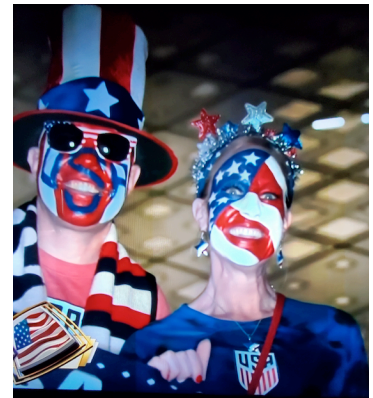


## America Advances

The U.S.A: Underneath a crescent moon the teams of the U.S. and Iran tangled on Nov. 29. It was do or die, no second chances for either one--one of these two would wind up in second place and advance with mighty England, the other would pack their bags and go home. The starting lineup was Pulisic, Sargent, Weah, Musah, Adams, McKinney, Robinson, Ream, Dest, Turner our goalie and the new kid who made his debut in this World Cup as a defensive back, Cameron Carter-Vickers, who was awesome.

It was a low score, but who cares?, the United States won in a pulse-sating fashion as in the last 10 minutes or so Iran attacked like crazy trying with all their might to score, all they needed was just one, just one to tie and that would have been enough to advance and kick the U.S. in the teeth.

The first half was exciting, with Christian Pulisic providing a tournament-defining moment. In the 37th minute, he scored the winner when he received a pass from Dest. But, Captain America got injured in the process. He was forced to the hospital, and did not play the 2nd half. He has been diagnosed with a pelvic contusion; I think his testicles and his groin got plastered. He was shown in good spirits in the hospital and I hope he will be alright. Several replacements were sent in the 2nd half and the U.S. team hung on with dear life. Iran had no intention of folding over, and they attacked brutally. Weah on the other hand, almost provided a second goal to add to the excitement, but he was called offside. Near the 73rd min, Aaronson did a great game saving interception, although about 40 seconds later Sargent got hurt. Time and time again, the U.S. goalkeeper Turner did heroic saves. Here is a link to [the game](#). It was absolute mayhem near the end, and even though Iran came in with three very tall guys, and Hagi almost gave it away, 99% of the time our defenders won the headers.



As I remember, I had not seen the American team respond with so much energy and also such good triangular passing since last year, which the above link does not show or bother to mention.

Each American knew their fellow teammate's agility, speed and ways of playing, and who liked to run very fast in the attack, but as I've been saying all along, what moves a team ahead beside luck is a team's ability to show not only flair but the triangular method of attack. Japan in their games, if you saw them, utilized it. Gio Reyna and Aaronson better play the game of their lives against Holland if Captain America is not on 100% thrusters.

At this web site from another game, you will see [triangular](#) methods of attack at the 4.33 mark and the 4.57 mark. This World Cup has given us amazing, and surprising things each day. Unlike the past, in the opening stages, the 3rd game turned up pretty crucial for many teams, and losers went home on tiny mere statistics even though they had identical records. One was [S. Korea](#), which 20 years ago, they beat Portugal and this Dec.2, 2022, they did it again. I saw teams play with all their heart, but again luck came into the act, as my dad

would say is important in any sport. The 2022 World Cup has gotten off to a true exhibition of excitement, that includes these four beautiful links of the many. [Australia](#). [Morocco](#). [Japan](#). The following premiered [Friday](#) December 2.

The upcoming round of 16 will represent something great, in that all of the continents will be represented: North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. In the last qualifying match of the first round, incidentally Brazil, without an injured Neymar lost to Cameroon, 1-0.

This soccer World Cup has new technology called VAR which utilizes high-tech cameras, and one tournament match that showcased to prove its worth was in the game [between](#) Japan and Spain.

Everybody back home seemed to be tuned in to the American matches, especially the Iran match, and all sorts of videos can be found on the web, such as these two. [One](#) and [two](#). The match this Saturday will be an extremely difficult one against a highly talented and tall Dutch team. Dutch players to watch who are excellent attackers and scorers are Depay, Frenkie and Gakpo with van Dijk hell of a defender. They are under Coach Louis van Gaal, who came out of retirement, unbeaten since 2021, with 18 straight wins in a row. We may not have height in the corner department, but luck can play a deciding factor if the game is still tied, as any loose ball in the box can be pounced upon and scored and an upset can happen. Remember the game against the [Netherlands](#) 2015? Miracles can happen. The recent U.S. teams of 2002, 2010, and 2014 got to the round of 16 and they are not the only ones, the 1930, 1934, and 1994 did too, although only the team from 2002 advanced to the quarterfinals before loosing to Germany in a rotten referee-lineman call! In both, the 2010 with Donovan, and in 2014 with Dempsey, I remember the United States messed up and did not know how to take/hold a lead and kill the clock. Holland has shown to play more methodical than some teams which relay on dazzling speed, like Spain and Japan, however, America has to use and establish dazzling speed and precision passing if it has hopes of an upset. Turner has to be at his best. Again, say a prayer.

