

# Real Madrid Break Record for Longest Goalless Run



MADRID (Dispatches) - Real Madrid failed to ease the pressure on coach Julen Lopetegui and instead set the record for the longest goal-drought in the club's history during a surprise 2-1 defeat by Levante on Saturday.

Defeat means Madrid have now gone five games without a victory and by the time Marcelo gave them hope of a comeback at the Santiago Bernabeu, they had gone 481

minutes without a goal too. The club's previous worst run had been 464 minutes, in 1985. For a team that prides itself on flair and flamboyance, it is a streak that reflects just as badly on Lopetegui as the results, which could leave Real Madrid four points adrift of Barcelona later on Saturday, with a 'Clasico' to come next weekend at the Camp Nou. If Barca's players were watching,

they would have been licking their lips at the sight of Raphael Varane handing Levante a two-goal lead here after just 13 minutes. Jose Luis Morales and Roger Marti, from the penalty spot, were the beneficiaries. At the final whistle, Lopetegui stood on the touchline, with his hands on his hips, staring ahead in disbelief. He had left Gareth

Bale and Karim Benzema on the bench, perhaps due to fitness issues, and the gamble backfired, despite both making a difference when brought on in the second half. Madrid were two behind after 13 minutes and both came from Varane mistakes. The first was more blatant as he misjudged the flight of Sergio Postigo's through ball and Morales was clear. Thibaut Courtois rushed out but Morales nicked it round him and fired into the open net. It got worse as Varane handled a bouncing ball on the edge of the area but as Madrid's wall waited, Guillermo Cuadra refused to allow the free-kick to be taken. The Video Assistant Referee said Varane's handball was inside the box and Roger converted the penalty. For the rest of the half, Madrid were scatty and imprecise, their finishing spoiled by bad luck but a lack of composure too. VAR proved their undoing again, ruling Marco Asensio's follow-up offside after Casemiro had headed against the crossbar. Mariano was also denied by the woodwork while Ramos and Lucas Vazquez missed from three yards.

# Clippers Beat Thunder 108-92 for 1st Win of Season



Alex Abrines #8 of the Oklahoma City Thunder scores basket against Danilo Gallinari #8 of the Los Angeles Clippers during the first half of the basketball game at Staples Center on October 19, 2018 in Los Angeles, California.

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Los Angeles is looking to compete with a mix of veterans and youngsters who came together to earn their first win of the season. Danilo Gallinari and Tobias Harris scored 26 points each and the Clippers rallied in the fourth quarter for a 108-92 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Friday night.

"They just want to win and they're over themselves," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. The Thunder fell to 0-2 without Russell Westbrook, who has a right knee issue. "He's missed everywhere," said guard Raymond Felton, who had 10 points off the bench. Lou Williams, last season's Sixth Man of the Year, added 17 points off the bench. He hit a clutch 3-pointer to snap a 90-all tie and give the Clippers the lead for good midway through the fourth. The Clippers outscored the Thunder 37-15 in the final quarter, when 7-foot-3 Boban Marjanovic scored 10 of his 13 points and Gallinari led the cheers from the bench. "When you see the energy and the fans on our side, we were just having fun," Gallinari said. Paul George led the Thunder with 20 points before fouling out

with 1:13 remaining in the game. He was 7 of 27 from the field in part because of the defense of Avery Bradley and Luc Mbah a Moute. "They made it a hard night on George," Rivers said. Steven Adams had 17 points and 18 rebounds, including 12 on the defensive glass for the Thunder. "We've got to execute better, we've got to run offense, and we're not going to be able just to rely on guys just trying to create and manufacture shots," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "We have to do it together." The Clippers led by 17 points in the first quarter. They were up by two at halftime before the Thunder took a nine-point lead in the third. Los Angeles opened the game on a 16-0 run while the Thunder missed their first six shots. But Oklahoma City never took the lead despite twice pulling into a tie. The Thunder gained their first lead of the game, 49-48, on a 3-pointer by Patrick Patterson to start the third. George took over offensively for a stretch, highlighted by a 3-pointer in which he got fouled and made the free throw, that helped Oklahoma City lead by nine.

# Dovizioso on Pole in Japan, Marquez to Start Sixth

TOKYO (Reuters) - Italian Andrea Dovizioso piled the pressure on championship leader Marc Marquez by qualifying in pole position for Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix while the Spaniard will start in sixth. Honda's Marquez can win a fifth MotoGP title with a win at Motegi but Dovizioso, his closest rival in the championship race, showed he was not willing to give up without a fight as he set the fastest qualifying time of 1:44:590 seconds. Marquez, 25, who crashed during practice earlier in the day, was 0.299 seconds off the pace and faces a steep task if he was to seal a third consecutive MotoGP crown in Japan on



Sunday. France's Johann Zarco, a rider for the Yamaha Tech3 team, was second in qualifying, with Australian Jack Miller in third. Dovizioso's pole was only his second of the year and came at a crunch time as the Ducati rider

attempts to delay Marquez's crowning as champion. The Spaniard is currently 77 points clear of Dovizioso with four races remaining. Each race offers 25 points for a win. If Dovizioso wins in Japan, as he did last year, then the title race will go into the final three races of the season, starting with the Australian Grand Prix next weekend. "Our bike works well on this track," Dovizioso told reporters. "It is a good track for my style. The mix is very good. We knew that coming here and then we did what we expected. "Marc has a very good pace for the race so it is going to be a hard battle."

# Kasatkina Beats Jabeur to Win Kremlin Cup

MOSCOW (AP) - Daria Kasatkina won the Kremlin Cup on Saturday as Tunisian qualifier Ons Jabeur narrowly failed to become the first WTA winner from her country. Jabeur was a set and a break up at 4-1 in the second before she seemed to tire in her eighth match in as many days, allowing Kasatkina to claim a 2-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4 victory with vocal support from the home crowd. The exhausted Jabeur served the last

game with tears in her eyes. "When I was a little girl 10 years ago, I was coming to this tournament and dreaming of being champion one day," the 21-year-old Russian said. "Thank you to everyone who believed in me." Sixth-seeded Kasatkina ended a run of three losses in finals, including last year's Kremlin Cup, and now has a career 2-3 record. Her previous win was in Charleston in April 2017.

Russian competitors have won the women's Kremlin Cup tournament four times in the last five years, with Germany's Julia Goerges beating Kasatkina in last year's final. Jabeur, the junior French Open champion in 2011, was the first Tunisian to reach a women's tour final and the first African finalist since South Africa's Chanelle Scheepers in 2014. "I enjoyed a lot playing here this week," Jabeur said. "Hopefully I can

do more next year." Qualifiers have played four WTA finals this year and lost them all. Jabeur's run to the final included surprise wins over Ekaterina Makarova, former U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens, Anett Kontaveit and Anastasija Sevastova. Kasatkina came back from the brink of defeat in the second round when she broke Alize Cornet's serve to stay in the match.

# Hamilton Title Boost After Vettel Penalty

LONDON (Dispatches) - Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel has been handed a three-place grid penalty at the United States Grand Prix. The decision, for not slowing sufficiently for a red flag in practice, increases the chances of Lewis Hamilton clinching his fifth world title in the race on Sunday. Hamilton will be champion if

he scores eight more points than Vettel. Hamilton has won five of the last six races and topped both Friday sessions. Vettel's offence came after the first session was stopped because Sauber's Charles Leclerc, who will be Vettel's team-mate at Ferrari next year, had strewn gravel on the track at Turn Nine when rejoining after a spin in wet conditions. Stewards ruled that Vettel had gone faster than the minimum time permitted in that area of the track. The decision means Vettel cannot start the race higher than fourth, even if he takes pole position on Saturday, when the wet conditions of Friday are expected to continue. Mercedes have been quicker than Ferrari in the wet so far this season. If Vettel qualifies third, he will start the race sixth, and his chances of finishing second will be small.

# Asian Football 'Architect' Velappan Dies

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Asian Football Confederation president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa hailed former general secretary Peter Velappan as "one of the most important architects" of the game in the region after the Malaysian passed away on Saturday. Velappan was the longest-serving general secretary in the confederation's 64-year history, heading up the administrative arm

from 1978 until his retirement in 2007. He was 83. "On behalf of the entire Asian football family, I send my condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family of one of the most important architects of growing the game in Asia," said Sheikh Salman. "Peter served Asian football with passion and professionalism and the news of his passing will shock and sadden all those who are involved in

our great game on this continent. "He deserves immense credit for everything that he achieved with the AFC and beyond." Velappan served under three presidents at the AFC after joining the confederation from the Football Association of Malaysia. He was also coordination director for the organizing committee for Asia's first World Cup, held in South Korea and Japan in 2002.

