



## Dala double as Al Wakrah rally to beat Al Duhail 4-2

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

AL Wakrah rallied from being a goal down to beat last season's runners-up Al Duhail 4-2 in a thrilling Week 1 clash of the QNB Stars League 2022-23 season at the Education City Stadium on Tuesday.

The match was tied 1-1 at half time.

While the goals for Al Duhail came from Murad Naji (Own Goal 15th minute) and Michael Olunga (50th minute), the goal-scorers for Al Wakrah were Trent Sainsbury (45th minute), Jacinto Dala (54th and 90th minute), and Omid Ebrahimi (68th minute, Penalty).

Having suffered an early setback, when Murad Naji while trying to cut off an Al Duhail cross he erred and put the ball into his own goal, Al Wakrah rallied superbly to counter a charged up Red Knights.

Just before half time, Al Wakrah's latest acquisition Australian Trent Sainsbury (who has played for a number of clubs in Australia, Holland, Italy, China and Belgium) showed his class making a beautiful header being left unmarked. Sainsbury was fed with the perfect ball from a corner kick by Murad Naji, making amends for his earlier mistake.

The match went into an overdrive straight up in the second half with Al Duhail's Kenyan striker Michael Olunga scoring with a header after being provided with a superb long left-foot pass by Belgian winger Edmilson Junior from outside the box (2-1).

Minutes later, Al Wakrah equalized when Angolan Jacinto "Gelson" Dala made the most of a lapse from Al Duhail captain Luiz Martin Junior in the midfield.

Martin failed to control the ball while receiving a pass and Dala latched on to the chance running into the penalty area where he dribbled past three players to score (2-2).

Al Wakrah's Omid Ebrahimi celebrates with the fans after scoring at the Education City Stadium on Wednesday.



Al Wakrah's Angolan forward Jacinto "Gelson" Dala (centre) in action during the Week 1 match of the QNB Stars League against Al Rayyan at the Education City Stadium on Wednesday. Dala scored in the 54th and 90th minute of the match.



Al Wakrah regained the lead in the 68th minute when Dala made a cross to substitute Ismail Mahmoud but his shot was staved off by an agile Al Duhail goalkeeper Mohammed Al Bakri.

Al Wakrah's Omid Ebrahimi was then tackled by Luiz Martin from behind stepping on to his shoe and the referee Abdulrahman Al Jassim signalled to the spot.

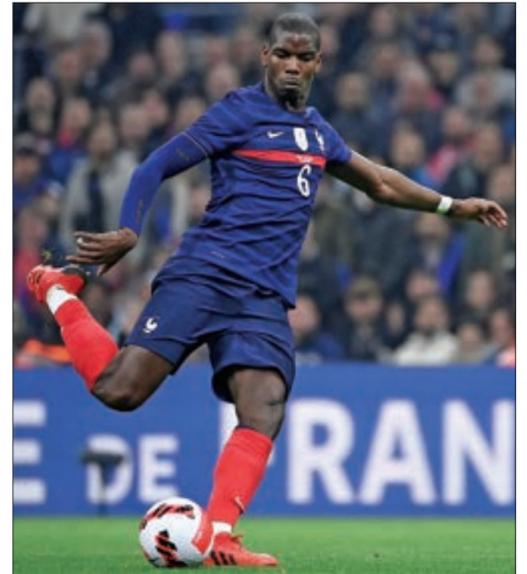
Ebrahimi coolly scored the penalty shooting into the right corner (3-2).

The joy for Al Wakrah was doubled towards the end when Dala returned to benefit from another defensive lapse. Cutting off from a Ferjani Sassi cross, Dala ran all the way with the ball at ease to beat the goalkeeper much to the delight of his team and the fans (4-2).

Al Duhail's Argentine coach Hernan Crespo was disappointed with his team's losing start to the league.

Speaking after the match he said, "Of course, Al Wakrah played a good game, but I feel that today we played against ourselves and did not take advantage of our chances."

"It is important for me to say that after many years of experience in the field of football that the first matches of tournaments usually have an unexpected result and do not come out as pictured, but many teams start to develop and achieve positive results after the match. We must continue to work and correct mistakes, and our players must give a hundred and ten of their efforts on and off the field," Crespo added.



In this file photo taken on March 25, 2022, France's midfielder Paul Pogba kicks the ball during the friendly between France and Ivory Coast at the Velodrome Stadium in Marseille, southern France. (AFP)

## Pogba reportedly opts against surgery in boost to his World Cup hopes

STATS PERFORM/DPA  
BERLIN

PAUL Pogba has reportedly opted for therapy over surgery after meeting with a specialist to discuss his knee injury, and may even be back playing in just five weeks.

Having left Manchester United to return to Turin, Pogba was hoping for a fresh start, only to suffer a knee injury in the early weeks of his second spell with Juventus.

The France midfielder complained of his injury while with Juve on their pre-season tour of the United States, and initial checks led the Italian club to announce he had suffered a lesion of the lateral meniscus.

There were fears the 29-year-old could miss the rest of the calendar year if he opted for surgery.

However, according to *Gazzetta dello Sport*,

Pogba consulted with world-renowned knee surgeon Professor Bertrand Sonnery-Cottet in Lyon and it was agreed he would undergo therapy over surgery, meaning he should be back in action in approximately five weeks.

Pogba was a key part of the France team that lifted the World Cup in 2018, and this news will be a boost to his chances of being fully fit to help defend the trophy in Qatar later this year.

Pogba spent four years at Juve between 2012 and 2016, winning four Serie A titles in that period before moving to United for a then world record fee of \$107 million.

The World Cup begins on November 21 in Qatar, and France boss Didier Deschamps would want 91-cap Pogba to have proven his fitness well in advance of the tournament getting under way.

## Al Shamal get the better of Al Rayyan 1-0

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

AL Shamal rode on substitute Mohamed El Sayed's 86th minute goal to beat Al Rayyan 1-0 in the final match of Week 1 of the QNB Stars League new 2022-23 season at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium on Wednesday.

The first half was goalless but saw some exciting moments including a VAR Check penalty to Al Rayyan in the 40th minute which was later cancelled by the referee Abdullahi Ali Athba after re-confirming with the officials.

The VAR Check was a resultant after Tameem Mansour of Al Rayyan was checked by Landre Loick of Al Shamal just on the edge of the box but as it seemed outside the line. Yohan Boli had stepped up to take the spot kick but the referee called it off and rightly so.

In the 46th minute, Abdelaziz Mitwali of Al Shamal was flashed with a yellow card for his wrong tackle against a



Al Shamal players celebrate their win over Al Rayyan in the final clash of the opening week of QNB Stars League at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium on Wednesday.

charging Boli.

In the 61st minute, Al

Rayyan's French star Steven

Nzonzi's header was well held

by the rival goalkeeper Babacar Seck.

Soon, Al Rayyan's Ahmed Yasser was hamstrung while moving in menacingly inside the box. He was substituted by Khalid Muftah.

In the 73rd minute, Matias Nani's header was stopped from going in by goalkeeper Seck who stretched to his right to make the save.

The winning moment for Al Shamal arrived when after a fine move Mohamed El Sayed (nicknamed Jedoo) safely sent the ball into the goal.

Al Shamal tried hard in the dying minutes and one potential strike of Boli was well headed off by Ali Olwan of Al Shamal to ensure valuable three points for the team.

Al Shamal's Moroccan coach Hicham Zahid was delighted with his team's opening win. "We are happy with the victory over Al Rayyan and we always strive for the best. We achieved a valuable victory at the expense of a great team, and I hope that this will motivate us in the coming period of the league," he said.



Bayern Munich's Canadian midfielder Alphonso Davies holds the trophy after the German Supercup between RB Leipzig and FC Bayern Munich in Leipzig on Sunday. (AFP)

## Canada's Davies to donate Qatar World Cup earnings to charities

DPA  
MUNICH

BAYERN Munich full back Alphonso Davies has said he will donate his World Cup bonuses later this year to charities in Canada which he will be representing at the tournament in Qatar.

Davies, whose parents are from Liberia, was born in a refugee camp in Ghana and at the age of five came to Canada with his parents.

Davies obtained Canadian citizenship in 2017 and the same year

made his national team debut at age 16. He joined Bayern in 2019.

Canada has now qualified for the World Cup for the first time since 1986, and Davies said on social media he wants to give something back.

"Canada welcomed me and my family & gave us the opportunity for a better life. It enabled me to live my dreams," he said on Twitter.

"It's a great honour to play for Canada and I want to give back, so I've decided that I will donate this year's World Cup earnings to charity."



Iran's attacking midfielder Alireza Jahanbakhsh.

## Iran determined to make Qatar World Cup knockouts: Jahanbakhsh

AS thousands of Iranians poured on to the streets across the nation to celebrate a famous victory over USA at France 1998, four-year-old Alireza Jahanbakhsh wasn't fully aware of just how much the FIFA World Cup means. Twenty-four years later, however, as he prepares to lead out Team Melli in an identical occasion, the memories of that collective joy still live with him.

It is a joy he first experienced a few months earlier as Iran, led by legends like Karim Bagheri, Mehdi Mahdavi and Ali Daei, returned to the World Cup after a 20-year absence.

The West Asians needed a play-off against Australia, and it was a late Khodadad Azizi strike at Melbourne Cricket Ground that sent them through on away goals.

"Last World Cup we were quite close," he said. "We have the same ambition now, to work hard for our nation as a team. We know millions of Iranians back home and around the world are looking forward to seeing us performing and making them proud. You never know. It's such a tough group we are in, but we will work hard and do our best to achieve big things in Qatar."

"We made it three times in a row, but making it to the next round is our aim now."

From watching Ronaldo on television, young Jahanbakhsh's career took a drastic turn just before his 20th birthday. The forward, then playing his football for domestic minnows Damash Gilan, impressed playing for the Iran U-19s and was spotted by a Dutch scout named Carlos Aalbers, at the time working for provincial side NEC Nijmegen, who snapped him up in 2013.

Jahanbakhsh represented the likes of AZ and Feyenoord and became the first Asian player to finish as top scorer in a major European league, bagging 21 goals in 2017/18.

Months after his Dutch move, Jahanbakhsh received his first international call-up from Carlos Queiroz. Making his debut alongside him was then Rubin Kazan striker Sardar Azmoun, while a third youngster, Mehdi Taremi, was handed his maiden call-up a few months earlier.

The trio would go on to form the spine of the Team Melli attack, amassing 183 caps and 80 goals between them.

"The three of us have been playing together for around six or seven years," said Jahanbakhsh.

"We have had a lot of good players up front, but mainly it has been us three and thank God we have done well so far."

"When I started playing football, I would never have thought I would play in the World Cup. But it will not only be me making it to a third World Cup with Iran hopefully."

The route to making their nation proud starts at Khalifa International Stadium, where Jahanbakhsh is set to line up against many of the names he faced in his three years at Brighton and Hove Albion, a difficult time in the life of a player whose highlight was scoring a Premier League Goal of the Month with an exquisite bicycle-kick against Chelsea in January 2020.

"I played against many of this England team during my time there," he said. "They have three to four world-class players in every position, so they are one of the favourites to win the World Cup and that says enough about this team and the quality they have as a team and individually."

"We are going to do our best and that's the most important thing. It's the same situation with USA and Wales – they have a lot of good players who will come to do their best at the World Cup."

Four years earlier, Iran found themselves in the so-called group of death alongside Spain, Portugal and Morocco. Jahanbakhsh & Co held Portugal to a draw and beat Morocco. A missed Taremi chance against Rui Patrício was the difference between first-phase elimination and the Round of 16, and Jahanbakhsh believes reaching that milestone is inevitable for his country.

It is not just England that will stand in Iran's way come November. A replay of that 1998 clash against USA at Al Thumama Stadium could prove the decider on the final matchday of Group B and for Jahanbakhsh, the challenge of facing the likes of Christian Pulisic, Giovanni Reyna and Weston McKennie is a totally different type of challenge to that faced by Daei and Co 24 years ago.

"It is quite a big thing for our country to play in the World Cup, but in this game, we think of nothing beyond that," he said.

"We have never made it to the Round of 16, so that is our biggest aim, but we play in one of the toughest groups with England, the US and Wales."

"We have never made it to the Round of 16, so that is our biggest aim, but we play in one of the toughest groups with England, the US and Wales. But if I want to say my dream, it would be to do our best first, then to make it to the second round. That's what's on our minds."

# Ronaldo's 'unacceptable' early exit from friendly irks Ten Hag

PA MEDIA/DPA  
LONDON

ERIK ten Hag says it was "unacceptable" for Cristiano Ronaldo and other Manchester United players to leave Old Trafford before the end of Sunday's friendly against Rayo Vallecano.

After taking a strong team to Oslo to face Atletico Madrid on Saturday, the Red Devils wrapped up the pre-season preparations against another Spanish side the following day.

United drew 1-1 with Rayo at Old Trafford as star man Ronaldo made his first ap-

pearance of pre-season, playing the first 45 minutes.

The 37-year-old missed the pre-season tour of Thailand and Australia due to a family issue, and the wantaway forward was pictured with Diogo Dalot leaving Sunday's game before full-time. Ten Hag did not speak to the media after the match but has now laid bare his annoyance to broadcaster Viaplay.

"There were many more (as well as Ronaldo) who went home," the United boss said.

Asked if he condoned it, Ten Hag said: "Certainly not, this is unacceptable for everyone. I tell them that it's unacceptable, that we are a team, a squad and that you should stay until the end."

Ten Hag will take charge of his first competitive match as United manager on Sunday when Brighton arrive at Old Trafford in the Premier League.



Manchester United's Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo passes the ball during a pre-season club friendly between Manchester United and Rayo Vallecano at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on Sunday. (AFP)



Naomi Osaka of Japan reacts against Qinwen Zheng of China during the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic, part of the Hologic WTA Tour, at Spartan Tennis Complex in San Jose, California, on Tuesday. (Getty/AFP)

## Osaka wins at Silicon Valley Classic, Raducanu advances

STATS PERFORM/DPA  
NEW YORK

NAOMI Osaka delivered a terrific third set to defeat China's Qinwen Zheng 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the opening round of the Silicon Valley Classic.

Osaka's serve was sharp and it carried her through the match, with 11 aces to Zheng's three, while giving up one break of serve and securing three breaks herself.

After Zheng fought back to win the second set, Osaka was the steady head in the decider, allowing her opponent to implode with three double-faults in crucial points to collect her first win since April.

Osaka will meet Coco Gauff in a star-studded second-round matchup after Gauff dominated Anhelina Kalinina 6-1, 6-0.

She was simply too powerful for her Ukrainian opponent, winning 89 per cent (25-of-28) of her first serves to never give Kalinina a chance.

Canada's Bianca Andreescu was eliminated by American

Shelby Rogers 6-4, 6-2, while Russia's Veronika Kudermotova won a hard-fought battle against Italy's Camila Giorgi 7-6 (7-2), 4-6, 7-5.

Meanwhile, in Washington at the Citi Open, Emma Raducanu looked in good touch as she handled the challenge of Louisa Chirico 6-4, 6-2 to advance to the second round.

Raducanu will meet Colombia's Camila Osorio after she beat American Sofia Kenin 7-6 (7-2), 6-1, and top-20 talent Victoria Azarenka had no issues against Dayana Yastremska to win 6-4, 6-0.

Australian Ajla Tomljanovic continued her strong run of form with a convincing 6-1, 6-4 win against American Sloane Stephens, and the Czech Republic's Tereza Martincova recovered from a horrible first set to defeat Xinyu Wang 0-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Germany's Andrea Petkovic cruised to a 6-2, 6-2 win against Denmark's Clara Tauson, and Russia's Anna Kalinskaya defeated American Madison Brengle 6-3, 6-0.

## Exciting new sports season gets underway on beIN Sports

BEIN MEDIA GROUP ("beIN"), the global sports, media, and entertainment group, and its flagship sports channel beIN SPORTS, will bring a new exceptional 2022/23 sports season to audiences' screens for the remainder of the year, live and exclusively across all 24 countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

With the summer's sporting tournaments almost over, beIN's millions of viewers and subscribers can look forward to mammoth sporting events, including the English Premier League, UEFA Champions League, LaLiga, Ligue 1, Europa League, UEFA Super Cup, UEFA Europa Conference League, AFCON qualifiers, CAF Super Cup, 2022 US Open, NBA, FIBA EuroBasket 2022, 2022 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup, the Padel World Championship, and more, leading up to the world's most prestigious event: the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Commenting on beIN's unparalleled sports offering, Duncan Walkinshaw, Director of Programs at beIN MENA, said: "Next season will be totally unique, as we witness a football calendar like never before. We are delighted to bring the very best premium sporting events from the remainder of 2022 exclusively to our audiences across MENA. beIN remains committed to providing outstanding coverage and exclusive content that brings viewers right into the heart of the action. We're also raising the bar with our coverage this year ensuring we're fully prepared to provide the best ever



coverage of the greatest show on earth, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022."

The Return of the Football Leagues The football season kicks off this weekend, on Friday 5th August, 21:30 MECCA, with the return of the EPL and Ligue 1. Crystal Palace and Arsenal will go head to head on beIN SPORTS PREMIUM 1, beIN SPORTS ENGLISH 1 and 4K. Lyon will play against AC Ajaccio over on beIN SPORTS 2. All the returning matches from both leagues will be live and exclusive with Arabic and English commentary across the weekend.

The UEFA Super Cup 2022 is live and exclusive on Wednesday 10th August, from 22:00 MECCA on beIN SPORTS PREMIUM 1, beIN SPORTS ENGLISH 1 and beIN 4K. Real Madrid and Frankfurt will finally meet again, after 62 years, in a repeat of one of the most famous fixtures in the history of European Football, when Real Madrid won 7-3 in front of a crowd of over 127,000 people at Glasgow's Hampden Park stadium, a game which is still holds the highest attendance for a European Cup final.

The global broadcaster will continue the excitement by exclusively broadcasting the new LaLiga season, coverage gets underway on Friday 12th August, 22:00 MECCA, on beIN SPORTS PREMIUM 1 and beIN 4K. The opening weekend will include one Madrid derby, with Getafe hosting Atlético Madrid.

Coinciding with the other major European tournaments, the AFC Champions League 2022 (East) Round of 16 matches will be played on Thursday 18th August (11:00 MECCA) and Friday 19th August (14:00 MECCA). The quarter-finals will air on Monday 22nd August, and semi-finals on Thursday 25th August, with all battles to be decided over single-leg ties. All matches can be found live on beIN's brand new AFC channels.

beIN's best-in-class talent and commentators will be on hand to present in the studios, including Mohammed Saadoun Al Kuwari, Tariq Al Hammad, Mohannad Al Jali, Mohamed Aboutrika, Wael Goma, Rafik Saifi, Tarak Dhiab, Abdulaziz al Sulaiti, and many more plus Richard Keys and Andy Gray for the English channels.

## About 68% of PL players endured Twitter abuse in first 2021-22 half: Ofcom Report

Manchester United players made up eight of the most top 10 abused players, with Cristiano Ronaldo and Harry Maguire receiving the most anti-social messages

PA MEDIA/DPA  
LONDON

AROUND 68 per cent of Premier League footballers were subjected to abuse on Twitter in the first half of last season, according to an Ofcom report.

The regulator teamed up with the Alan Turing Institute - UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence - to analyse more than 2.3 million tweets sent to top-flight players during the first five months of the 2021-22 campaign and found that almost 60,000 were abusive.

It revealed 418 of the 618 players analysed received at least one abusive tweet, with eight per cent of the abuse aimed at a protected characteristic,

such as their race or gender. Around half of the abusive messages were targeted at 12 specific players, who received on average 15 abusive tweets every day.

Manchester United players made up eight of the most top 10 abused players, with Cristiano Ronaldo and Harry Maguire receiving the most anti-social messages.

The study used new technology that can decipher whether tweets are abusive, while 3,000 random tweets were also manually reviewed. Of those 3,000 tweets, over half were positive, 27 per cent were neutral, 12.5 per cent were critical and 3.5 per cent were abusive.

Twitter was chosen due



Harry Maguire of Manchester United.

to its popularity with players, and previous history of abuse and because it makes data available for research.

However, the Application Programming Interface (API) does not take into account the safeguards put in place.

Ofcom is preparing to regulate tech companies under new Online Safety laws, which will introduce rules for

sites, apps, search engines and messaging platforms aimed at protecting users.

"These findings shed light on a dark side to the beautiful game," Ofcom group director for broadcasting and online content Kevin Bakhurst said. "Online abuse has no place in sport, nor in wider society, and tackling it requires a team effort. "Social media firms needn't

wait for new laws to make their sites and apps safer for users. When we become the regulator for online safety, tech companies will have to be really open about the steps they're taking to protect users. We will expect them to design their services with safety in mind."

Twitter, which says it did not receive any of the abusive tweets included in the report, is committed to eradicating abuse and recently conducted research using its own technology that found 38,000 abusive tweets were sent last season. It also removed more than 38,000 abusive tweets.

The social media company received fewer than 1,000 reports of abusive tweets from its reporting partner and is now focusing on reducing the burden on the victims by identifying abuse itself using its own technology and third-party safety tools.

NASSER AL KHELAIFI MEETS PREMIER PADEL PLAYERS IN MADRID



Nasser Al Khelaifi, President of Paris Saint-Germain and Chairman of Qatar Sports Investments, the founding partner of Premier Padel, attended the Madrid Premier Padel P1 tournament on Tuesday - the second day of the main draw of the tournament. Al Khelaifi watched some matches with Luigi Carraro, FIP President, and also met with Premier Padel players. Among the pairings that have advanced to the next round are P. Lima (BRA) / F. Stupaczuk (ARG), F. Chingotto (ARG) / J. Tello (ARG), F. Belasteguín (ARG) / A. Coello (ESP), M. Di Nenno (ARG) / F. Navarro (ESP) and top seeds A. Galan (ESP) and Lebron (ESP). (TNN)



Our chase was clinical: Rohit after win over WI

ANI  
BASSETTERRE (ST KITTS AND NEVIS)

FOLLOWING a seven-wicket win over West Indies in the third T20I, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma said that the chase was "clinical" and the team used the conditions really well.

A brilliant half-century from Suryakumar Yadav and his stand with batter Shreyas Iyer powered India to a seven-wicket win over the hosts West Indies in the third T20I of five-match series on Wednesday. Captain Rohit had also suffered an injury during the match while batting and left the field retired hurt when he was at 11 off 5 balls.

"It is okay at the moment. We have got a few days till the next game, hopefully it should be okay (his injury). How we bowled in the middle overs was crucial. I thought we used the variations well. Was very clinical how we chased. When you watched from the outside, did



India's Suryakumar Yadav hits a four the third T20I match against West Indies at Warner Park in Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, on Tuesday. (AFP)

not feel a lot of risk was taken, was a lot of calmness in the middle. Surya batted brilliantly, good partnership there with Iyer. The pitch had something in it for the bowlers, not an easy target. It was important to pick the right shots, right balls on a ground like that,"

said Rohit at the post-match presentation.

The five-match series is currently in hands of India by 2-1.

West Indies posted a total of 164/5 in their 20 overs, thanks to a superb half-century from Kyle Mayers, who scored 73 off 50 balls with eight fours and four sixes. Other batters like Nicholas Pooran (22) and Rovman Powell (23) also posted some notable contributions.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar was India's pick of the bowlers with a spell of 2/35 in four overs.

Chasing 165, Indian captain Rohit Sharma got retired hurt while batting. Then Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav put on a superb stand which powered India to a victory. Yadav scored an amazing 76 off 44 balls. Rishabh Pant also played a solid knock of 33 off 26 balls.

Yadav was adjudged as the 'Man of the Match' for his brilliant half-century, his fifth in 20 T20I innings.

Players could boycott events if LIV rebels allowed back on PGA: Former Ryder Cup captain

PA MEDIA/DPA  
LONDON



Former Ryder Cup captain Davis Love.

PGA Tour players could take the "nuclear option" of boycotting events if LIV rebels successfully challenge their suspensions, according to former Ryder Cup captain Davis Love.

Love believes those who have remained loyal to the PGA Tour are "fed up" with the Saudi-backed breakaway, which will expand to a 14-event league next year.

DP World Tour members who played in the inaugural LIV Golf event were fined £100,000 (\$122,000) and banned from the Scottish Open, but won a court battle to get the punishments temporarily stayed, pending determination of a full appeal.

And Love thinks a similar legal challenge from players indefinitely suspended from the PGA Tour could spark a dramatic reaction.

"If the LIV guys sue and are allowed to play on the PGA Tour, the players are enough fed up with it," Love said in a press conference ahead of the Wyndham Championship.

"We understand that we make the rules on the PGA Tour and the commissioner is enforcing our rules and we don't want those guys playing, coming and cherry-picking our tournaments.

"We hold all the cards. We say to the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) and to Washington, 'No, we support the rules. We don't want those guys playing. We don't care what

the courts say'. "The nuclear option is to say 'Fine, if they have to play in our events we just won't play'."

Being suspended by the PGA Tour means players such as Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Bryson DeChambeau and Patrick Reed cannot represent the United States in September's Presidents Cup, when Love will captain the side.

"I told the players that I've talked to that have gone or thinking about going, it's your decision and you do what's right for you, but understand (the) consequences," Love added.

"I tried to sound like my dad and I probably wasn't very good at it.

"I didn't argue. I said you can be Tiger Woods or you can be banned from the game, take your pick. But understanding the consequences, you signed up for these rules. I had to commit by last Friday or I don't get to play this week. I have to play 15 tournaments or I don't get to vote and I don't get my retirement money. You have rules that you have to adhere to.

"I said you're fixing to break a rule that's a big rule and you're going to get penalised for it.

"And Jay's (Monahan, PGA Tour commissioner) been saying it for a year and some of them understood that, some of them said it's not going to happen, and some of them just flat out lied, (saying) 'I'm not doing this, I'm not doing that'."

Love admits that he was "dead wrong" to say six months ago that LIV was not going to happen and that Phil Mickelson would be the only player to jump ship, but added: "I don't know what's going to happen from here on out, but I know it's going to be a fight and the players are getting more and more unified against it."

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

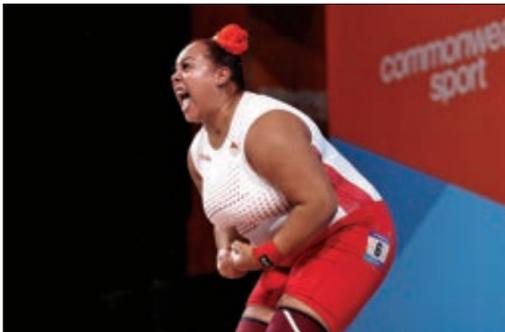
Campbell lifts her way to gold with personal best

PA MEDIA/DPA  
LONDON

EMILY Campbell claimed weightlifting gold in the women's +87kg category at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

The 28-year-old set a new personal best and Games record of 124kg in the snatch portion of the event, three kilograms clear of reigning champion Feaigaiga Stowers of Samoa.

In front of a packed crowd at the NEC, the duo traded Games records with their opening clean-and-jerks, be-



Emily Campbell of Britan celebrates winning gold in the +87kg category at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on Wednesday.

fore Stowers failed on 154kg to confirm the gold medal for Campbell.

With two lifts still to go, Campbell raised the bar again with a successful lift of 157lb, before rounding off her competition by executing 162kg, a new Commonwealth record that eclipsed her total score in the Tokyo Olympics by three kilograms.

Campbell had taken bronze on the Gold Coast four years ago, behind gold medallist Stowers, and it soon became apparent that the 21-year-old Samoan would be the biggest

threat to her hopes of claiming the title on home soil.

Stowers matched Campbell's opening snatch lift of 117kg, but failed in her first attempt at 121kg, which allowed the Nottingham weightlifter - with successive lifts of 121kg then a new Games record of 124kg - to move ahead at the halfway stage of the competition.

And there was little doubt about Campbell's dominance as she delivered three consecutive clean-and-jerks to roar to victory in front of a delighted packed home crowd.

Richards triumphs in mountain bike after 'terrible year'

PA MEDIA/DPA  
LONDON

EVIE Richards put a "terrible year" behind her to storm to Commonwealth gold in Wednesday's mountain bike race.

There was no sign of the back injury or multiple illnesses that have plagued the world champion over the last six months as she rode clear on the first of the seven laps around Cannock Chase forest to improve on the silver she took in Gold Coast four years ago.

There was one scare with two laps to go when she slid on a corner and had to remount but that was the only moment in the 95-minute race where a Richards win looked in doubt. Though Richards had insisted coming into the race she needed to "be realistic" about her chances given recent setbacks, she was ultimately a comfortable winner from Australia's Zoe Cuthbert and South Africa's Candice Lill, with Scotland's Isla Short fourth.

"I've had a terrible year,"



England's Evie Richards reacts during the medal presentation ceremony for the women's Cross-country mountain bike at the Commonwealth Games at Cannock Chase Forest in England on Wednesday. (AFP)

the 25-year-old said. "From being world champion last year this year has gone to shambles. I had a bad back in February and this is the first race with no pain, no tears. Just to finish a race, it sounds silly, but it's such a special moment.

"I've had everything from Covid to a stomach bug in Brazil so just to put a race together and to finish without a bad back, to be healthy, really means the world to me.

"I knew I wasn't the strongest but I just had to try. Sometimes I play it down to make it easier mentally, to take a bit of pressure off, but obviously I always want to win." Richards, who grew up a little over an hour the other side of Birmingham in Malvern, has had this day circled since the city was awarded these Games.

She has skipped two legs of the World Cup for the opportunity to ride in front of family and friends - her grandpar-



England's Evie Richards races in women's Cross-country mountain bike event on day six of the Commonwealth Games at Cannock Chase Forest, Cannock, England, on Wednesday. (AFP)

ents Jean and Cliff were able to watch her for the first time in six years - and took her rewards.

Richards attacked from the start, building a lead of over 30 seconds after just two laps. But Cuthbert was starting to eat into it going into the final two laps, and the sight of her coming back forced Richards into a mistake.

"I was really shocked," she said. "I'd felt calm and confident but coming into the arena

I turned behind me and saw a rider. I had a little slip because I was quite surprised. I had very clear time splits from my team and it scared me.

"I thought, 'Oh God, I'm going to have to do something special.' Luckily I still had reserves, I put in a surge and managed to drop them but I scared myself."

The men's race saw Sam Gaze successfully defend his title with New Zealand teammate Ben Oliver second.

Quick read

F1 boss Domenicali offers Vettel post-driving role in the sport

FORMULA One boss Sefano Domenicali hopes that Sebastian Vettel will remain close to the racing series after his retirement from driving. Four-time world champion Vettel had announced last week that he will quit when his Aston Martin contract expires after the season, and Domenicali told Wednesday's edition of the Sport Bild weekly that the German could continue in another role in the sport.

"Of course we want the connection to remain close. If he is interested in becoming part of our system, and if the ideas match, we would of course welcome him here," Domenicali said. "Sebastian will always be connected to Formula One." However, it remains to be seen whether Vettel will stay close to F1 because he said he is not seeking another career in the sport and also ruled out becoming a TV pundit. Vettel said he wants to spend more time with his family and strengthen his social and environmental engagement. (DPA)

F2 champion Piastri says he won't be driving for Alpine next year

FORMULA 2 champion Oscar Piastri on Tuesday evening refuted an announcement from Alpine that he will be driving for the team in Formula One next year. "I understand that, without my agreement, Alpine F1 have put out a press release late this afternoon that I am driving for them next year, Piastri said on Twitter. "This is wrong and I have not signed a contract with Alpine for 2023. I will not be driving for Alpine next year." Piastri was announced by the French team as Esteban Ocon's team-mate for the 2023 season on Tuesday afternoon, one day after Aston Martin said current Alpine driver Fernando Alonso will join them next year. Alpine team boss Otmar Szafanauer told news portal Autosport that the team only knew of Alonso's decision when the Aston Martin's press release was issued on Monday. (DPA)