

The shootout became a test of nerves and skill. French players Kingsley Coman and Aurélien Tchouaméni saw their penalties saved by the brilliant Emiliano Martinez, while Argentina converted all four of their attempts. Gonzalo Montiel stepped up to take the decisive penalty, sending Hugo Lloris the wrong way and sealing Argentina's third World Cup triumph. The final whistle sparked wild celebrations as Messi, at long last, lifted the trophy that had eluded him throughout his legendary career.

This match was more than just a football game - it was a historic clash of generations. The 35-year-old Messi, playing in his final World Cup, faced off against the 23-year-old Mbappé, representing the future of the sport. Both players delivered performances for the ages, with Messi scoring twice and Mbappé becoming the first player since England's Geoff Hurst in 1966 to score a hat-trick in the final. The six-goal thriller, decided by penalties after 120 minutes of pulsating action, will be remembered as one of the greatest sporting spectacles of all time, cementing its place in football folklore.