



LE CŒUR DU FOOTBALL FEMININ



e-Journal n°24 – February 2019



A Word From... The « OL ANG'ELLES » Team

This edition of O ELLES has taken some time to come together because we're also preparing a photography exposition, « *At the Heart of Women's Football* », for the World Cup, highlighting the core philosophy of supporters' groups in women's football: respect and friendship, with an eagerness for meetings and exchanges between groups, with a spirit of sportsmanship that we hope will endure even as women's football now is becoming widely recognized and celebrated.

☺ Of course, sometimes it's hard to maintain that spirit, particularly when we're facing PSG. We're thinking specifically of the 2 recent games against PSG where it seems like the refs picked PSG's side—especially with respect to ADA who had « never seen anything like that ».



<- French Cup final in Strasbourg
Ada's goal inexplicably waved off



D1 away match in November ->
Penalty on Ada inexplicably denied.

During the month of February, ADA might just have seen even worse during the quarterfinals of the French Cup at the Parc OL.

In April, we expect that PSG will come to Lyon with the title on the line. The media has been pleased to see that the race for the title remains close, though that's only thanks to the questionable calls from the refs during the first leg match, as well as in PSG's games at Fleury and Rodez.

We're betting that in the end, the decisive match will end in a result beyond dispute. We have every confidence that Lyon's players will confirm their supremacy over PSG—just as they did in the French Cup match in February.

For our members who are also part of the France Ang'Elles, it was a busy month not only on the club-football front, but also for the French National Team as the team prepares for the World Cup. These meetings have helped us build bonds with our neighbors.



The game between France and Germany in Laval reunited us with Lutz, a Wolfsburg fan.



<- Laval 2019

Kiev 2018 ->

The battles between Europe's two best clubs are an annual event, with OL having beaten Wolfsburg in the Champions League in each of the past 3 seasons.



We're looking forward to seeing Lutz and the other Wolfsburg fans in both Lyon and Wolfsburg for what should be two thrilling Champions League matches in March.



<- Lyon 2017

Kiev 2018 ->

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Barometer... Open Practices

February 1.



About 50 spectators were present to watch a practice that consisted mainly of toros, all conducted right in front of the fans.



One constant in these February practices? Plenty of laughter and good humor.

February 8.

As relaxed as ever, even with the match against PSG looming the next day. The purpose of the discussion between Reynald Pedros and Maro became clear the next day when we saw the system put in place: a 4-4-2 diamond we'd rarely seen to that point, with Maro supporting Eugénie and Ada in attack.



February 14.



After some toros, an exercise focused on finding support, returning the ball, deep passes for a cross, and work in front of the goal for the forwards.

We're grateful to those who have ensured that we can come see these practices more regularly. It's been great to see the joyful ambiance in this group and that the group gets along so well, even on a team with so much competition for playing time among national team caliber players.

Now, it would be even better if in the future we could come see some sessions that are perhaps less fun, but that are more tactical and technical so we could see how the team's style and system is put in place. As fans of football, we'd be interested to see that side of the team's preparation.

Scores... French Cup

Quarterfinals - **OL - PSG: 1 - 0** (Jess) (Attendance: 10,217)



More than a hundred OL ANG'ELLES were on scene for this much anticipated match.



Since the D1 match against PSG, during the winter transfer window, Anissa Lahmari was loaned out again, this time to Soyaux, and Danish international **Nadia Nadim** (born in Afghanistan) arrived to bolster PSG's ranks.



Teammates with Amandine in Portland and NWSL champion alongside her in 2017, Nadim was most recently at Manchester City where she barely played (5 league and UWCL games, with 3 starts in the first half of the 2018-19 season), and with whom she faced Amandine and OL in Champions League action in 2017-18.



OL: 6 Fr/11, 6 Fr/12



PSG: 4 Fr/11, 6 Fr/14

Set up in a 4-4-2 diamond, Jess reinforced the usual midfield trio of Saki-Amandine-Maró, with Eugénie and Ada up front.

As in every stadium, and always with the same emotion, we rendered homage to **Emiliano Sala** after the confirmation of his death: R.I.P. EMI.



The designation of **Florence Guillemin** as the ref for this match was outrageous after what happened at the French Cup Final in Strasbourg last year. . . but we thought we'd already seen the worst.



We were wrong. In fact, the reffing was so catastrophically bad that we find we must lay out not just a timeline of the match, but also a timeline of the officiating of the match.

Referees' Mistakes and Errors to OL's Disadvantage.

First Half	Second Half
<p>9', Eugénie's goal not awarded, Eve cleared it from behind the line</p> <p>12', Eugénie coming in alone on goal, play halted for a non-existent handball</p> <p>15', Cross by Amandine, own goal Dudek, refused even though the ball had never crossed the endline</p> <p>39', major foul by Dudek from behind on Eugénie, yellow card given to Morroni</p> <p>40', major foul by Morroni from behind on Eugénie, yellow card (would have led to a red) not given</p> <p>42', Morroni stepped on Amandine's ankle Penalty not given</p>	<p>46', Maro and Ada alone against Endler, Maro whistled offside – probably incorrect</p> <p>51', Dudek on the ground stops Ada from scoring with two straight handballs, the 2nd clearly deliberate Penalty not given</p> <p>72', Parédès holding Wendie during a corner Wendie only escapes by wrestling her shoulder free Penalty not given</p> <p>78', Lawrence grabs Amandine by the arm at the far post Yellow card, but no foul or penalty awarded!</p>

Refused Goals



Eugénie 9th

Eve's planted foot was basically on the goal line when she miraculously cleared the ball with her other leg at full extension. The ball was several dozen centimeters over the line, which was clear to those in the stands along the goal line. For the first time (but not the last), Florence Guillemin was not done any favors by her assistant, Elodie Coppola.



The ball never crossed the endline before Amandine's cross, but Elodie Coppola again let Florence Guillemin down by indicating that it had—even though she was 10 meters behind the action. The goal should have counted. And to make matters worse, Eugénie picked up a card for arguing the call.



OG Dudek 15th

Significant Chances Unfairly Stopped

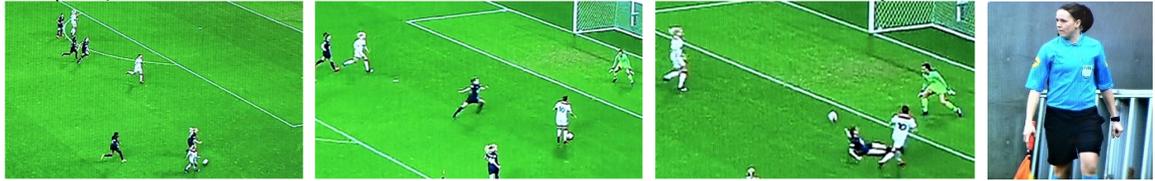


To justify her decision to interrupt Eugénie's run in alone on goal, Florence Guillemin pointed to her shoulder . . . close, but no cigar, because Eugénie controlled the ball with her stomach, never using her hand or arm!



Eugénie 12th

Even if it's difficult to be 100% certain on this play, Maro was likely covered by Eve when Lucy made this pass, and thus there was no offsides. All Ada would have had to do is tap the ball into the net.



Maro and Ada 46th

Penalties

42nd Perle Morroni takes out Amandine's ankle, without ever touching the ball.



51st Not one, but *two* consecutive handballs from Dudek to take the ball away from Ada's feet in scoring position, and despite what certain commentators suggested, the second handball followed clear intentional movement.



While we're used to the Parisians regularly taking liberties in the box to prevent Wendie from getting her head to the ball on corners and free kicks, Parédès took it to a whole new level.



74th

Wendie had to pull some kind of judo move with her shoulder in order to free herself from Parédès's grip on this corner.

As was often the case...
...no reaction from Florence Guillemin.



78th Corner sent in by Amel and deflected on by Ada towards Amandine at the far post. Amandine's arm was held by Lawrence.



Florence Guillemin saw the infraction and issued a yellow card to Lawrence (obviously not for protesting), but inexplicably did not award a foul—which, of course, would have meant a penalty!

Fouls and Cards

Finally, just as was the case in last year's French Cup Final, the issuance of cards was shocking—and largely unfair.

In the first half, Eugénie was the victim of 4 dangerous fouls from behind (2' Parédès, 39' Dudek, 40' Morroni, 45' Dudek).

Dudek (significant fouls from behind on Ada 29', and on Eugénie 39' and 45') and Morroni (fouls from behind on Ada 7', wrongly ascribed to her on Eugénie 39' and 40', and 2 fouls in the box, only one of which earned a penalty) shouldn't have finished the match. Meanwhile, Eugénie was given a card for (correctly) arguing an erroneous call in the 15th minute.



Shockingly, Parédès (2' foul from behind on Eugénie, cutting down Amel, 43' run through the back of Ada not called, 72' holding Wendie on the corner, 89' holding Ada's arm for 20m), and Eve Périsset (37' foul on Jess not called, 48' major foul to stop play, 76' tripping Jess, 88' foul on Eugénie to stop a counter not called), finished the match, like Dudek, without a single card.

In total, PSG committed more than 25 fouls, many of which were dangerous or cynical or from behind, while OL committed a dozen, of which about half were trivial. The results: 4 yellow cards for OL (Eugénie 15' for protest, Wendie 68', Sarah 81' for time wasting (?), Amandine 82') and 3 for PSG (Wang 34', Morroni 39', Lawrence 78').

As we feared, the officiating was disastrous, and if Lyon hadn't finished the night victorious, we would have another terrible memory to go along with the horrors of the final last June!

On top of the officiating errors and untimely whistles that interrupted potential chances, OL missed several additional opportunities to score, especially in the first half.

1 st half	OL	PSG
Corners	1	1
Dangerous Attacks/ Clear Chances	11, of which 5 were clear 5', Lucy loses one-on-one with Endler 8', Eugénie's goal not awarded 10', Ada barely misses the target while sliding 12', Eugénie in on goal, stopped by the ref 20', Foul by Morroni, Penalty from Griedge saved 25', Cross from Lucy, Ada beaten at the near post 30', Deflected by Ada, Amel's shot into side netting 32', FK Maro, Wendie just short at the far post 36', Cross from Amel, Eugénie header at the spot 41', FK Maro, Griedge puts it wide from 6m 43', Cross from Eugénie, Endler barely beats Lucy	14', Cross from Wang, Headed by Nadim / Save by Sarah
Shots	7, of which 4 were dangerous	1, dangerous
On Target	5	1

Olivier Echouafni, speaking to Eurosport at halftime: « A bit complicated in the first half-hour, we needed to be a bit lucky. »

That's one way to put it. 😊

Lucy 5th After good collective movement, Lucy loses the one-on-one with Endler.



Ada 10th

Sent in by Eugénie, Ada came up short on her sliding shot and missed the net.



Griedge 20th

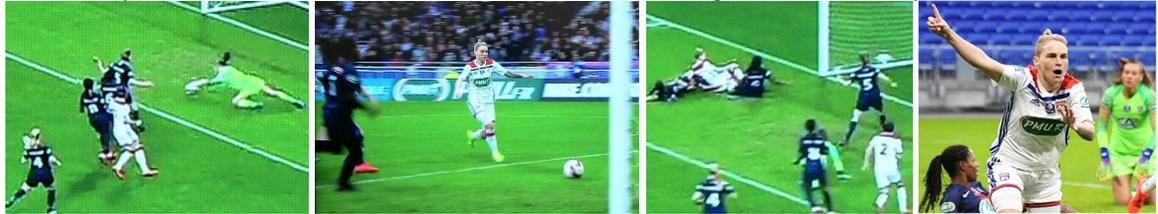


Endler came up trumps on the penalty taken by Griedge following fouls by Formiga and especially by Morroni, which did indeed occur inside the box, despite what certain commentators suggested.

2 nd half	OL	PSG
Corners	2	2
Dangerous Attacks/ Clear Chances	5, 3 of which were clear 47', Cross too far/Eugénie alone against Endler 51', Cross from Maro, Dudek's hands stop Ada 60', Formiga near OG, Endler saves, Jess scores 77', Jess's shot deflected, off the post 89', 50m run from Ada, Endler stops the shot	3, 2 of which were clear 46', bad pass by Griedge, Sarah stops Geyoro's shot 75', Shot from Formiga, 1m from the post 80', Headed back pass from Wendie, Katoto just to the side
Shots	3, 2 of which were dangerous	4, 2 of which were dangerous
On Target	2	1



Fortunately...JESS, thanks to her determination, finished off a great team buildup.



Jess 60th

Jean-Michel Aulas, speaking to OLV, about JESS: « She's a legendary player who has won titles wherever she's gone, and who, in the United States, has left her mark on the matches she's played and the teams with whom she's showed her considerable talent. She has an incredible character for not giving up, a fantastic level of desire. She's not very physically imposing but she has excellent fundamentals and above all an exceptional mentality that enabled her to secure this game with the goal and to bring an intensity of play that is exceptional. »





PSG was a little more assertive in this game than in many previous matches against Lyon, but outside of the two chances resulting from rare defensive errors by Griedge and Wendie, PSG managed only a single chance on goal from their own build-up play. SARAH proved decisive, stopping Nadim's header and winning the one-on-one with Geyoro.



14th Sarah stops Nadim

46th Sarah stops Geyoro

Despite all this, because the final score was 1-0, certain commentators still dared to describe the game as a close match.

But if it takes 3 goals for 1 to be awarded—and a similar ratio of fouls to penalties awarded—it will always be complicated to prevail.



In the end, as Amandine said after the match, order was restored.



Jean-Michel Aulas, speaking to OLVTV:



«Difficult game...it was made more difficult in not getting what we should have had earlier, in other words converting the numerous chances we had in the first half...against a very good Paris team that is getting better. So we have assess where we are each game and that's why we're happy to qualify for the next round.

Last year, we lost the Final a little unfairly, I would say...There were a certain number of decisions that were hard to understand...however, the referee had the humility to say afterwards that it should have been a good goal.

So all is well that ends well, but it could have ended poorly because there was not much between the teams at the end and Paris pushed hard.

A good show with plenty of intensity, plenty of speed, technical ability – which is no longer just the province of Lyon because we see that Paris also has excellent players...so it was at the level of a Champions League semifinal, which could happen if both teams advance, them against Chelsea and us against Wolfsburg...

In any event, it was a great advertisement for women's football. »



Awards... Lions du Sport

The OL ANG'ELLES were welcomed to the 16th edition of the City of Lyon's « Lions du Sport » at the Maison de la Danse. Hosted by Daren Tulett, it was an evening that wound up largely as a celebration of women's football.





About 20 of our members made plenty of noise when OL's players were congratulated for their consistent dominance in the world of women's football, when CAMILLE was introduced as a member of the jury (with Marie-José Pérec, Michael Llodra, Thierry Frémeaux and Sébastien Foucras), when Raoul led the room in an AHOU...



...and when **AMEL** was awarded the Lion d'Or (Golden Lion) 2019, beating out Nabil Fekir and Hugo Boucheron (from the Rowing Club of Lyon).

(based on a public vote—22,000 votes received—combined evenly with a jury vote, from 11 nominees:

1. Julien ANDLAUER – Porsche Motorsport
2. Marieme BADIANE - LDLC ASVEL Féminin
3. Anne BARNEOUD - ASUL Lyon
- 8 Table Tennis
4. Hugo BOUCHERON – Lyon Rowing Club
5. Julien CORREIA - Lyon Hockey Club
6. Baptiste COUILLOUD - LOU Rugby
7. Nabil FEKIR - OL Masculin
8. Angéline LANZA - Lyon Track
9. Amel MAJRI - OL Féminin
10. Amine NOUA - LDLC ASVEL Masculin
11. Cyril TOMMASONE – Lyon Gymnastic Club)



Spotlight on... « Soyons Sport »

The OL ANG'ELLES were also present at the Institut Lumière for the opening of the « Soyons sport » festival.



This festival examines the links between sports, sports literature, and fictional and documentary films. It celebrated ADA as the guest of honor for opening night of the 6th edition of the festival. She was welcomed by Thierry Frémeaux, in the presence of Gérard Houllier, Pierre Mignoni and Frédéric Michalak.

In a symposium on « *The Ball and the Pen*, » there was a round table on « *Football for Women* » which discussed the theme « *Male and female characters in football fiction.* »



Scores... D1

J17 - **OL – Lille: 1 - 0** (Maro) (Attendance: 1,067)

During the first leg, **Rachel Saïdi** was on the field: 9 starts in 13 games played this season.



4th season with Lille
after 6 seasons with Hénin
and 1 with Arras.
8 call ups to France B.
30 years old.



Now on the bench in favor of Dominique Carlier, she will try to help Losc maintain their spot in D1, though the team was 5 points back of safety as of the 17th matchday.

During the winter transfer window, 2 Americans, both age 23, joined Lille.



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Hannah Diaz

<- Orca Kamogawa / Japan Californian
2 call ups to U23 in 2017.

Sarah Tiegarden

<- North Carolina in 2018
(On the bench for the match against OL during the Women's Int'l Champions Cup in Miami)



A group of young Norwegians came to support Ada, and were happy to meet Ada's mother, Gerd Stolsmo.

It was important to manage playing time and get certain players back into rhythm. Eugénie and Shanice were unavailable, Wendie, Saki, Amel, and Jess were on the bench. Caro returned to action after a long period of injury.



OL: 4 Fr/11, 5 Fr/13 - Losc: 7 Fr/11, 10 Fr/14

The proportion of French players for OL has declined a bit in the second half of the season. That's partly to give a breather to players who have been active for the national team and (because of the national team coach's selective concern for playing time) to allow players like Emelyne to be loaned out to another club. It's fair to wonder what is the best preparation for the World Cup for certain players: (1) less game time, but practicing every day with great national team-caliber players, or (2) have more game time, but as part of a less skilled team? Our answer probably doesn't match the national team coach's answer.

The system (4-4-2 or 4-2-4) with Amandine, Izzy, Delphine and Maro in midfield, Sole and Ada in attack, created some imbalance with Sole having to participate frequently in the build-up, which is not really one of her strengths.

It was SOLE's first match in front of Lyon's home fans (after playing 20 minutes at the end of the match away at Soyaux in the French Cup).

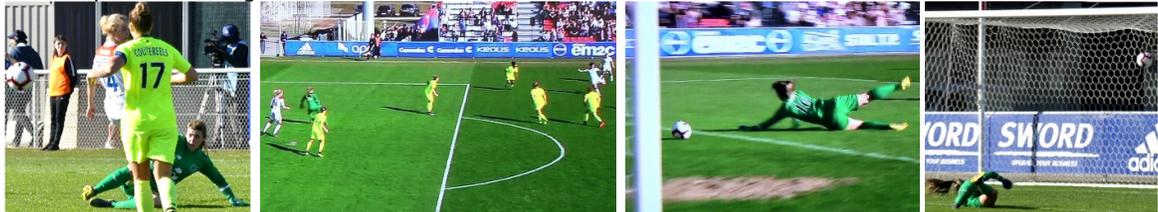


Keeping in mind the need for time to adapt, it's hard to say at the moment what exactly Sole can bring to this team: her competitiveness and physical engagement are beyond doubt. In this game, over an hour of playing time, she had ten or so positive plays—with her best chance coming in the 36th minute on a blocked header off a cross from Ada—but also lacked some precision and lost the ball about a dozen times.

DELPHINE was one of the best Lyon players in a disappointing match. She was behind many of Lyon's most dangerous chances (19', 21', 22', 50', 75').



But it was MARO who saved the afternoon with a goal that, when scored, we thought (incorrectly) would open the floodgates.



Maro 13th

Unexpectedly, SARAH was called upon more than usual. Like all great goalkeepers, she also benefited from some luck, saved by the crossbar at the end of the match.



39th After Kadeisha lost the ball, Sarah turned aside the shot from Hannah Diaz.



53rd Sarah pulls in the shot from Julie Dufour. 84th Justine Bauduin's shot hits the crossbar.

OL came awfully close to its first slip up in a long time.

MARO (for the 2nd time) and SARAH (for the 3rd straight time), the two players honored individually with the presentation of their trophies from IFFHS as 2018's best player and goalkeeper in the world, respectively, celebrated smartly by proving decisive in the victory.



OL's women's team was also honored by IFFHS with a 5th trophy as the world's best team (2012, 2015 through 2018).

ADA did not score, but she still ensured great memories for the group of young fans from Norway who made the trip to support her.



J16 - **PFC – OL: 1 - 4** (Thiney (PK) / Delphine, Ada, OG Abam, Amel) (Attendance: 727 (?))



Xavier Giraudon, on C+ Sport, highlighted that « the Lyon supporters' groups are there...at least 30 people for this rescheduled game...it's a good deal for TGV, that much is sure... ».

😄 But no, for our OL ANG'ELLES members, as is often the case, we came by minibus from Lyon, by car for those from the north, and we had a few reinforcements from the Paris region as well.



Since the last match between the teams, Sandrine Soubeyrand has taken charge of PFC (ex-Juvisy)'s destiny.



During the winter transfer window, Rebecca Quinn, a Canadian midfielder/defender, joined PFC.



She came from the Washington Spirit, where she was teammates with Mallory Pugh. Age 23, 45 national team caps (25 starts, 5 goals). She was part of the bronze medal-winning Canadian team at the 2016 Olympics in Brazil. She appeared in just one of 3 matches during the recent Algarve Cup, alongside Kadeisha.



PFC: 8 Fr/11, 10 Fr/14 - **OL:** 6 Fr/11, 6 Fr/14

3 of Lyon's 4 goals were scored following good team build-up play, stringing together one touch passes.



Delphine 2nd





Ada 33rd



Amel 88th



The other goal, the 3rd of 4, was an own goal by Abam under pressure from Griedge following a free kick sent in by Caro.



OG Abam 62nd

But despite some good collective work and a few nice moves by Maro, after a good start to the match (just as was the case against Lille) the team's performance disintegrated a little, with way too many missed passes and balls lost: about 70 over the course of the game, with a roughly equal number in each half. Even if Lyon quickly got the ball back most of the time, it hindered the fluidity of the play.

OL conceded its 4th goal in D1 this season. Certain critics have said that Sarah shouldn't have made such a long run out for the ball when Lucy was still within range of getting to Makanza.



Perhaps just bad timing. It was probably hard to maintain concentration when PFC was only very rarely getting anywhere near Lyon's goal, and it's important to remember that throughout this season, SARAH has made some important stops with similar interventions.

In any event, it seemed that Sarah put the brakes on before contact to avoid a foul. But from where the referee was, it would have been hard to see clearly enough to not make the call.



In converting the penalty, Gaétane Thiney had the opportunity to touch the ball—something she did less than 20 times over the course of the game.



She got her first touch in the 14th minute and her second in the 20th minute. Among her twenty-ish touches were 5 bad passes and lost balls and 5 harmless back passes... She was invisible during the match, just as she has been whenever she's played against OL or PSG, or as was the case with the French National Team in big games against the USA and Germany.

OL ended the game with just 9 players on the field. JESS's leg was taken out by a late tackle from Thiney and she had to come off, while GRIEDGE came down awkwardly from a jump on defense.

In the end, the score was decently one-sided and it was one of the easiest matches at PFC/ex-Juivsy in several seasons. Prior trips have been much rougher and much more difficult.



The playing of this postponed match put the table back in order, with PSG only ever having held the top spot by virtue of scheduling.

And, as usual, the match between PFC and OL ensured a reunion for twin sisters Estelle and Delphine.



National Team... France A

With 100 days to go until the start of the World Cup, each host city's unique poster was revealed. In Lyon, around 15 OL ANG'ELLES participated in the event.



It involved scoring 100 goals on Ettie, France's World Cup mascot. After kids from local clubs, Yann Cucherat (who runs the Sports à la Ville de Lyon program), after Jean-Michel Aulas, and after Sonia and Corine, Camille scored the 100th goal, revealing the official Lyon poster.



The international break sent 18 Lyon players across the globe to compete at the end of February:
2, Lucy and Izzy won the She Believes Cup in the United States with the England team.

Unfortunately, Izzy was seriously injured when she broke her ankle.
Saki, who was sick, played only a single game of the SBC for Japan.
Kadeisha took 3rd place in the Algarve Cup in Portugal with the Canada.
Sole and Argentina lost all 3 matches in the Cup of Nations hosted by Australia.
Maro and Caro played for Germany in a win over France.
6 Lyon players appeared for France in matches in Laval against Germany and Tours against Uruguay.
5 Lyon players were with the U19 team for the Elite Tour.



France – Germany: 0-1

Goal: 31st Léa Schuller
Attendance: 10,238.

184th cap for Elise (Sandrine Soubeyrand 198,
Laura George 188)
1st start for Marie-Antoinette Katoto.



For Lyon fans, one of the intriguing things about this match was seeing how OL's French players matched up against their club teammates, Caro and Maro.



Otherwise, against a rebuilding Germany team that seemed to be struggling (very few occasions other than the goal), it was a disappointing—and maybe even worrying—game from France, with several players invisible and a lot of bad passes and lost balls.

There were few good chances for France: a nice play by Katoto to get the ball to Thiney alone 18 meters out, but Thiney wasted the chance when she missed her shot (45th); and a header from Wendie off a corner that was turned aside for another corner (54th).

The coach said she was disappointed that certain players weren't at their usual level...but this performance probably showed their *actual* level, and many of us weren't surprised.



France – Uruguay: 6-0

Goals: Asseyi, Bilbault, Gauvin (? Torrent),
Geyoro, Gauvin, Clemaron

Attendance: 11,019



While it's important to be respectful of the players on the 74th ranked team in the world, this was an uninteresting match against a team that was at best on the same level as a good D2 team (a Uruguay player was dealing with cramps as early as the 51st minute). It's pointless to try to take any positive lessons from this one-sided game. In fact, despite the weakness of the opponent, there were still some France players who struggled (some players had between 8 and 12 bad passes or lost balls, equal to 1/3 or a ¼ of their touches).

For Lyon's players, the important thing was to avoid injury in the event that Uruguay's efforts to put up a valiant fight led to risky tackles.

At the « Rive Gauche » restaurant in the Parc de Gerland, Lyon-based members of the FRANCE ANG'ELLES participated in a film shoot for TF1, which aired on « Journal Télévisé de 13 heures » the same day that single-game tickets went on sale for the World Cup.



We'll be back for the next leg of France's preparation for the World Cup with matches in Auxerre against Japan and in Strasbourg against Denmark.