



Partizan's Nikola Jankovic (R) vies with Alba's Bennet Hundt during the Top 16 round 2 Eurocup basketball match between Partizan and Alba in Belgrade, Serbia on Jan. 9, 2019. Partizan won 78-66.



Hassan Maatouk (R) of Lebanon competes during the Group E match between Qatar and Lebanon of the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019 in Al Ain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on Jan. 9, 2019. Qatar won 2-0.

## Gabriel Jesus hits four as Manchester City crush Burton 9-0 in League Cup semi-final

MANCHESTER, Jan 10

Gabriel Jesus scored four as defending champions Manchester City destroyed League One (third tier) Burton Albion 9-0 in their League Cup semi-final first leg to all but formally book their place in the final.



Manchester City players celebrate after Gabriel Jesus scores during the match.

Burton, managed by Nigel Clough, the son of former Nottingham Forest manager Brian, must endure another 90 minutes at their own ground on Jan. 23.

City are set to face the winners of the other semi-final between Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur, which Spurs lead 1-0 from the first-leg.

City manager Pep Guardiola fielded a strong starting line-up and his side quickly established their dominance with Kevin De Bruyne steering in a header from David Silva to open the scoring in the fifth minute.

It was 4-0 by halftime after two goals from Jesus and a long-range lob from Aleksandr Zinchenko and City showed no mercy after the break. Jesus added two more and substitute Phil Foden, Kyle Walker and Riyad Mahrez also found the net.

The result was the largest

ever margin of defeat in the semi-final of the competition.

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said his team's merciless approach in the destruction of Burton Albion was a form of respect for their opponents and the competition.

"If you forget to continue (attacking) you don't have respect for your opponent or for the competition," said Guardiola.

"We spoke about it at halftime, to play simply and try to score more goals. That is the best way to respect the competition and opponent. The best way is to do what you have to do," he said.

"The difference between the Premier League teams and League One teams, of course the quality of the players no doubt about that, but especially the rhythm. When you

have that high intensity and rhythm for 90 minutes, in the end they go down," he added.

Guardiola spoke with some Burton players on the field after the game and praised the club's achievement in reaching the last four, a run which saw them beat Premier League Burnley, Championship Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough.

"Burton have had an incredible tournament. They have to be so proud, they did so well," said the Spaniard.

Burton boss Nigel Clough, son of Nottingham Forest's former European Cup winning manager Brian Clough, said he was not surprised at the outcome.

"We didn't expect anything less with the gulf between the two teams, we thought it could have been more. We didn't do too much

wrong, two or three of the goals we could have done more but we didn't do too badly," he said.

"It is not very pleasant when you are losing by that scoreline but it was nothing more than we expected. The only thing we can make the players aware of is the runs their players make, and making them aware and stopping them are two different things."

Asked if he wished that his team had not had to face such an opponent, Clough said it was important to remember Burton's entire campaign.

"Do I wish we hadn't played? Not at all, we have made history in getting this far," he said.

"It wasn't about tonight it was about the achievement of getting here. We kept going right to the end, they were shouting 'we want 10' and we stopped them, that's a positive for us. Some of the youngsters have had an experience that you can't buy."

"It's not nice when the goals are going in and you can do nothing to stop it. Pep said come in for a glass of wine and I hope he's got more than a glass. They are capable of doing that to Premier League teams," he said. Reuters

## Real Madrid avert upset, beats Leganes 3-0

MADRID, Jan 10

Real Madrid avoided the upset this time, beating Leganes 3-0 on Wednesday to move closer to the last eight of the Copa del Rey. After being eliminated by Leganes in the competition's quarterfinals last season, Real Madrid cruised to a first-leg victory at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Sergio Ramos netted his 100th career goal to put Madrid ahead, and Lucas Vazquez and Vinicius Junior added to the lead.

"It's a great result, having scored the three goals and not conceding any," Real Madrid defender Nacho Fernandez said. "But we know anything can happen, we saw what they did to us last year."

Leganes had stunned its Madrid neighbor with a win at the Bernabeu nearly a year ago, but now it will need an even greater feat next week at home to pull off another shocker.

"We have to be realistic, it's going to be very difficult now," Leganes midfielder Ruben Perez said. "But we will fight until the end."

The victory eased some of the pressure on Santiago



Real Madrid players celebrate after Sergio Ramos scores during the match.

Solari's team, which had not won a game in 2019. Madrid was coming off a 2-2 draw at Villarreal and a 2-0 home loss to Real Sociedad in the Spanish league, where it trails leader Barcelona by 10 points.

In front of a small crowd at the Bernabeu, Leganes had the better chances to open the scoring before Ramos broke the deadlock by converting a 44th-minute penalty, that was awarded after right back Alvaro Odriozola was brought down inside the area.

Vazquez scored the second in the 68th after a pass by Vinicius Junior, who 11 minutes later sealed the victory with a neat volley after a cross by Odriozola.

Leganes' main threat came from former Middlesbrough striker Martin Braithwaite, who was making his debut with the Spanish club. Ramos, Casemiro and Karim Benzema were the only regular starters in Madrid's starting lineup.

Young winger Brahim Diaz entered the match in the second half after being signed from Manchester City on Sunday.

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois wasn't in the squad after being diagnosed with a muscle injury that is expected to keep him sidelined for about 10 days.

Leganes couldn't use goalkeeper Andriy Lunin and young midfielder Oscar

Rodriguez because they are with the club on a loan from Madrid.

Despite playing with Antoine Griezmann for nearly an hour, Atletico Madrid couldn't manage more than a 1-1 draw at Girona. Griezmann opened the scoring less than 10 minutes into the match but Anthony Lozano equalized for the hosts in the 34th.

"Both teams had chances of winning this match," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said. Simeone wasn't on the bench because he was serving the last of a three-game suspension for a rant during a Copa match against Sevilla last season.

The teams had drawn by the same score in their league match in Girona earlier this season. The second leg is next Wednesday at Wanda Metropolitano Stadium in Madrid. In their first-leg matches, Getafe defeated visiting Valladolid 1-0 with a stoppage-time goal by Angel Rodriguez, while Villarreal scored twice in the last 10 minutes to salvage a 2-2 home draw against Espanyol. On Thursday, four-time defending champion Barcelona visits Levante. AP

## ICC announces amnesty to report corruption in Sri Lankan cricket

REUTERS

Jan 10: Sri Lankan cricketers have been granted a 15-day amnesty to report previously undisclosed information relating to corruption in the sport, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Wednesday.

The amnesty will apply to all participants under both the ICC and Sri Lankan Cricket (SLC) anti-corruption codes who have previously failed to report information relating to wrongdoing.

Players can be suspended for failing to pass on information about corruption but anything reported between Jan. 16-31 will not attract a charge, the ICC said in a statement.

Failure to do so, however, could result in a ban from cricket for up to five years.

The move comes in the wake of a series of corruption cases involving former Sri Lanka internationals and administrators.

"This is the first time the ICC has held an amnesty and it is in response to the very specific challenges we face in Sri Lanka," the general manager of the ICC's anti-corruption unit Alex Marshall said.

"Allowing retrospective reporting of alleged approaches to engage in corrupt conduct will assist in our ongoing and wide-ranging investigations, as well as enabling us to continue to develop a comprehensive picture of the situation there."

Following a meeting in Dubai last month, Sri Lanka's sports minister Harin Fernando said the ICC had ranked the country's cricket administration "corrupt from top to bottom".

Former captain and selector Sanath Jayasuriya was charged in October by the ICC for refusing to cooperate with ICC's anti-corruption unit. He denied any wrongdoing. Former Sri Lanka bowler Dilhara Lokuhettige was charged last year for violating the anti-corruption code relating to a 10-over league in the United Arab Emirates, while the country's former pacesman and bowling coach Nuwan Zoysa was provisionally suspended by SLC over match-fixing accusations.

Neither Lokuhettige nor Zoysa has responded publicly to the charges against them.

## Barty beats Mertens in straight sets to grab semifinal spot



SYDNEY, Jan 10

Australia's Ashleigh Barty defeated Belgium's world No. 12 Elise Mertens 6-3, 6-3 on Thursday to reach the last four in the Sydney International tournament for a second year in a row.

Her quarterfinal win comes just one day after she registered the biggest win of her career against world No. 1 Simona Halep on Wednesday, reports Efe news.

The Australian world No. 15 got off to a slow start with some unforced errors that gave Mertens an advantage although she was back in the game by the middle of the first set.

Barty created two break chances in the second set and dominated the set, finally finishing off the game in straight sets

after an hour and 17 minutes on court. "It was nice and solid today. I was pretty happy with the way I was able to come out here and play," Barty said on court.

"For us, it's mostly been about how I try and play my game and not get too sucked into playing the way they (opponents) want me to play. It's important for me to serve well and look for forehands and try and be dominant from that first shot," Barty said after the match.

Barty opened 2019 winning five of her six singles matches; two at the Hopman Cup and all three of her Sydney International matches in straight sets.

The 2018 Sydney finalist will play against either Kiki Bertens or Yulia Putintseva in the last four. LANS

## Uzbekistan earn hard fought 2-1 win over Oman in Asian Cup

SHARJAH, Jan 10

Uzbekistan topped Oman 2-1 at the 2019 AFC Asian Cup Group F contest held at Sharjah Stadium here on Wednesday.

Uzbekistan midfielder Odil Ahmedov scored in the 34th minute with a free-kick that sent the ball to the goal's bottom right corner, securing a 1-0 lead for his side before half-time, reports Efe news.

After the break, Oman's substitute forward Muhsen Al Ghassani drew his side level in the 72nd minute on a left-footed shot seizing on an assist by teammate Ali Al-Busaidi. Then in the closing minutes, forward Eldor Shomurodov netted Uzbekistan's 2-1 winner, just two minutes after entering the pitch, on a left-footed shot from inside the box, off a pass from Ikromjon Alibaev following a fast counterattack.

Uzbekistan defender Egor Krimets was sent off the pitch after committing a red card-worthy foul in the second minute of injury time, but his side maintained the advantage till the final whistle.

With the win, Uzbekistan holds the table's second spot with three points, on goal differential behind leader Japan, who defeated Turkmenistan 3-2 earlier on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Oman fell to the fourth and last place with no points, also on goal differential behind third-placed Turkmenistan. LANS

## Schwartzman in Sydney International semis



SYDNEY, Jan 10

Argentina's Diego Schwartzman knocked out Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 from the Sydney

International men's singles quarterfinals on Thursday.

The third-seeded 26-year-old Argentine defeated Nishioka in a tense three-setter, reports Efe news.

Schwartzman won the opening set 6-1, with Nishioka making a big comeback in the second set, taking it 6-3.

The Argentine, who played his first match of the tournament on Wednesday, defeating Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-2, 6-3, took the third set 7-6 after a tie-break.

Nishioka had knocked out Andrey Rublev in straight sets to make it to the quarterfinals.

The Sydney International is hosting some of the world's biggest tennis stars prior to the first Grand Slam of the year, the Australian Open, which will run from January 14 to 27. LANS

## Golf - \$1 million prize up for grabs for LPGA players at Risk Reward Challenge

REUTERS

Jan 10: The \$1 million prize that will be awarded to the winner of the 2019 Aon Risk Reward Challenge will be extremely significant for the women's tour, LPGA commissioner Mike Whan said on Wednesday.

While 114 players on the PGA Tour earned more than \$1 million in official prize money last year, only 14 LPGA players did likewise on the American-based women's circuit.

The figure illustrates the financial disparity that exists between the two tours, and

hence the money on offer at the Risk Reward Challenge is more likely to interest LPGA players rather than their male counterparts on the PGA Tour.

"One-million dollars is more than the winner received at the U.S. Women's Open last year," Whan told Reuters on Wednesday as details of the challenge were unveiled.

One hole will be designated at 29 LPGA events for the contest, with a player's best two scores counting at each tournament.

The PGA Tour will use the same format at 36 events and will unveil the chosen holes later this month.

The player with the lowest scoring average on each tour, in relation to par, at the end of the season will receive \$1 mil-

lion, for a total payout of \$2 million.

"The line-up includes a wonderful mix of par-three, par-four and par-five holes, all with their own unique elements and challenges," said Heather Daly-Donofrio, the LPGA's chief tour operations officer.

"We are excited to bring these holes to life for our fans and to see how the players navigate them."

One such example is the designated 11th hole at Mission Hills in California, where the ANA Inspiration will be played in April.

The hole is a par-five that is reachable for those finding the narrow fairway with their drive.

Accuracy allied to a bold game plan and strategic insight should be rewarded.

## Fish named US Davis Cup captain

REUTERS

Jan 10: Mardy Fish was named U.S. Davis Cup captain on Wednesday as the men's team competition enters a new era.

Fish, winner of six ATP singles titles and a silver medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics, takes over from Jim Courier who held the post for eight years before stepping down in September. "It is something that is a dream job for me, something I won't take for granted," said Fish during a conference call. "To be the next Davis Cup captain is incredibly humbling. 'I can't express how excited I am... that the players have supported the decision,'" added the 37-year-old.

"Everyone is really excited about the idea of the reform and the new format, sort of a World Cup of Tennis. 'It is going to be interesting from all parties to see how it goes.'"

Fish will take charge in a dramatically different Davis Cup format from the one in which he played in 11 ties from 2002-12. Instead of the three-day ties that used to take place a few times during the year, it has been overhauled into an 18-team event that this year will be played from Nov. 18-24 in Madrid.

The new format will also bring a change in duties for the U.S. Davis Cup captain, who will work closely with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) player development programme.

Fish will spend much of the year travelling to tournaments and camps to support and mentor young American players while integrating current players with future professionals.

"Helping any and all of the players, mentoring players new and old, present and future is just something I am very passionate about," said Fish, who made it to the quarter-finals of three of the four Grand Slams.

"Trying to build that team camaraderie around everyone. 'All the way down the list I want everyone to feel part of Team USA. After retiring as a player in 2015, Fish, who had a career high ranking of number seven, worked as part-time coach with USTA Player Development, helping to guide young Americans on Tour, including Taylor Fritz and Jared Donaldson.

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