

## Soccer News Digest

--- ARTICLE 1 CONTENT --- Abhinav Sharma

How to watch today's Arsenal vs Crystal Palace Premier League game: Live stream, TV channel, and start time

How to watch the Premier League match between Everton and Crystal Palace.

Arsenal will aim to keep their blistering start to the campaign rolling when they welcome London foes Crystal Palace to the Emirates on Sunday, fresh off both sides' midweek European action.

Arsenal vs Crystal Palace kick-off time

Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025

Kick-off Time: 2:00 pm BST / 10:00 am ET / 3:00 pm CET

Venue: Emirates Stadium

Location: London, England

The Premier League match between Arsenal and Crystal Palace will be played at Emirates Stadium in London, England. It will kick off at 2:00 pm BST / 10:00 am ET / 3:00 pm CET on Sunday, October 26, 2025.

How to watch Arsenal vs Crystal Palace online in the US

- TV channels & live streams

Peacock Watch here

The Gunners currently sit three points clear at the summit of the Premier League following last weekend's hard-fought win over Fulham, aided by Liverpool's surprise slump; the reigning champions have now lost three on the bounce. Under Mikel Arteta, Arsenal have shown a newfound resilience, grinding out results that might have slipped away in past seasons. Their defensive record tells its own story, just three goals conceded so far in 2025-26, a testament to their discipline and structure at the back. Standing in their way this time are Oliver Glasner's spirited Crystal Palace, who have carried the confidence from last season's FA Cup triumph into this campaign. The Eagles went an impressive 19 games unbeaten before a recent hiccup against Everton, and their organized, hard-working setup makes them anything but an easy opponent. Arsenal may be flying high, but Glasner's side will be eager to remind the league's front-runners that they're no pushovers in this London derby.

Premier League Arsenal ARS26 Oct 2025 10:00 Crystal Palace CRY

Here, GOAL brings you everything you need to know about how to watch Arsenal vs Crystal Palace.

READ MORE: Arsenal vs Crystal Palace Preview: Team news, tickets, live stream, odds and more

In the United States (US), the Premier League match between Arsenal and Crystal Palace will be available to watch and stream online live on Peacock. Check out GOAL's Live Match Centre for updates.

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free trials and more Watch and live stream Arsenal vs Crystal Palace worldwide CountryTV channel / live stream United Kingdom (UK), Republic of Ireland Sky Sports Premier League, Sky Sports Main Event, Now, Sky Go UK Australia Stan Sport Canada DAZN, Amazon Prime Video, Fubo Germany Sky Sports Premier League India Jio+Hotstar, Star Sports 1/1 HD Spain Movistar+, DAZN Netherlands Viaplay South Africa SuperSport In the United Kingdom (UK) and the Republic of Ireland, the game will be televised live on Sky Sports Premier League and Sky Sports Main Event, with streaming options available on NOW TV and Sky Go UK. In Canada, DAZN and Fubo will show the game, while Jio+Hotstar holds the broadcasting rights to every Premier League game in India. How to watch anywhere with VPN If you are abroad, you may need to use a virtual private network (VPN) to watch games using your usual streaming service. A VPN, such as NordVPN, allows you to establish a secure connection online when streaming. If you are not sure which VPN to use, check out GOAL's guide to the best VPNs for streaming sport. Watch highlights of the Arsenal vs Crystal Palace Highlights, live updates and scores from the Premier League matchup between Arsenal and Crystal Palace will be available on GOAL's LIVE Match Centre, X account (formerly Twitter), while extended highlights will drop on both clubs' official YouTube channels once the dust settles. Supporters can catch all the highlights on Match of the Day in the UK, which airs at 10:50 pm BST on BBC One this Sunday night, with a rerun scheduled for 7:30 am BST the following morning. Useful links Latest betting updates Premier League news Arsenal team page Crystal Palace team page Soccer on TV in the US How to watch & live stream soccer Football on TV in the UK

----- --- ARTICLE 2 CONTENT --- Ritabrata Banerjee Arne Slot insists Liverpool must adapt to defending 'long balls' as Reds bid to end Premier League slump Liverpool manager Arne Slot has instructed his players to adapt to dealing with "long balls" as the Reds aim to end their dismal run of form in the 2025-26 campaign. The reigning champions have lost their last three Premier League games against Crystal Palace, Chelsea, and Manchester United, as they have dropped to third position in the league table. ----- --- ARTICLE 3 CONTENT ---

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Matthew Judge'I want to maintain some calm' - Ruben Amorim refuses to get carried away despite Liverpool win as he insists 'the narrative would be completely different' had Cody Gakpo taken chancesRuben Amorim has urged his Manchester United players to keep their feet on the ground despite the momentous 2-1 victory over Liverpool. The Red Devils are in great spirits following their long-awaited victory at Anfield, but the Portuguese has called on his squad to remain calm as they look to make it three Premier League wins in a row against Brighton on Saturday.

----- --- ARTICLE 4 CONTENT --- Parshva ShahThe new Man City or Man Utd? Espanyol's new owner aims to build La Liga fairy tale with Barcelona's local rivalsThe American conglomerate that owns Premier League outfit Burnley completed a majority takeover of Espanyol earlier this month. In a recent interview, Alan Pace, the American businessman overseeing the sporting operations at both clubs, cited Manchester rivals City and United's example while explaining his ambitions and why success will follow Espanyol, even if it takes time.

----- --- ARTICLE 5 CONTENT --- Matthew Judge'Now it looks like Liverpool are done' - Pep Guardiola reacts to Reds crisis as Arne Slot's side leave door ajar in Premier League title defencePep Guardiola gave a tongue-in-cheek response when discussing the ever-changing narrative surrounding the Premier League title race, joking Liverpool are now 'done?' following their recent run of poor form. The Manchester City manager delivered the wry take when recalling how his side were written off following a start to the season which saw them lose two of their opening three games. -----

Arsenal's Thomas Partey during the English Premier League soccer match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Arsenal at Molineux stadium in Wolverhampton, England, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025.

(AP Photo/Rui Vieira)Rui VieiraAP PhotoSAMActualizado03/08/2025 -13:38CDTCompartir en FacebookCompartir en TwitterCompartir en TelegramCompartir en WhatsappEnviar por emailSOCCER.Georgina Rodríguez sparks wedding rumors with Cristiano RonaldoSOCCER.The

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biggest secret of Stamford Bridge: the story behind the ashes buried in the penalty spot Thomas Partey is poised to continue his soccer career in Spain after reportedly agreeing to join La Liga club Villarreal as a free agent. The Ghanaian international, who most recently concluded a five-year spell with Arsenal, is close to finalizing his switch, with the only formalities left to complete such as medical exams. Barcelona superstar Lamine Yamal is facing trouble following his memorable 18th birthday celebration. The move marks a La Liga return for Partey following his previous spell with Atletico Madrid, but his move back to Spain after a five-year absence arrives amid intense scrutiny, following his arrest and charging for alleged rape offences in London. In early July, the Crown Prosecution Service formally charged Partey with five counts of rape and one of sexual assault relating to incidents involving three women between 2021 and 2022. Partey has denied all charges and maintains his cooperation with authorities throughout the multi-year investigation. He is scheduled to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on August 5. Villarreal move carries on despite legal issues. According to The Athletic, Villarreal has struck a preliminary agreement with Partey on a contract extending through 2027. The midfielder completed medical exams and is set to be unveiled soon, subject to his court appearance. The deal comes just days after his Arsenal contract officially expired, amid speculation that offers from Saudi clubs and Turkish sides were also on the table. The signing gives Villarreal a seasoned presence in midfield depth, especially as they return to Champions League competition in the 2025-26 season. Parts of the deal reportedly include an initial one-year commitment with an option to extend, allowing the club flexibility depending on both performance and legal developments. Partey emerged from Atlético to join Arsenal in 2020 for over \$58 million and went on to make 167 appearances for the north London club, delivering consistent defensive solidity and occasional offensive contributions. His time at Arsenal ended when contract talks failed to reach a positive conclusion - despite manager Mikel Arteta expressing confidence in Partey's importance to the squad. Arsenal confirmed they routinely followed proper legal processes during the investigation and later declined further comment amid

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pending proceedings. While clubs commonly weigh character and legal risks in transfer decisions, Villarreal's pursuit of Partey amid formal charges has ignited debate. Analysts and fans alike are divided: some view the acquisition as a bold footballing calculation, others question its moral balance. Detection officials emphasized legal safeguards in the case, including protection of victims and the downsides of premature public speculation. Partey's legal team asserts his right to clear his name in court, noting he "fully cooperated with the police and CPS throughout their three-year investigation." A risky signing for Villarreal. For Villarreal, the return to LaLiga has a strong footballing case. Partey's experience, versatility, and coaching pedigree potentially strengthen the yellow submarine's spine. From Spain's vantage, the club's recruitment represents a calculated risk, justified by his high-level experience and relatively recent physical form. Still, timing is sensitive. Partey's arrival comes immediately before his court date, raising questions across Europe about clubs signing players amid unresolved criminal allegations and the principle of presumption of innocence versus public accountability. With the World Cup cycle ahead and Ghana likely to call on him for international duty, Partey remains both a global figure and a controversial subject in this unfolding narrative. The balance between his athletic future and legal outcome will shape public memory - whether his return to Spain proves a redemption arc or becomes an enduring footnote in a troubled chapter.

Villarreal - English Arsenal - English Premier League - English LaLiga - English Transfer News Atlético Madrid - English Champions League Champions League 25/26 matches: fixtures, ties and all the dates Liverpool FCA stunning free-kick goal by Liverpool FC midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai beats Arsenal Golden State Warriors Golden State Warriors eye Klay Thompson reunion to extend championship window See links of interest Soccer News Man City News Liga MX news Liga MX scores Premier League news Premier League scores Champions League scores Premier League Winners Mbappe News Real Madrid News Barcelona News Rooney Bardghji poses with Barcelona jersey FC BARCELONA M. CARMEN TORRES RYAN MITCHELL

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en TelegramCompartir en WhatsappEnviar por emailSoccer.Nico Williams will not play for Barcelona and renews with Athletic until 2035Soccer.Donald Trump has no hesitation in naming the greatest soccer player of all time... and he doesn't choose MessiRoony Bardghjihas finally fulfilledhis dream.Barcelonaannounced his signing on Thursday. The 19-year-old Swedish right winger will strengthenHansi Flick'ssteam. Little by little,Barcais defining its squad for the 2025-26 season. The player has signed for four seasons.Barcelona officially announced the signing of Roony Bardghji, a young European talent, trained at Malmo, who Deco had been following for more than a year. The Catalan club confirmed that the Sweden U21 international is joining its squad, for whom it has had to pay a small transfer fee, around two million euros, as he was under contract with FC Copenhagen until DecemberDonald Trump crashes Chelsea's Club World Cup celebration acting like one of the playerBardghji's predisposition to sign forBarçawas decisive in his incorporation. A fan and admirer of the Catalan team since he was a child, the right winger had other proposals,MallorcaandPortowere some of the clubs that approached him in recent weeks, but his desire was to wear the blue and red shirt. And he has achieved it. The conversations for his signing have been quickBet on the futureBardghji only played six games in the 2024-25 season with FC Copenhagen, the club he joined in 2021, due to a cruciate ligament rupture he suffered the previous season in training, which prevented him from playing until March. He did not play in the final stretch of the season due to another injury. Despite this situation, Barca had no doubts about his signing and his incorporation, the coaches and Deco are sure that he will offer great performance and that it is a great bet for the present and future.With the Danish first team, to which he was promoted in 2022,Roony Bardghjihas played 84 games, scoring 15 goals and providing one assistSoccerBarcelona - EnglishTransfer NewsLaLiga - EnglishMLSBarcelona plans a great tribute to Leo Messi at the new Camp NouBarcelonaBarcelona superstar Lamine Yamal is facing trouble following his memorable 18th birthday celebrationClub World CupClub World Cup 2025 Prize: How much money will the winner of the tournament between Chelsea and PSG earn?See links of

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that was too much, too much... I pushed myself, because in the national team you have to push yourself." "I already felt it during the warm-up, I had been feeling it for a long time. But for the national team, if I had to break my leg, I would do it. It's a title, I had to play and I gave everything, I got as far as I could. I helped with a goal."

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Roberto Martinez: "I'm very happy for him, for being Spanish, for having given everything for our country. It's a title that we've already won, but this is our motivation, this is our hunger."

Cristiano Ronaldo - English

Portugal National Football Team - English

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SoccerSpain and Portugal, the European giants who are firmly in control

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Soccer.FIFA president cites 'discussions' for Cristiano Ronaldo to play in Club World Cup

Soccer.Cristiano Ronaldo discovers that he is biologically 11 years younger

GiannisAntetokounmpo, MilwaukeeBucksstar, has taken advantage of

Cristiano Ronaldo'sfarewell toAl-Nassrto launch a curious proposal to the Portuguese star.

After three seasons in Saudi Arabia, Cristiano published a message on social media in which he closed this chapter, but left the door open to new adventures: "The story? It's still being written," he said.

La anécdota de Evra sobre la pelea entre Cristiano y Van Nistelrooy en su primer entrenamiento

At 40 years of age, the Portuguese striker is still active and open to new experiences. In this context, Antetokounmporeacted with humor and admiration to Cristiano's post, proposing that he play in his native country: "Come and play in Greece," wrote the NBA player, mentioning clubs such as Olympiacos, Panathinaikos, AEK or PAOK.

A very curious offer

Luis Enrique's words after French



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Cup title: 'We're ready to make history'"Whatever you want. I'm not fussy,"said the Greek, who has shown on numerous occasions his admiration for Cristiano Ronaldo, whom he has even described as 'The GOAT'. A nice suggestion that mixes soccer, basketball and a good dose of admiration.Cristiano Ronaldo - EnglishGiannis Antetokounmpo - EnglishTransfer NewsIndiana PacersCan Tyrese Haliburton's Plea Bring His Dad Back to Game 3?NBA PlayoffsPacers lift ban on Haliburton's father, who was banned after altercation with AntetokounmpoNBAShai leads the NBA's best quintet and LeBron is in the secondSee links of interestSoccer NewsMan City NewsLiga MX newsLiga MX scoresPremier League newsPremier League scoresChampions League scoresPremier League WinnersMbappe NewsReal Madrid NewsBarcelona NewsTrent Alexander Arnold in a game with LiverpoolAPJOSÉ FÉLIX DÍAZRYAN MITCHELLActualizado25/03/2025 -11:16CDTCompartir en FacebookCompartir en TwitterCompartir en TelegramCompartir en WhatsappEnviar por emailSoccer.Chelsea bombshell: London club says goodbye to Stamford BridgeSoccer.Cristiano Ronaldo gives toxic journalists an ultimatum: "Look me in the eye when I answer your questions"Real Madridis close to reaching an agreement with Alexander-Arnold, with whom it has been working since last December, when the club approached Liverpool to try to reach an understanding for the transfer of the full-back in the winter market, something to which the English club's directors refused. The agreement that the club presents to the English player is for five seasons and, as he will be out of contract on June 30,Liverpool would not receive any money.During that transfer window,there were two attempts by Real Madrid, always with the player's approval, to reinforce a position in which, after Carvajal's injury, Lucas Vazquez was the only specialist in the squad. It is true that Valverde has since appeared in that position, but a solution was sought so that the Uruguayan would not leave the midfield.Cristiano Ronaldo finally addresses why he hasn't married Georgina Rodríguez yetWith the agreement close, thenext step will be to start putting everything into a contract within the law, as Alexander-Arnold is in the final stages of his contract with Liverpool, which expires on June 30, 2025.A signing told in

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MARCAMARCA has been reporting on the moves made around the England international since Arnold decided in the latter months of 2023 that his time at Liverpool was over. Everything is down to Real Madrid's strategy of looking for players who are out of contract, similar to what they did with Davies, although the Canadian player ended up giving in to Bayern's astronomical renewal offer, which was higher than the one agreed with Los Blancos. From Valdebebas, they knew that the Arnold deal was a long-term operation, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that he did not renew his contract with Liverpool, something that has happened for now after resisting numerous proposals made from Anfield. Four covers to inform step by step. The first cover came on October 8, when it was reported that Real Madrid were on Arnold's trail. On October 17, MARCA reported that the player would not renew with Liverpool, who were beginning to get used to the idea that they would lose one of their most important players. On December 13, Madrid put a dilemma on the table: sign or stick with what they have? The injuries to Militao and, above all, Carvajal, opened the debate about the need to strengthen in winter. Madrid tried, although they knew it was impossible, to sign Arnold. Liverpool would not let him leave. On December 28, MARCA reported that the player's desire is to wear the Real Madrid jersey and that he is willing to take all the steps to end up at the Santiago Bernabeu.

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QUITO, Ecuador (AP) ? Ecuador's Liga de Quito once again topped a Brazilian team in the Copa Libertadores and beat favorite Palmeiras 3-0 on Thursday in their first leg of the tournament.

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semifinal. All the goals came in the first half, which left the hosts with confidence they could maintain the advantage next week in Sao Paulo as they look to win their second South American title. The Ecuadorians, who eliminated Botafogo and Sao Paulo in the South American tournament, were the better team at kickoff at the Rodrigo Paz Delgado Stadium, which lies over 2,800 meters (9,200 feet) above sea level. Liga de Quito had already squandered several opportunities when Gabriel Villamil scored the first of his two goals from close range in the 16th minute. A handball by Andreas Pereira allowed Lisandro Alzugaray to add a second from the penalty spot in the 27th minute, giving no chance to Palmeiras substitute goalkeeper Carlos Miguel — frequent starter Weverton is injured. Palmeiras improved and started giving more work to Liga's goalkeeper Alexander Domínguez, but a counter-strike seconds before the break put Villamil once again in front of Miguel to score a third goal for the hosts.

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Liga has not played a Copa Libertadores final since 2008, when it won its first and only title at the Maracana Stadium after a penalty shootout against Fluminense. Brazil's Flamengo beat Argentina's Racing Club 1-0 on Wednesday in the first leg of their semifinal. The second will be played next week in Buenos Aires. The Copa Libertadores final is scheduled for Nov. 29 in Lima.

\_\_\_AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer>

**CHESTER, Pa. (AP) —** The U.S. women's team stumbled Thursday in its first game since July, allowing a goal in each half that sent Portugal to its first win against the Americans, 2-1 on a night two-time World Cup winner Alex Morgan was feted with a star-studded farewell. Portugal not only beat the U.S. for the first time in 12 matches, it scored its first goals against the Americans in international play. U.S. coach Emma Hayes said she could tell at practice ahead of the match the nearly four-month layoff could affect the team. "It felt to me like we just hadn't played together for a long time," Hayes said. "I just didn't recognize us." Rose Lavelle scored only 33 seconds into the friendly for the Americans, only for Inês

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Pereira to shut them down the rest of the game. Lavelle electrified the crowd that included retired Eagles great Jason Kelce inside Subaru Park — the home field for the MLS Philadelphia Union — when she scored before many of the more than 17,000 fans had even settled into their seats following a pregame ceremony for Morgan. “Sometimes, you can start the game like that and you think to yourself, I hope we don’t sit back and be passive,” Hayes said. “That’s what we did.”

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Portugal’s Diana Gomes scored her eighth international goal when she got a header past Phallon Tullis-Joyce that tied the game 1-all in the first half. Portugal had been outscored 40-0 by the United States in the previous 11 matches between them, plus Lavelle’s goal. Fatima Pinto scored her fifth international goal from atop the box through traffic late in the second half for the winner that gave Portugal its landmark victory. “There is a standard of winning, and it kind of exceeds all those things, whether it’s the time apart or the age of the team or experience. We have a choice now of how we respond,” midfielder Sam Coffey said. The U.S. women returned after a 113-day layoff for the start of a true ramp-up toward World Cup qualifications. There’s another match scheduled against Portugal and one against New Zealand to close out the three-match window at the end of the month. The team needs the work before the results truly matter. “We didn’t look like the team that we’ve been working on but that’s what happens when you’ve got 113 days apart,” Hayes said. With Morgan in the house, the stadium underwent a makeover in honor of her big night. Her greatest moments (such as her four-goal game for the U-20 women’s World Cup team) were recognized in stand-up cutouts that lined outside the stadium. Girls lined up at the Alex Morgan pre-wrap station to get their hair “game-day ready” and T-shirts and banners with her name on them were the hot items at merch stores. Fans everywhere raised signs showing Morgan love in her national team send-off. Even national team members who couldn’t take

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the field wouldn't miss Morgan's night. The 36-year-old Morgan retired from soccer last year when she became pregnant with her second child. American forward Trinity Rodman was on hand for Morgan's celebration but did not play as she recovers from a knee injury. Rodman has only played for the Americans once since they won the 2024 Olympic gold medal in France. Abby Wambach, Kelley O'Hara and Megan Rapinoe also attended the game. Besides World Cup titles in 2015 and 2019, Morgan also won an Olympic gold medal in 2012. She played in 224 matches for the U.S. and was honored with a framed jersey with that total as the number 7 with 123 goals and 53 assists. She was chosen the U.S. Soccer Player of the Year in 2012 and 2018. Morgan also played in 150 NWSL matches over her career, which included stints with the Portland Thorns and the Orlando Pride. She rejoined the Wave in May as a minority stakeholder. Hayes only had Morgan for one game during her tenure. But the former Chelsea coach has been around the sport long enough to appreciate Morgan's impact on the game and for her to be feted at the same stadium where she scored her first national team goal in 2010. "There was nothing she didn't achieve," Hayes said a day earlier. "She was a player that epitomized everything this program is about. She's an unbelievable credit to her family because her drive, her desire, her determination to prove herself at the highest level is second to none. You can't go anywhere in this country without them talking about Alex Morgan, and I think the sport should show a lot of gratitude to that, because it's important for our players to be recognizable. And she is, without question, in recent times, one of the most recognizable faces in our sport." \_\_\_\_AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer> FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) Lionel Messi has finally agreed to a new contract with Inter Miami, a deal that required several months to complete and ensures that the sport's biggest icon will be with the Major League Soccer club for its planned move into a new stadium next year. The deal was announced Thursday, one day before Inter Miami's playoff opener against Nashville. Messi's team, the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference, will play host to Game 1 of that best-of-three series on Friday night. The team announced the move in a social media post, one showing Messi signing the

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contract inside the new stadium that remains under construction. "HE'S HOME," the team said in the post. "It makes me really happy to stay here and to continue with this project that, besides being a dream, has become a beautiful reality." Playing in this stadium, at Miami Freedom Park," Messi said in remarks distributed by the club. "Since I arrived in Miami, I've been very happy, so I'm truly glad to keep going here." Inter Miami said it was a three-year deal through 2028. The notion of Messi playing two or three more seasons certainly would serve as a boost to ticket sales at the stadium the team has been building near Miami International Airport. The team has been selling ticket packages and taking deposits on seats in the new park for more than a year, all with the assumption that Messi would remain part of the franchise.

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His decision to stay in Miami is big for both the club and for MLS. Messi's was the league's MVP last season and is the overwhelming choice to win the award again this year, which would make him only the second two-time winner in league history and the first to win it in back-to-back years. Preki won the MVP award in 1997 and 2003. "To enjoy him, watching him enjoy doing the things he is doing, he's very, very competitive and he tries to translate that to the team," Inter Miami coach Javier Mascherano said Thursday. "The best way to help him is trying to do the right things ... he has to be comfortable on the pitch. He's comfortable when things are working in the right way. "With him, when we do things the right way, we'll have many chances to have success." Messi won MLS' Golden Boot this season after scoring 29 goals, five more than LAFC's Denis Bouanga and Nashville's Sam Surridge. He also had 19 assists, and his 48 total goal contributions was one shy of matching the MLS record of 49 set by Carlos Vela in 2019. This season, Messi had multiple goals in five consecutive games "making him the first MLS player to achieve such a feat" and had 10 multigoal games, another league record. The previous mark was eight such games. "We promised our fans

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that we would dream big to build an iconic club. A club that represents the passion, hard work and dedication of all those that came before us to create a Miami built on dreams," Inter Miami managing owner Jorge Mas said. "Leo signing through 2028 is an ode to our amazing city." Messi is 38, which makes this contract likely his last as a professional player. He has spent well over half his life playing at the pro level, making his debut with Barcelona as a 17-year-old in 2004. It is not clear how long Messi, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and generally considered the sport's biggest star, plans to keep playing. He led Argentina to the World Cup title in 2022; his country will aim to defend that trophy when the tournament is played next June and July in the U.S., Mexico and Canada. His Inter Miami team will look different in 2026, for certain. Messi agreed to join the club in July 2023 on what was a 2 1/2-year contract, and it wound up becoming a reunion of longtime Barcelona teammates when he was eventually joined by Jordi Alba, Sergio Busquets and Luis Suarez. Busquets and Alba are both retiring after this season; Alba made the decision to step away just months after agreeing to a three-year contract. Suarez's future is unclear, and it's believed retirement could be an option for him as well. But Messi will play on, into 2026 anyway. He and the team were closing in toward the finish line of this drawn-out contract negotiation last month, and it wasn't clear why it took several more weeks to get Messi to finally sign the deal. His first contract with Inter Miami was worth an estimated \$150 million at the time. It immediately began paying off, with Inter Miami winning its first trophy — the 2023 Leagues Cup — shortly after he arrived. Last season, when he won the MLS MVP award for the first time, he did so while missing 15 of Inter Miami's 34 regular-season matches because of injuries or commitments to Argentina's national team. Even with those absences, Inter Miami won its first Supporters' Shield by having MLS' best regular-season record — then got upset in the first round of the playoffs. The club has seen a massive rise in global popularity with Messi on the roster. His pink No. 10 jersey has been MLS' highest seller since he joined the league, and he has added to his massive off-field business empire since coming to the U.S. — even starring in a Super Bowl ad last year. "Our vision was to bring the

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best players to Inter Miami and to this city, and that's exactly what we have done," Inter Miami co-owner and soccer icon David Beckham said. "We brought the best player to have ever played the game to our city. That shows our commitment to Miami, but it also shows Leo's commitment to the city, to the club, and to the game. He's still as committed as he's ever been and he still wants to win."\_\_\_AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer>LIVERPOOL, England (AP) ? Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk revealed he led a players-only meeting at the start of the week after a run of four straight losses. Van Dijk said "everyone was sad" after the 2-1 loss to Manchester United in the Premier League on Sunday, which came after defeats to Crystal Palace, Galatasaray and Chelsea before the international break. So, following a debrief with manager Arne Slot, Liverpool's players got together at the training ground on Monday and centre-back Van Dijk delivered a message to his teammates. Explaining that it "wasn't a crisis meeting," Van Dijk said: "I wanted to say some things. It's not something I do after every game. After my meeting, everyone was happy." Liverpool responded by beating Eintracht Frankfurt 5-1 in the Champions League on Wednesday, avoiding tying a 72-year club record for losses in a row. "We had to stay calm and block out all the noise from the outside because that's something you can't control," Van Dijk said. "The only way to get out of a situation like that is to stay together, keep your mind on the task ahead, try to improve, keep the confidence, embrace the moment. They are all things that are easier to say than actually do but if you want to get out of it, you have to do it." Liverpool has dropped to fourth in the Premier League, four points behind leader Arsenal, after eight games as it heads into a match at Brentford on Saturday. \_\_\_AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer>