

Costa Rica 0-0 England match report: Three Lions hold Group D leaders and go home with a point

A goalless draw against Joel Campbell and co sees the Three Lions head home with one point from Brazil

5 Shares  Share |  Tweet |  +1

Enter your e-mail for our football newsletter

Subscribe



And so it ended, much as it began.

Enough chances to win a game, to restore some of the tattered, banished pride.

But not a hint of the clinical edge, the currency that sets the good teams apart from the also-rans.

And England are, now, also-rans. Nothing more, their final exit one that became increasingly tame, turgid, tedious.

This time, unlike 64 years ago, not humiliated in **Belo Horizonte**. At least they spared us all those echoes of England's first Brazilian debacle.

The damage to the second had already been done, the pain spread over five long days. There was no anger. Just resignation.

Even the derisory, mocking chants from the Brazilian fans, of "Eliminados" - "Eliminated" - were lost amid the remarkable, undeserving response from the

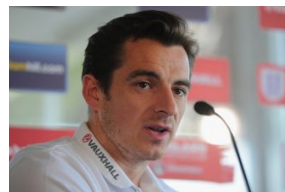
Recommended In Sport



IBRAHIM TOURE
[Ibrahim Toure dies aged 28 as brothers Kolo and Yaya represent Ivory Coast at the World Cup](#)



ENGLAND FOOTBALL TEAM
[England squad step up preparations for farewell Peru friendly without Leighton Baines and James Milner](#)



LEIGHTON BAINES
[England star Leighton Baines hit by personal loss ahead of World Cup in Brazil](#)



COLOMBIA FOOTBALL TEAM
[Colombia football team dance celebration gifs synced with drum and bass makes PERFECT sense](#)



ENGLAND FOOTBALL TEAM
[England OUT of the World Cup: Pundits and players react as Three Lions crash out](#)



2014 WORLD CUP
[Cristiano Ronaldo WILL play for Portugal against USA despite knee problem, insists](#)

travelling England supporters.

Perhaps they wanted to recognise the services of Frank Lampard, tears in his eyes at the end, and Steven Gerrard, both surely now signing off.

Roy Hodgson, too, belatedly, perhaps once he sensed the mood, trotted across the pitch to join the line who stood, as one, to acknowledge the astonishing backing.

Yet on an afternoon which only served to reinforce the lessons of this most salutary, miserable, comfortless experience, it was hard to see reasons to expect a brighter future.

Yes, there were some positives. Luke Shaw, disciplined and secure at left-back, glimpses of Jack Wilshere, Ross Barkley and Adam Lallana.

A different shape, too, skipper Lampard anchoring behind a four-man line, his passing intelligent, crisp and accurate, providing real balance.

Hardly the future, though, as Costa Rica coach Jorge Luis Pinto admitted he had approached the game considering last 16 game.

But the positives were too few. There were too many mistakes, critical errors. Too little of the cutting edge needed.



Now what? Hodgson will now prepare for Euro 2016

Put Daniel Sturridge in a Liverpool shirt and he would have scored at least two of the four chances he spurned.

Admittedly, he was unlucky with the first, a smart piece of control - after being fed by Wilshere - followed by a 20-yarder which curled a fraction wide.

The next three, though, were not good enough. As Sturridge will recognise.

A header, from the middle of the goal, unmarked, six yards out, when the otherwise decidedly mediocre Phil Jones nodded back, directed over the bar.

Shocking mis-control, when Shaw's deflected shot ballooned into his path, at the start of the second half.

And the worst of the lot, after some proper, incisive passing, a delightful one-two with Wilshere - the Arsenal man needs to stay on his feet more - on his favoured left foot, the goal begging. Steered wide of the far upright.

Chances Robin Van Persie, Luis Suarez, Thomas Mueller or Karim Benzema would

Jose Mourinho



ARJEN ROBBEN

Mexico fans create Arjen Robben PINATA after Dutch winger's diving confession at

World Cup



LIONEL MESSI

Lionel Messi is NOT the greatest player of all time, claims Jose Mourinho ahead of

World Cup final



ENGLAND FOOTBALL TEAM

England World Cup midfielder James Milner has press roaring over

'boring' Twitter spoof



ROBIN VAN PERSIE

Robin van Persie: Holland boss Van Gaal axed me after the Euros.. now I'm

captain

FOOTBALL TICKETS		viagogo
09 May - 30 May	<u>FC Barcelona Tickets</u> From £55.96	<u>Buy</u>
09 May - 18 Jul	<u>Real Madrid FC Tickets</u> From £41.84	<u>Buy</u>
09 May - 24 May	<u>Valencia C.F Tickets</u> From £37.09	<u>Buy</u>
09 May - 24 May	<u>Real Sociedad Tickets</u> From £35.96	<u>Buy</u>
17 May	<u>Manchester United Tickets</u> From £131.70	<u>Buy</u>

Most Read In Sport



1

CHELSEA FC

Chelsea plot summer

have taken. Chances top-class sides consume.

And not enough of them, either. A team, even with nine changes, going through the motions, Costa Rica having no need to force things.

The tale of the tournament, the stand-out moment of the entire contest coming when Bryan Ruiz - yes, THAT Bryan Ruiz - schooled Wilshere on half-way. Magnificent.

At least this time, unlike against Italy and Uruguay, when it mattered, no horrendous defensive blunders, or at least none punished, although Jones and Chris Smalling hardly encouraged the view they will be automatic club selections under Louis Van Gaal next term.

Only one proper save, Ben Foster throwing himself high to his right to tip Ceslo Borges' wickedly placed and struck free-kick out of the top corner.

The longer it went on though, even with Wayne Rooney on as a deep-lying joiner, close to taking it with a chip.

Raheem Sterling was followed onto the pitch by Gerrard, reclaiming the armband for the final few minutes of cap number 114, the more it felt drawn-out, listless, a game in need of the final whistle.

It came, as did the astonishing response. "In Roy we trust" read one banner. "England 'til I die" another. A roar of approval for a side that has delivered nothing.

And it meant nothing, either. The tournament now goes on. This England team are an afterthought, an irrelevance.

The danger, the fear, is that England could become an international irrelevance. What could be worse than that?

READ MORE: John Cross' player ratings from Belo Horizonte

Do you think England will be any better by Euro 2016?

Yes, Roy is the right man

Well... they can't get any worse

No, I've lost all faith in the Three Lions



Mirror Football

Like 2,542,018

Follow



Follow

268k

PROMOTED STORIES

transfer splurge once they have handed Jose Mourinho a new contract

2

CRISTIANO RONALDO

Cristiano Ronaldo demands crowd stop laughing at young kid - proves he might be lovely after all

3

MAYWEATHER VS PACQUIAO

Manny Pacquiao could face PERJURY charge after failing to disclose pre-fight shoulder injury

4

MAYWEATHER VS PACQUIAO

Did Manny Pacquiao beat Floyd Mayweather? Conspiracy theory emerges after scorecard suggests judges marked winner in wrong corner

5

LIVERPOOL TRANSFER NEWS

Portuguese starlet Paulinho in Liverpool to seal Anfield transfer from third division minnows

Recommended On The Mirror



CHELSEA FC

Chelsea plot summer transfer splurge once they have handed Jose Mourinho a new

contract



BRAZIL FOOTBALL TEAM

Brazil vs Chile LIVE: World Cup 2014 action from the first match of