

Soccer News Digest

Ritabrata BanerjeeWhy ex-Chelsea boss Mauricio Pochettino is yet to be appointed USMNT boss despite reported agreement with U.S. SoccerMauricio PochettinoUSAPochettino is yet to formally join the USMNT as their head coach despite having an agreement with the USSFArticle continues belowArticle continues belowArticle continues belowPochettino yet to join USMNTHas an agreement with the USSFTerms of Chelsea's severance package creating hindranceArticle continues belowThomas HindleReal Madrid player ratings vs Mallorca: Mbappe fails to fire on La Liga debut as Vinicius Jr also struggles in disappointing drawPlayer ratingsReal MadridKylian MbappeVinicius JuniorLaLigaFEATURESMallorca vs Real MadridLos Blancos' high-powered attack didn't hit the heights expected of them as Ancelotti's side dropped pointsKylian Mbappe endured a fruitless La Liga debut, and didn't get much help from the big names around him, as Real Madrid were held to a frustrating 1-1 draw with Mallorca to open the season.What many predicted would be a statement performance was instead 90 minutes of tiny moments of concern, as Los Blancos' star-laden front three saw lots of the ball but failed to do much with it when it really counted.Madrid did look lively in the opening minutes, as Mbappe and Vinicius Jr caused problems for a stretched Mallorca defence. Rodrygo found the eventual opener, though, cutting inside his man before curling an effort into the top corner.The home side nearly equalised before half-time after a Thibaut Courtois blunder handed Vedat Muriqi a clear chance, but Antonio Rudiger - excellent on the night -battered the ball behind. Muriqi made amends after the break, however, as he snuck in at the back post from a corner to head past a helpless Courtois.That should have provided Madrid's new look front three the platform to strut their stuff properly. Instead, they struggled through the remaining minutes, creating only half-chances and failing to break through a well-organised Mallorca block. By the end of it all, Vinicius was slumped on the sidelines, a frustrated Jude Bellingham looked on from the bench and Ferland Mendy was sent-off in the final seconds for a horror challenge.Mbappe, meanwhile, will have to confront a Madrid debut in which he failed to have an impact.GOAL rates Real Madrid's players from Estadi Mallorca Son Moix...Article continues belowMark DoyleMan Utd offers Matthijs

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de Ligt his final chance to prove his world-class potential: GOAL grades the biggest deals from the 2024 summer transfer window

Opinion Transfers Manchester United Matthijs de Ligt Chelsea Pedro Neto Tottenham Dominic Solanke Barcelona Dani Olmo Atletico Madrid Conor Gallagher Julian Alvarez Paris Saint-Germain Arsenal Riccardo Calafiori Joshua Zirkzee Bayern Munich Joao Palhinha Michael Olise Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall Leicester Archie Gray Juventus Aston Villa Douglas Luiz Ian Maatsen Palmeiras Tosin Adarabioyo Real Madrid Kylian Mbappe Crystal Palace Bologna Premier League La Liga Bundesliga Serie A Ligue 1 Serie A FEATURES Alvaro Morata AC Milan Lille Mason Greenwood Marseille Troyes Manchester City Borussia Dortmund West Ham Villarreal Benfica RB Leipzig Xavi Simons Wolverhampton Bournemouth Noussair Mazraoui Rennes

All summer long, GOAL will be handing out grades for the biggest transfers from around the world. For some football fans, the off-season is the part of the calendar that they look forward to the most, as that can only mean one thing: It's time for transfers! And even while the window edges towards its closure, the biggest names continue to be linked with the biggest clubs, as speculation goes into overdrive. We all know that some transfers turn out well for all parties involved, but there are plenty where at least one of the clubs, or even the player, are left wondering what might have been had they made a different decision while at the negotiating table. GOAL is here, then, to ensure you know who did the best out of every massive deal before the ink is even dry on the contracts. Throughout the summer window, we are grading every done deal as it happens, letting you track the big winners - and losers - of transfer season. Check out our latest grades below, and let us know what you think in the comments section...

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Harry Sherlock Wrexham in hot water: Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney's side hit with FA charge after mass brawl during Carabao Cup defeat to Sheffield United

Wrexham Carabao Cup Sheffield United vs Wrexham Sheffield United Wrexham and Sheffield United have been charged by the Football Association after their EFL Cup tie was marred by a mass brawl. Article continues below

Article continues below

Wrexham and Blades clashed at full-time Sheffield United

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won 4-2FA now charge both clubsArticle continues belowRyan TolmichBig name, big-game experience, bigger hope: What Mauricio Pochettino brings to the USMNTAnalysisUSAMauricio PochettinoFEATURESA new U.S. coach is reportedly on the way, and he'll look to restore faith and optimism ahead of World Cup 2026U.S. Soccer reportedly have their man, and, boy, did they get a good one. It took more than a month after the firing of Gregg Berhalter, but it was seemingly worth the wait: Mauricio Pochettino is set to become the next U.S. men's national team manager.That's a huge deal for American men's soccer, which has found its new figurehead. The former Chelsea, Tottenham and PSG boss is set to become the USMNT's leader as this program heads into its most important tournament: the 2026 World Cup, hosted in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.Ahead of that World Cup, U.S. Soccer needed to make a splash. The pressure was firmly on the federation to ensure that this hire delivers against expectations and sets the course for a flagship U.S. soccer programs for years to come. There was zero margin for error.Pochettino has a connection to US Soccer, as he previously worked alongside current sporting director, Matt Crocker, who was running the Southampton's academy during the coach's time there. When he outlined his criteria for replacing Berhalter last month, Crocker said, "Whether they're from the U.S. or elsewhere, they've got to fit the profile, which is a serial winning coach."To succeed in 2026, the federation needed to make a big move, and that's exactly what they did by selecting Pochettino. He's a proven commodity in Europe, even if he doesn't yet have any international experience as a coach. With several stints at the highest levels of European soccer, Pochettino might be the most high-profile hiring in American soccer history (although Jurgen Klinsmann might have something to say about that).But what does Pochettino bring to the table? How is he different than his predecessors? What can he do to get this team ready for 2026? GOAL takes a lookArticle continues belowThere is a 'Vinicius case'. What yesterday seemed to be just another market rumor (although extremely eye-catching due to the spectacular figures), is taking shape as the hours go by. According to MARCA, Al Ahli has already approached Real Madrid to sound out a possible exit of the Brazilian footballer to the Middle East.

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The response of the white club has been clear and direct: his termination clause is 1,000 million euros - one billion euros. Sources close to the operation do not see the Saudi club as likely to reach that figure, which would be by far the highest amount paid in an operation in the history of world sport. In any case, Al Ahli have already offered Real Madrid a higher amount for Vini than his theoretical market valuation, which is around 200 million euros, and it is expected that in the next few days they will present a formal proposal to the entity presided over by Florentino Perez. What is known is the salary that Vini would receive in Saudi Arabia for a five-year contract: around 1 billion euros. A figure that certainly deserves to be taken into account and considered by the Brazilian international, as it would place him, at just 24 years of age, as the highest paid footballer of all time. At Real Madrid, Vini's annual salary is around 20 million euros gross per season. In any case, the matter is only in the early stages of a plot that is expected to be intense in the coming days. Vinicius and his entourage are only officially handling the presentation of a "brutal project", according to sources close to the player. A huge proposal from the economic point of view, which "must be well thought out", according to the same interlocutors. In the next few days, therefore, new contact should arrive between Al Ahli and Real Madrid, with what is expected to be an improved proposal from Saudi Arabia. The Spanish club will again refer to the clause, which in theory should settle the issue. However, the Saudis' strong interest in the winger may have a direct effect on Real Madrid's plan, which could be tempted to revise Vinicius' contract upwards to avoid temptations such as this one that could cause the player to hesitate again in the future.

LEICESTER, England (AP) ? Jamie Vardy still knows how to score in the Premier League. The 37-year-old striker rescued a point for Leicester in its return to the Premier League on Monday by heading home a second-half equalizer in a 1-1 draw against Tottenham, which had largely dominated the first half. Tottenham had plenty of opportunities to build a bigger lead but new signing Dominic Solanke was among those guilty of missing chances. Instead it was Spanish defender Pedro Porro who made Tottenham's early superiority count after 29 minutes when he got between two Leicester defenders to head James

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Maddison's cross into the net at the far post. But Vardy, who was key to Leicester's stunning Premier League title win in 2016 and has remained with the club since then, was left unmarked to head home an equalizer. A corner count of 9-0 gave some indication of Spurs' dominance in the first half but Vardy's goal changed the game completely. Steve Cooper's team suddenly looked a lot livelier and both teams had chances to win in a busy last half hour. "Tottenham are a really good team but we gave them too much respect, and we started getting after them and it changed the momentum," Vardy told Sky Sports.

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Vardy spurned a good chance in the 70th minute when he was able to run clear on goal but his low shot was saved by Guglielmo Vicario. At the other end, Richarlison sent a header wide deep into injury time with the last chance of the match. "It is a disappointing night for us," Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou said. "We need to be more ruthless in front of goal. We were that dominant, we should have been well away from the opposition. To be that wasteful tonight when we had so much of the ball and territory, it is disappointing."

The game was halted for eight minutes late in the second half after Tottenham midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur sustained a head injury. The Uruguayan received oxygen and taken off on a stretcher, but Postecoglou said he was "conscious and communicating."

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CHICAGO (AP) — The United States will play an exhibition against Mexico on Oct. 15 at Guadalajara in what could be the second match for Mauricio Pochettino, who is negotiating to become the Americans' coach. The U.S. plays Canada on Sept. 7 at Kansas City, Kansas, and New Zealand three days later at Cincinnati in its first matches since a first-round exit at the Copa America led the U.S. Soccer Federation to fire coach Gregg Berhalter. Mikey Varas, a Berhalter assistant, is likely to be in charge of the team for the September games. If a deal with Pochettino is finalized, his first match behind the bench could be at Oct. 12 friendly against Panama

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at Austin, Texas. The U.S. has not played a friendly in Mexico since 2012. The Americans have a seven-game unbeaten streak against El Tri. ____AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer>

LONDON (AP) ? Newly promoted Leicester reached a deal with Tottenham to sign midfielder Oliver Skipp ahead of the teams' meeting in their opening Premier League game on Monday. Leicester said the 23-year-old Skipp signed a five-year contract through the 2028-29 season. The value of the transfer was reportedly more than 20 million pounds (\$26 million). Skipp reunites with Leicester manager Steve Cooper, who coached him in England's youth teams. The defensive midfielder played 24 times for the England Under-21s, including in the final of the European Championship last year when it beat Spain 1-0 to win the title. Leicester is back in the Premier League after winning the second-tier Championship last season at the first attempt. The club had been relegated seven years after its stunning Premier League title win as a 5,000-1 outsider in 2016. ____AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer>

PARIS (AP) ? After leading France's Olympic team to a silver medal at the Paris Games, Thierry Henry left his coaching job Monday, with the French soccer federation saying he had cited personal reasons for the departure. The France great had a contract through the next season and was due to resume coaching the France under-21 team next month in its qualifying group for the 2025 European Championship. Thanking Henry for his work, federation president Philippe Diallo praised his "great professionalism, his rigor and his love of the blue jersey." Henry was hired one year ago with the Paris Olympics in mind and led the team to the final on Aug. 9, losing 5-3 to Spain after extra time at Parc des Princes. After the final, the former Arsenal and Barcelona forward gave an elusive answer about his future plans that suggested he might not stay with the U21 team. "Obtaining the silver medal for my country at the Olympic Games will remain one of the greatest sources of pride of my life," Henry said in a statement Monday. ____AP Summer Olympics: <https://apnews.com/hub/2024-paris-olympic-games>