

## Fiorentina await Ribery 'with open arms'

AFP | Milan

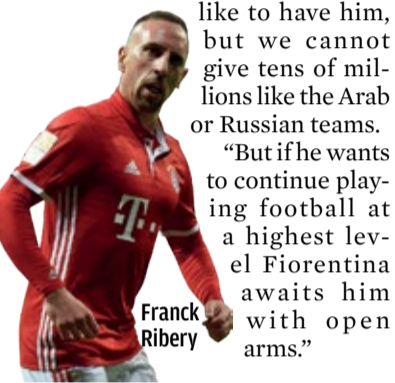
Italian club Fiorentina have targeted French winger Franck Ribery, the Tuscany club's sporting director Daniele Prade confirmed on Sunday.

The 36-year-old former French international left Bayern Munich as a free agent at the end of last season after 12 seasons with the German giants.

"Ribery? We like him a lot, but like all great players he is considering his options," Prade said after Fiorentina's 3-1 Coppa Italia win over Monza.

"We want him and would like to have him, but we cannot give tens of millions like the Arab or Russian teams.

"But if he wants to continue playing football at a highest level Fiorentina awaits him with open arms."



Franck Ribery

## Bayern Munich offer Coutinho fresh start on loan

AFP | Madrid

Barcelona's Philippe Coutinho has joined Bayern Munich on a one-year loan worth 8.5 million euros (\$9.5 million) with an option to buy, the Spanish club confirmed yesterday.

"The agreement provides for an option for Bayern to buy at a 120-million-euro fee," Barcelona said.

The 27-year-old Brazilian joined Barcelona from Liverpool in January 2018 for an initial 120 million euros in a deal that included another 40 million euros in potential add-ons.



Philippe Coutinho

# Title lands Medvedev in top five

● Daniil Medvedev dominates David Goffin in Cincinnati final

● Medvedev won his first-ever ATP Masters 1000 title

AFP | Cincinnati

Daniil Medvedev, coming off back-to-back ATP finals defeats, held off David Goffin 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 Sunday to win the ATP Cincinnati Masters.

The ninth-seeded Russian finished with an ace after saving break points in the final game, lifting a first Masters 1000 trophy after settling for runner-up finishes to Nick Kyrgios in Washington and Rafael Nadal in Montreal last weekend.

"These have been the best three weeks of my life," Medvedev said. "My mentality was the best, my serve was the best, my tennis has been really consistent."

"I didn't have one bad match, I hope to continue this way for next few weeks."

After his full-on post-Wimbledon schedule, the winner admitted:



Russia's Daniil Medvedev returns to Belgium's David Goffin

"I'm so exhausted, I almost can't talk now."

He also revealed that he was starting to cramp in the final game, when he tossed his racket in anger before saving break points.

"I think my Montreal final against Rafa was important," he said of hanging on. "I was maybe able to use that experience that I had and David did not."

Medvedev, who only recently

gained the ATP Top 10, now will find himself ranked fifth as a result of his three-week run of form.

"I don't check the rankings every two minutes, but I do look after I do well at a tournament," he said. "If I had lost I'd be seventh, now I'm fifth."

Medvedev followed up his semi-final upset of defending champion Novak Djokovic as he controlled feisty Belgian Goffin

to win an ATP leading 31st hard-court match.

He has the most match wins on any surface this year with 43. Spanish superstar Nadal, who did not play this week -- is second with 41, followed by Roger Federer on 39.

Medvedev stamped himself a contender for the US Open, the final Grand Slam of the season that starts in Flushing Meadows in a week.



Daniil Medvedev cracked the top five in the ATP rankings for the first time in his career

Goffin was competing in his second final of 2019 after losing to Federer in Halle.

"Congratulations to your team," he told Medvedev, "Once again, an unbelievable week for you, fantastic."

"I think you are ready for New York."

Medvedev powered to a 4-1 lead in the opening set but had to win it in a tiebreaker as Goffin, coached by 2002 Australian open winner Thomas Johansson, fought back.

But Medvedev's break in the opening game of the second set was all he needed as he avenged a loss to Goffin at Wimbledon this year.

## PSG suffer defeat at Rennes with 16-year-old in starring role

AFP | Rennes, France

Champions Paris Saint-Germain slipped up in their second league game of the season losing 2-1 to Rennes on Sunday in a repeat of April's French Cup final with a 16-year-old playing a starring role.

Edinson Cavani scored after less than 15 minutes of play for the visitors in Brittany before Mbaye Niang and Romain del Castillo responded for the home side.

PSG were without forward Neymar for a third successive game this term with the world's

most expensive player continuing to be the subject of interest from Barcelona and Real Madrid.

Angolan-born 16-year-old Eduardo Camavinga starred in Rennes midfield, and proved to be key in his team's winning goal, along with experienced playmaker Clement Grenier.

Rennes boss Julien Stephan said Camavinga, the first player born since January 2002 to feature in Europe's top five leagues, had continued to improve since making his first team debut in April.



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kyllian Mbappe (C) vies with Rennes' French forward Romain Del Castillo

"It's more than six months he's been training with the professionals. He's settled in well with the squad," he told broadcaster Canal+.

"We've prepared him with the players, the staff and the whole club so he can evolve in the right conditions."

"He started doing it at the end of last season and he's confirming all the talent we think he has at the start of this season," he added.

PSG skipper Thiago Silva admitted his side stepped off the gas after their good start through Cavani's effort.

## Trippier and Morata combine to give Atletico winning start

AFP | Madrid

Alvaro Morata headed in a sumptuous Kieran Trippier cross to ensure a new-look Atletico Madrid beat Getafe 1-0 on Sunday and made a winning start in La Liga.

Trippier looked right at home at the Wanda Metropolitano when his bending ball was nodded in by Morata before two red cards in four minutes, one for each team, made it 10 against 10 before half-time.

Getafe striker Jorge Molina and Atletico left-back Renan Lodi were the players sent off and then Morata missed a penalty, earned after a mesmerizing run from Joao Felix, Atletico's 126 million euro signing from Benfica.

It was enough for Felix to depart to a standing ovation and Atletico held on, even if this was perhaps not the statement opening to the season that Diego Simeone might have hoped for.

After losing Antoine Griezmann to Barcelona, Atletico have spent close to 250 million euros this summer, just over half of

that on Felix, whose electric run lit up an otherwise rather disjointed contest.

The 19-year-old is supposed to be the heartbeat not only of a new team but a different style too, one that is more attractive to watch and that could even pip Barcelona and Real Madrid to the title.

But Getafe were stubborn opponents, showing again why they finished fifth last season, only narrowly missing out on a place in the Champions League to Valencia on the final day.

Felix aside, Atletico's other debutants impressed, including Lodi, before he was sent off, and Trippier, the first Englishman to play for Atletico since the Spanish Civil War and 20th in the history of the Spanish top flight.

The former Tottenham defender's pin-point cross was the highlight of a confident performance that earned regular praise from the home fans.

The early signs were encouraging as Trippier and Lodi pushed high and wide, like wingers, and the former almost played Koke in with a superb



Atletico Madrid's Spanish forward Alvaro Morata (C-R) scores a header past Getafe's Togolese defender Dakonam Djene

first-time pass.

Felix showed some nice touches and his team-mates were quick to protest on his behalf after Leandro Cabrera barged him over.

Trippier was the team's best outlet and Atletico might have scored had he managed to pick

out either Felix or Morata in the middle after a brilliant pass from Saul Niguez.

He had another chance moments later though and this time Trippier was more precise. A bending cross from the right allowed Morata to head in and Trippier enjoyed the celebra-

tions, rousing the crowd on his way back and accepting a huge roar in return.

Getafe had struggled to find a way into the match but two red cards in four minutes threatened to shift the balance.

First, referee Cuadra Fernandez turned a yellow card into a

**“We faced a team who tactically moves well defensively. They have not left Felix space in the first half so that he can take advantage of his game”**

DIEGO SIMEONE  
ATLETICO BOSS

red for Molina after consulting VAR, the striker catching Thomas Parthey late down the back of his heel. Then Lodi was handed a second yellow for planting his hand in the face of Damian Suarez.

Atletico dropped Saul into left back before Felix was sacrificed later in the second half, Mario Hermoso coming on for his debut where Lodi had started.

But not before Felix produced the most exhilarating moment of the match, for which an otherwise rather muted debut will be remembered.