The Championship Cup Sabotage

Grade 9 math · Multiplication, Multi-step word problems, Word problems, Two-step equations, Division · Reading level grades 7-9

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

Hours before the national cup final, someone tampered with the stadium sprinklers and hidden tactical cameras. Decipher the clues from the locker room footage to unmask the guilty athlete.

1. Solve each math problem. The answer is a number, and the letter beside it is what that number stands for.
2. In the clue boxes, write that letter in every box showing the same number, then read the secret clue.
3. Use each clue to cross suspects off the list. The one suspect left at the end is the culprit!

My answer: the stadium saboteur is _____

Possible suspects

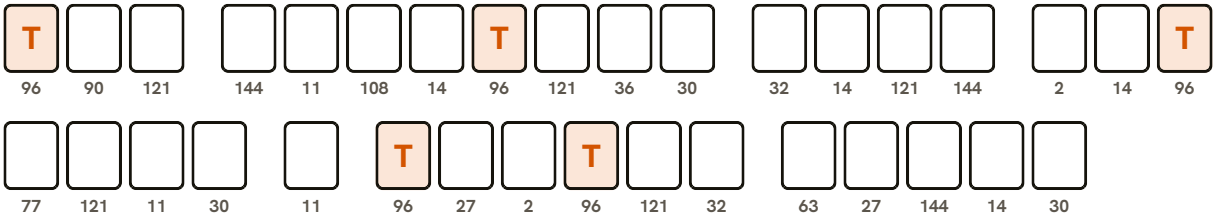
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	SIGNATURE MOVE	GEAR CHOICE	DOMINANT FOOT	HAIRSTYLE	TACTICAL COUNTER
Luka Modric	Corner Curling	Tinted Visor	Right Footed	Braided Dreads	High Press Defense
Jude Bellingham	Knuckleball Strike	GPS Tracker Vest	Left Footed	Braided Dreads	Quick Counterattack
Jamal Musiala	Knuckleball Strike	GPS Tracker Vest	Left Footed	Buzz Cut	Offside Trap
Christian Pulisic	Corner Curling	Grip Socks	Right Footed	Buzz Cut	High Press Defense
Kevin De Bruyne	Corner Curling	Padded Gloves	Left Footed	Braided Dreads	Offside Trap
Son Heungmin	Knuckleball Strike	Grip Socks	Right Footed	Braided Dreads	Offside Trap
Kylian Mbappe	Rainbow Flick	Padded Gloves	Right Footed	Neon Mohawks	Offside Trap
Virgil van Dijk	Rainbow Flick	Carbon Shin Guards	Left Footed	Buzz Cut	High Press Defense
Alex Morgan	Sliding Tackle	Tinted Visor	Right Footed	Braided Dreads	Offside Trap
Antoine Griezmann	Bicycle Kick	GPS Tracker Vest	Left Footed	Buzz Cut	Offside Trap
Declan Rice	Sliding Tackle	Tinted Visor	Left Footed	Buzz Cut	High Press Defense
Alphonso Davies	Knuckleball Strike	Carbon Shin Guards	Right Footed	Buzz Cut	Quick Counterattack
Cristiano Ronaldo	Bicycle Kick	Grip Socks	Right Footed	Neon Mohawks	High Press Defense
Sam Kerr	Bicycle Kick	Carbon Shin Guards	Left Footed	Braided Dreads	Offside Trap
Harry Kane	Sliding Tackle	Padded Gloves	Left Footed	Buzz Cut	High Press Defense
Pedri Gonzalez	Sliding Tackle	Carbon Shin Guards	Right Footed	Neon Mohawks	High Press Defense
Erling Haaland	Bicycle Kick	Carbon Shin Guards	Left Footed	Neon Mohawks	High Press Defense
Lionel Messi	Sliding Tackle	Carbon Shin Guards	Left Footed	Buzz Cut	Quick Counterattack
Federico Valverde	Corner Curling	Padded Gloves	Left Footed	Buzz Cut	Offside Trap
Lucy Bronze	Rainbow Flick	Padded Gloves	Left Footed	Buzz Cut	High Press Defense
Aitana Bonmati	Knuckleball Strike	Padded Gloves	Left Footed	Buzz Cut	High Press Defense

CLUE 1 Multiplication facts (1-12)

The equipment manager calculates the total match balls delivered to the practice pitch.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.



12 × 8 = ☐ → T	2 × 7 = ☐ → O	9 × 7 = ☐ → V
10 × 9 = ☐ → H	12 × 12 = ☐ → S	11 × 11 = ☐ → E
3 × 10 = ☐ → R	1 × 2 = ☐ → N	11 × 7 = ☐ → W
11 × 1 = ☐ → A	6 × 6 = ☐ → U	9 × 12 = ☐ → B
3 × 9 = ☐ → I	4 × 8 = ☐ → D	

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Multi-step word problems

Analyzing squad training logs requires tracking drill reps across multiple rigorous sessions.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in the boxes to fill in the missing word.

A witness saw the villain was

L									
49	42	30	44	30	48	48	44	42	37

.

There were 350 corner flags in all. 7 corner flags were set aside. The rest were shared equally among 7 Metro FC. How many corner flags did each get?

Answer: ☐ → **L**

Equipment manager collected 81 training cones in the morning and 51 training cones in the afternoon, then split them equally among 3 Metro FC. How many training cones did each get?

Answer: ☐ → **T**

Equipment manager collected 34 match balls in the morning and 92 match balls in the afternoon, then split them equally among 3 Metro FC. How many match balls did each get?

Answer: ☐ → **E**

Equipment manager collected 6 corner flags in the morning and 142 corner flags in the afternoon, then split them equally among 4 Metro FC. How many corner flags did each get?

Answer: ☐ → **D**

Equipment manager earned 6 training cones in each of 3 rounds, plus 42 bonus training cones. Then 12 training cones were lost. How many training cones are left?

Answer: ☐ → **O**

There were 234 yellow cards in all. 24 yellow cards were set aside. The rest were shared equally among 7 Metro FC. How many yellow cards did each get?

Answer: ☐ → **F**

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Word problems

Counting rows of tactical clipboards in the stadium strategy lounge yields a total.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in the boxes to fill in the missing word.

Someone scared the villain off with

H			H						D		F		N				.
109	33	90	109	21	52	77	114	114		77		77		114	77		

There were 127 corner flags. 18 were used up. How many corner flags are left?

Answer: ☐ → H

There were 80 match balls. 3 were used up. How many match balls are left?

Answer: ☐ → E

There were 67 yellow cards. 34 were used up. How many yellow cards are left?

Answer: ☐ → I

Equipment manager lined up 3 rows of 7 match balls. How many match balls in all?

Answer: ☐ → P

Equipment manager found 17 yellow cards yesterday and 35 more today. How many yellow cards in all?

Answer: ☐ → R

Equipment manager lined up 9 rows of 10 goalie jerseys. How many goalie jerseys in all?

Answer: ☐ → G

There were 140 yellow cards. 26 were used up. How many yellow cards are left?

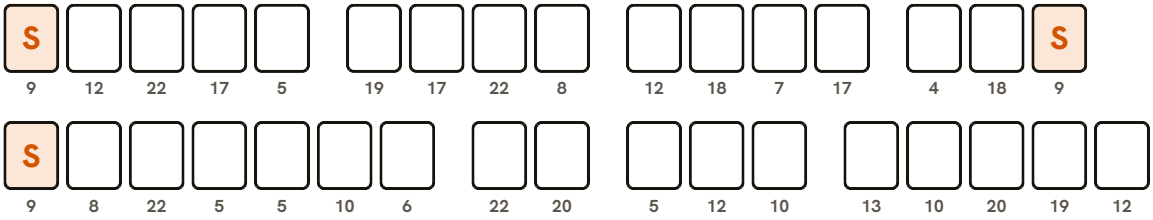
Answer: ☐ → S

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Two-step equations

Solving the training center budget equation reveals the exact count of missing speed ladders.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.



7x + 12 = 75, x = ☐ → S

9x + 6 = 78, x = ☐ → P

6x + 5 = 83, x = ☐ → B

5x + 4 = 64, x = ☐ → H

3x + 3 = 69, x = ☐ → O

4x + 1 = 21, x = ☐ → T

7x + 12 = 54, x = ☐ → D

5x + 7 = 107, x = ☐ → N

8x + 12 = 156, x = ☐ → A

7x + 9 = 37, x = ☐ → W

6x + 8 = 122, x = ☐ → C

7x + 7 = 126, x = ☐ → R

3x + 6 = 36, x = ☐ → E

4x + 6 = 34, x = ☐ → I

Scratch space:

CLUE 5 Division facts (1-12) - the last clue

> Splitting remaining energy hydration packs equally among scrimmage units narrows our suspects.

First solve each problem. Then find each answer in the numbered list below and cross that sentence out. One sentence will be left - that is exactly what the villain did!

Step 1 - solve these:

110 ÷ 10 = ☐ | 8 ÷ 8 = ☐ | 48 ÷ 8 = ☐ | 120 ÷ 10 = ☐ | 55 ÷ 11 = ☐

14 ÷ 7 = ☐ | 40 ÷ 10 = ☐ | 64 ÷ 8 = ☐ | 63 ÷ 9 = ☐ | 72 ÷ 8 = ☐

36 ÷ 12 = ☐

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain unleashed a knuckleball strike, then adjusted padded gloves.
2. The villain pulled off a rainbow flick, then tightened grip socks.
3. The villain unleashed a knuckleball strike, then strapped on carbon shin guards.
4. The villain curved a corner kick, then checked a gps tracker vest.
5. The villain curved a corner kick, then tightened grip socks.
6. The villain pulled off a rainbow flick, then strapped on carbon shin guards.
7. The villain curved a corner kick, then cleaned a tinted visor.
8. The villain executed a bicycle kick, then strapped on carbon shin guards.
9. The villain timed a sliding tackle, then checked a gps tracker vest.
10. The villain timed a sliding tackle, then adjusted padded gloves.
11. The villain pulled off a rainbow flick, then adjusted padded gloves.
12. The villain timed a sliding tackle, then strapped on carbon shin guards.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Championship Cup Sabotage

Culprit: Harry Kane

Sliding Tackle · Padded Gloves · Left Footed · Buzz Cut · High Press Defense

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 18 → Clue 2 12 → Clue 3 5 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "THE SABOTEUR DOES NOT WEAR A TINTED VISOR"

12 × 8 = 96 (T) · 2 × 7 = 14 (O) · 9 × 7 = 63 (V) · 10 × 9 = 90 (H) · 12 × 12 = 144 (S) · 11 × 11 = 121 (E) · 3 × 10 = 30 (R) · 1 × 2 = 2 (N) · 11 × 7 = 77 (W) · 11 × 1 = 11 (A) · 6 × 6 = 36 (U) · 9 × 12 = 108 (B) · 3 × 9 = 27 (I) · 4 × 8 = 32 (D)

Clue 2 (Multi-step word problems): "LEFT FOOTED"

There were 350 corner flags in all. 7 corner flags were set aside. The rest were shared equally among 7 Metro FC. How many corner flags did each get? = 49 (L) · Equipment manager collected 81 training cones in the morning and 51 training cones in the afternoon, then split them equally among 3 Metro FC. How many training cones did each get? = 44 (T) · Equipment manager collected 34 match balls in the morning and 92 match balls in the afternoon, then split them equally among 3 Metro FC. How many match balls did each get? = 42 (E) · Equipment manager collected 6 corner flags in the morning and 142 corner flags in the afternoon, then split them equally among 4 Metro FC. How many corner flags did each get? = 37 (D) · Equipment manager earned 6 training cones in each of 3 rounds, plus 42 bonus training cones. Then 12 training cones were lost. How many training cones are left? = 48 (O) · There were 234 yellow cards in all. 24 yellow cards were set aside. The rest were shared equally among 7 Metro FC. How many yellow cards did each get? = 30 (F)

Clue 3 (Word problems): "HIGH PRESS DEFENSE"

There were 127 corner flags. 18 were used up. How many corner flags are left? = 109 (H) · There were 80 match balls. 3 were used up. How many match balls are left? = 77 (E) · There were 67 yellow cards. 34 were used up. How many yellow cards are left? = 33 (I) · Equipment manager lined up 3 rows of 7 match balls. How many match balls in all? = 21 (P) · Equipment manager found 17 yellow cards yesterday and 35 more today. How many yellow cards in all? = 52 (R) · Equipment manager lined up 9 rows of 10 goalie jerseys. How many goalie jerseys in all? = 90 (G) · There were 140 yellow cards. 26 were used up. How many yellow cards are left? = 114 (S)

Clue 4 (Two-step equations): "SHORT CROP HAIR WAS SPOTTED ON THE BENCH"

7x + 12 = 75, x = 9 (S) · 9x + 6 = 78, x = 8 (P) · 6x + 5 = 83, x = 13 (B) · 5x + 4 = 64, x = 12 (H) · 3x + 3 = 69, x = 22 (O) · 4x + 1 = 21, x = 5 (T) · 7x + 12 = 54, x = 6 (D) · 5x + 7 = 107, x = 20 (N) · 8x + 12 = 156, x = 18 (A) · 7x + 9 = 37, x = 4 (W) · 6x + 8 = 122, x = 19 (C) · 7x + 7 = 126, x = 17 (R) · 3x + 6 = 36, x = 10 (E) · 4x + 6 = 34, x = 7 (I)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 10 → Harry Kane

110 ÷ 10 = 11 · 8 ÷ 8 = 1 · 48 ÷ 8 = 6 · 120 ÷ 10 = 12 · 55 ÷ 11 = 5 · 14 ÷ 7 = 2 · 40 ÷ 10 = 4 · 64 ÷ 8 = 8 · 63 ÷ 9 = 7 · 72 ÷ 8 = 9 · 36 ÷ 12 = 3