

Capello Backs Russia's Football Team to Progress in World Cup

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Russia's coach Fabio Capello gestures during the 2014 World Cup Group H football match between Belgium and Russia at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Russia coach Fabio Capello has said the 1-0 World Cup defeat by Belgium was undeserved and that he still believes his team can progress to the second round.

A Divock Origi goal in the 88th minute gave the Belgians the three points from Sunday's game and qualification to the last 16 and left Capello's team with a solitary point ahead of their final Group H game against Algeria.

"To be honest, I am very happy with the performance of the team, the result is not fair but the reality is that we lost," Capello told a news conference.

"We had the chances to win, it was a nice game with both teams trying to win unfortunately they were the ones able to do it," added the Italian coach.

Belgium were on top for the opening 45 minutes but Capello said his team had opportunities to win the game that they failed to make the most of.

"We played a large part of the first half on the counter-attack and we had chances, but we made mistakes with the final pass and maybe we also shot a little too hurriedly.

"But in the second half — the team was almost bossing the game, the reality is that when Belgium go forward on the break they are very dangerous," he said.

Capello said his decision to bring on Alan Dzagoyev in place of Oleg Shatov with seven minutes remaining was aimed at trying to get a late winner.

"When I put in Dzagoyev I was looking for us to win the game. We were playing close to their area, and I thought he could make the final pass. But we conceded to a counter-attack. That was not Dzagoyev's fault — it was because we were trying to win," he said.

The Brazilian crowd had expressed displeasure with the quality of the game, which was generally disappointing, but Capello said he thought such criticism was unfair.

"I think it was an excellent game, played at a great rhythm, great intensity. Maybe because of that intensity we made mistakes and so did they. I think it was an intense and interesting game," he said.

Russia will next take on Algeria, who beat South Korea 4-2 in the other Group H game on Sunday, and Capello knows his team needs to win their final game to have any chance of progressing.

"There is only one chance against Algeria — a draw solves nothing," he said, adding that he remained sure his team could make it to the last 16 even if the tournament was part of a learning curve.

"I still believe [we can qualify], absolutely I believe. The important thing, as I said when we came to play this World Cup after 12 years away, this is needed in order to understand the level that we have to confront when you are in competitions like this," he said.

See also:

[Russia Loses to Belgium in Second World Cup Match](#)

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