

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
England v Sri Lanka  
3rd ODI  
Live from 3:30pm

**SONY ESPN**  
EURO 2016  
France v Ireland  
Live from 7:00pm  
Germany v Slovakia  
Live from 10:00pm

Hungary v Belgium  
Live from 1:00pm (Monday)  
Copa America Final  
Argentina v Chile  
Live from 6:00am

**TEN 1**  
Tri-nation Final  
Australia v West Indies  
Live from 10:30pm



Switzerland star Xherdan Shaqiri (R) scores the equaliser from a spectacular bicycle kick during their Euro 2016 Round of 16 match against Poland in Saint-Etienne yesterday. But unfortunately Shaqiri's effort went in vain as Switzerland lost in tie-breakers.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Poland in last 8

AFP, Saint Etienne



Poland reached the quarter-finals of Euro 2016 after beating Switzerland 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out on Saturday as Jakob Blaszczykowski proved again he has the midas touch.

Borussia Dortmund winger Blaszczykowski gave Poland a first-half lead in the last-16 clash before Xherdan Shaqiri's spectacular second-half bicycle kick levelled for Switzerland.

It finished 1-1 after normal time, and then extra time, at Saint-Etienne's Stade Geoffroy Guichard.

Blaszczykowski, nicknamed 'Kuba', drilled home his spot kick in the shoot-out.

Arsenal-bound Granit Xhaka was at fault as his wild kick flew wide with the Swiss' second effort as Poland nailed all five kicks.

The result meant Poland preserve their record of never having lost in 18 games when Blaszczykowski has scored.

The Poles will now play either Portugal or Croatia in a quarter-final in Marseille on Thursday.

It was a historic occasion for both sides as neither had ever even reached the knockout stages of a Euro finals.

But despite his success in converting in the penalty shootout, Robert Lewandowski, the top scorer in qualifying with 13 goals, remains without a regular goal in France.

However the Bayern Munich striker con-

stantly dropped back into midfield to run Poland's attack.

The Poles dominated the first half, while the Swiss ruled the second.

Poland squandered a gold-plated chance in the opening minute as a lazy pass from Swiss full-back Johan Djourou fell into Lewandowski's path.

The star striker enticed Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer off his line, but Arkadiusz Milik fired over with the goal at his mercy.

At the other end, Blerim Dzemaili, then Admir Mehmedi had chances for the Swiss before Fabian Schaer headed straight at Lukasz Fabianski.

After creating their fair share of chances, Poland finally went ahead when Kamil Grosicki broke down the left from a Swiss corner.

His pass found Blaszczykowski unmarked at the far post and the Borussia Dortmund winger drove his shot home on 39 minutes.

The Swiss grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck as they hunted a second-half equaliser.

They camped in the Poland half for long spells with the Poles' goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski under siege.

Chasing the game and in a bid to boost their attacking options, Swiss coach Vladimir Petkovic switched to two strikers for the last 30 minutes.

He put Breel Embolo on for attacking midfielder Blerim Dzemaili and the move paid off.

## McAuley own goal sends Wales thru'

AFP, Paris



Northern Ireland's Gareth McAuley scored a heart-breaking own goal to hand British rivals Wales a 1-0 victory in Paris on Saturday that sent them into the Euro 2016 quarter-finals.

In a cagey contest, Michael O'Neill's Northern Ireland largely succeeded in muzzling Gareth Bale, but the Real Madrid star produced a wicked 75th-minute cross that the hapless McAuley turned into his own net.

The West Bromwich Albion centre-back's unwitting intervention allowed Wales to reach the last eight, just as they did on their last major tournament appearance at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden.

Chris Coleman's side, who qualified above old foes England as Group B winners, will play either Belgium or Hungary in Lille on Friday for a place in the semi-finals.

With no former major tournament winners in Wales's half of the draw, they will advance with belief intact that they can create a sensation.

And in an ironic touch, it was Wales, whose inhabitants voted to leave the European Union in Thursday's British referendum, who

remained in Europe, and Northern Ireland, whose people voted to stay, who departed.

Coleman named the same team that had trounced Russia 3-0 last Monday, but Northern Ireland provided vastly more disciplined opposition, sitting in a low block and looking to attack on the break.

It obliged Bale, the tournament's joint-top scorer, to move out to the right in search of the ball and aside from a mishit shot that flew well wide, he scarcely offered a threat in the first half.

Instead it was Northern Ireland who procured the few sights of goal, Stuart Dallas testing Wayne Hennessey at his near post.

Wales had the ball in the net in the 19th minute, but Aaron Ramsey was clearly off-side as he moved in to toe Sam Vokes's header past Northern Ireland's redoubtable goalkeeper Michael McGovern.

Wales began to show a sharper cutting edge in the second period, Vokes heading wide from Ramsey's deep cross and Bale drawing a parry from McGovern with one of his trademark, dipping free-kicks.

After a spell of Welsh possession, Ramsey slipped a pass to Bale, who whipped a devilish cross into the six-yard box from the left.

## Candrea blow for Italy

AFP, Perols

Italy midfielder Antonio Candrea will miss Monday's Euro 2016 match with title holders Spain because of a groin injury, the Italian football federation said.

"We are disappointed for Candrea," defender Andrea Barzagli said Saturday.

"We know what he does for us and he played well in the first two matches but we're a squad of 23 and we have enough replacements that we won't miss him too much."

Candrea suffered the injury in Italy's second Group E match, a 1-0 win against Sweden, and since then has been following a special training programme.

He is likely to be replaced by Alessio Florenzi on the right side of midfield when Italy meet Spain at the Stade de France in Paris.

## Can Messi end drought?

REUTERS, Phoenix



Chile face Argentina in Sunday's Copa America final for the right to call themselves South America's dominant team but perhaps an even bigger question for football fans the world over regards whether Lionel Messi can finally win a major international title.

The Barcelona forward has won every trophy possible with the Spanish club but he has lost three finals with Argentina, including in 2014 World Cup Final in 2014 and the Copa America last year.

Sunday's game against Chile in New Jersey gives Messi a chance to end both his personal hoodoo and that of Argentina, who have not won a major title since lifting the Copa America in Ecuador in 1993.

"Getting to three finals in a row is impressive," said Messi, whose first decider was a 3-0 loss to Brazil in the 2007 Copa America. "I hope we can win the Cup that we so desire."

Argentina lost to Chile on penalties in the final last year and Messi said the

squad were better prepared this time around.

"You learn all the time," said Messi, who turned 29 on Friday.

"We have been working together for another year, we are stronger as a group and we've really grown in a lot of ways."

The five-times world player of the year has been outstanding at the Centenary Copa America, even though he played the first three games as a substitute after injuring his back in a warm-up game.

His sublime free kick in the 4-0 win over the United States took him on to 55 goals and above Gabriel Batistuta as Argentina's all-time leading goalscorer.

Messi called the performance against the U.S. "perfect" and he will not have forgotten that Argentina beat Chile 2-1 in their opening match on June 6.

However, the Chileans have improved since, beating Bolivia and Panama before hammering Mexico 7-0 in what was undoubtedly the performance of the tournament.

Coach Juan Antonio Pizzi, who replaced Jorge Sampaoli in January, is now settled in the job and he has Chile playing the same high-paced pressing

and super-fast counter attacks that make them such an exciting team to watch.

"This team has created an identity," the Argentine-born Pizzi said after the semi-final.

"It's a group of winners, I can see that just talking with them. That's not because they win games because we don't win every time but in their heads they are convinced they are going to win. That mentality allows them to grow stronger and gives them the confidence to keep going."

Chile will have the dynamic Arturo Vidal back after suspension and Pizzi hopes central midfielder Marcelo Diaz will recover from the muscle injury that kept him out the 2-0 win over Colombia in the semi-final.

They are on a high and confident that they will do the double over their neighbours.

But they will not have their home fans behind them this time and there is one other detail. The last time Messi played at the MetLife stadium was also in June and also against a South American side.

Argentina beat Brazil 4-3 in a friendly in 2012. Messi scored a hat-trick.

## Ten Spaniards undergo drug test

AFP, Saint Martin

Two-time defending champions Spain's preparations for their Euro 2016 last 16 clash with Italy were disrupted as 10 players were forced to take an anti-doping control by UEFA on Saturday.

"On Saturday morning, 10 internationals were required by officials from UEFA's anti-doping control to do an out of competition test at their hotel base in Isle de Re," the Spanish football federation said in a statement. The players were not named.

"Blood and urine tests were taken without any incident."

## 'I can't score without chances'

AFP, Chantilly

England striker Harry Kane laid bare his team's attacking problems on Friday when he said that he has not had one clear scoring opportunity at Euro 2016.

Asked if he had had a chance in the tournament to date, Kane replied: "Probably not a clear chance where I'd say: 'I'm disappointed I missed that, I wish I'd scored that one.'"

## 'Germany will thrive under pressure'

AFP, Lille



Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer believes the world champions can put a slow start to Euro 2016 behind them and thrive under the pressure of knockout football when they face Slovakia on Sunday.

Joachim Loew's side progressed to the last 16 as winners of Group C, beating Ukraine and Northern Ireland, drawing with Poland and all without conceding a single goal.

But Neuer knows better is expected from the Germans at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Lille as they face a Slovak side appearing at this stage of a Euro for the first time since independence.

"We have played three teams who pack everyone behind the ball. We didn't have much space and in games like these it's not easy to win by a large margin," said Neuer after Germany mustered just three goals in the group phase.

"Beating the likes of Ukraine and Northern Ireland does not merit us shouting out with joy. It is not easy to beat these teams but we got the job done."

"We finished top of our group and so we have stuck to our route map. But now we are into straight knockout football and anything can happen."

"But we are very good at focusing when it really matters, as we have seen in past competitions. We will be 100 percent on it and we know people are expecting us to perform."

Despite topping their group, Germany have found themselves on the toughest side of the draw and will play either reigning champions Spain or bogey team Italy if they

make it through to the quarter-finals.

But they must first be wary of Slovakia, who unsettled Loew's side in the build-up to the tournament by winning a friendly 3-1 in Augsburg.

Those were the last goals Neuer conceded and he knows Germany need to be especially wary of Slovakia star Marek Hamsik, who was among the scorers in that game.

"Everyone knows about Hamsik's ability to shoot from range. He scores some great goals at Napoli with those," Neuer said.

"In the group phase he didn't often get into forward positions. It's important that our midfielders disturb the rhythm of his game early on. But we shouldn't focus on just one player, we need to look at our opponents as a whole."

All eyes will be on Loew's selection decisions in defence, with centre-back Jerome Boateng struggling with a calf knock and youngster Joshua Kimmich hoping to keep his place at right-back after impressing there against Northern Ireland.

"He's very cool and calm. We knew in advance that we could rely on him," said Neuer about his 21-year-old Bayern colleague Kimmich.

After much criticism of the pitch in Lille, a new surface was laid on Thursday but neither team was allowed to train on it on the eve of the game.

Germany will therefore stage their final practice session at their base in Evian near the Swiss border before flying to northern France on Saturday.

Slovakia will do likewise at their camp in Vichy, central France, prior to returning to the scene of their Hamsik-inspired win against Russia in the group phase that paved their way to the last 16.

## Copa-Euro showdown proposed

AFP, New York

South American football's governing body has proposed a one-off match between the winners of the Copa America Centenario and Euro 2016 later this year, officials confirmed Friday.

Alejandro Dominguez, the president of CONMEBOL, told reporters at a press conference an invitation to UEFA had been made to stage the inter-continental showdown.

"We have challenged UEFA to play one game this year, bringing together the winners of the Copa America Centenario and the winners of the Euro 2016," Dominguez said.

"We are waiting for that answer. They are studying our offer," he added.

No date for the possible match was given.

The match would be staged as part of events to mark the Copa America's centenary, officials said.

Dominguez's comments came as Chile and Argentina prepare to face each other in Sunday's Copa America final in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

The game marks the conclusion of the special edition of the Copa America.



Argentina superstar Lionel Messi (L) practises during a training session in Cape May on Friday ahead of Sunday's Copa America final against Chile.

PHOTO: AFP