



Kylian Mbappe lights up the states with excellent opening performance

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Kylian Mbappe scores two

Kylian Mbappe arrived in New Jersey with [questions swirling around his season](#) but he left MetLife Stadium reminding everyone why the World Cup remains his stage. France's 3-1 win over Senegal hinged on his brilliance, a sharp, decisive double that pushed him to the top of France's all-time scoring charts and set the tone for their Group I campaign.

[France were flat in the first half](#) sluggish in possession and second-best in most duels. Senegal carved out the better chances, with Ismaïla Sarr and Nicolas Jackson both threatening. But once the break came and went, Mbappe shifted gears. The Real Madrid forward turned a cagey opener into a statement performance, the first true superstar showing of the tournament on American soil.

A slow start, a sudden spark

France's opening 45 minutes were forgettable. Despite a front four of Mbappe, Ousmane Dembélé, Michael Olise, and Dimitri Payet, they mustered just one shot. Senegal, meanwhile, pressed aggressively and created the clearer openings, with Jackson striking the post and Sarr missing a golden chance on the stroke of half-time. Yahoo Sports

But the second half flipped the script. France came out sharper, quicker, more assertive. Payet went close early, Olise forced Édouard Mendy into action, and Mbappe began to find the pockets he thrives in. A controversial moment arrived when he appeared to be fouled by Sadio Mané in the box, VAR intervened, the referee checked the monitor, but no penalty was given. Mbappe simply shrugged it off. Five minutes later, he struck.

The breakthrough and the brilliance

The opener came from a classic Mbappe run: a burst into space, a perfectly timed diagonal ball from Olise, and a first-time finish on the swivel as Mendy closed the angle. It was clean, instinctive, and the release France desperately needed.

Bradley Barcola then entered the fray and made an instant impact. Slipped through by Adrien Rabiot, he lifted a delicate chip over Mendy to double the lead, a moment of composure that underlined France's growing control.

Senegal briefly threatened a twist when Ibrahima Konate pulled one back in stoppage time, but within seconds Mbappe delivered the night's defining moment. Collecting the ball 30 yards out, he unleashed a dipping, swerving strike that flew beyond Mendy's reach and into the top corner. A goal of pure audacity — and one that sealed his place in French football history.

A record rewritten

That second goal pushed Mbappe to 58 for France, overtaking Olivier Giroud as the nation's all-time leading scorer. It moved him to 14 World Cup goals, just two shy of Miroslav Klose's all-time record. At 27, he is already rewriting the tournament's hierarchy.

His performance also reinforced a familiar truth: when the stadium lights come on, Mbappe becomes something else entirely. France's attack is built around him, and Olise worked tirelessly off the ball, creating space and angles for their talisman. Even on a night when the first half misfired, the second half belonged to him.

Senegal's missed chances, France's raise their level

Senegal will regret their wastefulness. Jackson's early burst, Sarr's late first-half miss, and several promising transitions could have changed the complexion of the match. Their intensity unsettled France early, but once Mbappe struck, the contest tilted decisively.

France, meanwhile, will take confidence from their response. Didier Deschamps admitted frustration with the first half but praised the composure and ruthlessness after the break. [With Iraq up next](#) they now look more like the co-favourites many expected.

The superstar shines first

In a tournament waiting for its first defining individual performance, Mbappe delivered it. While other stars stumbled in their openers, he embraced the moment, electric, decisive, unmissable. If this is the level he intends to maintain, the rest of the field has been warned.

France needed a spark, Kylian Mbappe delivered once again for Les Blues.

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