

RB Leipzig End Bayer Leverkusen's 43-Game Unbeaten Domestic Streak

ALEX LEE

After 463 days and 43 domestic matches without a loss, Bayer Leverkusen were finally defeated by RB Leipzig in a 2-3 loss at home. This result marked the end of a historic run during which Leverkusen finished first in the Bundesliga, comfortably beating out second-place VfB Stuttgart by 17 points to end Bayern Munich's run of 11 straight Bundesliga titles.

Prior to the game, Leipzig, led by manager Marco Rose, had quietly been putting together an impressive run of form. They hadn't lost since February, and despite losing key player Dani Olmo to Barcelona, the team still remained full of talent and hope. However, they did head into the game missing their captain, Willi Orban, and the indispensable Amadou Haidara in midfield.

As the match kicked off, the reigning champions got off to a strong start, creating a num-

ber of dangerous chances from a wide range of players. Lois Openda and Benjamin Sesko worked hard to pull Leipzig back into the game, but it was Leverkusen who struck first, scoring in the 38th minute through a neat finish within the six-yard box from right winger Jeremie Frimpong. The match continued in Leverkusen's favor, with Florian Wirtz finding Alejandro Grimaldo to double their lead just before halftime.

There would still be more action before the break, as a prolonged period of added time gave Leipzig's Kevin Kampl the opportunity to strike back with a header following a deep run from midfield. Leipzig carried this momentum into the second half, enjoying the majority of the possession and major chances. In the 57th minute, Openda capitalized on a counter-attack to level the scoring at 2-2.

With the game nearing its final minutes, Openda crucially found the net again to send Leverkusen

closer to defeat. Despite late drama and a penalty check, Leipzig held on to hand Leverkusen their first domestic loss since May 2023.

Speaking after the match, Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso praised Leipzig and commented on how his team can look to improve: "Congratulations to Marco and RB Leipzig on the win. We're taking a lot of positives

and negatives from this game... In the second half, we had no control and gave Leipzig too much space. We didn't do well in the last line. We will learn from these mistakes. It's not good to let an opponent come back after a 2-0 lead. But it's a process. We're still early in the season."

Leverkusen recovered well after the loss, winning their next two

games, but have since drawn twice and currently sit in sixth place — four spots behind Leipzig. The team will look to bounce back and climb the table as they enter the next phase of the season.

Editor's Note: This article was written at the end of October.



Bayer Leverkusen face the fans after losing to RB Leipzig.

Team USA Wins 17th Basketball Olympic Gold Medal

TEO CHOI

The USA Men's Basketball Team clinched their 17th gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Composed of some of the most talented basketball players in the world, Team USA displayed dominance and thrilled Americans with their exciting and fast-paced style of play. Their unique blend of teamwork and talent proved

to be too much for the opposing countries.

Dubbed the "Avengers," the USA Men's Basketball Team was among the greatest the program has ever produced. With an unprecedented number of star players on the team, something we have not seen in the last few years, the team challenged the spot of the best basketball team ever. Consisting of veteran stars like LeBron James, Kevin Durant, and Stephen Curry, along

with up-and-coming stars like Jayson Tatum and Anthony Edwards, this team seemed to have it all.

This happened after the Federation Internationale de Basketball (FIBA) Basketball World Cup in 2023, where the USA team consisting mostly of young players, failed to attain a medal. Thus, following an embarrassment for the program, the program strived to show the world that USA basketball was still on top. This pattern

of losing badly, and then creating a super team is something we have seen in both the Dream Team and the Redeem Team. Allegedly, LeBron started making calls around the league, and that was how the incredible Avengers came to be.

The team was in a group with Serbia, South Sudan, and Puerto Rico. To begin, the USA team made easy work out of the Serbian team, defeating them 110 - 84. Led by Nikola Jokic, the league's reigning MVP, the Serbian team was seen as, realistically, the only threat to the team in the group stage. However, the team seemed to be unfazed by Serbia as they pulled out for a great victory. Their second game against South Sudan was also a blowout, with the team winning 103-86. In an exhibition game, the USA team had beaten South Sudan by only one point, leading to skepticism before the Olympic Games. However, Team USA, as expected, demolished them when it mattered. Their third game against Puerto Rico also was a big win, with the score being 104-83. Despite Karl-Anthony-Towns heading the Puerto Rico team, they

were still no match for the mighty Avengers.

The quarterfinal seemed to be even less competitive than the group stages, with the USA team defeating Brazil 122-87. The semifinal, however, seemed closer than expected. Having defeated the Serbian team previously in the group stages, the Avengers seemed to be confident. However, it was only after a triple-double from LeBron James and a 36-point performance from Stephen Curry did the USA team win the game 95-91. Lastly, the final against France was a thriller. With three-time defensive player of the year Rudy Gobert and upcoming superstar Victor Wembanyama, this French team was seen as the biggest threat to team USA's gold medal. However, after another incredible performance from LeBron James and Stephen Curry, the USA team prevailed, winning their 17th gold medal in the Olympic Games.



The USA Men's Basketball Team celebrates after beating France 98-87 in the gold medal match.



How Has Bill O'Brien Made Such A Fast Impact At Boston College Football?

BRUCE MCLAREN

Boston College football underwent a major change last year when Jeff Hafley left his role as head coach to become the defensive coordinator for the Green Bay Packers. Due to this, BC hired Bill O'Brien, the former New England Patriots offensive coordinator, as its head coach. Since then, a clear culture change has occurred at BC, as seen in the product on the field and in media attention.

Firstly, statistics show a huge change in discipline from the team through the first half of the season. They are 4-2 at the time of writing this, an improvement from 3-3 last year. They are also 9th in the nation for the least penalties per game, a major improvement from being 86th last year. This shows a change in discipline, which is a direct reflection of the

coaching staff. In addition, the quarterback, Thomas Castellanos, has been much more focused on his passing game compared to simply being a running threat like last year. O'Brien has coached many of the best quarterbacks of all time, like Tom Brady, and Castellanos' change in style reflects O'Brien's experience in improving players.

In addition, a major difference in the team is the mindset that they have before and during games. For example, before the game against Duquesne, a low-tier FBS team, most coaches would warn their teams not to fall victim to an upset. However, O'Brien's mentality was different. He told stories of teams blowing out underdogs, displaying the killer mentality he has instilled. They ended up winning that game 56-0 in a blowout. He has also instilled the mentality of no excuses. One example came during his press conference after a close



Bill O'Brien giving advice to Boston College quarterback Thomas Castellanos.

loss on the road to a top-10 Missouri team. During the presser, O'Brien made it clear that it is imperative to take advantage of opportunities, and that a close loss was unacceptable. Many coaches, including Jeff Hafley, would have called it a moral victory to have competed in the game, but O'Brien's

mentality is, again, of the killer type and to win no matter what.

Overall, through the change in mentality and discipline, Bill O'Brien's rapid impact has been seen through statistics and mentality. He constantly seeks to refine the team, despite wins, and realizes that they will

learn more from their defeats than triumphs. In addition, media attention has increased due to the likeability of O'Brien. Over time, once more recruits and talents come to BC, this team is going to become a real contender in the ACC, and no longer a team that is overlooked.

Who Will Win The 2024 World Series?

ANDY DU

Editor's Note: This article was written before the conclusion of the 2024 MLB season.

As the 2024 MLB season nears a close, four teams still remain in contention for the World Series title: the Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Yankees, New York Mets, and Cleveland Guardians. Each team brings its own strengths, storylines, and challenges to the table, highlighting the unpredictability of this year's MLB postseason.

Los Angeles Dodgers

The Dodgers have been one of the most revered franchises in all of baseball, and their big-time offseason acquisitions of Shohei Ohtani and Yoshinobu Yamamoto, as well as trade-deadline acquisition Jack Flaherty, have powered this team through the 2024 playoffs. Provided with a deep roster, exceptional pitching, and tremendous offensive power, Dodgers' manager Dave

Roberts has to like his team's chances of hoisting the franchise's eighth World Series trophy this season. Offensively, the bats of Ohtani, Mookie Betts, and Freddie Freeman will no doubt power the Dodgers' postseason run. If their bullpen can stay sharp to help out their outstanding starting rotation, the Dodgers are my favorites to win the 2024 World Series.

New York Yankees

It is to no one's surprise that the most historic, successful franchise in all of professional sports yet again finds themselves in contention to hoist their 28th franchise World Series banner. Up 2-1 against the Cleveland Guardians, the Yankees have shown the offensive consistency that powered their successful regular season. The addition of big-time slugger Giancarlo Stanton returning from injury has helped the Yankees in big moments, but their team captain, Aaron Judge, has struggled this postseason, hitting just .154 with no home runs. If Judge can regain his regular-season form and Stanton stays hot, the

Yankees could have what it takes to punch their ticket to the World Series behind their ace, Gerrit Cole.

New York Mets

The Mets have had a rollercoaster season but have proven to be incredibly resilient in the playoffs. Even though they trail 3-1 in the NLCS to the Dodgers, they have a deep pitching rotation and an uncanny ability to shock opposing teams early in games with their powerful offensive su-

perstars, Francisco Lindor and Pete Alonso. Yet, the Mets continually struggle with playing consistent baseball, and their offense has proven to have trouble keeping up with the Dodgers' flame-throwers, but stranger things have happened in October baseball.

Cleveland Guardians

The Cleveland Guardians have been the definition of a gritty team this postseason. Although they are down 2-1 in the ALCS, I believe that

they have a chance to knock off the Yankees with a surprising underdog story. Their pitching, supported by one of the best bullpens in the league, has continuously kept them in close game situations, while their timely offense led by Jose Ramirez and Steve Kwan has pushed them through tough games. If the Guardians are able to push the Yankees to a game seven, I like their chances to win the series through their gritty offense and stellar bullpen.



The Commissioner's Trophy is awarded to the World Series winner.



Team Europe Edges Out Team World In 7th Edition Of Laver Cup

JACOB PLETKA

What is the Laver Cup?

The Laver Cup is a tournament commemorating Rod Laver, a famous Australian Tennis player who has won eight Grand Slams throughout his career. The tournament is a team event in which European tennis players are faced against the rest of the world in a first to 13-point contest. Each preceding day, the matches are worth more points. The competition lasts three days (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) where every match is worth 1 point on Friday, 2 points on Saturday, and 3 points on Sunday.

Tournament Build-Up:

Coming into the event, Team Europe was led by captain Bjorn Borg and vice-captain Thomas Enqvist. The team comprised of Carlos Alcaraz, Grigor Dimitrov, Daniil Medvedev, Casper Ruud, Stefanos Tsitsipas, and Alexander Zverev (alternates: Flavio Cobolli and Jan-Lennard Struff).

Captain John McEnroe and vice-captain Patrick

McEnroe led Team World. The team comprised of Taylor Fritz, Thanasi Kokkinakis, Ben Shelton, Frances Tiafoe, Francisco Cerundolo, and Alejandro Tabilo.

Team Europe led Team World 4-2 prior to the 7th edition of the Laver Cup. However, Team World won the last two clashes, with their most recent one being a blowout, a 13-1 victory in which all of Sunday's matches were not played.

Day 1:

Team World's Argentinian Star, Cerundolo, started off strong with a convincing, 6-4 6-4, over the former world number 2, Ruud. Shortly after, Team Europe's Tsitsipas dismantled Australia's Kokkinakis 6-1 6-4, evening the score at 1-1. The last singles match was super close in both sets, but the Bulgarian Dimitrov managed to pull through in two tiebreak sets 7-6(7-4) 7-6(7-2) against Alejandro Tabilo. To end the day off, the Americans Shelton and Fritz had a straight-set victory over Alcaraz and Zverev.

Day 2:

Tiafoe rose to the occa-



Team Europe celebrating after Carlos Alcaraz's win over Taylor Fritz.

sion and took Team World to a 4-2 lead by beating Medvedev in a grueling three-set match, 3-6 6-4 10-5. Alcaraz immediately followed that up with a decisive 6-4 6-4 win over Shelton to level the score. Leading into the night session, Fritz was able to capitalize on Zverev's weaker serve and beat him 6-4 7-5. Heading into doubles, Team World knew that winning this match would take them into a 4-point lead. They effectively capitalized, winning 6-2, 6-1.

Day 3:

Down 8-4, Team Europe needed to come up with something magical to pull back and win. Sunday started, and Team World was still cruising. American Ben Shelton secured the 7-point lead over Team Europe by barely beating Medvedev 6-7(6-8) 7-5 10-7. With such an advantage, Europe's comeback seemed undoable. However, Europe won the following singles match and doubles match in a forceful fashion (Zverev beat

Tiafoe 6-7(5-7) 7-5 10-5 and Alcaraz & Ruud beat Tiafoe & Shelton 6-2 7-6(8-6)). With a score of 11-10 for Team World, the deciding match was between World #6 Taylor Fritz and World #2 and four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz. The match lasted a mere 90 minutes, with Team Europe displaying why they deserved to win. With a clean 6-2 7-5 victory, Alcaraz's victory concluded the 7th edition of the Laver Cup.

The Professional Women's Hockey League Announces Team Names And Logos

ANNABEL CURRY

After a record-breaking inaugural season, the 2024 Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL) season ended as Minnesota, the lowest-ranked playoff team, pulled off the most unlikely win. Launched on January 1, 2024, six teams played 24 games each before the playoffs. However, there was a distinct feature of the sport missing. When the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association (PWHPA) and Premier Hockey Federation (PHF) announced their merger to create the PWHL in the summer of 2023, the player-led initiative had two options: take the following season off in order to put together the details of a functioning league or find a way to play in less than six months. Not wanting to lose some of the progress previous leagues had made, in addition to the pay and benefits for players, it was announced that the league would first combine six teams from Toronto, Montreal, Boston, Minnesota, Ottawa, and New York. Due to

time constraints, team names and long-term jerseys were put on hold, as city names on standardized jerseys took their place. While it worked for the first season, the league looks to continue moving forward into the next one, thus, they recently announced the official team names.

The Boston Fleet.

The Boston Fleet is in reference to Boston's long history as a port city, with the Boston Harbor being an iconic landmark of the city. The logo is a deep green B with an anchor with a slight lean to represent momentum and the city's sports legacy. Part of the color scheme also calls back to the Hartford Whalers, a former NHL team from Connecticut, further honoring hockey history in New England.

The New York Sirens.

While Siren can often be associated with Greek mythology and the ocean, for the PWHL, it is a reference to the sounds of the city. The logo shows sound waves coming out of the side, and the design of the letters reflects the unique

architecture that can only be found in New York City. Encapsulating what it means to live in New York through sound, the team is looking to add an additional association to the word: the team's goal horn, which will hopefully signify a winning season for the team — after they finished last in the previous season.

The Minnesota Frost.

More on the nose, the frost directly references the cold weather Minnesota is known for, but also incorporates its connection to hockey. Nicknamed the 'state of hockey,' it is the consistent winter frost that brings together citizens to play the game, ingraining it within the state's culture. The sharp edges of the letter F logo represent the points of icicles, as well as the sense of competitiveness.

The Toronto Sceptres.

The Sceptres reference Toronto's history of royalty, from its stint as Queen City to iconic locations like Queen Street. The sceptre is meant to induce the feeling of power to those who wear it, to those who

will feel the weight of what it means to play in a city with deep cultural and hockey history.

The Ottawa Charge.

The charge is a steady state of growth, a reference to the city's motto of "advance." The logo is crafted with aspects of electricity, such as electric current, to represent the impact fans can have on the game. Spikes around an O signify strength and team connection on the ice, striking fear in the hearts of their opponents.

The Montreal Victoire.

A city drenched in hockey and cultural history, Montreal's pride in win-

ning is carried throughout the city, all the way to its hockey team. The logo includes wings to honor Nike, the goddess of victory, but they also include a secret M for the love of the city and a fleu-r-de-lis, a symbol of Quebec.

The new names and logos of this league are well throughout, honoring history while looking ahead to the future. Jerseys look to be announced around late October or early November, as the PWHL finishes gearing up for another successful season.



The PWHL currently consists of six professional teams.



Jaylen Brown Releases Song “Just Do It” With A\$AP Ferg

ZACHARY YUAN

NBA star Jaylen Brown has been living his best life. Brown is coming off an incredible 2024 season with the Boston Celtics, where he helped the franchise win their 18th banner and was named Eastern Conference Finals MVP and NBA Finals MVP during that playoff run. Despite being left off the 2024 USA Olympics Roster, Brown has taken to other activities, including releasing a song with rapper A\$AP Ferg.

After teasing the drop, Brown released the new song and music video on August 23, 2024. The video is 6:17 minutes long, which also happens to be the area code of Boston and the date the Celtics won their 18th title. The music video begins with Brown listening to a voicemail of his girlfriend

breaking up with him before the scene switches to TV stations discussing his snub from Team USA and how he got “blacklisted” by Nike. Immediately after, A\$AP Ferg comes to his door and snaps him back to reality. As the introduction plays, Brown’s energy shifts, a play on his famous catchphrase and Instagram handle, and jumps into rapping.

Throughout his song, Brown references basketball shoes, for example when he said “But now, you get replaced like a pair of shoes,” causing fans to speculate if the song is written about Nike. Even the title of the song, “Just Do It” is a clear allusion to the brand. For context, there was a debate over whether Nike’s influence with Team USA’s Olympic basketball team kept Brown off the roster. Brown, who has been a sneak-

er-free agent since his deal with Adidas expired in 2021, called out Nike for dropping Kyrie Irving and has been seen wearing Nike shoes with their Swoosh logo removed. Back in July, when Kawhi Leonard opted out of the Team USA squad, Brown’s teammate, Derrick White, was selected instead, which was surprising given Brown’s amazing 2024 season. Brown even took to Twitter after the decision questioning if Nike was involved.

Furthermore, in most of the song, Brown raps about reeling from a major breakup, and about how he has been working through “problems too deep for any therapist.” However, any concerns Brown had are now in the past, as he has taken the time to enjoy himself this summer, recently vacationing in Bahrain and showing off his un-



Jaylen Brown holding the NBA Finals MVP trophy as his song cover.

derwater workouts. All signs point to Brown being ready for an even bigger title-defending year with the Celtics in the 2024-2025 season. The upcoming release of his

new single is a sign that he’s ready to reveal more sides of himself to the world both on and off the court, and there’s a lot to be looking forward to.

Alex Pereira Defeats Khalil Ibn Rountree Jr. In Light Heavyweight Championship

ISAAC TIOMKIN

It is said that violence and beauty are intrinsically linked. Some like to see birds fight. Others tune into “Animal Planet” simply to watch tigers maul each other in primarily fierce competition. Yet, indisputably, people like to watch their own fight, man on man, woman on woman. It is why wrestling was introduced into the Olympic games in Athens, 2,700 years ago. It is why Muhammad Ali faced off against Joe Frazier 50 years ago. It is why, just a few weeks ago, Alex “Poatan” Pereira and Khalil Ibn Rountree Jr. stepped into the Octagon together for UFC 307, looked upon by millions of mixed martial arts (MMA) fans, their cheers pounding against the warrior spirits of the fighters, fueling them, pushing them to deliver a show. It is safe to say that the fight was everything but a disappointment. However, neither Pereira nor Rountree simply woke up and decided to be fighters. It took crushing circumstances, burdens most demanding of the soul, to test them, and push them into pursuing the art of combat.

Rountree’s life had barely begun when he lost his father. When Rountree was just two

years old, his dad, a Boyz II Men road manager, was shot and killed at a concert in Chicago. Although he never knew his father, Rountree could only imagine what he would have meant to him. He grew up in Las Vegas, a city notorious for gambling and drugs. Bullying throughout his childhood and adolescence only crushed him further, leading to unhealthy eating, drinking, and smoking habits. By just 19 years old, Rountree had reached 305 pounds. Fate, however, offered him a fleeting path to greatness through a heart attack scare which prompted him to pursue martial arts, both to work on his fitness and to engrain discipline within his life. Rountree’s path to resounding success within the UFC has been more than arduous, yet through this journey and the deliberate honing of his malicious techniques, he is able to effortlessly macerate his opponents in the ring. He is the challenger.

Pereira started training even later than Rountree, at 21 years old. Before that, he was a bricklayer, dropping out of middle school in order to support his struggling family in the favelas of Brazil. He picked up nasty drinking habits from his co-workers, sometimes bedrid-

den due to his alcohol addiction.

However, Pereira was offered the same golden hand of fate as he began to train in kickboxing. His nickname “Poatan” means stone hands in Tupi, an indigenous language of Brazil. It was truly earned as he became world champion in GLORY kickboxing, granting him access to the UFC middleweight championship. There, he fought a brutal fight against champion Israel Adesanya, eventually taking the belt in the fifth round. His trademark catchphrase “chama,” or “let’s go,” has swept over the fighting world, becoming a staple in fighters’ vocabularies, just as a basketball player would yell “Kobe” before a shot. He is the champion.

The challenger walks into the arena, accompanied by a chilling western song. He has confidence in the hands that have shredded his opponents in the past. To him, this is a showdown. The champion walks into the arena, bolstered by the tribal jungle music played throughout the stadium. As he gets to the Octagon, he releases a spiritual arrow and lets out a chilling, guttural scream. To him, this is a hunt.

The bell rang and the fighters touched gloves. Immediately, Rountree pounced upon Perei-



Alex “Poatan” Pereira faces off against Khalil “War Horse” Ibn Rountree Jr. ahead of their fight the Eastern Conference semifinals.

ra, making contact with a multitude of vicious combinations thrown at Pereira’s head. Pereira, however, remained far more passive and technical, landing precisely timed kicks, overhands, and hooks that cut up Rountree’s face. The first few rounds were in Rountree’s favor, yet from a physical standpoint, Pereira seemed to dominate. As the hunter, he killed with strategy, tiring out his prey. In the third round, he began to counter. Relentless kicks to the legs, a few kicks to the head, and Poatan’s signature left hook left Rountree staggering almost instantly, while Pereira seemed to effortlessly dodge Rountree’s well-timed counterpunches; Pereira had entered the flow state, his body exuding an aura of an unstoppable, yet controlled savagery. In

the fourth round, Pereira crushed Rountree’s abdomen and liver with a series of body shots, sending the challenger crashing down into the canvas. The champion remained.

No one wanted either fighter to lose. Rountree had told his story to millions of UFC fans across the globe, winning over their hearts with his heroic journey to the pinnacle of the fighting world. Pereira too, had captured the hearts of UFC fans everywhere with his hilarious antics, catchphrases, and captivating fighting style. Unfortunately, there was a winner and his name was Alex Pereira. Fortunately, Khalil Ibn Rountree Jr. is not a quitter. He will do anything in his power to get back to the challenger spot, and next time, it might just go his way.



Nova Knicks Into New Knicks: How The 2024 Offseason Changed The Knicks' 2024-25 NBA Season

BEN DEGANI

I was definitely not expecting to see Donte DiVincenzo, Julius Randle, and unprotected picks traded for Karl Anthony-Towns on my news feed less than a month before the season's start. This appeared to be a lose-lose trade for both franchises at first. The Timberwolves lost a franchise player in KAT and took a huge blow in their offense as star shooting guard Anthony Edwards now calls all the shots. Meanwhile, the Knicks lose Donte DiVincenzo, a clutch performer who contributed to recent Knicks culture and most importantly, a member of the Villanova boys that would've comprised 4/5 of the starting lineup.

The "Nova Knicks" were hyped up for the entire offseason after the Knicks traded for small forward Mikal Bridges, who was only a member of the Villanova boys. Everyone was excited to see the most synchronized starting five in the league composed of four best friends from college.

Instead, the Knicks opted for a different route. While this trade hurts the hearts of countless Knicks fans, when examining the trade from an objective perspective, you can see that the Knicks could rival the Celtics. If you recall, I said the Celtics had the best starting five in the league. Brunson, coming off a near MVP season, is looking for revenge after being taken down by the Pacers in the second round.



Donte DiVincenzo in his new Minnesota Timberwolves uniform.

A huge reason for the playoff loss is that the Knicks lacked star power. With this trade, the Knicks sacrificed depth and chemistry for star power and offensive prowess. The New York

Knicks are coming off a statement season and have cemented themselves as title contenders, hungry for their first chip in several decades. I believe this trade will be looked back on as a

pivotal moment in the franchise's up and down history. Was this the right move? Only time will tell.

Nour El Sherbini And Diego Elías Claim Platinum Titles At The Qatar Classic

WILL WEISSMAN

On October 5, Nour El Sherbini and Diego Elías became platinum champions at the Qatar Classic. For Egypt's El Sherbini, the tournament reinforced her position at World No. 1 after defeating World No. 2 Nouran Gohar. For Peru's Elías, it meant his first tournament win of the year after defeating World No. 2 Mostafa Asal.

El Sherbini began her championship campaign with first-round and second-round decisive victories over England's Sarah-Jane Perry and Egypt's Sana Ibrahim. El Sherbini had her first true challenge in the quarterfinals, dropping the third game against England's Georgina Kennedy before closing the fourth game 11-5. In the semifinals, she found herself in a threatening 2-1 deficit against Egypt's Hania El Hammamy but closed out the fourth and fifth games to reach the finals.

Joining her in the championship match, World No. 2 and fellow Egyptian Gohar boasted El Sherbini's most difficult opponent of the tournament. With both players coming off a five-game battle against each other in the Paris Squash finals, there was high anticipation for another grueling and competitive match. As expected, their first game began with intense back-and-forth

powerful hitting. At 9-9, El Sherbini capitalized on a loose shot from Gohar, playing a cross drop into the bottom right corner and earning a game point. However, her opponent immediately bounced back, winning the following three points and stealing the first game. Gohar's momentum carried into the second game, starting with a promising 6-2 lead, ultimately winning 11-5.

With her back against the wall, El Sherbini began hitting more aggressive shots, utilizing her hidden cross-drop to stretch her opponent across the court. At 6-6 in the third game, her movement picked up as she pounced on each of Gohar's shots, forcing Gohar to each corner and letting out a massive scream and fistbump after taking the lead. The rally proved fundamental and potentially the turning point in the match, as El Sherbini won the following four points to close the game. El Sherbini's continued accurate hitting and Gohar's passiveness in volleying the ball and reliance on high-pace hitting led El Sherbini to an 11-9 victory in the fourth game. As expected, Gohar fought back in the fifth game, drawing the game to 5-5, but El Sherbini's more patient squash ultimately paid off. She closed out the fifth game 11-6 to claim her first title in Qatar.

"I'm really happy I've finally won this title, and

I've won everything now, so I can relax a bit. I'm definitely happy I've won the first three titles of the season," Nour El Sherbini said after the match.

In the men's draw, Diego Elías got off to a fantastic start in his journey to the finals, winning his first and second-round matches in three games against Mexico's Leonel Cardenas and Germany's Raphael Kandra. Like El Sherbini, he faced his first true challenge in the quarter-finals, losing the second game to Egypt's Tarek Momen, before closing the match 11-4, 11-4. Up against the World No. 1 in Egypt's Ali Farag in the semifinals, the Peruvian pulled off a massive upset in three games to send himself to the finals.

Coming from the opposite side of the draw, Egypt's Mostafa Asal faced multiple top-ten

players to secure a spot with Elías in the championship match. In their first game, Asal came out with an early 7-5 lead, but Elías stuck with him. He varied his shot selection and played aggressive attacking shots in the form of two-wall boasts and counter drops, preventing Asal from gaining any rhythm or momentum. The Peruvian won the crucial first game 12-10 after striking a massive rail down the forehand line. In the second game, Asal shot out to a 9-7 and later a gameball point at 10-9. However, on the next rally, Elías moved rapidly on each of the Egyptian's shots, warranting multiple dives from Asal and tying the game at 10-10. Elías carried this momentum into the following two rallies to take an unexpected 2-0 lead in the match. Again,

the Egyptian fought back in the third game, but the Peruvian displayed his more accurate hitting and fast movement of the ball. After battling back and forth, Elías powered himself to a 14-12 victory, winning a stunning 3-0 match against the World No. 2.

Diego Elías spoke after the match: "I knew it was going to be a really tough match. Mostafa has been playing amazing squash. He's got to the last six or seven finals, so I had that in my mind."

Both players will now focus their attention on their next tournament in Philadelphia. Coming off Platinum tournament victories in Qatar, Nour El Sherbini and Diego Elías hope to find the same success at the U.S. Open Championships.



Nour El Sherbini raises her trophy after defeating Nouran Gohar in the Qatar Classic Final on October 5, 2024.



World Aquatics Pushes For The Olympics To Include 50m Stroke Events

IAN KIM

Olympic swimmers might have the chance to win three more medals at the Los Angeles Olympics with the potential addition of the 50-meter butterfly, backstroke, and breaststroke.

World Aquatics, an international organization that manages water sports, has submitted a request to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the addition of the remaining 50-meter events to the 2028 Olympics schedule. For context, the 50-meter events are already held in prestigious swim meets such as the World Aquatics Championships but have yet to be seen at the Olympics.

5-time Olympic gold medalist Ian Thorpe weighed in, saying that every fan of swimming should support the addition of the 50s. Thorpe also mentioned that adding several more events should be ac-

ceptable since swimming plays a major role in the Olympics.

"The 50s need to be in ... they're important. It's almost a unique event in itself that we should be acknowledging. They are exciting. I actually think it balances the program perfectly between sprint races and middle distance. I hope every swimmer is for it," said Thorpe.

Nevertheless, if the IOC chooses to implement the new events, it won't come without challenges. The already extended swim meet could risk becoming even longer, creating scheduling issues. It's also important to note that since the So-fi stadium will be used for the opening ceremony and for hosting the swim meet, an extended meet would cut into the time between the start of the Olympics and the start of swimming. As a result, organizers would have less time to convert the stadium into a pool.

A common argument against the addition of



Pan Zhanle celebrates his new world record after winning the 100-meter freestyle in Paris.

the 50s is that swimming already awards too many medals to athletes. With the addition of the 50s, there would be a total of 41 medals for the world's best swimmers. For example, Michael Phelps dominates the record board for the most Olympic medals with a whopping 23 golds.

Isaac Cooper, who won the 50m backstroke

at the World Aquatics Championships, disagrees with that argument. He mentions how athletes are not receiving the proper credit they should be getting for winning the 50s since they aren't considered real events.

"It works everywhere else, why not at an Olympics? You would get specialists and you would get people swimming

so much faster... I'm standing on the podium and everything I have been told is that you're winning a medal for an event that's not real. It's already taking away the credit from incredible athletes," said Cooper.

It remains to be seen whether the IOC will go forward with these changes at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The New Era Galacticos: Can Real Madrid's Superteam Actually Succeed?

HAOYU ZHANG

Coming off a historic summer with the signing of French superstar Kylian Mbappe and Brazilian wunderkind Endrick, Real Madrid has truly become the team to beat. With a squad filled with some of the best talents in the world, including but not limited to Vinicius Junior, Jude Bellingham, Antonio Rudiger, and Thibaut Courtois, Real Madrid is now the heavy favorite for all European competitions. However, not all superteams succeed, so the question remains: can they win it all? Or will another team step up and challenge the Galacticos?

Before this summer, the core of Madrid's squad consisted of Vinicius Jr. and Rodrygo up top, Valverde, Kroos, and Modric in the middle, and Rudiger and Carvajal in the defense - the team is damn good. They were good enough to win two of the last three Champions Leagues in both 2022 and 2024. With the

addition of Bellingham last summer, the team was looking stronger than ever, and now with the addition of Mbappe, Real Madrid have truly become unstoppable, at least on paper. The harsh reality is that Real Madrid currently sits second place in La Liga, behind Barcelona, and 17th in the Champions League table following an upset from Lille. So what is going on? How are the reigning European Champions losing, especially after signing Kylian Mbappe? Well, Mbappe was perhaps not the best fit for this team.

The problem starts with Real Madrid's formation, a 4-3-3 attack. The issue with this is that all four of the attackers are technical players who like to push in, and when four guys crowd around the box, it becomes extremely difficult to find space, making it easier for the defense. The other problem is Mbappe and Vinicius Jr.'s playstyles. Although Mbappe is a striker on paper, he has tendencies to drift into the left wing, which is where Vinicius Jr. primar-

ily works. This does allow Bellingham to step up in the middle, but this also creates two downsides. Firstly, with four players up the field, the team becomes vulnerable to counterattacks. Secondly, Bellingham is not a true striker, he is an attacking midfielder. No matter the

amount of steps he gets, he will not be inside the box to score goals, something Madrid desperately needs from Mbappe.

All these reasons may have contributed to an offensive slump for now; however, this is unlikely to last long. Madrid's coach, Carlo Ancelotti,

is a man of principle, and he will not let his players play without a sense of position. With due time, Ancelotti will figure out how to properly integrate Mbappe into the starting lineup, and when that day comes, a new dynasty might be formed.



Kylian Mbappe celebrates his first goal for Real Madrid.



Which Duo In The NBA Complements Each Other The Best?

ISAAC LEEPER

It seems that almost every year there is a new power duo waiting to take the NBA by storm. This inevitability sparks discussion and debate on who the best duo in the league is. In this article, I'm going to analyze every major duo in the league and put them in categories where I see fit. These rankings will not include duos that are part of a big three, as the presence of a third superstar dramatically changes the production of the other two.

Teams Not Up For Rankings Due To Having A Big Three:

Boston Celtics: Jaylen Brown, Jayson Tatum, Kristaps Porzingis

Philadelphia 76ers: Paul George, Tyrese Maxey, Joel Embiid

Minnesota Timberwolves: Anthony Edwards, Rudy Gobert, Julius Randle

New York Knicks: Jalen Brunson, Mikal Bridges, Karl-Anthony Towns

Sacramento Kings: DeMar DeRozan, De'Aaron Fox, Domantas Sabonis

New Orleans Pelicans: Dejounte Murray, Brandon Ingram, Zion Williamson

Phoenix Suns: Kevin Durant, Bradley Beal, Devin Booker

Teams That Don't Really Have A Big Two:

Atlanta Hawks: With the departure of Dejounte Murray, the Hawks have only Trae Young to rely on for this upcoming season. On a more positive note, Atlanta does have a young cast of supporting players who could push the team to a play-in spot.

Brooklyn Nets: Cam Thomas is the Nets' best player. He himself isn't a superstar yet, and he is surrounded by role players like Ben Simmons.

Charlotte Hornets: LaMelo Ball doesn't really have a star who complements him; the second-best player on his team, Miles Bridges, is decent, but I don't believe he has achieved the level of stardom required to reach my rankings.

Detroit Pistons: Cade Cunningham has shown to be the centerpiece of the Pistons roster that doesn't flash any signs of a winning season. This may be a harsh statement as the Pistons have one of the youngest teams in the league. I still don't think they will be great this year, but if they continue developing Isaiah Stewart and maybe trade for an established star, they may see the playoffs in a couple of years.

Golden State Warriors:

After the departure of long-time Warriors legend, Klay Thompson, Stephen Curry and the Warriors find themselves at the start of a rebuild. As Curry's time in the league dwindles down, the team's front office needs to find a second star quickly to accompany Stephen Curry and perhaps win one more title for the city of San Francisco.

Houston Rockets: A case could be made that there is a duo between Jalen Green and Alperen Sengun, but I believe it's too early to tell. They almost led the Rockets to a playoff berth until they lost to the Mavericks 147-136. This team does have potential and will try to show it in this upcoming year.

Portland Trail Blazers: Another team with a young roster, 25-year-old Anfernee Simons is clearly the motor of the Trail Blazers offense. A duo can potentially develop between his backcourt partner, Scoot Henderson, albeit with time, due to the fact they are so young. They also have great depth at the center position, composed of Deandre Ayton, Robert Williams III, Donovan Clingan, and Duop Reath. It may be in the team's best interest to trade one of them for future assets, but it is uncertain which one. Deandre Ayton might be too valuable to give up, Williams III is a great defensive player but is too injury-prone to accumulate interest, Clingan is a rookie, and Duop Reath isn't worth much. Overall, this team has a lot of work to do if they want to even think of reaching the play-in tournament.

Toronto Raptors: Toronto is a team that has fallen from grace since their championship year in 2019, going 41-41 in 2022 and 25-57 in 2023. Their best player is Scottie Barnes, surrounded by players who would be on the bench anywhere else. Like many other teams on this list, they are in the middle of a rebuild. The biggest weakness on their roster is probably center, a position currently owned by veteran Jakob Poeltl. He's pretty good and does his job, but I believe the Raptors need to invest in a center with a little more star power.

Utah Jazz: This team is not looking good. All they have is Lauri Markkanen to carry this team for the third straight year. It is clear they are in the middle of a rebuild and trying to start a youth movement, but it's going to take a while.

Washington Wizards: Another hot mess. Jordan Poole is a diva role, and Kyle Kuzma is a role player on any other team in my eyes. Expect another high lottery pick.

The Potentials:

San Antonio Spurs: The Spurs gained a veteran playmaker in the off-season, signing 39-year-old Chris Paul to a one-year deal. This move brings a strong pres-



Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Chet Holmgren are looking to win their first NBA Championship together.

ence into the locker room and is a player who can take the reins of the Gregg Popovich offense which runs through their franchise gem, Victor Wembanyama. Wembanyama, the reigning rookie of the year, put the team on his back and now has someone who can create space and pass him the ball more effectively.

Chicago Bulls: During the off-season, Chicago acquired Josh Giddey from a trade with the Oklahoma City Thunder. Giddey, averaging 12 points, six rebounds, and five assists last season, asked for a trade out of Oklahoma City as he felt like his skills were being overshadowed by franchise players Chet Holmgren and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. He will find himself with a bigger role on the team, being paired with star Zach LaVine.

The Established:

Cleveland Cavaliers: Going into their third year together, Donovan Mitchell and Darius Garland are looking to return to the playoffs again after being bounced out last year by the eventual champion, Boston Celtics. The backcourt duo both scored well, with Mitchell averaging 27 points per game and Garland with 18 points per game. If the Cleveland front office can continue to develop a third star player, such as Evan Mobley, they have potential to be a big problem in the Eastern Conference.

Dallas Mavericks: Last year, Luka Doncic experienced his first NBA finals series along with his sidekick, Kyrie Irving. Irving, a playmaker last year, had five assists per game, while Doncic took control of the majority of Dallas' scoring, averaging an astounding 34 points per game. With the addition of the aging veteran Klay Thompson, you can expect the Mavericks to wreak havoc beyond the three point arc.

Denver Nuggets: Only a year removed from the franchise's first championship, three-time MVP Nikola Jokic is getting ready to suit up with his partner in crime,

Jamal Murray, to begin the Finals hunt. Jokic, arguably the most handy player of all time (26 points per game, 12 rebounds per game, nine assists per game), can do anything on the court.

Indiana Pacers: A once mediocre team is now one with the special duo of Tyrese Haliburton and Pascal Siakam. Haliburton has become a household name for fans around the league as he led the Pacers to their first playoff appearance since 2014, averaging 20 points and 11 assists. Siakam complements Haliburton's play and provides a big target to get to, as he averaged 21 points in his 41 games so far with the Pacers.

Los Angeles Clippers: So far, the collaboration between James Harden and Kawhi Leonard hasn't been anything spectacular. They were fourth in the Western Conference last year but got bounced in the first round by Dallas.

Los Angeles Lakers: LeBron James and Anthony Davis are running it back a fifth time together in a partnership that has resulted in one championship in 2020. If Anthony Davis stays healthy, it will take off pressure for an aging LeBron to put the team on his back.

Memphis Grizzlies: Ja Morant didn't get to play more than nine games last season with his partner Jaren Jackson Jr. due to his controversies over Instagram Live that got him suspended for multiple games. This year is crucial for this dynamic duo to prove that Memphis is a real competitor in the Western Conference.

Miami Heat: Tyler Herro has been a respectable partner for Jimmy Butler. In his five-year career, he has averaged 18 points, while Jimmy Butler has averaged around 21 points within the same timeframe. This effort from both of them has led to two finals appearances in five years.

Milwaukee Bucks: Damian Lillard provided a respectable partnership to two-time MVP Giannis Antetok-

ounmpo, helping the team go 49-33, taking third place in the Eastern Conference. In order for the Bucks to continue flourishing, however, they need to find more youthful and dynamic prospects to add to the team. I say this because the Bucks are one of the oldest teams in the league with an average age of 28.

Oklahoma City Thunder: Although very young, the Oklahoma City Thunder has shown huge flashes of the championship team they could be. Led by Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Chet Holmgren, the Thunder went an impressive 57-25, achieving the #1 seed in the Western Conference. Perhaps this is the season the Oklahoma City Thunder establish themselves as a threat to the Boston Celtics in the East.

Orlando Magic: This may be an unusual statement, but the Orlando Magic have a decent chance this season to break 50 wins, having been led by Paolo Banchero and Franz Wagner. Banchero averaged 23 points per game last season, while Wagner scored about 20 points per game himself. It is unique how the Orlando Magic roster is compiled as they rely on their two best players, who are forwards, compared to the typical guard-forward relationship.

My Final Thoughts on Who Is the Best Duo in the League:

There are 13 real duos in the NBA, and the best one is Chet Holmgren and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander of the Oklahoma City Thunder. The Oklahoma front office is one of the best as we see their star players blossom before our very eyes. The scary part about this team is not only their duo but who they could add as a third star, considering they have a whopping five first-round picks in the 2025 NBA draft. This team clearly has one of the biggest championship windows ever seen and you could bet your top dollar that there will be a parade in Oklahoma City very soon.



Red Sox Breakout Star Tyler O’Neill Takes Firm Stance On Upcoming Free Agency

SARAH BROWN

As the Major League Baseball (MLB) season is wrapping up, hopeful teams advance in the postseason, and preparations for next year have begun. One of the biggest talking points before every upcoming season is which players are about to hit free agency. This is always a great opportunity to shake things up in the baseball world, with strategic trades ultimately creating more variety and chances for teams to win a coveted World Series Title.

One player of note to watch is Tyler O’Neill, a left fielder currently playing for the Boston Red Sox. Originally from Burnaby, BC, Canada,

O’Neill first signed with the team in December 2023, joining through a trade deal with the St. Louis Cardinals.

With a current batting average of 0.241 and 31 home runs this season, O’Neill is a primary candidate for many teams; his current five-year deal projection is at 90 million dollars. Recently, however, he has seemingly made it clear what he would do if offered another contract from the Sox.

“I really hope Boston [takes] interest in me. It’s been an awesome year and I’ve made a lot of good relationships and a lot of good friendships here,” O’Neill said in an interview with New England Sports Network (NESN) discussing his up-

coming free agency. “Boston has definitely been one of my favorite places to play.”

The feeling seems to be mutual, as many fans are extremely hopeful for a Red Sox future that has O’Neill in it. It is rumored that the Red Sox will offer him the 21.05 million dollar qualifying offer rate that the MLB has set in place for the season, the highest ever seen in the league. However, nothing has been confirmed by Red Sox staff so far. It is also expected that other teams, specifically the Philadelphia Phillies, have been in talks about recruiting him for his projected salary. If he did choose to sign with another team, the Red Sox would still be gaining draft-pick com-



Tyler O’Neill making his way around second base during a Red Sox game.

penetration for the loss of a free agent, though the possibility of him agreeing to an offer with his current team seems high. However, his recent injuries in the past few years have the possibility of lessening his offers, as they have already inter-

fered with his ability to play in multiple games this season. This, however, doesn’t seem like it would be enough for the Red Sox to pass on resigning him. We will have to wait and see what the new season brings.

The Future Of F1 After The 2024 Season

BRANDON HORNE

With six races to go in the 2024 season, the stage is set for a potential championship-deciding race at Abu Dhabi. As of October 18th, Max Verstappen leads Lando Norris by 52 points and Charles Leclerc by 86 points. However, the car Verstappen drives is a far cry from the dominant machine he drove one season ago. The pure pace advantage has gone, leaving Verstappen with the third fastest car overall. In a shocking turn of events, McLaren, perennial midfielders, have completely changed their outlook, with a car well ahead of the current field. This gives Lando Norris an

excellent shot at his first championship, as he has closed the gap to Verstappen by 32 points since the British GP.

Further down the field, many new changes are on the horizon. For one, the primary reason for Red Bull’s dominance, and now downfall, Adrian Newey, is moving to Aston Martin. This partnership needs to be successful. Lawrence Stroll, owner of Aston Martin F1, has injected his team with oodles of cash and talent, but so far, this has been for nothing. If Newey is unable to turn the team around, they will soon be branded the PSG of Formula 1, with all the money in the world leading to zero results. Even if they do

produce a car worthy of Newey’s \$40 million yearly salary, who will take advantage? Alonso has proved his worth despite his age, but it remains to be seen if he is capable of winning another championship, and don’t even get started on Stroll. He hasn’t been competitive since 2022!

Additionally, the most prolific driver on the grid, Lewis Hamilton, will be leaving for Ferrari next season, a truly riveting prospect. His career moves, to this point, have only resulted in world championships, and Ferrari is the last of the 3 major teams he has yet to drive for. If he can restore their former glory as Schumacher did 25 years ago, all will be well in Maranello.


That brings us to my personal predictions for the season. So here we go.

I think McLaren has an extremely strong package, so I’m pretty confident they will win the drivers championship both this year and next. As for the drivers, I think Oscar Piastri will make the leap, and take the title. I don’t have a lot of confidence in Lando Norris’s abili-

ty, particularly under pressure. Overall, the year promises to be ultra exciting, with the potential for many teams to compete for both the constructors and drivers championships.



Carlos Sainz leads Max Verstappen and Charles Leclerc down a straight with the rest of the field behind them.

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