



Cape Verde lands another huge point as Group H thriller ends level

Description

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Vozinha, Cape Verde goalkeeper greets the crowd in the middle of the pitch with his hands up

Cape Verde's 2026 [World Cup debut](#) keeps gathering momentum.

After shutting out Spain, Cape Verde backed it up with a fearless 2-2 draw against two-time champions Uruguay in Miami, claiming a second Group H point. The team proved its opening night resilience was no fluke.

Cape Verde played with clarity, confidence and refused to be intimidated. They led, fell behind, then found a way back again. Uruguay had the pedigree, but the [Blue Sharks](#) had the conviction.

Cape Verde player Pina strikes first

Kevin Pina set the tone early. His long-range freekick, hit with clean precision, went straight through Uruguay's flimsy two-man wall and into the bottom corner for 1-0. It was a moment that summed up Cape Verde's approach: bold, uncomplicated and fully committed.

Before the goal, Telmo Arcanjo had already produced one of the game's standout runs, bursting from deep, skipping past Manuel Ugarte and drawing a foul from Rodrigo Bentancur. It was a sign that Cape Verde wasn't just here to defend but here to play.

Uruguay hit back

Uruguay responded with the kind of quality expected from a side with its history. Maxi Araujo levelled with his second goal of the tournament, finishing sharply after Cape Verde failed to clear.

Moments later, Araujo turned provider, slipping a pass through for Agustin Canobbio to sweep home and flip the game on its head just before half-time.

At 2-1, Uruguay looked settled. The team had rhythm, territory and the experience to manage the game. But Cape Verde refused to fold.

Varela the punisher

The equaliser came from a moment Uruguay will want to forget.

Mathias Olivera played a loose square pass, forcing Fernando Muslera to rush out. Substitute Helio Varela, barely minutes on the pitch, reacted first, lifting the ball over the goalkeeper and rolling it into an empty net for 2-2. A calm finish; a huge moment.

Cape Verde's bench erupted. The players' belief, already strong, grew even deeper.

Uruguay thought it had secured a winner when Araujo bundled in another effort, but the flag went up for offside. It was the correct call. Cape Verde alive.

The final minutes were frantic. Steven Moreira made tactical blocks to deny Brian Rodriguez and Bentancur from close range. Meanwhile, at the other end, Edson Barthelemy fired straight at Muslera with a chance to win it.

Varela nearly grabbed a second, only for Bentancur to intervene with a last-ditch challenge.

Cape Verde didn't just cling on; the squad battled all the way to the final whistle.

A growing reputation

This result follows Cape Verde's goalless draw with Spain.

The pattern is clear: Cape Verde isn't a passenger at this tournament. The team is organised, brave and technically sharp. The midfielders play through pressure, their forwards take risks, and defenders commit fully to every duel.

Garry Rodrigues, once a postman while playing amateur football, nutmegged Guillermo Varela early on. Jamiro Monteiro flicked passes over Uruguay's midfield to escape pressure. Even their set-piece ideas, including attempts to catch Muslera out directly from a corner, showed ambition.

This is a team playing with freedom and purpose.

What does this mean for Group H?

Cape Verde now heads into their final group match against Saudi Arabia knowing a draw could be enough to reach the Round of 32. Uruguay, meanwhile, faces a far tougher task: likely needing something from its meeting with Spain to progress.

For a nation of about 500,000 people, Cape Verde's unbeaten start is already historic. But the way the team is doing it — with clarity, courage and genuine quality — that is what's capturing global attention.

Exceeding expectations

Cape Verde has become one of the tournament's most compelling stories. Not because the African nation is an underdog, but because it refuses to act like one. They play with personality, take risks and back their talent.

Against Uruguay, they showed all of that again. A stunning freekick, a composed equaliser, and a performance full of conviction earned them another point and another wave of respect.

Cape Verde's [2026 World Cup](#) debut isn't just memorable; it's becoming something far bigger: a true underdog story.

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