

Sports

Undermanned Germany wary of 'unpleasant' Hungary in Nations League

'Hungary have a team that acts with enormous power'

BERLIN: Germany goes into Friday's Nations League clash with Hungary in Leipzig well aware of their opponents' quality, having been held 1-1 in Budapest in the summer. Sitting behind Hungary in second in their group, Germany will have to face the Hungarians missing four first-team players, including captain Manuel Neuer, forward Marco Reus, midfielders Leon Goretzka and Julian Brandt.

Dortmund captain Reus went down with an injured ankle in his side's 1-0 derby win over rivals Schalke on Sunday, while Neuer and Goretzka (both Covid) and Brandt (flu) were ruled out on Wednesday. Speaking to the press ahead of the game, Borussia Moenchengladbach midfielder Jonas Hoffmann, who scored in the 1-1 draw, said Germany needed to prepare for an aggressive and organised opponent.

"Hungary have a team that acts with enormous power, that goes through with their plan for 90 minutes plus stoppage time," Hoffmann said on Wednesday. "We didn't have many chances there (in Budapest) and that says a lot."

"(We must) play purposefully and consistently in Leipzig on Friday night in order to get to the opposition's goal as soon as possible," West Ham defender Thilo Kehrer said his Germany side were wary of their "unpleasant opponents".

"They are unpleasant opponents, and we noticed that, but so are the Italians and the English. They will come with a lot of commitment and will." Manager Hansi Flick said he hoped striker Timo Werner, who will play in front of his home crowd in Leipzig, can convert his opportunities into goals.

"He always creates chances in front of goal. He frees himself up skilfully" Flick said. "Improving his efficiency in the weeks leading up to the World Cup would be good for him and for us."

Werner, who scored two goals in Germany's 3-1 win over Ukraine in Leipzig in 2020, has only scored once in six games since returning to RB Leipzig from Chelsea in August. One to watch: Arnel Bella Kotchap (Southampton)

The biggest surprise from manager Flick's announcement was the inclusion of uncapped defender Arnel Bella Kotchap, who was named in the squad ahead of several experienced players including Borussia Dortmund's Mats Hummels and Bayer Leverkusen's Jonathan Tah.

Paris-born Bella Kotchap made the move to Southampton in the Premier League in the summer after impressing for VfB Bochum, who he helped get promoted to the Bundesliga in the 2020-21 season. While Bella Kotchap represented Germany at junior levels, the 190-cm tall defender was not expecting a call-up for the Nations League, saying he "didn't know the number" when Flick rang him to tell him the news.

"I was very surprised, but also very happy" Bella Kotchap said. Ralph Hasenhuettl, Bella Kotchap's domestic coach - who Flick revealed was a strong advocate pushing for Bella Kotchap's selection - said the German defender had "shown the most consistent performances so far" out of everyone in his Southampton squad.



FRANKFURT, Germany: Germany's players including defender Robin Gosens (L-R), midfielder Joshua Kimmich, forward Lukas Nmecha and midfielder David Raum take part in a training session, on the eve of the UEFA Nations League Group 3 football match between Germany and Hungary. —AFP

Key stats

7 points - Hungary sit first in the group on seven points from four games, with Germany second on six points. England, who Germany meet on Monday, sit last in the four-team group, with two

draws and two losses so far.

3-2 - The surprise scoreline in Germany's upset victory over a Hungarian side captained by Ferenc Puskas in the 1954 World Cup final. Hungary had thrashed Germany 8-3 in the group stages. —AFP

Scots beat Ukraine to boost Nations League push

GLASGOW, United Kingdom: Scotland boosted their bid for Nations League promotion and gained a measure of revenge over Ukraine with a 3-0 win in Glasgow on Wednesday. Steve Clarke's side dominated a one-sided clash at Hampden Park but had to wait until the last 20 minutes for their goals as John McGinn's opener and Lyndon Dykes' brace sent them top of Group B1.

Scotland were beaten 3-1 by Ukraine in an emotionally-charged World Cup play-off at Hampden Park in June. Their failure to qualify for a first World Cup since 1998 still hurts Clarke's players, so this was a cathartic result, albeit one they would rather have had four months ago.

Ukraine's hopes of providing a rare moment of levity in their war-torn nation by reaching the World Cup were eventually dashed as they lost to Wales in the play-off final. A shadow of the team that beat Scotland in the playoffs, Ukraine provided little resistance as Scotland made it three wins from their four Nations League matches.

The Scots have moved above Ukraine to the top of the group as they chase promotion to League A. While the competition is derided by some, Scotland are well aware of the Nations League's importance after securing a Euro 2020 play-off through winning their Nations League group.

In their final group games, Scotland host the Republic of Ireland on Saturday before travelling to Ukraine on September 27. "I'm pleased for the players. They suffered in the summer more than anybody," Clarke said.

"We did a lot of work in the short period we had, a lot of it very boring work in the lecture room, and they obviously took it all on board. They were excellent. "Sometimes you need to respond in football and it's nice that we've responded in this way."

Dykes added: "Obviously I wanted to impact the game, I was disappointed I wasn't starting. The manager went with Che (Adams). "But I came on, I changed the game and got two goals and we got



GLASGOW, United Kingdom: Scotland's striker Che Adams (L) tries to score during the UEFA Nations League B Group 1 football match at Hampden Park stadium, in Glasgow. —AFP

three points so it's good."

After a minute's applause before kick-off to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Scotland should have taken an immediate lead when Che Adams shot straight at Ukraine keeper Anatoliy Trubin. Adams narrowly failed to convert Ryan Christie's cross moments later before Nathan Patterson's delivery was glanced wide by McGinn. Scotland's fast start had Ukraine pinned back and the chances kept coming. Christie headed over from Stuart Armstrong's cross and Armstrong forced a fumbled save from Trubin.

Dykes strikes

Scotland's momentum was interrupted when Everton defender Patterson was stretchered off with a possible knee injury. Mykhaylo Mudryk should have capitalised on a wayward clearance from Craig Gordon but his scuffed finish saved the Scotland keeper's blushes early in the second half.

Clarke's team kept pressing and came within a whisker of breaking the deadlock as Adams headed McGinn's cross onto the bar before the striker's follow-up was saved by Trubin. By the time Armstrong headed another good chance wide it seemed Scotland were destined for a frustrating night.

But McGinn rewarded Scotland's relentless pressure in the 70th minute as the Aston Villa midfielder rolled his man inside the area and fired into the far corner. Ukraine appealed for a foul but the referee did not check the monitor after getting advice from his video assistant. —AFP

Davis Love. "There were a lot of obvious pairings and a lot of guys that really get along well," Love said. "The obvious ones made the other ones a little bit harder."

Tokyo Olympic champion Schauffele, ranked fifth, and 2021 PGA playoff winner Cantlay, ranked fourth, went 2-0 together in foursomes at last year's Ryder Cup and the 2019 Presidents Cup. "We've just spent a lot of time together," Cantlay said. "He's very intelligent, thinks things through. He's a guy who leaves no stone unturned."

"You get to know each other really well when you're in these team rooms and it's nitty gritty," Schauffele said. "He's a straight-up guy." It's a crucial start for Australia's Scott, seeking a first victory in his 10th Cup appearance, and Japan's Matsuyama as well, the experienced global leaders hoping to inspire the best from a record eight rookie team-

Kuwait's Martial Arts Championship begins tomorrow

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait's first Martial Arts Championship will take place Saturday at Kuwait Boxing Federation Hall in Sabah Al-Salem area. There will be 13 bouts in boxing and Muay Thai, including two women's Muay Thai matches. Participants will be medically tested and weighed Friday to make sure about their fitness and compliance with the rules.

The first Martial Arts Championship will be attended by Vice President of the Spanish Olympic Committee, member of the European Union Sports for All Committee Professor Eduardo Blanco Barrera, Representative of the World Boxing Council (WBC) Techno Balanas, Director of WBC Executive Council and Head of MENA region for Muay Thai Hajji Taher and several sports personalities in Kuwait.

WBC representative in Kuwait Meshal Al-Fajji said the organizing committee completed all preparations for the launch of the first sport event of its kind in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf. He said we worked for several months to ensure the successful launch of the first Muay Thai Championship with major support from Kuwait Olympic Committee Board Member, Head of Sports Committees Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait Muay Thai Committee President Abdelsalam Al-Sindy and Kuwait Boxing Federation President Mohammad Mansi.



Hajji Taher



The championship will start with a match between Rakan Al-Malalah and Seif Al-Malalah in Muay Thai, followed by a women's match between Rana Al-Suqobi and Haneen Bushehri for under 51 kg. The third match will be between Othman Al-Mutawa and Ous Nasruldeen in the under 48 kg. The fourth match will be between Majd Fakhani and Ali Akbar in the under 81 kg. This will be followed by the first boxing match between Hussein Mubarak and Mishal Al-Enezi for under 56 kg. The Muay Thai will be completed by a match between Mubarak Jumaa and Mudhar Al-Nabulsi in the 71 kg, followed by the second women's Muay Thai match between Haneen Naseem and Asmaa Al-Qabandi in the 51 kg, followed by a match between Abdallah Saleem and Khalid Al-Nabulsi in the 77 kg. The ninth match will be between Ibrahim Al-Nahat and Falah Al-Mutairi in the above 91 kg, then there will be a boxing bout between Meshal Al-Kandary and Fadi Al-Wakeel for under 77 kg, then a match between Adnan Al-Qazweeni and Abdelrahman Al-Sanad for the under 74 kg. The match before last will be between Faisal Al-Bughaili and Dawood Faisal in the 65 kg. Matches will be concluded by a match for the WBC Kuwait championship between Muhammad Al-Maghrabi and Omar Mansour in the under 65 kg category.

Matsuyama-Scott face Schauffele-Cantlay to open Presidents Cup

CHARLOTTE, United States: Americans Xander Schauffele and Patrick Cantlay, both ranked in the world's top five, will face Masters winners Hideki Matsuyama and Adam Scott when the Presidents Cup tees off Thursday.

Pairings for the five opening foursomes (alternate shot) matches were drawn Wednesday at Quail Hollow by Internationals captain Trevor Immelman and US captain

mates. "We probably need most of our guys to peak this week to really shake down the American team," Scott said. "It's a hard thing to do. They have to embrace it and put it all out on the golf course." The Americans own an 11-1-1 edge in the rivalry with eight consecutive triumphs and have never lost on home soil to the non-European squad.

While the Americans boast 12 of the world's 25 top-ranked players and are overwhelming favorites, the underdog Internationals have embraced a nothing-to-lose attitude. "We feel like our best golf is more than enough to be not just in contention, but to win a lot of matches," Australian Cameron Davis said.

"I don't think any of us are thinking it's going to be a steamroll the other direction. We feel like it could be an upset, which would be awesome." Thursday's second match

sends the US duo of two-time major winner Justin Thomas and three-time major winner Jordan Spieth against South Korean Im Sung-jae and Canada's Corey Conners.

South Koreans Lee Kyoung-hoon and Kim Jo-hyung meet two-time major winner Collin Morikawa and Cameron Young in match three.

"They were lining up to play with Cam Young," Love said. "Collin had the experience. A very similar type pairing. You get a guy that drives it really long and really straight and a guy that's really steady, great ball striker."

Top-ranked reigning Masters champion Scottie Scheffler and fellow US newcomer Sam Burns face Kim Si-woo and Davis in match four while the last matchup finds Americans Max Homa and Tony Finau against Canada's Taylor Pendrith and Chile's Mito Pereira. —AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Amiri Hospital	22450005	Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9
Maternity Hospital	24843100	Clinics	
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700		
Chest Hospital	24849400	Kaizen center	25716707
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Rawda	22517733
Adan Hospital	23940620	Adaliya	22517144
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300		

Khalidiya	24848075	Dasmah	22532265
Kaifan	24849807	Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shamiya	24848913	Shaab	22518752
Shuwaikh	24814507	Aybla	22459381
Abdullah Salem	22549134	Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Nuzha	22526804	Mirqab	22456536
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764	Sharq	22465401
Qadsiya	22515088	Salmiya	25746401

CHANGE OF NAME

Yalla Venkatamma holder of Passport No. L1432096 do hereby change my name to Konka Parvathi given name Yalla Venkatamma surname all purposes I will henceforth be. (C# 2406) — 21-09-2022