Brody Lange World Soccer
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In week one, I wrote about the German National Team entering a new era under Jürgen Klopp, whose unique style of play could spark a revival of German football dominance. Germany opened their Nations League campaign against the Netherlands with a 1-1 draw, thanks to a late equalizer from Cody Gakpo. They followed that with a loss to Greece, a win over Serbia, and a draw in the rematch with Greece. In total, they finished with 5 points from four games and sit third in Group A2, trailing Greece and the Netherlands. The first squad played solidly in its two games but came away with little to show for it. A late goal from the Netherlands turned a win into a tie, and a deflected goal handed Greece their first-ever win against Germany. Germany didn't play particularly poorly but they couldn't do enough to earn a result in either game. The second squad delivered on home soil, beating Serbia 2-0 in Munich with goals from Tom Bischof and Florian Wirtz. In their second game, they faced Greece again and settled for a draw despite dominating possession with 70% and outshooting Greece 21 to 5. circumstances matter: a new coach, an experiment with two squads totaling 44 players, lots of debuts for young players and new faces, and the work of establishing team principles with returning players. While 5 points from 4 games is not great, there is no need to panic. In a way, this was expected. What we saw is that Germany can still control games at an elite level but lack the finishing to put the ball in the back of the net and win games. That is a very fixable problem.It might not look like a success on the scoresheet, but I believe this is a very good start for Klopp and Germany as they take strides toward the top once again. They are officially on the clock.

