


WORLD CUP BRAZIL



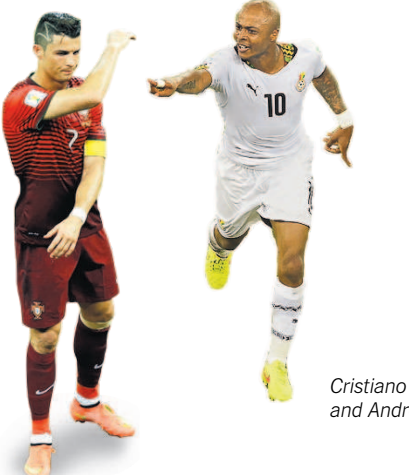
The United States and Germany would both be happy with a tie because it would allow both teams to advance to the knockout stage.

Clint Dempsey and Thomas Müller

	W	L	D	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
Germany	1	0	1	6	2	+4	4
United States	1	0	1	4	3	+1	4
Ghana	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
Portugal	0	1	1	2	6	-4	1

UNITED STATES VS. GERMANY
ESPN

PORTUGAL VS. GHANA
ESPN2

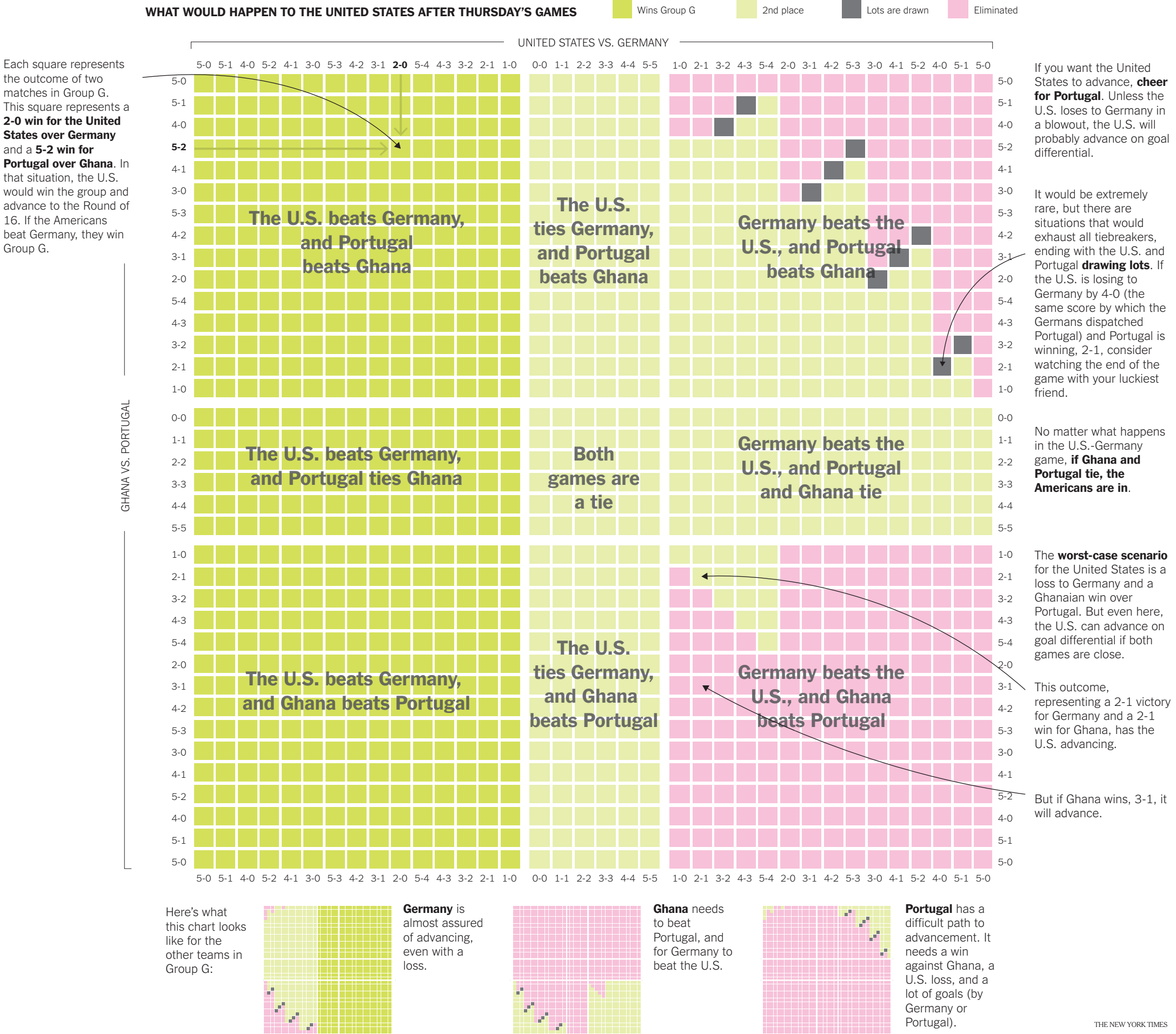


Ghana knocked the United States out of the last two World Cups. It could do it again if it beats Portugal while Germany defeats the Americans.

Cristiano Ronaldo and André Ayew

984 Ways for U.S. to Advance

The United States, Germany, Ghana and Portugal will be vying on Thursday for two spots in the World Cup’s Round of 16. As a result, tiebreakers could come into play in any number of ways, depending on the scores. And that, in turn, could become puzzling enough that it would take away from watching and enjoying the action. Since you don’t want to be doing math on bar napkins or the back of an office memo, have this cheat sheet handy. It shows nearly a thousand situations in which the United States would stay alive in the tournament. **By GREGOR AISCH and KEVIN QUEALY**



In Ghana’s Bags: Gear And \$3 Million in Cash

By DAVID WALDSTEIN

BRASÍLIA — An airplane laden with cash descended into Brazilian airspace, or so Ghana’s national soccer team was told on Wednesday, and the question for each player shifted away from the topics of how to stop Portugal’s Cristiano Ronaldo or whether Ghana had a realistic chance to advance to the second round of the World Cup.

What would the players do with all the cash — as much as \$130,000 per man — especially when any criminal with evil intent was aware they had it?

Ghana Coach James Kwesi Appiah, at a news conference, buried his face in his hands, trying to contain his laughter.

Christian Atsu, a 22-year-old midfielder, did not even try, bursting out laughing at the seemingly absurd events.

“That is a difficult question,” Atsu said, pausing for a moment before laughing again. “I think we will keep it in our bags. We will keep the money in our bags, and we love that. And then we will transfer all the money into our accounts.”

The Ghanaian players’ discontent over the lack of payment, which had been simmering for days, exploded on Tuesday when they refused to train — even threatening to boycott their match against Portugal on Thursday — until they were paid more than \$3 million in appearance fees, to be divided among the 23 players.

The fragile situation even required an intervention by President John Dramani Mahama, who spoke to the players on Tuesday and assured them the cash would be loaded on a plane and arrive Wednesday afternoon.

All the uncertainty wore on Ghana’s coach as he prepared for a

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Argentina Advances

Lionel Messi scored two goals in Argentina’s 3-2 victory over Nigeria. Page B12.

Bradley Seeking Return to Form

The Americans’ hopes to advance could hinge on Michael Bradley, who has struggled. Page B13.

Knicks Trade Two Veterans For a Passer and Flexibility

By SCOTT CACCIOLA

Phil Jackson has been fairly methodical in his short tenure as the Knicks’ president.

He spent the final weeks of the regular season evaluating personnel. He took months to hire a coach. He preached patience, especially as he established the goal of building financial flexibility so the team could pursue free agents — not this summer, but next. Through it all, he cautioned that there would be no quick fixes.

On Wednesday, though, Jackson made his boldest move to date, helping to engineer a multiplayer trade with the Dallas Mavericks that reconfigured the Knicks’ roster. The Knicks agreed to send Tyson Chandler and Raymond Felton to the Mavericks in exchange for Jose Calderon, Samuel Dalembert, Wayne Ellington, Shane Larkin and two second-round picks in Thursday night’s N.B.A. draft.

“The journey to build this team for the upcoming season and beyond continues,” Jackson said in a statement. “We have added players with this move that will fit right in to our system while maintaining future flexibility.”

It was a major transaction for the Knicks, who gained an experienced point guard in Calderon while freeing themselves of Felton, who underperformed last season and had two years left on his contract. In addition, Jackson made good on his goal of gaining access to a deep draft. Because of various trades in recent seasons, the Knicks had been left without a pick in either round. They acquired the 34th and 51st picks from Dallas.

The deal, which was first reported by ESPN, was brokered in the wake of Carmelo Anthony’s recent decision to opt out of his contract. Jackson has said that he

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