

Sports

Quarantined quintet give Bayern a Champions League headache

Kimmich's stance fuels vaccine debate in Germany

BERLIN: Bayern Munich must do without five quarantined stars, including Joshua Kimmich, in the Champions League as the absent midfield dynamo fuels debate in Germany after refusing to be vaccinated against COVID.

The Bavarian giants are already guaranteed a last 16 place as Group E winners ahead of tonight's match at bottom side Dynamo Kiev. However, Kimmich, who declined to be vaccinated due to "personal concerns", was quarantined Friday for the second time this month after contact with someone who tested positive.

questions are being fielded about football as "we seem to only be talking about the pandemic."

'It's no excuse'

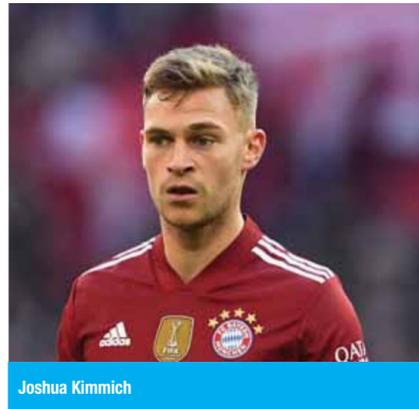
Bayern particularly missed Kimmich's midfield presence in Friday's shock 2-1 defeat at Augsburg as stand-in Marcel Sabitzer struggled, yielding possession which led to one of the hosts' goals. Now Nagelsmann needs to find suitable replacements for first-choice stars Kimmich and Gnabry in Kiev.

Defeat in Augsburg meant Bayern finished the weekend with their lead in the Bundesliga slashed to a point, but Nagelsmann refused to blame Kimmich's enforced absence. "It's no excuse," he said. Yet Kimmich keeps making daily headlines in Germany for all the wrong reasons.

Critics accuse him of neglecting his duties as a role model, calling on Kimmich to get vaccinated to set an example in football-mad Germany. Germany has one of the lowest vaccination rates in western Europe, around 68 percent, and even outgoing chancellor Angela Merkel has urged Kimmich to rethink.

Bayern bosses reportedly summoned Kimmich and his unvaccinated teammates Thursday to inform them their pay will be cut when they are in isolation because they have not taken the jab. Under new rules which took effect from November 1, employees who miss work because of a quarantine are no longer entitled to receive compensation if they are unvaccinated.

For Kimmich, whose annual pay reportedly reaches



Joshua Kimmich

20 million euros (\$23 million), a week's quarantine means losing around 384,000 euros. Former Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said Sunday, that if confirmed, the wage cuts are "a sign that the club is now reacting. Because it must react." The stance of the five unvaccinated stars has angered Bayern fans, who must show proof they are fully vaccinated or recovered just to attend games. In contrast, the players need only provide a negative test result.

Germany is in the grip of a vicious fourth wave with

a weekly incidence rate of 340.7 recorded infections per 100,000 people on Friday. With politicians struggling to curb the pandemic and hospitals beds filling rapidly, new measures announced Friday in Saxony and Bavaria are already set to slash the number of spectators in stadiums.

Work or leisure?

Kimmich, and any footballers who opt against vaccination, could even find themselves shut out amid controversial calls for compulsory vaccinations for professional athletes in Germany. As Merkel sees it, "it depends on whether that (sport) is a work environment or in the leisure world".

Employers can not make vaccination for their staff compulsory in Germany, but the 2G rule - meaning only those vaccinated or recovered can take part - applies to leisure activities. "For those in the stands it's leisure time, for those down on the pitch, it's work," said Hendrik Wuest, state premier for North Rhine-Westphalia. "I think we have to get over it."

However, the idea of mandatory vaccination has sparked skepticism from the Bundesliga. "Same rules for everyone," said Borussia Dortmund coach Marco Rose. "I wouldn't differentiate between footballers and construction workers." Likewise, Cologne coach Steffen Baumgart feels it is "important to get vaccinated to successfully fight the virus. But it's dangerous to always push footballers to the front" as role models. — AFP



Critics urge vaccination 'to set an example'

On Sunday, Bayern confirmed their other unvaccinated players Serge Gnabry, Jamal Musiala, Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting and Michael Cuisance are also in quarantine because of a new coronavirus exposure.

Having five players sidelined through their own choices is an unwelcome distraction before heading to Ukraine. "It's annoying," said head coach Julian Nagelsmann before the weekend, irritated that few



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Ronaldo pays tribute to 'outstanding human' Solskjaer after sacking

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo paid tribute yesterday to "outstanding human being" Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after the Norwegian was sacked as Manchester United manager. Ronaldo, who returned to Old Trafford in August, has scored nine times in 13 games for United this season but has failed to prevent the club's slide down the Premier League table after a series of embarrassing results. Solskjaer was sacked on Sunday, less than 24 hours after United's humiliating 4-1 defeat at Watford, which followed chastening home losses to Liverpool and Manchester City. Ronaldo, 36, was a team-mate of Solskjaer's in his first spell at the club under Alex Ferguson.

"He's been my striker when I first came to Old Trafford and he's been my coach since I came back to Man. United," Ronaldo said on Twitter. "But most of all, Ole is an outstanding human being. I wish him the best in whatever his life has reserved for him. Good luck, my friend! You deserve it!"

Former United midfielder Michael Carrick, who was part of Solskjaer's coaching team, will take charge of upcoming games while the club look to appoint an interim manager until the end of the season. United are already realistically out of the Premier League title race, 12 points behind leaders Chelsea, and face a crucial Champions League trip to Villarreal tonight. — AFP

Man Utd malaise runs deeper than failed managers

MANCHESTER: Manchester United have finally bitten the bullet and sacked Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, but the move appears unlikely to address the deeper eight-year malaise at the club that dominated English football for two decades.

Since Alex Ferguson ended his 26-year reign at Old Trafford with a 13th Premier League title in 2013, four coaches have come and gone without a serious title challenge between them. David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho and Solskjaer brought vastly different attributes and levels of experience to the job.

Van Gaal and Mourinho were proven winners. Moyes was handpicked by Ferguson as a worthy successor and Solskjaer was cherished as a club icon who scored the winning goal in the 1999 Champions League final. But what they have all had in common is an inability to turn United's dysfunctional off-field structure into sustained success.

"This is the third time in the last eight years that a manager has been given a long-term contract or an extension and lost their job within a few months," said former United captain Gary Neville. "The planning hasn't been great. I don't want to stick the knife in today to the club, the club's owners, the club's hierarchy but you have to ask serious questions. I've had enough of it."

In confirming Solskjaer's sacking, United also stated their intention to appoint an interim manager until the end of the season rather than seeking a permanent appointment straight away. That has led to more criticism of the club's owners, the Glazer family, and outgoing executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward for seemingly giving up on a season that still has six months left to run.

Although realistically out of the Premier League title race, 12 points behind leaders Chelsea, who United face on Sunday, there remains plenty to play for. Victory against Villarreal in caretaker boss Michael Carrick's first game in charge tonight would secure a place in the Champions League last 16.

A spot in the Premier League top four is also attainable and the FA Cup offers the chance to end a barren run stretching back to 2017 without a trophy. Comparisons have been made to Chelsea's swift response to a similar slide under a former club legend



MANCHESTER: In this file photo taken on November 6, 2021 Manchester United fans arrive at the stadium ahead of the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Manchester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England. — AFP

in January. A day after Frank Lampard was sacked, Thomas Tuchel was installed as the Blues' new boss and went on to win the Champions League four months later.

Woodward in spotlight

Woodward has been a consistent focus of criticism for the club's fans since 2013, when he stepped into the shoes of former CEO David Gill, who achieved so much working in tandem with Ferguson. Following the failed European Super League (ESL) project in April, Woodward announced his intention to step down at the end of the year. But Sky Sports reported yesterday that he could delay his departure to play a role in the appointment of the new manager.

Woodward's commercial expertise — keeping sponsorship money rolling in despite dwindling results on the pitch — has maintained his status as a confidant of the Glazers, their man on the ground in England. The American owners have been unpopular ever since they saddled the club with huge debts to fund their

takeover in 2005. The ESL episode reignited that fury, with fans storming onto the Old Trafford pitch at a time they were still shut out due to coronavirus restrictions and getting a match against Liverpool postponed in May. Heavy investment in the most recent transfer window appeased supporters, with Cristiano Ronaldo returning to the club following the signings of forward Jadon Sancho and defender Raphael Varane.

But the fanfare surrounding Ronaldo has only emphasized the impression that United prioritize commercial contracts and clicks over a functioning football team. The 36-year-old has delivered some dramatic moments to keep United alive in the Champions League. But his presence derailed Solskjaer's long-term project to build a youthful side that thrived on the counter-attack, with Sancho struggling to make an impression and other forwards shunted to the periphery. He may be gone, but there is no guarantee United's problems will not linger for his successor. — AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Khalidiya	24848075
Amiri Hospital	22450005	Kaifan	24849807
Maternity Hospital	24843100	Shamiya	24848913
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700	Shuwaikh	24814507
Chest Hospital	24849400	Abdullah Salem	22549134
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Nuzha	22526804
Adan Hospital	23940620	Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300	Qadsiya	22515088
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000	Dasmah	22532265
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9	Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
		Shaab	22518752
		Qibla	22459381
		Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
		Mirqab	22456536
		Sharq	22465401
		Salmiya	25746401

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144

SHARING ACCOMMODATION

For Filipino Bachelor ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near Oncost and India gate. Available from December 10, 2021. Contact 94418396 or 97345734. **22-11-2021**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Asad Uddin holder of Indian Passport No. T2416263 and Civil ID No. 287052008849 adding my name from Asad Uddin to Mohammed Asad Uddin S/o Mohammed Moulana hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by the name Mohammed Asad Uddin and also change my date of birth from 20/05/1987 to 13/10/1993. **(C 0978) 22-11-2021**

I, Siji Jobin, holder of Indian Passport No. M290484 and Civil ID No. 287062207323 has changed by Surname from Jobin to Rajan. Name: Siji, Surname: Rajan hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by the name of Siji Rajan. **(C 0979)**

I, PREMJIITH CHAMATHEEMAL BHASKARAN (PASS-

PORT NO. Z3081020), S/o BHASKARAN, RESIDING AT CHAMATHEEMAL HOUSE, P.O. MANASSERY, MUKKAM, KOZHIKODE, KERALA-673602 (CURRENTLY RESIDING IN KUWAIT), ON BEHALF OF MY MINOR DAUGHTER LAKSHMI, HOLDER OF PASSPORT NO. R2312579, HEREBY CHANGE HER NAME TO LAKSHMI PREMJIITH, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. **(C 0980)**

I, PREMJIITH CHAMATHEEMAL BHASKARAN (PASS-PORT NO. Z3081020), S/o BHASKARAN, RESIDING AT CHAMATHEEMAL HOUSE, P.O. MANASSERY, MUKKAM, KOZHIKODE, KERALA-673602 (CURRENTLY RESIDING IN KUWAIT), ON BEHALF OF MY MINOR DAUGHTER GOWRI, HOLDER OF PASSPORT NO. R2312578, HEREBY CHANGE HER NAME TO GOWRI PREMJIITH, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. **(C 0980) 19-11-2021**

I, SUHANI AVINASH D/o FRANCIS AARON SOLOMON, holder of Indian Passport No. T6756529 and Civil ID No. 285110105681 has changed my name from SUHANI AVINASH TO SUHANI SOLOMON. Hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of SUHANI SOLOMON. **(C 0976) 18-11-2021**

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