



# MESSI SET TO JOIN BECKHAM'S 'INTER MIAMI'

According to reports, Inter Miami has won the race to sign Paris Saint-Germain star Lionel Messi for nothing. The Argentine superstar's departure from his two-year residence at Parc des Princes to take up a new challenge has been known for a number of weeks.

The 35-year-old's two most likely choices appear to be a move to Saudi Arabia or Barcelona, the former of which he discussed with his father earlier this week.

While returning to Camp Nou would have required the Catalan giants to find a financial solution, moving to Saudi Arabia would not have presented such obstacles.

Before Karim Benzema joined Al-Ittihad, Al-Hilal had been connected to Messi, while Wilfried Zaha and N'Golo Kante had also been linked to lucrative moves to the Middle East. However, Spanish journalist

Guillem Balague has reported on Twitter that Messi is transferring to MLS rather than becoming the most well-known person to migrate to Saudi Arabia. It's no secret that Messi like the city and already owns property there, despite Inter Miami rarely being considered as a top candidate to sign the attacker.

Before attempting to negotiate a deal, the franchise's position at the bottom of the Eastern Conference after five straight losses seems to have done it no favours.

Nevertheless, Balague claims that after Messi's PSG contract expires at the end of June, he will join the Florida-based team.

With a game still to play, Inter Miami is now six points out of a spot in the Final Series Playoffs, presumably keeping them in the running to prolong their season. In his 75 appearances in all competitions, Messi contributed 32 goals and 35 assists, helping PSG win two Ligue 1 championships.



## NABY KETA JOINS WERDER BREMEN

After five years with a club that won the Premier League in 2020, the Champions League the year prior, the FA Cup, and the League Cup once each, Keta departs from Liverpool. The Guinean, who previously played for Leipzig for two years before joining Liverpool in 2018, is returning to Germany. Due in part to a string of ailments, he played in just 13 games for Liverpool this season. Soon after Argentine player Alexis Mac Allister joined Liverpool on Thursday for a rumoured initial cost of 35 million pounds (\$43.6 million), Keita left the club.

Argentina's World Cup-winning team member Mac Allister recently moved from Brighton on what Liverpool referred to as a "long-term deal."



## ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC BIDS FAREWELL TO FOOTBALL

After their final game of the season against Hellas Verona, AC Milan forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic announced his retirement from football. The Swedish player made the decision to call it quits after playing for teams like Malmo, Ajax, Juventus, Inter, Barcelona, PSG, Manchester United, and the LA Galaxy and winning numerous trophies. In his 24 years as a professional player, Zlatan Ibrahimovic has also won numerous league championships in the Netherlands, Spain, France, and Italy. 34 trophies have been won by Ibrahimovic throughout his career, including 1 FIFA Club World Cup, 5 UEFA Champions League championships, and 11 league championships. Additionally, he has received the Golden Boot honour in the following countries: Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, France, and the United States.



## INDIA LOSES ITS LONE ATP 250 TOURNAMENT

Indian tennis has lost its lone ATP 250 competition, an event that was first held back in 1996 and was previously run under the name Tata Open Maharashtra, in a loss for the nation's ATP Tour presence. When the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association decided to stop hosting the tournament after 13 long years, the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association prevented it from leaving the nation in 2018.

MSLTA, the Maharashtra government, IMG, and RISE Worldwide (a project of the Reliance Group), the tournament's owner, came to an agreement to hold the competition. Although no contract has yet been finalised, it has also been learned that the competition would be moved to Hong Kong.



## FERRARI WINS THE POLE FOR FIRST TIME IN 50 YEARS

In the 100th running of the 24 Hours of Le Mans sportscar event, Ferrari swept the front row in qualifying on Thursday, with the number 50 car capturing the Italian manufacturer's first pole position at the Sarthe track in fifty years.

While driving the 499P vehicle he shares with Miguel Molina of Spain and Nicklas Nielsen of Denmark, Italian Antonio Fuoco interrupted champions Toyota's streak of six consecutive Le Mans pole positions. James Calado, Antonio Giovinazzi, and Alessandro Pier Guidi of Italy drove the sister number 51 vehicle, which qualified 0.773 seconds slower than the pole lap time.

Sebastien Buemi of Switzerland, Brendon Hartley of New Zealand, and Ryo Hirakawa of Japan qualified the eighth hybrid Toyota, which finished third.

## VIRTUAL GOLF LEAGUE'S FIRST TEAM TO BE OWNED BY WILLIAMS SISTERS

The inaugural team in the new virtual golf league created by Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, TGL, will be owned by Tennis superstars Serena and Venus Williams as well as Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian. Los Angeles Golf Club (LAGC), one of six teams in the TGL, a collaboration between the PGA Tour and Woods and McIlroy's TMRW Sports, was revealed as the league's first member on Thursday. Starting in January of 2019, the TGL plans to host tech-golf combination made-for-television events at a specially constructed site in Florida on Monday nights. Three-golfer teams would play 18 holes of simulated driving, chipping, and putting in an arena-like setting. Serena Williams' husband, Ohanian, also served as a founding investor in the National Women's Soccer League's Angel City FC.

## JACK DRAPER TO MISS WIMBLEDON DUE TO INJURY

Draper won't be the only young British star missing from Wimbledon. Emma Raducanu, the 2021 U.S. Open champion, announced in May that she would be sidelined for several months to have procedures on both hands and an ankle. Because of a shoulder injury that kept him out of the French Open, Jack Draper will miss Wimbledon. The British athlete, 21, stated on Thursday that he needed time to heal from his most recent injury setback. Draper quit from his first-round play at Roland Garros last Monday against Tomas Martin Etcheverry with a set and a 1-0 deficit. The 55th-ranked 6-foot-4 left-hander had intended to make his third appearance at the All-England Club the following month. Young British stars won't just be missing from Wimbledon because of Draper. The 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu said in May that she will require surgery on both hands and an ankle, which would keep her out of action for a while.



## LECLERC HELMET SOLD AT AUCTION IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA FOR RECORD PRICE

In an auction to raise money for flood victims in Emilia-Romagna, the Formula One helmet that Ferrari's Charles Leclerc wore at his home Monaco Grand Prix last month sold for a record 306,000 euros (\$329,960). The cost makes it the most expensive racing helmet ever auctioned, according to auctioneers RM Sotheby's, who made the assertion in a statement on Thursday. The previous record was established in 2019 when a 1990 helmet used by Brazilian triple winner Ayrton Senna sold for 162,000 euros while still including the team radio. In a charity auction for "Charles Leclerc for Emilia-Romagna," which raised a total of 429,600 euros, Leclerc's race outfit brought in 61,200 euros, his boots brought in 20,400 euros, and his gloves brought in 42,000 euros. When severe rain caused more than 20 rivers to burst their banks and send water rushing through cities and villages in northern Italy in May, fifteen people perished in the floods.

