

## Messi tops wealth league ahead of Ronaldo

Reuters | London

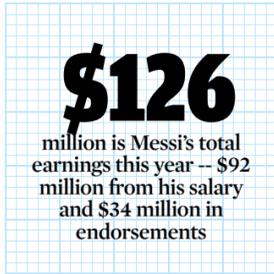
Lionel Messi was denied a potentially money-spinning move away from Barcelona this month after a contract-dispute but the Argentine maestro remains the world's richest soccer player.

According to a list compiled by Forbes, Messi's total earnings this year are \$126 million -- \$92 million from his salary and \$34 million in endorsements.

Not surprisingly Cristiano Ronaldo comes in second although earnings of \$117 million will soften the blow for the Juventus forward, as will his status as the most followed soccer player in the world on social media.

Neymar comes in third on the Forbes list (\$96 million) with his Paris St Germain team mate, 21-year-old Kylian Mbappe, up in fourth spot (\$42 million).

The Premier League remains the world's



richest domestic soccer league but only two of its outfield players feature in the top 10 of the wealth table -- Liverpool's title-winning striker Mohamed Salah in fifth spot (\$37 million) and Manchester United's midfielder Paul Pogba (\$34 million) in sixth. Pogba's team mate, keeper David de Gea (\$27 million) is 10th.

Barcelona's Antoine Griezmann was seventh and Real Madrid's Gareth Bale eighth. Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, the only Bundesliga player, is ninth.

Messi reluctantly agreed to stay at Barcelona for another season this month, despite saying in the wake of an 8-2 Champions League defeat by Bayern Munich that he wanted out.



Lionel Messi

# Kamna posts solo win in the Alps, Roglic keeps yellow

Germany's Lennard Kamna won stage 16 as Roglic maintains Tour de France lead

● 24-year-old Kamna won his first Grand Tour stage

AP | Paris

German rider Lennard Kamna won the first Alpine stage of the Tour de France yesterday after pulling clear of a group of breakaway riders, and Primo Roglic kept the race leader yellow jersey.

There was no significant change in the overall standings ahead of Wednesday's mammoth summit finish in the high mountains as second-place Tadej Pogacar remained 40 seconds behind Roglic.

The Slovenian pair enjoyed a quiet day in the pack of main contenders and crossed the finish line 16 minutes, 48 seconds behind the stage winner, who is not a threat in the overall standings.

Pogacar tested Roglic's legs on the final ascent but could not gain time on his rival.

Pogacar, a 21-year-old Tour rookie, will have another chance to unsettle Roglic during Wednesday's Stage 17 -- arguably the toughest -- featuring



Germany's Lennard Kamna rides during the 14th stage

the Col de La Madeleine and the Col de La Loze, the highest point this year at 2,304 meters. The last six kilometres (4 miles) of the climb are particularly difficult, with very steep sections and sharp turns.

The 24-year-old Kamna, who rides for the Bora-hansgrohe team, made his decisive move on the penultimate ascent to drop former race leader Julian Alaphilippe, Richard Carapaz and Sebastien Reichenbach, three rivals with a strong pedigree.

Kamna was part of a group of 15 riders who broke away from the peloton early in the 164-kilometre (102-mile) trek.

Among them, Frenchman Quentin Pacher also tried a solo escape but his effort was short lived as he was easily caught and then dropped by Alaphilippe, Carapaz, Reichenbach and Kamna. Carapaz, the Giro d'Italia champion, made Alaphilippe and Reichenbach crack with a couple of biting attacks but could not respond when Kamna countered before the summit.

The German was faster than his remaining rival on the flat sections as he sped toward Villard-de-Lans to post the biggest win of his career.

After losing more than seven minutes in the Jura mountains Sunday, defending champi-

on Egan Bernal went through another day of hardship at the back of the race, getting dropped by the main contenders in the 11.1-kilometer steep climb where Kamna built his success.

The remaining 156 Tour de France riders were authorized to start the stage after the UCI and race organizers announced that all 785 COVID-19 tests on Sunday and Monday of riders and staff members of the 22 teams returned negative.

No rider has tested positive since the race started on Aug. 29 in Nice. The latest screening around the race's second rest day was the fourth since the beginning of the Tour, and the last one before the peloton reaches the Champs Elysees on Sunday.



Kamna was part of a group of 15 riders who broke away from the peloton early in the 164-kilometre trek

## Nani Roma will drive for BRX in the 2021 Dakar Rally



Nani Roma  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Raid Xtreme (BRX) has unveiled Nani Roma as its first driver joining the team to take on the 2021 Dakar Rally. Spaniard, Roma, has previously won the Dakar Rally both on a bike and in a car, and joins BRX with a wealth of experience that will prove invaluable as the team prepares for one of the biggest challenges in motorsport.

Roma joins BRX from German manufacturer team Borgward and has previously competed in the Dakar with Mini. His extensive experience in the iconic race has ensured the two-time Dakar champion understands the challenges that entering the Dakar Rally poses any team and its drivers. With the combined expertise of Roma and BRX, and the shared ambition for success, BRX continues to signal itself as a contender for the Dakar Rally title in 2021

## Depay packing his bags for Barcelona: report



Lyon's Dutch forward Memphis Depay inaction during a match (file photo)

AFP | Barcelona

Dutch striker Memphis Depay is on his way to Barcelona from Lyon in a transfer worth 25 million euros (\$29.6 million), Dutch daily De Telegraaf reported yesterday.

If the deal goes through, the 26-year-old international will join compatriots Frenkie de Jong and coach Ronald Koeman, who started Depay regularly when he was in charge of the national team.

"Barcelona hope to confirm officially the transfer and introduce Depay to Camp Nou later in the week," said De Telegraaf.

The transfer amount would be 25 million euros according to the daily, plus five million

euros at the end of this season, and two million euros in bonuses.

Koeman has been on the hunt for a striker after telling Uruguayan Luis Suarez he wasn't in his plans for the coming season.

Depay played an important role in Lyon's progress to the Champions League semi-final and scored a hat-trick in their opening Ligue 1 win of the season over Dijon.

However, he had announced that he did not wish to extend his contract in France and has never hidden his desire to play "for a bigger club" than Lyon.

He began his career with PSV Eindhoven before moving to Manchester United and, in 2017, Lyon.

## Chelsea's Werner expects to be fit in time for Liverpool clash

AFP | London

Timo Werner insisted he will be fit to face Liverpool on Sunday after Chelsea's new striker finished their 3-1 win at Brighton with an ice pack on his thigh.

Werner marked his Premier League debut by winning a penalty that Jorginho converted to put Chelsea ahead, but the Germany star took a whack on his leg as he was tripped by Brighton keeper Mat Ryan in the incident.

The 24-year-old close-season signing from Leipzig was able to play the entire 90 minutes despite the knock and was one of Chelsea's standout performers.

When he was interviewed after the final whistle with the icing on his injury, Werner said he expected to be fine for the visit of Premier League champions Liverpool.

"The knee of the goalkeeper hit me directly in the muscle and it went very hard," Werner told Sky Sports.

"The rest of the game it hurt a lot. I couldn't do some movements because the muscle went very hard, but at the end I'm happy that we won.

"I don't care about this. In one week it will be good. We did

a good game today, we did well, and I'm happy I won the penalty because it was important for our game."

Werner's pace and astute movement made him a handful for Brighton's defence even with the injury.

One of the most



Timo Werner

**“I don't care about this. In one week it will be good. We did a good game today, we did well, and I'm happy I won the penalty because it was important for our game”**

TIMO WERNER

prolific strikers in the Bundesliga in recent years, Werner admitted it was a fascinating challenge to adapt to the different demands of the Premier League.

"The game is totally different. There is more space but you come out in the second half and the game was totally different. Brighton gave us a lot of problems," he said.

"I played against three massive defenders, you don't have that in Germany. Happy to be here and I think it was a good first game for me and the team.

"The second game will become harder because it is Liverpool. I tried and did my best and got an assist for the team.

"We had a lot of players not in the rhythm now but I think we will get better and better when we play more games together."