

Fastest man in the world: Kelvin Kiptum's incredible journey finishes where it started too soon

About 10 years before Kelvin Kiptum exploded onto the marathon scene by going 34 seconds faster than his legendary compatriot Eliud Kipchoge, the Kenyan was herding cattle in his native Chepkorio village. Situated in the Rift Valley province, which is the heart and soul of Kenya's proud distance running legacy from where the likes of Kipchoge emerged, Kiptum would follow the distance runners as they trained in the high-altitude region, including his eventual coach Gervais Hakizimana.

On Monday, Kiptum's life ended just over 10km away from the village as the marathon world record holder and Hakizimana died in a car crash. The 24-year-old was driving from Kaptagat to Eldoret around 11 pm (2000 GMT) on Sunday when the car rolled, killing the young sensation and his Rwandan coach.

Kiptum started training around 2013 itself when he was about 13 years old. Five years later, he recorded his first win, taking the Family Bank Eldoret Half Marathon with a time of 62:01. By the time 2019 came to an end, Kiptum had won a half-marathon in France



and finished second in a 10k in the Netherlands. He finally stepped into the full marathon races about two years later and won his first marathon in Valencia in December 2022 with a timing of 2:01:53, the third-fastest in history.

"It was the start of the marathon journey, and I

was so happy. My target in Valencia was to run 2:04, 2:05... then I ran 2:01. But looking back before Valencia I had had some of my best training for the marathon with some good long runs," Kiptum told Olympics.com in October last year, just before he made heads turn around

the world with his record-breaking run in Chicago. London was his next marathon and he improved his timing to 2:01:25.

With that, the chances of him running a marathon in under two hours started looking like a real possibility and in

order to work towards that goal before the next big marathon in Chicago, Kiptum made himself unavailable for the 2023 Athletics World Championships. He may not have ended up breaking the 2-hour barrier but he came closer than anyone before, including the iconic Kipchoge, by run-

ning Chicago Marathon in 2:00:35. He had done it at the age of 23 running just his third marathon.

That race revealed his trademark approach to marathons, running with the pack for the first 30kms and then upping the pace and racing off alone for the remainder of the race. He had used the same tactics to win in London as well in Chicago, it helped him go a whopping 34 seconds clear of Kipchoge's world record.

Kiptum's shadow will linger on the runners when they take off during the men's marathon in the Paris Olympics.

The 24-year-old may have given the Worlds a miss but Paris 2024 was very much in his crosshairs. "If I get a chance to be selected by the selectors, I'll be thankful and I'll go there and try to win a medal," Kiptum had said.

That was before the run in Chicago. After that, he was the outright favourite going into the Paris Olympics, with expectations being that he would break the 2-hour barrier at the Games.

As fate would have it though, Chicago was also the last time the world got to see him race.

Sebastien Haller Hits Winner As Ivory Coast Beat Nigeria To Take AFCON Title



Sebastien Haller scored a dramatic late winner as hosts Ivory Coast fought back to beat Victor Osimhen's Nigeria 2-1 in Sunday's Africa Cup of Nations final and complete the most remarkable of major tournament turnarounds by claiming their third continental title. Nigeria looked set to repeat their 1-0 victory over the Ivorians here at the Ebimpe Olympic Stadium during the group stage when captain William Troost-Ekong -- who had netted a penalty to decide that first meeting -- rose to head in the opener late in the first half. However, Franck Kessie equalised just after the hour mark and Haller turned in Simon Adingra's cross in the 81st minute to spark wild celebrations among the sea of orange in the Abidjan stands.

Ivory Coast's success sees them add this year's title to those claimed in 1992 and 2015, while this win also allows them to join Nigeria on three Cup of Nations triumphs overall. Spearheaded by reigning African player of the year Osimhen, the Nigerians had looked the most formidable team in the competition over the last month.

But Ivory Coast's sense of destiny was simply too overpowering, as they became the first host country to win the AFCON since 2006. Didier Drogba captained the Elephants team that lost on penalties to Egypt in Cairo in that final 18 years ago, while this time he was among the spectators to witness a stunning victory for his country. "It is greater than a fairytale," said coach Emere Fae, who took over a stricken team mid-tournament.

"I am struggling to take it all in. When I think about all we have been through, the difficult moments, moments when we were behind, when we came back in the last minute of games.

"We are miracle survivors."

Back from the brink

It is an incredible achievement for a side that was on the brink of elimination in the group stage after losing 4-0 to Equatorial Guinea on January 22.

From 'football' to Taylor Swift with a half-time show in between: Everything you need to know about Super Bowl LVIII



The Super Bowl is often used as a benchmark in the USA for talking about how big an event is that is being broadcast and live streamed. This includes a number of occasions where Americans have often responded with disbelief when they hear that the viewership that come from an India vs Pakistan match in a cricket World Cup dwarfs the numbers that come from a Super Bowl. There is good reason for that though - few live events surpass the Super Bowl in terms of viewership. The viewership figures of the last two Super Bowls was 101 million and 113 million. This year, the two teams at the centre of it all will be defending champions Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers. Here we give you a run down on

everything you need to know about this mega event.

What is the Super Bowl? The Super Bowl is the term that is used to refer to the match that decides the champion of the National Football League (NFL) i.e., it is the final of an NFL season. However, this is not the football that the rest of the world knows and is instead a sport that is called American football outside of the USA and Canada. The difference between the American version to the one that is popular around the world is significant, with the ball looking closer to a rugby ball and being largely nestled in players' hands. The match was created in 1966 as part of a merger agreement between the NFL and the competing American Football League to have

the best teams of their respective leagues to compete each other for a championship title.

Originally called the AFL-NFL World Championship Game, the term "Super Bowl" has been used since the 1969 final was called Super Bowl III. Roman numerals are used to mark each match and this year's game is Super Bowl LVIII (Super Bowl 58). The merger of the two leagues was completed in 1970 with the "National Football League" name and trademark being continued after which 10 AFL teams and 3 of the NFL teams formed the American Football Conference (AFC), while the remaining 13 NFL teams formed the National Football Conference (NFC). All games since 1971's Super Bowl V have been played between the best team from each of the two conferences, with the NFC leading the AFC 27-26 in wins. The team that wins the Super Bowl is awarded the iconic Vince Lombardi Trophy, named after the NFL coach of the same name who led the Green Bay Packers to victories in the first two Super Bowl games.

Will Gautam Gambhir Respond? Mohammad Kaif Reignites World Cup 2023 Debate With U19 Team Post



Former Indian batter Mohammad Kaif on Sunday praised Australia for their win over India in the ICC U19 World Cup final at Benoni, saying that this time Aussies were a better team both "on the pitch and on paper". Australia broke their winless streak against India in the U19 title clash as its pace attack helped defend 254 against Men in Blue, winning their first title since 2010 and overall their fourth title on Sunday. Kaif took to X (formerly Twitter) and wrote that results do not matter much at the U19 level, but rather future stars learn lessons that help them in their long journey. He also congratulated India for their performances in the tournament. "At the U-19 level team results don't matter much. Future stars learn lessons that help them in long journey.. Well played India. This time have to say Australia good on pitch, and on

#U19WorldCup2024," said Kaif.

Recapping the match, while chasing a target of 254, two maiden overs from Australia foreshadowed the chain of events that were about to unfold in the next 43.5 overs. Arshin Kulkarni and Musheer Khan were the two casualties in the first powerplay, which handed Australia early control in the final.

During the run chase of 254, Mahli Beardman dismissed India's skipper Uday Saharan in single digits for the first time in the tournament, which indicated that the chase was not going to be a walk in the park for the Indian team.

Adarsh Singh (47) and Murugan Abhishek (42) waged a battle during their time on the crease; however, it wasn't enough to get India across the finishing line. Besides Beardman, Raf MacMillan also took 3/43 while Calium Vidler took 2/35.

Arsenal hammer West Ham 6-0, Manchester United ignite Champions League hopes with 2-1 win at Villa

A record win for Arsenal. An absolutely critical one for Manchester United.

After Arsenal hammered West Ham 6-0 Sunday for its biggest ever Premier League away victory, United beat Aston Villa 2-1 in a huge result in the race for Champions League qualification.

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Arsenal might be in its best form so far this season. Last weekend, Mikel Arteta's team was handing league leader Liverpool only its second loss to tighten up the title race and here it was running amok inside the Olympic Stadium, which rapidly emptied after West Ham fell 4-0 behind just before halftime.

Bukayo Saka scored twice and Declan Rice — a former West Ham favorite — added the sixth goal almost apologetically.

Arsenal joined Manchester City just two points behind Liverpool. All three of the big title contenders won this weekend.

United's aspirations are simply to finish in the top four — or five — to get back into the Champions League and that would



have been a long shot had the visitors lost at Villa Park.

Instead, there's only five points — rather than 11 — between United in sixth and Villa in fifth after Scott McTominay headed in an 86th-minute winner to earn his team a third straight league victory. Rasmus Hojlund opened the scoring for United and has now netted in five straight league matches. Disgruntled West Ham's fans streamed out of their ground in their hundreds prior to the halftime whistle, well before their former star player condemned the team to its joint-heaviest loss of all time. It just had to be Rice running onto the ball and curling a long-range strike into the top corner to put the seal on an almost embarrassingly easy win for Arsenal.

Rice used to be West Ham's best player, with his relentless energy, lung-busting runs and covering tackles. Now here he was, playing a big part in a clinic by Arsenal, with the home supporters' booing of his every touch maybe spurring him on.

Rice's set-piece deliveries set up first-half goals for William Saliba and Gabriel Magalhães, with Saka and Leandro Trossard also scoring before the break. After Saka's second, Rice scored and didn't even celebrate, holding up both of his hands apologetically instead. He was even applauded by some home supporters when he was substituted moments later. Signed in July for 105 million pounds (then \$138 million), it is looking like money well spent by Arsenal.

Serie A: In-Form AC Milan Make Sure Napoli's Troubles Continue



AC Milan continued their pursuit of Serie A leaders Inter Milan on Sunday by beating Napoli 1-0 and dealing another huge blow to the troubled champions. Theo Hernandez scored the only goal of an engrossing game in the 25th minute at the San Siro, rolling home the winner after collecting a brilliant Rafael Leao pass. Milan stay eight points behind local rivals Inter in third after stretching their unbeaten league streak to nine matches, of which they have won seven. "We've done really well in the last month or so, we're almost going at Inter's pace, and they're having an incredible season," said Milan coach Stefano Pioli.

"Theo has a great understanding with Leao on the left, they know each other so well that they can always find each other."

While Inter may prove too tough to catch, Milan's recent good form has solidified their spot in the division's Champions League spots.

Milan are 13 points ahead of Bologna -- who thumped Lecce 4-0 and took fifth place from Roma -- and are almost certain to grab a spot in Europe's top club competition. The same cannot be said for Napoli as Walter Mazzarri's side are languishing in ninth, seven points from the top four, after their eighth defeat of a dismal title defence.

Napoli are a whopping 25 points behind Inter with the pair having played 23 matches, but more importantly are at serious risk of missing out on the Champions League.

Southern Italy's biggest club, who romped to the Scudetto last term, have lost more league matches than they have won since Mazzarri took over from the sacked Rudi Garcia in November. "I think it (the Champions League) is possible. You saw today the level that we can get to. We've had everything thrown at us recently with injuries and we're getting big players back.

Super Bowl 2024: Chiefs beat 49ers 25-22 in overtime to seal legacy

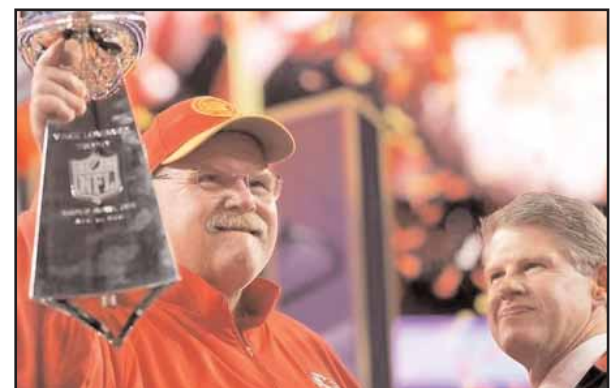
Patrick Mahomes threw a touchdown pass to Mecole Hardman to give the Kansas City Chiefs a 25-22 overtime win over the San Francisco 49ers in a Sin City Super Bowl thriller on Sunday, cementing their status as the latest NFL dynasty.

The blockbuster finish was worthy of the biggest show on the Strip as the Chiefs won a third Super Bowl in five years and became the NFL's first repeat champion since the New England Patriots in February 2005.

After 49ers rookie kicker Jake Moody had booted a field goal to open overtime, Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes marched down the field and finished the game with a three-yard touchdown pass to Hardman.

It was more heartbreak for Niners fans, who were looking to celebrate a record equalling sixth Super Bowl win but were once again denied by the Chiefs.

The Chiefs also sent the 49ers home empty handed in 2020 when they scored 21 unanswered points in the fourth quarter for a 31-20



Super Bowl victory in Miami.

After a glitzy week of high-octane partying and obsessing over whether pop superstar Taylor Swift would make it back from Tokyo in time to watch boyfriend - Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce - play, the spotlight turned to the action on the field.

San Francisco dominated the opening half where the highlight for Chiefs supporters was Swift chugging down a drink and slamming down the cup as Niners fans booed.

Neither team were able to find their stride in a scoreless first quarter where both quarterbacks turned to the ground game.

The 49ers took charge in the second, opening up a 10-0 lead on a Super Bowl record field goal and bit of 'razzledazzle'.

Moody nailed a 55-yarder before San Francisco coach Kyle Shanahan reached into his bag of tricks with a play that saw receiver Jauan Jennings, a former high school quarterback, throwing the ball across field to running back Christian McCaffrey, who scampered 21 yards for the score.

Kansas City got on the scoreboard just before the end of the half with kicker Harrison Butker chipping a 28-yard field goal to send the Chiefs into the break trailing 10-3.

MISSED CONVERSION

The misfiring Chiefs then sputtered out of the break when Mahomes was intercepted by Ji'Ayir Brown, turning the ball over on their own 44.

The Chiefs' play remained scrappy but their determination did not waver and Butker booted a Super Bowl record 57-yard field goal to trim the Niners' lead to 10-6.

Just before the end of the third quarter the Chiefs got the break they had been waiting for - a punt brushing off the leg of Niners' Ray-Ray McCloud and the Chiefs recovered.

Mahomes quickly made! San Francisco pay for the error, hitting Marquez Valdes-Scantling with a 16-yard touchdown to take the lead for the first time at 13-10.

San Francisco answered with a clinical 12 play, 75-yard drive that was capped by a 16-yard touchdown pass from Brock Purdy to Jennings to put the 49ers up 16-13.

But Moody then missed the extra point to leave the Chiefs needing only a field goal to tie the contest.

"Avesh Khan Didn't Do Anything Wrong": Ex India Star Baffled By Surprising Squad Change



Former India batter Akash Chopra has questioned pacer Avesh Khan's absence from the squad for the remaining three Tests against England. The BCCI announced Team India's squad for the Tests in Rajkot, Ranchi and Dharamsala, respectively, on Saturday. Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer were notable absentees from the squad while KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja returned to the side after missing the second Test due to injuries. However, Rahul and Jadeja's participation will depend on BCCI's medical team's fitness clearance.

Bengal pacer Akash Deep earned his maiden call-up, replacing Avesh Khan in the squad.

Chopra said that while he is very happy for Akash Deep, Avesh's ouster from the squad was "slightly surprising". "Another story is that Akash Deep has come.

So the question is where did Avesh go because Avesh Khan was a part of this team. I saw him bowling with full effort in Vizag. Now suddenly he is not part of this Test team. So it is slightly surprising. It's been heard that the team management has liked Akash Deep a lot because of how he bowled in the nets. He has done well for India A. So very happy for him but Avesh didn't do anything wrong." Chopra said on his YouTube channel. The cricketer-turned-commentator added that Avesh's exclusion isn't justified as the management didn't give him the chance to feature. "If you drop someone who hasn't done anything wrong, it leaves a sour taste in the mouth because you didn't give him an opportunity. If you drop someone without giving him a chance, that may not be the right thing to do," he added.