



AC Milan's Alessio Romagnoli (left), and Roma's Edin Dzeko vie for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Roma at the Milan San Siro Stadium, Italy on Oct 26. The game ended 3-3. (AP) - See Page 15

Sports

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'It's a real solid foundation to build on'

English soccer recruitment code aims to increase diversity

LONDON, Oct 27, (AP) — English soccer's efforts to increase gender and ethnic diversity in coaching and senior leadership positions intensified Tuesday with targets set for recruitment.

The Football Leadership Diversity Code is voluntary but every Premier League club apart from Southampton has already signed up to it.

When men's professional clubs are hiring new coaches, the English Football Association wants a quarter of the positions to be filled by Black, Asian or mixed-heritage candidates and at least 10% of senior roles. In the professional women's game, the code envisages half of new hires being female and 15% Black, Asian or mixed-heritage coaches.

SOCCER

Nuno Espirito Santo at Wolverhampton is currently the only Black manager across the 20 Premier League teams.

Away from the field, 15% of the senior leadership of team operation appointments should be Black, Asian or mixed-heritage executives and 30% women.

"If you look at all the positive action programs out there, there isn't a structure that holds clubs to account," Paul Elliott, the chair of the FA's inclusion



Wolverhampton Wanderers' head coach Nuno Espirito Santo gives instructions from the side line during the English Premier League soccer match between the Wolves and Newcastle United at Molineux Stadium in Wolverhampton, England on Oct 25. (AP)

advisory board, told The Associated Press. "This is just the start... for a diverse and inclusive workforce."

"So I think it's important also from a coaching perspective, when you speak to the three generations of players that we've lost and the current generation that we want one thing — it's called equal opportunity and to have a role based on meritocracy, not tokenism."

Elliott has risen to positions of power in football after a playing career in England, Scotland and Italy, including at Chelsea, Aston Villa, Celtic and Pisa.

The code was in part inspired by Manchester City and England forward Raheem Sterling in June calling for more Black, Asian and minority ethnic leaders or coaches in the game. The lack of opportunities for Black coaches was also highlighted by former England striker Jermain Defoe as the sport grappled with inequalities in society highlighted by the Black Lives Matter movement which intensified after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May.

"Many discussions were about systemic, structural, institutional racism," Elliott said. "Raheem Sterling resonated, I thought, when he said publicly when he looks up, he doesn't see people that look like him. That was a very, very compelling statement and, thereafter, when Jermain Defoe said he's not sure if he's going to get qualifications because he doesn't think he's going to get any opportunity to get a coaching job. Now, for me, they're big defining moments when people with such influence are making those statements."

Clubs abiding by the code should include at least one male and one female Black, Asian or mixed-heritage candidates on shortlists if they meet the specifications required.

"It's about creating clear processes and transparency that people can apply for jobs and so there is equal opportunity for all," said Edleen John, co-partner for equality diversity and inclusion at the FA. "I think it's fair to say that there are many industries that have really struggled with actually people being hired because of their own personal networks or because of people they know. And I don't think that football is any different to other industries that have struggled with that challenge."

"This code really helps us to move forward... this is a really pivotal moment for the world of football. I think it's a code that brings about change that will be delivered through action and also accountability."

11 Lens players test positive

FIFA president Infantino 'tests' positive for virus

ZURICH, Oct 27, (AP) — FIFA president Gianni Infantino has tested positive for COVID-19.

The governing body of world soccer said Tuesday that Infantino has mild symptoms and "has immediately placed himself in self-isolation and will remain in quarantine at least for 10 days."

People who have come into contact with the 50-year-old Swiss lawyer in recent days have been informed "to take the necessary steps," FIFA said.

Infantino has traveled little during the coronavirus pandemic, but he attended a signing ceremony at the White House last month to mark normalized relations with Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.



Infantino

Infantino's infection comes as Switzerland reports a spike in COVID-19 cases. Switzerland has reported 127,000 cases this year, with more than 23,000 since last Friday.

French soccer club Lens say 11 players and seven staff members have tested positive for the coronavirus in the latest round of testing.

Lens is scheduled to play Marseille on Friday.

Last Sunday's game between Lens and Nantes was postponed after 11 Lens players and two staff members tested positive for COVID-19.

Lens have not named any of those concerned.

Robert Lewandowski's former agent in Poland was detained by police on Tuesday following allegations that he blackmailed the Bayern Munich striker for money.

Warsaw prosecutors' office spokesman Marcin Sadus said they ordered the detention of Cezary Kucharski as part of their investigation into Lewandowski's report of criminal threats

made against him.

Sadus said searches were carried out at Kucharski's home and offices.

Polish media reported last month that Kucharski demanded 20 million euros (\$23.3 million) from Lewandowski for their past business cooperation.

Lewandowski denies owing him money.

Kucharski, a former Poland national team player and a former lawmaker for the liberal opposition Civic Platform party, was Lewandowski's manager in Poland for 10 years until 2018.

FOOTBALL

Los Angeles remains unbeaten at home

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Oct 27, (AP) — Josh Reynolds and Gerald Everett caught touchdown passes from Jared Goff, and the Los Angeles Rams won a matchup of dominant defenses, beating the Chicago Bears 24-10 on Monday night.

Goff passed for 219 yards and Malcolm Brown rushed for a score for the Rams (5-2), who remained unbeaten at brand-new SoFi Stadium and reasserted themselves as NFC contenders with a rebound performance one week after a rough loss at San Francisco.

Taylor Rapp made an end-zone interception on a pass deflection by Troy Hill while the Rams held Chicago (5-2) to 182 yards in the first three quarters and built a 24-3 lead.

Eddie Jackson returned a fumble 8 yards for Chicago's only touchdown with 7:30 to play, but Los Angeles' defense stayed in control, yielding 279 total yards and three points. The Rams have won twice in three defense-dominated games between these longtime rivals over the past three seasons.

Nick Foles passed for 261 yards for the Bears, who dropped out of the NFC North lead and fell to 3-1 on the road with their latest discouraging offensive performance. Chicago managed just 49 yards rushing and have 175 yards on the ground in the past four games.

The Rams' defense, now coordinated by former Bears outside linebackers coach Brandon Staley, sacked Foles four times and picked off two of his passes, including Jalen Ramsey's first interception of the season near midfield to clinch the victory with 3:13 to play.

Even punter Johnny Hekker dominated the Bears, pinning them inside their 10 with all five of his punts in a superb performance by the four-time Pro Bowler.

The Rams led 10-3 at halftime after holding the Bears to 126 yards. Reynolds made his 4-yard TD reception on the second drive for just the second scoring catch by a wide receiver against Chicago's stingy secondary all season, but the Bears stopped two additional drives just outside field goal range to keep the deficit manageable.

The Rams went up 17-3 midway through the third quarter on a TD drive capped by Brown's 1-yard run.

NFL Standings

WASHINGTON, Oct 27, (AP) — NFL standings after Monday's game.

American Football Conference					National Football Conference								
AFC East					NFC East								
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
Buffalo	5	2	0	.714	174	178	Philadelphia	2	4	1	.357	163	196
Miami	3	3	0	.500	160	113	Dallas	2	5	0	.285	176	243
New England	2	4	0	.333	115	143	Washington	2	5	0	.285	133	165
NY Jets	0	7	0	.000	85	203	NY Giants	1	6	0	.142	122	174
AFC South					NFC South								
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
Tennessee	5	1	0	.833	188	153	Tampa Bay	5	2	0	.714	222	142
Indianapolis	4	2	0	.666	157	115	New Orleans	4	2	0	.666	180	174
Houston	1	6	0	.142	166	217	Carolina	3	4	0	.428	162	168
Jacksonville	1	6	0	.142	154	220	Atlanta	1	6	0	.142	184	207
AFC North					NFC North								
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
Pittsburgh	6	0	0	1.000	183	118	Green Bay	5	1	0	.833	197	159
Baltimore	5	1	0	.833	179	104	Chicago	5	2	0	.714	138	140
Cleveland	5	2	0	.714	200	221	Detroit	3	3	0	.500	156	165
Cincinnati	1	5	1	.214	163	194	Minnesota	1	5	0	.166	155	192
AFC West					NFC West								
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
Kansas City	6	1	0	.857	218	143	Seattle	5	1	0	.833	203	172
Las Vegas	3	3	0	.500	171	197	Arizona	5	2	0	.714	203	146
Denver	2	4	0	.333	116	153	LA Rams	5	2	0	.714	176	124
LA Chargers	2	4	0	.333	149	154	S Francisco	4	3	0	.571	181	136

Chicago mounted their best drive immediately thereafter, but their 71-yard march ended when Hill deflected a pass intended for Darnell Mooney in the end zone and Rapp snagged it for an interception.

The Rams followed with a crisp 80-yard drive capped by a 12-yard TD catch-and-run by Everett, their big-play tight end. Chicago got to the Rams 4 with just over nine minutes to play, but Aaron Donald flushed Foles from the pocket and into Justin Hollins' arms for a fourth-down sack.

Robert Woods fumbled three plays later on a jet sweep, and Jackson returned it for the sixth defensive touch-



Los Angeles Rams safety John Johnson III (right), breaks up a pass intended for Chicago Bears wide receiver Anthony Miller during the second half of an NFL football game on Oct 26, in Inglewood, California. (AP)

Woods wins 7th 'stage' of Vuelta

VALDEGOVIA, Spain, Oct 27, (AP) — Michael Woods prevailed in the final kilometer to win the seventh stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Tuesday, with Richard Carapaz holding on to the overall leader's jersey.

Woods made his move to the front entering the final kilometer (mile) and finished four seconds in front of Omar Fraile and Alejandro Valverde after a hilly stage that took riders 159 kilometers (98 miles) from Vitoria-Gasteiz to Valdegovia.

Carapaz maintained the overall lead by finishing in the peloton, which crossed the line almost a minute later. He kept an 18-second lead over Hugh Carthy, with Dan Martin and defending champion Primoz Roglic close behind. Roglic finished the stage in 19th place.

CYCLING

Woods, the EF Pro Cycling rider who finished second in Sunday's sixth stage, was 48th in the overall standings, almost 40 minutes behind Carapaz. He was the seventh different stage winner at the Vuelta this year.

Monday was the Vuelta's first rest day.

On Wednesday, riders will face a mountain stage of 164 kilometers (102 miles) from Logroño to the Alto de Moncalvillo.

The Vuelta is taking place amid tight health restrictions as Spain endures a surge in coronavirus cases. The race was postponed from earlier in the year because of the pandemic.

sence, including a career-best 34-yard catch in the second quarter.

Meanwhile the Cleveland Browns placed star wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr on injured reserve Tuesday, two days after he suffered a season-ending knee injury in a win at Cincinnati.

Beckham tore his left anterior cruciate ligament on Cleveland's first possession Sunday. The three-time Pro Bowler was trying to make a tackle when his left leg buckled as he began to launch himself toward Bengals cornerback Darius Phillips, who intercepted Baker Mayfield's first pass.

Beckham will likely need up to a year to recover from the injury. He's set to earn \$15.75 million next season, with \$12.97 million guaranteed.