

# Tottenham are Europa League champs

## Johnson's scramble goal ends a 17-year Tottenham trophy drought with a well-fought 1-0 win over Manchester United in the final

AFP, BILBAO: Brennan Johnson's scrambled goal ended a 17-year Tottenham trophy drought with a battling 1-0 win over Manchester United in the Europa League final on Wednesday.

Spurs, who had not won European silverware since 1984, will play in next season's Champions League, while failing to qualify for it is a severe financial set-back for Manchester United.

Despite their triumph in Bilbao, manager Ange Postecoglou's future is still on the line following a sham-bolic domestic campaign, with Spurs sitting a place below United in the lower reaches of the Premier League table.

The Australian furiously insisted he was "not a clown" on the eve of the final and had the last laugh on a nerve-racking night at the San Mames, as he made good on his claim to always win a trophy in his second season in charge of a club.

"This is what it's all



Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min holds up the trophy after winning the Europa League final against Manchester United at the San Mames Stadium in Bilbao, Spain

### EUROPA LEAGUE RESULT

Tottenham 1 (Johnson 42) Manchester United 0

about, this club hasn't won a trophy for 17 years, honestly, this is what it means, it means so much," Wales winger Johnson told TNT Sports.

"Ever since I came here it's been (people saying) 'Tottenham are a good team, but they never get it

done' -- we got it done!"

Fans came from far and wide to pack Athletic Bilbao's stadium, some taking quite preposterous routes and sleeping in cars to avoid eye-watering prices,

but they could not escape a final lacking in quality.

It was a match between teams languishing in 16th and 17th place respectively after dismal Premier League campaigns and that

was the essence of it too, played at high intensity but with low confidence, and a prize on the line so big it overawed.

There were a large number of turnovers, neither side keeping the ball with any ease, moves ending in panicked defending and

balls being thumped to safety, or a litany of clumsy fouls.

Manchester United fans chanted Ruben Amorim's name, backing their Portuguese coach despite the club's worst Premier League season in half a century.

United suffered a 21st defeat this season and a fourth against Spurs, who claimed their third Europa League trophy.

Amorim said winning the trophy would not solve United's many deep-lying problems but could set the club up well for the future, however United leave Bilbao without even that.

"We managed not to score again, that makes it hard to win matches," said Amorim.

For only the second time in 35 years, United will not play European football next term.

"For a club like Manchester United, it's nowhere near good enough," Shaw told reporters.

# Marsh's ton hands LSG consolation 33-run win

PTI, AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Titans messed up on a golden opportunity to seal a top two spot in the league table as Lucknow Super Giants earned a consolation 33-run victory riding on Mitchell Marsh's maiden hundred in the Indian Premier League, here, on Thursday.

Batting first, Marsh's brilliant 117 off 64 balls took LSG to 235 for 2 after stipulated 20 overs.

The total was commanding and LSG did well enough to keep the home team at bay, restricting them to 202 for 9 in 20 overs.

New Zealander Will O'Rourke, who has come in as Mayank Yadav's replacement, was the pick of the bowlers for LSG with figures of 3 for 27.

Shahrukh Khan (57 off 29 balls) did give LSG a scare with some lusty blows but that was never going to be enough in the end despite a riveting 86-run stand with Sherfane Rutherford for the fourth wicket in just 6.4 overs.

GT, who have already qualified for the playoffs, could have taken a giant leap towards top two finish by ensuring 20 points. They will now try to win the last match and give themselves the best chance to finish in top two of the league table with both Pujab Kings and RCB also having a fair shot at the pole position.

The chase of 236 started in earnest with B Sai Sudharsan (21 off 16 balls) and skipper Shubman Gill (35 off 20 balls) starting the innings with some crisp boundaries.

However, the league's current top run accumu-



Lucknow Super Giants' Mitchell Marsh celebrates his century during the IPL match against Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, on Thursday

lator, Sudharsan couldn't convert the start and Gill despite his short arm pulls was also snapped brilliantly by Abdul Samad.

It was Jos Buttler (33 off 18 balls) who hit a couple

### SCOREBOARD

**Lucknow Super Giants:** Aiden Markram c Khan b Kishore 36, Mitchell Marsh c Rutherford b Khan 117, Nicholas Pooran not out 56, \*Rishabh Pant not out 16. **Extras:** 10. **Total:** 235-2. **Fall of wickets:** 91-1, 212-2. **Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 4-0-37-0, Arshad Khan 3-0-36-1, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-45-0, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-44-0, Sai Kishore 3-0-34-1, Rashid Khan 2-0-36-0.

**Gujarat Titans:** Sai Sudharsan c Markram b O'Rourke 21, \*Shubman Gill c Samad b Khan 35, Jos Buttler b Singh 33, Sherfane Rutherford c (sub) Bishnoi b O'Rourke 38, Shahrukh Khan c (sub) Bishnoi b Khan 57, Rahul Tewatia c Singh b O'Rourke 2, Arshad Khan c O'Rourke b Ahmed 1, Rashid Khan not out 4, Kagiso Rabada b Badoni 2, Sai Kishore b Badoni 1. **Extras:** 8. **Total:** 202-9. **Fall of wickets:** 46-1, 85-2, 96-3, 182-4, 186-5, 193-6, 197-7, 200-8, 202-9.

**Man-of-the-match:** Mitchell Marsh

### TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, at the Ekana Cricket Stadium, Ardonamau, Uttar Pradesh, 7.30 pm

# Srikanth in quarters, Prannoy suffers loss

## Tanisha-Dhruv advance into last eight

PTI, KUALA LUMPUR: Seasoned Indian badminton player Kidambi Srikanth entered the quarterfinals of Malaysia Masters after defeating Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in his second-round match but H S Prannoy bowed out with a straight game loss, here, on Thursday.

In the mixed doubles pre-quarterfinals, the duo of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto beat France's Julien Maio and Lea Palermo 21-17, 18-21, 21-15. Prannoy, however, suffered a 9-21, 18-21 defeat to Japan's Yushi

Tanaka in his men's singles pre-quarterfinal match.

In the day's other pre-quarterfinal matches involving Indian players, Ayush Shetty lost to France's Toma Popov 13-21, 17-21, Sathish Kumar Karunakaran went down to Christo Popov of France 14-21, 16-21.

In the women's doubles

Srikanth, whose world ranking has plummeted to 65 owing to a prolonged lean patch, will face France's Toma Popov in the last-eight stage. Also bowing out was Sathish Karunakaran. He was beaten 14-21, 16-21 by Toma's brother and doubles partner Christo Popov.

In the doubles competition, Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila advanced to the quarter-finals of the mixed event with a 21-17, 18-21, 21-15 victory over France's Lea Palermo and Julien Maio. They will next be up against the Chinese combination of Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin.

### MALAYSIA MASTERS BADMINTON

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# Mhatre to lead India U-19 in England tour, Suryavanshi in

PTI, NEW DELHI: Mumbai's Ayush Mhatre was on Thursday appointed captain of the India U-19 team for next month's tour of England, while 14-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi is also included in the squad.

The tour, scheduled to begin on June 24, will include a 50-over warm-up match, followed by a five-match Youth One-Day series and two Multi-Day matches against England U-19.

Suryavanshi's selection comes on the back of a breakthrough IPL season with Rajasthan Royals.

The baby-faced big-hitter from Bihar's Samastipur had become the toast of the nation after becoming the youngest to smash an IPL hundred and his 35-ball

century last month against Gujarat Titans was also the second fastest of the league.

He has played five first-class matches and six List A games for Bihar but is yet to score a hundred in any of those matches. However, Suryavanshi had made a hundred against the Australia U19 in the first Youth Test at Chennai last year.

Seventeen-year-old Mhatre, on the other hand, has played nine first-class matches and seven List A

games, scoring 962 runs. The opener replaced Chennai Super Kings skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad midway this season after the latter was ruled out with an elbow injury.

Mumbai's Wicketkeeper batter Abhigyan Kundu has been named Mhatre's deputy. While another interesting selection is that of Kerala leg-spinner Moham

# Neeraj up against Weber again in Poland after 90m duel

## Chopra sent his spear to 90.23m at the Doha Diamond League though he had to settle for a second-place finish after German Julian Weber produced a 91.06m effort in his last attempt to upstage the Indian

PTI, CHORZOW (Poland): The coveted 90m frontier finally breached in Doha last week, Neeraj Chopra will be eying an even bigger throw in yet another top-class men's javelin field at the ORLEN Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet, here, on Friday.

Chopra sent his spear to 90.23m at the Doha Diamond League though he had to settle for a second-place finish after German Julian Weber produced a 91.06m effort in his last attempt to upstage the Indian. It was also Weber's maiden 90m throw.

Weber, an European champion in 2022 and silver-medallist in 2024, will be there in Poland too along with two-

time world champion Anderson Peters (PB: 93.07m) of Grenada, who finished third in Doha with a throw of 84m. Polish national record holder Marcin Krukowski (PB: 89.55m) and compatriots Cyprian Mrzyglod (PB: 84.97m) and Dawid Wegner (PB: 82.21m), Andrian Mardare (86.66m) of Moldova and Ukraine's Artur Felner (PB: 84.32m) complete the eight-man field.

Since crossing 88m in 2018, the 90m-mark has been on the 27-year-old Chopra's radar. Relieved that the monkey is finally off his back, Chopra made it clear that "it was just the beginning" and he will be gunning for farther distanc-



### PREVIEW

es in the long season ahead. The climax of the season will be the World Championships in September in Tokyo where he will be defending his title. He is no longer troubled

by the groin niggle that affected his performance in the last few years. He is also much more confident after roping in the iconic Jan Zelezny, who holds the world record for longest

throw. "I and my coach are still working on some aspects of my throw. I am still learning things. We started working together only in February this year," Chopra had said in Doha.

"So I believe I can have more 90m throws and I can throw farther distances in the upcoming events this year till the World Championships.

"I was always feeling something in my groin in the last few years. I did not give my best because of that. This year I feel much better." Chopra was earlier slated to compete in the inaugural NC Classic an event to be hosted by him on May 24 in Bengaluru alongside several global and Indian stars.

But the event was postponed in the wake of military confrontation between India and Pakistan.

The event in Poland will be the third competition for Chopra this season. He started in South Africa at the Potch Invitational Track event -- a World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger competition -- in Potchefstroom on April 16, emerging on top with a modest throw of 84.52m.

After this event, Chopra is also set to compete at the Golden Spike 2025 athletics meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic on June 24, hoping to be third time lucky after pulling out in the last two editions due to injuries.

### sportspopup

#### Raiza wins skeet silver at Junior Shooting World Cup

SUHL (Germany): Olympian Raiza Dhillon delivered in challenging conditions to win the silver medal in the women's skeet event at the ISSF Junior World Cup here on Thursday. The Indian struck 51 targets in the 60-shot final to finish behind Phoebe Bodley-Scott of Great Britain, who shot 53. Home favourite Annabella Hettmer won bronze. Raiza's effort saw her win her first individual ISSF World Cup medal at any level. It was also India's third medal in the prestigious tournament and second silver to go with Kanak's gold on Wednesday in the women's air pistol.

#### Delhi Capitals' Mukesh fined 10% of match fees for Code of Conduct breach

MUMBAI: Delhi Capitals pacer Mukesh Kumar has been fined 10 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his team's loss against Mumbai Indians here. Mukesh was also handed one demerit point for his level 1 offence under Article 2.2 which deals with "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match." Delhi Capitals lost to MI by 59 runs here on Wednesday. The loss meant DC were knocked out of the playoff contention with MI sealing the last available spot. "Mukesh Kumar admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 and accepted the Match Referee's sanction," an IPL release stated.

#### Seifert to replace Bethell at Royal Challengers Bengaluru for play-offs

NEW DELHI: Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Thursday signed New Zealander Tim Seifert as a replacement for England batter Jacob Bethell, who will be unavailable for the IPL play-offs due to national commitments. The replacement will be effective from May 24, the BCCI said in a statement. Seifert, who has scored 1540 runs in 66 T20s for the Blackcaps, has played only three games in the IPL previously and last featured in the tournament in 2022. He will join RCB for Rs two crore. "Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have signed Tim Seifert as Jacob Bethell is set to leave from TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 for England on May 24, 2025 - following RCB's league-stage game against Sunrisers Hyderabad on May 23, 2025 - to join the England team," the statement added. Bethell's last game with RCB will be on Friday when they take on Sunrisers Hyderabad. Their final league game will be against Lucknow Super Giants on May 27.

#### Berrettini pulls out of French Open due to injury

PARIS: Matteo Berrettini has pulled out of the French Open due to an unspecified injury and will be replaced in the main draw by a lucky loser, organizers said on Thursday. Play at Roland-Garros begins on Sunday. The No. 28-ranked Italian retired against Casper Ruud in the third round of the Italian Open last week. Two weeks before, he withdrew from his third-round match against Jack Draper in Madrid due to an abdominal injury. "I just ran out of time to feel 100% ready to compete at the level that is needed," Berrettini posted on Instagram. "I'm looking forward to competing on grass and am already preparing with my team. I'm very appreciative of the support I feel from you all and can't wait to be back out on the court."

#### Indian team announced for FIH Hockey Pro League

NEW DELHI: Hockey India on Thursday announced a 24-member Indian men's team for the European leg of FIH Hockey Pro League to be played in Amstelveen, Netherlands and Antwerp, Belgium, from June 7. India will begin their European leg with two matches each against the Netherlands on June 7 and 9, followed by a double header against Argentina on June 11 and 12 at the Wagner Stadium in Amstelveen. They will then travel to Antwerp to face Australia on June 14 and 15 before ending their campaign against hosts Belgium on June 21 and 22. India played the home leg of the Pro League in Bhubaneswar earlier this year where they secured 15 points with five wins in eight games and now stand third in the points table. Team: Goalkeepers: Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Suraj Karkera. Defenders: Sumit, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Harmanpreet Singh, Jarmarpreet Singh, Sanjay and Yashdeep Siwach. Midfielders: Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Rajinder Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsher Singh. Forwards: Gurjant Singh, Abhishek, Shilanand Lakra, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh.

#### Sports Ministry steps in to bring funding for national leagues in 13 disciplines

NEW DELHI: Seeking to be a bridge between national federations and corporate houses willing to spend on creating a "league culture" in India, the sports ministry will be involved in overseeing the conduct of franchise-based events in 13 disciplines, including boxing and wrestling. The ministry, it is learnt, is already involved in helping bring corporate funding for existing leagues in hockey, and kabaddi, and it will soon be ensuring the launch of such events in cycling as well as rugby this year. In the planning stage are leagues for basketball, badminton, archery, boxing, wrestling, white water sports and polo. "These will be franchise based and while the ministry won't be spending, we will facilitate by bringing the corporates who are willing to spend. We will be the bridge because some national federations may not have the wherewithal to pursue companies," Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.

#### Next IOC President Kirsty hands over baton in planning for Brisbane 2032 Olympics

BRISBANE: Kirsty Coventry has completed a ceremonial baton change before she takes over as International Olympic Committee president next month, handing off oversight of preparations for the Brisbane 2032 Games during a three-day inspection visit to southeast Queensland state. Mikaela Cojuangco Jaworski replaced Coventry as head of the IOC's coordination commission for the 2032 Summer Games after the Olympic swimming champion from Zimbabwe was elected to take over from Thomas Bach in the sporting organization's top job.

#### Failure to find settled opening pair among Delhi Capitals' concerns this IPL: Badani

MUMBAI: The failure to find a settled opening pair throughout the season is one of the reasons why Delhi Capitals have not progressed into the IPL knockout stage despite an impressive start, says head coach Hemang Badani. Delhi Capitals tried out as many as seven partners with no considerable success in 13 matches, and will now take on Punjab Kings in their last game on Saturday. "A settled opening pair is only possible when your opening pair gives you a start. If you don't get starts, you are bound to make changes to try and fill that gap, fill that void," Badani told the media here.