**LeBron James keeps eye on ultimate prize**

The best teacher in life is experience. I've experienced moments in my career where you have all the momentum in the world and you felt like you had the game under control, and one play here or one play there could change the course of a series or change the course of a game.

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**NBA FINALS:**

Los Angeles Lakers 116, Miami Heat 98 (Anthony Davis 34 pts, LeBron James 25) • Lakers lead series 1-0

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**Qatar to play Ghana in Antalya friendly**

Qatar will take on African giants Ghana in a friendly match on October 12. Qatar Football Association has announced.

The match will take place in Antalya, Turkey, and will serve as preparation for Qatar ahead of their 2023 Asian Cup qualifying campaign.

The Asian Cup qualifiers, which also act as joint qualifiers for the Qatar 2022 World Cup, were originally scheduled to be held this year but were postponed until next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup hosts will replace a regional qualifier, which pulled out of the friendly due to travel restrictions.

For Qatar, the game is set to test the readiness of the Black Stars before a double-header against Vietnam in the 2022 African Cup of Nations qualifiers which will take place in November.

Qatar, ranked 55th according to latest FIFA statistics, have won four of their last five matches while Ghana won three out of five.

Qatar were involved in a goalless draw with India in September last year, and then went on to beat Bangladesh, Oman, Singapore and Afghanistan.

Ghana’s most recent matches were wins against South Africa and Sao Tome and Principe in November last year.

“We have a young team. It is growing and it is getting international experience,” Qatar coach Fahad Thameen said in reaction to the draw announced by CONCACAF Gold Cup organisers in Miami, Florida.

The Asian champions will make their first appearance at next year’s CONCACAF Gold Cup where they will compete along with six of the world’s best teams from July 10 and are poised in Group B with Honduras, Panama and Guatemala for the first round.

Just before the North, Central and Caribbean region tournament, Qatar will travel to Colombia and Argentina for their second appearance at the Copa America, where they will compete against Colombia, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru from June 11.

“Since we are playing the World Cup in 2022, it will be good to play other types or style of football. It will be good for us to get this experience and to improve our international level. We need to adapt our possible scenarios and that’s where we are trying to play,” coach Thameen added.

“Nowadays, I think, every team will be prepared. They have technical staff and all the resources to see and to follow other teams and the players. It is not advantage for any title these days. We will know all the other teams, and maybe, our team will know about us, our teams and the players profiles. This does not give any advantage to anyone,” the Spaniard said.

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**American football**

**Handball: Al Duhail, Al Wahkrich vie for Qatar Cup title**

Former champions Al Duhail will be aiming for titles as they take on Al Wahkrich today in the final of the Qatar Handball Championship at the Al Duhail Sports Hall.

The title match, which was scheduled to be held on Friday, was postponed after the Qatar Olympic Committee suspended all local sports activities as the country mourned the passing away of the late Amir of Kuwait H.H Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Al Duhail made it to the final after beating holders Al Sadd in the semi-final with a score of 27-21 on September 28. They defeated Al Ahk in a thrilling quarter-final (32-31) after a penalty shoot-out at the end of extra time, which was both teams level at 28.

Meanwhile, Al Wahkrich qualified for their final since 2005 after defeating Al Kheez 28-27 in another thriller semi-final. They reached the last four with a 19-15 win over Qatar SC.

Al Duhail are targeting their second title after being crowned champions in 2007-2008. Al Rayyan won Al Rayyan’s expense, while Al Wahkrich are looking for the Qatar Cup glory for the first time.

Al Saidi won the last title in his absence.

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**Djokovic storms ahead, Ostapenko stuns second seed Pliskova in Paris**

World number one Novak Djokovic took another confident stride closer to an 18th Grand Slam title with his 70th win at Roland Garros on Thursday when Oksana Ostapenko stunned second seed Karolina Pliskova, throwing the chase at Roland Garros on Thursday as Jelena Ostapenko celebrating Latvian's 23rd career title.

Karolina Pliskova, throwing the chase at Roland Garros on Thursday as Jelena Ostapenko, having blown a break in the second set as she had an injury and couldn’t continue like a winner.

But I felt good just as I did in the quarter-finals of the US Open, twice without beating a top 10 player. Today, I wanted to do my best and not miss anything. It was a very important match. I was trying to be aggressive but to play as much as she is a great player,” Ostapenko said.

Former champion Pliskova, who had lost her last two matches, said 23-year-old Ostapenko was the better player in the first round.

The 1994th-ranked Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 6-3 lost in her last two visits.

Ninth seed Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) bt Jan-Lennard Struff (GER x30) 6-3, 6-2; Christian Garín (CHI x20) bt Marc Polmans (AUS) 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-1; Sofia Kenin (USA x4) bt Ana Bogdan (ROU) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Ons Jabeur (TUN x30) bt Nao Hibino (JPN) 7-6 (7/4), 6-4.

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**Paris**

Sevastos Niki Djokovic served the ball in his French Open semi-final to Brother Ricardas Berankis during their second round match of Roland Garros 2020.
England have dropped Phil Foden and Mason Greenwood for their friendly with Wales and Nations League matches against Denmark and Switzerland later this month while Harry Maguire and Jadon Sancho to the 30-man squad named by manager Gareth Southgate yesterday.

Manchester City midfielder Foden and Manchester United forward Greenwood were last month called up to the same squad for the first time but both won their first cap for COVID-19 protocols in Iceland.

“Those lads have suffered now enough,” Southgate said.

Southgate added that they need this period of reflection but that gives them the opportunity to get back on their feet with their clubs, enjoy their football again. They are both starting to play well again which is great.

“I can’t speak to them after this camp and it will be hard to bring them form as to whether they are selected next time round.”

Both players had issues apologies in the aftermath of the incident but Southgate had said he would have to engage with them before he can be considered for selection.

Maguire returns after he was suspended by police in a knife crime investigation in Athens, has grown over the last couple of years. Southgate said: “Southgate had said he would have to engage with them before he can be considered for selection.

“27-year-old Maguire was a suspended prison sentence for 23 months and 10 days but the United captain has been granted a full apology after appealing the conviction.

“He has been our most reliable defender over the last couple of years,” Southgate said.

Southgate added: “Southgate had said he would have to engage with them before he can be considered for selection.

Southgate’s England play Wales on October 8 before two away games against Iceland and Denmark on October 11.

“Because he would be in the squad and not over there?”

Southgate’s England play Wales on October 8 before two away games against Iceland and Denmark on October 11.

“There are three new names in the squad.

“Leicester midfielder Harvey Barnes, 22, and Arsenal’s versatile 19-year-old Bukayo Saka have been called up for the first time. Everton striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin has been recognized for scoring eight goals in the opening five games of the season.

James keeps eye on ultimate prize as Lakers win NBA Finals opener

James Livingston

James kept on eye on ultimate prize as Lakers win NBA Finals opener.

The Heat took a 2-0 lead in the NBA Finals, but it was the Lakers who turned the game around.

“Early, a late blitz from Kieron Pollard and Hardik Pandya helped MI post 136/5. The team scored 136 runs before losing both the last two wickets to take ME beyond the 200-run mark.

Today, an off-colour Chennai Super Kings (CSK) coming back after a six-day rest will hope for a change back when they clash with the Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match between the two teams in the Dubai International Cricket stadium.

Two teams are placed at the bottom of the eight points table with two points each from three matches.

Brief scores

MI 136/5 in 20 overs (Kieron Pollard 60; Suryakumar Yadav 59; Sheldon Cotrell 3/20) beat KXIP 143/7 in 20 overs (Abbas Shafiq 41; Mayank Agarwal 35; Jasprit Bumrah 3/16) by 8 runs

Basketball

Ronaldo's Jive to clash with Messi's Barca in group stage

Former Italian international Dider Droga who guided the Ivorian at the 2010 World Cup.

Train when Droga to the table in Naama.

Ronaldo and Messi.

Jive is set to clash with Barca when the last-16 draw was made in Paris. Manchester United海口 and Barcelona will meet Inter Milan in Group H.

The match is set to be a clash of titans in this season's Champions League as both teams have won the tournament in the past.

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Manchester United face Paris Saint-Germain

Champions League draw

The 32-team draw for this season's Champions League was made in Amsterdam yesterday.

Group D: Manchester United (UK), Paris Saint-Germain (France), RB Leipzig (Germany), Istanbul Basaksehir (Turkey).

Group E: Sevilla (Spain), Chelsea (England), Krasnodar (Russia), Benfica (Portugal).

Group F: Manchester United (UK), Paris Saint-Germain (France), RB Leipzig (Germany), Istanbul Basaksehir (Turkey).

Group G: Paris Saint-Germain (France), Manchester United (UK), Istanbul Basaksehir (Turkey), Ferencvaros (Hungary).

Group H: Manchester United (UK), Istanbul Basaksehir (Turkey), PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands), Ferencvaros (Hungary).

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