



Northern Light



Adventure Awaits: The 8th Grade Heads to Camp Coleman

By Joshua Shulman

On May 13th, 2026, the 8th graders of North Middle School traveled to Camp Coleman, a day camp located at 55 Babylon Turnpike. It was a perfect day for what was considered a perfect trip.

At 7:15 AM, you needed to arrive at school. Students were loaded onto buses by groups and taken 45 minutes out to the camp at around 7:45. Freedom to choose seats were given. (I sat next to my friends, and most others did as well). Upon arrival, the groups were seated and given a full rundown of the day.

The first half of the day was an introduction to the camp, as we were guided to the highlights of the trip. Each group was assigned an amazing counselor, each going to/went to different colleges (This was very important to most students). Some of the notable highlights include gaga, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, and soccer. These were done in groups. Gaga was one of the most notable out of the others. The camp featured three big gaga pits and a wall full of champions. Other activities included rock climbing (with many walls), a ropes course, and mini golf. One highlight for most students was the pedal boating. Each pedal boat could fit four to five students. The two in the back would steer and the people in the front would guide the boat through the pond. As expected, it was not that simple for most and turned into a game of water bumper cars, which most found to be much more fun (myself included).

Halfway through the day, we were gathered back to our tables where we set down our stuff. Then came mine, and many others, the personal highlight of the trip: Lunch. The lunch featured everything from grilled cheese to pizza to watermelon. There was a full salad bar with salads ranging from Caesar to potato. Everyone got one choice of soda.

After lunch, we were then free to choose our next activity as long as it wasn't already full. Any activities that reached capacity were required to rotate out after some time. After three rotations and many activities (again, with complete freedom), we were gathered back to our tables one last time. Everyone was given ice cream as we said our goodbyes. After gathering our belongings, we loaded back onto the buses and headed out. A full day of adventure from 7:35 to 4:30, making a trip to remember. This was a truly memorable trip, and I hope all you future 7th and 6th graders are able to enjoy this experience with your friends, because trust me when I say that it was amazing.

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Music to Our Ears: NMS Musicians Take the Stage

By Brian Huang

The lights go out. Colorful spotlights point onto a ready orchestra. The conductor's arms go up, and then a wonderful sound echoes through the beautiful auditorium.

This was the scene at the 6th grade spring concert on May 18, 2026. The sixth graders of Great Neck North Middle School did an excellent job of playing their instruments, or singing.

The 6th graders have been preparing for this night as early as January, and they sounded wonderful! On the night of the concert students arrived around 6:15, with the concert beginning sharply at 7. The spring concert began with the orchestra, followed by the chorus, and then the band. Highlights from the concert were the pieces "Fun Fun Fun," "Everything is Awesome," and "Calypso."

At the end, they found out that it was still very bright out. I am looking forward to next year's concert for sure!



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Squishies in NMS

By Sophia Yi

Squishies have been around for a long time now, but suddenly, their popularity has grown by A LOT in NMS. Every single day, there is at least one kid who has one in their hand, or in their bags. Nobody knows exactly how it got this popular and maybe who influenced this, but peoples' sudden love of squishies did not start at the beginning of the school year.

The squishies' fame didn't completely start this school year. Last year, people were obsessed with taba squishies. This might be one of the reasons why the students at NMS love all types of squishies this year. It started out with just a few kids bringing squishies to school as a way to calm them, or a stress reliever. At first, most teachers didn't mind the squishies at all. Nobody was disturbing class, so nobody cared about them. Gradually, more and more students started to bring their own squishies in to play or fidget with. Still, no teachers minded at all because it still wasn't disrupting anything. But after a while, students started to trade squishies with each other and soon, the squishies were definitely disrupting class. People were comparing, trading, and complaining about how the squishies were fake. Sometimes people would go to other kids in class just to talk about their new squishies that they got. Some kids even started to bring in these gigantic squishies that took up a fourth of their desks. Two of the most popular types of squishies are the needoh and the dumplings/glitter dumplings. They are very fun to play with.

This went on for a while until they became a distraction and Mr. Nelson had to ban squishies entirely. He sent out an email to all the parents, so that they were aware as well. Students were extremely annoyed about this and complain constantly about how this was so "unfair," but this might only be considered unfair to the kids who actually need them in class to help with stress. Some kids just want them to play with them in class, trade with others, or just to have them for show.

In addition to being a distraction, squishies have caused other problems in the classroom. A lot of students' squishies would pop in the middle of class and then they would have to run into the bathroom to wash their hands and throw out their squishy. Some squishies like the water bead squishy have dangerous chemicals in it and can cause irritation to your skin and other things that you probably don't want to experience.

Not very surprisingly, it isn't just NMS that loves squishies. Many other schools and people around the world also have squishy collections and that stuff. The popularity of squishies is a world wide thing. There are huge lines at places like Target, five below, and Walmart just to get Needohs when they restock. I think it's fair that squishies are banned, considering how much it disrupts class, though I don't think it should be banned to all students because some students don't actually disrupt class.



Advice from Miss Know-It-All

Dear Miss Know-It-All,
I had this huge secret that I told my friends, then a few days later, students started spreading rumors about me and that secret. Should I trust them? What should I do!?

Sincerely,
Exposed



Dear Exposed,
It seems like your friends can't keep secrets to themselves. Think about what you want to say for a couple of days, so you have thought it through, and then you can tell them what's really going on. Think about if you want to trust them with secrets in the future, and think about if you might stay separated from them until further notice.

Sincerely,
Miss Know-It-All

Dear Miss Know-It-All,
I've been on social media and talking to my friend group. Then I've started receiving creepy texts from people I don't know ,and it's starting to creep me out. Should I tell my parents?

Sincerely,
Creeped Out



Dear Creeped Out,
I think that you should just tell your parents about the situation and let them handle it. If not, you should immediately stop talking to them if you started, and you should maybe stay away from social media or delete the app.

Sincerely,
Miss Know-It-All



Technology News

Safe Use of Social Media

By Stella Lin

Introduction

How much time do you spend on your devices each day? 1 hour? 3? 4? Even 8? Now how much of that time was spent on social media? Platforms like YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat are big examples of social media, and almost every teen has used one more than once. But do you really know how to use social media in the best way possible?

What is Social Media?

Social media is apps or websites that allow people to share, communicate, and voice their opinions. People can post or watch what other people post, enabling them to have conversations with people all across the world. Social media is revolutionary and teens of every age use it. A LOT.

Online Predators

About one hundred and **twenty-two million** people watch YouTube per day and about **one billion** people watch Tik Tok per day. Around **five billion** people are on social media as a whole. Why is this important? Because there are also about **five hundred thousand** adults pretending to be kids per day online. According to F.B.I., over fifty percent of online predators actually target teens at the age range of twelve to fifteen. Strangers roam every single corner of social media apps, and they don't always have the best intentions. Strange people are mostly the reason why you never give personal information such as your birthday, address, and phone number. If you are to ever come across someone online asking for information or photos, block them, report them, speak to trusted adult(s). Random people can make you feel better but that is not always their goal.

Time Limits

Most teenagers spend about five hours on social media, and only fourteen percent of teens say four hours or less. Electronic devices damage our eyes and can take away precious time. Try to find a way to create a habit of resting and staying away from your phone or laptop or anything of the sort. As said in the book *The Amazing Generation*, boredom helps people try new things, and honestly social media can help with that. Some teens can claim that social media actually gives them more creativity and ideas rather than diminishing them. So next time if you ever find something fun or innovative, try it!

Another thing is that social media platforms can take away from your time in the real world. Studies show that social media depletes a lot of time teens and kids spend together. Sure, gaming can strengthen bonds and is a way to interact with your friends, but maybe even it out a little more. Baking, board games, and sports are all very fun activities. Whether it is gaming or watching videos, they can be done *anywhere* so try not to spend too much time in person interacting through the screens.

Don't Spread the Hate

Hate spreads through social media quickly and often. Social media platforms are a way to share opinions, but not everyone filters their words before they comment. Many YouTubers, when asked what they wish they learned when they started YouTube, say that they wished they knew how toxic the social media community is. You can help improve our social media environment, even if it seems impossible to change an entire community built of all different kinds of people, good and bad. A nice compliment or encouragement can do a lot, and even if it doesn't seem like it, it is nice to know that you tried.



Technology News

Safe Use of Social Media Continued...

Cyber Bullying

This is an issue many have shown concern in. Cyber Bullying is not the easiest problem to solve. According to the article, “LGBTQ+ Youth and Bullying,” many LGBTQ teens experience cyber bullying. Bullying isn’t good nor healthy for anyone. If you ever witness or experience cyber bullying (hopefully not), tell a grown up. Even if you might not want to or you are not comfortable to, tell a trusted adult who you know can help you. Though it doesn’t sound like a task that people are willing to do, it is usually very effective. Also, in addition to that, if you ever witness cyber bullying, don’t join the bully.

Addiction to Addition

Don’t let yourself rely on social media, because it is really the other way around. As mentioned in *The Amazing Generation*, social media platform creators depend on our attention. They make you produce dopamine and want to spend all your time and attention on a screen. Maybe you are having troubles in school, at home, etc., but social media won’t ever be the best solution. It is more like a drug than a medicine and is very hard to pull away from. Phones and other devices should be an enjoyment and not something that intoxicates you.

Conclusion

Social media isn’t something you have to be deprived of, but always use it in a responsible way and fight against the hold social media has on our generation. Hopefully you are now able to see social media as a tool and won’t let it EVER control you.

Summer Screen Time Advice

By Lily Weinberg

I know we love our phones, (trust me I know). But sometimes it’s good to go outside. This summer we should have 4 main goals:

1. GET OFF YOUR PHONE
2. Sleep more
3. Hang out with your friends
4. (Last but not least) SPEND TIME OUTSIDE!

I know that might seem hard. But I'm here to help you think of ways to go outside more, but still help you achieve the things on your list. Here’s some things you can do outside with your friends:

1. Go to camp (sleepaway or day camp)
2. Go to the pool/beach
3. Take walks with friends
4. Go to the park with friends
5. Go and play some outdoor sports with peers

There are many more where that came from. Now here’s some ways to spend time outside, while still relaxing and giving yourself time to catch up on sleep:

1. Read a book outside
2. Take a MORNING or EARLY afternoon walk
3. Tan/hang out by the pool/beach

It might seem almost IMPOSSIBLE to not be on your phone ALL summer, and to be fair, it might be. But if you take some of that time away this summer, you will have more time to have fun and appreciate this beautiful time of year. So, what are you doing this summer?

Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE

Board Game Recommendations

By Maya Halpert

Spring has sprung, and whether you're staying inside through a rainy May shower or winding down after a day in the sun, it's the perfect time to break out some board games! You might be a fan of the classics or prefer some more obscure games, but either way, tabletop games are always a fun way to pass an hour or two. Below are my personal favorites which I highly recommend, all of which are as unique as they are fun.

The Game of Life

This classic Hasbro game has become something of a staple of American board game culture, and for good reason. The basic gameplay is that two to six players will spin a wheel to move their plastic cars across the board, which represents life. Along the way, players will have to make many choices that will affect their life, like going to college, getting married, buying a house, or even having kids.

In most versions, players will also take event cards on almost every turn, which contain events from art contests to suing another player. In staying true to American culture, the main goal of the game is to accumulate as much money as possible before retirement. Once a player reaches retirement, they must wait for the other players so everyone can count up their money and see who won. Just like in real life, the goal is not to rush through life to get to retirement, but instead to make the most out of the experience, and have fun while doing it.

The colorful board only adds to the endless charm of the game, which is complete with illustrations for every milestone throughout your "life." This game offers a more relaxed energy than some of the others on this list, which makes it perfect for families to play together, or anyone who wants less strategic gameplay and more wonky fun.

Back to the Future: Back In Time

If you're looking for an immersive, nail-biting board game to transform your game night, look no further. This cult classic, developed by the acclaimed Prospero Hall, is a cooperative game based on the blockbuster film of the same name. You do not need to have seen the films to play the game, although it will make a lot more sense and you will appreciate and enjoy it far more if you have. Fans of the film will love that just like in *Back To The Future*, players must make George and Lorraine fall in love, prepare the DeLorean for time travel by gathering all its parts, and prevent Biff and his gang from sabotaging everything, all before the clock strikes 10:04 PM. Players have the choice to play as Einstein, Marty, Doc Brown, or Jennifer Parker, and each character has their own special ability.

This brings us to the real nuance of the game, which is that you use little squares that have actions on them to play on your turn. There are also Action, Trouble, and Movement cards, and Item cards you can claim for resolving Trouble cards. Needless to say, *Back In Time* is a bit more complicated than your average board game. However, it is definitely a fun and exciting board game - if you have the time to learn all the rules.

Ticket To Ride

Ticket To Ride is an award-winning board game focused solely on building cross-country railroad networks. The goal of this board game is to have the most amount of points before all the claimable tracks are full. These points can be accumulated in several different ways. Some ways to score points are claiming railway routes on the board, which pictures a map with cities and locations on it, and completing destination tickets, which means you have connected two far away cities with your railway. Additionally, you can collect a ten-point bonus for having the longest continuous railway out of all the players, but you can only collect these points at the very end of the game. Your railway will consist of plastic train cars in your color that are placed across the board.

The original edition of the game has the board depicting a map of North America, although several other versions of the game have been published since then. If you enjoy the original game, you can also purchase variants that take place in London, Berlin, Asia, or Japan. Some are even made for fewer players, like the Nordic Countries version. There is also a Europe edition that introduces new playing features like ferries and train stations. This board game is great for everyone of all ages, but especially if you're looking for a bit more friendly competition and light strategy.

Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

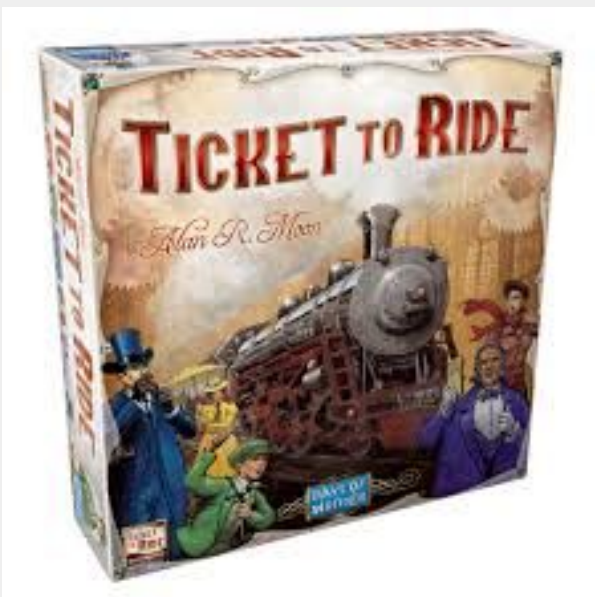
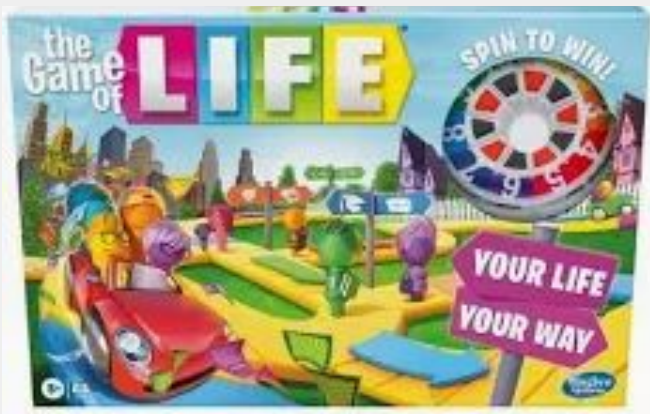
Board Game Recommendations Continued...

Clue

If you prefer a game night with a bit more drama— think, “It was Miss Scarlet in the kitchen with the candlestick!”— then Clue is probably already your favorite game. Filled with rainy nights and rickety old mansions, Clue takes players into a classic murder mystery. Players can choose between the mysterious characters Mr. Green, Miss Scarlet, Mrs. White, Professor Plum, Colonel Mustard, and Ms. Peacock, all of which are represented by their color as a little plastic piece on the board.

The game starts by telling players that each of them was invited to Mr. Boddy’s dinner party at his mysterious Boddy Mansion, which is pictured on the game board. Things go downhill from there when Mr. Boddy is found murdered, and it becomes clear that one of the six guests has committed the crime. The murderer is chosen randomly and their character’s card is placed in an envelope, so no one knows who it is. In this way, even the murderer will not know of their true identity, so everyone gets to play the same way. The other elements of the murder, which are the location and the murder weapon, are chosen in the same manner, and players must uncover all three mysteries to win the game. Younger siblings may have more difficulty playing the game, though, since they may not be able to comprehend the strategy of deduction until they are nine or ten years old. Still, Clue makes for a wonderful addition to any game night that is looking for some intrigue and moodiness.

In the end, whichever board games you decide to play this season, make sure to play with family or friends that you like spending time with. The true purpose of board games is to bring people together through enjoyable and engaging gaming experiences that they are sure to cherish. So go gather some loved ones, open up a board game box, and get ready to have an unforgettable time.



Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

Popular Vacation Destinations

By Isabel Santiago-Torres

Thinking of going somewhere fun for the summer with your family? Then this article is for you! As you read I will provide you with multiple ideas on where you can have your fun this summer!

A popular place for family and friends to go to is Disney! This paradise is wonderful, fun and magical! It's great for going with the family and having fun! I'm talking about... DISNEY! But whichever one you go to, you can explore magical places and kingdoms, and there are plenty of rides to go on!

Don't know where to stay? No worries! The Walt Disney World resort gives you and your family a wonderful experience! There are also many more hotels that you can stay in with your family that you will all enjoy. But some hotels are very expensive, so you can rent an AirBnB for much cheaper. Just make sure that you book your room early and ahead of time so someone else doesn't buy the same one as you! You can also go to Sea World and stay there, where it's just as fun! Now we are going to be diving into a new experience.

Thinking of getting the ultimate experience? I highly recommend a resort in Cancun, Mexico! It's called RoyalTon, and the name sounds like just what it is! There are tons of restaurants and food cuisines! There is a sports bar too, and you obviously can't forget about the pool right next to the ocean too! I stayed there with my family and friends, and I highly recommend it!

Next we have everyone's dream vacation! Hawaii!! The experiences and their resorts are next level. It may not be as big as you think, but it still counts! The islands hold many creatures and landscapes. The water in the beaches are so clear, and the history behind it is really fascinating too! Also, the sunsets are amazing and really beautiful. It's obviously family friendly!

Another amazing destination is a luxurious resort in South Carolina! The drive there is approximately 12 hours, but you could obviously take breaks in between. I went there last summer with my family, and it was beautiful. There are activities every day that start at different times. There's also an activity room and a gym. Different activities may include making your DIY slime, decorating a DIY Tumbler, making bracelets, or even painting shells! There is a beach right next to the pool and it's called Myrtle Beach. They are also a ton of good places to eat. Stay in the Hilton hotel, which provides good service for you and your family! And the hotel is right next to the whole resort and is part of it too!

If you plan on going or staying in any of these hotels, I wish you the best summer with your family! But if you don't already have something planned this summer, you might want to look at this article if you don't know where to go. This could also be useful to decide if you want to go somewhere for spring break or any break, not just for summer vacation. Whatever you're doing this summer, make it count! And save this for when you have no idea where you are going to go for the summer!



Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

Things to Do in Great Neck

By Melanie Zhang

Great Neck is a really cool place to visit because there is so much to see and do. There are lots of different spots to explore, from quiet neighborhoods to busy areas with people everywhere. Whether you want to hang out with your friends or find something new to learn about, Great Neck is a fun place to spend the day!

Great Neck has lots of awesome parks where you can run around, hike on forest trails, or just hang out and play with your friends! For example, Allenwood Park is a large park that is a great place to run around, with a big field, playgrounds, and even a duck pond! There's also Firefighter Park, with a large field area, a gazebo, sprinklers to play in, and a fun realistic firehouse play area! These are only a few of the many amazing parks around Great Neck. Make sure to check them out!

Great Neck is famous for its delicious restaurants! A few places are Soku, Great Neck Dinner, Gino's, Rothchilds, and Chipotle! Many of these restaurants are family friendly and popular! Great Neck also has many, many refreshing drink places, like Mr. Wish, Yaas Tea, and Kung Fu Tea.

Let's say it's your birthday and you want to do something special to celebrate it. Well, Great Neck is home to many activity areas, like spas (The Great Neck Butterfly Spa), pottery painting (Muddworks), indoor bouncy houses (Pump it Up), indoor golfing (Lounge X), and so much more!

In summary, Great Neck is a beautiful place to visit with your family and friends. It can keep you active and busy, especially on days off!



Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

Summer

By Lily Weinberg

Spring time was fun, but now it's
done
Umbrellas are being put away for
another day
Many beautiful days ahead, but
still more time in my bed
Many new adventurers, no more
lectures
Evenings are fast, this season is
gonna be a blast
Relaxing by the pool, bye bye
school!

Innocent

By Becky Aguirre

Innocent
Innocent is what they say when you're innocent
But they never really heard both sides of the stories
Did they?
Imagine what they would say to someone who did the bad
But they are in favor of them
Did they hear both sides of the story?
They probably judged based on how they look
Not the story
Because everyone has their story
On how they became like this
But they judge you on based off how you look
Don't they?
They can look at someone who is dressed all grunge
And they would say that they did the bad
But what about the innocent girl
With the innocent eyes
With the innocent smile
That she carries with her
What about her?
She knows that she can deceive them
Because deep down she would've done the bad
So maybe we should stop judging the book
Because we never know the backup story to their looks
and actions.



Comics

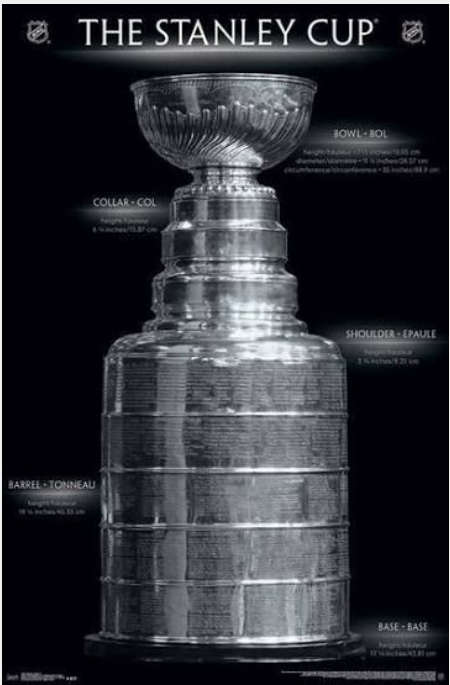


The Path To Glory

By Ethan Lu

The NHL playoffs are big. This year 16 teams fight for the biggest sports prize of all time, the Stanley Cup. One will win. In an unexpected twist, the Stanley cup finalists, the Edmonton Oilers, were defeated by the Minnesota Wild in an exciting playoff series. Fans were stunned by the results.

The playoffs are all about action, hits, and goals. Players try their hardest in every game. Many games have gone to the most exciting part: overtime. Keeping fans glued to their seats, goalies have made spectacular saves, and the best players have made a crowd go wild. Each and every team is fighting to win the Stanley cup. Crowds in the arenas have brought incredible energy and the atmosphere has made every hockey game intense and bigger. As the playoffs continue the pressure gets even greater for every team still fighting for the cup. A mistake could change an entire game and one goal could change an entire series. Coaches work hard and players play hard. Fans will be watching closely to see who is the strongest toughest and hardest working team. That team just might win the biggest sports prize of all time: the Stanley Cup



Champions League

By Derick Chen

One of the biggest tournaments in the world is... the CHAMPIONS LEAGUE! The best clubs in the world play against each other for one prestigious trophy. Some players include Harry Kane, Olise, and many more.

In this year's 2026 UEFA Champions League, Arsenal played Paris Saint-Germain. Arsenal did really well in this year's Champions League but just barely came in second place. Arsenal has sadly never won a Champions League title before and came in second many times. But they are in first for the Premier League and five points ahead of Manchester City.

PSG pushed past Arsenal and claimed their second consecutive Champions League in a row. When Mbappé was at PSG, his team was very bad and didn't win the Trophy, but the minute he left, PSG became the best team in the world and won two Champion League trophies. Now Mbappé is at Real Madrid, and Real Madrid can't win any titles. That is bad luck right there.

The most highlighted players of this tournament are Harry Kane and Olise! Both of them play for Bayern Munich and are also high contenders for the 2026 Ballon d'or! Harry Kane used to be a bad luck charm, and he was like Mbappé, but now, his luck has turned a huge way around. Olise was just a common player for a really good team, and now he's one of the best, if not the best player in the world.

