



England captain Ben Stokes bats during the second day of the first cricket Test match between England and West Indies, at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton, England on July 9. (AP)

Sports

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Barca win derby, relegate Espanyol

Villarreal on track

MADRID, July 9, (AP): Barcelona kept their title hopes alive with a 1-0 win in the city derby against Espanyol in the Spanish league, sealing the rivals' relegation for the first time in nearly three decades.

Luis Suárez scored the winning goal early in the second half to move Barcelona within a point of leaders Real Madrid and send Espanyol to the second division after 26 straight seasons in the top flight.

Real Madrid can reclaim a four-point lead with three rounds left with a home win against relegation-threatened Alavés on Friday. Madrid, seeking their first league title in three years, have a perfect record since the league resumed following the coronavirus break.

"We knew it would be a difficult match because of Espanyol's situation," Suárez said. "We are going to keep trying to win our matches and see if Madrid falters."

Only a win in the city derby

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could have kept last-place Espanyol with a chance of staying in the top tier. The club owned by Chinese businessman Chen Yan-sheng have not played in the second division since the 1993-1994 season. They had been among the teams with most consecutive seasons in the top flight, along with Barcelona, Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao.

"We have to apologize to our fans for what we have made them go through," Espanyol captain Javi López said. "This is a difficult moment. Nothing went right for us this season. We are committed to coming back stronger."

It was the sixth straight loss for Espanyol, and their 11th consecutive league defeat away to Barcelona at the Camp Nou stadium. They have 24 points from 35 matches - 11 points from safety.

Both teams went a man down to a straight red card early in the second half. Barcelona forward Ansu Fati was sent off after a hard foul on Fernando Calero in the 51st, and Espanyol midfielder Pol Lozano was ejected after a tough foul on Gerard Piqué in the 54th.

It didn't take long for Barcelona to take advantage of the extra space, and Suárez broke the deadlock from close range in the 56th after an exchange between Antoine Griezmann and Lionel Messi inside the area.

Griezmann, a starter for the second consecutive match after a lengthy period without getting many minutes, had already successfully teamed up with Messi in the team's 4-1 win at Villarreal in the previous round.

It was Suárez's 195th goal for Barcelona, moving him past Ladislao Kubala to become the club's third all-time highest scorer, behind César Rodríguez (232) and Messi (630).

Barcelona were in control from the start but Espanyol had some significant chances to open the scoring in the first half, hitting the post once and forcing goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen to make a tough save.

Barcelona, the two-time defending champions, next visit Valladolid on Saturday.

Villarreal kept alive their chances of qualifying for the Champions League with a 3-1 win at Getafe, moving within three points of fourth-place Sevilla.

Santi Cazorla scored penalties in the 66th and 86th minutes for Villarreal, which opened a four-point gap to sixth-place Getafe.

Getafe loudly complained of the refereeing and players from both teams got into an altercation after the final whistle.

Real Betis secured their stay in the first division with a comfortable 3-0 win over mid-table Osasuna, ending a three-match winless streak.



Barcelona's Gerard Pique fights for the ball against Espanyol's Bernardo Espinosa during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and RCD Espanyol at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, July 8, 2020. (AP)

Liverpool & City win, West Ham still in relegation danger

Long season catching up with Wolverhampton

LONDON, July 9, (AP): A long season might just be catching up with Wolverhampton. As for Liverpool, the newly crowned Premier League champions looks as fresh as ever.

The race for Champions League qualification might have lost a contender after Wolves conceded a stoppage-time goal to lose 1-0 at Sheffield United.

It completed a chastening five-day span for Wolves, who also lost to Arsenal on Saturday to end their three-match winning run since the restart.

They stayed in sixth place. Fifth place will earn a spot in next season's Champions League if second-place Manchester City fail in their bid to overturn a two-year European ban.

Perhaps it's no surprise Wolves' players are starting to wane. After all, their season did begin nearly 12 months ago in the Europa League qualifiers, and manager Nuno Espirito Santo's style is to rarely rotate his team because of the trust he has in his tight-knit squad.

Wolves are sure to be playing into August, too, because they are still involved in the Europa League. Should they win that competition, Espirito Santo's team could yet get into the

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Champions League.

A hard-fought game at Bramall Lane was settled by a powerful header from Sheffield United center half John Egan in the third and final minute of stoppage time. Egan also scored United's late equalizer against Burnley on Sunday.

Widely tipped for relegation at the start of the season, Sheffield United are only a point behind Wolves in a remarkable first year back in the Premier League and could even qualify for the Europa League.

With records to break and the Golden Boot scoring trophy still up for grabs, Liverpool's league season is far from done despite having already clinched a first title in 30 years.

Mohamed Salah netted twice for the champions in a 3-1 win at Brighton and moved onto 19 goals for season, three behind the league's leading scorer, Jamie Vardy. Salah won the Golden Boot two years ago and shared the trophy last season with teammate Sadio Mane and Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Liverpool now have 92 points and needs nine more from their last four games to beat Man City's record for one season of 100.

Ryder Cup postponed until 2021

WASHINGTON, July 9, (AP): Seth Waugh knows how a Ryder Cup is supposed to look and how it should sound.

In his first week as CEO at the PGA of America, Waugh was in the 72-foot high grandstand behind the first tee at Le Golf National outside Paris. Flags were waving. Fans were singing. Players were trying to conceal their nerves. That's what he expects for the Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin.

Next year. The inevitable became reality Wednesday when Ryder Cup officials postponed the September matches until next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic that made it increasingly unlikely the loudest event in golf could have spectators.

"A Ryder Cup with no fans is not a Ryder Cup," Waugh said.

The Ryder Cup was scheduled for Sept. 25-27 at Whistling Straits along the Lake Michigan shore. Because of a reconfigured schedule created by golf being shut down for three months, the matches would have been held one week after the U.S. Open.

Now, the Ryder Cup will move

to Sept. 24-26, 2021, the second time in the last two decades it was postponed. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks led the 2001 matches to be postponed two weeks before they were set to be played.

Waugh, the former CEO of Deutsche Bank Americas, called it "the most complicated deal of my career" because of so many moving parts.

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The decision meant Europe's next home Ryder Cup set for Italy has been pushed back until 2023. The European Tour thrives on Ryder Cup revenue.

And it affects the PGA Tour, which already has lost millions this year while trying to keep canceled tournaments solvent. The Presidents Cup in 2021 at Quail Hollow in North Carolina was a sellout in corporate hospitality, and it now gets pushed back a year.

Quail Hollow instead will host the Wells Fargo Championship next spring, and that event will move to the TPC Potomac in 2022 during the Presidents Cup year.

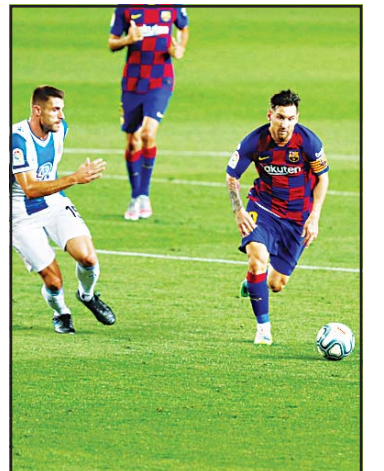
Jordan Henderson scored Liverpool's other goal on the south coast, with Leandro Trossard replying for

Brighton.

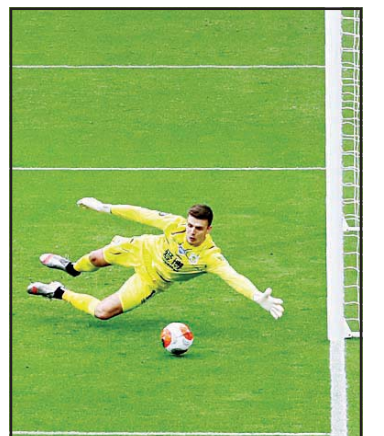
With a perfectly placed free kick and two more assists, David Silva



Liverpool's Takumi Minamino takes the ball away from Brighton's Lewis Dunk during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton and Liverpool at Falmer Stadium in Brighton, England on July 8. (AP)



Barcelona's Lionel Messi runs for the ball next to Espanyol's David Lopez (left), during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and RCD Espanyol at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain on July 8. (AP)



Burnley goalkeeper Nick Pope makes a save during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Burnley at London Stadium in London, England on July 8. (AP)

Pressure 'mounts' on Ferrari after one race

SPIELBERG, Austria, July 9, (AP): Ferrari are under pressure after just one race of the Formula One season and scrambling to push through aerodynamic improvements in time for Sunday's Styrian Grand Prix.

Instead of closing the gap to front-runners Mercedes this season, Ferrari's SF1000 car looks slower than last year and is also in danger of slipping behind other teams.

"The SF1000 didn't measure up, even compared to expectations," was Ferrari's blunt assessment.

Ferrari failed in qualifying at the season-opening Austrian Grand Prix, with Charles Leclerc only seventh - having taken the most pole positions in 2019 - and Sebastian Vettel a dismal 11th.

Leclerc's second-place finish in that race was more about his composure amid crashes than the car's speed. Vettel, who finished

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10th, was so irked about lack of balance he called the car undrivable.

It means that Ferrari team principal Mattia Binotto is facing increasing pressure, given that the team were already way behind Mercedes in the drivers' and constructors' titles in 2019.

His decision making also faced scrutiny after a sudden change of strategy, three days before the first practice session in Austria.

He announced a different direction in terms of aerodynamic development, which effectively meant there could not be any car upgrades until the third race in Hungary next week.

But then hierarchy intervened. Ferrari CEO Louis Camilleri felt it was necessary to stop slipping back further and some of the aerodynamic package - scheduled for Hungary - will be introduced in Austria.

"This is certainly not the grid position that a team like Ferrari should have and we have to respond immediately," Camilleri said. "It's clear that we have to improve on all fronts."

This weekend's race is the second of eight races during a hectic 10-week European swing.

The GP itself is changing names yet is still being held at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg - surrounded by the Styrian mountains it is now being named after.