Match Analysis

03. Predicting Qualifying Teams

Three methods of determining the best FIFA teams were demonstrated above:

(1) the top three teams in terms of placement in historical FIFA World Cups (1930 - 2014),

(2) the top three teams in terms of placement in historical FIFA World Cups (1998 - 2014),

(3) the top 10 teams that scored the most goals per game in FIFA World Cup matched.

A combination of these can be used to determine the best teams, and would-be qualifiers. A predictive list of 14 of the 32 could be: **Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Uruguay**. (Table 2) shows the 2018 qualifiers, with highlighted teams being the predictions. The full-list prediction was **56.25% on target (18 of 32 correct).**

Group	Qualifying Teams in 2018 FIFA Games
Group A	Russia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Uruguay
Group B	Morocco, Spain, Portugal, Iran
Group C	France, Australia, Peru, Denmark
Group D	Argentina, Iceland, Croatia, Nigeria
Group E	Brazil, Costa Rica, Serbia, Switzerland
Group F	Germany, Mexico, Sweden, Korea
Group G	Belgium, Panama, Tunisia, England
Group H	Poland, Senegal, Colombia, Japan
Incorrect Predictions	Italy, Netherlands, Hungary, Turkey, Cuba
	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Yugoslavia, USA, Romania, Austria, Paraguay, Csechoslovakia, Chile
Yellow: Best-Effort Prediction Orange: Full List Prediction	

Table 2