

# MBAPPE HELPS FIRE MONACO TO CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMIS

**MONACO:** Teenage sensation Kylian Mbappe scored again to set Monaco on their way to a 3-1 second-leg victory over Borussia Dortmund yesterday that allowed them to win their Champions League quarter-final 6-3 on aggregate.

Radamel Falcao also netted for the home side in a whirlwind start at the Stade Louis II, and Dortmund were left with too much to do to save the tie. Their skipper Marco Reus pulled a goal back early in the second half but Valere Germain came off the bench to put the seal on a famous win for a brilliant young Monaco side, who go through to the last four for the first time since 2004.

Meanwhile, Dortmund bow out after a tie overshadowed by the bomb attack on the team's bus last week that forced the first leg to be postponed by a day. The Germans lost that match 3-2, their minds elsewhere, but their hopes of turning the tie around in the second leg were not helped when their bus was held up on the way to the Stade Louis II, leading to a five-minute delay to the kick-off.

UEFA blamed "heavy traffic" for the hold-up but, on their official Twitter account, Dortmund said they had been delayed in leaving their hotel by police for around 20 minutes "without justification".

While the appearance of Spanish defender Marc Bartra—who needed surgery for a broken wrist suffered in last week's attack at the stadium was a boost to Dortmund, the delay unsettled Thomas Tuchel's side and their hopes of turning the tie around were effectively ended in a terrible opening 20 minutes. The away defence backed off as Benjamin Mendy advanced and when the full-back's powerful left-foot strike stung the palms of goalkeeper Roman Burki, the 18-year-old Mbappe was on hand to convert the rebound. That strike meant Mbappe, who netted twice in the first leg, became the youngest player ever to reach five goals in the Champions League, beating Real Madrid great Raul by 41 days.

Nuri Sahin cracked a free-kick off a post at the other end and Monaco survived that scare to

increase their lead on 17 minutes at the end of a counter-attack.

The rampaging Mendy's initial cross came back to Thomas Lemar and he held up a ball that was headed home by captain Falcao, the prolific Colombian marking his 50th appearance in European competition with his 45th goal. Like in the first leg, Tuchel's decision to start with three at the back had backfired and he changed things up before the half-hour mark, bringing on Ousmane Dembele for Erik Durm and reverting to a four-man defence. Dortmund now needed to score three times without reply just to force extra time but they did not manage to get one back until three minutes after the restart, Dembele tormenting Mendy on the right before his cutback was lashed home first-time by Reus.

But it was Monaco who had the best chances to score again after that, with Burki tipping over Almaym Touré's looping header and Falcao squandering a fine chance before substitute Germain made sure of their place in the last four. — AFP



**MONACO:** Dortmund's defender Matthias Ginter (L) and Monaco's Colombian forward Radamel Falcao go for the ball during the UEFA Champions League 2nd leg quarter-final football match AS Monaco v BVB Borussia Dortmund yesterday at the Louis II stadium in Monaco. — AFP



**BOSTON:** Chicago Bulls forward Jimmy Butler, right, blocks a shot by Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (4) during the fourth quarter of a first-round NBA playoff basketball game in Boston, Tuesday. — AP

**BASKETBALL**

## BULLS BEAT TOP-SEEDED CELTICS 111-97 TO TAKE 2-0 SERIES LEAD

**BOSTON:** Jimmy Butler scored 22 points, Rajon Rondo finished one rebound shy of a triple-double and the Chicago Bulls beat the Boston Celtics 111-97 on Tuesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their series against the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference. Butler added eight rebounds and eight assists. Rondo's night ended with 11 points and 14 assists on a night when all five Bulls starters reached double figures. Dwyane Wade had 22 points, including 16 in the second half, and Robin Lopez added 18 points and eight points. The Bulls host Game 3 on Friday. After a better start by the Celtics, a familiar theme started to take hold as the Bulls took control by again dominating on the offensive glass. Chicago held a 43-38 rebounding edge for the game. Isaiah Thomas scored 20 points for Boston.

**RAPTORS 106, BUCKS 100**

Kyle Lowry scored 22 points, including the clinching basket with less than 10 seconds to play, and Toronto beat Milwaukee to even the first-round playoff series at 1-1. DeMar DeRozan had 23 points, Serge Ibaka added 13 of his 16 in the second half and Jonas Valanciunas had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who improved to 5-1 when playing Game 2 of a playoff series

on their home court. Game 3 is Thursday night in Milwaukee. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 24 points and 15 rebounds for the Bucks. Khris Middleton scored 20 points and Greg Monroe had 18. Lowry scored just four points in Saturday's Game 1 loss, missing all six of his 3-point attempts. He was much better in Game 2, going 6 for 12, including 2 of 5 from long range. His step back jumper with 8.9 seconds remaining gave Toronto a 104-100 lead.

**CLIPPERS 99, JAZZ 91**

Blake Griffin led a smash-mouth revival of Lob City with 24 points, DeAndre Jordan had a double-double and Los Angeles beat Utah to even their playoff series at 1-1. Jordan finished with 18 points and 15 rebounds, and Chris Paul added 21 points and 10 assists for the Clippers, who crushed the Jazz in the paint, 60-38. Los Angeles stormed to a 12-point lead in the first quarter, reeling off the kind of dunks that earned the team's Lob City moniker years ago. Jordan's tomahawk jam put an exclamation on the end of the period. Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 20 points. Joe Johnson, whose floater at the buzzer gave them a two-point win in Game 1, added 13 points off the bench. Game 3 is Friday in Salt Lake City. — AP

# EX-NFL STAR AARON HERNANDEZ HANGS HIMSELF IN PRISON CELL

**BOSTON:** Former NFL star Aaron Hernandez hanged himself yesterday in the prison cell where he was serving a life sentence for murder, taking his life on the same day his ex-teammates on the New England Patriots were set to visit the White House to mark their Super Bowl victory.

His death came less than a week after the 27-year-old athlete was acquitted in a second murder case. Guards found Hernandez just after 3 a.m., Correction Department spokesman Christopher Fallon said. The onetime tight end was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead about an hour later. Hernandez had been housed in a single cell in a general population unit at the maximum-security state prison in Shirley. He tied one end of a bedsheet to a window and tried to jam the cell door to prevent guards from opening it, Fallon said.

Fallon said he was not aware of any suicide note. He said officials had no reason to believe Hernandez might take his life, and if they had had any such worries, he would have been transferred to a mental health unit.

A star at the University of Florida who dropped to the fourth round of the NFL draft because of misbehavior in college, Hernandez was a productive tight end for the Patriots for three seasons.

In his second year, he caught 79 passes for 910 yards and seven touchdowns and helped the team reach the Super Bowl.

In 2012, he signed a five-year, \$40 million contract extension. But when the Patriots returned to the playoffs the next season, Hernandez was unable to even watch on television while he was in prison awaiting trial in one shooting and already a suspect in another.

The team released him in June 2013, shortly after he was arrested in the killing of Odin Lloyd, a semi-professional football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée. He was convicted and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Last Friday, Hernandez was



**MASSACHUSETTS:** In this Monday, Dec. 23, 2013, file photo, former New England Patriots NFL football player Aaron Hernandez is led into his court appearance at the Fall River Superior Court in Fall River, Mass. Massachusetts prison officials said Hernandez hanged himself in his cell and was pronounced dead at a hospital early yesterday. — AP

acquitted in the deadly 2012 drive-by shootings of Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado in Boston. Prosecutors said he gunned them down after one of the men accidentally spilled a drink on him in a Boston nightclub.

Earlier in the week, cameras spied Hernandez blowing kisses to the young daughter he fathered with fiancée Shayanna Jenkins.

His death was "a shocking and sad end to a very tragic series of events that has negatively

impacted a number of families," said Bristol County District Attorney Thomas Quinn, who prosecuted Hernandez in the Lloyd case.

Prosecutors suggested Lloyd may have been killed to keep him quiet about the 2012 Boston killings. Hernandez's lawyers did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Patriots had no immediate comment. Authorities opened an investigation into the death. — AP



Group picture of Gulf Bank's team

# GULF BANK TAKES HOME THE KUWAIT BANKING CLUB FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank proudly took home the Kuwait Banking Club Football cup, after an exciting finale against Boubyan Bank, which was held on April 14, at the Sabah Al-Salem Stadium in Al-Arabi Sports Club.

The renowned tournament, which Gulf Bank has won for the sixth time, was held under the patronage of Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, President of the Kuwait Banking Association and was attended by officials from both banks. Mrs Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager Human Resources at Gulf Bank, attended the final game and received the trophy on behalf of the bank's winning team, presented to her by Fadel Al-Mandi, Chairman of the Kuwait

Banking Club.

The Kuwait Banking Club also presented the members of Gulf Bank's soccer team with medals in recognition of their efforts, and honored Mustafa Izzat with a "golden boots" trophy for his outstanding performance throughout the tournament.

Gulf Bank encourages its employees to take part in sport activities to cultivate team spirit and to lead active and healthy lives.

For more information on Gulf Bank, please visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, log on to www.e-gulfbank.com, Gulf Bank's bilingual website, or visit its social media channels.

**SOCCER**

## WHERE NOW FOR MIRACLE CLUB LEICESTER?

**LEICESTER:** Their Champions League escapades ended by Atletico Madrid, Leicester City return to a normality they last experienced before their fairytale Premier League title win electrified world football.

"Life as a Leicester fan returns to normal, but it's been bloody brilliant fun," tweeted Gary Lineker, Leicester's most famous ex-player, after Tuesday's quarter-final exit at Atletico's hands. Leicester's Champions League bow, which featured a near-faultless group-stage performance and a stirring last 16 success over Sevilla, gave the club a thrilling feel for life among Europe's elite. But with Leicester currently 12th in the Premier League table, there are no expectations they will return to Europe's top table anytime soon.

"It's been a wonderful experience for everyone at Leicester and they'll remember this for the rest of their lives," said former Foxes striker Tony Cottee on Sky Sports.

"But can I ever see Leicester playing in the Champions League again? Not in my lifetime." In reaching the last eight in their maiden Champions League campaign, Leicester bettered the competition debuts of Manchester United, Arsenal and Manchester City (since the tournament's 1992 rebrand). Their battling display against Atletico, who prevailed 2-1 on aggregate after a 1-1 draw on Tuesday, won them universal praise.

Atletico coach Diego Simeone made a point of saluting each of Leicester's players at the final whistle, while the most commonly used adjective on Wednesday's British sports pages was "brave".

But after the giddy highs of the last 12 months, which fleetingly made the King Power Stadium the epicentre of the sport-

ing universe, Leicester now face an uncertain future. Manager Craig Shakespeare, who has revitalised the team since succeeding the sacked Claudio Ranieri, is out of contract at the end of the season.

Do Leicester's owners, Thai travel retail group King Power, reward him for his work or go in search of a more seasoned coach who might be able to lead the club to the next level? While they lost N'Golo Kante to Chelsea, Leicester managed to keep the rest of their title-winning squad intact, tying many of their players to new contracts.

**'DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY'**

But having had a tantalising taste of the big time, might players like Riyad Mahrez and Jamie Vardy be tempted to seek pastures new in search of more enduring exposure to European competition?

Clearly defined targets for the months and years ahead are needed to establish what sort of club Leicester hope to become. Two years ago, they were relegation battlers. A year ago, they were Premier League champions.

This season, they have enjoyed fine wins over such European nobility as Manchester City, Liverpool, Porto and Sevilla, but sat a point above the relegation zone as recently as two months ago. "I'm not looking too far ahead," Shakespeare said when asked what the future held for Leicester. "You've got to be careful that you don't get too carried away in football. "We have got to concentrate on points in the Premier League, on climbing up the league, so the focus can't be too far away. "The here and now is the important bit and Arsenal, a week on Wednesday, is the next game." — AFP