

## Goetze out of Wembley final

AFP, Berlin

A hamstring injury has ruled Borussia Dortmund's Germany midfielder star Mario Goetze out of Saturday's Champions League final at Wembley against Bayern Munich -- the club he will join next month after actioning a release clause in his contract. Goetze, 20, tore his right hamstring in Dortmund's semi-final return leg at Real Madrid on April 30 and the attacking midfielder only managed an hour of training with the Borussia team on Tuesday before suffering a reaction, which has ruled him out.

"It was my big aim to play in the final and I have been working hard to reach that in the last few weeks," said a disappointed Goetze on Wednesday.

"I am incredibly sorry that I can't help the team in this really important game. I have full confidence in the team and will of course be going to London to support the boys from the sidelines."

His withdrawal means Goetze has now played his last game in a Dortmund shirt after it was announced in April that he will join German champions Bayern for 37 million euros.

Meanwhile, Dortmund are waiting on the fitness of centre-back Mats Hummels, 24, who damaged his ankle in Saturday's shock 2-1 league defeat at home to Hoffenheim, and sat out Tuesday's training to allow the swelling to subside and is receiving intense treatment.



PHOTO: AFP

London's Trafalgar Square is transformed into a football fan zone yesterday ahead of the Champions League final between Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund at Wembley on Saturday.

## Time to win final: Ribery

AFP, Berlin



Franck Ribery says the time for talking is over as Bayern Munich owe it to their fans to make up for their two recent failed attempts by winning the Champions League title in Saturday's final against Borussia Dortmund at Wembley.

"We have to win for the fans, the club and the whole team," said Ribery, after Bayern lost both last season's final at home to Chelsea and suffered defeat in the 2010 final to Inter Milan in Madrid.

"This is our third time, we have more experience, know what it means to play in a final, so it's nothing new for us, everyone knows what they have to do and how we have to play against Dortmund.

"If we play like we did against Barcelona, we have a huge chance."

Bayern played Barcelona off the park with two impressive displays to win the Champions League semi-final 7-0 on aggregate and the Bavarians won this season's Bundesliga title by a record 25-point margin.

With the European title now just 90 minutes away, Ribery said Bayern can afford no distractions and must concentrate on their own performance.

"We shouldn't give so much blah-blah, we have to play football," he said.

"It's a huge game for everyone, but we must concentrate on ourselves.

"We have a good feeling, we have done well up until now, but we need another big performance on Saturday."

Ribery has been in superb form for Bayern this season, maintaining his incredible run of never losing any of the 46 league games with Munich in which he has scored.

The 30-year-old missed the 2010 final with suspension and after being on the losing team last year, he has no intention of seeing Bayern return to Munich empty handed from a third Champions League final.

"The defeat to Inter was hard, I was sad because I didn't play, but the loss to Chelsea really hurt, it was a huge shock for everyone," he said.

"I believe everyone expects that Bayern will win, that means pressure for us, but Dortmund have done really well in the Champions League and played some great football with good players.

"We'll have perhaps more possession, but they are more compact, counter-attack well and we have to be careful because they also have high standards."

## Badstuber's WC in doubt

AFP, Berlin

Germany defender Holger Badstuber will be out for the next 10 months and faces a race against time to be fit for the 2014 World Cup after serious knee surgery, Bayern Munich confirmed Wednesday.

The 24-year-old centre-back, who has won 30 caps for Germany, originally tore the cruciate ligament in his right knee in Bayern's 1-1 draw with Borussia Dortmund last December, but has torn the same ligament again, which has now been removed completely.

The surgeon, who operated on Badstuber in Vail, Colorado on Monday, has told Bayern that Badstuber must wait before undergoing a ligament graft and will only be available again in early 2014 with the World Cup in Brazil to kick-off on June 12.

## Mazzarri to join Inter

AFP, Vicenza

Napoli coach Walter Mazzarri is poised to join Inter Milan on a two-year deal, according to reports Wednesday.

La Gazzetta dello Sport said Inter would hand Mazzarri a two-year deal worth 3.5 million euros to the coach.

ANSA news agency later reported that Inter coach Andrea Stramaccioni would not be taking the squad's training session in the afternoon, claiming Mazzarri "would be appointed by the end of the week at the latest".

Mazzarri announced his departure from Napoli after steering the club to a runner-up finish in Italy's Serie A behind champions Juventus on Sunday, qualifying the Neapolitans for next seasons' Champions League.

Inter, the last Italian team to claim the continental crown in 2010, missed out on playing in Europe next season altogether after a dismal ninth place finish was capped by a 5-2 home loss to Udinese.

Juventus finished top of Serie A to claim their 29th Scudetto, with Napoli joining the Bianconeri in the Champions League.

AC Milan finished third but will have to successfully negotiate a preliminary round before booking their ticket to the competition.

Fiorentina and Udinese qualified for the Europa League, while Roma and Lazio will fight it out for the final spot in that competition when they face off in the Italian Cup final on Sunday at the Olympic Stadium.

## Pellegrini confirms Malaga exit

THE GUARDIAN



Manuel Pellegrini has confirmed he will leave Malaga at the end of the season. The Chilean head coach had been heavily tipped to fill the vacancy left by Roberto Mancini at Manchester City this summer and has now stated he will not be in charge of the Champions League quarterfinalists next season.

"My coaching staff and I are separating from Malaga but our union with this city will be eternal," Pellegrini told the Spanish newspaper Marca. "I'm going for sporting reasons."

The 59-year-old's exit from La Rosaleda has been largely expected for weeks although the club themselves have yet to confirm his departure.

His name was being connected with City before Mancini's departure on 13 May, although Pellegrini denied that a deal had already been done following the goalless draw with Sevilla on 12 May.

"I deny here and now being the new coach of Manchester City, I haven't signed

any agreement with anybody," Pellegrini said on his club's website at the time.

"I've been fortunate enough, and very proud, that every year the big clubs have shown an interest in me. I have an agreement with Malaga not to talk to anyone and nothing has been agreed with any other club.

"I hope in the coming weeks that things will become a little clearer about what is going to be the future here at this club."

That time appears to have come with Pellegrini confirming at a function today that he will leave Malaga after two-and-a-half years in charge.

Earlier Samir Nasri said he would welcome Pellegrini at City. Nasri said: "I think that [Manuel Pellegrini] is a great manager. He proved himself at Villarreal and Real Madrid as well even if he didn't win the title but he finished with 96 points. And with Malaga as well. All his teams play attractive football.

"And I think that is what people want to see. You pay [for your] ticket to go to football to see something great and he is the kind of manager who can do it so we will see what can happen in the summer."

## Murray, Del Potro out

AFP, Paris



Argentina's world number seven Juan Martin Del Potro has pulled out of the French Open with an ongoing viral infection.

Del Potro is the second top 10 ranked ATP player to withdraw from the second Grand Slam of 2013 following world number two Andy Murray's decision on Tuesday to pull out due to a back injury.

"This is a tough blow, because these are the events you dream of winning," Del Potro, who reached the last four at Roland Garros in 2009 and quarter-finals last year, said on Wednesday.

"Now I must get over this disappointment and recover completely in order to prepare at 100 percent for the tests to come," he added.

Andy Murray will miss the French Open with the back injury that flared up at the Rome Masters, the world number two announced on Tuesday.

After meeting with medical specialists Murray has decided to skip the second Grand Slam of the year at Roland Garros to ensure he is fully fit

for Wimbledon.

"It's a really tough decision and I love playing in Paris, but after seeking medical advice, I am not fit to compete," the US Open and Olympic champion explained in a statement to



ANDY MURRAY

Britain's Press Association.

"After consultation with his team and medical specialists, Andy has reluctantly withdrawn from the French Open and will instead focus on preparation for the grass court season," the statement added.

## Carroll ruled out

AFP, London



Liverpool striker Andy Carroll has withdrawn from the England squad for the friendly games against the Republic of Ireland and Brazil because of a foot injury, the Football Association have announced.

The FA revealed the news in a statement late on Tuesday, and said that manager Roy Hodgson had not called up a replacement.

"Andy Carroll has been ruled out of the England squad for the upcoming internationals with Republic of Ireland and Brazil," said the FA.

"Carroll had been named in Roy Hodgson's squad that will take on Ireland at Wembley on Wednesday, May 29, and then travel to Rio to face Brazil on June 2, but has now been forced to withdraw through injury.

"No replacement will be made at this time."

Carroll spent the season on loan at West Ham United and ended the season with a strong burst of form.

## Garcia sorry for jibe

THE GUARDIAN



Sergio Garcia's ongoing spat with Tiger Woods took an unwelcome turn on Tuesday night, when the Spaniard made what could be interpreted as a racist remark about his opponent.

The Spaniard was on stage at the European Tour's gala players' awards dinner, where he was questioned by the Golf Channel's Steve Sands. Garcia, who has been embroiled in verbal battles with Woods since the Players Championship at Sawgrass this month, was asked in jest if he would have the American round for dinner one night during the upcoming US Open. "We will have him round every night," Garcia said. "We will serve fried chicken."

The statement was similar to Fuzzy Zoeller's infamous remark towards Woods in 1997. Then, after Woods won his first major, the Masters, which entitled him to choose the champions' dinner menu for the following year, Zoeller said: "You pat him on the back and say congratulations and enjoy it and tell him not serve fried chicken next year. Got it? Or collard greens or what-

ever the hell they serve." Zoeller later apologized and said he had been misconstrued.

Garcia left on Tuesday night before he could be asked to clarify his remarks, but later issued a statement through the European Tour, saying: "I apologise for any offence that may have been caused by my comment on stage during The European Tour Players' Awards dinner. I answered a question that was clearly made towards me as a joke with a silly remark, but in no way was the comment meant in a racist manner."

Earlier in the day he had earlier been pressed on his relationship -- or lack of one -- with the world No1 when previewing the PGA Championship. "I mean, you can't like everybody," the Spaniard said. "I think that there's people that you connect with and there's people that you don't. You know, it's pretty much as simple as that. I think that he doesn't need me in his life, I don't need him in mine, and let's move on and keep doing what we're doing."

When asked when this problem first came to light, Garcia replied: "A while back. It's never really been like a true connection like I would have maybe with Luke Donald or Lee Westwood or Adam Scott or some of the other guys that I get along with well."