

# What to WATCH

**SONY SIX**  
Sri Lanka v India  
Third Test, Day 2  
Live from 10:30am  
**Serie A**  
Bologna v Sassuolo  
Live from 9:30pm  
AC Milan v Empoli  
Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

**STAR SPORTS 4**  
English Premier League  
Newcastle v Arsenal  
Live from 5:45pm  
Chelsea v Crystal Palace  
Live from 8:00pm  
Tottenham v Everton  
Live from 10:30pm

**SONY KIX**  
Primera Liga  
Celta v Rayo Vallecano  
Live from 10:30pm  
Barcelona v Malaga  
Live from 12:30am (Sunday)  
Real Madrid v Real Betis  
Live from 2:30am (Sunday)

**STAR SPORTS 2**  
IAAF World Athletics C'ships  
Live from 3:30pm  
English Premier League  
Liverpool v West Ham  
Live from 8:00pm  
Bundesliga  
Bayern Munich v Leverkusen  
Live from 10:30pm

## 'Bolt is Messi of athletics'

GOAL.COM

Luis Enrique has compared Usain Bolt to Barcelona star Lionel Messi, stating that he is the best sprinter of all time.

The 29-year-old beat Justin Gatlin in Beijing to lift gold in the 200m at the world championships for the fourth time in a row.

And the Barca coach believes that the Jamaican is to athletics what Messi is to football.

"You could make a good comparison between Messi and Bolt," he told reporters.

"Bolt is the best sprinter of all time and is a brand and I think Messi is the best player of all time."

The Catalan side have been drawn with Bayer Leverkusen, Roma and BATE Borisov in their Champions League group, and the coach is looking forward to beginning his team's defence of the European crown.

"It's a more exciting competition with tough opponents, how could it be otherwise? We have a tough group, like most teams."

"It is a very attractive, very difficult group, no doubt. It's not as difficult as Sevilla's group - they drew Juventus, Manchester City and Borussia Monchengladbach, but it is difficult."

"We will try to do something that nobody has done in modern times, winning two Champions League titles."

Sergio Busquets and Neymar have missed Barca's start to the season through injury, but Luis Enrique is pleased with how they are recovering.

"Busquets has been able to train since yesterday and is doing very well."

"As for Neymar, I've also seen that he has recovered very well. He is not 100 per cent, but no player is at that level now."



Netherlands' Dafne Schippers (L) wins ahead of Jamaica's Elaine Thompson in the women's 200 metres final at the World Championships in Beijing yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Dortmund rout Odds

AFP, Berlin

Borussia Dortmund smashed the record attendance for a Europa League play-off crowd by 12,000 in their 7-2 rout of Norway's Odds BK as they qualified for the group stages.

A crowd of 64,200 saw Germany winger Marco Reus score a hat-trick as Dortmund sealed an 11-5 aggregate victory over Odds on Wednesday at Borussia's Westfalenstadion having come-back from 3-0 down to win last week's first-leg 4-3 in Norway.

It gave the team their seventh straight win under new coach Thomas Tuchel, whose side top the Bundesliga by virtue of goal difference ahead of Bayern Munich.

The attendance broke the previous record for a Europa League play-off of 52,034 set by Dortmund's Ruhr Valley neighbours Schalke against HJK Helsinki in 2011/12.

## Bolt mulls Rio retirement

AFP, Beijing

Usain Bolt said he might end his glittering career at next year's Olympics after he completed a world sprint double in Beijing -- and got cluttered by an electric scooter into the bargain.

The towering Jamaican said he was only 50-50 about running at the next world championships in 2017 in London, and could retire at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics instead.

"After Rio, as I said, my sponsors want me to go one more year, but my coach said, 'Listen to me, if you're not going to be serious about going to the world championships in London, then I shouldn't do it,' he said."

"So it's all about how I feel after Rio, if I feel I can really put my body through one more season. If I'm going to be focused and I'm going to be determined. That will determine if I compete after Rio. So we'll see how it goes."

Bolt, troubled by pelvic problems this year, was pushed all the way by Justin Gatlin

in Sunday's 100m, but had an easier ride in the 200m as he beat the American by nearly two-tenths of a second.

It was the fourth consecutive world 200m title for the 29-year-old, who has won all but one world and Olympic sprint competitions since he lit up the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

However, Bolt's celebrations came to a sticky end at the Bird's Nest stadium on Thursday when a TV cameraman riding an electric scooter lost control and ploughed into him from behind, sending the Jamaican flying.

"I probably should get my legs insured," smiled the six-times Olympic champion. "It was pretty scary when it happened but accidents happen."

Footage of the incident quickly went viral, with "Segways", referring to the electric scooter, trending on Twitter on Friday.

Some Chinese Internet users commented that the cameraman was the only person who was able to take down Bolt in Beijing.

"The only guy in the world who can defeat Bolt," a user with the handle "Sehun" posted on his Twitter-style weibo account.

## Schippers shatters European record

AFP, Beijing



Dutch sprinter Dafne Schippers smashed a European record which has stood since the 1970s as she won world 200m gold with an electrifying run on Friday.

The 100m silver-medallist ran 21.63sec, the fourth fastest time in history, as she lunged at the line to beat Jamaica's Elaine Thompson, who clocked a personal best of 21.66sec.

It was a remarkable win for Schippers, 23, who eclipsed the European record of 21.71sec set by Marita Koch in 1979 and matched by fellow East German Heike Drechsler in 1986.

Only Americans Marion Jones and world record-holder Florence Griffith-Joyner have run the 200m faster than Schippers.

Two-time Olympic champion Veronica Campbell-Brown, who previously won the world title in Daegu in 2011, claimed bronze in 21.97sec at Beijing's Bird's Nest stadium.

Jamaican Danielle Williams won the women's 100m hurdles at the world championships.

Williams clocked a personal best of 12.57 seconds, with Germany's Cindy Roleder taking silver in 12.59 and Alina Talay bronze in a Belarus national record of 12.66.

Sergey Shubenkov of Russia won gold in the men's 110m hurdles. The two-times European champion clocked a national record of 12.98 seconds, with Jamaican Hansle Parchment taking silver in 13.03.

## Socceroos lose star trio

AFP, Sydney

Australia coach Ange Postecoglou has lost three foreign-based stars to injury ahead of World Cup qualifiers next month against Bangladesh and Tajikistan, Football Federation Australia said Friday.

Crystal Palace and Socceroos captain Mile Jedinak has pulled a hamstring while Bayer Leverkusen's Robbie Kruse and Tomi Juric of Dutch side Roda JC are still recovering from recent injuries.

They have been replaced by Lazio attacker Chris Ikonomidis, Brisbane Roar midfielder Luke Brattan and striker Ben Halloran, who plays for German second-tier side FC Heidenheim.

Veteran Tim Cahill was expected to take over as captain for the Asian champions, who face Bangladesh in Perth on September 3.

## Navas warns Man City

AFP, London



Manchester City winger Jesus Navas has warned the Premier League pace-setters not to get complacent after their blistering start to the season.

Manuel Pellegrini's side have surged to the top of the table with three wins from their opening three matches and the swaggering manner of their performances suggests City are back to their best after tamely surrendering the title to Chelsea last season.

With Raheem Sterling bedding in nicely after his move from Liverpool and a big-money deal for Wolfsburg's Belgium playmaker Kevin de Bruyne reportedly close to completion, City are assembling an awesome array of attacking talent that could leave rest of the top tier trailing in their wake.

The leaders are firm favourites to maintain their flying start when they host promoted Watford on Saturday, but Spain international Navas is well aware of the dangers of underestimating a team who have drawn all three of their league matches so far.

"It is not only that we have won these three games, it is that we didn't concede any goals and we created a lot of chances. We are really happy," Navas said.

"But we need to keep the same attitude, working really well defensively and also creating a lot of chances. That is the way to win more games this season."

Like City, Liverpool, who host West Ham on Saturday, were disappointing last season as they followed a second place finish in 2013-14 by slipping down to sixth.

But, while City have recaptured the enterprising style that made them champions two years ago, Liverpool have focused on solidifying a defence that proved so porous over the last 12 months.

## Benitez seeks first win

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid will be looking to put a disappointing start to Rafael Benitez's reign in charge behind them when Real Betis visit the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday.

Benitez's men could only manage a 0-0 draw away to newly promoted Sporting Gijon to start their league campaign last weekend, which already leaves them trailing Barcelona and Atletico Madrid by two points.

A good start was seen as key to Madrid's bid to win just a second La Liga title in eight years with Barca and Atletico facing on paper a much harder start to the campaign.

However, Real defender Nacho insists Los Blancos can't let panic set in just one game into the season.

"We need to be calm. At Real Madrid every game is a final," he told the club's website.

"If we had won against Sporting, we would still need to beat Betis."

"From remaining calm we can go out to win every game."

Madrid should be boosted by the return of Karim Benzema up front from a thigh injury after he returned to training on Tuesday.

Gareth Bale is also expected to be fit despite suffering a foot injury in Gijon and James Rodriguez is likely to come into the starting line-up after he was surprisingly left on the bench last time out in favour of Isco.

Barcelona made a perfect start to the defence of their title despite being under-manned as they gained revenge over Athletic Bilbao for their defeat in the Spanish Super Cup with a 1-0 win at the new San Mames.



could be reunited with Neymar for the first time this season when Malaga visit the Camp Nou on Saturday.

The Brazilian has missed Barca's four competitive games to date due to a bout of the mumps, but has trained all week and will boost a Barca squad still without a number of key players.

Gerard Pique serves the second of a four-game suspension, whilst Dani Alves has been ruled out for a month with an abductor injury.

Malaga stunned the Catalans last season with a 1-0 win at the Camp Nou, which interrupted a 20-match winning run.

"Going there and winning was important, but that is now last season. We are in a new campaign with new players and it is going to be a completely different game," Malaga defender Roberto Rosales told the club's website.

"Logically, Barcelona at home are the favourites, but we will try to ensure that doesn't happen using the strengths we have."

The game of the weekend comes at the Sanchez Pizjuan as Sevilla host Atletico Madrid in the first clash between Spain's five Champions League representatives of the season.

Atletico have been tipped to once again challenge Barca and Real for the title this season, but were unconvincing in their 1-0 win over Las Palmas last weekend.

Sevilla were lucky to escape with a 0-0 draw at Malaga after having Steven N'Zonzi sent-off on his debut, but the Andalusians could hand a debut to Fernando Llorente after he sealed his move from Juventus on Thursday.

Valencia will also be keen to get their first La Liga win of the campaign when they host Deportivo la Coruna after sealing a place in the Champions League group stages for the first time in three years with victory over Monaco in midweek.

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## Messi will not quit

GOAL.COM



Lionel Messi has hit out at reports he was set to take a break from international football after failing to lift the Copa America with Argentina earlier this year.

The Barcelona star faced intense criticism from some in the local media after the Albiceleste captain saw his side go down to hosts Chile on penalties in the final, with some going as far as suggesting he take extended leave from the national team.

Argentina coach Gerardo Martino backed the Barcelona forward but admitted he himself would have walked away were he subject to the sort of abuse that was directed at Messi.

"I never said that I wasn't going to play any longer with the national team," Messi told ESPN Radio.

"[The media] can't kill me any more than they already have. I am used to them saying these types of things. Now we have friendlies and as long as the coach calls me up I am going to continue to be present."

Messi, 28, was included in Martino's squad to face Bolivia and Mexico in the United States next month.

The four-time Ballon d'Or winner has hit 46 goals in 103 internationals, leaving him just 10 strikes behind his country's all-time top goalscorer, Gabriel Batistuta.

Messi has claimed an Olympic Gold medal and an Under-20 World Cup title but Argentina are without a major trophy at senior level since Copa America 1993.

## FIXTURES

(1400 GMT unless stated):

**Saturday:** Aston Villa v Sunderland, Bournemouth v Leicester, Chelsea v Crystal Palace, Liverpool v West Ham, Manchester City v Watford, Newcastle v Arsenal, Stoke v West Brom, Tottenham v Everton (1630 GMT)

**Sunday:** Southampton v Norwich (1230 GMT), Swansea v Manchester United (1500 GMT)

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