

Schalke held in thriller

RESULTS

Mainz 05 3 (N. Mueller 14, 78, Okazaki 65) VfB Stuttgart 2 (Ibisevic 16, Harnik 82)
Schalke 04 3 (Huntelaar 2, 45+2, Szalai 72) Hamburg 3 (van der Vaart 12-

AFP, Berlin



Schalke 04 and Hamburg shared the points in a 3-3 thriller on Sunday as new-signings grabbed the limelight on the opening weekend of the Bundesliga season.

Both defending champions Bayern Munich, who beat Moenchengladbach 3-1 on Friday, and Borussia Dortmund, who won 4-0 at Augsburg on Saturday, picked up wins on the opening weekend of the new season.

Schalke's new-signing Adam Szalai scored the Royal Blues' crucial third goal to share the points with Hamburg while Gabon forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang marked his Dortmund debut with a hat-trick.

Mainz's Shinji Okazaki of Japan and Leverkusen's South Korea star Son Heung-Min both also scored on their respective debuts for their new clubs.

Schalke took the lead at home to Hamburg when Holland striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar struck after just 84 seconds before compatriot Rafael van der Vaart netted a 12th-minute penalty to level for the guests.

Striker Maximilian Beister produced a bullet header on 24 minutes to put Hamburg in front before Huntelaar levelled right at the end of the first half making it 2-2 at the break.

Ex-Dortmund defender Lasse Sobiech then headed the hosts ahead just after half-time before Hungary's Szalai, who joined Schalke from Mainz in the summer, pounced on a mistake by Hamburg goalkeeper Rene Adler on 72 minutes to share the points.

Earlier, fellow new-boy Okazaki netted in Mainz 05's 3-2 home win over his ex-club VfB Stuttgart -- who he left last month.



Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (3rd from R) wins the women's 100 metres final at the World Championships at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Shelly-Ann scorches to glory

AFP, Moscow



Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce held nothing back in producing a stunning performance to snatch a second women's world 100m title on Monday.

The diminutive double Olympic gold medalist and 2009 world champion showed all her big-day experience by making up for a sluggish start with a dynamic drive section that saw her race clear of the field by 30 metres.

The 1.52m-tall (5'0") Jamaican, whose teammate Usain Bolt won the men's blue

riband event on Sunday, then kept her solid running style through the finish line for an imposing victory in the season's fastest time of 10.71 sec.

"I had my obstacles - I was starting to feel pain under my left butt cheek," said Fraser-Pryce, whose victory is a massive boost for a Jamaican team hit by doping bans to sprinter Veronica Campbell-Brown and Asafa Powell.

"I am surrounded by great people. I came here and did my best and actually won. It was really hurting but I knew what I worked for.

"I just came out here and I executed my race. I wasn't focused on anyone else. It was

all about execution."

There was a first-ever African medal in the world sprints for Ivorian silver medalist Murielle Ahoure (10.93), while defending champion Carmelita Jeter of the United States took bronze (10.94).

Jeter just beat out teammate English Gardner (10.97), with Jamaica's Kerron Stewart fifth in a photo finish, the seventh-time medalist in worlds and Olympics including a 4x100m relay gold in Berlin in 2009 unable to recover from an awful start.

Nigerian Blessing Okagbare, fresh from silver in Sunday's long jump, faded badly and finished sixth (11.04) ahead of American duo Alexandria Anderson and

Octavious Freeman.

With Veronica Campbell-Brown ruled out of the championships because of a doping infringement, Fraser-Pryce had been left as the country's main contender for gold in the blue riband event.

And the 26-year-old, who served a six-month doping ban herself for testing positive for a narcotic contained, she claimed, in her coach Stephen Francis' toothache painkillers, did not disappoint.

Her winning time of 10.71 sec was just one-hundredth off her best, which ranks as the fourth fastest time ever run, Florence Griffith-Joyner, Jeter and Marion Jones the only three sprinters to have gone faster.

ICC trophy's replica in town

SPORTS REPORTER

A replica of the ICC trophy that Bangladesh famously won in 1997 was brought along with the ICC delegation yesterday.

The ICC championship signifying Bangladesh's first ever major international triumph in the cricketing world and the photo of the then Bangladesh Captain Akram Khan proudly lifting the trophy at the Khat Club in Kuala Lumpur is a memory that has remained ingrained among Bangladesh's fans.

The real trophy however, never came to Bangladesh as it was a running trophy.

Reports published recently, created a confusion regarding the location of the real trophy, which is actually located in Dubai. As a result the BCB recently asked the ICC to create a replica of the trophy for the board.

The arrival of the trophy's replica will give many an opportunity to go down the memory lane and recall how it had all begun for Bangladesh's cricket.

RVP impresses Moyes

AFP, London



Manchester United manager David Moyes hinted that Robin van Persie will be used more sparingly this season after the Dutchman's brace put paid to Wigan Athletic in the Community Shield.

Van Persie scored in each half at Wembley on Sunday to earn United a 2-0 win in the annual season curtain-raiser, as the English champions secured their fifth Community Shield success in seven years.

The former Arsenal striker broke the deadlock with a fine sixth-minute header from Patrice Evra's cross before doubling his tally shortly before the hour with a deflected shot.

It sets him up for a tilt at matching or exceeding his haul of 30 goals from his debut United campaign, but Moyes does not want the team to become too dependent on a player who turned 30 last Tuesday.

"It was a great header; 16 yards on the angle into the corner. He might not be renowned for that type of goal, but it was a brilliantly guided header from a long way out," Moyes said of Van Persie's opener.

"I've been really impressed with Robin because he's been easy to work with. He's taken on everything. He's been really receptive, he's been helpful.

"We tried to manage him at the right times by playing him for some minutes and not (for others).

"He's so important, we have to look after him and we will do at the right times. It just showed you today, he came

up with the goods again with his goals."

Moyes added: "We have to be aware how often we can use him and I'll try and make sure I do that to the best of my ability.

"We've got other centre forwards. Wayne (Rooney) wasn't fit, Chicharito (Javier Hernandez) has an injury, so we're just a little bit short at the moment."

Moyes also paid tribute to 20-year-old new signing Wilfried Zaha, who produced an enterprising display on his competitive debut before being withdrawn in the 61st minute after sustaining a knock.

"He's done well in the pre-season games and we thought it was right that he got the opportunity today," said Moyes.

"He's going to develop. There will be bits where he's up and down, but it was a great opportunity for him today to get on the pitch and be a part of Manchester United.

"We're looking forward to working with him and improving him."

Moyes also revealed that right-back Rafael, who was replaced by Chris Smalling after only 16 minutes, had sustained "a little bit of a hamstring injury", but did not provide further details.

United's victory gave Moyes the first silverware of his Old Trafford career and his opposite number, Wigan's Owen Coyle, predicted that the former Everton coach would prove a fitting successor to Alex Ferguson.

"I've no doubts David Moyes will be very successful. I'm a bit biased because he's a pal of mine, but there's no doubt he will take Manchester United from strength to strength," Coyle said of his fellow Scot.

Draxler out of Paraguay tie

AFP, Berlin

Teenage midfielder Julian Draxler has withdrawn from Germany's friendly against Paraguay on Wednesday after suffering an Achilles tendon injury in Schalke's 3-3 German league draw with Hamburg.

The 19-year-old Draxler limped off after only 23 minutes of the Royal Blues' draw on Sunday having damaged the tendon in his left ankle on the opening weekend of the new Bundesliga season.

Having made six international appearances, Draxler has been ruled out of Germany's friendly in Kaiserslautern as Germany head coach Joachim Loew prepares for next month's World Cup qualifiers against Austria and the Faroe Islands.

"The injury could quickly get inflamed and turn into a long drawn-out affair, so it makes no sense (for him to play on Wednesday)," said Schalke team manager Horst Heldt.

Heldt said it would be "tight" for Draxler to be fit for Schalke's next Bundesliga match against VfL Wolfsburg on Saturday.

Old rivals meet again

REUTERS, Berne



Italy forward Pablo Osvaldo could face the country of his birth in Wednesday's friendly against Argentina as the two old rivals meet for the first time in 12 years.

World Cup hosts Brazil will attempt to keep the momentum going after their Confederations Cup win in June as they visit Switzerland in another of the nearly 50 friendlies being played on the first international date of the season.

There are several neighbourly clashes with England meeting Scotland at Wembley, Belgium hosting France in Brussels and Sweden entertaining Norway in Stockholm.

Other teams will be travelling much further, including world and European champions Spain, who face an exhausting round trip to steamy Guayaquil to play Ecuador, and Uruguay, who travel half way around the world to visit Japan.

Uruguay's trip will at least give striker Luis Suarez a break from his troubles at Liverpool, where he has been told he must apologise to his team mates before he will be welcomed back into the squad following a failed bid to move away.

Victor Genes will make his debut as Paraguay's fourth coach in only two years as the South Americans visit Germany in Kaiserslautern.

Beleaguered Mexico coach Jose Manuel de la Torre badly needs a win against Ivory Coast in New York following his side's disappointing CONCACAF Gold Cup exit against Panama while the United States, who won the tournament, visit Bosnia in

Sarajevo.

European clubs frequently complain about the August date, which is played before many domestic leagues have kicked off, and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, president of the European Clubs' Association, once described the games as "nonsense matches."

Rummenigge is Bayern Munich's CEO and is hardly likely to be pleased that two of his club's players, Thiago Alcantara and Javi Martinez, have been included in an experimental Spanish squad for the trip to South America.

Italy's meeting with Argentina in Rome is the pick of the crop.

The two teams met in four successive World Cups between 1978 and 1990, the last of those games ending in a heart-breaking semifinal defeat for hosts Italy with a Diego Maradona-inspired Argentina winning on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Their only meeting since then was Argentina's 2-1 win in Rome in 2001 when Osvaldo was still a teenager living in Buenos Aires.

Osvaldo, who has scored three goals in eight appearances, has been recalled by Italy for the match, having previously fallen foul of coach Cesare Prandelli's code of ethics.

The 27-year-old was dropped from the Confederations Cup squad after getting into a public row with AS Roma interim coach Aurelio Andreazzoli during the Italian Cup final against Lazio in May.

Born in Buenos Aires, Osvaldo was raised at Huracan where he made his professional debut and moved to Italy as a 20-year-old to join Atalanta.



Jamaican sprint king Usain Bolt celebrates after winning the 100 metres final of the World Championships in Moscow on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bolt in legendary quest

AFP, Moscow

No sooner did Usain Bolt happily pocket the 100m world gold than his focus was promptly switched to snagging two more golds in his never-dying quest to become a "real legend" of modern day track and field.

Bolt's blistering, world record-setting performances at the Berlin worlds in 2009 followed treble gold at the Beijing Olympics.

A blip in the Daegu worlds in 2011 saw him lose his 100m crown to teammate Yohan Blake after a false-start disqualification.

And the 200m and 4x100m relay are yet to come," he added, with round one and semi-finals of the 200m on Friday and final

rebounded for two more golds there before sealing a unique double treble at last year's London Olympics.

Bolt made no bones about his primary intention in the Russian capital: win back the 100m title.

And he did so in emphatic style, clocking a season's best 9.77 seconds in heavy rain at the Luzhniki Stadium late Sunday, with American Justin Gatlin claiming silver in 9.85sec and Nesta Carter, also of Jamaica, taking bronze in 9.95sec.

Jamaicans also finished fourth and fifth, respectively Kemar Bailey-Cole and Nickel Ashmeade (both in 9.98sec), with American Mike Rodgers in sixth (10.04), Frenchman Christophe Lemaitre seventh (10.06) and Briton James Dasaolu last in 10.21.

"I feel a little tired, I need some rest," said Bolt. "I continue to work on my aim to become a legend by collecting gold medals and athlete of the year titles.

"And the 200m and 4x100m relay are yet to come," he added, with round one and semi-finals of the 200m on Friday and final

on Saturday, followed by the championship-ending 4x100m relay 24 hours later.

Bolt said there was no added pressure to perform going into the race.

"It's all about if you want to put yourself under pressure, I don't do that because I know what I want," he said.

"I go out there and compete, and compete at my best. Win, lose or draw, I'll always be happy because I know I went out there and gave it my best."

Bolt added: "Coming up to this race, it was a long season, I had a few setbacks, but had confidence in my coach (Glen Mills) that he was capable of getting me ready for the world championships.

"I'm looking forward to running the 200m, I can't promise anything (regarding a new world record). Hopefully everything will come together.

"My legs are sore right now, but I'll get some ice bags, get the masseurs to work right and I'll be okay."

With the credibility of athletics questioned in light of the recent positive doping

tests of several stars including American sprinter Tyson Gay and Asafa Powell, Bolt's victory was a boost for track and field as a whole.

The Jamaican, also world record holder in the 100 and 200m, admitted that the race itself had been far from perfect, a slow start, tough track and heavy rain all conspiring to work against him.

"I knew there were going to be fast times," he said. "I had to get out there and get in my drive phase because the last 50 metres are the best part of my race.

"Just to be around great starters like Justin Gatlin and Nesta Carter, you know you have to have to get it right.

"I had to focus on my first 50, I couldn't worry about Justin because I knew he'd get there first.

"He's not the sort of person who cracks under pressure so I had to stay focused and go for the line."

He added: "I wanted to run faster but it was one of those days, not 'singing in the rain' but 'running in the rain'."