

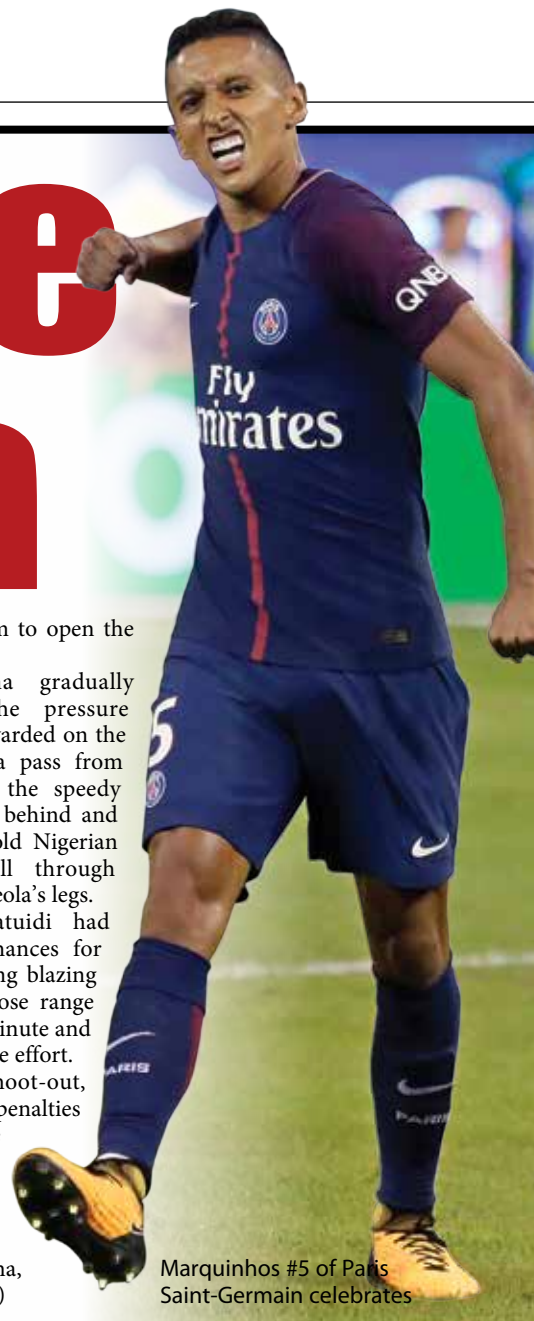
PSG edge AS Roma

Los Angeles
Paris Saint-Germain edged AS Roma 5-3 on penalties on Wednesday after they played to a 1-1 draw in a friendly international football match in Detroit, Michigan. Brazilian defender Marquinhos gave the Ligue 1 giants the lead in the 36th minute, but Roma responded with a strong second-half performance that saw Sadiq Umar nab the equalizer in the 60th minute. Under the rules of the International Champions Cup friendly tournament the match was then settled by a shootout. Only Roma's Gerson failed to convert, and Marquinhos capped his night with the decisive

penalty. Brazil international Dani Alvez made his debut for PSG, starting at right back a week after he signed with the French club in a deal worth a reported 14 million euros (\$16 million). Alves played 69 minutes and was perhaps lucky not to concede a penalty in the 57th, when his slide tackle caught Diego Perotti in the area. PSG's Spanish coach Unai Emery was satisfied with what he saw from Alves, who won three Champions Leagues and six La Liga titles at Barcelona and who many had expected to end up with former manager Pep Guardiola at Manchester City. "He played with his experience," Emery said.

"He talks a lot on the pitch, he also brings a lot in attack." The match drew more than 36,000 to Comerica Park, home of Major League Baseball's Detroit Tigers. Paris had seized the lead nine minutes before halftime. A neat combination between Thiago Motta and Jese saw the ball fall to Marquinhos, who fired home a right-footed shot from the centre of the area. The French club continued to push, with Lucas Moura firing straight at Roma keeper Alisson, but the lead remained at 1-0 at halftime. With six changes for Roma and two for PSG, both clubs struggled to

find a rhythm to open the second half. But Roma gradually increased the pressure and were rewarded on the hour mark a pass from Gerson saw the speedy Sadiq put in behind and the 20-year-old Nigerian put the ball through Alphonse Areola's legs. Blaise Matuidi had three late chances for PSG, including blazing over from close range in the 85th minute and an injury-time effort. In the shoot-out, the first five penalties were converted before Gerson, the third penalty-taker for Roma, missed. (AFP)



Marquinhos #5 of Paris Saint-Germain celebrates

Bolt, Van Niekerk all set to shine in Monaco



Usain Bolt

Monaco
Usain Bolt and Wayde van Niekerk, the man tipped to take over from the retiring Jamaican as track and field's next superstar, headline a glittering cast at today's Diamond League meeting in Monaco. The event offers one final tune-up ahead of next month's world championships in London, from August 4-13, where eight-time Olympic gold medalist Bolt will bring down the curtain on his incredible career. The Stade Louis II, the home of French football champions Monaco, provides an idyllic backdrop on the Mediterranean coast for Bolt's second-to-last appearance. It is just the second time the 11-time world champion is running in Monaco, after 2011, with the 100m scheduled for 1935 GMT as Bolt looks to dip under the 10-second barrier for the first time this year. "This race is mostly about execution and working on my flaws," Bolt said. (AFP)

Celtic enjoy trouble-free European cruise

Glasgow
Scott Sinclair bagged a double as Celtic eased to a 4-0 win over Linfield in the second leg of their Champions League second round qualifier to seal a 6-0 aggregate victory. The Hoops, who triumphed 2-0 in a fiery clash in Belfast last week where the match was overshadowed by sectarian fears, got off to the perfect start when Sinclair fired them into a fourth-minute lead. A lack of clinical finishing meant it took until the 47th minute for Australian international Tom Rogic to double Celtic's advantage over the Northern Ireland champions. Sinclair added a third in the 55th minute before substitute Stuart Armstrong wrapped up the scoring in stoppage time to book their place in their third qualifying round where they will face Rosenborg. Celtic will host the Norwegian champions, who needed extra time to see off Dundalk, in Glasgow next Wednesday. "Some of the football at this stage

of the season was very good," said Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers. "We were a bit wasteful in the first half but our intensity wore them down in the end." After nasty scenes marred the first leg in Belfast, the travelling Linfield fans were escorted into the ground under a heavy police escort, but their presence failed to inspire David Healy's side, who had



Scott Sinclair (file pic)

no answers to the dominance of their hosts. Like the first leg, Sinclair opened the scoring. Olivier Ntcham, making his competitive debut following his summer switch from Manchester City, fired in a shot from outside the box which deflected perfectly into the path of the English winger who gleefully swept the ball into the net. The signs looked ominous for Linfield as the Hoops pinned them in their own half with Moussa Dembele somehow slicing a half-volley wide from close range. Former Man United keeper Roy Carroll, so impressive in the first leg, then had to look sharp to keep out Dembele's diving header before the Frenchman pulled a shot wide of the post when Rogic had sent him through on goal. Rogic was then presented with a golden chance in first-half stoppage time but the Australian somehow clipped his effort wide from eight yards. (AFP)

Isner, Karlovic advance, Mannarino out at Newport



John Isner (file pic)

Washington
US top seed John Isner and second-seeded defending champion Ivo Karlovic advanced to the quarter-finals of the ATP Hall of Fame Championships with straight-set triumphs Wednesday at Newport, Rhode Island. Isner, the 2011 and 2012 winner at the grass-court event, fired 13 aces in defeating Australian qualifier Sam Groth 6-2, 6-4. The hard-serving American improved to 3-0 all-time against Groth, who dropped prior meetings in Davis Cup ties this year and last year, with the 61-minute triumph. Croatia's Karlovic, 38, defeated American Denis Kudla 6-4, 6-4 to reach the final eight. Karlovic, seeking his ninth career ATP crown, lost the 2014 and 2015 Newport finals before downing Gilles Muller 14-12 in a third-set tie-breaker to win last year's championship

match. Isner advanced to a quarter-final matchup against fellow American Dennis Novikov, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Canadian Frank Dancevic. Karlovic booked a quarter-final meeting with Germany's Peter Gojowczyk, who eliminated Russia's Konstantin Kravchuk 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. Germany's Tobias Kamke pulled the biggest upset so far, ousting French third seed Adrian Mannarino 7-6 (7/5), 7-5. He will next face Australian qualifier Matthew Ebden, who defeated sixth-seeded Slovakian Lukas Lacko 6-1, 7-6 (7/2). Also advancing was fourth-seeded Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert, who outlasted Spain's Adrian Panenche-Maceiras 7-5, 2-6, 6-3. His next opponent American Bjorn Fratangelo, who ousted Australian Akira Santillan 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-1. (AFP)