

# What to WATCH

TEN Cricket  
West Indies v Pakistan  
First T20  
Live from 12:00am (Sunday)  
NEO Prime  
German Super Cup  
Dortmund v Bayern Munich  
Live from 12:30am (Sunday)

## MU scrape a draw

AFP, Osaka



A stoppage time goal from Wilfried Zaha saved Manchester United from the brink of a humiliating third defeat in their pre-season Asian tour Friday, drawing 2-2 with Cerezo Osaka at Shinji Kagawa's former J-League home.

Kagawa, who moved to Old Trafford from Borussia Dortmund a year ago, also delighted a sell-out crowd of 44,856 at the Nagai Stadium by scoring United's first goal minutes after fluffing a penalty by kicking straight into the hands of Osaka custodian Kim Jin-Hyeon.

Cerezo striker Kenyu Sugimoto opened the scoring on 34 minutes as he beat two defenders to slam a left-footer past Lindegaard after intercepting a pass by United's Chris Smalling.

Kagawa bungled a penalty shot in the 53rd minute when Ashley Young was clipped down in the box by Cerezo defender Tatsuya Yamashita. But the 24-year-old Japanese quickly restored some pride by pulling one back for United two minutes later, slotting the ball through Kim's legs after trapping a deep left cross from Ryan Giggs.

Minutes after Kagawa was substituted amid roars from his former home supporters, Cerezo surprised the English champions with their second goal through 18-year-old striker Takumi Minamino on 63 minutes.

Minamino's shot from the left outside the area sailed into the top far side corner. But Zaha managed to redeem the visitors and save them from humiliation by hitting a much needed equaliser one minute into stoppage time on a cross from Jesse Lingard.



Manchester United winger Wilfried Zaha (L) skips a sliding tackle by Cerezo Osaka midfielder Junpei Kusakami during their friendly match at the Nagai Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Falcao birth certificate published

AFP, Bogota

A debate over the true age of Colombia star Radamel Falcao was ended Thursday as local press printed a copy of the striker's birth certificate.

The row was created by the new Monaco signing's former school head teacher claiming on local television station Noticias Uno that Falcao was born in 1984 and not 1986.

That would have made him 29 and not 27, meaning the principality club had forked out 60 million euros (\$79.6 million) for a player two years closer to retirement than they had believed.

But newspaper El Tiempo printed a copy of his official birth certificate from the Santa Marta municipality where he was born on February 10, 1986, proving once and for all that he is indeed 27.

On Tuesday Falcao had taken to Twitter to refute the allegations saying: "I am surprised by these media reports about my age -- they are ridiculous."

## Jose calm over Rooney

AFP, Jakarta



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho said he was "calm" over his high-stakes bid for Wayne Rooney after emerging star Romelu Lukaku burnished his growing reputation with another two goals in Jakarta.

Mourinho indicated there had been no new offer for Rooney after Manchester United rejected an initial bid. But he also said Chelsea were sticking by their decision not to target any other players.

"No," said Mourinho, after Chelsea's 8-1 hammering of Indonesia All-Stars late on Thursday, when asked if there had been movement on the transfer situation.

"In this moment we have what you know... that bid that was public and official, and after that nothing else and we are calm, as we told you. We are calm because we are happy with what we have."

The Portuguese manager has much riding on the Rooney bid with Chelsea looking at no other players after the signings of Germany forward Andre Schurrle, 22, Holland midfielder Marco van Ginkel, 20, and veteran Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, 40.

But he has also been boosted by the return from loan spells of 22-year-old Belgium midfielder Kevin de Bruyne -- currently nursing a knee injury -- and powerhouse striker Lukaku, who has bagged four goals on Chelsea's three-game Asian tour.

Lukaku, who struck the winner from the penalty spot in Bangkok, and was also on target in Kuala Lumpur, added a close-range header and side-footed finish on Thursday to press his claims for regular first team football next season.

Mourinho said erratic, 50 million pounds (\$77 million) Spanish striker Fernando Torres should be pleased to have competition for a starting spot from the imposing Lukaku, even without Rooney in the squad.

"I think Fernando should be happy because we have competition on the team and I think it's good for everybody in every position," he said.

"So Fernando, I think he will be pleased because for some time at Chelsea he was basically the young striker, after that it was Demba Ba, arriving in January... and now we have three strikers."

He added that veteran England midfielder Frank Lampard would resume training next week after an Achilles injury as Chelsea head for four more pre-season games in the United States.

Chelsea won the Premier League twice during Mourinho's first spell in charge and they are seen as a serious threat to title-holders Manchester United and 2012 winners Manchester City, who are both bleeding new managers.

And Mourinho will hope to steal a march on United by racking up a three-point lead before they meet on August 26, after scheduling arrangements handed Chelsea two home games at the start of the season to the champions' one match, away to Swansea.

"I'm never too worried with the fixtures with the calendar, when you play, when you play at home, when you play away, when you play against a rival," Mourinho said.

"I'm not worried about it. We just start against Hull City, we will try to win and after that comes (Aston) Villa, Man United... match after match and we'll see what happens."

## Cisse resolves shirt row

AFP, London

Newcastle striker Papiss Cisse has reportedly agreed to wear the Premier League club's Wonga logo on his shirt despite previously objecting due to his religious views.

Cisse pulled out of Newcastle's pre-season tour to Portugal after telling the club he was not prepared to promote the money-lending company -- as the Magpies' sponsor for the forthcoming season, because it conflicted with his Muslim beliefs.

However, after several weeks of negotiations, the Senegal international has been persuaded to return to the fold, according to reports on Thursday.

Newcastle are yet to confirm the development, but sources close to the 28-year-old are said to expect him to resume training with his team-mates on Friday.

Cisse's return would be a major boost to Newcastle manager Alan Pardew, who has been unable to sign any new strikers despite making that his top priority at the end of last season.

## Ribery, Neuer to miss Super Cup

REUTERS, Berlin



Treble winners Bayern Munich will be without winger Franck Ribery and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer when they travel to Borussia Dortmund for the Super Cup on Saturday in a repeat of last season's Champions League final.

Coach Pep Guardiola, who took over after Jupp Heynckes's record-breaking season with the Bavarians, said the two players were nursing minor injuries from their friendly 2-0 win over Barcelona this week and would not be fit for the first chance of a trophy this season.

Guardiola, who won 14 of 19 possible titles in his four years at Barcelona, also cast doubt on the participation of midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger, who only recently came back from injury.

"Bastian will travel with us but we do not know yet if he can play. He has only a few training sessions under his belt," the Spaniard told reporters on Friday.

Mario Goetze, Bayern's big transfer from Dortmund, will also miss the game as he is still recovering from the muscle injury that kept him out of the Champions League final in May.

The two teams have slugged it out in the Bundesliga in the past three seasons with Dortmund winning the 2011 and 2012 editions and Bayern returning to the top last season, when they also added the Champions League trophy and the German Cup.

Bayern beat Dortmund 2-1 thanks to a last-gasp Arjen Robben goal in the Champions League final in London and also eliminated their rivals in the German Cup quarter-finals.

"You have no excuse if you are Bayern coach," Guardiola said. "A final is a final and you have no second chances on Saturday."

"It is never easy against Dortmund, they play a good game, with a lot of possession. We want to see at what level we are at and plan both for the game and beyond."

## 'I don't kill people'

AFP, Hong Kong

Famously feisty Sunderland manager Paolo Di Canio insisted on Friday that his players were not scared of him, saying: "I don't kill people."

The firebrand Italian, who replaced Martin O'Neill towards the end of last season, kept the Black Cats in the Premier League but faced criticism for his no-nonsense handling of his players and his strict training regime.

His former boss at third-tier Swindon Town famously said Di Canio managed "by hand grenade".

"The players cannot fear the manager, it's not possible," Di Canio told a press conference in Hong Kong, where his side take on Manchester City on Saturday in the final of the Barclays Asia Trophy.

"I don't kill people, I let them train."

He added: "Our team is a very good team, but not a top team. To reduce the gap between us and the top clubs it's obvious that we need a strategy and tactics and technical quality."

"But physical condition is also one of the main parts, otherwise it is difficult to reduce this gap."

## Fed's setback

AFP, Gstaad



Roger Federer's US Open preparations could be in danger after the 17-time Grand Slam winner was beaten in his opening match at the Swiss Open while playing with back pain.

The top seed, who was attending the small claycourt event for the first time since winning it nine years ago, was also dealing with the added stress of testing a new larger racquet, coping with his physical limitations and facing a big hitter in Daniel Brands.

The German produced a 6-3, 6-4 win to make the quarter-finals, coming good after taking the Swiss star to three sets in Hamburg last week.

Federer, 31, who has been troubled occasionally in a relatively injury-free career by back spasms, said that he has been dealing with them for a few weeks now.

He hinted that he will be taking a late decision on whether or not to play the Montreal Masters, a key US Open warm-up event, which begins a week from Monday on August 5.

"I've had serious problems with the back, I had to get some anti-inflammatories last week in Hamburg due to the pain," he said after Thursday's loss, his third of the summer against an opponent ranked outside the top 50.

Federer is currently ranked fifth in the world, his lowest level in a decade after going out in the Wimbledon second round to Sergiy Stakhovsky and then losing last week in the Hamburg semi-finals to Argentine qualifier Federico Delbonis.

Federer had been hoping to both build confidence as well as test out a new larger racquet. Instead, he must now work on his back and hope for the best.

"I will have to do a lot of exercises and see how it all feels. My main priority now is to fix my back. I would love to be able to train at 100 percent," said the former world number one.

"I'll have to see if the rehab is enough to let me play in Montreal. If it is, I'll go; if not, then it gives me another week."

## Cesc not for sale: Martino

REUTERS, Barcelona



Barcelona's new coach Gerardo Martino has made it clear he is counting on Cesc Fabregas for next season and does not want the Spain midfielder to accept an offer from Manchester United.

United coach David Moyes said on Thursday the English champions had not given up their pursuit of Fabregas, who returned to his boyhood club in 2011 after eight seasons with United's Premier League rivals Arsenal.

"Obviously I am not going to get involved in the club's economic affairs but they have already rejected two offers so I will add a third," Martino said at his first news conference since he was appointed to succeed Tito Vilanova on Tuesday.

"We are going to keep him here," added the Argentine, a former coach of Paraguay and most recently Newell's Old Boys in his native Rosario.

Barca vice president Josep Maria Bartomeu also ruled out selling Fabregas, saying it was normal for United to be interested in the 26-year-old as he was "a great player" but that the club were counting on him.

Barca hired Martino after Vilanova was forced to step down due to illness as he is known to favour the club's possession-based playing style.



Barcelona's new coach Gerardo 'Tata' Martino poses during his official presentation at the Nou Camp yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

The silver-haired 50-year-old said his immediate priorities were to get to know the squad and coaching staff and make sure the players retained their hunger for success.

He would be focusing as well on making sure Barca's World Player of the Year Lionel Messi, who is also from Rosario, was able to continue his phenomenal scoring run of recent seasons.

"What we are going to try to do is make him feel as comfortable as he

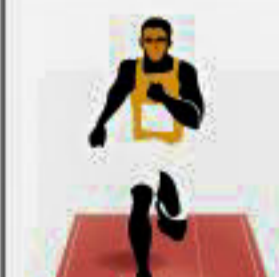
has up to now, making him feel good in the team," Martino said. "With that he will do the rest."

One thing Martino said he would be working on was making sure Barca pressured opponents high up the pitch and that they were comfortable defending a long way from their own goal.

He will have a first chance to test his theories with his new charges when Barca play a friendly at Polish side Lechia Gdansk on Tuesday.

## Bolt rules over air

AFP, Paris



Scientists on Friday said Usain Bolt performed a feat of biomechanics when he ran 100m in a record 9.58sec at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin.

Crossing the line in a time that is still a world record meant Bolt had to muster "truly extraordinary" power and energy to overcome exceptional drag, they said.

Taking into account the altitude of the Berlin track, the temperature at the time of the race and the resistance caused by Bolt's 1.95m (six feet five inch), 94-kilo (207-pound) frame, the researchers calculated he had a drag coefficient of 1.2, which is less aerodynamic than the average human.

Bolt hit peak power after only 0.89 seconds, expending 81.58 kilojoules of energy by the time he finished the race.

But 92.21 percent of this energy was used to overcome air resistance, according to a paper appearing in the European Journal of Physics. Only 7.79 percent was used to achieve motion.

After 41 strides, he crossed the line at 43.92 kilometres (27.29 miles) per hour.

"The enormous amount of work that Bolt developed in 2009, and the amount that was absorbed by drag, is truly extraordinary," said scientist Jorge Hernandez from the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

"It is so hard to break records nowadays, even by hundredths of a second, as the runners must act very powerfully against a tremendous force which increases massively with each bit of additional speed they are able to develop."

"This is all because of the 'physical barrier' imposed by the conditions on Earth. Of course, if Bolt were to run on a planet with a much less dense atmosphere, he could achieve records of fantastic proportions."

The team compared Bolt's time in Berlin with his previous world-record time, of 9.69sec, set during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.