

- CONMEBOL -  
**EVOLUCIÓN**

TECHNICAL STUDY GROUP

**FIFA U-20  
World Cup  
Argentina  
2023**



**Dream big.**



# Summary

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**Dream big.**

# The future of South American soccer shines

One more. Another World Cup is at home, in South America. The Uruguayan U-20 team won the 2023 tournament, defeating Italy in the final match. The Uruguayan boys starred in a competition that attracted the attention of the football world. It is not surprising, since in this category some stars present are already dazzling and new talents are emerging that will consolidate in the immediate future. The importance of this tournament is obvious, as it allows us to appreciate the potential of the teams facing the challenges of the main category. They are the young people, full of dreams and energy, who tomorrow will raise the flags that professional adult players carry today.

Now, beyond the talent and rebellion typical of their age, these young people are already walking the path of applying technical concepts, theoretical approaches, and strategic vision in football. In the case of South America, the challenge for the technical staff is always to combine the explosive ability of “different” players - who abound in our lands - with teamwork and technical discipline. When a South American team manages to combine these factors, it is unstoppable, whatever the modality or category.

This book investigates the technical aspects of this important tournament, with the aim of extracting new lessons and identifying elements that can serve our teams and national teams in the future. A panel of experts provides a deep and authoritative view that always keeps in mind one of the missions that CONMEBOL has imposed on itself: working from the identity of South American football, preserving what has made our continent a world power.

I hope this material is useful to those interested.

**Thank you so much.**



Alejandro Domínguez W-S  
President  
South American Football Confederation



# Keep growing, always believing big

A player never forgets his first steps in professional football in youth. It's a whirlwind of nerves, intention and illusions - sometimes doubtful - all driven by uncontrollable desires to show the whole world the good we have and what we can give to our team. It is a special and unique energy, which, with the help of technicians and more experienced colleagues, we learn over time to channel and get the most out of it. The young South American players keep that call alive, as was seen in the last U-20 World Cup, when the Uruguayan national team obtained the most deserved title of CHAMPION.

To that energy, that natural talent forged frequently in sports fields, it is indispensable to combine technical knowledge, order within the field, a thorough understanding of the game and the needs of the team. The DNA of South American football is a treasure that we must conserve and enrich, because it is the key to new future sporting glories. Building from what makes us unique, from the characteristics that have placed our football at the highest level worldwide: this is the task we have in CONMEBOL.

This book is part of that work. We call on technical experts to help us analyze this important tournament, so that we can offer the entire South American football family a tool, an instrument to continue growing and developing our sport. We trust that the valuable reflections contained herein will be useful for this purpose.

**Thank you so much.**



Nery Pumpido

Associate General Secretary – Football and Development Director  
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# U-20 World Cup History

The first U-20 World Cup was held in 1977, in Tunisia, and the 23rd edition of the tournament was held in Argentina in 2023.

It was officially called “FIFA Coca-Cola Cup” until 1997 and then “World Youth Soccer Cup” until 2005.

It is now called the “U-20 World Cup” and continues to be a tournament as successful and exciting as it has always been since its inception.

These U-20 World Championships have produced players who have gone on to become great stars and are now part of a select group of FIFA stars. Diego Armando Maradona, Dunga, Bebeto, Davor Suker, Zvonimir Boban, Juan Román Riquelme, Xavi Hernández, Lionel Messi, Sergio Agüero, Paul Pogba, Giorgian De Arrascaeta, Erling Haaland; these are some of the phenomena that appeared on the world soccer stage through U-20 tournaments.

## Under 20 World Cups

 Argentina 2023 <b>Winner: Uruguay</b>	 Poland 2019 <b>Winner: Ukraine</b>	 Korea Republic 2017 <b>Winner: England</b>
 New Zealand 2015 <b>Winner: Serbia</b>	 Turkey 2013 <b>Winner: France</b>	 Colombia 2011 <b>Winner: Brazil</b>
 Egypt 2009 <b>Winner: Gana</b>	 Canada 2007 <b>Winner: Argentina</b>	 Netherlands 2005 <b>Winner: Argentina</b>
 United Arab Emirates 2003 <b>Winner: Brazil</b>	 Argentina 2001 <b>Winner: Argentina</b>	 Nigeria 1999 <b>Winner: Spain</b>
 Malaysia 1997 <b>Winner: Argentina</b>	 Qatar 1995 <b>Winner: Argentina</b>	 Australia 1993 <b>Winner: Brazil</b>
 Portugal 1991 <b>Winner: Portugal</b>	 Saudi Arabia 1989 <b>Winner: Portugal</b>	 Chile 1987 <b>Winner: Yugoslavia</b>
 Soviet Union 1985 <b>Winner: Brazil</b>	 Mexico 1983 <b>Winner: Brazil</b>	 Australia 1981 <b>Winner: Fed. Rep. of Germany</b>
 Japan 1979 <b>Winner: Argentina</b>	 Tunisia 1977 <b>Winner: Soviet Union</b>	

Of the 23 editions played  
**12 titles** have gone to South America



  
**-CONMEBOL-**  
**12 titles**

  
**10 titles**

  
**1 title**

# South American teams



## BRAZIL

The Brazilian national team qualified for the World Cup after being crowned South American U-20 champion, a tournament held in Colombia between January 19 and February 12, 2023.

The title was won by finishing the competition undefeated, after beating Uruguay 2-0 on the last day of the final series. For Brazil, it was the 12th title in the U-20 category.

The South American tournament had the two best players of the tournament: Vitor Roque and Andrey dos Santos. Additionally, both players were the scorers of the tournament with six goals each.

### COACH AND TEAM CHARACTERISTICS

Ramón Menezes took over as coach in March 2022 and his coaching staff was made up of a Technical Assistant, a Physical Trainer, a Goalkeeping Coach, a Doctor, a Physiotherapist, a Video Analyst, and for the World Cup they added another Physical Trainer.

Prior to the World Cup they had a ten-day microcycle with three friendly matches and twelve days before the competition they had the full squad.

The coach was unable to include some ten players he considers important because their clubs did not release them.

In Brazil, all national teams carry out coordinated work, from youth to senior teams. According to Menezes, a point to be improved in his country is “the integral education of young people”.

During the World Cup, the Brazilian team used a 1-4-4-2 system to defend and 1-2-3-5

to attack. At the end of the competition, the coach said that he was struck by “the way Italy played, with a centralized offensive game, yet very effective”.

As for things to improve, Menezes believes that the number of players on the roster should be increased, which in this World Cup was 21, especially considering that there is no possibility of replacement due to injury.

It is worth mentioning that Ramón Menezes was South American U-20 champion as a player in 1991, in the tournament held in Venezuela under the name “Copa Juventud de América”, and was again crowned champion, as coach, in the South American Championship of “Colombia 2023”.

### FEATURED PLAYERS

The four outstanding players of the squad were: Robert Renan, Andrey, Arthur, and Marcos Leonardo.





## FEATURED PLAYERS

**Robert Renán Alves Barbosa** was born on October 11, 2003, is a central defender, and plays for Zenit St. Petersburg, Russia. He was a member of the U-18 and U-20 national teams.

He is a left central defender with great abilities and a great personality. In his position, he was one of the standouts of the World Cup.



**Andrey Nascimento dos Santos** was born on May 3, 2004, is a midfielder, and plays for Nottingham Forest, England. He was a member of the U-15 and U-20 national teams.

He was the captain of the team and fulfilled all the responsibilities of his role: guarding, playmaking, time management, and goal-scoring.



**Arthur Augusto de Matos Soares** was born on March 17, 2003, is a right back, and plays for Bayer Leverkusen, Germany.

He had an outstanding performance. Very complete for the position. He was noted for guarding very well and for having projected himself to the attack in an effective way.



**Marcos Leonardo Santos Almeida** was born on May 2, 2003, is a forward, and plays for Santos, Brazil. He was part of the U-17 and U-20 national teams.

He is a strong, powerful center-forward. He is always positioned near the box, alert to score. He was the second-highest scorer of the tournament with 5 goals.



# Brazil: Position and results

Position in the Competition	<b>7th PLACE</b>	Matches played: <b>5</b>		
		<b>3</b> Won	<b>0</b> Tied	<b>2</b> Lost

 **ITALY 3 - 2 BRAZIL** 

Match 8, Group D – May, 21 2023

 **BRAZIL 6 - 0 DOMINICAN REP.** 

Match 20, Group D – May, 24 2023

 **BRAZIL 2 - 0 NIGERIA** 

Match 29, Group D – May, 27 2023

 **BRAZIL 4 - 1 TUNIZIA** 

Round of 16 – May, 31 2023

 **ISRAEL 3 - 2 BRAZIL** 

Round of 8 – Jun, 3 2023

## Statistics

Possession average per match

<b>45%</b> In Possession	<b>14%</b> In contest	<b>41%</b> Opponents
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Total Km covered  
Average per match

**116 km**

Number of passes  
Average per match

**389**

Pass completion  
Average per match

**80%**

Km covered in high intensity  
Average per match

**7,2 km**

Goals

<b>16</b> Scored	<b>7</b> Against	<b>+9</b> Difference
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Total Cards

<b>11</b> Yellow	<b>1</b> Red
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# URUGUAY

The Uruguayan national team qualified for the World Cup after winning second place at the South American Championship in Colombia.

In the South American Championship, Uruguay had an excellent performance, surpassing the expectations before the competition. It clearly won the “Group B” series, which it had to play in the city of Cali, at Deportivo Cali’s “Palmaseca” stadium. And it reached the final hexagonal’s last date without losing any match. At that stage, they lost 2-0 to Brazil and took second place, which qualified them for the World Cup.

## COACH AND TEAM CHARACTERISTICS

Marcelo Broli took over the national team in May 2022 and his coaching staff consisted of a Technical Assistant, a Goalkeeping Coach, two Physical Trainers and two Video Analysts.

Prior to the World Cup, the coach decided not to carry out microcycles until a month before the start of the tournament. “When that date arrived, we had the squad at our disposal, which allowed us to make a very good preparation at the Celeste Complex. It included friendly matches against first-division teams of Uruguayan soccer and we closed it with two international matches against World Cup teams such as Honduras and Uzbekistan”.

The system most used by Uruguay was 1-4-2-3-1 and as an alternative it used 1-4-3-3 and 1-4-4-2. Regarding the work of the national team with the Uruguayan Football Association, Broli said: “We had a close relationship with both the senior national team and the U-17 team. We lived together at the Complex and there was always an exchange and good communication”. About what he would improve in his country, he added: “The state of the fields for competition and training. To have more human resources in the technical

staff. Improve the training of referees so that the game develops in a more dynamic way”.

From the World Cup, the coach highlighted “England and the United States, who used the 1-3-4-3 system, which allowed them to have very strong structures, both when defending (1-5-4-1) and when attacking (1-3-2-5), occupying all five lanes, with the wingers closing down and playing behind the opposing defenders. This was based on the very good physical and technical shape of their wingers, who defended like fullbacks and attacked like wingers”. About the team he played against in the final, he said: “Italy used a 1-4-3-1-2 formation and surprised us with the ability of their inside play, they didn’t need the width to have high-quality connections. They had very interesting behaviors”.

Regarding his main learning experience after the competition, the coach said that it was: “Facing teams from different continents, with different characteristics, which demanded constant adjustments to details. I also learned a lot from the imponderables that arose during the tournament, such as injuries, expulsions, etc. Adaptability to different contexts makes you grow a lot.

## FEATURED PLAYERS

The outstanding players were: Randall Rodríguez, Sebastián Boselli, Alan Matturro, Fabricio Díaz and Luciano Rodríguez.

## FEATURED PLAYERS

**Randall Rodríguez** was born on November 29, 2003, he is a goalkeeper and plays for Peñarol, Uruguay. In 2022 he won the U-20 Libertadores Cup with Peñarol. He was part of the U-20 and Senior National Teams. He had a great performance in the World Cup. He kept a clean sheet in six of the seven matches he played. He showed he had the personality to transmit confidence to the rest of his team. Even, due to his good performance, it is questioned whether the award for best goalkeeper, which FIFA gave to the Italian Sebastiano Desplanches, should not have gone to him.



**Sebastián Boselli** was born on December 4, 2003, he is a defender and plays for River Plate, Argentina. He was a member of the U-20 and senior national teams. He had a very high level and even performance during the entire championship. He was characterized by his sense of timing, being very good in one-on-one, and excellent in the air game. In addition, he also brings leadership capacity within the team.



**Alan Agustín Matturro Romero** was born on October 11, 2004, he is a fullback and plays for Genoa, Italy. He was a member of the U-15 and U-20 national teams. South American U-15 Champion and U-20 World Champion.



During the World Cup he played left back when his original position was center back. He imposed himself by his technical and physical qualities, and fundamentally by the personality he showed and which he passed on to his teammates. He won the "Silver Ball" award of the World Cup, given to the second-best player of the tournament.

**Fabrizio Díaz Badaracco** was born on February 3, 2003, is a midfielder, and plays for Al-Gharafa, Qatar. He was a member of the U-20 and senior national teams. He was the captain and leader of the team. He showed intelligence, and great reading of the game. He managed the exit from the back and also controlled the timing to press or retreat according to what play demanded.





**Luciano Rodríguez Rosales** was born on July 16, 2003, he is a forward and plays in Liverpool, Uruguay. He was a member of the U-20 and senior national teams. He is a player with power, skill, and definition. He was very generous in his efforts for the team. He stood out more on the wing, but he has also played in central attacking positions. He scored the goal that gave Uruguay the victory in the final against Italy.





# Uruguay: Position and results


Position in the Competition	<b>CHAMPION</b>	Matches played: <b>7</b>		
		<b>6</b> Won	<b>0</b> Tied	<b>1</b> Lost


- 


**URUGUAY 4 - 0 IRAQ**  
Match 10, Group E - May, 22 2023
- 

**URUGUAY 2 - 3 ENGLAND**  
Match 21, Group E - May, 25 2023
- 

**TUNISIA 0 - 1 URUGUAY**  
Match 35, Group E - May, 28 2023
- 

**GAMBIA 0 - 1 URUGUAY**  
Round of 16 - Jun, 1 2023
- 

**EUA 0 - 2 URUGUAY**  
Round of 8 - Jun, 1 2023
- 

**URUGUAY 1 - 0 ISRAEL**  
Semi-final - Jun, 8 2023
- 

**URUGUAY 1 - 0 ITALY**  
Final - Jun, 11 2023

## Statistics

<b>Possession average per match</b> <b>41%</b> In Possession <b>15%</b> In contest <b>44%</b> Opponents	<b>Total Km covered</b> Average per match <b>111 km</b>
<b>Number of passes</b> Average per match <b>344</b>	<b>Pass completion</b> Average per match <b>76%</b>
<b>Goals</b> <b>12</b> Scored <b>3</b> Against <b>+9</b> Difference	<b>Km covered in high intensity</b> Average per match <b>6,6 km</b>
	<b>Total Cards</b> <b>7</b> Yellow <b>1</b> Red



# COLOMBIA

The Colombian national team qualified for the World Cup by taking third place in the South American Championship. They were the only team that Brazil could not beat. They faced off in the group stage at the “Pascual Guerrero” Stadium in Cali and tied 1-1. Then, in the final stage of the tournament, they faced each other at the “El Campín” Stadium in Bogota and tied again, this time 0-0.

Their performance in the South American Championship earned them consideration as one of the most important teams to represent South American soccer in the World Cup.

## COACH AND TEAM CHARACTERISTICS

Héctor Cárdenas took over as coach on September 1, 2021 and his coaching staff was comprised of two assistants, a goalkeeping coach, a physical trainer, a video analyst, a doctor, a physiotherapist, a kinesiologist, a field assistant, and a psychologist.

Cardenas explained that the preparation prior to the World Cup involved 30 days of work with 40 training units, five international matches, and 30 players evaluated.

The system of play they used the most was 1-4-3-3. Some alternatives were: 1-4-2-3-1, 1-4-4-4-1-1 and 1-4-5-1.

Regarding working with youth teams, Cárdenas said: “There is a direct relationship and integration. First, among the different coaching staffs, there is support from the professionals of other categories for the competitions and preparation cycles, and there is also direct communication and follow-up of the work with the head coach of the senior team and his collaborators”. And about how to improve, he added: “Thinking about the development and development of our soccer, we have to unify criteria, create guiding documents for

the different formative and methodological processes, while respecting the processes of growth and development of the athletes”.

Regarding some aspects to be improved, the coach emphasized that “priority should be afforded to the championships governed by CONMEBOL and FIFA, since the national teams cannot count on all their players”, due to the fact that the clubs are not obliged to assign them.

When asked about what he learned from the World Cup, Cárdenas said that “competing with teams from different confederations allows professional growth and knowledge of different styles of play and proposals, which is enriching”.

## FEATURED PLAYERS

For the Colombian national team, the outstanding players were: Kevin Mantilla, Gustavo Puerta, Yaser Asprilla, and Oscar Manuel Cortés.



## FEATURED PLAYERS

**Kevin Andrés Mantilla Camargo** was born on May 22, 2003, he is a central defender and plays for Talleres de Córdoba, Argentina.

He is a defender with presence and quality. He has always been a reliable defender for his national team.



**Gustavo Adolfo Puerta Molano** was born on July 23, 2003, he is a midfielder and plays for Bayer Leverkusen, Germany.

He is a complete midfielder, with marking, playmaking, and goal-scoring. In addition to these conditions, he has a strong personality to be able to lead his team.



**Yaser Esneider Asprilla Martínez** was born on November 19, 2003, he is a midfielder and plays for Watford F. C., England.

He is a talented and creative player. He did not play in the South American Championship, but for the World Cup, he brought a different soccer contribution, something that very few have the virtue of doing.



**Óscar Manuel Cortés** was born on December 3, 2003, he is a forward and plays in Lens, France. He was part of the U-19, U-20, and Senior national teams.

He is a striker with power, speed, and great shooting with both legs, and is always thinking about the rival goal. He scored 3 goals in the South American and 4 in the World Cup.



# Colombia: Position and results

Position in the Competition	<b>6th PLACE</b>	Matches played: <b>5</b>		
		<b>3</b> Won	<b>1</b> Tied	<b>1</b> Lost

 **ISRAEL 1 - 2 COLOMBIA** 

Match 5, Group C – May, 21 2023

 **JAPAN 1 - 2 COLOMBIA** 

Match 18, Group C – May, 24 2023

 **COLOMBIA 1 - 1 SENEGAL** 

Match 30, Group C – May, 27 2023

 **COLOMBIA 5 - 1 SLOVAKIA** 

Rounds of 16 – May, 31 2023

 **COLOMBIA 1 - 3 ITALY** 

Rounds of 8 – Jun,3 2023

## Statistics

**Possession average per match**

<b>44%</b> In Possession	<b>15%</b> In contest	<b>41%</b> Opponents
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**Total Km covered**  
Average per match

**110 km**

**Number of passes**  
Average per match

**460**

**Pass completion**  
Average per match

**82%**

**Km covered in high intensity**  
Average per match

**6,8 km**

**Goals**

<b>11</b> Scored	<b>7</b> Against	<b>+4</b> Difference
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**Total Cards**

<b>10</b> Yellow	<b>0</b> Red
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# ECUADOR

The Ecuadorian national team qualified for the World Cup by achieving fourth place in the South American Championship. They arrived at the tournament holding the champion's crown, which they had won at the previous South American Under 20, held in Chile, in 2019. That was Ecuador's first U-20 title.

The fourth-place result, achieved in Colombia, did not meet the team's expectations. However, it was enough to qualify for the World Cup.

## COACH AND TEAM CHARACTERISTICS

Miguel Ángel Bravo took over the management of the national team on March 1, 2023, and his coaching staff was made up of two Technical Assistants, due to the addition of the U-17 coach, a Physical Trainer, a Goalkeeping Coach, and a Video Analyst.

Regarding the pre-tournament preparation, Bravo explained: "We had an eight-day training micro-cycle in Quito. Afterward, the players finished arriving on May 10. That day we traveled to Buenos Aires until the 16th, where we played two international friendlies and then traveled to San Juan".

The system of play most used by the selected team was the 1-4-3-3 and an alternative was the 1-3-4-3.

About the World Cup, Bravo said: "I really liked the way the U.S. played, they were a very tactical team who focused on playing good soccer, generating advantages, and teaming up from the back; they were also very intense when they didn't have the ball".

Regarding youth work, the coach said "In the Ecuadorian Soccer Federation all the youth categories work together, in the same physical location, where we usually meet to plan, scout,

etc. In training sessions and tournaments, we try to ensure that part of the coaching staff can collaborate in another category and in this way share knowledge".

On how to improve at the local level, the investment of the teams is key, Bravo understands that "Several clubs do not give much importance to the lower divisions and invest very little." As for the World Cup, the coach believes that "clubs should be obliged to release players, as it would raise the level of competition."

Miguel Ángel Bravo acknowledged that the competition taught him "the possibility of helping the boys to manage their emotions because they felt a lot of pressure when representing their country".

## FEATURED PLAYERS

Ecuador's outstanding players were: Joel Ordóñez, Óscar Zambrano, Kendry Páez, and Nilson Angulo.



## FEATURED PLAYERS

**Joel Ordóñez** was born on April 21, 2004, is a central defender, and plays in Bruges, Belgium. He was a member of the U-15, U-20, and senior national teams.

He is a left center-back with great presence and performed very well in the World Cup.



**Óscar Zambrano** was born on April 20, 2004, is a central midfielder, and plays for Liga Deportiva Universitaria, Ecuador.

He is a midfielder with excellent technique, vision, and a very good shot, both for long passes and mid-range shots.



**Ray Kendry Páez Andrade** was born on May 4, 2007, he is a midfielder and plays for Independiente del Valle, Ecuador. He was part of the U-17, U-20, and senior national teams.

He is a left-footed, creative player with a great punch. He is of U-17 age, but in addition to playing in the U-20 World Cup, he has already been called up by the senior national team. He is an extraordinary player; an Ecuadorian promise.



**Nilson David Angulo Ramírez** was born on June 19, 2003, he is a midfielder or winger and plays for Anderlecht, Belgium. He was part of the U-20 and Senior national teams.

He is a player with great one-on-one ability, at times indecipherable in his dribbling.



# Ecuador: Position and results

Position in the Competition	<b>12th PLACE</b>	Matches played: <b>4</b>		
		<b>2</b> Won	<b>0</b> Tied	<b>2</b> Lost

 **EUA 1 - 0 ECUADOR** 

Match 3, Group B – May, 20 2023

 **ECUADOR 2 - 1 SLOVAKIA** 

Match 16, Group B – May, 23 2023

 **ECUADOR 9 - 0 FIJI** 

Match 25, Group B – May, 26 2023

 **ECUADOR 2 - 3 KOREA REP.** 

Round of 16 – Jun, 1 2023

## Statistics

<b>Possession average per match</b> <b>51%</b> In Possession <b>13%</b> In contest <b>36%</b> Opponents			<b>Total Km covered</b> Average per match <b>109 km</b>	
<b>Number of passes</b> Average per match <b>514</b>		<b>Pass completion</b> Average per match <b>84%</b>		<b>Km covered in high intensity</b> Average per match <b>6,8 km</b>
<b>Goals</b> <b>13</b> Scored <b>5</b> Against <b>+8</b> Difference			<b>Total Cards</b> <b>3</b> Yellow <b>0</b> Red	



# ARGENTINA

Argentina, firstly, had the great success of having organized the U-20 World Cup in record time. In view of the complicated situation faced by FIFA, when it canceled the venue established in Indonesia, the competition was in doubt and there was a risk that the event would not be held. That is when the Argentine Football Association stepped up with the support of Conmebol and the World Cup was held.

All this must be taken into account concerning the preparation of the Argentine team for the tournament. They had very little time to assemble the squad and fine-tune details before going out to the field since they originally not qualified for the World Cup.

## COACH AND TEAM CHARACTERISTICS

Javier Mascherano took over the national team in January 2022 and his coaching staff consisted of two Technical Assistants, a Physical Trainer, a Goalkeeping Coach, and a Video Analyst.

Regarding the preparation for the competition, Mascherano said: “We were fortunate to have two friendlies, against the Dominican Republic and Japan. It was useful for us to see the boys and for them to get into rhythm”.

The coach’s main system of play was 1-4-2-3-1 and about coaching the national team in his country he added: “I would never have thought that I could be the coach of a youth national team and that the World Cup would be played in our country. It is a sport in which you have to go out on the field to play, get rid of pressure, and compete well. I told them to make the most of it and enjoy it because you never know if tomorrow you will have the chance to play in another World Cup.

Mascherano also explained that in this type of

competition, with very young players, “anxiety must be turned into hope, into good energy, into something positive”.

Regarding the work of national teams in the Federation, the technical director says: “As coaches of youth teams, we try to align ourselves with the senior national team. If we see that the senior team has the idea of playing with many midfielders, we try to apply it in the youth teams. We try to have the same player characteristics, as long as the selection allows us to do so.

Regarding the final result in the World Cup, Javier Mascherano said: “In terms of results, it is true that we did not do well. It is clear that we have the responsibility to compete. In the World Cup, I think we deserved a little more, but that’s soccer. The reality is that we are happy to nurture the national team with players like Buonanotte, Garnacho, Carboni... And so, to keep on nurturing”.

## FEATURED PLAYERS

The outstanding players of the Argentine national team were Valentín Barco, Valentín Carboni, Luka Romero, and Alejo Véliz.



## FEATURED PLAYERS

**Valentín Barco** was born on July 23, 2004, he is a left-back or midfielder and plays for Boca Juniors, Argentina. He was a member of the U-15, U-17 and U-20 national teams.

He had an outstanding performance playing as a left-back, with good offensive projection, clarity, and excellent punch to finish plays.



**Valentín Carboni** was born on March 5, 2005, he is a midfielder and plays in Monza, Italy. He was a member of the Italian U-17 national team and the Argentine U-20 and senior national teams.

He is a creative midfielder who can also play as a striker. He is skillful in driving the ball, has a long stride, and has an unbalanced game.



**Luka Romero Bezzana** was born on November 18, 2004, he is a forward and plays in Milan, Italy. He was a member of the U-15, U-17, U-20 and senior national teams.

He started alternating and ended up being a starter. He became one of the most important players of the team. He is a creative and talented player and has a great left-foot shot.



**Alejo Véliz** was born on September 19, 2003, is a center forward and plays for Tottenham Hotspur, England.

He is a typical center forward. He is a strong player, good in the air and always positions himself close to the opponent's goal.



# Argentina: Position and results

Position in the Competition	<b>9th PLACE</b>	Matches played: <b>4</b>		
		<b>3</b> Won	<b>0</b> Tied	<b>1</b> Lost


**ARGENTINA 2 - 1 UZBEKISTAN**


Match 2, Group A – May, 20 2023


**ARGENTINA 3 - 0 GUATEMALA**


Match 14, Group A – May, 23 2023


**NEW ZEALAND 0 - 5 ARGENTINA**


Match 28, Group A – May, 26 2023


**ARGENTINA 0 - 2 NIGERIA**


Round of 16 – May, 31 2023

## Statistics

<b>Possession average per match</b>			<b>Total Km covered</b> Average per match	
<b>59%</b> In Possession	<b>13%</b> In contest	<b>28%</b> Opponents	<b>115 km</b>	
<b>Number of passes</b> Average per match		<b>Pass completion</b> Average per match		<b>Km covered in high intensity</b> Average per match
<b>649</b>		<b>88%</b>		<b>6,9 km</b>
<b>Goals</b>			<b>Total Cards</b>	
<b>10</b> Scored	<b>3</b> Against	<b>+7</b> Difference	<b>8</b> Yellow	<b>1</b> Red



**CAMPEONES  
DEL MUNDO**

# Analysis of the four finalists



**KOREA  
REPUBLIC**

**4th  
PLACE**

The Korea Republic team had a great competition. It finished in fourth position and placed the Asian continent among the most important forces in the world context.

The team was faithful to its tradition, with tactical discipline, fighting spirit and with some highly promising footballers. They left a good image of their football.

## SYSTEM OF PLAY:

The base system of play used by Korea Republic was 1-4-2-3-1. At specific moments the team used the 1-4-3-3 and 1-5-2-3.

## DEFENSE:

It was a very tactically organized team. Generally, it did not pressure the opponent in the high zone, coming out from below from their own area. The team waited in the middle third of the field, and from there, started to mark and close spaces behind. In extreme defense, they used a 4-4-1 formation, releasing the center forward, leaving him alone above, so that he could be a possible quick release after recovering the ball.



## Glossary

**CB:** Central Defenders  
**FB:** Full-Backs  
**MF:** Midfielders

**DMF:** Defensive midfielders  
**AMF:** Attacking Midfielder  
**CF:** Center Forwards

**W:** Winger  
**WF:** Winger Forward  
**FP:** Free Player



## ELABORATION OF PLAY:

They were very practical, managing two options. One was to start low from their own area if the opponent allowed it. The second was a direct play to LEE YOUNG-jun (9) and three players went deep behind him.



## OFFENSIVE VARIATIONS:

Their main offensive weapon was the set-piece situation. In this way they scored six of the ten goals they scored in the competition.

They applied a lot of speed in the attack. With elaborate attacks, they activated the opposite side or with deep passes behind the defenders' backs. They also used the quick attack when recovering the ball. Additionally, they tried to cross balls into the area.



Dream big.

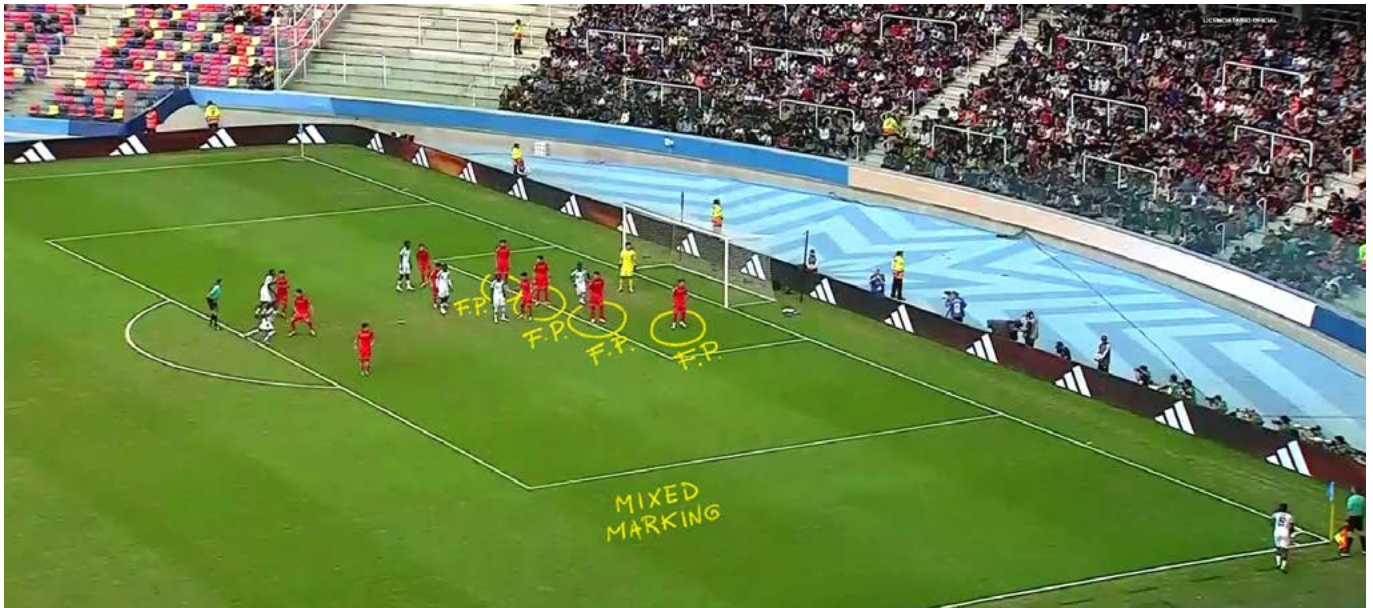
## SET PIECE SITUATIONS (SPS)

Scored goals: 6		
3	2	1
Corners	Penalty	Side Free Kick

Goals against: 6		
2	3	1
Corners	Penalty	Free Kick

### DEFENSE:

They carried out mixed marking on corners, and zone marking on fouls from the sides.



### ATTACK:

It was a great strength. They scored goals this way in six matches out of the seven played. They did not score against Gambia, they tied 0 to 0.

Goals scored: 10				
Type of goals				
3	2	1	2	2
Corners	Penalty	Side Free Kicks	Elaborated attack	Fast attack

### HIGHLIGHTED PLAYERS:

**LEE SEUNG-won:** He was the captain of his team, a very complete player both in attack and defense. He always arrived on the offensive and quickly positioned himself in front of the 1-4-4 defensive block. He was key in the quick attacks after recovering the ball. He was the top scorer for his team with three goals.

**LEE YOUNG-jun:** Center forward, attack reference for direct play and for cross balls into the area. He holds the ball very well. He scored two goals.

**CHOI YE-hoon:** Central defense, solid, very good aerial game and with a lot of personality. He was essential in decisive matches scoring goals from corners; he converted two.



# ISRAEL

**3<sup>th</sup>**  
PLACE

The Israeli national team arrived at the World Cup having been the runner-up of the UEFA. They ratified their power with a great performance in the tournament, winning third place.

It demonstrated great tenacity to overcome adversity. They lost the first match and drew the second. In the third match, they needed to win to advance to the round of 16 and defeated Japan, in the nick of time, after coming from behind and being a man down due to expulsion. They overcame Brazil in the quarterfinals, after falling behind twice, and ended up winning 3-2, and in this way, they made it into the top four teams of the World Cup.

## SYSTEM OF PLAY:

The system used by Israel was 1-4-2-3-1.

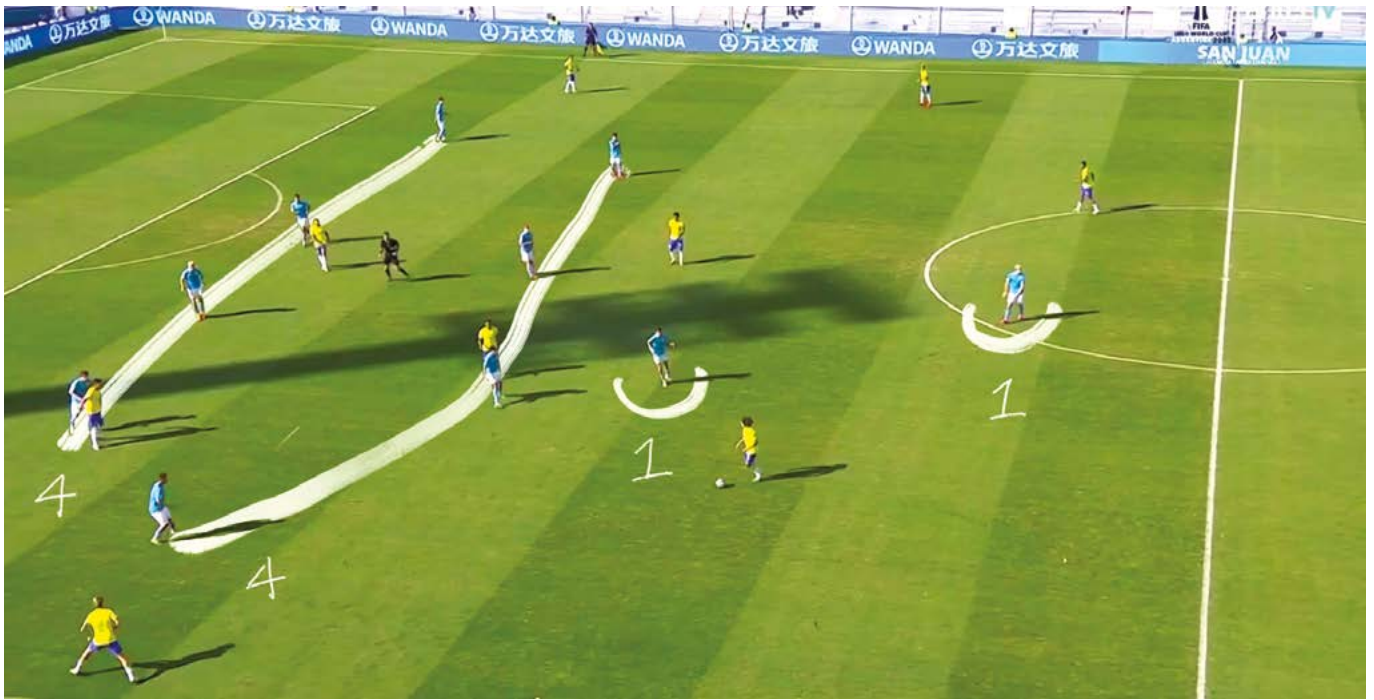
## DEFENSE:

Their first defensive action was high pressing, with six players farther forward. They had the center forward directing the opponent with the ball to one side to turn the team and press in that area.



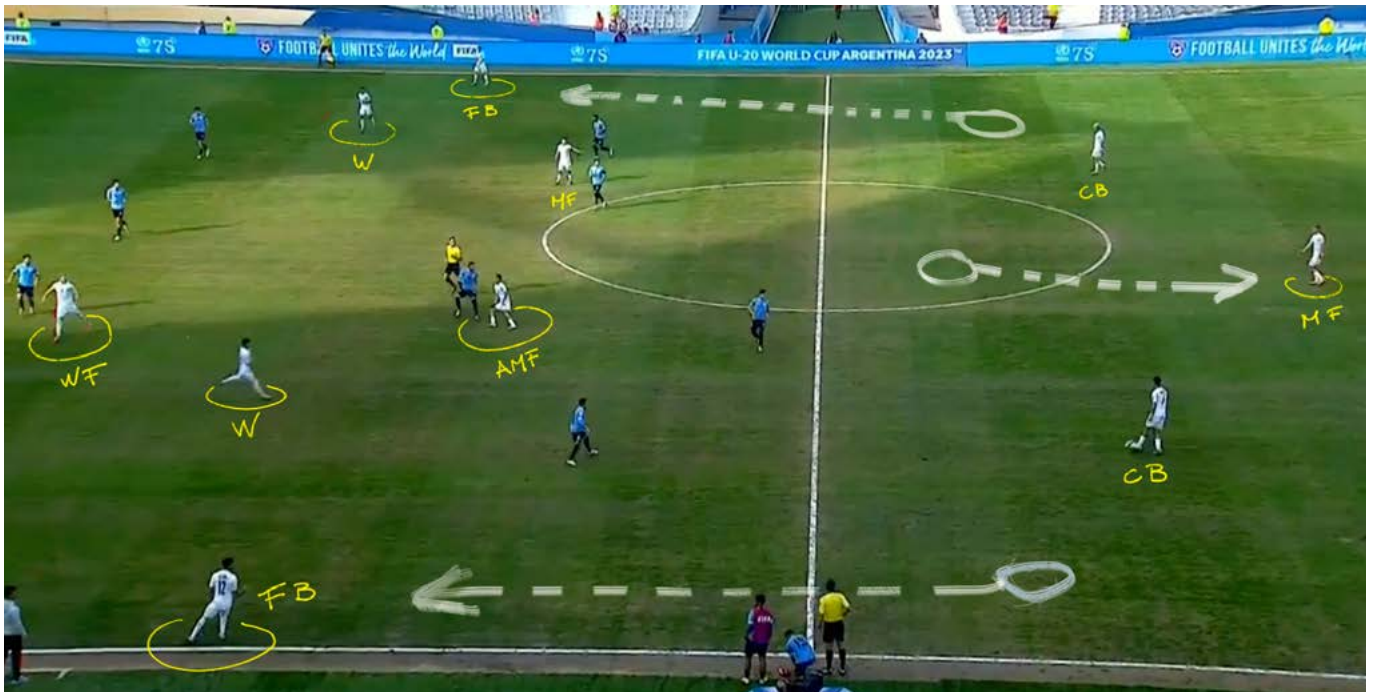
When they retreated to their extreme defense, they sought to form a compact block with little distance between lines. They left the center forward further forward.

## Dream big.



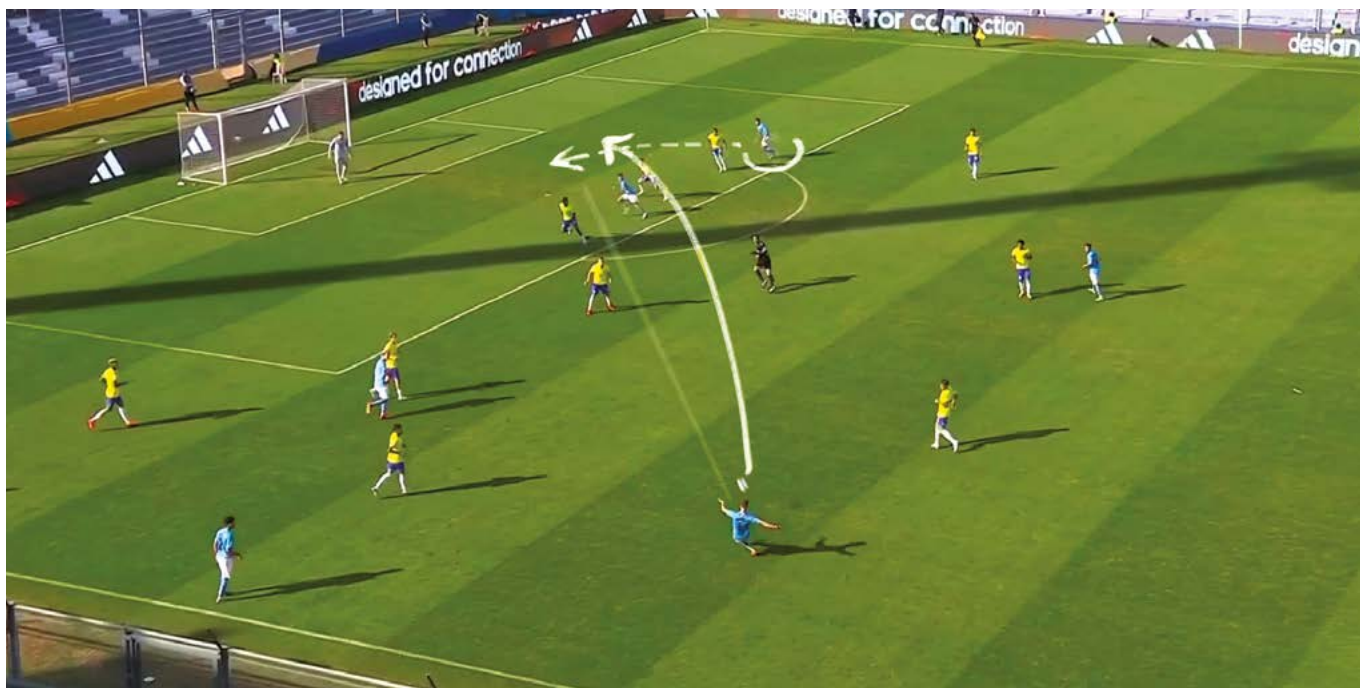
### GAME DEVELOPMENT:

They tried to play out of their own area. They set up a line of three with a midfielder who played between the center-backs or to the side. The wingers gave width and depth. The wingers would close down and free up space. The other midfielder, together with the central midfielder, sought to gain space inside. The center forward gave the team depth.



## OFFENSIVE VARIANTS:

Good inside play and very good play on the wings. Finishing moves with cross balls into the box was one of their strengths in attack. They scored five goals this way.



## SET PIECE SITUATIONS (SPS)

**Scored goals: 3**

<b>1</b> Corners	<b>1</b> Penalty	<b>1</b> Side Free Kick
---------------------	---------------------	----------------------------

**Goals against: 2**

<b>2</b> Penalty
---------------------

## Dream big:

### DEFENSE:

In the corner kicks they implemented mixed marking.



In the fouls on the sides, they marked in the zone.



### ATTACK:

They scored 3 goals (SBP) out of 11.

Goals scored: **11**

#### Type of goals

**1**

Corners

**1**

Penalty

**1**

Foul on the side

**4**

Developed attack

**4**

Quick attack

### HIGHLIGHTED PLAYERS:

**Tomer Tzarfati:** He was key in the results of some games with very good saves.

**Ilay Madmon:** He played as a midfielder, was the captain and strategist of the team. He managed the times and led the team both for his talent and his personality.

**Anan Khalaili:** Played as a winger and forward, showing good aerial play and excelling in one-on-one play. He scored three goals in the tournament.

**David Turgeman:** He was a center forward, with good associative technique and excellent aerial play. He scored two goals, one of them in extra time against Brazil, which gave his team a place in the semifinals of the tournament.



# ITALY

2<sup>th</sup>  
PLACE

Italy reached the final after a great performance and leaving behind powerful teams such as Brazil, England, Colombia, and Korea Republic.

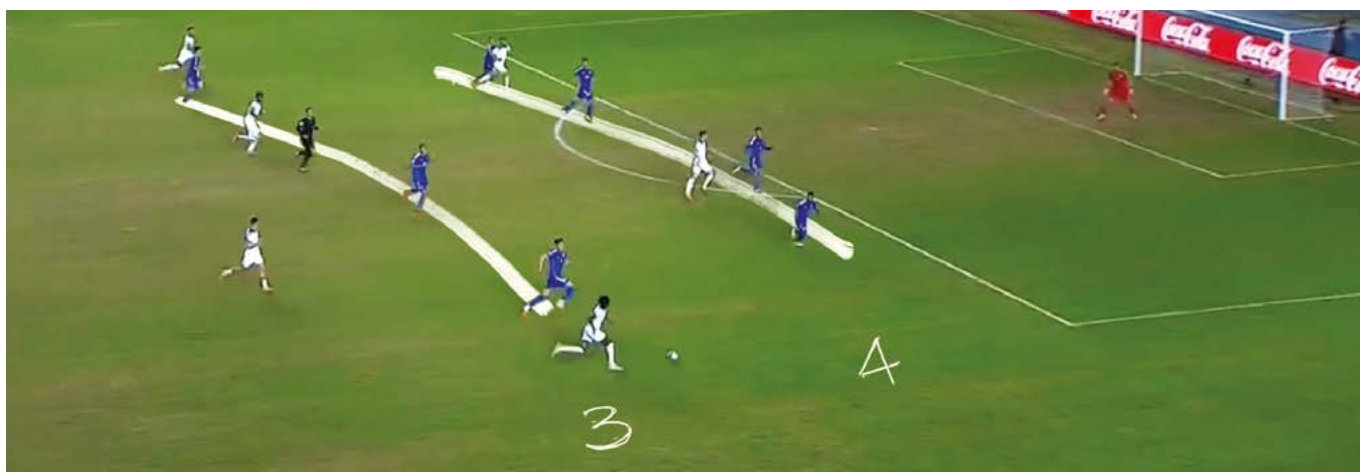
## SYSTEM OF PLAY:

The basic system of play was 1-4-3-1-2. This is a distribution rarely used in these times, where the “enganche” or “playmaker” (Baldanzi, 10) was revalued, playing in front of three traditional midfielders, one holding midfielder and two inside midfielders.

Italy showed that there are no modern or old systems of play, the most important thing is that the scheme is well played. It worked excellently and they also had players of great quality and projection.

## DEFENSE:

When they lost the ball in attack, the first defensive intention was to recover immediately. If they failed to do so, they would retreat to their last defensive zone with a 4-3 formation. They were a very physical and tough team in defense. They used their good physical stature to prevail and committed many tactical fouls to shut down the game, they had an average of 17 fouls per game.



Their final triangle performed very well, goalkeeper Desplanches (1) and central defenders Ghilardi (5) and Guarino (14) were a solid base for the team.



### GAME DEVELOPMENT:

They regularly tried to elaborate the game from their defensive base. In the midfield, Casadei (8) and Giovane (6) were in charge of managing the game and the team's tempo. On the flanks, as they did not use wingers in attack, the incursions of their wingers and the "enganche" added to the construction of the game.



### OFFENSIVE VARIANTS:

They had a high-quality inside game through Baldanzi (10), who was joined by their inside players Casadei (8) and Giovane (6), to connect with their forwards Ambrosino (9) and Esposito (18).



Another important variation was to launch cross balls into the area, especially from left to right, for the arrival of Casadei (8).



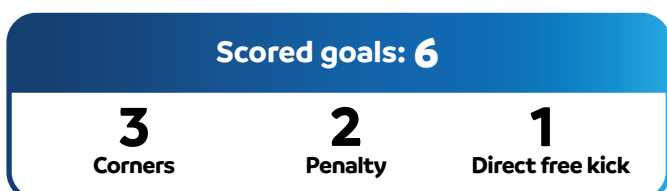


They also used direct play as an alternative, taking advantage of the power of their two strikers.

Another of the offensive variants that gave them a lot of results was set pieces



## SET PIECE SITUATIONS (SPS)



## Dream big.

### DEFENSE:

They were marking in a zone and all went down to defend on corner kicks and free kicks from the sides.



They conceded two goals from set pieces. One from a penalty kick against Korea Republic in the semifinal, and another from a corner kick against Uruguay in the final.

### ATTACK:

They were very effective in this area. They scored six goals, three from corner kicks, two from penalty kicks, and one from a free kick.

Goals scored: <b>13</b>				
Type of goals				
<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Corners	Penalty	Free kick	Developed attack	Ball recovery and quick attack

### HIGHLIGHTED PLAYERS:

**Sebastiano Desplanches:** FIFA awarded him the “Golden Glove” as the best goalkeeper of the tournament.

**Cesare Casadei:** FIFA awarded him the “Golden Ball” as the best player of the tournament. He was a marker, a playmaker, and a finisher in the opponent’s area. He was also the top scorer of the championship with seven goals.

**Tommaso Baldanzi:** He had a great performance and revalued the role of the “enganche”. He regularly tried to play in the spaces between the midfielders and the rival defenders, to use his skill and speed in the last third of the field towards the rival goal.



# URUGUAY

## Champion

The Uruguayan team was the brilliant winner of the competition. The performances of its players went from less to more, until it defeated Italy in the final match, with absolute justice.

Of the seven games the team played, it lost only one, against England, with a score of 3 to 2. At the same time, it was the only match in which the opponent team was able to score goals against Uruguay. In the other six matches, it kept its target undefeated.

As the competition progressed, they proved to be a very compact and solid team, increasingly confident in their performances.

### **SYSTEM OF PLAY:**

The initial system of play used the most was 1-4-2-3-1. The team also used the 1-4-3-3 as an alternative, at the times when the team was missing several players due to injuries and suspensions.

### **DEFENSE:**

It was the least defeated defense of the competition, with three goals against it. During six matches, it kept its goal undefeated, which demonstrates the excellent defensive level of the team.

To explain these results, the first thing that must be highlighted is the collective commitment that the team showed.

The first defensive action was generally to pressure its opponents from high above. On many occasions the team achieved it, and that allowed the team to keep the opposing teams away from its goal.



## Dream big.

When they retreated to their extreme defense, they became very strong in that zone with a 4-4-1-1. They marked the game very well on the sides, closing internal spaces, and not allowing passes through their defense.

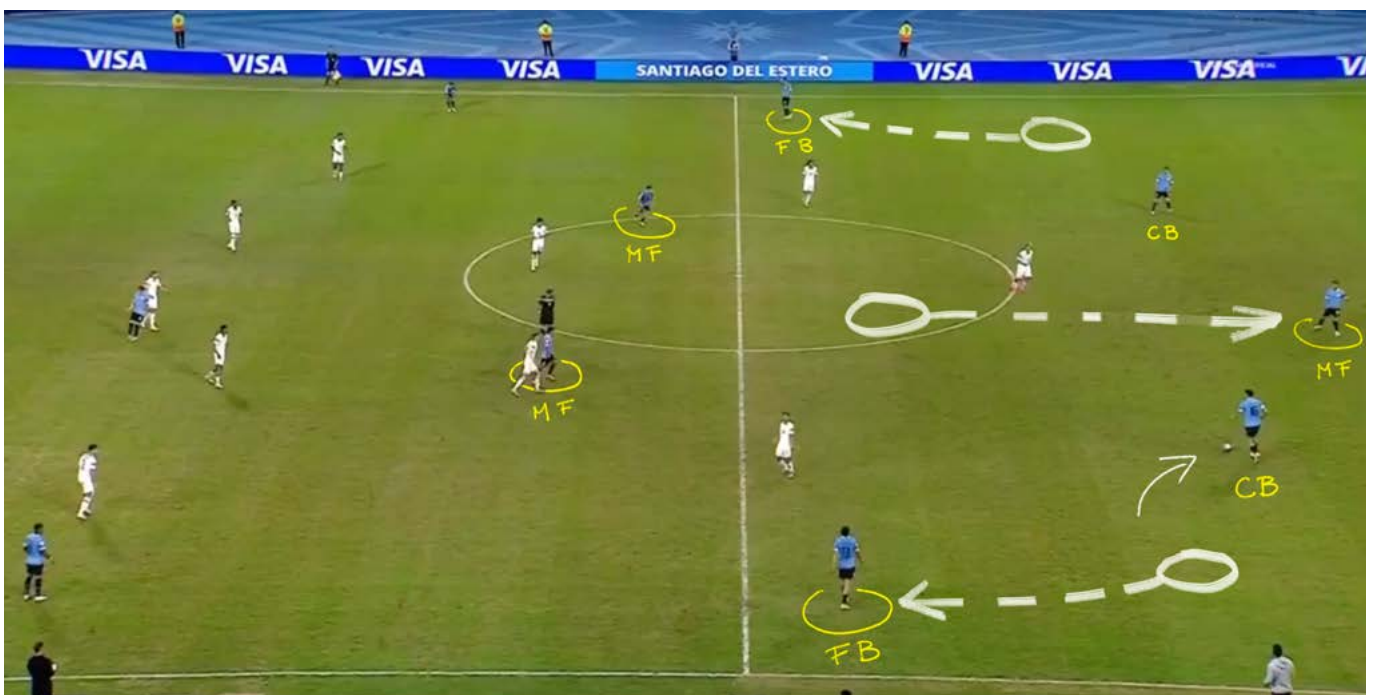


In the individual duels, they had players with extraordinary performances, very difficult to beat, such as Sebastián Boselli, Facundo González or Alan Matturro.

In the aerial game, they had problems against England, changing the way they marked and became very strong in that area as well.

### ELABORATION OF PLAY:

When they could play from their own area, they did so. One of the midfielders (Damián García or Fabricio Díaz) retreated, joined the two central defenders to go out, the full-backs moved forward to the middle of the field, and in this way they came out from behind with short balls and on the foot.



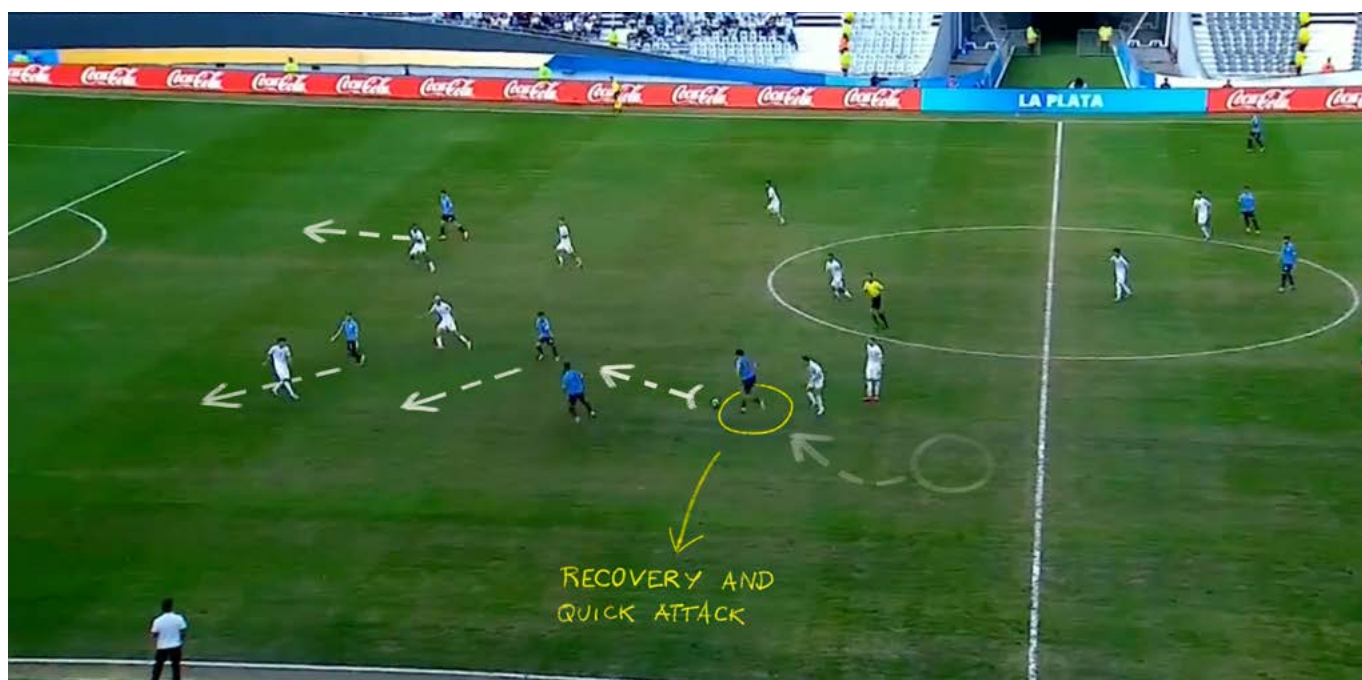


In the midfield, Fabricio Díaz was the one who managed the team's timing and Franco González, as a midfielder, was the different player. His characteristic was that he looked for the backs of the rival midfielders, found free spaces to do damage, and with his ability he solved problems against very closed defenses.

### OFFENSIVE VARIATIONS:

One of the characteristics was good play on the sides and another was throwing cross balls into the rival area. Through this route they scored four goals.

Pressure in the middle of the field, ball recovery and quick attack was another alternative with very good results.



Another variant used was the mid-distance shot. Some important goals came that way.



The corners in favor were also notable offensive arguments. They scored three goals that way. The goal in the final match stands out, for the victory against Italy, 1 to 0.



## SET PIECE SITUATIONS (SPS)



## DEFENSE:

They started the competition with mixed marking on corners. Two free players went to the ball and the rest had personal marks. They marked in the zone for side free kicks.



In the match against England (3-2 loss) they received the first goal through a corner against them.

From there, they switched to zone marking. This gave them great defensive solidity and they kept the goal blocked during the last five matches.



Dream big.

## ATTACK:

It was very productive in corners in favor. They scored three goals this way.

Goals scored: **12**

Type of goals

**3**

Corners

**1**

Penalty

**2**

Elaborated attack

**6**

Ball recovery and fast attack

Ball recovery and fast attack: **6**

**3**

Middle Third

**2**

High zone

**1**

Low zone



FIFA  
U-20 WORLD CUP  
ARGENTINA 2023

# CHAMPIONS







# Match analysis



URUGUAY **1 - 0** ISRAEL



Semi-final - Jun, 8 2023

**11 STARTING 1-4-3-3**

12	R. RODRÍGUEZ	
2	S. BOSELLI	
8	R. CHAGAS	
13	A. MATTURRO	
16	F. GONZÁLEZ	
5	F. DÍAZ (C)	31'
14	D. GARCÍA	90+4'
15	I. SOSA	46'
7	A. DUARTE	81' 61'
10	F. GONZÁLEZ	86'
11	J. DE LOS SANTOS	86'

**SUSTITUTES**

1	F. MACHADO	
21	J. ARBIO	
3	M. ANTONI	
6	M. DE RITIS	86'
9	A. FERRARI	46'
17	M. ABALDO	
18	S. HOMENCHENKO	81'
20	N. SIRI	90+4'

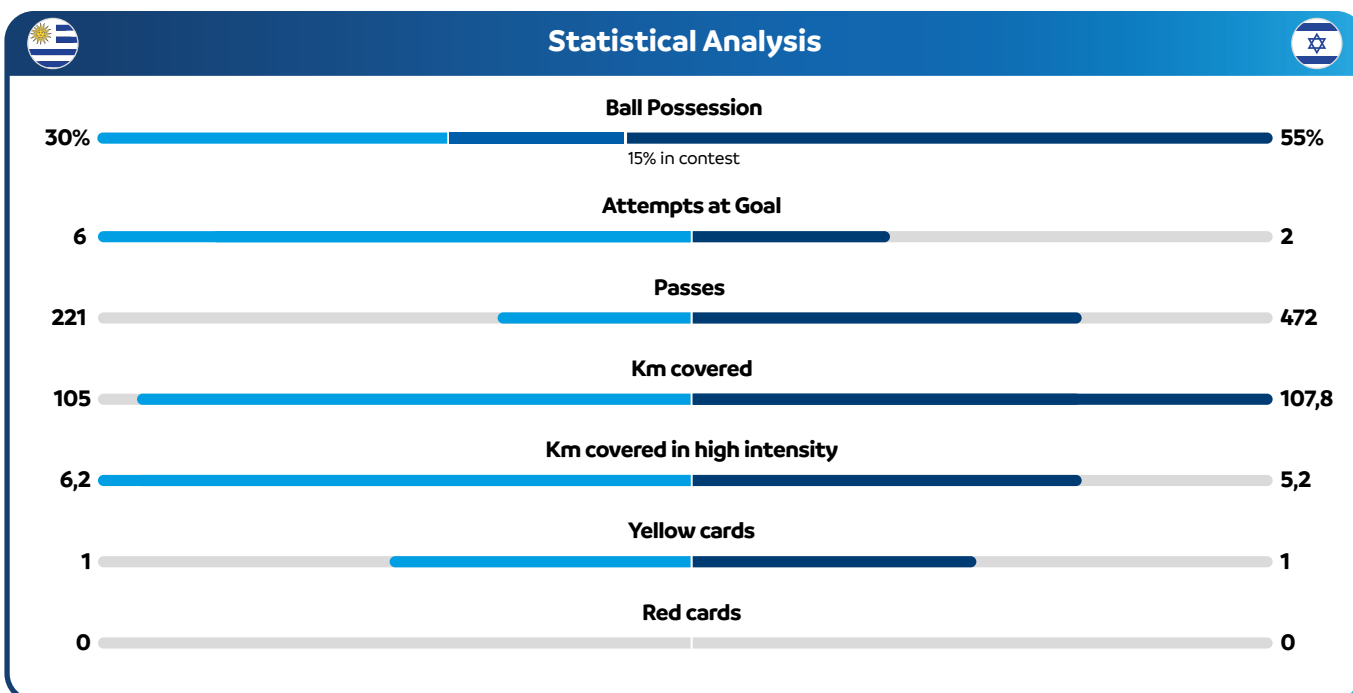


**1-4-2-3-1 11 STARTING**

↓ 77'	T. ZARFATI	1
	I. FEINGOLD	2
	O. ISRAELOV	3
	S. LEMKIN	4
	R. REVIVO	12
↓ 77'	E. KANCEPOLSKY	6
↓ 59'	A. KHALAILI	7
↓ 72'	(C) I. MADMOUN	8
	H. SHIBLI	11
↓ 59'	T. ABED	15
	D. TURGEMAN	9

**SUSTITUTES**

	O. MELIKA	18
	N. GREIS	21
	S. EDRI	5
	A. LUGASSY	10
↑ 77'	N. BEN HAROSH	13
↑ 77'	R. NAVI	14
↑ 72'	R. BINYAMIN	16
↑ 59'	O. SENIOR	17
	H. FUCHS	19
↑ 59'	A. IBRAHIM	20





# ITALY 2 - 1 KOREA REP.



Semifinal - Jun, 8 2023

**11 STARTING** 1-4-3-1-2

1	S. DESPLANCHES		
2	M. ZANOTTI	↓ 67'	45'
3	R. TURICCHIA		
5	D. GHILARDI		
14	G. GUARINO		
4	M. PRATI		
6	S. GIOVANE (C)	↓ 82'	
8	C. CASADEI	⊕ 14'	
10	T. BALDANZI	↓ 82'	
9	G. AMBROSINO	↓ 89'	43'
18	F. ESPOSITO	↓ 82'	

**SUSTITUTES**

12	G. ZACCHI		
21	J. SASSI		
7	N. PISILLI		
11	D. MONTEVAGO	↑ 82'	
13	F. FIUMANO	↑ 89'	
15	A. FONTANAROSA	↑ 82'	
16	G. FATICANTI	90'	↑ 67'
17	L. LIPANI		
19	D. DEGLI INNOCENTI		
20	S. PAFUNDI	⊕ 86'	↑ 82'

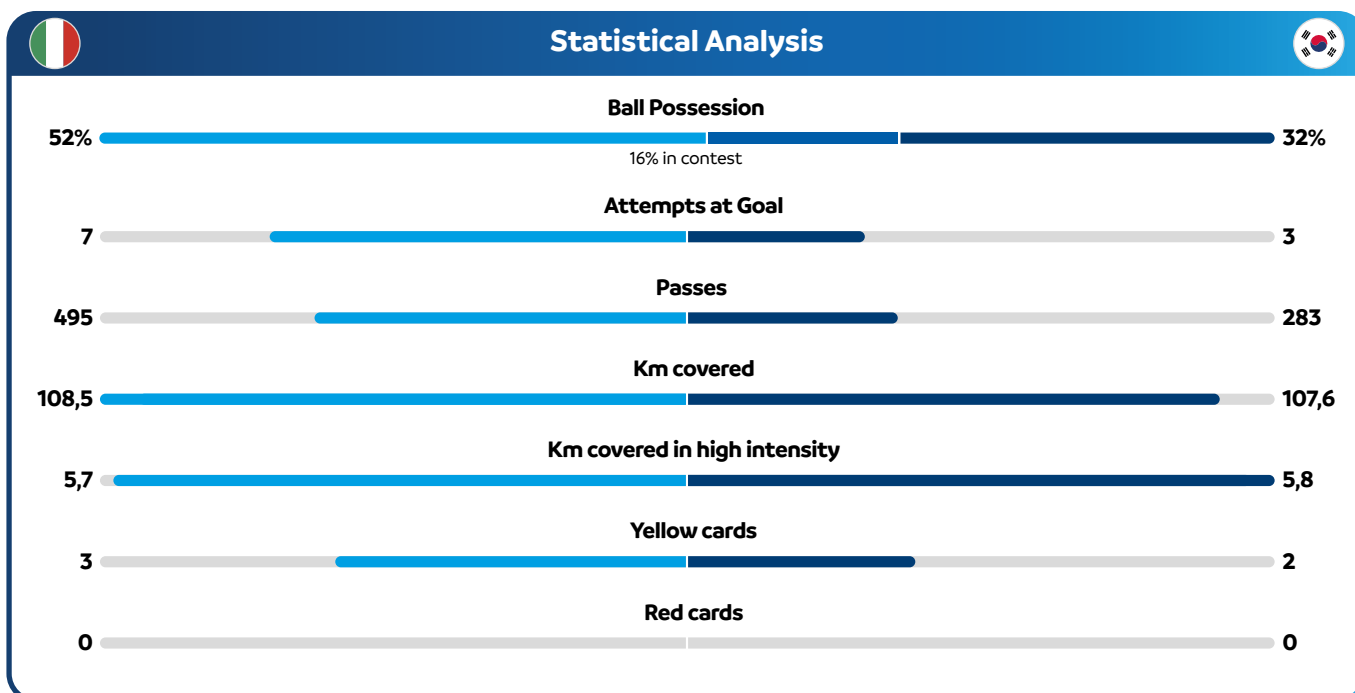


1-4-2-3-1 **11 STARTING**

	KIM Joonhong	1
	CHOI Seokhyun	4
	CHOI Yehoon	13
	CHO Y.	15
	KIM Jisoo	20
↓ 90+2'	PARK H.	6
85'	KIM Yonghak	7
85' ↓ 89'	(C) LEE Seungwon	8
↓ 62'	BAE J.	10
⊕ 23'	KANG S.	14
	LEE Youngjun	9

**SUSTITUTES**

	KIM J.	12
	MOON H.	21
	PARK C.	2
↑ 92+2'	HWANG I.	3
	LEE C.	5
	KANG S.	11
	LEE S.	16
↑ 62'	LEE J.	17
↑ 89'	BAE S.	19





# ISRAEL 3 - 1 KOREA REP.



Third place – Jun, 11 2023

**11 STARTING** 1-4-2-3-1

18	O. MELIKA	
2	I. FEINGOLD	23'
5	S. EDRI	80'
14	R. NAVI	
19	H. FUCHS	
6	E. KANCEPOLSKY	
8	I. MADMOUN (C)	62'
11	H. SHIBLI	90'
15	T. ABED	
16	R. BINYAMIN	19'
7	A. KHALAILI	86' 85'

**SUSTITUTES**

1	T. ZARFATI	
21	N. GREIS	
3	O. ISRAELOV	
4	S. LEMKIN	
9	A. TURGEMAN	
10	A. LUGASSY	
12	R. REVIVO	
13	N. BEN HAROSH	80'
17	O. SENIOR	76' 62'
20	A. IBRAHIM	90'

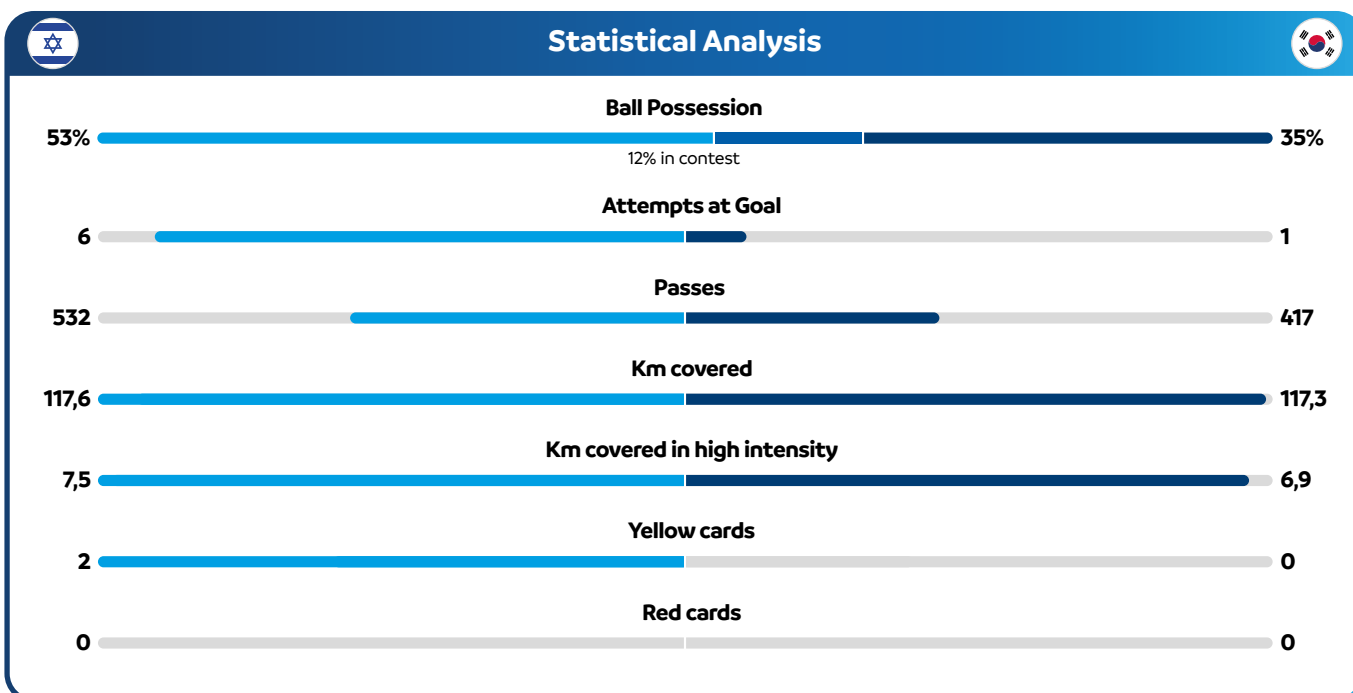


**1-4-3-3** 11 STARTING

	KIM Joonhong	1
	PARK C.	2
	CHOI S.	4
80'	BAE Sejoon	19
	KIM Jisoo	20
60'	LEE C.	5
24'	(C) LEE Seungwon	8
	KANG S.	14
60'	LEE Youngjun	9
	BAE Junho	10
39'	LEE Jihan	17

**SUSTITUTES**

	KIM J.	12
	MOON H.	21
60'	HWANG I.	3
	PARK H.	6
60'	KIM Y.	7
39'	KANG S.	11
80'	CHOI Y.	13
	CHO Y.	15
	LEE S.	16





# URUGUAY 1 - 0 ITALY



Final – Jun, 11 2023

## 11 STARTING 1-4-2-3-1

- 12 R. RODRÍGUEZ
- 2 S. BOSELLI
- 8 R. CHAGAS
- 13 A. MATTURRO
- 16 F. GONZÁLEZ
- 5 F. DÍAZ (C) 90'
- 10 F. GONZÁLEZ
- 11 J. DE LOS SANTOS 90+2'
- 14 D. GARCÍA
- 19 L. RODRÍGUEZ 90+6' 86'
- 7 A. DUARTE 62'

## SUSTITUTES

- 1 F. MACHADO
- 21 J. ARBIO
- 3 M. ANTONI 90'
- 4 M. PONTE
- 6 M. DE RITIS
- 9 A. FERRARI 62'
- 15 I. SOSA 90+2'
- 17 M. ABALDO
- 18 S. HOMENCHENKO 90+6'
- 20 N. SIRI



## 1-4-3-1-2 11 STARTING

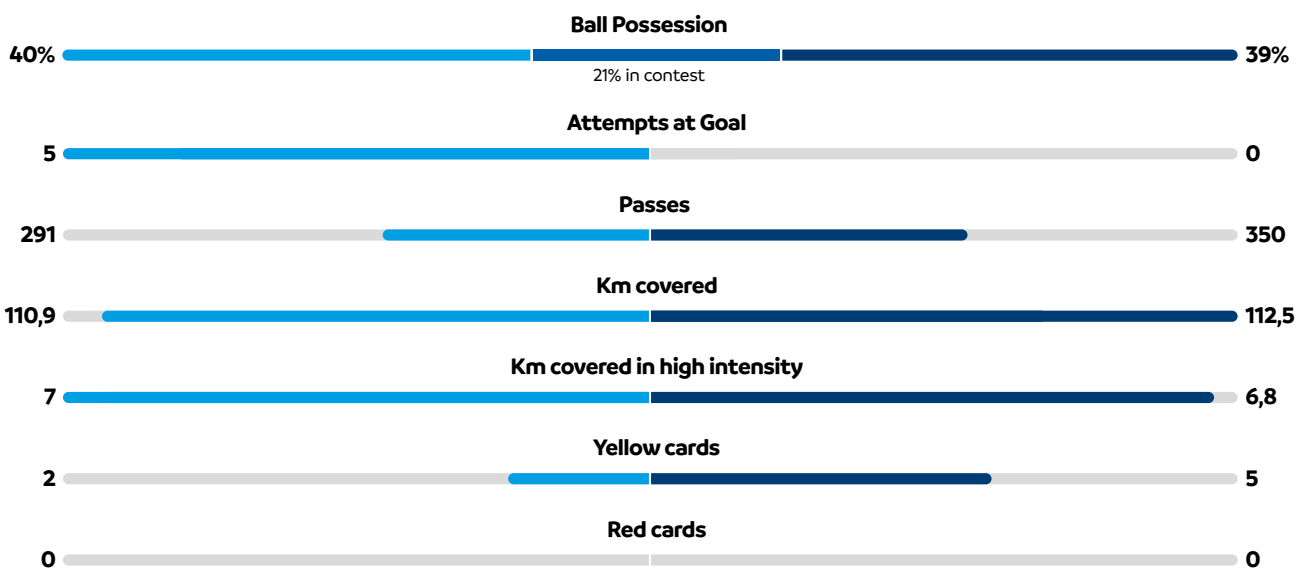
- S. DESPLANCHES 1
  - R. TURICCHIA 3
  - D. GHILARDI 5
  - (C) S. GIOVANE 6
  - G. GUARINO 14
  - M. PRATI 4
  - C. CASADEI 8
  - T. BALDANZI 10
  - G. FATICANTI 16
  - G. AMBROSINO 9
  - S. PAFUNDI 20
- ↓ 90'  
83'  
33'  
↓ 90'  
↓ 46'  
47' ↓ 56'  
↓ 56'

## SUSTITUTES

- G. ZACCHI 12
  - J. SASSI 21
  - M. ZANOTTI 2
  - N. PISILLI 7
  - D. MONTEVAGO 11
  - F. FIUMANO 13
  - A. FONTANAROSA 15
  - L. LIPANI 17
  - F. ESPOSITO 18
  - D. DEGLI INNOCENTI 19
- ↑ 46' 90'  
↑ 90'  
↑ 56'  
↑ 90' 90'  
↑ 56'



## Statistical Analysis



# Acknowledgement to Marcelo Boli The Champion Coach

Marcelo Boli achieved three titles in three years. The coach was Uruguayan champion with Peñarol in 2021, CONMEBOL Libertadores Champion in 2022 and World Champion with the Uruguayan team in 2023. In addition, he was South American vice-champion with Uruguay in 2023.

In 2021, Marcelo Boli took over as coach of the Peñarol U-19, in Uruguay. He became champion in that category. It had been 13 years since they won the title, and he qualified for the CONMEBOL Libertadores.

The Uruguayan team also became Champion of the international competition held in Quito, Ecuador. In the final match, Peñarol and Independiente del Valle tied, 1 to 1, and in a penalty shootout, the Uruguayan team won by 4 to 3.

After the achievement at the international level, the Uruguayan Football Association decided to hire Boli to take charge of the U-20 team, with a South American championship ahead and with the goal of qualifying for the World Cup.

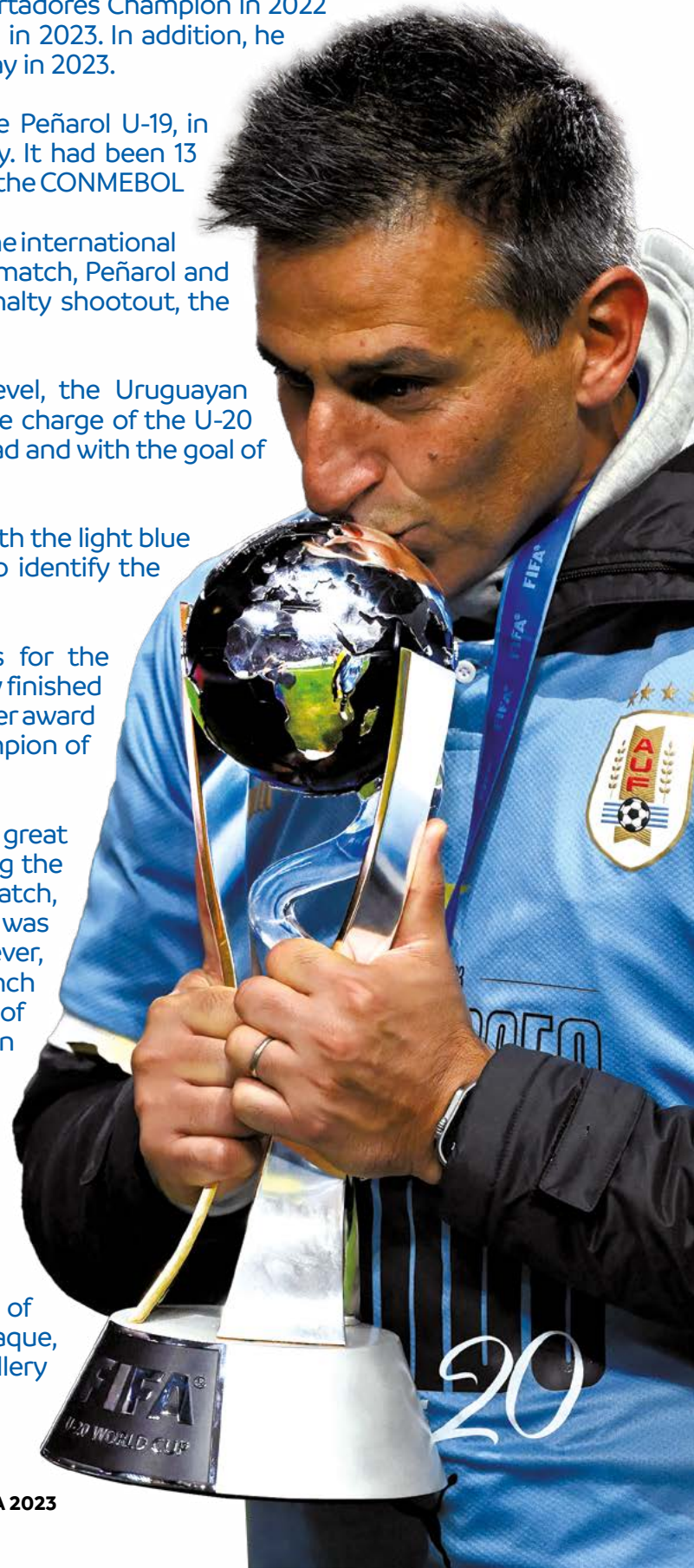
The coach acknowledges that the first results with the light blue were not good, but maintains that "it served to identify the team's weaknesses."

Weaknesses were transformed into strengths for the South American Championship, in which Uruguay finished in second place, becoming vice-champion. Another award for the coach's career, losing against Brazil, champion of the competition.

And from the South American, he also learned great things that he reflected in the World Cup. During the competition, beyond the strategies for each match, there was one key-point; the group. Uruguay was losing players due to injury or suspension. However, each player who came from the substitutes bench made the most of that opportunity. That virtue of the La Celeste team, solidarity, teamwork, unity on and off the field; was also instilled by the coach.

Marcelo Boli convinced his players and a country that his team was the best and it was. The day he defeated Italy in the final match, from the shout of goal, to the shout of Champion, the coach became an international reference.

CONMEBOL also recognized the achievement of the Uruguayan coach with the delivery of a plaque, valuing that trophy that went on to add to the gallery of world titles that South American football has.



# Acknowledgement to Alan Matturro

## Silver Ball

Alan Matturro was awarded the “Silver Ball” as the second-best player in the World Championship. The footballer trained at Defensor Sporting in Montevideo, Uruguay. Having just turned 18, he was sold to Genoa in Italy in November 2022.

Shortly thereafter, in January 2023, he was called up to defend his national team in the South American Championship in Colombia, but his team did not give him permission to play in that competition.

He joined the team 15 days before the World Cup. Being the last player to join the team, after his commitment to the Italian championship had ended, and at the same time the youngest player at the team.

His original position was central defender (1.89 meters), but the national team coach, Marcelo Broli, used him as left back, arguing that: “With Matturro on the side, we win in several aspects: aerial game, personality and firmness in defense. In the attack he became free, and provided very good performances.”

He did exactly what the coach thought: he gave solutions to the defense and grew in the offensive game until he became decisive in the semi-final and final matches of the championship.

After the conquest and acknowledgement of FIFA, Matturro went back to his childhood: “You played in a neighborhood and going to a World Cup with a full stadium, with almost all Uruguayan fans, is the same, but you need more concentration.” When remembering the goal that gave the title to the team in the final match, when he dominated the ball in the area, he said, laughing: “These are virtues of a defender who plays as a nine.”

And regarding his return to the country with the Cup, he concluded: “The people received me very well. They gave me goosebumps. I think that was when we realized what we generated in the country. We fell a little to the ground since winning a World Cup is not for everyone”.



# Tactic trends

The teams that reached the semi-finals used defenses with a line of four.



## FIRST DEFENSIVE ACTION: HIGH PRESS

For most teams, the first defensive action they performed was to try to recover the ball immediately after losing it. They did it with intense pressure in areas close to the loss of the ball.





## THE FOUR SEMI-FINALIST TEAMS USED DIRECT PLAY AS ONE OF THEIR OFFENSIVE ARGUMENTS.



## HEIGHT AND LENGTH WITH FIVE PLAYERS

Several teams played with three forwards. They closed their sides so that the wingers could pass on the outside, and in this way they used the five routes in the attack.



**Dream big.**

## **THE AREA CENTER FORWARD**

Most teams used a center forward with characteristics to play in and around the area.

Some examples: Ferrari (Uruguay), Turgeman (Israel), Lee Young-jun (Korea), Leonardo (Brazil), Véliz (Argentina) and Cuero (Ecuador).



Andrés Ferrari Goal: Uruguay against Iraq.

## **HIGH PERCENTAGE OF CORNER GOALS**

Uruguay, Italy and Korea scored three goals this way. Israel scored only one goal this way.



Cesare Casadei Goal: Italy against Colombia.

## ITALY'S OFFENSIVE GAME

Italy used three traditional attacking midfielders, one attacking midfielder (Baldanzi), and two centralized wingers (Ambrosini and Esposito). System: 1-4-3-1-2.

Despite lacking height, he made high-quality connections with the internal game.




Dream big.

# Goals Analysis



 **154** Total of goals in the competition

 **41** (27%) Set Piece Situation (SPS)

 **133** (86%) Inside the Area



**Cesare Casadei**  
Gold Ball



**Alan Matturro**  
Silver Ball



**Lee Seung-won**  
Bronze Ball



**Sebastiano Desplanches**  
Golden Glove

# World soccer map

In recent years, the world football map has changed. In the “Russia 2018” World Cup, the four finalist teams were France, Croatia, Belgium and England; four European teams.

In the “Qatar 2022” World Cup, the four teams that reached the finals of the competition were: Argentina, France, Croatia and Morocco. Two European teams, one South American and one African; representatives from three different continents.

In the U-20 World Cup in “Argentina 2023”, the four teams that came to define the competition were: Uruguay, Italy, Israel and Korea Republic. Two European teams, one South American and one Asian; representatives from three different continents.

These results confirm what happened in “Qatar 2022”: the potential of the teams from the different continents has been matched.

# Growth of football in South America

For the first time in history, South America had five teams in the round of 16 of a Football World Cup. Historic countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, multiple world champions in different categories, were

joined by national teams from Colombia and Ecuador. In this way, the football growth they have was demonstrated, and today they present themselves to compete at the highest world level.

# The four cups are at home

With this U-20 World Cup won by Uruguay, CONMEBOL is proud to show that the four most important Cups of FIFA tournaments are in South America.



Argentina  
**Champion**  
Qatar 2022



Uruguay  
**Champion**  
U-20 Argentina 2023

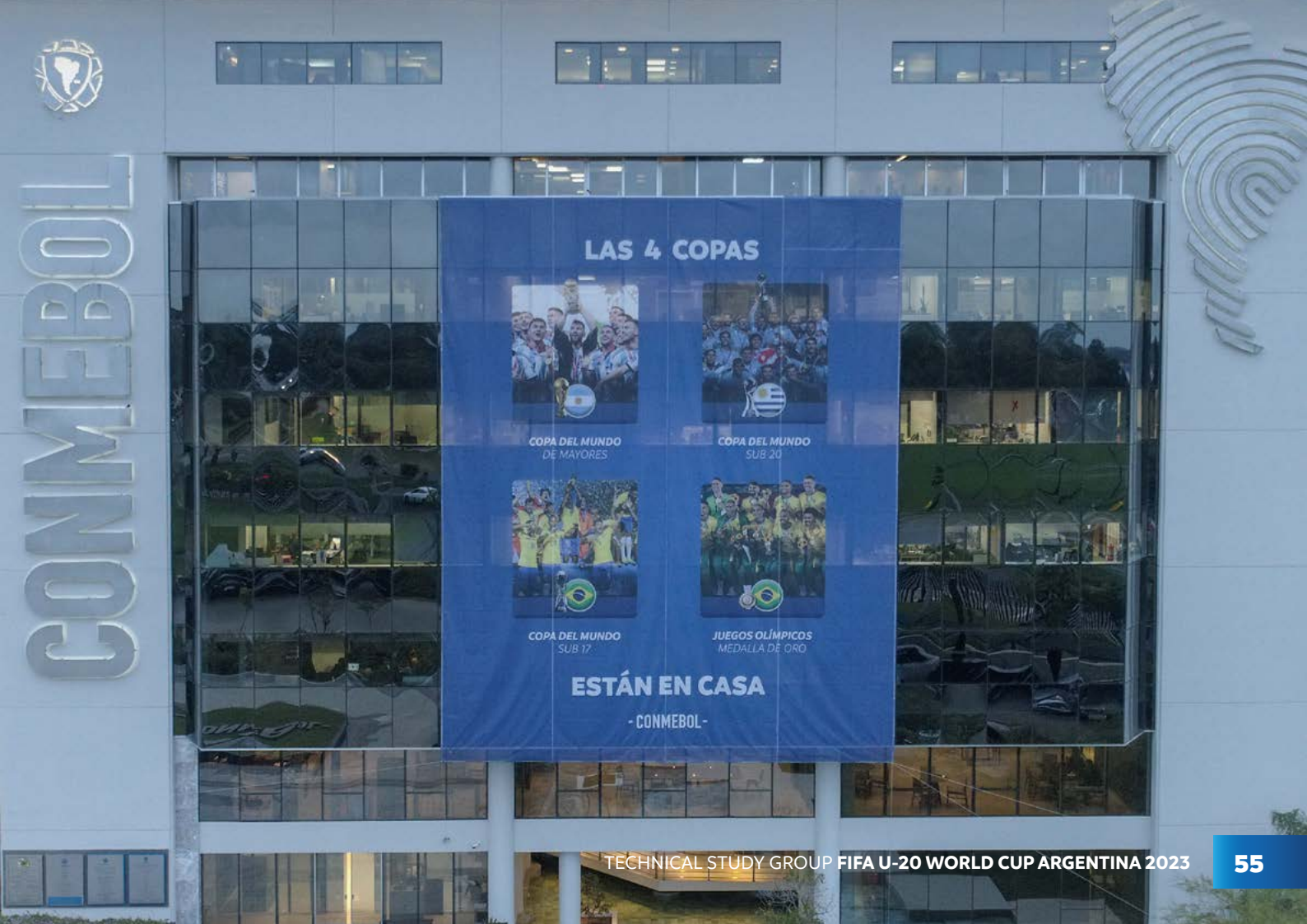


Brazil  
**Champion**  
U-17 Brazil 2019



Brazil  
**Champion**  
Olympics Tokyo 2021

*The talent, creativity and passion  
of South American football is unique.*



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