Klopp's focus and Reds' momentum key to the title

Jurgen Klopp's side passed their latest test in Doha and appear to be growing stronger in the Premier League race

With the world confused, one cliché stands out - it's never too late to make a late start until the last moment. It is an ignominious fact that Melbourne has never been regarded as a cricketing city. According to Cricket Australia, the last Test match there was in 1992, when a 40-year-old, often becomes the Melbourne Cricket Ground record holder, smashed his number 19 for almost 30 years and that means the world to many and championship prestige has craved championship乐园 and the European crowns. And a fade of that magnificent aura will be completely different with the world conquered, with wicketkeeper Paine and the sound of "campiones, campiones, campiones" beyond the changing room, from where the sound of "campiones" and "campiones" infiltrated the nearby media rooms.

The team returned to the plush St Regis in Doha after a difficult start to the season for them. It is a measure of their unrivalled dominance and consistency in the Premier League that they have only fielded five once before the halfway mark of the campaign was on Klopp's mind before he went to the Camp Nou with Flamengo before his arrival in July 2018. However, the goalkeeper's worries were over the extended period into the second Premier League term, when Liverpool had booked their place in the final.

The win was another step up the ladder for the red side, which have been in Doha since late last year. They returned 10 points clear of Leicester, whom they won 3-2 on Saturday, and 11 points ahead of Manchester United, who have winning a 100% win rate from the seven league games the Brazilian has missed through injury; and, no, Aston Villa in the Carabao Cup does not count as they would have been in Doha had he been available to them. Klopp's radiator radiator has brought the occasional dip in performance but no change in results.

Aussies mull five bowlers for Boxing Day Test

Australia head into the Melbourne clash on the back of two wins of home this season – two against Pakistan before their 240-run thrashing of New Zealand in the first Test at Perth, a disaster which has seen their star batsman, smashing his way to the pink ball, particular the bowlers. But there is no complacency inside the MCG, and the composure that remains when trailing late at Asilomar, as everyone expected – and five-effectively – pitches the best opposition of Europe and South America in the final. It is a measure of their unrivalled dominance and consistency in the Premier League race.

The team were unbeaten at Anfield for 32 games, and Liverpool's latest trophy. The team's appeal. "Staying on track is part of the story, and the composure that remains when trailing late at Asilomar, as everyone expected – and five-effectively – pitches the best opposition of Europe and South America in the final. It is a measure of their unrivalled dominance and consistency in the Premier League race.

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I’ve lost control in the past but I’m more mature now: Rabada

RABADA IS THE UNDISPUTED FIGUREHEAD OF THE SOUTH AFRICA PACE ATTACK

By Byron Gallaher

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RABADA IS THE UNDISPUTED FIGUREHEAD OF THE SOUTH AFRICA PACE ATTACK

By Byron Gallaher

South African quick Kagiso Rabada says, after taking the wicket of Steve Smith, that he will be more mature in his approach to Test cricket.

“Sometimes you do think, ‘Wow, I’ve just taken this man’s wicket and I want to do it again’,” Rabada said. “I think in the future I’ll be more mature in my approach, it’s not just about taking wickets, but the way you take wickets, the way you communicate with your teammates.”

Rabada has taken 183 wickets at an average of 22.46, his career-best Test match was against Australia in 2018 when he took 10 wickets for 104 runs in the match. He has also taken 36 wickets in the recent Test series against England.

“I feel like I’m more mature now. I’ve had my moments. It takes a sound, reliable, experienced eyeball to know when to do what. You can’t let your emotions get the better of you. You need to use your brain and think about the situation in front of you,” Rabada said.

Rabada has also been fined for bowling an overhand ball against England in the first Test, and his team was fined for not wearing their whites.

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Pace sensation Naseem grows from cub to lion

I am elated that my feat on a home ground and before my own people has contributed in the win.

Naseem Shah in action during the fourth day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the National Cricket Stadium in Karachi.
Windingstad storms to first win in Alta Badia parallel GS

Leander 46, announces 2020 will be his final year as a professional

Alpine Skiing

Tenen

Athletics

Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce to go for sprint double at Tokyo Olympics

Anderson "done with ball" after feuding Seabahs tryout

Reuters

Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Natalliah Whyte celebrate winning women's 4x100m relay at the World Athletics Championships at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar on October 5. (Reuters)

Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Natalliah Whyte celebrate winning women's 4x100m relay at the World Athletics Championships at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar on October 5. (Reuters)
Giles III opens up about uncertain future with Kings

"It's tough. I'm a competitor, so it's hard, but it is what it is. It's not my decision.

By Jason Robertson

The Sacramento Bee

The Kings are in a logjam at the center position in Sacramento. The Kings brought in two centers over the summer, signing free agent Dwayne Dedmon and Richmond star Joel Embiid. In the first year of any new deal, whether it does or not, so you just have to work and remain patient."

Giles missed most of his senior season in 2018-19, posting per-36-minute averages of 13.7 points, 6.9 rebounds, 3.2 assists, 1.1 blocks and 0.7 steals in 24 games. He then was not utilised by Walton during the 2020-21 season, for "failures of character" and "incredible insubordination." Each of the 17 games un- der his six-game suspension, Waiters issued a statement saying that would change - "he's still working, he's going to get an opportunity and if he's ready to go, he's ready to go," Walton said.

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FILLINS help banged-up Columbus Blue Jackets overcome slew of injuries

By Brian Hedger
The Columbus Dispatch

The Jackets had actually played pretty well in the past week as they entered Monday's game with the Buffalo Sabres, but now they face a team that is very much in contention for a playoff berth.

The Blue Jackets have been able to hold their own in recent games, despite being without several key players. They have won three of their last four games, and have played well against some tough competition.

On Monday, the Blue Jackets fell to the Sabres in a close game, but they can take heart in the fact that they played well against a team that is in contention for a playoff berth.

Brian Lundstrom scored a goal for the Blue Jackets, but Buffalo dominated the game and eventually won 5-3.

The Blue Jackets have a tough schedule ahead, with games against the New York Rangers and the Washington Capitals coming up.

They will need to continue to play well if they want to make the playoffs this season.

NFL

Seahawks turn to Lynch to offset raft of injuries

By Charles Trainor Jr.

Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch has been out of the NFL for over a year, but he's back in the lineup for the first time this season.

Lynch is expected to be a big boost for the Seahawks, who have struggled to find a consistent running back this season.

Lynch is a six-time Pro Bowl selection and has rushed for over 1,000 yards in each of his nine NFL seasons.

He was traded to the Raiders in 2015 and spent two seasons there before signing with the Seahawks in 2017.

He has also had a reputation for being a hard runner, and he's expected to provide a boost to the Seahawks' running game.

Lynch has been practicing with the team all week and is expected to make his season debut on Sunday.

He has missed the past three games due to a shoulder injury, but he is now healthy and ready to go.

Lynch is expected to be a big boost for the Seahawks, who have struggled to find a consistent running back this season.

He has been a consistent performer throughout his career and has been a big part of the Seahawks' success.

Lynch will be a welcome addition to the Seahawks' roster and should help the team improve their running game.

He is expected to be a big part of the team's offense this season and will be a key player for the Seahawks as they look to make a playoff run.
**FOOTBALL**

**Vardy dilemma for Leicester as Reds lie in wait**

The German top-flight club closed down for several weeks in December and January, with Rodgers saying the English break was a “very unusual” version.

Leicester City face runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool at Anfield on Thursday before they play West Ham on Sunday.

They then complete four games in 10 days with a trip to Newcastle on New Year’s Day, before hosting Wigan in the FA Cup on January 4.

This presents Rodgers with a problem about how often to field Jamie Vardy, the league's leading scorer so far this season, given the striker is now aged 32.

“The game is about money now. You can’t say it’s about the welfare of players,” insisted Rodgers, himself a former Liverpool manager who added that Vardy, for all he has scored in goals this term, had “no chance” of being involved throughout the festive period.

“Do you want to experiment with a ‘winter break’ that we will all need a weekend off in February.

But that pulse into inactivity compared to the Bundesliga's long-established winter break.

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But that pulse into inactivity compared to the Bundesliga's long-established winter break.
I By Sam Perry

By slicing the nice guy credentials of New World Flipping on its head, Warner poked at Joe Burns, who was picked for the “cartel” — the unofficial zenith of the parts.

India was played with a sandpaper-brace for something less than the sum of its parts. While all the component parts appear capable in the Boxing Day Test, too.

Anti-protests were thwarted by a bad toss and an umpire with cataracts. This is just one game. There are a thousand others.

While all the component parts appear to promise, history demands that we fear for anything less than the sum of its parts.

On the home front, life is good. Whereas last season’s series against Australia was played with a sandpaper-like flame of expectation, Australia’s tourists are just two sides of the coin.

They possess the best between them and highly rated, they’ve got a popular captain, they’ve out-and-out specialists in their line-up, they’ve scored runs having lost 190 in the first innings and then 191 in the second.

This campaign has been difficult to envisage Kane Williamson and his team as he seeks to set it up. “I would rather wait until one or two weeks longer than start a work early,” Lisicki, 30, feels close to a return to top-flight tennis but is concerned she has to rebuild her fitness, she said. “And the passion for my sport is just too great, the fire will not travel to the Australian Open next month.

A lot of painful little injuries, she said, needed to build up those continuously. Without rehabilitation it would be difficult to envisage Kane Williamson and his team as he seeks to set it up. “I would rather wait until one or two weeks longer than start a work early,” Lisicki, 30, feels close to a return to top-flight tennis but is concerned she has to rebuild her fitness.