Klopp backing Reds for Premier League miracle

City will retain the title if they win at Brighton but a draw or loss for Pep Guardiola's men would open the door for Liverpool to be crowned champions if they defeat Wolves.

Jürgen Klopp says Liverpool are on course to win the Premier League for the first time, adding that their third place in the league is nothing special.

"We want to win the title, not just come third," he said. "We have been playing some great football and we are in a strong position.

"If we lose the league, it will be a disaster. We have been living on peaks and troughs this season, but we have been playing some good football.

"We have a good team and we are in a strong position to win the league."
Barca's Valverde to fight on after Champions League woe

Neymar scores on final game before ban

Bayern let Dortmund back

Kovac still 'confident' after Bay are forced to the final day

Bayern Munich 0; VfB Stuttgart 3 (Castro 8, Kostic 19, Laborde 90+3); Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Debuchy 47, 63, og, T. Hazard 65, Zakaria 80); Hertha Berlin 4 (Plattenhardt 47, 70) Hertha Berlin 4 (Plattenhardt 47, 70); Augsburg 3 (Hahn 10, Gregoritsch 50-og, 70); Düsseldorf 2 (Fink 47, Kownacki 90+5); Borussia Dortmund 3 (Pulisic 39); Hannover 0; Freiburg 3-0.}

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Barca's Valverde to fight on after Champions League woe

Neymar responds to being handed three-match ban by scoring as champions Paris Saint-Germain ended their three-game losing streak away from home with a 2-1 Ligue 1 victory at Angers on Sunday.

But PSG have conceded 18 goals in eight games since their last clean sheet back to a 1-0 win at Lyon before the international break in November.

The goal came on 64 minutes as tempera-
Pattern.

A winner's flight from captain Vincent Kompany (right), his first goal outside the box in 12 years, was nodded into the top left corner of the net by 30 millimetres. (AFP)

It's amusing. This morning, I showed them some ideas. "I've had my ideas for six home games, so far. I have some ideas. But we are in the top four and we are getting ready to play a big match this weekend." (Guardiola)

But Leeds were left breathing a sigh of relief after the fightback at Elland Road on Tuesday as Liverpool reached a second European final on the bounce to face Chelsea in Porto on May 27. (Harrison)

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Barrow cut off a nearest winner, winning three of their last four games. A winner's flight from captain Vincent Kompany (right), his first goal outside the box in 12 years, was nodded into the top left corner of the net by 30 millimetres. (AFP)

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Buttler's daddy ton sets up dramatic victory for England

New father Buttler’s 110 not out was the cornerstone of England’s 373 for three at Lord’s.

Buttler’s daddy ton sets up dramatic victory for England

The team, led by Justin Langer, missed the trip, some said, because of a TV documentary to be screened on England cricket’s anniversary. The move against Sanath Jayasundara, a performance analyst for the national team, was suspended over three months ahead of the World Cup. The ICC charged former Sri Lanka batsman Avishka Gunaratne with match-fixing.

“Where we are right now, as a country, is that there has been a strong call for unity and to get together and play cricket,” said the former Zimbabwean captain.

The charges against the two Sri Lankan players came after reports in the Sri Lanka cricket league that they had been offered inducements to throw the game. The ICC has said it will not be able to relate to a T10 league played in the United Arab Emirates in January.

Bangladesh unlikely to sue Sri Lanka

The charges against the two Sri Lankan players, Newam Kumar and Arusha Mithun, were dropped with matches to go and two weeks to respond.

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**NBA**

**SPORTS**

**SPOTLIGHT**

Red Kelly, an eight-time NHL champion who died at 91 on June 2, was remembered by former teammates, colleagues and friends at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto for his contributions to the game and community. He joined the Leafs in 1947 from the University of Michigan and won five Stanley Cups during his 16-year NHL career, from 1947-63. At the time of his retirement, he was the NHL’s all-time leader in games played, with 1,579, and the second all-time leader in points, with 851. Kelly was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1976.

**FLOODGATES OPEN FOR CURRY IN SECOND HALF AS WARRIORS RUTCH OSKETS TO ROCKETS**

"Obviously, we just wanted to give the series the weekend off to recover. We’ve had at least the next few days to prepare and recover," Thompson said of Curry’s late-game return. "We’re not going to run him out there and try to play 40 minutes. We’ll have to see how he feels the next few days and see how his program is going."

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Nicklaus likes Tiger’s chances to break major record

If his body holds together and he doesn’t have any issues, I’d say the chances of him breaking my record are very good.

Jack Nicklaus says Masters winner Tiger Woods has “a very good” chance of setting the record for all-time major title winners, while even the usually cautious Woods calls overtaking Nicklaus “a possibility.”

“Mr. Nicklaus was just one stroke shy of breaking my record last month at Augusta National, Woods put what was once the burning question in golf back on the line of fire – ‘Can Tiger beat Jack?’

Woods won a record 10 major titles, 6 of them at 40, and 43-year-old Woods can surpass my record at next week’s US PGA Byron Nelson tournament.

By winning his 15th major title, Woods could vault past Jack Nicklaus on the all-time majors list. The 75-year-old Nicklaus won a record 18 ca-

“W e didn’t do any of that stuff .” Nicklaus said.

Woods managed his major breakthrough last month at the Masters, using his knowledge of Augusta National, mental game and innumerable skills to full ad-

“Just before the Masters, I didn’t know if the five inches between my arms was called down, or giving him conditions again, or how big the moment was. I know now how important that is. I don’t think there’s any question of that.”

“T o be watching him very closely.”

And the two major records are now so close where Woods has won 15 and Nicklaus 18, that the 18 at the 2022 US Open, and Pebble Beach, site of the 2010/2012 Open triumph.

“Nicklaus got back into the swing of things.”

Nicklaus is the boyhood idol of Woods, who has achieved astounding success becoming one of the golf-ers (17-19).

“I just need to have a lot of confidence.”

“On which course where Woods has won another season, or how far the US Open will go my way. It’s a possibility.”

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Tennis

Bertens’ triumph in Madrid halts Halep push for top spot

‘I’m really happy to win this trophy. It means a lot to me after last year getting to the final here’

The Netherlands’ Kiki Bertens pulled off a stunning victory over Simona Halep to take the Madrid Open yesterday, denying the Romanian a return to the top of the world rankings.

Halep could have knocked Kiki Bertens off the number-one spot with victory in the tournament after the Spaniard had moved back to becoming the highest-ranked Romanian ever by climbing to world number four.

Bertens secured her ninth WTA singles title, as well as a cheque for 1.2 million euros, after edging out the current world number one, 6-4, 6-4, in a final marred by a knock to the thigh, three feet behind the baseline, and her opponent the chance to celebrate.

A drop-shot and giving her opponent the chance to celebrate.

Bertens fluffed her smash, only for Halep to return a volley and edge into a tight game to lead 5-3 but was made to serve out after Halep’s two double faults.

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Bertens was gracious in defeat, high-fiving Bertens as she made the three Grand Slams since. The 27-year-old has failed to go past the fourth round in any of them.

Tennis

Djokovic edges past Thiem to reach final

N Novak Djokovic ensured his credentials as the greatest threat to Rafael Nadal winning a 12th French Open title next month after he beat Dominic Thiem in Madrid yesterday.

It was the latest triumph of the Swede Karolinska who stunned the in-form Nadal in the semi-finals today.

Rafael Nadal, the 12-time French Open champion, was denied his chance to make the semi-finals in the Madrid Open.

Nadal had been the favourite to claim his 12th title but in place of racket which he had hoped to hold aloft in the final, the Spaniard found himselfswinging a tennis racquet instead.


Nicolas Deslaspe (FRA/BOR) 40.

JUM) same time, 9. Bauke Mollema (NED/BAH) 40.

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**Mercedes fear collision as Bottas takes pole in Spain**

Wolff winced at the memory of the crash that saw both Mercedes men out of the race three years ago. Wolff said that was ahead of him and his teammates.

"We completely acknowledge there is rivalry between the two of them, and that will not shorten the competition. Everybody knows that one is very important and it can be a real battle for the drivers to decide who is the best in the car, but that is what we need to do," he said.

**ASIAN BEACH VOLLEYBALL**

Omar Al Miswaili and Ahmed Tijan will once again focus on the Asian Senior Beach Volleyball Championships in Manila, Philippines.

**BATTERY problem aff ects Hamilton's car**

Hamilton was first out for Q3, but it was George Russell and Robert Kubica who set the pace. Russell was third fastest with a time of 1:19.844, followed by Kubica in fourth place.

"I am really enjoying this, " said Bottas. "The adrenaline rush you get from laps like that is really strong. Ultimately, I didn’t do the best I could have and I did only one attempt in Q3 but it seems to be more than an Achilles’ heel here... I spoke to Valtteri and he’s obviously we are not quick enough, “ he said.

Wolfs feared a collision as Bottas won pole yesterday despite going off track in Q2. Wolff recognised that was a concern but said it wasn’t a concern for tomorrow that would be great. "We completely acknowledge there is rivalry between the two of them, and that will in fact shorten the competition. Everybody knows that one is very important and it can be a real battle for the drivers to decide who is the best in the car, but that is what we need to do," he said.

**SPOTLIGHT**

Battery problem affected Hamilton’s car. Wolff said yesterday after the reign.

"Thanks again everyone for getting the car ready and apologising for F1’s car. Hamilton will be able to join the battle with then teammate Nico Rosberg for the championship, thanks to a fastest lap in the classification," said Wolff. "It seems to be more than an Achilles’ heel here... I spoke to Valtteri and he’s obviously we are not quick enough, “ he said. Wolff said that was ahead of him and his teammates.

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