

Issue 5 / September 2023

CHAMPIONS

MAGAZINE

A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES



UEFA CUP * SPRINGBOKS AND THE WCR2023 *

NETBALL 2023 * WCC CRICKET 2023

EPL * PARAOLYMPICS

OLYMPICS 2024 * MOTORSPORTS

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CHAMPIONS MAGAZINE

RUGBY WORLD CUP IN MEMORY

Join the journey of the Springboks to the RWC in France. We also have a special edition just for Pool B!

Derek Watts was the face of Carte Blanche for many years and his passing will leave a great hole in our hearts



FORMULA 1

Max Verstappen made Formula One history with his 10th win in a row on Sunday

UEFA CUP

Manchester City striker Erling Haaland and manager Pep Guardiola won UEFA awards on Thursday



ICC WORLD CUP CRICKET 2023

Fixtures, teams and what to expect from one of the world's greatest sports!

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

James Beadle, Jack Hinshelwood and Freddie Simmonds have been called into England men's age-group squads for the forthcoming international break

PARA-OLYMPICS

Kat Swanepoel, who delivered Team SA's first medal of the 2023 World Para Swimming Championships in Manchester considers her performance as a "massive achievement"



OLYMPICS 2024

With one year to go, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Andrew Parsons believes Paris 2024 is on course to deliver the most spectacular Paralympic Games in history.



NETBALL 2023

England Netball will host South Africa's SPAR Proteas in the next Vitality Netball International Series at the end of the year.

Key to icons inside the magazine!



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Saturday	28 Oct	Paris	Finals	Cat 2	ZAR 34,995

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‘We think we know what’s coming against the Springboks’ – Conor Murray

Veteran Ireland scrum-half Conor Murray is wary of the Springboks’ challenge at the upcoming Rugby World Cup in France and said his team’s excellent form will count for little at the global showpiece. South Africa made a statement of intent when they cruised to a 35-7 victory over arch rivals New Zealand at Twickenham on Friday while Ireland sealed a hard-fought 17-13 win over Samoa in Bayonne on Saturday.

Murray worked with Springboks head coach Jacques Nienaber and his assistant Felix Jones at Munster and believes their knowledge of those coaches could help Ireland when they take on South Africa in a highly anticipated Pool B clash in Paris on September 23.

Familiar with the Springbok coaches

“We know what they’re like,” he said of South Africa. “You could say New Zealand were poor but I thought South Africa put them under so much pressure it made them make mistakes.

“A lot of us have been coached by Jacques and Felix and we know what’s coming. Well, we think we know what’s coming, Jacques is always going to pull something out of nothing and something you didn’t expect.

“We’ve been watching South Africa and everyone else for a long time. I’m sure they will feel really good about where they’re at because that was a really good New Zealand side and they made them look not so good.”



Ireland are heading into the World Cup sitting pretty atop World Rugby's official rankings and head into the World Cup after winning their last 13 matches.

Murray is set to play in his fourth World Cup but is aware the tournament is a "different animal".

"We're in a pretty good place, given where we have been over the last two years and what we have achieved," said the 34-year-old. "We never get carried away with ourselves. We know going into every game that we have to respect the opposition.

"It (form) going into a World Cup doesn't count for much. You have to bring your best rugby when you get to the tournament, when the competition kicks off for real.

"But we know how good the team can be. We also know how hard we have to work to get to that level and be there every week. "The summer series was good and people got hit outs and we feel match fit now, but it's a different animal by the time the World Cup comes around.

"We know where we can go as a group, the confidence is really high."

Murray scored a crucial try as Ireland had to dig deep to beat Samoa in rainy conditions in south-west France.



Conor Murray warms up ahead of Ireland's Rugby World Cup warm-up clash with England in Dublin.

Beneficial experience ahead of World Cup

He feels that experience will be beneficial moving forward, as World Cup hosts France are potential quarter-final opponents, if Ireland successfully negotiate a pool containing reigning world champions South Africa, Scotland, Tonga and Romania.

“Along that road we’re going to have games when things don’t go perfectly and we have to find a way,” he said. “The World Cup could be like that and probably will be like that, it won’t go perfectly.

“There’s going to be nights like this (Samoa), the atmosphere was really hostile, in a good way, but we’re going to have to deal with that kind of thing as well.”



'IT'S SOUR GRAPES' - SPRINGBOKS FIND ALLY IN FORMER IRELAND HOOKER OVER 7-1 SPLIT

Colin Newbould 31 Aug 2023

Former Ireland hooker Bernard Jackman has leapt to the defence of the Springboks, who have received criticism for fielding a bench which contained mostly forwards.

Ex-Scotland boss Matt Williams was scathing over the Boks, who decided to have seven forwards among the replacements for last Friday's clash against the All Blacks.

Williams stated it was 'against the spirit of the game' and that South Africa were 'abusing the bench'.

However, plenty have backed the defending world champions, with Jackman one of those to praise the "creativity" of director of rugby Rassie Erasmus and head coach Jacques Nienaber.

"Absolute nonsense"

"I loved the little bit of creativity by Rassie, although there's an inherent risk to it. But we shouldn't be talking about changing the rules or player safety - I think that's absolute nonsense," he said on the RTE Rugby podcast



Kwagga Smith scoring a try for Springboks v All Blacks in Rugby World Cup warm-up



RUGBY WORLD CUP 2023



“It’s sour grapes and it sounds like you’re scared. Just do what you do well and try and beat them.

“I personally believe that we should be lauding coaches who are taking risks or being creative.

“Obviously they have a profile of player that a lot of us don’t have, and a lot of countries would be afraid to go 6-2, because it doesn’t suit the profile of players they have. “They should be allowed, and encouraged to play it.”

South Africa are one of Ireland’s opponents in Pool B and Jackman doesn’t expect to see the same tactic in a big Rugby World Cup match. “I would love to play South Africa if they went 7-1 against Ireland. I don’t think they will as there’s a massive risk to that,” he said. “It (the decision to go 7-1) happened at the last minute and I don’t know if Rassie would do it against New Zealand or France in the quarter-final, or Ireland in a pool game.

“Not so along ago, there was a debate about whether it was crazy to go 6-2, and it backfires if there are injuries early (in the game).” Should the Boks decide to go with the 7-1, however, Jackman believes that they are helped by having Kwagga Smith in the squad, who has the athleticism and skill set to play in the backline.

“I know Kwagga has played 140/150 games of sevens, and he could play at centre or on the wing. France also have Macalou, who can play seven or winger etc, and fair play to them,” he said. “The hybrid player increases the multi-skilled player’s opportunity to play at the highest level for their country.”

How to beat the Boks

South Africa were ominously good in their final match before the start of the World Cup as they thrashed New Zealand 35-7 at Twickenham.

Nienaber’s men are evidently in a good place to defend the title they won in 2019, but Jackman believes that the Boks could be vulnerable if they are forced to chase the game.

The Springboks were able to control Friday’s encounter in the first half and it made it very difficult for the All Blacks to mount a comeback, but that could be reversed if the opposition can strike early.

“If the Boks get ahead of you, it’s very hard to pin them back, but a little bit like Leicester in the Premiership under (Steve) Borthwick, if you get ahead of them, they then have to open up a little bit and they’re not anywhere near as good,” he added.



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RUNNER-UP POOL D
21H00 WINNER POOL B
RUNNER-UP POOL A

15 October 2023

17H00 WINNER POOL D
RUNNER-UP POOL C
21H00 WINNER POOL A
RUNNER-UP POOL B

Friday 20 October 2023

21H00 WINNER QUARTER-FINAL 1
WINNER QUARTER-FINAL 2

Saturday 21 October 2023

21H00 WINNER QUARTER-FINAL 3
WINNER QUARTER-FINAL 4

Friday 27 October 2023

21H00 RUNNER-UP SEMI-FINAL 1
RUNNER-UP SEMI-FINAL 2

Saturday 28 October 2023 FINALS 21H00

INDIA-PAKISTAN TIE AMONG WORLD CUP MATCHES SET TO BE RESCHEDULED

REUTERS

The inordinate delay has inconvenienced fans who plan to travel to India for the tournament and Indian board secretary Jay Shah confirmed even the schedule announced last month is not final.

"Two or three boards have written in, asking to change based on the logistical challenges," Shah told reporters on Thursday.

"There are some matches where there is only a two-day gap, so it will be difficult to play and then travel next day."

"We are working out with the ICC, and we should be able to clear it in two or three days," he said, referring to the governing International Cricket Council. The organisers have not announced when and where fans can buy tickets from and an ICC spokesperson said it would be BCCI's call.

Media reported that the much-anticipated India v Pakistan tie would be brought forward by a day as adequate police security may not be possible on Oct. 15, which marks the beginning of a Hindu festival

NEW DELHI, (Reuters) - Barely three months to go before the start of the 50-overs World Cup, the organising Indian cricket board has said the schedule would be adjusted and an Oct. 15 India v Pakistan humdinger in Ahmedabad could be among matches affected.

World Cup schedules are usually announced a year before the start of the event but the fixtures for the tournament in India, scheduled from Oct. 5, were unveiled only last month.



Cricket - Asian Cup - India v Pakistan -
Dubai International Stadium, Dubai,
United Arab Emirates - August 28, 2022
India's Rohit Sharma in action
REUTERS/Satish Kumar/File

India and Pakistan have been implacable rivals since they emerged as independent countries at the end of British colonial rule in 1947, fighting three wars since then and still rattling sabres at each other when tensions rise.

Pakistan have said they would require government permission to travel to India for the World Cup though the ICC is hopeful of their participation.

The bitter neighbours have played each other only in multi-team events at neutral venues over the past decade.

Reporting by Amlan Chakraborty in New Delhi; editing by Robert Birsell



Bangladesh fielding coach Zimbabwe's Heath Streak addresses a press conference of the World T20 cricket tournament at The Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala on March 12, 2016

Heath Streak, 49, passes away on Sunday 3 September 2023

Heath Streak, a former Zimbabwe cricket captain and one of the country's most celebrated players, died on Sunday at the age of 49. He was diagnosed with both liver and colon cancer.

Nadine, Streak's wife, verified the news. "In the early hours of this morning, Sunday the 3rd of September 2023, the greatest love of my life and the father of my beautiful children, was carried to be with the Angels from his home where he wished to spend his last days surrounded by his family and closest loved ones," she wrote on social media.

"He was covered in love and peace and did not walk off the Park alone. Our souls are joined for eternity Streaky." Streak was notable as both a player and a coach and played in 65 Test matches and 189 ODIs during his playing career.



ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023



FIXTURES

5 OCTOBER - 19 NOVEMBER 2023

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

Wednesday, 15 November SEMI FINAL 1 Mumbai

Thursday, 16 November SEMI FINAL 2 Kolkata

SUNDAY, 19 NOVEMBER FINAL AHMEDABAD

Download fixture list here





ICC Men's Cricket World Cup India 2023

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ENGLAND CALL-UPS FOR ALBION TRIO

James Beadle, Jack Hinshelwood and Freddie Simmonds have been called into England men's age-group squads for the forthcoming international break. Goalkeeper Beadle, currently on a season-long loan with League One Oxford United, will link up with England under-21s for the first time since they won the European Championship in the summer.

They begin a new qualifying campaign with a game in Luxembourg on 11 September.

Meanwhile, Hinshelwood has been named in the under-19s squad for a training camp on the Costa Brava which will include friendlies against Germany next Wednesday (6 September) and Switzerland on 9 September.

And defender Freddie Simmonds has been named in the England under-17s squad for friendlies against Portugal (6 September), Morocco (9th) and Spain (12th) with all games taking place at the Pinatar Arena.



Download full
fixture list here



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Saturday 16 September 2023

Wolves	13:30	Liverpool
Aston Villa	16:00	Crystal Palace
Fulham	16:00	Luton
Man Utd	16:00	Brighton
Spurs	16:00	Sheffield Utd
West Ham	16:00	Man City
Newcastle	18:30	Brentford

Sunday 17 September 2023

Bournemouth	15:00	Chelsea
Everton	17:30	Arsenal

Monday 18 September 2023

Nott'm Forest	20:45	Burnley
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Saturday 23 September 2023

Crystal Palace	16:00	Fulham
Luton	16:00	Wolves
Man City	16:00	Nott'm Forest
Brentford	18:30	Everton
Burnley	21:00	Man Utd

Sunday 24 September 2023

Arsenal	15:00	Spurs
Brighton	15:00	Bournemouth
Chelsea	15:00	Aston Villa
Liverpool	15:00	West Ham
Sheffield Utd	17:30	Newcastle

Saturday 30 September 2023

Aston Villa	13:30	Brighton
Bournemouth	16:00	Arsenal
Everton	16:00	Luton
Man Utd	16:00	Crystal Palace
Newcastle	16:00	Burnley



England Premier League Soccer Fixtures



Egyptian extends run of scoring or assisting to 10 matches in 3-0 victory at Anfield

Liverpool extended their unbeaten run to 14 Premier League matches and moved up to third in the table with a comfortable 3-0 win over Aston Villa at Anfield.

The home side got off to a dream start as Dominik Szoboszlai fired them in front after fewer than three minutes. A Trent Alexander-Arnold corner came all the way out to the Hungarian, outside the area and he rifled in his first goal for the club since signing from RB Leipzig in the summer.

Shortly after, Villa were forced into a defensive reshuffle, with Diego Carlos going off injured, Liverpool doubled their lead. Alexander-Arnold, who bossed the first half with five key passes, released Mohamed Salah down the right. Salah crossed to Darwin Nunez, whose shot hit a post and went in off Matty Cash for an own goal in the 22nd minute.

John McGinn fired over as Villa tried to get a foothold back in the match, but it was the dominant Reds who could have added further first-half goals, Nunez's clipped effort hit the bar before Salah was denied by Emiliano Martinez.

The third goal took the life out of the match, with Liverpool still largely dominant.



Fixtures



Saturday 16 September

WOL  13:30  LIV →

Sunday 24 September

LIV  15:00  WHU →

Saturday 30 September

TOT  18:30  LIV →

Sunday 8 October

BHA  15:00  LIV →

Saturday 21 October

LIV  13:30  EVE →

[View All](#) →



Liverpool U21s head coach Barry Lewtas speaks to Adrian Clarke about the all-round value of the Premier League Games Programme



POCHETTINO: THE PROCESS WILL HAVE UPS AND DOWNS

Mauricio Pochettino has acknowledged there will be bumps in the road as his young and newly assembled Chelsea squad take time to gel.

The Blues suffered our second defeat of the campaign at home to Nottingham Forest on Saturday, drawing a blank despite dominating possession and territory against dogged opposition. Pochettino knows there is so much room for improvement, not least in the final third, but he is confident the rebuilding project he is overseeing at Stamford Bridge will prove successful.

Pochettino felt we deserved more on Saturday

'A process like this is always up and down,' he said.

'We have a very young squad. From our side, it is about the time to work and to improve the players and to create the best platform.

'Of course we need to be more clinical in front of goal. It is a situation we need to improve on, to work really hard on. We need to prove we can score.

'You cannot accelerate the process, but in time, this squad can be really good and very competitive.'

Our best opening on Saturday fell to Nicolas Jackson towards the end of the second half, but unfortunately the Senegalese striker couldn't direct his close-range effort on target.

Pochettino explained why he is not concerned by that miss and remains confident Jackson is the man to lead the Chelsea attack. 'He needs time,' added the head coach. 'He needs to adapt to the Premier League. He is doing a fantastic job but scoring is not easy.

'Sometimes he is a little bit rushed in his decisions but it's only about settling his nerves and being more calm and more relaxed. 'In the future he will score this type of chance when he is relaxed and not rushed, and feels settled in the team and the Premier League. For sure he is going to score goals.'

Fixtures

Sunday 17 September

BOU  15:00  CHE →

Sunday 24 September

CHE  15:00  AVL →



Monday 2 October

FUL  21:00  CHE →

Saturday 7 October

BUR  16:00  CHE →

Saturday 21 October

CHE  18:30  ARS →







England Premier League Soccer Fixtures

Fixtures

Sunday 17 September

EVE  17:30  **ARS** →

Sunday 24 September

ARS  15:00  **TOT** →

Saturday 30 September

BOU  16:00  **ARS** →

Sunday 8 October

ARS  17:30  **MCI** →

Saturday 21 October

CHE  18:30  **ARS** →

[View All](#) →



Two goals deep, deep into injury-time gave us a memorable victory over Manchester United, with the Emirates roar in full effect again. Just like last season, we bounced back after conceding the first goal to United to secure the points late on, but that doesn't tell the whole story of an incredible, topsy-turvy game.

We had a penalty decision over-ruled by VAR, before Manchester United had a goal chalked off for a marginal offside after the video referee intervened again. We also missed presentable chances in both halves, but after the game Mikel Arteta said the 'story ended in a beautiful way.'

"Thank you so much for the crowd and the players to be part of these moments because they are going to stick with us for a while," he added. "It's a big, big, big game with a lot of history, as we've said, and it was brilliant to end it in the way we did."

"I love the mentality of the team, the determination, the eagerness to win and go and go and go. We never give up. Obviously we gave them the first goal in a situation that we discussed. They kill you if you do that and we did, but we reacted straight away and I think, overall over the 100 minutes, the team was very dominant and deserved to win the game, but to be fair the margins with this team are so small and it could have gone in a different way."

The team now has two weeks before our next game – away to Everton – as the players head off to international duty. We sit in fifth place, unbeaten with ten points from four games, and the manager said he expects to see improvements upon the resumption.





ONANA SET TO REPRESENT CAMEROON AGAIN

Manchester United goalkeeper Andre Onana has confirmed he will proudly represent Cameroon during the international break. The 27-year-old last played for his country during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where he left the tournament early and later announced his retirement from international football.

Onana is now excited to feature in next Tuesday's Africa Cup of Nations qualifying match against Burundi.











In a statement released via social media, Andre writes: "In the world of football, as in life, decisive moments arise that require crucial choices to be made.

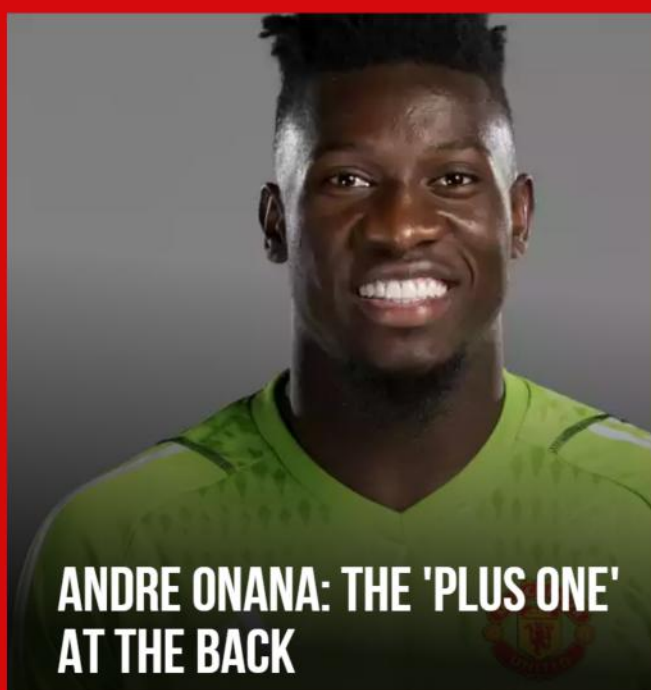
"In recent months, I have been confronted with trials marked by injustice and manipulation. Yet my unshakeable love and attachment to my homeland, Cameroon, remain intact.

"My desire to represent my country has never wavered since my youth, and this aspiration remains an inseparable part of my identity. Nothing and no one can shake this conviction.

"I answer my nation's call with unshakeable certainty, aware that my return is not only to honour my dream, but also to respond to the expectations and support of Cameroonians, who deserve a national team determined to shine.

"In the face of manipulation, lies and abuse of power, I choose to remain true to my ideals, proudly representing a country that deserves our sincere commitment. Now is the time to unite, to work in harmony for our common good: Cameroon.

Fixtures			
Saturday 16 September			
MUN		16:00	 BHA →
Saturday 23 September			
BUR		21:00	 MUN →
Saturday 30 September			
MUN		16:00	 CRY →
Saturday 7 October			
MUN		16:00	 BRE →
Saturday 21 October			
SHU		21:00	 MUN →



ANDRE ONANA: THE 'PLUS ONE' AT THE BACK



HAALAND HAT-TRICK HELPS CITY BACK TO PREMIER LEAGUE SUMMIT

An Erling Haaland hat-trick helped City move back to the Premier League summit and maintain our 100% start to the 2023/24 campaign with a 5-1 win over Fulham at the Etihad Stadium.

The Norwegian's seventh treble in sky blue rounded off a remarkable week for our number nine, whose first of the afternoon saw him become the quickest player to 40 Premier League goals.

Julian Alvarez had handed City the lead on the half hour, but the visitors replied almost instantly through Tim Ream.

But Nathan Ake headed home on the stroke of half-time to restore our advantage, despite heavy protests from the Fulham players and coaching staff who felt Manuel Akanji had interfered from an offside position.

WHAT HAPPENED?

There was a carnival atmosphere at the Etihad Stadium ahead of kick-off as we marked Bahia becoming the 13th club to join CFG in May 2023 with a number of special celebrations on 'O dia da Bahia'.

But that famous Brazilian attacking flair was at a premium in the opening exchanges, with both sides instead gradually getting the measure of each other at the Etihad Stadium.

It was an off-colour start for City, but an excellent first-time ball across the face of goal from Foden, which was inches from finding Haaland, showed that spark wasn't too far away.

Foden, reintroduced to the side after a decisive late cameo against Sheffield United, jinked into the box again soon after following a quick one-two with Akanji, but the England international was crowded out at the decisive moment.

Fixtures

Saturday 16 September

WHU  16:00  MCI →

Saturday 23 September

MCI  16:00  NFO →

Saturday 30 September

WOL  16:00  MCI →

Sunday 8 October

ARS  17:30  MCI →

Saturday 21 October

MCI  16:00  BHA →

[View All](#) →



 Premier League
Sat 2 Sep

 **MAN CITY**
Julián Álvarez (31'),
Nathan Ake (50'),
Erling Haaland (58', 70', 95')

5

 **FULHAM**
Tim Ream (33')

1

[VIEW HIGHLIGHTS](#)

HAALAND WINS UEFA AWARD, WIEGMAN DEDICATES PRIZE TO SPAIN



MONACO, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Manchester City striker Erling Haaland and manager Pep Guardiola won UEFA awards on Thursday for the best men's player and coach of the year as women's winners Aitana Bonmati and Sarina Wiegman addressed the turmoil in Spanish soccer in their speeches.

Norwegian Haaland beat his team mate Kevin De Bruyne and 2022 World Cup champion Lionel Messi after helping City win three major trophies, the Champions League, English Premier League and FA Cup.

The 22-year-old, who on Tuesday was named England's Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Player of the Year, scored 52 goals in 53 matches across all competitions last season. "I won the treble at the age of 22. I'm kind of living the dream," he said at the ceremony in Monaco.

"This season is about keeping my head clear. Even more eyes will be on me and my team after winning the Champions League. We have to be sharper and more prepared."

Guardiola was voted ahead of Italians Luciano Spalletti, who led Napoli to their first Serie A title in 33 years, and Simone Inzaghi whose Inter Milan side were Champions League runners-up and won the Italian Cup.

The Spanish manager was not present to receive the award as he is recovering from his back surgery.

DEDICATED TO SPAIN

England coach Sarina Wiegman took the prize for the Women's Coach of the Year after leading the Lionesses to this year's World Cup final and victory in the Finalissima against Brazil at Wembley in April.

Wiegman dedicated her award to the Spain women's team after the kiss incident involving federation president Luis Rubiales took the spotlight when Spain secured their first Women's World Cup title. "(Receiving this award) feels a little different," Wiegman said. "We all know the issues around the Spanish team and it really hurts me as a coach, as a mother of two daughters, as a wife and as a human being.

"The game has grown so much but there's also still a long way to go in women's football and society. "I would like to dedicate this award to the Spanish team - the team that played in a World Cup such great football that everyone enjoys. This team deserves to be celebrated and listened to." World Cup winner Aitana Bonmati, who helped Barcelona to Women's Champions League and Spanish league title, won the women's player of the year award.

The 25-year-old registered a competition-high 13 goal contributions in the Champions League with five goals and eight assists. "I would like to thank Sarina for her words because this is not a good moment in Spanish football," Bonmati said. "We have just won the World Cup, but they are talking about other things." Reporting by Anita Kobylinska in Gdansk, Editing by Ed Osmond



Matchday 1
19 September

AC Milan vs Newcastle United (18:45)

Young Boys vs Leipzig (18:45)

Feyenoord vs Celtic (21:00)

Lazio vs Atlético de Madrid (21:00)

Paris vs Dortmund (21:00)

Man City vs Crvena zvezda (21:00)

Barcelona vs Antwerp (21:00)

Shakhtar Donetsk vs Porto (21:00)



**CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE®**



20 September

Galatasaray vs Copenhagen (18:45)

Real Madrid vs Union Berlin (18:45)

Bayern vs Man United (21:00)

Sevilla vs Lens (21:00)

Arsenal vs PSV Eindhoven (21:00)

Braga vs Napoli (21:00)

Benfica vs Salzburg (21:00)

Real Sociedad vs Inter (21:00)

Where is the 2024 Champions League final?



The 2023/24 UEFA Champions League final will take place at Wembley Stadium in London on 1 June 2024.

Matchday 2
3 October



UEFA
MEN'S PLAYER
OF THE YEAR
2022/23



Union Berlin vs Braga (18:45)
Salzburg vs Real Sociedad (18:45)
Man United vs Galatasaray (21:00)
Copenhagen vs Bayern (21:00)
Lens vs Arsenal (21:00)
PSV Eindhoven vs Sevilla (21:00)
Napoli vs Real Madrid (21:00)
Inter vs Benfica (21:00)

4 October

Atlético de Madrid vs Feyenoord (18:45)
Antwerp vs Shakhtar Donetsk (18:45)
Celtic vs Lazio (21:00)
Dortmund vs Milan (21:00)
Newcastle vs Paris (21:00)
Leipzig vs Man City (21:00)
Crvena zvezda vs Young Boys (21:00)
Porto vs Barcelona (21:00)



VERSTAPPEN'S RECORD IS PART OF SOMETHING EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE

BY ALAN BALDWIN



MONZA, Italy, Sept 4 (Reuters) – Max Verstappen made Formula One history with his 10th win in a row on Sunday but the Red Bull driver's all-time record forms part of a bigger success story that is even more remarkable. Ferrari team boss Fred Vasseur, who had Carlos Sainz and Charles Leclerc third and fourth behind Verstappen and his team mate Sergio Perez at the Italian Grand Prix, highlighted that fact afterwards. "I think the most impressive for me is that Max, it's not just about the last 10 races but it's about the last two years," said the Frenchman.



"I would say that he didn't do a single mistake ... for sure it's easier to not do mistakes when you have a margin on the others and so on but even in these kind of circumstances he's able to manage the situation very well.

"To not do a single mistake over two seasons, it's just mega."

Verstappen did not take pole position at Monza on Saturday, missing out to Sainz by a mere 13 thousandths of a second, but the pressure was all on the Ferrari driver rather than the potential record man.

Such is the Red Bull's race pace advantage, even if Sainz held him off for longer than expected on Sunday, that Verstappen could afford to play a waiting game and trust in his car and team.

"He put some pressure on Carlos but never too much, he didn't take risks and knew that he had a difference of pace and he was convinced that if it's not possible during the first stint it will be around the pitstop," said Vasseur.

The win was Verstappen's 12th of the season and stretched Red Bull's record unbeaten run to 15 races, dating back to last season's Abu Dhabi finale.

Verstappen is now a hefty 145 points clear of Perez with eight races remaining and his inevitable third title fast approaching. "That's a nice stat," the 25-year-old said over the radio when he was congratulated on the record win, taking him one beyond the nine in a row of now-retired Sebastian Vettel, but the statistics from the last two seasons are also pretty tasty.



TEAM EFFORT

Since the start of the 2022 season Verstappen has won 27 of 36 races and 21 of the last 25.

The Dutch driver has taken 37 of his 47 career victories since the start of the 2021 season.

In the last 26 races Verstappen has finished lower than second only twice and in the last 36 he has ended up off the podium only five times. His last retirement was in Australia in April 2022 -- 34 races ago -- and that was through no fault of his own, with the Red Bull rolling to a halt at Melbourne's Albert Park with smoke billowing from it.

It is also very much a team effort and Red Bull have won 24 of the last 25 races.

"I wouldn't say he was nervous this weekend but you could definitely feel that his focus was razor sharp, more than usual. You could see that it (the record) definitely meant something to him," said Red Bull boss Christian Horner.

"What Max is doing is breaking records and driving at an unbelievable level and I don't think there is anybody in the world at the moment that can beat Max Verstappen in this car, that's for sure.

"You have to recognise and applaud what Max is doing.

"In sport it is very rare that something like this happens and it is a golden moment for him and certainly a golden moment for the team."

Reporting by Alan Baldwin, editing by Ken Ferris





With one year to go, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Andrew Parsons believes Paris 2024 is on course to deliver the most spectacular Paralympic Games in history.



The combination of world class sport, iconic venues, a first Games since the pandemic, and a revolutionary approach by the Organising Committee, are the perfect ingredients to deliver a Paralympics that will surpass the achievements of any previous Games edition, according to the Brazilian.



"As we reach the one year to go milestone, all the stars are aligning for Paris 2024 to deliver tremendous and memorable Paralympic Games, setting a benchmark for all future editions," Parsons said.



Aim to sell every Paralympic ticket

With tickets going on sale at family friendly and affordable prices from 9 October on a first-come, first served basis, the IPC President hopes that all 2.8 million tickets are sold.

Half of all tickets cost EUR 25 or less while tickets for the 22 sports range from EUR 15 to EUR 100.

"I think there will be a massive demand for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games tickets once they go on-sale," explained Parsons.

"The Paralympic Games has always prided itself on offering accessible tickets to all, and Paris 2024 is no different. We have worked hard with the Organising Committee to ensure affordable and family friendly prices for world class sport in absolutely stunning and iconic venues.

"The Paralympic Games are one of the world's few mega sport events that you can afford to attend with all your friends and family; it's what makes the atmosphere at the Games so unique and special for everyone who attends.



“Over the last decade we have witnessed a dramatic improvement in athletic performance across all 22 sports, while the depth of talent and level of competition has never been better. In terms of sport performance there is no doubt that Paris 2024 will be the best Paralympic Games ever.

“As with every Games, we hope we can sell every single ticket to spectators once they go on-sale on 9 October. With world class sport, stunning venues, and affordable tickets we aim to achieve this goal.”

The closest the Paralympic Games has come to selling out was London 2012 when 2.72 million tickets (95% of capacity) were sold. Had it not been for the pandemic then Tokyo 2020 would likely have been the first Paralympic Games to sell-out after there were 3.1 million requests for tickets in the first few months of sales.



A total of 45,000 volunteers will be recruited to work at the Paralympic and Olympic Games in Paris. ©Paris 2024

Paris 2024 opened the application portal for the volunteer programme for the Olympic and Paralympic Games on Wednesday, 22 March.

A total of 45,000 volunteers will have the opportunity to live unique moments and experience the Games from the inside during the Paralympic Games, to be held from 28 August to 8 September 2024, preceded by the Olympic Games between 26 July to 11 August 2024.



DELIGHTED SWANEPOEL REFLECTS ON ‘MASSIVE ACHIEVEMENT’

By GARY LEMKE

Kat Swanepoel, who delivered Team SA’s first medal of the 2023 World Para Swimming Championships in Manchester considers her performance as a “massive achievement”. She had finished fourth in last year’s SB3 50m breaststroke final and improved to take silver a year later in Manchester.



“Coming into these Championships my goals were to focus on what we’ve been working on and continue the build-up to the 2024 Paris Paralympics. So this was a massive achievement for me. Breaststroke has never been my speciality and at best I was hoping to match my fourth place from last year’s world champs. So to get the silver is huge.”

However, Swanepoel doesn't have much time to rest and reflect on her laurels. "I am hoping for a couple of personal bests in the events that we have been focusing on the most. While it's a big moment for me to take in, I realise that I still have a week of racing ahead of me. Luckily today's (Tuesday) 100m freestyle is a warm-up race for me for my 150m Individual Medley. It's nice for me to get the confidence from a good first swim, but I also need to stay focused going forward."

Swanepoel said that during the 50m breaststroke her focus was "to stay in a calm but alert state of mind, to get off the wall quickly and maintain a steady stroke rate throughout the length". Mission accomplished.

She allowed herself to reflect on what it means to represent her country. "I become quite emotional when thinking how much it means to me to represent South Africa. I am always so aware and grateful of how many people have sacrificed so much for us to have the privilege of wearing our flag with pride. Each time I wear the green and gold I am conscious of all those at home who do not have the opportunities that we have been given."

Swanepoel is one of six swimmers representing Team SA at these Championships in Manchester.



ENGLAND NETBALL TO HOST SOUTH AFRICA SERIES IN DECEMBER



England Netball will host South Africa's SPAR Proteas in the next Vitality Netball International Series at the end of the year.

The Vitality Roses will welcome the Netball World Cup hosts South Africa for a three-match test series, starting in Manchester before heading to Nottingham for back-to-back weekend games.

The news comes just two weeks before the two sides begin their World Cup campaigns in Cape Town on Friday 28 July.

Earlier this year, sold-out crowds turned out to watch the Vitality Roses claim victory over the Commonwealth Games silver medallists' Jamaica including just under 7,000 fans in Manchester.

This will be the first chance to see England play on home soil after the World Cup against one of the world's best netball nations.

At the Netball Quad Series in January, the two sides played out a dramatic draw in the group stage before the Vitality Roses claimed a seven-goal win over the SPAR Proteas in the third-place play-off.



This will also be the first home series part of our four-year journey to the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Australia.

Fran Connolly, CEO of England Netball commented: "With the World Cup just a couple of weeks away, we're excited to already have our next fix of international netball lined up for the end of the year against world-class opposition.

"Kicking on from last summer, we saw at the start of the year just how passionate people are about the Roses with tremendous crowds in Manchester and London for our Jamaica series.

"As we take our sport forward to bigger arenas across the country, we hope we can encourage more people to enjoy the incredible atmosphere of our events."

Sky Sports will be showing all three games. More details will be announced in due course.

Tickets to the Vitality Netball International Series will go on general sale from 10am on Monday 31 July.

England Netball members can buy tickets in an exclusive pre-sale window from 10am on Monday 17 July with access to a 10% discount. Members will be emailed directly with a link to purchase priority tickets.*

For this series, ticket purchasers will receive £5 off all adult tickets as part of an early bird offer, if purchased before 20 September. This offer will also be valid with the England Netball Member discount.

*Terms and conditions apply.

Vitality Netball International Series: Vitality Roses vs. South Africa's SPAR Proteas:

Tuesday 5 December, 7pm – AO Arena, Manchester

Saturday 9 December, 5pm – Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham

Sunday 10 December, 2pm – Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham



**Derek
Watts**



Derek Watts

A consummate professional and national treasure, Carte Blanche's Derek Watts died at the age of 74 after a short battle with cancer.

BeyondWords

Two months after stepping away from the camera to focus on his health, South Africa's beloved TV broadcaster and veteran journalist, Derek Watts, succumbed to cancer on Tuesday in the company of his loved ones.

In a statement, Carte Blanche executive producer John Webb expressed deep sadness at the news.

"Having been with Carte Blanche from the beginning, Derek became synonymous with the show, and we acknowledge that it's largely because of him that we have become who we are.

"Derek was a consummate professional and a dyed-in-the-wool television journalist. But, more importantly, he was a profoundly decent and kind man. We will miss him."

In 2022, Watts was diagnosed with skin cancer that spread into his lungs. In April this year, he was admitted to the ICU following a suspected stroke while on holiday with his family. Lying in his hospital bed at the time, he remained in high spirits.

Derek Watts (74) speaks during an interview at his home in Bryanston on July 15, 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa. According to media reports, the iconic TV anchor of Carte Blanche opened up about his cancer battle and the support that he has been getting from his family.

In a video posted on social media, he said: “Looks scary, but collapsed with a suspected stroke in Hoedspruit 14 days ago and dispatched to super-pro Milpark Hospital ICU.”

At 2 metres tall, Watts was a towering figure. He was born in Hillbrow, Johannesburg. At the age of five, his family relocated to Bulawayo in what was then Rhodesia. He cut his journalism teeth as a writer for The Herald in Zimbabwe.

Years later, after moving to South Africa, he joined the SABC.

“When M-Net was only two years old, they were starting a new show and they asked Ruda [Landman] and me to come and present it. I thought about it for 10 seconds and crossed the floor,” he said during an interview with the Sunday Times.

That was in 1988. Watts subsequently graced South Africa’s television screen for more than three decades. The “new show” was the renowned investigative programme, Carte Blanche.

Asked why he had stayed with Carte Blanche for so long, he responded, “In the media in this country, there’s no other job I’d swap it for. Because I don’t think anything could be as exciting or offer the variety that I enjoy.”

Other than being an extraordinary broadcaster, Watts described himself as a dog lover. He was the father of two boys and was known as “Papa D” by his Carte Blanche colleagues.





Fellow presenter, colleague and friend Bongani Bingwa described Watts as “one of the kindest, most generous professionals ... The room disappeared when he spoke to you. Even as a colleague, he made me feel like I was Mother Teresa”.

Watts was not shy when it came to speaking truth to power. He covered a vast range of stories in his long career, from land grabs and clashes in Zimbabwe to finding gorillas in Rwanda to motoring journalism.

“Derek’s Carte Blanche journey is an illustrious one. His work enables him to connect with ordinary people whose life stories grip everyone while still infusing each story with sincerity, kindness and – at times – humour, which has made him such a fan favourite,” M-Net said in a statement.

The South African National Editors’ Forum (Sanef) said it was “deeply saddened” by the news of Watts’s death, describing him as “a true icon of investigative journalism and a beloved anchor” of Carte Blanche.

Sanef chairperson Sbu Ngalwa said: “As the face of Carte Blanche for many years, Watts was not only an exceptional journalist but also a guiding light in the pursuit of truth and transparency. His dedication to uncovering stories of immense importance and relevance to the South African public garnered him immense respect and admiration from colleagues and viewers alike. His distinctive voice and unwavering commitment to journalistic integrity has left an indelible mark on the industry.”

The forum said Watts “will forever be remembered not only as an exceptional journalist but also as a mentor and role model to many aspiring journalists. His contribution to investigative journalism has left an enduring legacy, inspiring others to continue his mission of uncovering the truth and holding those in power accountable.”

Nomsa Philiso, chief executive of general entertainment at parent company MultiChoice, said Watts would be remembered as a dedicated investigative journalist.

“His unwavering commitment to his work and his determination in the face of challenges were truly remarkable.”

Tributes from media colleagues have been flooding social media.

Carte Blanche presenter Govan Whittles said: “A giant of South African journalism. One of a kind. Thank you for setting the standard so incredibly high. For the masterful storytelling week after week on #CarteBlanche. Rest in Peace Mr Derek Watts. You paved the way. My condolences to the Watts family.”

EWN’s Katy Katopodis wrote: “How I loved hosting the Oscar Pistorius Trial Channel with Derek. He was warm, welcoming and charming ... always encouraging me and making me feel like I belonged ... even when the odd moment of ‘imposter syndrome’ crept in as I made my TV debut.

“We made television history during those days as Carte Blanche and EWN were granted permission to broadcast court proceedings live. It was an honour and a privilege to be a part of a team that included Derek.”

Carte Blanche presenter Erin Bates said: “I am in absolute shock. My heart and thoughts go to our full Carte Blanche team and, above all, Derek’s family. A national treasure beyond compare: brilliant, relatable and a fine broadcaster throughout. May he rest well in peace.”

Derek Watts is survived by his wife, Belinda, and children Tyrone and Kirstin. Story from Daily Maverick





CHAMPIONS

September/October 2023

RUGBY WORLD CUP

FULL MATCH
SCHEDULE AND
PLANNER

SPECIAL
EDITION

Rugby World Cup Pool B
preview: Squads, fixtures,
star players and more

Power Rankings heading
into the 2023 Rugby
World Cup