Issue 7 / November 2023

CHAMPIONS

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MAGAZINE



SPRINGBOKS WIN THE RWC2023 WCC CRICKET 2023 * GRAND PRIX EPL * BETWAY SA 20 * AFCON

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HAMPIONS MAGAZINE



RUGBY WORLD CUP IN MEMORY

The victory means South Africa are now outright the most successful team in **Rugby World Cup** history, with four tournament wins. South Africa have made it back-to-back Tottenham Hotspurs, **Rugby World Cup** wins with a victory over New Zealand.

Former England and Manchester United soccer player Sir Bobby Charlton, dies at age?

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SA's explosive T20 cricket league: Season 2 kicks off on Wednesday, 10 January 2024. All the teams all the action!







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Did you send us your fan pics from any of the cricket or rugby world cups? Then you have made it to our gallery!

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FIRST WORD FROM ROBIN BALL

What an exciting time to be a South African sports fan : It was an amazing 11-12 victory over New Zealand at Stade France, Paris, as the Springboks superb defence held strong. As the All Blacks attacked from deep to challenge our tryline. To be absolutely sure: New Zealand, suffered a bunker buffered red card for All Blacks Captain: Sam Cane, they were reliant on the leadership of "stand in" captain Julian Savea, with their usual ill discipline, that cost them regularly. A few failed kicks in the 2nd half by Beaudon Barratt who missed from just inside our half. Richie Mo'unga, missed the conversion out wide to the right. They missed the opportunity to cut our 1 point lead. Once the Boks had the lead, albeit by 1 point only; we could definitely hold out with our own defensive system. Pieter - Stef du Toit, with his 28 tackles was simply awesome: Man of the Match for sure. We also suffered from 2 x Yellow cards by Siya Kolisi and Cheslin Kolbe along the way to the Win: Achieving the record RWC 2023 4th Title: Webb Ellis Trophy held aloft by Siya Kolisi to accept the SA fans aplomb and share the joy with all South Africans, both at home and abroad. Well done guys; one hell of a truly superb Boks Team performances, as they achieved 3 x Consecutive 1 point wins: 29-28 over France in QF4; then a 16-15 win by 1 point over much improved England who lead 15-6 after some 70mins: then the Boks came back in the last 10 mins (Handré says they had been saving themselves for the more challenging Final vs New Zealand in the final Saturday 28 October 2023. I am already dreaming of a 5th Title victory in Australia 2027, as it's just been announced that Rassie will be renewing his next 4 year RWC cycle. See you in the Grandstands in support of SA Sports worldwide. Best, Robin.



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So good to be 'Strongly Together 'Springbok fans again



Visit our Fan Page See if your "e"pic photo/video was selected. Click here!



















BRIAN O'DRISCOLL RANKS THE WORLD CHAMPION SPRINGBOKS AGAINST THE 2015 ALL BLACKS SIDE



Ireland legend Brian O'Driscoll has discussed where world champions South Africa stand in terms of the best teams in the sport's history.

On Saturday, the Springboks became just the second side – after New Zealand in 2015 – to retain the Webb Ellis Cup.

That has naturally drawn comparisons with the great All Blacks outfit who won the title in both 2011 and '15.

'Never believe what Gatland says!' | Jones rules himself out of Lions role

However, O'Driscoll believes that in terms of pure quality, the New Zealanders easily take it thanks to the all-round ability of the team.

Importance of style

"For me, the best team has to play the best rugby and if you're talking about that in my lifetime, the 2015 New Zealand World Cup-winning team (is the best)," he told the Off The Ball podcast.

"It would be a stretch to say they would wipe the floor with them (the 2023 Boks) but, from a rugby point of view and from an enjoyment point of view, it's comfortably them."

"I don't care what they (South African fans) say, they're going to be partisan and they're going to want their own to be the best, I'm just saying in the scheme of 'what's the best team?"



"New Zealand won back-to-back as well - 2011 and 2015. The Springboks might have had to have beaten the top six teams en route to the title, which is an incredible feat, but I want to be able to look back and remember where there was great rugby, which really was played with an energy and an ability to link forwards and backs.

"I thought that All Black team in 2015 really was very, very special."

There are a number of current Springboks who will go down as legends of the game, especially skipper Siya Kolisi.

Like Richie McCaw, he has been captain of two World Cup-winning sides and is revered for his actions both on and off the field.

Fewer genuine greats

However, O'Driscoll doesn't feel that the 2023 Boks quite have the depth of talent of that 2015 All Blacks squad.

"McCaw, (Jerome) Kaino, (Kieran) Read, (Sam) Whitelock, (Brodie) Retallick in their pomp, and then a back three of Ben Smith, (Nehe) Milner-Skudder and (Julian) Savea; that was a proper, proper team of great rugby intellect and knowledge.





11 CRITICAL STATS FROM THE SPRINGBOKS' RECORD FOURTH RUGBY WORLD CUP TITLE

Dylan Coetzee

As if it was written in the stars, the Springboks managed to create their own history by downing New Zealand in the final to claim their fourth Rugby World Cup title.

It was a brutal campaign for the champions, who faced all five other teams in the top six of the world rankings en route to the title, but where exactly was the World Cup won?

Defence wins trophies

974 - The Springboks took to the lead in the tackle category very nearly reaching the 1,00 mark. Commitment and resilience on defence are core attributes of this world-class side, proving the age-old tale 'that defence wins trophies.'

28 - Pieter-Steph du Toit, or the 'Malmesbury missile' as his coach described him, broke a record for most tackles in a World Cup knockout match with an impressive 28. Every Springbok starting forward (except the injured Bongi Mbonambi) reached double digits for their tackle counts in the final. The team total was 209 - a record for any team in a final.

49 - The total number of tackles the tireless unsung hero Franco Mostert made during the knockout stages - a period in which he did not miss any.

10 – Ultimate super sub-Kwagga Smith topped the turnover charts for the competition despite starting just one match throughout the tournament. He turned over or disrupted 41% of defensive rucks hit throughout the 2023 edition.

8.5 - The Springboks were quite well disciplined, and despite not being the best in this regard during the global showpiece, they managed to only concede 8.5 penalties per game.



Points matter

13/13 - Handre 'Iceman'
Pollard was brought in as
Malcolm Marx's
replacement mainly for his
pinpoint boot from the
kicking tee, and he certainly
produced. The fly-half
kicked at 100% from his 13
attempts, which included
two late winners against
France and England, while
he kicked all the points in
the final. Pollard is now the
highest points scorer in
Rugby World Cup finals
history.

1 - Springboks fans will be quick to mention how much their hearts have been tested during the 2023 tournament, with all three knockout matches won by a single point. This is the first time the winning team has claimed the title with such narrow victories.

Experience and leadership

12 - Siya Kolisi, who is now one of two captains in history to life the World Cup twice, surpassed John Smit as the Springboks' mostcapped skipper at the global tournament.

987 - The number of caps in the South African matchday 23 for the final. Interestingly, this is the most experienced matchday 23 the Springboks have ever fielded.

14 - More than half of the 23 selected for the 2023 final were part of the matchday squad that claimed the title four years ago in Japan.

100% - South Africa boasts the best record on the biggest stage, having never lost a final in their four appearances in rugby's biggest game.





There's little doubt as to what dominated the headlines in the Rugby World Cup Final, but Argentina produced a memorable moment outside those as well...

The Cane/Kolisi comparison So, one red card, one not. Clear differences?

To be fair, most have accepted these decisions as correct, but there is so much nuance here that it is worth reviewing simply to understand better just how difficult this must be for players.

Sam Cane, having rushed up in defence, is retreating again when Jesse Kriel receives the ball and steps to his right, starting a run towards the retreating Cane. It is a moment of chaos. Kriel has just picked up a poor pass which went to ground, after New Zealand had botched a line-out. Defenders are all around him on all sides, the attack is not in formation. Kriel steps and goes, looking for any form of space.

Cane reacts as only a good player should, he braces for a tackle, which he makes, clearly standing a little high but just as clearly wrapping his arms. In real time it looks a little upright, but it happens so fast, while neither player seems particularly dominant in the collision; Cane is perhaps rocked back slightly. Kriel does not stay down. He gets up almost instantly, takes his place in the defensive line, chases a kick, chases the kick back.

When the game is next stopped, Kriel does get a little magic sponge treatment, although the physio is looking more at his jaw than asking him to count fingers. It all seems innocuous.

The TMO flags it however. And in slow motion, it's easy to see why. Cane is not stooped or bent at the waist, while the first point of contact between the two is between Cane's shoulder and Kriel's head.

The process of analysis is here, for reference.

Going through the process:

- 1 Unquestionably there is head contact
- 2 Foul play? We'll come to this.
- 3 Degree of danger was pretty high. A shoulder to the jaw with force is never a good thing.
- 4 Mitigation? Also worth looking at.

So, foul play. Law 9.13 states that "A player must not tackle an opponent... dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders.

Certainly under this definition, Cane has committed foul play. And, under the process questions on page three, it would be said to have been avoidable, as Cane stayed upright. Unfortunately for him, he did move towards the contact, positioning himself to take it, shoulder forward.

Finally, to mitigation. It's worth pointing out that if you freeze-frame the pair at the point of contact, neither are upright. Kriel's body is on about a 30-degree angle from the vertical, enough of a stoop that his shin is almost parallel to the ground, while he is moving forward headfirst. Cane is also away from the upright, a few degrees less. The position of Kriel makes head contact almost unavoidable unless Cane manages to bend over almost double. Moreover, the force of the contact lifts Cane from the ground, reflecting both that the hit was not dominant and that Kriel simply had a better body position for the contact.

Mitigation is a close call, but we do think it is there. Most pertinently, in the context of what was happening in the game in those seconds: all disorganised, all reactive, all open, it's remarkably tough to impose upon players the same sort of expectations for tackles that you could in a regulation phase of possession.





And what does count as a sudden drop in height? Some napkin maths: if Kriel, at 1m86 vertical, is on a 30-degree angle he is now 1m60 tall. Take off another 30cm for his head and neck and the contact point permissible is below 1m30. You're asking Cane, all 1m89 of him, to assess among the chaos that he needs to get 60cm down in tenths of a second. It's a heck of an ask, not least considering also that if he does manage this, his head and neck are likely to be met by the full force of the onward-rushing Kriel's forearms.

So we do think mitigation was there. But it's close, and requires significantly more empathy than the box-tickers making these rules currently allow.



As for Siya Kolisi, he was treading a very fine line.

New Zealand once again overthrow a line-out, although this one is more intentional. Ardie Savea catches the ball and is wrapped up by Duane Vermeulen. Kolisi, spying an opportunity for a good hit, stoops and thunders into Savea, knocking him backwards with enough force that the All Black captain bounces out of the contact. Savea is treated for a bit of claret from the nose. Moments later, the TMO is on the phone...

Same process:

- 1 Head contact: yes
- 2 Foul play: Again, we'll look at this
- 3 Degree of danger: it was a heavy impact. High
- 4 Mitigation: Again, worth a deeper dive.

Back to Law 9, but this time Law 9.16, which says "A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player."

Does Kolisi grasp? The arm that makes contact is tucked in classic shoulder charge position. The other arm does wrap itself towards Savea, however. So which arm do you acknowledge here? It is the tucked arm which dictates the contact and the force thereof, and tucked arms have long since been used of an indicator as to how much a player is grasping, or wrapping, in a tackle, as opposed to charging. It's close, but yes, this tucked arm is indicative of a charge, and thus an illegal tackle.

Mitigation? It's there. The contact is not direct to the head, but is rather caused by the head snapping forward as the body is moved forcefully back. Kolisi is also bent close to double; it's unreasonable for him to be much lower. Finally, Savea is not master of his own body movements, he is being dragged lower by Duane Vermeulen, something which Kolisi, at speed, is unlikely to have taken into account.

But he's a lucky boy. The tackle was delivered at full dominant force. All it needed was Savea to be centimetres further towards Kolisi, or centimetres lower and we'd have been talking a fearsome head contact. The tackle was not outside the boundaries of reckless, nor fully legal. In many ways, it was worse than Cane's. A yellow card was the correct decision as the head contact was incidental, but boy, was it close.

But the overall feeling is that Cane ended up extremely unlucky, consigned now to history as the first player to be red-carded in a World Cup Final mostly because of the misfortune of body positions and contact points, despite making a tackle less malign than his counterpart's. Such are the margins, and such are the vagaries of head contact assessments.

A process is there, but it is dreadfully lacking in empathy for players playing a physical game at a speed which we on the sidelines can only marvel at. As Ian Foster said in the wake of it all: "The game has got a few issues it needs to sort out." This is very obviously one of them.

Safety at line-outs

You all probably, as I did, marvelled at the line-out steal and athletic prowess of Juan Martin Gonzalez and his two lifters/chuckers, who heaved the former more than 2m into the air to pluck out an English throw.

Great stuff. Unfortunately probably illegal. It's a little-known law, but Law 18.29.c states that players may "lift or support a teammate (in a line-out). Players who do so must lower that player to the ground safely as soon as the ball is won by either team."

The question is whether Gonzalez is indeed safe. He does stay well upright, which helps. But all it needs is one slightly out-of-kilter knee or ankle and he's done for a year. High-risk stuff, but safe? Safe is being brought down securely by your lifters, not left to freefall 2m!

Gonzalez would probably insist it was safe, as I myself once did when hoisted up and set free in mid-air in similar fashion many years ago, but the referee that day was merciless. Others have also been so since. And should this tactic start to proliferate, expect an eventual clampdown along these



The world champion
Springbok rugby team will
embark on a four-day Trophy
Tour to major regional
population centres from
Thursday, SA Rugby
announced on Sunday.

The team will attend the gala World Rugby Awards ceremony in Paris on Sunday night before leaving France for South Africa on Monday morning.

The Boks arrive back in South Africa on Tuesday (10h55) at OR Tambo International Airport and will commence the tour 48 hours later.

The tour will start in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Soweto concluding at FNB Stadium on Thursday, 2 November, and take in Cape Town (Friday, 3 November) and Durban (Saturday, 4 November) before concluding in the Eastern Cape (East London) on Sunday, 5 November.

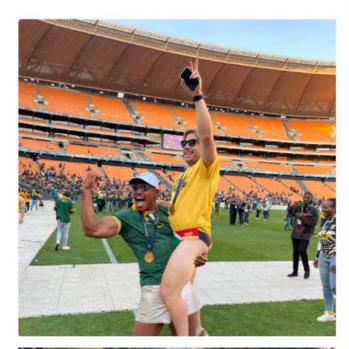
The locations have been selected for population size in the first three instances and because of the Eastern Cape's rugby significance in the fourth.

Satellite tours to Bloemfontein, Nelson Mandela Bay and other centres will be scheduled for 2024. Such tours following the 2019 victory had to be abandoned because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The route for each tour has been prepared in consultation with the respective local authorities and the South African Police Service.

Route maps and timings will be published on SA Rugby's website and social media channels, and by local authorities in due course.

SPRINGBOK TROPHY TOUR RSA









SPRINGBOKS ARRIVE TO HEROES' WELCOME IN SOUTH AFRICA AFTER RUGBY WORLD CUP TRIUMPH

AP sports reporters 17:00, Nov 01 2023



RWC winners arrive home to thousands of waiting fans

Rugby World Cup winners South Africa arrive home to thousands of waiting fans

The Springboks have returned to a heroes' welcome in South Africa after retaining their Rugby World Cup title with a narrow 12-11 win over the New Zealand All Blacks in the final in France last weekend.

Thousands of supporters braved the cold and wet weather to gather at O.R. Tambo International Airport to welcome the Springboks, the first national team to lift the World Cup four times.

The crowds went into a frenzy as captain Siya Kolisi entered the arrivals terminal hoisting the Webb Ellis trophy surrounded by the rest of his teammates.

Many of the fans wore their green and gold Springboks jerseys, waved South African flags and held up placards bearing congratulatory messages for the squad.

Supporters wearing Springbok jerseys or any South African colours were allowed to travel for free on the Gautrain train service to the airport, where traffic leading to the main terminals was jammed throughout the morning.

A police band performed the national anthem and other iconic South African songs to welcome the squad back into the country.

The Springboks arrived the day after South African President Cyril Ramaphosa officially declared a public holiday for December 15 to honor the team's victory.

"We declare this to be a day of hope, a day of celebration and unity," he said.



Fans reached out to congratulate South Africa's Canan Moodie at O.R. Tambo International Airport.

A four-day victory parade starting Thursday has been planned to celebrate the Boks' victory, with stops in the major cities of Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban, where supporters will get a glimpse of the Webb Ellis trophy.

Kolisi, who has become a cult figure of sorts after leading the team to back-to-back World Cup titles in Japan and France, was among the players who received the loudest cheers from the fans.

"This means a lot to the country because rugby always unites us even though the country is facing so many problems, it's a special moment for us," supporter Joseph Malherbe said.

Fans pack into O.R Tambo's international airport in Johannesburg to welcome the world champions home. South Africa missed the first two editions of the Rugby World Cup because of apartheid-era sanctions.

The Springboks hosted the 1995 Rugby World Cup and won it on home soil in a remarkable debut in the tournament, edging New Zealand in extra time in the final. Nelson Mandela, wearing a Springboks jersey, famously presented the trophy to South Africa captain Francois Pienaar.

The Springboks have now won it four times from eight appearances, an incredible 50% strike rate. New Zealand, with three titles, and Australia, with two, are the only other multiple winners of rugby's biggest prize.







It's the last dance as we record live from the World Rugby Awards in Paris after the World Cup final. We're joined on the podcast by Springbok and All Blacks legends, and what would have been an incredible centre partnership, Conrad Smith and Jean de Villiers. In the company of host Gethin Jones and Ugo Monye, the guys reflect on the elation and heartbreak from the Springbok and All-Black camps, and where the game was won and lost.

The guys are also joined by Siya Kolisi and Ardie Savea to get their immediate thoughts post the final and where to next for both teams, including a potential future presidential role for Siya!

We also pick our players of the tournament, coach of the tournament, and moment of the tournament, and pick a final few additions for the Kanpai XV.

Enjoy the final Official Rugby World Cup Podcast, presented by Asahi Super Dry.

CHAMPIONS PAN PAGE

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Rassie and Robin will be launching their RWC Corporate Support Team to travel to Australia 2027 early in the New Year of 2024: Why not join our SA Support Team ; **Guaranteed 4 Year** Build up Springbok match tickets both locally in SA and internationally as we pursue our historic 5th Title in Oct 2027!? **Certainly Enough Time** for all my friends & Clients to Financially prepare....

Stade Denis, Paris



ST LUCIA, RSA











International Rugby is at Rugby World Cup France 2023. Follow

9 h . 6

The Ireland v Scotland pool stage match on October 7th broke a record - with 137,000 pints of beer sold at Stade de France to the 78,459 spectators, easily beating the previous record of 90,000 pints, which was set during a Metallica concert at the stadium.

South Africa may have won the world cup, but Scotland and Ireland will never be beaten at the game of drink.









Record breakers: South Africa make more history at Cricket World Cup

DE KOCK CONTINUES SPLENDID RUN WITH ANOTHER TON | CWC23







SOUTH AFRICA TAKE CHARGE WITH BIG HITS | CWC23





South Africa end 24-year wait with thumping win over New Zealand



ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023



FIXTURES

5 OCTOBER - 19 NOVEMBER 2023

Thursday, 5 October **ENGLAND** Friday, 6 October PAKISTAN C BANGLADESH Saturday, 7 October Saturday, 7 October SOUTH AFRICA Sunday, 8 October INDIA Monday, 9 October **NEW ZEALAND** Tueday, 10 October ENGLAND Wednesday, 11 October INDIA Thursday, 12 October PAKISTAN Friday, 13 October **AUSTRALIA** Saturday, 14 October ENGLAND Saturday, 14 October **NEW ZEALAND** Sunday, 15 October INDIA Monday, 16 October AUSTRALIA Tueday, 17 October SOUTH AFRICA Wednesday, 18 October **NEW ZEALAND** Thursday, 19 October INDIA Friday, 20 October **AUSTRALIA ENGLAND** Saturday, 21 October Saturday, 21 October QUALIFIER 1 Sunday, 22 October INDIA Monday, 23 October PAKISTAN SOUTH AFRICA Tueday, 24 October Wednesday, 25 October **AUSTRALIA** Thursday, 26 October **ENGLAND** Friday, 27 October PAKISTAN Saturday, 28 October QUALIFIER 1 Saturday, 28 October AUSTRALIA Sunday, 29 October INDIA Monday, 30 October **AFGHANISTAN** Tueday, 31 October PAKISTAN **NEW ZEALAND** Wednesday, 1 November Thursday, 2 November Friday, 3 November QUALIFIER 1 Saturday, 4 November **ENGLAND** Saturday, 4 November **NEW ZEALAND** Sunday, 5 November INDIA Monday, 6 November BANGLADESH Tueday, 7 November **AUSTRALIA** Wednesday, 8 November **ENGLAND** Thursday, 9 November **NEW ZEALAND** SOUTH AFRICA Friday, 10 November Saturday, 11 November INDIA

NEW ZEALAND QUALIFIER 1 **AFGHANISTAN** QUALIFIER 2 AUSTRALIA QUALIFIER 1 BANGLADESH **AFGHANISTAN** QUALIFIER 2 SOUTH AFRICA **AFGHANISTAN** BANGLADESH PAKISTAN QUALIFIER 2 QUALIFIER 1 **AFGHANISTAN** BANGLADESH PAKISTAN SOUTH AFRICA QUALIFIER 2 **NEW ZEALAND AFGHANISTAN** BANGLADESH QUALIFIER 1 QUALIFIER 2 SOUTH AFRICA BANGLADESH **NEW ZEALAND** ENGLAND QUALIFIER 2 BANGLADESH SOUTH AFRICA QUALIFIER 2 **AFGHANISTAN AUSTRALIA** PAKISTAN SOUTH AFRICA QUALIFIER 2 **AFGHANISTAN** QUALIFIER 1 QUALIFIER 2

AFGHANISTAN

QUALIFIER 1

BANGLADESH

PAKISTAN

Dharamsala Delhi Chennai Hyderabad Dharamsala Delhi Hyderabad Lucknow Delhi Chennal Ahmedabad Lucknow Dharamsala Chennai Pune Bengaluru Mumbai Lucknow Dharamsala Chennai Mumbai Delhi Bengaluru Chennal Kolkata Dharamsala Lucknow Pun Lucknow Ahmedabad Bengaluru Kolkata Delhi

Ahmedabad

Hyderabad

Sunday, 12 November Wednesday, 15 November Thursday, 16 November

Sunday, 12 November

SEMI FINAL 1

ENGLAND

AUSTRALIA

Mumbai Kolkata

Mumbai

Bengaluru

Ahmedabad

Bengaluru

Kolkata

Pune

Pune

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Arampant South Africa continue to shatter records with their bighitting and huge totals, but the Proteas' attack has also set new benchmarks during an imperious run at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

South Africa have looked like the strongest challengers to hosts India so far with six victories from seven matches to all but lock in their spot in the semi-finals at the Cricket World Cup.

Much of this success has been powered by an explosive batting unit led by opener Quinton de Kock and a destructive middle-order that have combined for record-breaking totals, while pacer Marco Jansen has often ensured the opposition are on the ropes early in their chase.

Here are the latest jaw-dropping records that South Africa have smashed during their surge through the Cricket World Cup:

82: Team sixes in a Cricket World Cup

South Africa now hold the record for the most sixes clubbed by a team in one edition of a Men's Cricket World Cup, even with at least two - and as many as four matches still to play.

The Proteas smashed 15 sixes in their comprehensive victory over New Zealand to now have 82 at the tournament from seven matches.

South Africa have already passed the previous record of 76 that England hit in 11 matches on the way to their breakthrough Cricket World Cup title in 2019.

West Indies held the record before that with 68 team sixes in 2015, while the all-conquering Australia outfit struck 67 in 2007.

The five-time champions are on track to finish higher in this list during the current Cricket World Cup, after hitting 61 sixes in six matches so far and with at least three more to play.

RECORD BREAKERS: SOUTH AFRICA MAKE MORE HISTORY AT CRICKET WORLD CUP CWC23 THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER



All-rounder Marco Jansen made his mark early in the tournament with a quickfire 75* against England, but has done just as much damage with the ball while powering South Africa's fast starts.

The left-arm quick has claimed 12 scalps during the Powerplay to ensure South Africa take command early in the opposition innings, to have more than double the next best bowler.

Pace has proven to be the key weapon in the opening 10 overs with Sri Lanka's Dilshan Madushanka taking six wickets during the Powerplay, while Australia's Josh Hazlewood (five) is just ahead of India's Jasprit Bumrah, Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi and injured England quick Reece Topley (all four).

Jansen struck twice in the Powerplay against New Zealand and finished with 3/31, to now have the equal-most wickets at the Cricket World Cup with Australia spinner Adam Zampa and Afridi also on 16.

4: Individual hundreds in a Cricket World Cup De Kock started the tournament with back-to-back tons against Sri Lanka and Australia, and has since added two more including 114 against New Zealand in another dominant display.

The South Africa opener also has the highest individual score at this Cricket World Cup so far with 174 against Bangladesh.

De Kock's four centuries are now equal-second for the most hundreds scored in a single edition of the showpiece event, alongside Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakarra in 2015.

India opener and current captain Rohit Sharma holds the record with five hundreds in 2019, but the in-form de Kock will like his chances of at least reaching that mark with two - and possibly four - innings still to come.





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8: Team hundreds in a Cricket World Cup With de Kock and Rassie van der Dussen both compiling centuries against New Zealand, the Proteas have equalled the record for the most hundreds across a team at a Cricket World Cup.

The South Africa batting line-up will now have at least two more matches to claim the record on their own from the Sri Lanka outfit that hit the mark in 2015.

The run home: How each team can qualify for the World Cup semifinals

De Kock leads the way with four tons, while van der Dussen started the tournament with 108 in South Africa's opener against Sri Lanka to now have two centuries.

Aiden Markram clubbed the then-fastest hundred at a Cricket World Cup when reaching a century from 49 balls against Sri Lanka, while Heinrich Klaasen later punished England with a rapid 109.

2: Double-century partnerships at Cricket World Cups De Kock and van der Dussen combined for a 200-run stand against New Zealand that ensured South Africa took a stranglehold on the heavyweight clash.



SOUTH AFRICA HAND ENGLAND HEAVIEST WORLD CUP DEFEAT

It was the second double-century partnership between the pair at this tournament after they amassed 204 against Sri Lanka, to now have the equal-most 200-plus run stands.

Tillakaratne Dilshan and Upul Tharanga also combined for a pair of 200-plus run partnerships in 2011, while no other duo has hit the milestone more than once even across multiple Cricket World Cups.

545: Individual runs in a Cricket World Cup De Kock's hot streak has the South Africa opener breaking batting records for the most runs scored at a Cricket World Cup.

The in-form left-hander has the most runs after seven innings at a single edition of the tournament with 545.

All the records as they break at the Cricket World Cup 2023 De Kock's tally has also surpassed Jacques Kallis's mark of 485 in 2007 for the most runs scored by a South African batter at a Cricket World Cup.

With two matches left for South Africa in the group stage, and likely more in the knockout stage, de Kock can now eye India great Sachin Tendulkar's record for the most runs in a Cricket World Cup with 673 in 2003.

4: 350-plus team totals in a Cricket World Cup South Africa have become the first team to score four 350-plus scores in a single Cricket World Cup, after plundering runs against Sri Lanka, England, Bangladesh and New Zealand.

State of Play at the Cricket World Cup The Proteas have now pass the lofty mark nine times in all Cricket World Cups, the equal-most in the tournament's history along with Australia.



SuperStar Aiden Markram roars back with a record breaking 49 ball CWC century in a Delhi, India vs Sri Lanka on 07 Oct 2023 , after a thunderous 102 batting performance to celebrate the Proteas in superb win by more than 100 runs, as SA Proteas build confidence in their opening game of CWC 2023. Another 2 Proteas Century makers : Quentin de Kock and Rassie van der Dussen with another over 200 run 2nd wicket partnership set up the foundations of a record breaking 428 / 5 to set a mammoth target for Sri Lanka was set to chase in 50 overs. A top team effort in the bowling saw SA run out easy winners by some 126 runs to see them go second position on the CWC Round Robin table.... Read more in the October Edition of Champions Magazine available now on our bookshelf. Click here to enjoy past copies of the magazine filled with Rugby World Cup highlights as well as World Cup Cricket journey.



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SEMI-FINAL SPOT ALREADY SECURED, PROTEAS BLOWN AWAY IN CRICKET WORLD CUP CLASH AGAINST INDIA

The Eden Gardens furnace proved too hot for South Africa on a smouldering Sunday in Kolkata.

Hosts India rolled into the City of Joy and ensured 70 000 people inside the venerable venue and millions across the entire country were smiling at the end of the day after the 243-run demolition of the Proteas.

It could not have gone more to script for the team in blue from the moment Rohit Sharma won the toss and elected to bat. And it was "King" Virat Kohli that reigned supreme. The Gardens had come to celebrate Kohli's 35th birthday. Kohli duly delivered his 49th One-Day International century — to level up with his idol Sachin Tendulkar — to get the party started.

It was a masterclass on a surface that took plenty of turn and provided the foundation for India's 326/6, with Kolhi unbeaten on 101 off 121 balls (10x4).

There was a feeling that Kohli and Shreyas Iyer (77 off 87 balls) could have accelerated a bit more during their 134-run partnership, but the pair had identified that Keshav Maharaj, who clean bowled Shubman Gill with a beautifully flighted delivery that pitched outside leg stump and hit the top of off stump, was South Africa's one and only threat on a disappointing day with the ball for the Proteas.

To be fair, South Africa were equally pitiful with the bat too as Kohli's century was ultimately more than what the entire Proteas batting unit could collectively muster on the day.

And this from a team that has posted the three highest scores at this World Cup. But that of course is when they are offered first use of the surface and resemble green Hulks powering the ball into the stands. Batting second and they adopt the alter ego of Bruce Banner. Timid and meek and open to surrender as they duly did in crumbling to 83 all out — easily surpassing their previous record lowest score of 140 at World Cups.

South Africa simply have no formula of putting together a run chase. Unlike India who attacked the opening Powerplay, helped in large amounts by Lungi Ngidi's inconsistent lengths and Marco Jansen's radar going walkabout, South Africa simply seemed content to allow the likes of Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami to bowl at them with the new ball.

The early loss of the in-form Quinton de Kock, who chopped on against Siraj, did not help the cause but someone needed to launch a counterattack.

Nobody ultimately seized the moment, which allowed left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja to tighten the pressure valve even further.



Jadeja (5/33) is a past master at darting the ball into the pitch for the surface to do the rest, which led to captain Temba Bavuma's downfall. It is not the first time during this World Cup that the South African skipper was caught on his crease playing down the wrong line by a left-arm spinner, and with the playoffs fast approaching Bavuma's lack of runs is becoming increasingly more of a concern for the Proteas. From hereon Jadeja was the puppet master as he had the ball on a string and ran through South Africa's middle-order to complete his maiden five-wicket haul at a World Cup.

Shami (2/18) was also relentless from the other end, showing the South Africans seamers the fuller length required in Indian conditions, before leg-spinner Kuldeep Yadav (2/7) wrapped up the Proteas tail to bring the contest to a rapid close.

The only positive on a garish day for the Proteas is that the result is inconsequential as both teams have already qualified for the semifinals and that they can only hope that a youngster such as Jansen (1/94) can take learnings from having experienced an occasion such as playing the hosts in such an intoxicating atmosphere and hopefully returns in better shape when everything is on the line in just under a fortnight's time.

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October 2023 Nominees

Player of the Month











October 2023 Nominees

Manager of the Month









Alex Keble on the contenders in a season where the top four have more points than ever before Related Articles

Are Spurs genuine title contenders? Premier League weekend review: What we learned

This week in the Premier League Never in Premier League history have the top four had so many points after 10 rounds of matches, making 2023/24 statistically the most high-quality title race to date.

Tottenham Hotspur lead the way with 26 points but there are seemingly three other clubs - Manchester City, Arsenal and Liverpool - all in the hunt, with Jurgen Klopp's side only three points off the pace in fourth.

The title race

The title race				
Position	Club	Played	60	Point
1 .	* Spurs	10	+13	26
2 -	Arsenal	10	+15	24
3 -	Man City	10	+15	24
4 •	B Liverpool	10	+14	23

But that does not mean the fabled four-horse race - never before seen in England - is in the offing.

We are just over a quarter of the way through the season. There are still 84 points up for grabs for each side - and seven months for positions and narratives to shift. One of the four could yet fall away.

Alex Keble looks at each of the current top four's reasons to be cheerful and reasons to be fearful.



Download full fixture list here



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Jarell Quansah voted Liverpool's Player of the Match v Bournemouth

By Chris Shaw

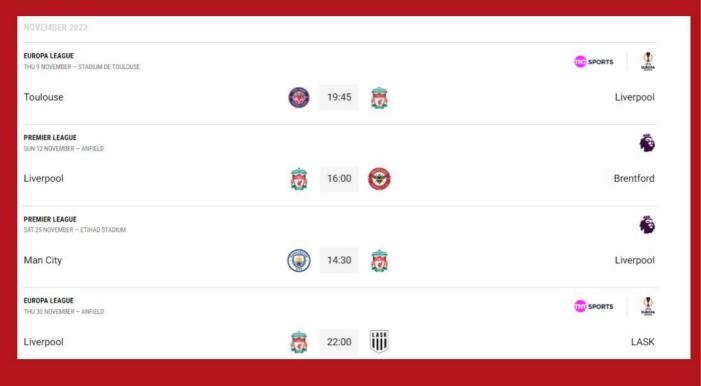
Jarell Quansah was voted Liverpool's Player of the Match in Wednesday night's 2-1 win at AFC Bournemouth in the Carabao Cup.

The centre-back, making his fourth senior start, produced an impressive performance in defence to help the Reds advance to the quarter-finals. And in our Match Centre poll after the game, Quansah claimed the most votes for Player of the Match ahead of Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah.

Liverpool will host West Ham United in the Carabao Cup quarterfinals.

The Reds moved through to the competition's last eight with a 2-1 win over AFC Bournemouth away from home on Wednesday night. And the subsequent draw for the next stage paired Jürgen Klopp's men with their fellow Premier League side at Anfield. Quarter-final ties are scheduled to be played in the week beginning December 18.







Pochettino: Let's show belief and give Jackson time



Mauricio Pochettino says now is the time to support Nicolas Jackson after the striker received criticism for his performance against Brentford on Saturday.





The striker is currently playing with a cast after undergoing surgery for a broken bone in his wrist, which he sustained shortly before the recent international break. Despite that injury, Jackson has featured in Chelsea's last two games. He started against Brentford on Saturday and, midway through the first half, came over to the touchline to speak with Pochettino. During that conversation, a shout from a support in the stands elicited a reaction from the Senegalese star. And after our defeat, on Match of the Day, Alan Shearer criticised Jackson's off-the-ball movement.

Mauricio Pochettino faces the media ahead of Chelsea's Carabao Cup match against Blackburn Rovers at Stamford Bridge...

It has prompted Pochettino to defend his striker. 'We need to be sensitive when a player is suffering for different reasons,' said the Chelsea head coach. 'He had surgery a few weeks ago. He is playing in a situation that is not comfortable to train or play. He broke his wrist, but he made the effort and showed his commitment to the club. He's at Chelsea, he's 21 years old, he wants to score and perform and help the team to win. 'The fans can criticise us. Of course. They are frustrated. At the same time, we need to analyse the situation. Jackson is young. He arrived this season. There have been circumstances that didn't help him perform at his best. What can we do? Throw him into the bin? Say he's useless?



Ian Wright awarded Freedom of the City of London





Club legend Ian Wright OBE has received the Freedom of the City of London at Guildhall today, recognised for his services to sport and the city.

Wright was nominated for the prestigious honour by the City of London Corporation's Policy Chairman, Chris Hayward, and its Deputy Policy Chairman, Keith Bottomley.

From balancing Sunday league football with work as a plasterer, Wright joined us from Crystal Palace in 1991 for £2.5 million - a club record fee at the time - and went on to a legendary career in the red and white.

Across his seven years in north London, Wright scored 185 goals and remained our leading goalscorer until Thierry Henry broke the record in 2005.

Since retiring from football in 2000, Wright has firmly established himself as one of the most respected and knowledgeable football pundits in the UK.

A passionate advocate of women's football, he also champions equal access for girls in schools, supported the government review of women's football, led by former Gunner Karen Carney. During the UEFA Women's Euro 2022, he delivered a powerful speech for "girls to be allowed to play football, just like boys", making sure that there was a legacy to the top-level tournament.

Earlier this year, he was also awarded an OBE for his services to football and charity work.

"I only ever wanted to be a professional footballer," said Wright. "Being recognised for anything else is really strange, even now, 23 years after I retired.

"I'm humbled to be getting the Freedom of the City of London award. London is a city I love and one that I'm proud to represent.

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"Thank you to all the people who have believed in me along the way. My family, my team, Steve Coppell, Mr Dein, George Graham, Arsene Wenger, Glenn Hoddle, David Rocastle, and of course, Mr Pigden. I hope that I can pass on some of their wisdom to all the young people I meet and work with."

City of London Corporation Policy Chairman, Chris Hayward, said: "lan is a legend of the game, and it gives us great pleasure to recognise his unique sporting achievements with this special award.

"He continues to be admired and respected well beyond his old stomping ground around Arsenal and has made a huge contribution to football and the capital."

City of London Corporation Deputy Policy Chairman, Keith Bottomley said: "We are delighted that lan has been awarded the Freedom of the City - it is richly deserved and recognises his outstanding contributions to sport and London. He is an inspiration to millions and an exceptional role model for young people."



Getty Images



Team news - Jorginho captains in the cup

Mikel makes six changes to the side that beat Sheffield United at the weekend, including Jorginho who takes the responsibility of captain tonight.

Aaron Ramsdale who also featured in the third round against Brentford starts in goal tonight, with Gabriel returning to the starting eleven at the back.

Leandro Trossard, Fabio Vieira and Reiss Nelson are among the other changes made to the team to face West Ham at London Stadium.

Ramsdale, White, Kiwior, Gabriel, Zinchenko, Jorginho, Havertz, Vieira, Nelson, Trossard, Nketiah. Subs Hein, Cedric, Tomiyasu, Saliba, Rice, Elneny, Saka, Odegaard, Martinelli.



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Erik ten Hag declared himself a 'fighter' in the aftermath of our Carabao Cup exit to Newcastle United.

The Dutchman led the Reds to a Carabao Cup crown last season, but saw our defence of the trophy come to an end at Old Trafford with a 3-0 reverse to Eddie Howe's side.

Having suffered five defeats from our opening 10 matches of the season on home soil, Ten Hag was asked whether he has any doubts over his own confidence in turning the Reds' fortunes around.

"I'm a fighter, and I know it's not always going up," Ten Hag stressed, addressing the media in his post-match press conference.

"We have [had] a lot of setbacks this season so far, but also then you have to deal with it, and that is never an excuse.

"When there are setbacks, when the routines in the way of play are not similar, not the same, but even then you have to get the results in. Obviously, Sunday [and] tonight, [were] far from [our standards].

"We have to do things right and at a certain level, at a minimum level, to win games."

The manager understands that questions will be asked of him amid our challenging run, but remains determined to overcome this difficult patch.

Sir Bobby Charlton died after tragic accident as Man Utd icon's cause of death confirmed

By Tom BlowSports Writer - Mirror





English football entered a period of mourning following the death of Manchester United legend Sir Bobby Charlton - who won the World Cup and Ballon d'Or in 1966 - last month

Sir Bobby Charlton tragically passed away following an accidental fall at a care home.

The Manchester United legend died aged 86 last month following a battle with dementia. He is regarded as one of English football's greatest ever players after winning the World Cup, European Cup, Ballon d'Or and three league titles, among other honours.

An inquest was held on Wednesday to distinguish Charlton's cause of death. The England hero suffered an accidental fall at the Willows care home in Knutsford and was declared dead at Macclesfield General Hospital on Saturday, October 21 - the court heard.

The inquest heard that Charlton lost his balance as he stood up from his chair and hit a windowsill. He may have also struck a radiator during the fall. Staff at the Willows performed a full body check after the fall and didn't find any visible injuries.

Sir Alex Ferguson makes touching, personal tribute to Sir Bobby Charlton following his death

According to the inquest, Charlton was taken to hospital after staff noticed swelling on his back. Tests confirmed that he had fractured his ribs in the fall and was put on end-of-life care amid fears of developing pneumonia. He sadly passed away five days later.

Charlton's full cause of death was given as trauma in the lungs (traumatic haemopneumothorax), a fall and dementia. Senior coroner Jacqueline Devonish ruled his death as accidental. The inquest took place at Cheshire's Coroner Court in Warrington.



Charlton and his brother Jack, who passed away in 2020, won the World Cup together in 1966 (Image: Getty Images)



Charlton had previously been hospitalised for appendix removal, gout and chest infections. He also contracted Covid in September. He had one-to-one support from staff at his care home because he 'needed support with all aspects of daily living', the court heard.

According to the inquest, Charlton's bed was located close as close to the ground as possible, with crash mats and motion sensors around it. This precautionary measure was taken because of his restlessness, which left him vulnerable to rolling out of bed.

News of Charlton's passing was made public on October 21. He was survived by his wife, Lady Norma. "It is with great sadness that we share the news that Sir Bobby passed peacefully in the early hours of Saturday morning," read a statement from Charlton's family.

"He was surrounded by his family. His family would like to pass on their thanks to everyone who has contributed to his care and for the many people who have loved and supported him. We would request that the family's privacy be respected at this time."

A celebration of Charlton's life and career will take place at Manchester Cathedral on Monday, November 13. Thousands of fans are expected to line the streets to pay tribute to the late hero, with a private ceremony taking place inside the cathedral.

United also issued a statement after Charlton's death. It read: "Manchester United is in mourning following the passing of Sir Bobby Charlton, one of the greatest and most beloved players in the history of our club. Sir Bobby was a hero to millions, not just in Manchester, or the United Kingdom, but wherever football is played around the world



David Beckham pays emotional tribute to Sir Bobby Charlton in starring Ballon d'Or role





England Premier League Soccer



CITY WIN MEN'S CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD AT 2023 BALLON D'OR

City claimed the Club of the Year award at the Ballon d'Or ceremony in 2022 and this latest prestigious prize comes in the wake of what proved an historic and recordbreaking 2022/23 campaign that saw Pep Guardiola's side claim the Treble.

Under the leadership of manager Pep Guardiola have become a by-word for excellence during the Catalan's inspired seven-year Etihad reign but even by his glittering record of achievement, the 2022/23 campaign proved truly extraordinary.

City first secured the 2022/23 Premier League title, to claim a third successive league crown and fifth title in six years under Pep.

That was swiftly followed by the securing of a domestic double, with City beating Manchester United 2-1 at Wembley in what proved the first-ever all-Manchester FA Cup final.

And the most dramatic and successful season in the Club's 129-year history was then sealed seven days later in early June when City beat Internazionale of Italy 1-0 in Istanbul to claim our first-ever Champions League title - and so secure the Treble for only the second time in English football.

Along the way, City also posted a series of impressive collective and individual milestones, not least our tally of 150 goals across all competitions - which was more than any other side in Europe.







Ederson finished runnerup in the Yashin Award for the best goalkeeper honour, with Argentina and Aston Villa keeper Emiliano Martinez winning.



VAN DE VEN NAMED PLAYER OF THE MATCH AFTER SELHURST BOUT

Micky van de Ven was named our supporters' HSBC Player of the Match after his dominant performance in our 2-1 win over Crystal Palace on Friday night.

Claiming his second Player of the Match award of the season, Micky claimed a commanding 52 per cent of the vote in an exclusive poll on our official app straight after the game.

Having taken the award for the first time in our 1-0 win at Luton Town at the start of the month after he produced the matchwinning goal and was resilient in defence as we had to defend the lead with just nine outfielders, he once again showed his brilliance at the back against the Eagles as we picked up our fourth win on the trot.

Partnering Cristian Romero at the heart of our defence, the Netherlands international's incredible speed came in handy as we battled against a pace-laden Palace forward line and had to deal with a number of counter attacks.

In the game, the defender enjoyed a 99 per cent pass completion rate, the highest recorded by any starter, completing 96 of 97 attempted - only Cristian Romero's recordbreaking return of 141 passes completed bettered Micky's.

He also had a 100 per cent tackle success rate while he was not dribbled past at all during the clash.









Harry Kane's hattrick for Bayern Munich against Borussia Dortmund underlines his sensational start in the Bundesliga

Harry Kane destroyed Borussia Dortmund with a hat-trick for Bayern Munich on Saturday and Adam Bate was there to see it for Sky Sports. In conversation with Bayern players past and present, he assesses how the England captain has become their key man already...

"I expected already high things," says Jamal Musiala. "But not as high as he has delivered so far. It is even easier than I had thought to play with him. I am very happy." So is everyone at Bayern Munich. Harry Kane has just scored a hattrick against Borussia Dortmund.

As Musiala speaks, a grinning Kane has already taken his seat on the team bus. He is not quite alone. There is the match-ball for company - stowed, unpretentiously, in a plastic carrier bag. It is a sight striking for its simplicity. Much like the goals that had destroyed Dortmund.

None of them were mini-masterpieces crafted from the halfway line like the second of his three goals against Darmstadt the previous weekend. There was one tap in and two occasions in which he found himself up against Gregor Kobel at close range. Inevitable.

With 15 goals in 10 Bundesliga games, Kane is now a three-in-two man. They have seen some strikers at Bayern. In Gerd Muller, they claim to have had the best of the lot. Robert Lewandowski broke his Bundesliga record for a single season by finding the net 41 times.

Even that looks vulnerable now. Kane is on course for 51.

Speaking to Lothar Matthaus before kick-off, when Dortmund was still a city optimistic that Kane would spare them, the Bayern legend outlined why the arrival of the England captain has been so crucial - even to a club that has won 11 Bundesliga titles in a row.

"For Bayern Munich it is important and for German football generally it is important that you have a good No 9. A good No 9 can win you titles," says Matthaus. "We saw it with Lewandowski in Munich and Dortmund. In German football, you need a No 9."

He adds: "When you have so much ball possession around the area, you need somebody who scores." Matthaus, aware of the obviousness of his conclusion, laughs. "I think Harry Kane knows what to do. And he has done it very well in the first three months."





There is a reason that European football is one of the world's most successful and popular sports. It never stands still. Since the inaugural competition, known as the European Champion Clubs' Cup, kicked off in 1955, UEFA has continuously evolved and adapted the UEFA Champions League to keep pace with wider changes in the game.





Ballon d'Or 2023 results released in full Lionel Messi won 2023 Ballon d'Or Erling Haaland finished in second and Kylian Mbappe in third Full list of votes have been released to the public

By Sean Walsh | Nov 4, 2023

The full list of votes for the 2023 Ballon d'Or have been released to the public by France Football.

Lionel Messi took home this year's award on Monday night following a ceremony in Paris, becoming the first player to ever win the Ballon d'Or on eight occasions.

He fought off the challenge of Erling Haaland, who scored a staggering 52 goals on Manchester City's way to the treble last season.

The Ballon d'Or is voted on by 100 journalists from FIFA's top 100 ranked nations. They select five players, with first place receiving six points, second receiving four, third taking three, fourth gaining two and fifth accumulating one.

Voting selections have now been released in full, revealing that Messi finished ahead of Haaland by 105 points, racking up 462 in total. This represents Messi's largest margin of victory since the Ballon d'Or fell back under France Football's sole jurisdiction in 2016 after splitting with UEFA - he won by a mere seven points from Virgil van Dijk in 2019 and recorded 33 points ahead of Robert Lewandowski in 2021.

The result was hardly a landslide however, particularly when compared to Karim Benzema's triumph in 2022 when he accumulated 549 points and second-placed Sadio Mane finished with only 193.

Messi received first-placed votes from 65 journalists, with Haaland finishing first on 20 ballots. The other players to receive the full six points were Kylian Mbappe and Bernardo Silva.

Of the 30 finalists for the award, only five failed to gain any points in voting whatsoever - Jamal Musiala, Nicolo Barella, Randal Kolo Muani, Martin Odegaard and Ruben Dias.



LISTEN TO THE LATEST EPISODE OF 90MIN'S TALKING TRANSFERS PODCAST: IS TEN HAG'S JOB UNDER THREAT? DE BRUYNE FUTURE & CHELSEA EYE RAMSDALE



The 2023 Ballon d'Or was handed out on Monday night by publication France Football as Lionel Messi claimed an unprecedented eighth success in the award's history.

The Inter Miami star was among the hot favourites to claim the gong after leading Argentina to 2022 World Cup glory in Qatar, but he wasn't the only player

While there was no competition from Messi's long-time rival Cristiano Ronaldo - the Portugal international was left off the shortlist for the first time since 2003 - Erling Haaland's ridiculous strike rate in front of goal with Manchester City meant the Norwegian had plenty of supporters in the voting.

The golden ball wasn't the only award being handed out either. As well as the equivalent prize in the women's game, the Kopa Trophy, Yashin Trophy, Socrates Award, Gerd Muller Trophy and Club of the Year were all handed to game-leading figures in the modern game. eyeing success at the ceremony at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris.







Durban's Super Giants



Joburg Super Kings



MI Cape Town



Paarl Royals



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Sunrisers Eastern Cape



DATE	HOME		AWAY	VENUE	TIME
10 Jan	SOUTHISTA	vs	2 SUPER KINGS	GQEBERHA	17:30
11 Jan	DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS	vs	CAPE TOWN	DURBAN	17:30
12 Jan	POYALS	vs	PARTIAL ST	PAARL	17:30
13 Jan	KINCI	vs	CAPE TOWN	JOHANNESBURG	13:30
13 Jan	SUHBSERS	vs	DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS	GQEBERHA	17:30
14 Jan	CAPITALS	vs	Poyals	CENTURION	15:30
15 Jan	DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS	vs	Julier KINGT	DURBAN	17:30
16 Jan	CAPE TOWN	vs	SUARIJE PAS	CAPE TOWN	17:30
17 Jan	POYALS	vs	NIPER I	PAARL	17:30
18 Jan	PAPITALS	vs	DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS	CENTURION	17:30



DATE	номе		AWAY	VENUE	TIME
19 Jan	CAPE TOWN	vs	Royals	CAPE TOWN	17:30
20 Jan	DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS	vs	CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	DURBAN	13:30
20 Jan	Juburg SUPER KINGS	vs	Capitals	JOHANNESBURG	17:30
21 Jan	POYALS	VS	CAPE TOWN	PAARL	15:30
22 Jan	COURTIER	VS	PAPITALS	GQEBERHA	17:30
23 Jan	CAPE TOWN	VS	DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS	CAPE TOWN	17:30
24 Jan	JUPER KINGI	VS	SR.	JOHANNESBURG	17:30
25 Jan	CAPITALS	VS	SUHHISTAN	CENTURION	17:30
26 Jan	POYALS	VS	DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS	PAARL	17:30
27 Jan	STATES AND	VS	CAPE TOWN	GQEBERHA	13:30
27 Jan	PAPITAL S	VS	SUPER NINGS	CENTURION	17:30
28 Jan	DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS	vs	POYALS	DURBAN	15:30
29 Jan	CAPE TOWN	vs	January Street	CAPE TOWN	17:30
30 Jan	DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS	vs	PATTORIA	DURBAN	17:30
31 Jan	SUPER KINGS	vs	Stuffing To	JOHANNESBURG	17:30
1 Feb	PAPITALS	vs	CAPE TOWN	CENTURION	17:30
2 Feb	POYALS	vs	SOURISERS	PAARL	17:30



DATE	HOME		AWAY	VENUE	TIME
3 Feb	CAPE TOWN	vs	PATTORA	CAPE TOWN	13:30
3 Feb	NINC1	vs	DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS	JOHANNESBURG	17:30
4 Feb	SURRISERS	vs	POYALS	GQEBERHA	15:30
6 Feb		Q1 (1 vs 2)		TBC	17:30
7 Feb		E (3 vs 4)		TBC	17:30
8 Feb		Q2 (LOSER Q1 vs WINNER E)		твс	17:30
10 Feb		FINAL (Q2 WINNER vs Q1 WINNER)		TBC	16:30
11 Feb		RESERVE DAY FINAL		TBC	13:30





Joburg Super Kings







Nandre Burger



Gerald Coetzee



Sam Cook



Donovan Ferreira



Dayyaan Gallem



Reeza Hendricks



Ronan Herrmann



Zahir Khan



Wayne Madsen



Sibonelo Makhanya



Aaron Phangiso



Faf du Plessis (captain)



Leus du Plooy



Romario Shepherd



Kyle Simmonds



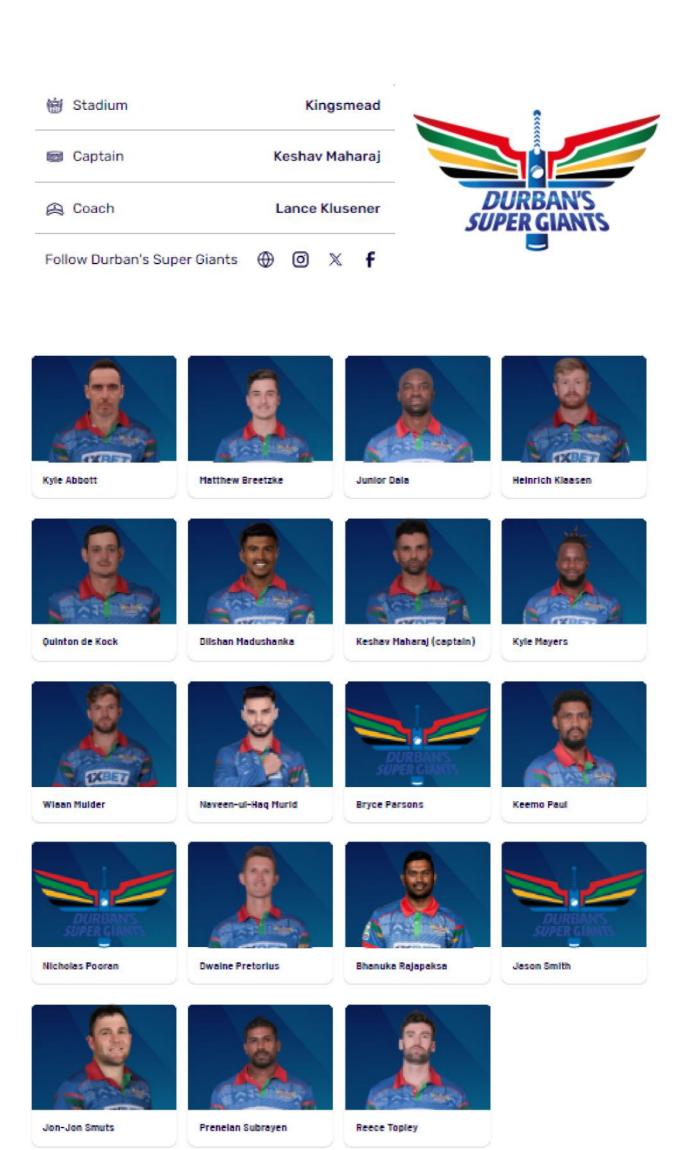
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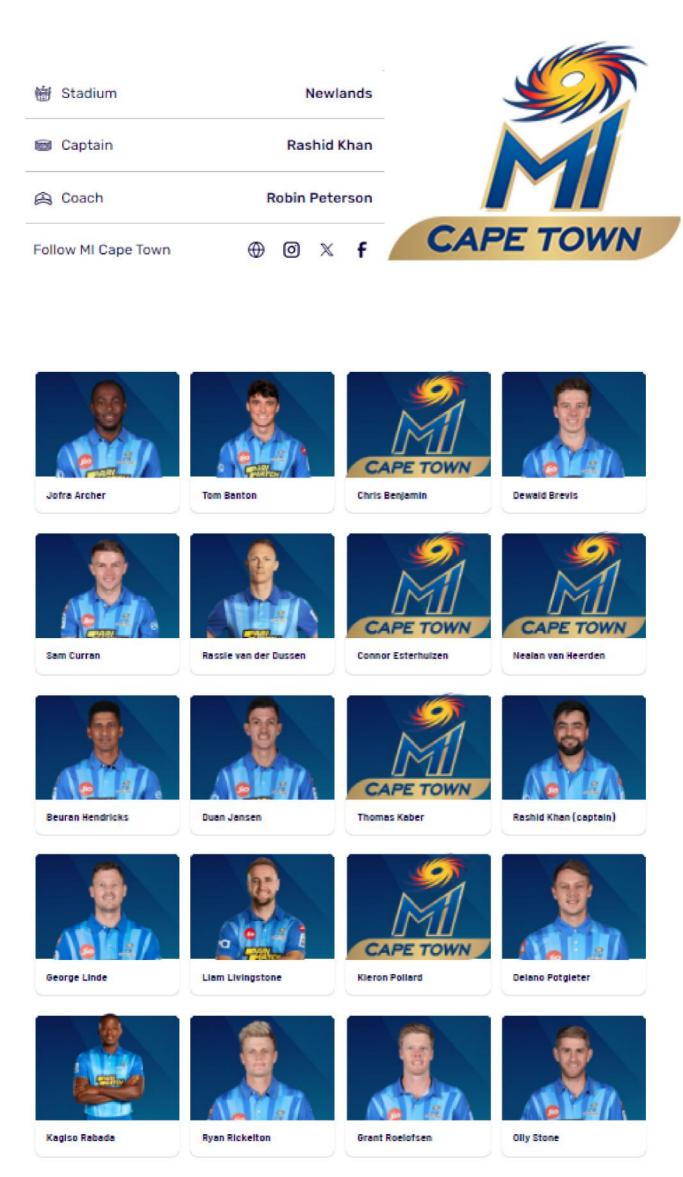


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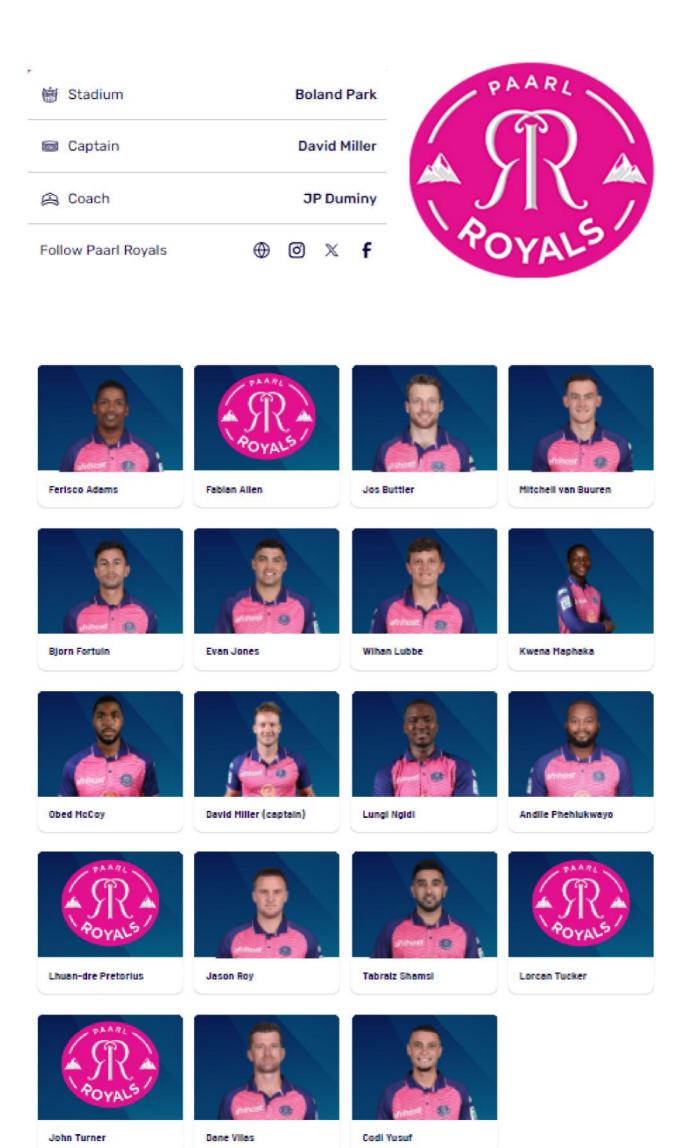
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Matthew Boast



Corbin Bosch



Eathan Bosch



Theunis de Bruyn



Shane Dadswell



Daryn Dupavillon



Colin Ingram



Will Jacks



Senuran Muthusamy



Jimmy Neesham



Anrich Nortje



Wayne Parnell (captain)



Migael Pretorius



Adii Reshid



Rillee Rossouw



Phil Salt



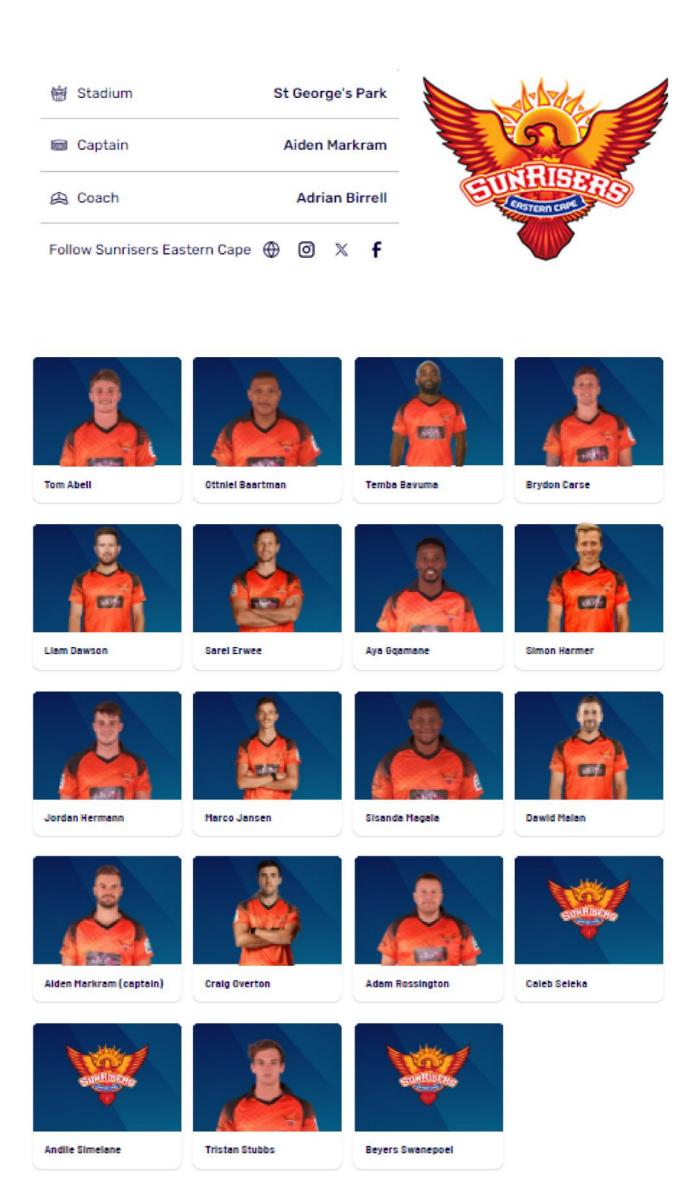
Paul Stirling



Steve Stolk



Kyle Verreynne





CAF AND THE ARAB GULF CUP FOOTBALL FEDERATION SIGN MOU TO DEVELOP FOOTBALL IN AFRICA AND THE GULF REGION







MATCH SCHEDULE

13 JAN - 11 FEB 2024







MATCH SCHEDULE

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GROUP A (ADO)

CÔTE D'IVOIRE (CIV)

NIGERIA (NGR)

EQUATORIAL GUINEA (EGG)

EGYPT (EGY)

GHANA (GHA)

CAPE VERDE (CPV)

MOZAMBIQUE (MOZ)

GROUP C (CKB)

SENEGAL (SEN)

CAMEROON (CMR)

GUINEA (GUI)

THE GAMBIA (GAM)

GROUP D (SDP)

ALGERIA (ALG)

BURKINA FASO (BFA)

MAURITANIA (MTN)

ANGOLA (ANG)

GROUP E (AGC)
TURISIA (TURI)
MALI (MLI)
SOUTH AFRICA (RSA)

MOROCCO (MAR)
DR CONGO (RDC)
ZAMBIA (ZAM)
TANZANIA (TAN)



The final line-up for next year's TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Cote d'Ivoire is complete after Cameroon and Namibia secured their spots on Tuesday.

The Indomitable Lions booked their place at a 19th straight finals, thrashing Burundi 3-0 in Garoua to top Group C.

Goals from Bryan Mbuemo, Christopher Wooh and Vincent Aboubakar sealed a comfortable win to see off the challenge of Namibia, who took second and also sealed their place at the competition.

Cameroon join host nation Cote d'Ivoire and 22 other qualified teams at the tournament in January next year.

Continental giants Senegal, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco and Algeria are all among those who have booked their tickets.

There will be no debutants as Gambia will be making their second appearance at the AFCON.

Meanwhile, others considered as underdogs such as Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Equatorial Guinea have also qualified as they seek to surprise the big sides.

With the qualifiers now over, the countdown begins to the draw as the teams will discover their opponents.

The group stage draw will take place, determining the opening match-ups.

Defending champions Senegal and regional powers Egypt and Nigeria as well as World Cup semi-finalists Moroccoc are likely to be among the pre-tournament favourites.

But with an array of talent across the 24 qualifiers, the competition for continental glory promises to be fierce.

Below are countries that have qualified in alphabetical order:

Algeria
Angola
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Cote d'Ivoire (Hosts)
DR Congo
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea

Guinea-Bissau
Mali
Mauritania
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nigeria
Senegal (Title Holders)
South Africa
Tanzania
Tunisia
Zambia



AKWABA, official song for TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations goes live

As preparations for the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire 2023 gather momentum, CAF and the Local Organising Committee ("LOC") has launched the official song for the tournament.

Titled 'AKWABA' which means welcome in Ivorian parlance, is a captivating musical project piloted by the talented team at global record label Universal Music Africa.

A definition of the Pride of African football theme for the tournament, it also embodies a declaration of love for football, a tribute to the continent's cultural diversity and the warm hospitality of Cote d'Ivoire when the rest of Africa and the world gathers from 13 January to 11 February 2024 for the 34th edition of the continent's football showpiece event.

The great piece of art was put together by legendary Ivorian group Magic System from Cote d'Ivoire, famous for the global hit Premier Gaou; dazzling Egyptian pop icon Mohamed Ramadan whose 'Number 1' continues to receive worldwide attention; Nigerian diva Yemi Alade of 'Johnny' fame and renowned producer Dany Synthe, giving birth to a tune that transcends borders and cultures in displaying a united Africa. The quartet delivered a powerful rendition of AKWABA during the draw for the final tournament of the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire 2023, held in Abidjan a fortnight ago.

AKWABA is expected to set the African continent ablaze with an explosion of rhythms and melodies that embody the spirit of unity, passion and celebration.

It is available on all streaming platforms and promises to take us on an unforgettable musical journey.

Get ready to sing, dance and celebrate in unison during the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire 2023.

The competition will kick-off on 13 January 2024 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

AFCON 2024





TRAVEL PACKAGES 2024

GROUP A

7 NIGHT **PACKAGE** 11-18 JAN 2024 REF 24/21 **4 MATCHES**

GROUP B

7 NIGHT PACKAGE 18-25 JAN 2024 REF 24/22 4 MATCHES

GROUP B+

14 NIGHT PACKAGE 18 JAN-1 FEB 2024 **REF 24/22**

6 (4+2) MATCHES

OPENING GAME 13 JANUARY 2024

GROUP A MATCH 14 JANUARY 2024

GROUP E MATCH 16 JANUARY 2024

GROUP E MATCH 16 JANUARY 2024 GROUP E MATCH **20 JANUARY 2024**

GROUP E MATCH 21 JANUARY 2024

GROUP E MATCH 24 JANUARY 2024

GROUP F MATCH 24 JANUARY 2024 GROUP E MATCH 20 JANUARY 2024 GROUP E MATCH 21 JANUARY 2024 **GROUP E MATCH 24 JANUARY 2024 GROUP F MATCH 24 JANUARY 2024 ROUND OF 16** CHOICE 30 JAN

GROUP C

5 NIGHT PACKAGE 8-13 FEB 2024 **REF 24/22 BRONZE & FINAL**

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MORE INFO

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BRONZE

FINAL **11 FEBRUARY 2024**

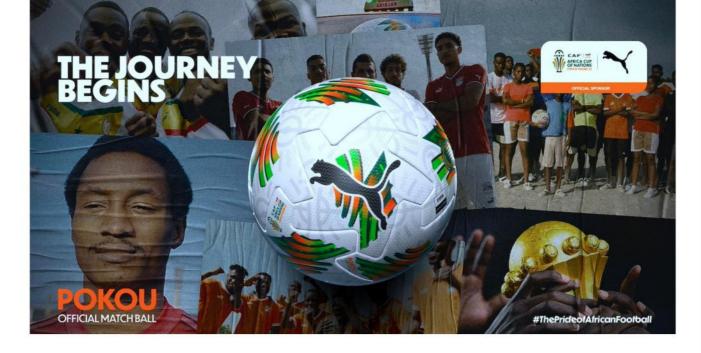
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- TIPS, PORTAGE AND GRATUITIES
- ITEMS OF A PERSONAL NATURE SUCH AS TELEPHONE, LAUNDRY ETC
- SINGLE SUPPLEMENT AND UPGRADE TO **BUSINESS CLASS ON REQUEST**
- NOTE: ALL MIDDAY MEALS & ALL DRINKS THROUGHOUT ARE AT OWN EXPENSE

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CAF and PUMA have unveiled "POKOU" - the official match ball for the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire 2023.

The Official match ball, POKOU, is named after Ivorian legendary forward Laurent Pokou, a doyen of African football whose five goals in the 6-1 victory over Ethiopia at the 1970 edition of the Africa Cup of Nations remains a record during the Final competition.

Following the long-term agreement between CAF and Puma announced on the eve of the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations Final Draw in Abidjan, the ball official unveiling is yet another milestone in the countdown to the official kick-off on 13 January 2024.

Erwan, a son of the late Pokou, presented the iconic and beautifully designed match ball to the audience during the Final Draw.

The official ball, POKOU, features the three main colours of the Cote d'Ivoire flag - white, orange and green, whilst incorporating the latest technology that will revolutionize the game on the continent and beyond.

"This is an emotional moment for my family. It is a great honour bestowed on my late father who gave his life to Ivorian football, to have the official match ball for a tournament taking place in no other place than Cote d'Ivoire named after him.

"The family appreciates the efforts by CAF and the Local Organising Committee (COCAN) to celebrate heroes and heroines to motivate and inspire future generations to follow in their exemplary steps," Erwan said.

The tournament will take place from 13 January to 11 February 2024 in the cities of Abidjan, Bouake, Korhogo, San Pedro and Yamoussoukro.

Nicknamed L'homme d'Asmara, Pokou is widely regarded as one of the greatest players in the history in Ivorian football. It is in recognition of his contribution to football in the West African country, that one of the match venues for the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire 2023 in San Pedro is christened Laurent Pokou Stadium. He made his debut against Ghana in a friendly in 1967, going on to become top scorer in the 1968 and 1970 Africa Cup of Nations. His 14 goals in the Africa Cup of Nations was for a long time a tournament record till 2008, when Samuel Eto'o of Cameroon eclipsed that feat. A legend Ivorian of giants, ASEC Mimosas, Pokou also had stints with French sides, Stade Rennes and Nancy. He passed away on 13 November 2016 aged 69.

For more details on the Official Match Ball for the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire, click here



The AFL is a titanic battle of strength versus strength between the giants of African football - and it doesn't come much bigger than the reigning African champions and football royalty, Al Ahly SC, heading to Tanzania's capital to face Simba SC and their fanatical fans in the tournament opener. Eight of Africa's most famous and iconic clubs will compete for the grand prize of \$4 million which goes to the winners of the inaugural AFL tournament, raising the stakes considerably in a tournament that brings an exciting new African football product to the world football calendar.

The opening match on Friday between Simba and Al Ahly kicks off at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Friday 20 October at 18h00 local time (15h00 GMT) in an atmosphere that is sure to be a red-hot cauldron and full house, as Simba go up against the 11-time African champions from Cairo.

AFL Prize Money

The winners of the inaugural African Football League will receive a prize money of \$4 Million.

The runner-up will get \$2.8 Million. The two semi-finalists will each get \$1.7 Million. The quarter-finalists will each win \$900 000.

While the eight protagonists will compete for record prize money in the first edition of the AFL, in time the objective of the tournament is to be Africa's most exciting competition, providing a new dimension in terms of entertainment, television production and the fan experience - which will complement CAF's strong existing interclub competitions.

For media inquiries, please visit www.afl.africa or contact AFL Media Department via media@afl.africa



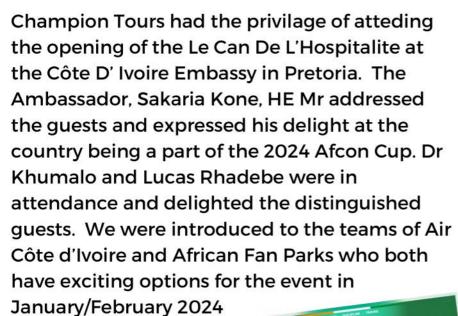
Ahmed Soro, Tourism Officer for Cote D'Ivoire is flanked by Dr Khumalo and Lucas Rhadebe



The Ambassador, Sakaria Kone, HE Mr



Lucas Rhadebe is being interviewed by Mamadou Gaye



















Ayrton Senna





KNOW ABOUT SERGIO 'CHECO' PEREZ AND MA Written by Justin VERSTAPPEN

Hynes Published on 24.10.2022

Drivers Max Verstappen and Sergio "Checo" Pérez may be global celebrities who are always under the microscope, but both hold some curious secrets.

MAX'S BEST VIDEO GAME DOES NOT INVOLVE DRIVING

Max Verstappen's obsession with sim racing is well known, and his exploits with the Team Redline esports outfit, from virtual Le Mans races to the Bathurst 1000 and the 24 Hours of Nürburgring, have been covered in detail. But the depth of his passion for the FIFA series of soccer games has been covered far less. Max has played FIFA, which is now into its 29th edition, since he was a child. And his dedication to the game reached such heights that in January 2019—playing the handle crgboy007-he was ranked 21st in the world. The FI champ has throttled back since then, but he's still such an avid player that he travels with his own personal PlayStation game case made by custom builder JZ Design. And at last year's U.S. Grand Prix, Red Bull team boss Christian Horner revealed that Max had spent 14 hours across the weekend playing his favorite soccer game—and then won the F1 race.

IN ANOTHER LIFE, CHECO WANTS TO MAKE DEALS

Ask most F1 drivers what they might have become had they not powered their way up the racing ladder to Formula 1, and most will look at you blankly and say they never contemplated not making it. Not Checo Pérez. The Mexican racer knows exactly what he would have done. "I would like to have been a banker or a lawyer," he says. "I think they share the adrenaline that we live every day, and I quite like adrenaline. I think those jobs really give you that adrenaline. But it would have to be something related to sport, you know, probably as a lawyer that helps sportsmen get their contracts done, or a kind of manager.'

MAX HATES DAWDLERS

Max is a pretty tolerant guy and treats most things with a healthy degree of equanimity. There are, however, a few things that really get to him. "Lateness—when people are late for meetings, that's annoying," he says. "When people are not neat, when their house is dirty. And also, when people take too long to order in a restaurant. It's really annoying in a restaurant when the waiter comes over and everyone is ready except one person who says, 'Oh, actually I haven't looked, what should I have?"





CHECO HAS A "HOLE" LOT OF FEARS

While Max has some pretty fishy anxieties (see below), they're probably not as uncommon as his teammate's phobia, which goes by the name of trypophobia. Yeah, we had never heard of it either. Checo confessed in 2017 to suffering from this particular irrational fear, which involves a serious dislike of clusters of small holes, circles or bumps. We've yet to discover any hint that Checo's phobia extends to a pile of tires or the cluster of rotary controls on his steering wheel.

MAX IS NOT A FISH GUY

Max suffers from what is called selachophobia or galeophobia. By any name, it's a fear of sharks. Back in 2019, for a Red Bull Racing activation ahead of the season-opening Australian Grand Prix, Max and then team- mate Pierre Gasly were treated to a surf lesson from Australian multiple World Surf League champion Mick Fanning. Except that Gasly was the only F1 driver to get wet. "They can tell me a million times there are no sharks here, but I'm really confident that there are, and I'm honestly not really enjoying myself in the water anyway," said the Dutch racer. Max's dislike of the sea extends to dinnertime, too. He confessed to The Times of London that he hates "fish, in general. Well, almost all fish; some white fish is OK, but not too much." At the 2018 Singapore Grand Prix, Max was presented with the challenge of eating chili crab, a local delicacy. Max almost vomited. We're pretty sure Jaws is not his favorite movie.



CHECO'S RACING HERO IS AYRTON SENNA

A lot of F1 drivers won't admit to having racing heroes, insisting that they've followed their own muse as they climbed the ladder. Checo, though, is happy to tell anyone who'll listen that despite the fact that he was only 4 when the Ayrton Senna died, the Brazilian legend has been his inspiration. "Senna is my biggest idol," he told Financial Times. "I always try to find people who spent time with him, to find out how he was and how he did things." Checo even shares a manager with three-time champion Senna in the shape of veteran paddock insider Julian Jakobi, who handled the careers of both Senna and his archrival. Alain Prost.



MAX WOULD LIKE LEONARDO DICAPRIO TO PLAY HIM IN A FILM OF HIS LIFE

No stranger to the small screen, Max appeared in the first two seasons of the popular reality show Drive To Survive. Could his story one day be destined for the big screen?

No movie is currently planned of Max's life, but with millions of fans surely desperate to experience his epic 2021 duel against Lewis Hamilton again, a biopic could be in the works further down the line. "For now, I hope that never happens. I don't need that!" Max told Red Bulletin in an interview at Zell am See Airfield in 2022. "But if it did happen now, then Leonardo DiCaprio could play me. That would be nice."

CHECO HAS 4.9 MILLION FOLLOWERS—BUT DOESN'T LOVE SOCIAL MEDIA

Checo is a national hero at home in Mexico, and that has undoubtedly helped him amass 4.9 million followers on Instagram. Despite finding fame on the platform, Checo is not a massive fan of social media, reckoning that we all need to tone down the amount of time we spend monitoring our feeds. "Social media has become too much in the last couple of years, and I don't think just for sportsmen, even for normal people," he told The Edge podcast earlier this year. "The amount of time that we spend on it during the day is just unacceptable. So I'm not a big fan of it. It's a great tool as a sportsman to engage with your fans, with your brands, but it's important to make sure you control the amount of time as well, not just as a sportsman, as a human being."



MAX DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GETTING IN THE ZONE

Plenty of athletes say they need to get into a flow state to perform at their best. Not Max. With trademark matter-of-factness, the world champion says he has no routine for race preparation. "Sometimes I'm listening to music," he told The Race. "Sometimes I'm playing a game, sometimes walking around, sometimes I need to change quickly because I was busy with something or I'm on a call. I'm not really too fussed about it."

McLaren rival Lando Norris, one of the Dutchman's closest friends on the grid and a fellow member of the Team Redline sim-racing squad, begs to differ. "[Max] was born in the zone," Lando told TalkSport this year. "That's just the type of guy he is, or there's just no zone for him, everything is just life."



CHECO IS FROM GUADALAJARA BUT SUPPORTS A SOCCER TEAM FROM MEXICO CITY

Checo hails from the centralwestern Mexican city of Guadalajara, home to two major soccer teams—Atlas FC and Club Deportivo Guadalajara (better known as Chivas). But, perhaps surprisingly, Checo supports neither and instead gives his allegiance to that pair's greatest rival, Mexico City's Club América. Checo even chose his race number in tribute to one-time Club América player Iván Zamorano. "He was my idol and was wearing number 11, so it was very easy for me to choose that," he says. Checo's support for the team extends to sponsorship, with the Red Bull racer investing in Mexican online car- seller Kavak, which sponsors Las Aguilas.







Rumours regarding the potential cancellation of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix have been overblown, PlanetF1.com understands.

Concerns over the safe running of the Abu Dhabi GP in the United Arab Emirates in light of the ongoing Israel-Palestine military conflict has resulted in rumours that the event - scheduled for the last weekend in November as FI's season finale - could be called off.

PlanetF1.com understands from sources within some F1 teams that the topic of cancellation has been broached internally but also has been informed that such concerns have been overblown at this point.

UK Foreign Office updates terrorism threat level for United Arab Emirates

Last week, the UK's Foreign Office updated their travel advisories for the United Arab Emirates, stating that "Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in the UAE. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners.

"There is a possibility of an increased threat against Western interests, including against UK citizens."

Detailing incidents of missile and drone attacks into the UAE from Yemen throughout 2022, which included Houthi attacks on civilian facilities in Abu Dhabi and air defence force interceptions against other ballistic missiles, the advisory stated that "further attacks are likely." However, PlanetF1.com understands from well-placed sources with knowledge of the situation that this advisory from the UK Foreign Office, which brings the advice in line with that for residents of the likes of Belgium, Germany, France, and Bahrain – advice that has been unchanged for years – has led personnel within the paddock to believe the issue is major.

Sources have told PlanetFl.com that "all the teams are aware" that the advisory from the UK foreign office does not escalate the situation and that no conversations have been held regarding the potential cancellation of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The teams and all team bosses have been briefed on the details of the situation, including the information from the Foreign Office, where no concerns over the hosting of the race have been expressed.





Race Schedule

LOCAL TIME

MY TIME

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VI	e	X	ı	CO		÷	

Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez 27-29 Oct

Max Verstappen 1:22.850

2 Lewis Hamilton 1:21.334

Charles Leclerc 1:22.905

Full Standings >

Brazil 📀

Autódromo José Carlos Pace 03-05 Nov

UPCOMING

Practice 1 03 Nov 16:30 Sprint 04 Nov 20:30

Qualifying 03 Nov 20:00 Race 05 Nov 19:00

Sprint 04 Nov 16:00 Shootout

USA =

Las Vegas Street Circuit 17-19 Nov

UPCOMING

Practice 1 17 Nov 06:30 Qualifying 18 Nov 10:00

Practice 2 17 Nov 10:00 Race 19 Nov 08:00

Practice 3 18 Nov 06:30

U.A.E

Yas Marina Circuit

24-26 Nov

UPCOMING

Practice 1 24 Nov 11:30 Qualifying 25 Nov 18:00

Practice 2 24 Nov 15:00 26 Nov 15:00 Race

Practice 3 25 Nov 12:30

Full Schedule >

2024 Formula One calendar

March 2 - Bahrain Grand Prix (Sakhir)

March 9 - Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (Jeddah)

March 24 - Australian Grand Prix (Melbourne)

April 7 - Japanese Grand Prix (Suzuka)

April 21 - Chinese Grand Prix (Shanghai)

May 5 - Miami Grand Prix (Miami)

May 19 - Emilia Romagna Grand Prix (Imola)

May 26 - Monaco Grand Prix (Monte Carlo)

June 9 - Canadian Grand Prix (Montreal)

June 23 - Spanish Grand Prix (Barcelona)

June 30 - Austrian Grand Prix (Spielberg)

July 7 - British Grand Prix (Silverstone)

July 21 - Hungarian Grand Prix (Hungaroring)

July 28 - Belgian Grand Prix (Spa-Francorchamps)

August 25 - Dutch Grand Prix (Zandvoort)

September 1 - Italian Grand Prix (Monza)

September 15 - Azerbaijan Grand Prix (Baku)

September 22 - Singapore Grand Prix (Marina Ba)

October 20 - United States Grand Prix (Austin)

October 27 - Mexico City Grand Prix (Mexico City)

November 3 - Brazilian Grand Prix (Interlagos)

November 23 - Las Vegas Grand Prix (Las Vegas)

December 1 - Qatar Grand Prix (Lusail)

December 8 - Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (Yas Marina)





SA MEN'S HOCKEY

South African Hockey has today announced the SA Hockey Men's team for the African Hockey Road to Paris 2024. The tournament offers the winner a place at the Paris Olympics while the second placed team will be invited to the FIH Olympic Qualifiers to be held in January.

The extended men's squad have been in camp and the team has been announced for the tournament, with the men opening their campaign with a game against Zimbabwe on Sunday evening.







Thriston Lawrence will be the highest ranked South African at the Nedbank Golf Challenge, which gets under way on Thursday. There was a time that South African golfers ruled the world – almost like the Springboks do now.

ROWING

The saying that when the going gets tough, the tough get going will undoubtedly apply to Courtney Westley in the next two weeks.

The Tuks BSc Geography and Environmental Science student will compete in two rowing world championships. She is racing at the World Under-23 Championships tomorrow in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Then, starting July 28, she will be in action at the World University Summer Games in China.



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Homestays are where Freebird members open their homes to host fellow members for a nightly rate. Becoming a Freebird host means you can rent spare rooms on our site to friendly like-minded travellers in the over 50s demographic. You can earn money on the side and share authentic social & cultural experiences - Freebird style!

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We have a dedicated Facebook Group as an extension to your membership where Freebird members share, engage and exchange further.



Now in its 8th month since the inaugural Plett Camino in April, this slackpacking hiking trail has begun to take on a life of its own, with bookings sold out for the next few months, and huge benefits being felt by communities, accommodation venues, wine farms, restaurants and other service providers alike. Founded on the philosophy of "a rising tide raises all boats" the benefits are starting to show.

Hikers meet on a Sunday evening at the T'Niqua Stable Inn for drinks and an ostentatious fire cooked dinner before heading to bed to get ready for the next day. Early morning brings on frantic preparations of what to take and what to leave behind, what to carry in your daypack, and what to send with the porters. It's always like that. You think you're prepared and invariably you're over prepared. Nothing like a deadline to get you focussed on what is really important.

The first day kicks off at the Harkerville hut and plunges you straight into the dense Knysna forest. Not the usual jeep tracks that the bikers are used to, but lush, moist, leaf covered bush trails, adorned with mushrooms, ferns, rich in bird life and the fresh scat of unseen animals. The smells and sounds of the forest soon mingle with slightly laboured breathing as the trails start pointing up hill.

Fourteen kilometres later you emerge at the oasis of Greenfern Lodge for the first night's stop and you are welcomed by ice cold G&T's around a fresh swimming pool to dangle weary feet.

The next day's trail doesn't disappoint and takes you along a virgin section of mountain track which hasn't seen a vehicle or hiker in years. The smells of a dewy morning intermingle with the slanted rays of the sun streaming through the forest canopy. You will feel good to be alive and to be part of this adventure, so far from the office and worldly worries.

At lunch time you descend onto the beautiful Packwood Wine Estate for a tasting of their whole range of delicious wines and bubbly served with a mouthwatering lunch of homemade cheeses and charcuterie.

And then onward for another hour or so until you emerge at a secret deck overlooking the upper reaches of the Bitou River course. It is said that life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the moments which take your breath away. This will surely be one. Amanda from Protea Wilds will treat you to a night of wonderful food and lots of mirth as the stories flow well into the night.

Day three will take you on a long fifteen kilometre trail crossing the Bitou valley and up the other side through unspoiled fynbos and the pastures of the Uplands. After crossing the Bitou River, the climb uphill reveals an unexpected picnic stop halfway up the valley. Far in the distance you can see where the Camino will end some two and a half days hence.

The Queens stage on Day four has hikers out the gates at 7:15 to meet the game vehicle which will traverse you across the Plett Game Reserve. Plains teaming with animals take one's mind far away to another place elsewhere in Africa, where such sights feel more common place.

Alighting from the game vehicle you set off downhill towards the Keurbooms River. Once across the river you'll headed off in search of the bottom of our new trail, fondly named "Postman James" in deference to its original purpose a long time ago, and the Plett Camino trail warrior who found it and cleared it for us.











A stiff and lengthy climb out the valley will get the heart racing. After a well-deserved rest at the top, you will set about a fast-paced hike through the forests in search of your next stop at Kay & Monty Vineyards some ten kilometres down the track.

Night five brings with it the joy of Davina and Derek at their 20 Good Summers working farm retreat. Wine and pizzas flow all night to celebrate that most of the Camino is now behind you.

Day five takes you back into the forest and along the river course in the direction of the Keurbooms. An unexpected climb that rivals Postman James greets you as you ascend from the riverbed in the direction of Fairview House for a pitstop of cappuccinos or their legendary hot chocolate next to the fire.

During the final stretch, the Robberg Peninsula slowly reveals itself as you descend towards the Keurbooms River. The strange thing is that when you left five days earlier, you were looking at it from the other side, and without realizing it, you have come full circle and see it now from the East.

The Camino concludes with a farewell lunch at Down to Earth restaurant on the Bitou River.

As you gaze over the Bitou River, with a burning log fire at your back, the irony will not escape you that your eighty kilometre epic has taken you all the way from the Garden of Eden five days earlier right back Down to Earth!

At the end, it will be difficult to remember all the steps that it took to get there, but as the days and weeks pass, and the photos and stories are shared, so many wonderful memories will come flooding back.

The Camino is an experience you wouldn't expect from Plett as so few venture north towards the forests and the mountains. The diversity of trails, views, friendships and experiences along the way, will leave you wondering how Plett could be so close, yet feel so far away for five full days.

For more information please email the team at info@plettcamino.com







SA VS INDIA BETWAY TEST SERIES

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All packages subject to change and availability

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- Official Match Tickets to use one of our private hospitality viewing suites for you and your guests
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- Private balcony with seats offering the best in house experience
- Welcome Snacks, Buffet Hot & Cold Lunch
- Complimentary Premium Bar beers, wine, spirits and soft drinks
- Dedicated waiting staff for you and your guests throughout the day
- Parking Ratio 1:4

Max 20 persons Day 1, 2 or 3 10% Discount for buying day 4 Day 5 currently not available



AFCON 2024





TRAVEL PACKAGES 2024

GROUP A

7 NIGHT PACKAGE 11-18 JAN 2024 REF 24/21 4 MATCHES

GROUP B

7 NIGHT PACKAGE 18-25 JAN 2024 REF 24/22 4 MATCHES

GROUP B+

14 NIGHT
PACKAGE
18 JAN1 FEB 2024
REF 24/22
6 (4+2) MATCHES

OPENING GAME
13 JANUARY 2024

GROUP A MATCH 14 JANUARY 2024

GROUP E MATCH 16 JANUARY 2024

GROUP E MATCH 16 JANUARY 2024 **GROUP E MATCH** 20 JANUARY 2024

GROUP E MATCH 21 JANUARY 2024

GROUP E MATCH 24 JANUARY 2024

GROUP F MATCH 24 JANUARY 2024 GROUP E MATCH
20 JANUARY 2024
GROUP E MATCH
21 JANUARY 2024
GROUP E MATCH
24 JANUARY 2024
GROUP F MATCH
24 JANUARY 2024
ROUND OF 16
CHOICE 30 JAN

GROUP C

5 NIGHT PACKAGE 8-13 FEB 2024 REF 24/22 BRONZE & FINAL

INCLUDED:

- STANDARD 3*/SUPERIOR 4* HOTELS ON A DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM SHARING ON A DAILY BREAKFAST BASIS.
- SINGLE ROOM AND /OR UPGRADE TO BUSINESS CLASS ON REQUEST
- MATCH TICKETS + AVAILABLE MATCH PROGRAM
- AFCON TOUR MEMORABILIA GIFT
- DAILY DINNER MEALS + A SOFT DRINK; JUICE; WATER;
- COACH TRANSFERS THROUGHOUT
- COMPLIMENTARY GENERAL TRAVEL INSURANCE FOR UNDER 65'S

EXCLUDED:

- COTE D'VOIRE VISA COST R950 PP
- TIPS, PORTAGE AND GRATUITIES
- ITEMS OF A PERSONAL NATURE SUCH AS TELEPHONE, LAUNDRY ETC
- SINGLE SUPPLEMENT AND UPGRADE TO BUSINESS CLASS ON REQUEST
- NOTE: ALL MIDDAY MEALS & ALL DRINKS THROUGHOUT ARE AT OWN EXPENSE

BRONZE 3RD/4TH PLACE PLAYOFF 10 FEBRUARY 2024

FINAL
11 FEBRUARY 2024

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PAYMENT PLAN:

- 80% NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT PAYABLE BY LATEST WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2023
- 20% NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT BY LATEST FRIDAY
 15 DECEMBER 2023



MATCH SCHEDULE

13 JAN - 11 FEB 2024







REST DAYS REST DAYS REST DAYS REST DAYS STAGE DE LA PACE

GROUP A (ADD)

AFCON 2024 - GROUP A

7 NIGHT PACKAGE 11-18 JANUARY 2024 REF 24/21 - 4 MATCHES

OPENING GAME 13 JANUARY 2024

Cote d'Voire vs Guinea Bissau Olympique Alassane Ouattara Stadium ABIDJAN KICK OFF: 20H00

GROUP E MATCH16 JANUARY 2024

Tunisa vs Namibia Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium, KORHOGO KICK OFF: 17H00

GROUP A MATCH 14 JANUARY 2024

Nigeria vs Equatorial Guinea Olympique Alassane Ouattara Stadium ABIDJAN KICK OFF: 14H00

GROUP E MATCH16 JANUARY 2024

Mali vs South Africa Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium, KORHOGO KICK OFF: 20H00



INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS AS LISTED ON PAGE 1



Twin Sharing / Double from only STANDARD 3*: R38,990 pps SUPERIOR 4*: R45,990 pps Single Room Supplement and/or Business Class on request RETURN ECONOMY CLASS FLIGHTS:

DEPARTURE 11 JANUARY 2024 JOHANNESBURG - ABIDJAN RETURN 18 JANUARY 2024 ABIDJAN - JOHANNESBURG

24/21 A - STANDARD ROOM 3* ABIDJAN HOTEL ON A DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST 4 NIGHTS (11-15 JAN 2024)

24/21 B - SUPERIOR ROOM 4*
ABIDJAN HOTEL ON A
DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM
SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST
4 NIGHTS (11-15 JAN 2024)

24/21 C - STD ROOM 3*
KORHOGO HOTEL ON A
DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM
SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST
3 NIGHTS (15-18 JAN 2024)

24/21 D - SUPERIOR ROOM 4* KORHOGO HOTEL ON A DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST 3 NIGHTS (15-18 JAN 2024)

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AFCON 2024 - GROUP B

7 NIGHT PACKAGE 18-25 JANUARY 2024 REF 24/22 - 4 MATCHES

GROUP E MATCH 20 JANUARY 2024

Tunisa vs Mali Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium KORHOGO KICK OFF : 20H00

GROUP E MATCH21 JANUARY 2024

South Africa vs Namibia Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium KORHOGO KICK OFF: 17H00

GROUP E MATCH24 JANUARY 2024

South Africa vs Tunisia Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium KORHOGO KICK OFF: 17H00

GROUP F MATCH24 JANUARY 2024

Tanzania vs RD Congo Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium KORHOGO KICK OFF: 20H00

INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS AS LISTED ON PAGE 1





RETURN ECONOMY CLASS FLIGHTS:

DEPARTURE 18 JANUARY 2024 JOHANNESBURG - ABIDJAN RETURN 25 JANUARY 2024 ABIDJAN - JOHANNESBURG

24/22 A - STD ROOM 3* ABIDJAN HOTEL ON A DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST - 1 NIGHT (18-19 JAN 2024)

24/22 B - SUPERIOR ROOM 4*
ABIDJAN HOTEL ON A DOUBLE/TWIN
ROOM SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST 1 NIGHT (18-19 JAN 2024)

24/22 C - STD ROOM 3* KORHOGO HOTEL ON A DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST 6 NIGHTS (19-25 JAN 2024)

24/22 B - SUPERIOR 4* KORHOGO HOTEL ON A DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST 6 NIGHTS (19-25 JAN 2024)

Twin Sharing / Double from only STANDARD 3*: R38,990 pps SUPERIOR 4*: R45,990 pps

Single Room Supplement and/or Business Class on request

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AFCON 2024 - GROUP B+

14 NIGHT PACKAGE: 18 JANUARY-01 FEBRUARY 2024 REF 24/24 - 6 (4+2) MATCHES

GROUP E MATCH 20 JANUARY 2024

Tunisa vs Mali Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium Korhogo KICK OFF: 20h00

GROUP E MATCH21 JANUARY 2024

South Africa vs Namibia Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium Korhogo KICK OFF: 17h00

GROUP E MATCH 24 JANUARY 2024

South Africa vs Tunisia Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium Korhogo KICK OFF: 17h00

GROUP F MATCH 24 JANUARY 2024

Tanzania vs RD Congo Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium Korhogo KICK OFF : 20h00

ROUND OF 16:

Match on Sunday 28 Jan Stade Olympique Alassana Ouattara Stadium Abidjan 1A vs 3C/3D/3E Kickoff 17h00

A CHOICE OF EITHER

Match 39 Sunday 30 Jan 1E vs 2D

Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium Korhogo KICK OFF: 17h00

OR

Sunday 30 Jan 1F vs 2E

Stade Laurent Pokou SAN PEDRO

INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS AS LISTED ON PAGE 1

RETURN ECONOMY CLASS FLIGHTS:

DEPARTURE 18 JANUARY 2024 JOHANNESBURG -ABIDJAN RETURN 1 FEBRUARY 2024 ABIDJAN -JOHANNESBURG

24/22 A - STD ROOM 3*
ABIDJAN HOTEL ON A
DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM
SHARING; DAILY
BREAKFAST
1 NIGHT (18-19 JAN 2024)
4 NIGHTS (25-29 JAN
2024)

24/22 B - SUPERIOR 4*
ABIDJAN HOTEL ON A
DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM
SHARING; DAILY
BREAKFAST
1 NIGHT (18-19 JAN 2024)
NIGHTS (25-29 JAN
2024)

24/22 C - STD ROOM 3*
KORHOGO HOTEL ON A
DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM
SHARING; DAILY
BREAKFAST - 6 NIGHTS
(19-15 JAN 2024)
AND A FURTHER 3 NIGHTS
(29 JAN-01 FEB 2024)

24/22 D - SUPERIOR ROOM 4* KORHOGO HOTEL ON A DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST -6 NIGHTS (19-15 JAN 2024) AND A FURTHER 3 NIGHTS (29 JAN-01 FEB 2024)

Twin Sharing / Double from only STANDARD 3*: R75,990 pps SUPERIOR 4*: R89,990 pps

Single Room Supplement and/or Business Class on request



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AFCON 2024 - GROUP C

5 NIGHT PACKAGE 08-13 FEBRUARY 2024 REF 24/23 - BRONZE & FINAL

BRONZE
3RD/4TH PLACE
PLAYOFF
SATURDAY
10 FEBRUARY 2024



Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium, ABIDJAN

KICK OFF:: 20h00

FINAL SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2024

Stade Olympique Alassana Ouattara Stadium ABIDJAN

KICK OFF:: 17h00



DEPARTURE 08 FEBRUARY 2024 JOHANNESBURG - ABIDJAN RETURN 13 FEBRUARY 2024 ABIDJAN - JOHANNESBURG

24/23 A- STANDARD 3* ABIDJAN HOTEL ON A DOUBLE/TWIN SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST 5 NIGHTS (08-13 FEBRUARY 2024)

24/23 B - SUPERIOR 4* ABIDJAN HOTEL ON A DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM SHARING; DAILY BREAKFAST -5 NIGHTS (08-13 FEBRUARY 2024)



LISTED ON PAGE 1



Twin Sharing / Double from only STANDARD 3*: R34,995 pps SUPERIOR 4*: R39,990 pps

Single Room Supplement and/or Business Class on request



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CONFIRMATION



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All package quotations and pricing are valid for a period of 24 hours from quotation and is subject to exchange rates and availability
- Cancellation airline and hotel cancellation policies will apply. Match tickets are non refundable
- Courier fees are applicable to client when packages are requested in outlying areas.

FLIGHT OPTIONS ON REQUEST:

ECONOMY CLASS FLIGHTS / BUSINESS CLASS FLIGHTS



CHAMPION

PLEASE NOTE:

NO BOOKINGS WILL BE MADE UNTIL THE DEPOSIT IS PAID.

Upon signature customer confirms that you understand the terms. Bookings will only be confirmed once we have received the signed agreed confirmation form and deposit payment.

	Initials
Economy Class Flights	
Business Class Flights	
Cote d'Voire Land Arrangements :	
Standard 3* Hotel	
Superior 4* Hotel	
Single Room Supplement	
Other	