

Barca Flick's 'last job' but not yet certain on renewal

German coach says he's happy but needs family talks before extending deal

● Flick intends to retire at Barcelona

● Focus on Newcastle clash

● Laporta keen to extend deal

AFP | Barcelona

Hansi Flick said yesterday that he does not know yet if he will extend his Barcelona contract, but is certain that leading the Catalan giants will be his last job in football.

Recently reelected Barcelona president Joan Laporta said previously that he plans to extend the 61-year-old former Germany and Bayern Munich coach's deal for a further year beyond 2027.

However, Flick said, on the eve of the Champions League last 16 clash against Newcastle, that even though he is enjoying life with the Spanish champions, he will have to consult with his family before extending his stay.

"It's not the right moment (for that), tomorrow is a very important game for us, for the club, for



Barcelona's coach Hansi Flick leads a training session (file photo)

the future," Flick told reporters. "Everyone knows I am really happy here. I have to speak with my family first. We have time to

talk about that but at the moment, it's not the right moment." Flick led Barca to a domestic treble and the Champions

League semi-finals last season, playing attacking football which the club's fans have enjoyed. "I have no thoughts about go-



Despite being only 61 years old and coming off a domestic treble, Hansi Flick explicitly stated that he has "no thoughts about going to another place," effectively making Barcelona his career's final destination



It's not the right moment (for that), tomorrow is a very important game for us, for the club, for the future. Everyone knows I am really happy here. I have to speak with my family first. We have time to speak about that but at the moment, it's not the right moment

HANSI FLICK

"We have to play our perfect game tomorrow and this is important -- we'll try to do this."

Barcelona defender Pau Cubarsi said that he believed his team can put on a much improved showing at home.

"The intensity they had at their stadium was spectacular. We played in the league phase there too," said the 19-year-old centre-back.

"We had a good defensive set-up but lacked fluidity in attack. It will be different. We're at home with the fans supporting us."

ing to another place or (something) like that. No. I'm here, it will be my last club, my last job here, and I'm really happy for that," Flick continued.

Barcelona drew 1-1 at Newcastle in the first leg last week, a match in which they were largely outplayed.

"It will be a tough game tomorrow. They're a physical team, aggressive man-to-man, in transition they are fast players," said Flick.

Pope says idea England 'weren't fussed' about the Ashes was tough to take

AFP | London

Ollie Pope believes the idea England "weren't fussed" during their woeful Ashes tour of Australia was unfair on the squad but understands why the "misperception" became lodged in the minds of many fans and pundits.

Ben Stokes' tourists went down to a 4-1 series loss to Australia over five Tests in 2025/26, with the troubled campaign still the subject of an England and Wales Cricket Board review.

In addition to their poor on-field performance, concerns about the culture of the England squad emerged during a break in Noosa, an Australian resort, where there were reports of excessive drinking by players.

This was followed by revelations that vice-captain Harry Brook had had an altercation with a nightclub bouncer on the pre-Ashes visit to New Zealand.

Pope, however, insists England's were fully focused on regaining the Ashes and might have been more successful had they cemented an encouraging start to the first Test in Perth.

"Going into that series, there was a lot spoken about



England batsman Ollie Pope in action (file photo)

the preparation of it," Pope told reporters yesterday. "As a team, the misconception might be that we weren't as fussed as it came across."

The 28-year-old, speaking at county side Surrey's media day, added: "The tough thing for everyone in that first game (Test) was the nature of it. Had we won that, and we'd done slightly better on day two, the idea is different."

"Of course we want to be a well-liked team, on and off the pitch, and unfortunately our performance didn't allow that to happen in Australia.

Van de Ven insists it's 'nonsense' to say players don't care about Spurs' plight

AFP | London

Micky van de Ven is adamant it is "nonsense" to suggest Tottenham Hotspur players are indifferent about the threat of relegation from the Premier League.

Spurs are just a point above the bottom three and their season went from bad to worse with a 5-2 loss away to Atletico Madrid last week in the first leg of a last-16 tie in the Champions League.

Spurs did rally with a 1-1 draw at Liverpool on Sunday to provide fresh belief and Van de Ven, criticised for a red card against Crystal Palace earlier this month, has dismissed accusations some players have "checked out" in the battle to beat the top

"The only thing I can say is it's not true," he told reporters yesterday on the eve of the second-leg tie with Atletico.

"It would be strange if a player was in the dressing room now and saying, 'I'm going to leave either way, or I don't focus about the situation because everything that's going to happen, it doesn't affect me', so I think it's just nonsense."

The 24-year-old added: "The other day when we read something about one guy that said



Liverpool's Swedish striker #09 Alexander Isak (R) shoots to score

to everyone that he's probably going to leave and doesn't care about the situation they're in, and then someone reads this and we're just like, how does this come out? People are just making things up.

"It's just frustrating for us as well because it brings so much more trouble as well, because the fans are starting to believe

this. "Trust me all the people involved on the pitch, the staff, the players, everyone, they care so much about the situation we're in right now."

"We just want to turn things around and that's the most important, that's the main focus for everyone."

"I just want to stay fit and turn

things around. Obviously, the last games from my side hasn't been the best and I know that as well."

"It's just most important that I keep showing to everyone that I always give 100 percent to this club. I will always do as long as I play. For me, the most important is that we turn things around right now."