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• Black Stars players celebrating their World Cup qualification yesterday

USA, here we come!

• **Kudus strike seals 5th World Cup berth**

Story: Prince Dornu-Leiku

GHANA'S Black Stars transformed the Accra Sports Stadium into a carnival ground on Tuesday night, sealing qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup with a 1-0 victory over Comoros that sent the entire capital into delirium.

As the final whistle blew, the stands erupted into scenes of unrestrained joy. Red,

gold, and green flags fluttered under the floodlights as fireworks exploded above the stadium. Players danced, fans wept with pride, and chants of "USA! USA! USA!" rolled like thunder around the arena. For a nation where football is more religion than sport, this wasn't just another win — it was a night of redemption, relief, and revival.

Ghana's qualification marked their fifth

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Otto Addo not worried about job security



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MONDAY, OCTOBER 13 — 19, 2025

Triumph of belief, leadership and pride

GHANA'S qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup is more than a sporting triumph; it is a story of resilience, redemption, and national pride — a victory that has once again unified an entire nation under the red, gold, and green banner. The Black Stars' hard-fought 1-0 victory over Comoros at the Accra Sports Stadium not only sealed a fifth World Cup appearance but also rekindled a deep emotional connection between the team and its millions of passionate supporters.

The atmosphere at the Accra Sports Stadium on Saturday night was pure carnival. As the final whistle blew, the capacity arena erupted into a sea of jubilation as Ghanaians celebrated long into the night. It was the kind of unifying national moment that transcends sport — proof once more that football remains Ghana's most powerful social glue.

But beyond the euphoria lies a story of far-reaching significance. Ghana's return to the World Cup

comes with vast socio-economic potential. The tournament provides a global stage for the nation to showcase its culture, resilience, and talent, enhancing its soft power and boosting investor confidence. The ripple effect will touch sectors such as tourism, media, and hospitality, creating business and employment opportunities. Moreover, for Ghana's young population, this qualification is a beacon of hope — a reminder that dedication and teamwork can elevate the country to global prominence.

At the centre of this renaissance stands Otto Addo, the coach whose resilience mirrors that of his team. Only months ago, his job hung by a thread following Ghana's shock failure to qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations — their first absence in 20 years. Critics called for his dismissal, citing inconsistency and poor results. Yet the Ghana Football Association stood firm, insisting he was the man to lead the new project. That faith has been vindicated spectacularly. Addo has built a team defined by tactical discipline, resilience, and belief. His unbeaten campaign — seven wins and a draw from eight matches — speaks volumes of his quiet competence and leadership.

Equally deserving of praise is captain Jordan Ayew, whose inspirational leadership set the tone throughout the qualifiers. His competition-high 14 goal contributions — seven goals and seven assists — underline both his consistency and his transformation from a divisive figure into a national hero. His decisive late winner in Bamako against Mali marked the turning point of the campaign, while his crucial hat-trick against the

Central African Republic in Kumasi last year reignited belief at a time when Ghana's World Cup hopes were flickering. Jordan's maturity, work ethic, and humility have been exemplary, embodying what it means to wear the armband of the Black Stars.

For Addo, qualification represents personal vindication. The 50-year-old, who famously helped Ghana reach the 2006 World Cup as a player, has now joined an elite circle of men to have both represented and coached their country at football's greatest showpiece. Yet, despite this historic feat, talk of his future has already begun to surface — a conversation that feels premature and potentially distracting. Stability, not speculation, must now be the focus. Addo has earned time, respect, and space to continue shaping a team capable of competing with the world's best.

As Ghana begins preparations for North America 2026, this qualification must serve as a rallying point — not just for football, but for national purpose. It is a reminder of what can be achieved when leadership is visionary, teamwork is genuine, and belief is unwavering.

Congratulations are in order to the players, the technical and coaching staff, the Ghana Football Association, and the government for restoring faith in the Black Stars and lifting national spirits.

For one glorious night in Accra, football reminded us why it holds such a special place in Ghana's story — because when the Black Stars shine, the whole nation glows with them.

Is Kudus the best dribbler in Europe?

MOHAMMED Kudus has made an electrifying start to life at Tottenham Hotspur, providing four goals and scoring once. Adrian Clarke analyses the Ghanaian's contributions so far, including a stellar display at Leeds United last time out.

Spurs fans are enjoying the sight of summer signing Mohammed Kudus running down their right flank, taking the ball past defenders with his quick feet and blistering speed.

Head coach Thomas Frank has encouraged Kudus to express himself, and the talented winger has certainly been fun to watch, showing good degrees of confidence.

This is not something new. In 2024/25, his final campaign at West Ham United, only Barcelona's Lamine Yamal (161) and Jeremy Doku (107) of Manchester City made more successful dribbles than Kudus (92) across Europe's top five leagues.

Kudus topped those rankings the year before, and right now, once again, he leads the race as the most effective dribblers in Europe.

The Spurs winger is producing special numbers and currently leads a list that also includes Yamal and Kylian Mbappe in the top four.

In Premier League terms, Kudus' 30 successful dribbles put him 11 ahead of his nearest rival, Brighton & Hove Albion's Yankuba Minteh (19).

No shortage of productivity

Kudus is currently the Premier League's joint-leading assist maker, registering an



• Mohammed Kudus

impressive four in seven outings.

Three of those set up goals for striker Richarlison.

Kudus picked out the Brazilian with two crosses against Burnley, the second of which can be seen below.

The winger also made a crisp pass inside the box for Richarlison to score in a 2-2 draw at Brighton.

In the same match, although it did not count as an official assist, Kudus also swung a teasing left-footed cross into the box, a delivery that led to Brighton defender Jan Paul van Hecke putting the ball in his own net.

Kudus was also inspirational last time out, in a 2-1 success at Leeds United.

The 25-year-old released Mathys Tel with a precise through ball for Spurs' first goal, before scoring the winner himself from outside the box.

It was Kudus'

quality that made the difference as he cut in from the right wing before unleashing a low left-footed strike into the bottom corner.

Kudus has already produced eight accurate crosses in open play, a figure that puts him on course to eclipsing the 21 he provided for West Ham in 2024/25.

Wolverhampton Wanderers left-back Hugo Bueno (13) is the only player to have produced a higher number of accurate crosses this season.

When you factor in six accurate set-piece deliveries on top, it means Kudus is ranked second in the Premier League for successful crosses, behind only Bryan Mbeumo of Manchester United.

So, while beating his man with skill is a super-strength, Kudus is also proving he can supply top-class service into the box.

It is little wonder he is ranked joint-fifth for chances created in the division, on 13.

How do Spurs use him?

Kudus' team-mates are always looking to play forward passes into his feet, chest, or head.

Spurs goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario has successfully found him with several long goal-kicks, while defender Pedro Porro and midfielders Joao Palhinha and Rodrigo Bentancur also look for Kudus on a regular basis.

Only three top-flight players have received more progressive passes than he has during the early phase of this campaign, with Frank keen to involve him in the game on direct attacks.

Finding Kudus early, before opposition defences have got set up in their shape, is the key to bringing the best out of their gifted wide man. - Premier League