



LE CŒUR DU FOOTBALL FEMININ



e-Journal n°26 – June 2019



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

It was a busy end to the 2018-2019 season for OL Féminin and the OL Ang'Elles, and with the World Cup following right on the heels of the season, there wasn't much time to savor the best moments of another successful campaign.

In light of **France's disappointingly early exit from the World Cup**, which kept les Bleues from appearing in Lyon, it's all the more enjoyable to relive the victories that earned **another OL treble**. OL's players aren't the type to settle for the meaningless post-loss reflections we've heard from the federation: « *we weren't that far away* » or « *we're getting better, but need to keep working* ».

Despite France's loss, the World Cup was a wonderful celebration of women's football, sparking passion and enthusiasm and growing the sport's place in the media and public eye, not only in France, but across the globe.



The World Cup was particularly impressive from the **goalkeepers**, so often the subjects of harsh criticism, but who were celebrated for their strong performances. Among the many excellent performances were those of SARAH, who once again played a crucial role in securing the treble for OL.



Many **OL Ang'Elles** participated with passion in the World Cup adventure alongside the 250+ France Ang'Elles who traveled the country without regard for distance covered (10,000 km for certain members!) in order to offer their wholehearted support to the French national team—even despite the doubts some may have had about the coaching staff and its attitude toward Lyon's younger players.



Scores... D1

Ce match représentait l'étape décisive et attendue dans la conquête du titre :

J20 - **OL – PSG: 5 - 0** (Ada, Eugénie, Wendie pk, Maro, Shanice)

Record Home Attendance: 25,907 spectators

Prior record for OL: 22,050 spectators, OL-PSG in 2016 UWCL semifinals.

Prior record for D1 féminine: 12,263 spectators for Guingamp-OL in October 2011.

Prior record for women's football in France: 24,835 spectators for France-Greece in June 2016.

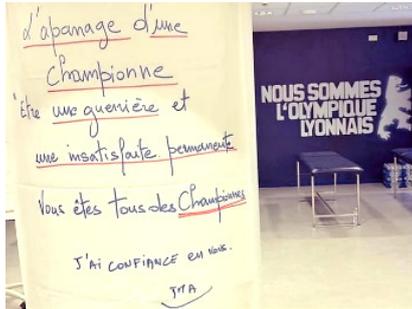
This new record for a women's football match in France would be cleared by a substantial margin during the World Cup, with 57,900 spectators in attendance for the Final at the Parc OL.

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What a way to celebrate OL Féminin's 500th match in history!
 (428 wins - 49 Draws - 22 Losses / 2,315 goals - 4.63 goals/match)



The OL ANG'ELLES showed up in numbers for this great celebration which restored order in terms of the hierarchy in teams, both on the field and in the stands.

OL: 7 Fr/11, 7 Fr/14, 8 Fr/16
PSG: 5 Fr/11, 5 Fr/14, 5 Fr/16



In the 7th minute, the OL ANG'ELLES wanted to demonstrate (again) to AMEL how much the group wanted her to stay with OL.



But that's the moment ADA chose to open the scoring, winning a header on a nice cross from Amandine and taking over (at least provisionally) as D1's scoring leader. ADA hit all the right notes throughout the match.



Ada 7th

With every attack, you could feel the power, determination, talent, and pure scoring threat. Ada and Eugénie were close to converting on a number of occasions, especially in the first half. EUGENIE, MARO, and SHANICE each chipped in to produce the dominating victory that we could have seen in the Coupe de France match with normal officiating.



Eugénie 40th



Maro 60th



Shanice 92nd

In the first half, WENDIE also contributed to the rout with her 100th goal, scored on a penalty, in her 340th match for OL.



Wendie 45th

Lyon was ready . . . reports of the lion's demise turned out to be greatly exaggerated.. 😊



Once again, and even with the World Cup approaching, the French national team coach was nowhere to be found for D1's showpiece match. Her absence was bizarre, given that numerous Lyon players and at least 5 PSG starters were in the running for the World Cup list of 23.



In Lyon, the supporters groups are involved *and* respectful, and in this key match, the whole stadium buzzed along with its superstar team.



J21 - **Dijon - OL: 0 - 4** (Amel, Eugénie, Griedge, Shanice) (Attendance: 4,164)

It was the match that mathematically secured the title for OL—a midweek game, between the two Champions League semifinal matches against Chelsea. The busy schedule made it necessary to keep some players rested, and Ada remained on the bench until the 50th minute. She watched her hold on the D1 scoring title slip away, as M.A. Katoto notched four goals against Bordeaux.



Dijon : 10 Fr/11, 13 Fr/14, 15 Fr/16 – **OL** : 5 Fr/11, 7 Fr/14, 8 Fr/16

During a difficult first half, SARAH had a fair bit of work to preserve the clean sheet, as was true throughout the season. Even in a better second half, there were still dangerous moments.



Shot Kenza 12th

Shot Elise 60th

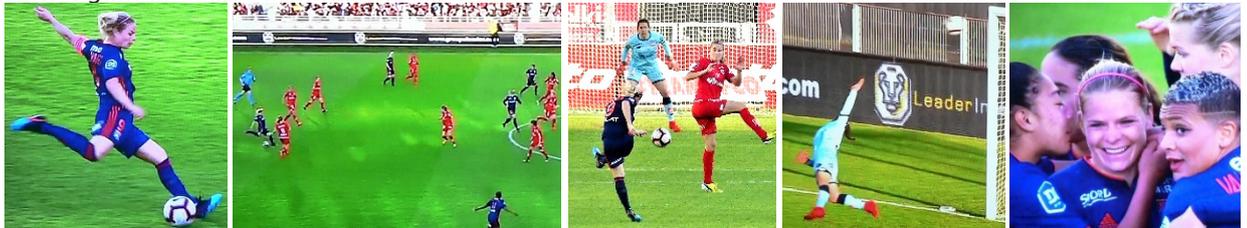
1-on-1 with Declercq 84th

Just minutes into the second half, AMEL brought OL one step closer to securing the title with her 10th goal of the season in D1 (16th across all competitions).



Amel 48th

With her future at OL still hanging in the balance at this point, AMEL was on the spot to slam home a ball that rebounded off the post on a good shot from EUGENIE, who doubled the lead shortly thereafter with a gem of a shot from 25 meters out.



Eugénie 62nd

It was another superb goal for Eugénie, who scored some beauties in the lead up to the World Cup. This one was her 13th in D1 this season (31 games, 21 goals in 2018-2019 for OL).



Corner from Caro and header from GRIEDGE for the 3rd goal, 65th.

Great action from DELPHINE off the bench: technical quality and power up against Declercq, even as she was pulled by the arm, she found a centering pass for SHANICE.



Shanice 86th

The scheduling of this match between the two legs of the UWCL semifinal could have been costly for AMANDINE, who was brought down by a nasty two-footed tackle from Elodie Nakache.



JM AULAS, speaking to OLTV: « *That was one of the concerns about this evening. Having to play between 2 matches of the Champions League semifinal, that's never been done in French football... Was it because this was a women's match?...in any event, it doesn't look good on the people who made this decision, because now we apparently have to deal with this injury to Amandine Henry* ». Fortunately, it looked worse than it was, and Amandine recovered in time to take the field in London for the second leg against Chelsea.

It was the first official D1 title for Lisa, Caro, Jess, Eva, Sole, Lorena, and Melvine.



JM AULAS: « *The magic number, 13 . . . () it seem enormous to win 13 straight titles, but when you know how good our girls are, the value also comes in what an exemplary institution we've tried to build...it brings pride and great happiness. We know that this title was very difficult, even more difficult that the others have been, to attain. All of our competitors are of course investing in order to try to catch up with us* ».



J22 - **OL - Metz: 3 - 0** (Wendie, Saki pk, Ada) (Attendance: 1,503)

With the title in the bag, all that remained was protecting an undefeated season and receiving the trophy itself.



OL : 4 Fr/11, 6 Fr/14, 7 Fr/16 - **Metz** : 10 Fr/11, 11 Fr/13, 13 Fr/16

Not wanting to waste the match and respecting both Metz and the league, OL wrapped up its 13th straight title-winning season without any slip ups, even while rotating the lineup. Eva, Kadeisha, Caro, Sole, and Shanice were starters, while Amel, Delphine, Lucy, and Griedge were rested.

WENDIE opened the scoring with a header on a corner from Caro (with some help from Hélène Fercocq).



Wendie 23rd

SAKI was once again called upon to convert a penalty and doubled the first-half lead.



Saki 45th



At the one hour mark, Amandine, Eugénie, and Ada were all subbed on at once, which was quite a sight to see. It allowed ADA to finish the domestic season with another goal (her 20th), which would not be enough to catch Katoto (22 goals) for the league's scoring title, though clearly that was not a top priority for the day.



Ada 81st

On top of her goal-scoring bonafides, Ada also distinguished herself as a provider this season, finishing second in assists (with 11) behind Diani (12).



With Metz avoiding relegation thanks to Lille's defeat at Montpellier, everyone was able to participate in a post-game celebration.



The trophy for the **13th consecutive title** was handed to OL in front of the home fans, who turned out in numbers. The medal and trophy ceremony gets better every year. Perhaps next year, they'll keep in mind the direction of the wind so that the confetti lands on the champs...for a 14th title? 🤔



This season began with a few folks grabbing a drink (just one or two) by the trunk of the car to celebrate each victory. By the end of the season, it was usually 20, 30 ...even 40 OL ANG'ELLES who would grab this improvised drink ...and more often than not end the day at our favorite restaurant to relive the match all over again.



Awards... **VICAT-OL ANG'ELLES Trophy**



At the end of the match against Metz to wrap up the D1 season, the OL ANG'ELLES presented a certificate for the VICAT-OL ANG'ELLES Trophy (which will be officially presented at the beginning of the 2019-20 season) to EUGENIE, who was voted best player of the season by the group's members.



We hoped at the time that she could add a new title with the French national team to this season's treble. But unfortunately an exhausting end to the club season did not put her in the best condition to shine with France and she was not able to demonstrate all her talent during the World Cup as we would have hoped.

Each year, the choice is difficult, because so many of OL's players are among the best in the world at their position and deserve to be recognized for their outstanding work over the course of the season.

2018-19 Season: Eugénie Le Sommer

Eugénie is a worthy addition to this prestigious list of players.

TROPHÉE DE LA MEILLEURE JOUEUSE	
Saison 2011 - 2012	Camille Abily
Saison 2012 - 2013	Lotta Schelin
Saison 2013 - 2014	Camille Abily
Saison 2014 - 2015	Ada Hegerberg
Saison 2015 - 2016	Ada Hegerberg
Saison 2016 - 2017	Dzsenifer Marozsán
Saison 2017 - 2018	Wendie Renard



Scores... Coupe de France

OL was eager to regain the title of French Cup champions after missing out last season under...difficult...conditions that no one in Lyon has quite gotten over. Sonia expressed this sentiment to OLV before the match: « ...the ref blew the whistle for a completely imaginary foul, it was the PSG player who interfered with her own goalkeeper. It was even more frustrating to lose like that given how bad the weather conditions were...() There were things the players couldn't control, the weather, the officiating, it's frustrating, naturally. »

At Châteauroux, **Final** - **OL - Losc: 3 - 1** (Amandine, Shanice, Wendie / Sarr) (Attendance: 9,518)

With the World Cup approaching and the public interested in experiencing women's football, it's baffling that the Federation chose to play this Final in a stadium where the view from behind the goals is obstructed by the metallic framework and netting and in a city where there wasn't a single poster advertising the match, all of which meant the stadium was far from sold out, with less than 10,000 people in attendance.

For comparison, in England, the Cup Final was played at Wembley.



Maïka Vanderstichel,
the ref for this match
(as well as the first leg match against PSG in D1)
was voted the Best Ref of the 2018-19 season.

OL won this final, predictably, after a first half most notable for a beautiful shot from MARO, at a distance of 20 meters, which hit the post and several saves from Elisa Launay on shots that were on target, but not quite good enough.



Amandine 51st

Shanice 55th

With a 2-0 lead in the second half after a free kick from AMANDINE and goal from SHANICE on a cutback cross from Eugénie, it looked like the match was over. But Sarr made it a game once more when she finished a counterattack that began with Eugénie losing the ball on a play where she thought she was fouled...



Sarr 68th

This Lille team showed that they deserved better than relegation to D2 and it was clear that the overhaul of the coaching staff, with Rachel Saïdi taking over, came too late in the year.

(OL: 20 shots, 13 dangerous, 11 corners - Lille: 4 shots, 3 dangerous, 1 corner).



But a penalty on Ada, converted by WENDIE, who's always there to take charge in the key moments, secured once and for all an **8th Coupe de France** title for OL in 12 Finals appearances.



Wendie 83rd



JM AULAS, speaking to OLTV: « It's true, they really know how to challenge themselves and refocus, even when it is difficult...the first half was not particularly good...It was a big win over a team that really competed and the team had to dig deep... »



On the Road... Châteauroux and Nevers



Châteauroux hosted the Coupe de France Final with about 50 OL ANG'ELLES in attendance.



3 weeks later, a dozen or so OL ANG'ELLES returned to the Orléans region to support the French National Team in a friendly against Thailand and took the next day to travel to Nevers to support Lyon's U19s in their Elite league final...and of course they made a nostalgic stop at Magny-Cours motor racing circuit, where motorcycle endurance events have replaced the old F1 races.



U19... France Elite League Final

OL - PSG: 1 - 5 (Lorena / Thelma Eninger x/3, Vicki Becho x/2)



OL :1. Audrey Dupupet, 2.Manon Revelli (cap), 3.Chloë Tapia, 4.Clara Moreira, 5.Isaline Venditelli, 6.Eva Kouache, 7.Laurine Baga, 8.Selma Bacha, 9.Lorena Azzaro, 10.Danielle Jessy Roux, 11.Melvine Malard (Entrées : 15.Cyrine Ben Rabah, Kenza Chircop et Anna Saverat)

Lyon probably had as much talent (if not more) on their side than their Parisian opponents, but PSG played a more simple and collective game, while OL was too reliant on individual actions.



Nonetheless, after falling behind 1-0 early on, Lyon reacted quickly, equalizing on a goal from Lorena.

<- Eninger (3rd)

Lorena (8th) ->



Lyon was too often physically overmatched, in particular by two of Paris's U16 players: Vicki Becho in attack and Alice Sombath on defense.

The match might have gone differently, but OL gave up a second goal on a ball that had been deflected by the ref...

Vicki Becho (40th) ->



...and struggled in key transitional moments, such as 1st half stoppage time (48th), and early in the 2nd half (46th, 54th).

<- Eninger



We should take a moment to praise the great attitude from CLARA who, despite the disappointing loss, came over to greet the OL ANG'ELLES who came to support the team from the first whistle through the last minute, despite the one-sided scoreline.



The rest of the team followed in her footsteps after the medal ceremony.



It was a disappointing result, especially considering that on paper, Lyon looked the stronger side, and had more internationals on the field.



Audrey

Manon

Clara

Eva

Selma

Danielle Jessy

Melvine

Lorena

All of these players are likely to start the 2019-20 season practicing with the Pro squad.



Scores... Champions League

While many thought that Wolfsburg in the quarterfinals would be the biggest hurdle in Lyon's path to another Champions League title, in fact it was Chelsea that may have given OL its biggest scare this season.

JM AULAS, speaking to OLV: « *When you see the 18 players in Chelsea's squad, you know that they are taking this match seriously. We know that Chelsea is very ambitious, especially because they won't be able to qualify for the Champions League next year through league play..Chelsea wants to win this European title, and they're giving it everything they've got.* »

Semifinal 1st Leg – OL – Chelsea: 2 - 1 (OG Eriksson, Amandine / Cuthbert) (Attendance: 22,911)



As usual at Groupama Stadium, more than 100 OL ANG'ELLES came out to support the team.



OL: 7 Fr/11, 8 Fr/13, 8 Fr/18 – **Chelsea:** 3 Nat/11, 5 Nat/14, 7 Nat/18

As was true more often than not at the end of the season, DELPHINE was the player who contributed the most offensively, and naturally it was her who set the opening goal in motion.



OG Ericsson 27th

Just like when they faced Wolfsburg, OL quickly extended the lead in less than 20 minutes with a goal from a corner. Amandine ever so lightly deflected Maro's corner into the back of the net.



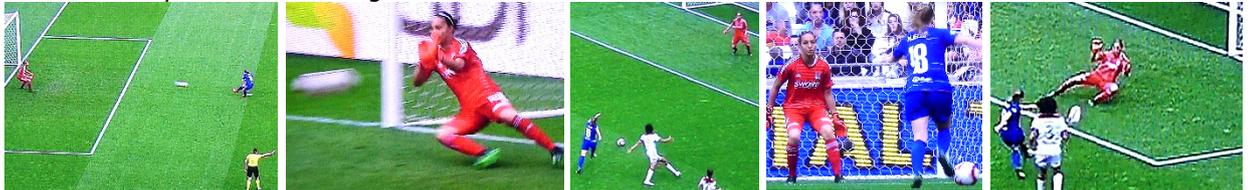
Amandine 38th

After that, OL created relatively few good chances. The strong start gave way to a choppy rhythm, with Amandine and especially Jess largely invisible and often outnumbered in the midfield. So Yun Ji was given too much space to work.

Following a dive from Bachmann, who was frequently the villain...



...Chelsea was close to trimming the lead just ahead of halftime thanks to the penalty awarded by the ref. But Kirby's shot was not good and Sarah made a nice save.



Kirby 46th

Mjelde 48th

SARAH again made the difference with an excellent foot save on Mjelde early in the second half.

Both teams struggled to find a final pass in front of the goal, but Chelsea was able to close the gap following good buildup play that finished with a sudden, well-placed strike from Cuthbert.



Cuthbert 72th

JM Aulas, speaking to OLV: « *This team has great tools which gave us trouble in the second half, but it's true that the match was a bit unusual...there were certain individual errors that meant that, as a team, we weren't at the top level, like we were against PSG, which was a fantastic game.* »

Nonetheless, there was no truth to Chelsea coach Emma Hayes's remark that the English side was the better team on the night. (OL: 19 shots, 11 on target, 8 corners – Chelsea: 5 shots, 4 on target, 1 corner)

Qualification for the Final was not secured, but OL was in a good position up against a Chelsea team that played much better than in its previous outings and that caused some tactical trouble for OL.



Chelsea supporters were invited to join us for a drink in the parking lot before we would meet them a week later in London for the second leg of the tie.



Semifinal Second Leg – Chelsea – OL: 1 - 1 (Eugénie / Ji So-yun) (Attendance: 4,670)



About 30 OL ANG'ELLES made their way to Kingsmeadow, the Wimbledon FC stadium in south London, where we could see the players up close as they arrived and where the stands are, in the English style, right on top of the field.



Chelsea : 3 Nat/11, 6 Nat/14, 7 Nat/18 - **OL** : 8 Fr/11, 8 Fr/14, 8 Fr/18

The smaller size field meant it was impossible to avoid an « English » match with plenty of one-on-ones, forcing OL to resort too often to long passes or ending in giveaways to Chelsea. PEDROS: « We were a bit hurried, we didn't keep the ball enough. »

Opening ball from Griedge, good run and cross from Delphine, nice movement from Ada...



...it was the 28th game of the season for **EUGENIE**, and her **21st** goal.

OL has long been familiar with So-Yun Ji, goalscorer in 2012 in the Mob Cup, an early version of a Club World Cup, which OL won (Corine and Sonia responded to give Lyon a 2-1 win).



And she was the one to find the equalizer with a perfect free kick from 20 meters.



Ji So-Yun 34th

Few teams have created quite so many chances against OL, especially in the second half.
 (Chelsea: 5 shots, 5 dangerous, 1 on target, 1 corner – OL: 18 shots, 12 dangerous, 7 on target, 6 corners)



While SARAH could only watch as Carney's superb shot struck the post, she was otherwise able to hold the line and was impeccable as the last line of defense.



Point blank save on Bright (65th)



Anticipation 82nd



Dominance on balls in the air



In the end, even in a difficult match, Lyon was able to create more chances than Chelsea, even hitting the crossbar on a corner from Amel.



Corner Amel and Eugénie 73rd -Shanice too slow on a cross from Eugénie 89th - Ada alone, shot over the bar 92nd

Lyon's players were tired, but they had the best chances at the end of the match.

PEDROS: « *It was a very complicated match. We have to congratulate our opponents who pushed us to the limits. We showed a lot of mental toughness today, and that's often what it takes to succeed at the highest levels.* »



JM AULAS: « *We saw a strong Lyon team out there, that was able to hold off the opposition with talent first and incredible mental strength. If it wasn't stormy weather, it was certainly stormy on the field, and it took a lot of determination. The physical strength was apparent. They were already exhausted from the incredible and abnormal game we had to play at Dijon during the week.* »





This qualification for the Final was celebrated with the OL brass—Jean-Michel Aulas, Gérard Houllier—and all the players, who adopted the OL ANG'ELLES chant: « *On va à Budapest, la la la la...* ». Catchy!



Finally, we're very grateful for the superb welcome from the Chelsea supporters, who welcomed us to their clubhouse, and with whom we built a strong new relationship over the course of the two legs.



8th final in 12 consecutive appearances for OL Féminin in the Champions League.



50 OL ANG'ELLES traveled to Budapest, sharing their eagerness to experience a 4th straight Final with Andrine Hegerberg, Maro's brother and parents, Potsdam supporters (longtime fans of Ada), and Barcelona's supporters.



Final – **OL** – Barcelona: **4-1** (Maro, Ada x/3 - Oshoala) (Attendance: 19,487)



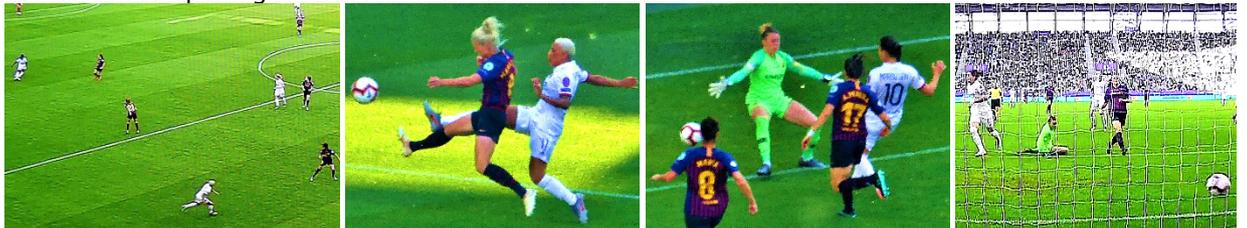
The Hungarian Prime Minister was in the stands, along with representatives from both clubs, Luis Figo and Gérard Houllier...and Josy Henning, now an ambassador for UEFA.



OL : 6 Fr/11, 8 Fr/14, 8 Fr/18 – **Barcelona**: 9 Sp/11, 9 Sp/14, 12 Sp/18

Of the last four Champions League finals (all victorious) this was by far the least stressful, with Lyon quickly ending any suspense. Throughout the first half, they had Barcelona by the throat, with passes in behind the Barcelona outside backs, who clearly seemed more accustomed to pushing forward in attack than defending, especially Leila Ouahabi, playing on Shanice's side.

MARO, originally from Budapest, returned to her old stomping grounds: she clearly felt at home and scored in the opening minutes of the match.



Maro 5th



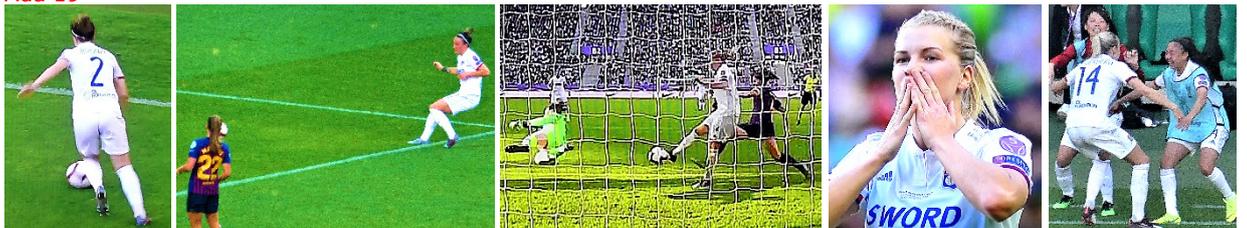
ADA sometimes struggled this season, perhaps because of injuries, media obligations around the Ballon d'Or, her boycott of the national team and conflict with the Norwegian federation..but no one loves a big moment more than Ada, and she delivered in this one with a hat trick.



Ada 14th



Ada 19th



Ada 30th



... With that, she has recorded **44 goals in the Champions League**, You couldn't have scripted it any better.

1st Half / OL : 8 shots, 7 on target, 6 dangerous, 1 corner – **Barça:** 4 shots, 0 on target, 2 dangerous, 1 corner.
2nd Half / OL : 8 shots, 4 on target, 1 dangerous, 2 corners- **Barça:** 4 shots, 1 on target, 2 dangerous, 1 corner.

OL was comfortably in control throughout the second half, but the introduction of Nigerian Oshoala allowed Barcelona to finish the night on a more positive note.



8th Final, 6th Title, 4th Straight.

(Frankfurt: 4, Umea, Potsdam, Wolfsburg: 2, Arsenal, Duisbourg: 1)



This title was a great birthday gift for Eugénie and a farewell (or until next time?) gift for Jess who wrapped up her Lyon adventure on a high note.



Jess's Message: « Thank you Lyon. It was everything I wanted & then some extra on top. I leave with a huge smile on my face & a whole lotta love in my heart. I will never ever forget this journey, a fabulous club with wonderful people. To my Team Mates – you are cray & I love it so much. Thank you. Ciao Bellas. »



10 days later she was already back in action with Seattle in the NWSL, but her return was soon stopped by an ACL tear. We hope that she will bounce back quickly...and perhaps return to Lyon one day?...

Lyon fans made themselves heard throughout the Final. Charlotte Namura, TMC journalist: « Ada is there!...and not just Ada...there are Lyon fans as well..they're smaller in number, but I assure you, they are loud...they've drowned out the Barcelona crew. »



Lyon's players came to share their joy with their « family » of fans before heading to celebrate this latest title with their families.

Once again, the OL ANG'ELLES traveled all across Europe this season to support the team...with more and more members coming out no matter the distance.

On the Road... Wolfsburg, London and Budapest.

The final stages of the Champions League, from the quarterfinals through the final, gave us an opportunity for some wonderful trips with more and more OL ANG'ELLES traveling, from about 30 in Wolfsburg to about 50 in Budapest.

2 years later, after 1000 km by minibus, we returned to Aquarius.



While waiting for the match against **WOLFSBURG**, we returned to **Brunswick** for a quick visit...Raph was disappointed that we didn't have to time to stop by a certain restaurant in the old city...



After another win with a two-goal advantage, like in 2017, (this time with qualification certain) the return trip took us through the **Rhine valley**, after a happy accident running into the OL team bus and its two drivers also on the way back to Lyon.



We stopped in **Boppard**, on the edge of the Rhine, before spending the night in Frankfurt.



Frankfurt, the seat of the Central European Bank, a major financial center and Germany's richest city, was practically entirely destroyed in 1944. Some buildings have been rebuilt identically, others have architectural elements that pay tribute to the city's heritage, while still others are very modern.



In one of the rare houses that avoided the bombings, we had a meal paying homage to the past, dating back to the time of Charlemagne...





37 OL ANG'ELLES were present for the match against Chelsea at Kingsmeadow in the south of **LONDON**.



Some groups stayed in apartments in houses relatively close to Heathrow.



Before heading to the stadium, we basically took over a pub to experience the magic of a traditional English breakfast.



After the game, we stayed to celebrate qualification for the Final in a nearby restaurant recommended by our longtime English friend, Malcolm.



With advancement secured and celebrated, it was finally time to check out the city with a nighttime jaunt along the Thames and up to Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly.



More than 20 of us extended the trip to check out London, a city where historic buildings sit side by side with modern construction.



Once again split into groups in apartments across the heart of **BUDAPEST**, depending on the length of the stay (2 or 3 days, some even as long as a week)...it was 50 OL ANG'ELLES who made the long-planned trip, always believing **OL would make the Final**.



After Prague and Berlin in prior years, it was nice to explore Budapest, with the Danube River bisecting the city, the old town on Buda hill, Parliament on the other riverbank in Pest, the largest synagogue in Europe mixing Christian and Moorish influences, St. Stephen's Basilica where certain folks were lucky enough to visit the tomb of Puskas and relive the greatest moments of Hungarian football in the 1950s.

As has become traditional, we had some great encounters with friends and family in the host city on the day of the Final.



With Gerd, Ada's mother, the next day a friend, with Lucy the morning of the match, with an early Barça player...

A new title to celebrate 😊: the OL ANG'ELLES took over the Vian café, close to the Liszt Museum in the center of Budapest, and were joined by Daniela, one of our favorite photographers, who we meet up with often on our journeys.



Group Life... End of Season Feast, Expo



Despite the busy schedule at the end of the season, nearly 50 OL Ang'ELLES celebrated the end of a another treble-winning season at our home-base restaurant, « Rive Gauche » at the Parc Gerland.

Thursday, May 23, was the preview event for the EXPO « **At the heart of women's football with the OL ANG'ELLES and France ANG'ELLES** » at the 1st Arrondissement library, with CAMILLE in attendance, along with Loic Graber, delegate in charge of culture for the city of Lyon.



Laurent Cascarino presented the first volume of his comic book, « *Attack Team* ». And also at the Expo, Dominique Simon, an artist/illustrator, revealed his work « *The Coronation of Ada* ».

In the morning, CORINE came to share her experience as a professional footballer with 90 young student-athletes.



The Exposition received plenty of visitors during the World Cup with foreign fans, including Americans, stopping by, thanks to the inclusion of the expo in programs advertising things to see in Lyon.



It will be extended from September to November in the Press Club, where 14 photos and the « Coronation of Ada » painting will be privately displayed.



National Team... Lyon Players at the World Cup

We are lucky in France to have the best team in Europe over the past 4 years (probably the world's best team), with 8 or 9 players who regularly appear in the biggest matches and who often play for the French National Team, as well as a second club among the best in Europe, PSG, which has 5 or 6 players who also regularly feature in top-level competition...nowhere else—not even the USA—has that kind of potential, but France can't seem to turn it into results.

Worse still, the team has put its players in a difficult situation with team selections and player usage that doesn't put them in the best position to bring all the strength and skill they show with their club teams to bear on their matches for France.

In this edition, we look back on their performances based on FIFA's statistics, which don't tell the whole story, but which helps give an initial indicator of their showing.

	Fr-Korea	Fr-Norway	Fr-Nigeria	Fr-Brazil	Fr-USA	Total	km	Goals	Assists	Shots/On Goal
Sarah	90'	90'	90'	120'	90'	480'	23.6			
Wendie	90'	90'	90'	120'	90'	480'	46.8	4		7 / 4
Griedge	90'	90'	90'	120'	90'	480'	48.1			1 / 0
Amel	73'	90'	90'	117'	90'	460'	53.4		3	6 / 1
Amandine	90'	90'	90'	120'	90'	480'	53.9	2	1	16 / 4
Delphine	69'	6'	61'	31'	15'	182'	21.6			4 / 1
Emelyne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eugénie	90'	90'	29'	120'	81'	410'	47.3	2	1	18 / 7

In total, of the 10 goals scored for France, 8 were scored by Lyon players (Wendie 4, Eugénie 2, Amandine 2).



SARAH - 13 saves (WC) - 145 caps

Decisive, with very good games in this World Cup, SARAH showed (if there was any question) that she deserves all the recognition and awards she has received over the past several years.



WENDIE – 114 caps, 25 goals.

WENDIE showed her usual authority and determination and finished the tournament as France's leading scorer. It was only a few rare errors, such as the horror own goal, that tarnished her showing in the World Cup, even if it was disappointing in the end for a player so accustomed to winning.



Goal against South Korea.



Retaken penalty against Norway.



Goal against the USA.



GRIEDGE – 55 caps, 5 goals

Her partnership with Wendie in central defense is a no-brainer, even if it was a challenge for them to find the same serenity and infallibility as with Lyon, the team environment being very different.



She did not hesitate to get involved in the attack, even scoring a superb goal that ruled out on a very tight offside call.

She was excessively criticized for the foul on Alex Morgan early in the match against the USA, which led to the free kick on which Megan Rapinoe scored. How quickly everyone forgot her decisive block on the shot from Debinha in extra time against Brazil, without which France never would have made it to the quarterfinal.



AMEL – 51 caps, 4 goals.



Used at left back—not her preferred position—AMEL was as active as ever, playing a risky game that was successful more often than not, as she earned 3 assists.

A few of her best moments from the World Cup, against Norway and the USA:



Cross for Gauvin's goal



and goalline save



Cross blocked by O'Hara's hand inside the box.



A handball inside the box that, incredibly, was not called for a penalty, or even reviewed using VAR!



AMANDINE – 88 caps, 13 goals.

Always exemplary, it was often Amandine who drove the team forward to take over the match at key moments.

She scored one of the prettiest goals of the tournament...



...and the gamewinner against Brazil.



DELPHINE – 18 caps, 3 goals.

DELPHINE didn't get the playing time she deserved, but recall that she might never have made the World Cup squad, having been relegated to France B until injuries (to Diani and Eugénie) gave her and opportunity to deliver some promising performances.



Too bad for France that they chose to sideline their fastest player and certainly the one who delivered most often one-on-one against her defender.

EMELYNE – 5 caps.

No appearances over the course of the tournament, not even a minute played.

EUGENIE – 164 caps, 76 goals.

EUGENIE didn't have the opportunity to deliver the exceptional World Cup showing we would have wanted for her in order to show off her talent on the international stage.



Her showing wasn't quite as bad as some would have you believe, though, especially compared to the team's other forwards (including Diani, who was widely praised in the media, despite unimpressive stats: 0 goals, 12 shots / 2 on target, 1 assist).

Goal against South Korea on a cross from Amandine...



...penalty scored against Norway.

Her performance certainly didn't warrant the public criticism from the coach, who has made a habit of criticizing Lyon players during her time in charge: Sarah and Wendie shortly after her arrival..sending Delphine back to France B despite solid performances...and Griedge after the match against the USA...

Keep in mind as well that the World Cup comes at the end of the European season when players are exhausted, while on the other hand, the Americans are in mid-season form and national team duty is considered far more important than service to their NWSL clubs.
(the American players left their clubs in early March, while even the Australians and Brazilians in the NWSL continued playing with their clubs until mid-May).

Disappointing to have such a wonderful opportunity wasted.

JM AULAS: « *Cruel disappointment in a match that we could have won...a unique opportunity that could have let France win the World Cup at home...too sad.* » (June 28, 2019).

A few of OL's foreign players had a bit of a better ending with their national teams, the Netherlands and England each bringing their Lyon players back to the Parc OL to play in front of their home crowd.

	Games	Minutes	km	Goals	Assists	Shots/On Goal	Caps	Intl Goals
Shanice VdS / Ned.	7	432'	49,8	0	1	9 / 4	71	17
Lucy / Englad	7	630'	67,6	1	2	7 / 4	75	8
Nikita Parris / Eng.	7	520'	54,4	1	1	10 / 6	41	13
Alex Greenwood / Eng	4	360'	37,1	1	0	4 / 1	41	3
Saki / Japan	4	360'	37,5	0	1	2 / 0	108	0
Kadeisha / Canada	4	360'	36,3	1	0	2 / 1	92	4
Dzsenifer / Ger.	2	135'	13,6	0	0	0	92	32
Carolin Simon / Ger.	4	178'	21,8	0	0	2 / 0	20	3

LUCY, who was a bit less influential and overwhelming than usual to end the season, was also probably exhausted at the end of a long and difficult season. But she was the most visible Lyon player throughout the tournament, up until the third-place match against Sweden.



With the start of a new season on the horizon, qualification for the Euros is just ahead...a new list will be announced...still with the same coach in charge...a list that will hopefully shed some light on how the coach viewed the players' performances in the World Cup.