

CL draw throws up possible Barcelona-Bayern clash



General view of the Champions League Quarter Final draw

AFP | London

Barcelona and Bayern Munich will meet in a blockbuster Champions League quarter-final should both sides make it through, after yesterday's draw for the latter stages of the competition which will be played out in Lisbon in August following a long suspension because of the coronavirus.

Barca and Bayern, who have each won five European Cups, are hoping to be among the eight teams who will head to the Portuguese capital for a 'Final Eight' mini tournament behind closed doors, with the final on August 23 at Benfica's Estadio da Luz.

Bayern, who won their eighth straight German Bundesliga title last month, already have one foot in the quarter-finals having won 3-0 away to Chelsea in the first leg of their last-16 tie in March, while Barcelona have more work to do after a 1-1 draw with Napoli in the first leg in Italy.

However, Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge had a warning for his team, who also won the German Cup last

week.

"After we won the double, there is already too much euphoria around. Now the focus is on Chelsea, then we'll see. But of course in the quarter-finals there are only very strong opponents anyway," he said.

Meanwhile, if Manchester City can finish the job in their last-16 tie against record 13-time European champions Real Madrid, Pep Guardiola's team will go on to a quarter-final against either Juventus or Lyon.

City won 2-1 in Madrid in the first leg in March and are well placed to advance to the mini tournament in Lisbon in what could be their last chance to win the coveted trophy for a while -- they are due to be banned



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PEP GUARDIOLA

from the Champions League for the next two seasons for breaches of Financial Fair Play rules, pending the outcome of an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"We have to play against Madrid. If we think about the next step, the king of this competition -- Real Madrid -- will put us out," Guardiola said.

Verstappen tops second practice, Ricciardo crashes

Verstappen heads Bottas and Perez at the Red Bull Ring

● Ricciardo suffered a heavy crash in second practice

● Perez quickest in first practice

AFP | Spielberg

Max Verstappen topped the times for Red Bull ahead of Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas in yesterday's crash-hit second free practice ahead of this weekend's Styrian Grand Prix.

The Dutchman clocked a best lap time in one minute and 3.660 seconds to outpace the Finn, who won last Sunday's season-opening Austrian Grand Prix on the same Red Bull Ring circuit, by 0.043 seconds.

Having won twice, in 2018 and 2019, on his team's home track, Verstappen looked to have recovered his best form after an electrical failure forced him to retire last weekend.

Behind them, the 'pink Mercedes' cars of the Racing Point team were third and fourth with Sergio Perez and Lance Stroll respectively, the pair proving pre-season suggestions that they have a package to make them competitive this season.

Ferrari-bound Carlos Sainz was fifth for McLaren ahead of an out-of-sorts six-time world champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes.

Alexander Albon was seventh in the second Red Bull ahead of Lando Norris, who picked up a three-place grid penalty



Renault's Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo gets off his car after a crash

for ignoring yellow flags in the morning, in the second McLaren, Charles Leclerc of Ferrari and Esteban Ocon of Renault.

Ocon's team-mate Daniel Ricciardo crashed heavily during the session when he lost control at Turn Nine and hit the barriers heavily. He limped away, but the rear of his car was wrecked.

After a warm morning, the temperatures had soared to 30 and 53 degrees for the air and the track respectively when second practice began in bright sunshine.

Perez, who set the pace in the morning, continued on top of the time-sheets with his Racing Point team-mate Lance Stroll in close pursuit before Ricciardo crashed his Renault.

The Australian limped away while the session was red-



Lewis Hamilton struggled to a lowly sixth place after struggling during his qualifying simulation runs

flagged and, on resumption, with warnings of heavy rainstorms forecast for Saturday, the usual suspects regained the initiative.

Bottas and then Verstappen took over as the fastest man

in the knowledge that if the weather washes out qualifying on Saturday the second practice positions yesterday may be used to form the grid.

Despite several laps, Hamilton was unable to match his rivals and with half an hour remaining, he was down in fifth.

Clearly unhappy, he pitted for adjustments to be made at the front of his car as he searched for an improved set-up.

"Lewis isn't happy with the car," said a Mercedes spokesperson. "As can be seen from the gap to the front on a single lap. We completed a set-down in the garage to check what we can in terms of alignment.

"We'll make best use of the rest of the session on track and then investigate more thoroughly this evening."

Brazilian Mayor thankful for Shaikh Khalid and BRAVE CF's interest in the region

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation continues to take the flag of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the highest places, as well as assisting and improving lives through sport. The sentiment of gratitude was clear in Fabricio Oliveira's voice.

Oliveira is the Mayor of Balneário Camboriú, known as the Brazilian Dubai, and a city that was supposed to be the home of BRAVE CF's fifth Brazilian event before the coronavirus pandemic forced the postponement of that show.

Oliveira wished to thank HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's interest in the region, as well as his willingness to invest and provide temporary and permanent jobs in Southern Brazil through BRAVE CF. He reiterated his wishes for the return of BRAVE CF to Brazil and the debut of the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world in his city of Balneário



Fabricio Oliveira

Camboriú.

The Mayor's wishes were made known during an online meeting with BRAVE Combat Federation president Mohammed Shahid. The duo also discussed ways for their previous partnership to resume as soon as the spread of coronavirus worldwide is contained. Talks have resumed for the previous-

ly scheduled event to go ahead.

Oliveira, who himself was infected with Coronavirus before making a full recovery, appreciated Shahid's well-wishes back in May when the Mayor was first diagnosed with Covid-19.

For his part, Mohammed Shahid thanked Fabricio Oliveira for his support as BRAVE Combat Federation looked set to make Balneário Camboriú the third city in Brazil to host a BRAVE CF event, after Curitiba and Belo Horizonte.

The Brazilian dignitary also thanked HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his tireless work in the development of combat sports in the world as well as his continued interest in the Brazilian MMA scene - Brazil has been hailed as the second home of BRAVE CF, and has hosted four events, the second country on the list of shows, only behind the Kingdom of Bahrain, which has been the home for five fight nights in total.

Stokes strikes as Windies close on England total

AFP | Belgrade

England stand-in captain Ben Stokes took the key wicket of Kraigg Brathwaite to leave the first Test against the West Indies at Southampton finely balanced yesterday.

West Indies were 159-3 at lunch on the third day, just 45 runs adrift of England's first innings 204 all out.

Shamarh Brooks (27 not out) and Roston Chase, unbeaten on 13, were at the crease after Brathwaite fall lbw to Stokes for a well-made 65.

West Indies resumed on 57-1, with John Campbell the lone batsman dismissed by England in testing, overcast conditions on Thursday.

But for the first time in the match, yesterday's play began beneath sunny blue skies -- ideal batting weather.

Brathwaite was 20 not out and Shai Hope three not out, with the pair having scored three hundreds between them in a sensational Test victory at Headingley during the West



England captain Ben Stokes (R) celebrates after having West Indies' opener Kraigg Brathwaite lbw

Indies' 2017 tour of England.

Barbados-born fast bowler Jofra Archer would have had Hope lbw for 16 had a West Indies review not revealed a marginal no-ball.

But Hope was still on 16 when Dom Bess, the lone specialist spinner in England's attack, lured him into a bold drive and Stokes, leading the side in the absence of regular captain Joe Root, held a sharp chance at slip off a fast-travelling edge.

West Indies were now 102-2 after a stand of 59 in a match

that marked international

cricket's return from lockdown. It was an encouraging moment for Stokes, who had brought on off-spinner Bess early in yesterday's play despite the presence of four seamers.

All-rounder Stokes could have been forgiven for second-guessing himself after deciding to bat first on winning the toss and being involved in the decision to drop veteran paceman Stuart Broad, especially with Brathwaite completing a composed fifty.