

Entry 1:

Exciting Prospects Compete in UA vs US in the FIFA U-20 World Cup

For those of you who are interested in the future of soccer/football, like me, may I recommend you check out the [2019 FIFA U-20 World Cup](#). Also, if you really enjoy watching the sport, this is the best filler you will get between the season that's over and finals of UEFA Champions League and Europa League. Then, [FIFA Women's World Cup](#) starts on June 7th.

The youth tournament is hosted by Poland this year, has already started on May 23rd and will last until June 15th.

I will particularly be paying attention to [Ukraine](#) and [the United States](#) as they journey through this youth tournament. The two national teams happen to both be in Group D and play each other on May 24th. Also, in their group are [Nigeria](#) and [Qatar](#). The latter two should not be much of a threat, but games in group stages like this should not be taken for granted.

Youth tournaments give a chance for the younger, up-and-coming, players to showcase their potential and represent their nation on an international level. Some of these young talents will also be talked about when summer transfer windows open around the globe.

Lineups and Key Players:

The two teams play each other first in the group.

We know that [Ukraine](#) will play with a 4-5-1 formation, heavily relying on its midfield and risking isolating of one of their most prolific young players – Vladyslav Supriaha. The striker was born in the year 2000, plays for one of the bigger domestic clubs [Dynamo Kyiv](#) is a balanced attacker with speed.

Another valuable player for [Ukraine](#) in this tournament, without doubt, is Andriy Lunin. This 20-year-old goalkeeper became a [Real Madrid](#) player as early in his career as last year. He now plays on loan for [CD Leganes](#) as he continues his development but be sure to lookout for him, as he will likely soon be back with [Real Madrid](#) in [LaLiga](#).

As for the [United States](#) team, it will feature a now traditional, Dutch-designed 4-3-3 formation. Given the types of players that [United States](#) have, speedy and aggressive, they will likely utilize this formation to play on counterattacks. A key player to point out, and he has been the center of attention for some time now, is [Timothy Weah](#) of [Paris Saint-Germain](#).

While he currently plays in Scotland, on-loan at [Celtic F.C.](#), [Weah](#) was born in New York to the President of Liberia and 1995 FIFA Player of the Year - George Weah. That's

right, he has a lot to live up to in his career. This tournament is yet another chance to do that. Against [Ukraine](#), the younger [Weah](#) is starting in the central Striker position.

Another internationally recognized American player is [Konrad De La Fuente](#), a Barcelona born attacker who plays in Spain for Barcelona B. At 5'7", he is also a fast, technical player who will be crucial when linking up with the rest of the team.

Since he plays for Barcelona B, a reserve team for giants Barcelona we all know, it is yet to be seen if he has patience to stay and develop there or if he will seek a transfer during the summer to move somewhere where he can get more playing time. If it were me, I would try to stay and make my way into the main Barcelona team, but young players are often jumpy when it comes to where they play. The American-Spanish protégé will start on the right wing in this game.

We shall see if [Ukraine](#) can survive American counterattacks, and if the United States players can be fruitful on the counter in this late-Spring fixture in Poland.

My prediction: match will end with a 2-2 draw and [Weah](#) will score at least one goal.

Stay tuned for my update from the game itself on May 24th! There will be entries during halftime and afterwards.

It will be televised on Fox Sports 1 if you would like to watch the game yourself.

Entry 2:

UA & US Play an Exciting Game: 1-1 at Halftime

Last time I discussed the lineups and key players for this game. So far [Weah](#), De La Fuente and the rest of the U.S. team looked sharp, but Ukraine was equal to it – hence the score. [Ukraine](#) took charge through a hole in Americans' disorganized defense, scoring in the 26th minute. [Weah](#) set up a simple goal for [Brandon Servania](#) to equalize in the 32nd.

As I was concerned with [Ukraine](#)'s lineup previously, Supriaha is looking a bit isolated at the front for his country. He has had to act much more like a hold-up striker, rather than a full-out attacking one.

Except for the couple of yellow cards for Ukrainian players, both teams are playing quite maturely for their age. This consists of mostly passing the ball around in the back and looking for opportunities. Although, I can easily tell that this is a U-20 game because simple mistakes are occasionally made.

To add to the situation, [Nigeria](#) beat [Qatar](#) earlier in the day, meaning that a draw would not at this time suit either [Ukraine](#) or the [United States](#). This means that both teams will

push on in the second half. If it stays like this, they will be behind [Nigeria](#) on points, and will have to work extra hard to win in the next two games.

Ukraine has been looking solid and dangerous on corner kicks and other set-pieces, while [the United States](#) team has looked better and more confident in possession.

Stay tuned for an entry after the game is over!

Entry 3:

Discipline Over Talent: UA 2-1 US

As the title I came up with may suggest, teamwork and discipline overcame speed and talent as [Ukraine's](#) Popov scored a header from a set-piece to make the score 2-1 in the second half. Not to suggest that Ukrainians are less talented, but they took that aspect out of the equation for the Americans by playing in an orderly fashion.

[Ukraine's](#) prevalence as an aerial threat continued in build up to the goal, meanwhile the Americans' confidence in possession went down. It went down further after conceding, and they played with nerves for the rest of the game.

Here is where my previous analysis is a bit humbled. Supriaha and [De La Fuente](#) had a rather frustrating game. The Ukrainian striker did not play a large role in creating the goal and had several late challenges which brought him close to a caution from the referee. He spent most of the game putting pressure on the back line, and in a way that's part of the job.

[De La Fuente](#) was often isolated because of the nature of the 4-3-3 formation, mostly had to fight for the ball, and was substituted in the last 10 minutes of the game.

Both formations 4-5-1 and 4-3-3 have their weaknesses, and it was the latter one that showed them more this time.

The [United States](#) have a lot more work to do to figure out how to get the best out of their talents and mold them in to a team. They will face [Nigeria](#) next, while [Qatar](#) will be figuring out [Ukraine's](#) set-pieces.