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Yoon double puts Ulsan Hyundai in last 16, Beijing FC stay perfect

AFP
 DOHA

YOON Bit-garam struck once in each half to send Ulsan Hyundai through to the round of 16 in the Asian Champions League with a 2-1 win over FC Tokyo on Monday.

The 30-year-old's efforts ensured top position in Group F for Ulsan with 13 points from five matches, while Tokyo are level on seven points with Shanghai Shenhua, who drew 3-3 with Perth Glory.

Ulsan though were in for a massive shock immediately after kick-off when Tokyo's Kensuke Nagai scored in the first minute from a seemingly routine move on the right flank.

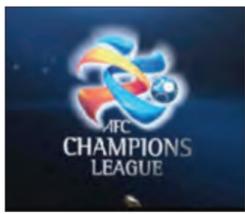
Shuto Abe poked the ball into the path of the advancing Nagai, who capitalised on uncertain Ulsan defending with a measured low drive that beat goalkeeper Jo Su-huk via the upright.

Although Tokyo held the lead, it was Ulsan who largely dominated the match, keeping the Tokyo defence on edge constantly. But after several attempts at goal, the equaliser came only in the 44th minute as Yoon curled in a free-kick from 25 yards following a foul on him by Joan Oumari.

Ulsan never lost their grip on the match after the resumption and sealed the win in the 85th minute, Yoon prof-

iting from an assist by Won Du-jae and slamming the ball past Tokyo goalkeeper Go Hatanoto for his fourth goal of the tournament this year.

"I'd like to congratulate our players for qualifying for the next round. I am so happy," said Ulsan Hyundai coach Kim Do-hoon.



"We conceded an early goal and tried to recover it as quickly as possible, which was a good point for us. We fought as one team."

Perth Glory blew their chance for a first win in five Group F matches as Shanghai Shenhua overcame a two-goal deficit before conceding a late equaliser.

Uruguayan Bruno Fornaroli scored in first-half stoppage time to put Perth ahead and Carlo Armiento increased their advantage nine minutes after the break.

But Shanghai had other ideas as they fought back with three goals in 12 minutes with Giovanni Moreno scoring a



Tokyo's midfielder Masato Morishige (left) vies for the ball with Ulsan's midfielders Lee Sang-Heon (centre) and Yun Bit-Garam (No. 10) during their AFC Champions League Group F match at the Education City Stadium on Monday. (AFP)

brace and Yu Hanchao also on target as Perth fell a goal behind for the first time.

However, Neil Kilkeny

scored from the penalty spot with seven minutes remaining to give the already eliminated Australians their first point.

Beijing march on
 Meanwhile form team Beijing Guoan maintained their unbeaten run at this year's

competition with their fifth consecutive win in Group E, easing past FC Seoul 3-1. Beijing had already quali-

fied with two matches to spare, but didn't take their foot off the pedal on Monday as goals from Jonathan Viera and Renato Augusto gave them a 2-0 advantage at half-time.

Yun Ju-tae pulled one back for Seoul in the 89th minute but Zhang Yuning put the issue beyond doubt for Bruno Genesio's men with a stoppage-time effort.

"Today's match, before the game, I asked the players to play with a serious attitude and respect the opponents," said Genesio.

"We played well and we knew we had to fight hard and score goals. Even after we conceded (late in the second half), we responded by scoring again."

Seoul coach Lee Won-jun was despondent after his team fell nine points behind Beijing, although they are still in second place.

"After the defeat to Beijing in the first match I told the players to play without pressure, which they did today," said Lee.

"But they also committed some mistakes and we were punished by three goals."

Results
Ulsan Hyundai 2 (Yoon Bit-garam 44', 85') **bt FC Tokyo 1** (Kensuke Nagai 1')
Beijing Guoan 3 (Jonathan Viera 23', Renato Augusto 43', Zhang Yuning 90+3') **bt FC Seoul 1** (Yun Ju-tae 89').

FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers



Qatar's Nedim Muslic goes for the basket during the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers against Saudi Arabia at the Al Gharafa Sports Club on Monday. Qatar went down 73-67 in Overtime after the scores were locked 67-all.

Qatar edged in Overtime

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
 DOHA

THE action in Group E of the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers on Monday confirmed how competitive the teams are as hosts Qatar were edged in Overtime 73-67 after the scores were locked 67-67 in a clash which had its own dramatic twists and turns at the Al Gharafa Sports Club.

The two teams went toe-to-toe through the entire game with neither side building up a lead up to double-digits. Qatar were able to capitalise on Saudi Arabia's failure to control the ball, turning their opponent's 19 turnovers into 25 points. However, they weren't able to score efficiently enough at only 31.9 percent

field goal shooting.

Despite their turnover woes, Saudi Arabia facilitated their inside advantage and dominated the paint. Big men Mohamed Alsuwailem and Mohammed Almarwani combined for 27 points on 12-15 shooting, constantly causing trouble for Qatar.

Still, the edge wasn't enough for Saudi Arabia to seal the deal in regulation as the game was played for an extra five minutes of overtime to decide the winner.

From there, it was the Khalid Abdel Gabar show. His midrange jumper with less than one minute to go drew comparison to another famous clutch shot. He doubled-down with a three-pointer a few seconds later to put the nail in the

coffin. Abdel Gabar finished the game with 15 points in the 73-67 win for Saudi Arabia.

With the results of these two games, all four teams of Group E will leave the Qatar bubble with one win and one loss each.

Iran are still sitting at the top of the standings with a 3-1 record. Syria are at second-place with a 2-2 record and the tiebreaker over third-placed Saudi Arabia who are also 2-2. Qatar remain at the bottom with a 1-3 record, though the gap is close enough for quick changes in the standings at the next window.

Qatar-Saudi Arabia Scoreline: Saudi Arabia 73 Qatar 67 (Q1: Qatar 21-17; Q2: Saudi 20-16; Q3: Saudi 13-10; Q4: Qatar 13-10; OT1: Saudi 13-7).

Jimenez suffers fractured skull in horror collision, Ederson calls for concussion subs

AFP
 LONDON

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers (Wolves) striker Raul Jimenez fractured his skull in a clash of heads with Arsenal's David Luiz in Sunday's match his club said on Monday.

The 29-year-old Mexican international received treatment for 10 minutes on the pitch before being taken to hospital.

Wolves - who won the game 2-1 for their first win at Arsenal in 40 years - said he would remain under observation for a few days.

"Raul is comfortable following an operation last night, which he underwent in a London hospital," read the club statement.

"He has since seen his partner Daniela and is now resting. He will remain under observation for a few days while he begins his recovery."

"The club would like to thank the medical staff at Arsenal, the NHS paramedics, hospital staff and surgeons who, through their skill and early response, were of such help."

"The club ask that Raul and his family are now afforded a period of space and privacy, before any further updates are provided in due course."

Luiz stayed on the pitch with blood seeping into a white bandage wrapped around his head until half-time.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta defended the decision to keep the Brazilian on saying he had shown no signs of concussion and was only withdrawn as the Brazilian was concerned about the cut.

However, there have been renewed calls for temporary



Arsenal's Brazilian defender David Luiz (left) and Wolverhampton Wanderers' Mexican striker Raul Jimenez lay injured during their English Premier League match in London on Sunday. (AFP)

substitutes to be used as they are in rugby union whilst the player is given a thorough examination.

"Too often in football we see players returning to the pitch having undergone a concussion assessment only to be withdrawn a few minutes later when it is clear that they are not fit to continue," said Luke Griggs, chief executive of brain injury charity Headway.

"That is the very reason why we urgently need temporary concussion substitutes in football."

"You simply cannot take a risk with head injuries."

Football's lawmakers IFAB have opened the door for concussion substitutes to be used on a trial basis with the English Football Association hoping to do so in this season's FA Cup.



David Luiz is bandaged after clashing heads with Raul Jimenez.

Man City's Ederson joins call for concussion subs

Meanwhile, Manchester City goalkeeper Ederson has called for the introduction of concussion substitutes to football. "I was very worried, I was watching the game. I played with Raul Jimenez at Benfica," Ederson said on Monday.

"I think all the concern and care is very important. It

is a part of the body that needs special attention.

"When there is a blow to the head there should be a substitution, whether the player can continue or not. You could be feeling OK but after you could feel the consequences."

Ederson has personal experience of nasty head knocks as he needed eight stitches to repair facial wounds after being caught the boot of Liverpool's Sadio Mane in 2017.

And in June he knocked out teammate Eric Garcia in a match against Arsenal, that saw the Spanish defender wear a scrum cap on his return to field.

Pep Guardiola called for clearer guidelines on whether any head knock should result in a player being substituted, even if they pass the on-field concussion check by club doctors.

Ulsan Hyundai's former QSL midfielder Koh Myong-jin says he's pleased to be back in Qatar



Koh Myong-jin of Ulsan Hyundai (No. 22) ahead of the AFC Champions League Group F match against Australia's Perth Glory at the Education City Stadium on Friday. (AFP)

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

SOUTH Korean midfielder Koh Myong-jin, familiar to football lovers of Qatar as the hard-working, tough-tackling professional of Al Rayyan SC's romp to the Qatar Stars League title in 2015-16, has displayed another dimension of his skill sets upon his return to the 2022 FIFA World Cup host nation with K League club Ulsan Hyundai in the 2020 AFC Champions League.

Deployed as an attacking midfielder by coach Kim Do-hoon in the Group F game against Australia's Perth Glory at Education City Stadium, Koh produced a standout man-of-the-match winning performance as his side tri-

umphed 2-0 to emerge as the group leaders. Though he was not on the scoresheet, Koh was a constant source of threat for the Aussies throughout the 90 minutes with his darting runs and piercing passes and his efforts led to the Korean side's total dominance in the midfield.

The 32-year-old, who made 82 appearances for Al

Rayyan between 2015 and 2019, has had no hesitation in attributing his masterclass to the comfort level he had in once adopted home Qatar.

"I feel really pleased to be back in Qatar," Koh told media after the match.

"I have played here for four years and hence I was comfortable while playing. That is why I wanted to show my quality. Also, this time I was coming back as a member of a South Korean team - so I wanted to do well. I am glad I did and once again I am so pleased to be back in Qatar."

Koh Myong-jin, two-time K League winner and 2013 AFC Champions League runner-up with FC Seoul, was part of Jorge Fossati's Al Rayyan squad during the 2015-16 QSL.

Also, this time I was coming back as a member of a South Korean team - so I wanted to do well. I am glad I did and once again I am so pleased to be back in Qatar."

The two-time K League winner and 2013 AFC Champions League runner-up with FC Seoul was part of Jorge Fossati's Al Rayyan squad which, endowed with the attacking riches of Qatari internationals Rodrigo Tabata and Sebastian Soria and Spanish forward Sergio Garcia, had bagged the title with a 14-point gap over the second placed side in 2015-16.

With Koh's Ulsan midfield compatriot Yoon Bit-garam, who started along with Koh against Perth Glory, having spoken about his share of glorious Qatar memories after his

man-of-the-match winning performance against Shanghai Shenhua on 21 November, it looks like coach Kim Do-hoon will be banking on his midfield duo to derive motivation from their exploits of the past in the 2022 FIFA WC host nation as his team looks to cement its place in the knock-out stages.

As a member of the South Korean national team, Yoon had scored the extra-time winner against a strong Iranian side in the 2011 AFC Asian Cup held in Qatar.

"I scored a good goal here (against Iran) and have good memories of Qatar. It was not only me - my teammates also showed a strong will," he had told media after his brace in the 3-1 win against Shanghai Shenhua.

Shenhua, Perth Glory share points in thriller

AFC
DOHA

SHANGHAI Shenhua missed a chance to boost their 2020 AFC Champions League knockout stage prospects as they were held to a gripping 3-3 draw by already-eliminated Perth Glory on Monday.

A pair of superb free-kicks from Bruno Fornaroli and Carlo Armiento had the Australians in sight of their first ever win the competition, but Shenhua came roaring back with a brace from Givoanni Moreno, and Yu Hanchao then had them ahead in the 73rd minute, before Neil Kilkenny salvaged Perth's maiden point from the penalty spot.

The result means Choi Kang-hee's side are level with second-placed FC Tokyo on seven points, with Thursday's final round of Group F matches to determine who advances.

In a thrill-a-minute contest the chances flowed from the early stages, with Moreno forc-

ing a stop from returning Perth goalkeeper Liam Reddy, before Daniel Stynes asked the question of Shenhua custodian Li Shuai at the other end.

Dane Ingham was also denied twice by Li, although he should have done better with his tame effort after some terrific build-up in the 34th minute, while Shenhua's Liu Ruofan had one effort blocked on the goal line by Jonathan Asproptomitis and another impressively saved by Reddy.

Fornaroli showed them all how it was done in the second minute of injury time, picking out the top corner with a scorching 25-yard free kick to put Perth ahead at half-time, giving the Uruguayan his first career goal in Asian competition.

Perth were very nearly caught cold at the beginning of the second half, with another important Reddy stop denying Bi Jinhao, and Shenhua were on top for the much of the following stages, but they fell fur-



Perth Glory midfielder Dane Ingham (right) vies for the ball with Shanghai Shenhua defender Yue Zhu during their AFC Champions League Group F match at the Education City Stadium on Monday. (AFP)

ther behind to another direct free-kick in the 58th minute.

This latest piece of set piece wizardry was executed by Carlo Armiento, who scored with his very first kick of the ball, and less than a minute after replacing Daniel Stynes, with Li failing to keep the 20-yard effort out despite getting a hand to it.

Any expectation that Perth's first ACL win would

come easily was quickly dismissed when Moreno pulled a goal back for Shenhua four minutes later, with the Colombian star climbing the highest to head home Cao Yunding's floated cross.

Fornaroli squandered a gilt-edged chance to restore Perth's two-goal buffer in the 65th minute, and he was made to rue his miss when Moreno

poked home the equaliser seven minutes, with his 190-centimetre frame too much for 16-year-old Perth defender Josh Rawlins to handle.

Shenhua were now in full flight, and they went ahead just a minute later when Yu continued his terrific form by curling in his third of the tournament from 20 yards.

That looked to be the winning goal, but Perth - who had fallen victim to late collapses in their two previous matches against Ulsan Hyundai - wouldn't leave empty handed this time, with Kilkenny calmly slotting home an 86th minute spot-kick after Stephane MBia had clumsily fouled Armiento.

A stop from Reddy denied a last-gasp from Yu while Cao Yunding was sent off after the final whistle of the thrilling tie.

Shanghai Shenhua's fate now rests on the group's final Matchday. The Chinese side will face group winners Ulsan Hyundai, while FC Tokyo will meet Perth.

Guangzhou, Suwon to lock horns in do-or-die battle

AFC
DOHA

GUANGZHOU Evergrande face their ultimate test in pursuit of a place in the 2020 AFC Champions League (East) Round of 16 when they take on Suwon Samsung Bluewings at Khalifa International Stadium on Tuesday.

With Vissel Kobe having secured their place in the next round a week earlier, the two sides know their second head-to-head clash will be vital for their chances of staying in Doha beyond the group stage.

And while Suwon Samsung Bluewings still have a game against Group G leaders Vissel Kobe three days later, meaning a draw on Tuesday still keeps their hopes alive and in their own hands, Guangzhou Evergrande know any result other than the three points leaves their fate at the mercy of the Korean side.

The two teams settled for a stalemate when they met in their first fixture in the Qatar capital nine days earlier, and since then head coach Fabio Cannavaro's men exchanged wits with Vissel Kobe while Suwon Samsung Bluewings enjoyed plenty of rest with their double-tie against Johor Darul Ta'zim cancelled as the Malaysian side withdrew from the competition.

"In the first match, there was a look of misfortune that prevented us from winning but since then we trained well and that should help us win tomorrow," said Suwon head coach Park Kun-ha.

"It is true that a draw still keeps our chances alive, but if we draw it will be a very dif-



Guangzhou Evergrande face their ultimate test for a place in the 2020 AFC Champions League (East) Round of 16 when they take on Suwon Samsung Bluewings at Khalifa International Stadium on Tuesday.

Standings Group G

Club	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Vissel Kobe (JPN)	3	2	0	1	4	3	1	6
Guangzhou Evergrande FC (CHN)	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Suwon Samsung Bluewings (KOR)	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1

ficult situation, so we will aim for victory tomorrow.

"We don't have any particular issues. Before arriving here we had a lot of problems with our attackers. In the first matches we created a lot of chances but we could not score. Now that we have a full squad, we are more confident that we can find the goals that will help us win tomorrow."

Two-time AFC Champions League winners Guangzhou Evergrande have made the knockout stage in all but one of their eight appearances in the competition, crashing out at the group stage in 2016.

Suwon Samsung Bluew-

ings, meanwhile, have reached the semi-finals on two occasions; most recently in their last appearance in 2018 when they lost to Kashima Antlers of Japan.

"If we want to go forward, we should win this match. We will do our best. We know them, we played against them nine days ago. Of course, if we want to go to the next stage, we must win. They have a game more, but for us it is the last game. I want to try to win this game because we don't want to wait," said Cannavaro.

"It is not easy, I tried in the last three games to change the line-up every time so we do

Today's Matches

At Khalifa International Stadium
1pm: Guangzhou Evergrande FC (CHN) v Suwon Samsung Bluewings (KOR)
At Al Janoub Stadium
1pm: Yokohama F. Marinos (JPN) v Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC (KOR)
4pm: Shanghai SIPG FC (CHN) v Sydney FC (AUS)

not get tired. The good news is that Fernandinho was back in training yesterday, the bad news - Park Ji-soo wasn't in good condition this morning.

"I know I don't have all my players here but I will give the opportunity to everyone even if they are young, but this is the only way. In football, you can do amazing things, but if you don't win, it means little," added FIFA World Cup winner Cannavaro.

Marinos look to seal knockout berth against Jeonbuk

AFC
DOHA

YOKOHAMA F. Marinos will have two chances to book their ticket to the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16, but head coach Ange Postecoglou is eager to ensure that only one is required when they face Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors on Tuesday.

Joint group leaders alongside Shanghai SIPG on nine points, the 2019 J1 League champions hold a handsome five-point advantage on third-placed Jeonbuk, meaning their progression will be secure even with a draw at the Al Janoub Stadium. But head coach Ange Postecoglou has never been known to approach games looking for any other than three points, and the former Australia boss declared he was excited about the 90 minutes ahead.

"It's another good challenge for us. They're a very good team with a very good coach and they've been successful again in the K League. They have great pedigree in this tournament. They have a few injuries and players missing, but it is a great challenge for us."

"We're trying to establish ourselves in this competition for years to come and games like tomorrow are a good chance to test ourselves against one of Asia's best," said Postecoglou. (AFC)

Melbourne hopes suffer blow with draw vs Chiangrai

AFC
DOHA

MELBOURNE Victory's hopes of advancing to the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16 suffered a blow after they were held 2-2 by Chiangrai United in Group E action on Monday.

With FC Seoul falling to a 3-1 defeat at Beijing FC, both sides went into the game knowing triumph at Jassim bin Hamad Stadium would put the winners within three points of reaching the knock-out stages.

Melbourne Victory got off to a flying start and within eight minutes Jake Brimmer had found his way into the opposition box and was brought down by goalkeeper Apirak Worawong. Brimmer stepped up to take the penalty himself and duly converted, putting his team in front.

The Australian side doubled their lead in the 27th minute when Ben Folami latched onto a long pass from Jacob Butterfield, lobbing the goalkeeper with a quality first-touch finish from inside the box.

Chiangrai United started the second half on the front foot and within two minutes they had halved the deficit. Playmaker Siwakorn Tiatrakul whipped a cross from the right flank that evaded everyone inside the box and goalkeeper Matthew Acton misjudged the flight of the ball, watching it nestle in the back of his net.

The Thai side continued to dominate, taking the game to their opponents' half with Tiatrakul heading high at the near post and Brazilian forward Bill testing the goalkeeper from distance before the midway point of the second half.



Melbourne's forward Ben Folami (left) celebrates his goal against Thailand's Chiangrai United at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium on Monday. (AFP)

With just nine minutes to go, Melbourne Victory thought they had scored against the run of play when Luis Lawrie-Lattanzio sent youngster Birkan Kirdar through on goal with a sublime through pass, but goalkeeper Worawong was quick off his line and smothered the substitute's shot.

Instead it was Chiangrai United who immediately picked up the counter attack and delivered at the other end. Tiatrakul showed his creativity to supply Chotipat Poomkeaw down the right and the number 13 whipped in a low cross for fellow substitute Gionata Verzura who swept home the equaliser.

The result officially consigns Chiangrai United to a group stage exit on their continental debut, while Melbourne Victory now need a win against FC Seoul in their last game to advance to the Round of 16.

Grosjean says he's okay after fiery crash, F1 into deep analysis

AFP
SAKHIR (BAHRAIN)

FRENCH driver Romain Grosjean will sit out next weekend's Formula One race after escaping a fiery high-speed crash in the Bahrain Grand Prix with just burns to his hands, his team Haas said on Monday.

Grosjean walked away from the wreckage after he collided with Daniil Kvyat's Alpha Tauri on the first lap of Sunday's race, causing the Haas car to split in half and burst into flames as it smashed through the safety barriers at 225kph.

Haas said treatment for the burns that 34-year-old Grosjean suffered was "going well" and he was expected to be discharged from hospital on Tuesday.

Grosjean escaped alive thanks to the integrity of his car's survival cell, his 'halo' device, which deflected the ruptured Armco metal barriers away from his head, his own presence of mind in remaining calm as he extricated himself and the rapid skilled assistance of F1's medical staff and track marshals.

"Hello everyone, I just wanted to say I'm okay, well, sort of okay," the Frenchman said in an Instagram post. "Thank you very much for all the messages."

"I wasn't for the 'halo' some years ago, but I think it's the greatest thing we brought to Formula One and, without it, I wouldn't be able to speak to you today."

Brazilian driver Pietro Fittipaldi – grandson of two-time world champion Emerson Fit-



Haas F1's French driver Romain Grosjean tweeted this picture of his on Monday from the hospital after he survived a hi-speed crash and fireball blaze during the opening lap of the Bahrain Grand Prix on Sunday.

tipaldi – will make his Formula One debut in place of Grosjean in the Sakhir Grand Prix, also in Bahrain, next Sunday. "After it was decided that

the best thing for Romain was to skip at least one race the choice was pretty easy," said team principal Guenther Steiner.

“Hello everyone, I just wanted to say I'm okay, well, sort of okay. Thank you very much for all the messages”

"Pietro is familiar with us and it's the right thing to do." The 24-year-old tested with Haas in 2018 and 2019.

"Most importantly, I'm happy Romain is safe and healthy," said Fittipaldi.

"We are all happy his injuries are relatively minor after such a huge accident. Obviously it's not an ideal set of circumstances to get my first opportunity."

'FULL INVESTIGATION'

As to Grosjean's future and the final race in Abu Dhabi,

Steiner said he would leave it to the driver. This weekend's Sakhir Grand Prix is the second of three events in the sport's end of season triple-header in the Middle East, which is likely to mark the end of Grosjean's F1 career.

He and Haas team-mate Kevin Magnussen are being released by the team at the end of the year.

"It is his decision and his alone," said Steiner who visited his driver in hospital Monday.

"I will not interfere with that one. He needs to make that one up for himself. I follow his guidance there."

"I don't know how he is tomorrow when the bruises come through and maybe he thinks a little bit more about it. I don't know what someone is thinking after a thing like this."

"That is the reason why I want to give him a little bit of time to think about it, to give us feedback on what he wants to do and we go from there."

"For sure, we have always got a plan in place, but at the moment my plan would be, if he is ok, to get him back in there in the race in Bahrain next weekend, but we have to wait."

As Grosjean continued his recovery from a near-miraculous escape, F1 chiefs said a deep analysis and investigation into his crash had begun overnight with race director and safety delegate Michael Masi and F1's motor sport managing director Ross Brawn confirming the sport's intentions.

"As part of every incident that occurs, the FIA undertakes a full investigation," said Masi.

Injured Warner a doubt for India Tests, Short called up for T20s

AFP
SYDNEY

STAR opening batsman David Warner faces a battle to be fit for the India Test series after Cricket Australia said on Monday he will miss the last One-Day International (on Wednesday) and the three-match Twenty20 series next month.

Warner limped out of Sunday's one-day international against India after straining his groin while fielding as Australia secured the series 2-0 in Sydney.

After a typically swash-buckling innings of 83 on Sunday, Warner fell awkwardly and had to be helped from the field.

Warner will miss Wednesday's final ODI and all three Twenty20 internationals beginning Friday in Canberra to undergo rehab in an effort to ready for the Test series which begins on December 17 in Adelaide.

Opening batsman D'Arcy Short has been called up to the Twenty20 international squad as a replacement.

Cricket Australia also announced that leading pace bowler Pat Cummins will be rested for the remainder of the white-ball matches against India, putting pressure on an out-of-form Mitchell Starc.

"Pat and Davie are critical to our plans for the Test Series," head coach Justin Langer said.



Australia's David Warner (centre) is assisted by teammate Glenn Maxwell, and a trainer as he leaves the field after suffering an injury during the One-Day International against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Australia on Sunday. (AFP)

"Davie will work through his injury rehab and in Pat's case it is important all of our players are managed well to keep them mentally and physically fit throughout what is a challenging summer."

"The priority for both is being fully prepared for one of the biggest and most important home Test Series we have played in recent years, espe-

cially with World Test Championship points up for grabs."

'MASSIVE CONFIDENCE'

While Warner played an important role in Australia's ODI series win, the hosts have no shortage of talented batters who could replace him.

Left-hander Short was the Twenty20 Big Bash League's leading run-scorer in 2017-18

and 2018-19.

Rising star Will Pucovski is also waiting in the wings, with Test greats such as Michael Clarke, Ian Chappell and Mark Waugh all backing the 22-year-old's cause.

Marnus Labuschagne, who scored 70 in Sunday's ODI, said he was ready to move up the order into Warner's opening spot.

"Certainly, if I got asked to open the batting, absolutely it's an opportunity that I would enjoy doing," Labuschagne told reporters Monday.

"But we'll have to wait and see how our team shapes up and the balance of our side."

No replacement has been announced for Cummins, with Australia to rely on Josh Hazlewood, Starc and allrounder Marcus Stoinis to provide the main seam bowling options.

Starc has struggled for form in the first two ODIs, and was Australia's most expensive bowler in the 51-run victory against India on Sunday, taking no wickets for 82 runs off nine overs.

Australia will play four Tests against India, with the other matches in Melbourne beginning on Boxing Day, Sydney (January 7-11) and Brisbane (January 15-19).

Labuschagne said the strong form of Warner and Steve Smith – who scored back-to-back centuries in the first two ODIs – was a promising sign for the Test series.

"100 percent. Cricket's a massive confidence game and even though it's a different format it still gives you confidence when you score runs consistently," he said.

"The way Steve and Davie have been batting I've got no doubt they'll be able to transfer that into the Test summer," he said.

Embattled Loew to stay on as Germany coach for Euros



AFP
BERLIN

While Loew is under contract until the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, his position could again come under scrutiny at the Euros. Germany have been drawn in a tough group at the finals with defending champions Portugal, World Cup holders France and Hungary.

JOACHIM Loew will remain in charge of Germany for next year's delayed European Championship despite a series of poor recent results, the German football federation (DFB) announced on Monday.

"In a conference call, the DFB presidential board unanimously agreed to unequivocally back the direction of Germany coach Joachim Loew in his efforts to rebuild the national team, which have been ongoing since March 2019," the DFB said in a statement, following a meeting with Loew and the federation's top officials.

Loew, 60, has been in charge of the Germany team since taking over from Jurgen Klinsmann following the 2006 World Cup.

He led the nation to a fourth world title, and first since reunification, in Brazil in 2014 when the Germans defeated Lionel Messi's Argentina in the final.

However, Germany are in crisis following a 6-0 defeat to Spain on November 17 and recent draws with Switzerland, twice, and Turkey.

The recent hammering by Spain, Germany's heaviest loss in 89 years, capped a poor three-year spell, which included an embarrassing group-stage exit at the 2018 World Cup in Russia after which the DFB gave Loew their backing.

Loew held crisis talks with DFB president Fritz Keller in Munich earlier this month following Germany's worst loss since a 6-0 friendly defeat by Austria in 1931.

In a survey commissioned by AFP subsidiary SID after the Seville humiliation, 84 percent of 1,100 German fans asked wanted Loew and Bierhoff to step aside.

Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp and Bayern Munich boss Hansi Flick, Loew's assistant coach at the 2014 World Cup, were the candidates German fans most wanted to see take over.

However, the DFB's chief decision-makers were reassured by Loew's pitch that he was still the right man to lead the team.

dential committee and national teams and academy director Oliver Bierhoff", the DFB added.

"The DFB presidential board was in agreement that key sporting goals have already been achieved in the run-up to the European Championship in 2021," the statement read.

"These include qualifying for the tournament, remaining in League A of the Nations League, and being placed in the first pot for World Cup qualification."

"As a result of this, Joachim Loew will continue to receive the backing of the DFB presidential board."

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"In the meeting, Loew informed the members present about his assessments, ideas, and plans for the future," the DFB statement continued.

While Loew is under contract until the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, his position could again come under scrutiny at the Euros, which were postponed by a year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Germany have been drawn in a tough group at the finals with defending champions Portugal, World Cup holders France and Hungary.

Tyson wants more over-50 fights and he's tough: Jones

AFP
LOS ANGELES

MIKE Tyson plans on fighting more exhibitions after a draw with Roy Jones Jr. on Saturday in his comeback at age 54 and Jones says he'll be tough to beat.

"I'm happy I'm not knocked out or anything. I'll be better the next one," Tyson said after the eight-round exhibition at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

"I could have done everything better. God willing I'll be better the next exhibition."

The showdown of former heavyweight champions saw Jones, 51, thinking he won the fight but impressed at the stamina and strength showed by Tyson.

"It surprised me he could go eight rounds," Jones said. "He could go with anybody. If he connects, you'll have a problem. He can do anything he wants to do."

A three-judge panel scored the bout a draw, with no details announced, but Jones didn't mind that result so much.

"I thought I won the fight, jabbed better and controled the fight, but I'm cool with a draw," Jones said. "We both made it out cool and everybody got entertained."



Mike Tyson exits the ring after receiving a split draw against Roy Jones Jr. at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California. (AFP)

Tyson hopes to stage more bouts, as many as one every other month to stay in fighting shape, mentioning such possible venues as Monaco or France.

"Anything is possible. The sky is the limit," Tyson said. "I'm capable of helping a lot of people all over the world."

Tyson, who hadn't climbed into the ring for a bout in 15 years, said he doesn't see his return as an ego effort, having dropped 100 pounds to get

himself into fighting shape.

"I don't think it's a mid-life crisis with me," Tyson said. "I think it's my ego and my ego tells me to do things I'm afraid of doing. I'm very happy I did this. I will do it again."

Far from the "Iron Mike" of his dominating heavyweight champion days of the late 1980s, Tyson revels more in going the distance rather than aiming for knockouts.

"I was just happy to go the distance with him. That's real



Roy Jones Jr. (left) throws a punch in the second round against Mike Tyson during their bout at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, United States, on Saturday. (Getty Images North America/AFP)

fighting, having the endurance," Tyson said. "You're not going to knock everybody out. I used to go for the quick kill. I'm training for distance now."

"I don't expect to win. I expect to go eight rounds and entertain the crowd."

Even with rounds cut to two minutes and bigger than usual gloves in safety moves ordered by state boxing officials, Tyson was able to produce more than enough punching power for Jones, who grabbed Tyson for much of the fight.

"I'm happy to scratch this off my bucket list," Jones

said. "Everything hurt when he made contact and it makes you so fatigued. I think I felt the uppercut the most. My jaw still feels it."

Tyson says he has modest goals and simple needs these days, having long ago set aside the need for mansions, boats, cars, drugs and a wild lifestyle and now favoring his ability to raise funds for charities such as supporting needy youth.

"The old Mike Tyson no longer exists," he said. "This is a better cause for me. I'm here for a purpose."

"I never liked who I was. I like who I am now."