



Los Angeles FC midfielder Mark-Anthony Kaye (right), and Seattle Sounders midfielder Nicolas Lodeiro vie for the ball during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Kissimmee, Florida on July 28. (AP)

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Earthquakes continue to roll, oust RSL

Rossi scores pair, LAFC get revenge in 4-1 win over Seattle

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., July 28, (AP) — Magnus Eriksson scored on a pair of second-half penalty kicks, Chris Wondolowski added another late goal and the San Jose Earthquakes continued their impressive MLS is Back tournament run with a 5-2 win over Real Salt Lake on Monday night.

The Earthquakes advanced to the quarter-finals of the tournament and will face either Columbus or Minnesota United on Saturday in the final eight.

"The team is growing game after game, showing a very positive attitude, their unity, their sacrifice, but more than anything is how they play," San Jose coach Matias Almeyda said through a translator. "The best thing for a coach is being able to get the max level out of each individual player because I know that will allow us to have growth."

Eriksson scored on a penalty drawn by Tommy Thompson in the 49th minute to give the Earthquakes a 2-1 lead. A dozen minutes later, Vako Qazaishvili found Andres Rios on a diagonal run behind the Real Salt Lake defense. Rios passed back in front of goal where Vako had continued his run and easily beat RSL goalkeeper Zac MacMath.

Real Salt Lake pulled within 3-2 in

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the 75th minute on Damir Kreilach's left-footed shot. Kreilach was twice denied earlier in the second half by great saves from San Jose's Daniel Vega.

But that was as close as RSL would get. RSL finished with 10 men after Marcelo Silva was given a red card in the 84th minute for a rough tackle on San Jose's Jackson Yueill, and two minutes later Wondolowski scored on a rebound. It was the third straight game with a goal for the league's all-time leader in goals scored, although scores from the knockout stages of the tournament are not part of season or career statistics.

Eriksson added another penalty in stoppage time after video review ruled Kyle Beckerman should have been called for a handball in the penalty area. Beckerman was shown a red card moments later by referee Drew Fischer at the final whistle.

"I had a great feeling before both the penalty kicks so there was no doubt from my side," Erickson said. San Jose were the first team to arrive in Florida in late June and the win assured they will spend part of three months in the MLS bubble.

Cristian Espinoza gave San Jose an early lead with his goal in the 21st minute on a shot MacMath should have saved. RSL answered immediately with Douglas Martinez scoring barely a minute later when his chipped shot beat Vega.

"We take a lot of positives. It doesn't feel like it when you take five goals, it never feels good," RSL coach Freddy Juarez said. "But the guys fought their heart out. The only thing we can say is we were in the game and we fought hard. That's all you can ask from the guys."

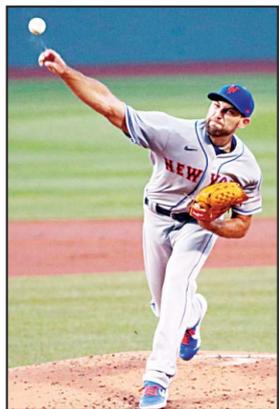
Diego Rossi scored on a penalty kick early in the first half and provided the clinching goal in the 82nd minute, and Los Angeles FC thumped the reigning MLS Cup champions Seattle Sounders 4-1 early Tuesday morning.

LAFC advanced to the quarter-finals of the MLS is Back tournament by getting a measure of revenge for last year's Western Conference final when Seattle pulled off a 3-1 upset in Los Angeles on their way to winning the league title.

"We created a lot of chances, which is something that we feel very good about, and when we needed them to finish the game out we kept going," LAFC coach Bob Bradley said.



San Jose Earthquakes midfielder Jackson Yueill (left), and defender Guram Kashia (right), combine to take the ball from Real Salt Lake forward Corey Baird during the first half of an MLS soccer match on July 27 in Kissimmee, Fla. (AP)



New York Mets starting pitcher Michael Wacha delivers during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Boston Red Sox on July 2 at Fenway Park in Boston. (AP)

Even without reigning league MVP Carlos Vela, LAFC pressured and flustered the Sounders early and never let up. LAFC outshot Seattle 25-11. At times, the Sounders couldn't play the ball out of their own defensive end due to the pressure of LAFC.

Except for a brief stint of the second half when Seattle threatened, it was a dominant performance by LAFC that set up a matchup with Orlando City in the quarter-finals on Friday.

"It was a measuring stick for us. And we failed tonight," Seattle coach Brian Schmetzer said.

Rossi was the leader of LAFC's buzzing attack. He scored twice and probably should have scored two or three more times. Rossi drew Xavier Arreaga's foul in the penalty area and beat Seattle goalkeeper Stefan Frei in the 14th minute for the early advantage.

Mbappe could miss Champions League QF

PARIS, July 28, (AP) — Kylian Mbappe could miss Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League quarter-final against Atalanta after being ruled out for around three weeks to recover from an ankle ligament injury.

The diagnosis came two and a half weeks before PSG are due to face Atalanta in Lisbon on Aug 12 when the competition resumes after its pandemic-enforced break.

Mbappe was hurt on Friday in the second half of PSG's 1-0 win over Saint-Etienne in the French Cup final.

"The imaging workup performed today confirms a sprained ankle with external ligament injury," PSG said in a statement. "Following this trauma, the recovery time is estimated at around 3 weeks."

The 21-year-old Mbappe has 30 goals in 34 appearances this season.

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Juventus forward Paulo Dybala's injury is less serious

than first believed and he could be ready for next week's Champions League match against Lyon.

Dybala pulled up with an apparent left thigh issue and had to be replaced in the first half of Sunday's 2-0 win over Sampdoria, a result which secured the Turin club's record-extending ninth straight Serie A title.

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On Monday, Juventus said tests "revealed an elongation of the rectus femoral muscle of the left thigh.

"His condition will be evaluated day by day," added Juventus, which did not say how long Dybala will be out.

Recovery time from similar injuries is about 10 days.

Juventus play Lyon in the second leg of the Round of 16 on Aug 7. They need to overturn a 1-0 loss from February to advance to the quarter-finals in Lisbon.

'Congrats to Manchester City'

UEFA 'didn't do a great job' on City case: Bayern chair

BERLIN, July 28, (AP) — UEFA "didn't do a great job" investigating Manchester City after the English club's two-year ban from European competitions was overturned, Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled two weeks ago that some of UEFA's accusations of financial violations by City could not be proven and others were "time-barred" because they did not meet a five-year statute of limitations.

It means that City, which finished runners-up in the Premier League, will be able to rejoin teams like Bayern in the Champions League next season.

"I believe the final decision made by CAS was an outcome because the UEFA panel responsible for Champions League matters didn't do a great job, it's looking like," Rummenigge said in a video call. "What I heard from different sources is that it was not good organized in advance."

City were still fined 10 million euro (\$12 million) for failing to cooperate with independent investigators. But CAS could not validate allegations that City, which is owned by Abu Dhabi's royal family, overstated sponsorship deals and hid the source of revenue linked to state-backed companies.

The full judgment has yet to be published. In a statement after the verdict, UEFA highlighted the "insufficient conclusive evidence" present-

Lallana joins Brighton, Lovren to Russia

LONDON, July 28, (AP) — Brighton signed free agent Adam Lallana on the first day Monday of the summer transfer window after the English Premier League winner was released by Liverpool.

The 32-year-old English midfielder joined the south-coast club on a three-year contract to stay in the top division.

"He has a wealth of experience alongside his technical quality," Brighton manager Graham Potter said. "To have both his experience and quality out on the pitch will be a great addition for us, and I know he will be an excellent role model for our younger players in the squad."

"I am really looking forward to working with him when we return for preseason training in a few weeks."

Another departure from Premier

League champions Liverpool is defender Dejan Lovren, who joined Zenit St Petersburg in a \$14 million move.

The Croatia international has ended a six-year spell at Anfield after making just 15 appearances this season, falling to fourth-choice center back in the pecking order behind Virgil Van Dijk, Joe Gomez and Joel Matip.

Lovren, who was troubled with niggling injuries over the last two years, was set to enter the final year of his contract but Liverpool chose not to take up an option it had for a 12-month extension.

Tottenham have started to plan for the future with 33-year-old center back Jan Vertonghen leaving after eight years and 21-year-old Japhet Tangang signing a new five-year deal.

ed to CAS but said it would not comment further.

"Congrats to the colleagues of Manchester City that they can participate next year in Champions League and the year after as well," said Rummenigge, a member of the European Club Association's executive board.

Bayern recently did business with City, buying Leroy Sane in a transfer worth up to 60 million euros (\$70

million) - one of the biggest deals concluded amid the financial instability caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"The transfer market is looking like affected by corona because we had been interested to transfer him one year ago when the transfer amount was totally different than today," Rummenigge said. "So we are happy that we have been able to transfer him now in favor of Bayern

Munich. The only thing it's looking like that the agents are trying to keep their salary on a very high level."

The German champion will miss out on cash from its abandoned summer tour of China, instead launching a virtual version on Monday with sponsor Audi to connect fans with the players.

Due to the loss of income from also playing games without fans and disruption to broadcast contracts, UEFA has eased its rules for monitoring spending by Europe's top clubs. Two accounting years for clubs have effectively been combined into one that will be assessed next year.

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"I believe, still optimistic that Financial Fair Play done in a different way could be very helpful to come back on a bit more rational basis," Rummenigge said. "Because I believe that is a request from our supporters and we should listen to them as well."

UEFA's FFP program requires clubs which qualify for European competitions to approach breaking even on their spending on transfers and wages against commercial income. Club owners are allowed unlimited spending on stadium projects and youth training, but not to bail out debts.

Rummenigge said break-even rules "maybe should be considered much more in future than we did ... in the past, but we have to modify Financial Fair Play because in the past 10 years, football changed dramatically in the financial behavior and so we have to find different tools."

Rummenigge is seeking a change of heart from France Football, which canceled the Ballon d'Or due to the pandemic. The player of the year award has been given out every year since Stanley Matthews won the first one in 1956.

Rummenigge believes Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski would have been a strong contender to win for the first time after scoring 34 goals in the Bundesliga, six in the German Cup and 11 in the Champions League, where Bayern resumes next month with a 3-0 last-16 lead over Chelsea.



In this Nov 30, 2018 file photo, CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge arrives for the annual general meeting of FC Bayern Munich soccer club in Munich, Germany. (AP)