Venue spoils enthralling clash

By Mark Gleeson

Tomorrow night’s UEFA Europa League final between Chelsea and Arsenal could have been one of the great contests in the history of an underwhelming competition, but is tempered by the two London clubs having to play in Baku, Azerbaijan, some 4,700km away from home.

It is as a result of the vagaries of the organisation of European club competition finals, where cities bid for the right to stage finals several years in advance.

The Azeri capital, in hindsight, is the worst possible place to host this final.

An eerie atmosphere is predicted according to pessimistic forecasts, given the full ticket allocation for this dislocated London derby has not been taken up because of the expense and difficulty for Arsenal and Chelsea fans to reach Baku.

The travel will also not help the players either after a long and arduous season, but for punters it is an intriguing contest with not much between the teams and plenty at stake.

Not least that Arsenal need to win if they are to qualify for next season’s Champions League, otherwise it will be Thursday night football again for them in the next campaign.

They have the right man in charge of this particular competition as Arsene Wenger’s successor knows all about winning the Europa League.

Unai Emery’s three Europa League titles - all with Sevilla - is a record for a coach in the competition, but the Arsenal boss will become the most successful manager in the competition and its predecessor, the UEFA Cup, if his side beat Chelsea tomorrow.

Giovanni Trapattoni won three UEFA Cups, two with Juventus and one with Inter Milan.

On the other bench, Maurizio Sarri is fighting for his job by all accounts, even after taking Chelsea to third place in the Premier League and guaranteeing Champions League football next season.

It is claimed that the Italian, who has been at Stamford Bridge for just one year, will return to his home country after being tempted with a mega deal from the Serie A champions Juventus.

To take a bet, go to www.bettingworld.co.za or www.tabolines.co.za or www.soccer6.co.za
Joshua to remain undefeated

Anthony "AJ" Joshua, the unbeaten unified world heavyweight champion, is one of the four major championship belts, will on Sunday make his debut on foreign soil when he puts all his titles on the line against Andy Ruiz Jr at New York City's Madison-Square Garden.

Joshua was originally carded to fight Jerrell Miller, but the latter tested three marijuana performance enhancement drug tests, forcing the WBA to slap him with a six-month ban.

With a record that boasts an impressive 23 victories, 21 of which have been by way of knockout, it’s very hard to go against Joshua, who has been priced up as the 2/5 hotpot favourite for the win.

Interestingly, the only time Joshua went the distance in a fight was when he defended against Joseph Parker, who is also the only man to ever beat Ruiz Jr. Although this is highly unlikely to happen, you can get odds of 3/1 if the fight goes the distance and as much as 33/1 if the fight ends in a draw.

The 40/1 underdog Ruiz Jr. comes into this with a professional record of 32 wins, 24 of which have him ranked as the 14th best heavyweight in the world and he has won his last three fights.

Joshua has made no secret of the fact he wants to fight Deontay Wilder next.

He is in a very difficult situation facing the former IBF, WBA, WBO and IBO champion Ruiz Jr. just a fortnight after Wilder scored a very impressive first-round knock-out victory over Dominic Breazeale, the pressure is on him to finish his opponent quickly.

If you believe he can knock out Ruiz Jr in the first round, you will be delighted to know that bookmakers are offering as much as 7/1 for that.

Joshua faces an opponent who has never been stopped in his pro career but hasn’t had that many fights against top level fighters. He has the punching ability to win fights at any time and will want to impress on his US debut.
Harry Kane may be ready for final

By Nick Said

Stuart Baxter's young striker show his class despite 5-2 loss

By TAB Express Reporter

Harry Kane will take up a lot of attention this week in the build-up to the UEFA Champions League final on Saturday.

The big question is whether he will play in the final and the England striker is reportedly winning his race to make Tottenham's starting line-up. His manager Mauricio Pochettino has declared himself "so happy" with the player's recovery from an ankle injury.

Kane has stepped up his training in recent days in his bid to come back from the ligament damage suffered in the first leg of Tottenham's quarter-final with Manchester City almost seven weeks ago.

Spurs also have more good news from the treatment room with Pochettino optimistic that Harry Winks, Davinson Sanchez and Jan Vertonghen will be available to face Liverpool in Madrid.

Winks has undergone surgery to his groin, while Sanchez and Vertonghen are recuperating from thigh and ankle issues respectively.

Should Kane be included from the start, Pochettino would likely have to omit either Son Heung-Min, arguably Tottenham's player of the season, or Lucas Moura, the hero of their semi-final comeback against Ajax, in what will be an incredibly tough decision.

It might be a case that puts a damper on the side's momentum over the last weeks and hands Liverpool an even stronger chance of victory.

Jurgen Klopp's squad have been preparing in Marbella, on the Spanish coast, and trying to stay sharp.

The three-week break between the end of the Premier League season and the final has presented a headache for both clubs, who have had to contend with a much longer build-up than usual.

Forward Roberto Firmino has not featured since the Champions League semi-final, first-leg defeat by Barcelona on 1 May because of an adductor injury from which he has now recovered. He, like Kane, could play on Saturday.

Liverpool have won nine of the 14 clashes with Tottenham since 2013 with four draws and one loss. The Reds won both of their matches against Spurs in the league this season, taking each contest 2-1.

After finishing runners-up to Real Madrid last year, Liverpool will be looking for their sixth European title.

Spurs are making their first Champions League final appearance and are underdogs. But given the miraculous way in which they got to the final, there is a sneaking feeling they could cause an upset.

To take a bet, go to www.bettingworld.co.za or www.tabsline.co.za or www.soccer6.co.za

PROFILE

Young striker show his class despite 5-2 loss

By Lyle Foster

Lyle Foster stroked home a confident penalty in South Africa's 3-2 loss to Argentina in their 2019 FIFA Under-20 World Cup opener on Saturday and gave an eye-catching all-round performance that underlined his promise.

Foster is tasked with being the lone striker in the side, using his size and touch to bring in quicker and perhaps more skillful players around him.

It is a vital job and he is certainly no stranger to finding the back of the net himself, which is what won the 18-year-old a move to French Ligue 1 side Monaco earlier this season.

He will be important again when Amajita tackle South Korea in their second clash at the World Cup today is what is shaping up to be a must-win encounter with fancied Portugal still to come in the pool.

Foster has 18 goals in 21 games for the under-20 side, an excellent return that has won him many admirers. And he has adapted to life easily in France, playing for the Monaco reserves and also making the bench of the senior team in what was a troubled campaign that saw them just avoid relegation.

Under different circumstances he might have made his first-team debut already, but is surely not far off and can look to the new season with plenty of confidence.

Born in Soweto, Foster’s size made him stand out in junior football and by the age of 16 he was already training with adults.

He made his Premier Soccer League debut for Orlando Pirates just days past his 17th birthday in the 2017-18 COSAFA Cup and soon afterwards embarked on the first of two lengthy trials at Monaco.

A stalwart with the junior national teams, he played for both the Under-17s and Under-20s as their lead striker, and also represented Bafana Bafana at last year’s COSAFA Cup in Polokwane.

He has three caps to date, but will surely add to those shortly and would provide a different kind of option for the senior national team as a target man, something they have not had for some while.

Wednesday 29 May

Soccer S6 V3 P1

M1 BVV Brestmannayjaa v UMF Fjoðrir: The last two clashes between these sides from Iceland ended in 1-1 draws. This is a tough cup tie with BVV struggling near the foot of the top flight and Fjoðrir among the second division front-runners.

M2 Chelsea v Arsenal: Chelsea and Arsenal make the journey east to Baku’s Olympic Stadium, where they have both previously won against local champions Qarabaq. It’s the first major European club competition final between two English clubs in 11 years and only the third in UEFA history. Chelsea look superior on paper but that may count for little.

M3 Atlanta United v Minnesota United: Atlanta have won their last three home games without conceding, but are yet to beat Minnesota at home.

M4 Montreal Impact v Real Salt Lake: Montreal have won all three previous visits from the club from Utah, scoring 10 goals in the process.

M5 DC United v Chicago Fire: This will be the 66th meeting between the two Major League Soccer clubs with 22 wins each and 19 draws.

M6 Bahia v Sao Paulo: Bahia have a strong chance to pull off a shock in the Copa do Brasil as they won 1-0 away in Sao Paulo in the first leg and now have home advantage for the return.

"If any of the squad that we’ve picked there want to tell the leadership of the national team that they are not bench players, then they will be removed from the list. Rather than listen to comments made by players in their disappointment, I would rather, in a calm moment, select them for the squad, and in a calm moment have a discussion with them about ‘I can’t guarantee a place.’

Bafana Bafana coach Stuart Baxter’s view on players in his Africa Cup of Nations squad who reckon they should be guaranteed a place in the starting line-up.

"Virgil Van Dijk is so self-confident. I think he’s a big help to every player, not just me. Fabinho is amazing. Watching him against Barcelona, he was everywhere. I don’t know if there were two, three Fabinhos, maybe… I thought we might need glasses because there were so many of them.”

Liverpool defender Joel Matip on two of his most influential teammates ahead of the Champions League final against Tottenham.

PHAKAAATHI

Your top guide to sports betting

Sports Express

Tuesday 28 May 2019
Proteas need to fire on all cylinders against England

The Proteas are a big step closer to winning their first Test series away from home in 20 years in England. They are on the verge of a vital 2-1 lead and have the opportunity to enter the history books.

In the second Test, the Proteas did not have their best day in the field, and the bowlers faltered in the fourth innings. The opening batting pair of Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root scored 173 for the first wicket, and the England team lost four wickets for 245 in the fourth innings.

However, the Proteas were unable to take wickets, and the England side ended the day on 269 for 7. In the third Test, the Proteas need to fire on all cylinders against England.

They need to focus on their fielding and bowling, which are crucial for winning the Test series. The Proteas have a chance to write history, and the fans of South Africa are eagerly awaiting the next Test.
**Soccer League promotion-relegation playoffs.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Scoreline</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2,200</td>
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<td>31Mar19 Oster Huskvarna vs AIK</td>
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<td>31Mar19 Östersunds vs Sirius</td>
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**Albacete v Malaga**

- Albacete: W 4-0, L 0-1, D 0-0 (Pts 11, Log 5)
- Malaga: W 4-0, L 0-1, D 0-0 (Pts 8, Log 3)

**Elche v Dep La Coruna**

- Elche: W 4-0, L 1-1, D 1-1 (Pts 14, Log 4)
- Dep La Coruna: W 4-0, L 1-1, D 1-1 (Pts 14, Log 4)

**York are on an eight match unbeaten run.**

Columbus have lost their last three matches. New York are on an eight match unbeaten run.

**Four successive wins in the league see champions Falkenberg**

are bottom of the table in Sweden and among the candidates to be relegated. They will meet again in the league on 17 May.

**ElVAS are on a winning streak**

ElVAS are on a winning streak of four matches. Valur have lost / five of their last six outings.

**Two clashes against Zaragoza.**

Second leg of the Recopa Sudamericana, which is the new Brazilian second division. Atletico have already won away on the road this season.

**Two clashes against Zaragoza.**

Second leg of the Champions League final with the Recopa Sudamericana, which is the new Brazilian second division. Atletico have already won away on the road this season.

**Second leg of the Recopa Sudamericana at River Plate in Argentina.**

Fluminense have won two of their last three games and scored 10 goals.

**No Data**

ElVAS are on a winning streak of four matches. Valur have lost / five of their last six outings.

**Al Ittihad v Smouha SC**

Al Ittihad are on a winning streak of two matches. Smouha SC have lost their last three matches.

**America MG v Coritiba**

America MG are on a winning streak of three matches. Coritiba have lost their last three matches.

**HJK vs FC Kjaerby**

HJK have drawn three of their last four games.

**Osters IF vs FK Bragd**

Osters IF have lost their last three matches.

**Memphis & White Horse**

Memphis & White Horse have lost their last three matches.

**Real Sociedad v CDU Catolica**

Real Sociedad have won their last three matches. CDU Catolica have lost their last three matches.

**Oesters IF vs FK Bragd**

Osters IF have lost their last three matches.

**Memphis & White Horse**

Memphis & White Horse have lost their last three matches.
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**SOCCER 6 POOLS Saturday 1 June**
Mark S6 V3 - BET from Sat 1 June - Closes 15:00 Sun 2 June
- Team A versus Team B

**SOCCER 10 POOL Thursday 30 May**
Mark S10 V2 - BET from Wed 29 May - Closes 15:00 Thu 30 May
- Team A versus Team B

**SOCCER 10 POOL Wednesday 29 May**
Mark S10 V1 - BET from Fri 31 May - Closes 15:00 Sat 1 June
- Team A versus Team B

**SOCCER 13 POOL Sunday 2 June**
Mark S13 V1 - BET from Sun 2 June - Closes 15:00 Mon 3 June

**SOCCER 13 POOL Monday 3 June**
Mark S13 V2 - BET from Mon 3 June - Closes 15:00 Tue 4 June

**SOCCER 13X POOL Saturday 1 June**
Mark S13x V1 - BET from Fri 31 May - Closes 15:00 Sat 1 June

**SOCCER 13X POOL Saturday 1 June**
Mark S13x V2 - BET from Sat 1 June - Closes 15:00 Sun 2 June

**SOCCER 10 POOL Thursday 30 May**
Mark S10 V1 - BET from Thu 29 May - Closes 15:00 Fri 30 May
- Team A versus Team B

**SOCCER 10 POOL Wednesday 29 May**
Mark S10 V1 - BET from Thu 28 May - Closes 15:00 Fri 29 May
- Team A versus Team B
## SOCCER 2 POOL
**Saturday 1 June**
- Cal 52 261 P1 - BET Sat 1 Jun ONLY - Closes 15:00 Sat 1 Jun
  - Team A versus Team B
- Mark S1 V1 - BET from Fri 31 May - Closes 15:00 Sat 23 May
  - R6 PERM: 1 x 1

## SOCCER 1 POOL
**Wed 29 May**
- Mark S1 V2 from Tab 26 May - Closes 21:05 Wed 29 May
  - Team A versus Team B

## SOCCER 1 POOL** Sat 1 Jun
- Mark S1 V1 - BET from Fri 31 May - Closes 21:05 Sat 1 Jun
  - Team A versus Team B

## SOCCER SCORE POOL
**Saturday 2 June**
- Mark S1 V2 from Tab 26 May - Closes 15:00 Sun 2 Jun
  - Team A versus Team B

**No win odds**
- Crystal Palace
- Manchester United
- Sunderland
- Arsenal
- Chelsea

**BIG WINNER! Soccer 10**
- Total bet amount R78,843
- Payout amount R2,043

**BIG WINNER! Soccer 13**
- Total bet amount R64,500
- Payout amount R54,500

## MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE Saturday 1 June

### By Liam Del Carme

**Rugby 5 Pool (mark Race 1 to play)**

**Mi Golden Lions XV v Griffins:** Lions crossed a big deficit at the hands of the Blue Bulls on Sunday. Their defence in particular was exposed by the hard running men from Pretoria. Similarly, the Griffins have had little to shout about. They went down away to the Valke which does not bode well for their trip to Johannesburg. Lions, despite their dodgy form, are favourites.

**Ma Sharks v Hurricanes:** Sharks’ win over the Lions was hard earned. The visitors displayed some soft moments and the Sharks pounced, but they have to be far more inventive on attack if they are going to break down the Hurricanes. The men from Wellington are unlikely to be as generous as the Lions, but the Hurricanes will have to front up properly among the forwards if they are going to have a say in this contest. Although the Hurricanes have won four of their last six matches against the Sharks, they haven’t won in Durban since 2005. Thackeray’s John Plumtree’s knowledge of the locals may give the visitors a slight advantage.

**Mj Exeter Chiefs v Saracens:** The Chiefs powered into a fourth straight Premiership Final at Twickenham with a resounding victory over Northampton Saints. Saracens thumped the Chiefs at the start of May and the scars from that match may linger with the Chiefs. They will, however, be far more competitive in this clash. Of their previous contests Saracens have won 11 and the Saints seven. Saracens, recent winners of another European Champions Cup, have a knack of getting it right on big occasions and start favourites.

**Mj Lyon v Montpellier:** Lyon are on a good run with six wins from their last seven clashes. Montpellier are on an even better run with eight wins from their last nine starts. That includes a highly impressive one-point away win at Clermont in their most recent match. In their head to head encounters Lyon have won five and Montpellier six. Montpellier should eventually break Lyon’s resolve.

**Mj Lions v Stormers:** The Lions had chances to earn a precious away win over the Sharks, but poor decision-making and execution cost them. They cannot afford to throw more stray passes against the Stormers, who were refreshingly ruthless against the Highlanders. Key for Lions this week will be the potential return of regular captain Warren Whiteley. They are not the same side without him. The Stormers very narrowly snatched a five-match losing sequence against the Lions earlier this season and have a decent chance of recording a double over the Lions.

**Suggested permutation for Saturday’s Rugby 5 pool closes 15:00:** Mi – 2; Ma – 1; 4; Mj – 1; 2; M4 – 1; 4; M5 – 1; 4.

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- **DOUBLE ADD IN FRIDAY 31 MAY**
  - Will be pumping up the FUTSAL Soccer 6 pools!

**FRIDAY 31 May 2019**
- **R20,000,000 carryover**
- **Likely pool R60,000**
  - Pool closes @ 10H45

**FRIDAY 31 May 2019**
- **R20,000,000 carryover**
- **Likely pool R60,000**
  - Pool closes @ 13H25

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He is also still on SPORTSLIVE every day, bringing TAB and Betting World customers exclusive all-day live TV coverage of all Premier Futsal League (PFL) games and selected matches from major soccer leagues around the world.

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Futsolo’s predictions are two-minute forecasts and are prior to watch and bet on!

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