

Briefs

MUMBAI Yuvraj dons mentorship role at agency



Prolithic, the newly formed athlete management agency, has announced the addition of cricketer legend Yuvraj Singh as mentor. Known for his iconic six-hitting prowess and playing a crucial role in India's victory at the 2011 World Cup, legend Yuvraj Singh will play a pivotal role in advancing Prolithic Talent's mission to redefine athletic development from India and beyond.

AHMEDABAD Jaivir new head coach of Guj Giants

With the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) 2025 Player Auction to be held from May 31 to June 1, Adani Sportsline-owned Gujarat Giants have made strategic changes ahead of the new season, including a new coaching staff. The move is aimed at building a fearless, robust and title-contending squad for the brand new campaign in season XII. Jaivir Sharma has been appointed as the new Head Coach, while Varinder Singh Sandhu will take over as Assistant Coach of Gujarat Giants.

Minerva FC book their place in the summit clash

A dominant display saw Minerva outclass their opponents

FPJ News Service MUMBAI

Minerva Academy FC booked their place in the final with a resounding 5-1 victory over Football 4 Change Academy in Semi-Final 1 of the AIFF Youth League in Mahabalipuram. A dominant display saw Minerva outclass their opponents with clinical finishing and strategic control of the game. The match kicked off with high intensity, but it was Minerva who broke the deadlock in stoppage time of the first half. Albert

Khangembam opened the scoring at 40:02, followed quickly by Gurba Besra's strike at 44:06. Just after the restart, Albert struck again at 46:23 to extend the lead. Football 4 Change Academy found a brief moment of resurgence when Mangminhao Vaiphei scored at 47:49, but the momentum stayed with Minerva. Albert Khangembam completed his hat-trick at 54:35, solidifying his standout performance. Salam Maniton Singh added the final goal deep into stoppage time at 73:35.



EPL | What to know ahead of the final round in the English Premier League League into the business end

AP LONDON

Here what's to look out for heading into the final round of the Premier League on Sunday: Fight for the Champions League: Five teams - Manchester City, Newcastle, Chelsea, Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest - are bidding for the remaining three Champions League qualification spots alongside already-crowned champion Liverpool and second-place Arsenal.

City is in third place on 68 points. Fourth-place Newcastle, fifth-place Chelsea and sixth-place Villa each have 66, and seventh-place Forest has 65. City is away to Fulham and, because of its superior goal difference (+26) compared to its rivals, knows a draw is all but certain to secure a top-five finish.

Indeed, Newcastle (+22) and Chelsea (+20) have a much better goal difference than Villa (+9) so are virtually sure of getting into the Champions League with victories. Chelsea has the toughest match - away to Forest - while



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Newcastle hosts Everton and Villa visits Manchester United, which is coming off losing the Europa League final. Forest must beat Chelsea and also needs one of Newcastle and Villa to lose or draw their games to secure Champions League qualification.

It would be a huge achievement, given Nuno Espirito Santo's team was fighting relegation last season. A sixth-place finish guarantees a place in the Europa League. Farewells: Man City star Kevin De Bruyne heads the list

of players bidding farewell to their teams on the final day. De Bruyne already had a big Etihad Stadium sendoff on Tuesday after the win over Bournemouth but this will be the last game in his 10-year career with City. Elsewhere, Trent

Alexander-Arnold's goodbye to Liverpool hasn't been so celebrated by some Reds fans unhappy at him leaving his boyhood team on a free transfer. His last game for Liverpool is against Crystal Palace at Anfield and Liverpool manager Arne Slot said Friday he hasn't decided if Alexander-Arnold will start.

Others heading into the final games for their clubs include Victor Lindelof and Christian Eriksen (Man United), Jorginho and Kieran Tierney (Arsenal), Abdoulaye Doucoure (Everton) and Lukasz Fabianski (West Ham). On the managerial front, there's still plenty of speculation about the future of Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou despite leading the team to the Europa League title. What he says - or how he behaves - after the home game against Brighton will be telling. It could also be Ruud van Nistelrooy's final game in charge of relegated Leicester.

Trophy lift and records: Liverpool's players will finally get their hands on the Premier League trophy after closing their title-winning campaign against Palace.

vroom

F1 hopes extra pit stops bring more excitement

PTI MONACO The Monaco Grand Prix may be "the jewel in Formula 1's crown" but the race itself is rarely must-see TV. Sometimes, it's downright dull. F1 and its governing body, the FIA, hope a rule change for Sunday's race will change that. Drivers will be forced to change tires at least twice in the hope that more pit stop strategy could shake up an

event where Saturday qualifying - and the resulting grid position - is often more important than race day. "I guess it can go both ways," champion Max Verstappen said Thursday. "It can be quite straightforward, or it can go completely crazy because of safety cars coming into play or not making the right calls. I think it will spice it up probably a bit more." The change is designed to stop a repeat of last year, when a first-lap

crash brought out the red flag, allowing everyone to make their one mandatory tire change. With overtaking all but impossible on the twisty Monaco streets, the rest of the race was a procession. Home driver Charles Leclerc took the win for Ferrari and all of the top 10 finished in grid order. How Sunday's race shakes out could depend on whether teams get creative with their strategies.

"Normally, with one stop, once you have a good pit stop and everything is fine, then you drive to the end and just stay focused and not hit the barrier," Verstappen said. "But maybe with a two-stop it can create something different, people gambling, guessing when the right time is to box." McLaren's Monaco pedigree Monaco was once McLaren territory. It could be again. It's the most successful

team with 15 wins in Monaco, but none since Lewis Hamilton took the victory in 2008 on his way to his first championship. Verstappen's win at the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix last week tightened up a title race which was increasingly dominated by McLaren. Oscar Piastri leads the standings, but now only by 13 points ahead of his teammate Lando Norris and 22 from Verstappen. Monaco could favor McLaren.



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