England facing daunting task in final against Boks

England, whose starting XV is unchanged, appears to have the more balanced side

**FOOTBALL**

Evergreen Aguero holds key to City's title defence

**SPOTLIGHT**

Kolisi in search of a pot of gold for the Rainbow Nation

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South Africa play a deciding role in England's win by snapping their 11-game winning streak in the 2019 Rugby World Cup final in Yokohama.
NZ take third place with six-try win over Wales

The All Blacks threatened from the outset and scored a five-minute try from Moody

Rugby

The All Blacks beat England 38-16 today to win their third successive World Cup title, putting paid to any hopes the semi-final defenders entertained of winning a record third successive World Cup.

Owen Farrell's late drop goal put the Lions 16-15 ahead but the All Blacks ran in seven tries, three for Sonny Bill Williams, two for Ryan Crotty and one each for Beauden Barrett, Ben Smith and die Retallick.

The win means the All Blacks have secured a try scoring record for the tournament, having scored 66 tries.

The All Blacks are the first team to win successive World Cups since New Zealand won the first World Cup in 1987 and the third successive World Cup title.

Sport

Background

Read bows out in typical fashion

Kimi Raikkonen did not want a World Cup hat trick for the Italians. "For me, it is very important to be in the top four," he said after finishing third in the Italian Grand Prix and sealed his third consecutive World Cup win.

The 38-year-old Finnish star said he was feeling fit and ready to challenge for the championship, adding that he would not quit until he had won the title.

"I've always been a fighter," he said. "I always try to give my best. I always try to push the limit."
Duhail, Sadd to clash

Al Duhail and Al Sadd are currently the Guild’s top two clubs. 

Duhail are a point behind leaders Al Rayyan, but will go back top if they win today.

Duhail are a point behind leaders Al Rayyan, but will go back top if they win today.

At Al Sadd, coach Xavi Hernandez described Duhail as ‘difficult’ and ‘complicated’. Speaking at the pre-match press conference yesterday, Xavi said: “We know that tomorrow’s game will be difficult and complicated. We know that the club is in a very good position and we have defended the title well so far. The other team will be on top for, and in a different competition. We know how strong Duhail are and they will be looking to take advantage of some mistakes. We missed some players but they are still a very strong team.”

Al Sadd, meanwhile, are unbeaten in their previous seven matches. “We are very happy with these results,” said defender Almoezi. “We want to continue our good form and extend our unbeaten run.”

The match will be held at the Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium, which has been fully packed for the past two weeks.

Both teams entered the match with a 1-0 victory over Umm Salal in their previous matches. The Cheetahs have 14 points and a victory is crucial for them to move away from the danger zone.

Al Sadd, on the other hand, have 17 points and are looking to maintain their unbeaten run. “We are very confident and we want to win this match,” said midfielder Almoezi. “We are preparing well and we are ready to face Duhail.”

The match is expected to be a thriller, with both teams looking to make an impact. They are both currently on top of the league table in Qatar and both have the best of the play.

However, they have also played two matches less, with Al Duhail in the 40th minute and Mohamed Salah El Neel (68th minute) scoring for Al Sadd.

Al Sadd is sure to have a complex and strong team, but Al Duhail will be looking to make an impact. They are currently on top of the league table and are looking to maintain their unbeaten run.

The match is expected to be a battle, with both teams looking to make an impact. They are both currently on top of the league table in Qatar and both have the best of the play.
Liverpool are six points clear and remain a daunting obstacle for Aguero and City
Leonard shines vs former team in Clippers victory

Leonard scored 30 or more points in three of his first five games for Clippers

LA Clippers' Kawhi Leonard (left) moves in to score a basket against the San Antonio Spurs during the NBA game in Los Angeles, United States, on Thursday.

Leonard has now scored 30 or more points in three of his first five games for Clippers.

Leonard's relationship with his former team has been a hot topic in the NBA.

His decision to leave the Spurs for the Clippers, a team he had spent seven seasons with, raised eyebrows and stirred up sentiments among basketball fans and analysts.

Leonard's transition to the Clippers has been a storyline fans have followed closely, anticipating how he would adapt to a new team and how he would fare against his former team.

The game between the Clippers and the Spurs was a significant one for Leonard as it marked his return to San Antonio, where he spent much of his career.

By scoring 30 points or more in three of his first five games with the Clippers, Leonard has shown that he is adjusting well to his new surroundings and contributing to his team's success.

The Clippers' victory over the Spurs on Thursday solidified Leonard's presence on the court and demonstrated his ability to perform at a high level against formidable opponents.

Leonard's performance against his former team not only showcased his skills but also highlighted the impact he can have on the game.

The Clippers' victory against the Spurs, a team he had played seven seasons with, marked a milestone for Leonard as it represented his transition from one franchise to another.

This game was a testament to Leonard's adaptability and his ability to maintain his performance levels even as he faces new challenges and adjustments.

Fans and analysts alike will be watching closely as Leonard continues to navigate his new role and make his mark on the NBA landscape.

Rex Features Images

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NHL

Domi's OT goal caps Canadians' comeback over Knights

MONTREAL (CP) - Mike Domi scored in overtime, Andrei Saveliev scored his first career goal and the Montreal Canadiens defeated the Las Vegas Knights 4-3 in Game 4 of the NHL's Western Conference semifinals on Thursday night.

Domi's winner came nine minutes into the extra frame, giving the Canadiens a 3-2 lead. The Knights took a 2-1 lead late in the first period on points by Alex Tuch, who led 3-1 after two periods.

But Vegas came back to tie it in the third period with goals by Chandler Stephenson and Marc-Andre Fleury, who made 25 saves.

The Canadiens, who had been blanked 2-0 in their last two meetings, are looking to extend their win streak.

Domi's late winner pushed the Canadiens to a 3-1 advantage in the series, with the Knights needing a win in Game 5 to avoid elimination.

The Canadiens, who have played well here all series, have been led by their top line of Domi, Nick Suzuki and Cole Caufield, who have combined for 11 goals and 22 points in the series.

But Vegas, who had been favored to win the series, has struggled on the road and will look to turn it around in Game 5.

The Canadiens, who have been playing well all series, will look to carry their momentum into Game 5 and continue their dominance on home ice.

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FOCUS

NBA hands Embiid, Towns two-game suspensions for fight

Philly Inquirer

Ben Simmons and Joel Embiid were suspended for two games each by the NBA on Thursday.

The Philadelphia 76ers forward and center were ejected from Wednesday's game at Utah Jazz after a heated exchange.

Simmons and Embiid were also fined.

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Bucks get 13th straight win over the Timberwolves

The Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Minnesota Timberwolves 117-103 on Thursday night at Fiserv Forum.

Khris Middleton finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds in 23 minutes before exiting the game due to injury.

Jrue Holiday added 23 points and nine assists, while Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 20 points and grabbed 16 rebounds.

The Bucks, who have won 13 straight games against the Timberwolves, will look to extend their streak as they prepare for their next match against the Dallas Mavericks.

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The Montreal Canadiens defeated the Las Vegas Knights 4-3 on Thursday in Game 2 of their NHL Western Conference semifinals series.

The Canadiens were led by their top line of Mike Domi, Nick Suzuki and Cole Caufield, who combined for 11 goals and 22 points in the game.

The Knights, who had been favored to win the series, were led by Chandler Stephenson, who scored a goal and an assist.

The Canadiens, who have played well here all series, will look to carry their momentum into Game 3 and continue their dominance on home ice.
L

eaning for the first time in his four NFL seasons, Kirk Cousins is in the spotlight. The Washington Redskins quarterback has been targeted by fans and opponents alike, and he is looking to prove his worth during the upcoming season.

In his five years in Washington, Cousins has shown promise and potential, but he has also faced criticism for his performance. With the Redskins in the process of rebuilding, Cousins is facing pressure to deliver a winning season.

Cousins has signed a three-year, $51 million deal with the Minnesota Vikings, who are in need of a quarterback to replace Kirk Cousins. The Vikings are a franchise that has a strong history of development and success, and Cousins has the opportunity to prove himself on a different stage.

The pressure is on Cousins to deliver a winning season and lead the Vikings to success. With a new team and new expectations, Cousins will have to step up and prove himself to the.navigationdifficult
Matthew Fitzpatrick of England plays a shot during the second round at the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai yesterday. (AFP)

Matthew Fitzpatrick was one-stroke halfway leader on today’s final day at the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai, the 23-year-old British star leading by one at the 13th green after shooting a day-high six-under-par 66.

US Open champion US Open champion Matthew Fitzpatrick, the world No. 27, showed a steady touch with the putter, chip- ping his day with a 15-foot birdie at the last in a back-to-back par-three in the 16th and 17th.

Pliskova believes she would be the underdog against Barty in the semi-finals

Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic celebrates after her victory over Simona Halep of Romania in the WTA Finals in Shenzhen. (Reuters)

Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic defeated the twice-Simona Halep after the US Open champion pushed in the dead-rubber by world No. 1. He vowed she would be the underdog against Barty in the semi-finals. The Romanian regained control but she was unable to a decider and her momentum continued the second set and she rediscovered her

Pliskova fights off tenacious Halep

Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic celebrates after her victory over Simona Halep of Romania in the WTA Finals in Shenzhen. (Reuters)

Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic defeated the twice-US Open champion Simona Halep after he dismantled Halep’s attack at the WTA Finals. The Romanian regained control but she was unable to a decider and her momentum continued the second set and she rediscovered her

The Australian Open main draw starts today, with the top two seeds, Osaka and Barty, having already won their opening matches. The world No. 2 Barty, who lost in the semi-finals to Halep last year, is seeded 16th at the tournament, while Osaka is seeded 11th.

The tennis world is watching as Halep faces Australian Open champion Barty in the semi-finals of the WTA Finals in Shenzhen. Halep, who was runner-up in 2017, is looking to win her first title at the end of the year. Barty, meanwhile, is aiming to become the first Australian to win the title since 2010.

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England claim first blood in New Zealand T20 series

Vince scores 59 for England as tourists chase down New Zealand's 154-run target

New Zealand captain Williamson's bowling action given all-clear: ICC

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 142 for 6 in 20 overs, Australia 179 for 6 in 20 overs

BANGALadesh'S TOUR OF INDIa

Itchy eyes, sore throat but Bangladesh OK with Delhi air

Vince's man-of-the-match effort helped England to their first T20 win at New Zealand since the World Cup final in 2015.

Vince, who top-scored for the tourists with 59 not out, said: "It's a good win, it's a good victory for the team, especially after losing so many games recently."

Despite the defeat, Bangladesh coach Saether said the team would return to Doha for a training camp and focus on the upcoming T20 World Cup in the UK.

"We have a lot to learn from this game," he added. "We have to improve our fielding and bowling.

Meanwhile, Australia'sgenerated a clean-sweep over Sri Lanka in the T20 series.

Warner leads Australia to clean-sweep over Sri Lanka

Australia have claimed a clean-sweep over Sri Lanka in the T20 series after winning the third match by seven wickets in Adelaide.

Warner, who scored an unbeaten 55, said: "It was a good win for us and a good start to the series."