‘Like a Championship’: Doha primed to stage blockbuster season finale

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

At a time when the world is battling the Covid-19 menace—hospitals busting at the seams and the global death toll soaring past 9 million—a gathering of the world’s best athletes has taken place in Doha to run the Diamond League meeting on Friday. Any athlete who has competed in Doha knows the experience, and the athletes in Doha know it too. They are all aware of the challenges of the pandemic and the sacrifices they have made to compete.

The Diamond League in Doha was one of the first major events to take place after the coronavirus pandemic. It was a testament to the resilience and determination of the athletes and those who support them. The meeting was a success, with the athletes performing at their best and the fans in attendance enjoying the spectacle.

The Diamond League in Doha has set a positive example for other events and competitions. It shows that it is possible to hold large-scale events safely, provided that the necessary precautions are taken. The athletes and their support staff have followed strict protocols to ensure their safety and the safety of the fans. They have worked together to make sure that the event was a success.

The Diamond League in Doha has also brought joy to the fans and the athletes. The atmosphere in the stadium was electric, with the fans cheering on their favorite athletes. The athletes were inspired by the support and the atmosphere, and their performances were a testament to their dedication and hard work.

Overall, the Diamond League in Doha was a great success. It has set a positive example for other events and competitions, and it has brought joy to the fans and the athletes. The athletes and their support staff have worked together to make sure that the event was a success, and they have shown that it is possible to hold large-scale events safely, provided that the necessary precautions are taken.

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Tokyo Olympics could take place without vaccine: Bach

Olympic boss Thomas Bach (pic) said yesterday that the Tokyo Games could take place next year even without a coronavirus vaccine, pointing to the success of the Tour de France.

Speaking during a virtual news conference ahead of Sunday’s Russian Grand Prix, where he is favourite to secure his seventh win of the season and equal Schumacher’s record total, the six-time champion also warned that winning was not likely to be a straightforward task. “Honestly, I don’t know what it means to me,” the Mercedes champion said. “I don’t know what is. Firstly, to get my work done and Valtteri Bottas, my Mercedes team-mate has said already himself that he is very fast on this track.

“We also have to look at Red Bull... I have to win there,” he added that it would be meaningful for him, but it should not be taken for granted. “As some point, it will probably happen, but I don’t know what it means to me. Of course, there’s so much else going on in the world, but, of course, it’s an honour.”

Bach, head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said yesterday the event could get underway “however possible from matches in different Japanese leagues,” he said via video link.

“Our hope is that there will be a match, even if we have to cancel the whole tournament.”

If so, the Games would take place without a vaccination programme.

Bach said it was impossible to make a contingency for every scenario, and said organisers would not be probed about making public announcements on how the Games would take place.

“We have to work diligently and we have to work with the Japanese government and then at the appropriate time make the right decisions,” he said.

“I’m sure that we will make those decisions which will be historic. In different respects, we will make it a success, and we will make it a success together.”

Djokovic out to make amends at French Open

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) yesterday overturned life bans handed to Russian biathletes Romanova and Olga Zaytseva, who were stripped of their medals at the 2014 Olympic Games for doping.

CAS said the case against Vladislava and Olga Zaytseva amounted to nothing more than “the tiếpup of potential anti- doping rule violation (ADRV)”.

In Zaytseva’s case, CAS ruled that she had committed a doping offence but that she should only be applied for the next edition of the Olympics — the 2028 Los Angeles Games — instead of a life ban for all future Olympic Games, instead of a life ban.

The trio won silver in the 4x6km relay in Sochi and were stripped of their medals. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) yesterday overturned their life bans.

The Serb’s 7-5, 6-3 defeat against Djokovic brought him a record 36th ATP Masters crown.

“Hopefully I’ll be able to raise that flag for the French Open. It would be necessary if I want to go for a fifth Roland Garros in Paris,” he said. "I don’t think I played my best court game of the season, I don’t want to sound arrogant but I am solid and played to win a: I know I have a couple of gears."
**AFC defends ACL safety after virus-hit Al Hilal axed**

Asia’s football body yesterday defended safety measures for the AFC Champions League after coronavirus-hit holders Al Hilal were kicked out of the tournament for failing to field enough players.

The Saudi giants had accused the Asian Football Confederation of showing insufficient ‘flexibility’ after the club was axed for being unable to name a 15-man squad after several players tested positive for the virus.

Only 10 players were fit for Wednesday’s group-stage fixture in Dubai against Al Sadd, with 12 players and staff were confirmed to have been infected.

Al Hilal had managed to send a squad for last week’s return fixture with Qatar’s Al Sadd in the Champions League final, but the AFC told them not to travel to the UAE after an outbreak at their camp.”

**Heartbreaking:**

‘Shocked to hear about the tragic loss of Dean Jones. Heartbreaking to lose such a great soul. He will live on for generations. Absolutely heartbreaking news about Dean Jones passing away. A wonderful man who always gave his best. RIP Deano,’ tweeted Australian cricket commentator and former Australia batsman Glenn Maxwell.

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