

Issue 4 / August 2023

CHAMPIONS

MAGAZINE

A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES



BANYANA BANYANA * SPRINGBOKS *
NETBALL 2023 * WCC CRICKET 2023
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Tatjana Schoenmaker added 200m breaststroke gold to her 100m silver to become the first South African woman in history to win a world title at the World Aquatics Championships in Fukuoka, Japan on Friday



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BANYANA BANYANA'S HOPES DASHED



FIFA Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023 - Group G - South Africa v Italy - Wellington Regional Stadium, Wellington, New Zealand - August 2, 2023 South Africa's Wendy Shongwe celebrates with Sibulele Holweni after the match as South Africa qualify for the knockout stages of the World Cup REUTERS/Amanda Perobelli REFILE



FIFA Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023 - Group G - South Africa v Italy - Wellington Regional Stadium, Wellington, New Zealand - August 2, 2023 South Africa's Bongeka Gamede celebrates as Italy's Benedetta Glionna looks dejected after the match as South Africa qualify for the knockout stages and Italy are knocked out of the World Cup REUTERS/Amanda Perobelli

Aug 6 (Reuters) - Netherlands coach Andries Jonker praised the performance of Daphne van Domselaar after the goalkeeper made a string of saves on Sunday to deny South Africa and help her team progress to the quarter-finals of the Women's World Cup.

The 23-year-old Aston Villa goalkeeper was named the player of the match as the Dutch notched up a 2-0 win over the African champions at Sydney Football Stadium and set up a last eight clash with Spain in Wellington on Friday.

"If you compare her with other keepers, I think she's developed a lot," Jonker said after van Domselaar repeatedly kept the Banyana Banyana at bay.

"Four years ago, there were goalkeepers that could not deal with the ball just under the bar and now we've got a whole generation of very athletic goalkeepers, who don't let in that kind of ball.

"Daphne is one of that new generation. They're athletic, they're in good shape, they've got good positioning, so the developments in that area are incredible and the Netherlands are right along there."

"Of course, there were some moments South Africa was there, but I think we deserved to make another goal.

"In the end, we deserved to win the game but it was a quite difficult first half by our own fault and the good work of South Africa."

Reporting by Michael Church, Editing by Simon Cameorn-Moore

South Africa's domestic women's league is an amateur competition while its male equivalent is cash-rich with many players earning more than they would receive in several European nations.

It has been a thorny issue for SAFA, who have battled to attract significant corporate sponsorship to take the women's league professional

Of Wednesday's win in Wellington against Italy - It highlights the potential of the game to deliver success.

"Professionalising the women's league is in order. How many times should the national team continue to make history before the women's game is taken seriously in our country?" said regular national captain Janine van Wyk, who has missed this year's global finals through injury.

The win is also a timely boost for SAFA ahead of a meeting with officials from FIFA on Thursday in Sydney, where they will state their case as potential hosts of the World Cup in 2027.

"It is going to be critical for us to make the most compelling case for why the Women's World Cup must be hosted in Africa for the very first time," Bid Committee chairperson Tumi Dlamini said on Wednesday.

"There can be no better place than Africa for FIFA to demonstrate its commitment to women empowerment and transformation of the life of a girl child."

South Africa are up against Brazil plus joint bids from Mexico and the United States, and Belgium, Netherlands and Germany.

Reporting by Nick Said; editing by Clare Fallon

Soccer Football - FIFA Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023 - Group G - South Africa v Italy - Wellington Regional Stadium, Wellington, New Zealand - August 2, 2023 South Africa's Thembi Kgatlana celebrates scoring their third goal with teammates REUTERS/Amanda Perobelli





ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023



FIXTURES

5 OCTOBER - 19 NOVEMBER 2023

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|---|--|--------------|------------|
| Thursday, 5 October | ENGLAND | | V | | NEW ZEALAND | Ahmedabad |
| Friday, 6 October | PAKISTAN | | V | | QUALIFIER 1 | Hyderabad |
| Saturday, 7 October | BANGLADESH | | V | | AFGHANISTAN | Dharamsala |
| Saturday, 7 October | SOUTH AFRICA | | V | | QUALIFIER 2 | Delhi |
| Sunday, 8 October | INDIA | | V | | AUSTRALIA | Chennai |
| Monday, 9 October | NEW ZEALAND | | V | | QUALIFIER 1 | Hyderabad |
| Tuesday, 10 October | ENGLAND | | V | | BANGLADESH | Dharamsala |
| Wednesday, 11 October | INDIA | | V | | AFGHANISTAN | Delhi |
| Thursday, 12 October | PAKISTAN | | V | | QUALIFIER 2 | Hyderabad |
| Friday, 13 October | AUSTRALIA | | V | | SOUTH AFRICA | Lucknow |
| Saturday, 14 October | ENGLAND | | V | | AFGHANISTAN | Delhi |
| Saturday, 14 October | NEW ZEALAND | | V | | BANGLADESH | Chennai |
| Sunday, 15 October | INDIA | | V | | PAKISTAN | Ahmedabad |
| Monday, 16 October | AUSTRALIA | | V | | QUALIFIER 2 | Lucknow |
| Tuesday, 17 October | SOUTH AFRICA | | V | | QUALIFIER 1 | Dharamsala |
| Wednesday, 18 October | NEW ZEALAND | | V | | AFGHANISTAN | Chennai |
| Thursday, 19 October | INDIA | | V | | BANGLADESH | Pune |
| Friday, 20 October | AUSTRALIA | | V | | PAKISTAN | Bengaluru |
| Saturday, 21 October | ENGLAND | | V | | SOUTH AFRICA | Mumbai |
| Saturday, 21 October | QUALIFIER 1 | | V | | QUALIFIER 2 | Lucknow |
| Sunday, 22 October | INDIA | | V | | AFGHANISTAN | Dharamsala |
| Monday, 23 October | PAKISTAN | | V | | BANGLADESH | Chennai |
| Tuesday, 24 October | SOUTH AFRICA | | V | | QUALIFIER 1 | Mumbai |
| Wednesday, 25 October | AUSTRALIA | | V | | QUALIFIER 2 | Delhi |
| Thursday, 26 October | ENGLAND | | V | | SOUTH AFRICA | Bengaluru |
| Friday, 27 October | PAKISTAN | | V | | BANGLADESH | Chennai |
| Saturday, 28 October | QUALIFIER 1 | | V | | NEW ZEALAND | Kolkata |
| Saturday, 28 October | AUSTRALIA | | V | | ENGLAND | Dharamsala |
| Sunday, 29 October | INDIA | | V | | QUALIFIER 2 | Lucknow |
| Monday, 30 October | AFGHANISTAN | | V | | BANGLADESH | Pune |
| Tuesday, 31 October | PAKISTAN | | V | | SOUTH AFRICA | Kolkata |
| Wednesday, 1 November | NEW ZEALAND | | V | | QUALIFIER 2 | Pune |
| Thursday, 2 November | INDIA | | V | | AFGHANISTAN | Mumbai |
| Friday, 3 November | QUALIFIER 1 | | V | | AUSTRALIA | Lucknow |
| Saturday, 4 November | ENGLAND | | V | | PAKISTAN | Ahmedabad |
| Saturday, 4 November | NEW ZEALAND | | V | | SOUTH AFRICA | Bengaluru |
| Sunday, 5 November | INDIA | | V | | BANGLADESH | Kolkata |
| Monday, 6 November | BANGLADESH | | V | | QUALIFIER 2 | Delhi |
| Tuesday, 7 November | AUSTRALIA | | V | | AFGHANISTAN | Mumbai |
| Wednesday, 8 November | ENGLAND | | V | | QUALIFIER 1 | Pune |
| Thursday, 9 November | NEW ZEALAND | | V | | QUALIFIER 2 | Bengaluru |
| Friday, 10 November | SOUTH AFRICA | | V | | AFGHANISTAN | Ahmedabad |
| Saturday, 11 November | INDIA | | V | | QUALIFIER 1 | Bengaluru |
| Sunday, 12 November | ENGLAND | | V | | PAKISTAN | Kolkata |
| Sunday, 12 November | AUSTRALIA | | V | | BANGLADESH | Pune |

Wednesday, 15 November SEMI FINAL 1 Mumbai

Thursday, 16 November SEMI FINAL 2 Kolkata

SUNDAY, 19 NOVEMBER FINAL AHMEDABAD

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ICC Men's Cricket World Cup India 2023

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TEAM SOUTH AFRICA

Tatjana Schoenmaker added 200m breaststroke gold to her 100m silver to become the first South African woman in history to win a world title at the World Aquatics Championships in Fukuoka, Japan on Friday.

The 26-year-old Olympic champion had been fastest through the semifinals of the event and made sure she finished out in front again in the final, reaching the wall in 2:20.80.

American Kate Douglass was second in 2:21.23 with Dutchwoman Tes Schouten claiming the bronze in a time of 2:21.63.

An emotional Schoenmaker admitted she has had a tough time since winning Olympic gold in the same event two years ago, but the former world record holder proved she is well and truly back, producing her fastest 200m breaststroke time since that famous race in Tokyo.

"I think it was unexpected – that's why there's so much emotion because coming into this meet, I wasn't really ranked in the top three in any of my events. My times haven't been as great since the Olympics," she said.

SA team return from Japan with two swimming medals, water polo win and Olympic diving spot. South Africa's team are returning from the World Aquatics Championships in Fukuoka, Japan with two medals – both won by swimmer Tatjana Schoenmaker. The Olympic champion added the 200m. The Olympic champion added the 200m breaststroke world title to her collection while also claiming silver in the 100m breaststroke in Fukuoka.

Lara van Niekerc was the only other South African to reach a final at the championships, finishing fourth in the 50m breaststroke, while Rebecca Meder put in a promising performance in the 200m individual medley, setting a new South African record in the event on her way to the semifinals.

Speaking after the championships came to an end, Schoenmaker's coach Rocco Meiring said: "Tatjana raced this worlds to see where she was at this stage of her preparation [for the Paris Olympics]."



“This was also an opportunity to race the new breaststrokers that broke onto the international scene since the Tokyo Olympics. Tatjana and I now have a better idea of what she needs to work on.

“I’m very happy for Tatz that she won a world title in the 200m. The silver in the 100m was a scrappy race for all of them, except for Ruta [Meilutytė] who got very close to the world record.

“Tatjana’s last 25m in the 100m was very good, but there is a lot of work to be done in the coming months.”

Speaking about the rest of the swimming team, Meiring added: “The SA team was a good blend of experienced swimmers and new young talent. The team experienced that the standard and depth of this world champs was of the highest standard in many years... once again, a sign of how much and how fast the world moves on the continuous path of high performance.”

Meanwhile, in diving, Julia Vincent secured an all-important Olympic spot for South Africa by reaching the finals of both the 1m and 3m springboard events. The two-time Olympian finished 11th overall in the 1m event and 10th in the 3m event.

Commenting after the diving events came to an end, she said: “This week has been incredible. I feel so encouraged by my results and I’m excited to get back to work and see what else could be possible in the future.

“I’ve been working really hard and it’s encouraging to see it pay off. It’s also a huge relief to be able to come and get the Olympic quota spot so early, it takes some pressure off of the rest of the year leading into the Olympics.

“Overall, this team has been so much fun, and I’ve really enjoyed competing alongside them.”

Elsewhere, South Africa’s women’s water polo team recorded their first ever win in the group stages of the World Championships, beating Argentina 12-9 to finish third in their group. They eventually finished in 12th place while the men’s team placed 16th.

Speaking afterwards, thrilled SA women’s water polo coach Nicola Barrett said: “The tournament went extremely well for us. It’s been something that we have been working towards... Beating Argentina was our goal going into the tournament. From the beginning, they were the team that we were really hoping and trying to beat which gave us the opportunity to remove ourselves from the bottom teams.

“For myself, I had to take a good three nights of not sleeping and watching film footage to be able to share that knowledge with the girls.

“Going from losing last year in Budapest by one goal to Argentina to beating them by three goals this year really took a lot in terms of our mental state. The thing that gave us the edge in that game was something that I’ve been working on as a coach which is the cohesion of the team and making sure that the team gelled well and that everyone knew their roles on the team.

“In terms of how much of a boost it’s given us going forward, it’s absolutely huge, not just for us but for all the players who are in South Africa that look up to us. It’s really done something incredible. It’s a historic moment for us, being top 12. We’ve never been able to do that before so it’s extremely exciting for us... I think the girls have really been inspired and are ready to take on the next challenge.”





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Kom braai met Ons

SUNDAY LUNCH: GLAZED APRICOT SNOEK ON THE BRAAI AND MIELIETERT RECIPE



The weather might not be ideal for a braai on the grass, but you can still make this glazed snoek either in the pan or on the indoor braai. Glazed apricot snoek on the braai and mielietert recipe below.

There's so much more to a braai than potato bake, steak, chops and wors. Why not try something different for Sunday lunch? This glazed apricot snoek and mielietert recipe will come as a welcome surprise to everyone's tastebuds.

Mielietert recipe

Ingredients

2 cans of sweetcorn
60ml white sugar
4 extra-large eggs
15ml baking powder
60ml real butter (melted)
60ml flour
15ml baking powder
Large pinch of salt
Method



Preheat the oven to 180°C and butter a large pie dish. Add all the ingredients to a mixing bowl and stir well. Add the batter to the pie dish and place into the oven and bake for approximately one hour. Once ready, it will have a golden colour. Mielietert tastes best when served slightly warm.

*This recipe was found on www.notsoskinnycook.com



GLAZED SNOEK ON THE BRAAI



Ingredients

1.2kg whole fresh snoek, butterflied (or snoek fillets)
2 tbsp Robertson's Braai & Grill All-In-One
100g salted butter
1 tsp Robertson's crushed garlic
1 tsp Robertson's chilli flakes
60ml apricot jam
60ml honey
60ml soy sauce
1 lemon
Method

Place the snoek, skin side down on a sheet of greased heavy-duty tin foil and sprinkle over the Robertsons Braai & Grill All-in-One. Set aside.

Melt the butter in a large saucepan and stir in the Robertsons Crushed Garlic and Robertsons Chilli Flakes. Cook for a minute or two, until fragrant.

Add the apricot jam, honey and soy sauce. Cook over a low heat until the jam and honey have melted, and the sauce is glossy. Place the snoek, on its sheet of foil, directly onto the grid, over medium coals.

Cook until the fish starts to whiten. Gently brush the snoek with the glaze, then turn it over and cook for a further 6-8 minutes, basting often with the glaze.

When the fish is just cooked through, squeeze lemon juice over the top and serve hot.

*This recipe was found on www.robertsons.co.za



KEVIN SINFIELD CARRIES ROB BURROW OVER THE LINE AT LEEDS MARATHON

RUGBY LEAGUE GREAT PUSHED FRIEND AND FORMER TEAMMATE WHO HAS MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE IN A WHEELCHAIR AROUND 26.2 MILE COURSE



For Kevin Sinfield it was “a celebration of friendship” as he and more than 12,000 others completed the inaugural Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon on Sunday.

Of course Sinfield, who has become known for challenges many would see as mad or superhuman, was not just running – he was also pushing his friend Burrow, who has motor neurone disease (MND), in a specially adapted wheelchair for the full 26.2 miles.

It was an emotional scene when, just before the finish line, Sinfield helped Burrow out of the chair and carried him across it.

Sinfield and Burrow were teammates and close friends when they played rugby league for Leeds Rhinos.

Burrow revealed he had been diagnosed with MND in January 2020 and in December that year Sinfield started running in his honour and to raise money for everyone affected by the disease.

Rob Burrow and Kevin Sinfield cross the finish line of the 2023 Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon. Photograph: Danny Lawson/PA

Sinfield, one of the greatest rugby league players, has raised more than £8m with challenges that have included running seven marathons in seven days and then seven ultramarathons in seven days. He described the latter as “a run for a mate, with other mates”.



KEVIN WHISPERED, 'YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT ME, ROB, WE ARE FINISHING TOGETHER'. HE THEN KISSED ME ON THE CHEEK. IT WAS A DAY IN A MILLION



KEVIN SINFIELD CARRIES ROB BURROW ACROSS THE FINISH LINE OF THE 2023 ROB BURROW LEEDS MARATHON.

The seven reflects the fact that Burrow wore the number seven shirt at Leeds. Sunday's marathon was initially meant to have 7,777 places available but demand was such that organisers allowed more people in.

Of the 12,000 running on Sunday, more than 40% were in a marathon for the first time, including Burrow's wife, Lindsey.

Before the run, Sinfield said he was most looking forward to the time with Burrow.

"We had some really funny moments during the Leeds 10k when we did a trial run in anticipation for this and while it's difficult for him to communicate, I know when he's laughing, and you can see it. We'll have some fun, I promise you that."

The marathon started and finished at Headingley stadium and it took Sinfield and Burrow just over four hours and 20 minutes to complete.

But it was never about the time, Sinfield – or "Sir Kev" to Leeds fans – stressed. "I ran the London Marathon three weeks ago and everyone wants to know what your time was but this, it doesn't matter how long it takes. The longer it takes, the more time I get to spend with him."

The marathon was the first in Leeds for 20 years and was based around "friendship and community", said Sinfield.

Before the start, he told BBC Radio 5 Live's Sunday Breakfast everyone was running in Rob's name for a reason.

"Today there are so many people here because they think so much of Rob, or they want to do their own bit for a friend or a family member who's going through some rough times. Together we get to fight, shoulder to shoulder."



Izette Griesel of South Africa during the Netball World Cup match against Uganda on 3 August 2023. (Photo: Ashley Vlotman / Gallo Images / Netball World Cup 2023)



Elmeré van der Berg of South Africa during the Netball World Cup match against Uganda at Cape Town International Convention Centre on 3 August 2023. (Photo: Ashley Vlotman / Gallo Images / Netball World Cup 2023)



Shadine van der Merwe of South Africa during the Netball World Cup 2023 Pool G match against Uganda at Cape Town International Convention Centre on 3 August 2023. (Photo: Ashley Vlotman / Gallo Images / Netball World Cup 2023)

South Africa's Netball World Cup hopes were dashed despite beating Uganda 52-50 on Thursday 3 August 2023. Despite their win, they lost to Jamaica and are unable to move further into the competition

Hosts South Africa had the vocal home crowd on the edge of their seats as they just managed to pip Uganda by two goals to secure third spot in Group C. In the other match of the evening, fellow Africans Malawi held on for victory against Tonga to make sure of third place in Group F.

To find out where you can watch all the matches live and on demand from the NWC2023, click [here](#).

Here is a short recap of the action we have seen so far today:

SOUTH AFRICA 52 - 50 UGANDA

South Africa avenged their 2022 Commonwealth Games loss to Uganda by beating the She Cranes 52-50.

The result ended the Proteas' hopes of progressing to the semi-finals as they needed to secure an unlikely victory margin of more than 64 goals and keep their opponents from scoring more than 20 to make that happen.

Goal attack Ine-Mari Venter had a better start compared to Wednesday's match against New Zealand, being successful with all her attempts. Uganda however struggled with short passes around their own goal circle.

Uganda's star shooter, Mary Cholhok, found it challenging against South Africa's Phumza Maweni. The Protea defender had Cholhok properly boxed in with little room to stamp her authority.

South Africa's swift ball movement across the court troubled Uganda, preventing them from executing their attacking style effectively. During the second quarter, South Africa extended their lead to 10 goals, with Maweni continuing to disrupt Cholhok.

Uganda made their first substitutions 10 minutes before half-time, but that didn't have any effect as the South Africans went into the break 33-19 in front.

The third quarter was entirely dominated by Uganda, as they outscored South Africa by nine goals (17-8), finding their rhythm and quickly narrowing the gap.

In the final quarter, Uganda came out onto the court clearly intent on snatching the victory away from the hosts. And they almost did. Having been 12 goals down at one point, they managed to equalise the score at 42-all within four minutes.



'FOOTBALL LEAKS' RULING POSTPONED IN LIGHT OF NEW LAW, POPE'S VISIT

ISBON, July 11 (Reuters) - A Lisbon court postponed on Tuesday a verdict in the trial of Rui Pinto, the creator of Football Leaks, due to a new law set to pardon some young offenders that might come into force soon in light of Pope Francis' visit to Portugal next month.

Pinto, 34, set up the Football Leaks website in 2015 to share confidential documents of national and international organisations, including transfer fees, agreements between sports entities, contracts and information related to players' agencies, prosecutors have said.

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He faces 90 charges including unauthorised access to data, violation of correspondence and attempted extortion. His trial started in September 2020.

Pinto, a former history student and a self-taught computer mastermind, acknowledges releasing the more than 70 million documents but says he was a whistleblower acting in the public interest. The ruling was initially scheduled for April 28 but was postponed to Thursday, July 13.

However, to mark an upcoming visit by Pope Francis on Aug. 2-6 to attend World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal's majority Socialist government announced last month a one-year pardon for young people aged 16-30 serving sentences of up to eight years. For young people within the same age group, the law also establishes an "amnesty regime" for crimes with a prison sentence of up to one year or fines of up to 1,000 euros (\$1,100). It does not cover serious crimes such as homicides or domestic violence.
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ENGLAND: FA Community Shield

Manchester City

Arsenal

06.08. 17:00

Matchweek 1

All times shown are your local time

Friday 11 August

BUR 21:00 MCI

SuperSport

Saturday 12 August

ARS 13:30 NFO

SuperSport

BOU 16:00 WHU

SuperSport

BHA 16:00 LUT

SuperSport

EVE 16:00 FUL

SuperSport

SHU 16:00 CRY

SuperSport

NEW 18:30 AVL

SuperSport

Sunday 13 August

BRE 15:00 TOT

SuperSport

CHE 17:30 LIV

SuperSport

Monday 14 August

MUN 21:00 WOL





England Premier League Soccer Fixtures

In a statement, Judge Margarida Alves said Pinto was covered by the law due to his age at the time the crimes he is accused of were committed.

"It would be useless...to deliver a ruling that then, days later, might have to be changed," Alves said.

The reading will take place on July 31 if the amnesty law comes into force by July 28, or on Sept. 11 if it does not.

Football Leaks' data seen by Reuters showed how some of the richest and most prominent figures in soccer avoided tax by channelling earnings offshore. It also examined the huge sums flowing through leading clubs and the uneven way authorities have applied rules.

The documents provided some of the evidence that led to a ban - since overturned - on English Premier League club Manchester City from competing in the European Champions League for alleged breaches of Financial Fair Play rules.

Pinto was arrested in Hungary in January 2019, though he was later freed from house arrest and put under witness protection.

Reporting by Catarina Demony; editing by Andrei Khalip and Angus MacSwan



Rui Pinto, the Portuguese man believed to be the mastermind behind Football Leaks, waits before his trial at the court in Lisbon, Portugal September 4, 2020.
REUTERS/Rafael Marchante/File Photo



WILD HORIZONS

AFRICA'S GREATEST ADVENTURES



SHARK CAGE
ADVENTURES



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| |  Liverpool |
| 19.08. 16:00 |  Liverpool |
| |  Bournemouth |
| 26.08. 16:00 |  Newcastle |
| |  Liverpool |
| 02.09. 16:00 |  Liverpool |
| |  Aston Villa |
| 16.09. 16:00 |  Wolves |
| |  Liverpool |
| 23.09. 16:00 |  Liverpool |
| |  West Ham |
| 30.09. 16:00 |  Tottenham |
| |  Liverpool |
| |  Brighton |



July 31 (Reuters) - Brazil midfielder Fabinho has joined Al Ittihad from Liverpool on a three-year deal, the Saudi club announced on Monday.

Financial details were not disclosed but British media reported the Saudi Pro League champions, known as Tigers, paid 40 million pounds (\$51.33 million) for the 29-year-old.

Al-Ittihad posted a video on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter, with the title "Tigers are permitted to pass" in reference to media reports suggesting the deal might be delayed due to the breed of Fabinho's dogs which are prohibited from entering Saudi Arabia.

"Today I leave my home. It's been five years wearing this jersey and always with the greatest honour and happiness possible. I love this club. Thank you, Reds, for everything we've experienced together. You will never walk alone," Fabinho wrote on X.

Fabinho will join Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema and former Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante at the Jeddah-based club.

The Brazil international made 219 appearances for Liverpool since his arrival in 2018, and helped the team to the Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup, League Cup and UEFA Super Cup titles.

Jordan Henderson also left Liverpool last week to join Steven Gerrard's Al-Ettifaq in Saudi Arabia.





MARSEILLE SIGN AUBAMEYANG FROM CHELSEA

Olympique de Marseille have signed Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang from Chelsea, the Ligue 1 club said on Friday.

British media reported that Chelsea had terminated Aubameyang's contract, which had one year to run, following a disappointing spell with the west London side.

The 34-year-old striker made just five Premier League starts, netting once against Crystal Palace in October.

He also scored twice in the Champions League group stage but was then left out of Chelsea's squad for the knockout stages.

"We would like to thank Pierre and wish him well as he begins the next chapter of his career," Chelsea said in a short statement.

The French-born striker returns to France 10 years after his stint at St Etienne, where he spent three seasons from 2010-2013.















Aubameyang also played for Ligue 1 clubs Lille and AS Monaco early in his career before having successful spells with Borussia Dortmund and Arsenal.

He is Gabon's record scorer with 30 goals in 73 matches and was named the African Footballer of the Year in 2015.

He retired from international soccer in 2022, but announced his return to the Gabon team this year.

Reporting by Aadi Nair in Bengaluru; Editing by Ken Ferris



| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| 13.08. 17:30 |  Chelsea |  Liverpool |
| 19.08. 16:00 |  West Ham |  Chelsea |
| 26.08. 16:00 |  Chelsea |  Luton |
| 02.09. 16:00 |  Chelsea |  Nottingham |
| 16.09. 16:00 |  Bournemouth |  Chelsea |
| 23.09. 16:00 |  Chelsea |  Aston Villa |
| 30.09. 16:00 |  Fulham |  Chelsea |

















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England Premier League Soccer Fixtures

| + ENGLAND: Premier League | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| 12.08. 13:30 |  | Arsenal |
| |  | Nottingham |
| 19.08. 16:00 |  | Crystal Palace |
| |  | Arsenal |
| 26.08. 16:00 |  | Arsenal |
| |  | Fulham |
| 02.09. 16:00 |  | Arsenal |
| |  | Manchester Utd |
| 16.09. 16:00 |  | Everton |
| |  | Arsenal |
| 23.09. 16:00 |  | Arsenal |
| |  | Tottenham |
| 30.09. 16:00 |  | Bournemouth |
| |  | Arsenal |



Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said he was happy with the speed of the Premier League club's transfer business in the close-season window and there could be further additions to the squad.

Arsenal signed Declan Rice from West Ham United for 105 million pounds (\$137.27 million) on Saturday. The England midfielder was their third signing of the window after Kai Havertz and Jurrien Timber.

"Every signing that we have made brings special things to the team," Arteta told reporters ahead of Arsenal's pre-season friendly against a Major League Soccer (MLS) All-Stars side on Wednesday in Washington.

"We are very pleased as you can imagine that we signed the players that we wanted. We've signed them early and they've started to adapt to the team really fast. We have some time now to prepare and for them to get the best chance to express themselves in the right way."

Asked if there could be more signings before the transfer window closes on Sept. 1, Arteta said: "Let's see, there is a lot of time still in the market and a lot of expectation in some of our players."

"We will be alert, there is still time to do things, there is still time for exits as well obviously. I'm sure things will move."

Arsenal begin the new season at home to Nottingham Forest on Aug. 12.

Reporting by Aadi Nair in Bengaluru; editing by Clare Fallon





England Premier League Soccer Fixtures

Manchester United sign \$1.1 billion Adidas kit deal for 10 years
Reuters

July 31, 2023 8:16 PM

GMT+2 Updated 15 hours ago

July 31 (Reuters) - Manchester United (MANU.N) signed a 900 million pound (\$1.1 billion) deal with Adidas (ADSGn.DE) on Monday, renewing the English soccer club's partnership with its official kit supplier for 10 more years.

Manchester United, whose U.S. owners have been considering selling the Premier League club, will return to the lucrative UEFA Champions League this year after securing a top-four finish in the domestic league last season under manager Erik ten Hag.

German sportswear giant Adidas became the club's official kit sponsor in the 2015/16 season, reuniting after 23 years and taking over from Nike (NKE.N) after sealing a 750-million-pound deal, which was a record at the time.

"The new deal increases the focus on the Manchester United women's team since their reintroduction in 2018," United said in a joint press release with Adidas.
















United is still in talks to sell itself after American owners, the Glazer family, launched a formal sale process late last year.

Qatar's Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe are among the potential suitors for the club.

[1/2] Manchester United's Mason Mount in a preseason friendly, Manchester United v Olympique Lyonnais, in Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 19, 2023. Action Images via Reuters/Lee Smith

The new deal with Adidas, ahead of the 2023/24 Premier League season starting next month, will continue the partnership until June 2035, the northwest England-based club said.

The original agreement with Adidas links a part of the yearly payments to the club's participation in the Champions League, according to the company's latest annual report.

| | | |
|--------------|---|----------------|
| 14.08. 21:00 |  | Manchester Utd |
| |  | Wolves |
| 19.08. 16:00 |  | Tottenham |
| |  | Manchester Utd |
| 26.08. 16:00 |  | Manchester Utd |
| |  | Nottingham |
| 02.09. 16:00 |  | Arsenal |
| |  | Manchester Utd |
| 16.09. 16:00 |  | Manchester Utd |
| |  | Brighton |
| 23.09. 16:00 |  | Burnley |
| |  | Manchester Utd |
| 30.09. 16:00 |  | Manchester Utd |
| |  | Crystal Palace |
| |  | Manchester Utd |





SAUDI INVESTMENT HAS 'CHANGED' TRANSFER MARKET, SAYS MAN CITY'S GUARDIOLA AFTER MAHREZ EXIT



ENGLAND: Premier League

11.08. 21:00 Burnley Manchester City

EUROPE: UEFA Super Cup

16.08. 21:00 Manchester City Sevilla

ENGLAND: Premier League

19.08. 16:00 Manchester City Newcastle

26.08. 16:00 Sheffield Utd Manchester City

02.09. 16:00 Manchester City Fulham

6.09. 16:00 West Ham Manchester City

09. 16:00 Manchester City Nottingham

30.09. 16:00 Wolves Manchester City



Saudi Arabia has changed football's transfer market in their bid to "create a strong league", Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said on Saturday after Algerian winger Riyad Mahrez left the Premier League club to join Al-Ahli.

Mahrez, who scored 78 goals and made 59 assists for City in a trophy-laden spell at the club, on Friday joined the Saudi Pro League side for a reported sum of 35 million euros (\$38.55 million) plus five million in add-ons.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue
Asked if he had wanted Mahrez to remain at City, Guardiola told reporters: "Definitely. I enjoyed as a manager to be with him. I had a special relationship with him..."

"Saudi Arabia has changed the market. A few months ago when Cristiano (Ronaldo) was the only one to go, no one thought this many top, top players would play in the Saudi league," the Spanish manager added, speaking before Sunday's pre-season friendly against Atletico Madrid.

"In the future there will be more and that's why clubs need to be aware of what is happening. Riyad got an incredible offer and that's why we could not say don't do it."

The Saudi Pro league has become an attractive destination for Europe-based players since Ronaldo moved to Al Nassr in January, with Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, World Cup winner N'Golo Kante and ex-Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson also moving to Saudi.

City could also lose another player to the Saudi league, with Portuguese international Bernardo Silva linked with a move to Al Hilal, according to British media reports.

"They want to create a strong league and so far they are the league who can do it..." Guardiola said.

"Right now, the Saudi league, I don't know how long they will sustain it, but the feeling is that they will stay. The players want to take this experience to play in that league and they are able to do it."

City's first match of the 2023-24 domestic campaign after their pre-season tour is the Community Shield game against Arsenal on Aug. 6.

Reporting by Aadi Nair in Bengaluru
Editing by Christian Radnedge





English football authorities launch measures to tackle behaviour, tragedy abuse Reuters

LONDON, July 31 (Reuters) - English football authorities have introduced a series of disciplinary measures to improve the behaviour of players, managers and fans at all levels of the game next season, several governing bodies said in a joint statement on Monday.

Under the new framework, match officials will have more power to act against unacceptable behaviour, while captains will be "expected to take responsibility for their team mates" and promote fair play and respect towards match officials.

Incidents in which multiple players confront or invade the personal space of match officials will result in at least one player receiving a card, with the FA reserving the right to take further action against the offending club.

New rules have also been introduced to address offensive chants, gestures and the display of offensive messages based on football tragedies, with individuals found guilty of such offences facing stadium bans and criminal prosecution.

A fan who wore a Manchester United shirt at last season's FA Cup final against Manchester City making an offensive reference to the Hillsborough disaster in which 97 fans died in a crush in 1989 was in June banned from attending games for four years.

A Tottenham Hotspur fan was also banned from games for three years after making gestures mocking the Hillsborough tragedy at the Premier League match between Liverpool and Spurs in April.

Liverpool called for an end to "vile chants" about the Hillsborough disaster after they were heard during April's Premier League draw with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

"We are sending a clear message that we call on so called fans to stop this vile behaviour of a minority which has a terrible impact on the bereaved and communities," said Douglas Mackay, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor and Sports National Lead Prosecutor said in Monday's statement.

"If they do not then they face the risk of being excluded from the game they claim to love."

**Soccer Football -
Premier League -
Leicester City v Aston
Villa - King Power
Stadium, Leicester,
Britain - April 4, 2023
Aston Villa's John
McGinn and team
mates surround
referee Graham Scott
after he awarded
Leicester City a penalty
REUTERS/Carl
Recine/File Photo**





England Premier League Soccer Fixtures

'INCREDIBLE POWER'

Signatories of the new disciplinary charter include the FA, Premier League, English Football League (EFL) and Women's Super League (WSL).

"Football has an incredible power to inspire people of all ages, and the professional game sets an example to all those who play and watch the sport," said Premier League CEO Richard Masters.

"We want players, managers and fans to continue showing their passion, but these new measures have been introduced to ensure that the line is not crossed when it comes to on-field and technical area behaviour.

"We also strongly believe there is no room for abhorrent tragedy abuse in football."

The measures include a technical area code of conduct requiring managers, coaches and other staff members to behave in a responsible manner as well as increased financial penalties for serious and repeat offenders.

During the match only one person can stand at the front of the technical area and while a second person can stand they "must remain very close to the technical area seating".

Nobody from the technical area can "enter the pitch to confront any match official at halftime or full-time".

Academy scholars at clubs will have to take refereeing courses to improve players' education in officiating, while at the grassroots level, teams who commit repeated offences of serious misconduct could be deducted points.

Reporting by Pearl Josephine Nazare in Bengaluru; Editing by Ken Ferris





Wimbledon



Tennis - Wimbledon
- All England Lawn
Tennis and Croquet
Club, London,
Britain - July 15, 2023
Czech Republic's
Marketa
Vondrousova
celebrates with the
trophy winning her
final match against
Tunisia's Ons Jabeur
REUTERS/Dylan
Martinez/File Photo

July 17 (Reuters) - New Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova, who broke into the women's top 10 on Monday, plans to celebrate her win by getting a matching strawberry tattoo alongside her coach.

The 24-year-old Czech rose 32 places to 10th in the new WTA rankings after winning her first Grand Slam title with a stunning straight-sets victory over Ons Jabeur in Saturday's final.

She became the first unseeded player to win the women's singles title and said afterwards that her coach Jan Hernych had pledged to get a matching tattoo in celebration.

"We talked before the tournament and he said 'maybe if you win a Grand Slam, then I'll do it'. So this is happening," Vondrousova told a press conference, with the BBC reporting that the pair would visit a Prague tattoo parlour later this week.

Vondrousova, a silver medallist at the Tokyo Olympics, got the first of the many tattoos on her arms at 16 and has said that some have special significance, such as her lucky number 13, the Olympic rings and the quote "No rain, no flowers" above her right elbow, meaning success does not come easily.

Strawberries and cream have long been a tradition at Wimbledon, with organisers saying that more than 1.92 million strawberries are consumed every year at the tournament.

Reporting by Angelica Medina in Mexico City; editing by Clare Fallon





Wimbledon

Tennis -
Wimbledon - All
England Lawn
Tennis and Croquet
Club, London,
Britain - July 16,
2023 Spain's Carlos
Alcaraz during a
press conference
after the final
AELTC/Handout via
REUTERS



LONDON, July 16 (Reuters) - The last time Carlos Alcaraz faced Novak Djokovic he was left so frightened that the Spaniard turned into a nervous wreck and ended up suffering debilitating cramps that cruelly crushed his French Open dreams in front of a global audience.

What a difference five weeks can make.

Up against the same opponent, who had not lost at Wimbledon since 2016, Alcaraz was staring into an abyss as Djokovic roared to a 5-0 opening set lead in Sunday's All England Club finale.

But unlike the Roland Garros semi-finals, Alcaraz had come into the Wimbledon showpiece armed with a new-found mental belief that he belongs among the elite.

That confidence carried him through a five-set, near five hour, roller-coaster on Sunday as he finally ended Djokovic's reign to usher in a new era at Wimbledon -- a win that was being trumpeted as the changing of the guard in men's tennis.

"I did it for myself, not for tennis generation, honestly. It was great," the 20-year-old said after subjecting 23-time major champion Djokovic to his first Centre Court defeat in a decade with a 1-6 7-6(6) 6-1 3-6 6-4 victory.

"Beating Novak at his best, in this stage, making history, being the guy to beat him after 10 years unbeaten on that court, is amazing for me. It's something that I will never forget, that's for sure.

"It's great for the new generation, as well, I think to see me beating him and making them think that they are capable to do it as well. It's great for me and I think for the young players, as well."

"NEXT GEN"

For more than a decade, a number of talented "Next Gen" players had been hyped up to break the Djokovic-Rafael Nadal-Roger Federer hold on top of men's tennis.



Wimbledon

All that talk amounted to little as the Big Three maintained their vice-like grip on the slams, having won 65 majors between them dating back to Federer's first Wimbledon triumph in 2003.

While Federer retired last year, Djokovic and Nadal had won eight of the last 10 slams before Sunday's Wimbledon finale.

Against that backdrop, Alcaraz managed to prove that he was the real deal when he won his first major at last year's U.S. Open and then ascended to the top of the ATP rankings.

But as he did not have to face either Djokovic or Nadal during that run, question marks remained about how he would go up against the all-time greats in a best-of-five-set showdown.

If the French Open clash with Djokovic raised some doubts about his mental fortitude, the world number one proved on Sunday that he is a very quick learner.

"I am a totally different player than at the French Open. I grew up a lot since that moment. I learned a lot from that moment," said Alcaraz, who became the youngest Wimbledon champion since 18-year-old Boris Becker won the title in 1986.

While Alcaraz celebrated becoming the first man other than Federer, Djokovic, Nadal and Andy Murray to win Wimbledon since 2002, the triumph took on extra significance as he did it by beating the player who has won a record number of men's slams.

"Beating Novak, winning the Wimbledon championship is something that I dreamed about since I started playing tennis. That's why this is the biggest moment of my life," he said.

"Before this match, I thought that I wasn't ready to beat Djokovic in five sets, an epic match like this. To stay good physically or good mentally for about five hours against a legend ... I learned (a lot) about myself today.

"Being a Wimbledon champion, something that I really wanted. Honestly, I didn't expect to get it so soon. It's the happiest moment of my life."

Reporting by Pritha Sarkar,
editing by Ken Ferris





MOTSHIDISI MOHONO

SUPERSPORT RUGBY COMMENTATOR



Who is Motshidisi Mohono? She is a South African TV and radio personality who worked for Massiv Metro and Metro FM as a sports reporter. The famous sportswoman has gained recognition as a specialised officer for the Johannesburg Basketball Association (JBA). What is Motshidisi Mohono's date of birth? This article digs deeper into her personal and career life.

Radio and TV personalities play a crucial role in society, and they are highly celebrated for the excellent work they do. One such celebrity is Motshidisi Mohono, also known as the first lady of rugby. This award-winning sports anchor has made a name for herself on SuperSport as a presenter.

Motshidisi Mohono is the first lady of rugby as she has made a name for herself on SuperSport as a presenter. However, her journey was a long one with many challenges. The award-winning sports presenter took to her Twitter account to share about her dreams coming true. "I went for my Lady Rugga audition here in 2011. 7 years later, I got to be part of the SS team as Field Presenter, in one of the most historic matches of our time!

"My 1st Test match pitch side. The 1st of many. Oh, Ellis Park, I thank you #SportsAnchor #WomenInRugby", she captioned the post. Mohono's fans commented on her post, congratulating her on her success in the sport industry, which is still seen predominantly as a male sector. "And you nailed it! Congrats girl! Big things" one tweep wrote while another added, "Mooi man".

Mohono's first job was a waitress at Dros in Alberton during her matric year. Needless to say, she has come a long way since her days as a waitress.

Aug 6 (Reuters) - Argentina battled at the breakdown in their 23-14 Rugby World Cup warm-up loss to South Africa in Buenos Aires on Saturday as coach Michael Cheika described the defeat as a "step back" in their preparations for the tournament in France.

Cheika's side led 10-3 at halftime against a much-changed Springbok team packed with fringe players seeking to confirm a place in South Africa's World Cup squad that will be announced on Tuesday.

But Argentina wilted in the second period as the visitors stepped up their power game, to which the hosts had no answer.

"It was a disappointment," Cheika told reporters. "There was a lack of intensity on our part. In the first half we were in good positions in defence, not dominant, but in a good positions.

"More intensity at the ruck and in the tackle was what was missing. It was our worst performance at the ruck this year. We were not at the right level.

Cheika hopes the performance will be a wake-up call to his side, who start their World Cup campaign with a crunch pool clash against England in Marseille on Sept. 9.

"Even if we had won playing this way, I would not be happy," he said.

"Today was a step back. If we want to achieve excellence, we need to be able to overcome difficult situations, because in two games we will be at the World Cup.

"If we take one thing from this, it's that we can't be complacent. Since we played well last week (in a 22-21 loss to South Africa in Johannesburg), we were complacent. In rugby you don't win like that."

Argentina will not be in action for another three weeks until a warm-up clash against Spain in Madrid on Aug. 26.

Reporting by Nick Said; Editing by Simon Cameron-Moore



Rugby Union - Rugby Championship - South Africa v Argentina - Ellis Park Stadium, Johannesburg, South Africa - July 29, 2023
Argentina head coach Michael Cheika before the match REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko/File Photo



World Cup Rugby 2023

SA RUGBY

South Africa is being asked to dress in green and gold every Friday from this week to demonstrate its backing for the boys – starting with Saturday's Castle Lager Rugby Championship match against New Zealand in Auckland – and all the way to the defence of the Rugby World Cup title in France in September and October.

"We want to turn the country green and gold every Friday between now and the conclusion of the Rugby World Cup," said Mr Mark Alexander, President of SA Rugby.

"The team draws on the nation's energy and the best way we can demonstrate that support to the team is by wearing our Springbok colours every Friday.

"I am sure we're all eager to see the team succeed and offer them every support. As we can't join them on the field, let's power a nationwide movement by wearing green and gold on Friday, whether at work, at home or at play. I hope you will wear your colours with pride."

The national #BokFriday campaign invites individuals, celebrities, the media, schools, businesses, and communities across the country to embrace the power of unity and sport. Donning green and gold on Fridays serves as a symbol of support, inspiring the Springboks on their journey. It's a call to action, urging South Africans to rally together behind their national team and generate a wave of positive energy throughout the nation.

SA Rugby's Director of Rugby, Rassie Erasmus, said: "It'd be lekker to see the country come together, wearing green and gold with pride every Friday, and to show the players and the world how united we are as a nation. We'd love it if everyone could join the #BokFriday movement. We believe in bringing hope to the country and it'd be great if the country could give us extra inspiration and motivation. Please, just wear it!

Mr Alexander said: "We come from different backgrounds and have different challenges, but we have more things in common that unites us as a nation. Sport has that power to unite us as a nation like nothing else can because we are stronger when we are together. So, let's spread the message far and wide, we encourage everyone to share their #BokFriday photos on social media using the official hashtag. By doing so, participants can inspire others, generate conversations, and demonstrate the unwavering support that exists for the Springboks within the hearts of the South African people."



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In a time when the nation seeks good news and moments of unity, the #BokFriday campaign can power the Springboks attempts to deliver a beacon of hope. It allows South Africans to express their unwavering support for the Springboks while fostering a sense of camaraderie and optimism that will resonate far beyond the rugby field.

For more information and updates on the #BokFriday campaign, please visit www.springboks.rugby.

About #BokFriday:

The #BokFriday campaign is a nationwide initiative aimed at rallying support for the South African Springboks in their quest to defend their title at the Rugby World Cup. It encourages all South Africans to wear the Springbok colours, green and gold, every Friday as a visible sign of solidarity and to foster a sense of unity and optimism. The campaign aims to harness the power of sport to uplift spirits and create a wave of positive energy across the nation. Just wear it!

<https://youtu.be/pl9pNI6duk0>





They will then make their way to France for the international extravaganza where they face Scotland in Marseille (Sunday, 10 September), Romania in Bordeaux (Sunday, 17 September), Ireland in Paris (Saturday, 23 September) and Tonga in Marseille (Sunday, 1 October) during the pool stages.

South Africa head coach Jacques Nienaber added: “The last four years have passed by at a rapid pace and it is almost surreal that we are 100 days out from Rugby World Cup 2023 in France. Given the meticulous planning by the organisers and the fantastic stadiums and facilities in the host cities, we believe it will be a memorable Rugby World Cup for the participating teams and fans attending the event. The competition among the top sides in the world is intense, and we know that we need to be at our best in each match to be in contention to defend the title.”

SPRINGBOKS 2023 TEST FIXTURES

World Cup warm-ups

- ➔ 5 August: South Africa vs Argentina (Vélez Stadium, Buenos Aires)
- ➔ 19 August: South Africa vs Wales (Millennium Stadium, Cardiff)
- ➔ 25 August: Springboks vs New Zealand (Twickenham Stadium, London)

Rugby World Cup

- ➔ 10 September: South Africa vs Scotland (Stade Vélodrome, Marseille)
- ➔ 17 September: Springboks vs Romania (Stade de Bordeaux, Bordeaux)
- ➔ 23 September: South Africa vs Ireland (Stade de France, Saint-Denis, Paris)
- ➔ 1 October: Springboks vs Tonga (Stade Vélodrome, Marseille)

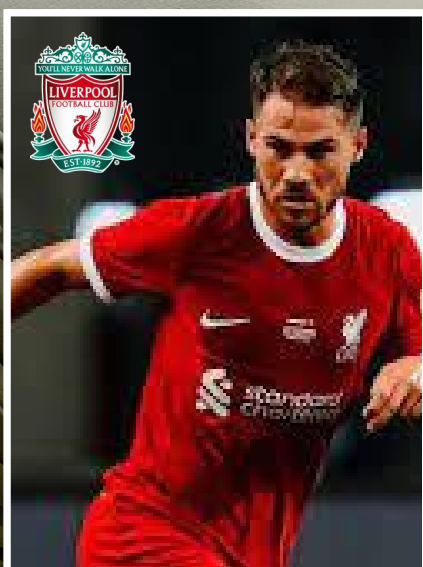
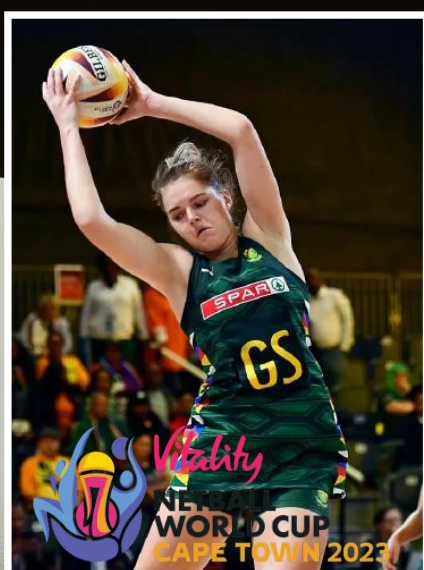


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