

Germany's Mueller set to miss Hungary showdown after again missing training



Thomas Mueller reacts during a match
AFP | Munich

Germany forward Thomas Müller looks set to miss Wednesday's crucial Euro 2020 match against Hungary with a knee injury after again sitting out team training.

The attacking midfielder missed yesterday morning's session with the German squad and trained alone with his knee heavily strapped after taking a knock in Saturday's 4-2 win over Portugal in Group F.

However, Mats Hummels

and Ilkay Gundogan, who also sat out training on Monday alongside Müller, joined the squad session yesterday, having shaken off knee and calf injuries respectively.

If Müller drops out, his Bayern Munich team-mate Leon Goretzka is poised to take his place against the Hungarians.

A draw in Munich would see Germany earn a place in the last 16.

Hungary, who are bottom of the group, need a win to avoid elimination.

Argentina, Chile through to Copa America quarter-final

Lionel Messi equals record as Argentina beat Paraguay 1-0

● Uruguay end drought but can't burst Chile's bubble

AFP | Brasilia

Argentina and Chile on Monday booked their places in the Copa America quarterfinals, ending top of Group A after low-scoring matches that left the other two spots up for grabs.

Argentina logged its second win in three group matches played, beating Paraguay 1-0, with Alejandro "Papu" Gomez scoring the sole goal of a lacklustre match in Brasilia in the ninth minute.

The win placed Lionel Messi's La Albiceleste top of Group A with seven points -- enough to secure its spot in the next phase of the tournament being played in empty stadiums in coronavirus-battered Brazil.

The match marked a personal milestone for Messi, who tied Javier Mascherano's record for the most games played for Argentina -- 147.

But it was not a night of glory for Messi or his team, which in the second half seemed to resign themselves to defending a spirited, but ultimately fruitless, Paraguayan attack.

Chile draws with Uruguay

In the other match Monday, Chile drew 1-1 with Uruguay to end the day with five log points.

Luis Suárez ended a goal scoring drought for Uruguay that



Alejandro Gomez of Argentina kicks the ball over Antony Silva goalkeeper of Paraguay to score

threatened to go a fifth straight game.

The veteran striker's 66th-minute equalizer helped Uruguay to 1-1 draw against Chile at the Copa America on Monday, its first point of the tournament.

The result allows Chile to advance to the knockout stage of the tournament and keeps the Uruguayans in contention in Group A.

Chile's Eduardo Vargas opened the scoring in the 26th with a powerful crossed shot from the right, and Suárez levelled the score from close range.

With four matches left to play in Group A, Paraguay has three points, Uruguay one, and Bolivia zero, meaning they all still stand a theoretical chance to go to the quarter-finals.

Brazil has already qualified

from Group B.

Despite opposition from politicians and citizens, Brazil agreed at the 11th hour to host the world's oldest international tournament after South American football's governing body CONMEBOL took it from co-hosts Argentina, battling a pandemic surge, and Colombia where dozens have died in anti-government protests.

The contest had already been delayed by a year due to the pandemic and many players and coaches spoke out against it going ahead before the tournament began.

The build-up to Monday's Chile-Uruguay game had been overshadowed by controversy in the Chile camp after revelations the team had breached Covid-19 protocols by bringing a local hairdresser into the team hotel.



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CONMEBOL said it would fine those involved \$30,000.

However there was no sign of the controversy affecting their play, with Vargas firing Chile ahead on 26 minutes from a tight angle after latching onto a clever pass from English-born Ben Brereton.

Uruguay grabbed a share of the points in the second-half when Suarez bundled in the ball from close range during a tangle with former Barcelona team-mate Arturo Vidal at the far post following a corner.

Manchester United striker Edinson Cavani almost snatched victory for Uruguay in the 85th minute, but his glancing header flashed just wide of the post.

Vargas's first-half strike saw him draw level with Peru's Paolo Guerrero on 14 goals in the Copa America's all-time goallscoring rankings, three behind the record of 17 held by Brazil's Zizinho and Argentina's Norberto Mendez.

Today's games

Euro 2020

Group E: Slovakia vs Spain (19:00, Seville)

Group E: Sweden vs Poland (19:00, St Petersburg)

Group F: Germany vs Hungary (22:00, Munich)

Group F: Portugal v France (22:00, Budapest)

Tomorrow's games

Copa America

Ecuador vs Peru (00:00, Cuiaba)

Brazil vs Colombia (03:00, Brasilia)

Results

*Scores as of closing

EURO 2020

Czech Republic	0	1	England
Croatia	3	1	Scotland

Denmark thump Russia to make last 16 in stunning fashion

AFP | Copenhagen

Denmark made it through to the last 16 of Euro 2020 on Monday after a convincing 4-1 win over Russia which alongside Belgium's victory against Finland meant they finished second in Group B.

Goals from Mikkel Damsgaard, Yussuf Poulsen, Andreas Christensen and Joakim Maehle gave the Danes their first win of the tournament on a joyous evening at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen.

Delirious fans showered each other with beer as Denmark rattled in the goals that allowed them to end the group stage in party mood after the trauma of Christian Eriksen's mid-match collapse in their opening fixture against the Finns.

Kasper Hjulmand's team will face Wales in the last 16 in Amsterdam on Saturday, while the Russians go home after coming off worst in a three-way, head-to-head tie-breaker with Finland and the Danes.

"I've never experienced anything like this. The atmosphere gets better every time we are here at Parken," said Maehle to Danish broadcaster DR.

Hjulmand praised the "amazing" team spirit and friendship after revelling in the on-pitch



Denmark's defender Joakim Maehle shoots and scores his team's fourth goal

celebrations.

"If anyone deserves this it's our players. I can't imagine how they managed to come back from what they went through," he told reporters.

"I think it helps the team and hopefully it gives the whole country some good moments."

The Danes came into the match with no points from their first two matches but knowing a win over Russia by two goals or more and defeat for Finland would guarantee them passage from the group as the second-placed team.

During the match's opening ceremony, a huge Denmark shirt

with "Eriksen 10" written on it was unfurled to deafening cheers from supporters, after which a rousing rendition of "You'll Never Walk Alone" was belted out from the stands.

Once the match got underway, Denmark continued with the same aggression as in their defeats to Finland and Belgium but initially struggled to create chances against a Russia team who were content to keep things tight.

The nominal home team, Russia enraged the Danish fans by taking their time over set-pieces and throw-ins as early as mid-way through the first half.



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However it was the Russians who had the first chance of the game, Aleksandr Golovin driving towards the goal and fashioning a great scoring opportunity only to shoot straight at Kasper Schmeichel from close range.

They were left to rue missing that chance six minutes before the break when Damsgaard showed why he was picked to replace Eriksen as Denmark's playmaker.

The Sampdoria winger, who only turns 21 early next month, looked like he had all the time

in the world when he unleashed a curling strike that whipped passed Matvei Safonov and caused an eruption in the stands.

Their tails up and the crowd now bouncing in unison, Jannik Vestergaard came close to making it two in as many minutes when he headed a corner just wide.

Denmark continued to press after the restart but their second came in almost comical circumstances on the hour mark.

Poulsen could hardly believe his luck when Daler Kuzyaev's miscued back-pass rolled straight to him in front of the Russian goal, leaving him the simple task of stroking into an empty net and giving Denmark the two-goal lead they needed to finish second should Belgium win.

Soon after, the already rowdy fans in the Parken let out possibly the loudest cheer of the night as news of Romelu Lukaku's opener against Finland filtered through, but they were soon dampened by that goal being ruled out and Russia being awarded a penalty which was slotted home by Artem Dzyuba.

They were on their feet again with 15 minutes remaining thanks to Lukas Hradecky's own goal which put Belgium a goal ahead and Denmark in second.

UEFA says no plan to take Euro semis, final away from Wembley



Euro 2020 trophy

Reuters | London

UEFA has no plans to replace Wembley as host stadium of the Euro 2020 semi-finals and final, European soccer's governing body said, after Italian premier Mario Draghi and others called for the final to be moved from Britain due to rising COVID-19 cases there.

The United Kingdom recorded 10,633 new cases of COVID-19 and five deaths on Monday, taking its toll to 4.63 million confirmed cases and 127,976 total deaths, according to a Reuters tally.

Case numbers have been rising due to the spread of the more contagious Delta variant first identified in India.