

Arsenal Eye Champions League Charge With Revamped Attack

Paris Saint-Germain starts the defense of its Champions League title on Wednesday when the six-game program includes two rematches of past finals. Liverpool also opens its campaign, against Atletico Madrid at Anfield, while two of the four newcomers in this season's edition make their debuts on the road. PSG resumes against more Italian opposition, hosting Atalanta at Parc des Princes for its first game in the competition since demolishing Inter Milan 5-0 in Munich. That was three-time European champion Inter's fourth loss in a final. The second defeat, in 1972, was against Ajax which now hosts Inter in Amsterdam. Both Ajax's John Heitinga and Inter's Cristian Chivu will be coaching their first career games in the Champions League



with teams they once played for in the competition. Bayern Munich hosts Chelsea in the stadium where the English club won the first of its two Champions League titles in 2012 against the German side. Both early games Wednesday feature debut-making teams who earned a rare entry on the biggest

ESPN re-signs Herm Edwards, Jeff Saturday, Andrew 'Hawk' Hawkins and Jason McCourty



ESPN, on Saturday, signed a new agreement with four of its veteran reporters- Herm Edwards, Jeff Saturday, Andrew "Hawk" Hawkins, and Jason McCourty. All four will continue their spot on Get Up, First Take, NFL Live, and SportsCenter. They will also have the flexibility to carry forward their endeavors on other platforms.

"ESPN has re-signed Herm Edwards, Jeff Saturday, Andrew "Hawk" Hawkins, and Jason McCourty to new multi-year agreements. Each of the four analysts will continue to appear on Get Up, First Take, NFL Live, and SportsCenter throughout the year," ESPN's Adam Schechter posted on his official social media handle.

As per ESPN Press Room, Edwards' commentary on college football and top NFL prospects comes from his 25 years of experience coaching for and playing in the league. He will be a regular feature on the morning and late-night editions of ESPN's Sunday NFL coverage on SportsCenter, along with Sunday appearances on ABC's Good Morning America.

Saturday will continue to feature on Tuesdays and Wednesdays' Get Up, First Take, SportsCenter, NFL Live, and Pardon the Interruption. During his tenure at the company, he had been a part of covering multiple notable NFL events such as the Super Bowl, NFL Free Agency, and NFL draft. This extends his association with the network to more than a decade.

Hawkins will appear on NFL Live and Get Up on Wednesdays and Thursdays, alongside additional appearances on First Take and SportsCenter. Last season, he introduced a virtual reality segment on NFL Live using StatusPro, which provides audiences a vantage point of a quarterback's perspective during game action.

Having won Super Bowl LIII with the New England Patriots, McCourty is now entering his second year with the network, with regular appearances on Tuesdays and Thursdays on Get Up, First Take, NFL Live, and SportsCenter.

Dodgers' bullpen blows another lead against Phillies



LOS ANGELES — The silence in the Los Angeles Dodgers clubhouse was deafening. The few players left quietly dressed and departed after another tough loss to the Philadelphia Phillies. After Shohei Ohtani pitched five hitless innings, Philadelphia's Rafael Marchon hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer off Blake Treinen with two outs in the ninth inning for a 9-6 win on Tuesday night. The Phillies clinched the NL East title with a 6-5 win in 10 innings on Monday night. Twelve of the Dodgers' last 19 losses have been charged to relievers and they are 6-14 in their past 20 games decided by one run. "They're lacking confidence," manager Dave Roberts said. "They're not making good pitches when

they need to, a little careful at times." Roberts maintains he hasn't lost confidence in the group that includes veterans Treinen, Tanner Scott, Kirby Yates and Michael Kopech, along with youngsters Jack Dreyer and Emmet Sheehan.

"I know it's frustrating to the fans," Treinen said. "I can promise you from the bottom of our hearts we're trying our damndest every single night. There's nothing we haven't done, there's no stone we haven't returned. It's not an effort thing, it's not a preparation thing. It is literally just sometimes things aren't working." Dreyer and Justin Wroblewski had been pitching well lately, until the Phillies came to town. Dreyer gave up two runs and two hits in one inning of

Monday's loss.

The crowd of 44,063 groaned when Wroblewski came onto the field, knowing Ohtani was done. They booed heavily as the 25-year-old left-hander got shelled for five straight hits, including a three-run homer, in blowing a 4-0 lead.

"My job is to go out there and put up zeroes and I did not do that," Wroblewski said. "Life is about how you handle adversity and I've dealt with a lot of that, so I know what I need to do. I know that being better is the bottom line and I know I can do it."

Time is running out.

The Dodgers lead second-place San Diego in the NL West by two games after the Padres also lost, 8-3 at the New York Mets. The Dodgers dropped seven games behind the Phillies for the No. 2 seed in the National League with 11 games remaining in the regular season.

As dreadful as the bullpen has been, Dodgers starters have been terrific lately. In eight of the last 11 games, they've allowed one or fewer hits in the first five innings.

Cam Newton slams Shedeur Sanders over refusal to play alongside Lamar Jackson: 'I think...'



The Cleveland Browns have had a rough start to this season. Add to that major quarterback drama surrounding hopes of replacing Joe Flacco with Dillon Gabriel as the starting quarterback for Week 2 and a tense Shedeur Sanders, who hasn't got the coach's favor.

Amid his struggles at Cleveland, it has been revealed that the Baltimore Ravens were ready to draft Shedeur Sander - but he refused.

The reason: He didn't want to be on the same team as Lamar Jackson. As per NFL insider Adam Schechter, the Ravens were ready to take Sanders under their wing if only he weren't resistant to being on the same team as Lamar Jackson - but he refused.

"Ravens planned to take Shedeur Sanders in the fifth round, but before Baltimore could turn in the card, the former Colorado star let it be known that he didn't want to be on a roster with Lamar Jackson, where he would be a backup," Schechter posted on X.

Former Carolina Panthers quarterback Cameron Newton weighed in on Sanders's comment during a recent televised appearance by pointing out the benefits of having Jackson on your team.

"I think if I'm Shedeur, you would ideally want to learn behind a guy like Lamar [Jackson]. Not a lot of players can really cope with your star power and stardom, and let's really give credit where credit's due. At 28 years old, being a phenomenal athlete," Newton said during an interview.

"The thing that I respect in a guy like Lamar Jackson the most is that we've never heard of him having any off-the-field issues."

Diksha Dagar To Lead Country's Challenge At Women's Indian Open

Seasoned golfer Diksha Dagar will spearhead the country's challenge at the 17th Women's Indian Open to be played from October 9 to 12 with an enhanced prize purse of USD 500,000. The DLF Golf and Country Club is set to host the event for the 15th time. The winner will earn USD 75,000. Since its inception in 2007, the tournament has showcased the rise of Indian women golfers on the global stage. While Aditi Ashok remains the only Indian to have won the tournament in 2016, recent years have seen multiple Indian players making strong bids for the title, including Amandeep Drall, who was runners-up in 2022, and Diksha, who finished third in 2023.

"Since 2010, we have proudly supported this tournament and helped strengthen women's golf in India and beyond. This year, with a prize purse of USD 500,000, we aim to attract top international talent to the tournament and to inspire more women to take up the sport," Sanjay Bhan, Executive Vice President, MotoCorp said.



Almost all the top Indian women golfers will be participating in the tournament and they will face strong challenge from the international players.

More than half a dozen Indian women have been playing regularly on the Ladies European Tour.

The early entries include defending champion Liz Young of England and the current 2025 Order of Merit leader, Mimi Rhodes, who is showing noticeable talent even while being in her rookie year. Past LET Order of Merit winners, Switzerland's Chiara Tamburlini (2024) and Thailand's Trichat Cheenglab (2023), are also participating. Recent winners like Alice Hewson of England, Shannon Tan of Singapore, Darcey Hall and Sara Kouskova have also sent their entries. The last date for entries is still open and more confirmations are expected in the weeks leading up to the tournament.

The practice rounds will be held on October 7 and 8 and the first round will be held on October 9 and finish on October 12.

Neeraj Chopra Qualifies For World Championships Finals With 84.85m Throw



Defending champion Neeraj Chopra stormed into the men's javelin throw final of the World Championships in style after clearing the automatic qualification mark of 84.50m in his very first throw in Tokyo, Japan on Wednesday. The 27-year-old sent Olympic-medallist time his spear to 84.85m in his first throw in the Group A of the qualification round. In fact, Chopra was the first thrower and he packed up after making it to the final. Those who touch the automatic qualifying mark of 84.50m or the best 12 finishers will make the final round to be held on Thursday.

Chopra has been clubbed with German star Julian Weber, who also qualified with a throw of 87.21m, Keshorn Walcott, Jakub Vadlejch and Sachin Yadav in the 19-man Group A qualification round on Wednesday.

The 18-strong Group B will feature Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem, Anderson Peters, Julius

Yego, Luiz Da Silva, Rohit Yadav, Yashvir Singh, and rising Sri Lankan Ramesh Tharanga Pathiranga among others.

In the last edition in Budapest, Chopra had thrown 88.17m to win the gold, while Nadeem (87.82m) and Vadlejch (86.67m) had pocketed silver and bronze respectively.

Chopra will aim to become the third male javelin thrower in history to defend the World Championships gold. Czech legend Jan Zelezny (1993, 1995), who is now Chopra's coach, and Peters (2019, 2022) are the other two who have won the world championships crown on two consecutive occasions.

Chopra is set to face Nadeem for the first time after the 2024 Paris Olympics, giving him a chance to avenge his second-place finish in the French capital. Nadeem had won gold in Paris with a monster throw of 92.97m while Chopra had a best of 89.45m that night.

Would have quit trying at Worlds if I didn't win medal at Liverpool: Pooja Rani

New Delhi, Seasoned boxer Pooja Rani had decided that if her fourth appearance at the World Boxing Championship ended without a medal, she would not give it another shot.

But as luck would have it, the Bhiwani boxer can dream again. The 34-year-old Tokyo Olympian finally stood on the coveted World Championship podium in the 80kg category in Liverpool.

"Even this time I had told myself, if I don't win, I won't try again," Pooja told agency.

"I always give my 100 per cent, so losing feels disheartening. But I trained full tilt for the last four-five months, and I'm glad it has paid off. I had been in proper training since the Nationals in March."

Her breakthrough came with a gritty quarterfinal win over Poland's Emilia Kotereska. The four-time Asian Championships medallist eventually bowed out in the semifinals, losing to local favourite Emily



Asquith, but walked away with a well-deserved bronze.

"I'm so happy. This was my fourth World Championship, and the first time I've won a medal. It feels special," she said with a smile.

Pooja's career has been a story of resilience. A shoulder injury some years ago and burnt hands just before a major tournament threatened to derail her career but the 2014 Asian Games bronze-medallist always fought back.

She had been in peak form ahead of the Tokyo Olympics, winning consec-

utive Asian Championships titles in 2019 and 2021. But Tokyo ended in heartbreak with a quarterfinal exit in the 75kg division.

Life threw further challenges her way as she lost her father in 2022, and although she competed at the Worlds that May, she decided to take a break soon after.

In early 2023, she got married, before returning to the ring later that year to claim the national title.

But opportunities were scarce, with Olympic bronze-medallist Lovlina Borgohain already securing the 75kg qualification slot for the Paris Games.

"After Tokyo, I was shattered. I felt I had given everything. That's when I thought, 'Enough, I'll rest for a bit now.' I've been boxing since 2009. I took some time off, just enjoyed myself."

"But the break stretched longer than I had planned. Looking back, I feel I wasted a couple of years of my life. If I had kept training, things could have been different," Pooja, who has spent the last one year shuffling between 75kg and 80 kg categories, reflected.

Pooja has made a rousing start to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics cycle.

She stood on the podium at both international events! she entered this year, winning silver at the Kazakhstan World Cup in July in the 80kg division, a non-Olympic weight class.

With the 2028 Games in mind, the Bhiwani boxer is already considering a switch. "I'm still thinking of moving down to 70kg," she revealed.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty Pair Enters Last-16 At China Masters; Lakshya Sen Bows Out



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the men's doubles pre-quarterfinals with a straight-game win but India's challenge in the men's singles competition ended with Lakshya Sen's first-round ouster from the China Masters badminton tournament on Wednesday.

Satwik and Chirag, who finished runners-up in last week's Hong Kong Open, eked out a 24-22 21-13 victory over Malaysia's Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap in 42 minutes, keeping their all-win head-to-head record against them intact.

However, Lakshya, who also finished second last week, lost 11-21 10-21 to Toma Junior Popov in a 30-minute contest to bring the curtains down on India's men's singles challenge after Ayush Shetty's defeat in his opening match.

The mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto also made their exit after going down to second-seeded local favourites Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping 19-21 13-21.

Satwik and Chirag were tested a bit in the opening game which went neck and neck till the end but the Indian duo edged past eventually to seal it in 21 minutes. They took an early lead in the second game but Arif and Yap clawed back to make 5-5. However, the Indians were in no mood to let them fight back and established an 11-6 advantage which the Malaysians could not surpass.

In the women's singles event, P V Sindhu had won her opening match on Monday to make the pre-quarterfinals.