

HIGH STAKES

'It's like a final' for Atletico and Juventus as two of the favourites clash tonight in the last-16 first leg

Massimiliano Allegri told Juventus not to be afraid of Atletico Madrid but for one of these teams their worst fears in this season's Champions League are about to become a reality.

Crashing out in the last 16 would be unthinkable for two clubs that were among the favourites when the draw for the knock-out stages was made in December.

"Those that have ambition are not afraid," Allegri said, after his side were drawn to play Atletico, with the first leg on Wednesday at the Wanda Metropolitan.

"It's like a final, we cannot put a foot wrong," Atletico boss Diego Simeone said. Juventus and Atletico Madrid have reached 12 European Cup finals between them, with last season's game in Kiev the first in five years in which neither had featured.

Atletico went on to win the Europa League instead, proving themselves too strong for Europe's second-tier competition, while Juventus were dumped out by eventual winners Real Madrid, undone by a controversial Cristiano Ronaldo penalty in the 98th minute.

It was Ronaldo's 10th goal in seven games against Juventus, having scored twice in the first leg and twice in the final in 2017 too. Juve beat Real in the semi-finals two years earlier but even then, Ronaldo managed a goal in each leg.

There was understandable relief, as well as joy, when the Portuguese switched sides last summer and now, there is belief. Ronaldo has not finished in single figures for goals in the Champions League since 2011.

As Lionel Messi said: "They already had a good team and now they have Cristiano Ronaldo."

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Atletico vs Juventus
Schalke vs Man City
LIVE
Sony Sports Network
1.30am

JUVE'S TWO DECADE WAIT
But with anticipation comes pressure. Juventus are on course to win an eighth consecutive Scudetto but this is the one trophy they crave.
Miss out again and it will be 23 years since they last lifted Europe's premier prize, this time with its most prolific player ever among their ranks.
"We have to be wary of Atletico," Allegri said.
"And we have to find the right moment to score. It's crucial that we get a goal there, otherwise qualification will be very difficult," he added.
Atletico's own record signing last summer, Thomas Lemar, was not even born when Gianluca Vialli hoisted the trophy in 1996 for the Italians but expectation weighs heavy on them too.
Atleti have the chance to play a final at home this year, at the Wanda Metropolitan, and not only snatch the cup away from rivals Real but do it in the city they both call their own.
"Of course we are inspired by playing a final in our own stadium, in our own



W7 D2 Atletico unbeaten in 9 games against Italian clubs
W1 D1 Atletico against Juve in 2014/15 group stage
22 goals in 31 games for Cristiano Ronaldo vs Atletico while playing for Real Madrid

city, in front of our own fans," Simeone said.
"But it is pointless only to imagine it. The reality will be what we deserve," he added.
Simeone extended his contract as Atleti coach until 2022 last week and while few can question the remarkable progress made during his tenure, there are some that believe a ceiling has been reached.
They are out of the Copa del Rey and seven points behind Barcelona in La Liga, where back-to-back defeats earlier this month failed to capitalise on a rare Catalan dip.
Summer signings are yet to fully fire and there is scepticism about the January arrival of Alvaro Morata, not just because of his links to Real. When results waver, questions about Simeone's style also invariably follow.
"It is a style I like, it makes us win," Antoine Griezmann told UEFA on Monday. Winning a trophy on their own patch would be even better.
"It's an extra motivation for us and for the fans. The road to get there will be tough but we'll give it our all," World Cup winner Griezmann added.

FORM: LAST 5 GAMES

Atletico	Juventus
1-0 Rayo Vallecano (A) LA LIGA	3-0 Frosinone (H) SERIE A
1-3 Real Madrid (H) LA LIGA	3-0 Sassuolo (A) SERIE A
0-1 Betis (A) LA LIGA	3-3 Parma (H) SERIE A
2-0 Getafe (H) LA LIGA	0-3 Atalanta (A) ITALIAN CUP
3-0 Huesca (A) LA LIGA	2-1 Lazio (A) SERIE A

A = Away, H = Home, W = Win, L = Loss, D = Draw

HEAD-TO-HEAD PREVIOUS MATCHES

ATLETI	JUVE
1 Goals	0
1 Wins	0

Time Up?

Not just the fans, players have also turned on Sarri after the FA Cup loss against Man United

Miguel Delaney

It is not just the fans who have turned against Maurizio Sarri. So, a touch more regrettably, have some of the Chelsea players.
Sources say a squad that initially thought the Italian was an impressive educator as a coach now feel totally "overloaded" by an abundance of more intensivetactical instructions. There's just too much to register.
That can be seen on the pitch. It has led to five losses in the last 10 games, no goals in any of those defeats, and just so much of what the manager himself described as "confused football". So much ponderous play, that can be just picked off in the way Manchester United did.

It also leads to one big question ahead of this weekend. Would Chelsea have a better chance of winning the League Cup if Sarri was sacked before then?
The answer is probably yes, since it's obviously one of those situations where players are suddenly mentally unburdened by the previous manager's weighty demands, and are mentally free for a more focused performance. It might just be that abrupt jolt the squad needs to win such a game, especially against a sublime Manchester City who humiliated them 6-0 only last week.
Whether it would be the best thing for the club is another matter, though, and a much bigger question.
What feels undeniable is that — no



CHELSEA 0
MAN UNITED 2
Herrera (31'), Pogba (45')

for a partial overhaul any way, making it feel all a bit more futile if they do end up returning to one of those coaches more capable of quickly applying ideas.
Chelsea are at a deep quandary there, with big decisions to make at all angles.
Sarri is generally a likeable man devoid of the political calculations of many previous managers, and his work in Italy suggests this can work with patience, and the right squad.
He doesn't have that squad at Chelsea, though, but also doesn't seem to know what to do with them at all.
Whatever about his long-term philosophy, some of the short-term decisions remain baffling. Some of them feel like they're down to a lot less than anything as grand or worthy as ingraining this idea of football. Some of them feel needlessly stubborn — and just needless.

For his part, Sarri genuinely didn't seem to care that there's pressure, or that the fans are in open dissent. When he was asked whether he had ever had anything like "fuck Sarriball!" chanted at him, he chuckled, and added "for everything, there is a first time". Sarri then added that real pressure was when he was in Italy's fourth tier.
So, no change. Onward with the process. Unless Chelsea decide on a change themselves.

No Change in World Cup Plan: ICC

Amid speculation surrounding India-Pakistan World Cup clash owing to the Pulwama terror attack, the ICC on Tuesday said it doesn't foresee any change in the schedule of the mega event starting May 30. "Our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by this terrible incident... There is no indication that any (of the) matches... will not go ahead as planned," Richardson said in a statement.

BFC Offer to Play Friendly in Srinagar

Bengaluru FC on Tuesday offered to play an exhibition match against Real Kashmir in Srinagar to support the I-League debutants after defending champions Minerva FC pulled out of their match, citing security concerns in the wake of Pulwama terror attack. Real Kashmir thanked the ISL club and invited them in March for a friendly fixture, assuring the guests "the most electric football atmosphere".

IPL Schedule Announced With a Caveat

The BCCI releases schedule for first two weeks but general elections may force change of dates

to April 5 — will be revised accordingly. "These are still subject to the announcement of the Lok Sabha 2019 election dates. Once these have been released, the BCCI will address any issues with the first two weeks and will also prepare a schedule for the remainder of the season working

with the local authorities around the polling dates," read an official statement from the IPL.
On March 24, Kolkata Knight Riders will host Sunrisers Hyderabad in the afternoon encounter of a double header in which Mumbai Indians will take on Delhi Capitals in Mumbai.

Rajasthan Royals and Kings XI Punjab will meet each other in Jaipur to complete the first round of games.
A total of 17 matches will be played during this two-week phase across the 8 home venues of the respective franchises.



All teams will play a minimum of four games with Delhi Capitals and RCB competing in five matches each during this time. Every side will play a minimum of two home and two away matches except for Delhi and RCB. While Delhi will compete in three home games, RCB will play an equal number of away encounters.
While the weekends will have double-headers but the schedule doesn't clarify whether the BCCI will continue with the usual 4pm (afternoon) and 8 pm (evening) format or there will be a change in timing.

IPL 2019 Schedule (First Two Weeks)

Date	Home	Away	Venue
March 23	CSK	RCB	Chennai
March 24	KKR	SRH	Kolkata
March 24	MI	DC	Mumbai
March 25	RR	KXIP	Jaipur
March 26	DC	CSK	Delhi
March 27	KKR	KXIP	Kolkata
March 28	RCB	MI	Bengaluru
March 29	SRH	RR	Hyderabad
March 30	KXIP	MI	Mohali
March 30	DC	KKR	Delhi
March 31	SRH	RCB	Hyderabad
March 31	CSK	RR	Chennai
April 1	KXIP	DC	Mohali
April 2	RR	RCB	Jaipur
April 3	MI	CSK	Mumbai
April 4	DC	SRH	Delhi
April 5	RCB	KKR	Bengaluru

'An Attempt to Police the Sex of Female Athletes'

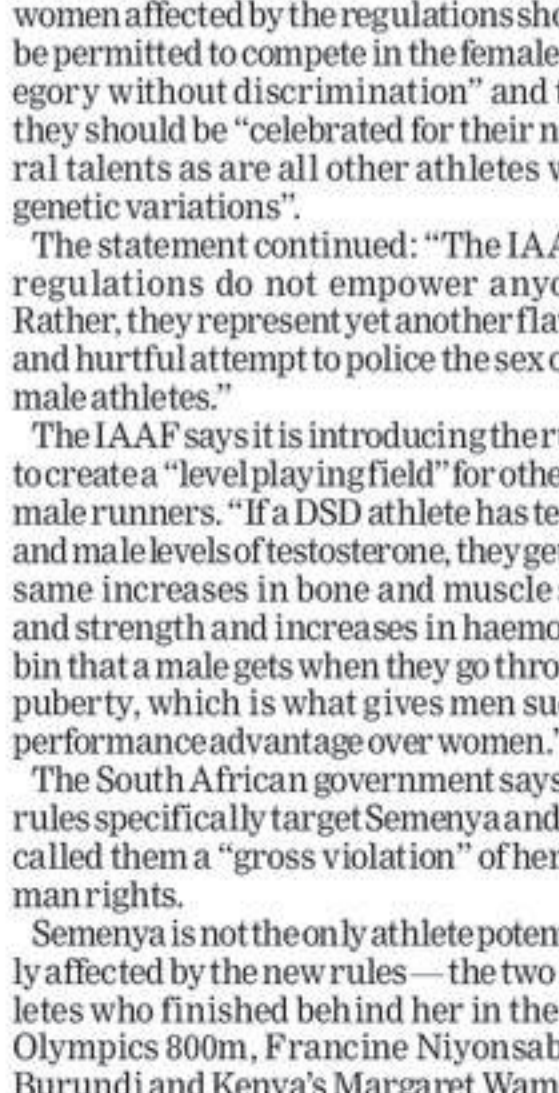
Semenya says proposed gender rules 'do not empower anyone', releases her list of expert witnesses

Double Olympic 800 metres champion Caster Semeya said on Tuesday that proposed rules that would oblige her to lower her testosterone levels "do not empower anyone".
The South African appeared Monday at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne at the start of a landmark hearing to challenge the rules proposed by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).
The controversial measures would force so-called "hyperandrogenic" athletes or those with "differences of sexual development" (DSD) to seek treatment to lower their testosterone levels below a prescribed amount if they wish to continue competing as women.
A statement issued by Semeya's legal team said she believes "she and other women affected by the regulations should be permitted to compete in the female category without discrimination" and that they should be "celebrated for their natural talents as are all other athletes with genetic variations".
The statement continued: "The IAAF's regulations do not empower anyone. Rather, they represent yet another flawed and hurtful attempt to police the sex of female athletes."

have also faced questions about their testosterone levels.
A judgement in the case is expected by the end of March.
SEMEYA RELEASES LIST OF EXPERTS
Semeya has released a list of experts she will call in her appeal hearing at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) this week in her fight against regulations aimed at lowering the testosterone levels of hyperandrogenic athletes like her.
The South African on Monday expressed her disappointment after the IAAF revealed the names of their five witnesses for the proceedings in Lausanne.
She called it a breach of confidentiality rules ahead of a five-day appeal that could have far-reaching consequences for sport.

The IAAF deny any wrong-doing.
The IAAF regulations stipulate that women with elevated testosterone take medication to reduce their level before being allowed to compete, but only in the middle-distance events of between 400- and 1500-metres where it is claimed the advantage is most felt.
The IAAF's previous attempts to regulate testosterone in female athletes fell foul of a CAS ruling in 2015 following an appeal on behalf of Indian Dutee Chand, who had been banned from competing because of her high levels.
CAS claimed in their judgment that the IAAF had not provided sufficient evidence that hyperandrogenic athletes gained a significant advantage due to their testosterone count.
The experts who will testify in support of Semeya are listed as:
► Prof Veronica Gomez-Lobo, Obstetrics and Gynecology at Georgetown University and the Director of the DSD (Differences of Sexual Development) Clinic at the Children's National Health System in Washington, DC.
► Dr Alun Williams, Director of the Sports Genomics Laboratory at Manchester Metropolitan University.
► Professor Eric Vilain, specialist in gender-based and endocrine genetics, including DSD, who has consulted to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
► Professor Roger Pielke Jr, director of the Sports Governance Center at the University of Colorado.
► Professor Dankmar Böhning, Chair in Medical Statistics at the University of Southampton.
► Professor Richard Holt, expert in Diabetes and Endocrinology at the University of Southampton.
► Professor Anthony C Hackney, University of North Carolina, with joint appointments in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science and the Department of Nutrition School of Public Health.
► Dr Lih-Mei Liao, clinical and health psychologist in the United Kingdom who has worked extensively with women diagnosed with a range of DSD conditions.
► Dr Payoshni Mitra, teaches Sport Sociology at Birbeck College, University of London and works closely with athletes with hyperandrogenism and DSD from the Southern Hemisphere.
► Ashley LaBrie, Executive Director of AthletesCAN, an independent organization that represents the interests of all national team athletes in Canada.

The IAAF's regulations do not empower anyone. Rather, they represent yet another flawed and hurtful attempt to police the sex of female athletes
CASTER SEMEYA








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