

SPORT IN NUMBERS

62 points were scored by basketball star Steph Curry as his team, the Golden State Warriors, beat the Portland Trail Blazers 137-122. Steph, 32, became the second oldest player to score over 60 points in an NBA game. Kobe Bryant set the record in his final game when he was aged 37.



27-year-old Dutch rider Denise Betsema won the fourth round of the UCI Cyclo-cross World Cup in the Netherlands. She served a ban last year after failing anti-doping tests. Fellow Dutch cyclist Mathieu van der Poel won the men's race.



3 conversions and five penalties were scored by Leicester Tigers' George Ford as his side beat Bath 36-31. The exciting Premiership match saw Bath go 14-0 up at Welford Road, before a stunning comeback left the two sides level with just 17 minutes to go. Leicester then took control, with George scoring a total of 21 points.



"Queen" Petra Vlhová wears her crown – and a fetching cape – after winning the World Cup slalom race in Croatia

SNOW QUEEN!

ALPINE skier Petra Vlhová of Slovakia has been crowned "Snow Queen" for the second year in a row after narrowly winning the World Cup slalom event in Zagreb, Croatia.

The Snow Queen race went ahead even though the mountain it took place on, Medvednica, is just 50 kilometres away from the epicentre of a major earthquake that took place at the end of December (see page 8).

Petra's two runs had a combined time of 1 minute 59.08 seconds. She pipped second-placed Katharina Liensberger of Austria by just five hundredths of a second! Switzerland's Michelle Gisin came third, 22 hundredths of a second behind the winner.

The victory took Vlhová 128 points clear at the top of the World Cup standings. She said: "Today was a really tough day... but I found something and pushed more before the finish."

The races in Croatia have been named Snow Queen since 2005, in honour of local legend Janica Kostelić, a three-time World Cup champion. She never won the Snow Queen trophy herself, but came third in 2006.

As First News went to press, the men's race was due to take place on 6 January.



Erik Lamela (left), Giovani Lo Celso and Aleksandar Mitrović (below) are among several players who broke COVID-19 rules

STARS BREAK COVID RULES

FIVE Premier League clubs have promised to punish footballers who have recently broken coronavirus restrictions.

Fulham, Manchester City, Tottenham, West Ham and Crystal Palace are all under the spotlight after some of their players were found to have breached Tier 4 restrictions over the New Year period. City said they were "disappointed" that Benjamin Mendy invited people over for a New Year's Eve party at his house. The club said they would hold an "internal investigation". Separately, pictures on social media showed Fulham striker Aleksandar Mitrović apparently at a New Year party with Palace star Luka Milivojević and several other people. Fulham said the matter would be "dealt with internally," while Palace boss Roy Hodgson said: "We condemn it, we certainly apologise for it."

Tottenham manager José Mourinho said he was "disappointed" after a picture on social media showed Spurs stars Erik Lamela, Sergio Reguilón and Giovani Lo Celso at a party with West Ham's Manuel Lanzini.

Some ex-players and fans have called for clubs to dish out tough punishments – including dropping players from the first team – for breaches of COVID-19 rules.

