



Milan vs Juventus and Zlatan against Ronaldo; Coppa Italia semi-finals

The first leg of the Coppa Italia semi-finals between AC Milan and Juventus kicks off Thursday evening. The Rossoneri will have the home-field advantage, with the San Siro expected to be rocking. The Bianconeri won the last match-up, in the league, with a score of 1-0. However, Milan are since then a different team on paper. Either way, both teams will be coming off disappointing weekend losses. While struggling at times, Juventus are still in the midst of a strong season. They are in the Coppa Italia semi-finals after all and sit at second behind Inter in the league due to goal difference. Cristiano Ronaldo is having another spectacular season. He has 20 goals in 20 matches in the league, just a goal shy of tying his total from all of last season. The goals have been flowing in 2020 too, however, so he'll be looking to add onto that versus Milan. In addition, he also scored in his sole Coppa Italia appearance this season. Matthijs de Ligt has improved from his early-season struggles, Gonzalo Higuain has been better under manager Maurizio Sarri, and Douglas Costa's recent injury paves the way for more of Paulo Dybala. Giorgio Chiellini is back in training too, however, he is not likely to play in the semi-final. It goes without saying that Juventus can never be

overlooked. Expect solid football with minimal individual errors and possibly a herculean effort from Ronaldo. The Rossoneri have been much improved since the comeback of Zlatan Ibrahimović. Not only has he brought senior leadership, but goals and offensive creativity as well. He's the newfound leader of the team and the only player with a resume in the same dimension with that of Ronaldo. With only one goal in nine total appearances versus his former team, Ibrahimović should be looking to continue his solid run of form. As for the defence, Milan have some decisions to make. Andrea Conti and Simon Kjær showed shakiness and mental lapses versus Inter Milan. It's shaping up to be time to re-introduce Davide Calabria and Mateo Musacchio into the lineup. Ismaël Bennacer will once again pull the strings in the midfield. The outlier, however, will be if Lucas Paqueta will earn more minutes. The Brazilian's raw talent is evident, but he has yet to put it together. He has the ability to be the difference-maker. In a similar situation, Rafael Leão should take back his starting position. His chemistry with Ibrahimović is obvious, and he is hungry to succeed. A match at this stage might just be his next step.



Anfield will Change until 2020

Goal - The stand will take Anfield's capacity to 61,000 and could be completed in time for the 2022-23 season. Liverpool hope to begin work on their new Anfield Road stand before the end of 2020. The Reds will begin the second stage of their public consultation process today, having been encouraged by the initial feedback from local residents, businesses and supporters. Liverpool announced in August that they had scrapped initial plans for an upgrading of the Anfield Road End. Outline planning permission for the addition of around 4,000 extra seats, which was first applied for in 2014, was allowed to lapse with club owners, Fenway Sports Group, believing the design to be insufficient. In November the club revealed the first images of a new £60million redevelopment of the Anfield Road end, which would add around 7,000 new seats and take Anfield's overall capacity to 61,000. More than 5,000 leaflets were distributed across the local community, with neighbouring residents and businesses encouraged to give their feedback at a series of consultation events. Around 800 responses were received, and the club say that the general feedback was "very positive", with 93 per cent supportive of the plans. Now Liverpool aim to press on with their plans, with stage two public consultation running until the end of February. After that, the club hope to submit an official planning application, and have tentatively drawn up a timeframe which would see construction work on the new stand begin by the end of the year, and be completed in time for the 2022-23 season. "There are still some really big steps to get through," said Andy Hughes, Liverpool's chief commercial officer. "Planning is a really big hurdle for us and we'll be working really heavily on that through the next four, five, six months. "And ultimately, the finances need to make sense in terms of the build cost when we finally understand that and the schedule. "I think it's a bit early to say it's definitely summer 2022 but, assuming everything goes to plan and there are no major hurdles on the way, then that is our target date." Liverpool are expected to announce record revenue when their financial accounts for last season are published later this month and, unlike with the Main Stand which was paid for through a loan direct from FSG, will use the club's existing credit facility to pay for the new Anfield Road stand.

Goal reported in January that Chelsea were also interested in Werner, but he was determined to remain at Red Bull Arena until after Euro 2020, at which point he will make a final decision on his future. The prolific forward signed a contract extension with Leipzig back in August, which ties him to the club until 2023. He has, however, indicated that he would be open to joining a club capable of winning the Champions League, while admitting that the Premier League piques his interest. "What do you say if a club comes knocking, a club which is one of the favourites to win the Champions League and makes an incredible offer?" Werner began in an interview with Kicker which was published on February 2. "Most likely every player would think about it. I am open for everything. I was over in America for a holiday recently and English football was on all of the time. "That's an exclamation mark for the Premier League. But there are also big, famous clubs and it would certainly be fun playing there." Werner will be back in Bundesliga action with Leipzig on Saturday, as they play host to Werder Bremen.



RB Leipzig joke Werner is joining Tottenham amid Liverpool rumours

The Bundesliga outfit weighed in on speculation over a prized asset's future with a provocative post on social media. RB Leipzig have joked that reported Liverpool target Timo Werner will be on his way to Tottenham this summer. Werner has emerged as one of Europe's finest strikers this season, netting 25 goals in 30 appearances across all competitions for Leipzig. The German star has helped Julian Nagelsmann's side rise to second in the Bundesliga standings, while also playing a key role in their progression to the Champions League knockout stages. Leipzig are due to come up against Spurs in the last 16 later this month, with Jose Mourinho thought to be a keen admirer of the 23-year-old. Tottenham are one of many clubs believed to be chasing Werner's signature, but Liverpool has been touted as his most likely next destination by German publication Bild. A Twitter account posted the news to their followers on Wednesday morning, which prompted a tongue-in-cheek response from Leipzig's social media department. The club issued a short reply regarding Werner's situation, which reads: "We heard he is heading to Tottenham though..."

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