

What to WATCH

TEN SPORTS
US Open
Men's & Women's QFs
Live from 9:00pm
STAR Sports4
England v Norway

Int'l Friendly
Live from 1:00am (Thursday)
SONY SIX
Germany v Argentina
Int'l Friendly
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

 LG
Life's Good

 LG nexus⁵

 lgmobilebangladesh
01770433071



MRP
BDT 34,490

English clubs dwarf rivals in Europe

AP, London

English Premier League clubs spent a record 835 million pounds (\$1.38 billion) on players during the summer transfer window, almost twice as much as any of Europe's other top leagues.

A study by football finance expert Deloitte showed gross spending in England's top league was up more than 30 percent on the previous record of 630 million pounds (now \$1.04 billion) set in 2013.

Spanish clubs were the second-highest spenders of the so-called "big five" divisions in Europe, with an outlay of 425 million pounds (\$700 million), Deloitte said. Italian clubs were next highest on 260 million pounds (\$430 million). Germany spent 250 million pounds (\$410 million) and France 100 million pounds (\$165 million).

Increased domestic and international broadcast deals fuelled the spending by

English clubs, with Manchester United paying out about 150 million pounds (\$250 million) as part of its rebuilding under Louis van Gaal. That's the most spent by a Premier League club in a summer window.

"We continue to see the increased resources that Premier League clubs enjoy, as a result of improved broadcast deals, translate into investment in players," said Dan Jones, of Deloitte's Sports Business Group.

There was also a record net spend by Premier League clubs of 410 million pounds (\$680 million), only marginally higher than the previous highest from last summer with teams still having to abide by financial fair play regulations.

"With Premier League clubs in a stronger position to afford increased transfer and player costs than ever before, the key challenge remains pursuing their ambitions responsibly," Jones said. "Regulations are now in place at both a league and continental level encouraging clubs to balance their costs with revenue."

TOP 5 SPENDERS

England	£835m (\$1.38b)
Spain	£425m (\$700m)
Italy	£260m (\$430m)
Germany	£250m (\$410m)



Jamaican sprint superstar Usain Bolt (C) celebrates after his team won the four-over exhibition match against Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh's team at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bolt would have played cricket!

AFP, Bangalore

Sprint superstar Usain Bolt said Tuesday he wanted to play cricket for Jamaica as a youngster but his father convinced him to take up track and field instead.

Bolt, the world's fastest man, could have followed in the footsteps of Jamaican speedsters Michael Holding and Courtney Walsh, who struck fear into the hearts of batsmen while playing for the West Indies in the 1980s and 90s.

Asked on a promotional visit to India why he did not pursue his love of cricket, the six-time Olympic gold medalist replied: "Blame it on my dad."

"My father is a huge cricket fan, but when I got to higher secondary, I had two options - cricket or athletics," he said.

"My dad said because of the system in Jamaica, it would be better to take up athletics. He said, 'You just have to run fast in athletics while it's tougher to get into the

national [cricket] team'."

Bolt, an ardent cricket fan, was in Bangalore to captain a seven-a-side team against one led by India's cricket World Cup hero Yuvraj Singh.

The exhibition match, organised by both men's sponsors, was staged in a stadium in the southern city of Bangalore.

Bolt, the world record holder in both the 100m and 200m, said his records at this stage were "pretty much out of reach".

"There are quite a few runners who could challenge me but not beat me," said Bolt, who has raced just four times this season.

"As an athlete, I have seen records come and go. They have always been broken, but if you want to be as great as me, you have to work very hard. That's why my records will stand the time."

Bolt is set on competing in his final Olympics in Rio in 2016 before calling time on his career in 2017 after the World Championships.

McGrath to train India's pacers

AFP, New Delhi

Australian great Glenn McGrath said on Tuesday he had signed up to guide India's current and future fast bowlers for the next five years, giving a boost to the country's young talent.

McGrath will train the likes of Umesh Yadav and Varun Aaron alongside promising youngsters at the MRF Pace Foundation in the southern city of Chennai, which he has headed since 2012 after replacing countryman Dennis Lillee.

Aussies in final

AFP, Harare



An eye-catching all-round performance by Mitchell Marsh carried Australia to a 62-run victory over South Africa on Tuesday to secure their place in the triangular series final.

Marsh struck a brutal 86 not out from 51 balls to boost the Australian total to 282 for seven, and then took two key wickets as South Africa were bowled out for 220 in 44 overs.

Faf du Plessis' brilliant 126 went in vain as none of his team-mates crossed 25, with Mitchell Johnson, Glenn Maxwell and Kane Richardson joining Marsh with two wickets apiece.

Victory secured Australia's participation in Saturday's final, where they should meet South Africa again.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 282 for 7 in 50 overs (Hughes 85, Smith 36, Bailey 32, Marsh 86 not out; Phangiso 2-39)

SOUTH AFRICA: 220 all out in 44 overs (Amla 17, Du Plessis 126, Duminy 16, McLaren 24; Johnson 2-30, Maxwell 2-22, Richardson 2-38, Marsh 2-23)

Result: Australia won by 62 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Marsh.



DEADLINE DAY DEAL: Colombian striker Radamel Falcao poses outside Manchester United's training ground after his sensational loan transfer to Old Trafford on Monday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

'It's a dream come true'

AGENCIES, London



Manchester United's deadline-day loan signing, Radamel Falcao, has offered to play as a center back for his new club despite being one of the most prolific strikers in the game.

With the likes of Wayne Rooney and Robin van Persie already in the squad, the signing of the Colombian international came as a surprise to many fans and pundits given Man United's strength at that position and weakness at others. But those concerns were disregarded as the club spent the final hours of the summer transfer window sealing a season-long loan deal with a £6 million fee and £190,000-£265,000 a week for Falcao -- a move that even the player finds perplexing.

"It is a dream come true to be a Manchester United player," the 28-year-old striker told all the reporters who could fit into the backseat of a Corvette outside the club's training

complex.

"But I'm not sure why I'm here. I would never want to prevent great footballers like Rooney and Van Persie from playing. So I have already told the manager that I would be willing to play as a central defender instead. I have much to learn at that position, but so do the club's other options there."

He added: "I am looking forward to working with (manager) Louis van Gaal and contributing to the team's success at this very exciting period in the club's history."

Van Gaal described Falcao, who is under contract with Monaco until 2018, as "one of the most prolific goalscorers in the game".

He added: "His appearance-to-goal ratio speaks for itself and, when a player of this calibre becomes available, it is an opportunity not to be missed."

Man United signed £14 million Ajax midfielder Daley Blind earlier in the day to complete a summer spend of more than £150 million, which also

included a British record £60 million on Angel Di Maria. Yet the squad still has areas that can be improved.

When asked about the addition of Falcao, who missed much of last season and the World Cup with a torn ACL, Man United CEO Ed Woodward made it clear that this was more than just a deal of opportunity.

"Bringing in Falcao was important for three reasons," he said.

"First and foremost, sponsors love goals even more than I love sponsors. Second, Wayne Rooney is probably going to make another transfer demand any day now -- especially since we're paying Falcao so much -- so we have to be prepared for that. Third, we plan to have Robin van Persie undergo knee surgery even if he doesn't actually need it and that will keep him out for a while. And finally, I'm not even sure 'defender' is an actual position in this game. So clearly anyone who questions this move just doesn't know what they're talking about."

Arsenal sign Welbeck

REUTERS, London

Arsenal confirmed they had signed England forward Danny Welbeck to a long-term deal from Premier League rivals Manchester United as the transfer window closed on Monday.

The 23-year-old Welbeck, who can play as a centre forward or winger, scored 20 goals in 90 appearances for United and has won 26 caps for England since making his debut in 2011.

"Everyone at Arsenal welcomes Danny to the club and looks forward to his contribution in an Arsenal shirt this season," the team said on its website.

Currently on international duty with England, Welbeck will join up with his new team-mates to prepare for the league match at home to Manchester City on Sept. 13, Arsenal added.

Arsenal did not disclose details, but British media have reported the transfer fee at 16 million pounds (\$27 million).

Manchester United had paved the way for Welbeck's transfer by agreeing to terms on a loan deal with Colombia striker Radamel Falcao from Monaco, British media reported.

Spain lose Iniesta

REUTERS, Madrid

Spain playmaker Andres Iniesta will miss Thursday's friendly against France in Paris and their opening Euro 2016 qualifier against Macedonia in Valencia four days later due to a knee injury.

Iniesta, sidelined for Barcelona's 1-0 La Liga win at Villarreal on Sunday, was included in coach Vicente del Bosque's 23-man squad for the two games.

However, problems with his left knee mean he will not be joining up with his team mates in Madrid on Tuesday, Spain said on their official website.

Spain and Macedonia are in Euro 2016 Group C which also includes Ukraine, Belarus, Slovakia and Luxembourg.

Diego steals the show

REUTERS, Vatican City



Pope Francis normally has no competition for attention when he is in a room but it was different on Monday when another larger-than-life Argentine -- soccer great Diego Maradona -- attended a papal event.

Maradona was among some 400 people who attended a special papal audience for players and organisers of a charity match that was being played on Monday night in Rome to promote peace and inter-religious cooperation.

The pope read an address to the participants in the Vatican's large audience hall and then each of them filed past the pontiff to greet and have their picture taken with the leader of the world's approximately 1.2 billion Roman Catholics.

Maradona, who led Argentina to World Cup victory in 1986 and played for Italian side Napoli, sat in the front row waiting his turn to greet the pope.

As the participants walked down the steps of the stage to return to their seats

many of them stopped to greet Maradona and have their pictures taken with him immediately afterwards.

In his address to the participants, Francis said he hoped Monday night's match at Rome's Olympic Stadium would help lead to "peaceful co-existence among all people, excluding every discrimination based on race, language or religion."

"Discrimination is contempt," the pope said, adding that religions had a large role to play in bringing peace to the world and that sport, particularly soccer, could be a vehicle for peace.

Monday night's match, which was based on a suggestion by the pope, includes active and retired players of various religions.

Besides Maradona, participants at the audience in the Vatican included Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and midfielder Andrea Pirlo, former Italy striker Roberto Baggio and Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

The proceeds will go to Scholas, a project backed by the pope that aims to connect schools and educational networks from different cultures and beliefs from around the world.

Bastian named Germany captain

AFP, Dusseldorf

Bayern Munich midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger was on Tuesday named the new captain of world champions Germany by manager Joachim Loew.

Loew turned to the 30-year-old to succeed Philipp Lahm, who stepped down from international duty after skipping Germany to the World Cup title in July.

"Bastian will be a great and dignified captain of our national team," Loew told a press conference in Dusseldorf.



Argentina legend Diego Maradona runs with the ball during the "match for peace" in Rome on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

Valencia seal Negredo deal

AFP, Madrid

Valencia have completed the signing of Spanish international Alvaro Negredo on loan from Manchester City.

The La Liga club will then be obliged to complete the signing on a permanent basis next summer.

"Valencia football club have reached a agreement with Manchester City for the loan, with obligatory option to buy, of the Spanish international striker Alvaro Negredo," said a statement on Valencia's website.

Negredo joined City from Sevilla last year for a reported fee of £16 million (\$27.3 million, 20.3 million euros) and played a major role in Manuel Pellegrini's side's Premier League and League Cup success last season.

The 29-year-old scored 23 goals in 49 appearances in all in England, but was hampered in the second-half of the season by injury, which led to him being excluded from Vicente del Bosque's World Cup squad.

Negredo hasn't yet featured this season after breaking a bone in his foot during a pre-season friendly in July and is expected to return to action in October.