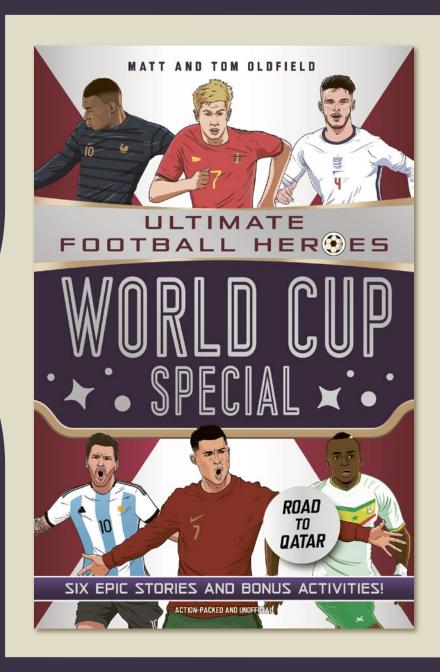
World Cup Special (Ultimate Football Heroes)



Road to the Qatar World Cup 2022

- With the 2022 Qatar World Cup on the horizon sales potential for this highly collectible series is extremely high, and this books will be given special, limited edition branding (foiling) to tie in with the tournament.
- This special edition brings together the stories of six of the world's most high-profile players on their road to the tournament AS WELL AS including puzzles, fun facts and activities at a larger 224pp extent.
- With an average live audience of 517 million viewers during the 2018 World Cup final between France and Croatia, the world's attention will be on this tournament.

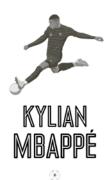
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WORLD CUP SPECIA

so much and I'm very grateful for his belief in me as an author. I'm also very grateful to the ess of my family, especially Mel, Nosh, Nico, and of course Mars and Dod. To my parents, I over my biggest passions bothall and books. They're a real inspiration for everything I do. Ping, Will, Mills, Doug, Naomi, John, Charlle,

Sam, Katy, Ben, Kaeen, Ana (and arryone eise I forgot
— thanks for all the love and laught, but sorry, no I
won't be getting 'a real job' arrytime soon!

And finally, I couldn't have done any of this
without lorals' encouragement and understanding.
Much love to you, and or course to Arlo, the ultimate
hero of all. I hope we get to enjoy those books





FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

On 14 July 2018, Kyllan sent a message to his millions of social media followers, from Russla with love: "Happy French national day everyone, Let's hope the party continues until tomorrow raight!"

"Tomorrow night" – 15 July – was when the national team would be playing in the 2018 World Cun floal at the Lunchell Stadeum to Moscow. It was

the most important football match on the planet and Kyllan's country was counting on him. So far, he hadrn't let them down at all. In fact, Kyllan had been France's speedy superstar, scoring the winning goal against Demnark and then two more coals assainst Ameriting in an amazine man-of-the-

T AND TOM GLOFIELD

match performance. That all made him France's best 'Number 10' since Zinedine Zidane in 1998.

That was the year that France had last won the World Cup.

That was also the year that Kylian was boen. Thereity years on and 'Use Sleus' were the favourities to lift the famous golden rophy again. They had almady bearen Lloreit Messix's Aggretina in the Round of 10, Luis Solares's Usugasy in the quarter finals and Kevin De Bruyen's Beginn in the sensi-finals. Now, the only ration standing in their way was Luka Mondors's Charlie.

manager, Didier Deschamps, told them as lick off approached and the nerves began to Jangle. 'Now, you just need to go out there and finish off the Job?'

A massive "Yeah" echoed around the room. It was one big team effort, from capatin Hugo Liots in goal

one big team effort, from captain Hugo Lloris in goal through to Kyllan, Amoine Griezmann and Olivier Giroud in attack. Everyone worked hard and everyone worked together.

"You've done so well to get this far," the Franc

worked together.

If others' nerves were langling, though, Kylian



CYCLAN MEAPER

stayed caim. He was the coolest character around, and never let anything faze him. When he was younger, he hadn't just hoped to play in a World Cup final; he had expected it. It was all part of his killer plan to conquer the football world.

Out on the pitch in Moscow, Kyllan sang the French national anthem with a big smile on his face. As a four-year-old, some people had laughed at his ambitious dreams. Well, they definitely weren't laughten now.

"Right, fer's do this?" Paul Pogba clapped and cheered as they took up their positions. His partnership with Kylian would be key for France. Whenever Paul got the ball in midfield, he would look to find his pacy tearmante with a perfect pass. Kylian's fint action of the final, however, was in defence. He nushed back quickly to block a Croutil

'Well done!' France's centre-back Samuel Umtiti

Once that was done, it was all about attacking. Even in a World Cup final, Kylian wasn't afraid to try



MATT AND TOM GLOFIELD

his tricks and flicks. They didn't always work but it was worth the risk.

It was an end-to-end first half, full of action. First, Antoine curied in a dangerous free lick and Mario Mantzhukić headed the ball into bis own net: 1–0 to France! Kyllain punched the air—what a start! I van Perilik equalised for Crossia but then he handhalled it in his own box. Penality! Antoine stepped up... and scored: 2–1 to France!

The French players were happy to hear the halftime whistle. They needed a break to regroup. Although they were winning, they had work to do if they wanted to become world champions again.

"We need to calm things down and take control of the game," Deschamps told his players. 'Stay smart out there?'

Kyllan listened carefully to his manager's message. He needed to relax and play to his strengths – his skill but also his speed. This was his chance to go down in World Cup history: Pelé in 1959,

Diego Maradona in 1986,



KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

Zidane in 1998, Ronaldo in 2002,

Kylian in 2018?

In the second-half, France's superstars shone more brightly. Kylian collected Paul's long pass and sprinted straight past the Croatia centre-back. Was he about to score in his first World Cup final? No, the keeper came out to make a good save.

'Ohhhh!' the supporters groaned in disappointment.

But a few minutes later, Paul and Kylian linked up again. From wide on the right wing, Kylian dribbled towards goal. Uh-oh, the Croatia left-back was in big trouble.

With a stepover and a little hop, Kylian cut inside towards goal but in a flash, he fooled the defender with another quick change of direction.

'Go on!' the France fans urged their exciting young hero.

What next? Kylian still had two defenders in front of him, so he pulled it back to Antoine instead. He couldn't find a way through either, so he passed to Paul. Paul's first shot was blocked but his second flew



MATT AND TOM OLDFIELD

into the bottom corner. 3-1!

Kylian threw his arms up in the air and then ran over to congratulate his friend. Surely, France had one hand on the World Cup trophy now.

Antoine had scored, and now so had Paul. That meant it must be Kylian's turn next! He would have to score soon, however, in case Deschamps decided to take him off early...

When he received the pass from Lucas Hernández, Kylian was in the middle of the pitch, at least ten yards outside the penalty area. Was he too far out to shoot? No, there was no such thing as 'too far' for Kylian! He shifted the ball to the right and then BANG! He tucked the ball into the bottom corner before the keeper could even dive. 4–1!

As his teammates rushed over to him, Kylian had just enough time for his trademark celebration. With a little jump, he planted his feet, folded his arms across his chest, and tried to look as cool as he could. That last part was really hard, because he had just scored in



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