect for discussion, research and homework, celebrating diversity and unity, reading and learning.

Collect the cards on our social media channels, dropped each day from 5pm. Save and re-use this link, and see your album grow!



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Mexico

FIFA RANKING: 15th



El Tri

Star Player: Santiago Giménez

World Cup Group: Group A RSA, KOR, CZE

World Cup Qualifiers: 18 times (out of 22)

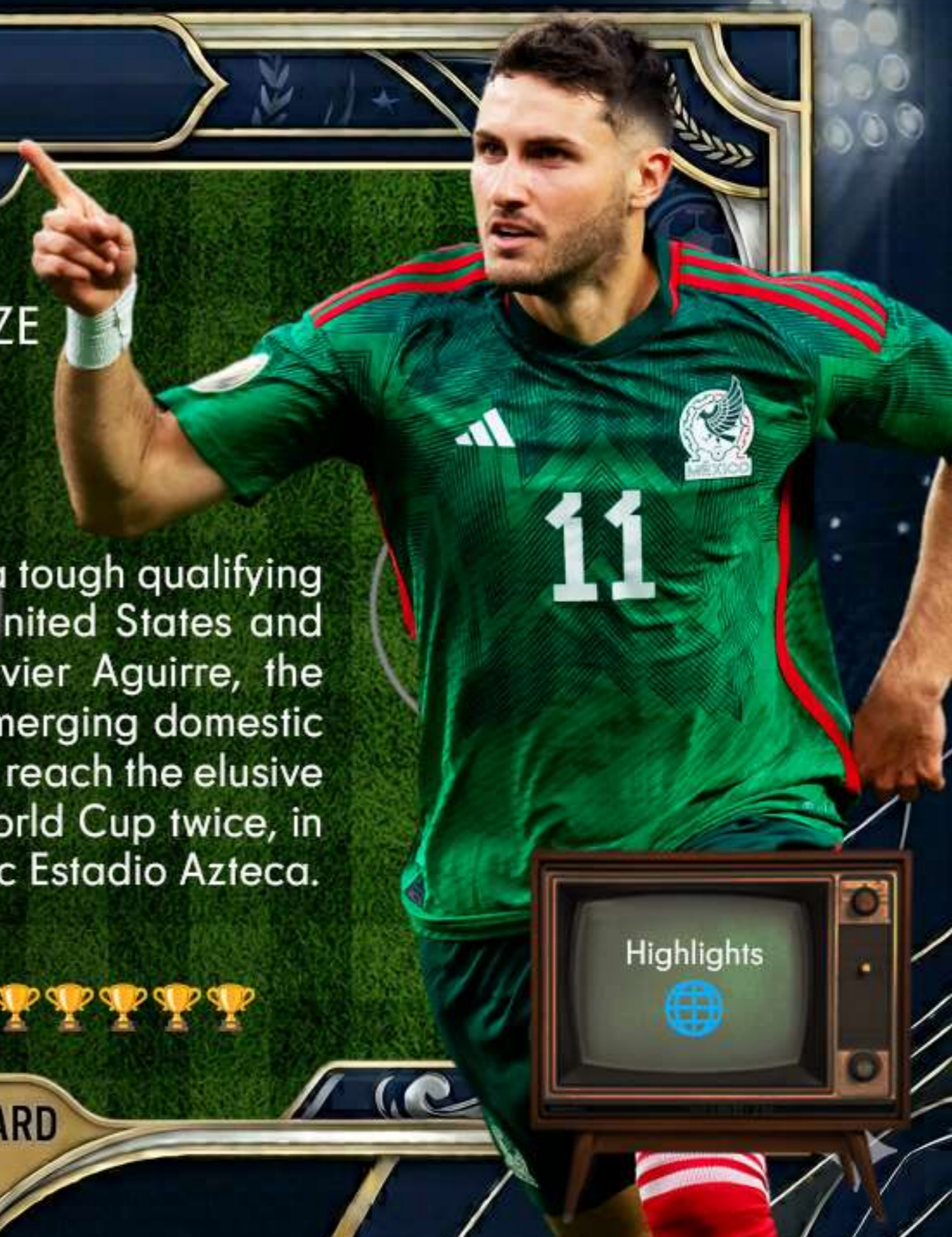
World Cup Winners: 0

🌐 Continent: North America

Mexico enters this year's World Cup having navigated a tough qualifying campaign featuring key victories over rivals like the United States and Costa Rica. Under the leadership of head coach Javier Aguirre, the squad boasts a blend of European-based stars and emerging domestic talents, generating considerable expectation to at least reach the elusive "quinto partido" (fifth game). Mexico has hosted the World Cup twice, in 1970 and 1986, with both finals taking place at the iconic Estadio Azteca.

[Discuss: Is there an advantage playing at home?](#)

🌐 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: A super-symbollic 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆



South Africa

FIFA RANKING: 61st




Bafana Bafana

Star Player: Lyle Foster

World Cup Group: Group A MEX, KOR, CZE



World Cup Qualifiers: 3 times (out of 22)

World Cup Winners: 0

 Continent: Africa

South Africa have ended a 16-year drought with a historic qualifying campaign under head coach Hugo Broos. After securing their spot with a decisive victory over Rwanda, the "Bafana Bafana" arrive with a squad dominated by Mamelodi Sundowns, bolstered by key European-based talents like Lyle Foster. South Africa remains the only African nation to have ever hosted the FIFA World Cup, a tournament that famously introduced the world to the "vuvuzela" and the iconic "Tshabalala" opening goal.

Discuss: How could South Africa handle the pressure of the first game versus the hosts?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: 'A bit too much like Brazil?' 



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Czech Republic

FIFA RANKING: 42nd




Národ'ák

Star Player: Patrik Schick

World Cup Group: Group A (RSA, KOR, RSA, CZE)



World Cup Qualifiers: 10 times (8 as Czechoslovakia, 2 as Czech Republic)

World Cup Winners: 0 (Runners-up in 1934 and 1962)

 Continent: Europe

The Czech Republic team is back in the World Cup for the first time in 20 years! They earned their spot with a big win over Moldova and are ready to show what they can do. The team, nicknamed "Národ'ák," features many players who play for famous local clubs like Slavia and Sparta Prague. They also have big stars who play in Europe's top leagues, like goal-scorer Patrik Schick and Tomáš Souček. The country has a great history in football, including two times when they almost won the tournament. Famous for legendary players like Antonín Panenka, inventor of the 'Panenka' penalty.

Discuss: Hardworking team v superstars, which is best?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: A solid six! 



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



South Korea

FIFA RANKING: 26th




Taegeuk Warriors

Star Player: Son Heung-min

World Cup Group: Group A (MEX, RSA, KOR, CZE)



World Cup Qualifiers: 12 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: 4th place in 2002)

 Continent: Asia

South Korea cruised through qualification, topping their group undefeated to secure an incredible 11th consecutive World Cup appearance. Fans have high expectations for the Taegeuk Warriors to reach the knockout stages, led by global icon Son Heung-min and defensive wall Kim Min-jae. Their manager Hong Myung-bo has now represented the team at the World Cup as a player, assistant, and head coach. Son is also just five goals away from becoming the all-time leading scorer.

Discuss: Is it a good thing that the best asian footballers play abroad?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: 'Son'sational! 



Highlights



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Canada

FIFA RANKING: 30th




Les Rouges

Star Player: Alphonso Davies

World Cup Group: Group B (SUI, QAT, BIH)



World Cup Qualifiers: 3 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Group Stage)

 Continent: North America

Canada enters this year's World Cup as a co-host, aiming to build on the momentum of their dominant 2022 qualifying run. Led by Jesse Marsch, the squad features elite speed through stars like Alphonso Davies and Jonathan David, sparking massive home expectations to secure their first-ever tournament win. Interestingly, Canada is the only nation to have won an Olympic Gold in football (1904) before ever scoring a goal in a men's World Cup.

[Discuss: Is it easier to be an underdog?](#)

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Nice maple leaf design! 



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Bosnia and Herzegovina

FIFA RANKING: 72nd


Zmajevi (The Dragons)

Star Player: Edin Džeko

World Cup Group: Group B (CAN, SUI, QAT)


World Cup Qualifiers: 2 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Group Stage)

 Continent: Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina returns to the World Cup for the first time since 2014, securing their spot after a dramatic penalty shootout victory against Italy in the UEFA play-offs. Led by 40-year-old captain and icon Edin Džeko, the team joins Group B alongside Canada, Switzerland, and Qatar. This qualification marks only the second tournament appearance in their history as an independent nation, fulfilling a decade-long wait for their supporters.

Discuss: This team beat Italy to qualify. Do big teams assume they will win?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Nice flag, shame about the kit 🏆🏆



Highlights



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Qatar

FIFA RANKING: 55th


Al-Annabi (The Maroon)

Star Player: Akram Afif

World Cup Group: Group B (CAN, SUI, QAT)







World Cup Qualifiers: 2 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Group Stage)

 Continent: Asia

Qatar enters this year's World Cup having successfully qualified on merit for the first time, securing their place through a playoff victory over the UAE. Now under the guidance of Spanish manager Julen Lopetegui, the reigning Asian champions are determined to erase the memory of their 2022 campaign and prove they belong on the global stage. Historically, Qatar is the first nation to have hosted a World Cup before ever qualifying for one through the traditional regional tournament process.

Discuss: Can being an underdog be helpful?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Home, simple - away - NICE!     

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Highlights



Switzerland

FIFA RANKING: 12th




Nati

Star Player: Granit Xhaka

World Cup Group: Group B (CAN, SUI, QAT)

World Cup Qualifiers: 12 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Quarter-finals in 1934, 1938, and 1954)

 Continent: Europe

Switzerland enters this year's World Cup having qualified directly from Europe, dominating their group and solidifying their reputation as one of the world's most disciplined and tactically intelligent units. Under the leadership of captain Granit Xhaka, who is having a late-career resurgence, the "Nati" look to improve on their consistent Round of 16 appearances. This qualification is their 12th tournament, fulfilling the expectation of their supporters that this golden generation can finally break their quarter-final curse.

Discuss: How important is it to be intelligent in sport?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Uninspiring 🏆🏆🏆



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



BRAZIL

FIFA RANKING: 5th



A Seleção

Star Player: Vinícius Júnior

World Cup Qualifiers: 22 times (out of 22)

World Cup Winners : 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002

🌐 Continent: South America

Brazil enters this year's World Cup coming off a strong qualifying campaign featuring victories over rivals Argentina and Uruguay. Under the guidance of manager Dorival Júnior, the Seleção features a dynamic blend of superstars and rising young talent, fueling massive expectation to secure a record-extending sixth title. Brazil is the only nation to have appeared in every single World Cup tournament. Furthermore, with five championships, they are the most successful country in World Cup history.

Discuss: A great history, but are the rest of the world catching up?

🌐 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Iconic 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Morocco

FIFA RANKING: 11th




Atlas Lions

Star Player: Achraf Hakimi

World Cup Group: Group B (CAN, SUI, QAT)*



World Cup Qualifiers: 6 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: 4th Place in 2022)

 Continent: Africa

Morocco enters this year's World Cup having qualified directly from Africa, capping a flawless defensive qualifying campaign that re-established their dominance on the continent. Under the leadership of coach Walid Regragui, the "Atlas Lions" look to build on their monumental 2022 performance, where they became the first African and Arab nation to reach a World Cup semi-final. This qualification is their 6th tournament, fulfilling the massive expectation of their supporters that this golden generation, led by the flying full-back Achraf Hakimi.

Discuss: Could it be an advantage to be a surprise team that no one expects to win, or to be the superstar team?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Interesting and traditional 



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Haiti

FIFA RANKING: 83rd



Les Grenadiers

Star Player: Jean-Ricner Bellegarde

World Cup Group: Group H (BRA, SCO, MAR, HAI)*

World Cup Qualifiers: 2 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Group Stage in 1974)

🌐 Continent: North America (CONCACAF)

Haiti returns to the World Cup for the first time in 52 years, securing their spot after a resilient qualifying campaign where they never actually played a match on home soil due to regional instability. Led by French manager Sébastien Migné and a new generation of dual-nationality stars like Wolves' Jean-Ricner Bellegarde, "Les Grenadiers" join a daunting Group H. Historically, Haiti provided one of the World Cup's most iconic "underdog" moments when Emmanuel Sanon scored against Italy in 1974, ending Dino Zoff's legendary 1,142-minute clean sheet streak.

Discuss: This is a very tough group, can you predict their scores in each game?

🌐 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Unusual, we quite like it! 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Scotland

FIFA RANKING: 43rd




The Tartan Army

Star Player: Scott McTominay

World Cup Group: Group H (BRA, SCO, MAR, HAI)


World Cup Qualifiers: 9 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Group Stage)

 Continent: Europe

Scotland returns to the World Cup for the first time in 28 years, ending a generation of heartbreak by securing their spot through a gritty UEFA qualifying campaign. Led by Steve Clarke and a core of Premier League talent like captain Andy Robertson and goal-machine Scott McTominay, the "Tartan Army" joins a formidable Group H alongside Brazil, Morocco, and Haiti. This qualification marks their 9th appearance on the world stage, fulfilling a nearly three-decade-long wait for their passionate supporters.

Discuss: How many points will Scotland get and will they progress?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: OK, nothing too special 🏆🏆🏆🏆



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



USA

FIFA RANKING: 14th

The Stars and Stripes

Star Player: Christian Pulisic

World Cup Group: Group D (USA, PAR, AUS, TUR)

World Cup Qualifiers: 12 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: 3rd Place in 1930)

🌐 Continent: North America

The United States enters the 2026 World Cup as co-hosts, automatically securing their 12th tournament appearance. Now led by head coach Mauricio Pochettino and anchored by star winger Christian Pulisic, the "Stars and Stripes" aim to capitalize on home field advantage to improve upon their Round of 16 exit in 2022. This appearance marks their 12th qualification in history, with their best result still being a third-place finish in the inaugural 1930 tournament. Historically, the U.S. has a legacy of major upsets, most notably their 1-0 victory over England in 1950.

Discuss: 'Soccer' is not their big sport. Will the USA back their team on home turf?

🌐 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Recycled materials - Cool! 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Paraguay

FIFA RANKING: 40th




La Albirroja

Star Player: Miguel Almirón

World Cup Group: Group D (USA, PAR, AUS, TUR)



World Cup Qualifiers: 9 times

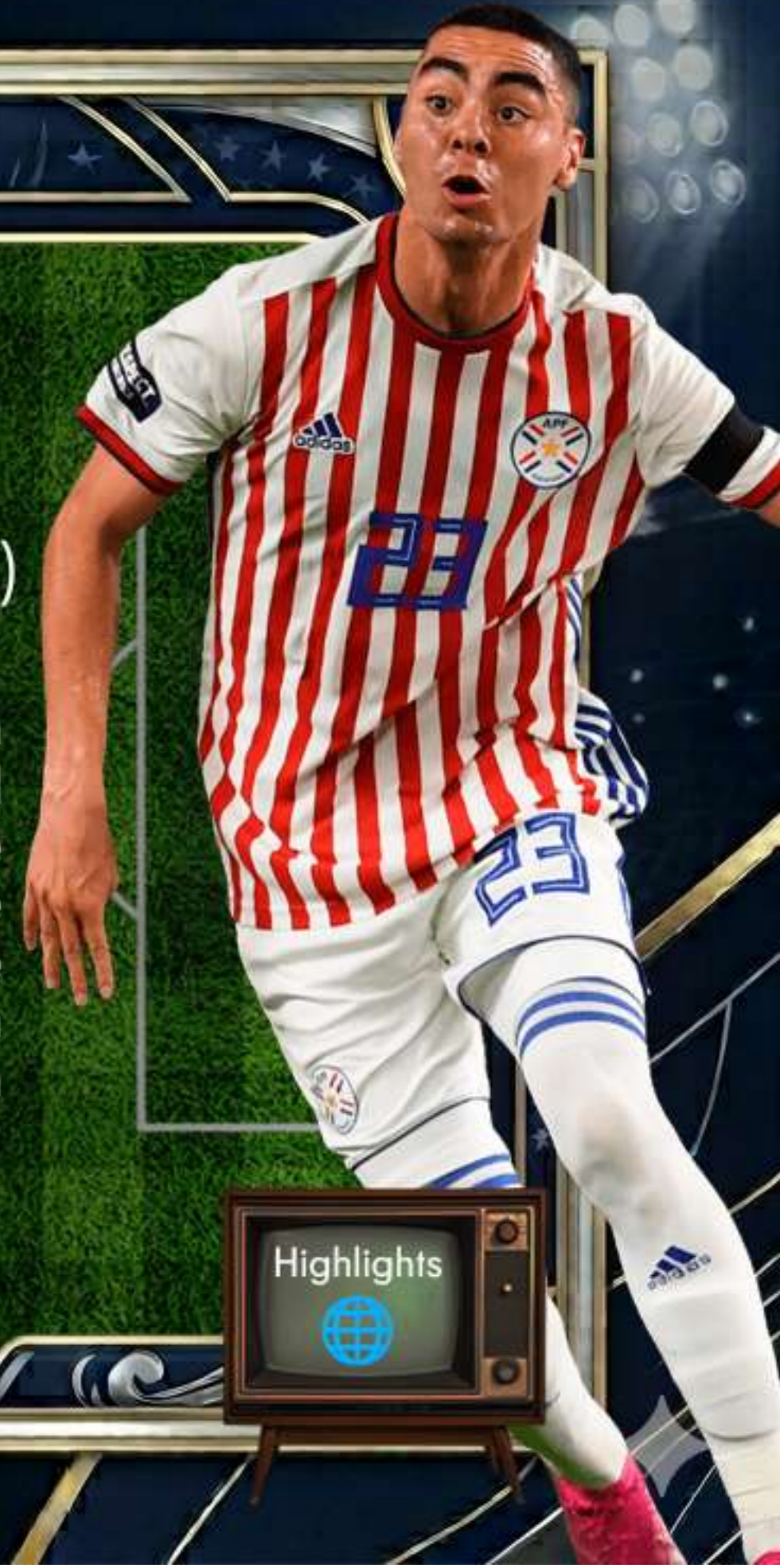
World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Quarter-finals in 2010)

 Continent: South America

Paraguay secure their 9th tournament appearance. Now led by head coach Gustavo Alfaro and featuring Premier League talent like Miguel Almirón and Julio Enciso, "La Albirroja" finds itself in a competitive Group D alongside co-hosts the United States. Historically known for their disciplined defensive style, Paraguay's most legendary run came in 2010 when they reached the quarter-finals, only narrowly losing to eventual champions Spain. They return to the world stage looking to recapture the "giant-killer" reputation established by past legends like José Luis Chilavert.

[Discuss: Does reputation inform how the team plays?](#)

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: One of the worst? 



Highlights



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Australia

FIFA RANKING: 27th

The Socceroos

Star Player: Jackson Irvine

World Cup Group: Group D (USA, PAR, AUS, TUR)

World Cup Qualifiers: 7 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Round of 16 in 2006 and 2022)

🌐 Continent: Australia/Asia (AFC)

This will be their 6th consecutive tournament appearance and 7th overall. Australia finds themselves in a challenging Group D that includes co-hosts the United States. Despite being consistent qualifiers, they are still searching for their first deep knockout run after twice reaching the Round of 16, most recently in 2022 when they pushed eventual champions Argentina to the limit. Historically, Australia is known for their "never-say-die" attitude and physical style of play, famously defeating heavy favorites like Croatia and Denmark in past tournaments to advance against the odds.

Discuss: Their star players are 33 and 34. What is better, youth or experience?

🌐 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Basic 🏆🏆🏆

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Turkey

FIFA RANKING: 22th

Ay-Yıldızlılar

Star Player: Arda Güler

World Cup Group: Group D (USA, PAR, AUS, TUR)



World Cup Qualifiers: 3 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: 3rd Place in 2002)

 Continent: Europe

Turkey returns to the FIFA World Cup in 2026 for the first time in 24 years, ending a long drought since their legendary run in 2002. Now led by Italian head coach Vincenzo Montella, the "Crescent-Stars" secured their spot after a successful UEFA qualifying campaign and a decisive play-off victory. Headlined by young Real Madrid sensation Arda Güler and veteran captain Hakan Çalhanoğlu, Turkey enters Group D as a formidable European contender. In their last appearance in 2002, they went all the way to the semi-finals, eventually defeating South Korea to secure the bronze medal.

[Discuss: Their star player is 21. Is this too much pressure for a young player?](#)

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Pretty cool, we're liking this 

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Highlights



Germany

FIFA RANKING: 10th


Die Mannschaft

Star Player: Jamal Musiala

World Cup Group: Group E (GER, CUW, CIV, ECU)



World Cup Qualifiers: 21 times

World Cup Winners: 4 (1954, 1974, 1990, 2014)

 Continent: Europe

Germany enters the 2026 World Cup seeking redemption after failing to advance past the group stage in their last two appearances. Now led by Julian Nagelsmann, the youngest head coach in their history, the squad features a blend of seasoned veterans like Joshua Kimmich and rising superstars like Jamal Musiala. A strong qualifying campaign where they won five of their six matches. Germany is one of the most successful nations in tournament history, holding the record for the most quarter-final appearances and boasting the all-time leading World Cup goalscorer, Miroslav Klose.

[Discuss: Great shirt, but are the Germans old news?](#)

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Best in the competition 

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Curaçao

FIFA RANKING: 86th

The Blue Wave

Star Player: Juninho Bacuna

World Cup Group: Group E (GER, CUW, CIV, ECU)

World Cup Qualifiers: 1 time (2026)

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: N/A)

🌐 Continent: North America (CONCACAF)

Curaçao has made history by qualifying for their first-ever FIFA World Cup, securing their place in the 2026 tournament via the CONCACAF qualifying path. Following years of steady development and recruiting talented players from the Dutch league system, "La Familia Azul" is ready for the global stage. Under the guidance of head coach Dick Advocaat, and led on the field by the dynamic midfielder Juninho Bacuna, Curaçao faces a daunting challenge in Group E alongside powerhouses like Germany and Ivory Coast. This appearance is a monumental moment for the Caribbean island.

Discuss: Ony 2 or 3 players were actually born in Curaçao, does that matter?

🌐 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: A very smart debut! 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Highlights



Côte d'Ivoire

FIFA RANKING: 37th

Les Éléphants

Star Player: Franck Kessié

World Cup Group: Group E (GER, CUW, CIV, ECU)

World Cup Qualifiers: 4 times (2006, 2010, 2014, 2026)

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Group stage)

🌐 Continent: Africa (CAF)

Ivory Coast enters the 2026 World Cup carrying significant momentum as the reigning continental kings after their dramatic 2024 Africa Cup of Nations victory. The squad is built around a powerful midfield anchored by captain Franck Kessié and features a dangerous attacking line that includes veteran Nicolas Pépé and rising talent Simon Adingra. While they have historically struggled to advance past the group stage in their previous three appearances, this balanced roster of European-based stars and emerging youth makes them one of Africa's strongest hopes.

Discuss: Will we ever see an African nation win the World Cup?

🌐 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Bold and bright 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Ecuador

FIFA RANKING: 23th

The Tri (La Tri)

Star Player: Moisés Caicedo

World Cup Group: Group E (GER, CUW, CIV, ECU)

World Cup Qualifiers: 5 times (2002, 2006, 2014, 2022, 2026)

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Round of 16 in 2006)

🌐 Continent: South America (CONMEBOL)

Ecuador enters the 2026 World Cup after a historic qualifying campaign that saw them overcome a three-point deduction to secure their second consecutive tournament appearance. Now led by head coach Sebastián Beccacece, "La Tri" has evolved into a defensive powerhouse, conceding only once across 11 matches during their road to the finals. The squad is anchored by star midfielder Moisés Caicedo and features the nation's all-time leading scorer, Enner Valencia, who will be appearing in his third World Cup. Historically, Ecuador's peak performance came in 2006 when they reached the knockout stage.

Discuss: What is proven to be more effective, scoring or stopping goals?

🌐 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Made in Ecuador, other than that...! 🏆🏆

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Netherlands

FIFA RANKING: 7th

Oranje (The Orange)

Star Player: Virgil van Dijk

World Cup Group: Group F (JPN, TUN, SWE)

World Cup Qualifiers: 12 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Runners-up in 1974, 1978, and 2010)

🌐 Continent: Europe (UEFA)

The Netherlands enters the 2026 World Cup as one of Europe's most consistent and formidable teams, having secured their place by winning their qualifying group with an unbeaten record. Led by veteran captain Virgil van Dijk and managed by Ronald Koeman, the "Oranje" squad features a potent mix of experience and emerging talent, including stars like Cody Gakpo and Xavi Simons. Despite their long-standing "Total Football" philosophy and a record three appearances in the World Cup final, the ultimate trophy has always eluded them.

Discuss: Should teams wear the colours of their flag?

🌐 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Nice (If you like orange!) 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Japan

FIFA RANKING: 18th




Samurai Blue

Star Player: Takefusa Kubo / Wataru Endō

World Cup Group: Group F (JPN, NED, SWE, TUN)



World Cup Qualifiers: 8 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Round of 16)

 **Continent:** Asia (AFC)

The Samurai Blue enter the 2026 World Cup with their most technically gifted squad in history. Placed in a highly competitive Group F alongside the Netherlands, Sweden, and Tunisia, Japan has a strong chance of navigating their way to the knockout rounds, having famously topped a group containing Spain and Germany in 2022. Their ultimate goal for this campaign is breaking their historic glass ceiling: finally advancing past the Round of 16 into the Quarter-Finals.

Discuss: [Could this team be the surprise package?](#)

 **Nautilus Shirt Ranking:** We're loving the Japan badge 



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Sweden

FIFA RANKING: 38th




Blågult

Star Player: Dejan Kulusevski

World Cup Group: Group F (SWE, JPN, NED, TUN)



World Cup Qualifiers: 12 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Runners-up in 1958)

 **Continent:** Europe (UEFA)

Sweden enters the 2026 World Cup looking to re-establish their reputation as one of Europe's most stubborn, tactically disciplined, and physically imposing tournament teams. Placed in a highly competitive Group F alongside the Netherlands, Japan, and Tunisia, the Swedes face a fascinating clash of styles. Their primary objective will be to secure a top-two spot and push deep into the knockout rounds, aiming to replicate the magic of their third-place finish in 1994.

Discuss: *Better to try and win, or not to lose?*

 **Nautilus Shirt Ranking:** Bold and bright 

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COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Tunisia

FIFA RANKING: 41st




Les Aigles de Carthage

Star Player: Hannibal Mejbri

World Cup Group: Group F (TUN, JPN, NED, SWE)



World Cup Qualifiers: 7 times

World Cup Winners: 0

 Continent: Africa (CAF)

The Carthage Eagles head into the 2026 World Cup boasting an historically stubborn defensive record, famously making history by coming through their CAF qualification campaign without conceding a single goal. Group F presents a brutal tactical challenge against the contrasting, high-octane styles of the Netherlands, Japan, and Sweden, but Tunisia has a reputation for being an incredibly frustrating team to break down. Tunisia's ultimate objective for this tournament remains navigating past the group stage for the very first time.

Discuss: Better to try and win, or not to lose?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: First and only Kappa shirt? 



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Belgium

FIFA RANKING: 9th




De Rode Duivels

Star Player: Jeremy Doku

World Cup Group: Group G (BEL, EGY, IRN, NZL)


World Cup Qualifiers: 15 times

World Cup Winners: 0

 Continent: Europe (UEFA)

The Red Devils enter the 2026 World Cup in a fascinating era of transition, blending the elite experience of maestro Kevin De Bruyne and with electric young talents like Jérémy Doku and breakout forward Matias Fernandez-Pardo. Heavy favorites to navigate Group G alongside Egypt, Iran, and New Zealand, this new-look Belgian squad under Domenico Tedesco carries a lower profile than the famed "Golden Generation." However, their potent combination of world-class playmaking and blistering wing pace makes them a highly dangerous underdog capable of eclipsing their historic third-place finish from 2018.

Discuss: Famous for underachieving. Does this affect confidence?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Nice colours but could be better 🏆🏆🏆🏆



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Egypt

FIFA RANKING: 29th



The Pharaohs (الفراعنة)

Star Player: Mohamed Salah

World Cup Group: Group G (EGY, BEL, IRN, NZL)



World Cup Qualifiers: 4 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Group stage in all appearances)

 Continent: Africa (CAF)

The Pharaohs enter the 2026 World Cup following an undefeated qualifying campaign. Aiming to break an historic curse, never winning a finals match since becoming Africa's first participant in 1934. Global icon Mohamed Salah leads the charge with his world-class clinical edge, flanked by Omar Marmoush, the explosive forward in sensational European form. Veteran keeper Mohamed El Shenawy anchors the defense, while Barcelona B teenage prodigy Hamza Abdelkareem provides a fascinating spark as the ultimate secret weapon off the bench..

[Discuss: Why is Mo Salah a positive role model?](#)

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Love the Arabic on the back 



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



IR Iran

FIFA RANKING: 21st




Team Melli (تیم ملی)

Star Player: Mehdi Taremi

World Cup Group: Group G (IRN, BEL, EGY, NZL)






World Cup Qualifiers: 7 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Group stage in all appearances)

 Continent: Asia (AFC)

Team Melli enters the 2026 World Cup having secured a proud fourth consecutive tournament appearance. Placed in a highly competitive Group G alongside Belgium, Egypt, and New Zealand, Iran aims to finally break their historical curse and advance past the group stage for the very first time in their history. Despite domestic preparation disruptions, they boast a battle-tested core heavily reliant on disciplined defensive organization and ruthless counter-attacking efficiency. If their clinical European-based stars hit top gear early, Team Melli possesses the tactical maturity and grit required to upset the group favorites.

[Discuss: Why is good preparation so important?](#)

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Interesting leopard design    



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



New Zealand

FIFA RANKING: 85th




All Whites

Star Player: Chris Wood

World Cup Group: Group G (NZL, BEL, EGY, IRN)



World Cup Qualifiers: 3 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Group stage)

 Continent: Oceania (OFC)

The All Whites head into the 2026 World Cup proudly securing their third-ever tournament appearance and their first since their famously undefeated group-stage run in 2010. Placed in a fiercely competitive Group G alongside Belgium, Egypt, and Iran, New Zealand enters the competition without fear despite matching up against formidable opposition. While they arrive as structural underdogs, the All Whites harbor intense ambitions to leverage their tight-knit team culture and physical resilience to engineer a historic first-ever advance into the knockout rounds.

[Discuss: Ranked 85th. What would success look like?](#)

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: A good mix of style and tradition 

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Spain

FIFA RANKING: 2nd




La Roja

Star Player: Lamine Yamal

World Cup Group: Group H (ESP, URU, KSA, CPV)



World Cup Qualifiers: 17 times

World Cup Winners: 1 (Best finish: Champions in 2010)

 **Continent:** Europe (UEFA)

The reigning European champions enter the 2026 World Cup as one of the undisputed heavyweights. Positioned in Group H alongside Uruguay, Saudi Arabia, and Cape Verde, La Roja is looking to replicate their continental dominance on the global stage. Boasting a formidable tactical framework centered around possession and fluid positional play. Backed by the unmatched midfield stability of captain Rodri and the explosive, unpredictable genius of Lamine Yamal on the wing, they are heavily favored to deep-run the bracket as they chase their second ever world title.

Discuss: Any 'banana skins' in the group stage?

 **Nautilus Shirt Ranking:** Great colours and a classy design 



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Cape Verde

FIFA RANKING: 69th


Tubarões Azuis

Star Player: Ryan Mendes

World Cup Group: Group H (CPV, ESP, URU, KSA)

World Cup Qualifiers: 1 time (2026)

World Cup Winners: 0 (Making their tournament debut)

 Continent: Africa (CAF)

The Blue Sharks enter the 2026 World Cup as one of the tournament's ultimate feel-good stories, having defied the odds to secure a historic, first-ever qualification. Hailing from a island nation of just over 500,000 people, Cape Verde stunned the continent by topping their qualifying group ahead of African giants Cameroon. Placed in a formidable Group H alongside powerhouse nations Spain and Uruguay, as well as Saudi Arabia, the debutants face a massive uphill battle. They arrive in North America with absolutely nothing to lose, and script an unforgettable underdog story on the global stage.

Discuss: Is having nothing to lose advantageous?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: A bit busy for us! 🏆🏆🏆

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION





ENGLAND

FIFA RANKING: 4th

The Three Lions

Star Player: Harry Kane / Jude Bellingham

World Cup Group: Group L (ENG, CRO, GHA, PAN)





World Cup Qualifiers: 17 times

World Cup Winners: 1 (Best finish: Champions in 1966)

 Continent: Europe (UEFA)

England enters this year's World Cup as a genuine contender, following a dominant qualifying campaign where they secured victories over Serbia and Albania. Led by manager Thomas Tuchel, this squad combines youthful energy with proven experience, raising hopes that they can finally replicate the nation's 1966 triumph in this expanded tournament format. England is the birthplace of the modern game and home to the world's oldest football competition, the FA Cup, established 1871.

Discuss: Is the expectation for England too high or unhelpful?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: All is forgiven if they win!   



Highlights



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

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Saudi Arabia

FIFA RANKING: 54th



The Green Falcons (الأخضر)

Star Player: Saud Abdulhamid

World Cup Group: Group H (KSA, ESP, URU, CPV)

World Cup Qualifiers: 7 times

World Cup Winners: 0

🌐 Continent: Asia (AFC)

Handed a demanding assignment in Group H alongside heavyweights Spain and Uruguay, as well as debutants Cape Verde, Saudi Arabia aims to replicate the fearlessness that defined their memorable 2022 campaign. Relying entirely on a squad forged within the highly competitive domestic Roshn Saudi League. Anchored by the explosive wing play of captain Salem Al-Dawsari and the elite athletic presence of European-tested fullback Saud Abdulhamid, the Green Falcons enter the tournament eager to execute an aggressive, disciplined counter-pressing game to upset the group and seal an historic knockout return.

Discuss: A brand new manager. Is this helpful or unhelpful?

🌐 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: An unexpected surprise! 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Uruguay

FIFA RANKING: 17th




La Celeste (The Sky Blue)

Star Player: Federico Valverde

World Cup Group: Group H (ESP, CPV, URU, KSA)









World Cup Qualifiers: 15 times

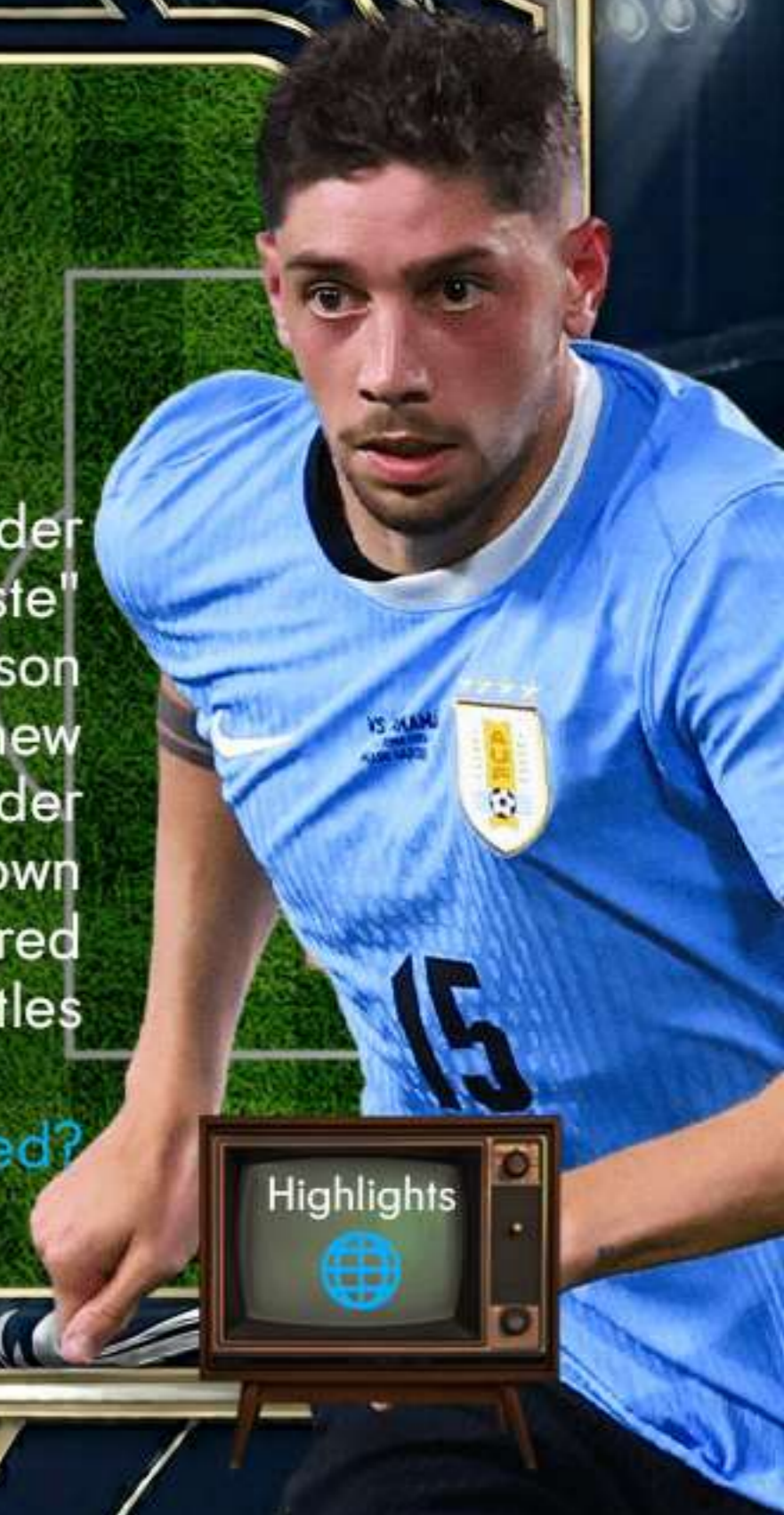
World Cup Winners: 2

 Continent: South America (CONMEBOL)

Uruguay enters the 2026 World Cup ready to usher in an exciting new era under manager Marcelo Bielsa. For the first time in nearly two decades, "La Celeste" will take the global stage without legendary icons like Luis Suárez and Edinson Cavani. Instead, the heavy mantle of leadership falls onto a world-class new generation spearheaded by Real Madrid's phenomenal box-to-box midfielder Federico Valverde and Barcelona's defensive anchor Ronald Araújo. Known historically for their fierce grit and determination, Uruguay comfortably secured direct qualification from South America. Boasting two historic World Cup titles on their resume.

Discuss: A new era. Is it good to retire old favourites, or keep them involved?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Best Nike shirt yet!       



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



France

FIFA RANKING: 1st



Les Bleus (The Blues)

Star Player: Kylian Mbappé

World Cup Group: Group I (FRA, IRQ, NOR, SEN)



World Cup Qualifiers: 17 times

World Cup Winners: 2 (1998, 2018)

 Continent: Europe (UEFA)

France enters the 2026 World Cup as the undisputed tournament favorites, looking to avenge their heartbreaking penalty-shootout defeat in the 2022 final. "Les Bleus" boast arguably the deepest and most frighteningly talented roster in global football. Spearheaded by global superstar and captain Kylian Mbappé, alongside an elite supporting cast featuring Ousmane Dembélé, William Saliba, and Real Madrid's Aurélien Tchouaméni, France glided through their qualification matches with absolute ease. The French public expects nothing less than a third star being added to the famous blue jersey this summer.

Discuss: High expectations. Do players like this suffer from pressure?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Usually très bien, not quite this time 



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Senegal

FIFA RANKING: 12th




Les Lions de la Téranga

Star Player: Sadio Mané

World Cup Group: Group I (FRA, IRQ, NOR, SEN)


World Cup Qualifiers: 4 times

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Quarter-finals in 2002)

 Continent: Africa (CAF)

Senegal arrives at the 2026 World Cup as one of Africa's most dangerous and experienced heavyweights. The "Lions of Teranga" breezed through CAF qualification entirely undefeated. The squad relies heavily on an incredibly seasoned spine—including veteran leader Kalidou Koulibaly in defense, Edouard Mendy in goal, and their legendary all-time top scorer Sadio Mané leading the frontline. Having famously shocked the world in 2002, Senegal is primed to assert its dominance on the global stage once again.

Discuss: First game is against the World number 1. Predictions?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Is it inside out? 🏆🏆🏆

NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Iraq

FIFA RANKING: 59th




Lions of Mesopotamia

Star Player: Aymen Hussein

World Cup Group: Group I (FRA, IRQ, NOR, SEN)






World Cup Qualifiers: 2 times (1986, 2026)

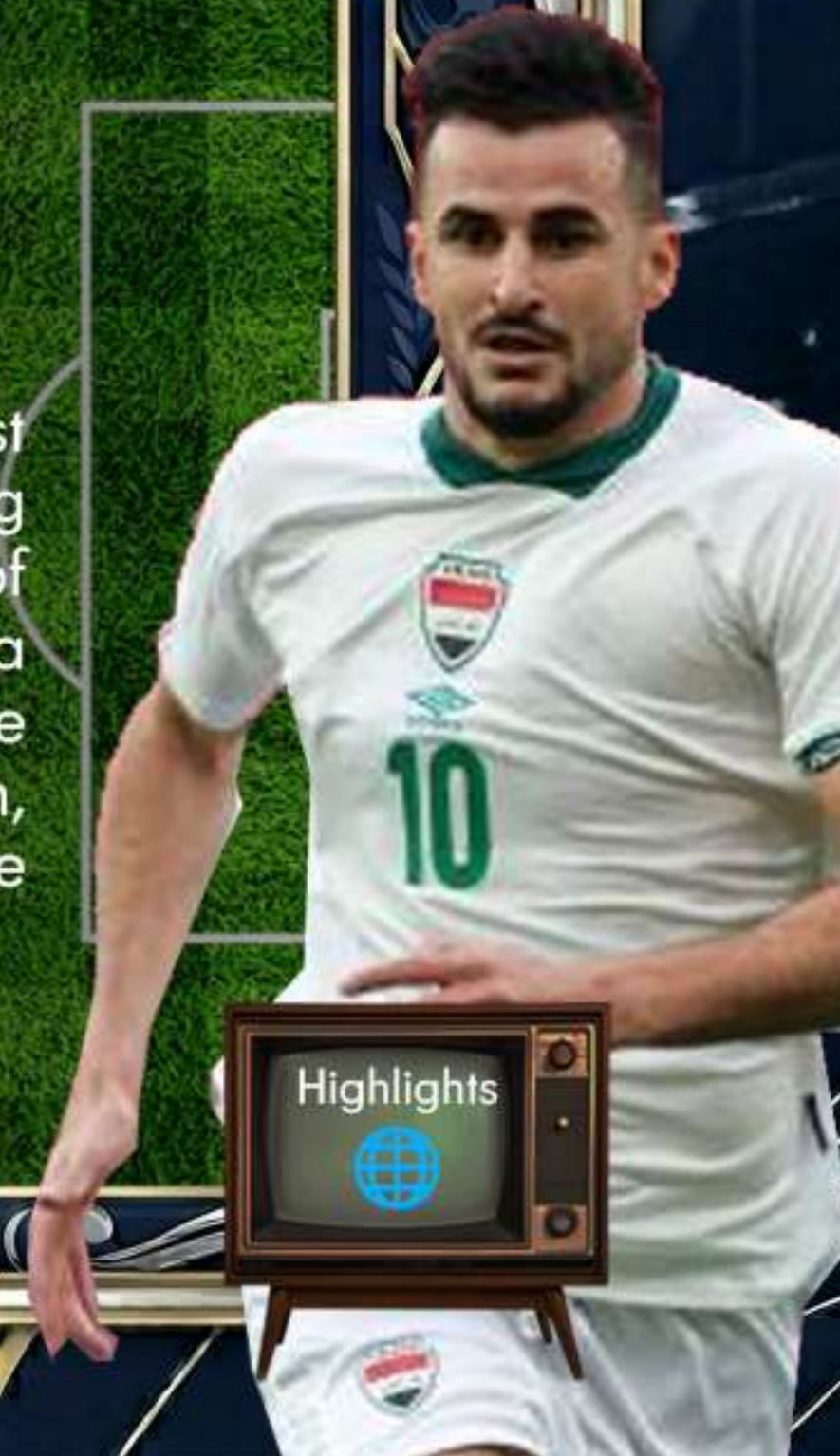
World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Group stage in 1986)

 Continent: Asia (AFC)

Iraq heads into the 2026 World Cup after delivering one of the most emotional and dramatic qualification stories in Asian football history. Ending a painful 40-year absence from the global stage, the "Lions of Mesopotamia" fought through an exhausting multi-round campaign via a nail-biting play-off victory over Bolivia. This gritty and deeply passionate squad is anchored by star striker and clinical goal-plunderer Aymen Hussein, alongside creative midfield sparks like Zidane Iqbal. Armed with immense national pride, Iraq is ready to step out of the shadows.

Discuss: Tough group. What would success look like?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Smart enough, not a bad effort.    



Highlights



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



Norway

FIFA RANKING: 42nd




The Lions (Løvene)

Star Player: Erling Haaland

World Cup Group: Group I (FRA, IRQ, NOR, SEN)



World Cup Qualifiers: 4 times (1938, 1994, 1998, 2026)

World Cup Winners: 0 (Best finish: Round of 16 in 1938 and 1998)

 Continent: Europe (UEFA)

Norway enters the 2026 World Cup as one of the most intriguing and highly anticipated dark horses, triumphantly ending a painful 28-year absence from the global stage. "The Lions" absolutely steamrolled through UEFA qualification with a flawless, perfect record. They are powered by arguably their finest generation ever, headlined by two of the absolute best players in world football: Manchester City's unstoppable goal-machine Erling Haaland and Arsenal's visionary midfield captain Martin Ødegaard. This modern Nordic squad possesses the tactical creativity and devastating offensive firepower to break past their historic Round of 16 ceiling.

Discuss: With big stars like this, why do you think they are ranked 42nd?

 Nautilus Shirt Ranking: Best Nike shirt in the tournament. 



NAUTILUS DIGITAL TRADING CARD

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