

Germany Lose Again in 2-1 Defeat to World Cup Winner France



France's Antoine Griezmann, center, clenches his fist after scoring his second goal during their UEFA Nations League soccer match between France and Germany at Stade de France stadium in Saint Denis, north of Paris, Oct 16, 2018.

PARIS (Dispatches) — Germany's year just keeps getting worse.

France have handed the struggling Germans a 2-1 defeat in the UEFA Nations League, meaning Die Mannschaft has lost two straight competitive games for the first time

since 2000.

It was Germany's sixth loss overall in 2018, and fourth in their last six competitive games after a group-stage exit at the World Cup.

The latest defeat, which followed a 3-0 humbling against the

Netherlands on Saturday, came despite taking an early lead and dominating the first half against the World Cup champion.

Forward Antoine Griezmann helped France rally as he got the better of goalkeeper Manuel Neuer

again, scoring both goals for the host at a packed Stade de France.

The result will only increase the pressure on Germany coach Joachim Loew, who guided the team to a World Cup title in 2014, along with three major tournament semifinals, last year's Confederations Cup win and one other final since 2008.

Midfielder Toni Kroos gave Germany the lead from the penalty spot after 14 minutes and the visitors had chances to go further ahead before Griezmann equalized with a superb header in the 62nd. He showed perfect timing to meet Atletico Madrid teammate Lucas Hernandez's cross from the left with a glancing header which looped over Neuer's outstretched hand.

With 10 minutes left, Griezmann coolly put France ahead with a penalty for his 26th international goal. He sent Neuer the wrong way, having also done so in the European Championship semifinals two years ago — when Griezmann also scored twice.

Deschamps acknowledged his side had been outplayed in the first half.

Brazil Edge Past Argentina With Injury-Time Winner



Neymar set up the winner with a corner but was otherwise quiet during the game

JEDDAH , Saudi Arabia (Dispatches) -Miranda headed an injury-time winner as Brazil beat South American rivals Argentina to win a four-team friendly tournament in Saudi Arabia.

The defender was left unmarked at the near post to head home from a corner.

It was a dramatic finale to what had been a drab contest of few chances at King Abdullah Sports City stadium.

Neymar, Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino all disappointed against an inexperienced Argentina side lacking star names, including Lionel Messi.

With Sergio Aguero, Gonzalo Higuain and Angel di Maria also absent, the game will be heartening for temporary boss

Lionel Scaloni, despite defeat, after a defensive but disciplined and committed display from his young side.

His Brazilian counterpart Tite will have more concerns following a largely uninspiring and flat performance from a team with too much attacking talent to offer any convincing excuses.

It was Miranda who went closest throughout the game, heading over from a corner and seeing a shot blocked on the line by Nicolas Otamendi in the first half before making his decisive contribution in the second minute of added time in the second.

The closest Argentina came to a goal was a Paulo Dybala free-kick that cleared the crossbar by a foot.

Iran Beat Bolivia 2-1 in Friendly

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iran have posted a narrow 2-1 win over Bolivia at Azadi Stadium in Tehran.

The Iranians came out attacking from the beginning and opened the scoring in the 17th minute when Alireza Jahanbakhsh found the net on a rebound.

Jahanbakhsh thought he scored his second in the 29th minute

but it was disallowed for offside. The South Americans piled up the pressure after the restart and scored the equalizer in the 51st minute through Henry Vaca.

Iran had several chances afterwards but they had to wait until the 63rd minute when Mehdi Torabi made it 2-1 to secure the victory for the hosts.

USA Gymnastics Boss Quits After Four Days in Role

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The interim boss of USA Gymnastics has resigned after her appointment was questioned by Olympic champions Simone Biles and Aly Raisman.

Mary Bono was criticized after appearing to oppose Nike's advertising campaign with Colin Kaepernick.

She was appointed as interim president and chief executive on Friday.

"My withdrawal comes in the wake of personal attacks that, left undefended, would have made leading USAG a liability," Bono

said.

Bono, 56, had also previously worked for a law firm which represented USA Gymnastics and its ex-team doctor Larry Nassar during a sex abuse scandal.

Nassar has been sentenced to more than 300 years in jail for abusing gymnasts.

His victims included 2016 Olympic gold medalists Raisman and Biles.

In a statement confirming her resignation, Bono claimed she had seen "assaulting behavior" by a coach when she was a young gymnast.

Curry Guides Warriors Past Thunder in Opener

OKLAHOMA (Reuters) - Stephen Curry capped a game-high, 32-point performance with a key three-point play with 1:46 remaining Tuesday night, helping the host Golden State Warriors hold off the Russell Westbrook-less Oklahoma City Thunder 108-100 in the second half of the NBA's opening-night doubleheader.

Kevin Durant dropped in 27 points for the Warriors, who overcame 7-for-26 shooting from 3-point range to win on opening night for the first time in three seasons.

Paul George had a team-high 27 points and Dennis Schroder made his Oklahoma City debut with 21 points. They helped the Thunder hang tough with the two-time defending champions while Westbrook watched from courtside, still rehabbing a surgically repaired knee.

Curry's three-point play came after the Thunder, down by 14 in the first half, had closed



October 16, 2018; Oakland, CA, USA; Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) dribbles the basketball against Oklahoma City Thunder guard Dennis Schroder (17) during the first quarter at Oracle Arena.

within 99-97 when Steven Adams converted the second of two free throws with 1:57 to go.

Durant added a hoop, two free throws and an assist in the final 1:06, helping Golden State hold on.

George scored 13 points in the first 3:56 of the third period, leading a 21-10 Thunder flurry that produced Oklahoma City's first lead of the game at 67-66.

Two free throws by Thunder

forward Jerami Grant tied the game at 87-all with 9:21 to go before two free throws by Durant nine seconds later gave Golden State the lead for good.

Curry, who hit 11 of 20 shots and 5 of 9 3-point attempts, also found time for nine assists and eight rebounds.

Kevon Looney recorded a 10-point, 10-rebound double-double, while Draymond Greengrabbed a game-high 13 rebounds for the Warriors, who split the four-game season series with the Thunder last season.

Adams had a double-double for the Thunder with 17 points and 11 rebounds.

The Warriors led for the first 28 minutes, with Curry propelling them to an early 31-19 advantage by making his first two 3-point attempts.

A free throw by Durant with 3:04 left in the half gave Golden State a 53-39 lead, which the Thunder trimmed to 57-47 by halftime.

Marquez Eyes MotoGP Crown on Honda's Home Turf



TOKYO (Reuters) - Marc Marquez knows his Honda team would love to celebrate winning the MotoGP title on home turf at the Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday but the Spaniard is offering no guarantees.

Victory at Motegi would seal a third consecutive MotoGP crown for the 25-year-old and tie him with Australian Mick Doohan as the third-most successful rider in

history with five premier class world titles.

Only Italian pair Valentino Rossi (seven) and Giacomo Agostini (eight) have more.

Marquez is 77 points clear of Italian Andrea Dovizioso with four races, each offering 25 points for the win, remaining.

"I know and I understand that it will be really important for Honda

to try and celebrate something big on Sunday," Marquez said at the firm's headquarters on Tuesday.

"But it will not be easy because Dovizioso is really, really good, really, really fast and he is very competitive."

Marquez, who could clinch the title even if he does not win on Sunday depending on where Dovizioso finishes, secured the 2014 and 2016 crowns in Japan, though his rival also has form at Motegi, winning last year's race.

Madagascar Reach 1st African Cup, Egypt Also Qualify

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Madagascar reached their first African Cup of Nations on Tuesday, also becoming the first team to qualify for next year's continental championship.

Senegal and Egypt soon sealed their spots as well, despite playing without injured stars Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah.

This was Madagascar's 20th attempt at qualifying for the African Cup. After nearly 50 years of failures, the island nation finally succeeded courtesy of Njiva Rakotoharimalala's goal, which gave Madagascar a 1-0 win over Equatorial Guinea at home in Antananarivo. The team won three of their first four qualifiers and held Senegal to a 2-2 draw in the other.

Madagascar was one of four teams to make it through Tuesday to an expanded Cup of Nations, which will have 24 teams next year, up from the usual 16. The tournament is supposed to be hosted by Cameroon next June and July but could still be moved because of poor preparations and an uncertain security situation in that country.

