Playing on a rain-soaked field, the U.S. women's soccer team advanced to the World Cup final by beating France 3-1 on Wednesday in Moenchengladbach, Germany.

After the game, Team USA ran onto the field celebrating their hard-won victory over a determined French team that outplayed them everywhere but on the scoreboard. "I'm exhausted. I need a rest," U.S. coach Pia Sundhage said in postgame comments amid pandemonium from her players. Forgive the U.S. women's soccer team if they seem to be partying like it's 1999.

That was the last time they won the World Cup, led by Mia Hamm. Wednesday, the heroics belonged to Abby Wambach, the star forward for Team USA, who came through in the clutch for the second straight match. Against Brazil on Sunday, the U.S. came from behind to win a thriller after Wambach scored on a cross from teammate Megan Rapinoe to tie the match.

This time the four-time Soccer Athlete of the Year winner scored off a corner kick by Lauren Cheney to break a 1-1 tie -- and seemed to break the French team's spirits. After the game, U.S. goalie Hope Solo said she has confidence her team can win it all. "The confidence comes from our preparation and because we know we're damn good," she said. The second semifinal Wednesday pits Sweden against Japan. The winners will meet for the title on Sunday.