

Spanish clubs generated almost 5 billion euros last season



Barcelona's Raphinha (L) vies with Real Madrid's Karim Benzema during a match (file photo)

AFP | Madrid

Clubs in the top two Spanish divisions made 4.8 billion euros (\$5.3 billion) in revenue last season, according to a balance sheet released yesterday.

That figure is up 22.6 percent from the Covid-hit 2020/21 campaign.

"Spanish professional football has almost returned to pre-pandemic revenue levels, with Spanish clubs also being those with the lowest cumulative losses," La Liga said in a statement.

The main income, around 1.7 billion euros, came from television rights but the most significant reason for the increase was the return of fans to stadiums following the Covid crisis.

However, income from player transfers fell by 25.8 percent.

La Liga ranks second in club revenue behind only the Premier League.

Haaland loving life under Guardiola despite demands

● Erling Haaland sets new Premier League record of 35 goals in a season

AFP | London

Erling Haaland said he is loving the challenge of meeting Pep Guardiola's demands as Manchester City close in on a potential treble in the Norwegian's first season in England.

Haaland set a new Premier League record of 35 goals in a season as he took his tally for the campaign in all competitions to 51 against West Ham on Wednesday.

Victory took City back one point ahead of Arsenal at the top of the table, with a game in hand to come.

Guardiola's team face Real Madrid in the Champions League semi-finals later this month and Manchester United in the FA Cup final on June 3.

City had won back-to-back league titles largely without a focal point up front prior to

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PEP GUARDIOLA

Haaland's arrival.

But suggestions he would struggle to fit into Guardiola's system have long since been forgotten.

"I am enjoying it every single game," Haaland said of life under the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss.

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velop and do my best on the pitch. That's what you have to do - nothing more than do your best.

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greater had Guardiola not taken the opportunity to often rest the 22-year-old once games are won throughout the course of the season.

But that has paid dividends as the striker has largely remained free from injury in contrast to his two-and-a-half years at Borussia Dortmund.

"Potentially nine games left and I'm enjoying it," added Haaland amid suggestions he could be rested for Saturday's visit of Leeds in the Premier League just three days before City travel to Madrid.

YOU KNOW WHAT
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day's visit of Leeds in the Premier League just three days before City travel to Madrid.

"To have games all the time, this is something I love so we will see.

"We are in good shape, the mentality's right. The only thing we can do is focus on the next game and try to win the next game.

"Now it's Leeds, we have to focus on the game, we have to only think of that game and to try to win it."



Erling Haaland

Ramsey says he would be happy to stay in Nice



Aaron Ramsey (L) runs past Angers defender Souleyman Doumbia (file photo)

AFP | Paris

Veteran Wales international Aaron Ramsey said yesterday he was hoping to extend his stay with French Ligue 1 side Nice.

"It's a club that's going in the right direction and this season we've taken a step forward," he told a press conference ahead of Saturday's home game against Rennes.

"From my personal point of view we'll be in discussions at the end of the season."

Ramsey, who is 32, has made 33 appearances in all competitions since joining the Riviera club on a free transfer last summer after an injury-hit time at Juventus.

Ramsey has 80 Wales caps. When he joined the Turin giants he was reportedly the highest-paid British player.

Nice's season has run out of steam. They were beaten in the Europa Conference League quarter-finals by Basel after

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AARON RAMSEY

extra time in the second leg and slipped to ninth in Ligue 1, out of touch with the European places.

"In spells we've seen this season what this team is capable of. Now it's just a question of getting consistency," said Ramsey.

Nice have been owned since 2019 by English billionaire Jim Ratcliffe who has brought in several other Premier League veterans including Ross Barkley and Kasper Schmeichel.

Sharp-shooting Celtics blitz Sixers to square series

AFP | Los Angeles

The Boston Celtics produced an exhibition of three-point shooting to blow away the Philadelphia 76ers 121-87 and square their Eastern Conference playoff series on Wednesday.

Jaylen Brown led a clinical offensive display for the second-seeded Celtics to swat aside a Sixers line-up who welcomed back newly crowned NBA Most Valuable Player Joel Embiid after an injury absence of nearly two weeks.

Brown finished with 25 points while Malcolm Brogdon poured in 23 from the bench, including six three-pointers, as the Celtics bounced back from Monday's game-one loss at the TD Garden.

The best-of-seven series is now level at 1-1 as the teams head to Philadelphia for game three on Friday.

After Wednesday's rout, Sixers coach Doc Rivers will have



Malcolm Brogdon #13 of the Boston Celtics drives to the basket against Paul Reed #44 of the Philadelphia 76ers

plenty of food for thought despite the mostly successful return of Embiid, who had not played since injuring his right knee in game three of the first-round sweep of Brooklyn.

Embiid made his presence felt

with 15 points and five blocks but was clearly not at full fitness, before being removed from the fray in the third quarter as Boston surged into a commanding lead.

Boston meanwhile will be

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CELTICS FORWARD JAYLEN BROWN

buoyed by a display that mixed defensive ruggedness with free-scoring offense.

"We just set the tone on defence, trying to be aggressive on both sides of the ball, getting our team-mates going. But really just setting the tone on defense and having fun," Celtics forward Brown said afterwards.

No fewer than eight Celtics players contributed to Boston's tally of 20 three-pointers from 51 attempts.

Oliveira out of French MotoGP after collision

AFP | Paris

Portuguese rider Miguel Oliveira has withdrawn from next week's French MotoGP with a shoulder injury, his RNF-Aprilia team announced yesterday.

Oliveira, 28, who is 14th in the standings, sustained a dislocated shoulder in a fall at last weekend's Spanish GP after colliding with Fabio Quartararo.

"While immediate medical attention successfully repositioned his dislocated left shoulder, further assessments revealed a more severe injury, in-

cluding a fracture in the humerus and an anterior ligamentous labrum injury," the team said.

"Although Oliveira and his doctors have decided against surgery, he will need to focus on the healing process and will not be able to participate in the French round."

The team said it looked forward "to welcoming him back for the Italian GP" on June 11.

Italian Lorenzo Savadori, an Aprilia test rider, will step in to replace Oliveira.

The French MotoGP takes place between May 12-14.



Rescuers tend to Yamaha French rider Fabio Quartararo (R) and Aprilia Portuguese rider Miguel Oliveira after falling during the Spanish MotoGP