

# WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

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FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019



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# WOMEN'S WORLD CUP!

Welcome to your complete guide to the 2019 Women's World Cup including exclusive interviews, facts on all 24 teams, a guide to the grounds and so much more.

# **THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE**



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# Welcome

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## Hello and welcome to Issue 26!

Well the Women's World Cup is finally here and we could not be more excited!

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to wish the women of England and Scotland good luck, hopefully that trophy is coming home!

In this bumper issue, we have interviews with Phil Neville, Lucy Bronze, Mary Fowler, Corinne Diacre and more as well as an in-depth look into ALL 24 squads, the venues, how to get there guides and some fun facts about our Lionesses.

During the tournament we will be out in France so look out for green t-shirts with TWFM on as we will be giving away lots of goodies.

We also have a live section of our website which will have live content throughout the whole tournament.

So enjoy the games, cheer on your countries with pride and let's see women's football take over France!

Enjoy the issue!

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Editor-in-Chief

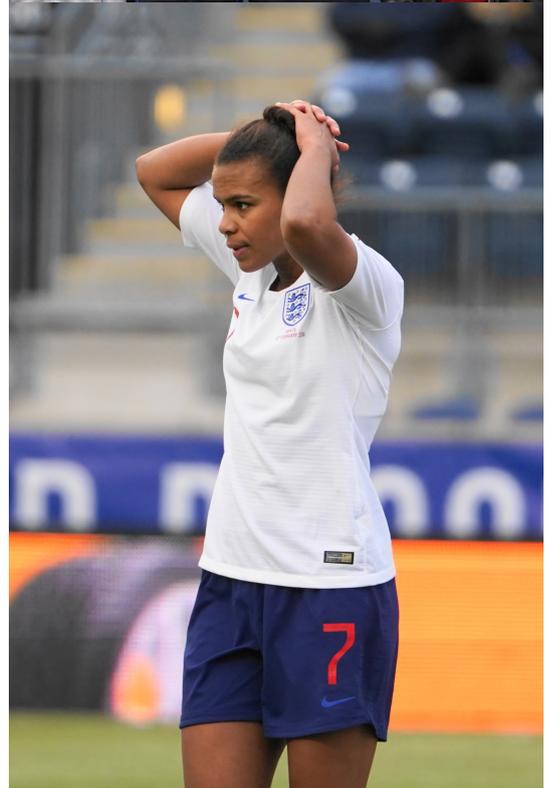
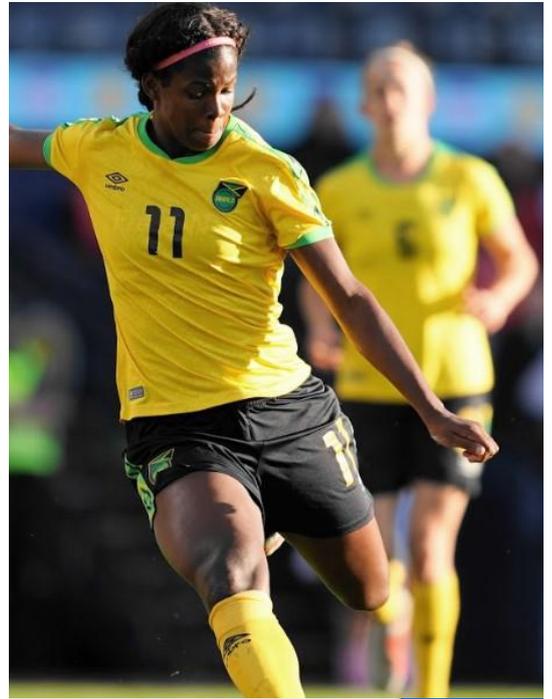
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LIONESSES

response  
forward

# Match of the Month

## England 0-1 New Zealand

By Helen Rowe-Willcocks



The stage was set, the sun was shining, the fans were singing but England Lionesses' farewell party did not quite go according to plan.

A shock goal from Sarah Gregorius shortly after the second half had re-started stunned England into defeat in their final friendly before heading out to the Women's World Cup.

Phil Neville made 10 changes from the side which beat Denmark on Saturday, May 25 with only goalscorer Nikita Parris keeping her place in the starting XI.

England started strong, dominating possession with Jodie Taylor, who has not scored for her national side in over a year, missing a couple of early chances.

It looked only a matter of time before England would opening the scoring, but try as they might and the Lionesses could not find the back of the net.

New Zealand goalkeeper Erin Nayler was kept busy in the first half with both Toni Duggan and Fran Kirby forcing saves from long-range shots.

England picked up from where they left off in the second half but on 50 minutes they were caught napping at the back.

The Lionesses' defence failed to clear the ball from the area and goalkeeper Carly Telford failed to get a hold on it leaving Gregorius with an easy save.

It did not take long for the hosts to begin pressing the New Zealand defence again and after winning a free kick on the edge of



the area, Lucy Staniforth's shot dipped just over the bar.

New Zealand, who are ranked 15th in the world, looked much stronger in the second half and had a couple of corners but Millie Bright and Steph Houghton easily kept the game at just 1-0.

Manager Phil Neville decided to change things up a bit with 20 minutes to go, first bringing on Karen Carney who made an immediate impact down the wing before adding Beth Mead and Jill Scott to the mix.

Scott, who scored the second against Denmark, added immediate height in the box and just minutes after coming on found her

∨

head on the ball but the header went just wide of the goal.

With time ticking away, England looked like they were beginning to panic and Neville could easily be heard on the sidelines telling his team to calm down.

In front of a record crowd of over 20,000 England could not find the back of the net but Neville was not feeling too concerned.

He said: "The girls are really disappointed.

"Disappointed I think because it was a really good occasion.

"It was a send-off and they wanted to celebrate more than what they were allowed to do because we lost.

"I stood on the touchline thinking we were doing everything right – we were passing the ball with speed, once they got that goal it was always going to be more difficult, they got deeper and deeper.

"The only slight negative from my point of view was that we were crossing the ball too much.

"We were crossing the ball into areas where they were just stood. What I wanted the players to do was to have more composure, to get the ball into the boxes and to get Kirby, Carney, Mead or Parris on the ball and try and weave the ball rather than crossing the ball into the box.

"Because of their goal it made us a bit anxious in the final third and it felt, even on 75 minutes, that the players started to get desperate and there was still plenty of time.

"We kept trying to get the message on to take those extra passes but I think the occasion and the want to get back into the game meant that they were so desperate and in the end we didn't have enough to break them down.

"In the first 20/30 minutes I thought we should have been two, three up and it could have been a very different story. They just

hit us on a sucker-punch.”

The squad will fly out to France on Tuesday before their opening game on Sunday but will have to put the result behind them quickly.

The players now have a few days off before they all converge on Heathrow airport and Neville is adamant he wants his players to relax on their days off.

He added: “I am not deflated and I think you take your mood off the manager sometimes.

“My lecture after the game was about what are they going to do on their days off.

“I want them to recover, to switch off – see the family, walk the dog. I told them to keep focused.”

## Teams

**England:** Telford, Bronze, Houghton, McManus, Greenwood, Staniforth (Scott 68), Walsh (Stanway 89), Parris (mead 68), Kirby, Duggan (Carney 54), Taylor (White 75)

**Subs not used:** Bardsley, Bright, Williamson, Roebuck, Blundell

**New Zealand:** Nayler, Stott, Moore, Erceg, Riley, Bott (Satchell 84), Percival, Bowen, Hassett (Longo 73), White (Chance 73), Gregorius (Wilkinson 64)

**Subs not used:** Green, Kete, Morton, Duncan, Skilton, Cleverley, Esson, Olla



# PHIL NEVILLE

*The England manager looks back over the 'Road to France' Series and ahead to the Women's World Cup.*

The Lionesses have been tipped as one of the favourites for the 2019 Women's World Cup trophy with many fans believing this is their year.

After finishing third in the 2015 competition and winning the SheBelieves Cup in March, excitement has been building ahead of the tournament in France but the preparations have not gone according to plan.

The media anticipation has blown up with many major media outlet in the UK turning up to press events, sending reporters to games and building the excitement and it is all coming down to this – with just days to go until the start of the tournament, Phil Neville chatted to journalists and TWFM about how he thinks preparations have gone.

He said: "The last three weeks we have worked really hard but from three weeks ago all they wanted was to get to Tuesday [then they fly out to France] so we have been counting the days down because Tuesday is where we want to be.

"These games have been a bit of a nuisance really and New Zealand said the same thing.

"Everyone just wants to get to France. I am happy, I am contented. I have seen my

squad play with confidence, with great ability.

"When you are going into a major championship, the warm-up games are really difficult because you want to get your rhythm, you want to get your form, but you have got one eye on getting out to France.

"It is catch-22 for the player because you don't want to get injured but you want to find your form and training has been really good.

"The two games that we have played, you can tell that there has been one eye on getting out to France. It is human nature.

"Every player in every country feels the same. We spoke to New Zealand before the game and their manager Tom [Sermanni] said exactly the same.

"They go to Wales on Tuesday and really they do not want that game. It is about getting minutes but also about getting rest."

The 'Road to France' Series has seen the Lionesses come up against Canada, Spain, Denmark and New Zealand with two defeats and two wins.

In front of growing crowds – with the both the game at the AMEX and Banks Stadium over 10,000 – the Lionesses have played against some tough sides also heading to France.

Back in September, Neville confirmed that he wanted to

play against as many of the top teams in the World before the World Cup started and alongside the SheBelieves Cup, they have achieved it.

Despite this, not everything has gone their way. A defeat to Canada in the first game came as a shock to many fans but then to lose to New Zealand in their 'farewell' game was completely against the bets. Neville, however, is not worried – in fact he believes they are the games where his side have learnt the most.

He said: "The two defeats have been really good for us – the Canada one especially.

"We came up against a really experienced side who knew how to win games of football, knew how to dig in and were tactically astute so it was really important.

"I think it has actually been the most important game.

"When we get through the round-of-16, the quarter-final stages, we are going to meet teams who are tactical, we are not just going to meet teams who are good at football.

"There is going to be a lot of different types of challenges and we need to be prepared.

"There will be teams who double up on our wide players so they have been great challenges."

# The Big Interview

Road to France Series					
England	0-1	Canada	Academy Stadium, Man City	5,682	Christine Sinclair, 81
England	2-1	Spain	County Ground, Swindon	13,449	Beth Mead, 36 Ellen White, 46
England	2-0	Denmark	Banks Stadium, Walsall	8,273	Nikita Parris, 45+1 Jill Scott, 59
England	0-1	New Zealand	AMEX Stadium, Brighton	20,076	Sarah Gregorius, 50



# England Squad

## Manager



### Phil Neville

Phil Neville has been in charge of the Lionesses since January 2018.

**DOB:** 21/01/1977

**First match in charge:** 01/03/2018—4-1 win over France in the SheBelieves Cup

**Matches managed:** 18

**Trophies:** SheBelieves winners 2019

## Goalkeepers



### 1. Karen Bardsley

**Position:** Goalkeeper

**DOB:** 14/10/1984

**Club:** Manchester City

**England debut:** March 9, 2005

**Senior caps:** 77

**Fun fact:** She was born in Santa Monica, California and worked at Disneyland for a year as Goofy and Tigger

**Who announced**

**Karen?** Jordan Pickford



### 13. Carly Telford

**Position:** Goalkeeper

**DOB:** 07/07/1987

**Club:** Chelsea

**England debut:** March 11, 2007

**Senior Caps:** 17

**Fun fact:** She is a media graduate from Nottingham Trent University

**Who announced Carly?**

Nicole Holliday



### 21. Mary Earps

*1st World Cup*

**Position:** Goalkeeper-

**DOB:** 07/03/1993

**Club:** Wolfsburg

**England debut:** June 10, 2017

**Senior caps:** 5

**Fun fact:** She has a degree in business from

Loughborough University

**Who announced Mary?**

Clara Amfo

# Defenders



## 2. Lucy Bronze

**Position:** Defender

**DOB:** 28/10/1991

**Club:** Lyon

**England debut:** June 26, 2013

**Senior caps:** 67

**Fun fact:** Bronze almost played for Portugal – her father is Portuguese and she was brought up bilingual

**Who announced Lucy?**

Alex Scott



## 6. Millie Bright

**Position:** Defender

**DOB:** 21/08/1993

**Club:** Chelsea

**England debut:**

September 20, 2016

**Senior caps:** 27

**Fun fact:** She was the only England player to start every match of the 2017 Euro Championships

**Who announced Millie?**

Jamal Edwards



## 3. Alex Greenwood

**Position:** Defender

**DOB:** 07/09/1993

**Club:** Manchester United

**England debut:** March 5, 2014

**Senior caps:** 36

**Fun fact:** She nutmegged Phil Neville in training ahead of the WWC which caused him to fall to the ground in despair and the players pile on him

**Who announced Alex?**

Olly Murs



## 12. Demi Stokes

*1st World Cup*

**Position:** Defender

**DOB:** 12/12/1991

**Club:** Manchester City

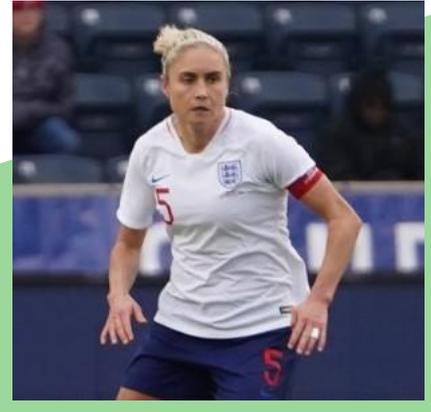
**England debut:** January 17, 2014

**Senior caps:** 51

**Fun fact:** Stokes captained GB to gold in 2013 Summer Universiade in Russia

**Who announced Demi?**

Emma Watson



## 5. Steph Houghton

**Position:** Defender, captain

**DOB:** 23/04/1988

**Club:** Manchester City

**England debut:** March 8, 2007

**Senior caps:** 104

**Fun fact:** Became the first female player to be on the cover of Shoot magazine

**Who announced Steph?**

Prince William



## 17. Rachel Daly

*1st major tournament*

**Position:** Defender

**DOB:** 06/12/1991

**Club:** Houston Dash

**England debut:** June 4, 2016

**Senior caps:** 22

**Fun fact:** Whilst playing for Red Storm college in New York, she set the school's career records for both goals and points

**Who announced Rachel?**

Anne Marie



## 15. Abbie McManus

*1st Major tournament*

**Position:** Defender

**DOB:** 14/01/1993

**Club:** Manchester City

**Senior caps:** 12

**Fun fact:** Abbie used to be the kit woman at Man City before signing as a player

**Who announced Abbie?**

Katrina Johnson-Thompson



## 16. Jade Moore

**Position:** Midfielder

**DOB:** 22/10/1990

**Club:** Reading

**England debut:** February 28, 2012

**Senior caps:** 46

**Fun fact:** Football saved her life after it was found she had two holes in her heart at a routine screening at the age of 16

**Who announced Jade?**

Dan Walker

## Midfielders



## 4. Keira Walsh

*1st World Cup*

**Position:** Midfielder

**DOB:** 08/04/1997

**Club:** Manchester City

**England debut:**

November 28, 2017

**Senior caps:** 14

**Fun fact:** She ties the laces on her right boot four times before going on the pitch

**Who announced Keira?**

Monki



## 19. Georgia Stanway

*1st major senior tournament*

**Position:** Midfielder

**DOB:** 03/01/1999

**Club:** Manchester City

**England debut:**

November 8, 2018

**Senior caps:** 7

**Fun fact:** She goes to France just 12 months after competing in the U20 World Cup

**Who announced**

**Georgia?** Raheem Stirling



## 8. Jill Scott

**Position:** Midfielder

**DOB:** 02/02/1987

**Club:** Manchester City

**England debut:** August 31, 2006

**Senior caps:** 135

**Fun fact:** She was nicknamed Peter Crouch at Everton after doing the robot when she scored on her debut

**Who announced Jill?**

Nick Bright



## 20. Karen Carney

*7th major tournament*

**Position:** Midfielder

**DOB:** 01/08/1987

**Club:** Chelsea

**England debut:** February 17, 2005

**Senior caps:** 139

**Fun fact:** She is the most capped England player going to France

**Who announced**

**Karen?** Rachel Yankey



## 23. Lucy Staniforth

*1st World Cup*

**Position:** Midfielder

**DOB:** 02/10/1992

**Club:** Birmingham City

**England debut:**

September 4, 2018

**Senior caps:** 9

**Fun fact:** She went to the same school as Lucy Bronze

**Who announced Lucy?**

Alan Shearer



## 10. Fran Kirby

**Position:** Forward

**DOB:** 29/06/1993

**Club:** Chelsea

**England debut:** August 3, 2014

**Senior caps:** 38

**Fun fact:** She was once nicknamed “mini-Messi”

**Who announced Fran?**

Ellie Goulding

## Forwards



## 7. Nikita Parris

*1st World Cup*

**Position:** Forward

**DOB:** 10/03/1994

**Club:** Lyon

**England debut:** June 4, 2016

**Senior caps:** 33

**Fun fact:** Parris’ sister is professional boxer Natasha Jonas who became the first British boxer to fight at the Olympic Games

**Who announced**

**Nikita?** David Beckham



## 11. Toni Duggan

**Position:** Forward

**DOB:** 25/07/1991

**Club:** Barcelona

**England debut:**

September 19, 2012

**Fun fact:** Became the first England women’s player to reach 100,000 Twitter followers

**Who announced Toni?**

Greg James



## 9. Jodie Taylor

**Position:** Forward

**DOB:** 17/05/1986

**Club:** Reign

**England debut:** August 3, 2014

**Senior caps:** 42

**Fun Fact:** Jodie has played in five countries throughout her career – England, USA, Australia, Sweden, Canada

**Who announced Jodie?**

Chelcee Grimes



## 18. Ellen White

**Position:** Forward

**DOB:** 905/1989

**Club:** Manchester City

**England debut:** March 25, 2010

**Senior caps:** 81

**Fun fact:** Ellen is a big fan of Pilates

**Who announced Ellen?**

James Cordon



## 22. Beth Mead

*1st major senior tournament*

**Position:** Forward

**DOB:** 09/05/1995

**Club:** Arsenal

**England debut:**

06/04/2018

**Senior caps:** 13

**Fun fact:** She scored a hat-trick against Chelsea two days after flipping her car three times when she swerved to avoid hitting a deer

**Who announced Beth?**

Kelly Smith





# England vs Scotland— A preview

*Injury Watch, form and possible line-ups for England vs Scotland including quotes from Phil Neville and Shelley Kerr*



By Helen Rowe-Willcocks

As we countdown to England's first game against Scotland, we look ahead to how we think both England and Scotland will line-up.

Phil Neville confirmed after the New Zealand game that there were a number of players with knocks, which was why they did not feature for the Lionesses in Brighton but he did not seem to be concerned.

He said: "We have four injuries at the minute so we are going to have to be really careful with them.

"Demi Stokes, Rachel Daly, Mary Earps and Jade Moore were not involved [against New Zealand].

"Demi picked up a knock in the Denmark game, and the other three picked up in knocks in training.

"It is the reason we brought in Hannah Blundell in to training this week, she will obviously go home again now.

"The injuries are minor knocks, we are not going to have to change the squad, but I always like the whole 23 squad training every day.

“They [are not a worry for the game against Scotland], they will hopefully back training Wednesday or Thursday.”

When it comes to form and predicted line-ups for the game in Nice it is harder as Phil Neville has loved to change things throughout his reign as manager.

In 2019, Neville has swapped his side around including playing Lucy Bronze in midfield and never having the same upfront team, leaving fans unsure whether he knows his best squad.

Just look at the table below to see how many different combinations there have been of starting XIs in 2019.

England Starting XI – 2019						
SheBelieves Cup			Road to France Series			
vs Brazil	vs USA	vs Japan	vs Canada	vs Spain	vs Denmark	vs NZ
Telford	Bardsley	Telford	Bardsley	Roebuck	Bardsley	Telford
Bronze	Daly	Bronze	Daly	Daly	Daly	Bronze
Houghton	Houghton	Houghton	Houghton	Williamson	Williamson	Houghton
McManus	McManus	Williamson	McManus	Bright	Bright	McManus
Greenwood	Stokes	Greenwood	Stokes	Greenwood	Stokes	Greenwood
Walsh	Parris	Christiansen	Walsh	Moore	Scott	Staniforth
Christiansen	Bronze	Walsh	Duggan	Mead	Moore	Walsh
Parris	Walsh	Mead	Bronze	Scott	Stanway	Parris
Kirby	Duggan	Staniforth	Parris	Stanway	Parris	Kirby
Carney	Kirby	Carney	Taylor	Duggan	White	Duggan
White	White	Taylor	Carney	White	Mead	Taylor

Against Canada, Jodie Taylor – who was the Golden Boot winner at the 2015 Women’s World Cup in Canada – missed a number of golden opportunities to put the Lionesses ahead but she could not find the back of the net.

It has now been over a year since Taylor has scored in an England shirt, but Neville is not concerned about her form in the lead up to the tournament.

He said: “I am not worried about my goalscorers because I know they will get chances. I thought Jodie [Taylor] should have scored two [against New Zealand] and she would have said the same.

“She was out for a long time, she did not really get back playing until January/February then she got back into England in the SheBelieves.

“She is still finding her rhythm but I think she is a big game player. When the occasion comes, I know she will score goals.”

Looking at Scotland and it is clear they are going to bring much more of a test to England than many were originally predicting.

The rivals met in the opening game of the European Championships in 2017, but since then Scottish football has gone from strength-to-strength with the likes of domestic clubs such as Celtic confirming plans for their women's teams to become full-time professionals.

The Scotland squad includes a number of Women's Super League players including domestic treble winners Jennifer Beattie, Claire Emslie and Caroline Weir and champions Kim Little and Lisa Evans.

Scotland's final warm-up game before they head to their debut WWC, saw them beat Jamaica 3-2 at Hampden Park in front of a record crowd.

Before the game the record had been just over 4000, but 18,655 people crammed into Hampden Park to watch the side win before they head out to France.

The result means they will go into the tournament full of confidence and unbeaten in their last four games.

Shelley Kerr's side have been busy in 2019 playing four friendlies and coming fifth in the Algarve Cup but their squad has been consistent throughout.

Speaking after their win over Jamaica, Kerr said that the support at Hampden Park is the perfect send-off: "To generate that kind of support is amazing.

"I grew up in an era when we had two leagues and a couple of hundred players than 1000 at international matches.

"So to play at Hampden before the World Cup with over 18,000 is magnificent."





# Predicted starting XIs

**Bardsley**

**Bronze Houghton McManus Stokes**

**Walsh**

**Scott**

**Duggan**

**Parris**

**Carney**

**Kirby**

**Cuthbert**

**Ross**

**Emslie**

**Weir**

**Little**

**Evans**

**Docherty**

**Beattie**

**Corsie**

**Smith**

**Alexander**

# Scotland Squad

**Manager:** Shelly Kerr

**Goalkeepers:**

Lee Alexander (Glasgow City)

Jenna Fife (Hibernian)

Shannon Lynn (Vittsjo GIK)

**Defenders:**

Chloe Arthur (Birmingham City)

Jennifer Beattie (Manchester City)

Rachel Corsie (Utah Royals)

Nicola Docherty (Glasgow City)

Sophie Howard (Reading)

Hayley Lauder (Glasgow City)

Joelle Murray (Hibernian)

Kirsty Smith (Manchester Utd)

**Midfielders:**

Lizzie Arnot (Manchester Utd)

Leanne Crichton (Glasgow City)

Kim Little (Arsenal)

Jo Love (Glasgow City)

Christie Murray (Liverpool)

Caroline Weir (Manchester City)

**Forwards:**

Fiona Brown (FC Rosengard)

Lana Clelland (Fiorentina)

Erin Cuthbert (Chelsea)

Claire Emslie (Manchester City)

Lisa Evans (Arsenal)

Jane Ross (West Ham Utd)

## Lucy Bronze talks to TWFM

**How do you feel about finishing on a defeat?**

The score was frustrating but the performance definitely wasn't. We played some very good chances, probably a lot more than we usually do, we just did not put them away. One little slip up and they scored so I don't think I am too disappointed with the game. It's a friendly, it's a wake-up call and just shows what work we need to do this week.

**Does it worry you the lack of goals up front?**

[Laughing]: "Absolutely not. We played against Denmark the other day and scored two goals when we were not playing at our best so it shows we have goals in us. We can go away and work on that and we will be fine. We have some of the best strikers in the world, some top players and we know that we can create chances and put them away."

**Did it feel like a reverse on Denmark?**

No, we fought hard against Denmark. I thought in the second half we were the better team [against Denmark]. Today, I believe we were the better team throughout the whole game, apart from the last two minutes of the first half and the first two minutes of the second.

**How was it playing in front of 20,000?**

It was amazing. The stadium itself is unbelievable. It's a nice stadium to play in, we nearly filled it. The crowd was good and the atmosphere was good. Hopefully, it's a practice run for Nice.

**How excited are you for the first game against Scotland?**

To play Scotland – that is our big focus now. Everyone is super excited to play them. We know a lot of their players and their team inside out. It was the first game of our last tournament as well so it is super exciting. It's a game that we want to win.

**It was hot against Brighton, the weather conditions will probably be hotter – how did you find it?**

I hope we are more adapted than the Scottish! But in all seriousness, yes it was really, really hot. It is what it is going to be like in France and we have been trying to adapt in training. We have done some warm weather stuff in training, it is going to take time to adapt but if we can work the ball, keep possession, we will not have to work hard when out of it.



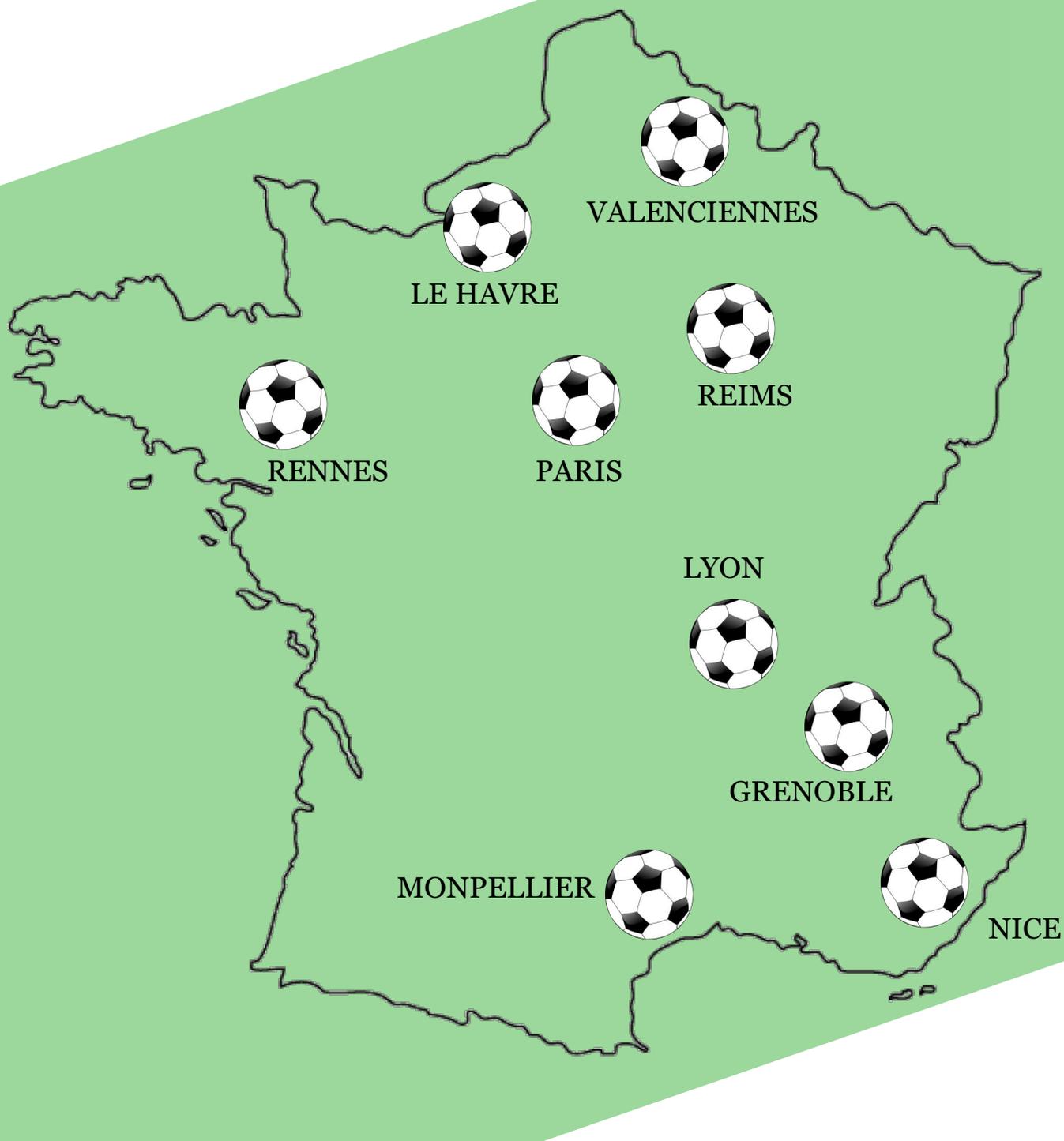
THE GALLEY

TAMPA

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# Venues



# Grenoble

Grenoble city is home to 700,000 people and is classed as the capital of the Alps. Surrounded by mountains it is famed for its research in medicine, digital imaging and chemistry. Grenoble is also well known for sport. In 1968, the city hosted the Winter Olympics, with the Stade des Alpes situated in the Olympic park.

## How to get there from the city centre?

The stadium is located to the south-east of the centre and next to the City Hall. It is a 10 minute walk from the cathedral and about a 30 minute walk from the main train station. If you do not want to walk you can get the A tram towards Denis Papin and get off at Verdun Prefecture.

Factfile			
<b>Stadium</b>	Stade des Alpes		
<b>Home Football Club</b>	Grenoble Foot 38		
<b>Built</b>	2008		
<b>Capacity</b>	20,068		
<b>Games hosting</b>	June 9	C	Brazil vs Jamaica
	June 12	A	Nigeria vs Korea Republic
	June 15	E	Canada vs New Zealand
	June 18	C	Jamaica vs Australia
	June 22	Rnd 16	1B vs 3ACD



# Le Havre



Le Havre port was founded in 1517 by King Francis 1 to strengthen trading links with western Europe. Since then it has suffered destruction during the second world war which saw massive rebuilding by famous architect Auguste Perret. In 2015, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Le Havre Athletic Club was founded in 1894 and is the oldest club in France.

## How to get there from the city centre?

The stadium lies to the east of the City. From the centre you can get buses to the ground. From the cathedral grab Bus 2 in the direction of Soquence and get off at Dr Lamaze. From the main railway station catch Bus 5 towards Graville. Get off at Champs Baretts.

If you are driving, the stadium is adajcent to the RD6015 which you get to via the A131 from the city.

## Factfile

<b>Stadium</b>	Stade Oceane		
<b>Home Football Club</b>	Le Havre Athletic Club		
<b>Built</b>	2012		
<b>Capacity</b>	25,278		
<b>Games hosting</b>	June 8	B	Spain vs South Africa
	June 11	E	New Zealand vs Netherlands
	June 14	D	England vs Argentina
	June 17	B	China PR vs Spain
	June 20	F	Sweden vs USA
	June 23	Rnd 16	1A vs 3CDE
	June 27	QF	W37 vs W39



# Lyon

## How to get there from the city centre?

The stadium is located 10km out of the city centre and easy to get to by car. It is located next to the N346 motorway—take exit 6.

For public transport take Tram 3 from Gare Part-Dieu and get off at Decines Grand Large. It is a ten minute walk from there. On match days there are usually special trams which stop outside the stadium so look out for them!

Lyon is well known for its cuisine, the rolling hills of La Croix Rouse and the Fete des Lumieres which lights the city's parks and monuments during December. Situated on the banks of the Rhone and Saone, Lyon is a lively place and home to renowned women's club Olympique Lyon Feminin who have nurtured some of the best footballers in the world.

Factfile			
<b>Stadium</b>	Stade de Lyon		
<b>Home Football Club</b>	Olympique Lyonnais		
<b>Built</b>	2015		
<b>Capacity</b>	59,186		
<b>Games hosting</b>	July 2	SF	W45 vs W46
	July 3	SF	W47 vs W48
	July 7	Final	W49 vs W50



# Montpellier



Montpellier is a popular holiday destination for many in France and Europe with the historic attractions which surround the city. UNESCO Heritage sites such as the Pont du Gard, the ancient abbeys and beautiful scenery means there is a lot to explore. The city has heavily invested in sport with professional men's and women's football, rugby and handball teams known as some of the best in France.

## How to get there from the city centre?

If travelling by car, take the A9 motorway and come off at exit 31. The stadium is signposted from there.

For public transport, take Tram 1 from the main railway station and get off at Mosson—the last on the line. It takes about half an hour.

Factfile			
<b>Stadium</b>	Stade de la Mosson		
<b>Home Football Club</b>	Montpellier Hérault Sport Club		
<b>Built</b>	1974 (most recent refurb 2014)		
<b>Capacity</b>	24,497		
<b>Games hosting</b>	June 10	E	Canada vs Cameroon
	June 13	C	Australia vs Brazil
	June 17	B	South Africa vs Germany
	June 20	E	Cameroon vs New Zealand
	June 25	Rnd 16	1C vs 3ABF



# Nice

Another popular tourist destination, Nice will be brimming with football fans soaking up the Mediterranean sun between games. The city is well known for its festivals and is just a stones throw away from Monaco for those wanting to feel like they are in James Bond or racing the streets of the F1. The Vieuz Nice (Old Town) is perfect for a walk before dinner or a drink looking out to sea.

## How to get there from the city centre?

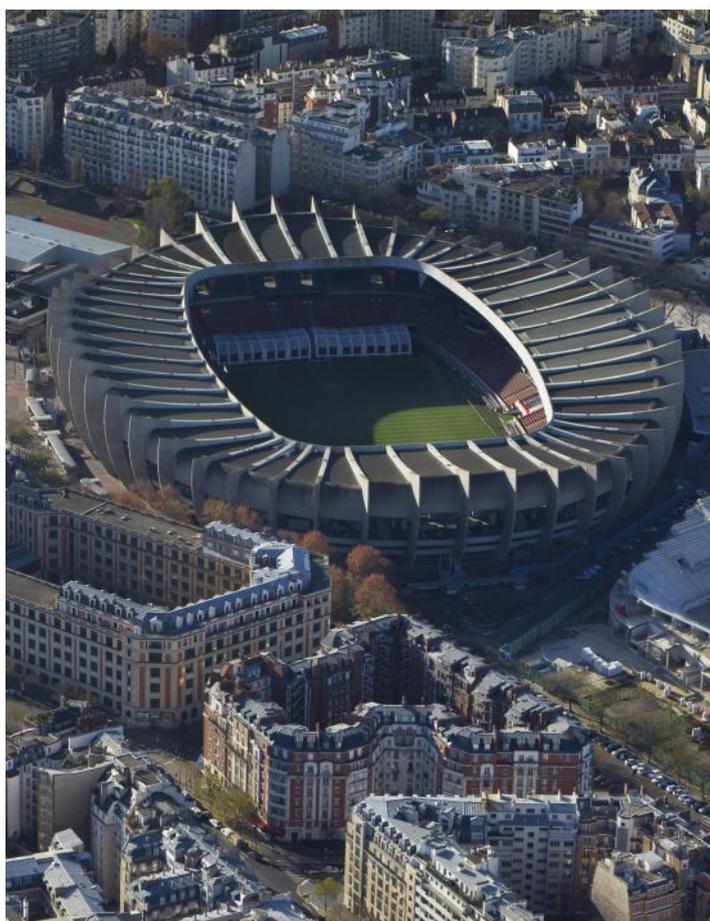
The stadium is 10km out of the city centre and on the A8 motoway—take exit 51 or 52 for the car parks.

On matchdays get Bus 95 which runs from Hopital St Roch and takes you out to the stadium—it takes about 50 minutes. Alternatively take the TER train from Nice Ville to St Augustain and there are shuttle buses from there.

Factfile			
<b>Stadium</b>	Stade de Nice		
<b>Home Football Club</b>	OCG Nice		
<b>Built</b>	2013		
<b>Capacity</b>	36,178		
<b>Games hosting</b>	June 9	D	England vs Scotland
	June 12	A	France vs Norway
	June 16	F	Sweden vs Thailand
	June 19	D	Japan vs England
	June 22	Rnd 16	2A vs 2C
	July 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	L49 vs L50



# Paris



The capital city of France needs no introduction. The city of love with its beautiful buildings such as the Eiffel Tower, Arch de Triomphe and Sacre-Coeur. In April, the world watched as Notre Dame was engulfed with flames and the reconstruction has already begun. The Eiffel Tower will be the focal point for the tournament and football is well engrained into the city with PSGs men and women finding success in recent years.

## How to get there from the city centre?

Public transport is the easiest option. Metro stop Porte de Saint-Cloud on line 9 is a 5 minute walk from the stadium. Alternatively line 10 and stop Porte d'Auteuil will also get you in walking distance.

If you are driving, you need to head for the ring road Peripherique and take exit D910.

Factfile			
<b>Stadium</b>	Parc des Princes		
<b>Home Football Club</b>	Paris Saint-Germain		
<b>Built</b>	1967 (most recent refurb 2016)		
<b>Capacity</b>	47,959		
<b>Games hosting</b>	June 7	A	France vs Korea Republic
	June 10	D	Argentina vs Japan
	June 13	B	South Africa vs China PR
	June 16	F	USA vs Chile
	June 19	D	Scotland vs Argentina
	June 24	Rnd 16	2F vs 2E
	June 28	QF	W40 vs W41



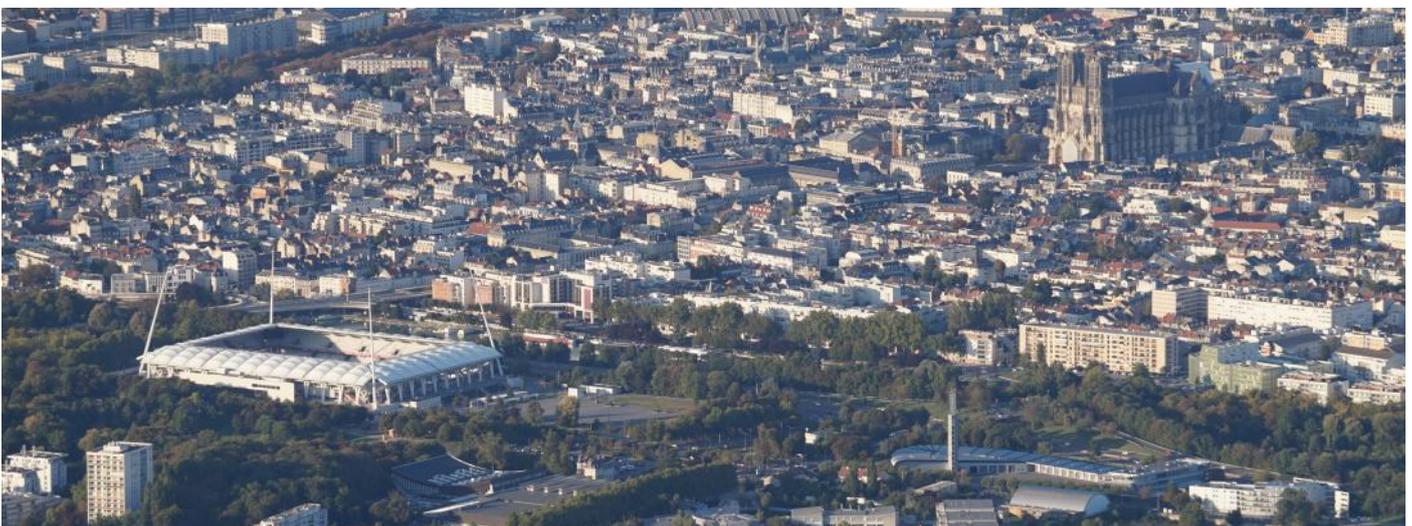
# Reims

Reims is a beautiful city in the middle of champagne land. The Champagne-Ardenne region is well known around the world for their vineyards with more than 30,000 hectares of cellars and winemakers. Aside from the wine and champagne, the city itself is one of beauty. Famous for its 13th century cathedral, there is a lot of amazing gothic architecture to explore. Footballing wise, Reims has failed to have much success since their heyday in the 1950s when they were one of the best men's sides in Europe.

## How to get there from the city centre?

The stadium is located just south-west of the city centre. It is a 15-20 minute walk from Reims main rail station but less from tourist attractions such as the cathedral. It is one of the easiest stations to get to.

Factfile			
<b>Stadium</b>	Stade Auguste-Delaune		
<b>Home Football Club</b>	Stade de Reims		
<b>Built</b>	2008		
<b>Capacity</b>	21,029		
<b>Games hosting</b>	June 8	A	Norway vs Nigeria
	June 11	F	USA vs Thailand
	June 14	C	Jamaica vs Italy
	June 17	A	Korea Republic vs Norway
	June 20	E	Netherlands vs Canada
	June 24	Rnd 16	2B vs 1F



# Rennes



Rennes is a wonderful city to explore with historic streets, two majestic squares, a grand town hall and old timber houses. The Parc du Thabor was built in the 1860s and combines French and English style gardens with a children's play area and botanical garden. The gardens are to be used for private functions during the World Cup.

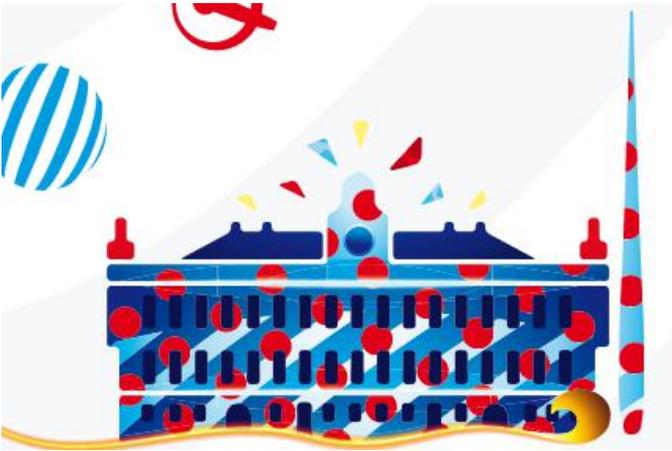
## How to get there from the city centre?

If you are travelling by car, the stadium lies adjacent to the ring road. Take exit 10 Port de Lorient.

For public transport, Bus 11 from the main railway will take you to the station. Get the bus in the direction on ZI Ouest and get off at Stade Rennais. The bus takes about 15 minutes.

Factfile			
<b>Stadium</b>	Roazhon Park		
<b>Home Football Club</b>	Stade Rennais FC		
<b>Built</b>	2004		
<b>Capacity</b>	29,357		
<b>Games hosting</b>	June 8	B	Germany vs China PR
	June 11	F	Chile vs Sweden
	June 14	D	Japan vs Scotland
	June 17	A	Nigeria vs France
	June 20	F	Thailand vs Chile
	June 25	Rnd 16	1E vs 2D
	June 29	QF	W38 vs W42

# Valenciennes



Situated in Northern France, Valenciennes has witnessed many battles over its long history. The city suffered major damaging through fighting in the First World War and a major fire in 1940. Now the city is stylish and modern and is well known for their carnivals and festivals which are held throughout the year. The Place d'Armes will be the place to be during the World Cup with the large square to be used for public celebrations.

## How to get there from the city centre?

If travelling to the stadium by car, take the A2 and come off at exit 21, then follow the signs for the city centre and stadium.

The easiest way to get to the ground is by tram. From the railway station in the centre take tram A in the direction of the Universite and get off at Nungesser. It's a ten minute walk to the stadium from here but the journey only takes 5 minutes.

Factfile			
<b>Stadium</b>	Stade du Hainaut		
<b>Home Football Club</b>	Valenciennes FC		
<b>Built</b>	2011		
<b>Capacity</b>	25,172		
<b>Games hosting</b>	June 9	C	Australia vs Italy
	June 12	B	Germany vs Spain
	June 15	E	Netherlands vs Cameroon
	June 18	C	Italy vs Brazil
	June 23	Rnd 16	1D vs 3BEF
	June 29	QF	W43 vs W44



# How to Watch England and Scotland's games



The whole tournament will be shown on the BBC on TV, the Red Button and Online, with the opening fixture of France vs Spain live on BBC 1.

## **TV and radio Coverage for England's games:**

Vs Scotland – BBC One and BBC Alba, 5pm plus radio commentary on Radio 5 Live Sport and TalkSport2

Vs Argentina – BBC One, 8pm plus radio commentary on TalkSport2

Vs Japan – BBC One, 8pm plus radio commentary on TalkSport2

## **TV and radio Coverage for Scotland's games:**

Vs England – BBC One and BBC Alba, 5pm plus radio commentary on Radio 5 Live Sport and TalkSport2

Vs Japan – BBC One and BBC Alba

Vs Argentina – 8pm, BBC4 and BBC Alba

The knockout stages live games will be confirmed once the games have been confirmed but the final will be live on BBC One and the third-place play-off is on BBC2.



# Be a Flamingo in a flock of pigeons



First Season Roundup.....

When I started on my coaching journey, its fair to say that I wasn't sure if I would like it, after all I'm not a footballer. I'm a mum who had the opportunity to take a coaching badge with a view to perhaps ensuring that my daughter could have a girls only team to play in, should she want or need it, without leaving the club she started playing at, because I could coach the team.....somehow!



Fast forward 18 months and I'm here summing up our first 'league playing' season, my 'Girl's Academy' are just about to have a few weeks off in the summer and we've been on an incredible journey.

In the beginning:

I started off with a handful of girls, all completely different ages and all just coming along for an hour to training. Last summer I decided that we should have a proper team so, I assembled an Under 11 team because this was the biggest number of girls I had and the Albert Village Tigermoths were born.



In the middle:

The girls have worked their way through the full season, its been a steep learning curve because in August we were brand new, literally.

We've played on hot days, we've played in torrential rain, we've played in blowing gales and we've played in sleet and snow. The girls have won, drawn and lost.....mostly lost actually, but who is counting, however, each week they have done it with a smile! They've shown utter sportsmanship at every single game, they've kept their heads high and have enjoyed every game.

My philosophy for our games is not win at all costs, I always say to my girls that I want them to go out and enjoy their game. The result doesn't matter to me. I want them to bring home some learning points and I want them to go out and try. I'll offer guidance along the way and I let them make mistakes, let them work out what doesn't work quite so well and what does work for them.



# Be a Flamingo in a flock of pigeons



At the end:

The season is finished and we are looking forward to friendlies and tournaments over the summer. The girls are committed to the team for next season and we are very lucky that we have our first kit sponsor for next season, we are privileged that DHL have agreed to sponsor us for the 19/20 season which I am very grateful for. THANK YOU DHL!



For us our season ended on a massive high because, whilst we didn't win the league and we weren't in the cup, we still won a trophy..... we were the winners of the League Fair Play Award as voted for by our peers in our division. What an honour, we are absolutely thrilled to bits!! Credit to our players, our parents and our coaching team for a job well done!

The Future?

Who knows what the future holds. We do know that we are looking at 3 league teams next season at U8, U10 and U12 which is awesome! We have our Wildcat programme which is starting to gain momentum and we are all looking forwards to the Women's World Cup starting in the next few days.



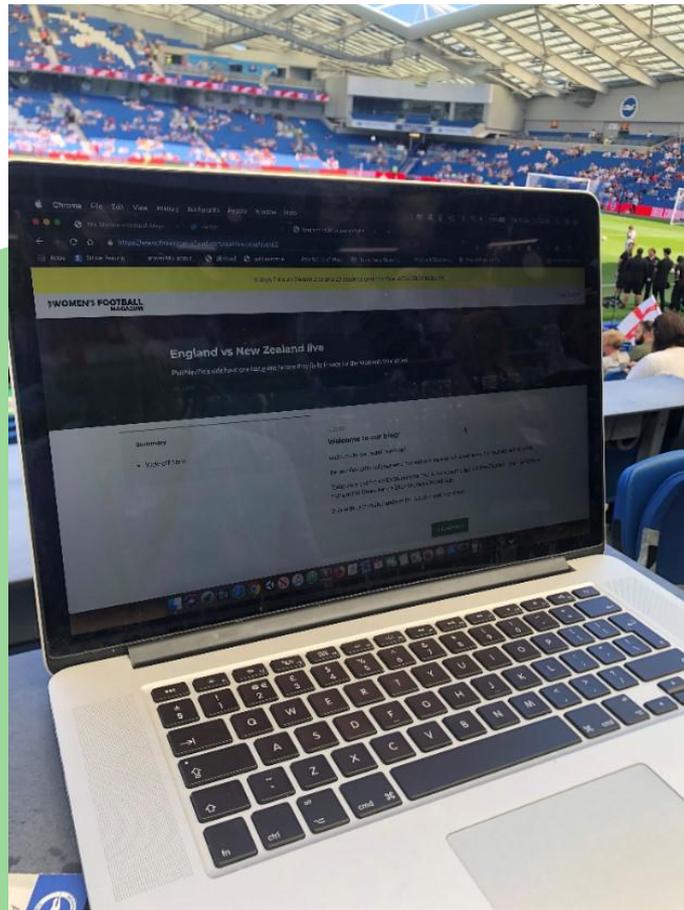
One of the biggest surprised of this season is that my unicorn mad, self confessed fairy princess (diva) daughter has decided she wants to play for the under 8's next season and she played her first friendly already. I would have put her more WAG than player, but I'm delighted she had a go because really that's what it is all about, isn't it?

The one thing I do know about the future is that I'm really looking forward to next season and beyond. I've got so many ideas that I'd like to implement at Albert Village JFC to make the experience even better for the girls and to provide them with more opportunities to play!





# NEW LIVE BLOG



As part of the #WhatIf campaign, we set out to produce live content on our website. We (very royal we – it's all been down to the hard work our our website designer Will Ibbetson) have been building a new website which includes live content, up-to-date fixtures and stories.

For the Women's World Cup, we have launched a new blog which will cover the event live every day. It is going to be full of interviews, pictures, game info and lot's more so make sure you check it out!

[www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com](http://www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com)

# Meet your mascot

# ettie™

Ettie will be the official mascot of the competition. She is the daughter of Footix – an icon of the French football landscape since the coronation of the French team at the FIFA World Cup, France 1998. Ettie was born in 2003, her name is based on the French word for star and she is sporty, fearless and facetious.

Keep your eye out for Ettie at games and events during the World Cup. Twenty years after Footix, it is now her “time to shine.”





FIFA Women's  
France 2019

FINAL TROPHY

FRANCE  
2019



Original  
Trophy

# Five young stars to watch out for at the Women's World Cup

By Marissa Thomas

## Mary Fowler - Australia (16)

When Australia kick off their campaign against Italy, Mary Fowler will be 16 years and 115 days old. If she appears at any point during the tournament, The Matildas prodigy will become the fifth-youngest player in Women's World Cup history behind Nigerian Ifeanyi Chiejine (16 years & 34 days in 1999), Mexican Monica Vergara (16 & 53 in 1999), New Zealander Annalie Longo (16 & 76 in 2007) and Russian Elena Danilova (16 and 107 in 2003).

Fowler is a talented and clever player, an out and out striker and is able to use both feet. She has plenty of growth to do, but this should be an excellent experience for the youngster to shine. Australia are seen by many as dark horses and Fowler could have a big part to play if the Matildas are to match or better their last three quarter-final finishes.

## Javiera Grez - Chile (18)

Javiera Grez will turn 19 just four days after the World Cup concludes. The Chilean forward is part of a side making their debut at the tournament. Last year, she represented her country at the South American Women's Championship in which Chile failed to get out of their group.



Mary Fowler—Matildas Twitter  
Javiera Grez (bottom)





Erin Cuthbert—Kunjan Malde Twitter  
Linda Motlhalo—South Africa Twitter



However, Grez was part of the side that finished runners-up at the Copa America Femenina. The Chile forward plays her club football for Curico Unido. Interestingly, Grez has been registered as the shortest player of the 552 players set to partake in the tournament, coming in at just 148cm.

### **Erin Cuthbert - Scotland (20)**

Cuthbert has had a great season with Chelsea Women, scoring eight league goals at a rate of 174 minutes per goal and providing five assists. She has been pivotal to the side throughout the season and scored in the first leg of Chelsea's semi-final defeat against Lyon. The Scotland international was one of three WSL players to have been shortlisted for both the PFA Women's Players' Player of the Year and the Young Player of the Year gong.

Scotland will be at the World Cup for the first time and at the age of 20, Cuthbert is a key component in the Scotland side. Cuthbert made history at the 2017 Uefa Women's EURO when she scored Scotland's first goal at a major women's tournament. Cuthbert's best attribute is her work rate which will be put to the test against Group D opponents England, Argentina and Japan.

### **Linda Motlhalo - South Africa (20)**

The South African midfielder made 21 appearances for Houston Dash in 2018, her first professional move, scoring once and providing one assist before moving to Chinese Women's Super League side Beijing Phoenix. There are already whispers that Motlhalo could be a huge star, thanks to her eye for going forward and playing penetrative passes.

Banyana Banyana are unlikely to make it out of Group B which contains Germany, Spain and China. Despite this, Motlhalo has plenty of experience with the senior

the senior side and will learn valuable lessons from hers and South Africa's first World Cup.

### **Khadija Shaw - Jamaica (22)**

One of Jamaica's best players, Khadija Shaw will grace the big stage as captain of her national team. Shaw was voted Guardian Footballer of the Year for 2018 and could earn herself a big move if she impresses in France. Shaw and her Jamaican team-mates have already created history as they are the first

Caribbean team to reach the FIFA Women's World Cup.

In Jamaica's last warm-up match before the tournament, Shaw bagged a brace as Scotland won 3-2 against The Reggae Girlz. As the face of the senior side, all eyes will be on the captain to see if she can help her country progress past the group stages.



Khadija Shaw—Twitter



# Group A



Date	Game			Time (UK)	Venue
June 7	France	vs	South Korea	8pm	Parc des Princes, Paris
June 8	Norway	vs	Nigeria	8pm	Stade Auguste-Delaune, Reims
June 12	Nigeria	vs	South Korea	2pm	Stade des Alpes, Grenoble
	France	vs	Norway	8pm	Allianz Riviera, Nice
June 17	Nigeria	vs	France	8pm	Roazhon Park, Rennes
	South Korea	vs	Norway		Stade Auguste-Delaune, Reims

## France

France are serious contenders for the Women's World Cup title this year. With a home advantage and on the back of the men's success last year, it is hard to see them not making the final. Their biggest challenge may come in the quarter-finals – if both themselves and USA come top of their groups, the two sides tipped for success will meet then. The French squad, managed by Corinne Diacre, has a number of talented players in it including six Lyon players who have just won the Champions League for the fourth year in a row. Going into the tournament, France have looked strong beating both Denmark and Thailand without conceding.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Qualified as hosts

**Best WWC finish:** Fourth (2011)

**FIFA ranking:** 4

**Manager:** Corinne Diacre

**Star player:** Eugenie Le Sommer



## Corinne Diacre France manager

Corinne Diacre is getting ready to lead her side out in Paris to open the 2019 Women's World Cup.

After the men lifted the title last summer, there is a lot of hope that the France Women's side can do the same.

After their final warm-up game before the tournament, where they beat China 2-1, Diacre met the press to discuss the WWC.

**With Lyon winning the Women's Champions League, do you believe that has helped your squad prepare?**

"We are surfing on this Lyon wave because they have brought another title along with them.

"They bring us so much joy. It's down to us to do the same as they did and go all the way."

**Have you decided on your starting XI for the game against South Korea [on June 7]?**

"There are still one or two players who can put a bit of doubt in my mind, so much the better.

"I have 14 players who are in contention to start."

**Do you have any injury concerns ahead of the game?**

"Amandine Henry – she's fine, she just locked her back when she woke up [on the morning of their friendly with China].

"There are three Lyon women, long season-women who have played in every competition.

"We could have done without it, but we are dealing with it."

# Group A

**Goalkeepers:** Sarah Bouhaddi (Lyon), Solene Durand (Guingamp), Pauline Peyraud-Magnin (Arsenal)

**Defenders:** Julie Debever (Guingamp), Sakina Karchaoui (Montpellier), Amel Majri (Lyon), Gridge Mbock Bathy Nka (Lyon), Eve Perisset (Paris St Germain), Wendie Renard (Lyon), Marion Torrent (Montpellier), Aissatou Tounkara (Atletico Madrid)

**Midfielders:** Charlotte Bilbault (Paris FC), Elise Bussaglia (Dijon), Maeva Clemaron (Fluery), Onema Grace Geyoro (Paris St Germain), Amandine Henry (Lyon), Gaetane Thiney (Paris FC)

**Forwards:** Viviane Asseyi (Bordeaux), Delphine Cascarino (Lyon), Kadidiatou Diani (Paris St Germain), Valerie Gauvin (Montpellier), Emelyne Laurent (Guingamp), Eugenie Le Sommer (Lyon)

## Korea Republic

Korea Republic will open the tournament in Paris against this year's hosts France. The side are making their third Women's World Cup appearance only 29 years after forming. Women's football in South Korea was initially formed in 1949 but it was disbanded shortly after as it was seen as been unsuitable for women and unattractive to the public. Manager Yoon Deokyeo is a former Korea Republic World Cup player and became coach of the national side in 2012. Korea Republic is known as a strong defensive side who do not concede many goals.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Finished fifth in the 2018 AFC Women's Asia Cup

**Best WWC finish:** Round-of-16 (2003)

**FIFA ranking:** 14

**Manager:** Yoon Deok-yeo

**Star player:** Ji So-yun

**Goalkeepers:** Jung Bo-ram (Hwacheon KSPO), Kang Ga-ae (Gumi Sportstoto), Kim Min-Jeong (Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels)

**Defenders:** Hwang Bo-ram (Hwacheon KSPO), Jang Sel-gi (Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels), Jeong Yeong-a (Gyeonggi KHNP), Kim Do-yeon (Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels), Kim Hye-ri (Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels), Lee Eun-mi (Suwon UDC), Lee Seon-joo (Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels)

**Midfielders:** Cho So-hyun (West Ham), kang Chae-rim (Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels), Kang Yu-mi (Hwacheon KSPO), Lee Min-a (INAC Jobe Leonessa), Lee So-dam (Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels), Lee Young-ju (Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels), Moon Mi-ra (Suwon UDC)

**Forwards:** Ji So-yun (Chelsea), Jung Seol-bin (Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels), Lee Geum-min (Gyeonggi KHNP), Son Hwa-yeon (Changnyeong), Yeo Min-ji (Gumi Sportsoto)

# Group A

## Nigeria

Nigeria have been getting stronger in recent years and reach their eighth consecutive Women's World Cup finals. The Super Eagles won a ninth African Women's Cup of Nations title in 2018, which saw them book their place in the 2019 France tournament but have struggled to get out of the group stages in recent World Cups. Defender Onome Ebi is back for her fifth World Cup at the age of 36 whilst Barcelona striker Asisat Oshoala is one to watch up front. Thomas Dennerby, manager of Nigeria has been in charge of the squad since January 2018.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Wining the CAF Africa Cup of Nations secured their place

**Best WWC finish:** QFs (1999)

**FIFA ranking:** 38

**Star player:** Asisat Oshoala

**Manager:** Thomas Dennerby

**Goalkeepers:** Tochukwu Oluehi (Rivers Angels), Alaba Jonathan (Bayelsa Queens), Chiamaka Nnadozi (Rivers Angels)

**Defenders:** Osinachi Ohale (Vaxjo DFF), Ngozi Ebere (Arna Bjornar), Onome Ebi (Henan Huisanhang), Faith Michael (pitea IF), Chidinma Okeke (FC Robo)

**Midfielders:** Rita Chikwelu (Krstianstand DFF), Ngozi Okobi-Okeoghene (Eskiltuna United), Evelyn Nwabuoku (Rivers Angels), Ogonna Chukwudi (Djurgardens IF), Halimatu Ayinde (Eskiltuna United), Amarachi Okoronkwo (Nasarawa Amazons)

**Forwards:** Desire Oparanozie (En Avant Guingamp), Anam Imo (Malmo FC Rosengard), Asisat Oshoala (FC Barcelona), Chinaza Uchendu (SC Braga), Uchenna Kanu (Southeastern University), Rasheedat Ajibade (Alvadsnes IL), Francisca Ordega (Shanghai), Alive Ogebe (Rivers Angels), Chinwendu Ihezuo (Henana Huisanhang)

## Norway

Norway are making their eighth consecutive Women's World Cup appearance in France. Norway won the tournament back in 1995 but struggled in Canada only making it to the round-of-16. Martin Sjogren's side have had a mixed build-up to the tournament beating Poland in March to win the Algarve Cup but losing in a friendly to New Zealand. A lot of hype surrounding Norway in the run up to the tournament has centred around Ballon D'Or winner Ada Hegerberg and her decision to not come to the World Cup over pay issues but the Norwegian squad is still a very strong one including the likels of Chelsea's Maren Mjelde and Caroline Hansen of Wolfsburg.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Wining the CAF Africa Cup of Nations secured their place

**Best WWC finish:** QFs (1999)



# Group A

**FIFA ranking:** 38

**Manager:** Martin Sjogren

**Star player:** Maren Mjelde

**Goalkeepers:** Oda Bogstad (Arna-Bjornar), Cecilie Fiskerstrand (LSK Kvinner), Ingrid Hjelmseth (Stabaek)

**Defenders:** Stine Hovland (Sandviken), Cecilie Kvamme (Sandviken), Maren Mjelde (Chelsea), Maria Thorisdottir (Chelsea), Ingrid Wold (LSK Kvinner)

**Midfielders:** Vilde Boe Risa (Kopparbergs/Goteborg), Ingrid Engen (LSK Kvinner), Caroline Hansen (Wolfsburg), Synne Hansen (LSK Kvinner), Frida Maanum (Linkoping), Kristine Minde (Wolfsburg), Emilie Nautnes (Arna-Bjornar), Guro Reiten (LSK Kvinner), Karina Saevik (Kolbotn)

**Forwards:** Therese Asland (LSK Kvinner), Amalie Eikeland (Sandviken), Emilie Haavi (LSK Kvinner), Isabell Herlovsen (Kolbotn), Elise Thorsnes (LSK Kvinner), Lisa-Marie Utland (Rosengard)



# Group B



Date	Game			Time (UK)	Venue
June 8	Germany	vs	China PR	2pm	Roazhon Park, Rennes
	Spain	vs	South Africa	5pm	Stade Oceane, Le Havre
June 12	Germany	vs	Spain	5pm	Stade du Hainaut, Valenciennes
June 13	South Africa	vs	China PR	8pm	Parc des Princes, Paris
June 17	South Africa	vs	Germany	5pm	Stade de la Mosson, Montpellier
	China PR	vs	Spain		Stade Oceane, Le Havre

## China PR

Led by Jia Xiuquan since 2018, China are a side which should never be underestimated. Hoists of the inaugural tournament, China have been at the forefront of the competition from the start, losing to USA on penalties in the final in 1999. With most of the squad playing domestically in China it always making preparations against China hard but they have not been as strong in recent years. Getting knocked out in the quarter-finals in 2015, China will be hoping for a better tournament this time round. The side are in a tough group with Germany and Spain expected to finish in the top two so could be forced to rely on a best third place for a place in the knockout stages.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Finished third in the 2018 AFC Women's Asia Cup

**Best WWC finish:** Runners-up (1999)

**FIFA ranking:** 16

**Manager:** Bruno Bini

# Group B

**Star player:** Li Ying

**Goalkeepers:** Xu Huan (Beijing), Peng Shimeng (Jiangsu), Yang Yan (Sichuan), Bi Ziaolin (Dalian)

**Defenders:** Liu Shanshan (Beijing), Han Peng (Guangdong), Wang Ying (Wuhan), Li Jiayue (Shanghai), Wu Haiyan (Wuhan), Lin Yuping (Wuhan), Luo Guiping (Guangdong)

**Midfielders:** Tan Ruyin (Guangdong), Wang Yan (Beijing), Li Wen (Dalian), Zhang Rui (Changchun), Yao Wei (Wuhan), Lou Jiahui (Henan), Wang Shuang (Paris Saint-Germain), Gu Yasha (Beijing), Li Yanqiu (Wuhan)

**Forwards:** Yang Li (Jiangsu), Yang Man (Shandong), Li Ying (Guangdong), Xie Qiwen (Guangdong), Wang Shanshan (Dalian), Song Duan (Dalian)

## Germany

Germany have been a strong side throughout all their World Cup appearances but did not get off to the best start in qualifying. Their defeat to Iceland was their first ever home defeat in a Women's World Cup qualifier but since then they have strengthened by beating both France and Sweden in friendlies. Martina Voss-Tecklenburg has only been in the squad since the completion of the qualifiers and but she has been to the Women's World Cup before managing Switzerland in the past. Made up of a number of Wolfsburg, Lyon and Bayern Munich players, Germany have some of the best female footballers in the World but despite being ranked second in the world, not many have predicted their success at the tournament.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Finished top of their group in the European qualifiers

**Best WWC finish:** Champions (2003,2007)

**FIFA ranking:** 2

**Manager:** Martina Voss-Tecklenburg

**Star player:** Dzsenifer Marozsan

**Goalkeepers:** Almuth Schult (Wolfsburg), Laura Benkarth (Bayern Munich), Merle Frohms (SC Freiburg)

**Defenders:** Carolin Simon (Lyon), Kathrin Hendrich (Bayern Munich), Leonie Maier (Bayern Munich), Marina Hegering (SGS Essen), Lena Goessling (Wolfsburg), Johanna Elsig (1. FFC Turbine Potsdam), Giulia Gwinn (SC Freiburg), Sara Doorsoun (Wolfsburg)

**Midfielders/Forwards:** Lena Oberdorf (SGS Essen), Lea Schuller (SGS Essen), Svenja Huth (1. FFC Turbine Potsdam), Dzsenifer Marozsan (Lyon), Alexandra Popp (Wolfsburg), Sara Dabritz (Bayern Munich), Linda Dallmann (SGS Essen), Verena Schweers (Bayern Munich), Melanie Leupolz (Bayern Munich), Klara Buhl (SC Freiburg), Lina Magull (Bayern Munich), Turid Knaak (SGS Essen)

# Group B

## South Africa

South Africa made history to qualify for their first Women's World Cup finals. After qualifying for two Olympics in a row, Desiree Ellis' side will be hoping to do better – they scored just one goal over those two Olympics. In their build-up, they have struggled to get momentum drawing three games and losing six but the fact the side is at their first major football tournament outside of Africa since 1999 is something which should not be pushed aside. Captained by Janine van Wyk, who is South Africa's most capped international player, Banyana Banyana will be looking to cause an upset in Group B.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Runners-up of the CA Women's AfricaCup of Nations 2018

**Best WWC finish:** N/A

**FIFA ranking:** 49

**Manager:** Desiree Ellis

**Star player:** Janine van Wyk

**Goalkeepers:** Mapaseka Mpuru (University of Pretoria), Andile Dlamini (Mamelodi Sundowns), Kaylin Swart (Golden Stars)

**Defenders:** Lebogang Ramalepe (Ma-Indies), Nothando Vilakazi (Gintra Universitetas, Lithuania), Noko Matlou (Ma-Indies), Janine van Wyk (captain, JWV), Bambanani Mbane (Bloemfontein Celtic), Tiisetso Makhubela (Mamelodi Sundowns), Bongeka Gamede (UWC Ladies)

**Midfielders:** Refiloe Jane (Unattached), Mamello Makhabane (JWV), Karabo Dhlamini (Mamelodi Sundowns), Busisiwe Ndimeni (TUT-PTA), Leandra Smeda (Vittsjö GIK, Sweden), Kholosa Biyana (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Sibulele Holweni (Sophakama/HPC), Linda Motlhalo (Beijing Phoenix, China)

**Forwards:** Thembi Kgatlana (Beijing Phoenix, China), Ode Fulutudilu (Malaga, Spain), Amanda Mthandi (University of Johannesburg), Jermaine Seoposenwe (Gintra Universitetas, Lithuania), Rhoda Mulaudzi (Unattached)

## Spain

Reaching their second Women's World Cup, after making their debut in Canada in 2015, Spain will be aiming to make it out of the group for the first time. Manager Jorge Vilda was appointed following the 2015 World Cup and he has seen the side come on in leaps and bounds including winning the Algarve Cup and Cyprus Cup in recent years and finishing in the top 8 in the Euros. Many believe that Spain will make it out of the group, finishing second to Germany but if that is the case they are likely to meet the USA in the round-of-16.

# Group B



**Journey to the World Cup:** First team (after hosts France) to qualify, winning all their qualification games

**Best WWC finish:** Group stage (2015)

**FIFA ranking:** 13

**Manager:** Jorge Vilda

**Star player:** Irene Paredes

**Goalkeepers:** Sara Serrat (CD Sporting Club de Huelva), Catalina Thomas Coll (Collerense), Ana Valles (Rayo Vallecano)

**Defenders:** Irene Paredes (PSG), Ivana Andres (Levante), Marta Corredera (Levante), Ona Batlle (Levante), Celia Jimenez (Reign), Laia Aleixandri (Atletico Madrid), Rocío Galvez (Real Betis), Eunate Arraiza (Athletic Bilbao)

**Midfielders:** Virginia Torrecilla (Montpellier), Damaris Egurrola (Athletic Bilbao), Irene Guerrero (Real Betis), Rosa Marquez (Real Betis), Sandra Hernandez (Valencia), Nerea Eizagirre (Real Sociedad)

**Forwards:** Esther Gonzalez (Athletico Madrid), Olga Garcia (athletico Madrid), Andrea S. Falcon (Athletico Madrid), Lucia Garcia (Athletic Bilabo), Eva Navarro (Levante), Alba Redondo (Fundacion Albacete)

# Group C



Date	Game			Time (UK)	Venue
June 9	Australia	vs	Italy	12pm	Stade du Hainhut, Valenciennes
	Brazil	vs	Jamaica	2.30p m	Stade des Alpes, Grenoble
June 13	Australia	vs	Brazil	5pm	Stade de la Mosson, Montpellier
June 14	Jamaica	vs	Italy	5pm	Stade Auguste-Delaune, Reims
June 18	Jamaica	vs	Australia	8pm	Stade des Alpes, Grenoble
	Italy	vs	Brazil		Stade du Hainhut, Valenciennes

## Australia

Under new management since February 2019 when Ante Milicic took over, Australia are battling it out for a place in the knockout rounds. Australia have qualified for every Women's World Cup since missing the inaugural one in 1999, making it to the quarter-finals in 2015. This year's squad includes 16-year-old, who only made her international debut last July and her call-up came as veteran striker Kyah Simon, who has been rushing to come back from injury, was left on the substitute bench. If she plays we will be the youngest Australia to ever take part in a Women's World Cup.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Runners-up in the 2017 Asian Cup

**Best WWC finish:** Quarter-finals (2007, 2011, 2015)

**FIFA ranking:** 6

**Manager:**

**Star player:** Sam Kerr

# AUSTRALIA



## Mary Fowler -Australia

Mary Fowler is one of the most talked about players chosen to represent Australia at the Women's World Cup this year.

The 16-year-old has impressed since making her debut less than a year ago and was chosen alongside the likes of Sam Kerr to represent the Matildas.

Fowler spoke to the Sydney Morning Herald about the honour:

### Who is your biggest sporting idol?

“My number one idol was my older brother Quivi.

“He was the one who got me into football.

“I look up to him, Ronaldo and Pele, they were my main idols.

“Having my brother next to me every day doing training was the best.

### How do you feel about going to the Women's World Cup at such a young age?

“Playing soccer [when I was training with my brother], I would have dreamt of going to the World Cup.

“I did know in the back of my head one day I was going to make it happen, but I wouldn't predict I would be going to the World Cup right now.

“It's amazing to get the call-up. It was a really exciting moment and my family and I are very proud.

“Being around the team, it's been good.

“It's important to be part of the Matildas in the long run and going to the World Cup will be a great experience.”

# Group C

**Goalkeepers:** Lydia Williams(Reign), Mackenzie Arnold (Brisbane Roar), Teagan Micah (UCLA)

**Defenders:** Clare Polkinghorne (Houston Dash), Laura Alleway (Melbourne Victory), Steph Catley (Reign), Alanna Kennedy (Orlando Pride), Ellie Carpenter (Portland Thorns), Teigen Allen (Melbourne Victory)

**Midfielders:** Gema Simon (Newcastle Jets), Aivi Luik (Levante UD), Chloe Logarzo (Washington Sprint/ Sydney), Elise Kellond-Knight (Reign), Emily van Egmond (Orlando Pride), Tameka Yallop (Klepp IL), Katrina Gorry (Brisbane Roar), Amy Harrison (Sydney),

**Forwards:** Caitlin Foord (Sydney), Lisa de Vanna (Sydney), Emily Gielnik (Melbourne Victory), Hayley Raso (Portland Thorns), Mary Fowler (Bankstown City), Sam Kerr (Chicago Red Stars)

## Brazil

Brazil had a dominant start to their Women's World Cup preparations, winning all seven games in their Copa America 2018 campaign to secure the title. The international side have been widely regarded as one of the best in the world but despite playing in every WWC, they are yet to lift the trophy. 41-year-old Formiga will be taking part in an impressive seventh Women's World Cup. If she plays in France, she will be the oldest player to appear in a WWC. Worldwide star Marta is also back in Brazil shirt – she is the top score in the history of the WWC with 15 goals.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Copa America Femenina winners 2018

**Best WWC finish:** Runners-up (2007)

**FIFA ranking:** 10

**Manager:** Vadao

**Star player:** Marta

**Goalkeepers:** Aline (UDG Tenerife), Barbara (AE Kindermann), Leticia (SC Corinthians)

**Defenders:** Camila (Orlando Pride), Erika (SC Corinthians), Fabiana (SC International), Kathellen (Girondins Bordeaux), Leticia Santos (SC Sand), Monica (SC Corinthians), Tamires (FortunaHjorring), Tayla (SL Benfica)

**Midfielders:** Andressa Alves (FC Barcelona), Andressinha (EC Iranduba da Amazonia), Formiga (PSG), Thaisa (AC Milan), Camila Martins (Orlando Pride), Luana (Jeonbuk KSPO WFC)

**Forwards:** Cristiane (Sao Paulo), Debinha (NC Courage), Geyse (SL Benfica), Ludmila (Atletico Madrid), Marta (Orlando Pride), Raquel (Sporting Huelva)

# Group C

## Italy

Italy have had a strong build-up to the Women's World Cup beating Wales, Ireland and Chile in friendlies as well as making it to the final of the Cyprus Cup where they lost to North Korea on penalties. After taking over in August 2017, Milena Bertolini led her side to their first Women's World Cup in 20 years. Whilst they have a strong side which includes a host of Juventus and AC Milan players, it is hard to see Italy getting out of a group which includes a strong Brazil and Australia side.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Finished top of their European qualifiers group

**Best WWC finish:** Quarter-finals (1991)

**FIFA ranking:** 15

**Manager:** Milena Bertolini

**Star player:** Barbara Bonansea

**Goalkeepers:** Laura Giuliani (Juventus), Chiara Marchitelli (Fiorentina), Rosalia Pipitone (Roma)

**Defenders:** Elisa Bartoli (Roma), Lisa Boattin (Juventus), Laura Fusetti (AC Milan), Sara Gama (Juventus), Alia Guagni (Fiorentina), Elena Linari (Atletico Madrid), Linda Tucceri Cimini (AC Milan)

**Midfielders:** Valentina Bergamaschi (AC Milan), Barbara Bonansea (Juventus), Valentina Cernoia (Juventus), Aurora Galli (Juventus), Manuela Giugliano (AC Milan), Alice Parisi (Fiorentina), Martina Rosucci (Juventus), Annamaria Serturini (Roma)

**Forwards:** Valentina Giacinti (AC Milan), Cristiana Girelli (Juventus), Ilenia Mauro (Fiorentina), Daniela Sabatino (AC Milan), Stefania Tarenzi (Chievo Verona Valpo)

## Jamaica

Jamaica made history to become the first Caribbean side to qualify for the Women's World Cup. The Reggae Gils finished third in the CONCACAF Women's Championship. Manager Hue Menzies has been with Jamaica since 2014 but has been a coach for over 30 years. The squad which includes CONCACAF Women's Championship young player of the tournament Jody Brown, also includes Chanel Hudson-Marks, who is the cousin of Olympic superstar Usain Bolt. Whilst they are unlikely to get out of Group C, it is expected that they will give World Cup veterans Brazil and Australia a new challenge.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Finished third at the 2018 CONCACAF Women's Championship

**Best WWC finish:** N/A

**FIFA ranking:** 53

**Manager:** Hue Menzies

**Star player:** Jody Brown

# Group C

**Goalkeepers:** Nicole McClure (Sundsvalls), Sydney Schneider (UNC Wilmington Seahawks), Yazmeen Jamieson (Carleton Ravens)

**Defenders:** Allyson Swaby (Roma), Dominique Bond-Flasza (PSV), Konya Plummer, Toriana Patterson (Bari 1908 Pink), Chantelle Swaby (Rutgers Scarlet Knights)

**Midfielders:** Chinyelu Asher (Stabaek IF), Chanel Hudson-Marks, Deneisha Blackwood (midfielder), Khadija Shaw, Lauren Silver (SK Trondheims-Orn), Marlo Sweatman (Szent Mihaly), Sashana Campbell (Maccabi Kishronot Hadera)

**Forwards:** Trudi Carter (AS Roma), Ashleigh Shim, Kayla McCoy (Houston Dash), Cheyna Matthews (Washington Spirit), Tiffany Cameron (Stabaek Fotball), Jody Brown (Montverde Academy), Olufolasade Adamolekun (United Soccer Alliance)





# Group D



Date	Game			Time (UK)	Venue
June 9	England	vs	Scotland	5pm	Allianz Riviera, Nice
June 10	Argentina	vs	Japan	5pm	Parc des Princes, Paris
June 14	Japan	vs	Scotland	2pm	Roazhon Park, Rennes
	England	vs	Argentina	8pm	Stade Oceane, Le Havre
June 19	Japan	vs	England	8pm	Allianz Riviera, Nice
	Scotland	vs	Argentina		Parc des Princes, Paris

## Argentina

Argentina secured their place in the 2019 Women's World Cup by the skin of their teeth. After finishing fourth in South American qualifying, Argentina had to take on Panama in a two-legged play-off game. Argentina came out winners to book themselves in their first Women's World Cup for 12 years. La Albiceleste are very much in the process of re-building their squad after a number of years of struggle, a feat which includes bringing back manager Carlos Borrello, who in his first stint as manager led them to their only title – the 2006 Copa America.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Beat Panama in an intercontinental two-legged play-off

**Best WWC finish:** Group stage (2003, 2007)

**FIFA ranking:** 37

**Manager:**

**Star player:** Estefania Banini

# Group D

**Goalkeepers:** Gabriela Garton (Sol de Mayo), Vanina Correa (Rosario Central), Solana Pereyra (UAI Urquiza),

**Defenders:** Agustina Barroso (Madrid CFF), Natalie Juncos (Estados Unidos), Gabriela Chavez (River Plate), Aldana Cometti (Sevilla), Eliana Stabile (Boca Juniors), Ariana Sachs (UAI Urquiza), Virginia Gomez (Rosario Central)

**Midfielders:** Miriam Mayorga (UAI Urquiza), Lorena Benitez (Boca Juniors), Estefania Banini (Levante), Vanesa Santana (EDF Logrono), Mariela Coronel (Granada), Ruth Bravo (CD Tacon),

**Forwards:** Mariana Larroquette (UAI Urquiza), Belen Potassa (UAI Urquiza), Milagros Menendez (UAI Urquiza), Dalila Ippolito (River Plate), Yael Oviedo (Rayo Vallecano), Sole Jaimes (Lyon), Florencia Bonsegundo (Sporting de Huelva)

## England

Phil Neville's side are favourites to finish top of their group, and one of the favourites for the final in Lyon. After finishing third in 2015, the Lionesses will be hoping to go one better this tournament. They open against rivals Scotland – who they faced and beat 6-0 in the opening game of the 2017 European Championships. This is England's fifth Women's World Cup. During qualification, Phil Neville's side conceded just once and averaged over three goals a game. England's preparations include winning the SheBelieves Cup in March as well as wins against Denmark and Spain.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Finished top of their group in European qualifying

**Best WWC finish:** Third (2015)

**FIFA ranking:** 3

**Manager:** Phil Neville

**Star player:** Lucy Bronze

## Japan

Japan have been women's football superstars for years. Former Women's World Cup winners, Olympic Games silver medallists and Asian Cup champions in 2014 and 2018, Japan are a team to be reckoned with. England beat Japan 3-0 in the SheBelieves Cup in March but manager Asako Takaura-Takemoto has kept her squad and first XI close to her chest. The squad includes 16 players going to their first WWC and includes 19-year-old Jun Endo. The young squad makes it difficult for teams to prepare against and with their history it is hard not to rule them out for doing well in the tournament.

# Group D

**Journey to the World Cup:** Afc Women's Asian Cup champions

**Best WWC finish:** Champions (2011)

**FIFA ranking:** 7

**Manager:** Asako Takakura

**Star player:** Saki Kumagai

**Goalkeepers:** Sakiko Ikeda (Urawa Red Diamonds), Ayaka Yamashita, Chika Hirao

**Defenders:** Aya Sameshima (INAC Kobe Leonessa), Rumi Utsugi (Reign), Saki Kumagai (Lyon), Shiori Miyake (INAC Kobe Leonessa), Risa Shimizu (NTV Beleza), Nana Ichise (Vegalta Sendei), Assato Miyagawa (NTV Beleza), Moeka Minami (Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies)

**Midfielders:** Mizuho Sakaguchi (NTV Beleza), Emi Nakajima (INAC Kobe Leonessa), Yuka Momiki (NTV Beleza), Yui Hasegawa (NTV Beleza), Hina Sugita (INAC Kobe Leonessa), Narumi Miura (NTV Beleza)

**Forwards:** Yuika Sugasawa (Urawa Red Diamonds), Mana Iwabuchi (INAC Kobe Leonessa), Kumi Yokoyama (AC Nagano Parceiro), Rikako Kobayashi (NTV Beleza), Riko Ueki (NTV Beleza), Jun Endo (NTV Beleza)

## Scotland

Scotland are heading to France for their first ever Women's World Cup. Manager Shelley Kerr – who made history as the first women's coach of a senior men's side – led Scotland to France with a 2-1 win over Albania on the last day of group qualifying. Whilst they lost 6-0 in their Euro opening game, it is expected to be a much closer game this time round. The squad includes a whole host of Women's Super League players including Women's double domestic cup champions Jennifer Beattie, Caroline Weir and Claire Emslie. With Japan bringing such a young squad, Scotland have every chance of getting through to the knockout stages.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Winners of their European qualification group

**Best WWC finish:** N/A

**FIFA ranking:** 20

**Manager:** Shelley Kerr

**Star player:** Kim Little



# Group E



Date	Game			Time (UK)	Venue
June 10	Canada	vs	Cameroon	8pm	Stade de la Mosson, Montpellier
June 11	New Zealand	vs	Netherlands	2pm	Stade Oceane, Le Havre
June 15	Netherlands	vs	Cameroon	2pm	Stade du Hainaut, Valenciennes
	Canada	vs	New Zealand	8pm	Stade des Alpes, Grenoble
June 20	Netherlands	vs	Canada	5pm	Stade Auguste-Delaune
	Cameroon	vs	New Zealand		Stade de la Mosson, Montpellier

## Cameroon

Cameroon finished third in the Africa Women Cup of Nations, beating Mali 4-2 to secure their place at their second Women's World Cup. Manager Alain Djeumfa has only been in charge since January after moving up from his position as fitness coach. The side have not had the easiest run up to the tournament with a number of friendlies falling through due to contractual conflicts but their final game before travelling to France saw them beat Levante 4-0. The Lionesses are hoping to go further than their round-of-16 finish in Canada.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Finished third in the African finals

**Best WWC finish:** Round-of-16 (2015)

**FIFA ranking:** 46

**Manager:**

**Star player:** Gabrielle Onguene

**Goalkeepers:** Annette Ngo Ndom (FAP Amazone), Marthe Omgmaham (Awa FC), Mambingo Mambingo Isabelle (Sunshine Queens)

**Defenders:** Christine Manie (AS Lorraine), Marie Awona (Dijon), Augustine Edjangué Siliki (Arna Bjornar), Claudine Meffometou Tcheno (Guingamp), Yvonne Leuko (Strasbourg), Estelle Laura Johnson (Sky Blue), Ysis Sonkeng (Amazone Fap)

## **Sarina Wiegman – Netherlands manager**

The Netherlands went from winning the 2017 European Championship to just scrapping through to this year's World Cup.

But from the highs of hosting the Euros, they have had to re-build and manager Sarina Wiegman was pleased to finish their friendlies with a 3-0 win over Australia.

The Netherlands boss sat down with 'de Volkskrant' in the run-up to the tournament.

**How do you feel things have changed for the Netherlands since the Euros win?**

“Much has changed after winning the European Championship.

“There is pressure, people think: oh, easy draw for the coming World Cup, we are going to win.

“They have no idea.

“Understandably, they measure it according to the men's ranking. A team like Canada is nothing, but their women's team is the absolute top. That pressure can be difficult.

“In the media I protect the group, but we have to move forward during preparation.

“We are now in a different phase and are being appreciated for the first time for football. Fans want to make selfies with the players before we train.

“Half an hour, we say, no longer. Some find that difficult because they don't want to disappoint people. They want to be liked.”

**What has changed in your preparations?**

“We now mainly want to work on the team, they have to do it together.

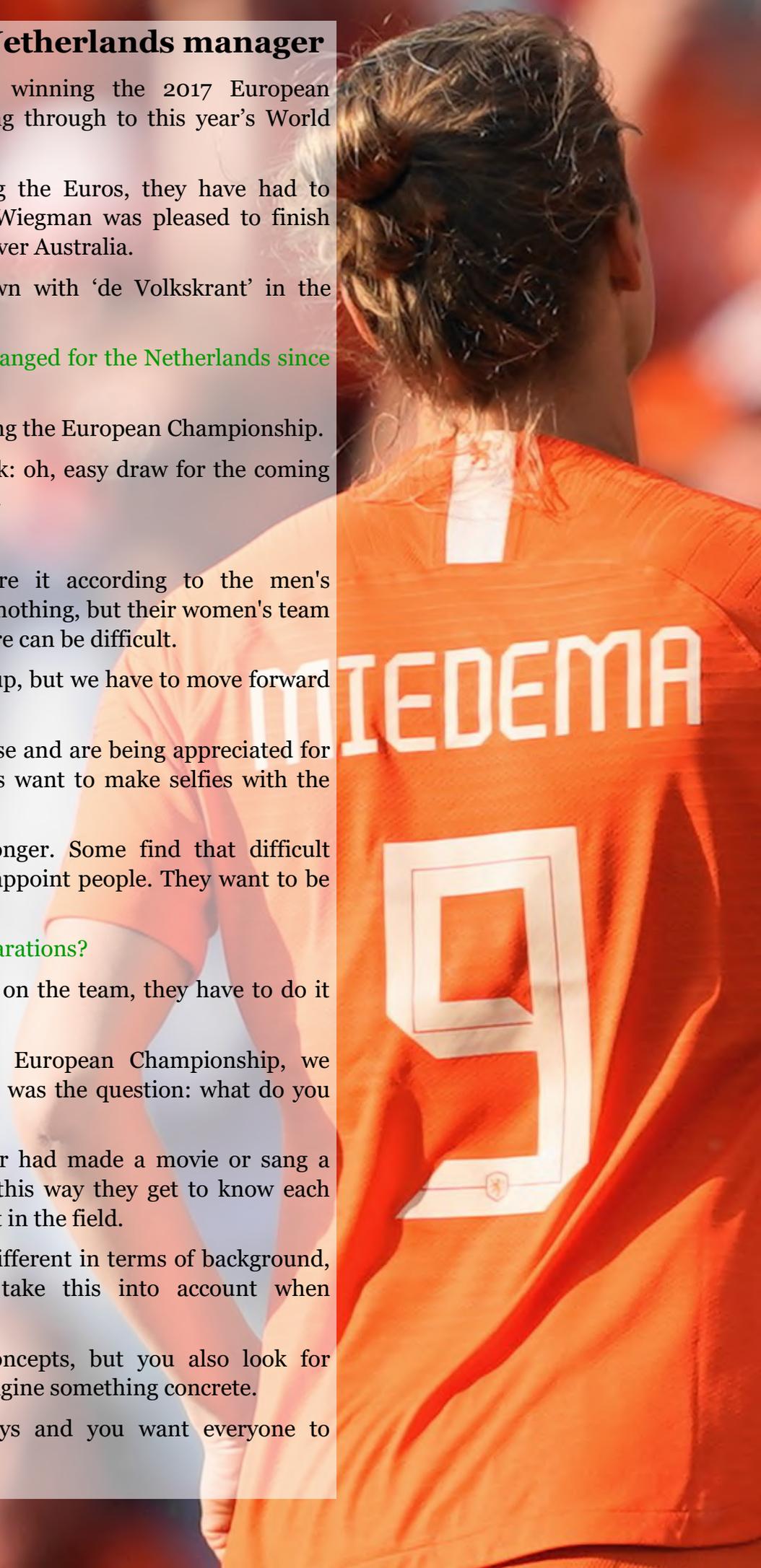
“In preparation for the 2017 European Championship, we talked a whole day, the subject was the question: what do you give up for success?

“One told something, the other had made a movie or sang a song. We laughed terribly. In this way they get to know each other in a different way, not just in the field.

“We have 23 and they are all different in terms of background, interest and education. We take this into account when explaining something.

“We do that with abstract concepts, but you also look for metaphors, so that they can imagine something concrete.

“People learn in different ways and you want everyone to understand.”



# Group E

**Midfielders:** Raissa Feudjio (Tenerife), Genevieve Ngo Mbeleck (Amazone Fap), Grace Ngock Yango (Saint Malo), Marlyse Ngo Ndoumbouk (Nancy), Therese Abena (Louves Minproff), Charlene Meyong Menene (Louves Minproff)

**Forwards:** Madelaine Ngono Mani (Ambily), Gaelle Enganamouit, Gabrielle Aboudi Onguene (CSKA Moscow), Michaela Abam (Paris FC), Nchout Njoya Ajara (Valerenga), Michelle Akaba (Amazones Fap), Takounda Engolo Alexandra (Eclair Filles)

## Canada

After hosting last year's tournament, Canada are back for their seventh Women's World Cup. They are led by Kenneth Heiner-Moller who took over from John Herdman in January 2018. Christine Sinclair is back for her fifth WWC where she is aim to claim the career all-time scoring record at the event (she is just four shy of USA's Abby Wambach's 184 record). Alongside a number of veteran Canadians, there will be three 18-year-olds – Julia Grosso, Jordyn Huitema and Jayde Riviere – who are appearing at their first WWC. Canada have had a superb build up to the tournament going to France unbeaten in 2019 win five wins and three draws, conceding just one goal. They are strong favourites to finish top of their group.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Finished second in the CONCACAF Women's Championship

**Best WWC finish:** 4th (2003)

**FIFA ranking:** 5

**Manager:**

**Star player:** Christine Sinclair

**Goalkeepers:** Stephanie Labbe (NC Courage), Kailen Sheridan (Sky Blue FC)

**Defenders:** Shelina Zadorsky (Orlando Pride), Rebecca Quinn (Paris FC), Julia Grosso (University of Texas), Vanessa Gilles (Bordeaux), Allysha Chapman (Houston Dash), Lindsay Agnew (Houston Dash)

**Midfielders:** Jessie Fleming (University of California), Ashley Lawrence (Paris St Germain), Diana Matheson (Utah Royals), Deanne Rose (University of Florida), Jade Rose (Unionville-Milliken SC), Sophie Schmidt (Houston Dash), Desiree Scott (Utah Royals)

**Forwards:** Christine Sinclair (Portland Thorns), Jayde Riviere (Markham SC), Nichelle Prince (Houston Dash), Adriana Leon (West Ham), Jordyn Huitema (Vancouver Whitecaps), Gabrielle Carle (Florida State University), Janine Beckie (Manchester City)

## Netherlands

After winning the 2017 European Championships, the Netherlands have struggled to repeat their form. The Oranje finished second in their qualification group which meant they had to go through the play-offs where they beat Denmark and Switzerland to book their place. Manager Sarina Weigman leads the team with a number of WSL, Barcelona and Lyon stars in the squad. During their preparations, Netherlands played in the 2019 Algarve Cup but they failed to get any points in their group B and finished bottom of their group.

# Group E

**Journey to the World Cup:** Beat Switzerland in their play-off final

**Best WWC finish:** Round-of-16 (2015)

**FIFA ranking:** 8

**Star player:** Lieke Martens

**Goalkeepers:** Loes Geurts (Kopparbergs/Goteborg), Lize Kop (Ajax), Sari van Veenendaal (Arsenal).

**Defenders:** Dominique Bloodworth (Arsenal), Anouk Dekker (Montpellier), Danique Kerckdijk (Bristol City), Stefanie van der Gragt (Barcelona), Liza van der Most (Ajax), Merel van Dongen (Real Betis), Kika van Es (Ajax), Desiree van Lunteren (Freiburg).

**Midfielders:** Jackie Groenen (Frankfurt), Inessa Kaagman (Everton), Victoria Pelova (ADO Den Haag), Jill Roord (Bayern Munich), Sherida Spitse (Valerenga), Danielle van de Donk (Arsenal).

**Forwards:** Lineth Beerensteyn (Bayern Munich), Ellen Jansen (Ajax), Renate Jansen (Twente), Lieke Martens (Barcelona), Vivianne Miedema (Arsenal), Shanice van de Sanden (Lyon)

## **New Zealand**

New Zealand have had a busy preparation ahead of the WWC. Late games against England and Wales mean they travelled out to France late. The squad includes a number of WSL players and proved difficult to beat when they won 1-0 against the Lionesses in Brighton. The Ferns have never made it out of the group stages, but they are hopeful to get to the knockout stages.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Winners of the OFC Women's Nations Cup

**Best WWC finish:** Group stage (1991, 2007, 2011, 2015)

**FIFA ranking:** 19

**Star player:** Ali Riley

**Goalkeepers:** Victoria Esson (Avaldsnes), Erin Nayler (Bordeaux), Nadia Olla (Western Springs)

**Defenders:** CJ Bott (Vittsjo GIK), Abby Erceg (North Carolina Courage), Anna Green (Miramar Rangers), Meikayla Moore (MSV Duisburg), Sarah Morton (Western Springs), Ali Riley (Chelsea), Stephanie Skilton (Papakura City), Rebekah Stott (Avaldsnes)

**Midfielders:** Katie Bowen (Utah Royals), Olivia Chance (Everton), Daisy Cleverley (California Golden Bears), Katie Duncan (Onehunga Sports), Annalie Longo (Unattached), Betsy Hassett (KR Reykjavik), Ria Percival (West Ham)

**Forwards:** Sarah Gregorius (Miramar Rangers), Emma Kete (Unattached), Paige Satchell (Three Kings United), Rosie White (Unattached), Hannah Wilkinson (Unattached)

# Group F



Date	Game			Time (UK)	Venue
June 11	Chile	vs	Sweden	5pm	Roazhon Park, Rennes
	USA	vs	Thailand	8pm	Stade Auguste-Delaune, Reims
June 16	Sweden	vs	Thailand	2pm	Allianz Riviera, Nice
	USA	vs	Chile	5pm	Parc des Princes, Paris
June 20	Sweden	vs	USA	8pm	Stade Oceane, Le Havre
	Thailand	vs	Chile		Roazhon Park, Rennes

## Chile

Chile make their debut at the Women's World Cup in France. La Roka booked their place in France with a set of impressive performances at the Copa America Femenina 2018. Manager Jose Letelier is a former goalkeeper who led Colo-Colo's women's team to ten straight domestic titles. Whilst they may struggle to make it out of the group, the squad will provide a tough challenge for the likes of USA as a relatively unknown.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Runners-up of 2018 Copa America

**Best WWC finish:** N/A

**FIFA ranking:** 39

**Manager:** Jose Letelier

**Star player:** Christine Endler

**Goalkeepers:** Claudia Endler (Paris Saint-Germain), Natalia Campos (Universidad Catolica), Ryan Torrero (unattached)

**Defenders:** Rocio Soto (Zaragoza), Carla Guerrero (Rayo Vallecano), Su Helen Galaz (Zaragoza), Camila Saez (Rayo Vallecano), Javiera Toro (Santiago Morning), Valentina Diaz (Colo-Colo), Francisca Lara (Sevilla)

**Midfielders:** Claudia Soto (Santos), Karen Araya (Sevilla), Ana Gutierrez (CFF Caceres), Yessenia Lopez (Colo-Colo), Daniela Pardo (Santiago Morning), Elisa Duran (Colo-Colo)

# Group F

**Strikers:** Yanara Aedo (Valencia), Yessenia Huenteo (CFE Caceres), Maria Jose Rojas (Slavia Praha), Maria Urrutia (3B Amazonia), Javiera Grez (Curico Unido), Daniela Zamora (Universidad de Chile), Rosario Balmaceda (Colo-Colo)

## Sweden

Sweden are former runners-up of the Women's World Cup. They have also finished third twice—most recently in 2011. The Swedes have never been absent from the tournament and they are expected to get out of Group F which is seen as one of the easier groups of the 2019 tournament.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Finished first in the European group

**Best WWC finish:** Runners-up (2003)

**FIFA ranking:** 9

**Manager:** Peter Gerhardsson

**Star player:** Stina Blackstenius

**Goalkeepers:** Jennifer Falk (Kopparbergs/Goteborg FC), Hedvig Lindahl (Chelsea), Zecira Musovic (Rosengard)

**Defenders:** Jonna Andersson (Chelsea), Nathalie Bjorn (FC Rosengard), Magdalena Eriksson (Chelsea), Nilla Fischer (Vfl Wolfsburg e.V.), Hanna Glas (Paris Saint-Germain), Amanda Ilestedt (Turbine Potsdam), Linda Sembrant (Montpellier)

**Midfielders:** Anna Anvegard (Vaxjo DFF), Kosovare Asllani (Linkopings), Lina Hurtig (Linkopings), Julia Roddar (Kopparbergs/Goteborg), Elin Rubensson (Kopparbergs/Göteborg), Caroline Seger (Rosengard)

**Forwards:** Stina Blackstenius (Linkopings), Sofia Jakobsson (Montpellier), Madelen Janogy (Pitea), Mimmi Larsson (Linkopings), Fridolina Rolfo (Bayern Munich), Olivia Schough (Djurgardens), Julia Zigiotti Olme (Kopparbergs/Goteborg)

## Thailand

Thailand have qualified for their second Women's World Cup in a row and are hoping to make it out of the group stages for the first time. They reached the semi-finals of the AFC Women's Asian Cup—their best result in 32 years. The side have had a tough preparation in the run-up to coming to France. They came eighth in the Cyprus Cup and were beaten heavily by France and Belgium.

**Journey to the World Cup:** Semi-finals Asian Cup

**Best WWC finish:** Group stage

**FIFA ranking:** 34

# Group F

**Manager:** Nuengruethai Sathongwein

**Star Player:** Kanjana Sungngoen

## USA

USA have been stalwarts of women's football for a number of years. Soccer in America is huge in women's sport and it shows with the number of trophies they hold, the fact players still go over there to play in the leagues and the fact they are top of the rankings. They are one of the favourites to lift the trophy yet again but there is a strong chance they could meet France in the quarter-finals, meaning it could be a shock early exit for the USA.

**Journey to the World Cup:** CONCACAF Women's Championship winners

**Best WWC finish:** Champions (1991, 1999, 2015)

**FIFA ranking:** 1

**Manager:** Jill Ellis

**Star player:** Julie Ertz

**Goalkeepers:** Adrianna Franch (Portland Thorns FC), Ashlyn Harris (Orlando Pride), Alyssa Naeher (Chicago Red Stars)

**Defenders:** Abby Dahlkemper (NC Courage), Tierna Davidson (Chicago Red Stars), Crystal Dunn (NC Courage), Ali Krieger (Orlando Pride), Kelley O'Hara (Utah Royals FC), Becky Sauerbrunn (Utah Royals FC), Emily Sonnett (Portland Thorns FC)

**Midfielders:** Morgan Brian (Chicago Red Stars), Julie Ertz (Chicago Red Stars), Lindsey Horan (Portland Thorns FC), Rose Lavelle (Washington Spirit), Allie Long (Reign FC), Samantha Mewis (NC Courage)

**Forwards:** Tobin Heath (Portland Thorns FC), Carli Lloyd (Sky Blue FC), Jessica McDonald (NC Courage), Alex Morgan (Orlando Pride), Christen Press (Utah Royals FC), Mallory Pugh (Washington Spirit), Megan Rapinoe (Reign FC)





# WWC 2019 Predictions

*So, who do we think will win?*

**Helen Rowe-Willcocks**



Winners: France  
England final place: 3rd

**Will Ibbetson**



Winners: England  
England final place: Winners

**Martin Rowe-Willcocks**



Winners: USA  
England final place: 3rd

**Dave Fraser**



Winners: England  
England final place: Winners

**Ammo Curtis**



Winners: England  
England final place: Winners

**Marissa Thomas**



Winners: Netherlands  
England final place: 2nd

**Phil Brooke**



Winners: USA  
England final place: 3rd

**Gill Brown**



Winners: England  
England final place: Winners

