

Ten Hag wants to be 'friend and teacher' to Ronaldo

AGENCIES

Erik ten Hag says he will act as both "friend" and "teacher" for Cristiano Ronaldo at Manchester United this season.

Portugal superstar Ronaldo remained at Old Trafford despite reportedly wanting out during the transfer window due to the club's failure to qualify for the Champions League this season.

Rumours continued to swirl right up until deadline day but Ronaldo, who returned for a second spell from Juventus in August 2021, was part of the squad that defeated Leicester City 1-0 - coming off the bench in Thursday's win.

"[He stayed], as we said. It's really early in the season and we have a squad and we have more than starting 11 players and that is what you see now," Ten Hag said.

"Players who are now on the bench can play in one, two or three weeks."

Ronaldo's solitary start from five Premier League appearances this season came in the embarrassing 4-0 drubbing at Brentford last month.

Since that humiliating defeat at the Bees, United earned a 2-0 triumph over fierce rivals Liverpool and followed up with back-to-back 1-0 victories over Southampton and Leicester.

Part of the reason for Ronaldo's lack of starts can be attributed to the fact he missed much of pre-season due



to a family issue.

For United boss Ten Hag, Ronaldo will be treated the same as any other player depending on the situation.

"I will be his friend, sometimes I will be his teacher. It depends on the situation," he added.

"But, as we all know, he didn't have the pre-season and you cannot miss the pre-season."

"It is a base, especially in the game we play, the way of play. We play another type in comparison with last year."

"It depends on the demands, cooperation and it demands certain positioning, in and out of position, and the other thing is fitness."

Ten Hag have a few decisions to ponder, including Casemiro - a transfer-window signing from Real Madrid - pushing for a first start in coming matches.

Defenders Lisandro Martinez (Ajax) and Tyrell Malacia (Feyenoord) also joined from the Eredivisie, and Ten Hag has no fears about any of the trio's ability to adapt to the Premier League.

"First the players who we signed are internationals for their countries," said Ten Hag, who also arrived from the Eredivisie having left Ajax.

"They performed really well in the Champions League and thirdly looking at their individual skills they are capable of playing high-intensity football, the players we selected and recruited."

Having come under scrutiny following the Brentford setback, Martinez has excelled and won United's Player of the Month award for August but Ten Hag is confident there is more to come.

"Yes, I wanted him, he's ball-playing but also you see his defending capabilities," Ten Hag said of Martinez.

"His toughness, his positioning, his anticipation and togetherness."

"I know what he is able to do. This is a base. He is doing well but he has to do much better."



CParis Saint-Germain's Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring his team's first goal against FC Nantes in a Ligue 1 encounter in Nantes on Saturday. The French forward scored a goal in each half - both set up by Lionel Messi - as the capital side beat 10-man Nantes 3-0 to reclaim top spot in the table.

PHOTO: AFP

Goalkeeper sent off for urinating in hedge

REUTERS

Goalkeeper Connor Maseko was sent off for urinating in a hedge during an English FA Cup first-round qualifying match on Saturday.

Maseko, playing for ninth-tier Blackfield & Langley, was shown a red card in the 76th minute of the goalless draw with Shepton Mallet.

After the ball went out for a goal kick, Maseko needed to use the toilet.

The goalkeeper decided to go up against a hedge. He was seen by Shepton Mallet players who drew the incident to the attention of the referee.

"He protected himself. He was inside the hedge. Sometimes when you have to go you have to go," Blackfield & Langley co-manager Conor McCarthy told the BBC.

"I was gobsmacked. We're all pretty shocked by the decision."

It was not certain whether the goalie would face any further penalty.

Champions League set to expose widening gulf

AFP, Paris

Thirty years after the dawn of the modern Champions League, the group stage of this season's competition kicks off this week in the penultimate year in its current format, as Real Madrid begin their defence of the trophy.

Marseille were the champions in that inaugural 1992/93 season, but no French club has won the trophy since, and England, Spain, Italy and Germany have provided every winner since Jose Mourinho's Porto triumphed in 2004.

Indeed, since Inter triumphed in 2010, only five clubs have lifted the trophy - Barcelona, Chelsea and Bayern Munich have been champions twice each, and Liverpool once.

Meanwhile, Madrid beat Liverpool 1-0 in Paris in May to be crowned European champions for the fifth time in nine years, confirming the enduring brilliance of veteran stars like Luka Modric and Karim Benzema.

They will set out with the aim of winning a 15th European Cup in Istanbul next June, with the group stage unlikely to overly trouble Carlo Ancelotti's side.

Real will face RB Leipzig, Celtic and Shakhtar Donetsk in Group F, fully aware that even a home defeat to Sheriff Tiraspol last year ultimately proved inconsequential.

"Last year the easiest game was supposedly against Sheriff at the Bernabeu and we lost it, so we need to respect these teams," Ancelotti told Spanish media.

He was also quick to point out another factor which could come into play this season.

Usually the group stage finishes in December, but the World Cup has forced UEFA to fit all six Champions League matchdays into a period of nine weeks starting earlier than usual.

"We will have to be ready not just for the quality of the opposition but also for the different demands and rhythms," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, whose

team begin at Napoli on Wednesday as they look to put their defeat against Real in the final last May behind them.

It could be that the real impact of that is only felt when the knockout rounds start in February, when many players at Europe's biggest clubs will have had to come through the draining experience of a mid-season World Cup.

Nevertheless, the idea that someone from outside a narrow band of elite clubs might win the Champions League is fanciful.

Real will not start as favourites up against Manchester City and a reinforced Paris Saint-Germain in particular.

"The Champions League brings the best out of players, fans and teams. It would be very reductive to say that PSG are favourites," insisted PSG coach Christophe Galtier.

Liverpool and Bayern are also contenders, but the jury is out on Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur or Barcelona.

From 2024 the group stage will be expanded to feature 36 clubs, up from 32, with all teams together in one pool and playing eight matches, instead of eight groups of four teams.

That will shake up a first phase that has become too predictable.

This time, most fascination lies in Group C, where Bayern, Barcelona and Inter Milan - with 14 European Cups between them - are together alongside Czech champions Viktoria Plzen.

It is quite possible that Barcelona, after a close season spent selling off assets to be able to strengthen their squad despite enormous debts, could be knocked out in the group stage for a second straight year.

"We got a very difficult group. Possibly the hardest of the last 20 years," warned Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez.

While Barcelona have strengthened, even most clubs in the Champions League these days cannot keep their best players.



Rafael Leao fired a warning shot to the rest of Serie A on Saturday with his brace in AC Milan's 3-2 derby triumph over Inter Milan which put his team level with league leaders Napoli. Portugal winger Leao struck twice in each half in a pulsating clash at the San Siro which put the champions a point ahead of Atalanta and Roma at the summit.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Azarenka wants protection for young players

REUTERS, New York

Sexual abuse of young female players by older male coaches happens "right and left" on the WTA Tour and safeguarding against it must be a priority, Victoria Azarenka said at the U.S. Open on Saturday.

Azarenka's remarks to reporters came after Pierre Bouteyre, the former coach of French player Fiona Ferro, was charged in France on Thursday with raping and sexually assaulting her when she was a teenager between 2012 and 2015, according to AFP.

Bouteyre's lawyer told AFP that a relationship had occurred but denied any coercion.

Azarenka said that combating abuse was the group's top priority. "We see those vulnerable young ladies that (are) getting taken advantage of in different situations," she said.

"It's really sad and really makes me emotional," she said. "If I had a daughter, I would have a question would she want to play tennis, that would be a very big concern in that way for me."

Under-17s eye winning start

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will eye a winning start to the SAFF U-17 Championship when they take on hosts Sri Lanka at the Racecourse International Stadium in Colombo today.

The match will kick off at 7:30pm [BST] after India play against Bhutan in the tournament's first match.

The regional youth football championship, which has been held six times with age-limit restricted to U-16 and U-15 three times each, will be held for U-17 age-group for the first time. Two-time champions Bangladesh are keeping their sights on the final of six-team competition.

Bangladesh have sent their academy players to the championship for the second time since the budding players from the now defunct BFF Academy in Sylhet helped hosts Bangladesh clinch the title of 2016 SAFF U-16 Championship.

The boys in red and green are also dreaming big as nine players of this squad played in last month's SAFF U-20 Championship in India, where they finished runners-up.

"We have taken good preparation and waiting for the match. We hope to start the tournament with a victory against Sri Lanka," said captain Imran Khan.

Imran feels no pressure ahead of the match against Sri Lanka, who Bangladesh beat 6-2 in 2011, 3-1 in 2013, 4-0 in 2015, 4-0 in 2017 and 7-1 in 2019 - the five times these two teams met.

"Those of us who were part of U-20 team played against Sri Lanka in SAFF U-20 Championship and beat them [5-0], so we don't feel any pressure and our target is to play the final," said defender Imran.



Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Printing BRAC Diary

Project name	BRAC Diary Printing and Supply
Source of Funds	Own fund
Tender Items	Lot 01: BRAC Staff Diary - 2023 Lot 02: Complimentary Diary - 2023
Tender package no.	BPD/2022/IFT/FA-03/2022
Reference no. and date	BPD/2022/IFT/FA-03/2022 Date: September 01, 2022
Time of delivery	All Diary to be delivered within 45 days from the date of signing Contract Agreement
Price of the tender documents	BDT. 2,000.00 (Non-refundable)
Tender security	As per Tender Documents.
Availability of Tender documents	BRAC Procurement Dept, Gulshan Tower, 4th Floor, Plot # 355, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
Date & time of Selling Documents	September 07, 2022 to September 21, 2022 Between 10.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m
Tender dropping place, date & time	Tender Box-1, BRAC Procurement Department (Ground floor), BRAC Center, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212. September 22, 2022 Between 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
Tender opening place, date & time	BRAC Staff Canteen (4th Floor), BRAC Center, September 22, 2022 at 3.00 pm

BRAC Procurement Department, BRAC Centre, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212. Mobile: 01313407179