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England U20 1-1 Colombia U20: Cauley Woodrow strikes again as Young Lions scrape into third place play-off in Toulon

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At least Gareth Southgate ended the evening with a smile. Having been in the middle of a post-game television interview, he was unexpectedly soaked by a sprinkler system roaring to life.

He saw the comedy in the moment, laughing as he relayed the story, but when talk turned to England's 1-1 draw with Colombia, Southgate's tone changed. The objective of reaching the third place play-off may have been achieved but the way it was achieved left something to be desired.



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Dampner: Gareth Southgate was soaked by sprinkler during post-match interview

Gareth Southgate Sprayed by Sprinkler at Toulon



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The subdued atmosphere in the England dressing room confirmed that a dampener had been put on celebrations, not just on Southgate.

'We have not played in the manner that we would have wanted to do and the lads are disappointed,' said Southgate, after England squeezed out of Group B with five points from four games to set up a date with Portugal in Avignon.



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On target: Cauley Woodrow scores for England under-20s as they drew 1-1 with Colombia in Toulon



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Promising: England celebrate Woodrow's opener at Lagrange Stadium in Toulon



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Level-pegging: Jhoao Rodriguez celebrates his 62nd-minute equaliser against England

Match facts

England: Butland, Dier (Michael Keane 32), Gibson, Moore, Browning, McEachran (Forster-Caskey 19), Cousins, March, Obita, Will Keane (Chalobah 74), Woodrow (Redmond 67).

Subs: Bond, Gabutt, Ward-Prowse, Berahino, Smith.

Goal: Woodrow 15.

Booked: Dier, March.

Colombia: Montero, Tello, Quintero, Hernandez, Londono, Renteria (Mosquera 54), Ayala, Torres, Dario Rodriguez (Quinones 57), Jhoao Rodriguez, Rafael Borre (Barrera 70).

Subs: Vazquez, Angulo, Zapata, Orejuela, Sanchez, Arangao.

Goal: Jhoao Rodriguez 68.

Booked: Torres, Tello, Jhoao Rodriguez.

'Part of the reason for coming here was for a group of lads who have not played together to get experience and we had to show resilience and character. In the end they have done well to get a result in a game that matters and withstood pressure. Sometimes you have to grind it out.'

As England have discovered, this is a tournament like no other. From games being staged in park stadiums that back on to motorways and railway lines to post-match press conferences being conducted in changing rooms and portakabins, Toulon is full of idiosyncrasies.

But there is no question that it serves an important purpose in the development of a young footballer and every England player will look back on the past 10 days and recognise the purpose coming here has served.

Starting with Qatar before moving to contests with Brazil and South Korea, each opponent they have faced has presented a different challenge and the same was true here against a young Colombia that were determined to save face after only taking a point from their first three matches.

They started brightly. England struggled to cope with a bobbly, dry pitch and a strong wind that made ball control difficult and Colombia caused some uncomfortable moments, forcing a number of mistakes from Southgate's side.



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Intensity: England's Jordan Cousins puts his body on the line in a challenge with Jhoan Ayala

'It was a game where first half we just had to play the conditions,' said England's head coach. 'It was remarkable really with the wind and it was difficult because balls that were played along the ground were holding up. The surface was quite sticky as well.'

A dreadful error, however, in the 15th minute from Colombia defenders Aldyar Hernandez and Daniel Londodo changed the complexion of the contest and allowed Fulham's Cauley Woodrow build on his encouraging performance against South Korea to score his second goal in as many games.

There appeared to be no sign of danger when Jordan Cousins lofted a ball forward but Hernandez and Londodo collided with each other and the ball fell to Woodrow, who kept his composure to sweep a right-footed shot beyond goalkeeper Alvaro Montero.

Colombia responded with a free-kick from Johao Rodriguez that fizzed just past Jack Butland's post but, other than that, England had little trouble keeping them at arms' length – the Stoke goalkeeper never had a shot to save before the break.



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Under pressure: Josh McEachran (right) keeps his cool as Colombian defenders push England all the way

The biggest concern for Southgate was the injuries England sustained; both Chelsea's Josh McEachran and Eric Dier of Sporting Lisbon hobbled off in the opening half hour and his best laid plans of resting key men were ruined, as both Michael Keane and Jake Forster-Caskey came on.

After the break, England were anything but comfortable as Colombia produced their spell of the tournament. The longer they kept the ball, the deeper England dropped and it became a case of all hands to the pump to preserve the lead.

Sensing danger, Southgate switched formation and called on both Nathaniel Chalobah and Nathan Redmond to keep Colombia at bay but, eventually, the South Americans' weight of possession told and Rodriguez levelled in the 69th minute, poking in Andres Tello's cross.

It then became a case of whether England could hang on for the remaining 10 minutes but they came perilously close to buckling as both Gustavo Torres and substitute

Rodin Quinones fired good chances into the side-netting. Eventually, Southgate's charges recovered to run down the clock.

'We can play better,' he said. 'But if we can beat Portugal, we can go home very happy with what we have done.'



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[Wajake](#), Thurrock, United Kingdom, 26 minutes ago

Having watched all their matches, I can only think that all the other teams must be complete rubbish too. The only real class came from Redmond, and they left him isolated out on the left for much of the time, with no service. There were 4 players in that team who, quite frankly, just cannot play Football. Thankfully, our U17's look to be excellent, so with a bit of luck the U20's generation can be skipped in a few years time.

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[Mrq](#), Maidstone, United Kingdom, 7 hours ago

Another poor performance.

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