

Atletico sends Liverpool packing

Stuns Anfield with a triple strike in added time; PSG overturns first-leg deficit

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCIES

Holder Liverpool crashed out of the Champions League in the last 16 after Atletico Madrid struck three times in extra-time to earn a shock 3-2 victory at Anfield on Wednesday that sent it through 4-2 on aggregate.

After falling 2-0 down on the night, substitute Marcos Llorente struck twice in extra-time and Alvaro Morata added a late third to ensure a famous victory for Diego Simeone's side against a Liverpool team unbeaten in its last 25 home games in European competition

Liverpool broke through two minutes before half-time

when Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain burst to the byline and pulled back a cross to Wijnaldum who powered an angled header in.

There was little change to the pattern after the interval with Liverpool peppering Atletico goalkeeper Oblak's goal but the Slovenian proved himself up to the task, denying efforts from Mohamed Salah, Firmino and Sadio Mane while Andy Robertson headed against the bar.

Atletico thought it had grabbed an injury-time winner when Saul Niguez headed in a Renan Lodi cross but the effort was rightly flagged for off-side, ensuring the game went into extra-time.

It took just four minutes for Liverpool to take the lead in the tie with Firmino heading against the post and then driving home the loose ball as Anfield got ready for a night of celebration.

Goalkeeper Adrian, standing in for the injured Alisson Becker, passed the ball out straight to Joao Felix who fed Llorente, with the substitute punishing the Spanish keeper for his error with a precise shot into the far corner.

Llorente then produced a carbon-copy finish as Liverpool's defence backed off following good work on the counter from Morata to end Liverpool's hopes of defending its European crown.

Morata put the icing on the cake in the final moments with a cool finish on the counterattack after Liverpool had thrown all its players forward.

Neymar, Bernat score

Paris St. Germain beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0 in an empty stadium due to coronavirus fears to reach the quarterfinals 3-2 on aggregate. Neymar and Juan Bernat scored before halftime to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit and send the French champion into the last eight for the first time since 2016 as Dortmund finished with 10 men after Emre Can was sent off.

The results (last-16, secondleg): Liverpool 2 (Wiinaldum 43, Firmino 94) lost to Atletico Madrid 3 (Llorente 97, 105+1, Morata 120+1) (Atletico won 4-2 on aggregate).

PSG 2 (Neymar 28, Bernat 45+1) bt Borussia Dortmund O (PSG won 3-2 on aggregate).

World Athletics fines Russia \$10m

Also caps number of neutrals from the country at 10

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

World Athletics on Thursday fined Russia's track and field federation \$10 million for breaching anti-doping rules and capped at 10 the number of Russians allowed to compete as neutrals at the Tokyo Olympics.

The system of allowing Russian athletes to take part as Authorised Neutral Athletes, World Athletics president Sebastian Coe warned, "will be suspended if \$5 million of the \$10m fine is not paid by 1 July 2020".

"The remaining \$5 million of the fine will be suspended for two years, to be paid immediately if during that period RUSAF (the Russian federation) commits a further breach of the Anti-Doping Rules or fails to make meaningful progress towards satisfying the reinstatement

conditions set by Council." Coe said the Council felt "severely let down by the

previous RUSAF administration, which is why it has approved a new set of criteria for reinstatement of the federation". "This requires the new administration to set a clear roadmap for reinstatement, to be approved by Council, and greater oversight of the roadmap process by independent international personnel based in Russia."

World Athletics' decisionmaking Council had last year put a freeze on the system of allowing Russian athletes to compete as neutrals, simultaneously suspending the process of reinstating RUSAF over charges against its officials that they obstructed an anti-doping investigation. Those decisions

prompted wholesale change at RUSAF.

New head The Russian body has just appointed a new head, Yevgeny Yurchenko, who quickly agreed with accusations made by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) against RUSAF on the wrongdoings in the tippingpoint case of high jumper Danil Lysenko, in which "forged documents and false explanations" were provided as an alibi to his whereabouts.

That contrite acknowledgement, paired with wholesale personnel change within RUSAF, opened the door for Rune Andersen's World Athletics Task Force to deliver a more positive option for Russian athletes, albeit just 10 of them, just 19 weeks away from Tokyo Olympics.

LeBron, Curry say NBA needs to cancel 2020

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LOS ANGELES

NBA superstars LeBron James and Stephen Curry say the league needs to cancel 2020 after the year of Kobe Bryant's tragic death also saw the season shut

In the wake of the worldwide COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, the NBA shut down its season on Wednesday with five weeks remaining in the campaign after a player contracted the virus.

The shutdown follows the deaths of former NBA commissioner David Stern on January 1, 2020 and five-time NBA champion Bryant, the retired Los Angeles Lakers legend who was killed January 26 at age 41 in a helicopter crash along with his daughter Gianna and seven

"Man we cancelling sporting events, school, office work, etc., etc. What we

really need to cancel is 2020! Damn it's been a rough 3 months. God bless and stay safe," Lakers star James tweeted.

As Slovenian guard Luka Doncic of Dallas tweeted: "2020 is being very bad year!! stay safe folks."

Golden State Warriors star Curry, who has played in the past five NBA Finals, last week had returned from a broken left hand that had sidelined him more than four months.

"2020 aint it," Curry tweeted. "Just gotta buckle up and take care of yourself and those around you."

Safety issues

Safety issues had taken priority as area officials try to avoid mass gatherings and potential mass infections that could overwhelm hospitals, hoping to spread the outbreak over a more easily managed time frame.

Vinod Sridhar on a roll

SENIORS' TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU

Former National champion Vinod Sridhar did not drop a game in three matches while winning the over-40 title in the ITF grade-4 seniors' tournament on Thursday.

Vinod clinched the over-35 doubles title with Rohan Narayan, beating Ravindranath Pandey and Farid Usmani 6-2, 6-2 in the final. The results:

Over-35: Final: Andrews Adu Appiah bt Farid Usmani 7-5, 6-2; Semifinals: Farid bt Dharmesh Patel 6-0, 6-0; Adu Appiah bt Sachin Patil 6-3, 5-0

Doubles (final): Rohan Narayan & Vinod Sridhar bt Ravindranath Pandey & Farid Usmani 6-2, 6-2,

Over-40 (final): Vinod Sridhar bt Deepak Marwaha 6-0, 6-0; Semifnals: Marwaha bt Aakash Kale 4-6, 6-2, 3-0 retd.; Vinod bt Kohinoor Govardhan 6-0,

Over-45 (final): Nelson Jatin Kumar bt Rahul Sharma 6-1,



Double delight: Vinod, left, won the over-40 title, and also the over-35 doubles crown in the company of Rohan Narayan. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

6-2; **Semifinals:** Jatin bt Suni Surana 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; Rahul Sharma bt Navin Agarwal 6-0,

Doubles (final): Sunil Lulla & Rahul Vyas bt Navin Agarwal & Jatin 7-6(5), 2-6, [10-7]. Over-50 (final): Rahul Vyas bt Atul 6-0, 6-0. Doubles (final): Amarjeet Singh Chaddha & Shashi Bhushan Sharma bt Anuj Shah & Rahul Vyas 5-7, 7-5, [10-6]. Over-55 (final): Sanjai Kumar bt

Shashi Bhushan Sharma 6-2,





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