



LE CŒUR DU FOOTBALL FEMININ



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

A new season has begun, racing along at the same frantic pace at which last season ended. This edition covers the start of a new season with the same lofty goals: The team aims to defend all its titles and win **every available trophy**—now 5 in total—even as the competition gets tougher every year.

For the OL ANG'ELLES, we aim to once again be **present for every match throughout France and in Europe**, even as the number of games increases.



Avaldsnes / Norway Amsterdam / Netherlands Wolfsburg/Germany Chelsea/England Budapest/Hungary



The **1st title** has already been secured.  
Lyon defeated the North Carolina Courage in the United States to take home the **WICC** title.  
It's a tournament that is gaining significance and getting ever closer to a sort of Club World Cup.



Even though Lyon won the treble in 2018-19, some of the victories were not easy to come by last year, as Ada explained to OLV after last year's final in Budapest: « *It was incredible season because it wasn't obvious that we would win the treble...we showed we can come through even in the difficult moments, and we showed again that we are the best team...it's a dream* ».

The presence of Gérard Houiller at practices and many of the matches at the end of the season was a clear precursor to the **overhaul of the coaching staff at every level of OL Féminin**.



A completely new staff, changes to the administrative structure...  
A new season has begun...but in what mood? Will there be improved relationships with the fans? Will more games be held in full D1 stadiums to build off growing interest in the women's game following the World Cup?...at least 1 of a possible 5 titles is already in the bag!

## Awards... UEFA Trophy

Of the 3 Lyon players named finalists for the title of UEFA's Women's Player of the Year, alongside Ada and Amandine, it was LUCY who ultimately took home the trophy.



While we would have been happy with any of the three winning, it was great to see a defender recognized and honored for once.

Lucy reached the semifinals of the World Cup with the English national team and while she was not at her best in losses to the United States and Sweden in the 3rd place match, she put in great performances at the World Cup and was one of the stars of the tournament.



**World Cup 2019:** 7 games, 630 minutes of playing time (7 full matches), 1 goal (against Norway).  
As of September 3, 2019: 77 caps, 8 goals.

With OL, she was surely a key piece in the team's march to the treble, often helping break open a match with her forward runs on the right side.



2018-19 Season: 29 games, 2 goals - D1: 16 games, 1 goal - CdF: 4 games, UWCL: 9 games, 1 goal.



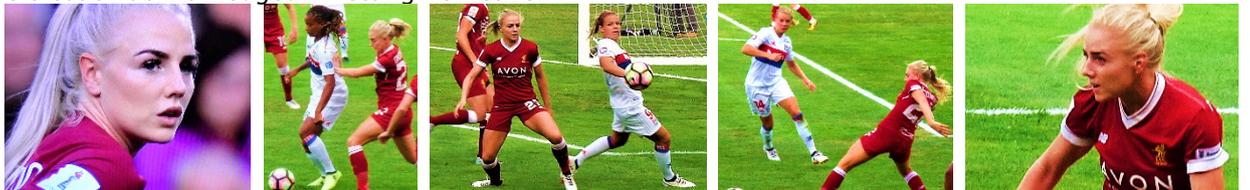
## Transfer Window... Arrivals & Departures

2 more members of England's World Cup team came to Lyon to join Lucy and Izzy.

**ALEX Greenwood** (age 26).

Last season, ALEX chose to leave Liverpool and England's top flight to join the new Manchester United team, who she captained to promotion to the FA Women's Super League.

With the departure of Carolin Simon and Selma Bacha's early season injury, OL needed to quickly find a solution at left back, and a call from Europe's best club was too good for Alex to pass up, which Man U's coach acknowledged in letting her leave.



Alex had been on OL's radar for several seasons, and played against Lyon in the preseason tournament in Toulouse in August 2017—the same weekend when her then-Liverpool teammate Shanice finalized her own move to Lyon.

2010-14	Everton	(54 games, 1 goal)
2015	Notts County	(22 games, 4 goals)
2016-18	Liverpool	(38 games, 6 goals)
2018-19	Manchester United	(26 games, 5 goals)

She played 2 seasons with Lucy and Nikita at Everton (2011-2012).

An English international (41 caps, 3 goals (as of Sept. 9, 2019)), she appeared in her 2nd World Cup in 2019: 4 games: Against Scotland, Argentina, Round of 16 vs. Cameroon, 3rd place game vs Sweden. (360 total minutes)



She scored one of her 3 career national team goals against Cameroon off a corner.



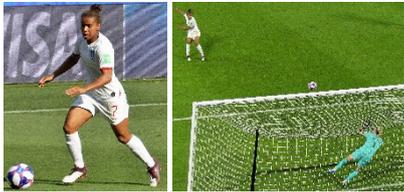
She was nominated for the FIFPro World XI 2018-19 at the left back position.

**NIKITA Parris** (age 25).

NIKITA has also long been on OL's radar.

« Ultimately, when Olympique Lyonnais come for you, it's not a club you turn down ( ) I'm so excited, it's the biggest club team in the world for women's football and there's really no better way to really kick on my career than to play for this team. » (to Sky Sports)

2011-15 Everton (51 games, 17 goals)  
2015-19 Manchester City (116 games, 58 goals)



English International  
43 caps, 14 goals  
(as of Sept. 3, 2019)  
Played 7 games at the  
World Cup  
6 starts (520 total min)  
1 goal (PK vs Scotland).



**JANICE Cayman** (age 30).

After 5 seasons with Juivsy (2011-2016), she spent 3 seasons with Montpellier.



With MHSC, (69 games, 23 goals), 22 games in each of the past 2 seasons, 8 goals in 2018-19.

In 2016, she spent a short stint in the United States with the Western New York Flash of the NWSL. (3 games, 1 start 72' and 2 substitute appearances (5' and 19')).

This franchise, which won the title in 2017, was sold and relocated 1500 km south to North Carolina to become the North Carolina Courage. Janice was reunited with many of her former teammates when she came with OL to the WICC this summer (Erceg, Dahlkemper, Mewis, Zerboni, Williams, MacDonald, Hinkle, Hamilton).



She has played for the Belgian national team since 2007 and scored a hat trick against Croatia on September 3 (6-1).

(95 caps – 35 goals (as of Sept. 3, 2019))



**JESSICA Silva** (age 24).

One season with Linköping in 2014 before returning to Portugal with Braga in 2016-17, and 2 seasons in the Spanish league with Levante (2017-19, 34 games – 6 goals).



With the national team since 2011, earning more than 60 caps and 6 goals (approx 63 games, 7 goals).

**KATRIINA Talaslahti** (age 19).

Recruited by Nuremberg at the age of 13, she was with Bayern Munich since 2015.



She played 1 match in the Bundesliga last season (April 2019, Sand-Bayern: 1-1), and was twice named to the bench (Essen-Bayern and Bayern-Werder Bremen). Zinsberger, the Austrian international, was Bayern's No. 1, and Katriina competed with 21-year-old Dutch goalkeeper Weimar for the No. 2 slot. Finnish U19 international.

Once the season began, several young players were loaned out or transferred.



**EMELYNE Laurent**

Loaned to Bordeaux, but extended with OL until 2022.



**MELVINE Malard**

loaned to Fleury 91.



**DANIELLE Jessy Roux**

loaned to Reims.



**AUDREY Dupupet**

to Reims.

As far as other **Departures**.



**CAROLIN Simon** reunited with her old coach Scheuer and headed to Bayern

(they were together 2 seasons with Freiburg, 2016-18)  
She started her last match for OL against Metz and lifted the D1 trophy after the game.  
(14 appearances for OL)



**JESSICA Fishlock** returned to Tacoma-based Reign FC as planned after the UWCL final.

She was quickly back in action for the Reign...  
(as soon as May 28, in a win against the NC Courage)  
...only to be seriously injured after 1 month of competition  
(5 games played, 3 goals in her last 3 appearances).



The 6-month contract for **SOLE Jaimes** wrapped up in June and she rejoined the Brazilian club Santos, where she played prior to her stints in China and with OL.  
(5 games for OL, including 4 starts, 1 goal, in the draw vs. Fleury 91).



## Welcome... New Technical Staff

Despite last season's treble, the entire technical staff was replaced, with the exception of Christophe Gardié, the goalkeeping coach. While the team won every available title, they struggled at times—perhaps more than expected—as Ada and Jean-Michael Aulas noted in certain interviews.

(For example, just in the back half of last season, there were disappointing performances in the Coupe de France semi-final against Grenoble and the final against Lille, the first half of the Dijon match in D1, the second half in the Wolfsburg and Chelsea games in Lyon, the second leg match in Chelsea...)

Gérard Houiller's frequent presence at practices and games toward the end of the season was a clear

### Jean-Luc VASSEUR – Head Coach



53 appearances as a **player** with a D1 team, 78 appearances in D2.

Developed with PSG, and given his first D1 minutes by Gérard Houiller when he coached PSG (1985-87 and 1988)

1986-92: PSG – 22 games

1992-95: Rennes – 96 games, 2 goals

1995-96: ASSE – 13 games

He then moved to a series of teams in the Paris suburbs:

1996-98: Créteil (35 m)

1998-99: RCF 92 (National, 14 games)

RCF 92 just missed promotion to 2.

1999-2001: Aubervilliers (CFA2)



He then spent ten years as a **youth coach** at PSG: 2001-2011.



His **head coaching** career began in 2011 and is highlighted by a first-place finish in the National league and promotion to Ligue 2 with Créteil-Lusitanos. It culminated with Stade de Reims in Ligue 1 during the 2014-15 season: the team was in 9th after the first round of matches, but without the team's African players, who were participating in the CAN, the team barely avoided relegation and Jean-Luc Vasseur was replaced by Olivier Guégan.



2011-14: Créteil-Lusitanos

2014-15: Stade de Reims (Ligue 1)

2015-16: PFC (Ligue 2)

2017-18: Châteauroux (Ligue 2)



### Michel SORIN – Assistant Coach.



Michel Sorin had a long professional playing career:

308 games in D1, 129 games in D2.

1980-86: Laval (174 games, 4 goals)

1986-89: Brest (121 games, 3 goals)

1989-95: Rennes (199 games, 5 goals)



He spent his best years with Stade Lavallois, coached by Michel Le Millénaire at the beginning of his career (5th in D1 and QF of the CdF in 1981-82, 5th in D1 and 1/8 CdF in 1982-83 and 2nd round of the UEFA tournament, 11th in D1 and QF CDF, 1/16 UEFA tournament in 1983-84...8th in D1 and 1/8 CdF in 1986-87...)



Michel Sorin and Jean-Luc Vasseur reunited with OL: they spent 3 season as teammates with Stade de Reims (1992-95).



**CAMILLE** – Assistant Coach.

CAMILLE Abily needs no introduction. Everyone is familiar with her status as one of the greatest French players of all time (if not the greatest) and we're delighted to have her join the first team staff.



**Christophe GARDIE** – Goalkeeping Coach.

Christophe Gardié and Sarah will aim to continue their successful working relationship, along with Lisa and now Katriina.



**Romain SEGUI** – Athletic Trainer.

Romain Segui has been climbing the ladder with OL since 2010. 4 seasons with the U15 boys, 2 with the U17 boys, and from 2016 to 2019 with the U19 boys.



**Maeva RUIZ** – Video Coach.



Former D2 player  
(with Arlac-Mérignac, 16 appearances in D2)

Maeva Ruiz is the video coach, coming over from the mens and women's staff for Girondins de Bordeaux.



**Preseason... WICC Tournament**

It was the 2nd edition of the Women's International Champions Cup, perhaps a precursor to an eventual women's Club World Cup?



Your favorite American O ELLES translator, ARIANNA, was there, of course, along with Rabeeta, who attended a match in Lyon last year, and some other OL fans.

It was somewhat of a homecoming for Lucy who spent a brief period with UNC at age 17.



Despite the less-than-ideal timing of this competition, the Lyon players were plenty motivated by last year's second-place finish. For the French players, it was an opportunity to respond to the Americans' World Cup victory by showing that France could have done better and that they, at least, can perform at the highest level against top-flight international competition.



But before any rematch with the North Carolina Courage in the final, Lyon first had to get by **Atletico Madrid**.



It was a baptism by fire (literally) for Jean-Luc Vasseur and his staff, as well as Nikita and Alex. The game was played under difficult weather conditions: 90°F/32°C – 74% humidity



OL strung together a series of scoring chances early in the match, but couldn't finish, and the match became more even as time went on.



Delphine 84<sup>th</sup>

Turning the pressure back on at the end of the match to secure a win, Lyon snatched a deserved victory in the last minutes off a header from WENDIE...



Goal Wendie 91<sup>st</sup>

...and set up a rematch in the final against the North Carolina Courage, the best American club for the past several seasons. The Courage trailed with just 15 minutes remaining in their semifinal match against Manchester City, but a half-hour rain delay proved to be their saving grace, as they came back to earn a 2-1 victory in the final minutes of stoppage time.

In the first edition of the WICC in 2018, Lyon headed to United States after just one week of training and several Courage players were away with their national teams. The Courage earned a 1-0 win over OL, who for their part had dominated the match and gave up the lone goal on defensive error. The win for the Courage should not have meant much in the grand scheme of things, but the Lyon players were nonetheless eager to get their revenge.

This year, Lyon remained at a disadvantage playing in the preseason, but the tournament took place later in the summer, after a few more weeks of preseason training, while the Americans had available their full complement of players in mid-season form. The Courage were in the midst of a title race with Portland, after having secured the NWSL Shield in 2017 and 2018.

Final - **North Carolina Courage – OL : 0 – 1** (Maro) (Attendance: 8,208)

For Lyon, every starter **participated in the World Cup** with the exception of Ada...the same was true for 12 of 13 players who appeared in the match and 15 of 23 in the gameday squad.



**OL:** 6 Fr/11, 6 Fr/13, 10 Fr/23 – **NCC:** 7 US/11, 12 US/16, 22 US/27

For the American club, 6 starters, 7 of the 16 appearing in the match and in the 27-player squad participated in the World Cup, including 4 World Cup winners, of whom 3 started the match.



**Abby Dahlkemper**  
26yo, 47caps, 0g  
**WWC (USA):**  
7m-622'-66.4km  
2 defensive stops



**Crystal Dunn**  
27yo, 91caps, 24g  
**WWC (USA):**  
6m-540'-57.7km  
0g, 6shots/3 og  
1 assist



**Samantha Mewis**  
26yo, 56caps, 14g  
**WWC (USA):**  
6m-467'-56.6km  
2g, 16s/ 7 og.  
3 assists



**Jessica McDonald**  
31yo, 8caps, 2g  
**WWC (USA):**  
1m-45'-5.2km  
0g, 1s / 0 og



**Debinha**  
27yo, 85caps, 28g  
**WWC (Bra):**  
4m-390'-43.3km  
0g, 13s/4 og  
1 assist



**Stéphanie Labbé**  
32yo, 65caps  
**WWC (Can):**  
4m-360'-22.8km  
3 saves



**Abby Erceg**  
29yo, 141caps, 6g  
**WWC (NZ):**  
3m-270'-29km  
2s/ 0 og  
6 defensive stops



(FIFA stats as of August 30, 2019)



Running into Debinha again brought back good memories for the French of advancing past Brazil in the Round of 16 in the World Cup. Facing off again against the NWSL champs and its 4 World Cup Winners was an opportunity to erase last year's loss and reaffirm Lyon's worldwide supremacy...



... and also show that a French team can be superior to an American team, which could (or should) have been proven a few weeks earlier, if only...



Griedge, Amandine/Mewis



Griedge/Mewis



Amandine/Dunn



Delphine/Dunn



Griedge, Wendie/Dahlkemper

Weather conditions were a bit better for this second match: 84°F/29°C – 70% humidity. The game didn't look anything like your typical preseason friendly. The tempo was high and Lyon had more clear scoring chances, particularly in the first half.



Amel 23<sup>rd</sup>



Nikita on the end of a cross from Alex 24<sup>th</sup>



Amel shot off the crossbar 45<sup>th</sup>



Around the hour mark, MARO scored the game's only goal on a superb bending shot from 20 meters.



Maro 57<sup>th</sup>

SARAH had rarely been called upon in the tournament up to this point, but she showed off all her quality, on her line, in the air, and coming off her line, doing well with the ball at her feet.



Facing Hamilton 27<sup>th</sup>

Against Williams

Aerial control

Shot from Mewis 45<sup>th</sup> (+4)



Having made all the decisive saves, as she often does in the biggest games, SARAH was named the tournament's best goalkeeper.

There was some tactical experimentation, with a midfield composed of Amandine-Eugénie-Maró, and it took the best efforts of Amandine, an impressive Griedge, and Wendie at their top level to shut down the quick counters from Hamilton, Williams, and Debinha.



WENDIE, who had already scored the game-winner against Atletico Madrid was named the best player of the tournament



Because it was just OL's second match of the preseason—and the second game in 4 days—we might have worried that the team would not be able to keep up with the American champs in midseason form. But OL relied on superior technical ability to earn the victory and secure its sport at the highest level globally after confirming their European supremacy for 4 years running.



## National Team... France A

The end of August reunited the French National Team to begin preparing for qualifiers on the horizon for the 2021 Euros in England.

At Clermond-Ferrand, in a friendly, **France – Spain: 2-0** (Eugénie 27', Delphine 76')

France comfortably dominated a Spanish team that traditionally is very good at keeping possession in the midfield, but that lacks some offensive punch.

8 Lyon players, 3 on the bench, including Amel who missed a recent D1 match due to a muscle pull, and 5 starters:



Sarah

Wendie

Griedge

Amandine

Eugénie

All eyes were on EUGENIE following the harsh criticism she received from the coach after the World Cup, comments which should never have been made...but which were seen and read by everyone.



She quickly set things right by opening the scoring with a gorgeous goal, not uncommon for her, this one her 77th for the French National Team.



Eugénie 27<sup>th</sup>



Amel and Delphine came on as subs, and immediately brought their offensive quality to bear on each wing.

DELPHINE seemed to pick up where she left off at the end of last season, making the difference once again.



Delphine 76<sup>th</sup>

As soon as she entered the match, Delphine delivered, using her talent and speed to finish a off a fine goal with an early touch. Denis Balbir (W9): « It changes everything when you have...I don't want to say quality players (😄😄😄)... but impact players! ».

To think that we were deprived of her talent for most of the World Cup, even though she's plainly the fastest player and the one who can make the most difference, confirming along with EUGENIE that they are the two principal offensive strengths for this team.

To get past some of the favoritism that might affect our view of the players' performances, we decided to take a more objective look at the games, recognizing that every player is giving it their best and especially putting in work defensively.

Statistics don't tell you everything about a game, but they generally seem to match the eye test.

### Match France – Espagne

PLAYER	Minutes	Balls Played		Decisive Actions	
		(+)	(-)	+	-
Torrent	90'	51	12	7	5
Karchaoui	90'	33	9	9	3
WENDIE	90'	49	6	23	4
GRIEDGE	1 <sup>st</sup> half-45'	35	5	11	2
AMANDINE	90'	46	5	15	0
Geyoro	74'	20	11	1	8
Thiney	1 <sup>st</sup> half-45'	15	9	3	4
EUGENIE	90'	51	7	17	1
Diani	89'	23	9	3	4
Gauvin	58'	12	12	2	3
Toukara	2 <sup>nd</sup> half-45'	14	2	7	1
AMEL	2 <sup>nd</sup> half-45'	21	2	6	0
DELPHINE	2 <sup>nd</sup> half-32'	12	4	6	2
Dali	2 <sup>nd</sup> half-16'	6	2	3	0
Bilbault	2 <sup>nd</sup> half-7'	6	0	2	0
Asseyi	2 <sup>nd</sup> half-2'	1	0	1	0



- « Balls Played » : Every ball touched, (+) positively, including simple passes, possession, relays, regular recoveries, simple interceptions and clearances.  
and (-) negatively, including balls lost, bad passes without big technical errors.
- « Decisive Actions » : + good redirections, throw-ins, distribution, forward passes, breaking lines, good forward runs  
key interceptions, good long balls, good crosses, good shots...  
- bad choices, failed moves, poor touches, bad crosses, bad passes, lost one-on-ones.

The stats from this match essentially confirm what we observed during the World Cup – same strengths and weaknesses within the group.

### World Cup Group Stage Matches.

Note: For the group stage matches, which were less important, the performances of the Lyon players who even the coach considered obvious starters (Wendie, Griedge, Amel, Amandine, Eugénie) were not exhaustively analyzed. The same is true for Sarah, who started throughout the tournament.

PLAYER	Game/Minutes	Balls Played		Decisive Actions	
		(+)	(-)	+	-
<b>Torrent</b>	France-Korea / 90'	43	9	19	6
	France-Norway / 90'	26	11	11	7
	Nigeria-France / 0'				
	<b>Total Minutes: 180'</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Bussaglia</b>	France-Korea / 90'	64	10	22	8
	France-Norway / 90'	20	10	7	4
	Nigeria-France / 0'				
	<b>Total Minutes: 180'</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Thiney</b>	France-Korea / 85'	28	9	11	9
	France-Norway / 81'	25	9	10	7
	Nigeria-France / 88'	23	22	6	16
	<b>Total Minutes: 254'</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>DELPHINE</b>	France-Korea / 69'	31	8	22	2
	France-Norway / 6'				
	Nigeria-France / 61'	28	9	12	1
	<b>Total Minutes: 136'</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Diani</b>	France-Korea / 90'	23	9	13	5
	France-Norway / 90'	29	5	13	1
	Nigeria-France / 28'	5	2	1	1
	<b>Total Minutes: 208'</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Gauvin</b>	France-Korea / 21'	9	2	8	1
	France-Norway / 84'	14	24	7	11
	Nigeria-France / 62'	12	11	3	5
	<b>Total Minutes: 167'</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Périsset</b>	France-Korea / 17'	9	3	3	2
	France-Norway / 0'				
	Nigeria-France / 90'	65	1	21	0
	<b>Total Minutes: 107'</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Bilbault</b>	France-Korea / 0'				
	France-Norway / 9'	4	1	0	1
	Nigeria-France / 90'	58	13	16	9
	<b>Total Minutes: 99'</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Asseyi</b>	Nigeria-France / 90'	33	13	12	7
<b>Geyoro</b>	France-Korea / 5'	2	2	1	2
	Nigeria-France / 2'				

### World Cup Knockout Rounds (highest level / most important)

PLAYER	Game/Minutes	Balls Played		Decisive Actions	
		(+)	(-)	+	-
<b>Torrent</b>	France-Brazil / 108'	38	14	7	7
	France-USA / 90'	44	13	9	6
	<b>Total Minutes: 198'</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>AMEL</b>	France-Brazil / 117'	52	8	20	1
	France-USA / 90'	39	14	12	5
	<b>Total Minutes: 207'</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>GRIEDGE</b>	France-Brazil / 120'	47	13	11	6
	France-USA / 90'	48	4	11	2
	<b>Total Minutes: 210'</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>WENDIE</b>	France-Brazil / 120'	55	5	17	1
	France-USA / 90'	57	1	15	1
	<b>Total Minutes: 210'</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>AMANDINE</b>	France-Brazil / 120'	49	6	15	0
	France-USA / 90'	52	9	11	2
	<b>Total Minutes: 210'</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>Bussaglia</b>	France-Brazil /	120'	41	11	9	5
	France-USA /	90'	48	15	12	7
	<b>Total Minutes:</b>	<b>210'</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Thiney</b>	France-Brazil /	40'	17	6	6	4
	France-USA /	90'	31	21	9	11
	<b>Total Minutes:</b>	<b>130'</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>DELPHINE</b>	France-Brazil /	31'	12	4	5	0
	France-USA /	15'	8	3	4	1
	<b>Total Minutes:</b>	<b>46'</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Diani</b>	France-Brazil /	120'	26	19	4	0
	France-USA /	90'	26	16	6	6
	<b>Total Minutes:</b>	<b>210'</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Asseyi</b>	France-Brazil /	80'	20	17	3	6
	France-USA /	9'	1	3	1	1
	<b>Total Minutes:</b>	<b>89'</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>EUGENIE</b>	France-Brazil /	120'	58	21	16	4
	France-USA /	81'	43	9	16	3
	<b>Total Minutes:</b>	<b>201'</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Gauvin</b>	France-Brazil /	89'	14	18	3	3
	France-USA /	75'	8	12	2	4
	<b>Total Minutes:</b>	<b>164'</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Périsset</b>	France-Brazil /	12'	5	0	3	0
<b>Karchaoui</b>	France-Brazil /	3'	5	1	1	0

During this period, other Lyon players also reported to their respective national teams for the first international break of the season:

Aug. 30 USA - Portugal: 4-0

(**Jessica** starter, 82')

Sept 4 USA - Portugal: 3-0

(**Jessica** subbed on at 61')

Aug. 29 Belgium – England: 3-3

(**Lucy** 90', **Nikita** 75', Nikita goal PK)

Sept. 3 Norway – England: 2-1

(**Lucy** 90', **Nikita** 83')



## Barometer... Open Trainings

A promising start to the season, like going back to old times, with an open practice announced several days in advance, gates opened early, security all at once professional and smart and cool...a coach accessible and from the very first meeting treating open trainings as normal. Camille among the staff...the players as friendly and accessible as ever...a good sign...

### July 19.

Around 120 spectators in attendance despite the absence of many players. Many of the U19 players were there, having unfortunately been defeated in the final of Elite league last season.



CLARA Moreira



AUDREY Dupupet



DANIELLE Jessy Roux



EVA Kouache



SALLY Julini-GRACE Kazadi



While every player who competed at the World Cup was entitled to 3 weeks of vacation and recovery time, Sarah came back early, along with Maro, just as she did after the 2017 Euros.



### July 26.



This practice involved a good round of soccer tennis, then a scrimmage with offset small nets.



Strong attendance, with more than 150 spectators, including a good group of OL Ang'Elles.



**August 2.**

Just about all of the squad had returned (Caro was absent and Delphine and Selma were receiving medical attention...). The final Lyon players returning from World Cup—Shanice, who played the final, and Lucy and Nikita who played for bronze—were back with the team.



The newly crowned U19 European champions, MANON Revelli, LORENA Azzaro, MELVINE Malard and SELMA Bacha, were also back after defeating Germany in the final.



**August 9.**



Some physical exercises and a fun training with just soccer tennis ahead of the departure for the United States on Sunday and a more intense afternoon training. Michel Sorin apologized to the stands packed with 230 spectators, which was thoughtful of him.



**August 22.**

150 were in attendance for this training just 2 days prior to the start of a new D1 season and the match against OM. Toros and passing, with plenty of rhythm and concentration.



There were smaller sessions focused on offensive animation: long balls for the centerbacks, pivots and passes for the midfielders, wingers, and outside backs, along with crosses and cuts inside, and work in front of the goal for the forwards.



A small competition to wrap up:  
on the 1st or 2nd try, 4 or 5 players hit the crossbar from  
18 meters out...  
and Camille got it on the first try. Of course. 😊



As always, a wonderful ambiance, and great availability and accessibility from the staff and players. It was also great to see so many fans coming out to the open sessions as the summer wrapped up.



July 19 – 120 fans

July 26 – 150+ fans

August 2 – About 150 fans

August 9 – About 230 fans

Since the end of August, with the tournament in the U.S. and the first international break, and the travel to Russia, no additional trainings have been opened, including during the week ahead of the match against Reims. Was the early season accessibility shortlived?

The open training ahead of the Trophée des Championnes match, even though it was announced only the day before, gives us reason for continued optimism...



## Scores... D1

J1 - **OL – OM : 6 - 0** (Nikita 3', Eugénie 10', Maro 17', Delphine 77', Ada 83', 84') (attendance 1,976).



**OL** : 5 Fr/11, 6 Fr/14, 7 Fr/18 – **OM** : 11 Fr/11, 14 Fr/14, 17 Fr/17

As compared to the OM team that earned promotion to D1, 5 new players, 4 of whom started.



**Blandine Joly**  
<- Fleury 91, age 19



**Agathe Maetz**  
<- Dijon, age 21



**Candice Gherbit**  
<- ASSE, age 24



**Sarah Palacin**  
<-Fleury 91, age 31



**Nadjma Ali Nadjin**  
<-Fleury 91, age 25

3 young OM players appeared in their first D1 match, 2 of them as starters.



**Anna Conesa**  
age 16  
  
Starter  
90' played



**Sarah Zahot**  
age 18  
  
Starter  
90' played



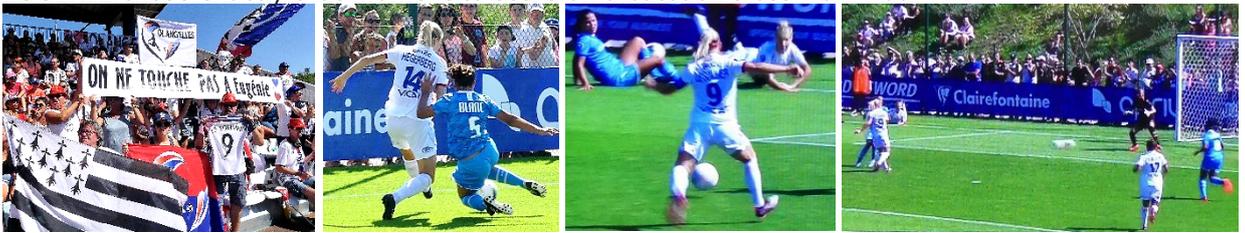
**Alaïs Lamarque**  
age 17  
  
Substitute  
22' played

OL quickly settled the match, scoring 3 goals on essentially their first three offensive actions. The first goal came on an early free kick from Maro following a foul by Maetz on Delphine.



Nikita 3<sup>rd</sup>

In the 9th minute, the OL ANG'ELLES showed their support for EUGENIE following the unwarranted criticism from France coach Corinne Diacre by displaying a banner reading « Don't touch Eugénie. » EUGENIE chose exactly that moment to score on a cutback cross from Ada.



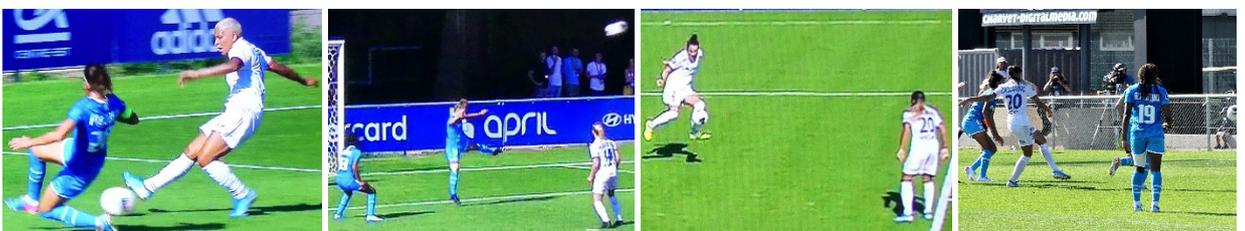
Eugénie 10<sup>th</sup>

In her first D1 match, Alex delivered a cross into the box that Ada left for Maro.



Maro 17<sup>th</sup>

A deserved sending off for Amandine Blanc made it easier for OL to run up the score, though they still wound up in second place after the first matchday due to PSG's 7-0 win over Soyaux.



Delphine 77<sup>th</sup>

As has often been the case over the past few months, DELPHINE was very active, showing off her speed, power, and technical ability, and making good runs. She just needs to work a bit more on her finishing, particularly with respect to her crosses which need more precision to match the quality of her runs in behind.

2 free kicks from Maro led to Ada's first two goals of the D1 season.



Ada 83<sup>rd</sup>



Ada 84<sup>th</sup>

**OL+ Féminin** @OL\_Plus\_Fem · 27 août

[Translated] How did you react when you saw the banner saying "Don't touch Eugénie"?

@ELS\_9\_FRANCE : "That was really touching. They didn't have to do that."

But it was their way to show me that they didn't agree with what was said." #LT #TeamOL



In barely 3 matches, Jean-Luc Vasseur showed more tactical flexibility than the national team coach has in two years at the France helm, most notably by using Eugénie in the « 10 » position in support of Ada or by using Delphine for a half hour at the end of the match (where she's been very successful, which is not a surprise if you recall her strong performance when Gérard Prêcheur used her in that role in a friendly against St Etienne). Jean-Luc Vasseur also contemplated after this game positioning Amel more centrally in a playmaking role.

Plenty of options that were not tried with the French National team...while the choices that were made for that role were obviously unsatisfactory.



## A Closer Look... D1 Stadiums

The number of registered female soccer players is growing and the World Cup showcased high quality competition in beautiful stadiums with excellent fields.

But in **D1 last season** we saw that the field surfaces and the stadium conditions were not at an appropriately high level for a league that is quickly growing in stature.

### Synthetic Fields.



2 clubs regularly played their matches on this type of field, which alters playing conditions because the playing surface is too hard.

<- Dijon

Guingamp ->



The cliché that this surface suits teams that play quickly is incorrect: more often the bigger bounces makes keeping the ball more challenging and requiring more time to gain control, favoring the more defensive team.



In the away match last year, Guingamp held OL off the score sheet for an hour before falling victim to a hat trick from Eugénie. Guingamp's defense was rightly lauded, but was part of their success due to playing on a surface with which OL is unfamiliar?



The irony was then to hear Charlotte Lorgeré, a centerback for EAG at the time, commenting at the end of their game against Bordeaux, played on grass, « ...that they weren't used to playing on this kind of surface... »

We think synthetic fields should be banned in D1 by the Federation, just as they have been banned in Ligue 1 for the men.

### « Grass » Fields

3 clubs use grass fields: certainly preferable to synthetic fields, but the cut of these fairly bumpy fields does not facilitate quick ball movement and the quality of play suffers.



Fleury 91



Soyaux



Rodez

### « Grass » Fields and Stadium-Quality Grass

Some clubs played most of their games on similarly low-quality grass fields, but for certain important games played on the well-tended natural grass fields in the club's large stadiums.



Bordeaux



PFC



Metz



Matmut Atlantique



Stade Charléty



Stade St Symphorien

There's one reason to be pleased with the fact that Metz avoided relegation: a club thinking short-term might have chosen in their place to play OL on a worse field in order to make it harder for the better club to play its game. But Metz decided to host the game at St Symphorien, and the Metz players performed well despite an eventual defeat and could see that they could play at a high level even against a big club. Perhaps that gave them the confidence to secure their first two victories under a new coach following that match.

### Proper Natural Grass Fields

3 of France's best clubs—OL, PSG, and Montpellier Hérault—as well as Losc play their matches on nice grass fields. They generally play most games at the clubs' training fields.



Groupama Training Center



PSG - Camp des Loges



Lille - Domaine de Luchin



MHSC - Stade B.Gasset

In fact, in prior seasons, Montpellier used a very nice field, but this past season the pitch was more frequently in bad shape.

In the Coupe de France match in Lyon (OL-MHSC: 4-0) Laurent Nicollin, MHSC's president, lamented having dropped points in league play on a Bordeaux field unworthy of D1 competition, saying to OLV: « *There are times where you can handle that, but apparently they couldn't do it ... it's not a big deal...when we host OL, we play them on a real field...it would be shame to play elsewhere...but other clubs are doing it...so we will do it, because we aren't dumber than other clubs* ».

We doubt that the poor quality of the field was a choice on the part of MHSC (it was probably due to the lack of rain), but Nicollin fished his wish, even if unintentionally.

But beyond just the quality of the pitch, it's also disappointing that many stadiums have **poor quality facilities** and **accessibility problems** that make them ill-suited for D1 games.

Indeed, for most matches, D1 clubs use training center fields with small stands, often on the outskirts of town and sometimes very hard to get to (Guingamp/Pabu, Lille/Luchin).

Like Bordeaux, PFC, and Metz, at the end of last season Lille and Dijon, along with OL and PSG, moved at least one match to a big stadium.



**Lille, Stade Villeneuve d'Ascq**  
Periodically, like against OL in 2017-18, or against PSG last season, certain of Lille's matches have been moved to the old stadium.



**Dijon, Stade Gaston-Gérard**  
For the 1st time, Dijon moved a match to the full stadium, against OL, and it was largely a success, with 4164 attending.



**PSG, Stade Jean Bouin**  
PSG might have the best outlook, as this stadium seems to be becoming the team's primary home, possibly because the presence of the women's team at Camp des Loges was becoming an issue.

**OL** was once ahead of the curve in giving its women's team the opportunity to play in its big stadium, showing the high regard in which the team was held by the club (for example, Wolfsburg, Barcelona, and the English clubs have not yet done the same).

But while just a few years ago, a number of league games and every Champions League game was played at Gerland, last season only the D1 match against PSG and the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds of the UWCL were played at Groupama Stadium.



Groupama Training Center

As the new **2019-20 season** kicks off, after all the success of the World Cup, we have to acknowledge that D1 has not put itself in the best position to take advantage of the potential attendance bump (even a modest one) that could have followed from the tournament.

For the first home match of the season, OL-OM, attendance at Groupama Training Center was 1,976. Fans were standing behind the goal and behind some netting, and weren't allowed to climb up the hill where they could have seen a bit better (and just a bit, even at that). They claimed to have a capacity of up to 3,000 fans, but did they really expect to put 1,000 extra fans behind the goal?



This is how you stop new fans from wanting to come back...as soon as the public gets interested in the team, the Training Center fills up quickly. While it's true that the Training Center is usually not full, that's partly because people aren't excited about coming to watch a game at a field that doesn't feel like a real stadium with such modest accommodations (for prior discussions of attendance, see Editions No. 5, January 2017, and No. 15, February 2018).

WENDIE, on OL Access (before OL-PSG in the CdF): « *It's been a while since we played [at the Parc OL]...you know when you walk into that beautiful stadium, the ambiance is completely different, the atmosphere also...and right away it's in your mind...'this is a big match tonight'...even if the quality of the field at Groupama Training Center is good...being in the enclosed stadium, with all the fans, it's cool.* »

This season, it looks like only the D1 match against PSG is scheduled to be at Groupama Stadium, just like last season. Sure, we probably can't have every match in the stadium, but how about against the better clubs, like Bordeaux or Montpellier?...We get the economic challenges, but Groupama Training Center cannot continue to be the primary field for one of the best teams in the world.

Between the lackluster conditions and minimal capacity of GTC and the need for a huge attendance to justify playing at Groupama Stadium, is there really no middle ground?

At the **national level**, the stands and field conditions for D1 have not gotten better, and some have gotten worse (Reims and OM, the promoted teams, play at training centers with synthetic fields. Even Stade Jean Bouin, where PSG plays, is now synthetic).

The only bright spot is that clubs are no longer reluctant to open their big stadiums for the « event matches. » Metz vs. PSG, Guingamp and just-promoted Reims vs. OL have all already done so.

At the **European level**, certain clubs had some very promising huge attendance events at the end of last season:

In Italy,

**39,000 in attendance** for Juventus-Florence :  
1-0, March 24, at Allianz Stadium, a game that decided the title.



Spain:

**20,615 spectators** / Espanyol-Atletico Madrid (0-1)  
<- **60,739 spectators** / Atletico Madrid-Barcelona (0-2)

England:

**43,264 spectators** for the Cup final at Wembley ->  
Manchester City-West Ham (3-0)



The best European clubs—Wolfsburg, Manchester City, Barcelona—already have at their disposal a stadium that seats 5,000 to 7,000 for their regular league games. And in Spain and England, clubs have begun making their big stadiums available to the women's team for the most important matches.

**England** seems to be investing heavily in women's football after the excitement surrounding their team this past summer and ahead of the Euros to be held in England in 2 years.

Even if there are some smaller stadiums for English teams, like Kingsmeadow for Chelsea, most clubs have a stadium with 2,000 to 10,000 seats and a grass field.



Manchester United : 11,000 seats  
Manchester City : 7,000  
Brighton : 6,134  
Everton : 6,008  
Arsenal : 4,502  
Chelsea : 5,339  
West Ham : 2,000



A few English clubs have already opened their big stadiums for matches this season: West Ham-Tottenham (0-2): 24,790; Manchester City-Manchester United (1-0): 31,213; Chelsea-Tottenham (1-0): 24,564.

If **in France** the quality of the fields and the stadiums do not quickly improve, it will be hard to lure new fans and to keep the interest of those who became interested thanks to the World Cup. Meanwhile, the Spanish and English leagues will be progressing and the biggest clubs in those countries will have more money to invest. The World Cup should have given France a big boost, but D1 wasn't ready. There's a real risk of losing momentum, which would be too bad. Let's hope we're wrong.



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