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Donovan double

REUTERS, Undated

Landon Donovan celebrated his return to the United States squad in triumphant style on Friday, scoring twice as they crushed Guatemala 6-0 in a friendly at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego.

The 31-year-old became the first player to score 50 goals for his country, finding the net twice in the second half to lift his overall tally to 51 before he was substituted by coach Juergen Klinsmann and left the field to thunderous applause.

Donovan had lost his place in Klinsmann's squad after taking a break from the game and missing key qualifiers in March, but was eager to return to the international scene with the CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament kicking off on Sunday and a chance to get back in the frame for next year's World Cup in Brazil.



United States forward Landon Donovan (C) scores his second goal against Guatemala during their international friendly in San Diego on Friday.

C'Ron denies MU link

AFP, Paris



Cristiano Ronaldo has denied speculation he will return to Manchester United next season, claiming his future lies with Real Madrid.

Speaking at an event in Monaco he told reporters that rumours of an imminent return to Old Trafford were wide of the mark.

"It's a club (United) that's been in my heart since I was there so everyone knows that I have a passion for that club but my future now is at Real Madrid and I want to be there," said the Portugal forward.

"It's not the best day to speak about my future. I'm going to have time to speak about that at the beginning of the season."

"Basically it's (time) to rest (after) 10 months of a hard season. It's basically to rest, to be with my family, my kid, my girlfriend and to rest."

"Just to rest, do a lot of the beach, massage, playing a little tennis, that's it."

Speculation began at the end of last season that Ronaldo wanted to move back to United, where he enjoyed six successful years from 2003 to 2009, winning the Champions League and three Premier League titles.

One Spanish league title and one Spanish Cup success is scant reward from four years in the Spanish capital and with Jose Mourinho having walked away from the Bernabeu to rejoin Chelsea, man believed Ronaldo would follow him back to England.

He added fuel to the fire last season when speaking of his personal sadness but the 28-year-old has now put paid to any suggestions about a departure.

He says he is instead looking to earn more success with Real and Portugal.

"I'm always looking forward to being better and better during the season so this year's going to be the same. I will try to be focused every time to win La Liga and the Champions (League) like we always (try) to do."

"I'm enjoying, of course, playing there. I've played in Spain for four years so I want to continue there. And for the national team also that we can qualify for the World Cup will be a big goal for us, so we are focused on that and I look forward to being in the World Cup too."

Ronaldo's current contract at Real is due to run out in two years' time and he has so far been unwilling to prolong it.

That has alerted interest from mega-rich French pair Paris Saint-Germain and Monaco as well as United.

NO INDIA SERIES PCB lost \$80m?

ANI, Islamabad

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has claimed that it had lost approximately 80 million dollars in its broadcasting deal with the Dubai-based Ten Sports that ended last month, due to a lack of bilateral series with India.

According to the Daily Times, Pakistan toured India in December 2012 for a short one-day series, the first bilateral series between the two countries since 2007, although India refused to play Pakistan or even in Pakistan since 2008 and also cancelled a full tour in early 2009.

A PCB official said that there was a clause in their agreement with Ten Sports that Pakistan had to play at least two home series with India in a four year cycle, which would have fetched them an estimated 80 million dollars out of the total deal of 135 million dollars.

Paulinho seals Spurs move

REUTERS, London



Powerful Brazil midfielder Paulinho looked forward to a Premier League debut with Tottenham Hotspur after completing his move from Corinthians on Saturday.

Spurs said in a statement they had reached agreement for the transfer, put at around 17 million pounds (\$25.30 million) by local media, after Paulinho successfully completed a medical examination.

The 24-year-old, who scored 34 goals in 167 games for Sao Paulo-based Corinthians, shone in Brazil's winning Confederations Cup campaign last month.

"I want to thank Tottenham for believing in me," he told the club website.

"It's a huge pleasure for my career to be at a club as big as Tottenham. I know it will be a huge challenge but I think I can help all my colleagues to succeed and give a lot of happiness to the supporters."

"We used to watch the Premier League in Brazil - including Tottenham - and this club has big players. I just want to help them to succeed here," added the player after a visit to the club's training centre.

Paulinho has been capped by Brazil 17 times and was a key part of the Corinthians side that beat Chelsea in the Club World Cup final last December.

He joins Brazilian international midfielder Sandro at the North London club.

Neymar on the mend

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian football star Neymar is recovering well after undergoing tonsil and nasal surgery in Rio on Friday, according to a statement signed by his doctor.

The 21-year-old prodigy, who helped his national squad crush Spain 3-0 in the Confederations Cup final last Sunday, is to remain at the Sao Vicente clinic until Saturday for observation, the medical bulletin said.

Neymar will then convalesce for 10 days in Rio before heading for Spain.

"All went very well," the medical bulletin said.

The tonsil surgery and the septoplasty -- a procedure to straighten the partition between the two nasal cavities -- aimed to "improve the breathing performance, avoid possible infections and prevent muscular and joint lesions," it added.

Bayern stars fined

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich's stars Mario Goetze, Mario Gomez and Jan Kirchhoff have all been fined a reported five-figure sum for wearing Nike clothing, which had not gone down well with club sponsor Adidas.

New-signings Goetze and Kirchhoff both wore Nike T-shirts at Tuesday's press conference to officially unveil them, while Gomez was photographed wearing a Nike cap at training on Thursday.

All three players are privately sponsored by Nike, but under the terms of the club's contract with rivals Adidas, they must only wear clothing made by the German sports brand at official events.

Bayern's media director Markus Hoerwick confirmed the players have been fined, with the proceedings going to the victims of last month's flooding in south Germany.

For the last decade, Bayern have a contract with Adidas, which runs until 2020, and the German sports-wear giants own a 9.4 percent stake in the Champions League winners, which is worth 77 million euros (US\$100m, £65m).

European champions Bayern play their first competitive game under new coach Pep Guardiola on July 27 when they face Borussia Dortmund in the German Super Cup in a repeat of May's Champions League final.



Shirt made of 80k flowers

INTERNET, Undated

Borussia Dortmund launched the new set of kits they'll wear during their next season of torment under the merciless steamroller that is Bayern Munich and they did it in a unique sort of way. Kitmaker Puma created the new home shirt out of more than 80,000 flowers covering a space of 10,764 square feet in Dortmund's Westfalenpark. Because using more than 90,000 would've just been excessive.

On Thursday night, Puma planted the 80,645 flower pots, equalling the capacity of Signal Iduna Park, in the design of the new shirt. The flowers -- marigolds as well as black, pink and grey petunias -- had been specially cultivated in black and yellow pots for this campaign.

The display will remain in the park for four days. They will then be given away "as good luck charms for the new season."

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