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The USMNT take on Wales in their opening fixture of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Gregg Berhalter's side will come up against a Wales side that includes Los Angeles FC's Gareth Bale. The two nations meet at the Ahmad bin Ali Stadium in Al Rayyan. England and Iran are competing in Group B alongside the USMNT and Wales.

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The wait for both teams is over. For one, it's been eight agonizing years after disappointment in a small Caribbean island led to missing out on the 2018 World Cup. For the other, eight years sounds like a dream after ending a 64-year drought.

The match between the USA men's national team and Wales essentially qualifies as a playoff to the knockout rounds given many assume that one of the two berths from Group B will go to mighty England.

It means that neither the Americans or Welsh can afford to slip up. The reward for a potential winner is not just three points in the Group B standings, but also the virtual elimination of their direct competitor with matches against England and Iran on the horizon.

The USA returns to the World Cup after missing out in 2018 following an embarrassing qualification elimination. Meanwhile, Wales are making their first World Cup appearance since 1958, as superstar Gareth Bale continues to take the team to new heights after a Euro semifinal finish in 2016 and a Euro 2021 Round of 16 berth.

Bale hasn't played much club football in recent years due to injury, and in the last four months he's been plying his trade with American club LAFC, seldom playing but still helping them to their first Major League Soccer title with a heroic performance in the final on November 5.

Sporting News is tracking live scoring updates and highlights for USA vs. Wales at the 2022 World Cup. Follow below for complete results from the Group B match in Qatar.

The United States men's national team will play their first game at a men's FIFA World Cup for the first time in 3,065 days when they battle Wales Monday. It's Group B play and the Americans are back in the biggest competition in the world after failing to qualify for the 2018 edition. They will battle a Welsh team that made it to the cup through the playoff route with Gareth Bale leading the way.

Here's our storylines, how you can watch the match and more -- and while you're at it, sign up for our new newsletter covering the beautiful game in all its glory, including daily updates about the World Cup, [here](#).

Eight years, four months, and 20 days. That's how long it has been since the United States men's national team last played in the World Cup. Now, finally, the wait is over.

The Americans make their long-awaited return to soccer's biggest stage as they begin their 2022 FIFA World Cup campaign on Monday. The opponents? Gareth Bale and the Dragons of Wales.

The USA has a young squad led by star players Christian Pulisic (Chelsea), Gio Reyna (Borussia Dortmund) and Weston McKinnie (Juventus). There is no shortage of talent on head coach Gregg Berhalter's roster, but a lack of experience could prove to be a major hurdle. A matchup against a strong Welsh team that includes Bale — once the most expensive player in the world — will be a challenging start to the tournament.

In the World Cup, getting off to a good start is crucial. Former USMNT star Clint Dempsey spoke recently about the importance of the opening game.

"For me, it's the first game," he said. "You can't lose the first game. It's a mountain to climb. You have to win or draw at the least, in my opinion. To have a successful World Cup, I think you've got to get out of the group and get to the knockout stages and then anything can happen from there."

Wales will make their first appearance at a World Cup finals in 64 years when they face the USA in Al Rayyan in their Group B opener on Monday night.

This fixture will complete the first round of fixtures in Group B, an intriguing section involving England and Iran which could be very tight.

The US are back at the World Cup finals after missing the 2018 edition in dismal fashion following a defeat in Trinidad & Tobago in their final qualifier.

This time around, it was still a close run affair in a very difficult qualifying section where the top four nations were separated by just three points, but the USA managed to claim one of the three automatic spots, just ahead of Costa Rica.

