



## Recharged Klopp 'ready' for Germany coach talks



Berlin, Germany

Jurgen Klopp insisted yesterday he was recharged and "ready" for what he said would be "intensive discussions" over becoming the new coach of Germany.

Klopp told the German FA (DFB) Friday that he was "fundamentally willing" to take over as Germany's coach after Julian Nagelsmann resigned.

Nagelsmann, who had a contract until 2028, stepped down just four days after Germany's disappointing last-32 World Cup exit to Paraguay.

Klopp, the former Liverpool and Borussia Dortmund manager, is under contract as the Red Bull conglomerate's head of global football, but Sky Germany reports he has a verbal agreement which would allow him to leave to take up the Germany job.

Speaking on Magenta TV, for whom he was working as a World Cup pundit, Klopp said: "The timing isn't perfect right now. Nevertheless, it's better than it has ever been. By now, I'm more than recharged. So, I'm ready."

Klopp added: "I have an existing contract with Red Bull. I like to honour contracts."

# Ruthless Morocco break Canadian hearts

## Reach World Cup quarters

AFP | Houston, United States

Canada became the first of the co-hosts to exit the World Cup as a clinical Morocco won 3-0 to reach the quarter-finals on Saturday in Houston.

The 2022 semi-finalists Morocco will face title favourites France or Paraguay as the business end of the tournament in North America approaches.

After a first half littered with more bookings than shots, midfielder Azzedine Ounahi fired the opener on 50 minutes.

Canada -- playing the biggest game in their footballing history -- pushed for an equaliser, but Ounahi scored his second to finally see off the resistance of Jesse Marsch's men.

Substitute Soufiane Rahimi slipped in the third with the last kick of the match.

It was tough on Canada, who were the better side in the opening period in front of a crowd of 68,777 as they sought to make more history.

They came into the contest in uncharted territory, having won a World Cup match and then a knockout game for the first time to get to the last 16.

They were clear underdogs and their fans were outnumbered by Morocco supporters at the air-conditioned Houston Stadium.

Yet they looked the more confident at the start, Tani Oluwaseyi turning sharply in the box and forcing Morocco's Mon-



trepreneur goalkeeper Yassine Bounou to save with a stretched-out leg after 10 minutes.

From Canada's fourth corner of the half, defender Alistair Johnston failed to make the most of a free header. Morocco were rattled.

After 20 minutes Mohamed Ouahbi's team suffered a big injury blow, Bayern Munich-bound Ismael Saibari -- who had scored three times at the tournament -- coming off for Rahimi.

Immediately after the drinks break Rahimi had a go optimistically from distance, registering Morocco's first shot on target with a quarter of the game gone.

There was a flashpoint shortly before half-time when Morocco captain Achraf Hakimi and defender Richie Laryea had a brief shoving match, with both shown yellow cards.

Referee Michael Oliver booked six players -- four from Morocco -- in a half high on niggly fouls and low on goal-mouth action.

The build-up to the last World Cup game of seven in Houston, with the United States celebrating its 250th birthday, was the

highlight until that point.

Morocco, who beat Canada in the group phase at the 2022 World Cup, came out for the second period transformed.

Five minutes after the restart Hakimi pinged a low free-kick to Ounahi unmarked outside the box and he swept in first time.

Canada goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau had his view blocked by two of his defenders and the ball also went through Rahimi's legs.

On 82 minutes, Ounahi was the man in the right place again on the breakaway with another right-footed first-time finish, before Rahimi pounced in the 98th minute.

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Morocco's forward #09 Soufiane Rahimi



## Australia goalkeepers were in dark about World Cup shootout switch

AFP | Arlington, United States

Australia goalkeeper Patrick Beach had no idea he was going to be taken off for the World Cup penalty shootout with Egypt Friday as coach Tony Popovic came under fire for the baffling decision.

Beach, 22, headed to the tournament as number two to seasoned Socceroos shot-stopper and captain Mathew Ryan.

But in a shock he started every game and proved rock solid, only to be substituted deep into extra-time in the last 32 clash against Egypt in Dallas as pen-

alties loomed.

Popovic brought on Ryan but he failed to pull off a save and Egypt won 4-2 on spot kicks to set up a last-16 meeting with Argentina after the game finished at 1-1.

"You have to talk to the coaches about that," Beach told Aus-

tralian media of the goalkeeping switch.

"I found out at the same time you guys did.

"Obviously there was a plan that was put in place, and it wasn't for us to know about.

"The coaches made a decision, and as far as it goes, Matty and

I are here to do the job of whatever works best for the team and brings the best outcome for our team."

Ryan was similarly in the dark, saying: "No, no, I wasn't told before the match."

Former Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich said he was

"astounded" by the move, while another goalkeeping icon Mark Schwarzer added: "I personally believe that the goalkeeper who's playing should stay in there."

Ex-Socceroo Robbie Slater called it a failure by the coaching staff.