

# What to WATCH

**TEN 1**  
**US Open**  
 Men's Doubles Final  
 Live from 10:00pm  
 Women's Singles Final  
 Live from 2:00am (Sunday)

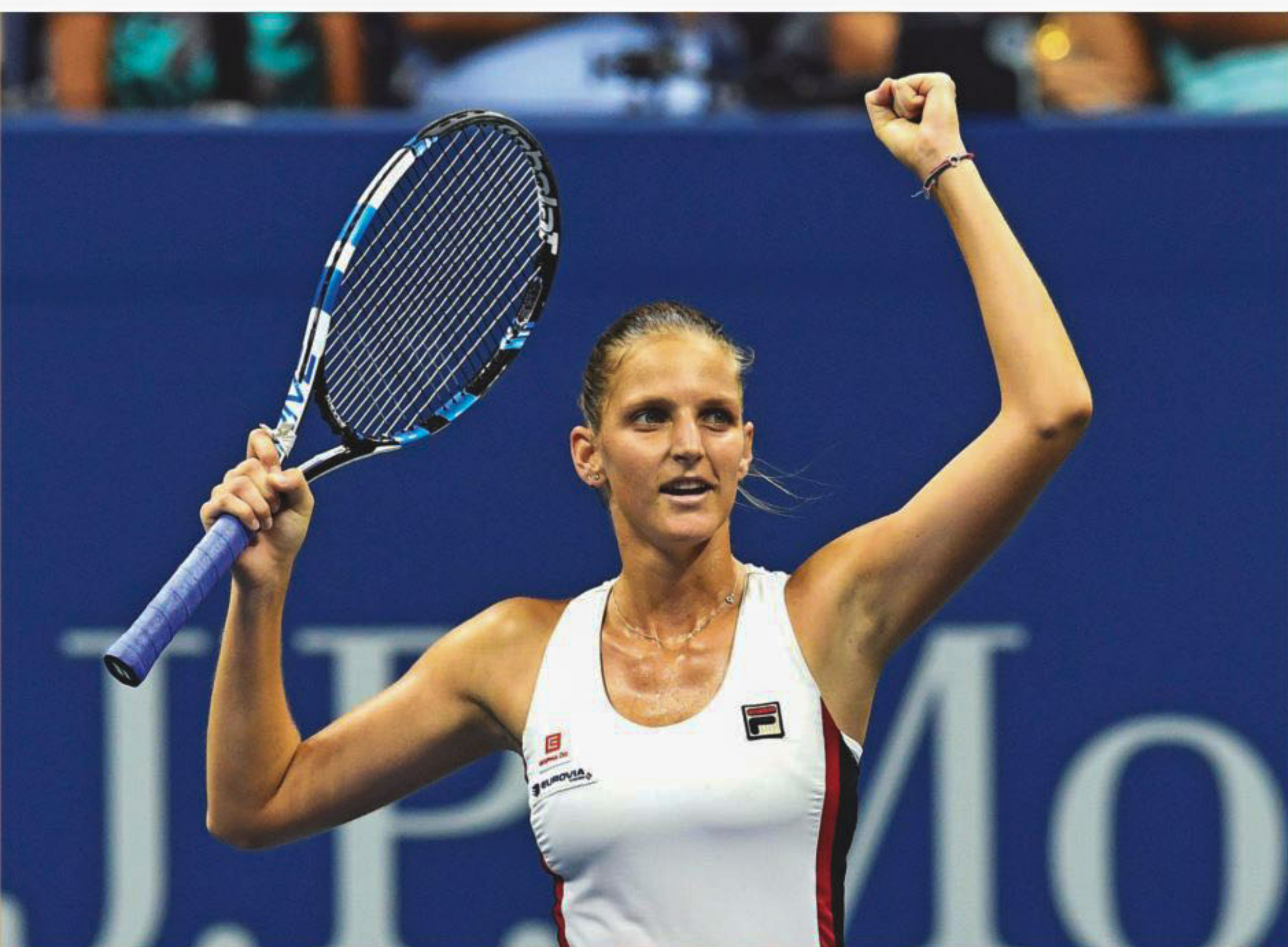
**STAR SPORTS 2**  
**English Premiership**  
 Man United v Man City  
 Live from 5:30pm  
 Arsenal v Southampton  
 Live from 8:00pm

Liverpool v Leicester City  
 Live from 10:30pm  
**STAR SPORTS 4**  
**Bundesliga**  
 Leipzig v Borussia Dortmund  
 Live from 10:30pm

**SONY SIX**  
**Primera Liga**  
 Celta Vigo v Atletico Madrid  
 Live from 5:00pm  
 Real Madrid v Osasuna  
 Live from 8:00pm

Barcelona v Alaves  
 Live from 12:30am (Sunday)  
**SONY ESPN**  
**Serie A**  
 Juventus v Sassuolo  
 Live from 10:00pm

Palermo v Napoli  
 Live from 12:30am (Sunday)



Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic celebrates her stunning victory over Serena Williams of USA during their US Open women's singles semifinals at Flushing Meadows on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Serena crashes to Pliskova

AFP, New York



Karolina Pliskova shattered Serena Williams' bid for a record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title Thursday, her 6-2, 7-6 (7/5) win setting-up a US Open final against new world number one Angelique Kerber.

The win for Czech 10th seed Pliskova meant the 34-year-old American was deposed as the world's top player, losing her chance to stay at the peak for a record 187 weeks.

In Saturday's championship match, Pliskova will tackle second seed Kerber who marked her coronation as the new world number one with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over two-time runner-up Caroline Wozniacki.

It will be Pliskova's first appearance in a Grand Slam final while Australian Open champion Kerber will be in her third of the year having finished runner-up to Williams at Wimbledon.

Williams, who also lost in the semi-finals last year which ended her bid to claim a rare calendar Slam, said she had been suffering from a knee injury in the run-up to the semi-final.

"When you're hampered you're think-

FINAL H2H	
<b>KERBER (2) V PLISKOVA(10)</b>	
Head to Head (Overall) Played: 7	
4	3
Head to Head on Hard Courts Played: 5	
3	2
US OPEN 2016 STATS	
12	Sets Played 13
0	Sets Lost 1
30	Return Games Won 28
6	Aces 39
96	Winners 153
7h 13m	Hours on court 8h 25m

ing of other things," said the American, a six-time US Open champion.

"Like I was making errors that I

never make, and definitely I didn't make in this tournament in particular.

"So many simple, simple shots that I easily could have made. I just blame that on just mentally thinking about my leg and just not thinking about the shot."

Pliskova, the first Czech woman in the US Open final since Helena Sukova in 1993, said she had not noticed that her opponent was carrying an injury.

The 24-year-old preferred to focus on finally making a Slam championship match after never making it past the third round of a major in 17 prior attempts.

"I knew I had the chance to beat anyone if I played my game. I am excited to be in the final and to beat Serena as she is such a great champion," said the 6ft 1in (1.86m) Czech who had also beaten Venus Williams in the fourth round.

Kerber, the 28-year-old left-hander, is the first German woman to reach the final since Steffi Graf in 1996. Graf is also the only other German woman to achieve the top ranking.

"It's incredible to be in the final and to be the world number one, it's a great day," said Kerber, who has made the final without dropping a set.

## Blatter faces new FIFA probe

AFP, Zurich

Banned FIFA president Sepp Blatter and his former chief lieutenants were under investigation Friday over illicit bonuses totalling \$80 million (71mn euros), FIFA's ethics committee said.

Football's ruling body claimed in June that Blatter, Jerome Valcke and Markus Kattner had skimmed off the eight-figure sum in salaries and bonuses in "a coordinated effort" to "enrich themselves" between 2011-2015.

It says it has passed on its finding to the Swiss police.

In a statement, the investigatory chamber of FIFA's ethics committee announced it had opened "formal proceedings" against the three men who it suspects of "conflict of interest and corruption".

Blatter is serving a six-year ban from football over ethics violations relating to a suspect \$2 million he authorised in 2011 to former UEFA boss Michel Platini.

Valcke was himself banned for 12 years, reduced to 10 on appeal, over misconduct regarding television deals and 2014 World Cup ticket sales.

## Jose, Pep lock horns

AFP, London



The eyes of the world will be on Manchester this weekend as Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola bring their bitter feud to the Premier League for the first time.

Any derby between Manchester United and Manchester City is guaranteed to be an explosive affair, but the presence of sworn enemies Mourinho and Guardiola should ensure the animosity levels are higher than usual on Saturday.

With City top of the table and United just behind them in third after both won their first three league games, there was already more than local bragging rights at stake in a showdown between two sure-fire title contenders.

Even City midfielder Fernandinho's boast that "this game is big, man. It's a game that stops the city" doesn't do justice to a fixture reported to be the richest match in football history with over £600 million (\$790 million, 708 million euros) of world-class talent on parade.

Yet, despite the presence of Paul Pogba, David Silva, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and a host of other stars, it's the action on the Old Trafford touchline that will be must-see TV for millions around the world as United manager Mourinho and City boss Guardiola lock horns for the first time in three years in the 17th instalment of their acrimonious rivalry.

The sight of Mourinho and Guardiola gesticulating and exhorting their players signals the resumption of a complicated relationship that has turned increasingly ugly since they first met at Barcelona two decades ago.

Mourinho's constant jibes at Barcelona

boss Guardiola during his time at Real Madrid undoubtedly got under the Spaniard's skin, but the Portuguese coach's record of just three wins in their 16 meetings is a significant blemish on his otherwise glittering CV.

Although Guardiola has come out on top seven times against Mourinho, he goes into the derby at a significant disadvantage following City striker Sergio Agueiro's three-match ban for elbowing West Ham United's Winston Reid.

Leroy Sane could deputise for Agueiro, who had already scored six times this season, after the Germany winger returned from the hamstring injury that delayed his debut after his £37 million (\$48 million, 43 million euros) move from Schalke.

Guardiola must also decide whether to give a debut to Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo, who arrived from Barcelona to replace the exiled Joe Hart, or stick with stand-in Willy Caballero.

"I've played in derby games in Germany but this should be a great match and one I'm really looking forward to, especially because Pep Guardiola is taking on Jose Mourinho," Sane said.

FIXTURES	
(1400 GMT unless stated)	
<b>Saturday</b>	
Arsenal v Southampton, Bournemouth v West Brom, Burnley v Hull, Liverpool v Leicester (1630 GMT), Manchester United v Manchester City (1130 GMT), Middlesbrough v Crystal Palace, Stoke v Tottenham, West Ham v Watford	
<b>Sunday</b>	
Swansea v Chelsea (1500 GMT)	
<b>Monday</b>	
Sunderland v Everton (1900 GMT)	

## Zlatan misses one thing

AGENCIES, Manchester

Zlatan Ibrahimovic says the only thing he misses from Paris Saint-Germain is his last salary from the club.

The Swedish striker left the French giants at the end of last season when his contract expired, joining Manchester United ahead of the current campaign.

Over his four years with the capital club, Ibrahimovic won four Ligue 1 titles and set various records, including becoming their all-time top goalscorer and netting the French top flight's fastest hat-trick.

But when asked about what he misses of Paris and PSG, Ibrahimovic did not take long to make a complaint.

"I miss my last salary from Paris," he told SFR Sport. "That is what I miss."

The 34-year-old was then queried on his thoughts on PSG's prospects this season, about which he had some advice.

"The team is very strong, they bought some good players and the philosophy is the same - win everything and push for the Champions League.

"But if you could snap your fingers and win the Champions League, everyone would win it."

## CR7 returns for Real

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona's fearsome front three of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar could join forces for the first time in four months against Alaves, while Cristiano Ronaldo will make his Real Madrid return on Saturday.

Neymar has missed Barca's 100 percent start to the season due to his efforts in leading Brazil to Olympic gold on home soil, but returned to Spain for the first time since May after more international duty in World Cup qualifying this week and is expected to start at the Camp Nou.

Messi is a much bigger doubt after missing Argentina's clash with Venezuela in midweek due to a groin problem. The five-time World Player of the Year has played a limited part in training in recent days and coach Luis Enrique is likely to be cautious for the first of seven games in 22 days for Barca.

Paco Alcacer is in line to make his debut after sealing a 30 million-euro (\$33 million) move from Valencia and the Spanish international striker is aware he will have to make the most of limited opportunities as fourth choice behind Messi, Suarez and Neymar.

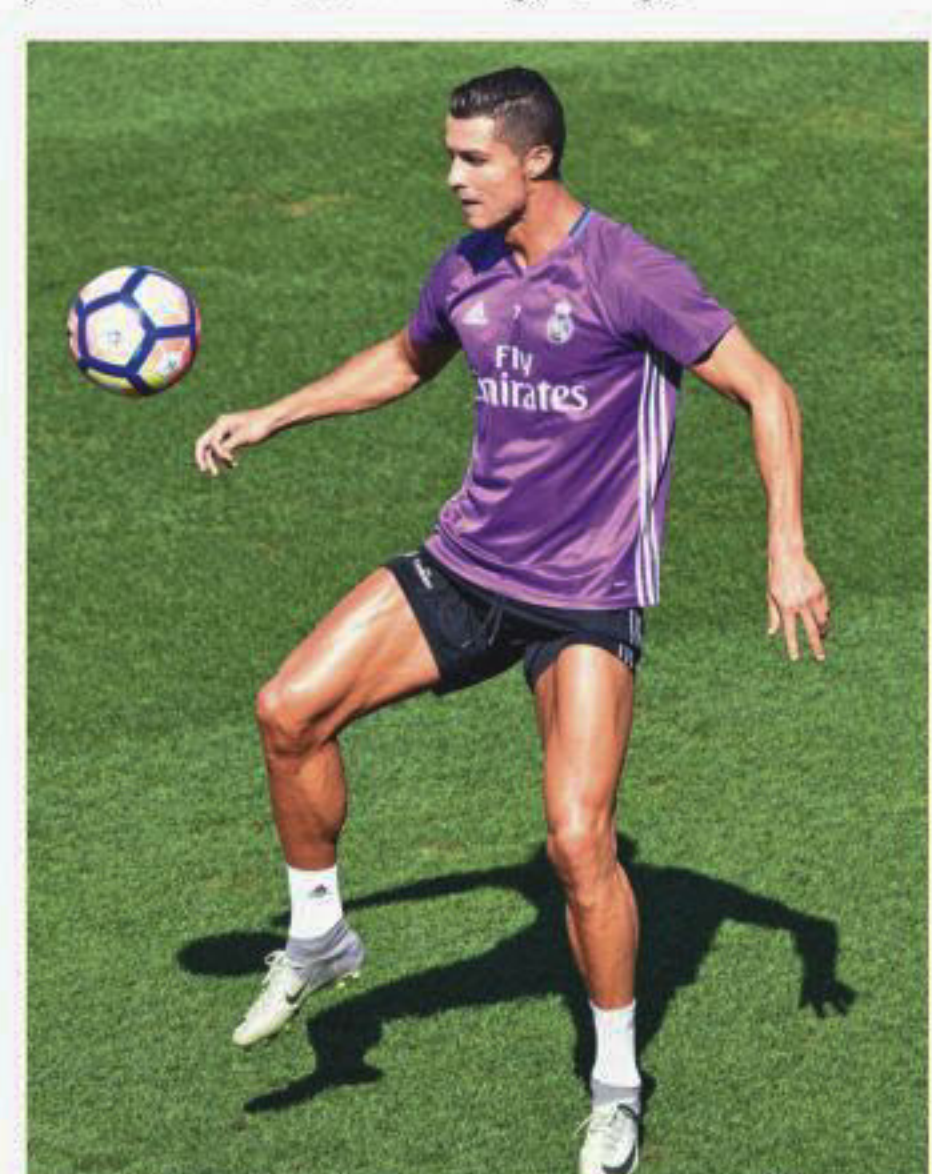
"I will do everything I can to take advantage of the chances I have to the full," Alcacer said as he was presented on Thursday.

Andres Iniesta has also returned to training following a knee injury and will battle Arda Turan and Denis Suarez for a place in midfield as both have impressed early in the campaign.

Ronaldo makes his long-awaited return at the Santiago Bernabeu against Osasuna earlier on Saturday in what will be his first appearance since suffering ligament damage in his left knee during Portugal's Euro 2016 final win over France.

Real haven't suffered in Ronaldo's absence with two wins from their opening two La Liga games and victory over Sevilla in the European Super Cup.

And after winning two Champions League titles in his first three seasons at Madrid, Gareth Bale insists the European champions have to put more emphasis on ending a four-year run without winning La Liga.



FIXTURES	
(all times GMT)	
<b>Saturday</b>	
Celta Vigo v Atletico Madrid (1100), Real Madrid v Osasuna (1400), Sevilla v Las Palmas, Malaga v Villarreal (1615), Barcelona v Alaves (1830)	
<b>Sunday</b>	
Sporting Gijon v Leganes (1000), Valencia v Real Betis (1400), Granada v Eibar (1615), Deportivo la Coruna v Athletic Bilbao (1830)	

## Zidane slams transfer ban

AFP, Madrid

Coach Zinedine Zidane has slammed as "absurd" a one-year transfer ban imposed on Real Madrid by FIFA for irregularities in the signing of foreign players under 18.

The Frenchman's own children are among those part of the case against the European champions.

FIFA dismissed Real and local rivals Atletico Madrid's appeals against a two transfer window ban on Thursday, meaning they won't be able to register any new players until January 2018 unless further appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport are successful.

Two of Zidane's four sons who play in the Madrid academy were among 39 players investigated by FIFA with the club eventually sanctioned for breaking the rules regarding the signing of foreign nationals under 18 in eight cases.

"I don't understand it at all and it bothers me," Zidane said on Friday ahead of Madrid's clash with Osasuna.

"I can talk about my (sons) that have been born and lived their whole lives here. It is absurd that they can't play football."

"What we are going to do now is wait and hope that this subject is fixed as quickly as possible."

Under international football rules, players under 18 cannot be transferred to another country, except in limited circumstances, and all transfers need the approval of a special FIFA committee.

However, Zidane's sons appear to meet those criteria as the former World Player of the Year's family has largely been based in the Spanish capital since he signed for Real as a player in 2001.

On the field, Zidane can continue his incredible first year as a senior coach as having lifted the Champions League in May, Real can match a club record of 15 consecutive La Liga wins at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday.

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