



# FRANCE V AUSTRALIA 2-1

## PLAYER RATINGS

**The famous** French arrogance took a hit tonight and the Socceroos made a nation proud.

**Les Bleus** only came out winners with the help of the VAR and a lucky deflection. Australia put up a disciplined fight but they just couldn't trouble the French defence.

**After an** epic qualification process, Australia's first hurdle at the World Cup was a national team whose players have a combined market value of over a billion Euros. A classic case of out of the frying pan and into the fire.

**But with** the odds stacked against them the Aussies put on a tough, disciplined performance. The crowd seemed right behind the Socceroos but it wasn't enough.

**With such** a wealth of talent the French have come into the tournament as one of the favourites. However, on this display, team selection could scuttle their chances. Coach Didier Deschamps has changed his line up a lot in the lead up and his substitutes looked more influential than his first XI.

**Still, champion** teams manage to find a way to win even when they might not deserve it. The French did this tonight.

### Mat Ryan — 7

**We've already** seen a keeper howler at this world cup and Ryan started well by calmly making some bread and butter saves. He didn't have any really difficult tests and this was often down to his good positioning and speed across the ground.

### Josh Risdon — 6

**The A** League stalwart was up against one of the most expensive players in world football. He held his own in the first half. He gave away the penalty from a VAR decision. This is one that will be debated in Australia for years.

### Trent Sainsbury — 8

**One of** Sainsbury's tackles tonight was so strong it popped the ball. He led the defence exceptionally well. He looked really comfortable at this level and if not for temptation of Chinese dollars, he might have been playing with and against players of this quality week in week out.

### Mark Milligan — 6.5

**Struggled with** the pace of Mbappe early on. Improved as the game went on. This was a vintage performance from Milligan and Australia will need him to keep this standard for the next two games.

### Aziz Behich — 7.5

**Knew his** limitations. He dribbled into space well and was good on the overlap but he simply cleared it when he was under pressure. He made for himself probably the best chance of the first half but alas his shot flew wide. He's scored a few goals from a similar area this season in Turkey but alas, not tonight.

### Aaron Mooy — 8

**Showed his** quality on several occasions. Some of his tackles were unbelievable and he spread the ball around really well, especially later in the game. He'll be disappointed he didn't find Rogic more often.

Despite putting in a determined and at times dominant display in their 2018 FIFA World Cup™ Group C opener against France on Saturday, the Socceroos fell to a 2-1 defeat to Les Blues at Kazan Arena. Antoine Griezmann's 58th minute penalty was cancelled out by Mile Jedinak's 19th senior international goal from the spot just four minutes later. However, nine minutes from full time Paul Pogba's poke was deflected centimetres over the line. The loss, combined with Denmark's 1-0 win over Peru later Saturday, leaves Australia needing to secure a result when the Socceroos face the Scandinavians on Thursday afternoon (local time) in Samara. Following Australia's first match at the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ FFA TV spoke with defenders Josh Risdon and Aziz Behich. Both Risdon and Behich made their FIFA World Cup bows on Saturday and impressed in front of the vociferous 41,279 supporters in Kazan – an estimated 10,000 of whom were Australians.



### Mile Jedinak — 7.5

**Bit of** a surprise inclusion in the starting eleven. The Australian captain showed his usual strength in the air. He was tidy on the ball and he took his penalty well. A great captain's performance.

### Tom Rogic — 6.5

**Started to** find more of the ball later in the first half and he showed his quality. Enjoyed being stronger and taller than his direct opponent, Kante. Possibly won more headers today than he has in his entire career. Australia did miss his skills when he left the pitch.

### Matthew Leckie 5.5

**He was** very strong in the first half but didn't get much of a chance to use his pace. Nearly gifted France a one on one but Ryan saved his blushes.

### Robbie Kruse — 5

**Did what** Robbie Kruse does and won some free kicks. He wasn't all that effective otherwise.

### Andrew Nabbout — 5.5

**Had a** tough night at the top of Australia's attack but he'll be commended for his defensive work rate.

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### Tomi Juric — 5.5

**He looked** more dangerous in his time on the pitch than Nabbout did. His recovery regime of water running has given him a burst of pace too.

### Jackson Irvine — 5.5

**He provides** something very different to Rogic, the man he replaced. He has a bit more energy and speed but Kante had no trouble with these attributes.

### Daniel Arzani — 6

**Only managed** to have three real moments with the ball. He looked quality in all three but lost it during his first run. The fact that he was able to execute a cute flick and a fast dribble against some of the best players in the world puts paid to the crazy idea that he only looks good because A League defenders are bad.