

Sports

DORTMUND DEFEAT BOCHUM, BOOK GERMAN CUP QUARTERS

LONG-RANGE CAN, REUS SEE DORTMUND INTO QUARTERS

BERLIN: Emre Can scored from the halfway line while skipper Marco Reus grabbed a late winner as Borussia Dortmund defeated neighboring Bochum 2-1 on Wednesday to qualify for the German Cup quarter-finals. The five-time German Cup winners were made to work for their victory, taking on a team who had won five from five at home since manager Thomas Letsch took over in late September. Dortmund took the lead thanks to Can's quick thinking on the stroke of half-time.

Bochum goalkeeper Manuel Riemann ran well outside his box to thwart a Dortmund attack, but his clearance fell to Can inside the centre circle. The former Liverpool and Juventus midfielder took one touch to control the ball before punting a long-range effort past the retreating Riemann and into the net for a 1-0 lead at the break. "I actually didn't hit it that well" Can told Sky Germany. "But in the end it was in. It was a beautiful goal."

English teenager Jamie Bynoe-Gittens, handed a rare start by Dortmund manager Edin Terzic, leapt to meet a cross in the 59th minute but the ball connected with his elbow. After a VAR review which took several minutes, Bochum were awarded a penalty and Austrian midfielder Kevin Stoger rifled his shot down the middle to level the scores. Terzic brought on captain Reus just three minutes later and the two-time German Cup winner scored three minutes after that, guiding a perfect pass from Jude Bellingham into an empty net.

Terzic, who won the Cup as Dortmund's caretaker manager in 2020-21, praised his side for emerging victorious in a "huge Cup fight, it was intense, as (we) expected." "Bochum made our lives difficult." After losing his first home game as

Bochum manager, Letsch told German TV "we have to put a line through that one now, but we can leave the pitch with our heads held high." Dortmund join Bayern Munich, RB Leipzig, Stuttgart, Union Berlin, Freiburg, Eintracht Frankfurt and second division Nuremberg, who won earlier on Wednesday, in the quarter finals.

Nuremberg through on pens

Nuremberg also qualified for the last-eight by beating Fortuna Duesseldorf on penalties after scoring an injury-time equaliser in a 1-1 draw. Duesseldorf took the lead in the 33rd minute through David Kownacki and looked in complete control of the tie, only for Nuremberg's Taylan Duman to score in the third minute of stoppage time to force the game into extra time. Duesseldorf striker Jona Niemiec had his side's fourth penalty saved by Nuremberg goalkeeper Peter Vindahl. Home forward Erik Shuranov stepped up to score the decisive kick, sending his side through as the only second-division club to reach the last eight with a 5-3 shootout victory. Duesseldorf scored from their first chance, Kownacki heading in a cross from Emmanuel Iyoha.

The visitors almost made it 2-0 in the 69th minute through Kownacki, but Vindahl made a fingertip save. Nuremberg took advantage late on through midfielder Duman, whose shot was deflected into the goal by Austrian defender Christoph Klarer. Only five teams - Bayern Munich, Werder Bremen, Schalke, Borussia Dortmund and Eintracht Frankfurt - have won more German Cup titles than Nuremberg's four. The draw for the next round will take place on Sunday. —AFP



BOCHUM: Bochum's Brazilian defender Danilo Soares (left) and Dortmund's English midfielder Jude Bellingham vie for the ball during the German Cup (DFB Pokal) football match VfL Bochum v BVB Borussia Dortmund on February 8, 2023. — AFP

IRELAND'S FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION SPEAKS VOLUMES FOR FARRELL

DUBLIN: Ireland going into Saturday's Six Nations blockbuster against France as favorites is a testament to head coach Andy Farrell having allowed the players the freedom to express themselves, Irish rugby great Tony Ward told AFP. Ireland rugby icon Johnny Sexton may have been the on the field general who has inspired them to top the world rankings. However, Ward insists Farrell has been a revelation since he took over after the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

The former English rugby league superstar succeeded Joe Schmidt, the man he had served as assistant for several years and together had brought the Irish a 2018 Six Nations Grand Slam. He had to pick up the pieces after another disappointing World Cup and when results failed to improve in his first year in charge the knives were sharpened. Former Ireland international turned journalist Neil Francis said Farrell was not cut out for being a Test coach and Ward himself admits "I could not see anything happening short term at the time."

However, Ward is now without reservation a Farrell admirer after the 47-year-old guided the Irish to last year's Triple Crown and later in 2022 a historic series win in New Zealand. "What I really like about Farrell is he has given the players a licence for freedom of expression," Ward told AFP by phone on Wednesday.

"Albeit in the controlled environment that has to be the case in professional sport."

Ward, a dashing fly-half in his pomp for Ireland winning 19 caps between 1978-87, says that is a huge difference to the Schmidt era where the New Zealander had a strict gameplan. Ward says the players are clearly enjoying themselves with the more relaxed atmosphere and being able to express themselves. Tellingly Sexton reflected that after winning the Triple Crown when talking about Farrell and his coaching staff. "A different approach to previous management that I've worked under which I think is the right way to do it," said Sexton.

'Real enjoyable place'

Ward believes Farrell chimes with the Irish mentality more than Schmidt. "Farrell being from the north of England suits our mindset," said Ward, who was born in Ireland but brought up in Yorkshire. "I think it is similar based on passion and a bit of a chip on the shoulder, in his case the north and south of England. There is an element of that." Former Ireland international full-back Hugo MacNeill hailed Farrell's lack of ego and his "integrity." "He has brought in people like Mike Catt and Paul O'Connell which was really courageous and wise on his part," MacNeill told AFP.

"Farrell does not bring ego, he brings the best characteristics of a human to the team." Veteran flanker Peter O'Mahony and fellow Munster team-mate Dave Kilcoyne believe the squad environment is a happier place. "I was chatting to Pete (O'Mahony) the other



Ireland's head coach Andy Farrell

day at dinner, everyone talks about how good an environment it is here, and it's not rubbish," Kilcoyne said. "It actually is a real enjoyable place to be, but that comes from the top down. Faz (Farrell) has got great people in, and it filters down to the players."

Ward says there is no longer "a fear factor and looking over their shoulder which all makes for a happier environment." He credits Farrell too for raising the sport's image to heights it had never seen before. "Never before has the game been more popular," said the 68-year-old. "I am not being egotistical here but walking round Dublin today so many people were chatting to me about rugby." "Rugby is very much in the spotlight and for me that all traces back to Farrell and where he has taken us in the last four years." —AFP

JUVE, FIORENTINA IN FIERY RIVALRIES

MILAN: Juventus host Fiorentina in one of Italian football's most enduring and fiery rivalries on Sunday but once again the focus is on the off-field matters looming over their troubled campaign. Juve are back in the top half of the Serie A table after Tuesday's 3-0 cruise past Salernitana, boosted by star striker Dusan Vlahovic putting his injury problems behind him with a nicely taken brace, his first goals for the Turin giants since mid-October.

But their season has been severely compromised by the 15-point penalty inflicted last month for what the Italian Football Federation ruled was illicit transfer activity designed to artificially boost their accounts, with the 'Old Lady' 13 points away from the Champions League positions.

Juve are appealing the judgment at Italy's highest sporting court - the Olympic Committee (CONI) - while also awaiting a preliminary hearing next month which will decide whether the club and its former leadership will face a separate criminal trial for accounting offences. Both probes are in supporters' crosshairs after a video from 2019 was released on Monday in which one of the three Turin prosecutors heading the criminal investigation, Ciro Santoriello, said he was a Napoli fan and "hated Juventus".

Also unearthed was a 2021 social media post from a member of CONI's court - who will likely not be ruling on Juve's appeal against their points deduction - criticizing the club and former chairman Andrea Agnelli after the aborted launch of the European Super League. Before Tuesday's Salernitana stroll Juve's new chief football officer Francesco Calvo demanded "respect" for the club but did not call for the head of Santoriello, a respected financial crimes expert in Turin's anti-mafia investigative unit.

"Comments removed from their proper context can take on a different meaning to what they had in the correct context," Calvo told DAZN. "This is also true for Juventus and all the people involved in the investigation." Rather than supporting Santoriello, Calvo's message was that the extensive wiretap evidence from the criminal investigation which was leaked all over the Italian media is partial and does not tell the whole story. Napoli host Cremonese on Sunday with a chance to both gain revenge for their Italian Cup exit at the hands of Serie A's bottom team and increase their 13-point league lead on Inter Milan.

Inter however are on the up after last weekend's Milan derby triumph and are heavy favourites at struggling Sampdoria, another club with huge off-field issues. Samp have until February 16 to make 11 million euros of salary payments due for the last three months of 2022, or risk being docked two points. That would be a hammer blow to a club already in deep financial trouble, whose majority shareholder Massimo Ferrero was forced to step down as chairman in 2021 after he was charged with fraudulent bankruptcy and spent time in prison.

Dejan Stankovic's Samp side are second from bottom and eight points from safety, and need a bank loan to come through so that their survival bid is not further compro-



ROME: Lazio's Italian coach Maurizio Sarri reacts during the Italian Serie A football match at the Olympic Stadium in Rome. —AFP

mised. Crumbling champions AC Milan start the action against Torino on Friday night, 18 points behind Napoli and outside the Champions League places. Stefano Pioli's side have lost their last three in the league and desperately need a kick-start with the home leg of their last-16 Champions League tie with Tottenham coming on Tuesday.

Player to watch

The Serbia forward looked in fine fettle in scoring twice at Salernitana, not a good sign for his former team Fiorentina whose fans might have two "traitors" lining up against them on Sunday evening. Both Vlahovic and Federico Chiesa are expected to play at the Allianz Stadium in Turin and the former will be keen to increase his league tally of eight goals with the help of his fellow ex-Viola. —AFP

News in brief

FULHAM BEAT SUNDERLAND

LONDON: Fulham set up a FA Cup fifth round clash with Leeds after holding on for a 3-2 win at Sunderland on Wednesday. The Premier League side looked to be heading through comfortably at the Stadium of Light as goals from Harry Wilson and Andreas Pereira early in each half put Fulham in command. Jack Clarke's curled effort appeared to have set up a grandstand finish. But Layvin Kurzawa quickly restored Fulham's two-goal cushion. Jevison Bennette again reduced the arrears for the Championship side in stoppage time. But dreams of a reunion with Leeds, who Sunderland beat to win the FA Cup 50 years ago, were dashed. "We've been working hard to reach this level and create a winning mentality," said Fulham boss Marco Silva, who watched the game from the stands as he served a touchline ban. "I knew before the game that it wouldn't be the best, I made nine changes, but we are pleased." —AFP

KUWAIT JOINS COMMITTEE

KUWAIT: The Arab Federation of Sports Pioneers' Executive Committee agreed to add Kuwait as a new official member of the federation, represented by the President of the Kuwaiti Athletes Association, Nawaf Al-Bghaili. This came in the committee's 14th meeting on Wednesday, via video conference, headed by Dr Mohammad Al-Ruwaisheed from Saudi Arabia, with the participation of vice-presidents and members of the committee from Arab countries. In a statement to KUNA on Thursday, the head of the Kuwaiti Athletes Association, Nawaf Al-Bghaili, expressed his appreciation to the Executive Committee of Arab Federation of Sports Pioneers for Kuwait's official approval as a member of the federation. Al-Bghaili added that the meeting discussed various issues such as financial reports for the ending period, as well as reviewing and approving the activities and programs in 2023. —KUNA

ITALIAN SKIER FANCHINI DIES

MILAN: Italian alpine skier Elena Fanchini has died after a long battle with cancer, Italian ski federation FISU said on Wednesday, as US superstar Mikaela Shiffrin said the 37-year-old "will never be forgotten". "At the end of a serious illness, Elena Fanchini passed away in her home in Solato (near Brescia)," the FISU said in a short statement. FISU confirmed to AFP that Fanchini, a World Championship downhill silver medalist in 2005, had died from an unspecified cancer which she had been battling since 2018. Fanchini made four World Cup podiums, all in downhill, including two victories in Lake Louise, Canada in December 2005 and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy in 2015. But she was plagued by injuries throughout her career, above all with her knees which she said were like "glass". Fanchini missed the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang due to her illness, and suffered serious injury on her return later that year following an operation on the tumor. —AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Hospitals

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

Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

Change of Name

I, Gulam Farooque holder of Indian Passport No. L-1165525 issued at Kuwait on 30-06-2013. Permanent resident of room No. F N H B 80, Mehfil E Jahangirya, S.M.Road, Antop Hill,

Mumbai-400037 presently resident of Salmiya, Zone-11, Street-Moosa Abdur Razzaq-4, Building-7, Flat-101, Kuwait will henceforth be known as Gulam Farooque (Given Name) Shaikh (Surname) as per documents. Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, State of Kuwait. (C #2850) 8-2-2023

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