

## Argentina and England Win, Brazil Lose

Thursday, 10 February 2011

A last-minute penalty from Lionel Messi broke Portuguese resistance and ensured a 2-1 victory for Argentina, in a game where both teams had ample chances to win.

Messi's goal added to an exquisite first-half assist as Angel di Maria gave the Albiceleste an early lead, before Cristiano Ronaldo had pegged them back with an opportunistic finish from close range.

A last-minute penalty from Lionel Messi broke Portuguese resistance and ensured a 2-1 victory for Argentina, in a game where both teams had ample chances to win.

Messi's goal added to an exquisite first-half assist as Angel di Maria gave the Albiceleste an early lead, before Cristiano Ronaldo had pegged them back with an opportunistic finish from close range.

### BRAZIL V FRANCE

France's Karim Benzema made Brazil count the cost of playing with 10 men for 50 minutes by bagging the winner in les Bleus' 1-0 win at the Stade de France.

Benzema netted from close range from Jeremy Menez's fine run and cross early in the second half after Brazil had been reduced in number following Hernanes' sending-off for a dangerously high challenge on Benzema.

### ENGLAND V DENMARK

England came from behind to beat Denmark 2-1 in an entertaining friendly on Wednesday with Ashley Young's first international goal sealing the visitors' first victory on Danish soil since 1978.

The Danes took the lead through a fine glancing header from defender Daniel Agger in the eighth minute.

Darren Bent hit back for England just two minutes later after Theo Walcott had fired the ball across the box to give the Aston Villa striker an easy finish.

Dennis Rommedahl could have put Denmark back on top in the 64th minute but fired straight at the keeper before Young scored what proved to be England's winner four minutes later, sliding the ball home after Glen Johnson had won the ball in midfield.

### ITALY V GERMANY

Germany were unable to avenge their 2006 World Cup semi-final loss after being held to a 1-1 draw in Dortmund. Despite going ahead early, die Mannschaft conceded a late equaliser that denied them what would have been their first victory against the Azzurri in 16 years.

The hosts took no time to find their rhythm, and opened the scoring on 16 minutes after a clever back heel from Mesut Oezil to Thomas Mueller, who set up Miroslav Klose for the finish.

Italy improved and had a couple penalty claims denied before Giuseppe Rossi was played through in the 81st minute, and followed up his initially saved effort with a good finish.

### SPAIN V COLOMBIA

A David Silva goal five minutes from time handed Spain a narrow 1-0 victory over an impressive Colombia side in Madrid this evening.

Both teams had their chances to make the breakthrough, with David Villa striking the post in the first half, but Manchester City man Silva's neat flick from a Jesus Navas cross ultimately clinched a win for la Furia Roja, who were not at their best for much of the match.

### NETHERLANDS V AUSTRIA

Netherlands coasted to a 3-1 victory over Austria in Eindhoven with a good display although they were rarely, if ever, stretched.

Wesley Sneijder gave the home side the lead just before the half-hour before Klaas-Jan Huntelaar added a second on 47 minutes.

Dirk Kuyt scored a third from the penalty spot before Marko Arnautovic added a late consolation for the visitors.

#### IRAN V RUSSIA

Russia succumbed to their second consecutive defeat in friendly fixtures losing 1-0 to Iran in Abu Dhabi.

Team Melli kept the European stars quiet throughout the game and Dick Advocaat's men failed to hit the target with the chances that were presented to them.

Iran were persistent from back to front and got their reward in the final minute of normal-time with Mohammad Reza Khalatbari finishing past Igor Akinfeev from close range.

The forward received his second yellow card for his celebration but his side saw out the final few minutes for a memorable victory.

Source: bdnews24.com