

Bayern and Dortmund will be waiting to take advantage of any slip-ups

Leipzig seek Bundesliga solace after big loss to Man United



Leipzig's Justin Kluivert (right), is challenged by Manchester United's Luke Shaw during the Champions League Group H soccer match between Manchester United and RB Leipzig, at the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England on Oct 28. (AP)

BERLIN, Oct 29, (AP) — Leipzig were still celebrating their swift ascent from the lower divisions of German soccer when Manchester United handed the club the biggest loss in their 11-year history.

Leipzig, which was founded only in 2009 and currently are in first place in the Bundesliga, were looking forward to their Champions League game at Old Trafford when they pointed out that they were facing little-known Meuselwitz in the fourth division nine years earlier.

Back to the present, and Marcus Rashford came off the bench to score an 18-minute hat trick in United's 5-0 rout on Wednesday.

"The Bundesliga is a different competition," said Leipzig coach Julian Nagelsmann, whose team are one point ahead second-place Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund after five matches.

But it could be another difficult autumn for Leipzig, who were also leading at the same stage last year. The team

then went four games without a win — including two losses — and dropped to sixth place.

Nagelsmann is determined to avoid a repeat before his team visits Borussia Mönchengladbach on Saturday, which has become a high-stakes clash between two sides bidding to get over Champions League disappointment.

SOCCER

Gladbach were minutes away from recording a memorable win over Real Madrid on Tuesday before conceding two late goals in a 2-2 draw.

"We should have closed the deal," Gladbach coach Marco Rose said.

Gladbach have not yet settled in the Bundesliga either, losing to Borussia Dortmund and drawing with Union Berlin before unimpressive performances against Cologne, Wolfsburg and Mainz.

After playing Gladbach, Leipzig face

another tough match at home against Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday, with games against Freiburg and Eintracht Frankfurt to come in the Bundesliga before the return trip to Paris in the Champions League.

Lukas Klostermann and Konrad Laimer remain injured, while Amadou Haidara is still out despite finishing his two-week quarantine period for the coronavirus he picked up while with Mali's national team.

Nordi Mukiele and Tyler Adams are also likely out with a thigh injury and knee problem, respectively.

"I have a bit of hope for Tyler (though) he still has problems," Nagelsmann said. "With Nordi, I have very little hope that he'll make it for the weekend."

Both Bayern and Dortmund will be waiting to take advantage of any slip-ups. Bayern visit Cologne, while Dortmund travel to promoted Arminia Bielefeld on Saturday.

Injured Khan ruled out

Pakistan capt Babar aims to sweep Zimbabwe ODI series

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Oct 29, (AP) — Pakistan captain Babar Azam has set their sights on sweeping Zimbabwe in the one-day international series that opens their World Cup Super League campaigns from Friday.

The International Cricket Council has introduced the league to bring context to ODI cricket. The seven leading teams in the league will directly qualify for the 2023 Cricket World Cup in India. The league features 13 countries playing four home and away three-match ODI series.

"We will try to whitewash them (Zimbabwe) by playing according to our strength," Babar said by video on Thursday at Pindi Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan boasts just one ODI loss against Zimbabwe in the last 19 games. The streak includes a 2-0 win at home in 2015 when Zimbabwe became the first full ICC member to tour Pakistan since the 2009 terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka team in Lahore.

Pakistan suffered a setback when Babar's deputy, Shadab Khan, was ruled out of Friday's opening match because of a leg injury the allrounder sustained during an intra-squad match in Lahore last week.

Uncapped Usman Qadir was in the 15-man squad for the first ODI as cover for Khan, and Babar hopes the leg-spinning son of the great Abdul Qadir will play up to his domestic standards.

Young fast bowler Musa Khan was also in the squad as backup to frontline pacemen Wahab Riaz and Shaheen Afridi.

As part of the coronavirus protocols, the games will be without spectators and the teams are in a bio-secure bubble in Rawalpindi and confined to their hotel. They are allowed outside the hotel only for scheduled practices and matches.

CRICKET

"Personally, for me, being in a bio bubble has been one of the toughest things I've ever had to go through," Zimbabwe captain Chamu Chibhabha said. "But it's COVID-19 time, so we have to do what we have to do to get some cricket."

Chibhabha said that from the team's perspective, the bubble was giving them an opportunity to bond.

"The bubble is not all just negative and frustrating," he said. "I know we're separated from our families, but it's kind of bonds us together ... most of the time we celebrate birthdays, get into the team room and play games."

Chibhabha has played 104 ODIs without a hundred. His top score of 99 came during the last series in Pakistan in 2015.

The captain hoped they will be more than competitive against Pakistan.

"We've been a team that doesn't really quite get over the line," Chibhabha said. "There's a lot more desperation to win ... and considering its super league games, each game that we play is going to be very crucial for us, so we're not just going out there to compete, we want to win games."

Zimbabwe has the experienced Brendan Taylor, Sikander Raza and Elton Chigumbura to bolster their batting. Fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani is also appearing for the first time since the 2018 home series against Pakistan.

The three ODIs will be followed by three Twenty20s also at Rawalpindi from Nov 7-10.

Meanwhile, highly-touted all-rounder Cameron Green has been selected in Australia's one-day international and Twenty20 squads for an upcoming series against India.

The 21-year-old Green averages 52.23 with the bat and 21.53 with the ball from 17 first-class matches for Western Australia, and former test captain Greg Chappell has described him as the best young batter since Ricky Ponting.

Green was unable to bowl last season because of stress fractures in his back. But in his most recent Sheffield Shield domestic first-class match, Green scored 197 against New South Wales.

Australia will play three one-day internationals and three T20s against India, with the first ODI on Nov. 27 in Sydney. The teams will then play a four-Test series, starting with a day-night match in Adelaide.

"Cameron's domestic form has been outstanding and he has carried it through for Western Australia this summer," Australia selector Trevor Hohns said. "As a potential player of the future, this is an opportunity for him to be part of the squad and build on his experience."

Australia's return to international cricket following the COVID-19 lockdown included a T20 and ODI series in England in August and September. It culminated with Australia beating World Cup champion England in the ODI series.

Green will add to the depth of the squad.

Chappell told SEN radio that Green is "the best young batting talent I've seen since Ricky Ponting," comparing the young allrounder with Australia's leading all-time scorer in test cricket.

"This kid can play — he's a serious talent," Chappell said. "He's got something special in that he's 6-foot-7 tall — we haven't seen anyone of that size dominate from a batting point of view."

Cricket Australia also announced Thursday that it had posted a 45.9 million Australian dollar (32.4 million) deficit in the last financial year and warned of more losses to come. The deficit came despite the organization axing 40 jobs amid the coronavirus pandemic shutdown.

CA said the deficit was projected on a four-year cycle which relies heavily on money generated from international tours. Only New Zealand and Pakistan toured Australia in the financial year.

Australia squad: Aaron Finch (captain), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Moises Henriques, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Daniel Sams, Kane Richardson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Adam Zampa



Pakistan cricket team skipper Babar Azam bats during a practice session at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi, Pakistan on Oct 29. (AP)

3 on 3 hockey league plans to start inaugural season in June

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP) — A few years after a 3-on-3 basketball league took the court, 3-on-3 hockey is launching next summer.

The 3ICE league is set to announce on Thursday it's planning to start its inaugural season on June 20. The league is expecting to make nine barnstorming stops around North America during the summer of 2021.

It has narrowed the list of cities to 13, including US NHL markets Boston, Buffalo, Las Vegas, Nashville,

Minneapolis and Columbus, Ohio, and plans to finalize those locations by Thanksgiving. Toronto and Quebec City are the Canadian cities in the running, along with American Hockey League markets Hershey, Pennsylvania; Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Providence, Rhode Island.

Six of the eight teams are to be coached by Hockey Hall of Famers: Brian Trottier, Grant Fuhr, Guy Carbonneau, Joe Mullen, Larry Murphy and Angela Ruggiero.

Barcelona ease past Juve; Chelsea and Man U cruise



Lionel Messi of FC Barcelona (right) and Danilo of Juventus FC vie for the ball during a group stage soccer match of UEFA Champions League in Turin, Italy on Oct 28. (AP)

PSG win 2-0 at Basaksehir

TURIN, Italy, Oct 29, (AP) — There was no Cristiano Ronaldo on the field and no fans in the stands to see Barcelona and Lionel Messi beat Juventus 2-0 away in the Champions League.

Ronaldo's lingering COVID-19 case prevented a first meeting between him and Messi in the group stage of a competition they have combined to win nine times.

Barcelona took an early lead in Turin through Ousmane Dembélé and had plenty of chances to seal the win long before Messi scored a penalty as 90 minutes ticked over into stoppage time.

Marcus Rashford scored a hat trick as Manchester United beat Leipzig 5-0 at home, while Chelsea brushed aside Krasnodar 4-0 in Russia, giving England's four clubs a sweep of wins this week without conceding a goal.

SOCCER

A wave of second-half goals also earned wins for Paris Saint-Germain — after losing Neymar early to injury — Borussia Dortmund and Sevilla.

Some of the gloss went out of the Juve-Barca game — the repeat of a standout final in 2015 — when Ronaldo was ruled out in the morning. His virus infection was revealed more than two weeks ago while on international duty with Portugal.

Barcelona quickly pushed back the Italian champions and Antoine Griezmann's shot struck a post in the second minute. The lead arrived in the 14th from Dembélé's deflected, looping shot.

Barcelona's forwards were often hesitant and wasteful, with even Messi missing the target with a clear shooting chance on his left foot.

Juventus officially had no shots on target yet its No. 9 Alvaro Morata had a hat trick of goals disallowed for offside calls. The third would have leveled in the 55th but was ruled out more than two minutes later after a video review.

Also in Group G, Ferencváros and Dynamo Kyiv missed the chance

to join Juventus on three points by drawing 2-2 in Budapest before a crowd of 6,171.

Ferencváros coach Serhiy Rebrov, who played and coached at Dynamo, saw his team fall two down in the first half, then earn a point with substitute Franck Boli's 90th-minute strike.

Chelsea's Russian owner Roman Abramovich used his team's trip to his home country to make a rare visit to see a game.

Abramovich, whose British visa was withdrawn in 2018 during diplomatic tensions with Russia, was rewarded with a 4-0 win in Krasnodar.

Chelsea's players are not used to seeing their owner, nor any fans at games.

There were 10,544 spectators in the first paying crowd Chelsea has played for since the coronavirus pandemic was declared in March.

Hakim Ziyech, in his first start for the 2012 European champions, scored in a late burst of goals. Another expensive summer signing, Timo Werner, scored a penalty after regular taker Jorginho missed from the spot in the 14th. United States international Christian Pulisic came off the bench to score in stoppage time.

Sevilla, who drew 0-0 at Chelsea last week, also have four points in Group E after beating Rennes 1-0.

Italian forward Moise Kean's goals lifted Paris Saint-Germain to a 2-0 win at Istanbul Basaksehir after Neymar limped off with a muscle strain.

Kean, who is on loan to PSG from Premier League leaders Everton, scored in the 64th and 79th minutes. After two goals in the French league at the weekend, Kean already matched his goals tally for all of last season in England.

For a game between teams owned by the government of Turkey and the state of Qatar, PSG wore a uniform in the maroon of Qatar's national flag. The official attendance was 350.

Manchester United's Rashford has had a stunning October on and off the field, leading a campaign against child poverty that embar-

Yadav, Bumrah guide Mumbai to 5-wicket win over Bangalore

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Oct 29, (AP) — Suryakumar Yadav struck an unbeaten 79 off 43 balls and Jasprit Bumrah grabbed 3-14 as Mumbai Indians took a big step toward a place in the playoffs with a five-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League.

Yadav's best score this season eased Mumbai to 166-5 in 19.1 overs when he drove Muhammad Siraj to extra cover for the winning boundary.

Bumrah had earlier pegged back Bangalore in the last five overs and restricted Virat Kohli's team to 164-6 after captain Kieron Pollard won the toss and elected to field.

The victory nearly sealed Mumbai's place in the playoffs as they sit on top of the points table with 16 points and a healthy net run-rate of 1.186.

Despite the loss, Bangalore are still second with 14 points, ahead of Delhi Capitals on net run-rate.

Young Devdutt Padikkal (74) continued his sublime form and together with Australian Josh Philippe (33) provided Bangalore a solid start of 71 off 47 balls.

Spinner Rahul Chahar provided the breakthrough when Quinton de Kock smartly stumped Philippe in the eighth over. Bumrah celebrated his 100th wicket in the IPL when Kohli

(9) top edged a pull shot of the fiery fast bowler's short delivery.

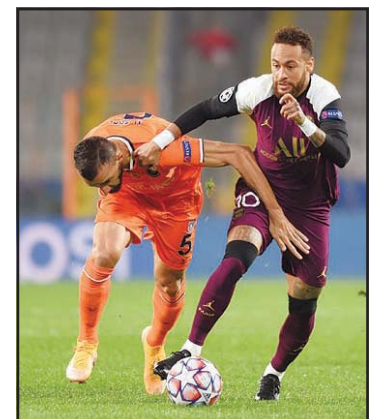
Pollard didn't allow Bangalore to accelerate in the last five overs when AB de Villiers (15) hit a full toss straight to deep square leg in the 16th over and Bumrah followed it up by bowling a double wicket maiden over.

Shivam Dube was beaten by the pace off a sharp Bumrah bouncer and holed out at deep midwicket and Padikkal, who hit 12 fours and a six, gave a regulation catch to Trent Boult at long leg as Bangalore could score only 35 runs in the last five overs and lost four wickets.

CRICKET

Yadav anchored Mumbai's run-chase and decimated the figures of Dale Steyn when he hit South African fast bowler for three boundaries in an over. Steyn, returning to the side after playing two IPL games last month, finished with expensive figures of 0-43 as Yadav also struck a six off the paceman's full toss over the fine leg boundary.

Siraj (2-28) and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (2-37) grabbed two wickets each, but Yadav struck 10 fours and three sixes in his season's third half century to guide Mumbai home.



PSG's Neymar (right) duels for the ball with Basaksehir's Mehmet Topal during the Champions League Group H soccer match between Istanbul Basaksehir and Paris Saint-Germain at the Fatih Terim Stadium in Istanbul, on Oct 28. (AP)

assed the British government.

Rashford, who scored the winning goal at PSG last week, came

off the bench to score a late hat trick and seal United's 5-0 rout of Leipzig, a semifinalist last season.

Another homegrown young forward, Mason Greenwood, opened the scoring in the first half and Anthony Martial scored a penalty.

United lead Group H with a maximum six points, three ahead of PSG and Leipzig.

Borussia Dortmund's coveted young forwards Jadon Sancho and Erling Haaland both scored late to beat Russian champions Zenit St. Petersburg 2-0.

Neither game in Group F was played with fans in the stands, and Lazio traveled to Belgium with barely enough first-team players due to a COVID-19 outbreak at the club.

Lazio still earned a 1-1 draw at Club Brugge to give both four points, one clear of favored Dortmund with top-seeded Zenit last after two defeats.