

# What to WATCH

**TEN 1**  
West Indies v India  
Second Test, Day One  
Live from 8:30pm

**Star Sports Select 1 & 2**  
US Open  
Second Round  
Live from 3:00am (Saturday)

## FASTEST WOMAN ON FOUR WHEELS KILLED

Racing driver Jessi Combs, considered the "fastest woman on four wheels," was killed in a car accident trying to break her own record, police said Wednesday. Combs's jet car crashed Tuesday in the Alvord Desert where she was pronounced dead at the scene, officers in the north western US state of Oregon said in a statement. Combs, 39, earned her "fastest woman" title in 2013 when she hit 398 miles (641 kilometers) per hour, and police said the fatal crash occurred while "attempting to break" the record. "Jessi Combs was pronounced deceased at the scene," the Harney County Sheriff's Office statement said. "The cause of the crash is unknown at this time and is currently being investigated." Combs, who also appeared on various US television shows, previously tried to break her record in October.

--THE TELEGRAPH



## Barca get tough draw Liverpool face Napoli again

AFP, Monaco



Barcelona will have to come through a group containing both Borussia Dortmund and Inter Milan after the three former winners all came out together in Thursday's UEFA Champions League group stage draw in Monaco, while holders Liverpool will face Napoli again.

Barcelona, Dortmund and Inter, with nine European Cups between them, were drawn together in Group F along with the Czech champions Slavia Prague.

Beaten by Liverpool in the semi-finals last season, Lionel Messi and Barcelona remain favourites to advance as they seek a first Champions League crown since 2015.

Dortmund won the trophy in 1997 and lost in the final in 2013. Now coached by Antonio Conte, Inter beat Barcelona in the semi-finals en route to winning the most recent of their three titles in 2010.

Liverpool advanced from their group at the expense of Napoli last season on the way to lifting their sixth European Cup in Madrid, and Carlo Ancelotti's side now have a chance to gain revenge.

Both clubs will be fancied to progress from Group E, which is completed by Austrian champions Salzburg and Genk, the Belgian title-holders.

Liverpool are hoping to return to this year's final which will be played in Istanbul, where they won their fifth title back in 2005.

After losing in last season's final, Tottenham Hotspur can look forward to a meeting with German champions Bayern Munich in Group B.

That will be the first meeting of the clubs since the 1983-84 UEFA Cup. They will also meet Greek champions Olympiakos and Red Star Belgrade of Serbia, the 1991 European Cup winners, in Group B.

After winning the Europa League, Chelsea are back in the Champions League and can look forward to taking

on last season's semi-finalists Ajax as well as former Champions League runners-up Valencia and Lille in Group H.

Premier League champions Manchester City were handed the kindest draw of all four English representatives, with Pep Guardiola's men coming up against Italian debutants Atalanta along with Shakhtar Donetsk and Dinamo Zagreb in Group C.

City beat Shakhtar 3-0 in Ukraine in last season's group stage before a 6-0 victory in the return fixture.

There will be glamour ties between familiar opponents elsewhere, with Zinedine Zidane's Real Madrid renewing acquaintances with Paris Saint-Germain in Group A.

Real eliminated the French champions in the last 16 on the way to winning the trophy two seasons ago.

Turkish champions Galatasaray and Club Brugge of Belgium complete Group A.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Juventus will come up against Atletico Madrid again after beating the Spanish side in the last 16 last season. They will also face Bayer Leverkusen and Lokomotiv Moscow in Group D.

Perhaps the most balanced section sees Zenit Saint Petersburg, Benfica, Lyon and RB Leipzig clash in Group G. The first fixtures in all groups will be played on September 17 and 18.

### GROUPS

- GROUP A:** Paris Saint-Germain, Real Madrid, Club Brugge, Galatasaray
- GROUP B:** Bayern Munich, Tottenham Hotspur, Olympiacos, Crvena Zvezda
- GROUP C:** Manchester City, Shakhtar Donetsk, Dinamo Zagreb, Atalanta
- GROUP D:** Juventus, Atletico Madrid, Bayern Leverkusen, Lokomotiv Moscow
- GROUP E:** Liverpool, Napoli, RB Salzburg, Genk
- GROUP F:** Barcelona, Borussia Dortmund, Internazionale, Slavia Praha
- GROUP G:** Zenit St Petersburg, Benfica, Lyon, RB Leipzig
- GROUP H:** Chelsea, Ajax, Valencia, LOSC Lille



Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk (C) relegated Lionel Messi (R) to the sidelines as he scooped two awards -- the UEFA Defender of the Year and Player of the Year -- in Monaco yesterday. His club teammate Alisson Becker (2nd from L) finished as the Goalkeeper of the Year while Messi won Attacker of the Year and his new teammate Frenkie de Jong (L) won Midfielder of the Year.

PHOTO: AFP

# Van Dijk tops CR7 and Messi

AFP, Monaco

Liverpool centre-back Virgil van Dijk won the UEFA Men's Player of the Year award on Thursday, edging out Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, while Lucy Bronze took the women's prize.

Dutchman Van Dijk starred as Liverpool won their sixth European Cup last season with a 2-0 Champions League final victory over Tottenham in Madrid.

"I need to thank my teammates, without them I would not have

achieved what I have achieved," Van Dijk told BT Sport. "It's been a long road and it's part of my journey. I'm very proud to get this trophy. It's credit to everyone who has helped me."

The 28-year-old is the first defender to win the award since the inaugural edition in 2010-11.

He moved to Liverpool from Southampton in January 2018 for a then-world record fee for a defender of £75 million, immediately helping them reach that season's Champions League final where they lost to Real Madrid.

But Van Dijk was a key figure

as Liverpool won their first major trophy since 2012, while also setting a club-record points tally in finishing second behind Manchester City in the Premier League.

"I wasn't 18 and went straight to the top. I had to work every step of the way," added Van Dijk, who was also part of the Netherlands side who lost the inaugural Nations League final to Ronaldo's Portugal.

Messi and Ronaldo claimed five of the previous eight awards, with Andres Iniesta (2012), Franck Ribery (2013) and Luka Modric (2018) completing the list.

"It's not easy but of course we

have a good relationship," said Ronaldo of Messi. "We have not yet had dinner but it is nice. We push each other and it's good to be part of the history of football."

Ronaldo's first season in Italy after joining Juventus from Real Madrid brought him a Serie A winners' medal, but the Turin giants suffered a shock Champions League quarter-final loss to Ajax.

"It was a special year," said the 34-year-old.

Full-back Bronze won the Champions League title with Lyon before helping England reach the women's World Cup semifinals.

## Women make quick work of warm-up

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh registered a whopping 10-wicket win in their solitary warm-up match against the Netherlands in Scotland yesterday, ahead of their T20 World Cup qualifiers opener against Papua New Guinea Women on August 31 in Dundee.

Electing to bat, the Netherlands out on a meagre 51-run total in 16.5 overs.

Opener Sterre Kalis scored a team high 40-ball 19 while none of the other batters were able to cross the 10-run mark. Bangladesh's Fahima Khatun, Khadija Tul Kubra and Shailla Sharmin took two wickets each.

Coming in to chase, openers Sanjida Islam (24 off 27) and Ayasha Rahman (18 off 13) wrapped up the game in just 6.3 overs as the Tigresses chased down the total with 81 balls to spare.

## Osaka through; Kvitova crashes

AFP, New York



Reigning US Open champion Naomi Osaka eased into the third round Thursday but Petra Kvitova crashed out as organizers sought to play catch up following heavy rain.

Top seed Osaka proved too strong for 53rd-ranked Magda Linette of Poland, sweeping to a 6-2, 6-4 victory and setting up a potential showdown with 15-year-old American sensation Coco Gauff for a spot in the last 16.

Twenty-two singles ties were pushed back from Wednesday after a downpour limited play to the two show courts in New York, beefing Thursday's schedule up to 54 matches across both halves of the singles draws.

Osaka wrapped up the opening set in 30 minutes but endured a brief wobble, falling 3-0 down in the second, before reeling off six of the final seven games to advance.

"I'm really happy to not have to play a three-set match," Osaka said.

Among the celebrities watching her match at Louis Armstrong Stadium were basketball legend Kobe Bryant and former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

"I'm really grateful they came out," Osaka said. "It's really cool. I honestly just wanted to finish as fast as possible because I didn't want them to be out in the sun too long."

Meanwhile, Andrea Petkovic knocked out Czech sixth seed Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon champion, to reach the third round for the first time since 2015.

World number 88 Petkovic strung together successive main draw wins for just the second time this season in a 6-4, 6-4 triumph.

## BD U-15s fail to defend title

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Bangladesh were made to leave the SAFF U-15 Championship with a wooden spoon as they suffered a humiliating 4-0 defeat to India in their fourth and final match at the Kalyani Stadium in Nadia of West Bengal, India yesterday.

The boys in red and green got off to a flying start in the regional age-group championship with two successive wins over minnows Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

However, they then fell to Nepal and India consecutively to finish third in the five-team group with six points. India will face Nepal in the final on August 31.

After losing 4-1 to Nepal in the third match, Bangladesh had to win by at least 2-0 against India to ensure a spot in the final.

However, the defending champions suffered a massive 4-0 defeat instead, thanks to an aimless display from the charges of Mostafa Anwar Parvez Babu that cost ended up costing them severely.

Meanwhile, Nepal beat a winless Bhutan 6-0 to finish second in the group phase with nine points and set up the final clash against India, who won all four of their matches without conceding a single goal.

Conceding goals without putting up any form of resistance proved to be a big problem for Bangladesh throughout the tournament. Goalkeeper Mehdi Hasan Srabon, who came in place of Sabbir Gazi, conceded one goal after the other yesterday as India's Himanshu Janra availed any and all fumbled made by the keeper to score three goals in the 29th, 74th and 79th minute respectively.

Renedy Metti Yumnam wrapped things up for India in the 90th minute to help the side maintain their all-win record in the ongoing championship.

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