

RONALDO GIVES SILVER BOOT TO NANI

What do you do with your Silver Boot award if you're Cristiano Ronaldo? Give it to Nani of course! The Real Madrid star finished second, behind Antoine Griezmann, in the race to be crowned the top scorer at Euro 2016 and Ronaldo clearly isn't interested in the runner-up gong. Valencia winger Nani took to social media following Portugal's 1-0 extra-time win over France in the final of the showpiece tournament to express his delight at Ronaldo giving him the award as a "gift". Still, Ronaldo could well need the extra space in the trophy cabinet soon, with the 31-year-old now odds-on favourite to win the 2016 Ballon d'Or.

-INTERNET



Cristiano Ronaldo not only led his teammates during their triumphant Euro 2016 campaign in France but also led them in celebration back home in Lisbon, where the team was accorded a hero's reception on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Loew staying on with Germany

REUTERS, Berlin



Germany's Joachim Loew said he would stay on to lead the World Cup winners to their title defence in Russia in 2018 despite an initial hesitation on whether to continue after a disappointing semi-final defeat to France last week at the Euro 2016.

Loew, who has coached Germany for 10 years and to five straight semi-final appearances at World Cups and Euros, said in a statement on Tuesday he planned to continue, ending some speculation that the 56-year-old might step down.

"Despite our disappointment, the team didn't disappoint," said Loew, who was Jurgen Klinsmann's assistant coach for two years before taking over the reins in 2006.

"It was the youngest team in the tournament and I continue to see great potential," added Loew, referring to his team's average age of 25.4 years, which was next to England the youngest at the tournament. Italy had the oldest team with an average age of 29.4 years.

"I'm sure that they'll give us plenty of joy in the future and that's why I remain enthusiastic about continuing to work with these players and accompany their developments going to the 2018 World Cup in Russia."

Loew had triggered speculation that he

might step down right after Germany lost to France 2-0 in the semi-final when he was asked about his future.

"I don't know," he told ZDF television just minutes after the final whistle. "It'll take a while (to make a decision)."

Those non-committal comments prompted a wave of support for Loew and an opinion poll by the Emnid polling institute for Bild am Sonntag newspaper showed that 84 percent of Germans wanted the man they call "Jogi" (pronounced 'Yogi') to continue.

Also known as the "Bundestrainer", Loew has led his team to at least the semi-finals in every tournament they have played in since he took over after the 2006 World Cup, where Germany under Klinsmann also reached the semi-final before losing to Italy.

Loew also led Germany to the 2014 World Cup title -- the country's fourth after 1954, 1974 and 1990. Loew's record stands at 137 matches with 90 wins and 23 defeats.

Germany's World Cup defence starts on September 4 with a qualifying match against Norway.

Loew is one of the longest-serving national team coaches anywhere but ranks only third in Germany after 10 years at the helm. Sepp Herberger coached the national side for 20 years and Helmut Schoen served in the role for 12 years.

£50m price tag on Payet

REUTERS, London

Dimitri Payet is worth not a penny less than 50 million pounds, West Ham United co-chairman David Gold has said, but even that might not be enough to prise the France midfielder away from the London club.

Payet's performances for club and country have prompted speculation about a possible move to Chelsea, Manchester City or Paris St Germain, but Gold said West Ham would be reluctant sellers even if someone matched the huge fee.

"We wouldn't even listen to any offer under 50 million pounds and even then we need to keep our best players so we just don't welcome any offers at all for Dimitri," Gold told the BBC.

"He's instrumental, he's important to us, the team is built round him and he's not for sale. He's settled in London with this family, the fans adore him and we're going to the Olympic Stadium."

Mourinho wants fans united

REUTERS, Manchester



Unifying the Manchester United faithful is high on the priority list of new manager Jose Mourinho, who is determined to recapture the glory days at Old Trafford.

Former United boss Louis van Gaal failed to win over the fans during his tenure, despite an FA Cup triumph in May, as inconsistent performances led to the 20-times English title winners missing out on Champions League qualification.

"I understand that they expect a lot from me but I also expect a lot from them," Mourinho told the club's website (www.manutd.com).

"There is no chance we will be happy if we are not together and I think the passion (they have) for this club is really amazing. Always when you change a manager, I feel it is a sad moment but it is a new chapter now."

Van Gaal's possession-based style of football failed to yield results for United, who finished fifth in the table and scored 49 league goals -- their lowest total since 1989-90.

"When I arrived, I wore the (United) shirt immediately and this is the kind of club and the kind of shirt that I am very proud to represent. I am going to do my best to be happy and to make the people happy," added Mourinho.

The 53-year-old Portuguese has already begun restructuring his squad, having signed defender Eric Bailly, midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan and striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic so far in the close season.

Mourinho said during his unveiling earlier this month that he intended to sign another big-name player, with Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba heavily linked by British media with a return to the club.

The former Chelsea boss will mark his return to the Premier League when he takes United to Bournemouth for their first game of the season on Aug. 14.

Pogba may stay at Juve, says agent

REUTERS, Rome

Paul Pogba may stay put at Juventus despite talks about the French midfielder's possible move to England or Spain, his agent Mino Raiola has said.

The 23-year-old Pogba, who played a pivotal role in France's run to the Euro 2016 final, has been strongly linked with a return to English Premier League club Manchester United with Champions League winners Real Madrid also eyeing him.

However, a fee touted to be around a world record 100 million pounds (\$130.65 million) could see Real priced out of a move for Pogba, according to British media reports.

"There is a lot of talk about Paul's future, but maybe he will not leave Juventus," Raiola told The Times.

"He is in no rush to leave, and Juventus do not want him to go. They want him to renew his contract. Paul is not desperate to move. We are very happy at Juventus and they are a club that want to keep their star players."

Pogba's contract at Juventus runs until 2019.

Carlo wants Bayern to stay aggressive

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich's new coach Carlo Ancelotti said Monday he would stick to his predecessor Pep Guardiola's offensive strategy for the Bundesliga giants, pledging to "try to win every competition".

"I come after a fantastic manager ... and I will try to follow (him with) good football, and offensive football," Ancelotti said in his first press conference as head coach of the German champions.

"I'm not here to do a revolution. The job that Guardiola made was fantastic and I would like to follow his style," stressed Ancelotti, who, like the Spaniard, spoke in German at the beginning of his first press meeting, having taken a language crash course.

Ancelotti has, in fact, a better record in Europe than his predecessor.

The 56-year-old Italian has won the Champions League three times with two different clubs, in 2003 and 2007 with AC Milan, then in 2014 with Real Madrid.

Guardiola lifted the trophy twice with Barcelona, in 2009 and 2011.

But, despite leading Bayern to a record fourth consecutive Bundesliga title in April, the Champions League crown eluded the squad during his reign.

Ancelotti said Bayern will "try to win every competition" even if he acknowledged the difficulty, given that "all the top teams start their season to win the Champions League".

But first he may have to tackle the

question of what to do with Mario Goetze, who has endured three unhappy years in Munich, where he has mostly been kept on the bench.

Speculation had been rife that Germany's World Cup winner was set either to join up with ex-coach Jurgen Klopp at Liverpool or return to former club Dortmund.

Ancelotti said he had had a frank conversation with Goetze a month ago, but would not reveal details of the chat.

The manager would only say that as long as Goetze is a Bayern player, "I will treat him as a Bayern player".

While refusing to shut the door to possible transfers while the window is still open until August 31, Ancelotti suggested that there would be few changes to the team.

"The squad is really good, we are not talking with the club about new signings because we are really happy," he said, before heading out to the pitch for his first training session.

On the eve of the session, Bayern's sporting director Matthias Sammer announced he was leaving his position after a health scare.

Sammer, 48, suffered a blood circulation problem in his brain in April and has since regained full health, but said he no longer had the desire to continue in his role.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said the club had offered options including a sabbatical to convince Sammer to stay, but "he told us that for him the best option was to end the chapter at Bayern".

Sammer's contract was due to end only in 2018, and colleagues will cover for him until a new sporting director is found, said Rummenigge.

Henry rejects Arsenal role

AGENCIES, London

Thierry Henry will not coach Arsenal's Under-18 side having opted to continue in his role as a television pundit. The former Gunners striker had worked with Arsenal's academy players last season during his course to gain his UEFA Licence.

The 38-year-old, who works on Sky's Premier League coverage and also appeared on the BBC's Euro 2016 output, was offered a role within the Arsenal set-up by manager Arsene Wenger - but was told he would have to step down as a pundit.

Wenger has a history of aiding his former players, with Steve Bould currently his assistant and Freddie Ljungberg working within the youth ranks. Mikel Arteta, who retired at the end of last season, is also believed to have been offered a backroom role but decided to move to work under Pep Guardiola at Manchester City.

Henry is one of the top-earners at Sky since signing for the network in December.

Wenger himself has several television commitments including a deal with beIN Sports but appears against members of his staff combining dual roles.

Injured Bolt makes Jamaica team

AFP, Kingston



Usain Bolt will get a chance to hone his Olympic track and field legacy, as he was named to the 59 member Jamaican team that will compete at the Olympic Games in Rio next month.

Bolt, who withdrew from the 100m final and sought a medical exemption



from the 200m at the Jamaican Olympic Trials two weekends ago, was named on the provisional list submitted to the IOC to contest the 100m/200m/4x100m relays in Rio.

He seeks to become the first man to win three straight triple-triples after wins in Beijing in 2008 and London in 2012.

The announcement was made Monday afternoon at a news conference held by the

Jamaica Olympic Association in Kingston where all members of the Olympic team were announced.

The Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association's (JAAA) selection rules allow for athletes ranked in the top three in the world to submit medical exemptions and miss the trials but they must be able to prove their fitness at a later date to be named to the Olympic team.

Bolt suffered a grade one hamstring tear on the first day of the four day national championships. He then ran the semi-final of the 100m before withdrawing an hour before the final. He submitted a medical exemption for the rest of the championships, including the 200m.

He then travelled to Europe to see a specialist, world renowned sports doctor Hans-Wilhelm Muller-Wohlfahrt and posted a photograph of himself training over the weekend.

Bolt ran a season's best 9.88 seconds in the 100m but has yet to run a 200m race in competition. He is scheduled to run at the London Anniversary Games later this month.

Bolt is one of several Jamaican athletes who used the medical exemption at the trials including Elaine Thompson, who won the women's 100m in a world leading 10.70 seconds, Olympic bronze medalist Hansle Parchment in the men's 110m hurdles and 400m hurdler Janieve Russell, all of who were included on Monday's list.



Manchester United and Germany midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger married tennis ace Ana Ivanovic in Italy on Tuesday. The couple, who have been together since 2014, tied the knot at the stunning Venice City Hall after arriving on a boat along the Grand Canal.

PHOTO: REUTERS