

What to WATCH

T SPORTS
Road Safety World Series T20
India Legends vs South Africa Legends
Live from 08:00 pm

TEN 1
Bundesliga Bayern Munich vs VfB Stuttgart
Live from 07:30 pm
SONY SIX
England vs South Africa

3rd Test, Day 2
Live from 04:00 pm
US Open
Women's Singles Final Iga Swiatek vs Ons Jabeur
Live from 02:00 am (Sunday)

Osimhen out with thigh injury

AFP, Milan

Napoli striker Victor Osimhen will miss the Italian team's home fixture with Spezia on Saturday with a thigh injury, the Serie A club announced.

In a statement, Napoli said that the Nigeria forward had hurt the femoral bicep in his right thigh, an injury suffered in the first half of Wednesday's 4-1 hammering of Liverpool in Naples.

The 23-year-old was substituted four minutes before half-time in the Champions League win at the Stadio Maradona and replaced by recent signing Giovanni Simeone.

The Nigerian had missed a penalty as the Neapolitans ran Liverpool ragged with three goals in the first half.

Osimhen is expected to be out until at least after this month's international break.

He will almost certainly also miss next week's Champions League trip to Scottish club Rangers and their clash with title rivals AC Milan the following Sunday.



World No. 1 and two-time French Open winner Iga Swiatek of Poland will look to add another feather to her cap in this year's US Open final tonight. (Bottom) She should face tough competition from World No. 5 Ons Jabeur of Tunisia, who will be looking to win her first Grand Slam title after losing in the Wimbledon final earlier this year.

PHOTO: AFP

Champions lead Queen tribute

AGENCIES

David Beckham has joined the likes of Pele, Jose Mourinho and Roger Federer in paying tribute to The Queen following the death of Her Majesty at the age of 96.

Buckingham Palace announced on Thursday that the UK's longest reigning monarch had passed away peacefully in Balmoral, where members of the Royal Family travelled to be by her side.

Tributes have subsequently poured in from around the world, while some of the biggest names in sport have taken to social media to pay their own respects.

Former England men's football captain Beckham posted on Instagram: "I'm truly saddened by the death of Her Majesty, The Queen. What an outpouring of love and respect we saw for the Platinum Jubilee for her life of service."

"How devastated we all feel today shows what she has meant to people in this country and around the world. How much she inspired us with her leadership. How she comforted us when times were tough."

"Until her last days, she served her country with dignity and grace. This year, she would have known how loved she was. My thoughts and prayers are with our Royal Family."

Meanwhile, footballing legend Pele added on Twitter: "I have been a great admirer of Queen Elizabeth II since the first time I saw her in person, in 1968, when she came to Brazil to witness our love for football and experienced the magic of a



Son 'not worried' over goal drought

AFP, London

Tottenham forward Son Heung-min insists he is not worried by his goal drought as the South Korean eyes a return to his prolific form.

Son scored 12 times in his final 14 appearances last season to earn a share of the Premier League Golden Boot alongside Liverpool's Mohamed Salah with 23 goals in total.

The 30-year-old has failed to score in Tottenham's opening seven games of the season after drawing another blank in Wednesday's 2-0 Champions League win over Marseille.

Son's poor form has not cost him his place in Antonio Conte's side so far and he is convinced one goal could kick-start his campaign.

"I'm OK. If I'm honest, if I wasn't getting chances in the game I would be worried but I'm still getting chances," Son said.

"In some games, there have been unlucky moments. In some games, it has been a bad finish. This is going to make me stronger. Most important is that we are doing well as a team. I'll do everything the team needs."

"In some games I'm really frustrated because if I have some massive chances and the ball doesn't go in. It makes me just laugh."

"But I am not worried about it because the team and the staff and all the fans are helping me."

"I think if I score one the confidence will be back and I hope I can go on and score more goals."

US Open braces for a new champion

AFP, New York

An emergency bathroom break powered world number one Iga Swiatek into a US Open final showdown with trailblazing Tunisian fifth seed Ons Jabeur on Thursday.

Two-time French Open champion Swiatek advanced to the first US Open final of her career after coming from behind to beat Aryna Sabalenka 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The victory sent the 21-year-old from Poland into a Saturday final with Jabeur, who thrashed France's Caroline Garcia 6-1, 6-3 in Thursday's other semi-final.

Sabalenka, the sixth seed from Belarus, looked poised to create an upset after a dominant first set performance in which she broke Swiatek no fewer than three times.

But Swiatek was rejuvenated after a quick dash to the bathroom following the opening set.

"I kind of needed to go," Swiatek said. "For sure I felt lighter. I'm sorry -- that's disgusting."

Swiatek also said the break had helped her analyse the flaws in her first set performance.

"I tried to use that time to think about what to change because I remember when I was younger all I would do in the bathroom between sets after I lost was cry."

"But this time I could think about what to change and actually problem solve."

The break did the trick as Swiatek raced through the second set to level the match



and then punished a late collapse from Sabalenka to close out a gutsy victory.

Sabalenka, who was up a break and leading 4-2 in the final set, was left distraught by the defeat. She later appeared at a press conference with mirrored sunglasses on and a baseball cap pulled over her face. It was the third time Sabalenka has fallen short in the semi-finals of a Grand Slam.

"My team keeps telling me that I have to be proud of myself, what I have done in the last months," she said.

"But I don't feel that way. I feel like in these three semi-finals I had so much opportunities and I didn't use it."

In Thursday's other semi-final, Jabeur outclassed France's Garcia to become the first African woman ever to reach the final of the US Open.

It was another notable milestone for

Jabeur, who was also the first African woman to reach the Wimbledon final in July.

The Tunisian dominated Garcia from start to finish of a one-sided semi-final that took just over an hour to complete.

"It feels amazing," Jabeur said. "After Wimbledon I had a lot of pressure on me and I'm really relieved that I can back up my results."

"The hard court season started a little bit bad, but I'm very happy that I made it to the finals here."

Jabeur's victory extended her career-long domination of Garcia.

The 28-year-old Tunisian had beaten Garcia four times as a junior in Grand Slam events, and twice as a professional in Slams before Thursday.

"I know she was playing amazing tennis and that puts a lot of pressure on you," Jabeur said. "It wasn't easy for me but mentally I was so ready."

Garcia, seeded 17, had reached the last four on the back of a 13-match winning streak which included a victory at the Cincinnati Masters lead-in event.

But Jabeur ruthlessly dismantled Garcia's dream of becoming the first French woman to win the US Open crown with a clinical victory. She later admitted she had struggled to cope with the pressure of the occasion.

"Obviously nerves were there," Garcia said. "Today I did know it was semi-finals, so you know what it's bringing you if you win and what you want to achieve. It's a dream since I'm a little girl."

Chelsea welcome 'INNOVATIVE' POTTER

AFP, London

Graham Potter was appointed as Chelsea's new manager on a five-year contract on Thursday following the shock sacking of Thomas Tuchel.

The Englishman has left fellow Premier League club Brighton to move to Stamford Bridge, with Chelsea praising his "progressive football and innovative coaching". The 47-year-old earned widespread admiration for his work at Brighton on England's south coast.

He led the Seagulls to a ninth-place finish last season and took them up to fourth in the table this term while demanding entertaining and tactically astute performances from his players.

Potter's first game as Chelsea boss will be a derby at west London neighbours Fulham on Saturday. "I am incredibly proud and excited to represent Chelsea FC, this fantastic football club," he said.

"I am very excited to partner with Chelsea's new ownership group and look forward to meeting and working with the exciting group of players and to develop a team and culture that our amazing fans can be proud of."

Chelsea chairman Todd Boehly, who axed Tuchel on Wednesday, just seven games into the new season, said he was "thrilled" to bring Potter to the club.

"He is a proven coach and an innovator in the

Premier League who fits our vision for the club," Boehly said. "Not only is he extremely talented on the pitch, he has skills and capabilities that extend beyond the pitch which will make Chelsea a more successful club."

Potter was mooted as a candidate for the Manchester United job eventually filled by Erik ten Hag after masterminding Brighton's highest-ever league finish last season despite operating on a limited budget.

But when Chelsea came calling, Brighton were unable to stand in his way as he had a release clause in his contract.

Potter's impressive work in three years with Brighton, and during his previous spells at Swansea and Swedish club Ostersunds FK, marked him out as a rising managerial star.

His success in the dug-out has come after a modest playing career that included eight Premier League appearances at Southampton, but was mostly spent in the lower leagues.

"I am very disappointed that Graham will be leaving us. He has done exceptionally well over the past three-and-a-bit seasons -- he is an exceptional head coach and an exceptional person," said Brighton chairman Tony Bloom.

Despite all the plaudits, Chelsea will give Potter his first taste of dealing with the egos of superstar players, while coping with ultra-demanding new US owners.



Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo (L) reacts after failing to score in their UEFA Europa League fixture against Real Sociedad at Old Trafford on Thursday. The first match in Europe's second-tier club competition in two decades didn't go to plan for the Portuguese superstar as his side lost 1-0.

PHOTO: AFP