

## Vidal and Bernat passed fit

## Sevilla aim to drag Bayern out of their comfort zone

MADRID, April 2, (RTRS): Sevilla will attempt to draw Bayern Munich out of their comfort zone and take the game to the Germans, Sevilla coach Vincenzo Montella said ahead of Tuesday's Champions League quarter-final first leg in Spain.

Sevilla have surprisingly reached the European Cup quarter-finals for the first time since 1958 but while they are clearly the underdogs against the five-times champions, they are undefeated at home against German clubs in 11 matches.

"Bayern are accustomed to scoring a lot of goals, to having the ball. We have to do the same so we make them

do things they're not used to," Montella told reporters on Monday.

Bayern have scored 21 goals in eight games in the competition this season, eight against Besiktas in the

**Sevilla vs Bayern beIN SPORTS 2HD, 12HD**  
21:45 local

round of 16.

The Bavarians, chasing a treble of titles, also fired six goals past Borussia Dortmund at the weekend in an ominous warning to Sevilla.

Montella will be without key midfielder Ever Banega, as the Argentine

is suspended.

"He won't play and he's a player with very clear qualities. It's something we can't change and I'm convinced that the player who replaces him will do well," Montella said.

"When you are in this kind of competition, opponents demand a lot of your mental and physical energy," the Italian added. "We paid for it in La Liga but I like this situation."

The Andalusians squandered a two-goal lead late on to draw 2-2 against Barcelona on Saturday and Montella conceded playing in three competitions simultaneously was not something Sevilla were used to.

They have had a disappointing domestic campaign and are sixth in the La Liga standings but after beating Manchester United in the last 16 of Europe's premier club competition they have achieved something memorable.

Bayern Munich have included Arturo Vidal and Juan Bernat in their squad for the first leg of the Champions League quarter-final at Sevilla on Tuesday after the pair passed late fitness tests.

Midfielder Vidal and fullback Bernat both missed Saturday's 6-0 demolition of Borussia Dortmund with minor injuries as the Bavarians moved to within one win of a sixth straight league title with six fixtures still remaining.

"They trained on Sunday and declared themselves fit for Sevilla," the club said prior to the team's departure for Spain on Monday.

Coach Jupp Heynckes will have the luxury of an almost full squad to choose from, apart from injured goalkeeper Manuel Neuer (foot) and forward Kingsley Coman, who has been out with an ankle problem since late February.



Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski (left) and Dortmund's Swiss defender Manuel Akanji (right) vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match FC Bayern Munich vs Borussia Dortmund in Munich, southern Germany, on March 31, 2018. (AFP)

## Restaurants, hotels anticipate business boom

## Russia creates 'tourist police' for World Cup

MOSCOW, April 2, (AFP): Russia is looking for a few good men and women who can shoot a gun and speak a bit of English.

Knowledge of French and Spanish or perhaps even Chinese would also be a plus for joining a new "tourist police" force, launched Monday by Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokolov.

The impending deluge of tourists for the World Cup is a mixed blessing for provincial host cities unused to visitors from abroad.

Gleeful restaurant and hotel owners are rubbing their hands in anticipation of a once-in-a-lifetime business boom.

But the security services are worried about fans from the 32 rival nations getting along and feeling safe during the June 14-July 15 football finals.

This is an especially big problem in a country where basic knowledge of English is still spotty outside Moscow and Vladimir Putin's native Saint Petersburg.

"These units will be comprised of territorial interior ministry officers who know foreign languages," police spokeswoman Irina Volk said on Monday.

"If necessary, the personnel will undergo additional training."

It remains unclear how much of the existing police force across the 11 host cities has foreign language proficiency.

Volk said the tourist police would be omnipresent around stadiums and fan zones in all 11 host cities by May 25.

Russia's regular armed police have long had an image problem with the locals.

They have a reputation for conducting intimidating spot identity checks on the streets and using heavy handed tactics during peaceful protests.

Now Russia is out to build a reputation as a welcoming place to visit despite a new spike in diplomatic tensions with the West.

The charm offensive began with the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi and continued during last year's Confederations Cup.

Moscow has had a tourist police force patrolling the most popular spots around the Kremlin for the

## SOCCER

past four years.

First-time visitors to Russia had previously been startled to discover almost no English signage on the streets.

But the Moscow metro — the bustling lifeline of one of Europe's biggest cities — introduced English station names for last year's Confederations Cup.

It now intends to identify which ticket vendors speak English with colourful stickers on their booths.

The subway system is also putting up directions pointing fans to stadiums and where to go once they get there.

Other cities are slowly playing catchup by introducing English announcements on buses and trams.

But nearly all street signs still only appear in Russian and there will be no time to change that for the World Cup.

## Busquets back for Barca ahead of Roma test

## 'Liverpool style can make tie unpleasant for Citizens'

MANCHESTER, England, April 2, (Agencies): Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp is not about to change his team's trademark style against Champions League quarter-final opponents Manchester City and believes he can make things "unpleasant" for Pep Guardiola's side.

City's dominance in the Premier League has led many teams to try different methods to limit the effectiveness of Pep Guardiola's tactics and the skill of his players.

Liverpool, though, are the only team to have beaten City in the league this season, with a thrilling 4-3 victory at Anfield in January, and Klopp suggests he will play in a similar style in the first leg on Wednesday.

"The way we attack the oppo-

**Liverpool vs Man City beIN SPORTS 1HD, 11HD**

21:45 local (Wednesday)

**Barcelona vs Roma beIN SPORTS 2HD**

21:45 local (Wednesday)

nent, the way we defend high is unpleasant (for our opponents). If we do that well they will have some difficulty coping with it," the German told UEFA.com.

"It will be very exciting. There's no guarantee this will work. In the end it's the lads on the pitch who will decide the game," he added.

Key to Liverpool's approach is the attacking trio of in-form Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane, who all scored in the January victory over City but who are also central to the pressing of Guardiola's defence.

One approach Klopp won't be taking is simply trying to shut up shop.

"It'll be about doing more things right than the opponents, because you can't simply defend against City and hope that they won't score on the day," the German said. "They're just too good."

Klopp's "gegenpressing" style, honed at Borussia Dortmund, involves a rapid swarming of opponents' territory when they

lose the ball, and a high defence to limit space and make good use of high-energy attacking full backs.

Guardiola's teams, including his former clubs Barcelona and Bayern Munich, enjoy playing out from the back, working the ball swiftly through midfield and using space expertly.

The pressing from Liverpool's forwards and midfielders tests the ability but Klopp says the two methods are more similar than many think.

"There's no big difference, actually. It's just that Pep has always had better teams than me. You can see that now with Manchester City — they have a lot more points than we do. However, that difference has never been as small as it is now. When we coached at Bayern and Dortmund respectively, that difference was really big," he said.

While much of the credit for City's success has been given to their manager, Klopp believes City, who are 16 points clear at the top of the Premier League and can clinch the title with a win over Manchester United on Saturday, also owe much of their success to the quality of their players.

"Positioning is important but this is not witchcraft. When the players are in position they move every millisecond in order to be available. And when they are, that's when the individual quality of the player becomes important," he said.

"So they're already well-positioned on the pitch, they are very well orientated and they can pass the ball into the next area. That's what makes them extraordinary," Klopp added.

Barcelona have been boosted by the return of Sergio Busquets ahead of their Champions League quarter-final against Roma on Wednesday.

Busquets trained with the first team on Monday after recovering from a broken bone in his foot, sustained against Chelsea three weeks ago.

Ernesto Valverde must now decide whether Busquets is ready to start at the Nou Camp but the midfielder appeared to come through a training session without any problems.

Barcelona are looking to reach the last four of the Champions League for the first time in three years, after falling at the quarter-final stage both in 2016 and 2017.

A Barcelona statement read: "The key news was Sergio Busquets, who has trained with the group."

Radja Nainggolan and Lorenzo Pellegrini have passed fitness tests to travel to Barcelona for a Champions League quarter-final, first leg, but Cengiz Under will stay in Italy, Roma said.

Belgian midfielder Nainggolan hurt his pulled a right thigh muscle in Saturday's 1-1 Serie A draw against Bologna while Italy midfielder Pellegrini took a knock to his calf while on international duty.

Coach Eusebio Di Francesco included the pair among the 21-man squad to travel to Spain after putting the players through their paces in training on Monday.

## Pressure back on as Real, Zidane 'reunite' with Juve



Las Palmas' Uruguayan defender Matias Aguirregaray Guruceaga (right) vies with Real Madrid's French defender Theo Hernandez during the Spanish League football match between UD Las Palmas and Real Madrid CF at the Gran Canaria stadium in Las Palmas on March 31, 2018. (AFP)

## The mood in Madrid is upbeat

MADRID, April 2, (AFP): Zinedine Zidane said last week he wants to stay at Real Madrid but how welcome his wishes are will depend on the team's Champions League tie against Juventus.

Real face Zidane's former club in the first leg of the quarter-final on Tuesday, knowing their season, and perhaps the Frenchman's future as coach, hinges on reaching the last four.

It was the same in the previous round against Paris Saint-Germain. Real's limp La Liga title defence, combined with their early exit from the Copa del Rey, means they now have only one shot at winning a major trophy this term.

The mood in Madrid, however, is upbeat. Real have won 10 out of their last 11 matches, a run that has seen them brush aside PSG and move to within four points of second-placed Atletico Madrid in the league. They have scored 36 goals in that period, at an average of just over three a game.

"The match comes at a good time for us," Real forward Lucas Vazquez

said. "We have been doing things well for the last few months, playing better, more goals, it's a good moment and now we have to try to take advantage of it in this tie."

Zidane therefore declared his intentions on Friday from a position of strength but lose to Juventus and his pledge might look more like a plea.

Despite winning back-to-back Champions Leagues and the La Liga title last year, he is still not immune to the weight of Real's expectation.

Zidane will be returning to Turin for the first time as a manager, his last outing as a player there coming in March 2005 when Real were beaten 2-0 by the

**Juve vs Real beIN SPORTS 11HD**  
21:45 local

Old Lady in the Champions League last 16.

David Trezeguet's goal and an extra-time winner from Marcelo Zalayeta sealed victory for Juve, then managed by Fabio Capello, against a Real side that included David Beckham, Ronaldo and Thomas Gravenes.

Thirteen years on, Gianluigi Buffon is the only player likely to make a repeat appearance this week but the



Juventus' Bosnian midfielder Miralem Pjanic attends a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match Juventus vs Real Madrid on April 2, at the Juventus training center in Vinovo. (AFP)

two current teams need no introduction, their latest meeting coming in the competition's final last year.

That 4-1 victory remains the high-point of Zidane's Real tenure, not only because it earned him an unprecedented second consecutive Champions League crown but because of the sheer ruthlessness of the performance.

If Zidane uses the win in Cardiff as a reference point, it may be to the advantage of Isco, who was excellent there, having been picked ahead of Gareth Bale and Marco Asensio.

The same trio are now competing for the same spot on Tuesday, with an added competitor in Vazquez.

Isco trained on Sunday after missing Saturday's win over Las Palmas with a back problem and he may still be flying high from his hat-trick for Spain against Argentina last week.

Bale, meanwhile, played 90 minutes against Las Palmas, perhaps an ominous indicator for his prospects against Juve, but he could hardly have done more to state his case, after scoring twice in the 3-0 win.

"It's another game, another competition, we know we have to go to Juve with ambition and we have to go there to score," Zidane said.

For Juventus, who edged past Tottenham in the round of 16, it is an opportunity to avenge last year's loss and sustain hopes of an historic treble.



Manchester City's German midfielder Leroy Sane (left) vies with Everton's French midfielder Morgan Schneiderlin during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Manchester City at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England on March 31, 2018. (AFP)