



South Korea's Pohang Steelers player Kang Sang-woo (left), fights for the ball with Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal player Salman Al-Faraj during their final soccer match of the AFC Champions League 2021 at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. (AP)

Sports

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Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal soccer team celebrate with the trophy of the AFC Champions League 2021 after the team beat South Korea's Pohang Steelers 2-0 during their final match at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. (AP)

Al-Hilal win record 4th Asian CL title

Steelers beaten

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 24, (AP): Nasser Al-Dawsari's goal after just 16 seconds helped Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal clinch a record fourth Asian Champions League title with a 2-0 win over South Korea's Pohang Steelers in final.

Immediately after kick off, Al-Dawsari picked up a loose ball just inside the Pohang half and advanced to unleash a fierce shot from outside the area that flew into the top corner of the net in front of 50,000 home fans. Moussa Marega doubled the lead in the second half.

"We are the best team in Asia and we have worked hard to get here," Al-Hilal captain Salman Al-Faraj said. "It was a tough game against a good team. We have been together a long time and we are delighted to win the title again after winning it in 2019."

Pohang, a three-time Asian champions that have been struggling domestically this season, had their best chance 10 minutes into the game when midfielder Sin Jin-ho hit the bar with a shot from outside the area and goalkeeper Abdullah Al-Mayouf saved Lim Sang-hyub's follow-up from the rebound.

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"It would have been a more interesting game had that gone in and not hit the bar," said Pohang coach Kim Ki-dong, who was a player in 2009 when the Steelers last lifted the title. "We weren't able to follow our game plan as we conceded so early but Al-Hilal has many good players and played a good game."

Al-Hilal controlled most of the game, thanks in part to Brazilian playmaker Matheus Pereira, and got the second goal in the 63rd minute. Bafetimbi Gomis freed Maresca in the area and the former FC Porto striker's low shot beat goalkeeper Lee Jun.

Pohang struggled to find a way through the Al-Hilal backline and their best chance in the second half came as Al-Mayouf missed a looping cross but Jeon Min-gwang's subsequent shot from close range was blocked.

"When you concede a goal that early in the game, you are always going to be against it," Pohang's Australian defender Alex Grant said. "We knew coming into the game that it was going to be tough as they have great quality players. They were the better team."

Al-Hilal secured a place at the Club World Cup, which will be played early next year in nearby United Arab Emirates. The field for the seven-team FIFA tournament also includes European champions Chelsea, CONCACAF Champions League winners Monterrey of Mexico and African champions Al Ahly of Egypt.

A Brazilian team will also be at the event with the Copa Libertadores final on Saturday being contested by Palmeiras and Flamengo.

LONDON, Nov 24, (AP): Energized by a change of manager and another opportunistic finish by Cristiano Ronaldo, Manchester United qualified for the knockout stage of the Champions League with a game to spare.

Another newly appointed coach still has work to do, though, to get Barcelona into the last 16.

United were led for the first time by Michael Carrick following the weekend firing of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and, just like his predecessor, the interim manager was left to be thankful for a goal by the Champions League's record scorer.

Ronaldo produced a sublime lobbed finish to put United ahead against Villarreal and a 90th-minute strike by Jadon Sancho - his first goal since joining for \$100 million in the offseason - sealed a 2-0 win to secure progress as the winners of Group F. Ronaldo has scored in all five group games so far, and now has a record-extending 140 Champions League goals in his career.

Another English team, defending champions Chelsea, also advanced on the back of a 4-0 win over already-qualified Juventus, which slumped to their heaviest ever loss in the Champions League.

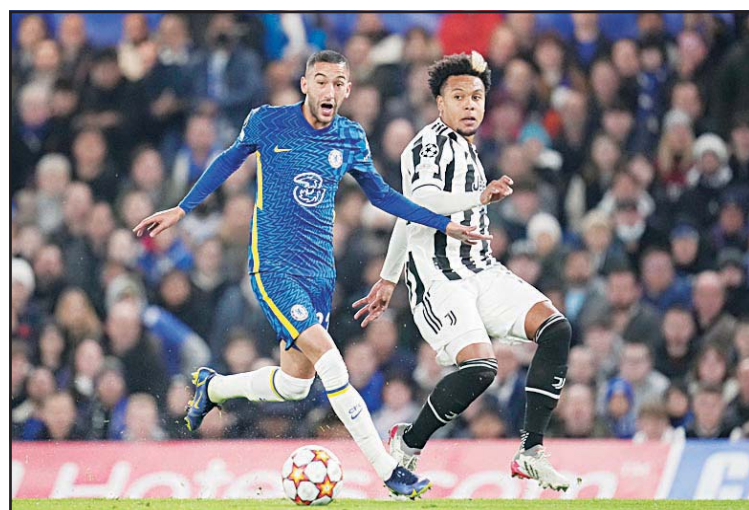
Barcelona, now coached by former star midfielder Xavi Hernandez, have advanced from their group every season for almost two decades but a 0-0 draw at home to Benfica means the Spanish club might need to beat Bayern Munich in the final round of games to advance.

All four teams in Group G are separated by three points and could still qualify heading into their last games after wins for Lille and Sevilla over Salzburg and Wolfsburg, respectively.

Ronaldo had already scored two winners and a late equalizer in the Champions League this season before his smartly taken go-ahead goal against Villarreal in the 78th minute, prompted by Fred winning the ball high up the field.

And both Fred and Ronaldo featured in a counterattack that ended with Sancho smashing a shot in off the underside of the crossbar to seal the win.

Carrick made a big call in his first



Chelsea's Hakim Ziyech (left), is challenged by Juventus' Weston McKennie during the Champions League Group H soccer match between Chelsea and Juventus at Stamford Bridge Stadium in London. (AP)

NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Nov 24, (AP): NBA results and standings on Tuesday.												
Eastern Conference				Western Conference								
Atlantic Division				Southwest Division								
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB					
Miami	100	92		Portland	119	100						
New York	106	100		Dallas	112	104						
Atlantic Division				Southwest Division								
Brooklyn	13	5	.722	Dallas	10	7	.588					
New York	10	8	.556	Memphis	9	8	.529					
Boston	10	8	.556	San Antonio	4	12	.250	5-1/2				
Philadelphia	10	8	.556	New Orleans	3	16	.158	8				
Toronto	8	10	.444	Houston	1	16	.059	9				
Southeast Division				Northwest Division								
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB					
Miami	12	6	.667	Utah	11	6	.647	1-1/2				
Washington	11	6	.647	Portland	10	8	.556	2-1/2				
Charlotte	11	8	.579	Denver	9	9	.500	2-1/2				
Atlanta	9	9	.500	Minnesota	8	9	.471	3				
Orlando	4	14	.222	Oklahoma City	6	11	.353	5				
Central Division				Pacific Division								
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB					
Chicago	12	6	.667	Golden State	15	2	.882	-				
Milwaukee	10	8	.556	Phoenix	14	3	.824	1				
Cleveland	9	9	.500	LA Clippers	10	8	.556	5-1/2				
Indiana	8	11	.421	LA Lakers	9	10	.474	7				
Detroit	4	13	.235	Sacramento	6	12	.333	9-1/2				

game in charge by dropping playmaker Bruno Fernandes in a bid to set up in a more solid fashion and protect a defense that has been overrun this season. It led to a first clean sheet of the group stage.

More joy was to follow as Atalanta's wild 3-3 draw at Young Boys

SOCCER

meant United cannot be displaced as group leaders courtesy of their superior head-to-head record against Villarreal, which are three points back in second place.

Atalanta, which are a point further back, grabbed a point thanks to Luis Muriel's 87th-minute free kick with his first touch after coming on as a substitute.

It was a bittersweet night for Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel.

The thrashing of Juventus, achieved courtesy of goals by academy gradu-

ates Trevoh Chalobah, Reece James and Callum Hudson-Odoi as well as a fourth by substitute Timo Werner, was marred by knee injuries to key players N'Golo Kante and Ben Chilwell.

Kante went off in the first half while Chilwell looked in agony as he was helped off the field in the 71st.

Chelsea and Juventus, who are tied on 12 points with a game left to play, both started an American in Christian Pulisic and Weston McKennie, respectively. They were two of six Americans to start Tuesday, a record in one night of group play.

Zenit St. Petersburg are assured of finishing third and going into the Europa League knockout stage after drawing 1-1 at Malmo, which will end the group stage in last place but at least have a goal to show for their efforts.

Barcelona missed a string of chances at the Camp Nou and stayed two points ahead of Benfica.

If Barca fail to beat Bayern away, Benfica could overtake the Spanish club with a win at home to already-eliminated Dynamo Kyiv. If they finish tied on points, Benfica would advance courtesy of their head-to-head record.

Helping Barca is the fact that Bayern have little to play for - except, maybe, the chance to knock out a historic rival, albeit one that have lost their aura following the departure of Lionel Messi and other big-name players amid financial problems.

Bayern had already qualified for the last 16 before their 2-1 win at Dynamo Kyiv and the result secured the German champions first place in the group.

Robert Lewandowski - with an overhead kick - and Kingsley Coman scored the goals for a threadbare Bayern squad missing nine players, with seven unavailable because either they tested positive for the coronavirus or were unvaccinated and had contact with a positive case. Lille moved top of their group after Canada striker Jonathan David scored his 12th goal of the season to seal a 1-0 win over Salzburg, which dropped a point back in second.

Trail Blazers hand Nuggets fifth straight loss

Knicks hold off Lakers as Mavericks 'end' bad run

NEW YORK, Nov 24, (AP): Evan Fournier scored 26 points, Immanuel Quickley had 12 of his 14 in the fourth quarter after New York had blown a 25-point lead, and the Knicks beat a Los Angeles Lakers team missing suspended star LeBron James 106-100 on Tuesday night.

Julius Randle added 20 points, 16 rebounds and five assists for the Knicks, but sat for eight minutes of the fourth quarter after picking up his fifth foul. Quickley made sure that didn't matter, hitting four 3-pointers in the period.

Russell Westbrook had 31 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists, with 18 points in a sensational third quarter that helped the Lakers tie the game. But with James not in the arena, Anthony Davis struggling through an illness and Carmelo Anthony's shot off in his old home, the Lakers never could take the lead.

They beat Detroit on Sunday after overcoming a 17-point deficit in the game James was ejected from for striking Pistons center Isaiah Stewart in the face and drawing blood. The NBA suspended the superstar forward for one game. But the best Los Angeles could do in this one was tie it twice after New York dominated most of the first two quarters.

Davis, who woke up with a fever, had 20 points on 7-for-17 shooting. Anthony was just 3 of 14 for 12 points, and the Lakers lost for the fourth time in five games.

Mavericks 112, Clippers 104, OT

In Los Angeles, Kristaps Porzingis scored 30 points, Luka Dončić had 26 in his return to the lineup and Dallas defeated Los Angeles.

The Mavericks were up 102-92 late in the fourth quarter before the Clippers scored 11 of the final 12 points to force overtime, including a 3-pointer by Paul George at the buzzer. Dallas, though, put up the first seven points of overtime and outscored Los Angeles 9-1 to snap a three-game losing streak.

Porzingis, who has scored 20 or more in a career-high seven straight games, had six points in overtime. He also made all 10 of his free throws in 40 minutes of action.

Reggie Jackson led the Clippers with 31 points and 10 rebounds. George scored 26. Dončić, who missed the past three games due to left knee and ankle sprains, also had nine rebounds and nine assists in 41 minutes.

Trail Blazers 119, Nuggets 100

In Portland, CJ McCollum scored



Miami Heat forward Caleb Martin (16) makes a layup as Detroit Pistons guard Cade Cunningham (2) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Detroit. (AP)

32 points and Portland handed the banged-up Denver Nuggets their fifth straight loss.

Damian Lillard had 25 points and five assists to help the Trail Blazers to their fourth consecutive win and ninth in a row at home. Jeff Green led Denver with 24 points.

The defining run of the game came late in the second quarter. After the Nuggets took a 49-48 lead with 3:35 left, Portland seized control with an 18-3 spurt to close the first half, sparked by four 3-pointers from Lillard. From that point on, the smallest Blazers lead was eight points.

Heat 100, Pistons 92

In Detroit, Tyler Herro had 31 points and eight rebounds as Miami rallied to beat Detroit.

BASKETBALL

Miami (12-6) outscored the Pistons 27-6 in the first 8:17 of the fourth quarter to turn a nine-point deficit into a 12-point lead. Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo each added 15 points and nine rebounds for the Heat, who won for the fifth time in six games. Kyle Lowry had 15 points, eight assists and six rebounds.

Jerami Grant had 21 points and seven rebounds for Detroit (4-13), which went 1-4 on its homestand. The Pistons played without center Isaiah Stewart, who served the first of a two-game suspension for Sunday's altercation with Lakers star LeBron James.