

Sports

New-look Bayern Munich favored to continue dominance in Bundesliga

Bayern to kick off title defense against Eintracht Frankfurt

BERLIN: Bayern Munich kick off their Bundesliga title defense against Europa League winners Eintracht Frankfurt on Friday, hoping an off-season spending spree will account for the loss of star striker Robert Lewandowski. With five Champions League participants for the first time ever this season, German football is in rude health, although Bayern will still be favored to claim their 11th straight domestic title.

While Lewandowski, who scored 344 goals in 375 games in all competitions during eight years at the Allianz Arena, will be missed up front, coach Julian Nagelsmann will take some solace from Saturday's 5-3 Super Cup triumph over RB Leipzig, which saw five different players get on the scoresheet for the Bavarians. Bayern CEO Oliver Kahn believes the acquisition of Sadio Mane from Liverpool could work in the German champions' favour by making Bayern less predictable in attack.

"You could see how many opportunities we had going forward, how many different formations we had, how surprising we can be," Kahn said in the aftermath of Bayern's tenth Super Cup victory. While the goals may not be in short supply, it is

at the back where their transfer efforts will truly be tested. In bringing in centre-back Matthijs de Ligt from Juventus, Bayern are looking to shore up a leaky defense. On evidence of the three second-half goals conceded in the Super Cup, Nagelsmann still has some work to do.

Dortmund toughen up

Last season's runners-up Borussia Dortmund will head up a chasing pack looking to dethrone the perennial German champions. After conceding 52 goals last year, more than any other side in the top eight, Dortmund loosened the purse strings to bring in German national team centre-backs Nico Schlotterbeck and Niklas Sule from Freiburg and Bayern respectively. Up front, Karim Adeyemi from Red Bull Salzburg will provide a threat from the wings Dortmund have missed since the departure of Jadon Sancho in 2021, while defensive midfielder Salih Ozcan has been brought in to provide steel and mental stability.

The biggest doubt for the Westphalians however will be up front, with Sebastian Haller - who arrived from Ajax to replace Manchester City-bound Erling Haaland in the summer - set to miss

an uncertain period due to his testicular cancer diagnosis. New sporting director Sebastian Kehl appealed to fans to show "a little realism" in pursuit of their first title since 2012. "Bayern make 285 million euros (\$291 mn) more in revenue than we do. Roughly speaking, they will invest twice as much in their squad this season as we have."

Leipzig keep Nkunku

RB Leipzig enter the season having won their first major title, beating SC Freiburg on penalties to lift the 2021/22 German Cup. They've also managed to buck the trend of recent summers by holding onto their best players, with 2022 German Footballer of the Year Christopher Nkunku signing a two-year contract extension in June. The Paris Saint-Germain academy graduate scored 35 goals in 52 appearances for Leipzig last season. Nkunku said his side had what it takes to win the Bundesliga but needed to be more consistent.

"Consistency is key... It's the only way of beating Bayern to the title." Leipzig have cemented their title credentials by snatching in-form left-back David Raum from Hoffenheim, despite heavy interest from Bayern and Dortmund. Alongside

Leipzig, Bayer Leverkusen have managed to hold onto their best players, with winger Moussa Diaby and midfielder Florian Wirtz electing to stay in the red and black.

The signing from Sparta Prague of Czech striker Adam Hlozek, who will partner countryman Patrik Schick up front, further boosts Bayer's hopes, but the pressure is already on coach Gerardo Seoane after a first-round German Cup exit at the hands of third-division SV Elversberg. Fresh from securing their first European silverware in 42 years, Frankfurt could also make an unlikely title push, but will need to juggle their domestic league ambitions with an inaugural Champions League campaign.

In addition to retaining Kevin Trapp and Filip Kostic - two players crucial in last year's triumph - Frankfurt have brought in 2014 World Cup winner Mario Goetze from PSV Eindhoven to pull the strings from midfield. The World Cup in Qatar means a considerably longer than usual winter break in the Bundesliga this season. The last set of fixtures before the World Cup will be matchday 15 on the weekend of November 12 and 13, with the Bundesliga not returning until January 20. —AFP



Martys Karting Championship

KUWAIT: Al-Qurain Martys Karting Championship was concluded earlier in the week at Al-Kout Mall tracks following a very strong competition. The event was held by Amiri Divan Secretary, Director of the Martyr's office Salah Al-Oufan and Kuwait Karting Club Treasurer Yousuf Al-Kandary and families of Beit Al-Qurain Martys. Results of the event were as follows:

In the Junior Girls Category: Suad Al-Zanki

(First): Noura Al-Azmi (Second) and Sheikha Khalid (Third). In Junior Boys: Yaqoub Al-Zanki took first; Mishal Al-Shaalan (Second) and Hamad Al-Kandari (Third). - Girls: Eman Shams-El-Deen (First); Fatima Al-Shuwaie (Second) and Sharifa Baqer took third. - For Boys: Abdallah Khan (First); Faisal Al-Shuwaie (Second) and Adel Al-Shuwaie (Third).

Salah Al-Oufan said the event honoured Kuwaitis (Martyrs of Qurain) - who sacrificed their lives for Kuwait. He thanked the Karting Club for organizing the event. Mahdi, the son of Martyr Abdelwahid Al-Sairafi thanked the Club for sharing the memory and focusing on the heroic role of the martyrs.

Rangers suffer blow; Monaco held by PSV

PARIS: Rangers saw their hopes of returning to the Champions League group stage suffer a blow on Tuesday as the Glasgow giants slumped to a 2-0 defeat away to Belgian upstarts Union Saint-Gilloise in the first leg of their third qualifying round tie. French-born Maltese international Teddy Teuma gave the Belgians the lead just before the half-hour mark, and Union Saint-Gilloise got a potentially crucial second goal in controversial fashion with 14 minutes left.

Connor Goldson was penalized for a handball in the area following a VAR review and Dante Vanzeir stepped up to score the resulting penalty. It is a remarkable result for the Brussels club, who returned to the Belgian top flight last season after an absence of almost half a century and promptly finished second under the ownership of English entrepreneur Tony Bloom. Unable to host Rangers in their own stadium, the match was played in the nearby city of Leuven, but that did not prove a handicap for Union.

Giovanni van Bronckhorst's Rangers now face an uphill struggle in the return leg next Tuesday, August 9. "It is very disappointing, especially when

our performance was not at the level we normally are and the level you need to compete at this level," Van Bronckhorst told the BBC. Of the penalty, he added: "You are playing in the biggest competition in Europe, with so much at stake, and to give a penalty like this is very hard." Last season's beaten Europa League finalists, Rangers are looking to return to the Champions League group stage for the first time in over a decade.

Benfica win big

The winners of the third qualifying round tie will go on to a play-off later this month against either Monaco or PSV Eindhoven, with the winners of that advancing to the group stage. Monaco needed a late equaliser from centre-back Axel Disasi to draw 1-1 with Ruud van Nistelrooy's PSV at the Stade Louis II on Tuesday. Disasi prodded home from close range when an Ismail Jakobs free-kick fell to him in the penalty area 10 minutes from time.

That cancelled out Joey Veerman's first-half opener for PSV and ensured the tie is finely poised ahead of next week's return leg in the Netherlands. Monaco missed out on direct qualification for the group stage when they conceded a stoppage-time goal on the final day of the last Ligue 1 season and dropped from second to third in the table as a result, behind Marseille. Benfica, who reached the quarter-finals last season before losing to Liverpool, crushed Midtjylland of Denmark 4-1 in Lisbon with Goncalo Ramos scoring a hat-trick. —AFP

New faces to watch in Bundesliga this season

BERLIN: A new-look Bayern Munich will enter the 2022/23 season as firm favorites to win their 11th straight Bundesliga title, despite one of the more tumultuous off-seasons in recent memory. Bayern lost star striker Robert Lewandowski to Barcelona, but the 31-time German champions have strengthened across the park, adding Liverpool forward Sadio Mane alongside Juventus defender Matthijs de Ligt, Ajax pair Ryan Gravenberch and Noussair Mazraoui, and French attacking starlet Mathys Tel. AFP Sport takes a look at five new faces to watch in the Bundesliga as the season kicks off this weekend.

Matthijs de Ligt

Bayern wasted no time in reinvesting the 50 million-euro transfer fee Barcelona paid for Lewandowski, bringing in one of Europe's hottest defensive talents in De Ligt from Serie A side

Juventus. Bayern spent a reported initial fee of 70 million euros (\$71.3m) to bring the former Golden Boy winner to Saebener Strasse, making De Ligt the second most expensive transfer in the club's history. In addition to adding De Ligt's defensive strengths, Bayern have secured a leader by signing the 22-year-old. The Dutch international became the youngest captain in Champions League history when he led Ajax against Real Madrid at the age of 19 in 2019.

Karim Adeyemi

Borussia Dortmund managed to secure the services of forward Adeyemi from Red Bull Salzburg early in the close season, despite interest from several of Europe's elite clubs. Dortmund paid a reported 30 million euros for the former Bayern Munich junior, who can play as a lone striker or on either wing. While not a like-for-like replacement, Adeyemi's nose for goal should see him at least in part replace the departed Erling Haaland's output in black and yellow this season. Adeyemi, who topped the Austrian scoring charts with 19 goals as Salzburg won their ninth consecutive title, opened his account with a goal in his first competitive appearance for Dortmund as they beat 1860 Munich in the first

round of the German Cup on Friday.

David Raum

New RB Leipzig addition Raum may just be the addition the German Cup holders need to claim their first ever Bundesliga title in the 2022/23 season. In just his first season in the top division after being signed from Greuther Fuerth, left-back Raum provided 11 assists and scored three league goals for Hoffenheim. His performances earned him a first national team call-up, with the 24-year-old quickly establishing himself as a crucial component of coach Hansi Flick's Germany side ahead of this year's World Cup in Qatar. Raum was also heavily courted by both Bayern and Dortmund after his stellar 2021/22 performances but said "coming to Leipzig is absolutely the right step for me" when making the move in late July.

Mario Goetze

Far from a Bundesliga newcomer, World Cup-winning attacking midfielder Goetze makes his return to Germany with Eintracht Frankfurt after a successful two-year stint at Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven. Goetze won the Dutch Cup and the Dutch Super Cup during his time with PSV, showing

the type of form which won him the Golden Boy award in 2011 and had him marked as one of Europe's top prospects. Europa League winners Frankfurt will be hoping the five-time Bundesliga champion can bring some much-needed experience and guile to the Eagles, who enter their first ever Champions League campaign this season.

Maya Yoshida

Promoted giants Schalke took a major step in ensuring they stay in the top division when they secured Japanese centre-back Yoshida on a free transfer from Serie A side Sampdoria. Yoshida, who has captained Japan since 2019 and will lead them into their opening-round clash with Germany at the Qatar World Cup later in the year, played for Premier League side Southampton from 2012 to 2020.

Yoshida, 33, replaces fellow Samurai Blue representative Ko Itakura in Schalke's defense, after Itakura made the move to Bundesliga rivals Borussia Moenchengladbach in July. On his arrival in the Bundesliga, Yoshida said he was "delighted to wear the Schalke shirt" and declared himself a long-time fan of the Royal Blues, having first watched Atsuto Uchida during his time at the Veltins Arena between 2010 and 2017. — AFP

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DAANYAAL JUNAID, son of JUNAID ISMAIL and holder of Indian Passport No. S9923330 having permanent residence in Bengaluru Karnataka, India and residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under, giving

en name: DAANYAAL JUNAID and Surname: SAIT. (C# 2032)

I, Ronald Baptist Naronha, holder of Passport No. L0034115 do hereby change my name to Ronald Baptist Naronha for all purpose. I will henceforth be known in the name Ronald Baptist Naronha, and I also under-

take to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C# 2029)

I, Abdul Rahim Abdul Aziz holder of Passport No. T5332471. Do hereby inform you to add my surname Khan. I will henceforth be known as Abdul Rahim Abdul Aziz Khan. Old Name - Abdul

Rahim Abdul Aziz, New Name - Abdul Rahim Abdul Aziz Khan (C# 2030)

I, Joyce Piedade (Civil ID No. 281070408072 / Passport No. R8665839), would like to correct my name, Old Name: Joyce Anthony Piedade, New Name: Joyce Fernandes. (C# 2033)

For Rent directly from the Owner

Villa in Jabriya

One floor in Surra
99666522

For rent in Surra One floor Flat for rent in Jabriya, Salwa and Salmiya

Please contact 24911260 24911325

Vacancies in a Luxury Wellness Resort in Kuwait

Scheduled to open in 2022, the resort will be an ultra-luxury urban retreat targeting high profile individuals. It will offer unique and state of the art facilities and services to its members like ample spa facilities, private beach, indoor and outdoor pools, selected restaurant concepts, racket sports academy, comprehensive fitness facilities and unique fashion and sports retail. Currently, we are hiring exceptional talents in Kuwait in the following positions with minimum 3 years of experience in a 5-star luxury Hospitality:

- Food and Beverage
- Culinary
- Housekeeping

We Offer A Competitive Compensation Package

If you want to be a part of our pre-opening team creating memorable guest experience, send your CV to: resortkwt@gmail.com

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Al-Razi Hospital	24846000	Khaldiya	24848075	Dasmah	22532265
Amiri Hospital	22450005	Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9	Kaifan	24849807	Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Maternity Hospital	24843100			Shamiya	24848913	Shaab	22518752
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700			Shuwaikh	24814507	Qibla	22459381
Chest Hospital	24849400			Abdullah Salem	22549134	Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Kaizen center	25716707	Nuzha	22526804	Mirqab	22456536
Adan Hospital	23940620	Rawda	22517733	Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764	Sharq	22465401
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300	Adaliya	22517144	Qadsiya	22515088	Salmiya	25746401

Clinics