

De Bruyne goes under the knife for hamstring injury



Kevin De Bruyne
AFP | Rome

Napoli midfielder Kevin De Bruyne underwent an operation on his injured hamstring in his native Belgium yesterday, the Serie A club announced.

“As planned, Kevin De Bruyne underwent surgery yesterday in Antwerp, following a high-grade tear of the biceps femoris in the right thigh,” Napoli said in a statement.

“The operation went well. De Bruyne, who was assisted during the operation by the head of Napoli’s medical staff, Dr. Raffaele Canonico, will now begin the first post-surgery phase of rehabilitation in Belgium.”

De Bruyne sustained the hamstring injury while scoring a penalty for league leaders Napoli in a 3-1 win over Serie A title rivals Inter Milan on Saturday.

De Bruyne, 34, has scored four times since joining Napoli following his departure from Manchester City in the summer, three times from the penalty spot and once with a free-kick.

Arsenal depth fuels Saka’s belief in Premier League title charge

Saka points to Arsenal’s squad strength as the key to ending their title drought

● Arsenal leads the Premier League table

● Injuries no longer derailing ambition

● Saka also chasing World Cup win

AFP | London

Bukayo Saka believes Arsenal’s strength in depth can be the difference for the Gunners this season as they look to end a wait since 2003/04 to win the Premier League.

Mikel Arteta’s men are four points clear at the top of the table from Bournemouth, with their realistic title challengers Manchester City and Liverpool six and seven points adrift respectively.

Arsenal have finished second for each of the past three seasons when injury problems at times derailed their title charge.

However, Arteta now has a far deeper pool of resources to call on after a £250 million spend on eight signings during the transfer window.

Saka is among the Arsenal stars, also including Martin Odegaard, Kai Havertz and William Saliba, to have already been sidelined by injury at times this



Arsenal’s English midfielder #07 Bukayo Saka chases the ball(file photo)

season.

But Arteta’s side have relied on their strength from set pieces and an excellent defensive record to win seven consecutive games in all competitions.

“This year I feel we’re a very strong group and we’ve got a lot of quality. We’ve suffered already a lot of injuries, but the players that have come in have shown that we can all keep the level at the highest,” Saka told Sky Sports.

“I think that’s where we’ve slipped off in a few seasons, but this season, we’ve got that and it’s making me really believe we can do it.”

Next year could be a memorable one for Saka as he also aims to end England’s long wait since 1966 to win a major tournament at the World Cup.

“That’s my prayer. Of course it is doable,” he added on the prospect of a Premier League and World Cup double in 2026.

“You can’t really do anything if you don’t believe in it. I believe it is possible. It won’t be easy, definitely won’t be easy, but yeah it is possible.”

Saka was part of the England sides that lost two European Championship finals under Gareth Southgate.

The Three Lions are the only European side to qualify so far for the World Cup in the USA, Canada and Mexico after a flawless start to their qualifying cam-

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Saka revealed his prayer is to achieve a historic double by winning the Premier League with Arsenal and the 2026 World Cup with England in the same year

paign since Thomas Tuchel took charge.

Saka has been impressed by Tuchel and hopes his experience at the highest level of the club game with Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Bayern Munich can be key to England’s chances.

“I think he is a top coach, tactical understanding and with people as well he is very demanding, he knows how to get the best out of the players I would say,” said the 24-year-old.

“He has shown in the past he can win at the highest level and won the biggest of trophies. He has competed in many finals as well, so he has definitely got the experience and hopefully he can guide us to victory.”

Real Madrid’s Vinicius says sorry for Clasico substitution huff

AFP | Madrid

Brazilian forward Vinicius has issued a public apology to Real Madrid after his angered reaction to being substituted during a tense 2-1 win over arch-rival Barcelona at the weekend.

Vinicius remonstrated with coach Xabi Alonso and marched off down the tunnel after he was hauled off in the 72nd minute and replaced with Rodrygo.

Vinicius did not mention the Real Madrid coach in his apology.

“Today I want to apologise to all Madrid fans for my reac-



Real Madrid’s Vinicius Junior runs toward the dressing room at the end of the match against Barcelona

tion to being substituted in the Clasico. Just as I have already done it in person during today’s training, I also want to apologise again to my teammates, club and president,” said the 25-year-old.

“Sometimes passion gets the better of me by always wanting to win and help my team. My competitive nature is born from the love I feel for this club and for everything it represents. I promise to continue fighting every second for the good of Real Madrid, as I have done since day one,” Vinicius said.

UFC legend Overeem joins BRAVE 100



TDT | Manama

MMA and kickboxing legend Alistair Overeem will be a special guest at the historic BRAVE 100 event on November 7, 2025, at Khalifa Sports City.

The presence of the former UFC heavyweight contender adds significant star power to the Bahrain-based promotion’s milestone show.

Overeem, a Dutch national, is one of the most decorated heavyweights in combat sports history. He is a former

Strikeforce Heavyweight Champion, a DREAM Heavyweight Champion, and the 2010 K-1 World Grand Prix Champion.

He holds a unique distinction as the first and only fighter to ever hold world titles in both MMA and K-1 kickboxing simultaneously.

BRAVE Combat Federation’s 100th card is a landmark achievement for the global promotion, and Overeem’s attendance as a guest of honor underscores the event’s significance.

Rain washes out 1st Australia-India T20 match

AFP | Canberra

Persistent rain forced the opening Twenty20 clash between Australia and India to be abandoned yesterday, leaving Suryakumar Yadav stranded on 39 and Shubman Gill on 37.

After being sent in on a chilly Canberra night, the visitors raced to 97-1 off 9.4 overs before being forced off for a second time by the weather with no more play possible.

India got off to a solid start with their newest T20 sensation Abhishek Sharma signalling his intent immediately, advancing down the wicket to Josh Hazlewood on his first ball.

He clobbered four bounda-



Umpires call off the match as rain interrupts play

ries in a quick-fire 19, but the gung-ho innings came to an end against Nathan Ellis, deceived by a slower ball and caught by Tim David at mid-off.

Skipper Yadav slammed a giant six off Hazlewood before they were forced off by drizzle on 43-1 from five overs.

When they returned after 45 minutes and with the game reduced to 18 overs, the runs began flowing for Yadav and Gill as they upped the ante.

But the rain came back and they went off again having reached 97-1 and that proved the end of the match.

The second game is at a sold-out Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday.