

## Man United humble Wigan

## Non league Sutton lead underdog biteback in FA Cup

LONDON, Jan 29, (AFP): Jamie Collins went from builder to hero on Sunday as his penalty secured non league Sutton a 1-0 win over second tier highfliers Leeds United and a place in the fifth round of the FA Cup for the first time in their history.

Sutton, whose assistant coach Ian Baird ironically captained Leeds to the 1987 FA Cup semifinals, join Lincoln in the last 16, the first time in the competition's history two non league clubs have reached that stage.

Leeds, who are fourth in the Championship, had captain Liam Cooper sent off for a second bookable offence in the second-half.

"It is a great day," Collins told

BBC Radio.

"To beat Leeds is a fantastic achievement. I have got a lot of family here so that makes it even more special.

"On Friday I was on a building site."

Sutton's remarkable exploit followed two other upsets earlier on Sunday with third tier Millwall beating Premier League Watford 1-0 and Championship outfit Fulham trouncing Hull 4-1.

A goal by former Wales international Steve Morison proved the difference between Millwall and a poor Watford.

It was Millwall's second successive top level scalp after eliminating Bournemouth in the previous

round.

There was to be no such glory for Championship side Wigan, FA Cup winners in 2013, as they were at the wrong end of a 4-0 humbling by Manchester United.

German World Cup winner Bastian Schweinsteiger hasn't had an awful lot to smile about during his spell at United but he hit the target with a delightful overhead kick to round off the scoring.

Millwall — finalists in 2004 — dominated the clash with Morison knocking the ball home from close range winner to beat Heurleho Gomes.

The hosts, who had gone into the game boosted by the news that threats of having to move to outside

London because of a property development project had been stalled, had the ball in the net again shortly afterwards but it was ruled out.

"We are an honest bunch," Morison, 33, told the BBC. "Everyone works hard every day. Sometimes it doesn't go for us but we put 110% in every day. It is well deserved.

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We were brilliant from start to finish."

Millwall manager Neil Harris, the club's all-time leading scorer, was proud as punch of his players who extended their unbeaten run in all competitions to eight.

"I thought we were excellent," he said.

"Watford are a top side. In the first half we were outstanding but I was starting to think 'will it come?' But we got that moment of magic and fortunately the experience shined.

"This club and team epitomise everything what the FA Cup is about. They are an honest bunch, organised and have quality and you can see that today."

Harris's Watford counterpart Walter Mazzarri apologised to the fans for the defeat.

However, he said it should be taken into account that as they are playing Arsenal in the Premier League on Tuesday he had to be careful with his selections.

Watford are seventh from bottom and eight points above the relegation places.

Premier League strugglers Hull went down to their second Cup defeat in a matter of days and far more tamely than when they beat Manchester United 2-1 in the League Cup semifinal on Thursday but lost 3-2 on aggregate.

Fulham, who are 11th in the Championship but just five points outside the play-off spots, rounded off the scoring through former Celtic star Norwegian international Stefan Johansen.

Hull's miserable afternoon ended on a suitably awful note with Abel Hernandez having two penalties saved in the final minutes.



Fulham's Sone Aluko (left), and Hull City's Goebel Evandro challenge for the ball during the English FA Cup, fourth round match, Fulham vs Hull City at Craven Cottage, London on Jan 29. (AP)

## Barca title challenge suffers a 'huge blow'

Espanyol stun Sevilla

MADRID, Jan 29, (AFP): Barcelona's La Liga title challenge suffered a huge blow as the Spanish champions were controversially held 1-1 at Real Betis despite Luis Suarez's last minute equaliser on Sunday.

A point is enough to move Barca above Sevilla into second on goal difference after Sevilla also missed the chance to go top of the table as they were reduced to 10 men after just two minutes in a 3-1 defeat at Espanyol.

Real Madrid lead both by a point and have two games in hand on their title rivals, the first of which comes at home to Real Sociedad later on Sunday.

Alexis Alegria gave Betis the lead their dominance deserved 15 minutes from time when he bundled home from close range after Marc-Andre ter Stegen flapped at a corner.

However, Barca were rightly infuriated seconds later as the ball clearly crossed the Betis goalline, but no goal was given by referee Alejandro Jose Hernandez.

Suarez did at least rescue a point in the dying seconds, though, as he slotted home Lionel Messi's through ball for his 21st goal of the season.

"We have to help the referees," Barca boss Luis Enrique told BeIN Sports Spain.

"The technology can help them. I say that for all situations not just ones that go for me, but against me too."



Barcelona's Ivan Rakitic (left), and Betis' Ryan Donk fight for the ball during La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Betis at the Benito Villamarin Stadium, in Seville, Spain on Jan 29. (AP)

Suarez was less understanding as he claimed the ball "was a metre over the line." Ultimately Enrique paid the price for again heavily rotating his side with Wednesday's Copa del Rey semi-final, first leg at Atletico Madrid in mind.

"The feeling I have is that we have won one point (not lost two)," he added.

Enrique made six changes in all, including three of the back four and Betis took advantage with a bright start.

Ter Stegen was forced into saves from Ruben Castro and Dani Ceballos early on.

However, Barca arguably had the best chance of the first-half when Antonio Adan flew off his line to deny Neymar from another scintillating Messi pass.

Ceballos saw a dipping long-range effort come back off the bar before Castro struck the post with Ter Stegen beaten at his near post.

The German goalkeeper had a moment to forget for the opening goal as he failed to get a good connection on an attempted punch under pressure from two Betis players and the ball fell

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kindly for Alegria to tap home.

Conceding appeared to wake Barca from their slumber and they were doubly denied by Hernandez seconds later as Neymar went down inside the area and the ball ricocheted towards the Betis goal off Riza Durmisi.

Replays showed the ball clearly went over the line before Alissa Mandi cleared, but La Liga's refusal to implement goal line technology due to pricing fears cost Barca dearly as no goal was given.

Betis should have sealed the three points when Castro broke clear on goal eight minutes from time, but Ter Stegen redeemed himself with a fine save.

And that miss proved crucial as Messi finally found the space to slip a pass through the Betis defence and Suarez dispatched the ball into the far corner.

There was also refereeing controversy at Espanyol as Sevilla's shot at moving top lasted barely two minutes when Nico Pareja was very harshly sent-off on top of conceding a penalty for a trip on Pablo Piatti.

## Good weekend for fast-rising Inter; Torino held, Milan fall

## Juve open up 4-pt gap as Roma flop

ROME, Jan 29, (AFP): Juventus's campaign for a record sixth consecutive Italian title gathered pace Sunday as nearest rivals Roma stumbled.

A 2-0 win at Sassuolo enabled Massimiliano Allegri's Juve to pull four points clear at the top of the table as Roma went down to a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Sampdoria.

And with a game in hand - against lowly Crotona - over all their closest rivals, Juve now look to be firmly in control of the title battle.

Roma led twice against Sampdoria in Genoa, but their title aspirations were dealt a deflating blow as

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strikes from Czech forward Patrik Schick and Colombian striker Luis Muriel turned the match around in the space of three minutes midway through the second half.

Muriel's strike, which was to prove the winner, was a 25-year,



Juventus' forward from Argentina Paulo Dybala (right), fights for the ball with Sassuolo's defender from Italy Paolo Cannavaro during the Italian Serie A football match Sassuolo vs Juventus at 'Mapei Stadium' in Reggio Emilia on Jan 29. (AFP)

swerving, dipping free-kick that found the net with the help of a deflection off the wall.

Juve meanwhile were strolling to a comfortable 2-0 win at Sassuolo. Gonzalo Higuain scored his

eighth goal in six league matches to give the Turin giants an early lead after a sweeping move involving Alex Sandro and Mario Mandzukic.

Argentina striker Higuain has now hit the net 15 times in his first season in Turin and it was his pass that allowed German midfielder Samy Khedira to double the lead, and effectively kill the match as a contest, after 25 minutes.

For Roma it was a case of back to bad defensive ways as they conceded three in Genoa after a run of three clean sheets.

Luciano Spalletti's men had gone ahead through Bruno Peres after only five minutes and, after Belgian midfielder Dennis Praet's equaliser, they got in front again through Bosnian striker Edin Dzeko, only to see their efforts cancelled out quickly.

With Atalanta held to a 1-1 draw at Torino and AC Milan beaten 2-1 at Udinese, it was a good weekend for fast-rising Inter Milan.

Stefano Pioli's squad moved up to fourth place with a seventh straight league win to sustain a remarkable turnaround in the club's fortunes since Frank de Boer was sacked as head coach in November. Inter cruised to a 3-0 win over bottom side Pescara on Saturday and have now won nine times on the trot in all competitions.

Defender Danilo D'Ambrosio and Portuguese midfielder Joao Mario put Inter on cruise control before half-time and Brazilian-born Italy striker Eder came off the bench to complete the comfortable win after the break.

Inter face leaders Juventus next weekend in an encounter increasingly looking like a last-chance saloon for the chasing pack.

Inter's rise was at Lazio's expense with the Roman club dropping back in the race for European football next season after a shock home defeat to lowly Chievo, for whom Roberto Inglese sealed the points with a 90th-minute strike against the run of play.

## Freiburg upset high-fliers Hertha

## Shaky Dortmund leak late equaliser

BERLIN, Jan 29, (AFP): Borussia Dortmund conceded a late goal in Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's low-key Bundesliga return on Sunday in a 1-1 draw at Mainz which cost them third place in the table.

Aubameyang, the German league's top scorer with 16 goals, was back in Dortmund's starting line-up following Gabon's group-stage exit from the Africa Cup of Nations, but he had just two shots on goal in Mainz.

Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel had lamented their shaky defence after last Saturday's scrappy 2-1 win at Werder Bremen and they again looked unstable at the back.

This was Dortmund's fourth draw in their last five league games.

Last season's runners up are now fourth -- fourteen points adrift of leaders Bayern Munich, who won 2-1 at Werder Bremen on Saturday thanks to goals by Arjen Robben and David Alaba.

Borussia took the lead with just three minutes gone in Mainz.

Midfielder Jean-Philippe Gbamin lost possession, which Dortmund's Germany winger Andre Schuerrle snapped up to provide the final pass for Marco Reus to rifle home.

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Mainz's Japan striker Yoshinori Muto had the ball in the net on 15 minutes, but the goal was ruled offside.

The hosts snatched a point seven minutes from time when midfielder Danny Latza was left unmarked to head home a cross at the far post as Mainz pushed for the winner in the frantic final stages.

Earlier, midfielder Janik Haberer and ex-Bayern Munich striker Nils Petersen netted for Freiburg in Sunday's shock 2-1 win over Bundesliga high-fliers Hertha Berlin.

"It's unpleasant to play against us," said Petersen.

"We defended well and we have the quality up front to use our few chances.

"We're all pulling in the right direction -- big compliment to the team."

Having pushed league leaders Bayern all the way in last weekend's 2-1 home defeat at the Schwarzwald Stadion, hosts Freiburg earned a deserved win on Sunday to climb to eighth in Germany's top flight.

Haberer, who had given Freiburg a shock lead against Bayern before Robert Lewandowski netted twice, put the hosts ahead against Hertha when he drilled home Vincenzo Grifo's pass across goal on 39 minutes.

Freiburg sealed the win when super



Freiburg's forward Nils Petersen celebrates his goal during the German first division Bundesliga football match between SC Freiburg and Hertha Berlin in Freiburg, southern Germany on Jan 29. (AFP)

sub Petersen netted his sixth goal of the season, all of which have come as a replacement, on 87 minutes when he finished off a move started by his own goalkeeper and beat three defenders.

Less than a minute later, Hertha pulled a goal back when ex-Dortmund striker Julian Schieber rifled home.

The defeat, Hertha's sixth of the season, leaves Pal Dardai's Berlin sixth in the table.

On Saturday, second-placed RB Leipzig ended 10-man Hoffenheim's unbeaten run this season with a 2-1 comeback win to stay just three points adrift of Carlo Ancelotti's star-studded Bavarians.

Hoffenheim were the last undefeated team left in Europe's top leagues before Marcel Sabitzer's 77th-minute winner dealt the visitors their first loss of the campaign after striker Sandro Wagner's dismissal.

## Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bayern18	14	3	1	42	11	45	
Leipzig	18	13	3	2	36	16	42
Frankfurt	18	9	5	4	23	15	32
Dortmund	18	8	7	3	38	21	31
Hoffenheim	18	7	10	1	31	19	31
Hertha	18	9	3	6	26	21	30
Cologne	18	7	8	3	27	16	29
Freiburg	18	8	2	8	28	28	26
Leverkusen	18	7	3	8	24	30	24
Mainz	18	6	4	8	27	31	22
Schalke04	18	6	3	9	21	20	21
Augsburg	18	5	6	7	15	20	21
Mgladbach	18	5	5	8	18	27	20
Wolfsburg	18	5	4	9	17	26	19
Bremen	18	4	4	10	22	38	16
Ingolstadt 04	18	4	3	11	17	29	15
Hamburg	18	3	4	11	15	35	13
Darmstadt	18	2	3	13	12	36	9

Note: Standings read as played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against and points.

## Celtic break 'Lisbon Lions' record in Hearts win

GLASGOW, Jan 29, (AFP): Scott Sinclair scored twice as Celtic surpassed a 50-year-old club record in style with a 4-0 thrashing of Hearts on Sunday to extend their unbeaten domestic run to 27 matches.

Callum McGregor, only playing due to an injury to Stuart Armstrong in the warm-up, opened the scoring in the first half before late goals from Sinclair and Patrick Roberts made things comfortable for the Scottish champions.

A stoppage-time penalty from Sinclair sealed a 17th league victory in a row as the Hoops eclipsed the record set in Celtic's greatest ever season — the 'Lisbon Lions' 1966-67 campaign, which ended with a clean sweep of trophies including the European Cup.

The win moves Brendan Rodgers' side, who have already won the League Cup, 22 points clear of Rangers at the top of the table as they remain firmly on course for a domestic treble.

The Hoops boss said it was a huge honour to set a new record.

"It's an incredible run that the players are on. Every accolade that they get they deserve because of their focus, the spirit that they have fostered within the team and the quality of football that they are producing," Rodgers said.

"The players I thought were magnificent today."

Hearts head coach Ian Cathro said his side had wanted to compete with Celtic.

"We believed that we could and we showed enough evidence that was possible throughout," Cathro said.

"We were looking to push hard and we suffered a second

goal and the game started to change a little bit then."

Celtic, already having to cope with injuries to strikers Moussa Dembele and Leigh Griffiths, were dealt a further blow just prior to kick-off when midfielder Armstrong hobbled out of the warm-up.

However, his replacement made the most of his opportunity as he fired Celtic in front in the 30th minute. Sinclair, playing through the middle in the absence of Dembele and Griffiths, cut the Hearts defence open with a precision pass to the feet of McGregor who prodded the ball in off the inside of the post.

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Hearts didn't pose any real threat until just before the break when Jamie Walker sent a looping header on to the roof of the net from Malaury Martin's free-kick.

Celtic upped the tempo in the second half and James Forrest should have increased their advantage in the 50th minute. The winger latched on to a hopeful through ball to race into the box but delayed his shot allowing Liam Smith to divert it out for a corner with a superb last-ditch sliding tackle.

Moments later the home side were appealing for a penalty when Sinclair's cross appeared to hit the arm of John Souttar but referee Bobby Madden ignored their pleas.

Celtic came close with a curling effort from Roberts that went inches wide before Martin was presented with