

**18** Jordan memorabilia soars in value amid 'Last Dance' nostalgia



**19** Bayern aim to shake off cobwebs with quiet confidence in Berlin



**19** Kyrgios tells Murray 'you are better than Novak'



## Dortmund thrash Schalke in empty stadium

Haaland, first player to score a goal after two-month shutdown



**DORTMUND:** Dortmund's Norwegian forward Erling Braut Haaland (Center L) vies for the ball with Schalke's Senegalese defender Salif Sane during the German first division Bundesliga football match BVB Borussia Dortmund v Schalke 04 on May 16, 2020 in Dortmund. — AFP

**BERLIN:** Borussia Dortmund provided much-needed fireworks with a 4-0 demolition of bitter rivals Schalke 04 on Saturday after the German league restarted in front of empty stands after a suspension of over two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bundesliga is the first major soccer league to return to action since the virus earlier this year shut down sports, and its return in a country that still has hundreds of positive virus cases a day is being closely watched by other leagues.

With a strict health protocol governing the fragile restart, which includes no fans, face masks for everyone but the players, no handshakes and no group celebrations, it was up to title hopefuls Dortmund, who host leaders Bayern Munich in 10 days' time, to find a spark badly missing in the eerily empty ground.

The Ruhr valley club, in second place, scored the first goal of the matchday after nearly half an hour when teenager Erling Haaland connected with a

Thorgan Hazard cutback. The exciting 19-year-old Norway striker, who knocked in his 13th goal in 12 appearances for Dortmund in all competitions, picked up exactly where he left off in March.

He is already at the top of the transfer wish list of every major European club and, with an expected television audience of a billion for the Bundesliga this weekend, his immediate return to scoring will have enhanced his already stellar reputation.

Portuguese midfielder Raphael Guerreiro added two more goals and Belgium international Hazard also got on the scoresheet as Dortmund climbed to 54 points, one behind defending champions Bayern, who are in action at Union Berlin on Sunday.

"I'd have preferred if the conditions were normal," Dortmund midfielder Julian Brandt said. "We all have to adapt and try to have fun under the circumstances. We did that pretty well today and what better way to restart the league than with a win."

When Schalke brought on Timo Becker to replace Jonjoe Kenny in the 87th minute at the 80,000-plus-capacity Signal Iduna Park it was the first time in Bundesliga history a team had made five substitutions after FIFA announced the temporary rule change.

### MUTED CELEBRATIONS

Goal celebrations around the Bundesliga on Saturday were limited to smiles, thumbs-up and the occasional fist or elbow bump as mask-wearing substitutes, dispersed in the stands to keep them apart, applauded from the sidelines.

Only Hertha Berlin's players violated the rules when they celebrated their goals in the usual way as a group during a 3-0 win at Hoffenheim that earned coach Bruno Labbadia a winning debut on their bench. While Dortmund's comfortable victory cranked up the pressure on leaders Bayern, RB Leipzig suffered a major setback in their title chal-

lenge when they were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Freiburg as they slipped to fourth.

Leipzig, who used airplane stairs in the stadium to keep their substitutes in the stands at a safe distance from the bench, are now on 51 points, four behind Bayern who visit lowly Union Berlin on Sunday.

Borussia Mönchengladbach overran hosts Eintracht Frankfurt with early goals from Alassane Plea and Marcus Thuram and a late Ramy Bensebaini penalty to win 3-1 and take over third spot on 52 points to maintain their outside shot at winning the title.

VfL Wolfsburg reignited hopes of Europa League football next season with a 2-1 win at Augsburg courtesy of Daniel Ginczek's stoppage-time winner that moved them up to sixth on 39.

Fans across the country followed police orders to stay away from the stadiums, including at the Ruhr derby, as the league tries to finish the season for contractual reasons by June 30. — Reuters

## Pioneer Phyllis George dies at age 70

**NEW YORK:** Phyllis George, the former "The NFL Today" studio co-host and 1971 Miss America, has died. She was 70.

George, the first woman to be a sportscaster for a major television network, died Thursday at University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington, according to ex-husband John Brown Jr. The former Kentucky governor told the Louisville Courier-Journal that George died from complications due to a blood disorder. George has been viewed as pioneer due to her role on

the CBS studio show with Brent Musburger and Irv Cross. Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder was part of the show for some of the years.

George served two stints on the show — totaling eight seasons — between 1975-84. Musburger was a strong backer of George, who often had her knowledge of football questioned because she was a woman as well as a beauty queen. "Phyllis George was special. Her smile lit up millions of homes for the NFL Today," Musburger said in a statement posted on Twitter. "Phyllis didn't receive nearly enough credit for opening the sports broadcasting door for the dozens of talented women who took her lead and soared.

"Folks — men and women — were comfortable with Phyllis talking about their favorite sport. And in New York, Philadelphia and Washington, they loved Phyllis despite her Dallas Cowboys bias!

"RIP Phyllis. Irv Cross and I will miss you dearly." CBS Sports chairman Sean McManus expressed con-

dolences on behalf of the network. "The CBS Sports family is deeply saddened by the passing of Phyllis George, an icon in the sports broadcasting industry who contributed greatly to the rich history and tradition of CBS Sports," McManus said in a statement. "Phyllis was not only a key member of a show that remains the gold standard of NFL pregame shows, The NFL Today with Brent, Irv and 'The Greek,' but also a pioneer for all women in broadcasting."

George was born in Denton, Texas. After winning Miss America, she relocated to New York City and eventually was hired by CBS in 1974.

One year later, she was in the high-profile studio role and it didn't start off well. George said she received a barrage of hate mail and had to prove that he was more than "BQ — you know, beauty queen."

"When you're the first, you're a pioneer," George told USA Today in a 1999 interview. "I felt they didn't know who Phyllis George was. They played me up as a

former Miss America, a sex symbol. I can't help how I look, but below the surface, I was a hard-working woman. If I hadn't made that work, women eventually would have come into sportscasting, but it would have taken them longer."

After the show won multiple Emmys, George figured that proved she knew football. ESPN's Hannah Storm is one of the women working in sports who is thankful for George's efforts.

"Rest In Peace Phyllis George," Storm said on Twitter. "A true pioneer who approached her job with enthusiasm, empathy and humour. She was herself — charming and funny — helped her audiences connect with some of the great sports figures of the day. Condolences to her family & all who loved her." George was Kentucky's first lady from 1979-83. She and Brown divorced in 1998. George's daughter, Pamela Brown, is a White House correspondent for CNN. George also leaves behind a son, Lincoln Brown. — Reuters