



Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri (C) holds the Premier League trophy as the team take part in an open-top bus parade through Leicester to celebrate their triumph on Monday.

## Ranieri named best manager

AFP, London



Leicester City's inspirational manager Claudio Ranieri has picked up another piece of silverware after being elected Manager of the Year by England's League Managers Association (LMA).

The 64-year-old Italian, who led Leicester to a 5,000-1 Premier League title triumph, becomes only the second non-Briton to win the award after Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger, who was honoured in 2002 and 2004.

Ranieri, who was also crowned Premier League Manager of the Year, collected the award at a ceremony in London on Monday after a helicopter ride from Leicester's Premier League victory parade.

"As a player I was not a champion, but I had great heart," he told the audience.

"I told my players I wanted them to play English football and I put my little Italian tactics with their English heart and then we can do something special.

"They followed me. It is a fairytale and I don't know what has happened. I don't know, believe me."

Ranieri was also named Italian Manager of the Year in his homeland last month.

He succeeds Bournemouth's Eddie Howe, who won last year's prestigious LMA award after steering Bournemouth to promotion from the Championship for the first time in the club's history.

"My congratulations go to the LMA manager of the year sponsored by Barclays, Claudio Ranieri, who, in his first year as manager of Leicester City, has achieved the most astonishing of sporting triumphs," said LMA chairman Howard Wilkinson, the former Leeds United manager.

"He thoroughly deserves all the recognition and praise being bestowed upon him tonight."

PHOTO: AFP

## Leicester parade trophy

AFP, Leicester

Leicester City's incredible Premier League fairytale reached a joyous crescendo as around 240,000 fans turned the city blue while revelling in the club's title parade on Monday.

For two weeks since Claudio Ranieri's side were crowned one of the most unlikely champions in English football history, the city of Leicester hasn't stop celebrating and the party climaxed beneath sunny skies 24 hours after the Foxes finished their campaign with a draw at Chelsea.

After starting the season as 5,000-1 outsiders for the title, Leicester defied the odds in stunning fashion and being hailed by a crowd estimated by the local council at nearly a quarter of a million was a fitting finale for Ranieri's squad and the club's Thai chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, who soaked up the celebrations with his family.

"The city is here. It's something special," Ranieri said.

"This is because the team played with their soul and their hearts. The people understood this.

"It's unbelievable. I can only say thank you to the people."

Fans began congregating hours before the scheduled 1700 GMT start of the parade as they packed streets along the route and massed at Victoria Park, where cheerleaders and a gospel choir

provided the entertainment on a stage set up to welcome the players at the end of the parade.

Thousands of the partying hoards came decked out in the team's blue home shirts, while hundreds of blue and white flags were waved by children with their faces painted in the club colours.

With the streets so tightly packed, some brave fans clambered onto rooftops to get a better view and others hung out of windows to salute their heroes.

Placards with images of King Richard III's head edited to fit a Leicester strip bobbed above the crowd.

The re-burial of the king in 2015 was the last time the city witnessed anything approaching these scenes, with some speculating the former monarch may have been a lucky charm for the team.

Leicester's astonishing success, just a year after they narrowly avoided relegation, had captivated sports fans across the world and one group travelled all the way from Australia to join the celebrations.

The crowd also included a party of mature students from Thailand who are studying English at Leicester's De Montfort University.

Chaiya Noradechanunt, 48, said: "This is fantastic. I always watch the matches in Thailand. Leicester are very popular."

Many supporters hadn't quite come to terms with the magnitude of Leicester winning the first title in the club's 132-year history, but it wasn't

going to stop them celebrating in style.

"My lad lives in Manchester and he asked me if Leicester would ever win the Premier League and I said 'not in my lifetime'," one fan told AFP.

"So I am extremely amazed and extremely pleased. It's a wonderful achievement both for the club and for the city."

The first sightings of the blue open-top buses carrying the Leicester squad drew roars of delight from the ecstatic crowd, some of whom had been entertained by Ranieri and star striker Jamie Vardy pretending to ride on the police bikes that were escorting them through the city.

Captain Wes Morgan and his teammates, including Japan striker Shinji Okazaki and Algeria winger Riyad Mahrez, took turns holding the trophy on the top deck of one bus as England international Vardy said: "It's brilliant. Look at the scenes. It's carnage."

Once the bus reached its destination in Victoria Park, the raucous atmosphere was cranked up to the levels of a rock festival as players were interviewed while big screens showed Leicester goals from the season.

Leicester-based band Kasabian made a surprise appearance to play some of their hit songs as the party went on long into the night.

Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha, son of Vichai, was close to tears as he made his way onto the stage to tell the crowd: "I think we need a bigger stadium."

## Costa, Mata left out

AFP, Madrid



Chelsea striker Diego Costa was left out of Spain coach Vicente del Bosque's provisional 25-man squad for Euro 2016 on Tuesday.

The naturalized Brazilian missed Chelsea's last two games of the season due to a persistent hamstring injury and has struggled at international level with just one goal in 10 games since declaring to play for Spain in 2013.

"We didn't want to bring too many players with a certain doubt over their physical condition," Del Bosque said of Costa's omission from the two-time defending champions' squad.

Del Bosque will have cut his final squad to 23 players on May 31.

World Cup winners Fernando Torres, Juan Mata and Javi Martinez were also high-profile names left out by Del Bosque.

The absence of Costa and the in-form Torres means Del Bosque has only two central strikers to choose from in 35-year-old Ariz Aduriz and Juventus' Alvaro Morata.

Arsenal's Santi Cazorla was also excluded having just returned from a long-term knee injury.

The uncapped Saul Niguez and Lucas Vazquez of Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid did make the 25, whilst Villarreal captain Bruno Soriano was surprisingly included amongst 10 midfielders.

Del Bosque also named 11 uncapped promising younger players to bulk up his squad for the friendlies against Bosnia and

Hercegovina and South Korea on May 29 and June 1 respectively with Real and Atletico players set to take part in the Champions League final on May 28.

Spain begin their campaign against the Czech Republic on June 13 before also facing Turkey and Croatia in Group D.

The first part of the squad will meet on May 23 with a further nine players joining after taking part in respective Cup finals on May 28.

The seven Real and Atletico players in the squad will meet up on June 4 and only be available for one pre-tournament friendly against Georgia on June 7.

"That we have three teams in European finals is fantastic, but it reduces our preparation because until the fourth we won't all be together and that is just six days before the Euros start," added Del Bosque.

### SQUAD

#### GOALKEEPERS

Iker Casillas (Porto), David De Gea (Manchester United), Sergio Rico (Sevilla)

#### DEFENDERS

Jordi Alba, Gerard Pique, Marc Bartra (Barcelona), Sergio Ramos, Dani Carvajal (Real Madrid), Cesar Azpilicueta (Chelsea), Juanfran (Atletico Madrid)

#### MIDFIELDERS

Sergio Busquets, Andres Iniesta (Barcelona), David Silva (Manchester City), Mikel San Jose (Athletic Bilbao), Koke, Saul Niguez (Atletico Madrid), Cesc Fabregas (Chelsea), Thiago Alcantara (Bayern Munich), Isco (Real Madrid), Bruno Soriano (Villarreal)

#### FORWARDS

Pedro Rodriguez (Chelsea), Alvaro Morata (Juventus), Ariz Aduriz (Athletic Bilbao), Nolito (Celta Vigo), Lucas Vazquez (Real Madrid)

## Chelsea, Spurs fined heavily

AFP, London

Chelsea and Tottenham have been fined £375,000 (\$540,000, 476,000 euros) and £225,000 (\$324,000, 286 euros) respectively for failing to control their players during a feisty 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge earlier this month.

The tempestuous London derby boiled over as Chelsea came from two goals down to secure the point that ended Tottenham's hopes of winning the Premier League.

Tottenham midfielder Mousa Dembele was handed a six-match ban after gouging Chelsea striker Diego Costa's eye during one of several ugly mass brawls.

Referee Mark Clattenburg did not punish Dembele for his actions, but television replays caught the Belgium international attacking Costa.

There were 12 yellow cards in total and Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino at one stage rushed onto the pitch to separate Tottenham's Danny Rose and Chelsea's Willian.

The feuding continued after the final whistle when Rose was involved in another incident that prompted a brawl involving players and staff from both clubs and featured Chelsea interim manager Guus Hiddink being pushed to the floor.

## Maxwell out of IPL

AFP, Sydney

Glenn Maxwell on Tuesday became the fifth Australian to pull out of the Indian Premier League (IPL), but his injury is unlikely to keep him out of an upcoming West Indies tour.

The hard-hitting batsman suffered a strain in his left abdomen playing for the Kings XI Punjab and is returning home as a precaution.

Australia team physiotherapist David Beakley said it did not appear serious enough to prevent him playing in the West Indies tri-series, which Australia open in Guyana on June 6 against South Africa.

"From the information we have so far, the injury doesn't appear to be something that will prevent Glenn from participating in this tour," he said.

"But we are keen to give him the necessary time to recover before departing to the West Indies at the end of this month."

## Pune shine in the rain

PTI, Visakhapatnam

Adam Zampa and Ashok Dinda shone with the ball by grabbing three wickets apiece before Ajinkya Rahane hit an unbeaten 42 as Rising Pune Supergiants beat Delhi Daredevils by 19 runs under Duckworth-Lewis method in a rain-interrupted IPL match here on Tuesday.

Leg-spinner Zampa (3/21) and pacer Dinda (3/20) led a disciplined bowling display for Pune to restrict the Daredevils to a meagre 121 for 6 and later opener Rahane led the batting charge with 42 not out as the "home" side won the match by 19 runs under D/L method.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**DELHI:** 121 for 6 in 20 overs (Nair 41, Samson 10, Duminy 14, Morris 38 not out; Dinda 3-20, Zampa 3-21)

**PUNE:** 76 for 1 in 11 overs (Rahane 42 not out, Khawaja 19, Bailey 8 not out; Morris 1-12)

**Result:** Rising Pune Supergiants won by 19 runs (D/L method)  
**Player-of-the-match:** Ashok Dinda.

## Loew selects uncapped trio

AFP, Berlin



Uncapped midfielders Joshua Kimmich and Julian Brandt were on Tuesday included in Germany's provisional 27-man squad for next month's European championships in France.

Defensive midfielder Kimmich, 21, caps a meteoric rise having only broken into Bayern Munich's first team earlier this season and has been now promoted from Germany's Under-21 team, as has 20-year-old Bayer Leverkusen winger Julian Brandt.

Germany captain Bastian Schweinsteiger, who has 114 caps, has been included as he recovers from a torn medial knee ligament. Head coach Joachim Loew will cut his squad from 27 to 23 on May 30.

### SQUAD

#### GOALKEEPERS

Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich), Bernd Leno (Bayer Leverkusen), Marc-Andre ter Stegen (Barcelona/ESP)

#### DEFENDERS

Jerome Boateng (Bayern Munich), Emre Can (Liverpool/ENG), Jonas Hector (Cologne), Benedikt Hoewedes (Schalke 04), Mats Hummels (Borussia Dortmund), Shkodran Mustafi (Valencia/ESP), Sebastian Rudy (Hoffenheim), Antonio Rudiger (AS Roma/ITA)

#### MIDFIELDERS

Karim Bellarabi (Bayer Leverkusen), Julian Brandt (Bayer Leverkusen), Julian Draxler (Wolfsburg), Mario Goetze (Bayern Munich), Sami Khedira (Juventus/ITA), Joshua Kimmich (Bayern Munich), Toni Kroos (Real Madrid), Thomas Mueller (Bayern Munich), Mesut Ozil (Arsenal/ENG), Lukas Podolski (Galatasaray/TUR), Marco Reus (Borussia Dortmund), Leroy Sane (Schalke 04), Andre Schuerle (Wolfsburg), Bastian Schweinsteiger (Manchester United/ENG), Julian Weigl (Borussia Dortmund)

#### STRIKER

Mario Gomez (Fiorentina/ITA)

## Chances slim for Pirlo

AFP, Milan



Italy veteran Andrea Pirlo was among the absentees as coach Antonio Conte named a provisional 28-man squad on Monday for the pre-Euro 2016 training camp with several stars absent with Cup finals to play.

Conte, who earlier Monday was cleared of sporting fraud charges relating to a match-fixing affair while he was coach of Serie B team Siena in 2011, can now fully focus on the Azzurri although questions remain over his final 23-man squad.

Italy players yet to play Cup finals -- namely those with Juventus, AC Milan, Paris Saint Germain and Manchester United -- were left out of the reckoning altogether, meaning Conte's final squad on May 31 could look very different.

Defender Leonardo Bonucci was the only Juventus player included for the first training camp beginning Wednesday at Coverciano near Florence because he is suspended for the Italian Cup final against AC Milan on May 21.

With midfielders Claudio Marchisio (Juventus) and Marco Verratti (PSG) ruled out through serious injury, there is a place for Roma's tough-tackling defensive midfielder Daniele de Rossi.

World Cup winner Pirlo, 36, who had come out of retirement following Italy's first round exit from the 2014



World Cup, was a notable, although not a surprise, absentee.

Since his move from Juventus to New York City, Pirlo has fallen out of favour amid reports he is lacking the required fitness. It now looks increasingly unlikely he will play at Euro 2016.

Conte has rewarded Domenico Berardi for a string of fine goalscoring performances with Serie A minnows Sassuolo, who pipped AC Milan to sixth place and a possible spot in next season's Europa League.

Toronto striker Sebastian Giovinco, who played under Conte at Juventus, has been recalled while Sunderland's Fabio Borini, who featured at Euro 2012 without playing a game, has been given the nod by Conte for the first time.