

Man City can write another chapter in European history, says Guardiola

Pep Guardiola is preparing his Manchester City team to face Real Madrid in the Champions League semi-finals

● **Guardiola urges players to relish the occasion**

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola admits Manchester City cannot compete with Real Madrid's European pedigree but says they can write a new chapter in the club's history in their Champions League semi-final against the Spanish giants.

La Liga leaders Real, who face City in the first leg at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday, are the most successful team in European Cup history, having lifted the trophy 13 times.

In contrast City, who have been the dominant force in English domestic football over the past decade, appeared in



Pep Guardiola reacts during a match (file photo)

the Champions League final for the first time last year, losing to Chelsea.

City and Real also met in the semi-finals in 2016 when the Spaniards won 1-0 on aggregate,

but City avenged that loss with a last-16 triumph in 2020.

"If we had to compete with history, we wouldn't have a chance," Guardiola said at his pre-match press conference yes-

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PEP GUARDIOLA

terday. "Their history speaks for itself.

"We have to have the desire to compete against them. To play against Real Madrid is an incredible test. We want to try it. We need to suffer, to stick together, when we have the ball, try to attack.

"It would be the same if we face Bayern Munich or Barcelona, the teams who have been



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here many times. A decade ago we weren't here and now we are here. It's good lessons for the future."

Guardiola highlighted the experience of the Real players, many of whom have won mul-

tiples Champions League titles.

"We play against players who have been in this position many times," he said.

"That's why they have things that maybe still we don't have. But maybe there are things we have they don't have, I don't know. At the end it is 11 v 11."

Despite the pressure, the City boss also urged his men to relish the occasion.

"Being in the semi-final is so good," he said. "One day we will not be here because it's so demanding -- look at the big teams who are not here.

"I say to the players 'enjoy that moment'. You never know if we will be back here at any stage."

Guardiola said he would make a final decision on the fitness of defenders Kyle Walker and John Stones on Tuesday, admitting the pair were "doubts".

Joao Cancelo will miss the game through suspension.

Lampard 'more positive' of Everton's Premier League survival despite derby defeat



Juergen Klopp, Manager of Liverpool embraces Frank Lampard, Manager of Everton after the Premier League match

AFP | London

Everton slipped into the relegation zone with Sunday's 2-0 defeat to Liverpool but manager Frank Lampard said the game had left him "more positive" about the club's chances of Premier League survival.

Everton are now 18th and trail Burnley, who have played one game more, by two points.

Despite the defeat, Lampard said he was delighted with the attitude of his players and that he was "more positive" about their chances of staying up.

"I was pleased with the way we competed in this game and in terms of performance, I am more positive," Lampard told reporters.

"There are 18 points to fight for, that is a lot of points. It is important for the players and fans and club not to get sucked into that in a negative way.

"Be realistic, yes - but there are a lot of games for us to try to win."

Everton have lost eight consecutive away matches in all competitions for the first time

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FRANK LAMPARD

since 1948.

Lampard said his players have to be "spot on" in their remaining six matches, where they face top four sides Chelsea and Arsenal.

"The whole club has to do that, there will be some negative chat (externally), but we've been in this fight since I've been here," Lampard added.

"If it goes to the end, let's stand up and take it to the end."

Bahrain Cricket Federation hosts Iftar get together

TDI | Manama

The new organising committee of Bahrain Cricket Federation (BCF) hosted an Iftar get together which was attended by all Cricket Captains playing Khalid Bin Hamad League.

Several dignitaries from BCF's board including Advisory Chairman - Mohammad Mansoor, Gurumurthy Palani (Cricket Development Officer), Waqar Rasheed (Board Advisor), Prachur Shukla and the new organising team headed by Naushad Hidayatullah were present for the event which was held on Saturday at Juffair Boulevard.

On his address to the gathering Mohammad Mansoor emphasized the importance of Ramadan and how it brings people of various cultures together. He appreciated all the captains joining in for this iftar meet and it was important for the team captain to convey the message



Players of Al Masry attack a match official after the match

to the team that the new board is working hard to develop the game and promote the game at the highest International level possible.

He also promised that the board is keenly working harder on improving the infrastructure of Cricket in Bahrain, and reflected the fact that His Highness Shaikh Khalid Bin Hamad

Al Khalifa (Patron) of Bahrain Cricket Federation (BCF) would like to see this sport grow in locals. The board are in immediate search of a land dedicated to playing cricket in Bahrain on a turf wicket.

Gurumurthy and Naushad explained via presentations what key milestones the team aims to achieve at and seeks support

of all teams / players / administrators to preserve the sanity of the game at the highest level possible.

All captains had a good interactive session with the board officials, and Shukla answered most of the queries of players on the new ICC processes followed by Iftar, prayers and dinner.

No hard feelings with Ricciardo, says unlucky Sainz

Reuters | Imola

Carlos Sainz said there were no hard feelings with Daniel Ricciardo after the Australian apologised for a collision that ended the Ferrari driver's race on the opening lap at Imola on Sunday.

Sainz spun into the gravel two corners into his team's home Emilia Romagna Grand Prix after being hit from behind by Ricciardo's McLaren at Tamborello.

It was the Spaniard's second successive retirement in four Formula One races.

In Australia two weeks earlier, he had retired on the second lap and Sainz also crashed in Friday's sprint qualifying at Imola.

"The first thing that he did (after the race) was coming to



Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. and McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo after they crashed out of the race

the Ferrari box to apologise to me," Sainz told reporters. "The mechanics were all with me and we all thanked him for the gesture.

"That's why there's no hard feelings with Daniel. What happened with him could have

happened to anyone out there today but unfortunately it had to happen to me.

"It's how it is. The incident has really no mystery to it. What happened is very clear to everyone."

Sainz had been second to his

championship-leading team mate Charles Leclerc in the standings before the race but slipped to fifth overall with 38 points to the Monegasque's 86 from four rounds.

Leclerc could have been even further ahead but also spun off while chasing Red Bull's Sergio Perez, dropping from third place to eighth before recovering to sixth while Max Verstappen won from pole.

Leclerc made a slow start, dropping from second to fourth on the damper side of the track, and said he had been too greedy as he fought back later in the race and would learn from his costly mistake.

"Third was the best result we could have secured today, as our competitors were very strong," he said.