

# WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

ISSUE 27

MAGAZINE

JULY 2019



# USA CHAMPIONS!

All the news from the month of the Women's World Cup including Lionesses' interviews, a feature from Molly Hudson and all the highlights from France. Plus your latest women's football news from grassroots levels and up.

# **THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE**



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# Welcome

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## Hello and welcome to Issue 27!

Hello everyone,

Is anybody else having withdrawal symptoms from the Women's World Cup yet?

We are!

It was a fantastic summer in France, we loved meeting so many fans and we hope you enjoy our diary from the tournament. We also have a fantastic piece from Molly Hudson of the Times who talks about being a woman in the industry. It's a great piece! Marissa Thomas also looks back on Karen Carney's career.

It's fantastic news that after their coverage of the WWC, BBC will be looking after the Euro 2021 coverage. It's hard to stress the importance of this decision as it was so hard to watch games in France which weren't on terrestrial TV.

It's not long now until the new season starts (yey!) and we will have all the fixtures and tables for the new season online on our website soon as well as information on how to get to grounds for all the teams.

Enjoy the issue!

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Editor-in-Chief

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# Our Women's World Cup

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## Day 1 – June 7

Well here we go – we are finally here!

To say we are excited is an understatement. We are out here in Nice, the sun is shining, and we are counting down for the start of the first game. I went to the stadium in Nice today to collect my press pass, which makes it feel so real and we are now stood in the FanZone on the Promenade des Anglais counting down the minutes to France vs South Korea. The FanZone has quite a lot of people in and it is great to see lots of young girls and boys with French shirts on and flags on their faces. I cannot help but think they have missed a trick though. The FanZone – whilst it has fun games in, has no official merchandise stand which has surprised me.

The game itself was relatively one-sided – we always knew it would be but seeing the Parc des Prince packed to the rafters, and a number of famous faces in the crowd was great to see. We also greatly enjoyed seeing the crowds in

## Day 2 – June 8

Today team TWFM had a holiday day and drove over to Monaco. It was really cool seeing how the other half live and it was nice to fantasise about which boat we would like to own! We decided the boat called Lionesses V had to be the one (see the pictures to show we did not make it up!). Whilst in Monaco we managed to find somewhere to watch the Norway vs Nigeria game. Even without Hegerberg, Norway are looking very strong and it looks like they could go a long way.

Having dropped Lorna, Will and Ant back in Nice to find somewhere to watch Spain vs

Nice cheering when France found the back of the net.

After the game had finished, we drove out to the airport to pick up colleagues Will and Lorna who have come out for the opening England game.

All in all, a great first day!

## Results

**Group A** France 4-0 South Korea (Le Sommer, 9; Renard, 35, 45+2; Henry, 85)



South Africa, I headed back out to the stadium to attend the press conferences of Shelley Kerr and Phil Neville before the big game tomorrow night.

## What did Kerr have to say?

“It’s been a nice, relaxing environment. Obviously this is our first World Cup, [the first time] for a Scottish team to play in a World Cup for two decades. Our journey so far has been fantastic. We’re playing against a formidable England team ranked third in the world and we know already that part of the reason Phil Neville took the job was to win the World Cup. The whole country has been

# Our Women's World Cup

## What did Neville say?

“We have trained well all week, we have picked up a couple of knocks. Demi Stokes was back; Toni Duggan has had a light session. We will make a late decision on them. I think the first game is always the most difficult. The occasion – the amount of time we have spent planning and preparing, the training that has gone into it – it comes down to this. We have the most difficult first game because it is against our nearest rivals. It is a team we have a lot of respect for, players that know each other. We are just looking to get off to a good start and grow into the competition.”

## What did Steph Houghton think ahead of the England vs Scotland game?

“I think looking back to the Euro 2017 game [England beat Scotland 6-0 in the opening group game of Euro 2017], they were hit with a lot of injuries to key players. They have those players back now. They have grown a lot in the last two years, they have qualified for their first World Cup. The likes of Kim Little, Jen Beattie, Erin Cuthbert – these are players we are going to have to stop and make sure their rhythm is stopped. They are a lot stronger.”

Following the game, I went back to find my friends in Nice. They were in a restaurant waiting for tea (and a few bottles of wine down!). They were disappointed to find that the FanZone had been shut, which was where they were hoping to watch the Spain vs South Africa game. They had, however, found a pub full of Scotland fans, it is great to see how many Scots have come out to Nice for the game. In fact so far we have definitely seen more Scots than England.

## Results

**Group A** Norway 3-0 Nigeria (Reiten, 17; Utland, 34; Ohale, 37 og)

**Group B** Germany 1-0 China (Gwinn, 66)

**Group B** Spain 3-1 South Africa (Hermoso, 70 pen, 83, pen; Garcia, 89 – Kgatlana, 25; Vilakazi RED, 82)



# Our Women's World Cup

## Day 3 – June 9



It's game day and boy am I excited! After a nice chilled morning at our accommodation (I say chilled but we actually had a very hot game of tennis!), we headed out to the Allianz Stadium. It took quite a long time to work out where to park – mainly cause I forgot to pick up my press parking pass! But eventually we parked up and headed to the stadium. I left Will, Lorna and Ant outside with the fans chatting to both England and Scotland supporters and handing out free wristbands and calendars we had to advertise the magazine.

They nearly got into a little bit of trouble with the bright green t-shirts they had on, but once they took them off and put there England shirts on to get into the ground, it was all fine (phew!).

I went into the stadium nice and early and up to my seat. The Allianz is a lovely stadium but quite big. Slowly but surely the England and Scotland fans came into the stadium and the noise the Scottish fans were making was impressive. The crowd numbers were a bit disappointing. There had been lots of rumours flying round that the game was a sellout but in the end it was not even half full (13,188).



In the game itself, the Lionesses were given a serious run for their money. Neville's side started brightly and soon took the lead through a VAR awarded penalty. Many believed the penalty was harsh – Fran Kirby's cross hit Nicola Docherty on the arm and after a VAR check, the penalty was given. Nikita Parris stepped up and gave England the lead. England's second came just five minutes before half time after Ellen White was slipped the ball around the defence and she slotted it calmly into the back of the net.



After impressing in the first half, England seemed to lose momentum in the second. Scotland began to attack more and more and with ten minutes to go they had one back through Claire Emslie. The final ten minutes must have felt like an age to the Lionesses' fans in the stadium. The Scottish section of the crowd were getting louder and louder and the attacks

# Our Women's World Cup

were coming thick and fast but England managed to cling on to get their first win of the tournament.

## What did Neville say?

"I was pleased with the result. The first game is always difficult but we set certain standards and the players know we need to keep meeting those. If we don't, we get second half performances like we just got. We've got to be relentless now. I think at 2-0 in this heat, we thought it was going to be an easy second half. It's a lesson that every game in this World Cup is going to be difficult."

## What did Kerr think of the game?

"We know we need to win one game, it doesn't half to be the first, even if it would have been nice. At a top competition like the World Cup, you need to scrutinise yourself to the max, there were a lot of positives for us in the second half though."

## Results

**Group C** Australia 1-2 Italy (Kerr, 22 – Bonansea, 56, 90+5)

**Group C** Brazil 3-0 Jamaica (Rozeria de Souza Silva, 15, 50, 64)

**Group D** England 2-1 Scotland (Parris, 14; White, 40 – Emslie, 79)

## Day 4 – June 10

From a TWFM point of view, today was a lovely quiet day by the pool and half a relaxed day in the sunshine – not something we can usually say! We watched both games from our accommodation and, like many fans, were surprised at the goalless draw in Group D. It's hard to tell whether or not Argentina are better than people were expecting or whether Japan were not up to their usual standards. We dropped Will and Lorna back at the airport, as sadly they are having to go back to work!

## Results

**Group D** Argentina 0-0 Japan

**Group E** Canada 1-0 Cameroon (Buchanan, 45)

## Day 5 – June 11



It's our final day on the south coast of France – for now anyway.

We spent the day in Cannes which was honestly – hot, expensive and under construction. Here, sadly, you would not know there is a World Cup on just down the road. There are no adverts for the place and it was difficult to find anywhere that was showing the games. We flew back to England ourselves today, just for two days as we found it was easier and cheaper to get to Le Havre that way and at the end of the day, we are on a small budget! We were sat in the airport when during the USA game and when the flight set off it was only 2-0. You can imagine our shock when we landed to a text from my dad asking if we had seen the score. There was a lot of controversy about how the US celebrated each of the goals, with many believing their celebrations were over the top. I can see both sides to this. On the one hand, US – just like any other team – have been working hard to prepare for the tournament, so deserve to celebrate their success. On the other, maybe toning down the celebrations would have been more respectful to Thailand, who are a long way behind the US in terms of history, funding



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and experience.

## Results

**Group E** New Zealand 0-1 Netherlands (Roord, 90+2)

**Group F** Chile 0-2 Sweden (Asllani, 83; Janogy 90+4)

**Group F** USA 13-0 Thailand (Morgan, 12, 53, 74, 81, 87; Lavelle, 20, 56; Horan, 32; Mewis, 50, 54; Rapinoe, 79; Pugh, 84; Lloyd, 90+2)

## Day 6 – June 12

I am back in work for a couple of days in the UK, but thankfully they are quite happy to let me watch the games, which means I have seen all three today.

I was really impressed by Nigeria in their 2-1 win over South Korea and France are continuing to look good. However, the game against Norway was a lot closer than I expected. I predicted France would be the winners of this World Cup but there are definite moments where they do not look completely confident. For me, Germany have been a surprise so far, they are quietly getting on with it and looking very strong in the process whilst letting a lot of the other teams take the limelight.



## Results

**Group A** Nigeria 2-0 South Korea (Kim, 29 og; Oshoala, 75)

**Group A** France 2-1 Norway (Gauvin, 46; Le Sommer, 72 pen – Renard, 54 og)

**Group B** Germany 1-0 Spain (Dabriz, 42)

## Day 7 – June 13

How great is it that there has been football on EVERY day so far!

Loved watching the Australia vs Brazil game and with South American side 2-0 up, I thought they were cruising to their second victory. However with Australia scoring just seconds before the half-time whistle it was all change. The Matildas levelled shortly into the second half. The final go was not without controversy. The decision for Hickmann Alves' own goal to stand came after VAR decided Sam Kerr's offside position was not interfering with play – something which is heavily being debated on Twitter!

## Results

**Group B** South Africa 0-1 China (Li, 40)

**Group C** Australia 3-2 Brazil (Foord, 45+1; Logarzo, 58; Hickmann Alves, 66 og – Vieira da Silva, 27 pen; Rozeira de Souza Silva, 38)



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## Day 8 – June 14

A VERY early start this morning as TWFM hit the road back to France. This time I am joined by my parents (and the magazine's business managers!). They are joining me for the next week out in France. We hit the Eurotunnel about 6.30am and were over in France in time for breakfast. The drive took us a couple of hours to get to Le Havre and we met a few England fans on the way – also a few Le Mans fans who were heading over for the 24 hour race.

Once in Le Havre, we found our hotel and went into the centre. What a difference to Nice! Everywhere there are adverts for the WWC, what games are in Le Havre and the shops are full of things – even the bakeries have breaded footballs. We headed to Le Trappier to meet the Free Lionesses team from the Supporters Trust. Was great to see them and stop and watch the Japan vs Scotland game with a group of England fans.

After that game finished, we walked down to the FanZone on the seafront which was packed. It was about twice the size of the one in Nice and full of fans having fun (still no shop though!). Even ran into a girl a play hockey with who was over for the game – small world!

Before the game, once again I left my parents outside the game handing out our goodies and taking pictures of fans. The build-up before the game was fantastic and it was great to see so many people out there. Mum's highlight was stood talking to Steph Houghton's family before the game and them all taking calendars!

The game was once again a game of halves. Argentina's goalkeeper had the performance of the tournament so far – and was rewarded with the player of the match award. She saved Parris' penalty after Alex Greenwood was tripped before saving shots from Beth Mead, Jodie Taylor and Houghton.



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Jodie Taylor's goal was her first in 14 months for the Lionesses and thankfully England's defence stood tight against a barrage of Argentinian attack. The win saw them guarantee a place in the knockout stages but at the full time whistle all eyes were on a emotional Fran Kirby. Seeing her crying into Neville's arms set many of the press off as she became emotional on her mum's birthday (Fran lost her mum aged just 14). Carly Telford – who made her World Cup debut in Le Havre – was also consoled having lost her mum just last year.

## What did Neville say after the game?

“We are a family. We were aware to that it was Frans mum's birthday. We are also looking out for Carly Telford who lost her mother last year. Carly made her World Cup debut today after being in many, many a World Cup squad. In the huddle at the end we made reference to the fact we hoped their two mothers were looking down on them at the end. I thought Fran was outstanding. We help each other. It has been a really emotional day for everyone because Fran is a special person who misses her mum and so does Carly. Today we shared their emotion, their happiness and their sadness.”

## Results

**Group C** Jamaica 0-5 Italy (Girelli, 12 pen, 25, 46; Galli, 71, 81)

**Group D** Japan 2-1 Scotland (Iwabuchi, 23; Sugawara, 37 pen – Clelland, 88)

**Group D** England 1-0 Argentina (Taylor, 61)

## Day 9 – June 15

And so begins the journey back down to Nice! As we are driving, we are going a slightly roundabout way to avoid driving through Paris. We travelled out of Le Havre early before taking the Pont de Normandie – well worth a drive over – to Hornfleur. Here we stopped for some breakfast and a quick look around the market before driving to Chatres. Wow what an incredible cathedral (you will see a theme throughout this that we go to a lot of



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cathedrals!). After walking around the beautiful French town, we found somewhere to eat before heading to our hotel on the outskirts of Orleans.

In the football, Vivianne Miedema became the Netherlands's all-time top scorer at the age of 22. However, whilst the result was good for the Netherlands the best and worst part of the day came at the end between the Arsenal striker and a reporter:

[In a relationship?] Yes

[Is he a bad boy or an ideal son-in-law?] Sorry

[Repeats] Not an ideal son-in-law but an ideal daughter-in-law.

Go Viv!

## Results

**Group E** Netherlands 3-1 Cameroon (Miedema, 41, 85; Bloodworth, 48 – Onguene, 43)

**Group E** Canada 2-0 (Fleming, 48, Prince, 79)



## Day 10 – June 16

We got up this morning and headed over to the bakery across the road from the hotel – is there anything better than fresh brioche?! We went into Orleans and headed to the cathedral where they were getting ready for the morning service, so we got to walk around listening to the organ play. Today was our longest drive, just over five hours so we went via a

supermarket and an old Chateau we happened to drive past.



Tonight, we are staying in a little town called Bully in a 'Le Kaolin' which is a like a small apartment at the bottom of someone's garden! It's really cool and surrounded by vineyards.



USA are continuing their dominating start with a 3-0 win over Chile and it's great to see former Manchester City star Carli Lloyd getting two of the goals. Julie Ertz added the third and I love seeing her husband's support on social media.



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## Results

**Group F** Sweden 5-1 Thailand (Sembrant, 6; Asllani, 19; Rolfo, 42; Hurtig, 81; Rubensson, 90+6 pen – Sung-Ngoen, 90+1)

**Group F** USA 3-0 Chile (Lloyd, 11, 35; Ertz, 26)

## Day 11 – June 17

We started our day by trying to go to a small vineyard at the bottom of where we were staying but sadly there was no one in. Instead, we headed through Lyon. Did not go anywhere near the stadium, so sadly didn't get to see any adverts for the World Cup. Our main stop for the day was a place called Vienne. As it was Monday, the museums and a lot of the shops were shut, but we still got to walk around the town which is mainly old Roman and has a lot of old Roman ruins there. The closest place to be host WWC to Vienne is Grenoble which is still a fair distance away but there were a number of shops advertising the French team which was great to see.

Tonight we are staying in Avignon – apparently me and mum are the only people not to have heard the song about the bridge there which only goes halfway across the river! We sat in the town square to have food and watched three pubs get completely full up of French fans to watch there 1-0 win over Nigeria. It was great to see.

## Results

**Group A** South Korea 1-2 Norway (Yeo, 78 – Hansen, 5 pen; Herlovsen, 51 pen)

**Group A** Nigeria 0-1 France (Ebere, 75 red – Renard, 79 pen)

	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	France	3	3	0	0	7	1	6	9
2	Norway	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	6
3	Nigeria	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3
4	South Korea	3	0	0	3	1	8	-7	0



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**Group B** China 0-0 Spain

**Group B** South Africa 0-4 Germany (Leupolz, 14; Dabritz, 29; Popp, 40; Magull, 58)

	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Germany	3	3	0	0	6	0	6	9
2	Spain	3	1	1	1	3	2	1	4
3	China	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4
4	South Africa	3	0	0	3	1	8	-7	0

## Day 12 – June 18

Our last day into Nice today! We had breakfast in Avignon and did a quick sightseeing stop at the Pope's Palace which was enormous! Then we began our final dissent into Nice. On our way we managed to find a vineyard to have a quick stop for wine tasting which was really good fun and made it to our accommodation in the afternoon.

Phil Neville and Lucy Bronze were meeting the press before tomorrow's finally Group D game.

### What did Phil Neville say?

"I want to send out a statement with three wins.

"I want us to play three, win three and affect the mindset of other people in the tournament, but more importantly give my players more confidence.

"Everyone said this was the group of death so doing that would send a strong statement.

"We've watched the USA play, Germany and France. They're all winning their groups and we need to keep up with them."

### Lucy Bronze on Japan:

"I think their system is one of their biggest strengths.

"I think we have to pick our best side. We've got to pick our best side because we want to finish top of the group and we want to continue and build the momentum we've built

in the first two games. So I will be picking the best team to win the game tomorrow."

## Results

**Group C** Italy 0-1 Brazil (Vieira da Silva, 74 pen)

**Group C** Jamaica 1-4 Australia (Solun, 49 – Kerr, 11, 42, 69, 83)

	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Italy	3	2	0	1	7	2	5	6
2	Australia	3	2	0	1	8	5	3	6
3	Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	6
4	Jamaica	3	0	0	3	1	12	-11	0

## Day 13 – June 19

It's game day again! Our final group game is upon us and the excitement is building once again.

Decided to start the day by having a game of tennis against my dad – a mad if not terrible idea in 35C heat! Turned into walking tennis – ie if the ball was not in arms reach we were not going to run for it!

We spent the day in Nice and it was great to see so many England shirts walking up and down the beach. Even ran into Gabby Logan and the England band which was fun. We got out to the stadium nice and early ready to meet the fans on the way in, though sadly we did not get to give out any freebies at this game as some FIFA officials took offense to it despite not being on the stadium grounds.



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The game itself was another great one but the attendance was once again disappointing. The difference between crowds in the north and south of the country has been really evident to see.

A brace from Ellen White – who is on the form of her life – secured the Lionesses the top spot in Group D but England did not have it all their own way. If Japan had been able to hit a barn door then it could have been a very different result.

## Phil Neville on rotation:

“What we’ve done is we profile every player, so it depends on what team we’re playing. There’s certain players that are our experts in certain games. We need to decide which team we’re playing, decide how they play, how we’re going to beat them, then pick the players that will fit the profile the best.”

In the other game in Group D, Scotland looked set to secure a place in the knockout stages as they went 3-0 up but ten minutes of madness saw the game completely changed on its head. It was 3-2 after Milagros Menendez scored and a Florencia Bonsegundo shot went in via the bar and Lee Alexander. A VAR-awarded penalty was then saved in injury time but was retaken after Alexander was off her line (one of the new rules).

## Shelley Kerr was not happy after the game:

“I’m gutted for the players, gutted for the support, but the officiating was really, really poor. For 70 minutes we played well. The bottom line is we have conceded three goals but the first goal is from a free-kick; that changes the whole complexion of the game. Some of the decisions were appalling to say the least. It doesn’t take away the fact we were comfortable in the game and conceded three goals but there is a ball on the pitch, we try and make a substitution and it’s just an absolute farce. [Kerr was referring to referee Hyang-ok Ri allowing an Argentina free-kick to be taken while substitute Fiona Brown was coming on.]





# Our Women's World Cup

## Results

**Group D** Japan 0-2 England (White 14, 84)

**Group D** Scotland 3-3 Argentina (Little, 19; Beattie, 49; Cuthbert, 69 – Menedez, 74; Alexander, 79 og; Bonsegundo 90+4)

	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	England	3	3	0	0	5	1	4	9
2	Japan	3	1	1	1	2	3	-1	4
3	Argentina	3	0	2	1	3	4	-1	2
4	Scotland	3	0	1	2	5	7	-2	1

## Day 14 – June 20



Sadly, my time in France has come to an end (which idiot decided to get a new job and relocate in the middle of a WWC?! Oh, right – me!). So today, I am leaving my parents behind to carry on enjoying France and I am flying back to England but it's not all bad as it will be fun to watch the games with the home crowd.

We travelled to Marseille for my flight home (flights home from Nice were crazy expensive!) and after a day spent in the city it was time for my night home. Managed to watch a bit of the Netherlands and Canada game. Netherlands are really surprising me. They have pulled it together after their struggle to get into the competition.

Group F was always going to be one of those groups which you would have been shocked see anyone but USA and Sweden go through

and the reigning champions are continuing to look strong.

## Results

**Group E** Cameroon 2-1 New Zealand (Nchout, 57, 90+5 – Awona, 80 og)

**Group E** Netherlands 2-1 Canada (Dekker, 54; Beerensteyn, 75 – Sinclair, 60)

	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Netherlands	3	3	0	0	6	2	4	9
2	Canada	3	2	0	1	4	2	2	6
3	Cameroon	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
4	New Zealand	3	0	0	3	1	5	-4	0

**Group F** Sweden 0-2 USA (Horan, 3; Andersson, 50 og)

**Group F** Thailand 0-2 Chile (Boonsing, 48 og; Urrutia, 80)

	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	USA	3	3	0	0	18	0	18	9
2	Sweden	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
3	Chile	3	1	0	2	2	5	-3	3
4	Thailand	3	0	0	3	1	20	-19	0

## Day 15 – June 21

Today is awful, I am back in work and no football! What is going on!

So instead here are some stats from the group stages:

- 36 group games, 106 goals, 84 yellow cards
- USA's 13-0 win over Thailand was the biggest ever victory at a Women's World Cup
- Sam Kerr became the first Australian to score a hat-trick at a World Cup
- Cristiane is the oldest player in World Cup history to score a hat-trick
- Marta became the first player to score in five WWC's

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- More than 10 million people in France watched their opening game – a new record for women's football in the country.
- 6.1 million watched England vs Scotland in the UK

## Results

### Rest Day

### Day 16 – June 22

So today I am very jealous of the fact that I am in work and my parents are sat in Nice watching Norway vs Australia.

However, at least I get to watch both games so it's not too bad!

Before we get onto the games from today, Neville spoke to the press before their game against Cameroon tomorrow.

### Neville on not scoring many goals so far:

"It does frustrate me. I'm looking for something that may take a long time to achieve, that total domination for 90 minutes. I sometimes expect more of them, but maybe no team can do it for 90 minutes. My expectation levels are probably higher than what's achievable. But I have to keep pushing the standards. So far I've seen nothing in this tournament that gives me fear."

Germany's game against Nigeria was pretty straight forwards. It is interesting that no one is talking about the German chances but so far they have been pretty impressive in their games.

The Norway vs Australia game was quite something! What a game! Norway look really good and were much the better team on the night. As soon as you saw Sam Kerr step up to take the penalty, you could see in her eyes she was not going to score it.

## Results

**Round of 16** Germany 3-0 Nigeria (Popp, 20; Dabritz; Schuller, 82)

**Round of 16** Norway 1-1 Australia (Herlovsen, 31 – Kellond-Knight, 83; Kennedy, red 104)

*Norway win 4-1 on penalties*

Penalties	
Caroline Graham Hansen	Sam Kerr
Guro Reiten	Emily Gielnik
Maren Mjelde	Stephanie Catley
Ingrid Syrstad Engen	



### Day 17 – June 23

Well England's game was interesting to say the least!

I stupidly arranged to go watch 'Six The Musical' with friends this evening (if you like musicals, go see it, it's amazing!) which meant we sat in the pub watching the game and then had to leg it across London.

The game can only be described as "fiery" in my opinion and it is certainly something I have never seen in football before where the players were threatening to go off the pitch! It was a disappointing end for Cameroon, who have been fantastic all tournament.

The Lionesses' opponents protested after two VAR decisions went against them but goals from Houghton, White and Greenwood were



“It’s wanting more, training more, it’s taking care of yourself more. It’s being ready to play 90 plus 30 minutes. This is what I ask of the girls. There is not going to be a Formiga forever, there is not going to be a Marta forever, there’s not going to be a Cristiane,. The women’s game depends on you to survive. So think about that. Value it more. Cry in the beginning so that you can smile in the end.”

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were enough to see them great through.

## Phil Neville after the game:

"It didn't feel like football. I know we get these these briefs about coming on TV and saying it was good game, but that wasn't a last-16 tie in terms of behaviour from footballers.

"This is going out worldwide. I didn't enjoy it, the players didn't enjoy it. My players kept their concentration, but those images are going out worldwide and young girls are seeing that behaviour and it's not right.

"There has to be a standard of behaviour that you have to do, and my players did that."

Jill Scott's player of the match appearance saw her overtake Peter Shilton to become England's most capped World Cup player and the former England legend tweeted his approval.

## Shilton said:

He Jill, it's Peter Shilton here. Just wanted to send you a personal message on beating my World Cup record of appearances. I got 17 in three World Cups, and you have just reached 18. Well done, well, done, a fantastic achievement and obviously good luck to all the girls out there you are doing the country proud.

## Results

**Round of 16** England 3-0 Cameroon (Houghton, 15; White, 45+4; Greenwood, 58)

**Round of 16** France 2-1 Brazil (Gauvin, 52; Henry, 106 – de Moraes Rosa Moreno, 63)

## Day 18 – June 24

Well on a personal note, today has been interesting as I locked myself out of the house so my long list of things that needed doing did not quite get done!!

I also had my leaving drinks for work as I leave London tomorrow to relocate to Manchester.

We went to a pub in London so got to watch both of today's round-of-16 games.

Megan Rapinoe is looking unbeatable isn't she, and whilst she exudes confidence, I would not be surprised if she does not pick up a few haters on the way.

For me, it was a great surprise to see Canada go out so early, but Sweden have been fantastic so far and it will be great to see how far they get.

## Results

**Round of 16** Spain 1-2 USA (Hermoso, 9 – Rapinoe, 7 pen, 76, pen)

**Round of 16** Sweden 1-0 Canada (Blackstenius, 55)



## Day 19 – June 25

It's the final day of the round of 16 games, and moving day for me!

I managed to get up to Manchester through what can only be described as monsoon like weather (maybe a slight over-exaggeration but it rained a lot and my poor windscreen wipers were on over drive!)

In the football, there were no great shocks for me today. I was sad to see Japan go out but not surprised. When England played them, Japan really struggled to get a shot on target and Netherlands are really doing well so far this tournament.

# Our Women's World Cup

## Results

**Round of 16** Italy 2-0 China (Giacinti, 15; Galli, 49)

**Round of 16** Netherlands 2-1 Japan (Martens, 17, 90 pen – Hasegawa, 43)

## Day 20—June 26

It is another rest day but Phil Neville has been talking to the press ahead of the quarter-final game with Norway tomorrow.

David Beckham has also been spotted in France ahead of the game, and took daughter Harper to meet the squad. Hopefully another future Lionesses!

## Phil Neville on the journey so far:

"I'm a great believer in looking in my players' eyes. The look in their eyes today is relaxed, happy and like they're ready to win. Every squad member has 15 or 16 people following them around France. They've been driving sometimes 15 or 16 hours to games and they're creating lifelong memories and friendships. It might seem emotional and sentimental but that's how it feels. "

## Results

### *Rest day*



## Day 21—June 27

Game day is back again and I am a bag of nerves today. I rushed back from work to get home in time to watch the game and I watched it with my Auntie which was fantastic as she

had never watched women's football before and is not really a big football fan.

By the end of it, she was loving it, knew the players names and was actually interested in going to watch them play. This all lead to a fantastic discussion with AFC Fylde Ladies, who have invited us to their opening game of the season.

Anyway, back to the game!

I think that is England's best performance of the tournament so far. There were still some nervy moments but it's the first time I have felt confident watching them

Scott, White and Bronze provided the goals which sees us into the semi-finals. That goal from Lucy Bronze was an absolute stunner!

Nikita Parris' late penalty was saved, so it will be interesting to see whether she is put on penalty duty again, that is now two misses.

## Neville after the game:

"That was the best they have played under me. This is where we want to be. We paid respect to Norway but we are the third best team in the world and we have confidence in our own ability."

## Norway boss Martin Sjoren:

"We lost against a team that was better than us. We had belief that we could hurt England but at this stage of the tournament, all the teams are very good. I'm proud of how the players have represented Norway and how they've behaved."



# Our Women's World Cup

## Results

**Quarter-final** Norway 0-3 England (Scott, 3; White 40; Bronze, 57)

### Day 22 – June 28

Today was the game that everyone was looking forwards to—well the neutrals anyway. I have friends in America and got woken to a message saying “Helen I am nervous already!”

After yesterday's England game, I was delighted that my Auntie wanted to watch the game (not that she would have had a choice if she didn't!)

France really struggled in the first half and it just looked like they had not turned up. The hosts did not get a single shot on target in the first half and the US got their goals under way with none other than Rapinoe.

They doubled their lead on 65 minutes through Rapinoe again and France looked like they were finally getting into the game when they got one back with nine minutes to go but it was too little too late.

The result does mean that England have secured Great Britain a place at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics because they are guaranteed to be one of the top three European teams at the World Cup.

## Results:

**Quarter-final** France 1-2 USA (Renard, 81 – Rapinoe, 5, 65)

### Day 23—June 29

With a Saturday, comes the two final World Cup games. Netherlands and Miedema continue their onslaught by beating Italy 2-0 before the shock—for me—of the round saw Sweden beat Germany.

I thought Germany had looked great so far in the tournament but Sweden were just a class above in today's quarter final. Four teams left, it's getting close now!



# Our Women's World Cup

## Results

**Quarter-final** Italy 0-2 Netherlands (Miedema, 70, van der Gragt, 80)

**Quarter-final** Germany 1-2 Sweden (Magull, 16 – Jakobsson, 22; Blackstenius, 48)

## Day 24 – June 30

Here are your quarter final facts:

- Norway have been eliminated by England in consecutive tournaments (2015, last 16)
- USA have reached the semi-finals in every WWC
- The host nation has been eliminated at the quarter-final stage in the past four Women's World Cups - China in 2007, Germany in 2011, Canada in 2015 and France in 2019 have all fallen at this stage
- Italy did not concede a goal from open play at the World Cup
- Stina Blackstenius became the first Sweden player since Lena Videkull in 1991 to score in consecutive World Cup knockout appearances

## Results

*Rest Day*

## Day 25 – July 1

Well despite the fact that there is no football going on, it has certainly been an interesting day after news broke of the US team being spotted in the England hotel.

It is understood that at least one employee from the US camp was seen at the hotel whilst England were training.

Since the news broke, both Neville and Ellis have played down the suggestions that the visit was a spying mission.

The US boss told the press that they were looking at the hotel as a potential base for Sunday's final.

## Neville on the situation:

"It's not an unfair advantage; it'll have no bearing on the game. I actually found it quite funny. I just thought: 'What are they doing?' It's not etiquette really, is it?"

"The only thing I would say is it's not something that I would want my team ops person doing."

"We're happy with our hotel. So I hope they enjoyed the hotel."

## Results

*Rest Day*

## Day 26 – July 2



Well if I was nervous for the other games, today my stomach is in knots! A group of us went to the pub to watch the game which was great and it was fantastic to see how many people had gone out specifically to watch the game.

So, England are out. I am absolutely gutted for the girls too. They gave it their all but tonight, sadly, they were beaten by the better team.

After Alex Morgan got an early goal, I was convinced Ellen White's equaliser would be the boost the Lionesses needed.

Cristen Press scored the USA's second goal in the second half and then England's hopes were dashed. First, when White's goal was ruled off-side by VAR, and then when Houghton's

# Our Women's World Cup



penalty kick was saved. It was interesting to see that he had decided to take Parris off the penalties! For me the saddest point was Millie Bright's sending off. She had not been at her best all night and sadly, you could see it coming.

I was a bit disappointed by some of the US behaviour. I know they play with confidence—they have been the best in the world for some time but the diving and chat back is not something I personally like to see.

Not ashamed to say, I got a tad emotional sat in the pub watching the tears of our girls.

## **Neville after the game:**

"We'll have to allow 24 to 48 hours for this to sink in and for them to get over this disappointment. Nothing I can say will make them feel better."

## **An emotional Steph Houghton talked to the press:**

"It's hard to put into words. I'm so proud but I'm disappointed with the penalty and the goals we conceded. Ultimately we know that we can beat them and our aim was to win and we didn't do that."

## **Finally, Jill Ellis also spoke to the press:**

"I can't even express how proud I am. It was such a great effort from everybody. Everyone stepped up, and that's what this team's about. I couldn't be prouder of this group. We have four days this time in between, so that will help."

## **Results**

**Semi-final** England 1-2 USA (White, 19; Bright red 86 – Press, 10; Morgan, 31)

## **Day 27—July 3**

I still feel completely gutted for the England squad. It will feel like a long flight back down to Nice today, and I suspect there will not be a lot of press there as sadly most will be staying in Lyon for the final. That, I suspect will be





# Our Women's World Cup

hard for the squad to see.

Back to today's game, and what a contrast of games! It was like neither wanted to win which was frustrating after last night's game.

0-0 at full time was, let's face it flattering, and I thought it looked like it would be going to penalties but the European Champions were the one to get the goal in extra time. Jackie Groenen settled the cagey game on 99 minutes to see them in their second major final in two years.

After that game, it is hard to see how the USA will lose.

## Results

**Semi-final** Netherlands 1-0 Sweden (Groenen, 99)

## Day 28 – July 4

Yet again, we are on a rest day, so here are some facts from the semi-finals:

- USA become the first side to reach three consecutive World Cup finals - they played Japan in 2011 and 2015
- Christen Press' opening goal ended England's national record run of 381 minutes without conceding at the tournament
- England's Millie Bright became the fourth player to be sent off at the World Cup
- The Netherlands are the eighth different team and fourth European nation to reach a Women's World Cup final
- Netherlands vs Sweden was the first Women's World Cup semi-final match to be settled in extra time
- It will be only the second WWC final to be contested by two female coaches, following Germany v Sweden in 2003

## Results

*Rest Day*



## Day 29—July 5

Tomorrow see's England take on Sweden in the third-place game which means Neville is back talking to the press in the Allianz Riviera.

Many were wondering if he would chose to play Mary Earps as she is the only player not to get any minutes so far but that is looking unlikely.

## Neville told the press:

"It is full squad, strongest team. Obviously we can't play Millie Bright because she is suspended, but we want to win this game.

"I want to send a message to my players that this game is important. We do have certain positions that we will need to freshen up in, but my players know, they are no illusions - this game is one we want to win.

"We want to go away from this World Cup with something to show for the hard work we have put in. Also, six wins, one defeat sounds better than five wins and two defeats."

## Day 30—July 6

Today is my husband's birthday which means we are out tonight—however after the England game of course.

We are in Manchester sorting out our move so it was to the pub once again to watch the game.

It felt such a frustrating game to watch. The Lionesses just looked shattered and not in the

# Our Women's World Cup

game at all.

England started sloppy and let two goals in in just 22 minutes and from then the heads were down.

I would like to take a moment to talk about Fran Kirby. She has received a lot of stick this tournament but today was easily her best performance of the tournament and she got a goal to boot. Sadly she was the shining rose today.

Ellen White had yet another goal ruled offside by VAR, which to be honest summed up the afternoon.

It was a disappointing end for a team which had been so confident going to the tournament. Now we have to make sure we pick ourselves up and get ready to go again in front of a home crowd for the 2021 Euros.

**After the game, Phil Neville classed the game as a “nonsense” game:**

“I think maybe there was carry-over from the semi-final - the emotion. The two goals sparked us into life and I don't think I have seen us play better than we did after those first 20 minutes. We gave it our best shot, we fell short and we just have to make sure next time we are better.

“Well done to Sweden but it is a nonsense game. We were probably showing in those first 20 minutes the disappointment we felt from the USA game. We came here to win it, not finish fourth.”

At first glance, Neville's comments are shocking—and sparked a lot of debate online and between fans. Many believed that they were out of order and disrespectful towards the side who fought so hard in 2015.

But, in defence of the Neville, I believe his comments were actually said out of upset and disappointment and I suspect he already regrets them. Yesterday, he classed the game as really important so to change his mind completely is extremely unlikely.

I also expect he was told off by his media team too!

So that is England's World Cup over for another four years. Next year we have the Olympics, then the Euros but it is hard to see which over the current squad will be at the next World Cup. You could certainly see some of our major players retiring—we have already lost one in Karen Carney.

**Carney spoke to the press with tears in her eyes after the game:**

“The thing I'll miss most—singing the national anthem. That will be tough. I think the thing I'll miss most is just kicking a ball and being like a little kid. In the nicest possible way, my first job was at Sainsbury's because my mum worked there. I was a bag packer and would probably work my way up the ladder there because I wasn't very good at school either. I wouldn't have gone to university. I'm so grateful for football in so many ways and I wouldn't change anything. I don't know where I would be.”



# Our Women's World Cup

## Day 31—July 7

And with that we are at the final day the 2019 Women's World Cup. I am so sad! Luck was on our side today as well as we managed to get from Blackpool to London in just over four and a half hours. We set off with full intentions of watching the game part way down but actually managed to make it home in time for the national anthems (and the pizza delivery!).

USA looked dominate from the start but the Netherlands held their own in the first half and put out some fantastic defence displays. I would love to talk about Sari van Veenendaal—what a superb performance she had in the final game. She has been phenomenal for the whole tournament but she single-handedly kept her side in the game with four first-half saves.

The USA were playing in their third consecutive final and finally broke the deadlock with yet another VAR penalty kick. Barcelona defender Stefanie van der Gragt's high boot caught USA striker Alex Morgan and French referee Stephanie Frappart pointed to the spot after assessing replays, and the holders did not look back after taking the lead.

My player of the tournament—Rose Lavelle (what a talented young player!) added a second for the US just eight minutes later and with that they went on the defence, meaning Netherlands could not get anywhere near.

The US win means Jill Ellis becomes the first coach to life the trophy twice and Rapinoe's goal secured her the golden boot (ahead of teammate Alex Morgan on minutes played after they both finished on the same number of goals and the same number of assists).

It is a record fourth win for the US and well deserved (as sad as it is to admit!). They have dominated for a number of years and that continues.

### **Speaking after the game, Ellis said:**

“This is an amazing group of players - they showed fantastic resilience.



## Our Women's World Cup

"They put their hearts and souls into this journey, I cannot thank them enough. I could barely speak immediately after the game but I told them they had made history and to enjoy it."

**Golden Boot winner, Megan Rapinoe said:**

"It's unbelievable just to know all of the people in our group have put in so much work. We have all our friends and family here, it is surreal."

Statistics from the final:

- USA attacker Megan Rapinoe is the second player in history to start three Women's World Cup finals (2011, 2015, 2019) after Germany's Birgit Prinz (1995, 2003, 2007)
- The USA scored 26 goals at the 2019 Women's World Cup, the most by a team at a single tournament in the competition's history.

- Rapinoe became the first player to score a penalty in a Women's World Cup final, as well as being the oldest scorer in a final (34 years and two days)
- This was a 12th consecutive victory at the Women's World Cup for the USA - the longest run in World Cup history (men's and women's)
- Netherlands goalkeeper Sari van Veenendaal made eight saves in this match - the most by a goalkeeper in a knockout stage match at the 2019 Women's World Cup
- Since failing against Australia in July 2017, the USA have scored in 45 consecutive matches in all competitions, netting 148 goals and scoring at least twice in each of their past 12 games

**CONGRATULATIONS USA!**



## **Your 2019 Women's World Cup**

**Winners: USA**

**Runner-up: Netherlands**

**Third: Sweden**

**Golden Ball: Megan Rapinoe**

**Silver Ball: Lucy Bronze**

**Bronze Ball: Rose Lavelle**

**Golden Boot: Megan Rapinoe**

**Silver Boot: Alex Morgan**

**Bronze Boot: Ellen White**

**Golden Glove: Sari Van  
Veenendaal**



**WOMEN'S WORLD CUP  
FRANCE 2019**

**ORIGINAL TROPHY**

# Why being a woman in a male-dominated industry is not something to be afraid of, it is a unique privilege

By Molly Hudson



Sat at my kitchen table, drinking a blue smoothie that claims to energise me, I am just about ready to reflect on an experience of a lifetime; 34 days at the Women's World Cup. For those of you that don't know me, I am a 21-year-old sports journalist specialising in women's football, I have worked in the industry for the likes of BBC Sport, the Independent and The Times during my sports journalism degree at Staffordshire University, which I completed earlier this summer.

I graduated with first class honours, not an easy feat while balancing several jobs in an industry that does not have an off button. Transfers and stories do not wait while you finish that essay that is due in at midnight and represents 50% of your entire grade...I was lucky to have tutors that understood

the need to balance of studies and job prospects.

I have been lucky. There is no getting around it or hiding it. I got my 'big break' sat in a small office in my lecture room, told by my head lecturer there was a small column available in The Times for a women's football round-up, because none of the established (male) writers fancied rolling their sleeves up and getting up close and personal with the Women's Super League – understandably - there are more attractive prospects in the industry.

I was chosen in some part because of my academic and written ability, but it would be wrong to suggest my gender played no part. I was a woman, and it was women's football. Now, I am not saying this is right, or any of my peers couldn't be in the



position I am now if they had been given that opportunity, because there are plenty talented enough.

I have mixed feelings about gender quotas, and this probably isn't the place for them. Put simply, I believe the best person for the job regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation should get the job. I always say I would hate to get a job I didn't deserve, and at times over the past two years it has felt as though that was the case. I have fast-tracked a career and experienced FA Cup finals, and a World Cup for a national newspaper that career journalists may never get to experience – and I certainly don't take that for granted.

But, something has to change to transform a landscape that does not inspire minorities or half of the population. If you do not have role models you will not succeed and trying to find a female byline in a national newspaper, particularly in the sports section, is like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

It does not help that even in sports journalism courses the ratio of women to men is still embarrassing. In my year there was just myself and one other woman in a class of 20+. This poses the discussion of role models and achievable goals which still seem absent and make this career path difficult to navigate for women.

If that means sometimes strong, young women are given a chance, then that should

not be resented. I highlight the word strong because if you are not, you will be eaten alive. I've watched people crumble in a press box, at the heat of deadline and it is not an easy job. But when you finish a match report and read it in a newspaper with your byline, I'm yet to experience anything better.

In my two years in women's football I could count on one hand the amount of times I have faced discrimination, and ironically that has come from older women in the industry in disbelief that somebody like me could work for The Times. Don't worry, I question it too. It is only natural.

My experience in men's football prior to this was not always pleasant, and being the only female in a press box, can be a genuinely draining experience. The solitary female in a room of men, you are not privy to the in jokes or the friendship groups built over socialising away from the pitch for years 'on their patch'. It tested my resolve to do this job, and every man that looked at me in surprise when I wrote something insightful or answered a loaded question successfully pushed me on.

My first experience in women's football was much the same, walking into the City Academy stadium for my first WSL game, with a new press pack to prove myself to as I also got to grips with writing for a national newspaper. In women's football the tide is slowly turning as more and more national organisations begin to employ talented young women, alongside the core of male reporters that have been covering the game for several years.

Fast forward two years and a growing amount of coverage and column inches in The Times, and it was the Women's World Cup, my target from that first mention of the job at university. Looking back, I'm not sure what I expected from my first tournament. There was a lot of the unknown and a mixture of nerves and excitement for a tournament that I knew would determine whether I could live this dream full-time or go back to working



men's football part-time.

I was under no illusions. I am 21, a white woman from a council estate in a small town, and I was walking into an international tournament, competing with journalists that have worked in the industry for years and years and earned their stripes many times over. If they were the karate black belts, then I was still learning to tie a white one.

Any major tournament, particularly since the appointment of Phil Neville as England manager, signals an influx of men's football journalists, and chief sports writers following the team until they undoubtedly lose and they return home to the cushioned press boxes of the Premier League. If the women's football scene features equality – a mix of genders and backgrounds – then this influx plays to all of the old journalism stereotypes. Mostly middle-aged white men, from privileged backgrounds. The

type of people I have been taught my entire life would resent my very existence in their sacred industry.

I won't name names, if you have been following me on twitter or the World Cup coverage as a whole you will know the journalists I am referring to. But you will also notice the amount of positive comments from them about myself and many other young women. Their approach was not of a chief writer stomping around their patch, sparking out the creativity and fresh approach of the young, instead it was a quiet word in a packed press room telling you that you were doing well, that people were impressed with your content and to keep going. Making sure you were not isolated at a point where you had lost track of how many hotels you had stayed in, and internal flights you had caught, these writers that have been doing this before I was even born, genuinely cared.

I wondered if this was the turning of the tide. Where a crop of young talent, pushed by its male peers to believe in itself, could break into the mainstream and be the genuine future of print. They certainly seemed to think so. One by one, as England lost and the journalists went home and returned to their usual patches, they sent words of encouragement, an outstretched palm for when we returned to England without job security and back to the weekly grind of the WSL. They said this press pack was a refreshing change, a modern approach at journalism both in print and socially.

I missed them terribly. I still do. In fact, returning home to watch them go back to breaking exclusives and watching the verified ticks on Twitter I feel proud to know that these men are what I believe is the future of feminism. Not divisive, simply strong and confident in their own masculinity, a growing wave of male allies for the next generation. I hope they realise the impact they made on all of us.

Not once at the World Cup did I consider I was watching women's football, just football. I did not feel like a women's sports journalist, a minority, just a sports journalist on an equal playing field as my colleagues.

As US captain Megan Rapinoe called for equality for everything from pay to gay

rights, she also highlighted the need for women to tell women's stories.

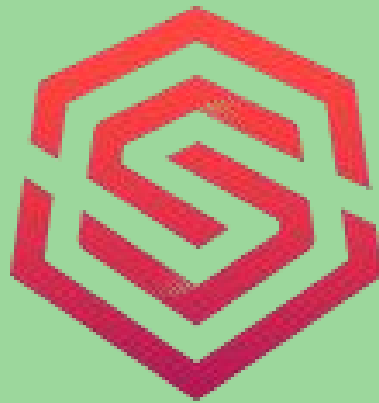
So, in true Marta style...if you read women's football coverage this tournament and saw it was written by a woman, and you enjoy writing, why don't you give it a go? It is not easy, but it is rewarding, and working in football really is living the dream. The women's super league is crying out for coverage and even those of us covering the game regularly or full-time can only be at one game a day.

If you can succeed in a male-dominated industry (yes, it still is), then you aren't just proving that you are good enough, you are proving that women are good enough, that this is an achievable dream for the next generation. Whether that is in five years, ten years or even further into the future than that. I have been inspired by the likes of Alyson Rudd, Louise Taylor and Jacqui Oatley who amongst many others have fought this fight in far worse conditions than I have experienced.

We have male allies, at every single major newspaper and national outlet in this country. It is not a very female thing to back yourself or put yourself out there. But sometimes you have to take a leap, and like me, you might fly further than you ever dreamt. Now is the time.



# **FA WSL opening weekend fixtures**



Arsenal vs West Ham

Birmingham City vs Everton

Bristol City vs Brighton & Hove Albion

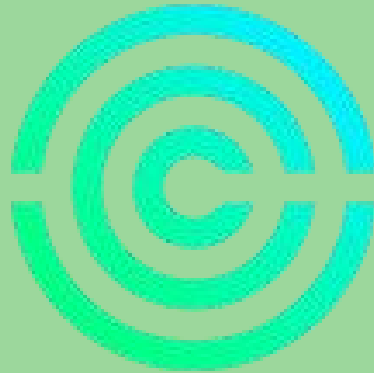
Chelsea vs Tottenham Hotspur

Liverpool vs Reading

Manchester City vs Manchester United

*Starting 7th and 8th September*

# FA Championship opening weekend fixtures



Aston Villa vs Sheffield United  
Crystal Palace vs Coventry United  
Leicester City vs Durham  
Lewes vs Blackburn Rovers  
London Bees vs London City Lionesses

*Free Week: Charlton Athletic*  
*Starting 7th and 8th September*

# Karen Carney: A legend who changed the game



By Marissa Thomas

Aged 17, Karen Carney announced herself on the world stage when she scored on her England debut against Italy in 2005. Fourteen years later and the Birmingham native has hung her boots up after a remarkable career that saw her play for England 144 times and Birmingham, Arsenal and Chelsea at club level.

Carney may be devastated that she ended her international career without winning the World Cup, but she can be proud of the fact that she has played more times for England than any other footballer bar Reading midfielder Fara Williams.

In addition, the former Chelsea winger has played at four World Cups and three European Championships while making more appearances at major tournaments than any other English player. In the first international women's fixture played at Wembley against Germany in 2014, Carney was the youngest player to reach 100 caps for England.

At club level, Carney made her senior debut for Birmingham at the age of 14. She joined Arsenal in 2006 and was a key member of their quadruple-winning side a year later. In 2009, Carney went to America and had a spell with Chicago Red Stars before returning to her home club Birmingham City. When they beat Chelsea in the FA Cup final in 2012, it was Carney who scored the winning penalty.

Having denied Chelsea a trophy five years earlier, she went on to win the double with the London club during the 2017-18 season under the tutelage of Emma Hayes, a coach who was incredibly influential in her career.

The Chelsea boss told the BBC: “I’ve got to be honest, I’m absolutely devastated that she’s retiring but I’m so proud of her for all of her achievements throughout her career.

“I’ll personally feel like I’ve lost a limb when I go back to pre-season. I’m going to miss her terribly. She is a fabulous role model. She’s achieved everything she wanted to in her game and I’m thankful for that.”

There were countless kind words and speeches made once Carney announced she was retiring, highlighting the impact she has had on other people in the game.

In an emotional press conference after announcing her retirement, Carney stated that her first job was in Sainsbury’s because that’s where her mum worked and she “probably would have worked my way up the ladder there because I wasn’t very good at school”. Instead, she worked her way to the top of the football ladder and retired on her own terms, leaving an unforgettable legacy behind her.

Women’s football would not be the professional sport it is today without dedicated, hard-working and inspirational characters like Karen Carney and knowing that she is a role model for female footballers everywhere will surely make her proud when she reflects on her superb career.



# Women's Euro 2021: BBC secures exclusive European Championship rights



The BBC has secured exclusive rights for the 2021 Women's European Championship in England.

There will be extensive coverage of every game of the tournament across television, radio and online.

Director of BBC Sport Barbara Slater said: "After the success of the World Cup on the BBC and the record-breaking viewing figures for women's football, we're delighted to be the broadcaster of the Uefa Women's Euro 2021 Championship.

"At the start of this summer we wanted to shift the dial on women's football and I feel the phenomenal coverage from France has done just that. The BBC's sport portfolio continues to go from strength to strength and we're thrilled to add the 2021 Euros to that."

The final of Euro 2021 will be held at Wembley, while eight other venues are showcasing game:

- Community Stadium, Brighton
- Brentford Community Stadium, London
- Wembley Stadium, London
- Manchester City Academy Stadium, Manchester
- Stadium MK, Milton Keynes
- New York Stadium, Rotherham
- Bramall Lane, Sheffield
- St Marys Stadium, Southampton

# THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

