

Sports

Legendary former Rangers manager Walter Smith dies

Rangers second-most successful manager with 21 trophies

LONDON: Former Rangers and Scotland manager Walter Smith has died at the age of 73, the Glasgow giants confirmed yesterday. "It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our former manager, chairman and club legend, Walter Smith," Rangers said in a statement.

Smith is Rangers second-most successful ever manager, winning 21 trophies across two spells in charge. Already at the club as assistant to Graeme Souness, Smith was appointed full-time manager at Ibrox in 1991 and won seven league titles in eight years to lead the club to a record-equaling nine consecutive Scottish league titles.

After a four-year stint at Everton and a brief spell as Alex Ferguson's assistant at Manchester United, he was appointed manager of Scotland in 2004. In 2007, he returned to Ibrox, winning three more league titles and guiding Rangers to the UEFA Cup final in 2008 before retiring in 2011.

"It is almost impossible to encapsulate what Walter meant to every one of us at Rangers," said Rangers chairman Douglas Park. "He embodied everything that a Ranger should be. His character and leadership was second to none, and

will live long in the memory of everyone he worked with during his two terms as first team manager.

"Winning 10 top-flight titles as manager, five Scottish Cups and six League Cups, as well as leading his club to the UEFA Cup Final in 2008, he will be remembered by the football community across the world. His spells as Scotland manager as well as managing in the



Man United 'deeply saddened' over passing

English Premier League underlined his credentials as one of the great modern day football managers. However, for Rangers supporters, he was much more than just a football manager. Walter was a friend to many, a leader, an ambassador and most of all a legend."

Smith's playing career as a defender at

Dundee United and Dumbarton never hit the heights he would go onto enjoy in management. His coaching journey began as assistant to legendary former Dundee United boss Jim McLean before spells as Scotland's under-18 and under-21 manager. Smith also assisted Ferguson as Scotland boss at the 1986 World Cup. But it was at Rangers where he made his name.

After five years as Souness' assistant, the latter's return to Liverpool handed Smith his chance to take the top job at Ibrox. He signed the likes of Paul Gascoigne and Brian Laudrup as Rangers dominated Scottish football for nearly a decade.

Smith's time at Everton was less successful as he battled for four seasons just to keep the Toffees in the Premier League. But his close relationship with Ferguson endured and the two linked up again towards the end of the 2003/04 season as United won the FA Cup.

"Everyone at Manchester United is deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Walter Smith," United tweeted. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Walter's friends and family at this extremely difficult time."

Smith lost only four of his 16 games in



SEVILLE: In this file photo taken on December 08, 2009 Ranger's coach Walter Smith smiles during a press conference in Seville, on the eve of their UEFA Champions League football match against Sevilla. — AFP

charge of Scotland, but even a bright start to qualifying for Euro 2008 could not resist the lure of a return to Rangers in 2007. Rangers reached the UEFA Cup final in his first season back, losing 2-0

to Zenit St Petersburg in Manchester. But they bounced back to win three consecutive league titles before Smith retired and handed the reins to his assistant Ally McCoist. — AFP

News in brief

Barca vs Boca in Saudi

Buenos Aires: Barcelona and Boca Juniors, two of Diego Maradona's former clubs, will play a friendly in honor of the late Argentine great on December 14 in Saudi Arabia. The Maradona Cup will be held at Mrsool Park in Riyadh just over a year after his death. The 1986 World Cup winner died last November at the age of 60. Boca said Monday in a statement the match would help "celebrate the legacy" of one of football's greatest ever players. Maradona had two spells at Buenos Aires giants Boca, playing for them during the 1981-82 season before rejoining the club in 1995 for the final two years of his career. He also made 58 appearances for Barca between 1982 and 1984, winning the Copa del Rey in his first season. — AFP

No fans for Saint-Etienne

Paris: Saint-Etienne have been ordered to play their home games behind closed doors until further notice after protests from angry fans delayed the start of Friday's 2-2 draw with Angers by an hour. The French league's disciplinary committee said on Monday a final decision will be made on November 17. The temporary ruling means Saint-Etienne, last in Ligue 1, will play at least one match without any supporters. Home fans unfurled banners, let off a barrage of projectiles and smoke bombs and ran onto the field, damaging the goals ahead of the game with Angers. The players left the field and kick-off was put back as municipal workers repaired the nets at the city-owned Geoffroy-Guichard stadium. — AFP

COVID blow for Packers

Los Angeles: Green Bay Packers star Davante Adams could be in doubt for the team's crunch clash with the unbeaten Arizona Cardinals after being placed on the COVID-19 list, the team said Monday. The Packers said Adams had been put on the reserve list for players who either test positive for COVID-19 or who have been in close contact with an infected person or persons. ESPN cited an unidentified source as saying that Adams had tested positive for the coronavirus. Adams, who has said previously that he has been vaccinated, can return to action if he passes two consecutive tests and is asymptomatic. However Adams would need to be cleared quickly to be available for selection for Thursday's game against the 7-0 Cardinals, the only unbeaten team left in the NFL this season. — AFP

Bears coach gets COVID

New York: Chicago Bears head coach Matt Nagy said Monday he has tested positive for COVID-19, putting a question mark against his ability to appear on the sideline for next Sunday's clash with the San Francisco 49ers. Nagy, whose team were thrashed 38-3 by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Florida on Sunday, told reporters he had tested positive despite being fully vaccinated. Special teams coordinator Chris Tabor will take over head coach duties this week while Nagy is in isolation. Under NFL protocols, Nagy must return two negative COVID-19 tests and show no symptoms of the virus in order to be cleared to return to his coaching duties. — AFP

Koeman says fans abusing him lack 'morals and values'

MADRID: Ronald Koeman has said the people that abused him outside Camp Nou on Sunday after Barcelona's defeat in the Clasico "don't know what morals and values are". Koeman was obstructed by a group of fans as he tried to leave the stadium in his car following Barca's 2-1 defeat by Real Madrid in La Liga. Some shouted abuse and others kicked his car. Barcelona published a statement on Sunday that condemned "the violent and disdainful acts" against Koeman, who is a club legend after he scored the winning goal for Barca in the 1992 European Cup final.

"I don't think there is a solution," said Koeman in a press conference yesterday. "For me it's a social problem, they are people who have an education



Ronald Koeman

problem, they don't know what morals and values are. "But the atmosphere on the pitch, even at 2-0 down, was the opposite, and we shouldn't pay too much attention to these people."

Koeman continued: "I was not afraid, there was a moment when I said 'I'm going to get out', but bet-

ter that I didn't. I understand people are not happy, but you don't expect that." The defeat by Madrid leaves Barcelona ninth in La Liga, six points off the top ahead of today's game away in-form Rayo Vallecano. Rayo, who signed the 35-year-old Radamel Falcao in the summer, are seventh, despite just being promoted. "They're on the up, they're aggressive and they're having a great start to the season," said Koeman. Ansu Fati may not fit to play in the game.

Fati came off in the second half on Sunday but Koeman said it was not linked to the knee injury that has just kept the 18-year-old out for almost a year. "He had some discomfort and not because of the injury he had," said Koeman. "He is still doubtful. We have put him in the squad and tomorrow (Wednesday) morning we will decide if he can travel with us." Sergio Aguero scored his first goal for Barcelona against Madrid after recently recovering from a calf injury. "He has been training for two and a half weeks and he has improved a lot physically," Koeman said. "He is still not ready for 90 minutes but he could start the game or play in the second half." — AFP

Bucks close out road swing with win over Pacers

LOS ANGELES: Giannis Antetokounmpo finished with 30 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, and the Milwaukee Bucks led by as much as 18 points en route to a 119-109 win over the mistake-prone Indiana Pacers.

Khris Middleton had 27 points for the Bucks, who went on an 11-2 run at the end of the second quarter and took advantage of 19 turnovers by the Pacers in front of a crowd of 17,900 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse arena on Monday. The win wrapped up a three-game road trip for the reigning NBA champion Bucks.

"It was really aggressive Giannis tonight," Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said. "At the same time, he (was) making reads, making great passes. When he's attacking like that,

that's when we are at our best. He had that extra gear tonight."

Malcolm Brogdon led the Pacers with 25 points, and forward Domantas Sabonis scored 21 points and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds to post a double double for the third time in four games. Indiana rookie Chris Duarte continued his strong start, finishing with 18 points. He has scored at least 15 in each of his first four NBA games. Indiana tried to rally in the fourth quarter with an 11-1 scoring burst that cut the Bucks' lead to just five points. But that would be as close as they would get, as the Bucks would hold on for the win.

The game got testy in the fourth quarter when Bucks George Hill was slapped with a technical after getting tied up with Pacers Brogdon under Indiana's basket. Pacers Goga Bitadze, of Georgia, was also given a technical on the play.

Brooklyn overpowers Washington Elsewhere, Kevin Durant scored 25 points, and the Brooklyn Nets overpowered the Washington Wizards with a 104-90 victory in New York. Durant shot nine of 17 from the field



INDIANAPOLIS: Giannis Antetokounmpo #34 drives to the basket against the Indiana Pacers on Monday at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana. — AFP

in 35 minutes of playing time Monday. He added eight rebounds and four assists. Patty Mills came off the bench to drain five three-pointers and finished with 21 points. Brooklyn's Bruce Brown contributed 14 points, and James Harden chipped in 14, nine assists and six rebounds as the Nets shot 42.6 percent from the field.

Bradley Beal returned from a one-

game absence due to a hip contusion and led the Wizards with 19 points. Daniel Gafford added 13 points, while Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Aaron Holiday had 11 apiece. Also, DeMar DeRozan scored 26 points against his former team, including 11 in the fourth quarter, as the Chicago Bulls held on to beat the Toronto Raptors 111-108. — AFP

Kamara powers Saint offense in win vs Seahawks

LOS ANGELES: Alvin Kamara carried the load for New Orleans, catching 10 passes for 128 yards and rushing for 51 more as the Saints rallied to beat the slumping Seattle Seahawks 13-10 on Monday night. Running back Kamara also had 20 carries and scored a touchdown, while rookie kicker Brian Johnson booted the game-winning field goal late in the fourth quarter for the Saints.

In rainy, windy conditions, both NFL teams struggled to deliver sustained offensive drives, in front of the crowd of 68,700 at Lumen Field in Seattle. "It was a good win in a tough place to play on the road," said Saints coach Sean Payton. "The defense played really well. I thought we handled the weather well." This is the third straight game the Seahawks have had the ball in the closing minutes with a chance to win a game and come up short. "We are not a good finishing club right now," said Seattle coach Pete Carroll.

The Saints' defense sacked Seattle starting quarterback Geno Smith five times, including back-to-back ones on the Seahawks final drive. Johnson's 33-yard field goal with 1:53 remaining lifted the Saints to



SEATTLE: Alvin Kamara #41 of the New Orleans Saints catches a pass for a touchdown during the first half against the Seattle Seahawks at Lumen Field on Monday in Seattle, Washington. — AFP

the win. New Orleans quarterback Jameis Winston completed 19 of 35 passes for 222 yards and a touchdown. "I am just taking what they give me. We won this game in the trenches," said Winston.

Kamara had eight catches for 109 yards in the first half, including a 13-yard touchdown from Winston inside the final minute of the second quarter that gave the Saints a 10-7 lead at halftime. The Seahawks were missing star quarterback Russell Wilson with an injured finger on his throwing hand. They are 0-3 at

home to start the season for the first time since 1992. Smith was sacked by Malcolm Jenkins and Demario Davis on consecutive plays, and a fourth-down throw by Smith was almost intercepted. All the Saints had to do from that point on was run out the clock. Jason Myers kicked a 50-yard field goal for Seattle but also missed a potential game-tying 44-yard attempt, and a 53-yard attempt with 6:49 left in the fourth. New Orleans improved to 4-2 on the season and will play the Tampa Bay Buccaneers next. — AFP