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		SMR	0	ENG	1	LTU	0	ROU	1	SRB	0	NED	2								

Spain beats France 5-4 in thriller to reach Nations League final



Laurens praises 'incredible' Cherki after France debut vs. Spain
Julien Laurens reacts to Rayan Cherki's performance off of the bench for France vs. Spain.

By Reuters
Updated: Jun 6, 2025, 08:50 am

Game Information

MHPArena
3:00 AM, June 6, 2025
Coverage: FS1

Stuttgart, Germany

Line: ESP -0.5
Over/Under: 2.5
Odds by **ESPNBET** SPORTSBROOK

Attendance: 51,724

Referees: Michael Oliver

UEFA Nations League News

 Nations League gaining prestige, says Spain's De la Fuente ahead of final
VIDEO SHOWS: SPAIN TRAINING AND PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTS FROM HEAD COACH, LUIS DE LA FUENTE, AHEAD OF UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE FINAL AGAINST PORTUGAL

Mbappe unfazed by PSG winning Champions League without him
VIDEO SHOWS: PRESS CONFERENCE WITH FRANCE CAPTAIN, KYLIAN MBAPPE

 Portugal boss Martinez 'sentimental' ahead of Nations League final
Portugal boss Roberto Martinez discusses the importance of the Nations League final against France.

Spain's teenage sensation [Lamine Yamal](#) inspired his country to a thrilling 5-4 win over [France](#) on Thursday to send the holders through to their third successive Nations League final where they will face Iberian neighbours [Portugal](#).

The European champions dazzled in the first half of the semifinal at the MHP Arena in Stuttgart, Germany, and raced into a 2-0 lead with fine goals by [Nico Williams](#) and [Mikel Merino](#) inside 25 minutes.

Spain's 17-year-old starlet Yamal then got in on the act to coolly add a third from the penalty spot nine minutes into the second half before his [Barcelona](#) teammate [Pedri](#) clipped a sublime fourth into the net less than a minute later.

Thursday's game had been billed as a contest between young stars -- and Ballon d'Or contenders -- but it was clear that Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League win in Munich on Saturday had added more weight to French legs with PSG stars [Désiré Doué](#) and [Ousmane Dembélé](#) disappointing.

The goals continued to flow as France striker [Kylian Mbappé](#) also slotted home from the penalty spot near the hour mark before Yamal added Spain's fifth after 67 minutes to cap an exhilarating individual performance.

France then mounted an extraordinary comeback as a stunning strike from [Rayan Cherki](#), [Dani Vivian](#)'s own goal and a [Randal Kolo Muani](#) finish caused Spain some late jitters but they held on to book a clash with their Portuguese rivals on Sunday.

"I always say it to my mother, I try to give it all," Yamal told Teledéporte. "It is what motivates me to play football, why I wake up in the mornings.

"France have world class players. The scoreline after 60 minutes was very big, but they have players who make you suffer.

"We [Spain and Portugal] are two very good teams with world-class players. The best will win. I hope to bring the cup to Spain."





Spain players celebrate after scoring a goal against France in the Nations League semifinals.

Spain have been nearly imperious under coach Luis de la Fuente, losing just once in over two years, a run that helped them take home the European Championship title last year with victory over [England](#) in the final.

Key to De la Fuente's system is his lively wide men Nico Williams and Yamal, and after Mbappé had wasted a golden early chance and [Theo Hernández](#) crashed an effort against the crossbar, Williams' emphatic finish edged Spain in front.

Another fine, flowing move three minutes later resulted in Merino slotting home the second having been picked out by a pinpoint [Mikel Oyarzabal](#) pass. It was only the second time France had conceded twice inside the opening half hour of a match during coach Didier Deschamps' 13-year tenure.

France continued to create openings but could not make their moments count, with their profligacy proving costly as one of the favourites to win the Ballon d'Or award, Yamal, fired in from the penalty spot after the teenager had been fouled.

Yamal, who already has over 100 appearances for Barcelona across all competitions before he has even turned 18, was equally calm for his second, after Pedri's fine fourth and Mbappé's penalty, poking the ball past France goalkeeper [Mike Maignan](#).

The strike from Lyon's Cherki deserved to be more meaningful, before Vivian's intervention gave Spanish supporters some cause for concern.

Substitute Kolo Muani's goal made extra time look a possibility, but it was too little, too late.

The striker, however, ensured the enthralling semifinal became the first-ever

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Fantasy

2024-25 UEFA Nations League, Semifinals

Spain

5

◀

FT

4

France

Nico Williams - 22' Mikel Merino - 25' Lamine Yamal - 54' Pen, 67' Pedri - 55' Kylian Mbappé - 59' Pen Rayan Cherki - 79' Dani Vivian - 84' OG Randal Kolo Muani - 90'+3'

Summary

Report

Commentary

Statistics

Line-Ups

Videos

