

Testing for UEFA leader will allow trophy presentations

Atlético say 2 players infected but squad cleared to travel

MADRID, Aug 10, (AP) — Atlético Madrid said Monday that Ángel Correa and Sime Vrsaljko have tested positive for the coronavirus but the rest of the squad has been cleared to make the trip to Portugal for the Champions League quarter-finals.

The team announced the two positive tests on Sunday but had not identified who was infected.

It said the entire squad was re-tested and results came back negative for everyone else on Monday.



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the Champions League, Round of 16, second leg soccer match between Barcelona and Napoli at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Atlético will face Leipzig on Thursday. It will be traveling to Portugal on Tuesday.

The last eight is scheduled to begin in Lisbon on Wednesday amid tight health safety protocols to prevent a coronavirus outbreak from derailing the competition's finale. The semi-finals and Aug 23 final will also be played in Lisbon.

Other clubs involved in the quarter-finals have not reported any positive tests among its players recently.

Meanwhile, UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin will undergo testing for the coronavirus that will allow him to present the Champions League trophy to the winners.

Ceferin and general secretary Theodore Theodoridis will be tested two days before the finals of Europe's three club competitions this month so they can hand over the medals and trophies, UEFA said Monday.

Some competitions during the pandemic have seen players have to collect their own medals, including at the FA Cup final in England.

In men's soccer, the Champions League final is in Lisbon, Portugal on Aug 23 — two days after the Europa League concludes in Cologne, Germany. The Women's Champions League final is on Aug 30 in Bilbao, Spain.

"The organization's leaders will be tested before leaving for the first match and at regular intervals in between, as required by the local authorities concerned," UEFA said.

Portugal is taking center stage for

Max storms to unlikely win over Mercedes duo



Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland (left), at the start of the 70th Anniversary Formula One Grand Prix at the Silverstone circuit, Silverstone, England, Aug 9, 2020. (AP)

Hamilton and Bottas struggle with their tires

SILVERSTONE, England, Aug 10, (AP): Max Verstappen sprung what could be the surprise of the Formula One season by beating Lewis Hamilton to win the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix.

The Red Bull driver crossed the line at Silverstone 11.3 seconds clear of Hamilton, with Valtteri Bottas third.

"I didn't see it coming but after the first stint it seemed we were really good on tires," Verstappen said after his ninth career win. "We had a lot of pace in the car. I didn't have any tire issues and we kept pushing."

"It was an incredible result to win, so everything worked out well and I am very happy."

Mercedes had been expected to cruise to its fifth win from as many rounds this season. But both Hamilton and Bottas struggled with their tires to clear the way for Verstappen to take an unlikely win.

"It was a massive challenge," Hamilton said. "Congrats to the Red Bull team and to Max. They didn't have the problems we had today."

"It was definitely unexpected to have the blistering as hard-core, as we experienced. I was nervous the tire was going to explode but I am grateful I managed to progress and get through the race."

Charles Leclerc finished fourth for Ferrari ahead of Red Bull's Alexander Albon. Racing Point's Lance Stroll was sixth.

Verstappen is now Hamilton's closest rival for a record-equaling seventh title.

Hamilton will head to next week's Spanish Grand Prix with a 30-point championship lead over second-place Verstappen. Hamilton has 107 points, Verstappen 77 and Bottas 73.

Hamilton matched Michael Schumacher's record of 155 career podiums.

Hamilton's Mercedes team has been the class act of the field this year and, after pole-sitter Bottas beat Hamilton to the first corner, it looked as though it would be a straight fight between the all-black cars for victory.

But Verstappen, who moved ahead of Racing Point's Nico

Hulkenberg at the opening bend, remained hot on their heels. Both Mercedes cars started on the medium tires, with Verstappen on the more durable hard tire.

Verstappen sensed that the Mercedes cars were struggling and was soon hunting down Hamilton. At one stage, he was told to drop off Hamilton's gearbox to protect his tires.

"This is the only chance to beat Mercedes," he said over the radio. "I am not going to sit back like a grandma."

And he remained aggressive. Bottas pitted from the lead on lap 13 with Hamilton following in for fresh tires on the following lap.

Verstappen took the lead and, when he came in for new

tires at the midway stage of the race, he left the pits just behind Bottas.

Verstappen took only a handful of corners to regain top spot after he resisted Bottas' tame defense.

Both Verstappen and Bottas came in with 20 laps remaining for a second time, while Hamilton remained out on wearing tires until lap 41 of 52.

Hamilton emerged down in fourth but the 35-year-old showed good pace on the fresh tires, posting the fastest lap of the race before overtaking Leclerc at Stowe for third.

He then set his sights on hunt-

MOTOR RACING

ing down Bottas and, with two laps to run, he passed his teammate around the outside of Brooklands.

After Verstappen cruised to victory, Nico Hulkenberg finished seventh, while Sebastian Vettel was outside the points following an opening-lap spin.

Leclerc performed well to make a one-stopper work on his way to fourth, but teammate Vettel's terrible season continued.

Vettel, who is being moved on by Ferrari at the end of this year, spun on the first lap, blasted his team over the radio for a decision on strategy, and crossed the line in 12th.

The four-time world champion is 13th in the championship with just 10 points to his name.

Lyon the 'team' to beat at WCL finals

LONDON, Aug 10, (AP) — With short-term contracts signed, friendly matches underway and coronavirus testing continuing, Europe's top teams are ready for the resumption of the Women's Champions League.

Defending champion Lyon is seeking its fifth straight title and is the team to beat. Paris Saint-Germain, Arsenal, Barcelona, Wolfsburg, Atlético Madrid, Bayern Munich and Glasgow City are also in the quarterfinals.

The knockout tournament is scheduled to begin Aug. 21 in Bilbao and San Sebastian, in Spain's northern Basque Country where local health officials fear a "second wave" of the coronavirus is underway.

Like the men's Champions League, the women's competition won't be using the format of home-and-away quarterfinals and semifinals. Three wins at neutral stadiums and the trophy is yours.

"Everybody knows that in 90

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minutes of football, anything can happen," Krystyna Freda, an American striker on loan to Glasgow from Apollon Ladies club in Cyprus, told The Associated Press.

Glasgow has a tough test against German league champion Wolfsburg. The winner of that match plays either Barcelona or Atlético. The other semifinal will feature the winners of Lyon vs. Bayern and Arsenal vs. PSG.

The final is scheduled for Aug. 30 in San Sebastian.

Lyon has won six Champions League trophies and 14 consecutive French league titles.

"Who knows if they're beatable, honestly, but it's always interesting when you go to tournaments like this," Freda said. "You're going to have to play three games in 10 days. It's something out of the normal, so maybe that will throw off certain routines when it comes to those second and third games."

Lyon star Ada Hegerberg is only six months removed from ACL surgery. The 25-year-old Norwegian — already the competition's all-time scoring leader with 53 goals — recently said she's "turned the corner" but her return is a long shot.

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soccer during the next two weeks — a country where rivalries between clubs go well beyond the field of play.

The decisive stages of the Champions League will begin on Wednesday in the southern European nation where back-and-forth accusations and legal actions involving the country's top teams are routine.

Club officials are not afraid of attacking each other publicly. The government is often probing teams for alleged wrongdoing. Not even players and their agents are free from controversy.

It wasn't long ago that search-and-seizure operations took place simultaneously at the headquarters of Benfica, Porto and Sporting Lisbon, the country's three biggest clubs. It happened just before the coronavirus pandemic struck, as authorities investigated possible tax fraud and irregularities in soccer in an operation called "Offside".

Presidents of all three clubs have been accused of some sort of wrongdoing over the past years, though they have always claimed innocence and actual convictions have been rare.

Benfica, two-time European champions in the 1960s and Portugal's most successful club with 37 league titles, has been targeted in more than a handful of cases in the last five years. Trading of its shares was temporarily suspended last month after the latest accusations were made against the club over alleged tax fraud.

Benfica are coming off one of their biggest legal victories, though, in a 2019 high-profile case in which a Porto media officer was accused of systematically releasing information from internal emails obtained from the rival.

Porto was ordered by a judge to pay nearly 2 million euros (\$2.3 million) in damages to Benfica, as well as to return any documents it still possessed related to the case. Porto said at the time the emails showed a corruption scheme that benefited Benfica, something that has not been proven in court. Porto claimed it only released information that the court itself had considered to be true.

Details about the case were constantly discussed in sports shows and across Portuguese media outlets, which often resort to anonymous sources to publish information about court cases involving the clubs.

After a recent round of accusations against Benfica President Luís Filipe Vieira were published by local media, the club's lawyers released a statement lamenting the way the official was being publicly scrutinized.

"It's regrettable," the statement said. "Judgments are being made in the court of public opinion and in the media. Justice would be better served if everyone kept to their own businesses."

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