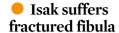
sports of bahrain Extribune

Isak out months after fracturing leg

Liverpool forward faces two months out as Slot blames "reckless" Tottenham challenge



Slot brands tackle reckless

Injury occurred while scoring

AFP | London

lexander Isak is expected to be out of action for two months after fracturing his leg against Tottenham, with Liverpool manager Arne Slot accusing Tottenham's Micky van de Ven of making a "reckless challenge".

The Sweden striker was injured in a tackle from the defender in the act of scoring the opening goal in Saturday's 2-1 victory and limped off the pitch.

Liverpool said in a statement on Monday that the forward had had an operation on an ankle injury that included a fibula

"It's going to be a long injury, reporters yesterday, "So, yeah, that's a big, big disappointment for him. And as a result a tackle like that. also of course for us."

Slot described Van de Ven's tackle as "reckless".

tackle of Xavi Simons (sent off ous injury." earlier in the game for Spurs),



Liverpool's Swedish striker #09 Alexander Isak (C) is helped off the field by medical staff after picking up an injury

for a couple of months," Slot told which for me was completely back for the forward after he unintentional, and I don't think signed from Newcastle for a ed by a groin injury. you will ever get an injury out of British record £125 million (\$168

Isak's injury is the latest set- of fitness.

million) in September.

"The tackle of Van de Ven, if A dispute with Newcastle essince completing his protractyou make that tackle 10 times, I meant he did not have a propthink 10 times there's a serious er pre-season programme and "I think I said a lot about the chance that a player gets a seri- arrived at Liverpool well be- blow for Reds boss Slot, with hind his team-mates in terms Mohamed Salah at the Africa linked with a move to Anfield.

His season was then interrupt-

The 26-year-old has scored just three goals in 16 appearanced move to Anfield

Cup of Nations and Cody Ga-



Isak's £125 million move has been plagued by misfortune: a disrupted pre-season, a prior groin injury, and now this fracture. He has scored only three goals since his British-record transfer

kpo not ready to return from a muscle injury until early in the

It leaves Slot with Hugo Ekitike, who has five goals in his di Arabia following his recent past four games, and the lit- claim that he had been thrown tle-used Federico Chiesa as his only senior forwards.

Liverpool, whose Premier League title defence collapsed after a shocking run of results, have climbed to fifth in the table after extending their unbeaten league run to five games.

Isak's injury raises the prospect of Liverpool moving to boost their attack in the January Isak's absence will be a major transfer window, with Bournemouth winger Antoine Semenyo

It may also change the conver- Wolves on Saturday.

I think I said a lot about the tackle of Xavi Simons (sent off earlier in the game for Spurs), which for me was completely unintentional, and I don't think you will ever get an injury out of a tackle like that. The tackle of Van de Ven, if you make that tackle 10 times, I think 10 times there's a serious chance that a player gets a serious injury

ARNE SLOT

sation around Salah, who had been linked with a move to Sauunder the bus by the club and no longer had a relationship with

Salah's rant, which came after he was left on the bench for three successive matches, prompted Liverpool to leave him out of the squad for a Champions League match at Inter Milan.

But he returned to action as a substitute against Brighton before leaving for international

Liverpool host bottom side

Australia captain Cummins out of rest of Ashes, Lyon to have surgery

AFP | Melbourne

ustralia skipper Pat Cum-Amins and Nathan Lyon were vesterday ruled out of the final two Ashes Tests against England with the veteran spinner facing surgery and an extended period on the sidelines.

Quick bowler Jhye Richardson and spinner Todd Murphy were named as cover in a 15man squad for the fourth Test starting on Friday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Australia have already retained the famous urn with eight-wicket wins in Perth and Brisbane and an 82-run victory in Adelaide.

Cummins "won't play any part in the rest of the series", coach February. Andrew McDonald told cricket. com.au.

He returned from a lower back injury to lead Australia to want to do," said McDonald. victory in Adelaide in his first Test since July, taking six wickets in the match.

"That was a discussion that we had a long time out around his return. Yeah, we were taking on some risk. We've now goal," said McDonald.

Cummins will now target tigo symptoms. full fitness for the month-long Twenty20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, starting in early



Australia's Nathan Lyon (R) catches a throw next to Pat Cummins (file photo)

'To position him for further term is not something that we

"Pat's really comfortable with that. If he had any setback in the build-in as well, we would have shut him down straight away."

Steve Smith, who captained the team in Cummins' absence during the first two Tests, will

'Amazing' Starc

be at least three changes.

Usman Khawaja replaced risk and jeopardise him long Smith at four in Adelaide scoring 82 and 40 and should he be retained then Josh Inglis is shaping as the fall guy.

Lyon, 38, damaged his right hamstring saving a boundary on day five in Adelaide fielding and hobbled off.

He claimed his 564th wicket in the match to move clear of won the series, and that was the lead the side again in Melbourne fellow Australian great Glenn after missing Adelaide with ver- McGrath and into sixth on the all-time Test bowling list.

"Nathan Lyon will have surgery on a torn right hamstring and Richardson battling to join His return means there will which will sideline him for an them.

To position him (Pat **Cummins) for further** risk and jeopardise him long term is not something that we want to do. Pat's really comfortable with that. If he had any setback in the build-in as well. we would have shut him down straight away

COACH ANDREW MCDONALD

extended period," Cricket Australia said.

Lyon's replacement, Murphy, is in line to play his first home

His seven previous appearances for Australia all came overseas. His last was in Sri Lanka earlier this year.

Richardson was included after a four-year Test absence, during which he underwent three shoulder surgeries.

Scott Boland and Mitchell Starc are likely to lead the seam attack after recovering well from Adelaide, with Michael Neser, Brendan Doggett

REHC to conclude 2025 racing year with Alba Cup Series



TDT | Manama

The Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club will eys seek to end the year on a agement. winning note.

one of the standout fixtures Club said the meeting reflects of the season, marking the last Alba's continued support for races of the calendar year and Bahraini horse racing and featuring eight contests all run promises an exciting finafor Alba Cups. Final declara- le to 2025, with competitive tions have confirmed a strong fields across all eight races turnout of horses across the and strong interest from racprogramme, raising expectaing fans and connections alike.

tions of closely matched and competitive racing throughout the afternoon.

Races will cover a range of host the final horse racing classes and distances, includmeeting of 2025 on Friday, ing events for Bahraini-bred December 26, as part of the and imported horses, purebred 2025-2026 racing season, or- Arabian horses, maidens and ganisers said. The 11th race experienced runners. Distancmeeting will be held under es range from 1,000 to 2,000 the patronage of Aluminium metres, with sprint races on Bahrain (Alba) and is expected the straight track and longer to deliver strong competition tactical contests expected to as owners, trainers and jock- test stamina and race man-

Officials at the Rashid The meeting is regarded as Equestrian and Horse Racing