



Nashville SC midfielder Hany Mukhtar and Houston Dynamo midfielder Matias Vera go up for a header during the first half of an MLS soccer match on Oct 14, at BBVA Stadium in Houston. (AP)

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Orlando City extend unbeaten streak to 11

Red Bulls draw with MLS-leading Toronto FC

ORLANDO, Fla., Oct 15, (AP): Chris Mueller scored an early goal, Brian Rowe had seven saves, and Orlando City played New York City FC to a 1-1 draw on Wednesday night, extending their unbeaten streak to 11 games.

Ruan Gregorio Teixeira started left then darted back to his right to evade a defender and lofted an entry from the end line to the top of the six-yard box where Mueller put away a header to make it 1-0 in the 18th minute for Orlando (8-2-7).

Rowe, making his second start of the season in place of Pedro Gallese (international duty), has 10 saves and one goal allowed this season. The 31-year-old Rowe started every game last season and finished with seven shutouts.

Keaton Parks put away his own rebound, after Rowe made a sliding stop at the top of the six-yard box. He scored into an empty net for New York City (8-7-3).

NYCFC have just two losses in their last 12 games.

Red Bulls 1, Toronto FC 1
Teenager Caden Clark scored in the 77th minute in just his second MLS game, helping the New York Red Bulls to a 1-1 draw with MLS-leading Toronto FC.

Clark fended off Marky Delgado and fired a shot from distance that beat diving goalkeeper Quentin Westberg. Clark, a 17-year-old who signed with the Red Bulls' 1-0 win over the Atlanta United on Saturday night. Clark is the fifth-youngest player to score in his debut.

Alejandro Pozuelo, who leads Toronto with eight goals, scored on a penalty kick in the 23rd minute. Toronto (11-2-5), who had won five in a row, stretched their unbeaten streak to eight.

The Red Bulls' Dru Yearwood had

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a potential goal reversed on an offside penalty in the 33rd.

Revolution 3, Impact 2
Kekuta Manneh and Teal Bunbury scored early goals. Adam Buska had a goal and an assist, and the New England Revolution beat the Montreal Impact 3-2 at Red Bulls Stadium.

Manneh opened the scoring with his first goal of the season in the 13th minute, side-footing a one-touch shot into an empty net. Buska ran onto a loose ball before tapping it to Manneh for the finish from point-blank range.

Alexander Buttner chipped a high entry to the center of the box where Bunbury scored on a header to make it 2-0 in the 20th.

New England (7-4-7) have won consecutive games and have one loss in their last seven matches.

Amar Sejdin tapped in a roller from the top of the six-yard box in the 27th minute for the Impact. Buska beat a pair of defenders before his shot was stopped by goalkeeper James Pantemis. Buska then put the rebound into an empty net in the 52nd minute to make it 3-1.

Ballou Tabla's goal — the 21-year-old's first since 2017 — in stoppage capped the scoring.

Montreal (6-10-2) have lost six of their last eight games.

The Impact are playing their remaining home games in the United States due to travel restrictions regarding COVID-19 put in place by the Canadian government.

FC Cincinnati 2, Crew 1
Yuya Kubo and Nick Hagglund scored, and FC Cincinnati beat the Columbus Crew 2-1 on Wednesday night for their first victory over their in-state rivals.

Cincinnati (4-10-4) snapped a five-match scoreless streak. Columbus (9-4-4) returned after Sunday's game against Orlando City was postponed because of a couple of confirmed COVID-19 cases. The Crew are winless in their last four games.

Kubo converted a penalty kick in the third minute. Hagglund, a Cincinnati native who played at Xavier, scored on a header off a set piece from Haris Medunjanin. It was Hagglund's first goal of the season.

Pedro Santos scored on a penalty kick for the Crew in the 45th minute.

The Crew have dominated the series, with a pair of lopsided victories this year, including a 3-0 win at MAP-



D.C. United defender Joseph Mora (28) kicks the ball out of the way from Philadelphia Union forward Sergio Santos (17) during the first half of an MLS soccer match on Oct 14, in Washington.

Almeida stays in pink

Narváez earns first Giro stage win

CESENATICO, Italy, Oct 15, (AP): Jhonatan Narváez earned his first victory in a Grand Tour by winning the 12th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Thursday, and João Almeida held onto the pink jersey.

Narváez, an Ecuadorian rider with the INEOS Grenadiers team, finished 1 minute, 8 seconds ahead of Mark Padun, who had a flat tire on the final descent as the duo were leading the rain-soaked stage.

"Today, I woke up with the right spirit and wanted to be the protagonist in this stage," Narváez said. "It is not a problem for me to race in the rain, in fact, I prefer it to the hot weather."

Simon Clarke was third, 6:50 behind Narváez, at the end of the hilly 204-kilometer (124-mile) route that started and ended in Cesenatico.

All three had been in a 14-man breakaway. Narváez and Padun attacked from the remnants of the escape group, with around 50 kilometers remaining, as the weather

worsened. They looked set to contest the finale but Padun's bike failure cost him dearly and although the Ukrainian rider managed to close the gap to within 10 seconds, Narváez rallied to solo to victory.

The stage also featured five categorized climbs but, on a wet and windy day, there were no attacks from the riders chasing overall victory. They crossed the line 8:25 behind Narváez.

Almeida, a Portuguese rider with the Deceuninck-Quick Step team, remained 34 seconds ahead of Wilco Kelderman and 43 seconds ahead of Pello Bilbao overall.

"Today was a very tough stage. I am happy to have managed to keep the maglia rosa (pink jersey)," Almeida said. "Once again my team was extraordinary, I'm really grateful to my teammates."

Friday's 13th stage is a mainly flat 192-kilometer (119-mile) leg from Cervia to Monselice, although it features two categorized climbs towards the end of the route.

The Giro was rescheduled from its usual May slot because of the coronavirus pandemic. The race ends in 10 days with an individual time trial in Milan.

Nashville 3, Dynamo 1
Hany Mukhtar scored two of Nashville's three first-half goals in a 3-1 victory over the Houston Dynamo.

Nashville (5-6-6) stopped a four-match winless streak. Houston (4-7-7) have lost three of their last four.

Mukhtar opened the scoring in the 15th minute, and Abu Danladi scored on a header four minutes later. Mukhtar added another one in the 23rd, beating Dynamo goalkeeper Marko Maric on a free kick. Darwin Quintero, who leads Houston with six goals, scored in the 75th minute.

Nashville's Jhonder Cadiz made his MLS debut in the 70th minute, and nearly got his first goal several minutes in by going one-on-one with Maric.

Joe Willis made five saves for Nashville, who have allowed just nine goals in their last 11 games.

Maric finished with four saves.

Sporting KC 1, FC Dallas 0
Ryan Hollingshead scored in the 43rd minute, and FC Dallas snapped a four-match winless streak by topping Sporting Kansas City 1-0.

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Ecuador's Jhonatan Narváez pedals alone on his way to win the 12th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race from Cesenatico to Cesenatico, Italy on Oct 15. (AP)

A-League set for hot season start

SYDNEY, Oct 15, (AP): Australia's A-League is set to kick off in late December, less than four months after the COVID-19 pandemic-interrupted 2019-20 competition finished with Sydney FC winning the title.

Football Federation Australia on Thursday said it will be the first time the A-League and the women's W-League begin their seasons in the southern hemisphere summer and on the same date, Dec 27.

The start of the soccer season will compete for attention with the traditional summer sports highlights in Australia, including the Boxing Day cricket Test between Australia and India in Melbourne, the Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race and potentially some international tennis.

The new schedule also means that the majority of the elite soccer season will be played concurrently. The 161 men's matches will be played over 23 weeks, with the grand final set for June, and the 57 women's games will finish with a grand final in April.

'Maguire is having a difficult period'

More 'discipline' problems put Southgate on defensive

LONDON, Oct 15, (AP): Discipline among England players is becoming a concern for Gareth Southgate.

"We've had an incredible chain of things to deal with," Southgate said, reflecting on the challenges after an unwelcome landmark night in the team's history.

Harry Maguire being red carded during the game and Reece James being dismissed for dissent after Wednesday's 1-0 loss to Denmark meant two England players were sent off in the same game for the first time in the team's 148-year history.

On-field misconduct brought an end to a third consecutive gathering of the England squad, and that has left Southgate grappling with off-field issues.

In November 2019, Raheem Sterling was dropped following a training ground altercation with Joe Gomez as the Manchester City-Liverpool rivalry spilled over into international duty.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it took almost 10 months for the squad to gather again. And Maguire never even got to check in to the hotel.

On a farcical day, Maguire was selected by Southgate for September's Nations League games even as the Manchester United captain was being tried in absentia in Greece after a holiday melee. Once the verdict came in hours later — he was found guilty of assaulting a police officer and attempted bribery while on holiday — Maguire was dropped from the England trips to Iceland and Denmark.

It put England players on notice of the standards expected of them. The message didn't get through to Phil Foden and Mason Greenwood. They celebrated making their England debuts in Iceland by meeting up with women at their Reykjavik hotel.

Even in non-pandemic times that would have breached squad rules. But the misdemeanor was exacerbated by the women being from outside of a bio-secure bubble designed to limit the players' risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

Medical precautions forced Southgate to send Foden and



England manager Gareth Southgate throws the ball back onto the pitch during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between England and Denmark at Wembley stadium in London, England on Oct 14. (AP)

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Greenwood home. They were dropped for this month's triple header.

Yet, Southgate's message about having to respect coronavirus regulations still didn't get through to his squad.

In the case of Tammy Abraham, Ben Chilwell and Jadon Sancho, national rules were not followed when they were pictured at a gathering of more than six

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people a couple of days before they were due to link up with the England squad.

Southgate couldn't risk them being near the squad until medics could be sure they didn't have the coronavirus. They all missed a 3-0 victory over Wales in a friendly last Thursday. Chilwell eventually left the squad through another illness. Abraham was declared fit but not used, while Sancho was only a second-half substitute in Sunday's 2-1 win over Belgium and the loss to Denmark.

It was against Denmark that Maguire's second rash challenge in the opening half hour left England having to play most of the match with 10 men.