Angry Barcelona fans chant for Messi to stay, want management change

Catalans are in the midst of overthrowing their squad under Koeman following the CL defeat, and La Liga surrender

Barca fans chant for Messi to stay, want management change

Thursday, August 27, 2020
Muharram 8, 1442 AH

FOOTBALL

Ambassador hands over Qatar's Asian Cup 2023 bid file

Four other AFC member associations have also indicated their intentions to host the 2027 AFC Asian Cup and the AFC Executive Committee agreed earlier to provide future AFC Asian Cup hosts, starting with the 2027 edition, more time to prepare before the event as part of the AFC's continued commitment towards strengthening its competitions.

The Qatar bid fulfills all the requirements for hosting conditional approval for a great legacy in hosting world-class events, as it is now putting readily to host the 2023 FIFA World Cup.

It is worth noting that Qatar has a rich sports track record in hosting world, continental and regional tournaments and events, previously being home to some of the most exciting matches when it hosted this tournament twice in 1996 and 2011.

Qatar's ambassador to Malaysia Fahd bin Mohamed Kafeed (QFA) said yesterday Qatar Football Association (QFA) has already announced on Tuesday that they are keen to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Qatar is the AFC Asian Cup champion, after winning its first title in the United Arab Emirates in 2019, aiming to be the first Asian title in the United Arab Emirates quarters of the Asian football body.

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As per the AFC’s proposal, once the Asian Cup has been completed, the AFC Executive Committee will then announce the dates for the 2027 Asian Cup.

Barca fans chant for Messi to stay, want management change

The covers of newspapers inform on Lionel Messi’s (also above) wish the Uruguayan to stay at the club.

The Champions League has been the one competition in particular.

The 33-year-old’s latest season, however, was not only devoid of trophies (for the first time since 2008), it was also defined by a lack of major honours.

For PSG, whose frustration in the final years of his career. This is not Messi’s only season to resign.

Messi, a six-time Ballon d’Or winner, is the club’s record scorer and has been part of a team that has amassed four Champions League titles, five La Liga titles and 10 Copa del Rey trophies.

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Mourinho tells Kane he could make him ‘movie star player’

Mourinho reveals he advised him to leave Dele Alli when Man United

**FOOTBALL**

**WOMEN’S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

**SPOTLIGHT**

Bayern in spats with China fans over band endorsement

**BOTTOMLINE**

**Dear Lionel**: Australian team tries to entice Messi

Vardy signs contract extension at Leicester

Goalkeeper Reina set to join Lazio from AC Milan

UEFA chief C arterial cap an interesting idea

Versatile Spain forward Rodrigo signs for Leeds from Valencia

Chile sign Leicester’s Ben Chilwell on five-year deal

Manchester United’s Harry Maguire accepts conditional discharge

Sport Bild report that Harry Kane, who was wanted to help him get a blonde

21-year-old wanted a team of Pepe Reina arriving at the airport, with the Spanish goalkeeper expected to complete his move to Serie A side AC Milan. The goalkeeper has been considered a key signing for the Tottenham team following the decision to sack Pochettino.

Mourinho was quoted as saying: ‘I am not much like that one as a leader, but I always enjoy being in the dressing room and playing with the players.'

Mourinho made the comments after Tottenham’s 2-0 win against Crystal Palace in their Premier League clash at the weekend.

The Portuguese manager claimed his team had a ‘great result’ against Palace and said he was pleased with the performance of the players.

He added: 'We have a very strong and competitive team, but we also have a great group of characters. We are working hard to keep improving as a group.'

Mourinho was speaking after the win which put Tottenham back to seventh place in the Premier League table.

The Portuguese manager has been under pressure at Tottenham following a poor run of results in recent weeks.

In his press conference after the win, Mourinho said: 'We have a great team, a great group of players and a great media. We are working hard to keep improving as a group.'

Mourinho also praised the performances of his players, saying: 'We have a great group of characters, but we also have a great group of players. We are working hard to keep improving as a group.'

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Bernal primed to win Tour despite Bogar threat

Bernal, with his power on cliffs, will have Brailsford's tactical acumen on his side.

**FOCUS**

**Bernal primed to win Tour despite Bogar threat**

**Cycling**

Champion Egan Bernal of Colombia living in London trains with Ineos Grenadiers as he prepares for the Tour de France after pulling his team out of the event Monday because of a 'false positive' Covid-19 test.

The 22-year-old Bernal, who won the Tour in 2019 and 2020, was cleared by the Tour after a retest showed he was negative.

Despite the news, four members of the team - Colombian, Dan Martinez, have tested positive for Covid-19 and are in quarantine in Nice, France.

Team Ineos General Manager Dave Brailsford says Bernal will be allowed to race but will have to be in quarantine in Nice for the first week of the race.

The 2020 winner from Colombia is the first grand tour champion to test positive for Covid-19 after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the virus a pandemic in March.

Amid a worldwide pandemic, the Big Three of cycling - France, Spain and Italy - have rescheduled their major events to late in the year in an attempt to make them viable in the face of the virus.

It has been just over a year since the Tour de France started in Australia and the British Grand Prix was held in Bahrain.

It was only in May that the Tour announced a September 26 start date, and the Grand Prix in Paris-Roubaix is due to take place on October 11.

Bernal, who has won the last two Tours de France, will train hard for the next three weeks in the French city of Nice before heading to Paris for the Tour.

Bernal has a realistic target of winning the Tour de France this year in order to become the first Colombian to win the Tour de France.

He has already won the Giro d'Italia and the Vuelta a Espana and is seeking a Tour de France win to complete the Grand Slam of all three Tours de France and the Vuelta a Espana.

In the 2020 Tour, the Colombian was the first rider to win the general classification.

However, the Tour was marred by a number of Covid-19 positive cases, including the four members of the Ineos team who have tested positive.

Bernal, who will be 22 in August, said he was confident of winning the Tour de France.

He said: "I have no fear. I am ready to fight and train hard in order to win the Tour de France.

"I have been preparing for this for a long time and I am ready to face the challenges of this year's Tour de France.

"I am confident of winning the Tour de France and I am looking forward to the challenge."
C cheering for Toffoli's winning goal.

**NHL**

Coleman, Palat score as Tampa level series with Bruins

Rangers

The Associated Press

Tampa Bay Lightning center Steven Stamkos (91) scores on Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask during the first period of Game 4 of an NHL hockey first-round playoff series in Tampa, Fla., Friday, May 7, 2021.

Tampa Bay's Nikita Kucherov scored twice and had two assists in the Lightning's 5-2 win over the Bruins in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference first-round series Friday night.

The Lightning improved to 3-1 in the series and took a 3-1 lead in games. Tampa Bay plays Game 5 Saturday.

Kucherov scored his first goal of the game with 11:03 left in the second period to break a 1-1 tie. He scored again with 9:37 left in the third to put the Lightning up 5-2.

Tampa Bay now leads the series 3-1 and can clinch a spot in the second round with another win Saturday in Boston. Game 6 will be played Monday in Tampa.

Kucherov is the first player in NHL history to have multiple four-goal, three-assist games in a series.

He joined the likes of Mike Modano, Mario Lemieux, Wayne Gretzky, Gordie Howe and Ron Francis as the only players in NHL history to record a four-goal, three-assist game in a playoff series.

Tampa Bay's first goal was scored by Luke Schenn with 12:21 left in the first.

Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara scored with 2:30 left in the first to make it 1-1.

In the second period, Lightning forward Brayden Point scored his second goal of the series with 1:36 left.

Tampa Bay is the first team in NHL history to score at least five goals in back-to-back games in a playoff series.

Boston goalie Tuukka Rask made 29 saves for the Bruins, who have lost three straight games for the first time since February 2019.

Tampa Bay is 9-1-2 in its last 12 games and has outscored opponents 60-27 in that span.

Tampa Bay forward Pat Maroon scored with 3:03 left in the third to make it 3-2.

Kucherov added his second goal of the game with 9:37 left in the third to put the Lightning up 5-2.

Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said after the game that the team will have a takeoff before Game 5 on Saturday.

The Lightning are aiming for a sweep of the series, which would move them into the Eastern Conference semifinals.

**FOCUS**

**Antetokounmpo named Defensive Player of the Year**

Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said Antetokounmpo has shown throughout the season why he is the best defender in the NBA.

"When he plays with a chip on his shoulder, he's one of the best ever," Budenholzer said.

Antetokounmpo led the NBA in steals per game (1.7) and was second in blocks per game (1.3).

He also finished second in defensive box plus/minus, third in defensive box rating and fourth in defensive win shares.

"I think it's a great honor for him," Budenholzer said.

"He showed up every single night to stop the best players in our league and do the things that are needed to do to help us win games.

"I'm extremely proud of him for winning this award. He's a true leader on our team and has helped us win a lot of games this year.

"He's a special player who can do it all and I'm happy for him."
Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Lucas Giolito threw the first no-hitter of the 2020 season against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday at Guaranteed Rate Field.

Giolito retired 26 straight batters from the top of the sixth inning until the end of the game. He struck out 10 batters and did not allow a single hit.

The White Sox won the game 8-0, with RBIs from Engel, Tim Anderson and Eloy Jimenez.

Giolito had two shutouts and a pair of seven-inning complete games last year, including a two-hitter against the Indians.

Giolito is the first White Sox pitcher since Philip Humber to throw a perfect game in a 4-0 win over the Seattle Mariners in 2012.

The defense was unbelievable, " Giolito said. "Obviously, you can't do something like that without the whole team behind you."

"It's a really, really cool moment. "

"I believe in this Team," Giolito said. "Obviously, you can't do something like that without the whole team behind you."
Hamilton favourite to keep the party going at Spa

Sunday's race marks the start of the third 'triple-header' run of three consecutive races after a weekend off.

RENAULT ASK FIA TO DROP RACING POINT APPEAL

Racing Point's report that it has formally been granted the right to appeal a $473,360 fine for a breach of the sporting regulations at every race since the Australian Grand Prix in March, leaves the matter up to the International Court of Appeal, leaving stricter punishment against Racing Point hanging in the balance.

Monday's appeal may be just the beginning, with reports that the FIA has also begun considering the possibility of an appeal against the 2020 Concorde Agreement, which would see the team's 2021 plans be suspended in the event of the appeal being upheld.

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**CRICKET**

**COMMENT**

Misbah hopes England visit Pakistan 'soon'

Dwanye Bravo first player to take 500 T20 wickets

**BORDERLINE**

Quitting Pakistan career never crossed my mind, says Azhar

**BOTTOMLINE**

Andersen has raised the bar: Australia great McGrath

**SPOTLIGHT**

Anderson has raised the bar: Australia great McGrath

**FOCUS**

Australia's Finch will miss crowd 'banter'
The third season of Hathab Tour set for thrilling finish

By Bruno Rapaport

T he third season of Longines Grand Prix – Qatar Equitation Tour, which reached another milestone this month after a long break due to the outbreak of the pandemic, will finally conclude this weekend.

The organiser – Qatar Equitation Federation and Al Shahani – said that the third and final leg held in Doha on Friday and Saturday was of particular importance as it will mark the end of an intense campaign that started in February.

The final leg of the season is the Longines Grand Prix – Qatar Equitation Tour, a Grade 1 competition with a prize fund of $253,000. The event will take place at the Qatar Equestrian and Winter Sports Club (QEWSC) and is the climax of a successful season that has included two previous legs at the Al Shaqab and Al Wadi Al Dosour events.

The top three teams in the overall rankings will qualify for the World Cup Final in Gothenburg, Sweden, which will be held in May. The top three riders in the individual standings will also compete in the World Cup Final, with the possibility of winning the prestigious title of World Cup Champion.

The final leg of the season will feature some of the world’s best equine athletes and riders, including world-renowned champions such as Germany’s Ingrid Klimke, USA’s McLain Ward, and Belgium’s Gregory Wathelet. The event promises to be a spectacular showcase of equestrian sport and skill, offering entertainment and excitement for spectators.

In addition to the competition, the event will also feature various activities and attractions such as food and beverage stalls, live music, and children’s entertainment zones. These activities add to the overall atmosphere of the event and provide a family-friendly day out.

The final leg of the season is expected to be a thrilling conclusion to a successful season that has brought joy and excitement to equestrian enthusiasts around the world. With the world’s best riders vying for the top spots, fans can expect a high level of competition and a display of world-class talent.

The event will be held from Friday to Saturday at the Qatar Equestrian and Winter Sports Club, with the final competition taking place on Saturday. Spectators are encouraged to attend and witness the fantastic equestrian performances on display.

Overall, the third season of the Qatar Equitation Tour promises to be an unforgettable experience for both equestrian enthusiasts and casual attendees. With top riders and teams vying for the top spots, it is sure to be a thrilling competition not to be missed.