

## Norwich sign Rashica from Werder Bremen



Milot Rashica controls the ball during a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Premier League new boys Norwich signed Kosovo winger Milot Rashica from Werder Bremen in a reported £9.4 million (\$13 million) deal on Tuesday.

Rashica agreed a four-year contract to join Norwich after Bremen were relegated from the Bundesliga.

The 24-year-old is Daniel Farke's first signing since the Canaries clinched promotion from the Championship.

"I'm really excited to play in front of the Norwich fans and in the Premier League," Rashica told Norwich's website.

"I know a few things about the club, particularly the style of play under Daniel Farke. I want to continue to learn and develop as a player and person and I think that the style of play here will suit me very well."

Rashica will help Norwich replace Argentine winger Emi Buendia, who recently joined

**27**  
goals were scored by Milot Rashica in 100 appearances for Werder Bremen

Aston Villa for £33 million.

Rashica scored 27 goals in 100 appearances for Bremen after joining from Dutch club Vitesse Arnhem in 2018.

"Many top clubs have been interested in his signature over the last seasons and he was quite often connected with a big money move," Farke said.

"Milot is a player full of potential. He's quick and smart in his movements, technically good and great in finishing and assisting goals.

"He's a player who can do something outstanding in the offence. We also got the feeling from his age, ability, potential and personality that he will fit in quite well to our group."

## Al Ahli book GCC semis seat

Bahrain champions defeat Al Nasser of Saudi Arabia 94-84 to punch tickets to final four of FIBA Asia Champions Cup Gulf Basketball Association Qualifier in Dubai

● American Mike Harris and Bahraini Hesham Sarhan combine for 50 points for Ahli, scoring 25 apiece

● Ahli now await semi-final opponents, which will be decided today on final day of first round

TDT | Manama

Bahrain champions Al Ahli booked their tickets to the semi-finals of this year's FIBA Asia Champions Cup Gulf Basketball Association Qualifier in Dubai after defeating Al Nasser of Saudi Arabia 94-84 yesterday.

The game was their last of the competition's opening round, which they finished with a 2-2 win-loss record.

The Bahrainis now await their opponents in the final four, which will be determined today. The other teams taking to the hardwood are Al Shamal of Qatar, Al Kuwait of Kuwait and tournament hosts Shabab Al Ahli of Dubai.

The semis are scheduled to take place tomorrow, with the gold and bronze medals games the following night.

Nasser had the advantage for much of the first half against Ahli and took a narrow 49-43 lead into the locker rooms. But



Ahli's Mike Harris tries to post up against his Nasser defender during their game yesterday

in the third period, Ahli began to chip away at the deficit before taking full control of the contest in the final canto.

Ahli's biggest lead was their final winning margin of 10.

American professional Mike Harris and star Bahraini guard Hesham Sarhan combined for 50 points for Ahli, scoring 25 apiece. Harris also took down 17 rebounds, while Sarhan buried five three-pointers in the game, as did teammate Hasan Ali.

Subah Hussain chipped in with 15 points, while Ahmed

Alderazi scored 10.

Ahli were missing the services yesterday of US import Manny Harris, who was among their top scorers from their previous games.

Today is the final day of the championship's opening round-robin; Nasser take in Kuwait while Shabab Al Ahli face Al Shamal.

The FIBA Asia Champions Cup, previously known as the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) Champions Cup until 2002, is the Asian club championship for professional basket-

BETTER YOU KNOW

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ball. It is organised by FIBA Asia, and takes place once a year.

Last year's competition was postponed due to the pandemic. In 2019, Muharraq represented Bahrain and were able to make it through to the final four where they lost to Al Riyadi of Beirut. They then bowed to Palayesh Naft Abadan of Iran in the bronze medal game, and had to settle for third place.

Only one Bahraini club has ever medalled in the FIBA Asia Champions Cup. It was Manama in 2000, when they won the bronze medals.

Brandon Austin top scored for Nasser with 32 points while Cleanthony Early had 24.

## Ferrari grappling with excessive front tyre wear problem

Reuters | Milan

Ferrari's French Grand Prix problems showed a long-standing weakness with front tyre wear has not gone away and they need to fix it for next season, according to team boss Mattia Binotto.

Sunday's race at Le Castellet was the first time Ferrari had failed to score this year, with Spaniard Carlos Sainz 11th and Monegasque Charles Leclerc 16th.

They had qualified fifth and seventh respectively, with Leclerc on pole at the two previous races in Monaco and Azerbaijan, but Ferrari ended the weekend dropping from third to fourth overall in the constructors' championship.

"We have not been capable of making the tyres work as we should have done and I think our performance was really strictly linked to the tyres, the way we made them work," Binotto told reporters.

Le Castellet did not host a race last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic but Binotto said hot conditions and high speed corners putting a lot of energy into the tyres had been a problem in the past.



Ferrari team principal Mattia Binotto looks on during a race (file photo)

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MATTIA BINOTTO

"We should have addressed it and it's not yet the case," said

Binotto. "Looking at the future it's important for us as a lesson learned."

He said it would take more than development of the current car to fix the problem, however.

"To solve it, I think we need to have some hardware change, like for example the rims, which is not possible for regulations," said the Italian.

"I think it's more important for us to try to understand and to address it definitively for next year. In the meanwhile I think that this issue will happen

## Morgan says nothing offensive about use of 'sir' in Twitter posts

AFP | London

England's World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan insisted Tuesday his use of the word 'sir' in Twitter posts conveyed "admiration and respect" as he rejected suggestions of causing offence on social media.

Morgan and his deputy Jos Buttler were accused of mocking the way Indian people addressed them in English after Twitter posts from several years ago recently came to light again.

The England and Wales Cricket Board launched a "so-



England's captain Eoin Morgan attends a practice session ahead of a match (file photo)

**”**  
I don't really reflect on it a lot. I find if I call somebody 'sir' on social media, or anywhere around the world, it's a sign of admiration and respect. If that's taken out of context there's nothing I can control or do about it, so I haven't actually looked into it  
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EOIN MORGAN

cial media review" after Ollie Robinson was suspended from international duty pending an investigation following the re-emergence of historic racist and sexist posts during his Test debut against New Zealand at Lord's earlier this month.

But Morgan, speaking ahead of the start of England's three-match Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka in Cardiff on Wednesday, was unconcerned about the prospect of being drawn into the row.

"I don't really reflect on it a lot," Morgan insisted. "I find if

I call somebody 'sir' on social media, or anywhere around the world, it's a sign of admiration and respect."

The 34-year-old Dublin-born batsman added: "If that's taken out of context there's nothing I can control or do about it, so I haven't actually looked into it."

Meanwhile, Morgan said Alex Hales's England exile could yet come to an end, with the Nottinghamshire batsman having been out in the cold since being dropped on the eve of the 2019 World Cup after a positive recreational drugs test.