

Argentina 3-3 France (4-2 penalties)

Dec. 18, 2022. The World Cup final.

Alvarez: I remember talking to Enzo [Fernandez], saying, "We're going to play a World Cup final." He was anxious for the game to arrive. But I wasn't. I wanted the game to be over. I almost didn't want to play.

Emi Martinez: My dad was saying do things well, don't overplay it, don't make mistakes. Everyone was afraid of making a mistake, but I was thinking just the opposite. I'm going to play like I've played all my life, without fear, with confidence. Whatever happens, I'm playing a World Cup final.

Messi: I didn't want to even look at the trophy. They say you don't look at it, you don't touch it. So I didn't, just in case.

Scaloni -- as he had done throughout the tournament -- tweaks his team again, starting Di Maria on the left wing. Di Maria rewards his manager by providing the final touch to a lightning-quick counterattack, making it 2-0 in the 36th minute after Messi had put Argentina ahead from the penalty spot.

Messi: Our counterattack was amazing. So fast. It was a great goal.

Di Maria: It was a spectacular move between three players, with one or two touches, as if they were playing in their neighbourhood. Inexplicable. Incredible.

Argentina look to be heading for a straightforward win, until two goals in two minutes from Mbappé make it 2-2, forcing extra time.

Alvarez: We played a great game until the 70th minute or something. And then in five minutes, everything changed.

Messi: I was angry, because the goal was down to me losing the ball, even if it was halfway up the pitch. It was our ball.

Messi's goal comes in the 108th minute. Hugo Lloris saves Lautaro Martinez's shot, and Messi is there to bundle the ball over the line.

Lautaro Martinez: We were celebrating. We hadn't seen the assistant referee lift the flag. The bench came to celebrate with us. The referee raised his hand, and we thought it had been disallowed. Then he pointed towards the centre circle, and we celebrated again. We celebrated three times!