Chelsea set up an all-English Champions League final against Manchester City as German duo from Timo Werner and Mason Mount beat Real Madrid 3-0 yesterday to seal a 3-1 aggregate victory which earned them a place in the biggest club event of the season.

If anything, the scintillating flattened out as the second-half images had no response to Chelsea’s speed on the counter-attack. The Blues should have put more pressure on their visitors in the second half.

However, Werner’s spectacular headed goal in the 76th minute, which put the Blues 2-1 up and 3-1 overall, effectively ended the Spanish side’s European dreams. Karim Benzema had brought Madrid back to level the tie last week in the Spanish capital and nearly moved ahead of Real legend Raul as the Champions League’s fourth highest ever goalscorer with a goal from and also from the edge of the box that Thibaut Courtois did brilliantly to turn behind.

That was the cruel Madrid saw to as they started to compete with the Blues as they could not get shots on target and saw their chances at the other end means they are still far from guaranteed a place in the final.

Chelsea have now won four straight European matches in 24 games since the appointment of Thomas Tuchel replaced the sacked Frank Lampard in January.

A return to the biggest game in club football is also the culmination of a huge turnaround in Chelsea’s fortunes since Thomas Tuchel replaced the beleaguered Frank Lampard in January.

Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane welcomed Karim Benzema to provide a goal threat as Madrid’s over-reliance on the Frenchman had the Spanish giants struggling to cope with.

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Chelsea’s Tino Werner (centre) in action during the UEFA Champions League semi-final 2nd leg match against Real Madrid at London’s Wembley on May 4, 2021. However, Werner’s cushioned header from a Germany international teammate chill out the only goal of the game.

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Al Khor beat Al Shahania to retain QNB Stars League spot

Fefatizid, Kobayashi and Brahim score for Al Khor, who were in a play-off for the second successive year

By Sports Reporter

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1 Khor defeated Al Shahania 2-1 in the play-off of the QNB Stars League semi-final against runners-up (Al Shahania) in the Second Division of 20-21 season. Al Shahania, who lost 2-0 to Al Khor in the Third Round of the same season, wasted a golden opportunity to upstage Al Khor, who was in a play-off for the second straight season. Al Shahania was defeated in the play-off by Al Khor 2-0 in the previous season.

The play-off started with the 103rd minute of the game as Al Khor scored through a Yuki Kobayashi penalty. Al Shahania had a chance to equalize in the 106th minute through a Mohamed Bahramen penalty, but the goalkeeper saved the shot.

Mohamed Bahramen, who was a key player for Al Shahania, said: "We had a chance to equalize, but the goalkeeper saved the shot. We played well, but we made some mistakes. We need to improve our defense in the next season."
Infantino urges restraint in punishing Super League clubs

FOOTBALL

PSG regret Mbappe absence and loss of discipline

PSG boss Maurice Lévy has claimed his club should have been shown more leniency over Kylian Mbappe because his absence from the Champions League semi-final against Manchester City was unavoidable.

"His absence was understandable. It is always a pity when you lose a key player," Lévy told the Cercle des Pépites.

"Perhaps we will regret it in the long term, but it is understandable. He was unable to be at his best and it was a pity. We are a big club and we have the capacity to absorb these situations," Lévy added.

"Mbappe is a key player and we know that he is unreplaceable. He will be missed, but we will do our best to replace him.

"Mbappe is an exceptional player who has proven himself in all competitions. He is one of the best players in the world and we are fortunate to have him.

"However, we cannot do without him all the time. We will try to find solutions and work to bring in new players to strengthen our squad.

"We will do our best to keep Mbappe and make sure he is available for the rest of the season. We will work hard to find a solution and we will do everything we can to ensure Mbappe's future is at PSG.

"Mbappe is important for the team and we will do everything we can to keep him.

"Mbappe is a player of the future and we will do our best to make sure he stays with us for a long time. We will work hard to find a solution and we will do everything we can to keep Mbappe.

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IPL’s foreign stars scramble to escape Covid-hit India

Eight of England’s 11 players arrive back in London and New Zealand Cricket says it was arranging for players to fly to Britain

**FOCUS**

Ex-Australia Test bowler MacGill kidnapped for ransom, four arrested

By Miles Hipgrave

Former Australia Test cricketer Stuart MacGill was allegedly kidnapped and held up for ransom after he refused to pay out a ransom demanded by men who called themselves the crime command’s robbery and serious crime unit. MacGill was driving in Sydney’s eastern suburbs when he was confronted by two masked men who demanded money. MacGill refused and the men reportedly piled onto his car in an attempt to steal it. MacGill managed to escape and was later found in a nearby hospital. He has not been able to provide a full account of what happened. MacGill had recently returned from the UK after playing for the English county side Kent in the English domestic Twenty20 competition.

**SPOTLIGHT**

IPL’s foreign stars scramble to escape Covid-hit India

Eight of England’s 11 players arrive back in London and New Zealand Cricket says it was arranging for players to fly to Britain

**INDIAN board says it faces $270m hit from IPL suspension**

New Delhi: The Indian cricket board faces losing about $270m from the Indian Premier League (IPL) if its suspension from international cricket continues. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is one of the 10 members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and was fined by the ICC for failing to comply with its code of conduct. The ICC has said it will assess the impact of the suspension on the IPL and will make a decision on whether to permit the league to continue in the future.

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**BOTTOMLINE**

Karunaratne biggest gainer in latest ICC Test rankings

Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne has moved up four places in the latest ICC Test rankings to reach a career-best 20th position. Karunaratne has been in good form recently, scoring 118 and 66 in the two-match series against Bangladesh, enabling him to gain 15 slots and move up to 20th in the rankings. He is the top-ranked Test batsman for Sri Lanka with Angelo Mathews next in 48th position, while Lasith Malinga is at 55th place after moving down one place. Pakistan’s Azhar Ali is at 23rd position, while New Zealand’s Kane Williamson is at 29th place, and England’s Joe Root is at 30th place.

**Agents**

Deloitte

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NHL

Great win, and I’m happy that we were able to put on a show for our fans and build good habits from those games, but that’s all.

The Western Conference leaders were pushed to the wicket, however, by a Cleanse Cherrington goal in the second period, which was being naturally allocated from player to player of some form.

The time led to 12 points midway through the third period, but the Cleanse Cherrington goal was not enough to give the team a win.

Phoenix scored the contest with a 15-0 line of the start of two minutes to take a 3-0 lead in the second period, which was not enough to give the team a win.

Chris Paul added 12 points for Phoenix with 11 assists and six rebounds, while DeAndre Ayton had 11 points, five assists, and five rebounds.

Jason Kidd added an empty-netter with 4:07 left, and除此之外, he scored a power-play goal with 3:32 remaining.

The Penguins had an extensive opportunity to win the game with 7:28 remaining in the third period, but the Penguins were not able to make that happen.

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NBA

The Bucks are back to full strength and have won five straight games with a mix of star power and deep bench play.

The Bucks beat the Brooklyn Nets in overtime, securing their fifth straight victory and moving into first place in the Eastern Conference.

The Nets, who have been struggling to find their rhythm, were no match for the Bucks, who dominated from the start and never looked back.

New York, 10-04-2023: The Bucks, who were without superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo for the past two games, got him back in the lineup and he responded with 30 points and 13 rebounds.

The Bucks have been on a roll lately, winning five of their last six games and moving to 29-13 on the season.

Antetokounmpo, who was named the NBA’s Most Valuable Player last season, had been out with a back injury for the past two games.

The Nets, who are in second place in the Eastern Conference, were no match for the Bucks and were blown out 134-118.

Antetokounmpo led from the front for the Bucks, scoring 30 points and grabbing 13 rebounds.

The Bucks’ defense was also impressive, holding the Nets to just 118 points.

The Bucks now have a five-game winning streak and are looking to secure a playoff spot with just over a month left in the season.
Saunders fury over 'phone box' ring for Canelo bout

The British cruiserweight boxing star Billy Joe Saunders has branded the ring dimensions for his unification clash with Saul "Canelo" Alvarez as "laughable" after it was revealed it was only 16-18 feet, substantially smaller than the traditional 24-foot ring he had been expecting.

"People say boxing ring, " Saunders told Britain's Talksport on Tuesday. "But it's been a 16-18 foot ring. It's like a telephone box. I was looking for a 24-foot ring. It's either a 24-foot ring or it's not. Having seen the ring that has been set up at the stadium, left it to my team and I'm sure they'll solve it. It's absolute nonsense. It's gonna happen and it is what it is. But I've had problems with small rings, but (the stadium) is hundreds of square feet."

The 31-year-old insisted his grievance was "nothing to do with an attempt to rip off my fans. It's a unification fight, not a British title. It's an unification fight, not a world title."

Saunders slammed the dimensions of the ring that has been set up at the stadium like a telephone box. Name me one, name me two, name me three in the world. That's why I'm playing this game to try to cement my place in history and not let money and to win major championships and to win the biggest tournaments in the world that's why I'm playing this game."

Saunders, who is set to face Alvarez in a world middleweight unification clash at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on Saturday night, earlier told Talksport the ring that had been set up by the organizers was "laughable". Saunders had flown from London to Las Vegas to take a look at the ring before turning it down.

Saunders also slammed the conditions in which his team and he were quartered ahead of the WBO vs. WBA unification clash on Saturday night.

"I've been in hotels where it's just been terrible. I've been there before," Saunders said. "There's been some very, very bad at this place."

McInroy drew a comparison between the 16-foot ring and the European Super League, a proposed football union which would see clubs compete in separate competitions.

"People can see it for what it is. It's absolutely a money grab. I think outside of the UK, which is what it's all about at the moment, it's money grab. That's what that is. It's about making a profit."

This being the game to try to cement my place in history and not let money and to win major championships and to win the biggest tournaments in the world. That's why I'm playing this game."

Saunders and Joel Kahn were among the players and officials who had travelled to Las Vegas to discuss issues at the 31-year-old's hotel, which is currently being occupied by the fighters leading up to the fight. Saunders is due to face Alvarez in the 16-18 foot ring this Saturday night.

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The auction will include a range of memorabilia from the 1992 US Open, held at Pebble Beach, including the golf bag in which Woods used to carry his clubs, which could fetch up to $30,000. Other items include a Michael Jordan NBA rookie jersey that sold for $2.4 million in 2020 and a Michael Jordan NBA jersey that sold for $1.8 million in 2020.

The auction will also feature a Michael Jordan jersey that was worn during a game against the Chicago Bulls in 1995 and sold for $3.1 million in 2020. The auction will also feature a Michael Jordan jersey that was worn during a game against the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2008 and sold for $3.6 million in 2020.

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‘Don’t watch’— fans warned off Games marathon test

Officials grapple with a rise in infections and public antipathy to the Olympics

Asahi

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Sport

Spectators were aged to day the Circuit de Can-

Nagoya photographer

The pandemic has severely

Canada’s show-jumping
due to its arbitration against the 2022 Beijing Games, Equestrian Canada (EC) said today.

The test fulfils a promise made

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Obiri and Gidey set for 3,000m showdown in Doha

Wildcard Badosa is the first Spanish woman to reach the last four at the tournament

Rafael Nadal began his Madrid Open title in simple fashion yesterday, easing past youngster Carlos Alcaraz 6-4, 6-1 to reach the quarter-finals.

Nadal, who returned to number one in the world last week after his thrilling win over Dominic Thiem in the Canada Open final, smashed through his 18-year-old opponent in the second set but had to hold his nerve against his childhood idol.

Always handy bristling and even when his compatriot Nadal had been predictably overwhelmed by one of the junior's portly pace and timing, he was able to hold one hour and seven minutes.

“The victory in Barcelona helped us a lot,” things have got better since, “I think, today Nadal said.

“Hey’s a youngster who is coming to terms with the professional circuit and we are mainly the same age. The only thing he needs is time.”

Nadal will take on Aliaksandr Ezhov in the next round after the 20-year-old knocked out rising star Jannik Sinner 7-6 (5), 6-3.

The match appeared settled but Nadal who had lost his opening match in the second round against Pete Marach 7-5, 6-3, came through with a 6-4, 6-0 victory.

“I was happy to win and beat a very good player, to get into the fourth round and even though I lost the first two games, I was able to get back in the match and do what I needed to do,” he said.

“I ran the Kenyan record there in a really competitive match. Thank you Kenyans, keep supporting your athletes,” Obiri said.

Obiri is also the only woman to have won a gold medal in two Olympic Games. She won the 5,000m gold in Beijing 2008 and the 10,000m gold in London 2012.

“Thank you for your support and believe in me. I have the ability to deliver across the distance,” Obiri said.

Badosa kissed the clay court in celebration of a win that will earn her $65,000 and propel her to the WTA rankings.

She has already decided not to compete at the French Open or Wimbledon, and has said she would decide by June how many local spectators they would allow into venues, “I am confident we would have the ability to stage an event on the field of play, it also demonstrated the ability to deliver across the distance.”

The 2021 Wanda Diamond League comprises 14 meetings – starting with Garhoud (replacing Kabul as the first host city on this year’s circuit) on May 13 – leading to a final in Zurich at the end of the season. Each meeting will be broadcast globally in a live two-hour programme.

The 2022 Wanda calendar subject to change depending on the global health situation in the coming months.

(Doha Diamond League)