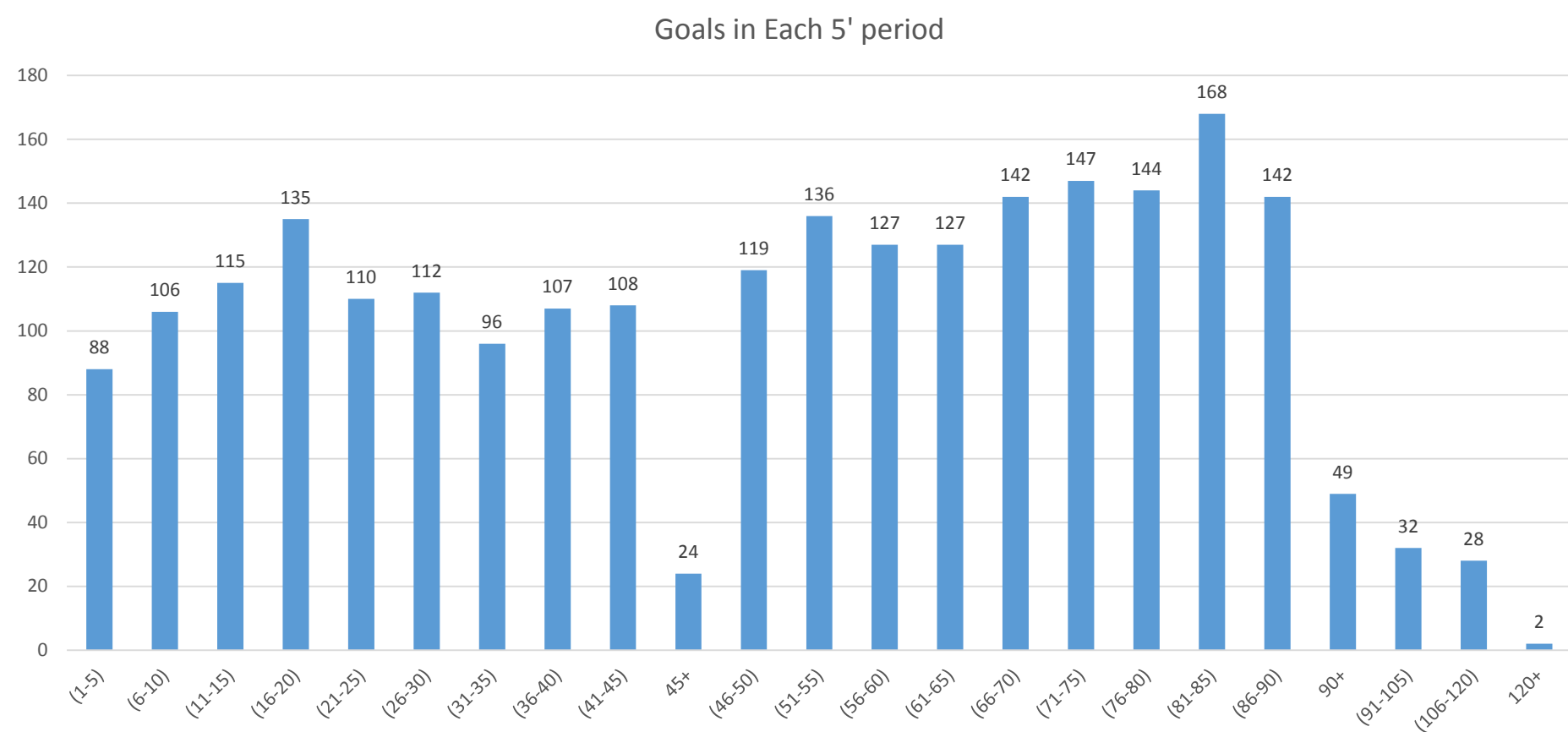


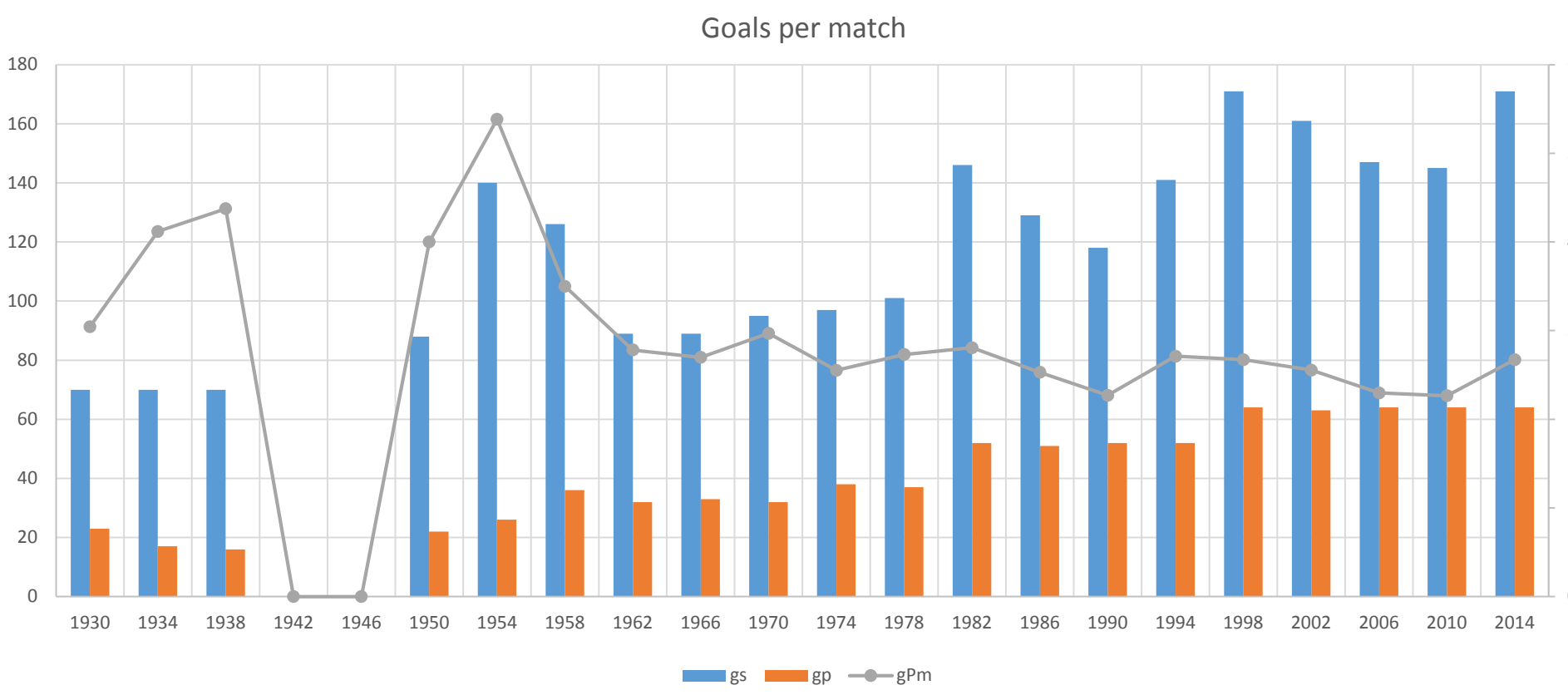


# FIFA WORLD CUP STATS

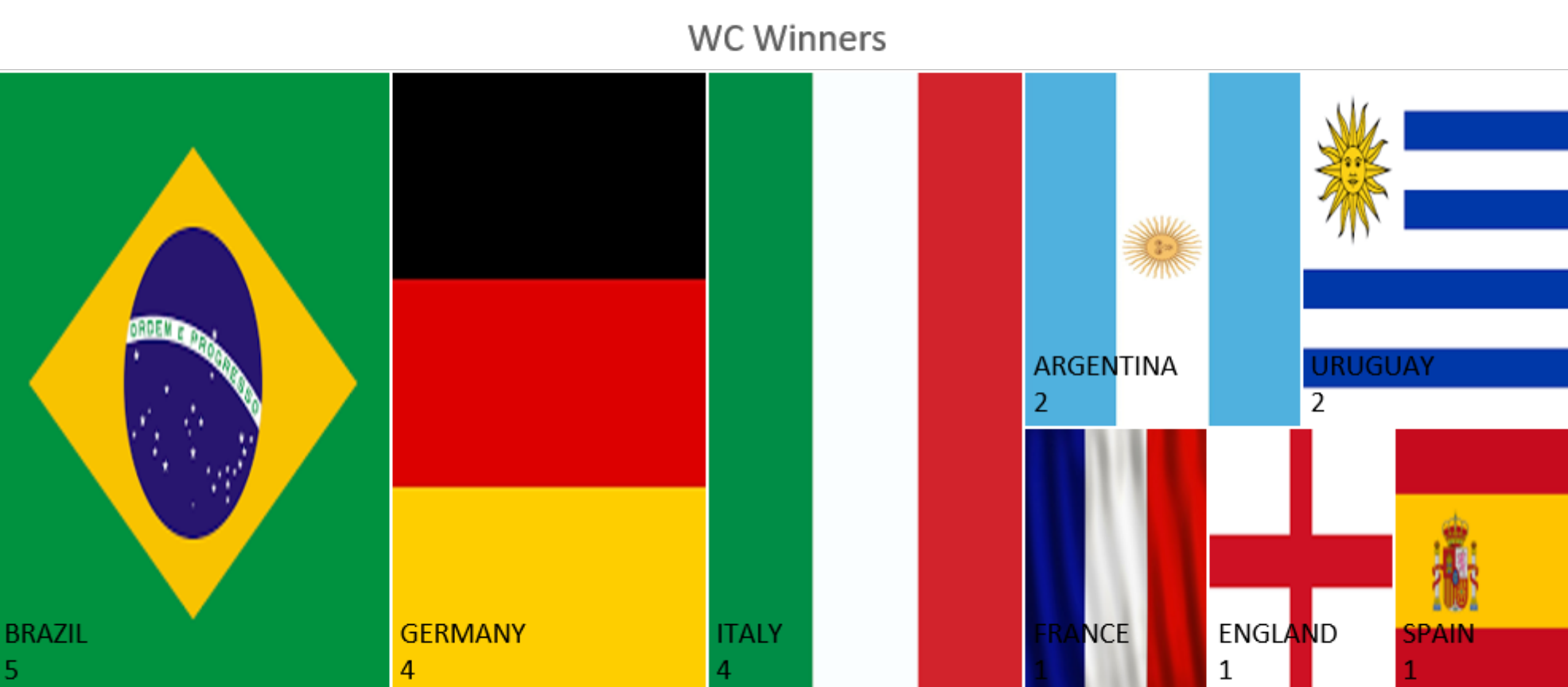
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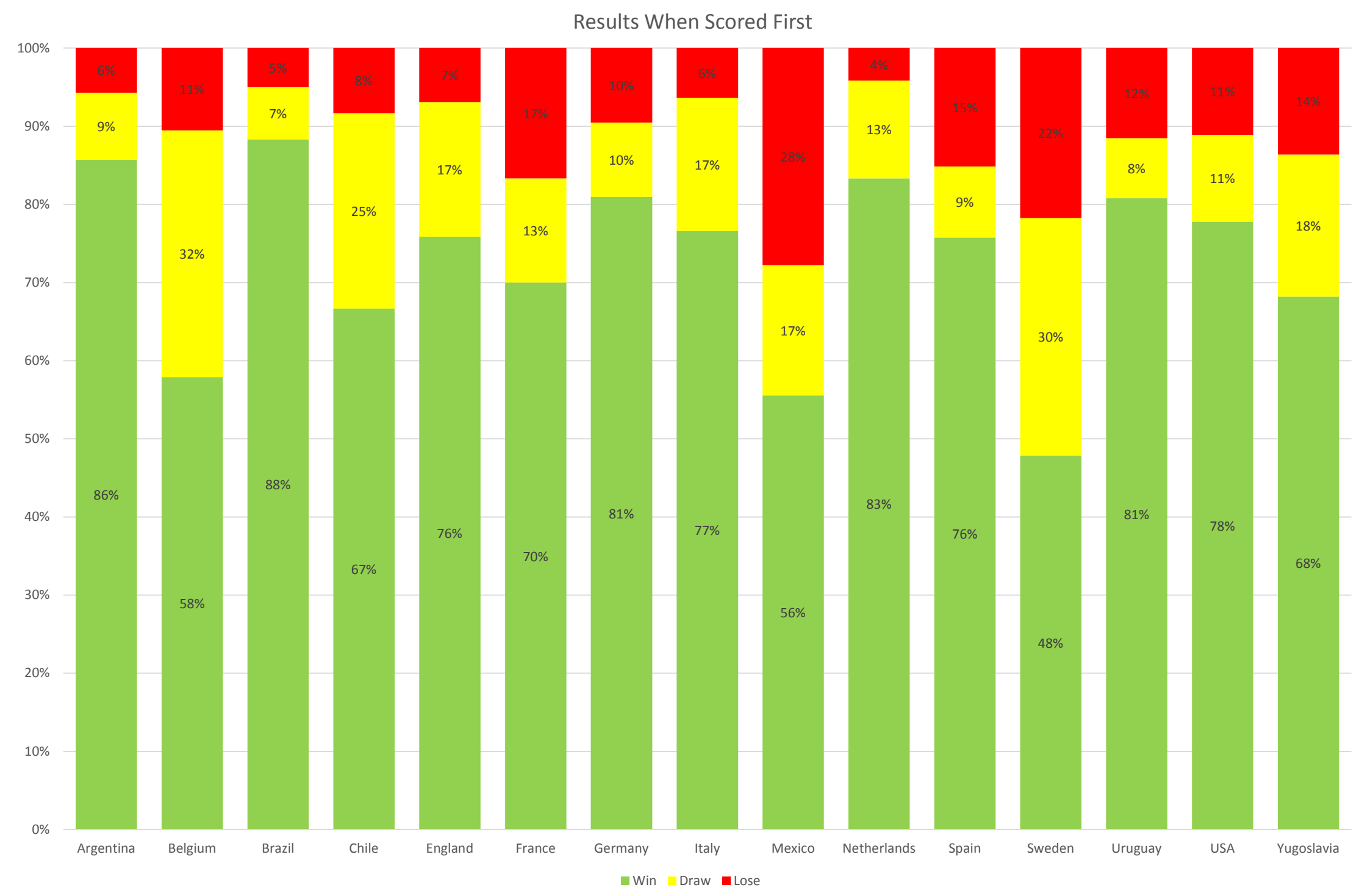
They say in soccer “It’s not over until it’s over!”  
This statement totally holds true if we look at the last 10 mins (80’-90’) of the game. Even the injury time after 90’ mark has given a lot of goals in such a huge competition when billions of people in the world are watching at the same time. Imagine those stoppage time goals that would change the result of the game and the change of emotions among the fans!



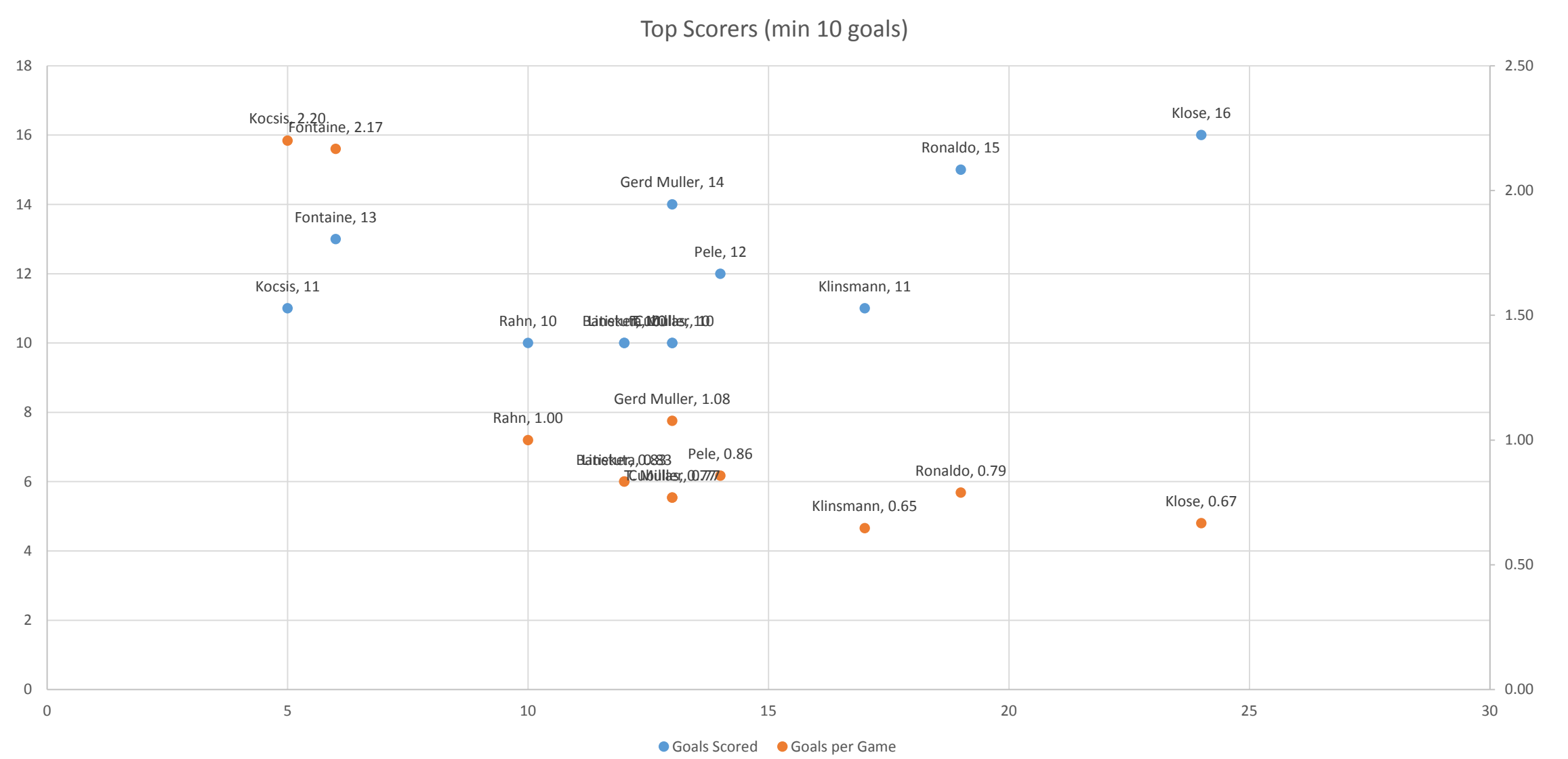
It is very hard to find a lot of goals in a match in soccer. There are mostly very close game, especially in the competition like FIFA World Cup, in which the “best teams” qualified from each continent participate. FIFA has tried to facilitate the attacking players in various ways so that they can score more goals to make the game more exciting. This is supported by the fact that its sponsor Adidas manufactures a different kind of ball unique to a particular World Cup. The chart on the left shows the rise in number of goals scored from its inception until the latest one. Though the reason behind it is the increase in the participation of more teams in the final round and FIFA has already declared there will be 48 teams in the finals of 2026 tournament whereas there will be 32 participants in the finals until 2022 World Cup. However, if we take a look at the average, the best goal scoring tournaments were from 1934 to 1958; the 1954 getting the most goals on average of around 5.5 per match.



Pele once said “... there will be no world cup without Brazil” in reference to the country’s participation in the finals of every edition. Consequently, they are the most goal scoring team in FIFA World Cup history. Is there some link with them being the most successful team in the World Cup history may be a thing of a debate while the second most goal scoring team, Germany happens to be the second most successful team. While Italy also remains the 4 time champion with their relatively low goal scoring record, this could be due to the fact that they are traditionally defensive minded team showing a different side of the game.



The graph below shows the top 15 teams with most matches in the FIFA World Cup finals. It can be seen that Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Netherlands, and Uruguay have won over 80% of their matches when they have scored first; the Dutch losing a very small percentage of those. So, next World Cups when these teams score first, we can assume they are most likely to win.



The 2014 World Cup made Miroslav Klose the highest scorer in the competition’s history but looking at the average goals per match, Klose comes second from last among those scoring 10 goals or more.

