

Nice knock holders PSG out of French Cup on 'penalty' kicks

Pochettino's odd decision backfires

PARIS, Feb 1, (AP): Nice coach Christophe Galtier outwitted Paris Saint-Germain again as his side won a tense penalty shootout 6-5 to reach the quarterfinals of the French Cup following a 0-0 away draw.

Holder PSG's bid for a record-extending 15th trophy and an eighth straight final fell short at Parc des Princes against visiting Galtier's expertly organized side.



Galtier

Perhaps it's no surprise, seeing as he led his former club Lille to the French title last season by winning at PSG and drawing at home without conceding a goal.

Same again. His defense held out as PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino's seemingly odd decision not to start top scorer Kylian Mbappe backfired.

He kept Mbappe on the bench until an hour in.

SOCCER

But by the time he came on, a Nice defense marshalled confidently by Brazilian veteran Dante and former Barcelona central defender Jean-Clair Todibo was settled.

Lionel Messi started up front after recovering from the coronavirus, yet he made little impact in a frustrating first half for Pochettino's side. Left winger Justin Kluivert had a shot saved for Nice soon after the break and PSG midfielder Marco Verratti curled a shot over from a decent position midway through the second period.



Action shot taken during the 2022 Men's Asian Handball Championship final match.

KUNA photo

Qatar crowned Asian Handball Champions

RIYADH, Feb 1, (KUNA): Qatar are named the 2022 Men's Asian Handball Championship winner for the fifth time in a row after defeating Bahrain 29 to 24 in the final match.

The first half ended with Qatar being ahead by a margin of a three-goal difference as both teams battled throughout the whole match till the

last minute where Bahrain was just not able to close down on the goal difference.

The hosts Saudi Arabia managed to snatch the bronze medal in the championship following a 26-23 win against Iran who placed in fourth.

As for the Kuwaiti team, seventh position is where they stand for this

year's Asian Handball tournament as of Sunday after beating Uzbekistan while Korea beat Iraq to place in fifth place.

The final results of the tournament put the top five teams (Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Iran) in for the Poland and Sweden bound 2023 Men's Handball World Cup.

Ski jumper Kramer ruled out

COVID infections for Olympic athletes, coaches rising faster

BEIJING, Feb 1, (AP): Athletes and team officials are testing positive for COVID-19 at much higher rates than other people arriving in China for the Beijing Olympics, organizers said Tuesday.

Figures released by local organizers showed 11 positive tests for COVID-19 among 379 athletes and officials arriving Monday. They have been taken into isolation hotels to limit the spread of the infection and could miss their events.

The positive test rate of 2.9% for athletes and officials compared to 0.66% for Olympic "stakeholders," a group which includes workers and media, in the same period. There were 1,059 people in that category.

Over a three-day period from Saturday through Monday, the positivity rate for athletes and officials was 40% higher than other Olympic arrivals.

The rates were confirmed in PCR and other follow-up tests for tens of thousands of people at the Beijing Olympics who will live, work and train in closed-off communities separated from the general public. The Chinese government is pursuing a zero-tolerance public health strategy.

On Monday, the rate of infection from tests of those already inside the Olympic bubbles was 100 times higher for athletes and officials compared to workers. Five of 3,103 tests from the athletes-officials group were positive compared to only one of more than 60,000 daily tests from "stakeholders."

A total of 200 positive tests for COVID-19 have now been recorded at the Olympics since Jan. 23. Of those 200, 67 were athletes and officials. "Stakeholders" accounted for the other 133.

Among the athletes testing positive in Beijing is Hong Kong skier Audrey King, who arrived from a training camp in Bosnia-Herzegovina. King told the South China Morning Post she had no symptoms and was optimistic of skiing in the women's slalom on Feb. 9.

The most senior athlete representative at the International Olympic

Committee, two-time Olympic medalist Emma Terho, also is in an isolation hotel after testing positive on arrival.

Ski jumper Marita Kramer will miss the Beijing Olympics after testing positive for COVID-19, the Austrian team said.

Kramer cannot travel after a PCR test in Salzburg confirmed the infection detected over the weekend in Germany, the Austrian ski federation said.

The 20-year-old Kramer was due to compete at her first Winter Olympics. The women's normal hill competition on Saturday is one of the first medal events of the Beijing Games.

She has won six World Cup events this season and leads the standings.

World Cup champion Elana Meyers Taylor's quest to add to her Olympic medal total at the Beijing Games is in jeopardy after the veteran U.S. women's bobsled pilot revealed she has tested positive for COVID-19.



Kramer

OLYMPICS

USA Bobsled and Skeleton remains hopeful that Meyers Taylor will be able to compete at the Beijing Games, especially since bobsled doesn't begin until about a week into the Olympics. Women's monobob official training begins Feb. 10, with competition beginning Feb. 13. Training for the two-woman event starts Feb. 15, with competition beginning Feb. 18.

"After arriving to Beijing on January 27, on January 29 I tested positive for Covid-19," Meyers Taylor wrote on her social media platforms. "I am asymptomatic and currently at an isolation hotel- and yes I am completely isolated."

She revealed on Jan. 27 that she passed an initial test after arriving in Beijing. Meyers Taylor was planning to stay in a hotel and not the Olympic village, since she is traveling with her young son.

"This is just the latest obstacle that my family and I have faced on this journey, so I'm remaining optimistic that I'll be able to recover quickly and still have the opportunity to compete," Meyers Taylor wrote.



In this Jan. 8, 2022 file photo, Elana Meyers Taylor from USA takes first place at the Bobsleigh World Cup in Winterberg, Germany. (AP)

Multan 'beats' Quetta by 6 runs in PSL cliffhanger

KARACHI, Pakistan, Feb 1, (AP): Superb death bowling by fast bowler David Willey earned Multan Sultans a win over Quetta Gladiators by six runs in the Pakistan Super League.

Iftikhar Ahmed seemed to lead Quetta to victory as he smacked three sixes and a four in fast bowler Imran Khan's 17th over.

But Willey had Iftikhar caught behind on 30 in the 18th over which went for only three runs. And then, with eight required off the final over, the English left-arm gave away only one run while taking the last two wickets as Quetta was bowled out for 168 in 19.5 overs.

CRICKET

Multan made 174-4 and became the first team to defend a total in the league.

Defending champion Multan tops the six-team table unbeaten with a third straight win, while Quetta has one win from three games.

Willey took 3-22 after spinners Khushdil Shah, 3-16, and Imran Tahir, 3-24, took out the top order.

Multan scored 67 runs in the last five overs. Shan Masood continued his prolific PSL form by scoring 88 off 58 balls with six fours and four sixes.

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I, MASTHAN HOLDER OF PASSPORT NO.K2090922 CHANGING MY NAME TO 'RALLAPALLI MASTHAN SAHEB' HERE AFTER, I AM KNOWN AS 'RALLAPALLI MASTHAN SAHEB.

NAME CHANGE

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