

Australia line up Kuwait for new coach's first game

AFP | Sydney

Australia yesterday lined up a friendly against Kuwait in what will be the first game in charge for new Socceroos coach Graham Arnold.

They will meet Romeo Jozak's side in Kuwait City on October 15 after a short training camp in the United Arab Emirates.

Arnold took over after Bert van Marwijk's temporary role in charge during the World Cup in Russia, where they failed to make it past the group stage for a third consecutive time.

Bulls held by Rooney's DC despite Wright-Phillips hat-trick

AFP | Washington

English striker Bradley Wright-Phillips scored a hat-trick on Sunday for the New York Red Bulls, netting the last goal in the 90th minute to snatch a 3-3 draw at DC United.

It was the fifth Major League Soccer treble for Wright-Phillips, but wasn't enough to push the Red Bulls back above Atlanta United at the top of the Eastern Conference.

Former England and Manchester United star Wayne Rooney scored his fifth goal of the season for the US capital team.

Former Ipswich and England defender Kevin Beattie dies aged 64

AFP | London

Former Ipswich Town and England central defender Kevin Beattie has died aged 64, the player's family announced Sunday.

Beattie, born in Carlisle, northern England, became a key member of the successful Ipswich side under future England manager Bobby Robson that won the FA Cup in 1978.

Beattie also won nine caps for England, scoring one goal, in a career cut short by injury.

Frank Lampard hit with FA charge after sending off

Reuters | London

Derby County manager Frank Lampard was charged with improper conduct by the English Football Association yesterday after being sent to the stands during his team's 1-0 defeat by Rotherham United in the Championship at the weekend.

The former England and Chelsea midfielder was sent off for leaving his technical area to argue with a match official over the failure to award Derby a penalty after the ball appeared to strike the arm of Rotherham's



Frank Lampard

Derby County manager Frank Lampard has been charged following the game against Rotherham United on Saturday

Jon Taylor in the area.

Lampard could receive a one-match suspension if he is deemed to have used insulting language or behaviour towards

the official during the incident. "Derby County manager Frank Lampard has been charged following the game against Rotherham United on Saturday," the FA said in a statement on Twitter.

"It is alleged that his behaviour in the 77th minute amounted to improper conduct. He has until 6 p.m. (1700 GMT) on Thursday to respond to the charge."

Derby are currently seventh in the second-tier table and host 13th-placed Blackburn Rovers on Tuesday.

Neymar smart to protect himself from injury - Klopp

AFP | Liverpool, United Kingdom

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp defended Neymar's play-acting at the World Cup and believes it will be impossible to completely snuff out the Brazilian's threat when Paris Saint-Germain visit Anfield in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Klopp insisted Neymar wasn't fully fit in Russia after breaking a bone in his foot in February that forced him to miss the rest of the club season with the French giants before the World Cup.

However, the world's most expensive player earned few plaudits for his performances and became a figure of fun for his constant feigning of injury as Brazil crashed out at the quarter-finals to Belgium.

"When I saw a few games at the World Cup and I know people are talking about that and it looked like he made a bit more of situations. But it's a normal reaction because players are going for him, that's the truth, and he wants to protect himself. I understand that," said Klopp yesterday.

"I'm not sure it's possible to avoid his quality 100 percent. He's a fantastic footballer, outstanding."



Neymar

"He was not fit at the World Cup and he tried to take the responsibility for his country. Belgium played an outstanding game against Brazil, but if Neymar is fit, Brazil wins it. That's how it is.

"He was injured and so he had to save himself a bit. He's not a person who wants to act because if you are like that you cannot play football.

"He got rested at the weekend so he will be 100 percent fresh, he's not injured any more. We

will see the full package Neymar."

Tuchel 'one of the best'

Despite splashing over 400 million euros on Neymar and Kylian Mbappe, PSG failed to progress beyond the last 16 in their quest to win a first ever Champions League.

But Klopp, who led Liverpool to the final in May, believes marrying a richly talented squad with new coach Thomas Tuchel makes the French giants an even

bigger threat to win the competition this season.

"The players they have, the manager they have, they all brought it together to go as far as possible in the Champions League," he added.

"He is an outstanding coach. I really thought it was a smart decision of PSG to sign Tuchel," said Klopp.

"For this kind of team with unbelievable individual quality, you still need a manager who can teach or educate them in playing

together and they brought in one of the best I know. That makes them quite a big challenge for us."

Liverpool have build on the momentum of reaching last season's final and a summer of shrewd investment in the transfer market by winning all five of their opening Premier League games.

However, as they prepare to face one of the world's most daunting attacking tridents in Neymar, Mbappe and Edison Cavani, Klopp could be without one of his prolific front three.



Neymar, who remains the most fouled player in the tournament, was the victim of some tough tackling at the World Cup but his playacting and diving made him a figure of mockery

Red Bull expect Verstappen to start from the back in Russia

Reuters | London

Max Verstappen finished second for Red Bull in Singapore on Sunday but he can expect Formula One's next race in Russia to be a hard slog from the rear of the field due to engine penalties.

Team principal Christian Horner said the Dutchman would likely switch to an older engine specification after a series of problems at the weekend.

"Sochi will be one to forget for us," Horner told Sky Sports television. "I think we are probably going to be starting at the back. But then we've got some good ones coming up."

He singled out Mexico, where Verstappen won last year, as a probable highlight among the six races remaining for a team who are switching to Honda



Max Verstappen

power next season and look sure to finish third overall in 2018.

Verstappen complained of engine problems throughout the Singapore weekend but managed to keep Ferrari's Se-

bastian Vettel behind him after coming out almost alongside the German after his pitstop.

That was only after his car almost stalled in the pitlane, however.

"I think we maximised the result with the problems we had with the engine," the Dutchman, who had started on the front row alongside race winner Lewis Hamilton, told reporters.

"I was very happy the safety car was gone because I was almost stalling on the track, even my pit stop was not great.

"I don't know which track will come up maybe as good again. Maybe Mexico a little bit, but we lose a lot on the straight, so I'm not expecting it to be like last year but you never know."

Verstappen was fifth in Sochi last year but that race was held in April rather than late September.

Perez under fire after crashing into team mate



Force India's Esteban Ocon car after crashing out of the race

Reuters | Singapore

Force India team principal Otmar Szafnauer has read the riot act to Sergio Perez, describing his erratic performance at the Singapore Grand Prix as "unacceptable" after the Mexican pushed his team mate Estaban Ocon into the wall on the opening lap.

Perez ended the Frenchman's race after just three corners, held up Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and had another collision with Sergey Sotrotkin's Williams before he eventually crossed the line in 16th place after an eventful grand prix.

"You say to them that's unacceptable, there's enough room on the left hand side as I could see. You've got to give your team mate enough room," an angry Szafnauer told reporters.

"If it's somebody else and it's not your team mate, it's a racing incident. But if it's your team mate then you've got to give him room.

"So we're back to the old rules, we allowed them to race on lap one whereas in the past we didn't allow them to race on lap one and now we can remove that.

"If they continue to do this even on lap one then there's other ways to separate them which we hope we don't ever have to employ."

Perez apologised to his team over the radio soon after the safety car was deployed when Ocon crashed out, the Mexican saying he was unaware who he had made contact with during the chaotic start to a race won by Lewis Hamilton.

"It was a very unfortunate incident, one of those it is very hard to avoid," said the Mexican, who had started seventh on the grid after a strong qualifying session.

"As I am picking up the power I just get a clip from one car — I had not even realised that was Estaban — and then as I get a message from the team I was very sorry for that. A very hard day for us.