

Sports

Crusaders romp past Waratahs 42-18, remain 2nd in standings

Afoa sets Super Rugby age record

CHRISTCHURCH: Prop John Afoa became Super Rugby's oldest-ever player as his Canterbury Crusaders coasted past the New South Wales Waratahs 42-18 on Saturday to remain second in the standings. Former All Black Afoa played his part after a surprise late call-up as the Crusaders scored six tries to three in Christchurch. It left their Australian opponents in sixth place, where they are guaranteed to remain ahead of the top-eight finals series regardless of the results in next week's last round of regular season matches.

Fly-half Richie Mo'unga was a try-scorer and did not miss a shot at goal in a 17-point haul as the defending champion Crusaders notched a ninth win from their last 10 games, after making a sluggish start to the season. A highlight was the starting appearance of Afoa, who from France two days earlier following a plea from coach Scott Robertson, who is without three injured All Blacks - Joe Moody, George Bower and Fletcher Newell - for the remainder of the season.

Former Auckland Blues tighthead Afoa had not played a Super Rugby match since 2011 and, at the age of 39 years and 223 days, became the competition's oldest player. After his 496th first-class game - more than half of which have been with Europe-

an clubs Ulster, Gloucester and Bristol - Afoa said he jumped at the chance to play for the Crusaders. "When the call came, it doesn't matter if it's the Crusaders or the Blues, I was just keen to come home and play in front of New Zealanders and my family," he told broadcaster Sky Sport.

"The last couple of days have been a bit of a whirlwind but it's been amazing. I don't have many moons left in my career, this is probably the last year of my career." David Havili was among the first-half try-scorers as the Crusaders pulled 28-8 clear, but the All Blacks midfielder limped off late in the game with a hamstring injury. Adding to the team's mounting medical list were knee injuries to loose forwards Cullen Grace and Christian Lio-Willie.

Earlier on Saturday, last-placed Moana Pasifika narrowly missed securing their first win of the season, going down 47-46 to Fijian Drua in Lautoka. Moana fly-half Christian Leali'ifano missed an 80th-minute conversion attempt, to gift the Drua their fifth win and lift them to 10th on the ladder. It leaves the Fijian side needing to beat the Queensland Reds next week to have any chance of qualifying for the top eight for the first time. Both teams scored seven tries in a spectacular contest, with Drua centre Iosefo Masi bagging a hat-trick. — AFP



CHRISTCHURCH: Crusaders' David Havili (center) is tackled by the Waratahs' Moses Tuipulotu (right) and Charlie Gamble during the round 14 Super Rugby Pacific match between the Crusaders and the New South Wales Waratahs on May 27, 2023. — AFP

Milan clubs race for Serie A top 4 places

MILAN: As champions Napoli continue their victory tour at Bologna on Sunday, the remaining important business in Serie A could be wrapped up on the penultimate weekend of the Serie A season. When Juventus, who started Monday in second place, suffered a double blow in the evening with a 10-point penalty for illicit transfer activity that dropped them to seventh and then a dispiriting 4-1 defeat at Empoli, Lazio inherited second and were guaranteed a top-four finish.

The points deduction also put the two Milan clubs on the brink of securing Champions League places. They can help themselves, and each other, this weekend if they both beat teams that could catch them. Inter, who won the Coppa Italia on Wednesday and have an eye on the Champions League next final next month, are third and on Saturday host Atalanta who are fifth.

Inter have a five-point edge on Atalanta, with Roma another point back in sixth, so while a victory over Manchester City in Istanbul would qualify them for next season's competition, they can make sure by locking up a top-four place. A draw on Sunday will be enough. "We have two league games and then the final in Istanbul for a great end to the season," said Inter coach Filippo Inzaghi, after his team beat Fiorentina in the Italian Cup final on Wednesday. AC Milan, who jumped to fourth when Juventus were punished, are two points behind Inter.



ROME: Inter Milan's Argentinean forward Lautaro Martinez celebrates after winning the Italian Cup (Coppa Italia) final football match at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome. — AFP

Milan can be caught not only by Atalanta and Roma but by the wounded team they visit on Sunday evening, Juventus. If Inter do not lose, AC Milan know a victory will be enough even with round to go. At the bottom, Cremonese and Sampdoria are already down. Hellas Verona are in the other relegation

spot but just a point behind Lecce and two behind Spezia. All three face mid-table clubs with little to play for. If Verona lose to in-form Empoli early on Sunday and Spezia beat visiting Torino on Saturday and Lecce win at Monza later on Sunday, Hellas will be doomed. — AFP

Auckland City book Club WCup berth

PORT VILA: Auckland City FC's coach says his team of amateurs will throw everything into the FIFA Club World Cup after qualifying on Saturday for a record 11th time. The New Zealand side gained entry via a 4-2 win in extra time over Fiji's Suva FC in a dramatic Oceania Football Confederation Champions League final in Port Vila, Vanuatu. It earned the Navy Blues another ticket to the elite club tournament in Saudi Arabia in December.

No team has qualified for the event more than Auckland City FC and coach Albert Riera said although they'll once again be massive underdogs, they'll hold nothing back against the champion clubs from each FIFA region. "We're not professionals, these guys they have jobs, they work every day and after that they pretty much go and train every day," Riera said. "We demand a lot from the players, people think we're professionals but we're not. The only thing we do is try to be better and try to inspire others."

Auckland City becomes the second team to earn a berth at the seven-team Club World Cup, after Asian champions Urawa Red Diamonds of Japan. While they have largely struggled at the global tournament, the Aucklanders pulled off a series of upsets in 2014 to finish third, behind champions Real Madrid and Argentina's San Lorenzo. Striker Ryan de Vries, who was in the 2014 squad, scored two goals against Suva FC, including the team's fourth, deep in extra time to seal the outcome. — AFP

Djokovic eyes history at the French Open

PARIS: Novak Djokovic will bid for a record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title at a French Open without his old rival Rafael Nadal for the first time since 2004, while Iga Swiatek attempts to become the first woman to defend the title in 16 years. Serbian veteran Djokovic will not be the favorite for the title, though, after struggling with an elbow injury and failing to get past the quarter-finals in any of his three clay-court events so far this season.

Carlos Alcaraz won the Barcelona and Madrid Opens en route to taking over from Djokovic as world number one, while Daniil Medvedev is seeded second for Roland Garros after his maiden clay triumph in Rome. But Djokovic will know this is a massive opportunity to break out of his tie with 14-time French Open winner Nadal at the top of the all-time list of most men's Slam singles titles. The two-time champion has lost eight of his 10 French Open meetings with Nadal who is missing this year's edition due to a hip injury he suffered at the Australian Open.

Djokovic and Alcaraz are seeded to meet in the semi-finals after being placed in the same half of the draw. "I felt bad when I hear that Rafa was not able to play here in Roland Garros," said Alcaraz on Friday. "I always want to watch the best players in the world playing the tournaments." The 36-year-old Djokovic may also have to get past Monte Carlo Masters champion Andrey Rublev in the quarters. The other side of the draw appears wide open, with in-form Medvedev the highest seed despite never having previously got past the quarter-finals on the Paris clay.

The Russian lost in the first round on each of his first four visits before making the quarters in 2021. "I also don't want to put too much pressure on myself, in a way," said Medvedev. "But what happened in Rome was amazing, especially beating a lot of good players." Danish youngster Holger Rune, who made a surprise run to last year's quarter-finals, could face Casper Ruud in the last eight in a rematch of a bad-tempered meeting 12 months ago.

Ruud went on to be thrashed in the final by Nadal and also lost the US Open showpiece match to Alcaraz. But the Norwegian world number four has struggled for form this year, only reaching the quarters in two of the 10 tournaments he has played. Stefanos Tsitsipas, who lost the 2021 final to Djokovic after being two sets up, will be among



PARIS: Spectators walk in front of the Court Susan Lenglen ahead of the start of the Roland-Garros Open tennis tournament in Paris on May 27, 2023. —AFP

the likely contenders but has not won a title yet this term — the longest he has had to wait for a trophy in a season since 2018.

The winner of the women's singles is expected to be one of the trio of reigning champion Swi-

atek, Australian Open winner Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina. They have won the last four Grand Slam titles between them and at least one of them has featured in every WTA 1000 final this season. — AFP

Classifieds

Change of Name

We, Firoz Ahamed, holder of Indian Passport No. M3188091, issued in Kuwait on 22/11/2014 and Fathima Khatoon, holder of Indian Passport No. S9923284, issued in Kuwait on 08/11/2018, permanent address, No. 4089, 2nd cross, 2nd stage, Kumarswamy Layout, Bangalore - 5960078, Karnataka, India, declare that we have changed our minor son's name from Khidash Firoz Ahamed to Muhammad Omar, holding Indian Passport No. T6756273, issued in Kuwait on 20/08/2019 and Civil ID No.315012501706, presently residing in block 11, street Yatrib Bldg. No. 14, Al Salmiya, Kuwait and permanent address in India, No. 4089, 2nd cross,

2nd stage, Kumarswamy Layout, Bangalore - 5960078, Karnataka, India. In all his dealings and documents, he will be known by the name of Muhammad Omar. (#3543) 26/05/2023

I, Md Forhad Hossain, holder of valid Bangladeshi Passport No. EK0911221, do hereby change my son's name to Sajid (given name) Forhad (surname), holder of valid Bangladeshi Passport No. EL0446996 for all future purposes. He will henceforth be known in the name Sajid Forhad and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all his documents (#3544) 26/05/2023

I, Geja, holder of Indian Passport No. P7110431, having permanent address Punjab, India - 144620, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as Gurmej (given name) and Singh (surname). (#3541) 25/05/2023

I, Ajij, S/o Saifuddin, Civil ID No. 281061504679, Passport No. Z3828425, hereby declare that I have changed my name as Aziz Arif S/o Saifuddin Arif. So from now in future I will be known by my new name: Aziz Arif, S/o Saifuddin Arif, Address: 107, Ward No.18, Saket Residency, Barwani, (M.P) - 451551, India. (#3542) 25/05/2023

I, Taher, holder of Indian Passport No. U9301842, issued in Jaipur on 04/03/2021 and Civil ID No. 306020902089, have changed my name Taher to Taher Companywala in all dealings and documents. I will be known by name of Taher (given name) and Companywala (surname) (#3539) 24/05/2023

I, Inus, S/o Mohammed Amin, holder of Indian Passport No. L-1434907, issued in Kuwait on 11-09-2013, permanent resident of B-sector, V-1-line, room no. 05, Cheeta Camp, Mumbai-400088, presently residing in Khaitan, Block-09, Street-30, Unit-1,

Building No.10, Kuwait will henceforth be known as Mohammed Yunus Mohammed Amin (given name) Shaikh (surname) as per documents. Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, State of Kuwait. (#3540) 24/05/2023

I, Rashida, holder of Indian Passport No. P5031442, issued in Jaipur on 27/09/2016 and Civil ID No. 281022207276, have changed my name Rashida to Rashida Companywala in all dealings and documents. I will be known by name of Rashida (given name) and Companywala (surname). (#3539) 24/05/2023