

NAPOLI OVERWHELM LIVERPOOL

THREE FIRST-HALF GOALS IN 4-1 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LEADS TO VICTORY



Piotr Zielinski

Liverpool has a long way to go to regain the form that took it to the final of last season's Champions League. Napoli overwhelmed the English power with three first-half goals in a 4-1 win in the opening round of group play. Piotr Zielinski converted a penalty, André-Frank Zambo Anguissa doubled the lead after the half-hour mark

beat Rangers 4-0 in the other Group A match earlier. Liverpool has started the Premier League season with just two wins from six games. Napoli is unbeaten in five Serie A matches and leads the league with 12 goals scored despite the offseason departures of captain Lorenzo Insigne, all-time leading scorer Dries Mertens and defensive stalwart Kalidou Koulibaly. The recent form of the two teams held as



Andre Zambo Anguissa (L) celebrates with Napoli's Italian defender Giovanni Di Lorenzo after scoring his team's second goal

and substitute Giovanni Simeone - the son of Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone - scored on his competition debut just before the break. Zielinski added another two minutes after the break before Luis Diaz finally pulled one back for Liverpool on a counter-attack in the 49th.

DEFENSIVE STALWART

Liverpool has now failed to win all four of its visits to the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona, while coach Jürgen Klopp dropped to 0-4 in his career in Naples. Klopp was sent off during a loss while coaching Borussia Dortmund in 2013, then was at the helm for Liverpool defeats in 2018 and 2019. Ajax

Napoli got off to a blistering start. In the opening minute, Victor Osimhen beat Liverpool's offside trap and dribbled around goalkeeper Alisson before striking a shot off the outside of the post from a sharp angle. Four minutes later, Zielinski sent Alisson the wrong way with his spot kick after Liverpool captain James Milner deflected a shot from the Poland midfielder with his arm.

ANOTHER PENALTY

Osimhen then won another penalty after Virgil van Dijk stepped on his boot but Alisson blocked the ensuing spot kick from the Nigeria center forward. Zielinski turned provider for

Zambo Anguissa, who finished off a give-and-take with the Pole to make it 2-0. Simeone, who had come on for an aching Osimhen, tapped in a cross from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, the 21-year-old Georgia winger who has been tearing up Serie A with four goals in five matches. Kvaratskhelia dribbled by two players on the left flank before setting up Simeone perfectly. Zielinski's second came on a rebound of his own shot after Alisson failed to collect. Liverpool, which lost last season's final 1-0 to Real Madrid, is sorely missing departed forward Sadio Mane, who transferred to Bayern Munich. Injuries are also hitting hard in central midfield, while fourth-choice Joe Gomez looked rusty at centre back. »



Luis Diaz

TOTTENHAM BEAT MARSEILLE

Richardson's first goals for Tottenham Hotspur helped them mark their return to the Champions League with a 2-0 victory over 10-man Olympique Marseille in Group D on Wednesday. The Brazilian forward, signed from Everton in the summer, struck twice in five minutes late on to secure three points that had not looked likely for the hosts.



Richarlison

BARCELONA STUN VIKTORIA PLZEN

Robert Lewandowski bagged his sixth Champions League hat-trick to help guide Barcelona to a comfortable victory against FC Viktoria Plzen on Wednesday. FC Barcelona got their Champions League off to a thundering start with a 5-1 rout of the Viktoria Plzen. And three of those goals were the work of Lewandowski, who has now scored 89 goals in the competition, the first three of those for Barca amounting to his sixth UCL hat-trick.



Robert Lewandowski

SANE HELPS BAYERN EDGE INTER OUT

A superb performance from Leroy Sane propelled Bayern Munich to a 2-0 Champions League win at Inter Milan in their first group game on Wednesday. Sane scored a first-half opener and the German's attempted pass was turned into his own net by Inter defender Danilo D'Ambrosio in the second period. Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann, who criticised his side's intensity after their 1-1 draw at Union Berlin last weekend, said his team "showed their desire" to compete.



Leroy Sane

TIAFOE DEFEATS ANDREY RUBLEV

FRENCHMAN SECURES SPOT IN SFs, RUUD OUSTS BERRETTINI

Frances Tiafoe delivered a stunning all-round performance to defeat the ninth seed Andrey Rublev on Wednesday at the US Open and secure a spot in the semi-finals here at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. Tiafoe's combination of brutal groundstrokes, impeccable serving and light net play earned the American a 7-6(3), 7-6(0), 6-4 quarter-final victory. The American reeled off seven unanswered points in a perfect second-set tie-break, but Tiafoe's level rarely dropped as he closed out a two-hour, 35-minute victory to charge to his maiden Grand Slam semi-final in style in New York.

EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE

The American's plan of moving forward to pressure the ninth seed on the baseline was extremely effective, and he concluded the match having won 76 per cent (31/41) of points at the net. "This is wild. This is crazy. I had the biggest win of my life 24 hours ago and came out and got another big win... Andrey's a hell of a player, and to back it up, that's huge. It's tough to turn the page, but I did and now I'm in the semis," said Tiafoe in his on-court interview. "I'll sit back and watch them battle and I'm keeping my feet up, so let them battle all

KYRGIOS FINED AGAIN AT US OPEN

Nick Kyrgios was fined \$14,000 for unsportsmanlike conduct following his U.S. Open quarter-final loss to Karen Khachanov on Tuesday where the fiery Australian demolished two rackets after the defeat.

The fine was the largest levelled by the tournament so far this year and brings Kyrgios' total up to \$32,500 for his five offenses in New York. The money will be automatically deducted from the \$473,200 Kyrgios earned - \$445,000 for singles and \$28,200 for doubles - at the year's final Grand Slam.



Nick Kyrgios

night hopefully," joked Tiafoe when asked if he would watch Alcaraz and Sinner's quarter-final clash. "But they are] two great players, and it's going to be tough come Friday, but I'm here for all they've got," he added.

NO SIGNS OF PRESSURE

On the other hand, Casper Ruud was battling to keep his World No. 1 hopes alive and bidding to reach his first US Open semi-finals on Tuesday in New York. Yet the Norwegian showed no signs of pressure in defeating Italian Matteo Berrettini with a fine score of 6-1, 6-4, 7-6(4) quarter-final triumph at Flushing Meadows. "Everything was going my way; I was hitting all the spots I needed to plus Matteo maybe didn't serve as well as he usually does. I was able to take care of the chances that I got," said Ruud, who had not been past the third round in four main-draw appearances in New York prior to this year. "I got a little bit nervous towards the end of the second set because things were almost going too well. It's good, but sometimes you can get over-excited and start to think you can walk on water. So, I had to calm down a little bit, and luckily was able to serve out the second set, and the third set was very tough," he added. »



Frances Tiafoe

SHOW OF VICTORY



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, raises his hand after beating Jannik Sinner, of Italy, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships, on Thursday in New York

NASEEM'S SIXES POWER PAKISTAN INTO ASIA CUP FINAL, INDIA OUT

Tailender Naseem Shah hit two last-over sixes as Pakistan pulled off a thrilling one-wicket win over Afghanistan on Wednesday to set up an Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka, knocking out rivals India in the process. Chasing 130 for victory, Pakistan were in deep trouble at 118-9 when number 10 Naseem muscled two hits over the fence off Fazalhaq Farooqi to win with four balls to spare in Sharjah and end India and Afghanistan's hopes of making the final.

Vice-captain Shadab Khan top-scored with 36 and seemed to take away the chase when he hit Rashid Khan for a six but the leg-spinner got him out next ball in a seesaw battle. The Afghans appeared set for victory when Farooqi, who had figures of 3-19 from his first three overs, saw two full tosses at the start of the final over dispatched over long-off.

Tempers flared when Fareed Ahmad struck twice in the 19th over, including dismissing the big-hitting Asif Ali who then angrily waved his bat at the bowler as the umpire cooled him down. »



Naseem Shah

QUIZ TIME



Linthoi Chanambam

Q1: Linthoi Chanambam is associated with which sport?

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

Q2: Which star Indian wrestlers have been chosen for the World Senior Championships in 2022?

- a) Yogeshwar Dutt and Vinesh Phogat
b) Deepak Punia and Ravi Kumar Dahiya
c) Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat
d) Ravi Kumar Dahiya and Sakshi Malik

Q3: In the ongoing Asia Cup 2022, which team was the first to qualify for the Super Four Stage?

- a) India b) Pakistan c) Bangladesh d) Afghanistan

Q4: Who won the Women's BWF World Championship 2022?

- a) Tai Tzu Ying b) Chen Yu Fei
c) Akane Yamaguchi d) An Se Young

Q5: Which Indian cricketer became the first woman to take 250 ODI wickets in world cricket?

- a) Rajeshwari Gayakwad b) Jhulan Goswami
c) Sikha Pandey d) Poonam Yadav

ANSWERS:

1. b. Judo 2. c. Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat
3. d. Afghanistan 4. c. Akane Yamaguchi 5. b. Jhulan Goswami