

**NEWSLETTER Week 5****LIGUE 1 CONFORAMA****Week 4 review: PSG back on top**

**With Rennes losing their unbeaten record 2-1 at home to Nice, goal difference was enough to put reigning champs PSG back on top of the standings after a 2-0 win in Metz. Meanwhile OM maintained their 40-year home hoodoo over Saint-Etienne.**

Although speculation concerning Neymar Jr and Barcelona has been stealing the headlines in the closing stages of the summer transfer window, Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel has had plenty of other things on his mind - like how to deal with the concurrent injuries to his other star forwards, Edinson Cavani and Kylian Mbappé, as big matches against Real Madrid and Lyon loom.

**Balance**

And, away to Metz, Tuchel found a balance between youth and experience that, with a penalty from Angel Di Maria and a third goal in two matches from Choupo-Moting, got the job done 2-0 to leave the capital club in a familiar position - atop the Ligue 1 Conforama table.

"The team put in a good effort. It wasn't a brilliant performance, but it was a serious one. It's true that we lacked attacking quality in order to create more chances for ourselves," said Tuchel, who handed first senior-team starts to young midfielder Adil Aouchiche and 'keeper Marcin Bulka. "It was important to keep winning and that was our third clean sheet in four games. We never lost our organization and Idrissa Gueye brings us something special in that department."

**Nice going**

Meanwhile Rennes had their perfect record taken from them in dramatic fashion as Racine Coly struck in stoppage time to clinch OGC Nice a 2-1 win at Roazhon Park.

"We didn't deserve to be behind at half-time because they were only dangerous from set pieces. We had a good game against a team who have been playing very well this season. We showed a lot of character," said Nice boss Patrick Vieira, whose side conceded an own-goal before coming back to win, with fit-again Algeria right-back Youcef Atal proving crucial - playing in a central midfield role. "Youcef gives us penetration. It was important to have him back. When he's at that level he's a very interesting player for us."

Rennes boss Julien Stéphan is, despite the defeat, still pleased with how his side has started the season.

"Nine points out of a possible 12 is still very good," he declared. "We played two strong teams away from home in Montpellier and Strasbourg, we beat PSG, and we had a hiccup today."

Angers, who round out the top four, all of whom have nine point from four matches, continued their strong start with a 2-0 beating of Dijon that came courtesy of a Glody Ngonda own-goal and a second goal in as many matches from Farid Al-Melali.

**Sylvinho: 'Ups and downs'**

Lyon saw themselves pushed out of the top spots as, a man down after Thiago Mendes saw red (62'), they could only manage a 1-1 draw at home to Bordeaux, with OL old boy Jimmy Briand beat Anthony Lopes to cancel out Memphis Depay's superb opener.

"I am sad because we had the lead and we ended up having to fight to not lose the match. It's two more points dropped and that is what makes me sad. The problem is the sendings-off, which are making us drop points and the difficulties we are having when it comes to killing the match," said OL boss Sylvinho, who saw Youssouf Koné sent off in the Week 3 defeat to Montpellier. "When you start to build you can expect ups and downs. We need to partly change our mentality, establish our superiority, have more conviction, and not drop points."





### Benedetto on point

Olympique de Marseille kept an incredible run of 40 years without defeat at home to Saint-Etienne going on Sunday night, Argentine striker Dario Benedetto clinching the 1-0 win with his first strike in front of the Orange Vélodrome faithful.

### Screamers

Nîmes gave promoted Brest plenty to think about with a 3-0 hiding at the Stade des Costières - match that featured some sublime strikes - and

Monaco showed signs of emerging from their slump as new striker Islam Slimani struck two superb goals in a spirited 2-2 draw in Strasbourg.

Stade de Reims pulled off one of the upsets of the round with a 2-0 triumph at home to LOSC - who had Turkey playmaker Yousof Yazici sent off early in the second half - that took them to sixth, while LOSC slip to tenth place.

Nantes continued their run of form, making it two wins in a row and three without defeat by toppling Montpellier 1-0 thanks to a fine strike from Abdoulaye Touré while Toulouse pushed into the top ten with a 2-0 win over Amiens.

## Week 4 reactions - AVB: 'The players were incredible'

**OM boss André Villas-Boas was thrilled with the effort his players turned in to maintain their 40-year unbeaten streak at home to Saint-Etienne, whom they beat 1-0 thanks to Dario Benedetto's lone strike.**

Sunday, September 1, 2019

Olympique de Marseille 1 - 0 AS Saint-Etienne

André Villas-Boas (Olympique de Marseille coach): "We turned in a wonderful performance. The transfer window is over, and that's going to give this team some concentration and peace of mind. We didn't play well, it's obvious, we made several mistakes in the construction of our moves, we suffered in the transitions and we didn't get too many shots on target. But in terms of physicality and aggressiveness, we were incredible. We're in the top half of the table, and that gives confidence to the team. We built the 4-3-3 around Luiz (Gustavo), but he left for Fenerbahce so in this formation now we play around Kevin (Strootman). All the players were incredible in terms of the effort put in."

Ghislain Printant (AS Saint-Etienne coach): "All we were lacking was some cutting edge. But most of the time, we were doing what we wanted to do. We put OM in trouble and we kept the pressure on them. We were on top of things technically but we struggled to get verticality into our play and really put Marseille on the back foot. We created situations for ourselves but we didn't score. We need to have more clarity. But I saw some promising signs even though, of course, we didn't get the job done."

Stade Rennais FC 1-2 OGC Nice

Julien Stéphan (Rennes coach): "We had a disappointing final half hour and the Nice penalty changed a lot. We lacked energy, intensity and quality. This was surprising because we were fairly good in the first half. We had a lot of chances and had them under pressure. We lost to many duels and this was decisive. Our goalkeeper Edouard [Mendy] was not called into action often. Nine points out of a possible 12 is still very good. We played two strong teams away from home in Montpellier and Strasbourg, we beat PSG, and we had a hiccup today."

Patrick Vieira (OGC Nice coach): "It's a team of young players, but I work with them every day and see their concentration, their desire to learn. They're determined and they were great today. Everyone took responsibility. We didn't deserve to be behind at half-time because they were only dangerous from set pieces. We had a good game against a team who have been playing very well this season. We showed a lot of character. Youcef [Atal] gives us penetration. It was important to have him back. When he's at that level he's a very interesting player for us. The new players need to work. We'll use the international break to get them up to speed."

RC Strasbourg Alsace 2-2 AS Monaco



Leonardo Jardim (Monaco coach): "We dominated the game more than our opponents and created more chances. Unfortunately, we couldn't close out the victory. Strasbourg had greater intensity later in the game and hurt us with their equaliser. The players are disappointed but we had a good match. They had a good attitude and followed instructions. It was very positive but the result's tough. We've signed players and adjusted the squad. We're going to have solutions in midfield, attack and on the wings. It's important for the team that I don't talk about [Radamel] Falcao. What's important is the players who are with us."

Thierry Laurey (Strasbourg coach): "We managed to turn the tide. It was a hard-fought point. It was a well-deserved point but it remains just a point. We wasted too much in the game but we corrected it in the second half. We dug deep to get back into it. To come back twice against this team makes me very happy and proud of the boys. What I saw today reassures me. Everyone gave the best possible account of themselves."

Saturday, August 31, 2019

Olympique Lyonnais 1-1 Girondins de Bordeaux

Sylvinho (Lyon coach): "We saw lots of nice bits of skill, it was oppressively hot and we had the lead but couldn't hold on to it. The sending-off of Thiago Mendes put us in difficulty. I am sad because we had the lead and we ended up having to fight to not lose the match. It's two more points dropped and that is what makes me sad. We know how to defend in a 4-5-1, we are not bad at set-pieces, and we have scored nine goals (in total). The problem is the sendings-off which are making us drop points and the difficulties we are having when it comes to killing the match. When you start to build you can expect ups and downs. We need to partly change our mentality, establish our superiority, have more conviction, and not drop points."

Paulo Sousa (Bordeaux coach): "We were superior throughout practically the whole match and even when it was 11 against 11. Lyon created some good chances thanks to the quality they have. We should not have conceded the goal we did, but the individual quality of Memphis made the difference. When we were behind, the team kept believing they could get a good result. We managed to create some good chances, especially with good crosses from wide areas. I am quite satisfied given all the work we put in during the week."

Angers SCO 2-0 Dijon FCO

Stéphane Moulin (Angers coach): "It would be bizarre if I were not satisfied tonight. We have done brilliantly so far, even if the result at Lyon was cruel for us. That showed the difference between them and us, but otherwise it's been a great success so far and it's satisfying. To win three matches at home is not easy. We have done it, so congratulations to the players. They came here and played with five at the back, which was to some extent the price to pay for us after two home games in which we had scored three goals each time. They came here to contain us. It wasn't our best performance, but we had set the bar so high that it was not easy to do so well. It wasn't easy to say we would get nine points from four matches, especially with Lyon in there."

Stéphane Jobard (Dijon coach): "Individual errors are still costing us dear. Matches are decided in the two penalty areas and we were not good enough at either end of the field. We caused Angers problems in the first half but they ended up creating chances because of our mistakes. We need to correct that quickly, my players need to learn fast if we are to save our skin. Despite everything I thought we showed good spirit and we managed to trouble Angers. And our new attacking signings are not yet completely ready. I will have a stable squad for the next game."

FC Nantes 1-0 Montpellier Hérault SC

Christian Gourcuff (Nantes coach): "Even if it had finished 0-0, I would have been pleased with our organisation and how we controlled the game. We just lacked the precision in the final third that would have seen us get a return on our domination. We are making progress, even if it's still a bit chaotic at times in terms of our control of possession. We need to get the ball forward faster, and be quicker and more creative in the final third."

Michel Der Zakarian (Montpellier coach): "We just didn't use the ball well enough. The final ball or cross wasn't good enough - there was the chance for Andy (Delort) against Lafont, shots that were blocked, the header for Vito (Hilton) from a corner, and that was all. We were not dangerous enough in the final third, not enough for my liking. We can't use tiredness as an excuse. We made too many bad decisions."



Nîmes Olympique 3-0 Stade Brestois 29

Bernard Blaquart (Nîmes coach): "It is our first win of the season. It was important to get this result so as not to be left behind in the table. We had chances to kill the game before half-time but we didn't take them. That is the only thing I can reproach my players for. We started superbly. We are still not there yet, we still need to evaluate certain things and progress in certain areas, but what we saw tonight was reassuring. We just need to remain prudent. We have new signings who have been late in arriving. The transfer window has been difficult to deal with but everyone has shown their potential."

Olivier Dall'Oglio (Brest coach): "I know we have been starting matches poorly and as is often the case, we were not able to sort out a bad start. We are being punished at the start of games, coming second to every challenge. The first half remains my biggest regret because we just didn't play. There is work to be done. We played like schoolboys. We didn't look comfortable. We need to grow up, stop being timid. A match is two halves of football. At the moment we are not strong enough mentally."

Toulouse FC 2-0 Amiens SC

Alain Casanova (Toulouse coach): "We came up against a good Amiens side in the first half. They caused us big problems tactically and I couldn't wait for half-time to correct certain things. It was much better after that and the players deserve all the credit for that. It was important that we showed a reaction. We deserved the win for the way we played in the second half. We have seven points from four games and that was the objective we had set for the team. There is still a lot of work to do and we will keep trying to improve."

Luka Elsner (Amiens coach): "We can look back on the first half with regrets. We should have been in front but we just lacked that final touch. We suspected Toulouse would react in the second half. They opened the scoring and we didn't have the physical or mental capacity to come back. We needed to show a greater hatred of losing. We didn't show enough in the second half. We also lack depth in certain positions, especially in central defence. The transfer window is not closed for us."

Friday, August 30, 2019

FC Metz 0-2 Paris Saint-Germain Logo Paris Saint-Germain

Vincent Hognon (Metz coach): "Once again we conceded two goals from set plays and for us it's all a case of situations repeating. It's a shame because we put in a lot of hard work and we created chances in the first half. Against a team such as PSG you cannot afford to commit such errors and that's why I am quite frustrated. Overall, the players lived up to my expectations and I saw a valorous Metz team. We were just lacking a little bit of luck."

Thomas Tuchel (Paris Saint-Germain coach): "It wasn't easy and there were many reasons to lose focus but the team played very seriously and that was necessary to win against a team such as Metz. The team put in a good effort, it wasn't a brilliant performance but it was a serious one. It's true that we lacked attacking quality in order to create more chances for ourselves. It was important to keep winning and that was our third clean sheet in four games. We never lost our organization and Idrissa Gueye brings us something special in that department."

## Icardi, Navas: PSG lead deadline-day deals

**PSG dominated the final-day transfer headlines by signing 'keeper Keylor Navas and striker Mauro Icardi (loan), but there was plenty of other action as Ligue 1 Conforama clubs took their final chance to move players in and out.**

The end of the summer transfer window is always a flurry of activity, and 2019 was no exception, with big names arriving in Ligue 1 Conforama while others left to pursue their dreams elsewhere.

Paris Saint-Germain: Icardi follows Navas



With just one hour to go before the end of the 2019 summer transfer window, Paris Saint-Germain clinched the services of a world-class striker. Mauro Icardi, 26 has signed on to join Paris Saint-Germain and Ligue 1 Conforama on a season-long loan (with option to buy) from Inter Milan. The Argentine international (eight caps, one goal) has been racking up the goals in northern Italy for the last six seasons: 124, to be precise, also with 28 assists, in 219 appearances. He top scored in the Serie A on two occasions (2015 and 2018), as a certain Edinson Cavani did before him.

"I thank Paris Saint-Germain for the confidence shown in me," said Mauro Icardi, who will wear the number 18 jersey, after signing his contract. "I will be committed to giving everything to help my new team go as far as possible in all competitions. The performance dynamic is very strong in Paris, the ambitions are very high and I am sure that all the conditions are there to go even higher. And I look forward to discovering the Parc des Princes, a stadium renowned for its beauty and atmosphere!"

For keeps

After announcing on Sunday the arrival of Sergio Rico on loan with an option to purchase, Paris Saint-Germain brought in another La Liga goalkeeper: Keylor Navas. The new Parisian, 32, signed on a four-year deal from Real Madrid, where he has played more than 160 matches since 2014.

In the opposite direction, Alphonse Areola left his boyhood club for a loan -with no option to buy - to Real Madrid. At 26 years of age, the French international remains linked to Paris Saint-Germain through to 2023. The world champion 'keeper thus begins his second La Liga adventure after spending season 2015-16 on loan with Villarreal.

Stade Rennais FC: Double swoop!

Jonas Martin left RC Strasbourg Alsace - where he was club captain - for Stade Rennais FC. The freshly minted Breton midfielder, who started for Racing in their first three matches of the campaign - including the 2-0 home defeat to his new club in Week 3, is now at his fourth French club, after Montpellier and Amiens SC. In total, Martin has notched 169 games in France's top flight (13 goals).

Raphinha (Raphael Dias Belloli) is also headed to Stade Rennais on a five-year deal. The 22-year-old Brazilian winger arrives from Sporting Portugal, where he has scored twice in four appearances this season in Liga NOS. He made his name at Guimaraes, where he scored a career-best 15 goals in 32 matches in season 2017-18. He bagged four goals in 24 matches last campaign and also scored his first goal on the European stage with Sporting in the Europa League (four matches) and a victory in the Portuguese Cup. At Rennes, this right-winger, who will wear the number 7, is tipped to be a worthy replacement for Ismaïla Sarr, who left for the Premier League.

RC Strasbourg Alsace did not have to look very far to find Jonas Martin's replacement. Already brought in on loan over the last six months of the 2018-19 season to compensate for Martin's injury, Sanjin Prcic has made a definitive commitment to the Alsatian club. After a successful comeback with RCSA (two goals and two assists in 13 games), the 25-year-old Franco-Bosnian leaves Levante for a three-year contract in Strasbourg, where he will keep his number 14.

While Stade de Reims have retained one of its best players, the coveted Rémi Oudin, the Champagne club's fans were treated to a deadline-day treat: the arrival of a new striker. Indeed, Anastasios Donis will return to Ligue 1 Conforama in a Reims jersey three years after his loan from Juventus to OGC Nice. Able to play through the middle or out wide, the Greek international (nine caps, one goal) is on loan from VfB Stuttgart with an option to buy, "which will become an automatic transfer of 4 seasons if the club is kept in Ligue 1 Conforama", according to the club. During his season at the OGCN, which ended in an impressive third-place finish, the Greek striker took part in 18 games, notching five goals and one assist.

Dijon FCO: cuts the mustard!

Talented winger Mounir Chouiar has signed a three-year (plus an option for another) with Dijon, and is now set to make his Ligue 1 Conforama. The 20-year-old played all 38 Domino's Ligue 2 matches with boyhood club RC Lens last season and the France youth international had already racked up two goals and an assist in two matches for Les Sang et Or in the current campaign before inking his switch to Burgundy.

"His profile is quite similar to Wesley Saïd's, with a technical background of the same level," said Sébastien Larcier, DFCO's head of recruitment. "He is a player who is comfortable with both feet and can play as an attacking midfielder on one side or in the centre. He has the ability to bring others into play as well, while being very strong one-on-one."

FC Nantes: Ludovic Blas joins Les Canaris!

Ludovic Blas, 21, who proved decisive for Guingamp in their Domino's Ligue 2 derby with Lorient at the weekend, made the switch to FC Nantes on



Monday. The France U20 midfielder joins former Guingamp teammate Marcus Coco at Nantes as he returns to Ligue 1 Conforama, where he has a record of six goals in 103 matches.

Stade Brestois 29: Duverne arrives

Stade Brestois Stadium announced on Monday evening that they had signed defender Jean-Kévin Duverne. A product of the renowned RC Lens youth academy, Duverne, 22, has signed a four-year deal with the Brittany club that should see him make his Ligue 1 Conforama debut in the not-too-distant future.

OGC Nice: , a new Fennec for Les Aiglons

A few days after Adam Ounas signed, another reigning African Cup of Nations champion joined OGC Nice: Hicham Boudaoui. The 19-year-old midfielder arrives from Paradou AC in Algiers, a club for whom OGCN teammate and fellow African champion Youcef Atal used to ply his trade. After Khephren Thuram, Kasper Dolberg, Alexis Claude-Maurice, Adam Ounas and Stanley Nsoki, Boudaoui is the sixth recruit for Nice, who had an extremely busy end to the transfer window following the completion of the INEOS take-over late last week.

OM: Agreement with Fener for Luiz Gustavo

Olympique de Marseille and Turkish club Fenerbahce have reached an agreement to transfer midfielder Luiz Gustavo, OM president Jacques-Henri Eyraud confirmed on Sunday.

"We have reached an agreement with the club," announced the Marseille president in the mixed zone after the victory against Saint-Etienne (1-0).

"Gustavo really asked me to leave. It's hard to keep a player who wants to go somewhere else. But I think he wanted to have another experience. He is in Turkey now and it's likely he will start with Fenerbahce in the next few days."

On Monday, the Brazilian signed for four years with the Turkish club. Luiz Gustavo has played for OM for two seasons (98 games).

AS Monaco: Falcao calls time, Isidor on loan

Colombian superstar Radamel Falcao, 33, left AS Monaco to join Galatasaray after a six-season stay in the principality. El Tigre racked up an impressive 65 goals in 108 league appearances during that time, notably claiming the Ligue 1 Conforama title in 2017-18.

Meanwhile AS Monaco's France U19 striker Wilson Isidor, 19, has been loaned to Laval (National 1) for one season with no option to buy, the Principality club announced on Monday.

## LES BLEUS

### **Ikoné dream debut as France thump Albania**

**LOSC Lille's Jonathan Ikoné scored on his senior international debut to help France to a 4-1 win over Albania on Saturday and keep the FIFA World Cup winners among the frontrunners in UEFA EURO 2020 qualifying Group H.**

Saturday, 7 September, 2019

Euro 2020 qualifying Group H, Matchday 5

Stade de France, Paris

France 4 - 1 Albania





## THE MATCH

Les Bleus face Andorra at home next week, and it was the Pyreneean nation's anthem that rang round the Stade de France instead of the Albanian one before kick-off, causing red faces from the hosts and a degree of anger from the visitors.

After the appropriate apologies had been made and the right anthem played, France, however, did not show much generosity to their opponents.

With Kylian Mbappé sidelined by injury, Albania might have hoped for a more comfortable evening, but just eight minutes in, they fell behind - Kingsley Coman raced onto a superb Raphaël Varane through ball to beat Thomas Strakosha with confidence (8').

It was the Bayern Munich man's second goal for his country; Olivier Giroud had 35 before kick-off, and the Chelsea forward added another to his tally - in his 92nd appearance - when he applied the finishing touch to Lucas Hernandez's cross (27').

France were totally in control, and should have had a third before half-time.

Mergim Mavraj curtailed Hernandez's powerful burst forward by upending the Bayern man in the penalty area - Antoine Griezmann, who had scored his previous seven penalties for his country, sent his spot-kick spinning into the Parisian air off Strakosha's crossbar (37').

Coman on strong

The Barcelona man might have made amends ten minutes after the interval. His ball for Thomas Lemar was then turned into Giroud who teed it up for Griezmann - Strakosha was able to block his fierce strike with his legs (55').

Didier Deschamps' men had scored two times or more in 28 of their previous 35 outings, and Coman ensured they finally added to the scoreline.

Griezmann and Hernandez - former teammates at Atletico Madrid - linked up well down the left, and after the latter lost control of the ball inside the box, it ran to his new club teammate at Bayern, and Coman swivelled before firing home from close range.

The ex-Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus man, who had made a good start to the Bundesliga season, became the first France player to score twice in a EURO qualifier since Thierry Henry against Lithuania in October, 2007.

Coman was replaced by Ikoné with 13 minutes to go, and just eight minutes later, the debutant had a goal. After playing a one-two with another substitute, Nabil Fekir, Ikoné measured a shot beyond Strakosha - it was not only his first senior international strike, but also the opener of his 2019-20 account.

France could not keep a clean sheet, however. Sokol Cikallesi was played in behind the home back four and collided with the onrushing Hugo Lloris.

The France captain appeared to have pulled his hands away at the last moment, but a penalty was awarded - Lloris was powerless to prevent Cikallesi from giving Albania some consolation to slightly tarnish France's win.

THE PLAYER: Kingsley Coman

The winger has been in exceptional form for Bayern since the start of the season, and carried that into the international arena. If he can maintain it, he will be one of the first names on the teamsheet for both club and country.

THE STAT: 32

None of France's last 32 internationals at the Stade de France have ended in a draw. France have won 24 of those matches.

## Ikoné: 'I'll never forget it'

**LOSC forward Jonathan Ikoné got his France career off to the perfect start, finding the net as a sub in Les Bleus' 4-1 Euro 2020 qualifying win over Albania at the Stade de France in Paris on Saturday night.**

Saturday, 7 September, 2019

Euro 2020 qualifying Group H, Matchday 5

Stade de France, Paris

France 4 - 1 Albania





Jonathan Ikoné (France forward): "I'll never forget it. Frankly, I couldn't have dreamed of better. The goal? I saw that I was pretty much unmarked so I turned around. Honestly, I wanted to give the assist for Nabil [Fekir] to score, but he gave it back to me. Scoring France is a dream come true."

Didier Deschamps (France coach): "Tonight was extremely positive, first of all for the scoreline, even though it could have been heavier as we created a good dozen chances. We have predispositions in the technical field, to move the ball from one side to the other, in individual risk-taking. My players were firing on all cylinders; they know each other well. The game seemed easy because we did the right things, even though we got a little slack at the end. We constructed high-quality play, with fast passing and technical accuracy, with players capable of breaking through and destabilizing a defense, even if when it's tightly packed. It's rare to make as many successful passes as we did - over 900, I think. We has plenty of verticality. It was a great performance by the whole squad."

## Coman stars again as France ease past Andorra

**Kingsley Coman set France on their way to a 3-0 win over Andorra in Euro 2020 qualifying on Tuesday as the World Cup holders moved another step closer to a place at next year's finals.**

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Euro 2020 qualifying Group H

France 3 - 0 Andorra

### THE MATCH

Coman opened the scoring at the Stade de France before Clément Lenglet and Wissam Ben Yedder added second-half goals for Didier Deschamps' team. Antoine Griezmann had earlier missed a penalty but this was a comfortable victory against a battling Andorra side who nevertheless remain pointless.

France now have 15 points from six games in qualifying Group H and are level on points with Turkey, who visit here during the next international break next month. Just before that game, Les Bleus will go to Iceland, who lie three points off the pace in the section after a 4-2 reverse in Albania on Tuesday.

Les Bleus were playing their 100th game at the national stadium but were missing some star quality with the injured Kylian Mbappé among those absent. However, LOSC winger Jonathan Ikoné was rewarded for his impressive showing from the bench in the 4-1 win over Albania at the weekend as he started on the right flank.

There was also a start behind him for the Olympique Lyonnais full-back Léo Dubois, who won his third cap. However, it was Ikoné who made the opening goal in the 18th minute for Coman, the Bayern Munich star holding off his marker before finishing high into the net.

France had chances to double their lead before the interval, none better than when Griezmann won a penalty only to see his effort saved by Josep Gomes (28').

Lenglet breaks duck

Nevertheless, when Moussa Sissoko was fouled just outside the area seven minutes into the second half, it was Griezmann who flighted in the resulting free-kick for his Barcelona colleague Lenglet to head home a first international goal (52').

Andorra refused to cave in, with Gomes saving brilliantly from a Coman header. The visitors were also helped as Sissoko headed off the underside of the bar from another Griezmann delivery midway through the second half and Coman hit the same piece of woodwork from a Lucas Digne cutback moments later.

The third goal did arrive in stoppage time, though. Nabil Fekir's free-kick was saved by Gomes but there was his fellow substitute Ben Yedder to convert the rebound for his second international goal on his fifth cap - he also netted in the 4-0 win in Andorra in June.

THE PLAYER: Kingsley Coman





Week 5

The Bayern man won 15 caps between November 2015 and November 2017 before losing his way, hampered by injuries. He missed the triumphant World Cup campaign last year but has returned to the international fold since the end of last season. His goal here opened the scoring and followed a brace in Saturday's 4-1 defeat of Albania at the same venue. He had netted just once in 17 caps before this burst of three in two outings.

THE STAT: 100

This was France's 100th match at the Stade de France, the famous venue in Saint-Denis which opened just prior to their victorious 1998 World Cup campaign.

