

tuesday — (all times are kuwait local)

09:00 tennis bein sports 9hd
 10:30 soccer bein sports 2hd
 12:00 basketball bein sports 8hd
 14:00 rugby bein sports 15hd
 14:30 baseball bein sports 16hd
 16:30 soccer bein sports 5hd
 17:25 baseball bein sports 13hd
 22:15 tennis bein sports 9hd

Sports

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Christopher Trimmel of Berlin in action against Serge Gnabry, right, of Munich during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Union Berlin and Bayern Munich in Berlin, Germany, on May 17. (AP)

Bayern win on Bundesliga return in 'empty' stadium

Cologne, Mainz draw

BERLIN, May 18 (AP): Defending champion Bayern Munich returned to action Sunday with a 2-0 win at Union Berlin as the restart of German soccer continued in empty stadiums.

Players' shouts echoed off the rows of concrete terracing around Union's stadium as Bayern moved closer to an eighth straight league title.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge was cautiously optimistic after the league avoided major incidents on its reopening weekend.

"It's important that we are satisfied with it but that we don't ease up now," Rummenigge told broadcaster Sky, adding that soccer should stay "disciplined" to keep German politicians on

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side. "It allows colleagues in other countries to hope that they will also be allowed to start playing again some time."

As at all games in the Bundesliga this weekend, players wore masks when not on the field and substitutes sat apart from one another in the stands. Police were stationed outside stadiums to deter any gatherings.

Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer said it was "a question of motivation, of attitude" to succeed without fans in the stadium and that the game seemed to take longer than usual. "The minutes are always very long at a game without fans," Neuer said.

Bayern midfielder Thomas Müller wondered if his team had "a small advantage" because Union couldn't play in front of its normally fervent home crowd. Across eight Bundesliga games Saturday and Sunday, only one ended with a win for the home team, Borussia Dortmund, which beat Schalke 4-0 on Saturday.

Robert Lewandowski gave Bayern the lead with a penalty in the 40th minute following a mistimed challenge by Union's Neven Subotic. It was Lewandowski's 40th goal of the season in all club competitions. Union held off Bayern for most of the second half but Benjamin Pavard scored a second in the 80th.

Bayern restored its four-point lead over second-place Dortmund with



Pierre Kunde Malong, right, of FSV Mainz 05 is challenged by Jonas Hector of 1. FC Koeln during the German Bundesliga soccer match between 1. FC Cologne and FSV Mainz 05 in Cologne, Germany, on May 17. (AP)

eight games left. Dortmund hosts Bayern on May 26 in a game which could shape the title race.

Union played without head coach Urs Fischer, who had traveled to be with his family following the death of his father-in-law. The club said Fischer would only take charge of training again after he tests negative for the coronavirus twice.

Earlier, more than 1,000 Cologne fans lent shirts and scarves to a "lucky charm" support display in the stands for their team's 2-2 draw with Mainz. Elsewhere in the city, posters were displayed attacking the restart, which some Cologne fan groups have strongly criticized.

Not everyone followed advice on "socially distanced" celebrations.

Cologne and Mainz's players marked their goals with restrained elbow bumps, but second-division Osnaabrück's players and substitutes hugged in jubilation after scoring a stoppage-time goal to earn a draw against leader Bielefeld.

It was the first home Bundesliga game in 12 years for Cologne without its traditional live goat mascot. Game regulations bar mascots so Hennes IX was kept at his pen in the zoo, though he was briefly shown on a video screen before kickoff.

Fan groups are split over the restart,

much like German society in general. Many clubs have allowed fans to put banners in the empty stands for games. Some groups have taken the opportunity to call for changes in how German soccer is run.

MANCHESTER, England, May 18, (AP): After watching the Bundesliga resume, English Premier League clubs will try on Monday to agree on protocols to allow a return to training during the coronavirus pandemic.

Teams have already started checking players and coaches for the coronavirus, with a total of 1,600 weekly tests anticipated across the 20 clubs in England's top division.

With Britain suffering a worse coronavirus outbreak than Germany, the sports shutdown is yet to end and players would have to remain socially distant for now in training. But the Premier League has government backing to pursue restarting games in June if there is no new spike in COVID-19 cases across the country.

Sunday should have been the last day of the season but, instead of Liverpool completing a title triumph, coronavirus testing was taking place at clubs.

St. Pauli, a second-division team with a largely left-wing fan base, played Sunday with a large banner along one side of the field reading, "Soccer lives through its fans. Reforms now." On Saturday a banner at Augsburg read, "Soccer will survive, your business is sick!"

Polls conducted by German broadcasters ahead of the restart consistently indicated that more Germans opposed resuming games than supported the plan.

Hertha Berlin faced a backlash over its players' hands-on celebrations in its 3-0 win over Hoffenheim on Saturday. The influential state governor of Bavaria, Markus Söder, suggested the players should have avoided bodily contact as other teams did.

Hertha coach Bruno Labbadia defended his players, saying it was hard to suppress emotions and players couldn't be treated "like a church choir." The league discourages players celebrating together but won't punish them if they do.

Two more top-tier teams play Monday as Werder Bremen hosts Champions League-chasing Bayer Leverkusen.

One game was missing from Sunday's schedule. Dynamo Dresden's visit to Hannover in the second division was postponed after two Dynamo players tested positive for the coronavirus last week. The entire squad and staff must spend 14 days in isolation.

Virus tests on EPL players ahead of return-to-training talks

Up to 40 players and coaches at each club were due to be tested for the coronavirus across Sunday and Monday. A further wave of testing will take place across the 20 clubs later in the week in a bid to detect infections.

In recent weeks, players have only been carrying out some individual fitness work on fields at some training grounds. But the socially distant team training could start on Tuesday if the

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protocols are agreed on by executives from the clubs during their latest "Project Restart" conference call on Monday.

Contact training would be prohibited until approval is granted by the government, which has said games could resume in June - without fans in stadiums.

'Big crowds, no masks'

McIlroy delivers winner as live golf returns to TV

MIAMI, May 18, (AP) Rory McIlroy delivered the money shot Sunday as live golf returned to television for a Skins game that revealed plenty of rust and raised more than \$5 million for COVID-19 relief funds.

McIlroy and Dustin Johnson, who had not won a skin since the sixth hole, had a chance to win the final six skins worth \$1.1 million on the final hole at Seminole in the TaylorMade Driving Relief exhibition. Both missed and they returned to the par-3 17th for a closest-to-the-pin contest.

From a forward tee at 120 yards, Matthew Wolff was 18 feet below the hole. His partner, Rickie Fowler, missed the green. Johnson found a bunker. Down to the last shot, McIlroy barely stayed on the shelf left of the pin, measured at 13 feet.

"Air five," McIlroy said, alluding to the social distancing in place at Juno Beach, Florida.

The final carryover gave McIlroy and Johnson \$1.85 million for the American Nurses Foundation. Fowler, who made

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seven birdies, and Wolff made \$1.15 million for the CDC Foundation.

"I'm proud to be part of an event to entertain people at home on a Sunday afternoon and to raise money for people who need it," McIlroy said as he played the 18th hole.

Wolff, the 21-year-old Californian with big game and plenty of swagger, earned \$450,000 toward relief funds by having the longest drives on two par 5s - 356 yards on No. 2 and 368 yards on No. 14.

Fowler's seven birdies were worth \$270,000 in a separate fund from Farmers Insurance, while McIlroy made four birdies in regulation worth \$175,000 and Wolff had three birdies for \$135,000. Johnson, who showed the most rust, had two birdies for \$75,000.

PGA Tour Charities allowed for online donations during the telecast, raising more than \$1 million. The donations will continue until Tuesday. When the exhibition ended, more than \$5.5 million had been pledged, starting with the \$3 million guarantee from UnitedHealth Group.

Players carried their own bags.

Television had a skeleton crew on the grounds - the play-by-play and analysts were 200 miles away in St. Augustine, Florida, while host Mike Tirico was at his home office in Michigan. The match went over four hours, primarily because players were at times held in place to give the six TV cameras time to get in position on the next hole.

Mark Russell, the PGA Tour's vice president of rules and competition, was the only one to handle the flagstick. Bunkers didn't need to be raked because they were the only match on the course, which closed for the summer last week.



Robert Lewandowski of Munich celebrates his side's opening goal during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Union Berlin and Bayern Munich in Berlin, Germany, on May 17. (AP)



In this file photo dated, March 12, 2020, Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, reacts to a missed putt on the third hole, during the first round of The Players Championship golf tournament in Ponte Vedra Beach, USA. (AP)

"It was an awesome day," McIlroy said. "It was nice to get back on the golf course and get back to some sort of normalcy."

The players wore microphones, though the banter was limited and ended early.

Most of it came from McIlroy, who had to make a short par putt on the second hole for a push. He rolled it in and said to Wolff, "I think you forget I've won two FedEx Cups that total \$25 million. That doesn't faze me, youngster."

Fowler played the best golf and staked his side to the lead with four birdies in a six-hole stretch around the turn, including a 20-footer on No. 11 that was worth two skins at \$200,000. He raised his finger and McIlroy said, "Did you hear all those cheers?" There were no fans, and fewer than 50 people were at Seminole. All were tested for the new coronavirus.

That was the start of golf's return.

The last live competition on TV was March 12, the first round of The Players Championship. It was canceled the next day, along with other tournaments that either were scrapped or postponed.

Next up is another exhibition match on May 24 down the road at Medalist, where Tiger Woods plays when home. Woods and Peyton Manning will face Phil Mickelson and Tom Brady in a match billed as "Champions for Charity" that will raise \$10 million for COVID-19 relief efforts.

The real show is to return on June 11 with the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas. The tour has said it will not allow fans for at least a month, and perhaps longer depending on it goes. Players will have access to charter flights and a designated hotel.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump's idea of golf getting back to normal is having thousands of fans who aren't wearing masks in attendance and "practically standing on top of each other."

Trump joined the NBC broadcast Sunday of "TaylorMade Driving Relief," a Skins game involving Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson against Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff. It was the first live golf on television since the COVID-19 pandemic shut down golf and other sports on March 12.

The PGA Tour plans to return on June 11 at the Charles Schwab Challenge in Fort Worth, Texas. The tour has said it will not have fans for at least a month.

"After that, hopefully, it will be back," Trump said in his interview with NBC host Mike Tirico. "We really want to see it back to normal so when we have all these thousands, tens of thousands of people going to your majors and going to golf tournaments, we want them to be having that same experience."