



Chelsea's Hakim Ziyech, (second from left), scores his side's opening goal during the English FA Cup semifinal soccer match between Chelsea and Manchester City at Wembley Stadium in London, England. (AP)

# Sports

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Sheffield United relegated

Spurs stop Suns' 10-game home winning run

## Chelsea reach FA Cup final to end Man City's quadruple bid

LONDON, April 18, (AP): Manchester City's quadruple dream has been extinguished by Chelsea. Even more concerning could be the injury to Kevin De Bruyne for the ongoing pursuit of a treble.

Chelsea will be back at Wembley Stadium next month for the FA Cup final after a 1-0 victory over City was clinched by Hakim Ziyech on Saturday.

Pep Guardiola will return even sooner next Sunday with City for the League Cup final but with doubts over whether De Bruyne will be fit to face Tottenham.

The influential Belgian playmaker hobbled off with an apparent ankle injury just as City are entering a crunch period of the season.

A 11-point Premier League lead makes collecting that trophy a near-certainty but there is also a first Champions League semifinal with City for Guardiola against Paris Saint-Germain in what remains the priority title for the club.

While Guardiola has been in charge almost five years at City, Thomas Tuchel has only been at Chelsea three months.

After picking up the pieces following the firing of Frank Lampard, the German now has a shot at a trophy in the FA Cup final. Chelsea remain in Champions League contention with Real Madrid awaiting in the last four.

The performance against City will offer Tuchel encouragement of silverware. While Timo Werner struggles for goals, assists are less of a problem. It was his 12th of his first season at Chelsea, setting up Ziyech for the close-range finish in the 55th minute in an unguarded net after American goalkeeper Zack Steffen was left stranded.

There were no Chelsea fans to witness the goal in person. But they should be allowed back into Wembley for the May 15 final as coronavirus restrictions are eased.

How to get safely back into venues will be assessed at Wembley on Sunday when up to 4,000 locals from the north London district are allowed in to see Leicester take on Southampton

if they can produce a negative coronavirus test result.

With six games remaining, the Premier League lost its first team on Saturday. Sheffield United experienced the joint-earliest relegation in the competition's history, alongside Ipswich, Derby and Huddersfield after losing 1-0 to Wolverhampton.

Last season both Wolves and Sheffield United finished in the top half of the standings. Wolves have plummeted to 12th this campaign and William Jose's goal confirmed the end of last-place United's two-season stay in the top division.

### SOCCER

Newcastle moved nine points clear of the relegation zone with a 3-2 victory over West Ham.

Newcastle led through Issa Diop's own-goal and Craig Dawson was sent off for receiving a second booking in the buildup. Joelinton's tap-in extended Newcastle's lead before halftime but it was wiped out by Diop's header in the 73rd and Jesse Lingard's penalty after Ciaran Clark handled.

Newcastle recovered its lead through substitute Joe Willock's powerful header.

"I'm not going to take anything for granted," Newcastle manager Steve Bruce said. "I've always said it's the accumulation of points, and 35, in my opinion, is not enough, so you won't get me jumping and hollering at the moment. We've still got six games to play."

## Lakers hold off Jazz in OT

LOS ANGELES, April 18, (AP): Dennis Schröder hit the tying basket to force overtime and finished with 25 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers held off the Utah Jazz 127-115 on Saturday in a game between short-handed teams.

Schröder got by Royce O'Neale for a layup with 3 seconds remaining to tie it at 110 and force overtime after the Lakers got outscored 28-16 in the fourth.

Andre Drummond added 27 points and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 25 points for the Lakers, who blew a 14-point lead early in the fourth before outscoring Utah 17-5 in the extra session.

The NBA-leading Jazz were without injured starters Donovan Mitchell, Mike Conley and Rudy Gobert. Mitchell will be out at least a week with a sprained right ankle he sustained in a win over Indiana on Friday night. An MRI showed there was no structural damage.

Jordan Clarkson led Utah with 27 points against his former team. Ersan Ilyasova added a season-high 20 points before fouling out in overtime and Joe Ingles had 20 points and a career-high tying 14 assists. Bojan Bogdanovic had 19 points as Utah's two-game winning streak ended.

Injured Lakers superstars Anthony Davis and LeBron James watched in street clothes. But the Lakers had new addition Drummond and Markieff Morris back in the lineup, along with Kyle Kuzma and Schröder. All four had been dealing with various ailments.

Clarkson hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 8.7 seconds left in regulation. He had 10 points in the fourth, when the Jazz opened with an 18-4 run to get within two. Schröder scored the Lakers' final six points of regulation.



Chicago Bulls guard Coby White (0) drives to the basket next to Cleveland Cavaliers center Jarrett Allen (31) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago. (AP)

### Spurs 111, Suns 85

In Phoenix, Rudy Gay scored 19 points, Drew Eubanks added 13 points and 13 rebounds in his first start of the season and the short-handed San Antonio Spurs had a surprisingly dominant 111-85 win over the Phoenix Suns.

The Spurs were playing without a handful of their main rotation players, including leading scorer DeMar DeRozan, but still controlled almost the entire game. The 6-foot-9 Eubanks has had an increased role over the past few weeks and finished with his second double-double in the past four games.

### Celtics 119, Warriors 114

In Boston, Jayson Tatum got into a shootout with Stephen Curry, and Celtics came out on top.

Tatum scored 44 points - the sec-

ond-highest total in his career - and Kemba Walker made a 3-pointer with 24 seconds left to help Boston beat the Golden State Warriors 119-114.

Curry scored 47, including a 3-pointer to cut Golden State's deficit to two points with 19 seconds left. But he missed a shot from just inside half court on the Warriors' next possession, dooming their last chance for a win.

### Grizzlies 128, Bucks 115

In Milwaukee, Grayson Allen is helping the Memphis Grizzlies produce an ideal start to their longest road trip in two decades.

Allen shot 7 of 10 from 3-point range and scored 26 points to lead six Grizzlies in double figures as Memphis beat the Milwaukee Bucks 128-115. Allen's seven 3-pointers represented a career high.

Memphis has begun its seven-game road swing by winning on back-to-back nights. The Grizzlies opened the trip Friday with a 126-115 victory at Chicago.

### Wizards 121, Pistons 100

In Washington, Russell Westbrook had his 25th triple-double of the season. Bradley Beal scored 37 points and the Washington Wizards beat the Detroit Pistons 121-100.

Westbrook finished with 15 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists in the fourth straight win for Washington (23-33), which continues its late-season push.

Westbrook has 171 triple-doubles, 10 shy of Oscar Robertson's record.

### Bulls 106, Cavaliers 96

In Chicago, Nikola Vucevic scored 25 points, Lauri Markkanen added 16 off the bench and the Chicago Bulls beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 106-96 to snap a five-game losing streak.

Denzel Valentine had 13 points off the bench as the Chicago reserves accounted for 45 points.

The Bulls were playing for a second straight game without All-Star Zach LaVine, who is in the NBA's health and safety protocol and not with the team.

Colin Sexton and Darius Garland had 22 points apiece as the Cavaliers dropped their second straight and fourth in five games.

### NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, April 18, (AP): NBA results and standings on Saturday.

LA Lakers	127	Utah OT	115
Chicago	106	Cleveland	96
Washington	121	Detroit	100
Boston	119	Golden State	114
Memphis	128	Milwaukee	115
San Antonio	111	Phoenix	85

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	39	17	.696	-
Brooklyn	38	18	.679	1
Boston	31	26	.544	8-1/2
New York	30	27	.526	9-1/2
Toronto	23	34	.404	16-1/2
Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	30	26	.536	-
Miami	28	28	.500	2
Charlotte	27	28	.491	2-1/2
Washington	23	33	.411	7
Orlando	18	38	.321	12
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	35	21	.625	-
Indiana	26	29	.473	8-1/2
Chicago	23	33	.411	12
Cleveland	20	36	.357	15
Detroit	17	40	.298	18-1/2
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Dallas	30	25	.545	-
Memphis	29	26	.527	1
San Antonio	27	28	.491	3
New Orleans	25	31	.446	5-1/2
Houston	14	42	.250	16-1/2
Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Utah	42	15	.737	-
Denver	36	20	.643	5-1/2
Portland	32	23	.582	9
Oklahoma City	20	36	.357	21-1/2
Minnesota	15	42	.263	27
Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Phoenix	40	16	.714	-
LA Clippers	39	19	.672	2
LA Lakers	35	22	.614	5-1/2
Golden State	28	29	.491	12-1/2
Sacramento	22	34	.393	18

## Barca win Copa del Rey



Barcelona players hold the trophy as they celebrate after winning the Spanish Copa del Rey final 2021 against Athletic Bilbao at La Cartuja stadium in Seville, Spain. (AP)

### Messi nets 2 as Catalans rout Bilbao

SEVILLE, Spain, April 18, (AP): Lionel Messi scored twice as Barcelona beat Athletic Bilbao 4-0 to win the Copa del Rey final, giving Ronald Koeman his first title as coach of the Catalan club.

Messi's two goals came after Antoine Griezmann finally beat Bilbao goalkeeper Unai Simón with the opener on the hour-mark.

### SOCCER

Frenkie de Jong headed in a second goal in the 63rd before Messi dealt a double blow to put the result beyond any doubt by the 72nd.

It is Barcelona's first title since winning the Spanish league in 2019. Koeman, a former Barcelona defender, returned to coach the club last summer after Barcelona finished last season without a title for the first time since 2008.

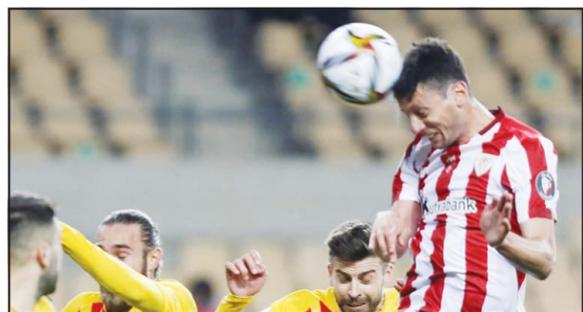
Barcelona's record 31st cup comes

at a crucial junction for Barcelona and Messi. Barcelona have seen their finances badly damaged by the pandemic and their former president Josep Bartomeu was forced to resign after the team's poor performance last season and alleged administrative irregularities. Bartomeu has denied any wrongdoing.

But the peak of the club's crisis came last summer when Messi said

that he wanted to put an end to his highly successful two decades with Barcelona. Since then, he has only said he will make a decision when his contract is up at the end of this season.

Messi did not mention his plans after the game. He smiled broadly when he received the trophy from Spain's King Felipe VI, one of the few dignitaries along with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez in attendance



Athletic Bilbao's Mikel Vesga jumps for the ball during the Spanish Copa del Rey final 2021 between Athletic Bilbao and Barcelona at La Cartuja Stadium in Seville, Spain. (AP)

at a stadium closed to fans due to coronavirus restrictions.

"This is a very special cup for me to lift (as captain)," Messi said. "It is too bad we cannot celebrate it with our family and fans. But that is the situation we have to accept."

Even though Messi avoided the burning question of his future, his performance will raise hopes for Barcelona fans of the soccer great staying at Camp Nou.

And for Joan Laporta, who returned to the club's presidency last month, Messi should have an easy choice ahead of him.

"Leo is the best player in the world, Leo has deep roots in this club, and I am convinced that he wants to stay," Laporta said. "We will do all we can for him to stay with us. That is what we most want. And today Messi gave a master class of soccer while being supported by a great team."

Bilbao has now lost two Copa del Rey finals this month at La Cartuja Stadium in Seville. Bilbao lost 1-0 to Real Sociedad just two weeks ago when they met in the 2020 final that had been postponed due to the pandemic. Sociedad's reign as Copa champion lasted all of 14 days.

### Musiala stars

#### Bayern close in on league 'title'

BERLIN, April 18, (AP): Bayern Munich teenager Jamal Musiala starred for the Bavarian powerhouse to go seven points clear in the Bundesliga before coach Hansi Flick said he wanted to leave at the end of the season.

Musiala scored two goals and was involved in the other as Bayern held on for a 3-2 win at third-place Wolfsburg. Following Leipzig's scoreless draw with Hoffenheim the night before, it meant Bayern are closing in on a record-extending ninth consecutive title with just five rounds of the season remaining.

That's not enough to convince Flick to stay.

### SOCCER

"I would like to get out of my contract at the end of the season. That's a fact," Flick told Sky Sports Germany after the game.

Flick has a contract with Bayern to 2023 but has clashed with sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic. He has also been linked with the German national team job, which will be vacant once Joachim Löw steps down after this summer's European Championship.

The 18-year-old Musiala opened the scoring in the 15th minute when he eluded three Wolfsburg defenders before squeezing his shot under goalkeeper Koen Casteels.

Musiala was again involved for Bayern's second in the 24th, playing in David Alaba. Casteels cut out the Austrian defender's cross but dropped the ball right at the feet of Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, who gratefully tapped it in.

Wout Weghorst pulled one back against the run of play in the 35th, but Thomas Müller crossed for Musiala to head in his second goal two minutes later. All Wolfsburg coach Oliver Glasner could do was shake his head.

But his team regrouped after the break. Bayern left too much room for Paulo Otavio to cross from the left for Maximilian Philipp to score in the 54th. Jérôme Roussillon missed another good chance for Wolfsburg as Bayern held on for the win.

It was Wolfsburg's first defeat at home this season.