

TECHNICAL STUDY

CONMEBOL COPA AMERICA 2021



- CONMEBOL -
EVOLUCIÓN



- CONMEBOL -
COPA AMERICA
2021

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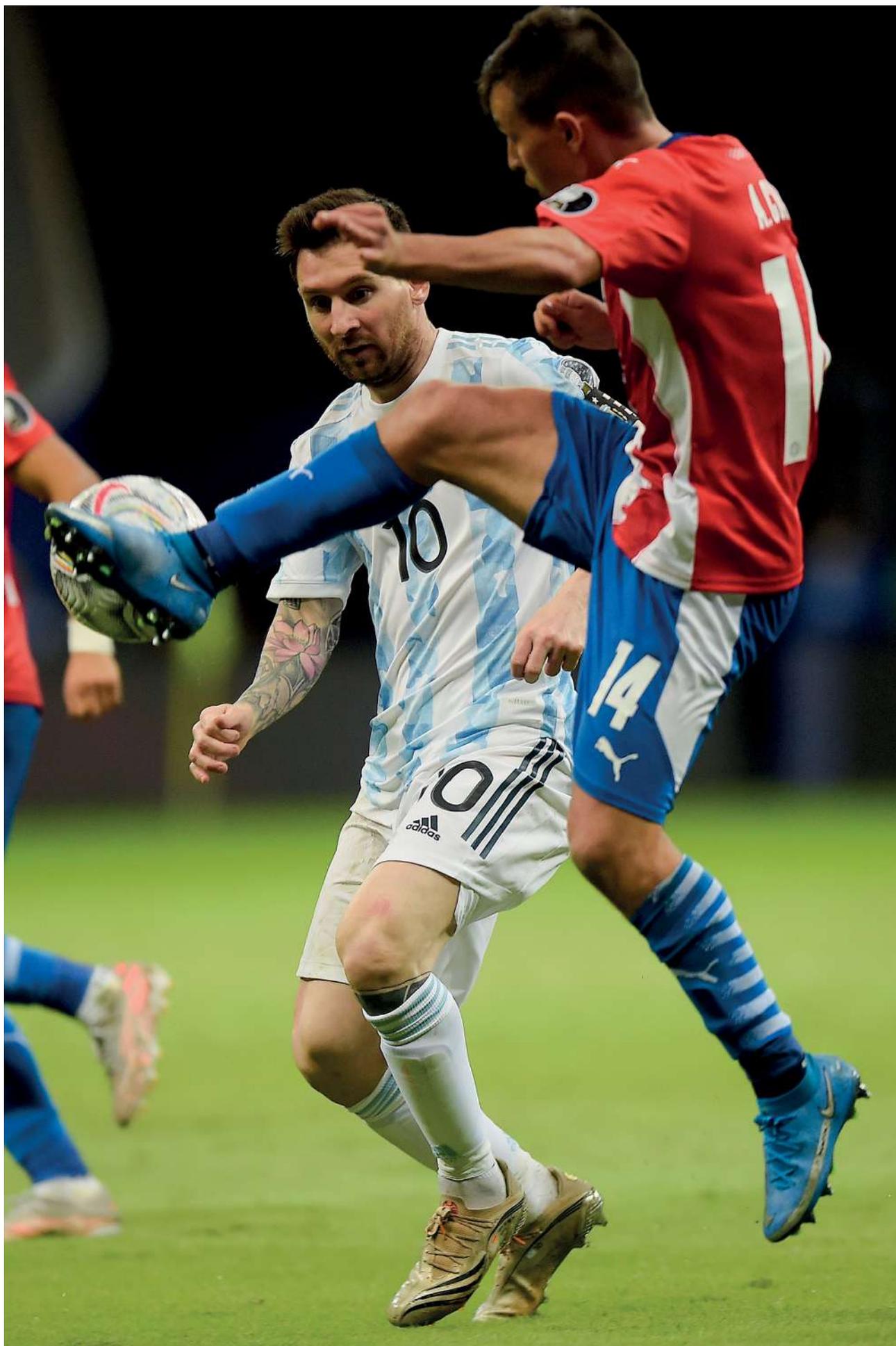
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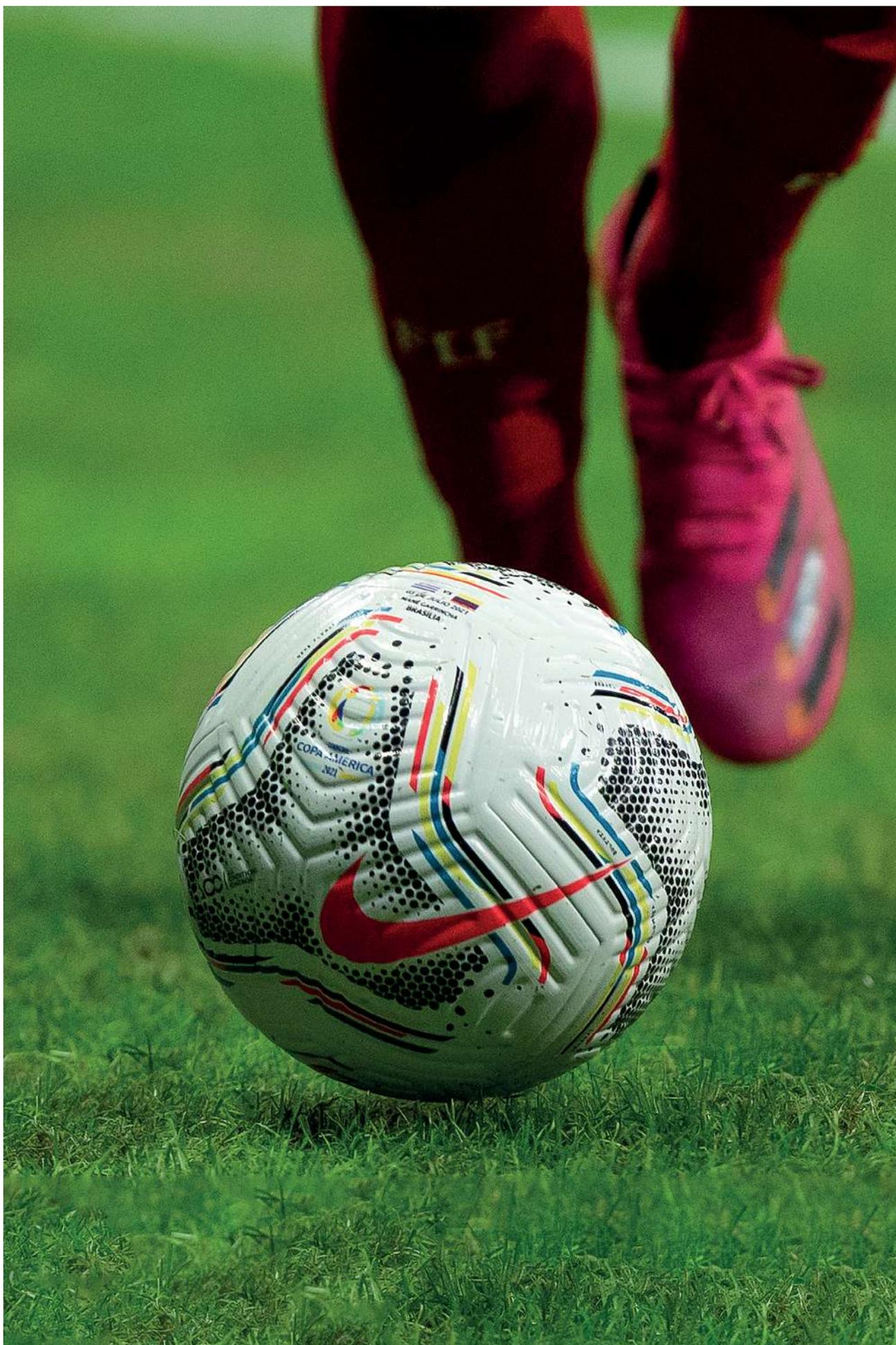


01



INTRODUCTION

CONMEBOL COPA AMERICA 2021



FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT OF CONMEBOL



South American football family:

The Copa America 2021 has been a very special tournament in several ways. Firstly, it was held despite the difficulties and adversities posed by the COVID 19 pandemic, which was a real logistical and organizational challenge for CONMEBOL. We are honored to have offered millions of fans in South America and around the world a competition of extraordinary quality, with exciting matches and a dream matchup final.

Secondly, this edition of the Copa America had an additional sporting purpose. In addition to the continental title race, this time the intention was also to provide a highly demanding tournament for the teams as a fundamental part of their preparation for the Qatar 2022 World Cup. It is no secret that South America has a long-standing drought of world titles. Next year it will be 20 years since the last time a South American national team lifted the prestigious trophy. And at the Russia 2018 World Cup, we South Americans did not even reach the semi-finals. This must change and CONMEBOL is focusing all its efforts on reversing this situation.

With this Copa America, the coaches had the opportunity to live and work with their players for 30 days, valuable time that served to improve the team set-up, fine-tune the collective play, and try out alternatives. It was an extremely difficult competition to carry out, due to the obstacles imposed by the pandemic, which is still ongoing. But we persisted in our

efforts to organize it because we knew it would be extremely useful in preparing the teams for the Qatar 2022 World Cup.

To regain sporting glory for South America, it is essential to get the house in order. You cannot hope to reach the top if you do not first build a solid foundation. With this conviction we have been working for the last five years, reinvesting in football all that football generates. In this way, CONMEBOL distributed around USD 1.35 billion to clubs and federations between 2016 and 2021. In the same period, the amount of prize money from CONMEBOL tournaments increased by more than 300%. These are concrete and verifiable data that distinguish CONMEBOL as the confederation that has grown the most in the world in the last five years.

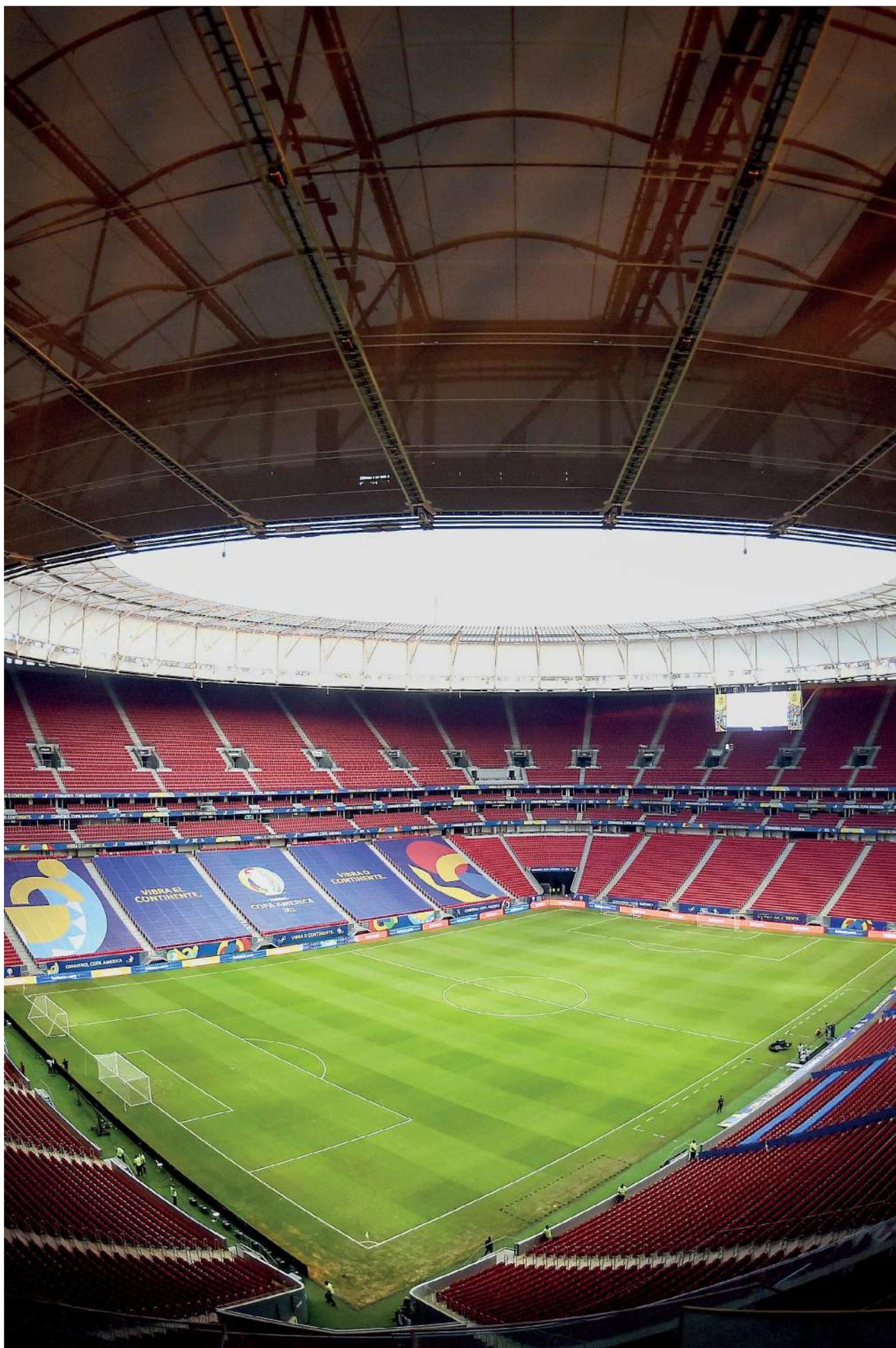
That is why the work of the Technical Study Group (GET by the Spanish acronym) that we present here is so important. It is an exhaustive analysis of each Copa America match, carried out by a panel of representative coaches from South American football, formed by CONMEBOL's Development Department. It is backed up by statistical information and technical data, as well as the most advanced tools that technology offers for studies of this nature.

It is the vision of experts with extensive experience on styles, tactical schemes, strategic conceptions and the performance of players, coaches, and technical bodies. With objective and dispassionate judgements, with the contribution of knowledge and experience, the purpose of this Technical Study is to make a useful contribution to the path that we all want for South American national teams: world sporting glory.

I thank the members of the Technical Study Group for their responsibility and commitment. I am sure that their work will be valued throughout the continent.



Alejandro Domínguez W-S
President of CONMEBOL



02



**TECHNICAL
STUDY GROUP**

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TECHNICAL STUDY GROUP

MEMBERS

Deputy General Secretary - Football and Director of Development:



**GONZALO
BELLOSO**

General Manager
of G.E.T.



**NERY
PUMPIDO**

General Manager
of G.E.T.



**FRANCISCO
MATURANA**

Coach G.E.T.



**NERY
PUMPIDO**

Coach G.E.T.



**GERARDO
PELUSSO**

Coach G.E.T.



**SERGIO
BATISTA**

Coach G.E.T.



**OSWALDO DE
OLIVEIRA FILHO**

Coach G.E.T.



**CARLOS
RESTREPO**

Coach G.E.T.



**DANIEL
BAÑALES**

G.E.T.
General coordinator.



**CLARENCE
ACUÑA**

Coordinator
CONMEBOL for G.E.T.



**RODRIGO
PÉREZ**

Coordinator
CONMEBOL for G.E.T.



**KRIKOR
ATTARIAN**

Technology, videos
and statistics for
G.E.T.

Provided by:

AZSPORTTECH



03



**TOURNAMENT
BACKGROUND**

CONMEBOL COPA AMERICA 2021

PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF COPA AMERICA

| YEAR | VENUE | CHAMPION | RUNNER UP | TOP SCORER |
|---------|-----------|------------------|-----------|--|
| 1916 | Argentina | URUGUAY | Argentina | Isabelino Gradín (Uruguay) |
| 1917 | Uruguay | URUGUAY | Argentina | Ángel Romano (Uruguay) |
| 1919 | Brazil | BRAZIL | Uruguay | Arthur Friedenreich (Brazil) and Neco (Brazil) |
| 1920 | Chile | URUGUAY | Argentina | José Pérez (Uruguay) and Ángel Romano (Uruguay) |
| 1921 | Argentina | ARGENTINA | Brazil | Julio Libonatti (Argentina) |
| 1922 | Brazil | BRAZIL | Paraguay | Juan Francia (Argentina) |
| 1923 | Uruguay | URUGUAY | Argentina | Vicente Aguirre (Argentina) and Pedro Petrone (Uruguay) |
| 1924 | Uruguay | URUGUAY | Argentina | Pedro Petrone (Uruguay) |
| 1925 • | Argentina | ARGENTINA | Brazil | Manuel Seoane (Argentina) |
| 1926 | Chile | URUGUAY | Argentina | David Arellano (Chile) |
| 1927 | Peru | ARGENTINA | Uruguay | Roberto Figueroa (Uruguay) |
| 1929 | Argentina | ARGENTINA | Paraguay | Aurelio González (Paraguay) |
| 1935 | Peru | URUGUAY | Argentina | Herminio Masantonio (Argentina) |
| 1937 | Argentina | ARGENTINA | Brazil | Raúl Toro (Chile) |
| 1939 | Peru | PERU | Uruguay | Teodoro (Lolo) Fernández (Peru) |
| 1941 | Chile | ARGENTINA | Uruguay | Juan Marvezzy (Argentina) |
| 1942 | Uruguay | URUGUAY | Argentina | Herminio Masantonio (Argentina) and José Manuel Moreno (Argentina) |
| 1945 | Chile | ARGENTINA | Brazil | Norberto Méndez (Argentina) and Heleno de Freitas (Brazil) |
| 1946 | Argentina | ARGENTINA | Brazil | José María Medina (Uruguay) |
| 1947 | Ecuador | ARGENTINA | Paraguay | Nicolás Falero (Uruguay) |
| 1949 | Brazil | BRAZIL | Paraguay | Jair Rosa Pinto (Brazil) |
| 1953 | Peru | PARAGUAY | Brazil | Francisco Molina (Chile) |
| 1955 | Chile | ARGENTINA | Chile | Rodolfo Micheli (Argentina) |
| 1956 | Uruguay | URUGUAY | Chile | Enrique Hormazábal (Chile) |
| 1957 | Peru | ARGENTINA | Brazil | Javier Ambrois (Uruguay) and Humberto Maschio (Argentina) |
| 1959 •• | Argentina | ARGENTINA | Brazil | Pelé (Brazil) |
| 1959 •• | Ecuador | URUGUAY | Argentina | José Francisco Sanfilippo (Argentina) |
| 1963 | Bolivia | BOLIVIA | Paraguay | Carlos Raffo (Ecuador) |
| 1967 | Uruguay | URUGUAY | Argentina | Luis Artime (Argentina) |

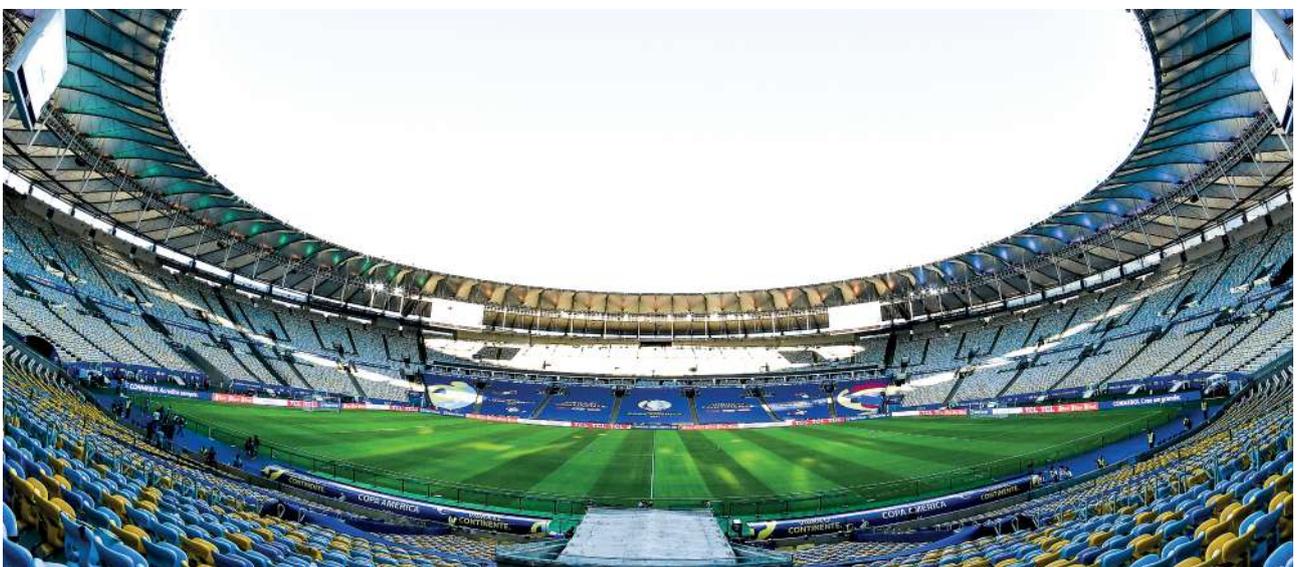
| | | | | |
|----------|----------------|------------------|-----------|---|
| 1975 ●●● | No Fixed Venue | PERU | Colombia | Ernesto Díaz (Colombia) and Leopoldo Luque (Argentina) |
| 1979 ●●● | No Fixed Venue | PARAGUAY | Chile | Eugenio Morel (Paraguay) and Jorge Peredo (Chile) |
| 1983 ●●● | No Fixed Venue | URUGUAY | Brazil | Carlos Aguilera (Uruguay), Jorge Burruchaga (Argentina), Eduardo Malásquez (Peru) and Roberto Dinamita (Brazil) |
| 1987 | Argentina | URUGUAY | Chile | Arnoldo Iguarán (Colombia) |
| 1989 | Brazil | BRAZIL | Uruguay | Bebeto (Brazil) |
| 1991 | Chile | ARGENTINA | Brazil | Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina) |
| 1993 | Ecuador | ARGENTINA | Mexico | José Dolgetta (Venezuela) |
| 1995 | Uruguay | URUGUAY | Brazil | Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina) and Luís García (Mexico) |
| 1997 | Bolivia | BRAZIL | Bolivia | Luís Hernández (Mexico) |
| 1999 | Paraguay | BRAZIL | Uruguay | Rivaldo (Brazil) and Ronaldo (Brazil) |
| 2001 | Colombia | COLOMBIA | Mexico | Víctor Aristizábal (Colombia) |
| 2004 | Peru | BRAZIL | Argentina | Adriano (Brazil) |
| 2007 | Venezuela | BRAZIL | Argentina | Robinho (Brazil) |
| 2011 | Argentina | URUGUAY | Paraguay | Paolo Guerrero (Peru) |
| 2015 | Chile | CHILE | Argentina | Eduardo Vargas (Chile) and Paolo Guerrero (Peru) |
| 2016 | United States | CHILE | Argentina | Eduardo Vargas (Chile) |
| 2019 | Brazil | BRAZIL | Peru | Everton (Brazil) and Paolo Guerrero (Peru) |

REFERENCES

● 3 Participating National Teams

●● Held 2 times in the same year

●●● No Fixed Venue





04



**MATCH
ANALYSIS**

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Match 1 - BRAZIL VS VENEZUELA

Brazil started with a 1-4-3-3 formation, which became a 1-4-4-2 when defending in front of their goal.

Starting from a very solid and secure defensive system, which allowed them to keep a clean sheet once again, they began to build up their attacking play until they demolished their opponents.

Meanwhile, Venezuela used a 1-5-4-1 where all their players, from the beginning, contributed to take care of their goal as a compact team in defense, but not in attack. They tried to take the match from that defensive block, allowing the Brazilian team to keep possession of the ball.



From the beginning, it was evident that the game plan of the northern team was to go out and attack,

and if they lost the ball, they tried to get it back immediately to attack again. When they didn't manage to recover the ball at the moment of the loss itself, they dropped immediately in very fast and effective transitions.

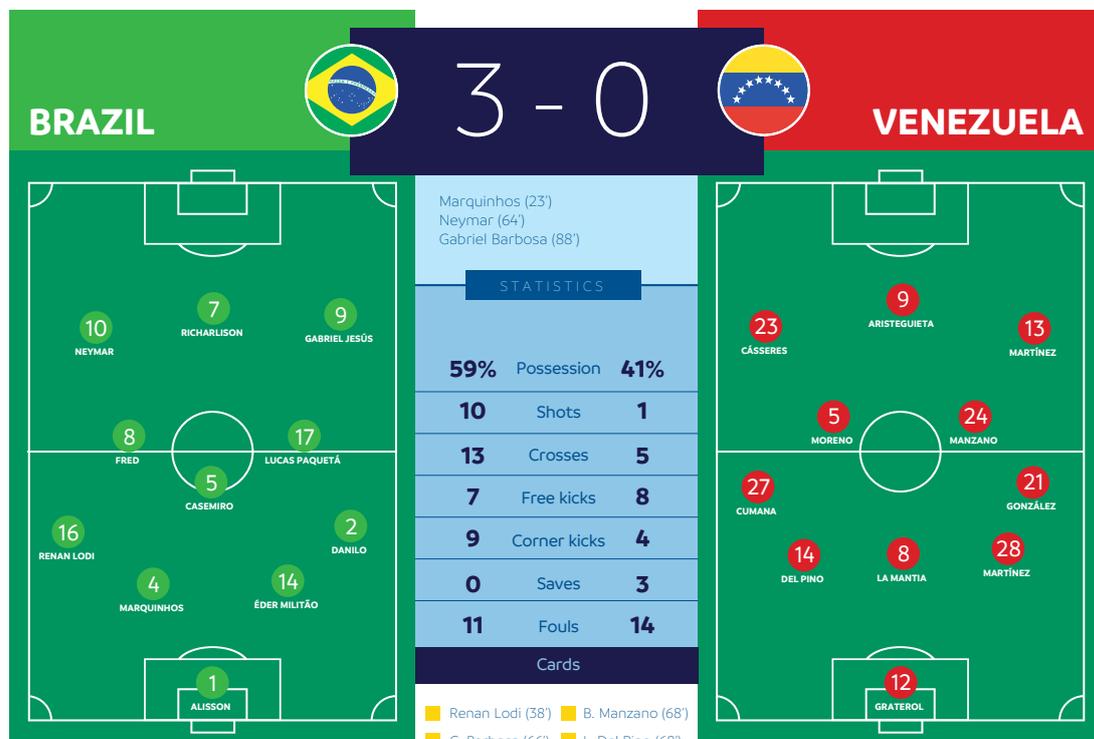
With the territorial dominance of the Brazilian national team, this time it was essential that the team led by Tite take advantage of the set piece in attack. The first goal came in the middle of the first half through a corner kick taken from the left by Neymar. Richarlison (7) flicked on at the near post, and Marquinhos (4) arrived further back to score the goal. Until the end of the first half and from the beginning of the second half the game remained unchanged, with Brazil possessing the

ball and Venezuela waiting for the counter. Halfway through the second half, the second goal was born from a throw-in by Danilo (2). An elaborate play led to a penalty to Danilo and the goal was scored by Neymar.

After the second goal, Venezuela advanced their lines a little bit and that gave Brazil the chance to find spaces in attack. In the last 20 minutes of the match, the Venezuelan team changed its system cautiously. They introduced a striker in place of a midfielder. They changed formation from a 5-4-1 to a 5-3-2, but even though they produced something more in attack, it was not enough to change the course of the match. In this situation, with very good collective play, opportunities appeared where the Brazilian forwards generated danger and that's how the third goal arrived. A great through ball by A. Sandro (6) for a run by Neymar to the end line ended in a goal by G. Barbosa (21) through the middle.

Brazil is still very strong in aerial defence. A zone marking system was used and 11 players were inside their penalty area when defending against corner kicks. Venezuela did the same with a mixed marking system, with one man on the rebound and one more to mark the short play when Brazil tried it. The set pieces were always taken by Neymar for Brazil and by Cásseres (23) for the Venezuelan side, generally looking for the far post where the strongest players were positioned.

The final result was a fair one, where the work of several years paid off for Brazil.



Coach Tite

(45') ↑ 11 - Éverton Ribeiro ↓ 17 - Lucas Paquetá
 (45') ↑ 6 - Alex Sandro ↓ 16 - Renan Lodi
 (65') ↑ 21 - Gabriel Barbosa ↓ 7 - Richarlison
 (85') ↑ 15 - Fabinho ↓ 9 - Gabriel Jesús
 (85') ↑ 18 - Vinícius Júnior ↓ 8 - Fred

Coach José Peseiro

(76') ↑ 11 - S. Córdova ↓ 9 - F. Aristeguieta
 (76') ↑ 25 - R. Celis ↓ 24 - B. Manzano
 (84') ↑ 26 - E. Castillo ↓ 23 - C. Cásseres
 (91') ↑ 20 - R. Hernández ↓ 21 - A. González

Match 2 - COLOMBIA VS ECUADOR

With an initial system of 4-4-2 for this match, Colombia initially tried to play from the back through their central defenders, but due to Ecuador's high press, ended up sending long balls to their forwards. In the beginning, Ecuador took the ball away in midfield and Colombia had to defend with two lines of 4 players deep in their own half.

For their part, the Ecuadorian national team used a 4-4-2 system, something characteristic of their coach, as it is generally the starting system he uses. At the back were the two tall and sturdy centre-backs, along with the two wing-backs who are so often deployed and do very well, especially Estupiñán (7). In midfield, the two central midfielders, who complemented well with the two outside midfielders, had to work hard to contain their Colombian counterparts, especially Cuadrado (11).

The Colombian national team, for their part, did a good job in midfield, where Barrios (5) and Uribe (15) in particular were closing the

spaces down for Ecuador. There was a lot of sacrifice from Cardona (10) and especially Cuadrado, both looking to recover the ball defensively in order to transition to the attack. Offensively, there was good collaboration between Uribe in midfield with Cardona and Cuadrado, who together with Borré formed a rhombus in the central area, while allowing the fullbacks to join the attack a lot. In the last minutes of the first half, in an elaborate set piece action, Cardona, Cuadrado and Borja (19) linked up spectacularly for Cardona himself to finish the play with a short shot from inside the box and go to the break with the score line 1-0 in favor of Colombia.

In the second half, Colombia added players in attack but at times was a static team in terms of positioning. This allowed Ecuador to be more ambitious and much more determined to find the equalizer, with more men on offense and having more movement. They had two chances to equalize from set pieces, including a shot in the 52nd minute that was brilliantly saved from a tight angle by goalkeeper Ospina (1).

Ecuador could have equalized with the good work done in the second half, but their rival did enough to control the game until the end. The changes in both teams did not change much the course of the match, although the entry of Plata (19) for Ecuador generated some more work for the Colombian defense.

 In short, with an excellent performance by Ospina, the Colombian national team took a valuable and justified victory.



Match 3 - ARGENTINA VS CHILE

Argentina started with a 1-4-3-3 system, with variations to 1-4-4-2 when defending and occasionally to 1-3-4-3 in attack, where they showed some slowness in the construction of offensive play in the first and second third of the field. As expected, as soon as the ball was lost, the pressure was immediate and efficient, as some balls were recovered in the attacking zone. When they failed to achieve their goal, they dropped back to form a medium/low defensive block with the two lines of four most of the time. When they regained possession, the defense-attack transition became somewhat slow and structured allowing the Chilean defense a chance to reorganize.

Chile had a good start to the match, with a 1-4-3-3 system, including the midfield trio of Pulgar (13) Aranguiz (20), and Vidal (8), who had a good game. Palacios (21), Vargas (11), and Meneses (9) were in charge of starting with the high press, forcing Argentina to play long passes. They had the control of the ball for the first 15 minutes with good possession from the 3 midfielders and good mobility of the forwards with Vargas dropping down to

the midfield to generate spaces for Meneses and Palacios, who sometimes closed to allow attacking with the wingers.

Argentina grew into the match and forced the Chilean team to drop further and further back. By setting up a line of 4 defenders with 5 midfielders, Chile closed well in defense. At the same time, they had some difficulties because of the spaces left by their fullbacks, which were well exploited by Argentina until they scored the goal with an exceptional free kick by Messi (10).

For the second half, Chile moved forward a few meters more in the field and the change of position of Vidal closer to Vargas (11) was important for Chile's attack, which was superior to Argentina's in the first minutes of this stage.

In an attack from the back of the Chilean team, Pulgar sent a deep pass to Vargas, who after a rebound from the goalkeeper, gave Vidal a penalty, making the score line 1-1. The rest of the match was a bit more in favor of Argentina, who, when they regained possession of the ball, controlled the match better. Chile was motivated with the equalizer, but Argentina were firm in defense. This firmness allowed them to regain the ball in their own half, but they were unable to implement defense-attack transitions that could hurt the Chilean defense, because they depended on a structured transition with possession of the ball. Scaloni managed to change the dynamic of the team with the introduction of Di Maria (11) and Palacios (14), but it was not enough to improve the overall performance of the team to take the victory.

In the last fifteen minutes, both teams alternated possession of the ball and in the end, they seemed to settle for the result that was fair. Messi for Argentina and Bravo (1) for Chile were the best performers of the match.



Match 4 - PARAGUAY VS BOLIVIA

Paraguay started the match with a 1-4-3-3 formation, with a lot of movement from the very beginning of the match. In the first minute, they had their first chance with a shot from half distance that the goalkeeper deflected to the corner, and at the resulting corner kick, Angel Romero (11) sent a shot over the crossbar. They had a solid defence led by their captain G. Gomez (15), who did an outstanding job. The Paraguayan midfield played with a lot of movement, with their best player, Romero (17), accompanied by Almirón (10), trying to connect with Avalos (9) who was their main attacker in the rival area.

Even so, Bolivia, who started the match with a 1-4-4-2 formation, tried to come out and play their game and took an early lead with a penalty goal in the ninth minute.

From that point on, Paraguay began to impose themselves on the game and forced Bolivia to play very close to their own goal.

When the Bolivians defended in front of their goal, they switched to a 1-5-3-2 formation and they did very little offensively in the first half. Only sporadically, Alvarez (18) and Cuellar (24) joined with the most offensive midfielders Bejarano (8) on the right and Flores (19) on the left, and generated some attacking situations, which ultimately did not seriously test the Guarani defense.

The Bolivian team took a 1-0 lead at the end of the first half based on great defensive tactical work that allowed them to keep a clean sheet, but they did very little offensively.

In the last play of the first half, there was an event that marked the final course of the match. The Bolivian player Cuellar was sent off, and for the second half, everything changed.

Bolivia, with one player less, withdrew a lot for the beginning of the second half. They switched to a 1-5-3-1 and the second half of the match was a permanent attack by Paraguay. While Bolivia defended with defensive tactics and great courage, Paraguay, through a good collective game, had several scoring opportunities, and with a shot from outside the area, managed to tie the game at 61 minutes. They continued to dominate the game, and a few minutes later they took a deserved lead on the scoreboard. Far from being satisfied, the Guarani team, 10 minutes before the end of the match, pressed once again in the middle of the field, recovering the ball, and with a quick transition, settled the score line at its final 3-1.

Although coach César Farías planned the game intelligently, the sending off of Cuéllar in the last minute of the first half ruined his team's chances of success. Meanwhile, Eduardo Berizzo knew how to read the game well, making offensive changes that gave the expected result. It ended up being a well-deserved victory for Paraguay, who passed the test of their debut in the cup in excellent form.



Match 5 - COLOMBIA VS VENEZUELA

Colombia started with a 1-4-4-2 system, taking the lead from the start of the match, pressing high and possessing the ball well in the middle of the field. They tried to generate play through Uribe (15) in the central area, with Cardona (10) and Cuadrado (11) on the outside closing down to create space for the fullbacks. Venezuela defended by placing 9 players in front of their goal..

Colombia began to arrive through crosses for Zapata (7), Muriel (9) and the constant arrival of Uribe in the central area. Cardona played well and put 3 or 4 balls behind the defenders' backs, which were not taken advantage of.

Venezuela started with a 1-5-4-1 system, which allowed a good defensive organization, and implemented it for most of the match. The defensive strength was supported by an attentive goalkeeper of great ability who made saves throughout the match, and by the team in general, which showed a collective consciousness of defensive solidarity. Venezuela's weakness was shown once the ball was recovered, however, as the technical quality of the team did not allow them to move the ball upfield. The team's physical condition also did not allow them to succeed on the counterattack as they were slower than their rivals. Changes were not guided to modify the game system; it was evident that the entrance of Manzano (24) at 60' allowed a better administration and elaboration of the game. In the second half, the game did not change much, as the

tactical schemes of the teams were not substantially modified and the pace of the game remained the same. Colombia looked to get to the goal mainly with crossed balls to the side, using overlapping runs on more than one occasion, but never hit the right pass to leave their strikers facing the goal. When they did manage to finish, they found an unbeatable Farinez (1), who was the star of the match. Venezuela made changes but nothing changed in the team, while Colombia seemed to lower its dynamic game, and already at the end, gave the impression of settling for a draw.

In attack, Venezuela showed very little other than the delivery and constancy of Aristeguieta (9), who although in the position of attacker, was more recognized for his defensive work. When he did try to finish some counterattacks, his speed was lacking. In another sense, any intention of elaborate attack on the part of the Venezuelan team ended up failing due to numerical inferiority.

 In set pieces, Venezuela defended with the whole team, except for the man-marking by J. Moreno (5) on Colombia's Mina (13).

Colombia did not take advantage of the fouls in their favor as they had done in their first match against Ecuador, and despite the effort and better play, they had to settle for a draw.



Match 6 - BRAZIL VS PERU

Brazil started this match with some changes in their starting line-up and a different system of play. The initial distribution of the players on the field was 1-4-4-2. The variation was to play with 4 men in midfield, where they had been playing with 3 for many matches.

This time Fabinho (15) and Fred (8) played in holding roles. G. Jesus (9) and Éverton (11) occupied the wings, leaving G. Barbosa (21) and Neymar (10) as strikers. Peru, on the other hand, presented a 4-1-4-1 system predominant throughout the game, regardless of the changes made. When they were attacked, they retreated to the last defensive third, making the system more flexible and adding a man to the last line, which was Tapia (13), leaving 1-5-4-1.

The defensive behavior was zonal, with a short block, each one marking in their own zone, at times making man to man references. In their attacking play, their striker Lapadula (9) was a focal point up front but was mainly isolated. Yotún (19) attempted to direct play from the middle of the field, connecting with his offensive teammates. In the end, Peru did too little attacking to balance the match.



Despite the changes in players and system, the Brazilian team's model was maintained in its entirety.

Solid and secure in defense, everyone worked for the team. From there, they played persistently in attack, with many resources at their disposal. They used the offensive variant of launching their fullbacks, Danilo (2) on the right and A. Sandro (6) on the left, entering through the inside lanes, as A. Sandro did for Brazil's first goal. From then on, it was absolute domination by Brazil in all aspects of the game.

Peru tried to keep a lot of defensive order and generally tried to possess the ball well as the team moved forward, but at times, that caused them to lose the ball in the face of the high press of their rival. The attack-defense transition was fast and orderly, but when they didn't have the ball and recovered it, their defense-attack transition almost always ended in a bad pass and they didn't achieve the final goal, which is to reach the opponent's goal with a chance to score.

Halfway through the second half, when Peru made two changes in an attempt to recompose their game plan, Brazil immediately converted their second goal in a quick transition from defense-attack. The Brazilian team gave a football clinic on defensive security, control of the game, tactical variants and individuals capable of opening defenses in one on one situations. In the end, Peru could not withstand the siege of their rival, who in an excellent attacking play, got a third goal, and after a possession with 29 passes, a fourth.

Neymar (10) was outstanding, and both A. Sandro and Fred played at a very high level. Based on the overall performance, Brazil's victory was well deserved.



Match 7 - ARGENTINA VS URUGUAY

For most of the first half, Argentina played with a 4-3-3. Defensively, they changed to 4-4-2 with a middle block and zone marking, with a good performance from the four at the back. This was complemented by midfielders G. Rodríguez (18) and Lo Celso (20), along with De Paul (7) defending on the right side, trying to prevent Messi from having too much defensive work. González (15), responsible for the left sector, collaborated with Acuña (8) and Martínez (22).

Uruguay used their trademark 1-4-4-2, but without the defensive solidity that characterises them, as they lacked the natural contribution they normally have in their final zone. There was some confusion and an apparent lack of form. The goalkeeper Muslera (1), however, showed his characteristic level and his conditioning with good saves. The last defensive line was accompanied by Torreira (14) and Bentancur (6) as central axes and Valverde (15) and De La Cruz (7) rotating positions to accompany Suarez (9) and Cavani (21). Valverde put in a good shift and was one of the most successful in moving the ball, as he did it safely and stood out in the first half.

In the offensive lineup of the Argentine national team, Messi was added to the line of midfielders, playing more inside and very close

to Lautaro Martínez (22). The offensive triangle formed by Acuña (8), Lo Celso (20) and González (15), generated important situations in the left sector, which brought danger to the Uruguayan goal.

Despite a slight Argentinian dominance in the game, the only goal of the match came after a short play from a corner kick in the 9th minute,

Messi sending a cross to the far post for G. Rodríguez's well-directed header (18) to score.

In the second half, Uruguay attempted to capitalize on the offensive prowess of Suarez, Cavani, and Nandez (8), but lacked clarity when it came to generating goal situations. De La Cruz, always close to the strikers and Cavani, going back a few meters, tried to build the game. The inclusion of Ocampo (26) and Torres (25) seemed to give another dynamic to the game of the Uruguayans as they showed interesting movements, but they were not consistent in their game.

The changes in defense with the entry of Romero (13) for Argentina, brought more defensive balance and security to the team. Towards the end, their defensive block was positioned further back, putting pressure on their own half to come out at speed after regaining possession.

Closer to the end of the game, Correa (21), who had replaced Martínez, moved to the left, forming a line of 5 in midfield. Overall, this was a match that encouraged the Uruguayans to be cautious, because it was their first one and also because it was against an opponent that was a candidate to win the group.

The Argentines, meanwhile, claimed a win in a demanding match that started them on their way to the top of Group A of the cup.



Match 8 - CHILE VS BOLIVIA

Chile started the match with a 1-4-3-3 formation, pressing high, recovering the ball very quickly to play immediately in Bolivia's half, who never had full possession of the ball. From the very good work of the three midfielders, Vidal (8), Pulgar (13), and Aranguiz (20), Chile's attack started with a lot of movement of the three attackers.

Vargas (11) dropped back many times joining with the midfielders, and both Meneses (9) and Brereton (22), closed down to create space for the arrival of the fullbacks, Mena (2) and Isla (4), on the outside.

Bolivia presented an initial 1-4-4-2 formation, which they maintained both in attack and defence. During the first half they played very defensively, coming out very little in attack. The mobility of Vargas, behind the back of Bolivia's front marker on long balls, complicated the defense. After 9 minutes in a quick transition of defense-attack, Vargas received a long pass and, with a short and precise pass, left Brereton alone to beat Lampe (1).

The result of the first half, 1-0 in favor of Chile, was sustained only by the great performance of the goalkeeper of Bolivia, Lampe, who was undoubtedly the best player on the field with 3 or 4 extraordinary saves.

The second half was different, as Bolivia adjusted up the field and managed to make the match more even. They began to move the ball better, trying to have more possession of the

ball first and then looking for attacking plays that would allow them to get the equalizer. They took advantage of the tactical discipline that this team displays and positioned the defensive block further forward, trying a high press at times, several times approaching the goal defended by Bravo (1).

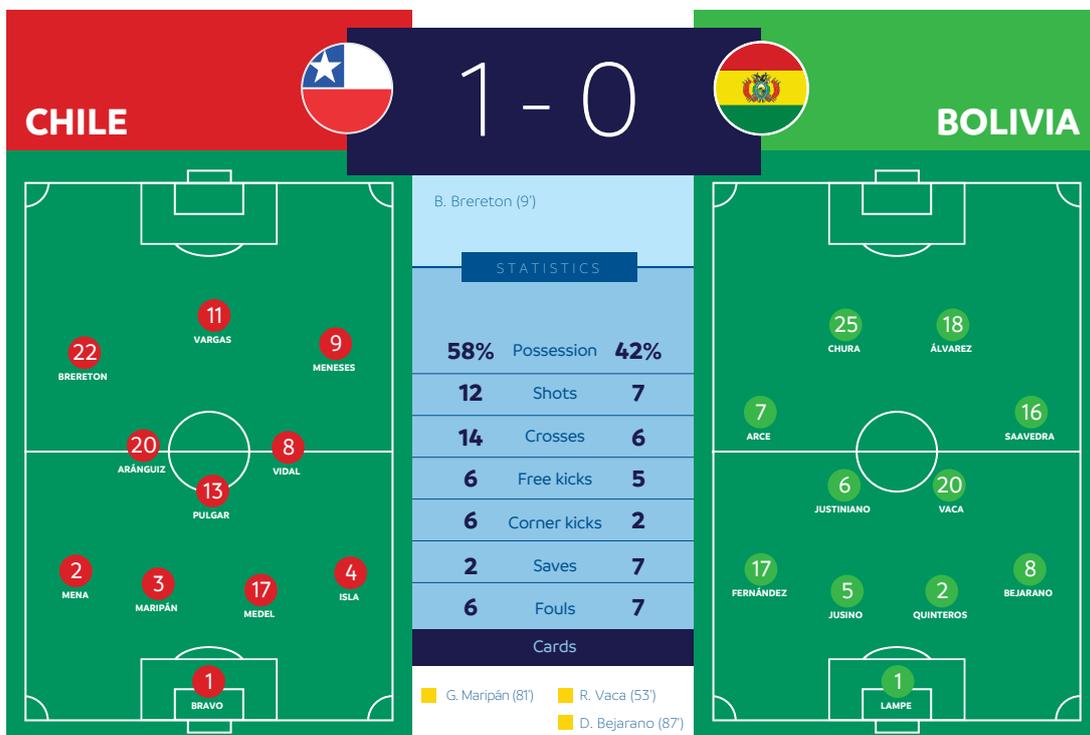
In spite of everything, the Chilean team was superior and could have decided the match before the end of time. Bolivia, despite improving their game in the second half, could not reach the goal beyond the tactical order they had. They did well to demonstrate an identity in their always disciplined game, which they have shown in the two matches they have played so far.



Chile's set-pieces have been outstanding so far in this tournament.

After only 3 minutes of play, an elaborate play from a corner kick culminated in a shot from outside the box by Meneses and a great save by Lampe. Both Chile and Bolivia showed mixed marking on set pieces.

On an individual level, the great performance of the goalkeeper Lampe stands out, as well as those of Erwin Saavedra (16) and Arce (7) for Bolivia. For Chile, the goalkeeper Bravo (1), was always solid and contributed to the team with his ball handling, and Vargas was remarkable for his contribution and assistance to Brereton for the goal.



Coach Martín Lasarte

(64) ↑ 7 - C. Pinares ↓ 9 - J. Meneses
 (68) ↑ 19 - T. Alarcón ↓ 8 - A. Vidal
 (83) ↑ 27 - P. Aránguiz ↓ 22 - B. Brereton

Coach César Alejandro Farías

(64) ↑ 11 - R. Ramallo ↓ 25 - J. Chura
 (78) ↑ 19 - J. Flores ↓ 16 - Saavedra
 (89) ↑ 22 - D. Bejarano ↓ 6 - L. Justiniano
 (89) ↑ 14 - M. Villarreal ↓ 20 - R. Vaca

Match 9 - VENEZUELA VS ECUADOR

Venezuela started the match with a 1-5-4-1 and did not move from that formation for most of the match. Betting on defensive security, the back line had three central defenders, adding Gonzalez (21) and Cumana (27) on the sides who collaborated in defense when attacked and came in from behind in offense when they were in possession of the ball. Aristeguieta (9) was the only striker and was tasked with holding the ball forward awaiting the arrival of his teammates.

Ecuador started the game with the same 1-4-4-2 formation that they have been developing in this Copa, with a central defender, two holding midfielders tasked with ball recovery and distribution, two outside midfielders with vertical movement, and two strikers with a lot of forward movement. Based on the good performances of Mena (15) and Valencia (13), and with a great deployment of their left back, Estupiñán (7), who overlapped outside on several occasions, Ecuador started this match being dominant in the game, reaching the opponent's goal from both sides. They scored the first goal of the match in the 39th minute on a free kick, which fell to Preciado (18) inside the penalty area to score.

A few minutes into the second half, in well worked play from their midfielders, Martinez (13) received and executed a perfect cross from the right for Castillo (26) to give Venezuela the equalizer with a great header. They came out to press higher up the pitch, but the team stretched a little, allowing their opponents to come out cleanly. From a corner in their favour, Venezuela lost the rebound, failed to mark the recently-entered Plata (19), who took the ball and in a masterful run from his own area, made it 2-1.

At the end of the match, Castillo, one of Venezuela's best players, threw a ball in behind the central defenders and another of the new players, Hernandez (20) scored the equalizing 2-2. Ecuador came out desperate looking for the third goal, but with a great save, the best player of the match, Fariñez (1), prevented the goal and Venezuela got its second point in three matches.

Except for corner kicks, where the marking was mixed, both teams scored off of set pieces where marking was in zones. Both teams had defensive errors that were lethal. Beyond the abilities of those who scored the goals, the four goals scored in this match had to do to a greater or lesser degree with defensive failures. Although Ecuador did a little more to deserve the victory, the result ended up being fair, compensated by the solidarity of the players that Venezuela showed in this match.



The Venezuelan team tried to bounce back by pressing their opponents, and began to balance the course of the match, ending the first half near the Ecuadorian goal.



Coach José Peseiro

- (56) ↑ 11 - S. Córdoba ↓ 9 - F. Aristeguieta
- (77) ↑ 15 - J. Hurtado ↓ 27 - Y. Cumana
- (77) ↑ 20 - R. Hernández ↓ 13 - J. Martínez
- (82) ↑ 24 - B. Manzano ↓ 5 - J. Moreno
- (82) ↑ 25 - R. Celis ↓ 23 - C. Cásseres

Coach Gustavo Julio Alfaro

- (67) ↑ 6 - C. Noboa ↓ 15 - Á. Mena
- (67) ↑ 19 - G. Plata ↓ 20 - J. Méndez
- (83) ↑ 21 - A. Franco ↓ 13 - E. Valencia
- (87) ↑ 8 - F. Martínez ↓ 18 - E. Preciado

Match 10 - COLOMBIA VS PERU

Colombia's initial formation on the pitch was a 4-2-3-1. Three substitutions from their last match, one change per line, but a small variation in their performance.

In this match, although he never gave up the attack, Zapata (7) was more involved in defense on the left side, leaving Borja (19) only as a point of attack and Cardona (10) playing a little more in the central area.

Peru began with a 4-4-2 formation that lent itself to a middle block. From that zone, they made tactical decisions in attack and defence. When the team was back in its own area, there was a characteristic movement of Tapia (13), who was inserted in the line of 5 defenders and of Peña (8) to the line of midfielders, forming a 5-4-1. In attack, and when Tapia resumed his place in the middle, Peña moved through the central sector behind Lapadula (9), attacking with a 4-4-1-1 formation, but arriving with several players in Colombia's area. That tactical flexibility and the movement of their attacking players

allowed Peru to take the lead after 16 minutes, when Peña, after a shot from Yotún (19) hit the post, collected the rebound for the 1-0.



Peru outplayed Colombia in the first half with the Tapia-Yotún duo dominating the midfield.

Colombia could not find the rhythm that Cardona usually brings by playing in front of Barrios (5) and Perez (21), with Zapata playing in a somewhat awkward position on the left. Except for some interventions of Cuadrado (11) and Borja, who along with Cardona tried to test the Peruvian defense, the first half ended with a fair result.

From the start of the second half, the game changed. Zapata moved to play more as a striker together with Borja, and the marking became looser. The central midfielders, Barrios and Perez, pressed more in their area, while Cardona, playing from the center to the left, improved his game. Colombia was able to get the equalizer with a good pass from Cardona to Borja. The Peruvian goalkeeper ended up committing a penalty, which Borja himself converted to make it 1-1. After the Colombian equalizer, Peru regained control of the game and reached the victory through an own goal against Mina (13). The Colombian coach sent on two strikers in order to strengthen the attack and the Colombians began to reach the Peruvian area with many men, but the changes were not enough. In a very even match in all aspects of the game, Peru defended very well during the last minutes of the match, and was able to control the attempts of R. Rueda's team, taking key points for their aspirations to qualify to the quarterfinals.



Coach Reinaldo Rueda

(60') ↑ 8 - G. Cuéllar ↓ 21 - S. Pérez
(60') ↑ 9 - L. Muriel ↓ 7 - D. Zapata
(70') ↑ 28 - Y. Chará ↓ 10 - E. Cardona
(80') ↑ 20 - A. Morelos ↓ 2 - S. Medina

Coach Ricardo Alberto Gareca

(82') ↑ 14 - W. Cartagena ↓ 8 - S. Peña
(82') ↑ 20 - S. Ormeño ↓ 9 - G. Lapadula
(92') ↑ 24 - R. García ↓ 10 - C. Cueva

Match 11 - URUGUAY VS CHILE

For the start of the match, Uruguay adopted an initial formation of 4-3-1-2. When defending, they had a 1-5-3-2, with De la Cruz (7) playing on the left flank, collaborating in containment to control the Chilean game in that sector. He, however, did not have the proper interplay with the natural defenders and at times man marked directly, coming out of his zone and producing spaces for the Chilean attack. In attack was De Arrascaeta (10), providing balls for the strikers Suarez (9) and Cavani (21), with the latter supportive for the defensive recovery of the ball. Valverde (15) was always there to receive and accompany the attack, but contributions from Viña (17) and González (13) on the wings were scarce.

Chile initially set up with a 5-2-1-2 system and with a good start to the match and controlling the ball, they overcame their opponents, taking control of the game for most of the first half. They pressed in the middle of the field and reached Uruguay's area with several men, with Aránguiz (20) controlling the tempo of his team, helped by Pulgar (13). Vidal (8) was loose in front of them playing free with a lot of movement, while Vargas (11), and Brereton (22) were in

the center of attack, taking advantage of Isla (4) and Mena (2) on the sides, which at times were very dangerous for Uruguay's goal.

The turning point in the first half came in the 26th minute. After good pressure and recovery of the ball by Uruguay on the right side of their defense, Valverde started a quick transition from defense to attack, generating a favorable situation that was close to ending in a goal. Chile responded quickly and took advantage of the fact that the Uruguayan defense was not compact, and with a well structured transition from defense to attack, an excellent movement through the right sector left Vargas in front of Muslera (1) to give Chile the lead.

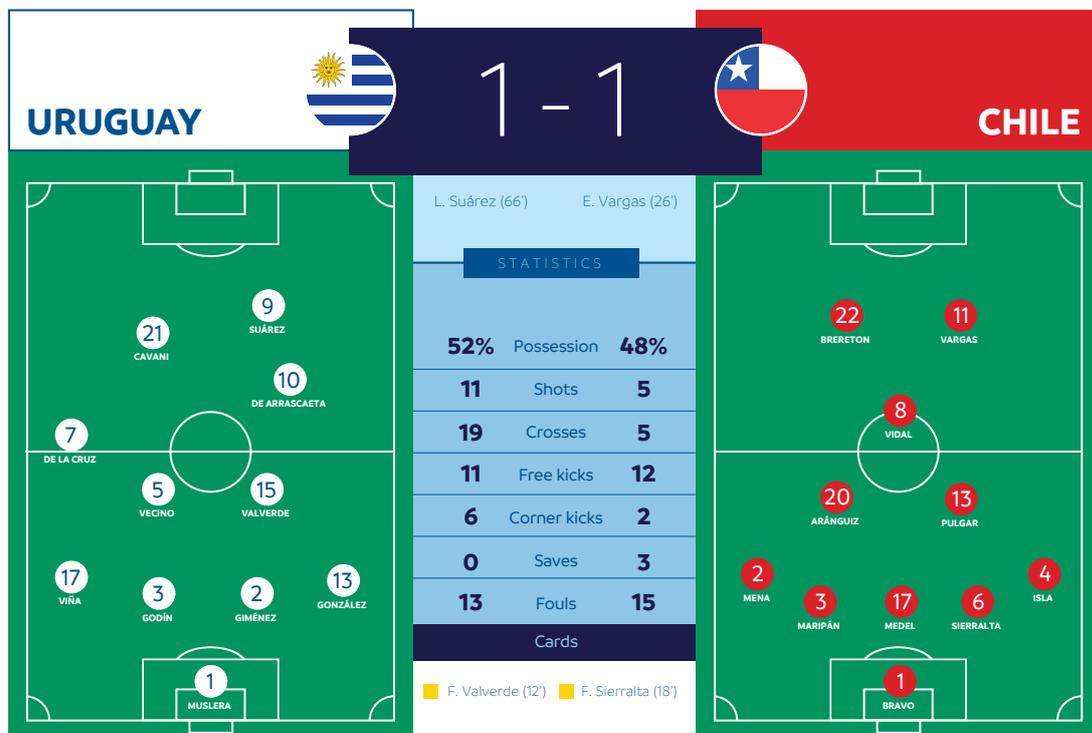


With substitutions for the second period, Uruguay changed their system and dominated the half from start to finish.

The entry of Cáceres (22) and Nández (8), made the formation of their players into a 3-4-1-2. They started to generate good play down the flanks with Viña, but mainly with Nández on the right. Then came Torres (25) in the 59th minute, who with his movement and ball handling, was a complication for the Chilean defense.

The departure of Vargas made the Chilean attacking potential diminish and a deterioration in the physical shape of their players was noticeable.

After a shot by Torres that Bravo (1) sent to the corner at 66 minutes, a corner kick was taken, Vecino flicked on the ball at the near post and Suarez with a short touch, tied the match. Shortly before the end, Chile was left with 10 players due to Pulgar's injury, which generated a couple of dangerous situations, ending with a total control of the match.



Coach Óscar Washington Tabárez

(45) ↑ 22 - M. Cáceres ↓ 13 - G. González
 (45) ↑ 8 - N. Nández ↓ 7 - N. De La Cruz
 (59) ↑ 25 - F. Torres ↓ 10 - G. De Arrascaeta
 (81) ↑ 14 - L. Torreira ↓ 5 - M. Vecino
 (85) ↑ 20 - J. Rodríguez ↓ 17 - M. Viña

Coach Martín Lasarte

(38') ↑ 5 - E. Roco ↓ 3 - G. Maripán
 (56') ↑ 9 - J. Meneses ↓ 11 - E. Vargas
 (68') ↑ 19 - T. Alarcón ↓ 8 - A. Vidal
 (68') ↑ 24 - L. Arriagada ↓ 22 - B. Brereton

Match 12 - ARGENTINA VS PARAGUAY

From the start and for most of the game, Argentina defended with a 4-4-2, with a medium/high block, pressuring the Paraguayan team. The solidity of the final triangle and their central midfielders meant that their opponents did not reach their goal with much danger. Molina (26) and Tagliafico (3), from the flanks, gave a great defensive effort and even generated promising attacks from the outside. In situations where they lost possession, they immediately pressed for a recovery of the ball, in order to keep control of the game. The four players on offense also showed solidarity when they didn't have the ball.

Despite being the most offensive player, Agüero (9) was repeatedly delayed in the field to collaborate on defense, trying not to let the Paraguayan midfielders play. Di Maria (11) and Gomez (24) did the same, with Messi (10) accompanying, although more passively.

Paraguay started with a 4-2-3-1 formation and kept it for the whole match. Defensively, they were always with 4 defenders, except when Argentina reached their area, where a midfielder got into the line, forming a line of five. For this match, the midfield was changed to play with 2 holding midfielders, while in front of them were 3 more offensive players and a striker in Ávalos (9). Notably, Cubas (14) personally marked Messi, but when Messi moved to the left, it was Piris Da Motta (26) who did it.

The defensive block was solid until just nine minutes into the game, when a perfect through ball from Di Maria left Gomez in front of Silva (1) to make it 1-0.

The Argentine team, after scoring the goal in the first minutes of the match, moved the block back a bit towards the middle of the field, exerting little pressure on the ball carrier. In addition, they lost intensity with this change.

Paraguay began to arrive with the speed of Almiron (10), who reached the opponent's area through both outside and inside lanes but could not connect with his teammates, making his effort useless.

Argentina in the second half changed the defensive block to 4-5-1 from the 80th minute, but kept the pressure on the ball in the middle of the field, with zone marking. Paraguay with fresh strikers tried to get more people to the opponent's goal, but the solid defense in zone, implemented by Argentina in the final minutes, thwarted the intentions of the Paraguayan team.

 From set pieces, both teams used zone defense on side fouls and utilized mixed marking from corners.

Di Maria was one of the best players on the field, with a masterful assist on the winning goal. Paraguay never gave up but their play, somewhat individual in attack, did not allow them to take at least a point. Argentina, who took care of their early goal, came away with a narrow but deserved victory.



Match 13 - ECUADOR VS PERU

The Ecuadorian team kept the same formation as in previous matches, presenting a 4-4-2 that was very solid in defense. The central defenders Arboleda (4) and Hincapié (3) did a good job and Caicedo (23) and Méndez (20) were very important in the central area of the field. The outside midfielders, Preciado (18) and Franco (21), had great displays, while Díaz (10) and Campana (9), were very supportive in the first line of defense. They put pressure on the Peruvian play, accompanied by the fullbacks who gave good defensive effort, as well as contributing constantly to the attack.

Peru maintained the 4-1-4-1 system they used in the previous game. They also had a tactical flexibility, which when defending in their own half close to their goal, allowed them to form a 5-4-1, with Tapia (13) in the last line of defense, leaving Yotún (19) in front of the line.

On the occasions when one of the opposing team's wingers joined the attack, one of the wingers, either Cueva (10) or Carrillo (18), went down to the last line, forming a 6-3-1 formation. The team generally managed a short block, distributed the spaces intelligently and their players made tactical decisions, intensifying the 1x1 duels.

However, the Ecuadorian team recovered the ball, handling it very well to switch to the left and, with a low cross sent in by the excellent fullback Estupiñán (7), took the lead with an own goal by Tapia.

The Ecuadorian team opted not to press so much and waited in the middle of the field, allowing Peru to have more control of the game.

Tapia began to move the ball better and the Peruvian team started to arrive more dangerously into the Ecuadorian area. Even so, they could not get the equalizer and at the end of the first half, Ecuador made the score 2-0 when after a corner, Preciado with a short touch inside the 6-yard box beat Gallese (1).

It was an important blow for Peru, but they came out to play the second half with a different attitude. They improved in their press of Ecuador from the beginning and after 3 minutes, managed to get a goal back after a hard press of an Ecuadorian throw-in. Peña (8) recovered the ball and they moved it to the left, Cueva giving it to Lapadula (9), who executed a cross shot for the goal. Peru kept the pressure high and when Ecuador started to get out of the Peruvian siege, Peña recovered another ball in a rival throw-in and in an excellent counterattack, Lapadula gave the ball to Carrillo to tie the game.

From then on, there were arrivals of both teams in an interspersed manner. The Ecuadorians, with the entry of Estrada (11) and Mena (15), raised the level of play of Ecuador, which ended the game a little better in quality. Peru, more inclined to defend, had a quick transition of defense-attack and the last clear chance of goal through Yotún, who failed to finish properly.



Coach Gustavo Julio Alfaro

(63') ↑ 15 - Á. Mena ↓ 10 - D. Díaz
 (63') ↑ 11 - M. Estrada ↓ 9 - L. Campana
 (81') ↑ 6 - C. Noboa ↓ 20 - J. Méndez
 (81') ↑ 26 - J. Caicedo ↓ 21 - A. Franco
 (91') ↑ 8 - F. Martínez ↓ 18 - E. Preciado

Coach Ricardo Alberto Gareca

(77') ↑ 14 - W. Cartagena ↓ 8 - S. Peña
 (78') ↑ 20 - S. Ormeño ↓ 9 - G. Lapadula
 (86') ↑ 5 - M. Araujo ↓ 10 - C. Cueva
 (93') ↑ 17 - L. Iberico ↓ 19 - Y. Yotún

Match 14 – BRAZIL VS COLOMBIA

In this match, Brazil started with a variation in their game. In front of their defensive line of 4 they placed Casemiro (5) on the right and Fred (8) on the left as holding midfielders. Ribeiro (11) and Richarlison (7) played on the wings and Neymar roamed the field behind the striker G. Jesus (9). This was effectively a 4-2-3-1 system. When defending in front of their goal, they did it in a 4-4-2 formation, leaving Neymar and G. Jesus up top with little marking responsibilities.

Colombia went out to wait for Brazil with a 4-4-2 system, preparing in the middle of the field, trying to press in that sector with two lines of 4 marking well. Borré (18) stayed near Casemiro and Zapata (7) was freer as an attacking target.

the left side through Richarlison and the runs of A. Sandro (6), but Colombia in the defensive zone neutralized any linkup play that the Brazilian attack tried. On the right flank, they could not progress and the rest of the probes in attack were the attempts of Neymar looking everywhere.

The Colombian goal came after 10 minutes in an excellent play from left to right, through Cuadrado (11), who launched a perfect cross that Diaz (14) capitalized on very well with an extraordinary scissors kick at half height, scoring the goal that was later named the best of the tournament. For the second half, Tite introduced Firmino (20) in the center of the attack, moving G. Jesus to the right flank. Firmino immediately made a difference, and Brazil continued to make changes trying to get more people to the Colombian goal. The second half continued with Brazil controlling the ball, looking all over the attacking front but always stopped by good defensive effort. Reinaldo Rueda introduced Cuéllar (8) for Borré to strengthen the midfield, but at 78 minutes in a confusing play, Brazil got the equalizer through a header by Firmino, after a cross from the left.

Everything remained the same until the 99th minute, when an error of the Colombian defense off of a corner kick allowed Brazil to score the winner through a header by Casemiro.

Overall, Colombia played a good game defensively, compact and neutralizing Brazilian attacks, but failed to keep the result. As for Brazil, Neymar again stood out, as did Firmino when he entered, being the one to score the equalizer.

Colombia closed all the lanes and came out with good attacking play, so the match was very difficult for Brazil to break down. They tried to attack down the flanks, especially on

Brazil's game plan was to go out and attack Colombia from the start, but as the minutes ticked by, it became increasingly difficult for them to make any headway.



Match 15 - CHILE VS PARAGUAY

The Chilean national team made not only two changes in its starting line-up in relation to its last match with the entry of Alarcón (19) and Pinares (7), but also changed its initial system of play. From a 3-4-1-2, M. Lasarte switched to a 4-3-3 formation with its corresponding variables, both for defending and attacking. The departure of Maripan (3) in defense made the team more of a threat in attack with an extra striker on the pitch. They went out to press Paraguay from the start with the three strikers on top of the Paraguayan defense, backed up by the midfielders Vidal (8), Alarcón (19), and Aránguiz (20), but this was not enough. They lacked forcefulness in their pressing, because they found Paraguay very well organized in all their lines, which allowed the Paraguayans to take control of the match.

Paraguay also changed personnel and formation from their last match. From a 4-2-3-1, they went to a 4-4-2 with 5 changes in starting line-up. A defensive line of 4 with a central sector of 4 midfielders and Gonzalez (7) and Almiron (10) further forward, although the latter stayed closer to the midfielders. The entry of Cardozo (16) and Villasanti (23) gave them more strength in midfield, while the entry of Martinez (24) allowed

Arzamendia (19), who performed well on the left side of the attack, to get forward. At times, Paraguay also pressed Chile in their own half, forcing them to play long balls.

When Chile was able to get the ball, they tried to move forward through Vidal and Aránguiz and to generate some form of attack on the outside with Mena (2) and Isla (4), but they were not able to do so. It was Paraguay who took the lead by scoring from a well-executed corner by Almiron and a nice header by Samudio (18). This brought about a lack of control by the Chileans, which Paraguay took advantage of very well until the end of the first half, controlling the last minutes.

In the second half, it was all the same despite changes made by M. Lasarte at halftime and halfway through the second period. Paraguay was content to counter-attack and Chile was in disarray, always thinking about the opposite goal, but with few ideas to get the equalizer. Paraguay's second goal came from a penalty converted by Almiron and this complicated Chile's effort even more. The match started to have less rhythm and the defenses dominated over attacks without depth. Time was slipping away for Chile, who were desperate to get back into the game. They tested the Paraguayans with their midfielders and wingers and with the great efforts of Aránguiz and Vidal, trying to find weakness in the rival defense, but they could not score.

 Paraguay had control of the game for almost the entire 90 minutes, being superior to their rivals. Chile, in spite of the great effort of their players, could not find a way through the defense of the Paraguayans, who fully deserved their victory.



Coach Martín Lasarte

(45) ↑ 9 - J. Meneses ↓ 19 - T. Alarcón
 (67) ↑ 5 - E. Roco ↓ 7 - C. Pinares
 (67) ↑ 14 - P. Galdames ↓ 17 - G. Medel

Coach Eduardo Berizzo

(62) ↑ 11 - Á. Romero ↓ 18 - B. Samudio
 (76) ↑ 21 - Ó. Romero ↓ 10 - M. Almiron
 (76) ↑ 20 - A. Bareiro ↓ 7 - C. González
 (83) ↑ 5 - G. Giménez ↓ 16 - Á. Cardozo
 (84) ↑ 3 - O. Alderete ↓ 19 - S. Arzamendia

Match 16 - BOLIVIA VS URUGUAY

Bolivia initially started this match with a 1-4-3-3 formation. Saavedra (16) was moved to right back, although he had been playing as a midfielder on that side. Villaruel (14) and Ramallo (11) were also brought into the side, the latter as an attacking target. Their game plan was to give the initiative to Uruguay, retreating in their own half and going on the counter attack quickly. On some occasions, they would try to press the Uruguayans high up the pitch, and if unsuccessful, would immediately retreat to their half and defend there in a 1-4-5-1 formation.

Uruguay, meanwhile, took the field with a 4-3-1-2 formation, trying to recover the ball in midfield, which was a constant throughout the period of play. From the beginning, they had a purely offensive posture, while still playing with a willingly defensive mindset, which allowed the players to drop back to regain the ball. In the first half, Bolivia kept the score line even based on great tactical discipline and the extraordinary work of their goalkeeper Lampe (1).

 In attack, Uruguay was intense with some very good individual displays.

Such was the case with Nández (8) on the right flank. From the midfield, with Vecino (5), Valverde (15) and De La Cruz (7), who connected with De Arrascaeta (10), taking advantage

of the movement and intensity of Cavani (21) and Suarez (9), Uruguay scored the first goal. After a long kick by the Bolivian goalkeeper Lampe, Vecino headed for Valverde, who passed deep to the right for De Arrascaeta who played to the middle and after a series of rebounds, Uruguay took the lead.

In the second half and with the score against them, Bolivia made some personnel changes, modified their tactical module, and moved forward in the field looking for the equalizer. This caused them to leave more spaces in defense that Uruguay exploited very well and created several goal situations, saved again by the great performance of their goalkeeper Lampe. For the first time in the tournament, Bolivia's legendary Martins (9) stepped onto the field, sharing the attack with Vaca (10), in a formation of 1-4-4-2.

Despite coach Fariás' attempts to improve his team's attacking play, on only one occasion did they manage to reach their opponents' goal with danger. The newly entered Torres (25), who gave another dynamic to the Uruguayan attack in a quick transition from defense-attack, overlapped on the left and passed perfectly for Cavani, who converted the 2-0. Uruguay finished the match with a slower pace, achieving a well-deserved victory, as they were far superior to their opponents.



Match 17 - BRAZIL VS ECUADOR

Brazil went into this match with many changes in their starting lineup. With qualification to the next round assured, the coach sought a rotation to give minutes and participation to the largest number of players in his squad. He also made the five changes allowed during the match. With a starting formation of 1-4-3-3, he tried from the start to impose his usual game plan; attack, drive the opponent back to their own goal, win the ball back immediately after losing it, and attack again.

Ecuador, for its part, came out to play looking for qualification to the quarterfinals, and only winning would assure qualification. With the same formation of previous matches, an initial system of 1-4-4-2 was used to try to press Brazil in midfield and counter quickly on the attack. They controlled the flanks very well, knowing that the Brazilian team plays a lot on the wings. Both Preciado (17) and Estupiñán (7) were efficient in defence, controlling their sectors with the collaboration of their holding midfielders, Mendez (20) and Caicedo (23), and they even managed to project themselves with some results. As a result of the Ecuadorian approach, Brazil were unable to create any dangerous opportunities of their own. When they did have the ball, Paqueta (17) made some attempts through the center and there were some overlaps of Éverton (19) on the left, but without generating much danger.

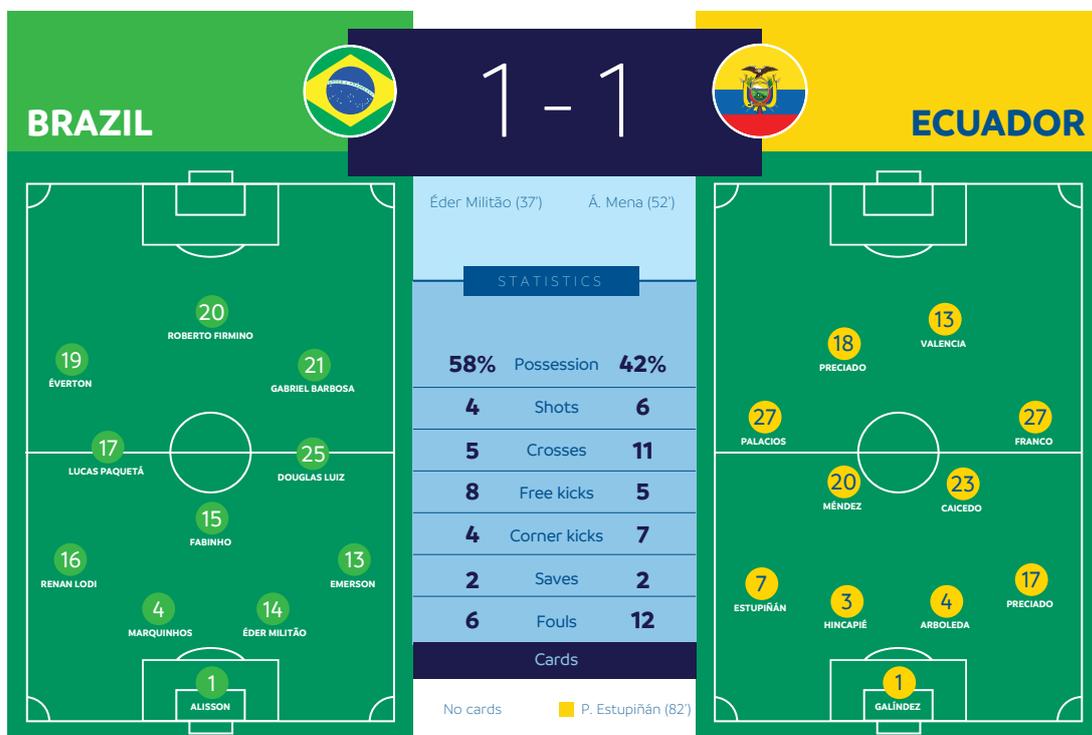
Ecuador continued to come through the wings and generated situations that troubled the Brazilian defense. In one of the few situations in which Brazil managed to get close to the Ecuadorian area, it was again a set piece that gave them the chance to open the scoring. A free kick from the right flank taken by Everton and connected with a great header by Militao (14).

In the second half, Ecuador came out with more confidence and pressed the Brazilian team.

This gave them the chance to play in their opponents' half, arriving all over the attacking front with danger and they managed to equalise after five minutes from a corner kick. Ecuador took the rebound, generated three headers from Ecuadorian players and it fell at the feet of Mena (15), who beat Allison (1).

The second half continued with a Brazil that never found the team play that they normally display. Ecuador, on the other hand, was motivated by the need to get a result that would give them qualification to the next round without depending on anyone.

For Brazil, only Paqueta and Ribeiro (11) were prominent in the second half while Ecuador's best game so far was characterized by teamwork.



Coach Tite

(48) ↑ 2 - Danilo ↓ 16 - Renan Lodi
 (63) ↑ 5 - Casemiro ↓ 20 - Roberto Firmino
 (63) ↑ 18 - Vinicius Júnior ↓ 25 - Douglas Luiz
 (77) ↑ 11 - Éverton Ribeiro ↓ 19 - Éverton
 (77) ↑ 7 - Richarlison ↓ 17 - Lucas Paquetá

Coach Gustavo Julio Alfaro

(17) ↑ 15 - Á. Mena ↓ 23 - M. Calcedo
 (72) ↑ 19 - G. Plata ↓ 27 - D. Palacios
 (83) ↑ 16 - M. Pineida ↓ 13 - E. Valencia
 (83) ↑ 9 - L. Campana ↓ 18 - E. Preciado

Match 18 - VENEZUELA VS PERU

Venezuela made 6 changes from their previous match against Ecuador, 4 of them in their defense. Only Del Pino (14) kept his place in the defensive line. The formation of 1-5-4-1 was the usual one. Córdova (11) entered in attack in the central zone and Savarino (7) came on as an outside midfielder. This initial system of play for this match had some flexibility. They tried at times to place their defensive block in the midfield, trying to exert high pressure with a 1-5-3-2 and occasionally added an extra striker, with Savarino being an important factor in this tactical flexibility due to his movement.

Peru, with the entry of Araújo (5) next to Ramos (15) in the defensive line, presented a 4-2-3-1 system, where Yotún (19) played alongside Tapia (13), forming a very good holding duo in the middle of the field. In defense they were solid, always defending in an orderly manner with all 11 players, which allowed them to keep a clean sheet in this match. Further forward, Peña (8) worked through the middle, while Carrillo (18) and Cueva (10) remained as wingers, accompanying Lapadula (9). The latter three were constantly on the move.

When Venezuela tried to play with the ball from the back, Peña moved forward to accompany Lapadula, forming a 4-4-2, in order to put more effective pressure on the Venezuelan team. After the first five minutes, in which Venezuela had more of the ball with good collective play, Peru started to press higher and to take possession of the ball. From then on, it was Peru who took control of the game and started to arrive all over the attacking front. On the other hand, Venezuela tried generally to get through the wings, but did not give depth to their game and did not arrive with many men in attack.

As a complement to the tight defense led by Villanueva (3) that Venezuela set up on the field, they also made quick transitions from attack to defense, with Moreno (5) leading the defensive set up in those situations.



At the beginning of the second half, Peru was more ambitious and came out to press Venezuela in their half, and after three minutes they took the lead after a corner kick where Carrillo latched onto a clearance to convert.

In attack, Peru again showed great use of the rotation of the wingers Cueva and Carrillo, where their inside game helped the team to link up in attack and to create options to break the compact rival defense. Venezuela, who needed to win to qualify, made five changes before 80 minutes of play, trying to boost the attack, but as the minutes passed, their game lacked clarity, possibly because of the urgency of achieving the victory. Peru defended well in their own half, took the pace out of the game, and secured their qualification with an excellent performance from Carrillo. Venezuela's central midfielder Moreno did a very good job for his part.



Match 19 - BOLIVIA VS ARGENTINA

Bolivia went into this match with a 1-4-2 starting formation. But in the first half, when they were outplayed by their opponents in front of their goal, they always ended up with a line of 5 defenders. The outside midfielders, Saavedra (16) on the right and Vaca (20) on the left, were the players who were inserted in that last defensive line.

Argentina, on the other hand, played almost the entire game with a 4-2-3-1 formation, with a lot of movement from their more advanced players like Correa (21), Messi (10) and Agüero (9).

Generally, they tried to play the ball to feet with the intention of controlling the game, and when they lost possession of the ball, they applied immediate pressure with a lot of intensity. In most of the first half, they were very successful with this tactic, recovering several balls, without giving the Bolivian team a chance for a quick counter. The movement of the most offensive players was very important, especially the position exchanges between Correa, Agüero, and Messi, as Gómez (24) was more fixed on the left side. That movement gave them the chance to attack free spaces with mastery, and even allowed them to score

the first goal by Gomez after a masterful assist from Messi. With two more goals from Messi, they went to the break with the game settled.



In the few moments in which the Bolivian team managed to organize itself to attack and reach the rival area, the Argentine team defended with two lines of four, leaving Messi and Agüero looser up top.

Only in the second half was Bolivia able to get out of the siege imposed by Argentina. They advanced their lines somewhat up the field and it was there that some offensive opportunities appeared. About 15 minutes into the second half, they pressed the Argentinean team, recovering the ball to coordinate an attack, ending in a goal by Saavedra (16).

Immediately after the goal, coach César Farías made 3 changes looking to freshen up the attack and to look for a way back into the match but to no avail. The goal was of little use in terms of morale, because a few minutes later, Martínez (22) made the score 4 to 1.

In the second half, we saw Correa more positioned in the central lane and Messi lying on the right side of the attack. Bolivia had an opportunity to take advantage of the fact that Messi contributed little defensively but they did not do so.

On set pieces, Argentina used zone marking for fouls and utilized mixed marking on corner kicks.

For Bolivia, goalkeeper Lampe (1) stood out again, but the best player on the field was Messi, who gave the best performance of the CONMEBOL Copa América so far. Argentina was far superior individually and as a team, which is why they won the match with absolute clarity.



Match 20 - URUGUAY VS PARAGUAY

Uruguay started with a 4-2-3-1 system, which occasionally turned into a 4-4-1-1. Defensively secure as usual, they played higher up the field. Midfielders Bentancur (6), Vecino (5), and Valverde (15), together with De la Cruz (7), kept the ball almost all the first half, playing possession football with De Arrascaeta (10) as an attacking target. With skillful linkup play in the first minutes, they had some clear goal opportunities that they did not take advantage of.

The Paraguayan team started the game with a 4-2-3-1, transforming the formation into a 4-4-2 when taking refuge in their half. It was a team that remained very static throughout the match, with very few dangerous chances on the opponent's goal.



Uruguay displayed excellent ball circulation between their five midfielders with no fixed positions,

only Vecino keeping a more central position on the pitch. The full-backs, especially Nández (8), came up to assist their attacking midfielders. In this way, an offensive attack was developed that generated several situations conducive to take the lead on the scoreboard.

Paraguay could only trouble their opponents with set pieces and Uruguay went to the break with the lead thanks to a penalty goal by Cavani (21). The edge in the battle for field position and ball control went to the Uruguayan team for

almost the entire first half, while Paraguay lost Almiron (10), their best man, through injury.

In the second half, the Uruguayan domination was maintained, even pressing more in the middle of the field, not allowing their rival to get close to their goal. In spite of this pressure, halfway through the second half Paraguay came closer to their opponents' goal with the entry of González (7). He improved their attack, but once again, without troubling the Uruguayan goalkeeper.

With outstanding individuals and a good collective performance, Uruguay continued to dominate the game.

Towards the end, Paraguay had the clearest chance from a set piece that they were unable to convert. They were never able to get dangerously close to the Uruguayan goal, not even with set pieces, which had worked for them in past games.

Uruguay handled the set pieces well in defense, counting on the collective commitment and the ability of their defense to play in the air. In offense, De Arrascaeta took set pieces, varying the repertoire towards the first and second post. Within their characteristic structure, there was a commitment to order and good use of the ball, which, added to their collective character, was able to give a lot of intensity to the match to take the well-deserved win.



Coach Óscar Washington Tabárez

- (45) ↑ 19 - S. Coates
- (56) ↑ 22 - M. Cáceres
- (67) ↑ 9 - L. Suárez
- (67) ↑ 25 - F. Torres
- (76) ↑ 14 - L. Torreira
- ↓ 3 - D. Godín
- ↓ 5 - M. Vecino
- ↓ 21 - E. Cavani
- ↓ 10 - G. De Arrascaeta
- ↓ 15 - F. Valverde

Coach Eduardo Berizzo

- (32) ↑ 21 - Ó. Romero
- (56) ↑ 7 - C. González
- (57) ↑ 24 - H. Martínez
- (73) ↑ 14 - A. Cubas
- (73) ↑ 8 - R. Sánchez
- ↓ 10 - M. Almiron
- ↓ 9 - G. Ávalos
- ↓ 13 - A. Espínola
- ↓ 5 - G. Giménez
- ↓ 18 - B. Samudio

Match 21 - PERU VS PARAGUAY

The first quarterfinal match of the CA2021 gave us a very even contest with good dynamics. Aware that it was do-or-die, both coaches approached the match looking to achieve a difference in the scoreboard from the very beginning. Peru presented a 4-1-4-1 system, but on several occasions, it was a 4-2-3-1, giving tactical flexibility to the system. Their defensive performance was not the best, they lost individual duels and gave Paraguay space to score, even when their opponents were down to 10 men. For long periods of the match, it was difficult for Peru to reorganize defensively because of the intensity of the game. It was not a compact team, and it seemed that there was a gap between the five that most often defended and the five that attacked.

Paraguay started with an initial 4-4-2 system, with a 4-man defensive line and excellent aerial defensive play. In the midfield were Villasanti (23) and Cardozo (16) as holding midfielders, along with two outside midfielders who played industriously, especially Arzamendia (19) on the left sector. The latter linked up frequently with the strikers Sanchez (8) and Gonzalez (7).

Paraguay scored the first goal at the beginning of the match, when Gómez (15) scored from a corner kick. Peru began to control the ball and to play their characteristic game by taking care of the ball. With two goals by Lapadula (9), the second with great collective play, Peru were ahead in the score line at the end of the first half.

For the second half, the Paraguayan team was forced to make changes. With central defender Gomez sent off, Rojas (2) came on and the team went to a formation of 1-4-4-1.

The formation was modified by sending Sanchez back and the match again had an unpredictable result, as the Paraguayan team managed to tie the match again from a corner kick. Peru took the lead once more near the end, and a minute from time Paraguay tied it yet again. In attack, Peru enjoyed the good form of Lapadula, who together with Carrillo (18) had a very good performance. Yotún (19) was the ideal partner in the construction of the offensive game.

In the attack-defense transitions, Peru was not very compact on this occasion, as the dynamics of this game were so dissimilar to those of other games. In the defense-attack transitions, they showed well trained movement with which they always created danger for Paraguay. Paraguay took advantage of set pieces, while individually, both Romero (11) and Sanchez showed an excellent effort to link up with their forwards.



Paraguay and Peru gave us a very good game, but unfortunately in a match like this, only one team goes through, and in the penalty shootout, Peru was more efficient.



Match 22 - BRAZIL VS CHILE

The Brazilian team started the match with a 1-4-2 formation. The two central midfielders were Casemiro (5) and Fred (8), and there were two outside midfielders working on the wings, G. Jesus (9) on the right and Richarlison (7) on the left. Neymar (10) and Firmino (20) moved in and out constantly, trying to give variation to the attack. When defending in their own half, Firmino dropped back to work defensively, while Neymar was left floating up top. From the beginning of the match, it was a complicated game for Brazil. When Chile pressed them from the start, it was very difficult for them to progress up the field, and when Chile retreated to defend their goal, they couldn't find a way to score either.

Chile made three changes, starting with a 5-3-2, also implementing a tactical change in relation to their last match, in which they had faced Paraguay with a 4-3-3. They put in a very good performance in the first half, with a line of 5 defenders, 3 midfielders in the middle of the pitch, closing any lanes that Brazil tried to utilize. From the beginning, we could see Aránguiz (20) and Vidal (8), important pieces not only in the defensive part but also in charge of pressing in the midfield, immediately joining the attack once the ball was recovered.

During the times that the Chilean national team had control of the ball, they tried to get together in the midfield and attack more on the wings, with Sanchez (10) dropping back a bit to link up with the midfielders.

At the start of the second half, Brazil opened the scoring through Paquetá (17), with great offensive play through the center of the attack by playing a one-two with Neymar through the Chilean defenders. Immediately after came the sending off of G. Jesus and, with the score 1-0 and with one less player on the field, Brazil retreated to defend their goal, with two lines of four in front of Ederson (1), and Neymar alone up front in attack.

This allowed Chile to get up the field, but they still had to be careful of the Brazilian counterattack, as Neymar began to cause some problems for the Chilean defense. Coach M. Lasarte, by substituting Palacios (21) for Vegas (18), began to play with a back line of four and added one more attacker, but the idea did not work. Chile had more of the ball but without clear chances to get the equalizer, except for a header on the crossbar by Brereton (22).

In the defensive aerial game, Brazil for the first time in the tournament had difficulties in corner kicks and free kicks from the side. Chile played short and quick passes, and then, in the next instance, put the ball in the box with the defense somewhat disarranged, and although they did not convert, Brazil experienced several very dangerous situations.



It is worth highlighting Neymar's extraordinary performance. When the match got complicated, he masterfully held the ball up and no one was able to take it away from him. Vidal was the most outstanding player for Chile with a great individual performance.



Match 23 - ARGENTINA VS ECUADOR

In this match, Argentina made seven personnel changes compared to their last match against Bolivia. It did not vary in the game system, playing practically the entire time with two lines of four, with Messi (10) having the freedom to create plays behind Martínez (22).

Defensively, they started the match by exerting strong pressure, using a high block and regaining possession in the opposition half several times.

After 15 minutes of the first half, the pressure dropped a little and they began to have more difficulty in regaining the ball, which allowed the Ecuadorian team greater control of possession.

Ecuador started the match with a tactical scheme of 4-4-1-1, this time including Mena (15) as a midfielder to be the link between their midfielders and forwards. With this scheme, they were able to maintain the idea of the game for most of the first half. Unfortunately for them, five minutes from the end, De Paul (7) scored with the goal at his mercy, after an assist from Messi.

In the second half, already with the advantage of one goal on the scoreboard, the Argentine pressure on the ball carrier was reduced even more and the Ecuadorian team took over the game, creating many chances

to tie the match. The entry of Estrada (11) and Plata (19) revitalized the Ecuadorian attack and the Argentine presence of Paredes (5) and Lo Celso (20) in the central channel with the help of Martínez in the defensive aspect, was not enough to prevent Ecuador from keeping control of the game. In the side channels, De Paul (7) and Gonzalez (15) had a lot of difficulties, especially when it came to controlling space, as they were outplayed numerous times.

The constant presence of Acuña (8) in attack, playing with a lot of anticipation on the left side and the approach of Lo Celso and González, gave pause to the Ecuadorian defense, as this implied greater ease for the movements of Messi, who sought to play more in the central lane near Martínez. De Paul, with movement from the right to the center, also created an imbalance in the Ecuadorian defense.

Ecuador insisted, and despite the good game they were playing, the pressure exerted by Argentina high on the field paid off. After a failed clearance with 6 minutes to go, they recovered a ball near the area that culminated in the second goal.

In set pieces, Argentina maintained their zone defense for fouls and mixed marking on corner kicks. On offense, they made short passes for both fouls and corner kicks, looking to break the Ecuadorian defense's concentration.

As in most of the previous matches, the Argentina team had a clear drop in intensity after scoring the 1st goal, but

the entry of Di Maria (11) gave greater dynamics to the game and after a foul committed by Ecuador, Messi made the final score 3-0.

Ecuador bid farewell to the cup with an acceptable performance.



Match 24 - URUGUAY VS COLOMBIA

Uruguay started the game with a flexible 4-3-1-2 starting system, with Vecino (5) as a central midfielder in front of the back four, and Valverde (15) and Bentancur (6) as inside midfielders. De Arrascaeta (10) moved in front of them looking to link up with the two strikers, Cavani (21) and Suarez (9). With the same commitment as always, each one respecting their position and tracking back on defense, they generally worked together when it was time to win the ball back.

Defensively, Uruguay maintained the order that characterizes them, seeking first to control their opponents by closing the outer spaces to facilitate the recovery of the ball, in a first half where they did not suffer any surprises.

It was a good first half for Colombia, who started with a 4-2-3-1, solid in defense, in spite of Uruguay's attempts to regain the ball, which began with a pressure on the Colombian team that forced Ospina (1) to play long. Still, Colombia handled the ball well once recovered in midfield, especially with Barrios (5) and the contributions of Borré (18) on the right and Diaz (14) on the left side of the attack, both of whom had a very good performance throughout the match. Colombia tried to link play from the middle out to the wings, but the control that Uruguay exercised in the lateral sectors, meant that the game was played a lot in the central area of the field. Muriel (9) tracked back to receive, but had to turn to the wings in order to generate more linked play with Zapata (7). Colombia had more

of the ball, handled it well, and was superior to Uruguay in the first part of the match.

The second half had other nuances. Uruguay got the ball, pressing in the opponent's half, and they had more options in the elaboration of the game, arriving through the wings and with direct play, but they didn't have the precision of other matches. Colombia was well grouped in defense which implied that they did not give many clear options to the Uruguayan forwards and when they got them, they found a defensive line well organized, with Cuéllar (8) and Barrios in front of them closing any option of attack for Uruguay.

The attacking transitions implemented by the Uruguayan team found a Colombian defense well positioned, which prevented the clear offensive chances they had in other matches. Also, the quick defensive retreats implemented by Uruguay allowed them to keep a compact figure in defense that deserves to be highlighted.

The match was attractive, with each team, one in each half, dominating the game, but without causing dangerous situations in the goal areas. Curiously, the two coaches made only two changes of the five available, which did not make substantial modifications in their game systems.

Being a match that defined passage to the semifinals, it had to be decided by penalties, where the goalkeeper Ospina stood out, stopping two to give the passage to the Colombian team..



Match 25 - BRAZIL VS PERU

Brazil played the first half with a high football content. With an initial 1-4-3-3 formation, Paqueta (17) stood out, playing in the central zone and managing the team's tempo while connecting constantly with his forwards. Neymar, from his theoretical position as a center forward, came and went creating space for the rest of his teammates.

Peru made changes in their system, presenting a 1-5-4-1, when they had traditionally played a 1-4-1-4-1. Peña (8) was the right winger in the absence of Carrillo (18), a key player who was unable to play in this match. Tapia (13) and Yotún (9), in the inside midfield, were positioned in front of the three central defenders, while the main striker was Lapadula (9).

Brazil's attacking play was generated from their defence, passing through the midfield, with neat ball possession, in order to get the ball to their strikers with the necessary clarity to break the tight 5-man defensive line that Peru had set up.

Peru tried a similar game, although they sometimes opted for the long game from their goal. The first half passed with a slight Brazilian dominance and after a long kick by Gallese (1), Richarlison (7) sent a deep ball for Neymar's run where, once inside the area, he made a masterful maneuver and left Paqueta (17) one on one with the keeper to make the score 1-0.

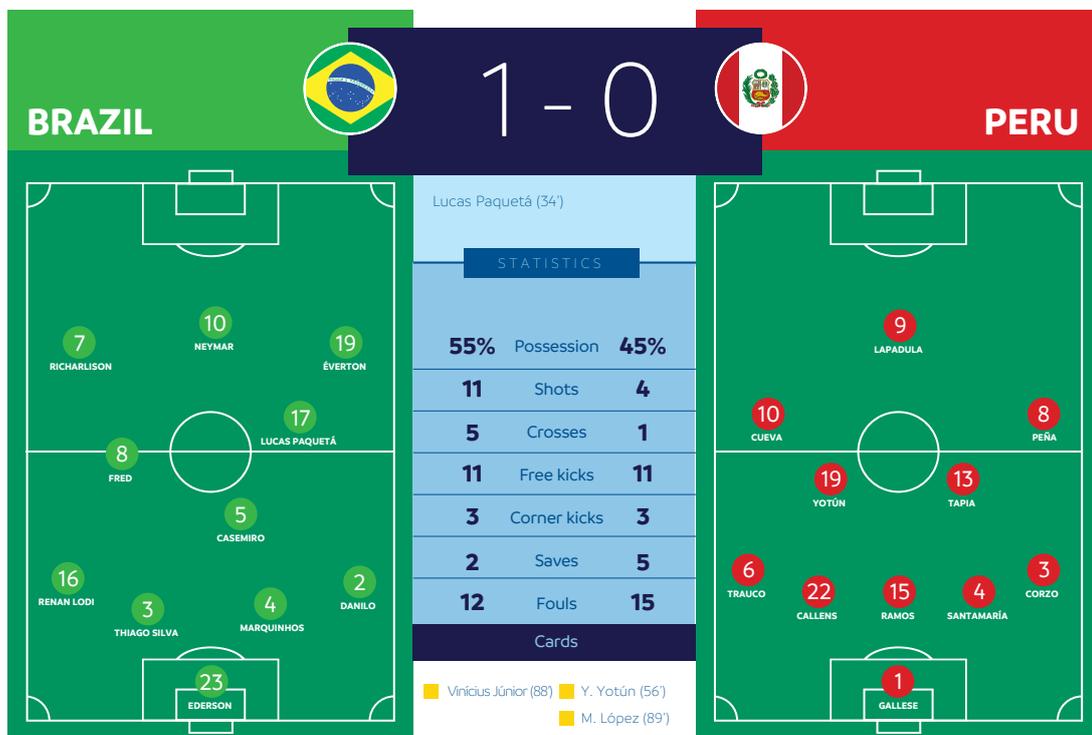
In the second half, the match had a total change. Brazil slowed down the pace of the game and no longer had the

same intensity they had shown in the first half, while Peru made some personnel and tactical changes. They started to play with a 4-1-4-1, which led them to have another position on the field, to even the game and to complicate Brazil's task to keep the favorable result.

Defensively, Peru tried to cover the flanks, with a low and short block to take space away from Brazil, but they also lost a lot in the duels and found it difficult to control Brazil in the reduced space. This situation of defensive fragility of both teams led to uncertainty regarding the final result of the match. There was a certain tactical disorder in both teams, and they started to play more long balls in order not to risk the clearance, as both teams tried to recover the ball with a high pressure. This also meant that in the second half there were no quick transitions both in defence and attack, due to the defensive disorganisation. There were no set pieces to highlight either.

On an individual level, Neymar continues to be Brazil's great player, and when he can't find his way collectively, his talent comes to the fore..

Paqueta, his partner in a number of situations, has earned a place in the starting line-up. For Peru, Yotún stood out for his effort and versatility, in a match where, with a very close result, Brazil managed to advance to the final of the CA2021.



Coach Tite

(70) ↑ 11 - Éverton Ribeiro ↓ 19 - Éverton
 (84) ↑ 15 - Fabinho ↓ 8 - Fred
 (84) ↑ 14 - Eder Militão ↓ 7 - Richarlison
 (84) ↑ 18 - Vinicius Júnior ↓ 16 - Renan Lodi
 (91) ↑ 25 - Douglas Luiz ↓ 17 - Lucas Paqueta

Coach Ricardo Alberto Gareca

(45) ↑ 24 - R. García ↓ 15 - C. Ramos
 (45) ↑ 16 - M. López ↓ 6 - M. Trauco
 (74) ↑ 26 - C. Lora ↓ 3 - A. Corzo
 (81) ↑ 20 - S. Ormeño ↓ 10 - C. Cueva
 (88) ↑ 7 - G. Távara ↓ 13 - R. Tapia

Match 26 - ARGENTINA VS COLOMBIA

With no substantial tactical changes during the game, Argentina started with a 4-4-2 formation, with Messi (10) and Martinez (22) in attack and De Paul (7) and Gonzalez (15) out wide working in tandem with full-backs Molina (26) and Tagliafico (3). In the center, Rodriguez (18) ensured defensive balance and Lo Celso (20) had more freedom to get forward in attack.

Defensively, they started the match with a high block, applying pressure and recovering balls in the opponent's half. After scoring the first goal of the match, they dropped back as they had done in previous matches, and reduced the pressure on the ball carrier. Rodriguez, Lo Celso, and De Paul were very overloaded in the defensive aspect, with great difficulties in facing Diaz (14) and the Colombian midfielders, who without being pressured by Martinez and Messi, had freedom to build.

Colombia started with a 4-4-2 tactical system, with Cuadrado (11) replacing Muriel (9) from the start compared to their last match. They pressed Argentina high up the pitch with Zapata (7) and Borré (18) on the central defenders and their midfielders, depending on which side their opponents

tried to get out. Notwithstanding the excellent attitude of the Colombian team, in a start from the back of Argentina with a good offensive linking play, Messi assisted Martinez to score the first goal of the match after 6 minutes. Colombia, far from feeling the impact of the goal, continued with its posture of betting on ball possession and a few minutes later almost managed to equalize with a shot by Cuadrado that the Argentine goalkeeper Martinez (23) controlled.

The first half was very even, both teams pressing the rival's move forward but as the ball holder advanced in the field, his rival went back to build a defensive block in the middle of the pitch, so they did not make a difference in this sense.

In the second half, Argentina kept the defensive scheme and Martinez ended up being very busy. Rodriguez was back almost to the line of four, Lo Celso was not very participative, and De Paul was lying closer to the line than in previous matches. This resulted in a very wide space between the lines, so the team had some difficulties in offensive play.



Colombian coach R. Rueda made three changes at halftime that gave more play and movement to the team,

Fabra (26) constantly passing on the left, Cardona (10) as a link giving the offensive play that the team needed, and Chará (28) moving all over the attacking front. This created problems for the Argentine team, improved the Colombian offensive work, and brought the equalizer in the 61st minute, scored by Diaz, the best player of the match, on a long run down the left. There were further opportunities for both teams but the match ended with a draw. A great performance from Argentine keeper Martinez during the penalty shootout saw him save three penalties, allowing his team to head into the final of the CA2021.



Match 27 - COLOMBIA VS PERU

With four changes in their starting line-up, Colombia got off to a good start with a 4-4-1-1 tactical system, pressing high up the pitch without letting Peru get possession of the ball. They took control of the game shortly after starting with Barrios (5) and Cuellar (8) in the middle of the field, Cardona (10) free in front of them, Zapata (7) well up front, and Cuadrado (11) and Díaz (14) on the wings, creating some dangerous situations in the opponent's area until Peru settled down and evened the game.

Peru, meanwhile, used a 4-1-4-1 system, which had been the predominant one in most of the games they played. The introduction of Carrillo (18), who was unable to feature against Brazil, generated a lot of expectation, as he could help the team find their highest level of football and the possibility of improving the overall performance. However, Peru generated few chances and Lapadula (9) was a bit lonely in the first minutes because the midfielders did not get close to him. Midway through the first half, Tapia (13), one of their best players, suffered an injury and had to leave his place to Cartagena (14), who filled in with a very good performance.



Defensively, Peru did not have the security of other games. Quick transitions by Colombia found Peru poorly positioned on the field, and in individual duels, different sectors of their defense were overcome.

However, after an excellent quick transition between defence and attack, Peña (8) recovered the ball near his own area and sent a cross into the Colombian half that Cueva (10) received and with a great run, he set up Yotún (19), who scored the first goal at the very end of the first half.

As soon as the second half started, on a free kick taken by Cuadrado, the wall was breached and Colombia equalized. Shortly after came the second goal of Colombia through a great assist from goalkeeper Vargas (12) that put Díaz on the way to goal to turn the score around.

In attack, the drills practiced by the Peruvian offense were on display. Cueva and Carrillo created space for the wingers, Yotún was the axis in the offensive buildup, and Lapadula was constantly at the head of the attack. With that structure, Peru looked for the equalizer and it came at minute 82, after an execution of a corner kick that Lapadula finished with a header.

The great work of Díaz on the left side unbalanced the Peruvian defense once again, however. In added time and with an excellent wall maneuver with the newly entered Muriel (9), he closed the match with one of the best goals of the tournament, giving Colombia the third place in this CA2021. The Colombian achievement was well deserved for everything they did in this cup, a team that never gave up and that had an outstanding figure who was the revelation of the tournament, Díaz.





Match 28 – ARGENTINA VS BRAZIL

Argentina did not deviate from their system of play and reverted to a 4-4-2 formation, keeping Messi (10) and Martínez (22) up front. There was a surprise with the positioning of the midfielders, however. Di María (11) played on the right wing, De Paul (7) and Paredes (5) played in the center, while Lo Celso (20), for the first time in this competition, played on the left wing.

When they lost possession of the ball, they immediately pressed with a lot of intensity, although with little coordination of movements between the forwards and the midfield line of four, sometimes leaving spaces between the lines. When their pressure did not win back the ball, they went about defending with a medium / low block, trying to force a mistake from the Brazilian team and thus go on the counterattack.

Brazil repeated the line-up and system of play from the previous match, where they had beaten Peru in the semi-final that put them in this final match against Argentina. With this 4-3-3 system, the nuance was that Paquetá (17), from the line of midfielders, was incorporated as a fourth striker and Neymar (10), from his false position of center forward, was in and out constantly, trying to find spaces that Argentina did not allow him throughout the match. Therefore, he had to drop back to play from further back to get the ball.

As usual, Brazil tried to build the game from their defensive zone, passing through the midfield, to then make that offensive move that would allow them to break the tight Argentine defense. But the progression on the field was too slow. With a very well-planned defensive system by Argentina, the game

was broken up. With Neymar surrounded, it was very difficult for Brazil to create goal-scoring situations.

Brazil's defensive system had been the basis of their good results, but this time a Brazilian mistake on a cross-field ball from De Paul allowed Di María to open the scoring in one of the few scoring situations in the first half.

In the second half, Tagliafico (3) and Rodríguez (18) came on to strengthen the Argentine defense, taking advantage of the advantage on the scoreboard.

Meanwhile, Tite tried modifications with offensive players until the end of the match, with a defensive line of 4 and only Casemiro (5) as a center midfielder. From then on, he was accompanied by Firmino on the right, Neymar on the left, and in attack, Richarlison (7), G. Barbosa (21), and Vinicius Jr. (18). Despite having so many talented forwards on the pitch, they were unable to break down Argentina's compact defense.

Very important to mention were the attacking arrivals of Di María for the spaces left by R. Lodi (16), the support of De Paul (7) in the lateral area, while

 **Messi floating in several sectors of the field, as usual, brought constant danger, indeed just missing a chance to make the score 2-0 in a great play.**

With a great game, the 1-0 was enough for Argentina to take the deserved trophy for being the best team of the tournament.





05



**TECHNICAL
TACTICAL
ANALYSIS
OF THE
TOURNAMENT**

CONMEBOL COPA AMERICA 2021

GAME SYSTEMS

During the CA2021, we had the opportunity to observe 10 teams with different playing characteristics, which sought to act according to the history and football culture of each country. Even so, we could observe that in the game system there was not so much difference between the teams. Most of the teams chose to use the 4-4-2 system and based on this spatial arrangement on the field, they put into action different dynamics, regardless of the location of the players on the field. Some with more offensive characteristics, due to tactical principles and game concepts, others, more defensive, starting from the 4-4-2 structure with the two "lines of 4".

There were teams that opted for naturally more defensive systems of play, mainly to compensate for their weakness against stronger opponents.

We can mention Venezuela, who used the 1-5-4-1 system in all the matches they played and without looking for many offensive variations. The Chilean national team started with a five-man defensive line, well established, in the matches against Uruguay and Brazil, while in other matches, they started with a 1-4-3-3, changing to 1-4-5-1 when they had to defend.

Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador, in most of their matches, also used the 1-4-4-2 formation. The team from the highlands always kept a low block with a special care in closing spaces to their opponents, aware of their weakness, while the Colombian team, despite using the same system of play, did it with very different tactical concepts, thinking more about attacking. The one exception was the match against Brazil, where they adopted a more defensive posture because of the tactical game concepts applied. The Ecuadorian team was a different case when using the 1-4-4-2 system, as in all their matches they tried to have the initiative of the game. In fact, they only had less possession against Brazil

in the 1-1 draw and against Argentina, when they ended up being eliminated from the competition after a 3-0 defeat.

The systems of play used by Paraguay's national team were 4-2-3-1 and 4-4-2, with a solid back four. However, in their debut against Bolivia, they initially went with a 4-3-3, and it was then that they achieved their biggest win in the competition. In general, in the other matches, despite the change of system, the Paraguayan team always adopted a very solid defensive behavior, a very ingrained aspect of the football played by this team, trying to get quick counterattacks.

The Peruvian team can be considered a case apart in the competition, as in most of the games they used the 4-1-4-1 system, being the only team in the competition to use such a clear tactical system. Against Brazil, in the semi-final of the tournament, they started the game with a 5-4-1 system, where their lone striker, Lapadula, was seen needing more company.

Some teams changed their system of play throughout the competition, and we can cite Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil as examples. The Uruguayan team always played in 4-4-2, but in some matches with "two lines of 4", and, in others, with the formation of a "rhombus" in midfield. Moreover, circumstantially, this type of modification occurred within the match itself.





The Brazilian national team altered the system in each game in the group stage, always using a line of four at the back and varying the rest of the distribution of their players on the field, 1-4-3-3; 1-4-4-2; 1-4-2-3-1 and 1-4-2-4.

However, in the semifinals and in the final Brazil took the field with a 1-4-3-3 with Neymar in a clearer position as a striker. There was a very specific situation that occurred when, in the match against Chile, Gabriel Jesus was sent off. At this moment, the Brazilian national team was organized with a 1-4-4-1.

As for the Argentine national team, they started the tournament with a 1-4-3-3 formation to attack and used the 1-4-4-2 to defend. Clearly, this alternation of positions was intended to keep Messi from much defensive work. In the final of the competition against Brazil, they kept the 1-4-4-2 system, but with much difference in the dynamics of the game compared to previous matches, in which they used the same system. Much of this was due to the introduction of Di Maria on the right wing, with

De Paul moving to the center to link up with Paredes, and Lo Celso moving to the left wing. This change had a very positive effect for the Argentina team, who ended up getting the goal that won them the title, through Di Maria, after a great pass from De Paul.

Therefore, we can highlight:

Starting systems: 1-4-4-2 and 1-4-3-3 systems of play were used by most teams as starting systems, with 1-4-4-2 being the most used.

Defensive systems: The 1-4-4-2 and 1-5-4-1 systems were the most adopted for defensive situations.

Offensive systems: The 1-4-4-2 and 1-4-3-3 systems were the most used for offensive moments.

Circumstantial systems: Brazil with 1 player less used the 1-4-4-1 system.

Variants of game systems: The variant from 1-4-3-3 to 1-4-4-2 during a match, was the most executed.

GOALKEEPER CHARACTERISTICS



Considering the level of the tournament, the performance of the goalkeepers was very good, and we noticed an improvement in relation to the CA2019.

It is necessary to emphasize the good physical condition, the good power of legs and in the tactical aspect, good positioning with respect to the moment of the game.

On the technical side, some were sure-handed, and others saved with their fists, especially those who play in European football, but no errors were seen that have to do with the technique of the goalkeepers.

Good game with the feet, it was noticed an important confidence to play calmly the balls that their teammates gave them, to generate spaces in moves forward, as well as also, giving help in certain moments in which they were pressed by their rivals.

Most of them showed great command of the penalty area, which is a key aspect in contemporary football. Today it is necessary for goalkeepers to have a good command with their feet, since the latest rules of the game, passed in 2019, have made coaches involve goalkeepers much more than before in the team's ball delivery.

Some could be seen with a commanding voice and guiding the defense, developing a leadership role so necessary in these times in which there are not many players with these characteristics.

There were goalkeepers who stood out more than others; for example, those who had a direct impact on the result of their national team. Such is the case of Martinez in Argentina and Ospina in Colombia.

Others, such as Bravo of Chile and Ederson of Brazil, did a good job distributing with their hands and feet; Faríñez of Venezuela, young, but of excellent performance; and Lampe, who proved his worth in the goal of Bolivia with extraordinary saves. On the other hand, Gallese of Peru, Silva of

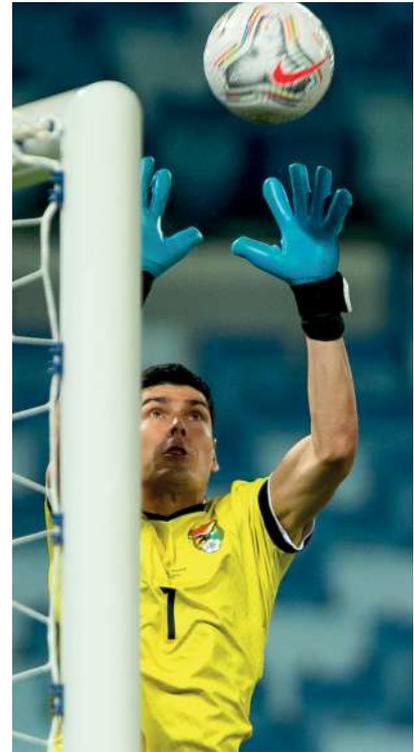


Paraguay and Galindez of Ecuador, were acceptable; while the Uruguayan Muslera left the tournament as the goalkeeper who conceded fewest goals, with only two in the five matches he played.



All in all, it's important to note that it was a good Copa America for the goalkeepers.

| |  Saves |  Goals against |
|---|---|---|
|  ARGENTINA | 12 | 3 |
|  BOLIVIA | 25 | 10 |
|  BRAZIL | 9 | 3 |
|  CHILE | 11 | 5 |
|  COLOMBIA | 6 | 7 |
|  ECUADOR | 6 | 9 |
|  PARAGUAY | 6 | 6 |
|  PERU | 24 | 14 |
|  URUGUAY | 10 | 2 |
|  VENEZUELA | 15 | 6 |
| Total saves | 124 | |



DEFENSIVE BEHAVIORS

 Watch video

On the defensive side, this Copa America 2021 was characterized by the commitment of the players to stand firm in front of and keep a tight control of their goal. A clear example of this attitude was the defensive performance of the Argentine national team in the final against Brazil.

In any case, a high press, with or without success, was exercised by all teams without exception. Some more, some less, some with good results and others who had to retreat to their mid or low area to build a defensive block, trying to counter the rival attack.

The collective conscience stood out greatly, since they understood that defending is beyond and above the different systems of play.

Absolutely all the teams showed a tactical flexibility that allowed changes, in some cases, from match to match, as well as modifications during the development of the same, especially when having to overcome an adverse result.



The start of the defense, from the high press after the loss of the ball, was effective in some cases thanks to intensity and tactical order, but in other cases, there was an absence of order leaving everything in the intensity.

Within the flexibility, we found that the most predominant defensive scheme was to play with a line of 4 defenders. Then, in the distribution of the midfielders when defending, we found that the most frequent was the insertion, into the line of 4, of one of the holding midfielders.

There were cases like Chile, Bolivia, or Venezuela that started with 5 defenders at the back.

In this sense, the position of the rest of the players was given in relation to the place, the sector and the intensity with which the rival attacked.

There were teams like Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Paraguay who stuck to a back 4, while others like Chile and Peru were more flexible, as was Uruguay, who occasionally used 3 central defenders in their back line. On the other hand, there were teams that respected their defensive structure, like Venezuela, faithful to a 5-4-1 and rigid in front of their goal, which at the end of the tournament was flexible and at times was also

positioned in the midfield to defend, looking for more attacking possibilities.

Most of these systems of play, depending on the circumstances, were placed in zone 1 or zone 2, few in zone 3. When it came to defending and beyond the use of basic defensive principles, such as exchanges, coverages and doubling when marking, the high pressure in some cases led to chaos, because it was poorly applied.

The two teams that reached the final did so thanks to their collective play, led by their best players, such as Messi and Neymar, but the tournament was defined by the art of defending that both teams demonstrated throughout the tournament, which unfortunately for the host, failed in the last game, while for Argentina, it turned out to be the pillar of their triumph.

Some players continue to play an important role in leading their team from the back. Such is the case of Diego Godin in Uruguay, Gary Medel in Chile, Marquinhos in Brazil or Gustavo Gomez in Paraguay.

It is important to note, finally, that the performance of the goalkeepers was key in this cup, showing, some of them, an excellent performance. Such was the performance of E. Martinez, D. Ospina and Muslera, who was the one who conceded the fewest goals in this tournament, only two.

| | Fouls committed | Average number of fouls per game |  Cards |  Cards |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
|  ARGENTINA | 97 | 14 | 0 | 18 |
|  BOLIVIA | 35 | 9 | 1 | 11 |
|  BRAZIL | 92 | 13 | 1 | 12 |
|  CHILE | 66 | 13 | 0 | 11 |
|  COLOMBIA | 123 | 18 | 1 | 19 |
|  ECUADOR | 75 | 15 | 1 | 9 |
|  PARAGUAY | 79 | 16 | 1 | 11 |
|  PERU | 92 | 13 | 1 | 14 |
|  URUGUAY | 64 | 13 | 0 | 4 |
|  VENEZUELA | 52 | 13 | 0 | 8 |



OFFENSIVE BEHAVIORS



In this Copa America we saw different tactical systems with a lot of richness for offensive play, both individually and collectively.

Although the teams were very careful to defend their goal, in the offensive phase a series of variants could be observed that were used to break down the defensive blocks with backlines, at times very closed.

From the above, a clear case that could be observed was the positional play. Some teams, such as Brazil or Argentina, for example, based on ball possession, played very attractive football, as they were faced with very tight defenses. This implied a lot of patience and a useful rotation of the ball for the elaboration of the game, until they found the right way to the opponent's goal.

There was also a lot of play on the wings, for example, Ecuador with Angelo Preciado on the right and Pervis Estupiñán on the left, very deep in attack; or Chile, who also used the wings very well, with Mauricio Isla and Eugenio Mena going up to the attack constantly. Colombia's outside midfielders Juan Guillermo Cuadrado and Luis Fernando Díaz, who had a great performance in the tournament, were outstanding. Paraguay also had Santiago Arzamendia, and Uruguay had Naithan Nández, players with excellent movement in their area.

In all cases and to take advantage of this movement through the lateral sectors, the teams arrived with many people to the opponent's area, so the concept of amplitude, one of the key offensive principles, was echoed in the teamwork.

Uruguay was more vertical, looking for long balls to Edinson Cavani or Luis Suarez, although they also varied their attacking play to reach the rival goal with danger, with triangulations of their midfielders

of great technical quality, such as Nicolas De La Cruz, Giorgian De Arrascaeta and Rodrigo Bentancur.

Venezuela and Bolivia opted more to arm themselves defensively and counterattack to surprise their opponents in open space.

Another variation that was used with success were the diagonals that were implemented by those players who played on the side of their less skillful profile that made a diagonal incursion towards the goal in favor of their more skilled leg. This move is always effective because of how difficult it is to score, and several players stood out. Among them Luis Díaz, with the goal that closed the match for third place.

Argentina, Brazil and Peru had partnerships on the inside lanes of the attack that complicated a lot the defenses, as Lio Messi and De Paul, Neymar and Paqueta, or Carrillo and Lapadula, generating internal game trying to enter the rival area by that zone, with the support and projection of the fullbacks as an aid or as a distraction, but always looking to break into the defensive zone of their opponent, even without the ball.

Contrary to what we saw in CA2019, in this CA2021 almost all the teams preferred center forwards with a lot of movement all over the front line, creating spaces constantly for the arrival of the players of the second line of attack. In this area, Gianluca Lapadula, Eduardo Vargas and Enner Valencia stood out.

Paraguay, with Gabriel Avalos when he played and Uruguay, with Luis Suarez, were the ones who maintained that trend. But Cavani's work, coming in and out of the attacking zone, gave the Uruguayan team the variation they needed to create space.

In relation to set pieces, there were few set pieces, but those few were very effective, such as Argentina's goal against Uruguay from a corner kick, or Colombia's goal against Ecuador, in an excellent move that ended with Cardona's goal.

| | Playing goals | |  65 total goals in the tournament |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| | Out of the box | In the box | |
| ARGENTINA | 1 | 7 |  40 goals were set plays |
| BOLIVIA | - | 1 | |
| BRAZIL | 1 | 7 | |
| CHILE | - | 2 | |
| COLOMBIA | 1 | 3 | |
| ECUADOR | - | 2 | |
| PARAGUAY | 1 | 3 | |
| PERU | 1 | 6 | |
| URUGUAY | - | 2 | |
| VENEZUELA | - | 2 | |
| | Total 5 | Total 35 | |



TRANSITIONS AND COUNTERATTACKS



DEFENSE TO ATTACK

It can be affirmed that this CA2021 presented some growth in terms of transitions, as the statistics show the teams applying tactical guidelines at the moment of recovering the ball. Apart from having as an alternative the linkup play when the opponent is organized, in the transition from defense to attack, individual and collective behaviors were seen that tried to find the opponent unbalanced and surprise him to reach the goal.

Colombia managed the highest percentage in quick transitions, which evidences a profound change in their model of play in relation to previous events, where progressive possession was predominant in their style of play.

The likes of Peru, Brazil and Uruguay also stood out in this respect, with the latter maintaining their characteristic tactical approach of defensive organization, and then making quick transitions, always taking advantage of established habits and the individual ability of their players.

The best performers in terms of technical content that influence the defense-attack transitions such as passing, control, driving and shooting, were shown in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Colombia.

It is important to highlight some characteristic counter-attacking displays. Chile's goal against Bolivia, which contained few passes and numerical superiority in attack. The ball was recovered in their own half and the transition, through a counterattack, ended with a goal by B. Brereton. Another example is the Brazilian goal scored by Gabriel Barbosa in their match against Venezuela, when at the end of the match the expression of the collective speed of the game, Brazil's high point, was used in an excellent way, arriving in numerical superiority to the opponent's area.

Likewise, it is worth mentioning in this range of transitions, the individual solutions accompanied by the conduction as a technical element. For example, Ecuador's goal against Venezuela, scored by Gonzalo Plata in a run from his own half to reach the rival goal marked the way in this type of transitions with linked up play, a style of play that has characterized Brazil, regardless of finding their rivals well organized defensively.

It is worth highlighting Peru as the team that generated the most counterattacks, although Argentina was the most efficient in this respect. Colombia's Luis Diaz's goal against Peru in the match for third place is a counterattacking model to copy.

To highlight this topic, some defense-attack actions that were framed in the middle zone with the recovery of the ball and immediately a long delivery, giving important goals like the one Messi scored against Bolivia, or the goal by Di Maria that gave the title to Argentina.



| |  Recovered balls |  Lost balls |
|---|---|--|
|  ARGENTINA | 333 | 341 |
|  BOLIVIA | 175 | 222 |
|  BRAZIL | 358 | 341 |
|  CHILE | 258 | 246 |
|  COLOMBIA | 387 | 387 |
|  ECUADOR | 256 | 247 |
|  PARAGUAY | 252 | 266 |
|  PERU | 391 | 412 |
|  URUGUAY | 275 | 254 |
|  VENEZUELA | 190 | 229 |
| Total balls | 2875 | 2945 |



ATTACK TO DEFENSE

For the attack to defense transitions, in most of the teams after the loss of the ball, the behavior that was most identified was the quick retreat. They immediately set up a block and looked for a quick organization, to work again in recovery, trying a defensive balance, working in favor of space.

Brazil was an example of solidarity in the defensive phase, because when they had to retreat, understanding the importance, they did it with all 11 players in their own half, to recover and then decide. Even so, all teams, and especially Brazil, tried repeatedly to regain the ball immediately after the loss of the ball, for a quick transition.

Most used individual or block timing to look to organize themselves defensively when the ball was lost in the final third. Some teams dropped back to the middle third to transition and start their recovery work again.

In this respect, Brazil and Ecuador were the ones who set themselves apart, while other teams withdrew intensively into their own

half. On a few occasions, they resorted to tactical fouls.

Colombia and Venezuela, in a high percentage, lost the ball in the second third, and set up their defensive block in the first third for the transition, exercising there a marking, practically man to man, to recover it. An example of this was what Colombia did against Brazil.

Peru and Venezuela were teams that quantitatively stayed more in their own half, which made it easier for them to transition into defending.

A special case within the analysis is Bolivia. It was a team that didn't lose many balls in the final third, because they didn't come with many options in attack. But once they lost the ball, their transition to defense was very quick and orderly.

It was noticeable in most of the teams a lot of commitment from the 11 players to put together a compact team in defense in the attack-defense transition phase.

The loss of the ball of the Chilean team was distributed in all zones. Therefore, all their players had to adapt and change their attitude constantly to defend, as attention, concentration and aggressiveness were very important in the transition from attack to defense.

For Paraguay, most of the attack-defense transitions were generated from the last and first third, as they did not lose many balls in the middle third.

It was striking that during the development of the Cup, Paraguay was one of the teams that tried to recover the ball immediately after the loss of the ball, resorting to one on one defending. Depending on the place of recovery of the ball, they defined the characteristics of their attack.

Uruguay kept their behaviour in accordance with their model of play, the team almost always, after the loss and very quickly, retreated to their own field, to then press in the middle zone and thus get the ball again, for a structured transition.

Finally, it is important to bear in mind the physical aspect and the external conditions that could affect the attack-defense transitions, as most of the teams, except on occasions when they opted for high pressing, preferred a defensive balance, orderly and reducing spaces for the opponent.



SET-PIECE ACTIONS

Watch video

The percentage of goals in this CA2021, from set pieces, was 36%. If we consider the percentage of 27% in the previous edition Copa America Brazil 2019, we find that the percentage increase is due to several goals from direct free kicks and headed goals from free kicks from side areas.

In the for-against equation, the teams with the best results were Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay, in that order.

Brazil: conceded no goals and converted 4 (+ 4)

Argentina: conceded 1 and converted 4 (+ 3)

Paraguay: conceded 2 and converted 4 (+ 2)

Uruguay: conceded 1 and converted 2 (+ 1)



DIRECT FREE KICKS GOALS

Of the three goals scored this way, two were by Lionel Messi, one against Chile and the other against Ecuador. The other goal was scored by Juan Guillermo Cuadrado against Peru, in the match for third and fourth place.

HOW THE TEAMS DEFENDED

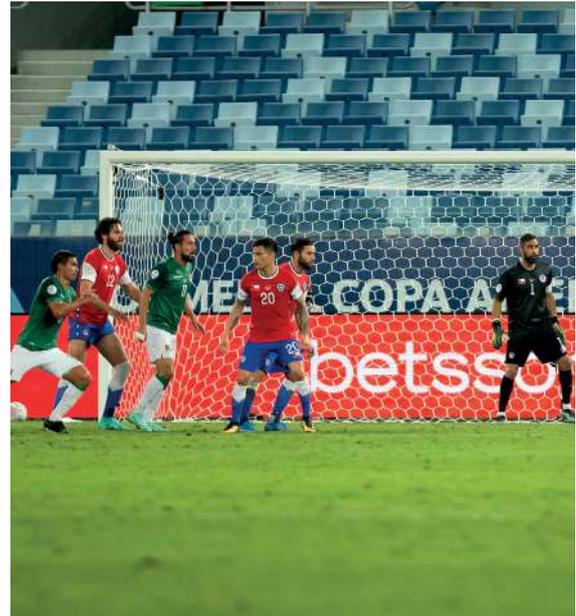
Brazil was the team with the best defensive set-piece performance.

They did not concede any goals this way, showing a great defensive organization, using a zonal marking, both in corner kicks and free kicks from lateral areas.

The rest of the teams used mixed marking at corner kicks. They placed two or three free men in a certain place in the penalty area, and the rest of them marked individually on the possible headers of the rival team. All teams defended with all 11 players in their penalty area.

In free kicks from lateral areas, zone defense was implemented, and in some cases, mixed marking with individual marks on the strongest players in the air.

The tendency was to defend, as far away from their goal as possible, on free kicks from the side.



ON ATTACK

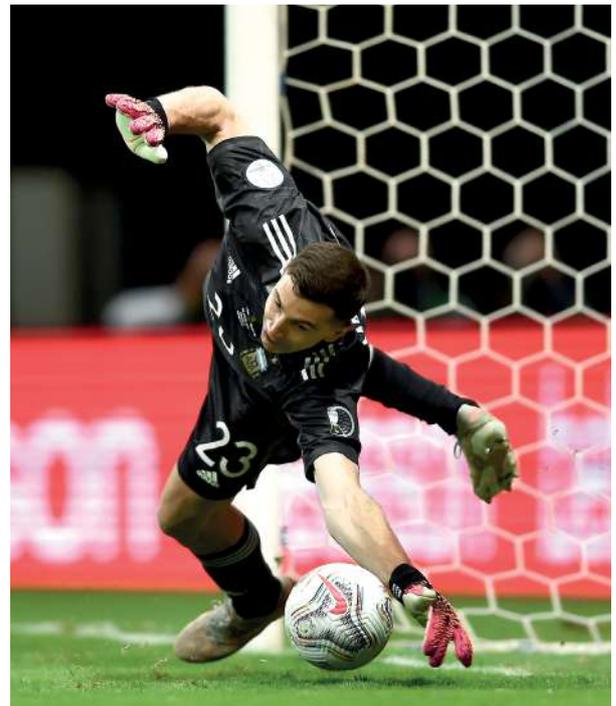
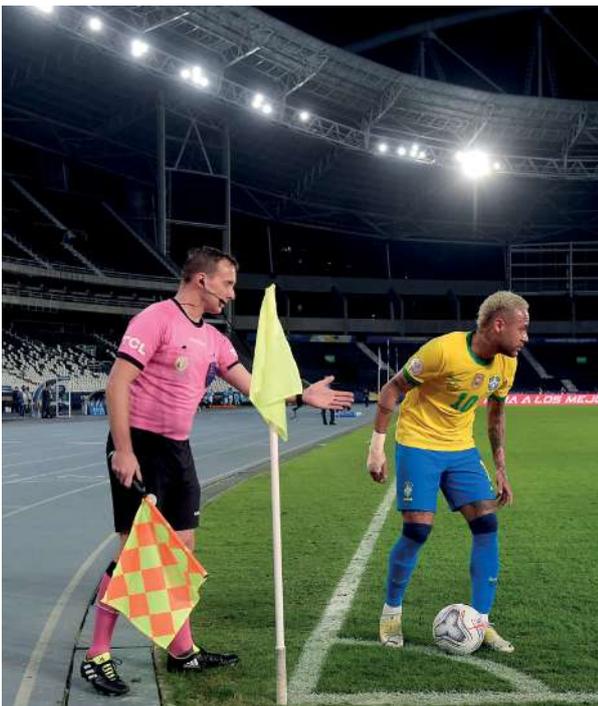
The three most efficient teams in this category were Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, with four goals each. Individually, Lionel Messi was the standout player with a hand in all four of his team's goals. He scored two goals from direct free kicks, one from a corner kick and one from a penalty kick.

The second most outstanding player was Neymar. Of his team's four goals in this category, he had a hand in three of them. Two of them came from his own corner kicks and one from a penalty kick.

Another variant used successfully in the attacking phase were the short moves.

A clear example was off a corner kick, when De Paul played short with Messi, who sent a perfect cross for Guido Rodriguez's header and goal against Uruguay. Another game-defining goal was the short play between Cardona and Cuadrado, on a free kick in front of the goal, where Cardona ended up scoring the goal in Colombia's 1-0 win over Ecuador.

In the solid and efficient zonal defense that Brazil presented in corners, Chile was the only team that tried more variants to try to break it through short plays but failed to convert.



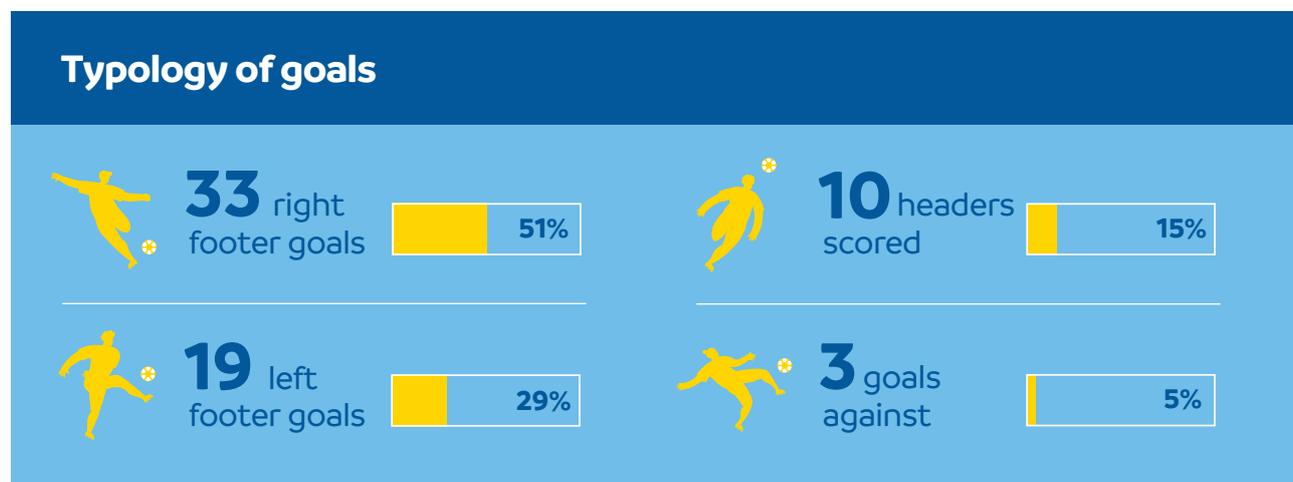
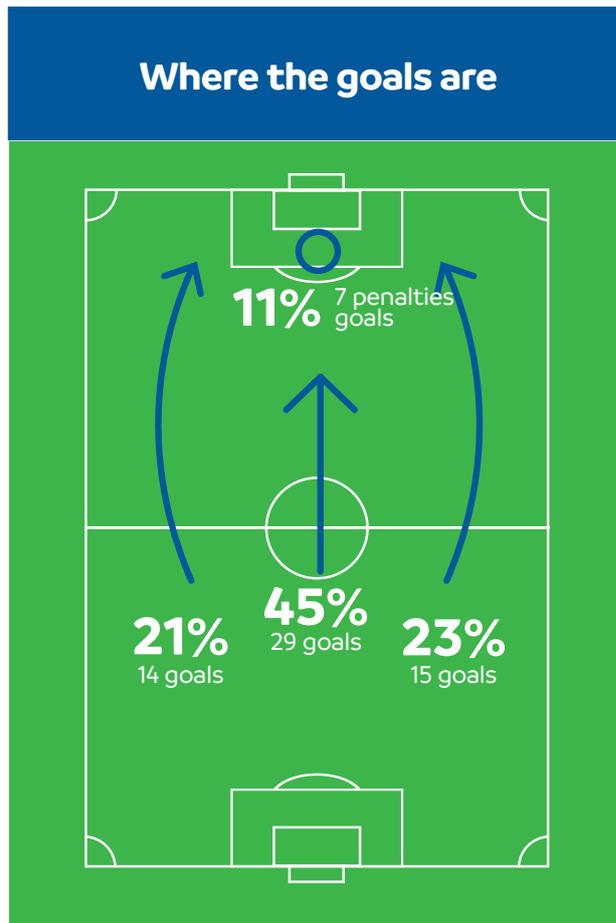
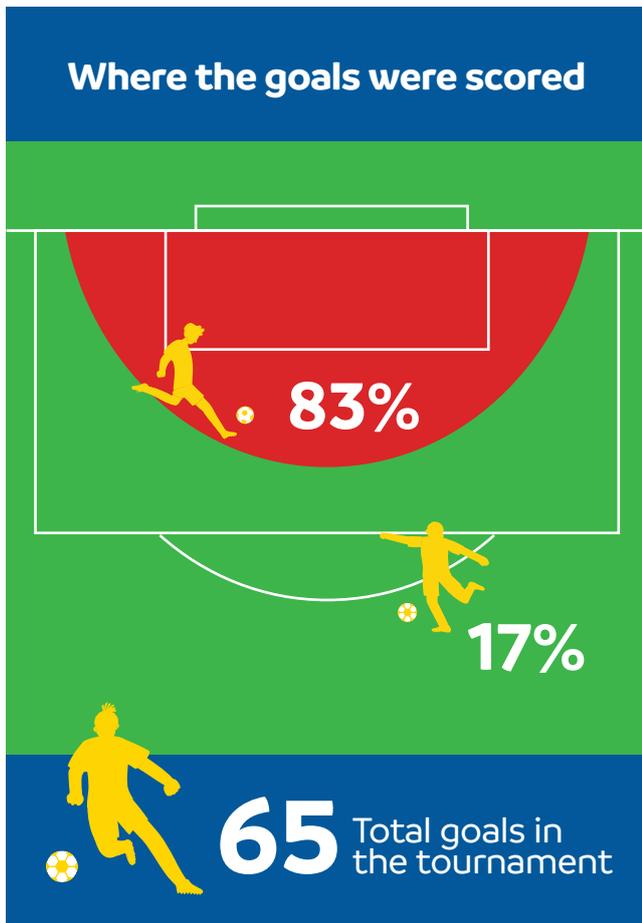
PENALTY SHOOTOUTS

The importance of penalty shoot-outs in this kind of tournament is becoming increasingly important. It was here that some of the players who would later prove decisive in the successes of their respective national teams came to the fore.

The most outstanding goalkeepers are Emiliano Martinez of Argentina, who saved

three penalties in the semifinal match against Colombia, which allowed his team to reach the final of the tournament; and David Ospina, who saved two against Uruguay in the quarterfinal match, which allowed them to finally achieve the third place in the tournament.

GOAL ANALYSIS



GAME TRENDS



With the concepts that we will present below, we intend to analyze the trends of the game in this Cup, both collectively and individually. In this sense, it is important to note that both Messi and Neymar are not part of the individual analysis, because being "different", by themselves they complete the characteristics of the ideal player that any team wants to have.

Undoubtedly, football has not been oblivious to the health situation that the world is suffering these days. One of the aspects that meant an important change was the increase of substitutions, from 3 to 5, which was well utilized by coaches in this CA2021.

Considering the importance of the tournament, the preparation of the players in many cases did not contemplate the real needs that the technical staff plan in instances like this.

Therefore, not only the 5 substitutions were utilized very well in most of the teams, but the coaches varied a lot the starting lineups

from one game to another. Chile, with seven changes, was the team that rotated its players the most from one match to the next.



Football today needs players who master all technical aspects, but who can also play in different positions within their team's tactical scheme.



Defensively, all the teams tried at some point to press high in order to win the ball back in the opposition half and surprise with a quick transition. It was not always successful, so the retreat was one of the defensive principles that most teams implemented. When they did it in front of their own goal, the defensive block was grouped in a very compact way, occupying an area of only about 300 m².

To counteract this defensive posture, most of the rivals were forced to play possession, looking for different sectors of the field, in order to enter the opponent's area.

The characteristics of the midfielders was a very clear trend that was observed in this Cup. Several teams used in this position players with a lot of mobility, moving in and out of the attacking zone to create space for their teammates. To highlight this, we have as an example Eduardo Vargas for Chile, Gianluca Lapadula for Peru, and even Neymar himself, who played in that position in some games. The overwhelming arrival of players in attack was another trend that most of the teams implemented. This attitude and offensive deployment demonstrated the clear vision of the coaches that in this competition anything is possible, as it didn't matter who the opponent was, but they trusted in their own power to make history.

Defending in the last zone with a line of 4 was by far the biggest trend of the tournament in the defensive phase. Only a couple of teams varied their back line to play with three or five defenders, but all of them used the back line at some point.

It is important to mention that in the defensive zone we can observe one of the great historical and current characteristics of South American football. We have seen true leaders on the field and curiously, the most prominent are fullbacks, such as Gustavo Gomez in Paraguay, Marquinhos in Brazil, Gary Medel for Chile, and the presence of Diego Godin in Uruguay, who undoubtedly, by their leadership influenced the path of their national team.

In midfield, the central midfielder was the most used variant, since most teams started the game with two central midfielders, but either when defending, inserting in the line of 4, or attacking to break into attack, there was always one of the two covering the central part of the field. As examples we can mention Casemiro in Brazil, Renato Tapia in Peru, Junior Moreno in Venezuela and Wilmar Barrios in Colombia.

Likewise, in this area you could enjoy seeing very technical players occupying defensive spaces, such as Paredes for Argentina, Bentancur for Uruguay, and Tomas Rincon in Venezuela.

It is a strategy of the coaches that clearly indicates that there is a desire to populate the midfield with players well prepared in every sense, and not just to place players there who are specialists

at marking, but do not possess great technical skills.

Football today needs players who dominate all the technical aspects, but who can also play in different positions within the tactical scheme of their team. These are the players we call versatile, those who always respond well to the demands of each position in which the coach places them on the field, whether on the right or on the left, in the center or on the sides. We had in this Cup several players who respond to this profile. We can highlight the Uruguayan Federico Valverde, Cásseres for Venezuela, Almirón for Paraguay, Carrillo for Peru, Arturo Vidal for Chile, as well as De Paul in the Argentine team to name a few. These players not only have excellent technical characteristics and perform in the position where they are placed, but also have a commendable attitude at all times of the game.

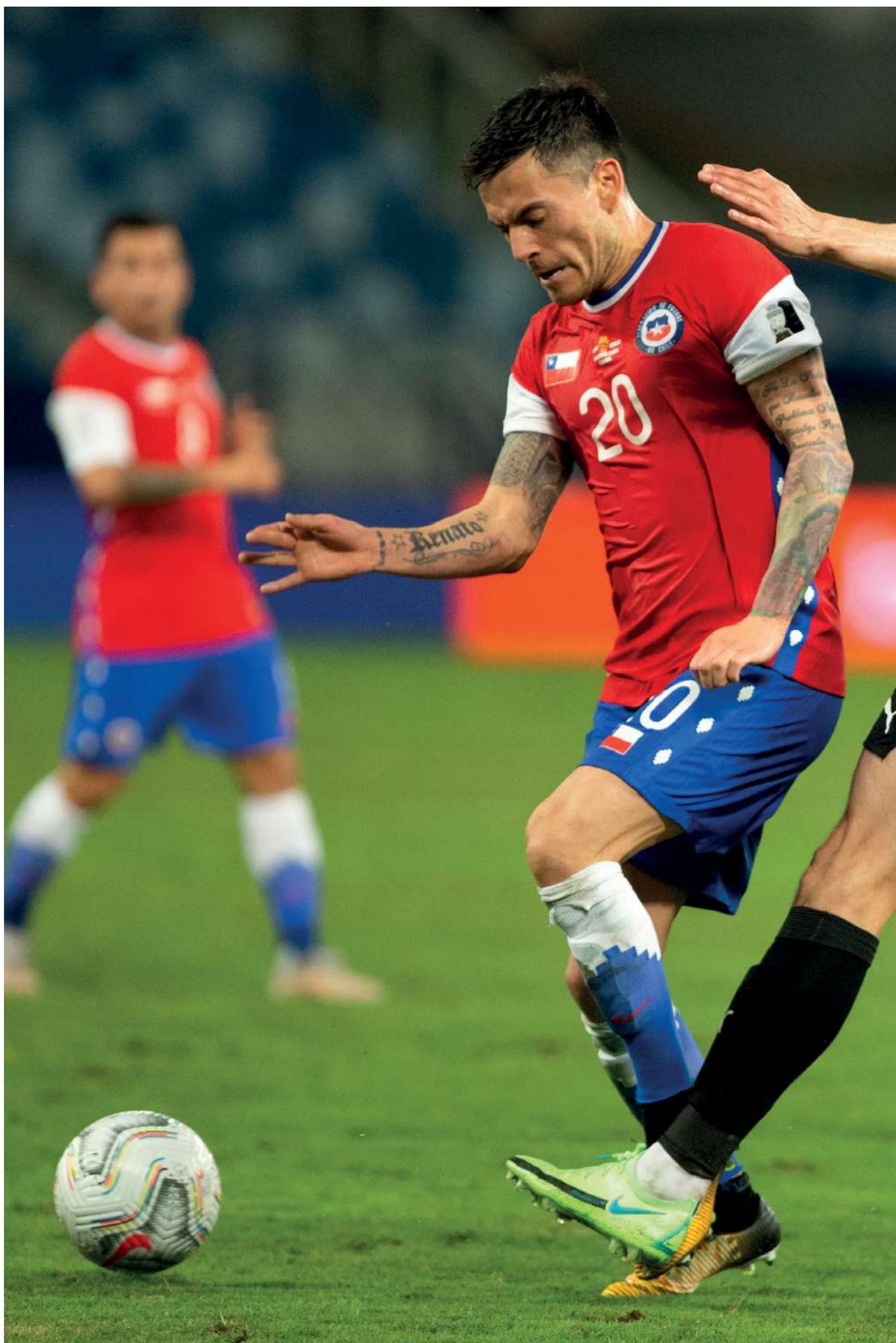
Mixed marking and 11 players defending against corners was a trend in this Cup, with only Brazil and Venezuela using zonal marking. Practically all the teams defended their goal very jealously, and set pieces were a big concern for the coaches.



In short, this unusual CA2021, played without the public in the stands, left us several aspects to analyze in a football where the preparation of the players has not been ideal. Several of them recovering not only from injuries but from Covid-19, influenced a lot to achieve their best performance.

Even so, the football of this Cup has left us with important aspects that are analyzed in this document. The trends we describe here will undoubtedly give rise to discussion, but also much food for thought.





06



NATIONAL TEAM ANALYSIS

CONMEBOL COPA AMERICA 2021

ARGENTINIAN NATIONAL TEAM



Throughout the competition, the Argentine team showed a good evolution, ending with the title of champion of the tournament.

Coach Lionel Scaloni varied tactical systems, game concepts and line-ups throughout the CA2021. Variations were made match by match, mainly due to problems identified in the "previous game" and the characteristics of the "next opponent".

At the start of the tournament, Argentina prepared to play against Chile with a 4-3-3 system, modified to a 4-4-2 when it was their turn to defend. De Paul had the responsibility to play a little bit in the middle to leave space for Montiel to project himself, so he was a kind of a link-up player in that sector, while the team had the ball (offensive organization moment).

However, during the defensive organization, De Paul always moved to occupy the right corridor to preserve Messi from the need to participate in defensive actions. Even so, during some games there was difficulty

in maintaining this behavior, as he lost effectiveness when pressing. They also had great difficulty in maintaining possession of the ball. This same tactical scenario happened against Uruguay in the next match, which triggered changes for the third match of the competition, against the Paraguayan national team. We can highlight the entry of Di Maria in the starting line-up, probably due to the characteristics of the Paraguayan team's game. This generated more dynamics in the Argentine team, and Di María was the one who assisted Papu Gómez for the winning goal. Even so, the loss of pressure in the second half of the matches was still notorious. The team still struggled to organize offensively and had more difficulty regaining possession. Despite this, they still managed to qualify after beating Paraguay and easily got through the fourth match of the group stage against a very fragile Bolivian team.

Having reached the quarterfinals, the victory that made clear the evolution of the team was the 3-0 win over the Ecuadorian team, with a great performance by Messi, who by this time was already making a difference in the tournament. Even so, in the second half of this match, the team had difficulties

again when pressing, but this time, with the presence of Di Maria, the team managed to take the momentum away from the Ecuadorian team and controlled the game again to define the match.

In the semifinal, the Argentine team went through its biggest test in the competition so far. With a well-defined, well-structured, and less mobile 1-4-4-2 system of play, they faced a Colombian team that, with Luis Diaz, demanded a lot defensively from the Argentines.

The hardest hit was their goalkeeper, Martinez, the best goalkeeper of the competition and the hero of the penalty shoot-out qualification for the final.

In this way, the Argentine national team reached the final against Brazil, surprising with a new proposal of his coach Scaloni. For the final, he set up an initial 1-4-4-2 system. It was a surprise to see Di Maria starting on the right wing, even though he had already played in the Copa against Paraguay. But also, the Argentine team started with De Paul moving in the central sector of the field along with Paredes and

Lo Celso turned to the left of the attack. The Argentine coach generated a new dynamic for his team with the distribution of his players on the field, which until then, he had not used. Di Maria knew how to exploit the spaces left by Renan Lodi and ended up scoring the winning goal that gave them the title.

The Argentine coach had the courage to make these changes just in time for the final of the tournament. In addition, he showed that he had a wide knowledge of his rivals, alternating and rotating his players match by match in a successful way. There was a noticeable evolution of the Argentine national team throughout the tournament. They managed to exploit some weaknesses of the Brazilian team in the final of the Copa America and thanks to the imprint of Scaloni and the excellent performances of Messi, the Argentine national team secured another well-deserved title.

BASIS SYSTEM USED



MATCH STATISTICS

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 7 | Matches | 26 | Players used |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|

| Average team possession | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------|---|
| Effective time | In min. | 22,05 | Effective time opponents field |
| Possession | Average | 45% | Average |
| | | | In min. 9,22 |
| | | | Effective time opponents field 40% |

Development of possession

2660 Passes received

3040 Passes given

Good: **88%** Bad: **12%**

581 First class passes

Good: **81%** Bad: **19%**

2205 Short passes up to 7m

Good: **92%** Bad: **8%**

624 Medium passes up to 12m

Good: **85%** Bad: **15%**

211 Long passes over 12m

Good: **48%** Bad: **52%**

Bookings

18 (Yellow cards)
0 (Red cards)

333 Recovered balls

341 Balls lost

Average goals / game

1,71 For

0,43 Against



TOP PLAYERS

Top scorers

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| LIONEL MESSI | LAUTARO MARTÍNEZ |
| Goals: 4 | Goals: 3 |

Top 5 Passers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| LIONEL MESSI | RODRIGO DE PAUL | GUIDO RODRÍGUEZ | LEANDRO PAREDES | MARCOS ACUÑA |
| Passing: 311 | Passing: 234 | Passing: 222 | Passing: 197 | Passing: 189 |

Top 5 Recoverers

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| EMILIANO MARTÍNEZ | RODRIGO DE PAUL | GUIDO RODRÍGUEZ | NICOLÁS OTAMENDI | MARCOS ACUÑA |
| Balls Recovered: 39 | Balls recovered: 28 | Balls recovered: 25 | Balls recovered: 24 | Balls recovered: 23 |

Top 5 Finishers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| LIONEL MESSI | LAUTARO MARTÍNEZ | ÁNGEL DI MARÍA | NICOLÁS GONZÁLEZ | RODRIGO DE PAUL |
| Shots: 16 | Shots: 12 | Shots: 8 | Shots: 6 | Shots: 4 |

Top 5 Crosses

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| LIONEL MESSI | ÁNGEL DI MARÍA | MARCOS ACUÑA | NICOLÁS TAGLIAFICO | RODRIGO DE PAUL |
| Crosses: 7 | Crosses: 6 | Crosses: 6 | Crosses: 3 | Crosses: 2 |

Players with the most minutes played

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| LIONEL MESSI | EMILIANO MARTÍNEZ | RODRIGO DE PAUL | NICOLÁS OTAMENDI | LAUTARO MARTÍNEZ |
| Minutes played: 630 | Minutes played: 540 | Minutes played: 469 | Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 416 |

BOLIVIAN NATIONAL TEAM



The national team of Bolivia came to this CA2021 with very important casualties due to health problems because of the pandemic, as well as injuries. Some of its most influential players, such as Carlos Lampe, Luis Fernando Haquim, Henry Vaca and its captain, Marcelo Moreno Martins, could not integrate with the team from the beginning, and in the case of Martins, could not recover throughout the championship, entering only 30 minutes against Uruguay.

The systems of play they used the most were the 1-4-4-2, with which they generally started their games, and the 1-5-3-2. They always showed themselves to be a very tactically applied team, very tidy, and defended their goal with a lot of courage until the end, despite not achieving the expected results.

Their game plan was designed to maintain a tight defense, very tactically applied, and to take advantage of the spaces in attack to make quick transitions. On some occasions and depending on the circumstances of the match, they put pressure on their opponents in their own half.

In set pieces, they performed well defensively. They only conceded one goal from a penalty and controlled the defensive aerial game very well.



Their most outstanding player was goalkeeper Carlos Lampe, who put in some truly outstanding performances.

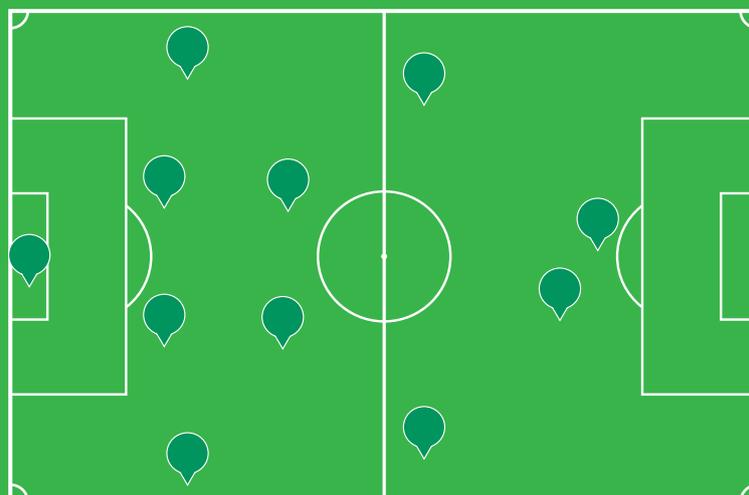
He was among the best goalkeepers of the tournament, and along with Leonel Justiniano and Erwin Saavedra, had outstanding performances throughout the championship.

In the absence of extremely important players in his squad, coach Cesar Farias used this Copa America to play and give international experience to several

young players with great futures. Among them were five from the U-20 national team, which will allow him to add players and strengthen his national team in challenges ahead, such as the qualifiers for the Qatar 2022 World Cup.



BASIS SYSTEM USED



TOP PLAYERS

Top scorers



ERWIN SAAVEDRA
Goals: **2**

Top 5 Passers



RAMIRO VACA
Passing: **172**



ERWIN SAAVEDRA
Passing: **162**



ROBERTO FERNÁNDEZ
Passing: **131**



LEONEL JUSTINIANO
Passing: **115**



DIEGO BEJARANO
Passing: **104**

Top 5 Recoverers



CARLOS LAMPE
Balls Recovered: **27**



LEONEL JUSTINIANO
Balls Recovered: **18**



ADRIAN JUSINO
Balls Recovered: **17**



JAIRO QUINTEROS
Balls Recovered: **17**



RAMIRO VACA
Balls Recovered: **16**

Top 5 Finishers



ERWIN SAAVEDRA
Shots: **5**



ROBERTO FERNÁNDEZ
Shots: **3**



RAMIRO VACA
Shots: **3**



JUAN ARCE
Shots: **1**



DIEGO BEJARANO
Shots: **1**

Top 5 Crosses



ERWIN SAAVEDRA
Crosses: **4**



JUAN ARCE
Crosses: **4**



DIEGO BEJARANO
Crosses: **4**



ROBERTO FERNÁNDEZ
Crosses: **3**



DANNY BEJARANO
Crosses: **1**

Players with the most minutes played



ADRIAN JUSINO
Minutes played: **360**



LEONEL JUSTINIANO
Minutes played: **343**



ERWIN SAAVEDRA
Minutes played: **315**



ROBERTO FERNÁNDEZ
Minutes played: **288**



CARLOS LAMPE
Minutes played: **270**

BRAZILIAN NATIONAL TEAM



Brazil came into this CA2021 with a very good record. Apart from being the champion of the previous tournament, in the five years that Tite had been in charge of the national team, he had only lost one official match. In the qualifiers for

Qatar 2022, he has played 6 games, all wins, with 16 goals scored and 2 conceded.

At the beginning of this tournament, their performance was excellent, with 2 games won, 7 goals scored, and none conceded. From then on, their performance started to drop until they lost the final match against Argentina with a score line of 1-0.

Their most used system of play was 4-3-3, but with a lot of versatility by changing on several occasions according to the demands of the match. Their game plan was to attack their opponents, regain the ball immediately after losing it, and then to attack again. When they were unsuccessful in pressing their opponents high, they made very efficient defensive transitions to get back to their last zone.

The team's attacking play was generally elaborated from their defense, passing through the midfield, trying to find the way to the opponent's goal, based on combinations with ball possession. There was a lot of movement from their forwards and the arrival from behind of their full backs Danilo and Alex Sandro or



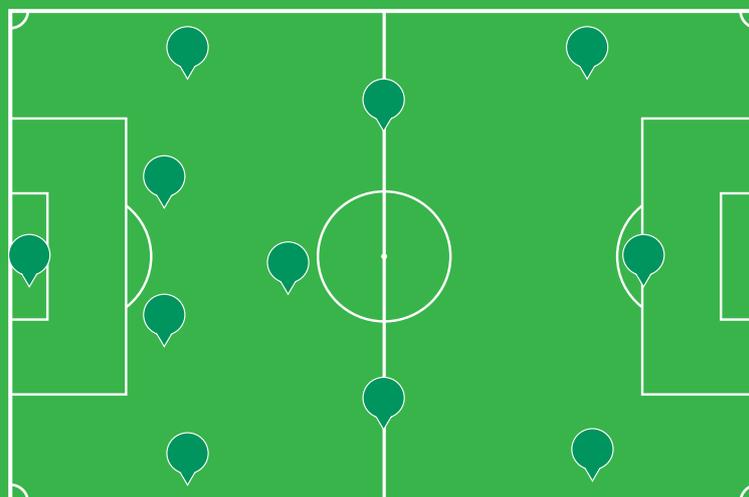
Renan Lodi, as well as Lucas Paquetá from midfield, who generally projected himself with success. On very few occasions they were able to find open spaces for quick attacks, because their opponents always reduced the space and did not allow them to "run the field".

Brazil was the most efficient team in the tournament when it came to set pieces. They scored four goals from set pieces and conceded none. In the defensive aerial game, they practiced a very effective zone marking, with all 11 players defending, both in corner kicks and free kicks from lateral areas.

On an individual level, Neymar was a shining figure, with Casemiro, Lucas Paqueta and Marquinhos, increasingly a leader of his national team, also standing out.



BASIS SYSTEM USED



MATCH STATISTICS

| | | | |
|---|---------|----|--------------|
| 7 | Matches | 23 | Players used |
|---|---------|----|--------------|

| Average team possession | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Effective time | In min. | 27,58 | Effective time opponents field |
| Possession | Average | 57% | Average |
| | | | In min. |
| | | | 11,24 |
| | | | Average |
| | | | 39% |

Development of possession

3111 Passes received

3493 Passes given

Good: **89%** Bad: **11%**

603 First class passes

Good: **85%** Bad: **15%**

2605 Short passes up to 7m

Good: **93%** Bad: **7%**

723 Medium passes up to 12m

Good: **83%** Bad: **17%**

165 Long passes over 12m

Good: **51%** Bad: **49%**

Bookings

12 Yellow cards

1 Red card

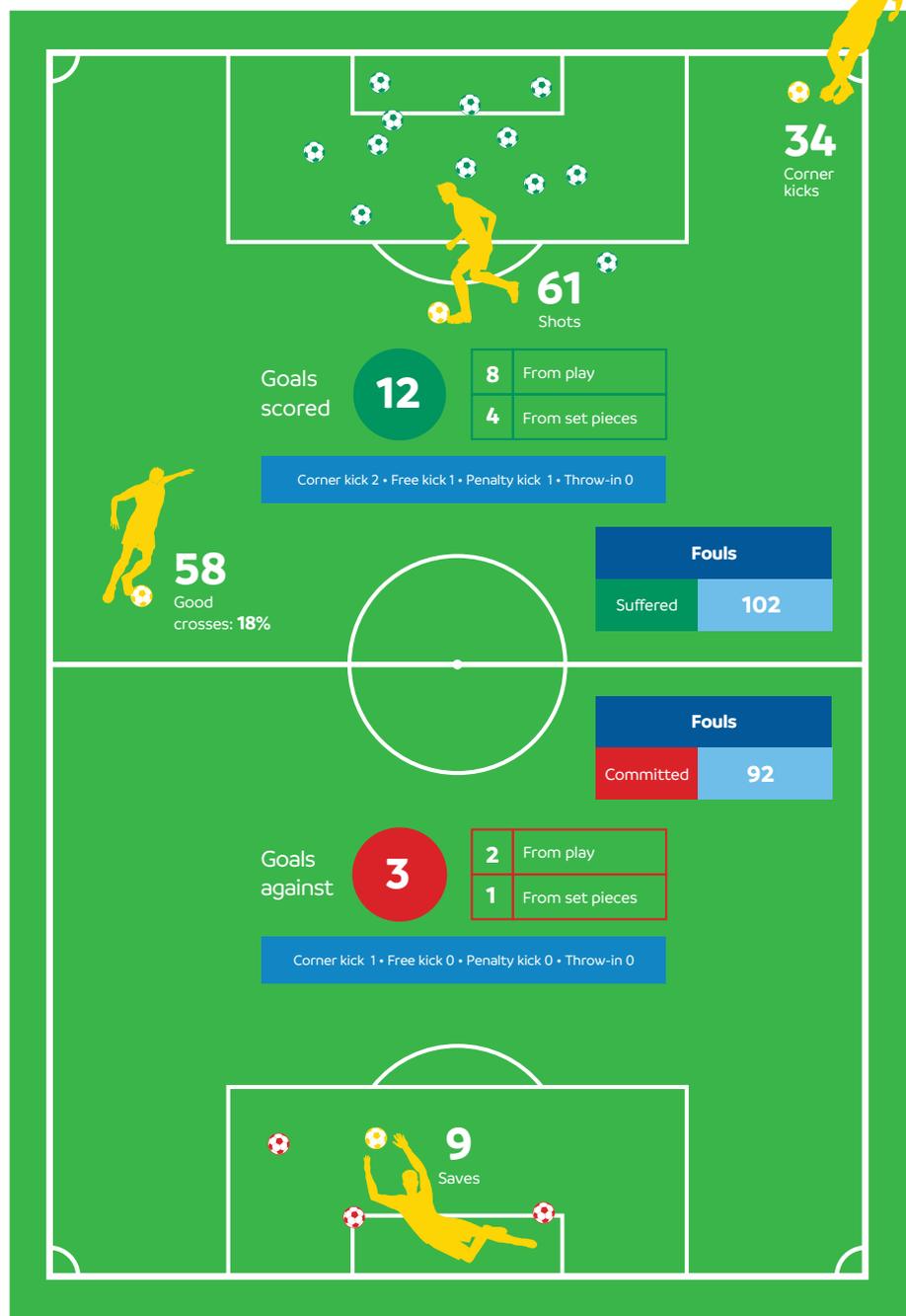
358 Recovered balls

341 Balls lost

Average goals / game

1,71 For

0,43 Against



TOP PLAYERS

Top scorers

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| NEYMAR | LUCAS PAQUETÁ |
| Goals: 2 | Goals: 2 |

Top 5 Passers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| DANILO | FRED | MARQUINHOS | CASEMIRO | NEYMAR |
| Passing: 355 | Passing: 351 | Passing: 333 | Passing: 314 | Passing: 296 |

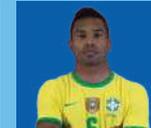
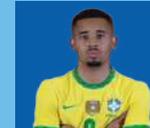
Top 5 Recoverers

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| CASEMIRO | FRED | DANILO | RENAN LODI | THIAGO SILVA |
| Balls Recovered: 44 | Balls Recovered: 39 | Balls Recovered: 33 | Balls Recovered: 28 | Balls Recovered: 27 |

Top 5 Finishers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| NEYMAR | RICHARLISON | LUCAS PAQUETÁ | CASEMIRO | DANILO |
| Shots: 14 | Shots: 13 | Shots: 7 | Shots: 5 | Shots: 4 |

Top 5 Crosses

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| RENAN LODI | RICHARLISON | NEYMAR | ALEX SANDRO | GABRIEL JESÚS |
| Crosses: 10 | Crosses: 9 | Crosses: 7 | Crosses: 7 | Crosses: 6 |

Players with the most minutes played

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| DANILO | NEYMAR | MARQUINHOS | CASEMIRO | RICHARLISON |
| Minutes played: 575 | Minutes played: 540 | Minutes played: 540 | Minutes played: 477 | Minutes played: 461 |

CHILEAN NATIONAL TEAM



Having won two of the last three Copa Americas, Chile came into this one having changed their coach, who had just a couple of games under his belt in the South American qualifiers.



In spite of the short time of work, the performance of the trans-Andean team was good. They managed to go through in a group which included Argentina, with whom they drew on their debut after a good performance.

He started the tournament with a 1-4-3-3 system, which changed as the tournament progressed. Against Uruguay, for example, he surprised everyone with a 1-5-3-2, but what he used the most was a line of four.

Their defense, led by G. Medel, performed well despite the goals conceded. The fullbacks like Sierralta, who when called to play responded very well, and two experienced fullbacks, who closed their sector to complement the central area.

In the middle, it was not easy to enter Chile's area because between the line of 4 and the midfielders, they generated a defensive "shield" difficult to break.

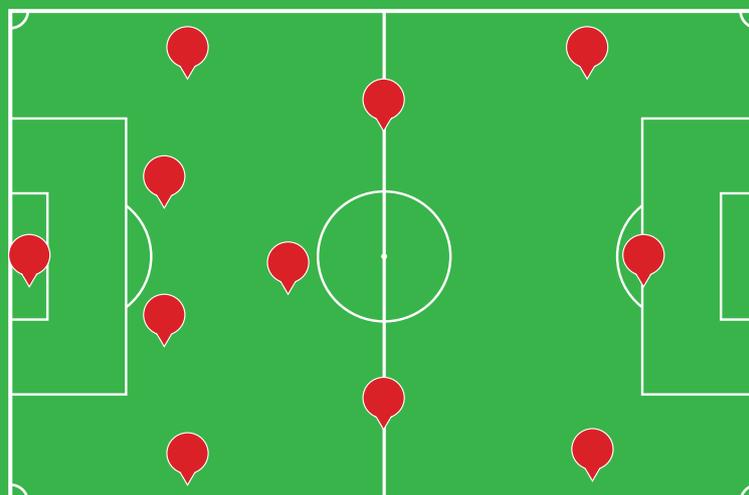
The attacking plan was always to have possession of the ball in the central area, with three midfielders, generally A. Vidal, E. Pulgar, and C. Aránguiz managing the ball. Vargas contributed with a lot of movement, occasionally dropping back to leave Brereton more up front. They moved forward through the central sector, but the idea was always to get through the wings with the wingers Mena and Isla. There were good breaks, both from Vidal and Aránguiz through inside lanes, often arriving even without the ball in the opponent's area.

For set pieces in their favor, despite having a good finisher such as Aránguiz, Chile did not have many dangerous situations in the opponents' area and in those that they did have, we did not observe prepared plays.

Arturo Vidal was the most outstanding player of the team for his sacrifice and courage to always look for the positive result, while Vargas and Aránguiz also performed well, along with the experienced goalkeeper C. Bravo.



BASIS SYSTEM USED



MATCH STATISTICS

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 5 | Matches | 22 | Players used |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|

| Average team possession | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Effective time | In min. | 29,18 | Effective time opponents field | In min. | 10,56 |
| Possession | Average | 56% | Effective time opponents field | Average | 36% |

Development of possession

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 2275 | Passes received |
| 2606 | Passes given |
| Good: 87% | Bad: 13% |
| 517 | First class passes |
| Good: 83% | Bad: 17% |
| 1868 | Short passes up to 7m |
| Good: 92% | Bad: 8% |
| 533 | Medium passes up to 12m |
| Good: 82% | Bad: 18% |
| 205 | Long passes over 12m |
| Good: 51% | Bad: 49% |

Bookings

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 11 | |
| 0 | |

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 258 | Recovered balls |
| 246 | Balls lost |

Average goals / game

| | |
|------------|---------|
| 0,6 | For |
| 1 | Against |

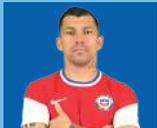


TOP PLAYERS

Top scorers

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| EDUARDO VARGAS | BENJAMIN BRERETON |
| Goals: 2 | Goals: 1 |

Top 5 Passers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| CHARLES ARÁNGUIZ | ARTURO VIDAL | GARY MEDEL | MAURICIO ISLA | EUGENIO MENA |
| Passing: 331 | Passing: 290 | Passing: 273 | Passing: 248 | Passing: 247 |

Top 5 Recoverers

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| CLAUDIO BRAVO | GARY MEDEL | CHARLES ARÁNGUIZ | ARTURO VIDAL | FRANCISCO SIERRALTA |
| Balls Recovered: 31 | Balls Recovered: 27 | Balls Recovered: 24 | Balls Recovered: 22 | Balls Recovered: 22 |

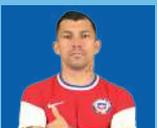
Top 5 Finishers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| EDUARDO VARGAS | BENJAMIN BRERETON | ARTURO VIDAL | JEAN MENESES | EUGENIO MENA |
| Shots: 9 | Shots: 6 | Shots: 5 | Shots: 4 | Shots: 2 |

Top 5 Crosses

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| EUGENIO MENA | MAURICIO ISLA | JEAN MENESES | ARTURO VIDAL | CÉSAR PINARES |
| Crosses: 17 | Crosses: 7 | Crosses: 7 | Crosses: 6 | Crosses: 4 |

Players with the most minutes played

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| CLAUDIO BRAVO | EUGENIO MENA | MAURICIO ISLA | CHARLES ARÁNGUIZ | GARY MEDEL |
| Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 448 | Minutes played: 420 |

COLOMBIAN NATIONAL TEAM



Although Colombia came into this Cup with a coach with only two official matches played, the arrival of Reinaldo Rueda to lead the Colombian national team strengthened the Colombian national team from an emotional point of view. A connoisseur of football and the Colombian footballer, he proposed an initial 1-4-4-2 system in all the matches, with variations for both defending and attacking, although against Peru, he made a small change to 1-4-4-1-1.

The last defensive zone varied in terms of names, but not in the system used in this Cup. A line of four that was always very tidy and two central midfielders well positioned in front, was the mainstay of a defensive structure that was very solid at the beginning of the tournament. Defenders Yerry Mina and Davinson Sanchez stood out in this scheme, but the central axis, Wilmar Barrios, had an excellent performance in this Cup, whether accompanied by Mateus Uribe, Sebastian Perez, or Gustavo Cuellar. He tidied up, scored, and played the ball well most of the time. The wingers, who were usually Luis Diaz and Juan Cuadrado, constantly accompanied the wingers to cover the flanks and project themselves in possession of the ball.

Their game plan, among other things, was based on pressing high up the pitch in order to win the ball back, but they didn't always succeed. The idea was to launch the attack immediately, but they couldn't do it frequently and therefore appealed to the possession of the ball as a way to control the game and look to get through the flanks with Cuadrado and Luis Diaz. With two strikers up front, Zapata and Borré or Muriel, with a lot of movement, even one of the two dropping back as a link in some cases when Cardona was out, but the idea was the same. The form of attack had variants, depending on where the attack started. The arrivals on the right with a greater tendency to the short game centers, while on the left, the individual incursions led by Diaz gave the Colombian national team the offensive variables to generate goal situations. Such were the achievements against Brazil, when from the right sector, Juan Cuadrado made a perfect cross for Luis Diaz to score, and the individual play, beyond a short wall on the left, making a diagonal inward, also by Luis Diaz in the goal against Peru that closed the match and gave Colombia the third place in the Cup.

When defending corner kicks, they implemented a mixed marking, and when taking corners, they always executed the cross directly looking for the head of their tallest players like Yerry Mina, Duván Zapata or Davinson Sánchez, but they failed to connect effectively.

The good performance of Ospina, the versatility of Cuadrado, the speed of Diaz and the excellent level of Barrios in defense and in moments of possession were the strengths of the Colombian team, which achieved a well-deserved third place.



BASIS SYSTEM USED



MATCH STATISTICS

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 7 | Matches | 24 | Players used |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|

| Average team possession | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Effective time | In min. | 24,29 | Effective time opponents field |
| Possession | Average | 49% | Effective time opponents field |
| | | | In min. |
| | | | 10,13 |
| | | | Average |
| | | | 38% |

Development of possession

2472 Passes received

2923 Passes given

Good: **85%** Bad: **15%**

568 First class passes

Good **78%** Bad: **22%**

2010 Short passes up to 7m

Good: **89%** Bad: **11%**

642 Medium passes up to 12m

Good: **82%** Bad: **18%**

271 Long passes over 12m

Good: **51%** Bad: **49%**

Bookings

19
1

387 Recovered balls

387 Balls lost

Average goals / game

1 For

1 Against

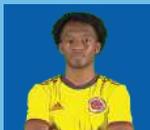
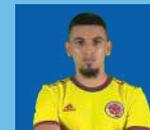


TOP PLAYERS

Top scorers

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| LUIS DÍAZ | JUAN CUADRADO |
| Goals: 4 | Goals: 1 |

Top 5 Passers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| WILMAR BARRIOS | JUAN CUADRADO | WILLIAM TESILLO | YERRY MINA | DANIEL MUÑOZ |
| Passing: 309 | Passing: 292 | Passing: 279 | Passing: 260 | Passing: 222 |

Top 5 Recoverers

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| WILMAR BARRIOS | WILLIAM TESILLO | DAVID OSPINA | YERRY MINA | DANIEL MUÑOZ |
| Balls Recovered: 44 | Balls Recovered: 44 | Balls Recovered: 43 | Balls Recovered: 37 | Balls Recovered: 31 |

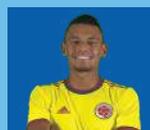
Top 5 Finishers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| DUVÁN ZAPATA | LUIS DÍAZ | MIGUEL BORJA | JUAN CUADRADO | EDWIN CARDONA |
| Shots: 10 | Shots: 8 | Shots: 8 | Shots: 4 | Shots: 4 |

Top 5 Crosses

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| JUAN CUADRADO | WILLIAM TESILLO | DANIEL MUÑOZ | EDWIN CARDONA | LUIS DÍAZ |
| Crosses: 22 | Crosses: 12 | Crosses: 6 | Crosses: 4 | Crosses: 4 |

Players with the most minutes played

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| WILMAR BARRIOS | YERRY MINA | WILLIAM TESILLO | DAVID OSPINA | JUAN CUADRADO |
| Minutes played: 630 | Minutes played: 594 | Minutes played: 540 | Minutes played: 540 | Minutes played: 540 |

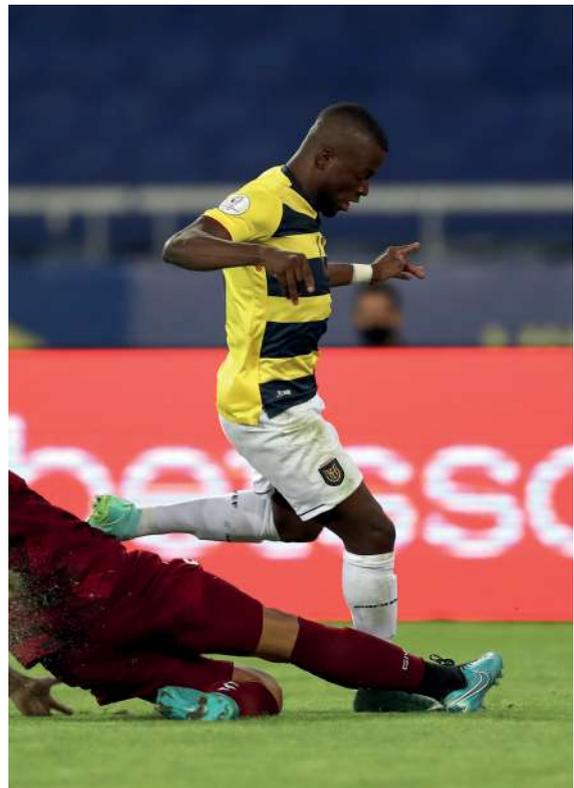
ECUADORIAN NATIONAL TEAM



Although Ecuador's record in the last Copa America was not the best, they came into this new edition with very good results in terms of official matches.

They have had very good performances and results in the qualifiers for Qatar 2022 have allowed them to reach this CA2021 among the teams that are currently qualifying for the World Cup.

Their coach, Gustavo Alfaro, used a 1-4-4-2 system throughout the tournament, alternating, in some games, with a 1-4-4-1-1. The squad that arrived in Brazil for this Copa has a very interesting mix of young players and others with more experience. Several of the experienced ones have played many matches at the national team level, and the younger ones represent a new generation



with a South American U-20 tournament won, and an excellent participation in the U-20 World Cup.

They qualified for the quarterfinals with a shaky defense in the group stage. They opened and lost against Colombia, and the next two matches were draws, although the game's course was favorable to them in several parts of these matches. A draw against Brazil was enough for them to qualify, but they lost 3-0 to Argentina in the quarterfinals, thus leaving the tournament. Despite not being able to win, they never deviated from the system they used to start their matches. The back line and the two central midfielders played every game, with the only difference being that M. Caicedo, a central midfielder, came on after 70 minutes in the match against Argentina. This regularity of the defensive base of Ecuador showed us the full confidence of the coach in these players, and that the goal was beyond this CA2021.

In offense, the fullbacks Angelo Preciado and Pervis Estupiñán, were always the ideal help for the game on the wings that the Ecuadorian team proposed. They projected constantly, even generating goal situations for their team.

The midfielders who played as wingers rotated systematically from match to match, as well as the two strikers. In some cases, one of them acted as a link with the task of marking one of the midfielders of the opponent.

What is also worth noting is that Ecuador now has a lot of young players in its squad, the result of a process that has been carried out at youth level, which could produce results in the not-too-distant future.

Notable players were Piero Hincapié, who was the most outstanding defender with an even performance, the two fullbacks for their constant offensive efforts, and Gonzalo Plata, a young player whose trajectory must be followed.

BASIS SYSTEM USED



MATCH STATISTICS

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 5 | Matches | 22 | Players used |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|

| Average team possession | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Effective time | In min. | 28,04 | Effective time opponents field |
| Possession | Average | 59% | Average |
| | | | In min. |
| | | | 12,17 |
| | | | Effective time opponents field |
| | | | Average |
| | | | 41% |

Development of possession

1836 Passes received

2166 Passes given
 Good: **85%** Bad: **15%**

339 First class passes
 Good: **77%** Bad: **23%**

1534 Short passes up to 7m
 Good: **90%** Bad: **10%**

451 Medium passes up to 12m
 Good: **82%** Bad: **18%**

181 Long passes over 12m
 Good: **38%** Bad: **62%**

Bookings

9
1

256 Recovered balls
247 Balls lost

Average goals / game

1 For
1,8 Against



TOP PLAYERS

Top scorers

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |
| EDUAR PRECIADO | ÁNGEL MENA | GONZALO PLATA |
| Goals: 2 | Goals: 1 | Goals: 1 |

Top 5 Passers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| JHEGSON MÉNDEZ | PIERO HINCAPIÉ | PERVIS ESTUPIÑÁN | ANGELO PRECIADO | ROBERT ARBOLEDA |
| Passing: 289 | Passing: 245 | Passing: 242 | Passing: 231 | Passing: 225 |

Top 5 Recoverers

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ANGELO PRECIADO | PIERO HINCAPIÉ | PERVIS ESTUPIÑÁN | ROBERT ARBOLEDA | JHEGSON MÉNDEZ |
| Balls Recovered: 40 | Balls Recovered: 39 | Balls Recovered: 37 | Balls Recovered: 26 | Balls Recovered: 25 |

Top 5 Finishers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ENNER VALENCIA | GONZALO PLATA | JHEGSON MÉNDEZ | LEONARDO CAMPANA | EDUAR PRECIADO |
| Shots: 8 | Shots: 3 | Shots: 3 | Shots: 3 | Shots: 2 |

Top 5 Crosses

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| PERVIS ESTUPIÑÁN | ANGELO PRECIADO | ENNER VALENCIA | ÁNGEL MENA | FIDEL MARTÍNEZ |
| Crosses: 20 | Crosses: 15 | Crosses: 5 | Crosses: 4 | Crosses: 3 |

Players with the most minutes played

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| PERVIS ESTUPIÑÁN | ROBERT ARBOLEDA | PIERO HINCAPIÉ | ANGELO PRECIADO | JHEGSON MÉNDEZ |
| Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 442 | Minutes played: 416 |

PARAGUAYAN NATIONAL TEAM



The Guarani team arrived at this CA2021 with 6 local players in its squad and the rest from abroad, with 11 playing in teams of our continent. Little time of work in their preparation, as is usual for the national teams that have players playing abroad. Their coach, Eduardo Berizzo, had overseen the team for 2 and a half years, with experience in the previous Copa America 2019, arriving with certain expectations for this Cup.

Paraguay made the most changes in terms of playing system from one match to the next. In the five matches they played, they never repeated the same starting system as the previous match. In terms of personnel, the defensive line of 4 was the one that suffered the least changes, with both the central and outside midfielders being rotated in the starting lineup by the coach. In this sense, Mathías Villasanti was the one who played the most in the central area of the field, he only missed the match against Argentina. As for the strikers, it is worth mentioning that the times Berizzo played 4-2-3-1, he always sent Gabriel Ávalos to the pitch as a striker.

The Paraguayans tried, in all their games, to press in three-quarters of the pitch, but when they were unable to do so, they retreated at the speed of the ball. They won most of the ball back in the second third of the pitch in order to create a quick transition. The defensive retreats were excellently executed, proof of which is that they were never surprised with a counterattack that ended in a goal.

In attack, depending on the rival, the offensive strategy varied. Sometimes Gabriel Ávalos was included in the team, and when more movement was needed, Carlos González was introduced as a forward. But the game and the impetus to implement the offensive, was born in the feet of Miguel Angel Almiron, until he got injured in the match against Uruguay. The Paraguayan team felt that loss not only in that match, but also in the quarter-final match in which they lost against Peru in a penalty shootout.

When defending corner kicks, a mixed marking was implemented with two men loose and the rest man to man and a player to the possible rebound.

It was also mixed in free kicks, where there was some man marking, but the rest in the zone on the edge of the area.

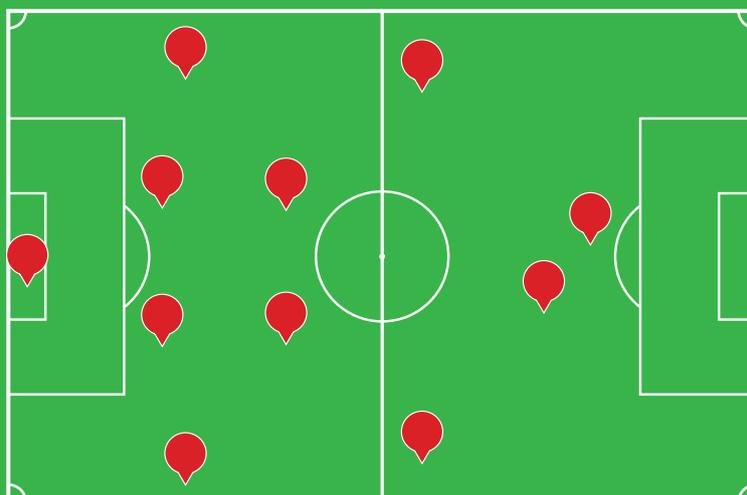
In free kicks, they were quite effective, since they converted this way in the 2-0 win over Chile. One goal came from a penalty and the other from a corner kick with an excellent header by Bryan Samudio. Meanwhile, in the 3-3 quarter-final against Peru, they scored twice from corners.

The overall performance was uneven and left a little to be desired, as it was expected that Paraguay would progress further in the tournament. Although they scored seven goals, they conceded six and that is not very common for the team. After one of the best games of the Cup, in which they had to play with ten players the whole second half against Peru, they went home in the quarterfinals on penalties.



There were players who performed very well in Paraguay, such as Miguel Almiron, the best of his team, Angel Romero, and defender Junior Alonso, who had great performances.

BASIS SYSTEM USED



MATCH STATISTICS

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 5 | Matches | 23 | Players used |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|

| Average team possession | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Effective time | In min. | 26,35 | Effective time opponents field |
| Possession | Average | 52% | Average |
| | | | In min. |
| | | | 11,31 |
| | | | Effective time opponents field |
| | | | Average |
| | | | 41% |

Development of possession

2025 Passes received

2333 Passes given

Good: **87%** Bad: **13%**

396 First class passes

Good: **77%** Bad: **23%**

1607 Short passes up to 7m

Good: **90%** Bad: **10%**

535 Medium passes up to 12m

Good: **84%** Bad: **16%**

191 Long passes over 12m

Good: **53%** Bad: **47%**

Bookings

11 Yellow cards

1 Red cards

252 Recovered balls

266 Balls lost

Average goals / game

1,6 For

1,2 Against



TOP PLAYERS

Top scorers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ÁNGEL ROMERO | JUNIOR ALONSO | GUSTAVO GÓMEZ | MIGUEL ALMIRÓN | GABRIEL ÁVALOS |
| Goals: 2 | Goals: 1 | Goals: 1 | Goals: 1 | Goals: 1 |

Top 5 Passers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| JUNIOR ALONSO | ALBERTO ESPINOLA | ÁNGEL ROMERO | SANTIAGO ARZAMENDIA | GUSTAVO GÓMEZ |
| Passing: 295 | Passing: 209 | Passing: 170 | Passing: 170 | Passing: 163 |

Top 5 Recoverers

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| JUNIOR ALONSO | ALBERTO ESPINOLA | GUSTAVO GÓMEZ | ANTONY SILVA | HÉCTOR MARTÍNEZ |
| Balls Recovered: 42 | Balls Recovered: 30 | Balls Recovered: 29 | Balls Recovered: 20 | Balls Recovered: 16 |

Top 5 Finishers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ÁNGEL ROMERO | MIGUEL ALMIRÓN | ALEJANDRO GAMARRA | GABRIEL ÁVALOS | GUSTAVO GÓMEZ |
| Shots: 6 | Shots: 4 | Shots: 4 | Shots: 3 | Shots: 2 |

Top 5 Crosses

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ÁNGEL ROMERO | ALBERTO ESPINOLA | SANTIAGO ARZAMENDIA | HÉCTOR MARTÍNEZ | MIGUEL ALMIRÓN |
| Crosses: 22 | Crosses: 11 | Crosses: 11 | Crosses: 6 | Crosses: 5 |

Players with the most minutes played

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ANTONY SILVA | JUNIOR ALONSO | ALBERTO ESPINOLA | ÁNGEL ROMERO | SANTIAGO ARZAMENDIA |
| Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 416 | Minutes played: 385 | Minutes played: 329 |

PERUVIAN NATIONAL TEAM



In the development of the CA2021, Peru presented as a predominant system a 1-4-1-4-1, and only against Brazil changed the system for a 1-5-4-1, even though in the group stage they faced them with a line of 4 and a central midfielder.

Displaying tactical flexibility, in attack were incorporated, alternately, fullbacks Trauco and Corzo, and in some games there was also Lopez on the left, who each, with his own special characteristics, came to the attack generally in a successful way when the team's game required it.

The 4 most offensive midfielders, Cueva, Yotún, Peña and Carrillo, were, along with Lapadula, their most important reference in attack, the ones who carried the whole scaffolding of the Peruvian attack. Their good collective play and the individual performance of each of them, was one of the strong points of the team in this Cup, as they complemented each other very well, supported on the wings by the fullbacks. They also played the most minutes in the tournament.

The most significant change in terms of strategy came against Brazil. With the intention of controlling the flanks, the team was set up with a line of five at the back, shortening the tactical figure in order to take space away from Brazil. They sought to be more effective in defense and improved on their group stage game. They largely achieved their goal, as a more secure defense was observed, controlling their rival despite the mistake of having conceded a goal through the central area of their defense.

Peru played zone defense in most of the games, planted a middle block and from there began its work, both defensively and offensively.

They resorted to midfield pressure as a way to win the ball back and go out in quick transition in search of the rival goal. On the other hand, they pressed high when they needed the result.

Offensively they combined in their game the fast transitions of defense-attack, the direct game, the elaboration and the counterattack according to what the rival presented.

In defensive set pieces, the team marked in the zone in front and lateral kicks. Only on corner kicks and throw-ins did they use mixed marking.

Yotún and Cuevas were the two players to score from set pieces. They scored twice from two corner kicks from the right side of their attack, both against Colombia in different matches. The second goal gave them a 2-1 win in the group stage, and they scored again when Lapadula headed in the

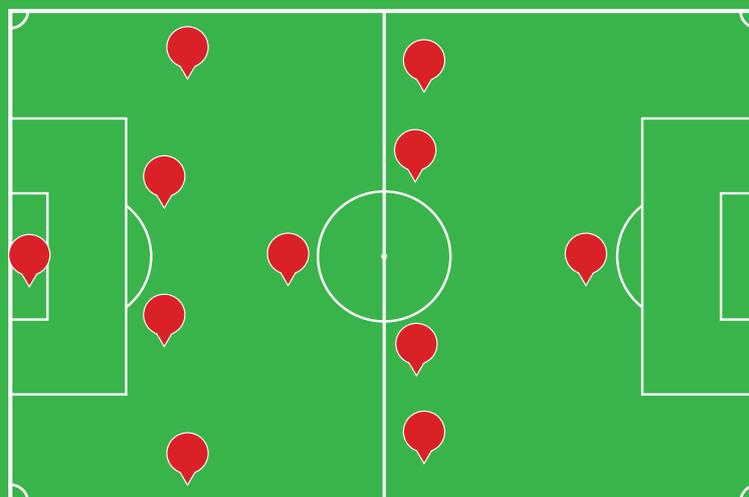
equalizer to give them a glimmer of hope of a third-place finish, which they were ultimately unable to achieve.

The staggering of corner kicks and free kicks from the side, was the strategy to attack the areas where the delivery was likely to arrive.

There is no doubt that Yotún was the axis around which the team developed their game. He was a technical player with great vision and a great finisher.

The offensive imbalance of opponents was implemented by Peru with Cueva and Carrillo, essentially technical players, who not only handle the wing but also the inside game. An excellent performance was observed from Lapadula, who was tasked by the coach with replacing the great legend of the Peruvian national team, Guerrero. Not only did he not fail him, but he left the tournament as one of the top scorers of the CA2021.

BASIS SYSTEM USED



MATCH STATISTICS

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 7 | Matches | 23 | Players used |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|

| Average team possession | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Effective time | In min. | 24,09 | Effective time opponents field | In min. | 8,53 |
| Possession | Average | 48% | Effective time opponents field | Average | 36% |

Development of possession

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 2571 | Passes received |
| 3046 | Passes given |
| Good: 84% | Bad: 16% |
| 636 | First class passes |
| Good: 81% | Bad: 19% |
| 2225 | Short passes up to 7m |
| Good: 91% | Bad: 9% |
| 525 | Medium passes up to 12m |
| Good: 81% | Bad: 19% |
| 296 | Long passes over 12m |
| Good: 40% | Bad: 60% |

Bookings

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 14 | |
| 1 | |

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 391 | Recovered balls |
| 412 | Balls lost |

Average goals / game

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| 1,43 | For |
| 2 | Against |



TOP PLAYERS

Top scorers

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| GIANLUCA LAPADULA | YOSHIMAR YOTÚN | ANDRÉ CARRILLO | SERGIO PEÑA |
| Goals: 4 | Goals: 2 | Goals: 2 | Goals: 1 |

Top 5 Passers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| YOSHIMAR YOTÚN | SERGIO PEÑA | RENATO TAPIA | CHRISTIAN CUEVA | ANDRÉ CARRILLO |
| Passing: 480 | Passing: 290 | Passing: 276 | Passing: 275 | Passing: 225 |

Top 5 Recoverers

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| RENATO TAPIA | YOSHIMAR YOTÚN | PEDRO GALLESE | ALDO CORZO | SERGIO PEÑA |
| Balls Recovered: 48 | Balls Recovered: 44 | Balls Recovered: 43 | Balls Recovered: 36 | Balls Recovered: 29 |

Top 5 Finishers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| GIANLUCA LAPADULA | YOSHIMAR YOTÚN | ANDRÉ CARRILLO | SERGIO PEÑA | RAZIEL GARCÍA |
| Shots: 12 | Shots: 9 | Shots: 4 | Shots: 4 | Shots: 3 |

Top 5 Crosses

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ALDO CORZO | ANDRÉ CARRILLO | CHRISTIAN CUEVA | SERGIO PEÑA | MARCOS LÓPEZ |
| Crosses: 9 | Crosses: 8 | Crosses: 6 | Crosses: 4 | Crosses: 4 |

Players with the most minutes played

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| PEDRO GALLESE | YOSHIMAR YOTÚN | ALDO CORZO | GIANLUCA LAPADULA | CHRISTIAN CUEVA |
| Minutes played: 630 | Minutes played: 613 | Minutes played: 601 | Minutes played: 577 | Minutes played: 569 |

URUGUAYAN NATIONAL TEAM



While the Uruguayans didn't have a great performance in this Cup, they weren't an easy team to break down. They conceded the fewest goals in the tournament, conceding just two in the five matches they played, while scoring four goals. They finished second with seven points in the group stage, losing just one game to the eventual champions.

From the start of the Cup, the team played with a 1-4-4-2 formation and at times switched to a 1-4-4-1-1 formation, based on the generosity of Edinson Cavani with his characteristic effort. They showed a defense that did not move from its usual positioning in zone 2 with the usual security that characterizes the Uruguayan defense.

In the match against Chile, the team had problems on the left side of their defense and for the second half, their coach Óscar Tabárez gave Martín Cáceres an entry and changed the system of play. He switched to a 3-4-1-2, with the latter as a central marker on the left, leaving the right flank for Naithan Nández and the left for Matías Viña. Both were generous in their efforts, collaborating in defense and projecting themselves in attack with success. The footballing leadership of Rodrigo

The Uruguayans also used a 1-4-3-1-2 formation during the tournament, which allowed them to attack with more clarity, based on the good performance of Georgian De Arrascaeta when he played as a midfielder in this situation.

Bentancur, along with his three midfield teammates, M. Vecino, F. Valverde, G. De Arrascaeta or N. De La Cruz, allowed the team, in some games, to play possession football as a starting point. In this sense, the highest point was in the match against Paraguay, in which, the technical capacity of these players allowed the team to elaborate excellent linkup play and to send the ball accurately to their forwards, generating several dangerous situations for their opponents. The arrivals of the fullbacks that gave amplitude to the attack, could have

been better exploited with clearer overlap runs and balls sent with greater precision. Naithan Nández, who had a great tournament, was the one who stood out in the game on the wings, arriving on the right side of the attack.

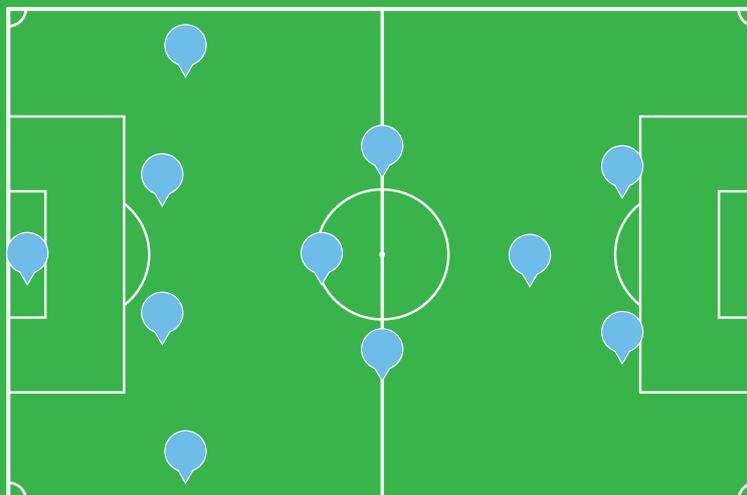
On set pieces in defense, the Celestes had some nuances in terms of their control. There was one lapse in their first match, when Argentina caught them on a corner kick with a short move and a cross to the far post, which ended with the only goal of the match. In the rest of the tournament, they were generally well managed with mixed marking at corners and zealous control of their opponents in an area on the edge of the six-yard box on free kicks close to it. The collective commitment of their players, the height and ability in the air, especially José Giménez, Diego Godín and Sebastián Coates, when he played, allowed the team to control their defensive zone with success.

The corner kicks and free kicks in their favor, were generally executed by Georgian De Arrascaeta, varying the repertoire in sending balls to the near and far post.

The performance of their goalkeeper, Fernando Muslera, was outstanding due to his ability and leadership. Uruguay had players of good performance, where Facundo Torres did not disappoint when it was his turn to enter, typical of a player with excellent technical characteristics, who contributed something different for the benefit of the team.

The goal was to reach the final, but the performance in terms of results left Uruguay with a bitter taste, because they deserved more and had to leave the tournament in a penalty shootout.

BASIS SYSTEM USED



MATCH STATISTICS

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 5 | Matches | 21 | Players used |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|

| Average team possession | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Effective time | In min. | 27,07 | Effective time opponents field |
| Possession | Average | 50% | Average |
| | | | In min. 11,02 |
| | | | Effective time opponents field |
| | | | Average 41% |

Development of possession

2144 Passes received

2446 Passes given

Good: **88%** Bad: **12%**

487 First class passes

Good: **82%** Bad: **18%**

1790 Short passes up to 7m

Good: **91%** Bad: **9%**

484 Medium passes up to 12m

Good: **85%** Bad: **15%**

172 Long passes over 12m

Good: **53%** Bad: **47%**

Bookings

4
0

275 Recovered balls

254 Balls lost

Average goals / game

0,8 For

0,4 Against



TOP PLAYERS

Top scorers

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| EDINSON CAVANI | LUIS SUÁREZ |
| Goals: 2 | Goals: 1 |

Top 5 Passers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| JOSÉ GIMÉNEZ | DIEGO GODÍN | FEDERICO VALVERDE | MATÍAS VECINO | MATÍAS VIÑA |
| Passing: 261 | Passing: 250 | Passing: 243 | Passing: 240 | Passing: 196 |

Top 5 Recoverers

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| MATÍAS VIÑA | DIEGO GODÍN | JOSÉ GIMÉNEZ | MATÍAS VECINO | FEDERICO VALVERDE |
| Balls Recovered: 35 | Balls Recovered: 33 | Balls Recovered: 32 | Balls Recovered: 28 | Balls Recovered: 28 |

Top 5 Finishers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| EDINSON CAVANI | LUIS SUÁREZ | GIORGIAN DE ARRASCAETA | FACUNDO TORRES | FEDERICO VALVERDE |
| Shots: 10 | Shots: 8 | Shots: 6 | Shots: 5 | Shots: 3 |

Top 5 Crosses

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| NAHITAN NÁNDEZ | MATÍAS VIÑA | FEDERICO VALVERDE | LUIS SUÁREZ | GIOVANNI GONZÁLEZ |
| Crosses: 16 | Crosses: 16 | Crosses: 11 | Crosses: 6 | Crosses: 6 |

Players with the most minutes played

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| FERNANDO MUSLERA | JOSÉ GIMÉNEZ | MATÍAS VIÑA | EDINSON CAVANI | FEDERICO VALVERDE |
| Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 450 | Minutes played: 445 | Minutes played: 427 | Minutes played: 417 |

VENEZUELAN NATIONAL TEAM



The Venezuelan team was another of the teams that came to this Cup with injuries and casualties in their squad, due to the health situation. With their usual system in this Cup, 1-5-4-1, they stood in front of their goal when it came to recovering the ball. Their defensive approach was constant throughout the tournament, with a collective conscience to which their players adapted and tried to control the rival attacks, sometimes with up to six players in their last line. From the second game onwards, goalkeeper Faríñez was included in the starting eleven; he managed the defense and contributed with his ability and leadership to a good defensive performance. It was not enough for the team, which left doubts in the individual marking, for example in the corners against, where they lost marks due to lack of concentration, one of the basic defensive principles. They never changed their defensive scheme, the changes in the system respected the line of five, but at times they waited for their rival in zone two and zone three, in order to recover the ball in the middle zone. Some changes were seen from the tactical point of view,

going to a 1-5-2-3 for example, justifying them with the entry of players with better technique, but not much changed when they were implemented.

At the beginning of the tournament, the attack was very light, due to important absences and the determined defensive attitude. Later, in some games they had tactical flexibility when the team placed the defensive block in zone two, trying a high pressure with a 1-5-3-2. Jefferson Savarino and Junior Moreno were a determining factor in this flexibility. When the latter entered and became part of this structure, transitions to attack were observed from his technical leadership. The new tactical structure allowed us to see, in some games, these quick transitions, giving freedom to Savarino, who frequently reached the opponent's area.

In the end, the presence of Mikel Villanueva, who became a leader in defense as well as Ronal Hernandez, gave the team more security when they had possession of the ball. They had elaborate attacks after regaining the ball that gave them variants to the offense,

since they did not depend exclusively on the counterattack. Despite attacking with good ball possession, the Venezuelan team did not arrive with many people in attack.

On set-pieces, aware of their size and ability in the air, they always tried to find the far post for their bigger players, but failed in the attempt.

In terms of individual performances, notable players were Faríñez, who despite his good performance, had no chance of helping his team qualify for the second round, and Cásseres, who was the most outstanding outfield player for his great display and for never giving up.



BASIS SYSTEM USED



MATCH STATISTICS

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 4 | Matches | 25 | Players used |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Effective time | In min. | 19,26 | Effective time opponents field | In min. | 7,08 |
| Possession | Average | 38% | Effective time opponents field | Average | 34% |

Development of possession

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1079 | Passes received |
| 1356 | Passes given |
| Good: 80% | Bad: 20% |
| 285 | First class passes |
| Good: 78% | Bad: 22% |
| 933 | Short passes up to 7m |
| Good: 87% | Bad: 13% |
| 266 | Medium passes up to 12m |
| Good: 74% | Bad: 26% |
| 157 | Long passes over 12m |
| Good: 41% | Bad: 59% |

Bookings

| | |
|----------|--|
| 8 | |
| 0 | |

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 190 | Recovered balls |
| 229 | Balls lost |

Average goals / game

| | |
|------------|---------|
| 0,5 | For |
| 1,5 | Against |



TOP PLAYERS

Top scorers

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| EDSON CASTILLO | RONALD HERNÁNDEZ |
| Goals: 1 | Goals: 1 |

Top 5 Passers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| JUNIOR MORENO | LUIS DEL PINO | ALEXANDER GONZÁLEZ | CRISTIAN CÁSSERES | JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ |
| Passing: 181 | Passing: 121 | Passing: 115 | Passing: 92 | Passing: 90 |

Top 5 Recoverers

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| WUILKER FARIÑEZ | JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ | ALEXANDER GONZÁLEZ | EDSON CASTILLO | JUNIOR MORENO |
| Balls Recovered: 22 | Balls Recovered: 20 | Balls Recovered: 20 | Balls Recovered: 18 | Balls Recovered: 17 |

Top 5 Finishers

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| RONALD HERNÁNDEZ | SERGIO CÓRDOVA | JEFFERSON SAVARINO | EDSON CASTILLO | CRISTIAN CÁSSERES |
| Shots: 2 | Shots: 2 | Shots: 2 | Shots: 1 | Shots: 1 |

Top 5 Crosses

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ALEXANDER GONZÁLEZ | YEFERSON SOTELDO | JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ | ROBERTO ROSALES | YOHAN CUMANA |
| Crosses: 4 | Crosses: 3 | Crosses: 3 | Crosses: 2 | Crosses: 2 |

Players with the most minutes played

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| LUIS DEL PINO | JUNIOR MORENO | CRISTIAN CÁSSERES | ALEXANDER GONZÁLEZ | JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ |
| Minutes played: 360 | Minutes played: 351 | Minutes played: 310 | Minutes played: 290 | Minutes played: 288 |



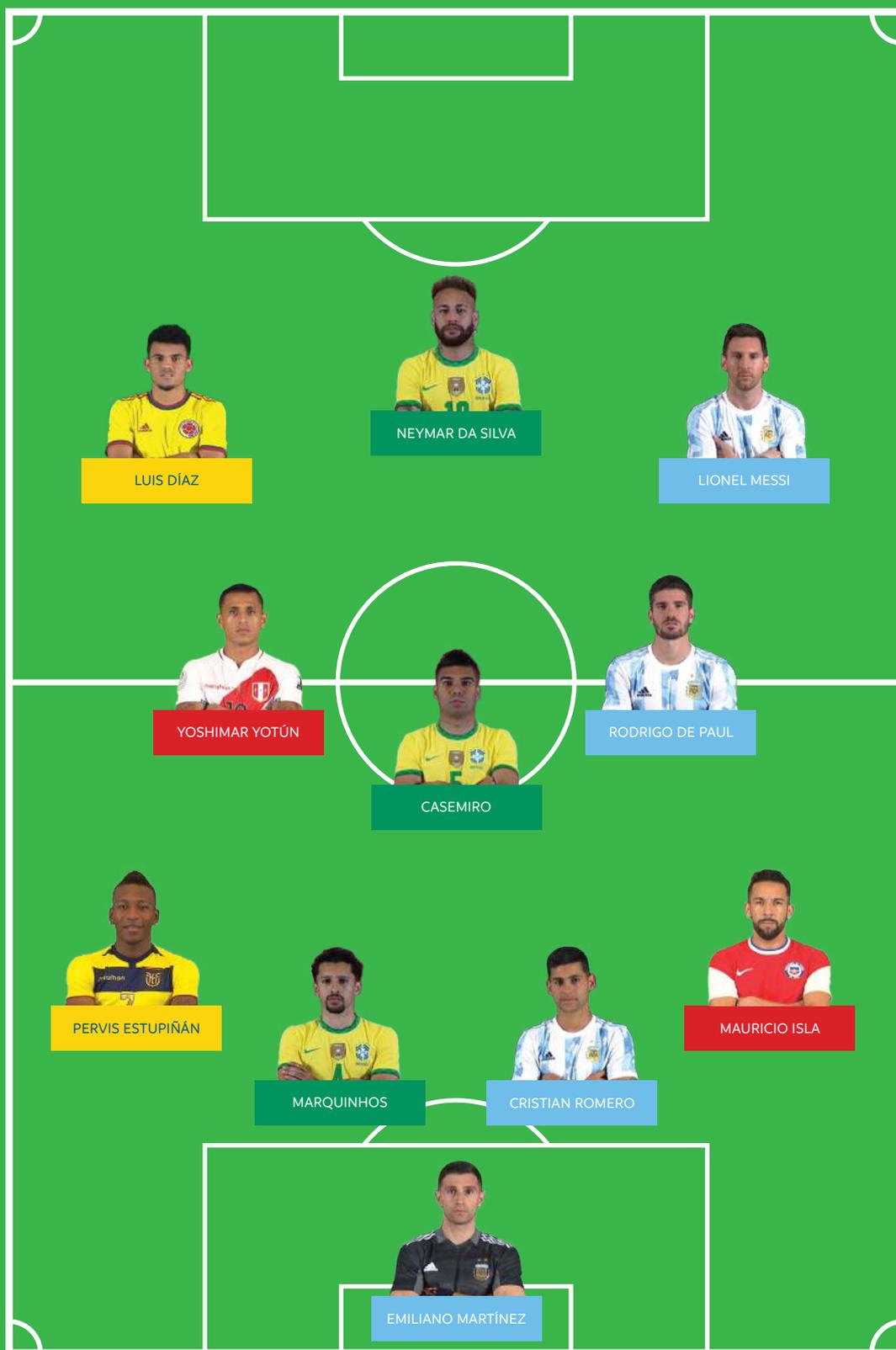
07



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CONMEBOL COPA AMERICA 2021

DREAM TEAM



BEST GOALKEEPER



EMILIANO
MARTÍNEZ

BEST PLAYER



NEYMAR
DA SILVA

**BEST PLAYER
AND TOP SCORER**



**LIONEL
MESSI**

TOURNAMENT REVELATION



LUIS DÍAZ

YOUNG TALENTS (UNDER 23)

Undoubtedly, the most important tournament in America has left much to analyze and reflect on contemporary football. As in the previous Copa America, this time we also want to highlight the performance of players who, with their special talent, represent South American football in different leagues of high and outstanding competitiveness.

South American football is constantly exporting its best players to the rest of the world and in this sense, we consider it important to highlight some of the many players who, thanks to their talent, have managed to earn a place at the highest level of football.

For the above mentioned and for what we have seen in the analysis of this CA2021, we cannot fail to recognize the above talents, some of them already consolidated and others that we will undoubtedly see deploy their virtues in the elite of world football. In this sense and for their great performance, this distinction only confirms the hierarchy of these players, who by their great deployment and their youth, are already part of the future of South American football and therefore deserve a place in the final summary of the CA2021.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  ARGENTINA |  ARGENTINA |  BOLIVIA |  BRAZIL |
| NICOLÁS IVAN GONZÁLEZ | NAHUEL MOLINA | JEYSON ARIEL CHURA | EDER GABRIEL MILITAO |
| 06/04/1998 | 06/04/1998 | 03/02/2002 | 18/01/1998 |
|  CHILE |  ECUADOR |  ECUADOR |  ECUADOR |
| BENJAMÍN ANTHONY BRERETON | MOISÉS CAICEDO | PIERO HINCAPIE | ANGELO PRECIADO |
| 21/01/1998 | 02/11/2001 | 09/01/2002 | 18/02/1998 |
|  PARAGUAY |  PERU |  URUGUAY |  VENEZUELA |
| HECTOR DAVID MARTÍNEZ | MARCOS LÓPEZ | FACUNDO TORRES | CRISTIAN CÁSSERES |
| 21/01/1998 | 20/11/1999 | 13/04/2000 | 20/01/2000 |



08



**DATA
STATISTICS**

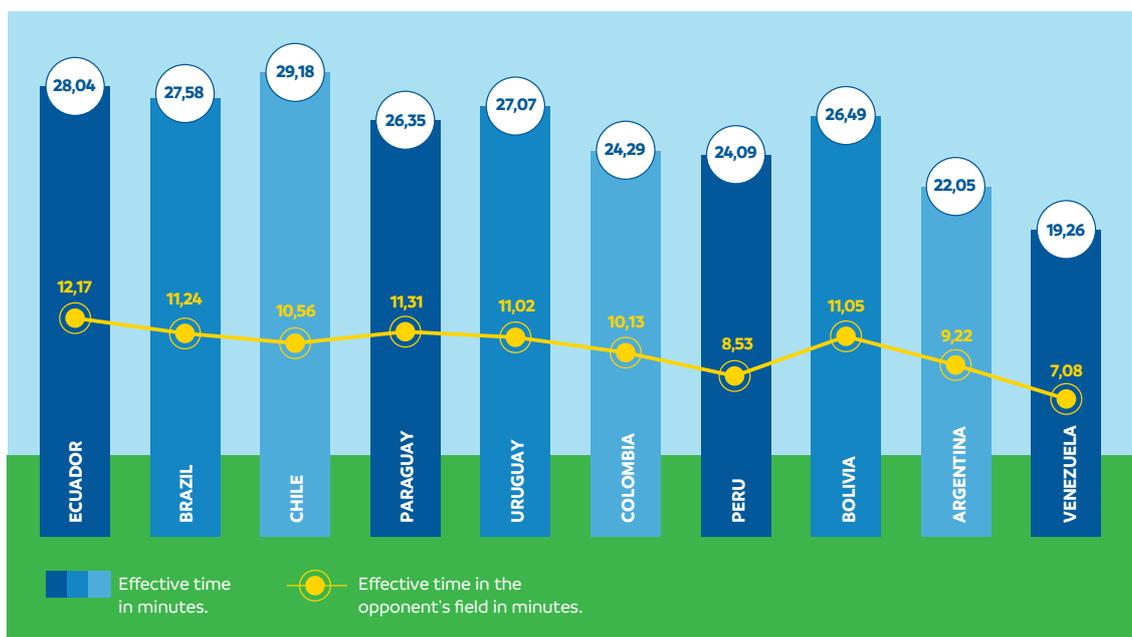
CONMEBOL COPA AMERICA 2021

STATISTICS

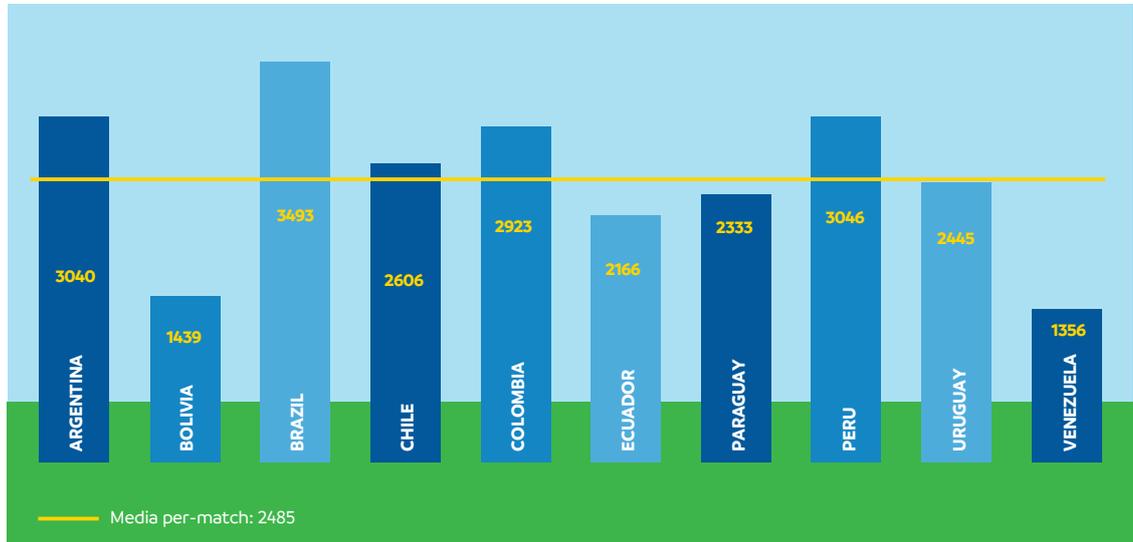
AVERAGE PLAYING TIME PER NATIONAL TEAM



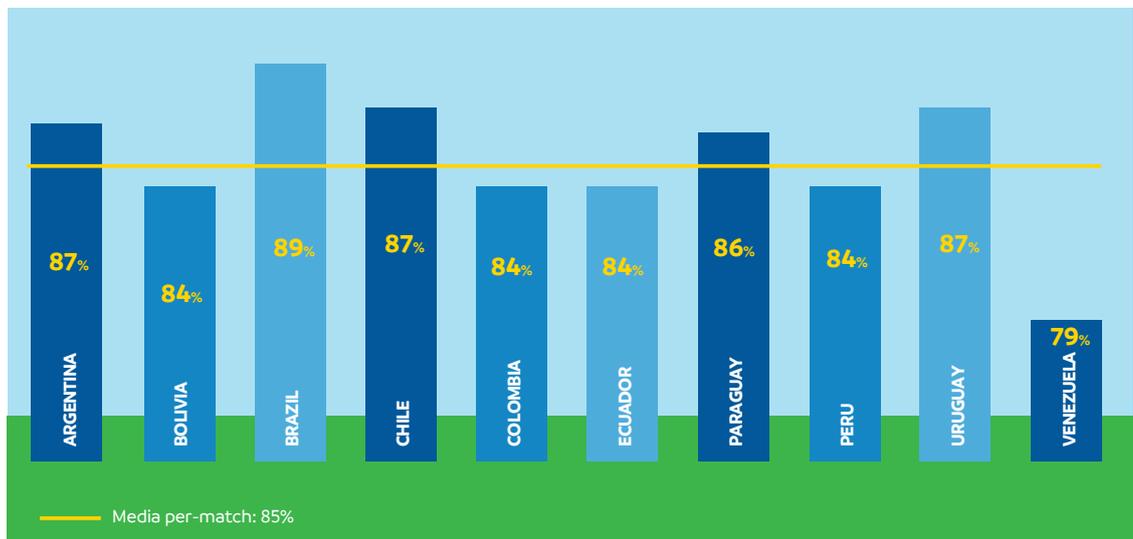
EFFECTIVE PLAYING TIME PER NATIONAL TEAM



PASSES PER NATIONAL TEAM

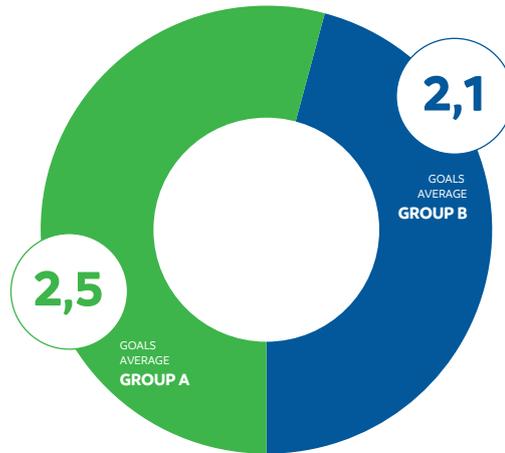


PERCENTAGE OF SUCCESSFUL PASSES PER NATIONAL TEAM



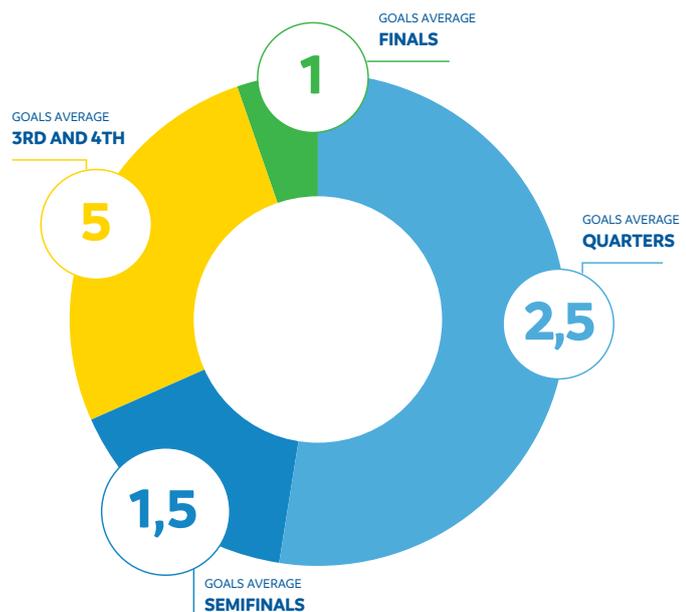
GOALS PER GROUP

| GROUP A | GROUP B |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ARGENTINA | BRAZIL |
| BOLIVIA | COLOMBIA |
| URUGUAY | VENEZUELA |
| CHILE | ECUADOR |
| PARAGUAY | PERU |
| 25 GOALS IN 10 MATCHES | 21 GOALS IN 10 MATCHES |

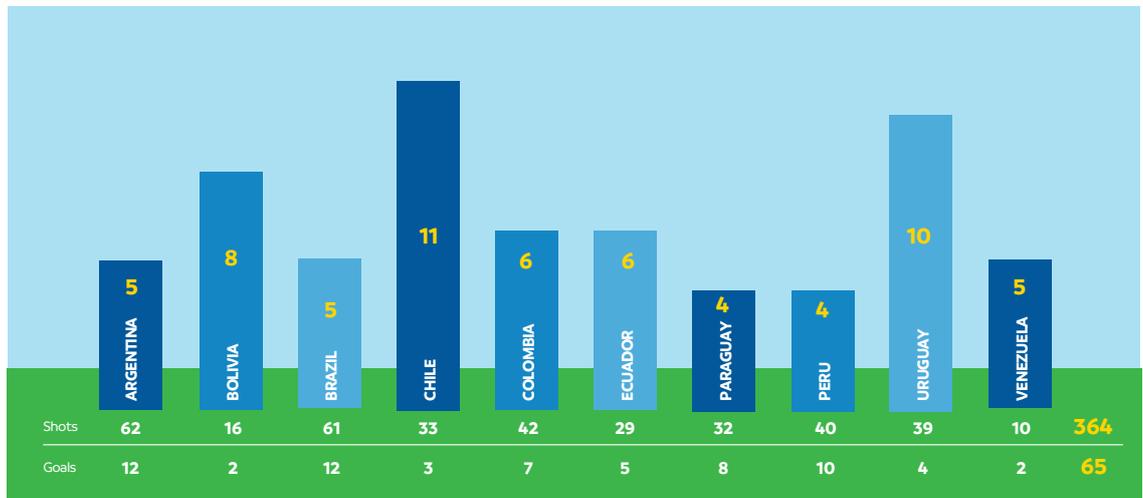


GOALS PER ROUND

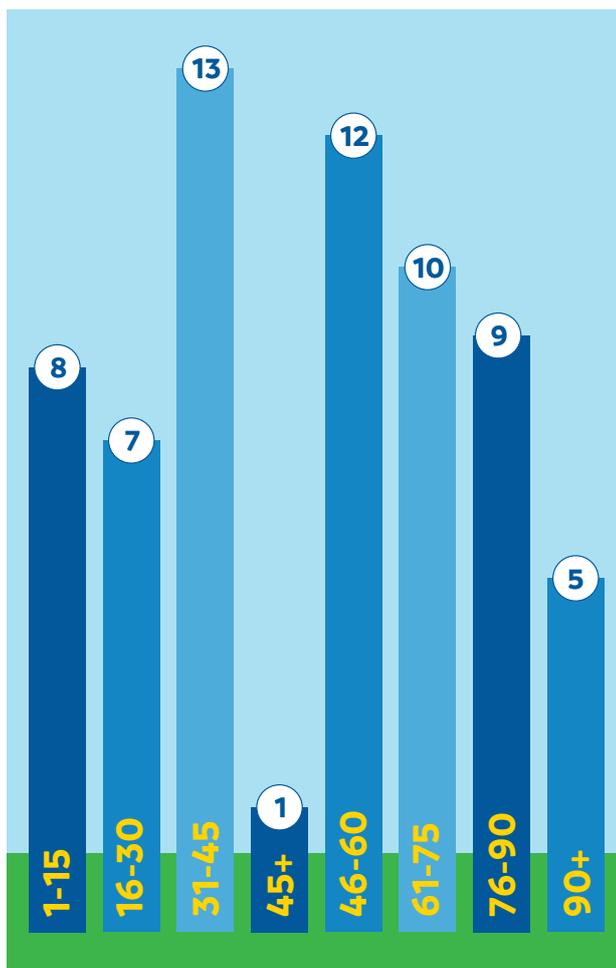
| ROUND | Goals | Matches |
|-------------|-----------|----------|
| QUARTERS | 10 | 4 |
| SEMIFINALS | 3 | 2 |
| 3RD AND 4TH | 5 | 1 |
| FINAL | 1 | 1 |



AVERAGE SHOTS PER GOAL



GOALS PER BLOCK (MIN.)





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