

Sports

On-fire Haaland shows Bayern Munich what they are missing

BERLIN: When Erling Haaland takes the field for Manchester City on Wednesday in Munich, the Norwegian will face the club who tried to sell the farm to buy him but failed. Bayern's late first-leg capitulation in Manchester means the six-time winners need to overcome a 3-0 deficit to make it through to the semis. Not only must Bayern do so against Europe's form team, but they need to somehow find the goals that the toothless front-line have lacked in 2023.

Midway through the second half at the Etihad, Bayern, 1-0 down after a Rodri wonder goal, were dominating possession and had carved out several chances, but failed to put any away. Then, in a six-minute period, the brutally efficient Haaland showed what Bayern were missing up front, setting up a goal and then scoring another to put City on course for the semifinals.

While Haaland's flurry likely sunk Bayern's Champions League hopes then and there, the seeds for their struggles were planted late last season, when the German champions tried and failed to sign the Norwegian.

'How good is Haaland?'

Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic was

Australia embraces Norman's rebel LIV with sellout crowds

ADELAIDE: The rebel LIV Golf tour has faced resistance from traditionalists and sparked a civil war in the sport, but many in Australia are embracing it with the nation's inaugural event this week a sellout. Tour boss Greg Norman has long wanted to see top-level golf as a regular feature in his homeland, which has been starved of big tournaments and high-profile players, largely because of its isolated location.

Although LIV is controversially backed by Saudi money and seen as gimmicky with its 54-hole no-cut format, Australian golf fans have jumped at the chance to see major winners in action. Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson and Brooks Koepka will all tee off in Adelaide, along with home hero and British Open champion Cameron Smith. They will do battle from Friday to Sunday at The Grange Golf Club for the richest tournament ever on Australian shores — US\$20 million in prize money across individual

Hurts becomes NFL's top-paid player with Eagles extension

NEW YORK: Philadelphia quarterback Jalen Hurts, who led the Eagles into last season's Super Bowl, became the NFL's highest-paid player on Monday after agreeing to a five-year contract extension worth \$255 million. The Eagles locked up the 24-year-old signal caller through the 2028 campaign with a deal that, according to the NFL's website, has \$179.304 million in guaranteed money and the first no-trade clause in team history. Hurts went 14-1 as a starter last season, completing 66.5% of his passes for 3,701 yards and 22 touchdowns and rushing 165 times for 760 yards and 13 touchdowns. After the Eagles' 2020 NFL Draft pick led routs of the New York Giants and San

Mahomes ankle sore but vows to be ready for Chiefs

NEW YORK: Patrick Mahomes, who guided the Kansas City Chiefs to a Super Bowl victory in February, says his high right ankle sprain isn't fully healed but vows to be ready when needed. The 27-year-old quarterback who has led the Chiefs to two NFL crowns in four seasons said Monday as the club began off-season training that he has been regaining quickness over time. "It has been more about just kind of managing it, getting the mobility back the best I possibly can," said Mahomes. "I wouldn't say I'm 100% but I've had no... limitations. It's just when you go through the grind of a week of training and you're trying to push it

not alone in his desire to sign Haaland, but his open courting of the Norwegian put noses out of joint, particularly that of star striker Robert Lewandowski. In 2021, a clip emerged of Salihamidzic on the sidelines of a Bayern-Dortmund clash, speaking with an assistant coach after Haaland scored twice in seven minutes. "How good is Haaland? He's a machine. I'll call his agent tomorrow."

In that match, Haaland had given Dortmund a 2-0 lead, Bayern fought back to win 4-2 — thanks to a Lewandowski hat-trick. Bayern were willing to tear up their carefully constructed salary structure to sign the Norwegian in the summer of 2022. Lewandowski's camp said the striker felt slighted by the German club's failure to offer him a longer-term deal, with Bayern seemingly distracted by their pursuit of Haaland.

Lewandowski had scored more than 40 goals for Bayern in seven straight seasons, scoring a remarkable 344 goals in 375 appearances. Ultimately, Bayern's wandering eye cost them both Haaland and Lewandowski. Haaland — who later said he "felt sorry" for Lewandowski, calling Bayern's treatment "disrespectful" — left the Bundesliga altogether.

After Lewandowski's signed with Barcelona, then

and team formats. Ground passes for all three days quickly sold out, forcing organizers to release extra tickets to cater for demand.

Such is the interest, for the first time since LIV took shape and sparked turmoil last year, the gates will be opened for paying fans to watch the Pro-Am, featuring all 48 players on Thursday. "Since the first day we announced our league was coming to The Grange, the response and support from the people of Australia has been overwhelming," said Norman, a two-time major winner who claimed his first title as a professional at The Grange in 1976.

LIV Golf is reportedly considering a second event in Australia in 2024 to capitalize on demand, with talk of a third in the future. Two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson said there was untapped potential in Australia as the circuit seeks to broaden its appeal outside the United States, where interest in LIV has been more tepid. "When people want us there (in Australia), then, yeah, we obviously want to be there as many times as we can to make them happy," the American told Australian media last week. "Nobody's bad-mouthing us down there."

LIV later this month will roll on to Singapore, with Spain, England and Saudi Arabia also on the schedule. LIV, which split the elite golf world by luring

Francisco in the playoffs, Philadelphia lost the Super Bowl 38-35 to Kansas City despite Hurts throwing for 304 yards and a touchdown and rushing for Super Bowl records by a quarterback of 70 yards and three touchdowns.

While the Hurts-Eagles deal is the NFL's biggest ever in average annual value, Deshaun Watson's \$230 million contract with Cleveland last year remains the largest in terms of guaranteed money and the 10-year deal for \$450 million Patrick Mahomes signed with Kansas City in 2020 remains the largest in total payout. Hurts can earn an additional \$15 million in contract incentives to boost his total above \$275 million in the deal, including \$4.3 million he would have been paid in the final year of his original rookie contract.

With a \$23.294 million signing bonus, Hurts is set to make \$64 million in the first season of the new deal. "The thing with Jalen I'm so optimistic about is he's just got this incredible... passion for being phenomenal," Eagles chairman Jeffrey Lurie said earlier this month at the NFL annual meeting

and go through the rehab process, but at the same time you want to make sure you're still building, you might be a little sore on the weekends. We've done a great job of pushing it to the right limit to where now I'm throwing and stuff like that and having no limitations. Running and cutting there will still be a little limitations going the next few weeks but I'm happy with where I'm at. We will keep pushing it and getting me to the right spot for the beginning of the season."

Two-time NFL Most Valuable Player Mahomes suffered the injury in a playoff victory over Jacksonville and aggravated it in the Super Bowl against Philadelphia, but rallied the Chiefs for a 38-35 victory and took a second Super Bowl MVP award after throwing for 182 yards and three touchdowns. Mahomes had to deal with lingering issues after past foot surgery but hopes to escape such woes this time. "I feel like the foot was way more serious than the ankle has been," Mahomes said. "The foot, with having the surgery and having that cast on, really cut my mobility down a lot. So, I really had to work through

Bayern manager Julian Nagelsmann sought to spread the Poland striker's goals across a dynamic frontline. While the approach had immediate effect — Bayern scored 26 goals in their first six competitive matches in 2022-23 — the goals dried up. Nagelsmann reverted to backup central striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, who again gave Bayern a focal point as the 'Stoke City reject' produced the best form of his career to score 17 in 28 matches. Choupo-Moting however looks set to miss Wednesday's encounter with back problems.

14 goals in six games

Despite a history of scoring against Bayern — Haaland has six goals and two assists in eight games against the Bavarians — Tuesday's 3-0 victory was the striker's first win against the German champions. He lost seven from seven with Dortmund. Since moving to City, Haaland has been spectacular, smashing records on the way to scoring 47 goals in 40 appearances. Coming into Wednesday's clash, the Norwegian has somehow managed to up his form, with a scarcely believable 14 goals in his past six games.

Bayern have eight across the same period, four of which came in one match against a wilting Dort-

mund. Big-name signing Sadio Mane has not scored since October and is returning from a one-match suspension for hitting Leroy Sane in the face after the first-leg loss to City. Instead, Serge Gnabry will likely lead the line, the same Gnabry who said in November he did not consider himself a striker "but it's better than sitting on the bench". — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Norwegian striker Erling Haaland attends a team training session at Manchester City training ground on April 18, 2023, on the eve of their match against Bayern Munich. — AFP

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Goal-shy Inter eye semis while crisis looms at home

MILAN: Inter Milan stand on the verge of making the Champions League semi-finals for the first time since last being crowned European champions 13 years ago, but all is not well with a goal-shy team ahead of the visit of Benfica. Last week's superb 2-0 win in Lisbon gives Inter a great chance of setting up a blockbuster all-Italian last four tie with either Napoli or local rivals AC Milan.

Both are teams Inter have had the better of this season, and Simone Inzaghi's side have shone more often than not in the headline matches. But judging by their domestic form, Inter should be nowhere near the semis, let alone have any hopes of making it through to the final in June. Inter have lost more than a third of their Serie fixtures this season — Saturday's 1-0 home defeat to Monza their 11th in 30 games — and the win at Benfica is the only victory in their last eight matches. Having taken the title race down to the final day last season Inter sit outside the top four, a whopping 24 points behind league leaders Napoli and two behind fourth-placed AC Milan. Worse, they have lost their last three home matches without scoring as formerly prolific forwards have collectively misplaced their shooting boots.

Inter are averaging less than a goal a game in the second half of the league season, and while Lautaro Martinez hasn't scored since March 5 in his team's last Serie A win, over Lecce, the numbers for the Argentine's attacking partners are even worse. Edin Dzeko has been firing blanks since netting in the Super Cup against Milan on January 18 and Joaquin Correa's drought extends to late October. Romelu Lukaku meanwhile has had a nightmare return to Inter and will almost certainly be sent back to Chelsea in the summer after failing to rediscover the form which made him a Scudetto winner and idol two seasons ago.

The Belgium forward has scored just three times from open play all season, his other four goals in all competitions coming from the penalty spot. "Since the restart we've not been at our normal level. For 16 months we were the best attack in the country and now we're not scoring enough," said Inzaghi on Saturday. The atrocious form and the specter of not reaching next season's Champions League for a club whose finances are in disarray has left Inzaghi's position at Inter in serious doubt. — AFP

Today's matches

| UEFA Champions League | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Inter Milan v Benfica | 22:00 |
| beIN Sports 2 HD Premium | |
| beIN Sports HD 2 English | |
| beIN Sports 1 FR | |
| Bayern Munich v Man City | 22:00 |
| beIN 4K HDR | |
| beIN Sports 1 HD Premium | |
| beIN Sports HD 1 English | |

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Sabah Hospital | 24812000 |
| Amiri Hospital | 22450005 |
| Maternity Hospital | 24843100 |
| Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital | 25312700 |
| Chest Hospital | 24849400 |
| Farwaniya Hospital | 24892010 |
| Adan Hospital | 23940620 |
| Ibn Sina Hospital | 24840300 |
| Al-Razi Hospital | 24846000 |
| Physiotherapy Hospital | 24874330/9 |

Clinics

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Kaizen center | 25716707 |
| Rawda | 22517733 |
| Adaliya | 22517144 |
| Khaldiya | 24848075 |
| Kaifan | 24849807 |
| Shamiya | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem | 22549134 |
| Nuzha | 22526804 |

Change of Name

I, QUTBUDDIN, holder of passport No. Z2690395 do hereby change my name to QUTBUDDIN (as given name) HAKANI (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name QUTBUDDIN HAKANI and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C 3506)

I, Kashmir, S/O Samsher holder of passport No. R5455215 and H.No N559 Gali No. 19 Saurabh Vihar Jaitpur South Delhi-110044, changed my name to Kashmir Khan, for all future purposes. (C 3507) 19/04/23

I SEKHAH KAKI holder of Indian passport no L4533078 Indian permanent address Hno 4112 Rv Nagar Cuddappah Ysr Dist 516003 India residing in Kuwait at present hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under Given name SEKHAH and Surname NAGAPPAGARI. (C 3505) 18/04/23

I, MOHAMMED, holder of Indian passport no. M8399055 having permanent address in Mumbai 400 003, Maharashtra, India residing in Kuwait at present hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as MOHAMMED BADRI. (C 3503) 17/04/23

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