

Multimédia e Novos Serviços

BestSports

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Application Goal

BestSports is a website for viewing news regarding the latest football and basketball highlights. With it, we intend to give our users an easy access and easy to use interface where they can look up news, recent scores and highlights from european football and american basketball, offering them a way to have all information on one place, without having to crawl through various websites throughout the internet.

Functional specification

The website is divided in three different main sections: the homepage, the basketball section and the football section. Within the homepage, the users can find the latest football scores on the right and the latest basketball scores on the left. In the middle you can find the main highlights from each sport. In the navbar, there is a button titled 'Play/Stop' that allows the user to play a sound related to the sport that they are currently browsing. In the basketball page the user will hear an ambient sound of players and fans inside an arena and on the football page they will hear a sound of players and fans inside a stadium. Next to this button there is a small gif, which will change depending on the section you are browsing. Whenever a user clicks the Play/Stop button, an animation for the gif will be triggered. There is also a search box in the navbar, where a keyword can be searched and the results will be any news that reference that keyword in either the title or the body of the article. Lastly, there is also a small animation in the BestSports button whenever a page is loaded.

In the basketball section you can find more recent scores and four cards of important news. These news are relative to the NBA playoffs and they were chosen by the group because they were considered to be the most important in recent weeks. Each card has a link that redirects to a page containing the full details of the news, which includes a small written article, a video, and images. In the bottom of the article the user can find two buttons: one with a Facebook icon, and one with a Twitter icon. These allow the user to share the whole page on the social media of their choosing.

The football section is identical to the basketball one, except for the fact that the news that appear there are related to the most recent and important european football highlights.

The videos that are used in the articles were downloaded from the Internet, edited by our group and uploaded to YouTube. We decided to upload them, because using those videos as internal assets would force our project to occupy a lot of storage, which is unnecessary.

Mockups

Mockups were developed in the early stages of the development and delivered in a previous delivery, so we don't think that it is necessary to explain them again. While implementing the features in our application, we detected that some mockups weren't completely correct, so the following changes were made between the initial mockups and the final application:

- We found that having an account was unnecessary, so we eliminated login, register and likes and dislikes of a news article.
- The user cannot search news by tags, but he can search by keywords.
- In the HomePage, we decided that it was only important to show the recent results of basketball and football games and links to those sports sections.

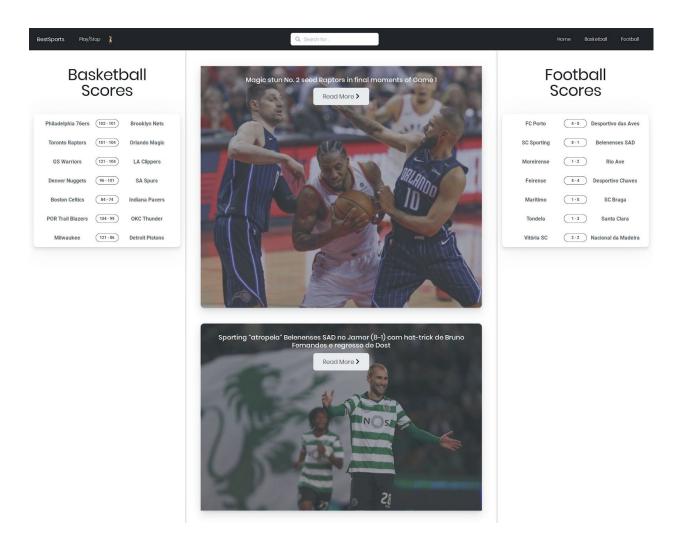
How to Use the Application

Open a terminal in the bestsports directory and write the following commands:

- npm install
- npm start

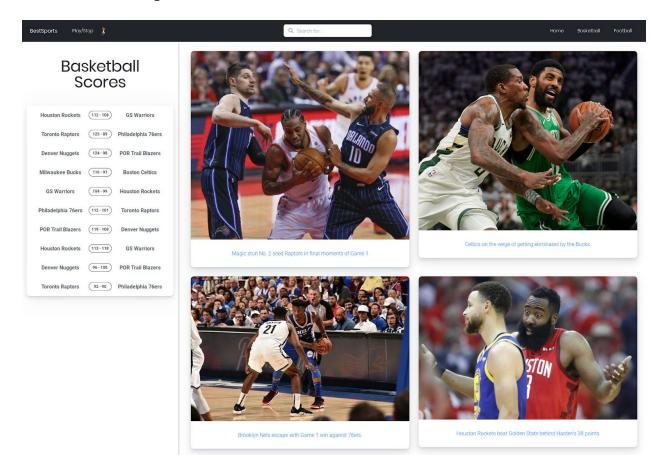
This assumes that you have the Node Package Manager installed in your computer.

HomePage



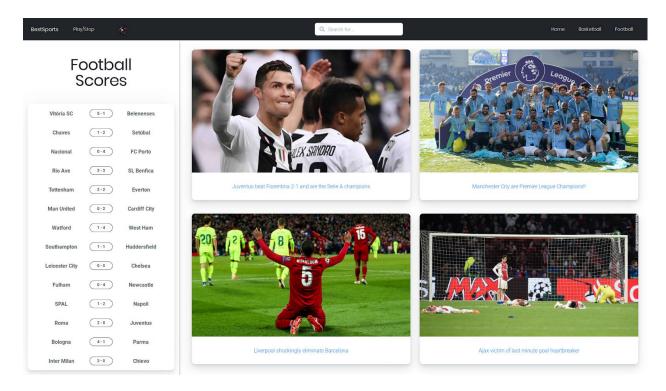
Within the HomePage a user can choose one of the highlighted news (shown in the screenshot above in the middle). He can also use the navbar to browse between sections, play or stop sound and use the search box.

Basketball News Page



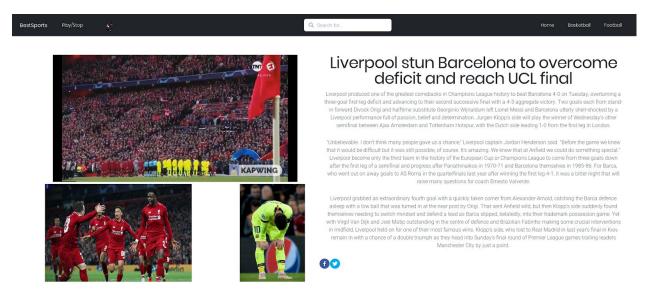
In this page a user can choose one of the four news available, which will redirect him to a specific news page.

Football News Page



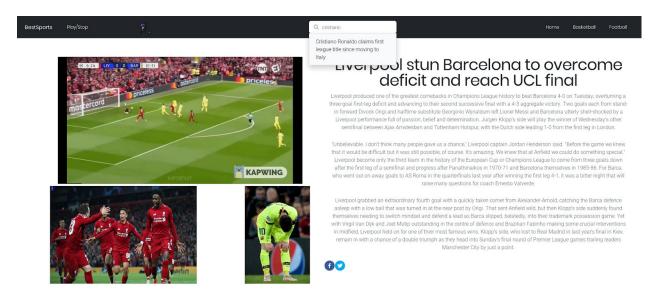
This page is similar to the basketball page. All paths the user are the same, except that they lead to their respective articles.

News Page (example)



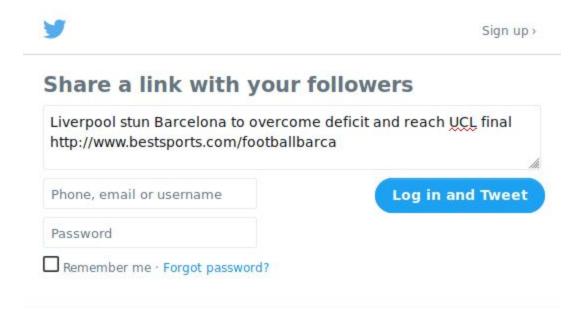
This is an example of a news article. On the top left there is a video and on the bottom left there are images, which portray the event described. On the right there is a written article and on the bottom there the buttons that allow the user to share news on social media.

Search Example



Pictured on the top of the screenshot is the search bar. In this case the user searched for 'cristiano' and the result was an article whose title involves Cristiano Ronaldo. This is the only result because no other article mentions the keyword 'cristiano' in the title nor the body.

Twitter



Pictured here is the result of clicking on the Twitter button in a news page. The user is prompted with this box, where he can write what he wants in the box and share it with friends.

Facebook



Pictured here is the same as the previous screenshot, except it allows the user to share news on Facebook.

Developing the Project

Overall, the development of the project went smoothly, without many problems being encountered along the way. The group was unfamiliar with the React technology, but throughout the project we were able to learn and adapt to the needs of the class, and we consider that using React to develop was a smart choice.

One of the problems that we encountered was that when we tried to upload an edited video of the Liverpool vs Barcelona game, we got copyright striked on YouTube. We tried editing the video more, but it didn't work so we had to use a different video.

Choosing an adequate animation for our website was also tricky. At first we didn't have an idea of what we should use, but after some meetings we decided to use a small animation in the navbar.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the development of the project went smoothly and we would have implemented a way of connecting to an API to get the news and highlights automatically if we had a little more free time, instead of incorporating them in the webapp manually.

References/Tools

Balsamiq - Mockups (https://balsamiq.com)

React - Framework Front-End (https://reactjs.org)

Audacity - Audio Editing (https://www.audacityteam.org)

Kapwing - Video Editing (https://www.kapwing.com)

Our assets (videos, images and audio) were obtained from various sources. Here are some examples :

Freesound - Collaborative repository of CC licensed audio samples (https://freesound.org)

Youtube - Source of videos used in the application (https://www.youtube.com)

Goal - Sports news' website (https://www.goal.com/en)