



Usain Bolt (file pic)

## Bolt to hold trial with Borussia Dortmund

London

**T**he world's fastest man is making a run at professional soccer.

Usain Bolt, the eight-time Olympic gold medallist, says he has a trial set with Borussia Dortmund in March. But the possibility of playing for the German club, despite it being one of the most popular in Europe, is not what's drawing the Jamaican sprinter to the sport.

"One of my biggest dreams is to sign for Manchester United," Bolt said in an interview with *The Express*. "If Dortmund say I'm good enough, I'll crack on and train hard. I've spoken to (Man United coaching legend) Alex Ferguson and I told him he needs to put in a good word. He told me if I get fit and ready, he will see what he can do."

Dortmund and Bolt share a sponsor in Puma, which makes the tryout an easy match.

Bolt, 31, a longtime Man United fan, retired from

the track after damaging his hamstring at the World Championships in London in August. However, he told *The Express* that the injury is "now fine and I'm back to fully fit."

Still, Bolt admitted that the swagger he showed throughout his four Olympic Games and record-breaking runs has yet to transfer on the soccer field.

"It makes me nervous," Bolt said of the upcoming trial. "I don't get nervous but this is different, this is football now. It'll take time to adjust but once I play a few times I'll get used to it. It was the same when I started track and field. I was nervous for a while until I started getting used to the crowd, people and everyone around and it falls into place."

Bolt has for years shared his goal of crossing over into soccer, but no matter how far he takes it, he'll always be remembered first and foremost as the greatest sprinter of all time. (*nydailynews*)

# South Africa beat India, take 1-0 lead



South Africa's Vernon Philander celebrates with teammates (Picture courtesy: BCCI)

## BRIEF SCORE

**South Africa 286** (De Villiers 65, Du Plessis 62, Bhuvneshwar 4-87) **and India 209 and 135** (Shami 3-28, Bumrah 3-39) **beat India 209 and 135** (Philander 6-42) **by 72 runs**

Cape Town

**I**ndia were bundled out for 135 with Vernon Philander returning career-best figures of 6/42, as the visitors hurtled to a 72-run defeat against South Africa on Day 4 of the first Test in Cape Town.

On a manic Monday, 18 wickets fell in just over two sessions with South Africa taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The Test changed complexion inside two sessions with India skittling out South Africa for 130 in the morning session after they resumed on overnight total of 65.

Their lead was thus limited to 207 runs. But after the lunch break, the hosts turned the tables with their pacers running through visitor's batting line-up like a hot knife through butter.

They lost their first seven wickets for 82 before the pair of R Ashwin and Bhuvneshwar Kumar got together to offer some resistance. Together they added 49 runs for the eighth wicket giving some hope to a morose looking Indian dressing room.

Philander blew away those flickering hopes in one over as he got rid of Ashwin (35),

Mohammed Shami (4) and Jasprit Bumrah (0) in the space of four deliveries to finish with a six-wicket haul.

The chase began on a positive note with the openers adding 30 runs. However, India lost both at the same total. Shikhar Dhawan (16) was out in a similar manner to his dismissal in the first innings - a leading edge off Morne Morkel easily caught by substitute fielder Chris Morris.

Murali Vijay successfully reviewed two decisions, both against Philander before falling to the same bowler. He ran out of luck when AB de

Villiers took a brilliant catch in the slips to send him on way back to the dressing room on 13.

Morkel then also got rid of Cheteshwar Pujara (4) cheaply which brought India captain Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma together with the scorecard reading 39/3.

They seem to have settled in, taking the total past the 50-run mark. Philander, the best bowler on show, kept troubling with a nagging line. He kept bowling outside off and then brought one back that broke Kohli's resistance as he was trapped lbw on 28. (*TOI*)



Harry Kane (file pic)

**I'll stay at Spurs if we win trophies: Kane**

London

**T**ottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane is happy to remain at the London club as long as they win silverware and provide him with the environment to improve as a player.

Kane scored a quickfire double on Sunday to take his goal tally for the season in all competitions to 26 as Tottenham defeated third tier AFC Wimbledon in the FA Cup third round at Wembley.

The 24-year-old has attracted interest from major European clubs in recent

seasons, with Real Madrid's former president Ramon Calderon stating in October that he expected the Spanish club to try to sign the forward.

Asked what Tottenham needed to do to ensure he commits his long-term future to the club, Kane said: "We want to start winning trophies so that's the aim. Tottenham lost to Chelsea in the 2015 League Cup final in Kane's breakthrough year and have not won a major trophy since lifting the League Cup in the 2007-08 season. (*eurosport*)

## Barca signed Philippe Coutinho

London

**B**arcelona signed midfielder Philippe Coutinho because they were given a significant discount on the price Liverpool were asking for him in the last transfer window, vice-president Jordi Mestre said yesterday.

Coutinho became the third most expensive player in football history when he signed a five-and-a-half year contract with Barca on Monday following a £142 million deal between the clubs.

Barcelona director Albert

Soler said in September the club abandoned their pursuit of the Brazilian playmaker last year because Liverpool were asking for 200 million euros (around £176m).

It seems the reduction in the asking price for the Brazilian was as much as £34 million.

"The club has always been interested in signing Coutinho, the difference to last summer is that there was a big cut in price," Mestre told reporters on Monday at Coutinho's official presentation. (*eurosport*)