

## APOEL fire Kare

## Jürgen resigns as 'coach' of Hertha

BERLIN, Feb 11, (AP): Jürgen Klinsmann surprisingly resigned as coach of Hertha Berlin on Tuesday after only nine Bundesliga games.

The former Germany and United States coach said in a statement on Facebook that he "cannot live up to my potential as coach and therefore cannot live up to my responsibility" without the trust from people at the club.

"That's why, after long thought, I came to the conclusion to make my position as coach of Hertha available and return to my original long-term task as a supervisory board member," Klinsmann wrote.

Much was expected of Klinsmann when he was appointed coach on Nov 27, 2019, helped by an extensive backroom staff. He was supposed to deliver on the promise provided by a \$250 million investment from new backer Lars Windhorst and lead Hertha up the standings toward the European qualification places. But the team is still fighting off relegation.

Hertha are in 15th place in the 18-team Bundesliga after losing four games, leading to Ante Covic's dismissal, and under Klinsmann they managed only three wins in nine league games.

They are now in 14th place, six points above the relegation zone, following a 3-1 loss at home against Mainz on Saturday — four days after they knocked out of the German Cup in extra time at Schalke.

Klinsmann called Hertha a "sleeping giant". He was consulted on player signings as Hertha made their first splash on the transfer market following Windhorst's investment. Hertha signed Matheus Cunha from Leipzig, Krzysztof Piatek from AC Milan, Santiago Ascacibar from Stuttgart and Lucas Tousart from Lyon, as their transfer spending in January reached an estimated 76 million euros (\$83 million).

"We are surprised by this development this morning," Hertha

## SOCCER

general manager Michael Preetz said in a statement. "Especially after the trustful cooperation regarding decisions over personnel in the winter transfer period, there was no sign of it. We will inform of further developments at the appropriate time."

The club said assistant coach Alexander Nouri would lead the team for now.

The players were told of the decision on Tuesday morning.

"The coach came into the changing room. We thought it would be about the analysis of the last game. And then he told us," Hertha midfielder Marko Grujic said after training. "We were completely surprised."

Windhorst, who had brought Klinsmann to the club, had been given advance warning.

"I learned of the decision yesterday," Windhorst told German daily Bild. "I very much regret this step from Jürgen Klinsmann."

Klinsmann had a long association with Hertha through his father Siegfried, who was from Eberswalde near Berlin and was a fan, and his son Jonathan, who was a reserve goalkeeper for Hertha from 2017 until last year when he moved to Swiss club St Gallen. Siegfried died in 2005.

As a player, Klinsmann enjoyed a glittering career as a prolific striker for clubs in Germany, Italy, France and England. He won the World Cup and European Championship. His coaching career began with Germany in 2004 and he had mixed fortunes coaching Bayern Munich before taking over the US national team.

Klinsmann told news agency dpa on Monday that he was happy working with Windhorst.

"I met him for 10 minutes in a bank ... on the way to Tegel airport. We didn't know each other at the time," Klinsmann said. "He told me, 'I need you at my side because I don't know the ropes in football. You tell me if I'm doing right or wrong.'"

Cypriot champions APOEL Nicosia fired coach Kare Ingebrigtsen after only 45 days on the job.

The 54-year-old Norwegian had four wins, two draws and four losses during his time at the club, which are struggling in their quest to retain the league title for the eighth straight year.

APOEL thanked Ingebrigtsen for his "best efforts" during his brief tenure. His final match was a 1-0 loss to AEK Larnaca over the weekend, which Ingebrigtsen called the team's worst performance under his leadership.

APOEL is currently third in the standings, three points behind Omonia Nicosia and five points behind league leaders Anorthosis Famagusta.

Marinos Ouzounidis is reportedly slated to take over at APOEL. The Greek coach played with APOEL for three seasons from 2001-03 and coached it for another three from 2006-09.

With Ingebrigtsen's departure, APOEL have gone through 11 coaches in the last seven years.



Phoenix Suns guard Jevon Carter (right), shoots as Los Angeles Lakers guard Troy Daniels (left), guard Quinn Cook (second from left), and center Dwight Howard defend during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Feb 10 in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 125-100. (AP)

# Raptors tame Wolves for 15th straight win

## Nuggets come from 23 down to beat Spurs

**TORONTO, Feb 11, (AP):** Toronto Raptors star Pascal Siakam keeps telling teammate O.G. Anunoby to improve his offense output by thinking less on the court.

Anunoby must not have thought much during Monday's game against Minnesota.

Anunoby scored a career-high 25 points and matched his career best with 12 rebounds, Kyle Lowry had 27 points and 11 assists, and the Raptors extended their franchise-record winning streak to 15 by beating the Timberwolves 137-126.

Siakam scored 14 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had a season-high 21 and Fred VanVleet added 16 as the Raptors won their 16th straight home meeting with Minnesota.

D'Angelo Russell scored 22 points in his Minnesota debut and Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and 10 rebounds, but the Timberwolves couldn't build on Saturday's surprise victory over the Clippers that snapped a 13-game losing streak.

Jarrett Culver, Malik Beasley and Juancho Hernangomez scored 15 apiece for the Timberwolves, who have lost five straight against Toronto.

### Nuggets 127, Spurs 120

In Denver, Jamal Murray scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter to help the Denver Nuggets rally from 23 down to beat the San Antonio Spurs 127-120.

Denver scored 74 points in the second half, a season high, and outscored San Antonio by 21 after halftime. The Nuggets have won three in a row and six of their last seven.

Paul Millsap, who had 22 off the bench, helped spark the comeback on his 35th birthday. He had 16 points in the second half, including a go-ahead 3-pointer early in the fourth.

Nikola Jokic had 19 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds while battling foul trouble trying to guard LaMarcus Aldridge. The Spurs forward had 33 points to lead all scorers.

### Lakers 125, Suns 100

In Los Angeles, Rajon Rondo scored a season-high 23 points, Anthony Davis added 25 points and 10 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers rolled to a 125-100 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

The Lakers had dropped three of their last four at Staples Center but didn't have any problems against the Suns. Los Angeles put the game away in the second as Rondo scored 15 points in the quarter. It was only the fifth time in Rondo's 13-year career he has scored 15 or more in a period.

LeBron Davis had 17 points, nine assists and eight rebounds in 30 minutes for the Lakers, who have won four of their last five.

Mikal Bridges scored 18 points for Phoenix, which has lost six of seven. Cheick Diallo added 15 points while Jevon Carter and Ricky Rubio scored 13 apiece.

Both teams started out hot in the first quarter. The Lakers made 10 of their first 13 from the floor and the Suns were 9 of 13 as there were 18 lead changes and four ties in the first 12 minutes.

Los Angeles led 32-30 at the end of the first quarter before breaking it open in the second with an 18-4 run as it made eight of its first nine shots. Rondo scored the first eight points in the period, including a pair of 3-pointers.

The Suns trailed 61-52 at halftime and got within 63-57 early in the third quarter on Cameron Johnson's 3-pointer. The Lakers scored the next six points and would extend their lead to 27 during the fourth quarter.

### Jazz 123, Mavericks 119

In Dallas, Jordan Clarkson scored 25 points before fouling out, Rudy Gobert stayed perfect from the floor against Dallas this season and the Utah Jazz beat the Mavericks 123-119.

Gobert was 7-of-7 shooting after making all eight attempts in Utah's home victory last month. He finished with 17 points and 16 rebounds. The 7-foot-1 center has made 17 consecutive shots against Dallas going back to last Feb 23.

Tim Hardaway Jr scored a season-high 33 points and Kristaps Porzingis added 28 for the Mavericks in their seventh straight game without injured All-Star point guard Luka Doncic.

Donovan Mitchell and Bojan Bogdanovic scored 23 points apiece, with each hitting key

baskets late in the fourth quarter to help the Jazz hang on after they led by 23 points in the first half.

Mitchell, who was 8 of 12, connected on a tough turnaround jumper for a late seven-point lead. Utah shot a season-high 59% and was 15 of 35 from long range.

### Magic 135, Hawks 126

In Orlando, Fla., the Orlando Magic aren't built to shoot their way out of slumps, so now they won't have many nights like they did Monday.

Aaron Gordon scored 26 points, Nikola Vucevic had 24 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and the Magic surged past the Atlanta Hawks 135-126.

The Magic, who had lost eight of nine overall and five straight at home, stunned themselves and the Hawks with a 79-point second half that included a season-high 42 points in the fourth quarter. The Magic are 7-0 this season when scoring more than 120 points.

But they had it rolling against Atlanta. The Magic hit 52.6% from the field, including a season-high 18 3-pointers, in their highest-scoring game this season.

Orlando hit 13 of 25 3-point attempts in the second half and used a pair of

11-0 runs in the fourth quarter to run down Atlanta.

Evan Fournier had 22 points and Terrence Ross had five 3-pointers and 21 points off the bench. Markelle Fultz contributed 13 points and eight assists.

### Hornets 87, Pistons 76

In Detroit, no matter how bad things get for the Charlotte Hornets, they always seem to be able to fix them by playing the Detroit Pistons.

Miles Bridges scored 18 points Monday night and the Hornets ended a five-game losing streak with an 87-76 victory, their 10th straight over Detroit.

The streak includes two consecutive 4-0 season sweeps. The Hornets are 13-36 against the rest of the league and had lost 13 of their previous 14 games.

Malik Monk added 17 points for the Hornets while Devonte' Graham had 14 points and 11 assists. Charlotte won despite shooting 37.5% from the floor.

### Nets 106, Pacers 105

In Indianapolis, Spencer Dinwiddie struggled to find his shooting touch

## BASKETBALL

Monday night.

He rediscovered it in the nick of time for Brooklyn.

Dinwiddie calmly knocked down the go-ahead 21-footer with 5.2 seconds left, then watched as Indiana's final shot come up well short to give the Nets a 106-105 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

### Bucks 123, Kings 111

In Milwaukee, Khris Middleton and Eric Bledsoe scored 28 points apiece to lead the Milwaukee Bucks past the Sacramento Kings 123-111, as the Bucks won without new father Gianni Antetokounmpo.

Antetokounmpo, the reigning MVP, missed the game after he and his girlfriend welcomed their first child, a son whose birth he announced earlier Monday on his Twitter account.

### Heat 113, Warriors 101

In San Francisco, Jimmy Butler had 21 points and 10 rebounds in his return to Miami's lineup, and the Heat won in Andre Iguodala's first game back in the Bay Area, thumping the Golden State Warriors 113-101 on Monday night.

Butler was crisp after sitting out the previous two games with a right shoulder strain. The All-Star forward scored 13 points in the first half, shot 9 of 15 overall and had five assists to help the Heat end a three-game skid.



Atlanta Hawks guard Kevin Huerter (3) drives against Orlando Magic center Nikola Vucevic (9) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla on Feb 10. (AP)

## NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Feb 11, (AP): NBA results and standings on Monday.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
Atlantic Division				Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Toronto	40	14	.741	—	Houston	33	20	.623
Boston	37	15	.712	2	Dallas	32	22	.593
Philadelphia	33	21	.611	7	Memphis	27	26	.509
Brooklyn	24	28	.462	15	San Antonio	22	31	.415
New York	17	37	.315	23	New Orleans	22	31	.415
Southeast Division				Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	35	18	.660	—	Denver	38	16	.704
Orlando	23	31	.426	12½	Utah	35	18	.660
Washington	18	33	.353	16	Oklahoma	32	21	.604
Charlotte	17	36	.321	18	Portland	25	29	.463
Atlanta	15	40	.273	21	Minnesota	16	36	.308
Central Division				Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	46	7	.868	—	LA Lakers	40	12	.769
Indiana	31	23	.574	15½	LA Clippers	37	16	.698
Chicago	19	35	.352	27½	Sacramento	21	32	.396
Detroit	19	37	.339	28½	Phoenix	21	33	.389
Cleveland	13	40	.245	33	GS Warriors	12	42	.222

## 'They all want to play'

# James among 44 US Oly basketball team 'finalists'

WASHINGTON, Feb 11, (AP): LeBron James is considering a return to the Olympics.

James — a two-time gold medalist and three-time Olympian — was among 44 players announced by USA Basketball on Monday as finalists for the team that will play in the Tokyo Games this summer. James played in 2004, 2008 and 2012, helping the US win gold in his most recent two appearances.

The pool includes 19 players who have won a total of 31 gold medals in

## OLYMPICS

either Olympic or World Cup competition for the Americans — including nine players who captured the Olympic title for USA Basketball in Rio de Janeiro four years ago.

"I've always maintained that equity is important," USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo told The Associated Press. "And you earn equity by participating. So, we think they've earned the right to be named to the overall roster for USA Basketball. It's pretty elite. It's a tremendous pot and the good news is they've all said they want to play."

James has played in 68 games for the US national team and has said several times over the past year or so that he is thinking about another Olympics — after sitting out the Rio Games for a variety of reasons. Part of the interest in participating this summer is to have the chance to play for US coach Gregg Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs.

"My name is in the hat. It's always predicated on how my body feels at the end of the season," James said. "I am hoping to make a long playoff run and then where my mind is and where my family's head is. There are a lot of factors."

There will be no tryouts. USA Basketball will pare the list down to a 12-person Olympic team by early June, those decisions to be made by a selection committee — and to be based in part on player availability and health. Training camp will start in early July, potentially as little as two weeks after the end of the NBA Finals. The Olympics start July 24.

"I want to play," said Portland's Damian Lillard, one of the finalists. "I think, looking at my career and all the stuff I want to accomplish before it's over, winning a gold medal at the Olympics is on the list. I was happy to see my name on there, obviously, and hopefully I'll be a part of the team."

USA Basketball officials, including Colangelo and Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs, have met with players in a variety of ways over the past several weeks. Some talks have been directly



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (right), shoots as Phoenix Suns forward Elie Okobo defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Feb 10 in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 125-100. (AP)

with players, some with their agents, some with their NBA clubs, sometimes a combination thereof — and, Colangelo noted, there were some instances where players reached out directly to express interest.

If they're on the list, that means USA Basketball is convinced they want to play.

"I feel very good about the response," Colangelo said.

Also included in the pool: 15 of the 16 players from the US who are scheduled to play in Sunday's NBA All-Star Game, and all 12 members of the team that represented the US at last summer's Basketball World Cup in China — where the Americans managed only a seventh-place finish after roughly three dozen players who were on the list at some point dropped out along the way.

The nine players still in the mix from the 2016 Olympic team: Sacramento's Harrison Barnes, Miami's Jimmy Butler, San Antonio's DeMar DeRozan, Brooklyn's Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, the Los Angeles Clippers' Paul George, Golden State's Draymond Green and Klay Thompson, and Toronto's Kyle Lowry.

Back from the 2012 Olympic champions roster: the Los Angeles Lakers' James and Anthony Davis, Durant, Houston's James Harden and Russell Westbrook, Cleveland's Kevin Love and Oklahoma City's Chris Paul. Back from the 2008 gold-medal squad: the Lakers' Dwight Howard.