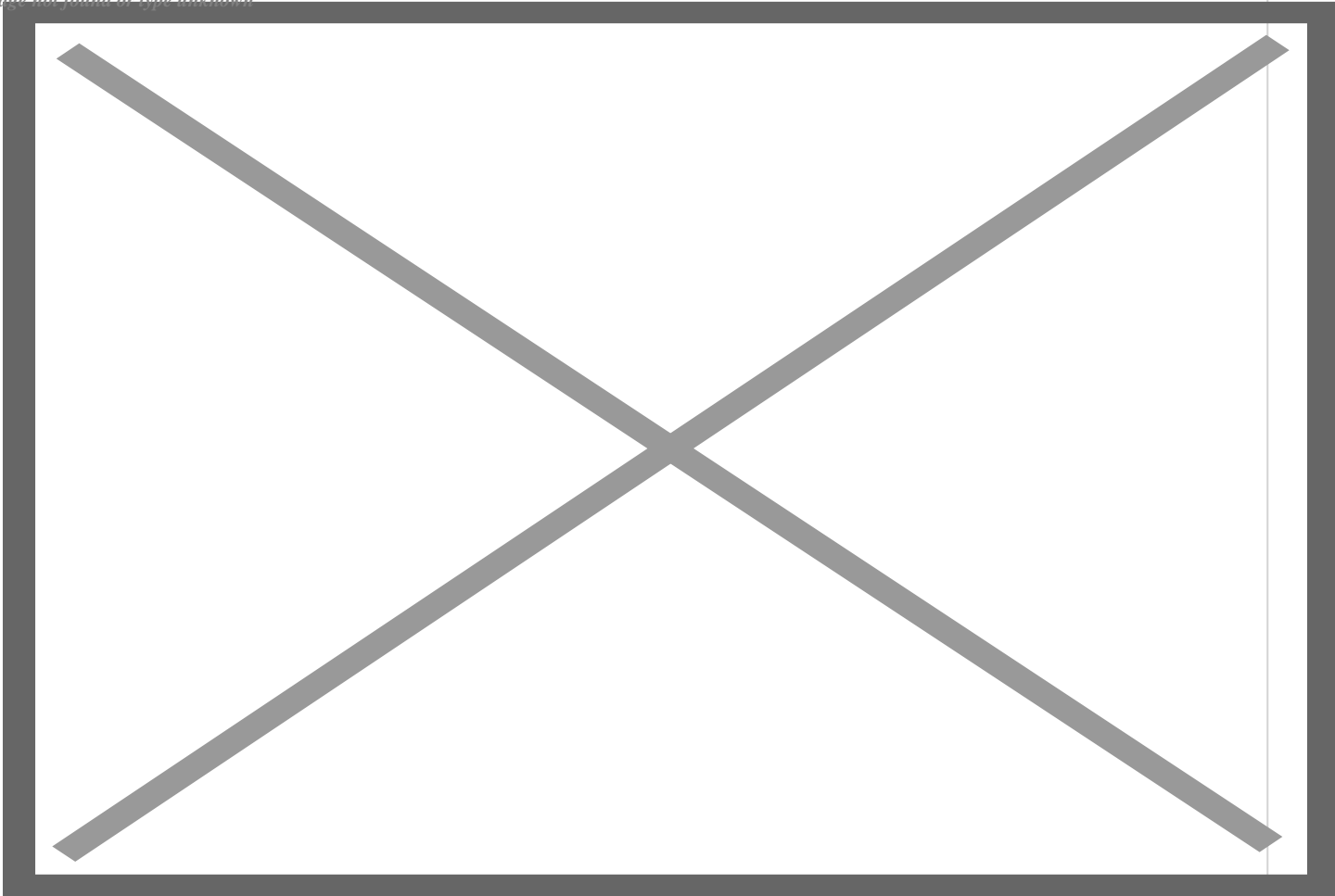


Great Spanish classic steals the limelight in Spanish Super Cup

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Havana, January 12 (RHC)-- The world soccer classic Barcelona-Real Madrid for the semifinals of the Spanish Super Cup is stealing the greatest expectation of the fans today.

The azulgranas face the match after last Saturday's 1-1 draw against Granada in the Spanish League and coach Xavi Hernandez hopes to get the win to maintain the illusions of winning his first title as coach.

In addition, they hope to avenge the 1-2 setback they suffered against Los Merengues in the league tournament. The match was marked by the last goal of Argentine Sergio "Kun" Agüero's career.

In the case of Real Madrid, they arrive at the Super Cup well motivated as leaders of the Spanish League and with only one defeat in the last 18 matches played in all competitions.

Both clubs face the match with absentees, although they have recovered players at the last minute.

Barça will be without Sergi Roberto, Eric García and Denmark's Martin Braithwaite, all of whom are injured. However, Pedro González "Pedri", Ansu Fati, the Dutchman Frenkie De Jong and the Uruguayan Ronald Araújo traveled with the team.

Meanwhile, in Real Madrid, the Serbian Luka Jovic returns to the team after overcoming the coronavirus and Daniel "Dani" Carvajal after several weeks out for a muscle discomfort, will not be on the bench Mariano Diaz, nor the Welshman Gareth Bale.

The Spanish Super Cup travels for the second time to Saudi Arabia, after the one played last year, when Real Madrid won the title.

The team that wins the duel at the King Fahd Stadium will face the winner of the other semi-final between Atlético de Madrid and Athletic Club.

The Azulgranas have 13 Spanish Super Cups in their trophy cabinet, followed by arch-rivals Real Madrid, who have 11 trophies.

Possible lineups:

-Barcelona: Ter Stegen; Dani Alves, Piqué, Araujo, Jordi Alba; Frenkie De Jong, Busquets, Gavi; Dembélé, Luuk De Jong and Jutglà.

-Real Madrid: Courtois; Lucas Vázquez, Militao, Alaba, Mendy; Kroos, Casemiro, Modric; Asensio, Benzema and Vinicius.

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