

Yamal shines as Spain beat France 5-4 in Nations League semi-final

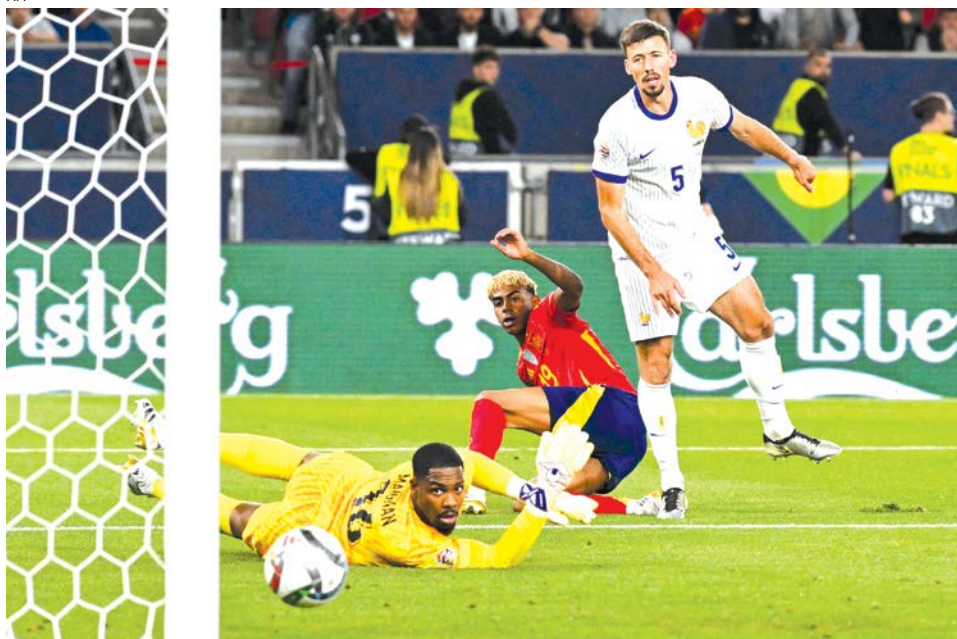
AP, STUTTGART: Lamine Yamal won the battle of Ballon d'Or contenders by scoring twice as Spain eclipsed France 5-4 in their Nations League semifinal.

The 17-year-old Yamal outshone French counterparts Desire Doue and Ousmane Dembele on Thursday as Spain initially ran riot against Didier Deschamps' tired-looking team to book its place in Sunday's final against Portugal.

Portugal defeated host nation Germany 2-1 on Wednesday. Thursday's game had been billed as a contest between young stars, but it was clear that Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League win in Munich on Saturday had added more weight to French legs with PSG stars Doue and Dembélé disappointing.

It was the highest scoring game in the Nations League's short history, but three of the four French goals came after Yamal had made it 5-1 and the Spanish players eased up thinking the game was won.

AFP



Spain's forward Lamine Yamal scores the team's fifth goal during the UEFA Nations League semi-final match against France in Stuttgart, Germany

NATIONS LEAGUE

Spain defender Daniel Vivian conceded an own goal, and Cherki set up fellow sub-

tute Randal Kolo Muani in stoppage time as France ultimately came close to an im-

SEMI-FINALS RESULT

Spain 5 (N Williams 22, Merino 25, Yamal 54, 67, Pedri 55) **France 4** (Mbappe 59-pen, Cherki 79, Vivian 84-og, Kolo Muani 90+4); **Germany 1** (Wirtz 48) **Portugal 2** (Conceicao 63, Ronaldo 68)

Final on Sunday at the Allianz Arena in Munich:

Portugal vs Spain (1900)

Third-place play-off at the MHPArena in Stuttgart:

Germany vs France (1300)

probable comeback.

Nico Williams opened the scoring in the 22nd minute after Yamal threaded the ball through to Mikel Oyarzabal, who held off two defenders and served it on a plate for Williams to rifle to the roof of the net. Mikel Merino, the hero when Spain last played in Stuttgart, made it 2-0 three minutes later after playing a one-two with Oyarzabal.

Théo Hernandez struck the crossbar and Spain needed goalkeeper Unai Simón to deny Doue, then Mbappé and Dembélé.

But Spain looked capable of scoring at any time. Real Madrid defender Dean Huijsen thought he'd scored spec-

tacularly after a brilliantly worked free kick, only to have the goal ruled out for offside. It was the 20-year-old Huijsen's third game for Spain. It looks like he's set to stay.

Adrien Rabiot conceded a penalty for a mistimed challenge on Yamal, who dusted himself off to make it 3-0 from the spot in the 54th.

Pedri scored a minute after that, taking Williams' pass with his first touch and dinking it past the bewildered Mike Maignan with his next. Pedro Porro's foul gave Mbappé his chance from the penalty, but Yamal replied to that by prodding the ball past Maignan for 5-1.

Sao Jose de Areal down FC Tuem

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MAPUSA: Sao Jose de Areal SC knocked out FC Tuem by 5-3 margin via penalty shoot-out in the 24th Vagator Soccer 2025 played at the Vagator ground, on Friday.

The teams were locked in a 1-1 draw at the end of the regulation time.

FC Tuem looked promising early on, with Sylvester Dias having a golden chance in the 14th minute, only to shoot straight into the goalkeeper gloves.

Minutes later, FC Tuem's Shankar Shetye almost glance his header into the goal from a throw-in but the Sao Jose de Areal custodian kept it out.

Sao Jose de Areal's Tyson almost shocked Tuem with a thunderous strike in the 20th minute that narrowly missed the goal.

However, it was FC Tuem who drew the first blood in the 26th minute when Vismay Daware scored from a well placed shot after receiving a pass from Sylvester Dias, 1-0.

Sao Jose de Areal had opportunities to equalise after halftime. Senisho Oliveira and Ashnoy Gomes both came close, but were



Ashnoy Gomes of Sao Jose de Areal receives the man-of-the-match award

denied either by poor finishing or solid defending.

In the 63rd minute, Sao Jose de Areal finally got their reward.

Ashnoy Gomes made a fine run by dribbling past two defenders and set the ball to Senisho Oliveira who tapped it into the goal, 1-1.

Sao Jose de Areal players proved to be the better shooters in the penalty shoot-out by winning by 4-2 margin.

Sao Jose de Areal converted all their penalties through Senisho Oliveira, Tyson Carvalho, Stalen Oliveira and Aryan Carvalho.

Tuem FC converted two out of their four penalties through Sergius Fernandes and Ritik Yadav.

Goalkeeper Dezi Oliveira saved two penalties.

Sheldon's brace guides UC Verna into quarters

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RAIA: United Club of Verna marched into the quarter-finals of Benaulim Panchayat football tournament with a thrilling 2-0 victory over Carmona Sports Club at the St John the Baptist ground, Benaulim, on Friday.

BEAULIM P'YAT CUP

The opening half was a balanced tussle, with both sides displaying grit and equal possession but failing to break the deadlock. After the restart, UC Ver-

na went on an offensive and launched a relentless attack. Though Carmona SC's defence stood firm initially, the pressure eventually told.

In the 56th minute, Sheldon Pereira pounced on a loose ball and clinically slotted it home. Just four minutes later, Sheldon struck again with a composed finish to seal the match and cap off a brilliant solo performance.

Carmona SC's brave resistance was finally undone by UC Verna's firepower as Sheldon's double strike powered them into the next round with style and authority.

Murida Fatorda Veterans move ahead

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RAIA: Murida Fatorda Veterans defeated Seraulim Veterans 3-2 to move into the next round of 1st Veterans Cup football tournament organised by Betal-

batim Sporting Club at Betalbatim ground, recently. Kevin D'Souza of Murida Fatorda Veterans netted a goal and for Seraulim Veterans Phillip equalised.

In the tie-breaker, Murida Fatorda Veterans proved to be the better shooters.

Brazil held in Ancelotti debut tie, Paraguay move closer to qualifying

AFP, MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay): Carlo Ancelotti's debut as coach of Brazil ended in a goalless draw in Ecuador in South American World Cup qualifying on Thursday.

Argentina, already assured of a place in next year's tournament, beat Chile 1-0 in Santiago with a goal from Julian Alvarez, a result which guarantees Lionel Scaloni's team top spot and leaves bottom placed 'La Roja' with virtually no hope of qualifying.

Ancelotti, the 65-year-old Italian, who left Real Madrid at the end of the European season, has been charged with taking Brazil through the latter stages of qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

The former AC Milan and Chelsea manager replaced Dorival Junior, who was sacked at the end of March after the 4-1 thrashing at the hands of reigning champions and bitter rivals Argentina.

Thursday's result leaves the Selecao in fourth place in the qualifying table on 22 points while Ecuador, the surprise package in the campaign, remain in second on 24 points.

Argentina lead the standings on 34 points and are the only team to have officially secured their place in the tournament which will be held in the USA, Canada and Mexico.

Paraguay, who enjoyed a 2-0 win over Marcelo Bielsa's Uruguay, sit in third place, level on points with Ecuador. Ecuador knew a

WHO HAS QUALIFIED SO FAR

The three host countries automatically qualify.

Host nations: United States, Mexico, Canada

Asia: Japan (qualified on March 20)

Iran (qualified on March 25)

Jordan (qualified on June 5)

South Korea (qualified on June 5)

Uzbekistan (qualified on June 5)

Oceania: New Zealand (qualified on March 24)

South America: Argentina (qualified on March 25)

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

win would put them on the brink of qualification and there was a packed crowd at the Estadio Monumental in Guayaquil.

But the home side were dealt a blow just before kick-off when goalkeeper Hernan Galindez suffered a muscle strain in the warm-up and replacement Gonzalo Valle was hurriedly sent out to make his debut. If Valle had any nerves they eased when he did well to parry a shot from inside the box from Vinicius Jr. who had been set up by Gerson following a turnover.

Chances were limited in a contest where neither side was able to get control of midfield. The pattern continued after the break with Ecuador, missing their injured striker and talisman Enner Valencia, struggling to pose a threat.

Real Madrid star Vinicius was quiet for much of the game and with Rodrygo absent, Brazil also lacked potency in attack.

The best opening came in the

75th minute when Vinicius broke down the left and cut back to Casemiro, but the Manchester United midfielder, recalled to the national side by Ancelotti, saw a tame side-footed effort easily dealt with by Valle.

While there was no instant impact from Ancelotti, Vinicius, who played under the coach in Madrid, said he needed time to make his impact felt.

Atletico Madrid striker Alvarez put Argentina ahead at the Estadio Nacional in the 16th minute with a deft finish after he had been put through by a perfectly weighted pass from Thiago Almada.

Lionel Messi came off the bench in the 57th minute but Chile sensed a chance to get something from the game and created more as the game progressed.



TODAY AT ARAMBOL CHURCH HALL 7:00PM

BOLLYWOOD SENSATION - VARSHA USGAONKER, BOLLYWOOD STAR - DHURV SINCRO
LEGENDARY MUSIC DIRECTOR - JOAQUIM D'SOUSA, MARATHI ACTRESS - PRAJAKTA KAVALEKAR
DUBAI TRIO - Anthony De Nuvem, JOSE & EDWIN

TIATR MARIANO FERNANDES PRESENTS HIS NEW TIATR

DEVACHEM NAVN JIETAM HANU

WRI. & DIR. BY: MARIANO FERNANDES

PLATILDA PRINCE JACOB MAGGIE COMEDIAN BRYAN

Conceicao Anil Prajakta Meenaxi Symphonia Averi

JOSE ANTHONY DE NUVEN EDWIN DE COSTA MARCUS XAVIER TONY

SEMY SAVIO THEODOR JOAQUIM MARTINHO NEVIL TRIAN

GRAND RELEASE IN GOA

10TH JUNE - KALA ACADEMY, PANAJI - 7:30 PM
13TH JUNE - RAVINDRA BHAVAN, MARGAO - 3:30 PM
15TH JUNE - RAVINDRA BHAVAN, VASCO - 3:30 PM
22ND JUNE - RAVINDRA BHAVAN, SANVORDEM - 3:30 PM