

Soccer News Digest

Scott Wilson Amad Diallo steals the show! Winners and losers as Leny Yoro impresses on Man Utd debut but it's a bad day for Jadon Sancho and Casemiro in Red Devils' win over Rangers

Winners & Losers Manchester United **FEATURES** Rangers vs Manchester United **Rangers Club** **Friendlies** Premier League **Premiership** Jadon Sancho Casemiro Amad Diallo Red Devils fans saw Leny Yoro for the first time and the return of Jadon Sancho Manchester United bounced back from their defeat to Rosenborg by beating Rangers 2-0 in a match that provided plenty to discuss. There was the return of Jadon Sancho after 11 months in the wilderness. Leny Yoro, signed from Lille this week, impressed after being thrust into the starting line-up. And United supporters were left to rave about Amad Diallo, who was the star of the show in an exciting first-half display which he capped off with a goal. A number of young players were given an opportunity throughout the game and two of them combined for United's second, Joe Hugill firing in off the underside of the bar from Maxi Oyedele's assist. But while Yoro and Amad provided the positives, Casemiro presented more concerns for Erik ten Hag and Sancho flattered to deceive.

GOAL breaks down the winners & losers from Murrayfield. Article continues below

Thomas Hindle Duncan McGuire: As USMNT's only Olympic striker, can he make a risky roster decision look smart? **Analysis** Duncan McGuire **USA Summer Olympics** **FEATURES** The Orlando City forward is the only natural goalscorer in Marko Mitrovic's squad ahead of the 2024 Paris Games. Duncan McGuire couldn't stop smiling it when the call came in telling him he would be on the U.S. Men's Olympic squad. "I wanted to jump up and down like a little kid," he admitted. And it was a deserved acknowledgment. McGuire has been one of the best strikers in MLS for some time now, a bonafide goalscoring talent who puts in enough legwork to give opposing center backs nightmares for 90 minutes. He is industrious, strong, and clinical at all of the right moments. As the rest of the squad trickled in, something became clear. McGuire might have been the obvious choice as a striker in the squad. But he is also the only striker in the squad. U.S. U23 coach Marko Mitrovic has pieced together an interesting roster for the tournament, and is putting all of his goalscoring hopes on one forward. Numerically, it makes little sense. He may only

Soccer News Digest

have 18 spots at his disposal - eight less than the total offered to coaches for Copa America and Euro 2024. But it is also a massive risk for Mitrovic to take just one forward - no matter how good he may be. And so as the U.S. heads into its first Olympics appearance since 2008, the hopes fall squarely on the shoulders of one man, who will have to make a squad selection game look like a stroke of genius.

Article continues below

Ameé Ruszkai, Ryan Tolmich and Celia Balf

The Rondo, Women's Olympics edition: USWNT predictions, breakout players, and why Spain will win it all

Analysis Summer Olympics USA Spain Aitana Bonmati Sophia Smith Women's football

FEATURES GOAL writers break down the USWNT's chances in the Olympics, and make predictions for the upcoming Paris Games

And so the Emma Hayes era begins in earnest for the USWNT. The former Chelsea coach has been charged with rebuilding a faltering side in her return to the United States, ushering out an aging generation while utilizing the immense talent at her disposal.

The Olympics will be a real challenge, though. It seems unlikely any team will be able to topple Spain, and there's real talent across the board. With much to break down, GOAL enlisted INDIVISA's Celia Balf, global writer Ameé Ruszkai, and U.S. writer Ryan Tolmich - all to discuss the USWNT's chances, Spain's dominance, Hayes' expectations and more in the Olympic Games edition of... The Rondo.

Krishan Davis

Enzo Maresca has his first Chelsea crisis to deal with - before a ball's even been kicked - as storm over despicable Enzo Fernandez racism completely overshadows start of pre-season

Analysis Chelsea Enzo Fernandez

Enzo Maresca

FEATURES Argentina Copa America

The new coach must deal with the fallout after the midfielder made himself a pariah by singing a discriminatory chant with his Argentina team-mates

What should have been remembered as a moment of celebration for Argentina has developed into an uproar that threatens to tarnish their Copa America triumph and cast a shadow over Chelsea's pre-season preparations. Enzo Fernandez is at the heart of the storm, having live-streamed himself and his international team-mates gleefully belting out a racist and transphobic chant at France's expense on board the team bus in the wake of the victory over

Soccer News Digest

Colombia. Fernandez has inevitably apologised for his role in the appalling incident, but the backlash suggests this will not be a case of forgive and forget. Chelsea have a proud history of Black French players who are of African descent, including club legends Marcel Desailly and N'Golo Kante, while the current squad has several members from a similar background. Fernandez's involvement has not been well received by his team-mates, and now newly-installed head coach Enzo Maresca has a serious problem on his hands before the season has even begun. Article continues below

Jacob Schneider

USMNT midfielder Tyler Adams undergoes back surgery in blow for Bournemouth as he's ruled out for start of Premier League season

Tyler Adams Bournemouth USA

The Bournemouth midfielder will miss the start of the Premier League season, and perhaps longer, it's been confirmed

Article continues below

Article continues below

Article continues below

Tyler Adams undergoes back surgery

Will miss start of Premier League season

Blow for Bournemouth & Iraola

Article continues below

Nico Williams has officially become a target for Barcelona, following President Laporta's announcement on Monday that the club can afford to pursue the Athletic Club forward. The player's arrival has been a dream for both the president and Hansi Flick to strengthen the team, but the main concern was whether Barcelona had the financial capability to execute such a major transfer given their well-documented financial difficulties. Whilst Laporta is confident that the Blaugrana can afford Williams, it's clear that their interest in the forward has a defined limit. President Laporta's statement confirms that Barcelona are in a position to sign Williams, which is crucial as several top European clubs are also vying for the player's signature. By making these public statements, Laporta has made it clear that Barcelona is serious about signing Williams, despite increasing interest from other clubs. Barcelona's financial capability does have limits. The player's release clause is set at 58 million euros, a non-negotiable figure. The real competition will be over the player's salary, where Barcelona may struggle against wealthier clubs. The Catalan giants are aware of this and have no intention of entering into a bidding war, especially if Premier League clubs are involved. Barcelona face stiff competition from Liverpool, Chelsea, and Bayern Munich, as well

Soccer News Digest

as the possibility of Paris Saint-Germain entering the fray. PSG, backed by the state of Qatar, can offer Williams a significantly higher salary, posing a major challenge for Barcelona, especially after Kylian Mbappe departed the club. Barcelona plans to leverage aspects beyond financial incentives. The club can offer a welcoming atmosphere, as Williams has strong friendships with current Barcelona players like Lamine Yamal, Pedri, and Ferran Torres. These relationships could play a significant role in persuading Williams to join. Furthermore, there is the fact that Barcelona can guarantee Williams a regular starting position on the left wing, a role currently vacant in their team. In contrast, at PSG, Williams would face tough competition from players like Ousmane Dembele and Bradley Barcola. This assurance of playing time is a crucial factor that could sway Williams towards Barcelona. While Barcelona offers various advantages, the emotional ties Williams has with Athletic Club cannot be overlooked. The Basque club are known for its strong emotional connection with its players, and it's possible that Williams might choose to stay with his current club. Barcelona's pursuit of Nico Williams is set to be a challenging endeavor, with fierce competition from several top European clubs. However, by leveraging financial capacity, personal relationships, and guaranteed playing time, Barcelona hopes to secure the promising striker's signature.

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — United States captain Tyler Adams will miss the start of the Premier League season while he recovers from back surgery, Bournemouth manager Andoni Iraola said. Adams missed most of last season because of a hamstring problem, and after a brief return he ended his debut Bournemouth campaign with back spasms. The 25-year-old Adams played a full game for the U.S. in its 1-0 loss to Uruguay at the Copa America on July 1. Iraola told the BBC that the defensive midfielder had surgery two days later. "He is out for some time," Iraola said. "It is difficult to say how long but he won't be fit for the start of the season. But September? October? I don't know." Iraola was asked why Bournemouth didn't stop Adams from going on international duty. "It was not our choice. It is a decision for the nations, who are allowed to select players, and he wanted to play thinking the injury would get better but he felt it was getting worse," the BBC quoted him saying. Adams joined

Soccer News Digest

Bournemouth last summer on a transfer from Leeds. Bournemouth will play an exhibition match against Wrexham on Saturday in Santa Barbara. The Cherries begin their Premier League season on Aug. 17 at Nottingham Forest. ____AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer>

Marta can't help but be a bit nostalgic heading into her last big tournament with the Brazilian national team. But for the 38-year-old six-time world player of the year, the time has come to finally step away. "I contributed what I supposed to give to the national team, you know? I'm feeling so comfortable to leave because when I look around me and I see really, really good players, young players, who can keep doing the work and keep representing Brazil so well," Marta said. Marta will be playing in her sixth Olympics in France before handing the team she captains over to the next generation. "It's been so much of my life, since I was 14, I left home and then I just live soccer every single day," she added. "I just feel like maybe it's time to just take a little bit away from that and let the young players shine." A tournament championship would be the perfect way to cap an international career that has spanned more than 20 years, and her teammates know it. "I feel like every time you step on the field, playing with Marta by your side, it's such a great responsibility. She's a great player and we have to play for her now," said defender Rafaelle. "She was like my biggest idol since I was growing up. So playing with her now is such a dream for me."

RELATED COVERAGE

A French alleged neo-Nazi sympathizer, suspected of targeting Olympic torch, sentenced to 2 years

Katie Ledecky just keeps chugging along, still excited about swimming after all these years

Clark, Reese on same team at WNBA All-Star weekend and in spotlight in matchup against Olympic team

Better known just by her first name, Marta Vieira da Silva has scored a record 118 goals in 183 international appearances with Brazil. In addition to her six Olympics, she has also played in six women's World Cups.

Paris Olympics

The Olympics are more than fun and games. They're a billion-dollar business with political overtones.

Breakdance will make it's debut as an Olympic sport in Paris. Here's what else will be different at this year's games.

Follow all of AP's coverage of the Summer Games. She has the record for most World Cup goals with 17, and she has 13 Olympic

Soccer News Digest

goals, one away from matching fellow Brazilian Cristiane's record. Marta grew up playing street soccer with the boys in Dois Riachos, a town in eastern Brazil some 1,250 miles (2,011 kilometers) north of Rio de Janeiro. She was just 17 when she appeared at the 2003 World Cup, held in the United States. Over time, her role has changed with Brazil. In recent years she's been more of a player coach, guiding the team's up-and-coming stars. "Of course I bring all of the experience that I achieved in my career, like playing in big tournaments like the Olympics and the World Cup, playing against good teams, against good players," she said. "So I try to share the best of me and the best of what I live in soccer with the players to make them feel comfortable, or make them feel proud to be there. Like, we expect the best of you. That's why you are here, so this is the goal and then do your best." Marta is still a valuable asset on the field, and she's proven it this season with the Orlando Pride, her club team in the National Women's Soccer League. She's got five goals in 12 games this year with the Pride, who are undefeated and sit atop the league standings. Marta has played with Orlando since 2017. "I still can read the game, like, really well," she said. "And I try to put myself in a good situation to give my best to the team. So I'm not going to compete all the time with a player that's 10, 11 years younger than me. But I may be able to put my brain to work a little faster and then read the situation and try to do my best." With the many accolades Marta's earned throughout her career, one thing has eluded her: A championship trophy in a major international tournament. Brazil's best finish at the World Cup was runner-up in 2007. Brazil won silver medals at both the 2004 and 2008 Olympics, but a gold medal has remained out of reach. "With her saying it's her last Olympics, it just brings more responsibility to her and to us to end this tournament on a good note with this title that the national team doesn't have and she doesn't have either," Brazilian teammate Adriana said. "So it's more motivation for us to help her with this and to hopefully win." While the Women's World Cup will be hosted by Brazil in 2027, Marta is not thinking about sticking around for another three years. But she's told the federation she'll help in any way possible. She's wistful as she thinks about her favorite moment with the national team. The two that

Soccer News Digest

stick out are the 2004 Olympics, her first, when Brazil advanced to the final but fell 2-1 to the United States, and the 2007 World Cup when the Brazilians beat the Americans 4-1 in the semifinals. Marta scored twice in that match and won the tournament Golden Boot with seven goals despite Brazil dropping the title match against Germany. "It's the passion," she said about her love for the game. "The passion that we show when we play, the passion that we see from when the people celebrate a goal. We make people happy. You make all the people happy and you make people dream ? and it's not only about soccer ? it's about what it's like to believe. Believe in yourself. Believe in your potential. So soccer gives you a lot of things like that. And for me, it's the best part."___AP

Summer Olympics: <https://apnews.com/hub/2024-paris-olympic-games>CHICAGO (AP) ? The Chicago Fire said Friday that they will offer vouchers for fans if Lionel Messi doesn't play for Inter Miami when the teams meet at Soldier Field on Aug. 31. Messi injured a ligament in his right ankle during Argentina's win over Colombia in the Copa America final on July 14. The Fire said in a statement that they expect Messi to play. If he can't, the team will offer single match buyers who purchase between now and game day \$250 off two or more new 2025 Chicago Fire season ticket memberships or \$100 off two or more single match tickets for the 2025 home match against Inter Miami. If fans already had purchased tickets, the Fire said they would offer the chance to claim two complimentary tickets to the Fire's Fan Appreciation Night on Oct. 19 against Nashville. ___AP

MLS: <https://apnews.com/hub/major-league-soccer>FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) ? The first lawsuits have been filed in connection with last weekend's melees that broke out when fans without tickets forced their way into the Copa America soccer tournament final at Hard Rock Stadium, with one person citing serious injuries and some ticket holders saying they were denied entry. Miami-Dade County and federal court records show that as of Friday morning, at least four lawsuits had been filed against the stadium and CONMEBOL, South American soccer's governing organization, over the chaos that broke out at the admission gates before Sunday's game between Argentina and Colombia. Attorney Judd Rosen, who represents an injured woman, said stadium and

Soccer News Digest

CONMEBOL officials should have hired more police officers and security guards, but they put profits above safety. "This was a cash grab," Rosen said. "All the money they should have spent on an appropriate safety plan and adequate safety team, they put in their pockets." Stadium officials declined comment Friday beyond saying they will refund unused tickets bought directly from organizers. They previously said they hired double the security for Sunday's final compared to Miami Dolphins games and had exceeded CONMEBOL's recommendations. The stadium will be hosting several games during the 2026 World Cup. RELATED COVERAGE U.S. captain Tyler Adams has back surgery and will miss start of season with Bournemouth Marta pursues soccer gold at the Olympics while preparing to pass the torch to Brazil's youngsters Chicago Fire offer vouchers for fans if Messi doesn't play for Inter Miami on Aug. 31 CONMEBOL, which is based in Paraguay, also did not specifically comment on the lawsuits. In an earlier statement, the tournament organizers put blame for the melees on stadium officials, saying they had not implemented its recommendations. Rosen's client, Isabel Quintero, was one of several ticket holders injured when they were knocked down or into walls and pillars. Police arrested 27 people — including the president of Colombia's soccer federation and his son for a post-game altercation with a security guard — and ejected 55. Rosen said his client, who works in finance, had flown her father to Miami from Colombia to see the game as a belated Father's Day present, spending \$1,500 apiece for the two tickets. He said Quintero, who is in her 30s, was in line when security closed the admission gates to prevent unticketed fans from entering. As the crowd built up and game time approached, people were being dangerously pushed up against the fences. Security guards opened the gates "just a little bit to let one person in at a time," Rosen said. That is when some in the crowd pushed the gates completely open, causing a stampede, Rosen said. Quintero got slammed into a pillar, causing soft tissue damage to her knee and shoulder and a chest injury that is making it difficult to breathe, he said. Her father was knocked down, but he wasn't hurt. "He never once watched the Colombian national team in person because he thought it was too dangerous in Colombia," Rosen said. "So he flew

Soccer News Digest

over here as a Father's Day present to watch his national team play and this is the result, something they never thought would happen in the States." He said he expects to file several more lawsuits, having spoken to one person who had teeth knocked out and another who suffered a broken arm. Attorney Irwin Ast filed lawsuits in state and federal court for fans who had tickets but weren't admitted because the hundreds of unticketed fans who pushed their way inside filled the stadium past capacity. He said these fans had come from all over the United States and the Americas, spending thousands for admission, air fare and hotel rooms. They also experienced fear and emotional distress when they were caught up in the stampede and melee, which could have been prevented if the stadium and CONMEBOL had a better security plan, he said. "People bring their kids ? this is a once-in-a-lifetime deal to a lot of people," Ast said. "This was a terrifying situation."