

KLOPP SEEKS DISPLAY FIT FOR EXPANDED ANFIELD

LIVERPOOL: Jurgen Klopp wants his Liverpool players to use the unveiling of Anfield's giant new Main Stand as the platform for a sustained assault on the Premier League.

Today's visit of champions Leicester City will see Liverpool officially open the redeveloped stand, which increases the capacity of their ground by 8,500 to over 54,000. The 115 million pounds (\$153 million, 135.9 million euros) project obliged Liverpool to play their first three fixtures away from home and they picked up only four points on their travels.

"Four points does not feel too good, but it's not really

bad. We are the only team in the Premier League with three away games," Klopp said.

"Now we start the season with a home game. We have to start the season and I think it's a wonderful opportunity for us. "The day before yesterday was the first time I had been inside Anfield since the Chelsea game (on the penultimate weekend of last season).

"It's really, really impressive, what they have done there. It's an outstanding job. "I have no idea how somebody could do something like this, but when you stand in front of it, it's really amazing."

Liverpool were one of only two teams to beat

Leicester in the league last season, Arsenal being the other, and Klopp thinks they will provide fitting adversaries for the occasion.

"This is a good place and a good opponent. The champions coming, we celebrate them all," said the German. "It was really well deserved, what they did last year. They are still good all that stuff.

"But I would say it now: it's another season. It's our first home game with 8,000 more in the stadium.

"That's more power and we should use this and start now with our first home game. It's a wonderful opportunity." — AFP



Matches on TV (Local Timing)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Man United v Man City	14:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
West Ham United v Watford	17:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Bournemouth v West Bromwich	17:00
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
Middlesbrough v Crystal Palace	17:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Burnley FC v Hull City	17:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Stoke City v Tottenham	17:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Arsenal FC v Southampton	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Liverpool v Leicester City	19:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

SPANISH LEAGUE

Celta v Atletico de Madrid	14:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Real Madrid v Osasuna	17:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Malaga CF v Villarreal	19:15
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Sevilla FC v Las Palmas	19:15
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Barcelona v Deportivo Alaves	21:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Juventus v Sassuolo	19:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Citta v SSC Napoli	21:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayer 04 Leverkusen v Hamburger	16:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
VfL Wolfsburg v FC Koln	16:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Ingolstadt 04 v Hertha Berlin	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Darmstadt 98 v Eintracht	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Freiburg v Monchengladbach	16:30
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	
Leipzig v Borussia Dortmund	19:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Lyonnais v Girondins	18:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Bastia v Toulouse FC	21:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Guingamp v Montpellier	21:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Lorient v Nancy Lorraine	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Lille OSC v AS Monaco FC	21:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Angers v Dijon	21:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	



SANT JOAN DESPI: FC Barcelona's Andre Gomes, center, heads the ball during a training session at the Sports Center FC Barcelona Joan Gamper in Sant Joan Despi, Spain, yesterday. — AP

BARCA TRIO REUNITED AS RONALDO RETURNS FOR REAL

MADRID: Barcelona's fearsome front three of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar could join forces for the first time in four months against Alaves, while Cristiano Ronaldo will make his Real Madrid return today.

Neymar has missed Barca's 100 percent start to the season due to his efforts in leading Brazil to Olympic gold on home soil, but returned to Spain for the first time since May after more international duty in World Cup qualifying this week and is expected to start at the Camp Nou. Messi is a much bigger doubt after missing Argentina's clash with Venezuela in midweek due to a groin problem. The five-time World Player of the Year has played a limited part in training in recent days and coach Luis Enrique is likely to be cautious for the first of seven games in 22 days for Barca. Paco Alcacer is in line to make his debut after sealing a 30 million-euro (\$33 million) move from Valencia and the Spanish international striker is aware he will have to make the most of limited opportunities as fourth choice behind Messi, Suarez and Neymar.

"I will do everything I can to take advantage of the chances I have to the full," Alcacer said as he was presented on Thursday. Andres Iniesta has also returned to training

following a knee injury and will battle Arda Turan and Denis Suarez for a place in midfield as both have impressed early in the campaign.

Ronaldo makes his long-awaited return at the Santiago Bernabeu against Osasuna earlier on Saturday in what will be his first appearance since suffering ligament damage in his left knee during Portugal's Euro 2016 final win over France.

Real haven't suffered in Ronaldo's absence with two wins from their opening two La Liga games and victory over Sevilla in the European Super Cup. And after winning two Champions League titles in his first three seasons at Madrid, Gareth Bale insists the European champions have to put more emphasis on ending a four-year run without winning La Liga.

"It's important to try to win La Liga because it's been a few years since we have and it's normal that it's our focus," said Bale. "I'm looking forward to next weekend's game against Osasuna and I'm sure that they will make it difficult for us, but it'll be great to be able to call upon almost the whole squad."

Karim Benzema and Pepe have also returned from injury to leave Zinedine Zidane with a fully-fit squad bar the absence of goalkeeper Keylor Navas.

HEAT RISK

Champions League finalists Atletico Madrid desperately need to kickstart their season after back-to-back disappointing draws with Alaves and Leganes when they visit Celta Vigo in the first match in a new early Saturday kick-off time of 1300 (1100GMT) designed to compete with the English Premier League in Asian television markets.

Celta finished sixth last season, but have also endured a poor start with defeats in both their opening matches and the Galicians will be without influential playmaker Fabian Orellana for a month due to a muscle tear. Early season leaders Las Palmas have been on fire in scoring nine goals in their opening two games to shoot ahead of Barca and Madrid to the top of the table for the first time in 38 years. — AFP

However, the searing Spanish heat could get in their way this weekend with record temperatures for September registered across the country. League chief Javier Tebas has promised players' safety won't be risked and Las Palmas' visit to Sevilla is one of a number of games that could be delayed or even postponed if temperatures are deemed to be too high. — AFP