

BAYERN STROLL PAST VIKTORIA

SET NEW UNBEATEN RECORD WITH 5-0 WIN IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Bayern Munich struck three times in the opening 21 minutes en route to a 5-0 demolition of Viktoria Plzen in the Champions League to stay top of Group C and set a record for the longest unbeaten run in group matches. Leroy Sane scored twice while Serge Gnabry, Sadio Mane and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting were also on target for the Germans, who have now gone 31 group matches in the competition without defeat, passing the mark set by Real Madrid.

They have also scored nine goals in their last two matches in all competitions after their 4-0 league win over Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday that ended a four-game winless run in the Bundesliga. The Bavarians, who face Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga's Der Klassiker on Saturday, found no resistance from the Czechs and made the most of big gaps in their defence at every opportunity. "The lads did it really well. That is how to approach a game," said Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann. "It was decided relatively quickly and then the game sort of trundled

along." "But that is also mature with an eye on Saturday, not to play out every attack. It was a good game to see that we are taking steps in the right direction."

IN DRIVING POSITION

Goals from Sane in the seventh minute, Gnabry five minutes later and Mane in the 21st quickly put the hosts in the driving seat. Despite the absence of Thomas Mueller and Joshua Kimmich due to COVID-19, they completely overran their opponents with their slick passing game. Jamal Musiala should have made it 4-0 in the 25th when he had only the keeper to beat but fired his effort against Marian Tvrdoň. The Germany international thought he had made amends in the 36th when he curled a shot past Tvrdoň after a quick move by the Germans, but his effort was ruled offside.

Bayern, however, picked up where they left off after the break with Sane latching onto a perfectly lofted Mane pass to fire in five minutes after the restart. Substitute Choupo-Moting scored with a shot off the post just before the hour mark to complete the rout and put Bayern top of the group on nine points from three games. REUTERS



Photo: AP

Choupo-Moting



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Sadio Mane



Hakan Calhanoglu

NAPOLI ROUT AJAX

A rampant Napoli condemned Ajax to its worst defeat in the Champions League, a 6-1 thrashing that maintained the Serie A leader's perfect start in the group stage. Napoli's unrelenting high pressing forwards and midfielders never gave Ajax time to build up from the back and forced defenders to repeatedly turn over the ball, creating chance after chance for the visitors.

BARCELONA FALTER

Barcelona's high-powered attack faltered against Inter-Milan and the Italian club gained an edge in the battle for second place in their Champions League group. Inter defeated Barcelona 1-0 at home to move into position to grab the second qualifying spot in Group C. Hakan Calhanoglu scored the winner in first-half stoppage time to give Inter the win and sole possession of second place in the group dominated by Bayern. Inter prevailed as its defense successfully contained striker Robert Lewandowski and Barcelona's attack, which had outscored opponents 24-4 in nine matches.

Photo: AFP

Bayern's Serge Gnabry, left, celebrates with his teammate Leon Goretzka after scoring

Photo: AP

QUIZ TIME



Photo: AP



Tiger Woods

Q1: What was Tiger Woods' largest margin of victory in a PGA tournament?

- a) 12 shots b) 15 shots c) 17 shots d) 20 shots

Q2: Stableford is a scoring system used in which sport?

- a) Tennis b) Golf c) Badminton d) Judo

Q3: For how many days is a Test match scheduled in a cricket match?

- a) 3 days b) 4 days c) 5 days d) 8 days

Q4: Which player is allowed to touch the ball with his feet during a Hockey match?

- a) Winger b) Defender
c) Centre-forward d) Goalkeeper

Q5: How many laps around the track is an 800 meter run?

- a) One laps b) Three laps c) Six laps d) Two laps

ANSWERS:

1. b. 15 shots 2. b. Golf 3. c. 5 days
4. d. Goalkeeper 5. d. Two laps

BIG OPENING FOR FRINGE PLAYERS

OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A MARK IN ODI SERIES AGAINST S AFRICA

A new-look Indian team, led by Shikhar Dhawan, will aim to make a statement and be in the reckoning for next year's 50-over World Cup when the three-match ODI series against South Africa begins in Lucknow on Thursday.

In the absence of big guns like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Mohammed Shami and Ravichandran Ashwin, who are off to Australia for the T20 World Cup, the Indian selectors opted for a fresh squad that includes Mukesh Kumar and Rajat Patidar, who earned their maiden call ups. The squad also features a few T20 World Cup reserve players.

RESERVES ROPED IN

Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer, who is part of the reserves named for the T20 World Cup, will serve as Dhawan's deputy in the series. Right-arm pacer Deepak Chahar and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, the other players from the standby list, have also been included in the ODI team for the matches against South Africa. Dashing opening batter Shubman Gill, who has impressed in limited opportunities in ODIs, is likely to resume his partnership with Dhawan at the top.

Among other batters, either Rahul Tripathi or Patidar is likely to make an ODI debut on Thursday. Madhya Pradesh batter Patidar has been rewarded for his stellar performances in domestic cricket, IPL, where he turned out for Royal Challengers

Bangalore, and more recently, his brilliant run for India A against New Zealand A in the four-day games. He smashed two centuries against the Kiwis.

Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan are the other batters in the squad who will form the fulcrum of India's middle-order.

Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed, who was recently called up to the T20 squad for the South Africa series, Bishnoi and Kuldeep Yadav form India's spin attack. The pace department will be spearheaded by Shardul Thakur, Chahar, Avesh Khan and Mohammed Siraj and will also have new face Mukesh, a prolific red ball bowler for Bengal, who emerged as top wicket-taker in the first class games against New Zealand 'A' and produced a stellar show in the Irani Cup match against 2019-20 Ranji champions Saurashtra.

The squad features as many as six players who could potentially make an ODI debut.

The series provides a big opportunity to the second-string players to make their presence felt and impress the selectors with noticeable performances to be in the fray for a place in next year's ODI World Cup.

TOUGH TEST FOR INDIA

It will be a tough test for India as the South Africans will be playing for points which they need to qualify for the World Cup next year. The Proteas will be banking on the experi-

enced Quinton de Kock, skipper Temba Bavuma, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Reeza Hendricks and Janneman Malan to do the job in the batting department.

They boast of a potent bowling unit, which includes the likes of Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Kagiso Rabada, Dwaine Pretorius, spinner Tabraiz Shamsi among others.

Weather is going to play a crucial role in the match as it has been raining incessantly and there is also prediction of heavy showers on Thursday.

The second ODI will be held in Ranchi on October 9 and Delhi will play host to the last match on October 11. AGENCIES

SHAMI'S FITNESS BEING MONITORED FOR T20 WC

India head coach Rahul Dravid said team management are monitoring seamer Mohammed Shami's recovery from COVID-19 as they look to replace the injured Jasprit Bumrah ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup.

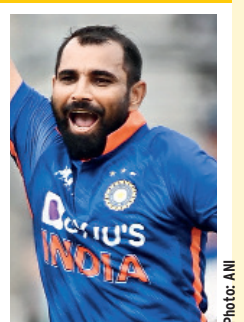


Photo: ANI



Photo: AP

Shikhar Dhawan

BRIEF STOP AT EMERALD CITY



Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard (left) jumps for a layup against Portland Trail Blazers forward Jerami Grant at an NBA preseason game in Seattle.

Photo: USA TODAY Sports

WILL TAKE LESSONS FROM LOSS, SAYS CARLOS ALCARAZ



Carlos Alcaraz

Photo: AFP

Carlos Alcaraz's Astana Open campaign came to an early end as he suffered a straight sets defeat against David Goffin. Goffin made the most of his second chance at the Astana Open, upsetting the World No. 1 7-5, 6-3 to earn the biggest win of his season. The 19-year-old Spaniard gave full credit to his Belgian opponent. "He has played great matches, a lot of matches. He has a lot of experience as well. He played better than me, really, really aggressive. I couldn't handle that pressure that he was pushing on me and of course, it's something that I have to learn and take lessons from this match," Alcaraz said.

The former World No. 7 Goffin rolled back the years as he outplayed Alcaraz to reach the second round after one hour and 46 minutes. "I always believe that I have the level to cause some trouble against those guys. When you play against the World No. 1 on a big stage, big crowd, the fire inside gives you so much power to play your best tennis because you don't have any choice. You have to fight and give your best and that was the case today. I always believed I had it," Goffin added. ANI