

Late Dempsey strike lifts Sounders to victory

Boca Juniors win 25th Argentine league title

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 2, (RTRS): Boca Juniors won the Argentine first division championship with a match to spare when they beat Tigre 1-0 at La Bombonera on Sunday.

Defender Fabian Monzon scored the winner with a header from a corner in the 42nd minute to hand Boca their 25th league title and first since 2011 in the professional era.

Boca, inspired by Carlos Tevez since the Argentina striker's return to the club from Europe in mid-year, succeeded Racing Club as

champions.

"I've won championships in many places but nothing compares with this," said Tevez, feted by a packed stadium after adding to his league crowns in Brazil, England and Italy.

"From now on you'll see a new Boca," he added to reporters.

Boca, celebrating their first title under coach and former player Rodolfo Arrubarrera, have won 11 of their 14 matches since Tevez returned from Juventus.

They have 64 points from 29 matches, a lead of six points over

second-placed San Lorenzo, going into their final match at Rosario Central next Sunday.

Boca's triumph also put them in next year's Libertadores Cup, the South American club champi-

SAILING

onship they have won six times.

Central began the day with hope of taking the title race to the wire next weekend but lost 2-1 at Banfield and fell to third on 56 points.

San Lorenzo climbed to second on 58 points after a 2-0 home win over Temperley.

Racing are on 56 points after 36-year-old striker Diego Milito scored twice in a 3-0 win over relegated Crucero del Norte on Saturday.

Milito, who like Tevez enjoyed success in Europe and won a Champions league winner's medal with Inter Milan, suggested he could play on next year.

"I'm still enjoying being a player, I don't see myself as a coach yet," he said.

San Lorenzo, Rosario Central and Racing will vie for second place next weekend and a chance to join Boca in the Libertadores Cup.

Reigning South American club champions River Plate, who will play the Club World Cup in Japan next month, are seventh in the league with 49 points after a 1-0 win at Velez Sarsfield on Saturday.

Meanwhile, a late 25-yard free kick goal by Seattle striker Clint Dempsey stunned top-seeded FC Dallas as the Sounders clinched a 2-1 victory in the first leg of their Major League Soccer Western

Conference semifinal series on Sunday.

Dempsey's winner on the stroke of 86 minutes capped a day of playoff action that saw New York Red Bulls top DC United 1-0, Montreal Impact edge Columbus Crew 2-1 and Portland Timbers and Vancouver Whitecaps play a scoreless draw.

The Sounders fell behind when Fabian Castillo scored for Dallas in the 18th minute, before Austrian Andreas Ivanschitz equalised with a fierce left-footed strike from 20 yards in the 67th minute.



Boca Juniors' footballers pose for pictures after winning Argentina's first division football championship at the 'La Bombonera' Stadium in Buenos Aires on Nov 1. (AFP)

Cheika receives Coach of Yr accolade

Carter named Player of the Year

LONDON, Nov 2, (AFP): All Blacks fly-half Dan Carter was named World Player of the Year for the third time Sunday, just a day after inspiring his country to a 34-17 World Cup final victory over Australia.

The 33-year-old, who also won the award in 2005 and 2012, scored 19 points in Saturday's final and was named man of the match in what was his 112th and last international appearance.

Carter joins his All Blacks captain Richie McCaw as a three-time recipient of the prestigious accolade, whose other previous winners include Thierry Dusautoir, Bryan Habana and Jonny Wilkinson.

New Zealand were also named Team of the Year after becoming the first nation



New Zealand Rugby Union player Julian Savea poses for photographers after winning the Try of the Year Award at the World Rugby Awards in London on Nov 1. (AFP)

RUGBY

to successfully defend the World Cup. Australia coach Michael Cheika received the Coach of the Year accolade after transforming the Wallabies in his 12 months at the helm, guiding them to the Rugby Championship title and the World Cup final.

Nehe Milner-Skudder, 24, was named Breakthrough Player of the Year and his fellow All Blacks winger Julian Savea got try of the year for his blockbusting score against France in the quarter-finals.

Carter is the all-time leading points scorer in international rugby with 1,598 points to his name.

He received Sunday's award ahead of five other nominees — All Blacks teammate Savea, Australia flanker Michael Hooper and number eight David Pocock, Wales second-row Alun Wyn

Jones and Scotland scrum-half Greig Laidlaw.

Now that his international career is over, Carter will set his sights on a lucrative swansong in France with Paris giants Racing 92.

But his first priority is to get away from the limelight.

"In the coming weeks, we'll just celebrate the title with the team," he said.

"I am looking forward to going home to New Zealand to enjoy this moment with my friends, my family, the fans.

"I arrive in France in December, so I

have a month to relax. What is beautiful is that I have closed this chapter of my life, and yet I am quite excited by the next, with this new challenge in France with my family."

Carter, who missed the 2011 World Cup final victory on home ground because of injury, insists that the many personal accolades which have come his way have only been achieved by the support of the All Blacks.

"These personal distinctions, that's not why we play rugby in the first place," he said.

"At the same time, it's fun and I feel proud because I had to work very hard, especially in the last two-three years, between injuries, the criticism from many people who wondered if I could continue. I had to fight.

"If you had told me what my last 24 hours in the boots of an All Black would look like, I would not have believed you. It's a dream come true."

Main awards winners:

World Player of the Year - Dan Carter, New Zealand

World Team of the Year - New Zealand

World Coach of the Year - Michael Cheika, Australia

World Women's Player of the Year - Kendra Cocksedge, New Zealand

World Breakthrough Player of the Year - Nehe Milner-Skudder, New Zealand

World Sevens Player of the Year - Werner Kok, South Africa

World Women's Sevens Player of the Year - Portia Woodman, New Zealand

World Referee Award - Nigel Owens

World Try of the Year - Julian Savea, New Zealand v France, World Cup quarter-final

Taylor's maiden 'fifty' keeps England in hunt

Pakistan's Shah, Babar threatening to take wickets

SHARJAH, UAE, Nov 2, (AFP): James Taylor hit a maiden half-century in his comeback match to bolster England to 222-4 at stumps on the second day of the third Test against Pakistan in Sharjah on Monday.

The 25-year-old, playing his first Test since 2012, kept Pakistan at bay with an unbeaten 74 and found an able ally in Jonny Bairstow (37 not out) as the two put on an invaluable 83 for the unbroken fifth-wicket stand at Sharjah Stadium.

That leaves England just 12 behind Pakistan's first-innings total of 234 with six wickets intact as they hope to gain a decisive lead in their bid to level the three-match series.

Pakistan lead the series 1-0 after winning the second Test in Dubai while the first Test ended in a draw in Abu Dhabi.

Taylor kept England in the hunt as he survived a keen tussle between bat and ball, with Pakistan's spin duo of Yasir Shah and Zulfiqar Babar threatening to take wickets.

But Taylor, playing his first Test since his two debut Tests against South Africa

CRICKET

three years ago, batted with resolve, using his feet and sweeping to blunt the spin.

He pushed paceman Wahab Riaz for a single to reach his first half century off 100 balls. He has so far hit six boundaries during his 141-ball fight.

When Taylor walked in England were struggling at 97-3 after Alastair Cook (49) and Joe Root — their two key batsmen — had been dismissed.

Taylor added 42 for the fourth wicket with Ian Bell (40) to steady the innings as Pakistan attacked through both pace and spin.

For Pakistan, Shah took 2-79 while Babar went wicket-less in his 25 overs and even a second new ball at 181-4 failed to dislodge the Taylor-Bairstow partnership.

"I think the bowlers were outstanding to bowl Pakistan out in a day and today was a better day to bat and obviously we wanted to get as close as we can and obviously now it's to try and get past them," said Bell, who had praise for Taylor.

"He (Taylor) is a smart and a busy cricketer and what we saw today that he swept and used his feet and was busy and at the back end of the day he had a good partnership with Jonny."

Bell, who survived a confident caught behind appeal off Babar, was finally stumped off Shah. He hit two boundaries and a six during his three hour, 37 minute innings.

Bell and Cook had steadied the innings with a 71-run stand for the second wicket. England had added three runs to their



Pakistan's Rahat Ali (left), delivers a ball as England's James Taylor looks on during the second day of the third Test cricket match between Pakistan and England in the Gulf Emirate of Sharjah on Nov 2. (AFP)

Pakistan vs England Scoreboard

Scores at close on the second day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and England at Sharjah Stadium on Monday:

PAKISTAN 1st innings 234 (Misbah-ul-Haq 71; J. Anderson 4-17)

ENGLAND 1st innings (overnight 4-0)

A. Cook c Ali b Shah 49

Moeen Ali c Younis b Malik . . 14

I. Bell st Ahmed b Shah 40

J. Root c Ahmed b Rahat 4

J. Taylor not out 74

J. Bairstow not out 37

Extras: (lb2, nb2) 4

Total: (for 4 wks, 92 overs). 222

To bat: B. Stokes, Adil Rashid, S. Patel, S. Broad, J. Anderson

Fall of wicket: 1-19 (Ali), 2-90 (Cook), 3-97 (Root), 4-139 (Bell)

Bowling: Rahat 16-8-35-1; Shah 29-3-79-2; Fiaz 15-4-23-0 (2nb); Babar 25-2-60-0; Malik 5-2-16-1; Ali 2-0-7-0

Toss: Pakistan

Umpires: Bruce Oxenford (AUS) and Chris Gaffaney (NZL)

TV umpire: Paul Reiffel (AUS)

Match referee: Andy Pycroft (ZIM)

beIN awarded EPL rights in MENA

LONDON, Nov 2: The Premier League is pleased to announce that beIN SPORTS has been awarded its broadcasting rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for Seasons 2016/17 to 2018/19.

beIN SPORTS is the Premier League's current broadcast partner in the region.

Premier League Executive Chairman, Richard Scudamore, said: "We are extremely pleased that beIN SPORTS has chosen to invest in our broadcasting rights in the Middle East and North Africa region for Seasons 2016/17 to 2018/19."

"beIN SPORTS currently does

lunch score of 87-1 when Cook fell to a soft dismissal as he pushed a Shah delivery straight into the hands of short leg

fielder Azhar Ali. Cook hit four boundaries during his 119-ball knock.

Japanese, American eye Olympic win in Rio

Seppi eliminates Cuevas in Paris

Bellucci sets up Djokovic clash

PARIS, Nov 2, (AFP): Novak Djokovic will open his campaign for a third consecutive Paris Masters title against Thomaz Bellucci after the Brazilian earned a first-round win on Monday.

The South American defeated Russian Teimuraz Gabashvili 6-4, 6-4 and will now challenge the world number one and top seed who is aiming to stretch a 10-match win streak at the Bercy Arena and starting after a bye give to all 16 seeds.

Seven-time Swiss Open champion Roger Federer, the third seed, will face Italian Andreas Seppi for the fourth time this season after Seppi put out Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas 7-5, 6-3.

Seppi ambushed the Swiss in an Australian Open third-round upset — and Federer has been piling on the revenge wins ever since.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion beat Seppi in the Indian Wells third round and the final at Halle, Germany in June prior to Wimbledon.

Federer comes to Paris to play the last event of the ATP regular season riding a wave of confidence after his 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 defeat of Rafael Nadal at his home event in Basel on Sunday.

His sixth title of the season has got Federer keen to get stuck into Paris with the eight-man World Tour Finals in

London looming from November 15.

"The confidence is good, no doubt about it," said Federer. "I had a good reaction this week after losing early in Shanghai.

"I needed to get back the feel of winning. At one point in the week I was quite tired, I was playing with a lot of pressure trying to get to the final four. But now I feel the best I have all week."

"The body has gotten used to match play again after all these weeks when I didn't have enough matches. Now I feel like Paris is not a problem anymore.

"I'm happy about feeling pretty good right now."

Young guns Dominic Thiem and

TENNIS

Bernard Tomic also advanced to the second round.

Austria's Thiem beat the first of the Frenchman, sending Adrian Panarino to the end of his season 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

Mannarino complained of problems from a previous hip sprain, saying he started to feel pain early in the third set. "My level was not so bad even with the pain.

"The question is how bad is it, I had an examination in China which was not so clear."

GLASGOW, Nov 2, (RTRS): Kohei Uchimura is no fan of "noisy arenas", so the Japanese superhero should invest in some heavy-duty earplugs when he heads to Rio next August bidding to become the first gymnast in more than 40 years to win back-to-back Olympic all-around titles.

The all-conquering gymnast, who has been immortalised in comic strips in his homeland and has many screaming teenybopper fans around the world, will arrive in Brazil as the holder of a record six world all-around titles.

After collecting every Olympic and world all-around title since taking silver at the 2008 Beijing Games, King Kohei will be favourite to become the first man since compatriot Sawao Kato in 1972 to win successive Olympic all-around titles.

However, Kohei, who has 19 world medals, including 10 golds, said: "I don't really care about the results. I would rather have a great performance that touches people."

He certainly whipped up a frenzy in Glasgow as he led Japan to their first world team title in 37 years before enjoying individual success in the all-around and horizontal bar finals.

While other gymnasts have won more medals and more golds, most notably Belarus's Vitaly Scherbo, no one has dominated the sport or maintained their levels of excellence for as long as Uchimura.

In a gruelling sport that seems to leave champions on the scrapheap faster than it takes Usain Bolt to run the 100 metres, Uchimura's gymnastics lifespan defies logic.

Yet Uchimura, who would dearly like

to meet Bolt, has no time to engage in talk about being the greatest.

"I can't say I'm the best in the world, even though I've won a lot of medals. I have seen many great gymnasts in history, so I don't think I'm the best," he said. The 26-year-old was not the only one breaking records in Glasgow.

American Simone Biles, who was 11 when Uchimura picked up his first Olympic medal in 2008, has also been an unstoppable force after becoming the first woman to win a "three-peat" of all-around golds at the worlds.

GYMNASTICS

"I just keep blowing my own mind," said Biles, who became the most successful female athlete at the worlds after taking her gold-medal haul to 10.

"There are goals that I have and then I dream of it and then I make it a reality. If I could crawl out of my skin and see it, it would be really amazing."

With mission accomplished in Glasgow, the 4-foot-9 dynamo's next goal will be to avoid becoming the next victim of the 'curse of the world all-around champion'.



Gold medalist US Simone Biles performs during the Women's Floor Final at the 2015 World Gymnastics Championship in Glasgow, Scotland on Nov 1. (AFP)