

POGBA DISHES OUT ADVICE

At just 23 Paul Pogba is already the most expensive player in football history, but he has also proven he is wise beyond his years. The Manchester United midfielder was on hand to give out some much needed relationship advice to one fan on Twitter. The Red Devils supporter had imitated the Frenchman's sublime new hairstyle, but admitted it had caused some friction in his relationship. For Pogba, though, the solution was simple, as he Tweeted back to his follower: "Change the girl mate, keep the hair." Pogba has been impressive in his early days at Old Trafford, having featured in wins against Southampton and Hull City in the Premier League so far.

—AGENCIES



Jose hails Rashford as difference-maker

AFP, Manchester



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho believes that Marcus Rashford is proving his value to the side after the young striker scored the late goal that defeated Hull City on Saturday.

Rashford hit eight goals in 18 matches for United last season, having broken into the first team in February, and went on to win a place in England's Euro 2016 squad.

However, the 18-year-old has been named as a substitute for all three of his club's Premier League matches so far this season and had not come on at all until Saturday's game, with Mourinho preferring new signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic in attack.

Rashford has also dropped down to the England Under-21 squad, for whom he has been selected for a Euro 2017 qualifier against Norway on September 6.

In his pre-match news conference on Friday, Mourinho was quick to state that the teenager will get chances to play across all competitions this season.

The manager was full of praise of Rashford once more after he converted Wayne Rooney's cross two minutes into stoppage time to give United a 1-0 victory in torrential rain at the KCOM Stadium.

"Marcus Rashford has a lot of chances

waiting for him," Mourinho said after the youngster came on for Juan Mata in the 71st minute to make the difference.

"When the team was chasing the ball against Leicester in the Community Shield and again tonight, he made a difference for us.

"He gives new problems to the opposition so I am really happy with him and the team. Even defensively, we controlled their counter-attack."

Mourinho believed his side were excellent value for their victory, but felt that they took too long to get going.

"I was telling them at half-time that they were more intensive and aggressive in training than they were in the first half," he said.

"The boys were very strong and the second half was like going to fight against a wall. We had an amazing mentality. We were very strong and tried to create problems for the opposition. We tried and tried and got it.

"We deserved it and in a more comfortable way. It is a great feeling when you win the points in the last minute.

"I tell the boys every day we have to go into every match to win. We must not be happy with less than a win. We know we will draw or lose matches but the mentality has to be to go to win. Today they showed that."

One setback for United was a back injury to midfielder Marouane Fellaini, which makes him a doubt for Belgium's World Cup qualifier in Cyprus in September 6.



Raheem Sterling may have become the poster boy for England's woeful Euro 2016 campaign but there was no denying the Manchester City forward's class in the English Premier League as he scored twice against the Hammers at Eastlands in his side's 3-1 win on Sunday. The victory took City at the top of the table on goal difference from Chelsea and Manchester United, who've also made a perfect played three, won three start to the season.

PHOTO: REUTERS

LAST, BUT NOT THE LEAST

The US Open begins at the picturesque Flushing Meadows today with a number of contenders vying for the coveted trophy. With Puerto Rican Monica Puig having captured gold in Rio to prove that anyone can win, it will be hard to predict a winner. So, here are some of the big names that will be present in this year's edition.

Facts

- STARTED 1881
- EDITION 136th
- LOCATION Flushing Meadows, NY
- VENUE Billie Jean King National Tennis Center
- TOTAL PRIZE MONEY



ANDY MURRAY
SEED: 2

It took Andy Murray 4 hours in the Olympic final, but in the end he became the first person to retain the singles gold medal. Preceding that was another hard-fought win in Wimbledon. However, Murray's disproportionate hours on the court will definitely take a toll on the Brit, who looked hassled as he lost in the Cincinnati Masters tournament to Marin Cilic in August.



NOVAK DJOKOVIC
SEED: 1

With a win at the French Open seeing the Serb hold all four grand slam titles at the same time, 2016 seemed the perfect setting for Djokovic. He followed that up with a win at Roland Garros, but since then has had a torrid time, admitting he is not 100 fully fit. He lost in the third round at Wimbledon and made a first round exit at Rio, so he will be hoping to return to form here.



RAFAEL NADAL
SEED: 4

Rafael Nadal has not had an easy 2016. He was forced to withdraw from the French Open after reaching the quarterfinals owing to a wrist injury. That same injury would then force the Spaniard out of Wimbledon. He has been far from his best for a long while and at the Rio Olympics he finished fourth after losing the bronze medal match to Kei Nishikori.



MARIN CILIC
SEED: 7

The 27-year-old won his first Masters 1000 tournament in Cincinnati in August and re-entered the top 10 with a straight-sets victory over Murray. Cilic is seeded seventh and his rising level of play suggests that he could be rounding into the kind of form that led him to the title in 2014. Cilic worked on his forehand and return with a new coach. And against Murray he returned well but his forehand remains suspect.



MARTIN DEL POTRO
UNSEED

Since his stunning victory over Roger Federer in the 2009 US Open final, del Potro has been sidelined by injuries to both wrists. The Argentine rejoined the tour full time this year and has improved his conditioning, culminating at the Olympics, where he beat Djokovic in the first round and Nadal in the semifinals before narrowly losing gold. He will be hoping to go one better at Flushing Meadows.



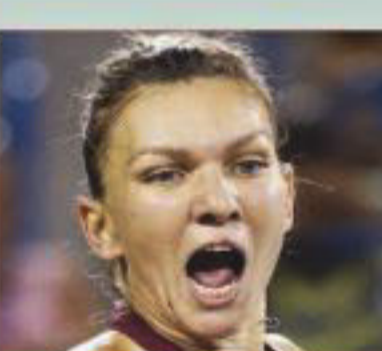
SERENA WILLIAMS
SEED: 1

With the home crowd behind her, Serena will be looking to put the misery of the Olympics behind her. Serena faced a shock exit from the Rio Olympics in the third round. And with only a Wimbledon win this season, Serena's struggles have been evident. However, she will hope to add another trophy at home and surpass Steffi Graf's Open Era record of 22 Grand Slam singles titles.



ANGELIQUE KERBER
SEED: 2

Kerber started the year phenomenally, winning the Australian Open by defeating Serena in the final. That was diminished as she crashed out of the French Open in the first round. However, she bounced back and made it all the way to the Wimbledon final, where Serena avenged her loss. The 28-year-old is coming off a silver in Rio and will be hoping that her glorious year continues.



SIMONA HALEP
SEED: 5

Halep was stunned in the first round at the Australian Open where she was seeded second. That, she said, was due to a nose injury for which she underwent surgery. She came back strong but again fell short at the grand slam stage, exiting the French Open in the round of 16 and Wimbledon in the quarters. She then pulled out of Rio and will hope to come back strong at Flushing Meadows.

Real extend perfect start

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid shrugged off the absence of the injured Cristiano Ronaldo to extend their perfect start to the season with a 2-1 win over Celta Vigo on Saturday thanks to Toni Kroos's late winner.

The European champions now lead their opponents in May's Champions League final by four points after just two games as Atletico Madrid were held 0-0 at newly promoted Leganes.

Alvaro Morata looked to have Real on their way to another three points when he eventually broke Celta's resistance by smashing home on the hour mark.

Fabian Orellana curled home a spectacular equaliser 24 minutes from time, but Kroos's sublime low strike in off the inside of the post secured all three points for the hosts 10 minutes from time.

"We played so-so today," said Zinedine Zidane. "I am left with the fact the players believed until the end and we achieved what we wanted."

Ronaldo was still sidelined by the knee injury that forced him off during Portugal's Euro 2016 final victory over France.

In his absence, Gareth Bale was expected to lead Real to another comfortable win after continuing his sensational form with Wales at the Euros with two goals in a 3-0 victory at Real Sociedad last weekend.

However, Bale endured a frustrating night and it was another former Tottenham Hotspur star in Luka Modric who shone in a tight first half with two long-range efforts that forced Sergio Alvarez into fine saves, while a third effort from the Croatian came back off the bar.

Morata was handed his second home debut after returning from a two-year spell at Juventus with Karim Benzema also sidelined.

RESULTS	
Osasuna 0 - 2 Real Sociedad	Juanmi 45+2, Garcia 81-og
Eibar 1 - 0 Valencia	Pedro Leon 62
Real Madrid 2 - 1 Celta Vigo	Morata 60, Kroos 81, Orellana 66
Leganes 0 - 0 Atletico Madrid	

Bolt runs fast, lives fast

AGENCIES, London

Usain Bolt did some record-breaking partying last week, hitting clubs in central London for a stamina-testing four nights out of five since he arrived there straight from celebrating in Rio.

After hanging out with a bevy of beautiful women on the dance floor,

Bolt took the party back to his hotel room and six of them joined him around 5am Saturday. Some carried roses as they crossed the lobby.

And that was just the latest leg of his marathon. The three-time triple-gold winner was seen piling into cabs with at least 10 women heading back to his hotel on two separate nights earlier in

the week. "I love London!" Bolt posted to Snapchat at one point during the epic run.

Bolt has also been racking up bars tabs bigger than the distance he put between himself and his rivals on the track since he turned 30 last Sunday.

He reportedly spent 15,800 US dollars at London's Libertine nightclub on Wednesday, mostly for 12 bottles of champagne that alone cost nearly 1,000 dollars a pop.

His tally Tuesday at the Tape nightclub approached 9,000 dollars.

With a reported net worth of around 60 million dollars and a new contract from Digicel Caribbean Ltd. to serve as the wireless carrier's "Chief Speed Officer," Bolt can afford to be generous.

The after-party for his Olympic gold medals for the men's 100 meter, 200 meter and 400 meter relays may end with a few hurdles to jump, however.

His girlfriend of two years, Kasi Bennett, 26, hasn't been seen on any of the dance floors where Bolt made his moves.

Although she has been liking tweets all week mocking his antics.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt has been enjoying his time in London – perhaps a bit too much – after capturing a sensational sprint triple-triple at the Rio Olympics.

James will stay: Zidane

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane closed the exit door on Colombian playmaker James Rodriguez despite leaving him on the bench once more for Real's 2-1 win over Celta Vigo on Saturday.

Rodriguez has fallen down the pecking order at the Bernabeu since Zidane took charge with Madrid's latest sensation Marco Asensio joining the likes of Isco, Toni Kroos and Luka Modric ahead of him for a place in Real's midfield.

However, Zidane insisted Rodriguez will remain with even the Premier League's clubs unlikely to match the reported 80 million euros Real paid for him after the World Cup two years ago.

"I thought James played well. It is not easy to come and have to make the difference," said Zidane. "He is going to stay here."

Neymar to pay tax evasion fine

As



According to reports in the Brazilian press, Barcelona star and Brazilian national team captain Neymar is set to pay a pending fine of 125,000 euros handed down to him after being found guilty of tax evasion between 2007 and 2008.

The Sao Paulo Federal Tribunal rejected the first appeal submitted by the player and his father after the guilty verdict in April 2014. They were ordered once again to pay the fine in January this year and have decided to pay up without waiting for the resolution of their latest appeal.

The fine was initially handed down for not having declared a series of payments by former club Santos years before Neymar's high-profile and controversial transfer to Barcelona in 2013.

The case is not an isolated incident and the Brazilian star is no stranger to run-ins with his home country's justice system. He was found guilty in March of this year of tax evasion in relation to his contracts with Santos, Barcelona and Nike, a charge which could force him to repay up to 32 million euros. However, he does have the option of appealing.



Hammers sign Zaza

AFP, Rome

Juventus striker Simone Zaza has joined Premier League side West Ham United on a season-long loan, the Italian champions announced on Sunday.

The deal could be made permanent and the fee could reach a maximum of £17 million, depending on the amount of appearances the Italy international makes.

Zaza joined Juve from Sassuolo at the start of last season, but only made five starts in Serie A for Massimiliano Allegri's men, scoring five goals.

In all he played 24 games for the Turin giants, who have won five successive Serie A titles, scoring eight times.

He has also made 14 international appearances for Italy, but blazed a terrible spot-kick over the crossbar as the Azzurri were knocked out of Euro 2016 by Germany after a dramatic penalty shoot-out in July.