

EMOTIONAL NEYMAR closes in on Pele's record

REUTERS



Neymar scored his 68th goal for Brazil in the 4-0 victory over Peru on Thursday and with it surpassed former Real Madrid and Internazionale striker Ronaldo as Brazil's second top goalscorer behind Pele.

TOP 5 INTERNATIONAL GOAL SCORERS

Player (Country)	Caps	Goals
Ali Daei (Iran)	149	109
C Ronaldo (Portugal)	176	106
Mokhtar Dahari (Malaysia)	142	89
Ferenc Puskas (Hungary)	85	84
Godfrey Chitalu (Zambia)	111	79

Neymar reached the 68 goals mark in 107 games after scoring the second in the Copa America clash in Rio de Janeiro.

He is now just nine behind Pele, who scored 77 goals in 92 games.

"It's obviously a great honour for me to be part of the Brazil team's history," a tearful Neymar said.

"To be completely honest, my dream was always to play for Brazil, to wear this shirt. I never imagined I would reach these numbers."

Goal tallies by Brazilian players are a source of debate among statisticians, with some counting only competitive goals and others including friendlies and unofficial

TOP 5 GOALSCORERS FOR BRAZIL

Player	Caps	Goals
Pele	92	77
Neymar	107	68
Ronaldo	98	62
Romario	70	55
Zico	71	48

matches.

Even the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) has produced contradictory numbers but after Thursday's game it said Neymar had surpassed Ronaldo once Ronaldo's unofficial goals were included.

FIFA said on Twitter that Neymar's goal put him joint 20th on the list of all-time international scorers but it did not give a tally or say who was above him.

Pele, though, gave his backing to a player who like him began his career at Santos.

"Today, he took another step towards my goalscoring record for the (national team)," Pele wrote on Instagram. "And I'm

rooting for him to get there, with the same joy I've had since I saw him play for the first time."

Whatever the specifics of the count, the fact is that Neymar is on a rich run of international form, scoring four in his last four games and seven in his last five.

His superb performances come in spite of his continuing problems off the pitch.

He was accused of rape in May 2019 but later absolved and last month Nike said it had ended its commercial partnership with the player after he refused to cooperate in an investigation into sexual assault allegations levelled against him by a Nike employee.

"For me it's very emotional, I've gone through a lot of things these last two years, difficult and complicated things, and these numbers are nothing compared to the happiness that I get from representing my country and my family," Neymar said.

"Today we're going through an unusual time, a very difficult time for the whole world and to be an example to anyone, to make anyone happy is a tremendous pleasure."



New Zealand players lounge inside the Hampshire Bowl as persistent rain washed out the entire day's play on the first day of the World Test Championship final against India on Friday.

PHOTO: NZC

Will the top six move up a gear?

SPORTS REPORTER



The off-field controversies may have hit the headlines more than the game itself during the first phase of the Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier League T20 competition, all eyes will focus on the quality of cricket when the top six teams battle it out in the super league stage, starting from today.

There were hardly any competitive encounters in the group stage rather Shakib Al Hasan's awful behaviour over the umpire's decision along with Sabbir Rahman's racial abuse of Elias Sunny made headlines globally.

Prime Bank Cricket Club leads the table after finishing with 18 point from nine wins in eleven games, where the points will be carried forward to the super league stage. However, they will be missing the service of Tigers ODI captain Tamim Iqbal, who is still suffering from a knee injury.

Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club and Mushfiquur Rahim's Abahani Limited are at number two and three respectively with 16 points. The rest -- Mahmudullah Riyad's Gazi Group Cricketers (14), Mohammedan Sporting Club (13) and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club (13) -- will have their work cut out to remain alive for the championship fight.

All the super league matches will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur with three games scheduled each day.

Prime Doleshwar and Gazi Group feature in the day's first encounter, scheduled to begin at 9 am followed by

Prime Bank against Sheikh Jamal at 2 pm while at 6 pm under lights, Abahani and arch-rivals Mohammedan will lock horns.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) have decided to broadcast all the super league matches live on TV.

Mohammedan will be without their star all-rounder and skipper Shakib who played his last group stage game after completing the three-match suspension and is expected to leave for the United States to spend time with his family before the Zimbabwe tour.

The bottom three teams after the first

DPL POINTS TABLE

Team	Match	Win	Loss	Points	NRR
Prime Bank	11	9	2	18	0.943
Prime Doleshwar	11	7	2	16	0.762
Abahani	11	8	3	16	0.573
Gazi Group	11	7	4	14	0.176
Mohammedan	11	6	4	13	0.077
Sheikh Jamal	11	6	4	13	0.030

leg -- Legends of Rugpanj, Old DOHS and Partex Sporting Club -- will take part in the relegation league where the last two teams will be relegated to the first division.

Rugpanj and Partex play in the first match of the relegation league today. Meanwhile, Rugpanj officials have officially requested the CCDM to have ICC panel umpires and review system for their match against OLD DOHS on June 21 and to hold the match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur.

However, the CCDM is yet to respond to Rugpanj's request, filed yesterday.

EURO 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Forsberg puts Sweden on brink of last 16



Sweden's Emil Forsberg slotted his penalty past Martin Dubravka to seal victory over Slovakia in Group E at Euro 2020.

PHOTO: TWITTER

AFP, SAINT PETERSBURG

Emil Forsberg's second-half penalty sealed Sweden a 1-0 win over Slovakia in Saint Petersburg on Friday as the Scandinavians moved top of Euro 2020 Group E.

Janne Andersson's men, who played out a goalless draw with Spain in their opener, now look set to reach the knockout stage for the first time since 2004.

A point in their final game against Poland at the Krestovsky Stadium on Wednesday would be enough to be sure of a top-two finish in the group.

Slovakia could have qualified with a game to spare with a win, but still have their fate in their own hands ahead of their final match against Spain in Seville.

It was Sweden who almost made the breakthrough twice before the hour mark, as Newcastle stopper Dubravka tipped away Ludwig Augustinsson's header and Marcus Danielson nodded over from the resulting corner. Sweden continued to press for the winner, as Alexander Isak's header looped onto the roof of the net.

Isak then almost scored one of the great European Championship goals, weaving past four defenders before seeing a low strike saved by Dubravka at his near post.

Sweden finally forged ahead in the 77th minute, as RB Leipzig midfielder Forsberg beat Dubravka from the penalty spot after the 'keeper had brought down substitute Robin Quaison. Slovakia laid a late siege on their opponents' goal, but saw an optimistic late penalty appeal for handball turned down as Sweden held on.

'More to come from Netherlands'

AFP, AMSTERDAM

Netherlands coach Frank de Boer believes there is much more still to come from his team after they beat Austria 2-0 on Thursday to qualify for the last 16 of Euro 2020 with one group game to spare.

"It's nice to be already into the next round of the tournament so I'm very pleased with that but there are still a lot of things we can improve," said De Boer after an early Memphis Depay penalty and another goal from tournament revelation Denzel Dumfries secured

the victory in Amsterdam.

The result follows their 3-2 win over Ukraine in their Group C opener last weekend and the Netherlands are now certain to go through to the last 16 as group winners even before they face North Macedonia.

"We showed different qualities today. We were much better defensively than we were against Ukraine. We could have done better with the ball but overall it was a decent performance and it gives me confidence for the next games," De Boer said.

In their first major tournament since the 2014 World Cup, the Dutch now know they will play one of the best third-placed teams in Budapest in the last 16 on June 27.

De Boer is not looking any further than that.

"I don't want to talk about us being among the favourites," he said when the question was put to him.

"I know that we can beat anybody when we are at our best but I think other teams are thinking the same so let's go game by game and see where that takes us."



I'm only 29, said Eriksen after being resuscitated

AGENCIES

Jens Kleinfeld, the doctor who helped revive Christian Eriksen, described the moments after the Inter midfielder was brought back to life. "He woke up after the first electric shock."

Eriksen suffered a cardiac arrest during Denmark's Euro 2020 debut against Finland last week.

His friend and teammate Simon Kjær gave him first aid while doctors rushed on the pitch to restore his heartbeat through a defibrillator. Eriksen was stabilised on the pitch and taken to hospital, where he underwent further medical examinations.

The 29-year-old will now have an ICD, a heart starter, which is a "necessary device after a cardiac attack due to rhythm disturbances," Denmark announced.

Repubblica.it interviewed Jens Kleinfeld, the doctor that gave Eriksen CPR on the pitch.

"He woke up after the first shock, after not more than 30 seconds. It was a thrilling moment," the doctor said.

"I asked him: 'Are you here?' and he replied: 'Yes.' 'I will never forget the first thing he said after that 'yes,'" the doctor continued.

"He opened his eyes, looked at me and added: 'Damn, I am just 29'."

"It was moving, but at the same time, it was very important because I understood that his brain was not damaged. After that, he just said: 'I am back with you.'"

"I don't think Eriksen's heart stopped for more than a minute or a minute and a half. Fortunately, the first electric shock that lasted around 30 seconds was enough to restart it. It's quite unusual to make it happen so quickly."