

Triadis' late equaliser preserves team's unbeaten run

NorthEast United earn 1-1 draw, deny Jamshedpur ISL top spot

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 3: NorthEast United scored a late equalizer to earn a 1-1 draw against Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League match played at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here on Monday.

Of the two, the hosts were dominant for most parts of the game and took the lead when Spanish forward Sergio Castel put the ball in the back of the net for his fifth goal of the season in the 28th minute of the first half. Until the 90th minute it looked as if Jamshedpur had wrapped up the match in their fa-

SOCCER

vor but Panagiotis Triadis ensured NorthEast United remain unbeaten in the league so far.

With the result, Jamshedpur keep the second spot on the table, while NorthEast moved up to fourth place with 10 points.

Jamshedpur from the start looked the most dangerous and six minutes into the game, Noe Acosta dribbled on the left flank and chipped the ball to Farukh Choudhary whose acrobatic overhead kick sailed over the bar.

It was visible the NorthEast defence had a tough time to control the Jamshedpur forwards for most of the 45 minutes and the former Atletico Madrid forward gave Jamshedpur the lead. Aitor Mon-

roy's through pass found Farukh into the box, who squared the ball to Castel and the latter made no mistake.

Minutes later, Memo Moura found an unmarked Castel in the box but this time the striker shot wide from close-range.

After the break, NorthEast United came out with more vigor and had more ball possession. This was the testing time for Jamshedpur FC defence.

NorthEast showed signs of a comeback as the half wore on and Triadis and Gyan tried their best to draw level. The winger fed the Ghanaian twice in quick succession, but the forward was unable to convert.

Gyan threatened again after the hour-mark, bearing down on goal after a quick counterattack, but failed to skip past Memo who stuck out his leg to nick the ball off the striker before he could get a shot away. The Jamshedpur mid-field of Jitendra Singh and Monroy time and again frustrated their opponents.

But yet again, there was a twist at the death as NorthEast came up with an equalizer against the run of play in the 90th minute.

Gyan flicked a long ball into the path of Triadis, who attacked the space left unattended by Gurung and Memo to flick a finish past Subrata Paul to ensure the Highlanders had a share of the spoils.



Triadis equalizes for NorthEast United with close range shot.



Top and above: Kuwait's National Men's and Women's weightlifting team during their departure for Amman to participate in Arab Senior, Junior and Youth Championships.

Kuwaiti Nat'l team weightlifters fly to Jordan for Arab tourney

Kuwait's weightlifting team flew on Monday to Amman to participate in Arab Senior, Junior and Youth Championships scheduled on Dec

12-17. The Kuwaiti team include 35 male and female players, secretary of Kuwait Boxing & Weightlifting Association Messelim Al-Edwani

told KUNA.

He expressed his hope that the Kuwaiti athletes would perform well in the tournament, which is qualifying

for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Kuwait's female team are going to participate for the first time outside the country, he noted. (KUNA)

MLB Roundup

Red Sox trade C Leon to Indians

Moustakas, Reds agree to deal

CINCINNATI, Dec 3, (RTRS): The Cincinnati Reds and free agent infielder Mike Moustakas agreed to a four-year, \$64 million contract, multiple media outlets reported Monday.

Moustakas, 31, batted .254 with 35 homers and 87 RBIs in 143 games with the Milwaukee Brewers in 2019. He made the All-Star team for the third time. According to numerous reports, the Reds play to play the long-time third baseman at second base.

Moustakas was the No. 2 overall pick in the 2007 draft and played his first seven-plus seasons with the Royals, earning All-Star honors in 2015 and 2017 and helping Kansas City win the World Series in 2015. The Royals traded him to the Brewers in July 2018.



Moustakas

The Boston Red Sox traded catcher Sandy Leon to the Cleveland Indians in exchange for minor league right-hander Adenys Bautista.

Leon, 30, played in 358 games over five seasons in Boston. In 2019, he appeared in 65 games at catcher (50 starts) and hit .192 with five home runs and 19 RBIs.

The San Diego Padres acquired second baseman Jurickson Profar from the Oakland A's for catcher Austin Allen and a player to be named. Profar, 26, is entering his final season of arbitration and was a non-tender candidate for Oakland, which is looking at a payroll crunch for 2020. He has been projected to earn \$5.8 million next season. Profar hit .218 with 20 home runs and 67 RBIs in 139 games last season.

Allen, 25, appeared in 34 games last season as a rookie for the Padres, hitting .215 with no home runs and three RBIs in 65 at-bats.

The Miami Marlins acquired two infielders, claiming first baseman Jesus Aguilar off waivers from the Tampa Bay Rays and adding second baseman/shortstop Jonathan Villar from the Baltimore Orioles in exchange for left-handed pitcher Easton Lucas.

Aguilar, 29, split last season between the Brewers and the Rays, a year after he was an All-Star for Milwaukee. He hit a combined .236/.325/.389 with 12 homers and 50 RBIs in 131 games this year.

Minnesota Twins slugger Nelson Cruz was named the winner of the 2019 Edgar Martinez Outstand-

ing Designated Hitter Award. Jorge Soler of the Kansas City Royals finished second in the voting.

The 39-year-old veteran batted .311 with 41 homers and 108 RBIs in 120 games this season as he helped the Twins claim the American League Central division title. The six-time All-Star led AL designated hitters in runs, hits, total bases, home runs, RBIs, batting average and slugging percentage.

The Chicago Cubs parted ways with infielder Addison Russell when they didn't tender him a contract, making him a free agent.

Russell's now ex-wife Melissa Reidy detailed allegations of physical, mental and emotional abuse on her blog in September 2018. Russell, 25, served a 40-game suspension - including the first 28 games of the 2019 season - for the violation of the league's domestic violence policy.

The former All-Star, who helped the Cubs win the 2016 World Series batted .237 with nine homers and 23 RBIs in 82 games last season when he saw more action at second base (39 starts) than shortstop (16).

Chicago White Sox catcher James McCann agreed to terms on a one-year contract worth \$5.4 million.

McCann batted .273 with 18 homers, 60 RBIs and 62 runs scored in 118 games last season, his first with the White Sox. He was named to the All-Star team for the first time in his career.

The Minnesota Twins and Ehre Adrianza avoided salary arbitration by agreeing to a one-year, \$1.6 million deal. The 30-year-old infielder is getting a \$300,000 raise. Adrianza batted .272 with five homers and 22 RBIs in 83 games last season.

At baseball's deadline for 2020 contract tenders, numerous players weren't given an offer, making them free agents. According to MLB.com, some of the notable players include the following (with their former teams listed):

RHP Blake Treinen and C Josh Phegley (Oakland A's), 3B Maikel Franco and 2B Cesar Hernandez (Philadelphia Phillies), OF Kevin Pillar (San Francisco Giants), 2B Yolmer Sanchez (Chicago White Sox), RHP Aaron Sanchez (Houston Astros), SS Tim Beckham (Seattle Mariners), 1B C.J. Cron (Minnesota Twins), UT Charlie Culberson (Atlanta Braves), OF Guillermo Heredia (Tampa Bay Rays) and C Kevin Plawecki (Cleveland Indians).

Treinen, 31, was an All-Star in 2018, when he posted 38 saves in 43 chances and had a 0.78 ERA. This past season, he had a 4.91 ERA while giving 16-for-21 on save opportunities.

Hawaii's Moore wins fourth world title, books Oly berth

Peterson knocked out, misses out on Olympics slot

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec 3, (RTRS): Hawaii's Carissa Moore won her fourth world surfing title, finishing third in the final event of the 2019 World Championship Tour and booking a berth for surfing's Olympics debut in Tokyo next year in the process.

Moore overcame Australia's Nikki Van Dijk in pumping surf at Maui's legendary Honolua Bay



Moore

and finishing defeated by a red-hot Stephanie Gilmore, Australia's seven-time world champ, in the semifinal.

That gave Moore enough points to finish ahead of Florida teen sensation Caroline Marks and California's Lakey Peterson, who were both in contention for the title going into the final event of the 10-stop world tour.

"It hasn't sunken in yet, I've dreamed of this moment for a really long time," Moore said. "Each world title has been a little different and this one has definitely been the hardest and the one I've learnt the most about myself."

Gilmore had earlier knocked out Marks in their quarter-final to hand Moore her fourth title after wins in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

Gilmore went on to win the Honolua event over countrywoman Tyler Wright, who was returning to competition after a long break due to injury and illness.

Marks, a 17-year-old in only her second year on the top-tier World Cham-

pionship Tour, had needed to finish at least a couple of places ahead of Moore to overtake her for the world title.

Marks nonetheless qualified for the 2020 US Olympic team, finishing the world tour in second place. She and Moore will represent the United States in Tokyo next year, a formidable pairing to take on the likes of Australia and Brazil.

Only two men and two women per country can qualify for the Olympics team, with a total of 20 athletes of each gender.

Peterson was knocked out early at Honolua Bay, finishing the year in third and missing out on an Olympics slot.

For Moore, the Olympics berth was

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especially meaningful. Fellow Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku, the founder of modern surfing, won five Olympic medals including three golds in the early decades of the 20th century and had long campaigned for the sport to be included in the Olympics.

"That is the coolest thing ever," Moore said. "It's coming full circle, following in Duke's footsteps. It gives me chills just thinking about it, because I hope to go there and spread the aloha spirit. I'm really, really proud and honored to represent the USA, but in particular, Hawaii."

Provisional Women's Qualifiers for 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games

Carissa Moore (United States), Caroline Marks (United States), Stephanie Gilmore (Australia), Sally Fitzgibbons (Australia), Tatiana Weston Webb (Brazil), Silvana Lima (Brazil), Johanne Defay (France), Brisa Hennessy (Costa Rica), Daniella Rosas (Peru), Bianca Buitendag (South Africa), Shino Matsuda (Japan), Anat Lelior (Israel), Ella Williams (New Zealand).

Kipchoge to defend Olympic 'marathon title' - if selected

NAIROBI, Dec 3, (RTRS): Eliud Kipchoge, the greatest marathon runner in history, the world record holder and only man to go under two hours for the distance, has told Reuters he will defend his Olympic title in Tokyo next year - if selected.

It should be reasonably safe to assume, even taking into account the often chaotic and inexplicable selection procedures that have long dogged Kenyan athletics, that Kipchoge will be given the chance to run next August.

"If selected I will be there," he told Reuters in an exclusive interview in Nairobi on Tuesday. "It (Tokyo) is at the front of my mind, and I trust and believe that when the time comes I will be on the starting line."

That line will now be in the north-

ern city of Sapporo, where the marathons and walking events have been moved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in a bid to avoid the worst of the debilitating heat and humidity of the Tokyo area.

But Kipchoge, as ever, was careful not to voice a strong opinion on the issue.

"I think the medals are the same," he said. "I will be among the competitors, I don't complain, I'm in the hands of the IOC and anywhere they decide, I will go with it."

That will be music to the ears of the organizers, especially in marathon-mad Japan, where the 35-year-old will be treated to the sort of adulation last seen when sprinter Usain Bolt was

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sweeping all before him.

Kipchoge has won 11 of his 12 official marathons, including the 2016 Rio Olympics, and with the world record and the sub-two hour mark under his belt, along with a string of lucrative big-city races he is a colossus of his sport.

However, there are a growing number of critics who, while accepting his extraordinary talent, say that his and others' record-breaking times should be treated with a grain of salt, such is the benefit available from the latest running shoes.

Kipchoge became the first man to run a marathon under two hours in October and also set the official world record for the distance of 2:01.39 in Berlin last year - both performances helped by controversial prototypes of his Nike shoes.



In this Sept 24, 2017 file photo, Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge crosses the line to win the 44th Berlin Marathon in Berlin, Germany. (AP)