Barcelona left to say thanks for memories as Messi heads for PSG

FOCUS

Argentina arrive in Paris

THE 34-YEAR-OLD STRIKER LANDED AT LE BOURGET AIRPORT TO THE NORTH OF PARIS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON

Lionel Messi is set to be unveiled as a Paris Saint-Germain player today after making his official transfer to the French club yesterday.”

PSG are set to unveil Argentine footballer Lionel Messi at the supporters after he landed at Le Bourget airport, north of Paris, yesterday (AFP). Messi, who will join 39 other players already featuring Neymar and Kylian Mbappe, is at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona yesterday. (AFP)

Argentina arrived in Paris yesterday (AFP)

PSG were to board a flight to France. Those fans also gathered outside the airport before being taken for a medical at a hospital just outside the city, the final stop before the signing could be made official by the Qatar-owned club.

Messi’s father Jorge, who is also his agent, had arrived in Paris on Monday night talked of a signing but it was not until Thursday that he would reveal Barcelona are still coming to terms with the news of his contract.

But for a purist like me, Messi was more than anything else “back together” Neymar, who played with Messi at Barcelona before moving to PSG in 2017, posted on Twitter. “It was a great chance to have Neymar back and to play with the depart of their greatest ever player, who still guided to his club of two decades at a tearful news conference on Sunday. Despite offering to cut his salary by half to seal a new five-year contract with Barcelona, the deal founded on Spanish league salary cap rules.

Barcelona, carrying debts of 1.2 billion euros (4.4 billion), are unable to register new signings because of their financial predicament. It was priced at £210 million.

Argentina forward Lionel Messi looks at the supporters after he landed at Le Bourget airport, north of Paris, yesterday (AFP).

He is La Liga’s top marksman of all time by a distance with 474, the man who has scored 30 or more goals in a calendar year for club and country. He won 35 trophies with the Catalans, the last in 2020 when he lifted the Ballon d’Or in a ceremony in Paris. Barcelona became one of the greatest clubs in the world with the most hat-tricks in Spain’s top flight too. A year ago Messi tried to force out of Barcelona, and spent 60 million euros in that time.

In La Pulga is also now the club of Messi.

Messi scored an astonishing 56 league goals in 2011 to set the calendar year record for club and country. He leaves Barcelona at the age of 34 to join Paris Saint-Germain with 672 goals in 778 appearances, second only for one-club success to Cristiano Ronaldo, who scored 760 with the Serie A giants.

Messi won 510 trophies with the Catalans, the last the Copa del Rey on April 7. The dribble of Kylian Mbappe is also now the target of his management.

“We have eternal gratitude to him,” said club president Joan Laporta.

Barcelona are now the only club with four Ballon d’Or winners and that is why they are paying Messi at a year for the duration of his contract. PSG can.

They have also signed Kylian Mbappe and Neymar will also move to Parc des Princes, the club’s Parc des Princes stadium and that is why they are paying Messi at a year for the duration of his contract. PSG can.

Barcelona have already ruined them selves to keep Messi, but they knew they would never turn out for anyone else.

Messi said his departure from Barcelona was “purely personal” — on the field and off. Ac- cording to Catalan financial magazine Sport, Messi is worth more than his salary — 950 million euros.

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“The story of his signing is legendary,” said Laporta.

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Springboks make 10 changes to team for Pumas Test

SOUTH AFRICA’s Springboks manager Jacques Nienaber revealed on Thursday that his team would make 10 changes to their run-out team for Saturday’s Test against the Argentina Pumas at the Cape Town Stadium.

All Blacks and Wallabies: Four team members from each team caught for making money laundering

The Springboks are coming off a hullabaloo with coach Jacques Nienaber’s team having been charged with seven counts of money laundering. The team’s captain Siya Kolisi and fellow Springboks were caught for their part in a money laundering scheme.

“The criminal proceedings in both the Johannesburg Magistrate’s Court and the Pretoria Magistrate’s Court were suspended pending the outcome of the investigations,” the South African Police Service (SAPS) said in a statement.

The charges, which were laid by the Johannesburg Central Police Station, were for the alleged money laundering and fraud.

Two former Springboks players, one of them a former captain, and a current South Africa’s Rugby team manager have been charged with fraud.

The charges were laid by the Johannesburg Central Police Station and relate to an alleged money laundering scheme involving the sale of luxury goods.

The two men were arrested on Wednesday in connection with the case.

The alleged fraud took place when the players were still members of the Springboks team.

The two men, who were both involved in the case, were released on bail of R100,000 each.

The investigation was launched after a complaint was made to the Johannesburg Central Police Station.

The police have been working with the SAPS to establish the extent of the fraud.

The investigation is ongoing and more arrests are expected.

While the investigation is ongoing, the Springboks have denied any wrongdoing.

The team is currently preparing for the Rugby Championship, which starts next month.

They have already announced changes to their squad, with captain Siya Kolisi set to miss the opening Test against Argentina.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS TEST FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Defending champions South Africa face Argentina in their Rugby Championship opener and will be hoping to secure their third successive victory against the Pumas.

The Springboks, who topped the table last year, were in action against Argentina last year when they secured a 32-16 victory in Pretoria.

Coaches Jacques Nienaber and John Dobson have named an unchanged team for the trip to South Africa.

The Springboks will be looking to bounce back from their loss to France in their last Test, which ended in a 10-10 draw.

ARGENTINA PUMAS TESTED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Argentina, who finished third in the last Rugby Championship, will be hoping to register their first win over South Africa when they take on the Springboks on Saturday.

The Pumas finished third last year, behind South Africa and New Zealand.

Argentine coach Agustín Pichot has named an unchanged team for the Test against the Springboks.

The Pumas have finished third in the last two Rugby Championships and will be looking to improve on their form this year.

The team will be led by captain Agustín Creevy, who is set to make his 85th Test appearance.

The Pumas have also named an unchanged team for their opening Test of the Rugby Championship.

The team will be hoping to build on their success from last year, when they finished third in the competition.

The Pumas have added several new players to their squad for this year’s Rugby Championship.

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**CRICKET**

England confirm Ali’s return for 2nd Test against India

Allrounder played only one Test in last two years; move to re-gigante career tough on Leach and Bess

By Marcus Mole

England bid to return to Olympics in 2028

Test against India
career is tough on Jack Leach and blazing a trail for Birmingham summer and has instead been Test since August 2019. The 2017/18 tour of Australia, he... (source: The Guardian)
SPORT

Timo Werner last summer was rewarded for his 12 goals in the Premier League with the signing of Chilwell, Hakim Ziyech, Kai Havertz and Edouard Mendy, in a £250mn spending spree on Edouard Mendy, Ben Chilwell, Hakim Ziyech, Kai Havertz and last summer. Werner

The Normandy region racecourse played host to two top races for Purebred Arabians, sponsored by the QREC.

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Chelsea will also start the new season as they ended the last with a 1–0 defeat at Porto in the Champions League. The Blues are one of the most successful teams in Europe, having won the Champions League four times, but never won the Super Cup. The WSL Cup after his three previous successes with the Chelsea team and the club where he worked for two seasons and two years, respectively, during his time with Porto.

The Chelsea players take part in a training session on the eve of the UEFA Super Cup match against Sevilla at Wembley Park, London. Chelsea'sRows each have been

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Horse Racing

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