



Leverkusen's Florian Wirtz (left), and Fierth's Timothy Tillman fight for the ball during a German Bundesliga soccer match between Bayer Leverkusen and Greuther Fierth in Leverkusen, Germany. (AP)

Sports

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A perfect race on Sunday

Hamilton, Bottas give Mercedes front row in Saudi Arabia

Chelsea knocked off top spot



West Ham's Jarrod Bowen (left), challenges for the ball with Chelsea's Callum Hudson-Odoi during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Chelsea at the London stadium in London. (AP)

Newcastle edge Burnley for first win

LONDON, Dec 4, (AP): West Ham are proving to be quite the stumbling block for England's top teams, although the London club needed a bit of luck to secure their latest statement win.

West Ham shook up the Premier League title race by coming from behind twice to beat Chelsea 3-2 at home on Saturday, a result that knocked the visitors off the top of the standings.

Liverpool took immediate advantage as Divock Origi's injury-time goal secured a 1-0 win over Wolverhampton that put Jurgen Klopp's team in first place.

David Moyes' West Ham had already handed Liverpool their only loss of the league, beaten Tottenham, and knocked both Manchester clubs out of the League Cup. This win underlined the Hammers' own top-four credentials, even though they required a fluke late goal to complete the comeback.

Arthur Masuaku swung a speculative 87th-minute cross in from the left wing which veered toward goal and caught Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy by surprise. Mendy dove to keep the ball out but managed to push it only inside his own near post.

"It was a bit of a lucky goal," Moyes conceded. "But you have to get the ball in the box, you have to try it."

Divock Origi's last-gasp goal gave Liverpool a 1-0 win at Wolverhampton that provisionally lifted them to the top of the English Premier League.

Origi collected a smart cutback from Mo Salah in injury time and swiveled before slotting in the ball, just as it looked as if Liverpool would fail to score for the first time in eight months.

The visitors missed good chances in the last 30 minutes, with Diogo Jota wasting one of the best when goalkeeper Jose Sa's mistake left him with only two outfield players guarding the net. Jota's shot from six yards out, though, was blocked by Conor Coady

on the line.

The result lifted Liverpool above Chelsea after Thomas Tuchel's side lost at West Ham 3-2 earlier.

Liverpool have been Europe's highest-scoring team this season and netted four in each of its last three Premier League games before arriving at Molineux.

Jurgen Klopp's team struggled to make the most of their pressure against a resolute Wolves side, though, with Salah, Sadio Mane and Thiago Alcantara also missing chances as they pressed for a winner.

Callum Wilson scored late in the first half and Newcastle went on to beat Burnley 1-0 for their first victory in this English Premier League.

Newcastle ended a 14-game winless run and earned desperately needed points as they try to climb out of the relegation zone.

SOCCER

Burnley had been unbeaten in five games but could muster only one shot on target at St. James' Park.

Wilson scored in the 40th minute after Burnley goalkeeper Nike Pope couldn't control Joe Willock's cross. Pope came out to the penalty spot to snatch the ball out of the air but on his way down collided with Newcastle's Fabien Schar and dropped the ball. Wilson took one touch around Pope and fired high into the net.

Newcastle, which have recently come under Saudi ownership, moved one spot off the bottom of the table, bumping Norwich into last place with Burnley in 18th - all with 10 points.

Burnley thought they equalized in the 84th but forward Jay Rodriguez's tap in was ruled out because he was offside. Matej Vydra skied a half-volley over the crossbar in first-half injury time for the visitors.

Newcastle dominated the second half with lively play from attackers Allan Saint-Maximin and Miguel Almiron. Jonjo Shelvey's curling shot to the far post was tipped over by Pope in the 79th.

The win was also the first for Newcastle's new manager, Eddie Howe, who was hired last month to replace the fired Steve Bruce.

Neal Maupay's goal in the eighth minute of injury time rescued a 1-1

Morocco beat Jordan

Qatar advance to Arab Cup quarterfinals



Algeria's Yacine Brahimi (right), is challenged by Lebanon's Jihad Ayoub during the group D Arab Cup soccer match between Lebanon and Algeria at the Al Janoub Stadium in Doha, Qatar. (AP)



Liverpool's Diogo Jota runs with the ball past Wolverhampton Wanderers' Nelson Semedo (left), during the English Premier League soccer match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Liverpool at the Molineux Stadium in Wolverhampton, England. (AP)

draw for Brighton at Southampton.

Maupay reacted quickest to tap in from close range after Jakub Moder's free kick, to deny Ralph Hasenhuttl a win on his three-year anniversary as Southampton manager.

However, Brighton are still winless in 11 matches in all competitions after a promising start to the season and lost Leandro Trossard to a serious elbow injury in the second half. The winger was carried from the field on a stretcher

DOHA, Dec 4, (KUNA): Qatar beat Oman 2-1 in Group A, advancing to the quarterfinals of the FIFA Arab Cup 2021 held in Doha.

The Qatari goals were scored in the 32 and 97 minutes of the match, while Oman scored their sole goal in the 74 minute.

Iraq hold second position in the group with two points followed by Oman and Bahrain with one each.

The third round next Monday will see Oman meeting Bahrain and Qatar facing Iraq.

SOCCER

The tournament, held until December 18, sees the participation of 16 teams under the umbrella of FIFA.

UAE defeated Mauritania 1-0 in group B.

UAE only goal was made in the third minute of stoppage time in the second half.

UAE have six points, followed by Tunisia with three points, Syria in third place, and Mauritania in the last spot.

Syria Tunisia 2-0 with Oliver Kass Kawo scoring the opener in 4th minute and Mohammad Anz adding the second in 47th minute.

In Group C Morocco beat Jordan by 4-0.

Yahya Jabran opened the scoring with, Bader Benoun Mohammad Al-Shaibi and Soufiane Rahimi rounding off the scoring.

Algerian National team defeated, Saturday, Lebanese counterpart 2-0 in Group D.

Yacine Brahimi scored the opener from a penalty kick and Tayeb Meziani increased the tally late in the game.

after a collision with Nathan Redmond.

Armando Broja's smart finish put Southampton ahead in the 29th minute as the Chelsea loanee coolly cut inside Shane Duffy's last-ditch sliding tackle to slot home.

JEDDAH, Dec 4, (AP): Max Verstappen slapped the wall in the 27th and final turn of Formula One's newest circuit, handing the front row for the inaugural Saudi Arabian Grand Prix to Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes.

Hamilton, the seven-time world champion, jumped to the top of the qualifying board with about 80 seconds remaining in Saturday's session. Valtteri Bottas, his Mercedes teammate, then moved to second.

It gave the current championship leader one final lap around the high-speed course to try to claim pole. But the Dutchman went wide in the second turn and nearly brushed the wall, then finally gave it a hard slam in the final turn as Verstappen desperately tried to bump Hamilton and Bottas from the front row.

Verstappen climbed from his damaged Red Bull and walked down the street circuit shaking his head in dismay. He then climbed through a hole in the safety fencing, caught a ride in the backseat of the safety car and returned to the paddock.

"That was terrible," Verstappen said. "We don't understand what happened. I locked up and I still tried to, of course, keep the car on the track to try to finish the lap but it clipped the rear and I had to stop. P3 is a bit disappointing."

Verstappen was likely on pace to take the pole from Hamilton.

MOTOR RACING

The two championship rivals - they are separated by eight points with two races remaining - bumped fists after the session.

"What a tough track this is, incredibly technical and complex," Hamilton said. "It's amazing what they've built here, track-wise the speed and the pace around here is phenomenal."

Hamilton earlier was summoned before the stewards for violating yellow flag rules in practice, but the British driver was not penalized. He was later issued a warning, though, and Mercedes was fined 25,000 pounds (\$33,000).

With a perfect race on Sunday, Verstappen could clinch his first F1 title with a victory and a seventh-place finish by Hamilton. But he may also receive a penalty on the starting grid if Red Bull needs to make significant repairs to Verstappen's car.

Hamilton used back-to-back victories last month to slice 11 points from Verstappen's lead. After qualifying, he embraced Bottas for locking up the front row for Mercedes.

Bottas is being replaced at Mercedes next year and Hamilton heaped praise on his teammate.

Barca beaten by Real Betis

BARCELONA, Spain, Dec 4, (AP): Barcelona lost their first match under Xavi Hernandez on Saturday when they fell to Real Betis 1-0 at home just before their critical trip to Bayern Munich.

Striker Juanmi Jimenez finished off a well-orchestrated counterattack to take Betis' winner in the 79th minute at Camp Nou.

Barcelona had won twice and drawn once since Xavi took over as coach from Ronald Koeman. The defeat left the team in seventh place and in danger of falling even further behind leader Real Madrid, which played at Real Sociedad later.

SOCCER

Barcelona visit Bayern on Wednesday needing a win to ensure its place in the Champions League round of 16. Bayern, which have already qualified as the group winner, beat Barcelona 3-0 in their first meeting this season.

If they lose, Barcelona would need Benfica to not beat Dynamo Kyiv to avoid elimination.

Before kickoff, Barcelona player Alexia Putellas presented the 65,000-plus fans her Ballon d'Or for the world's best women's player.

Barcelona lost teen talent Gavi Páez in the 34th when he needed to be carted off after apparently feeling dizzy following the powerful impact of a ball to his head.

Manuel Pellegrini's Betis rose into third place, right behind crosstown rivals Sevilla, which beat Villarreal 1-0 thanks to a goal from Lucas Ocampos.

Sevilla and Villarreal also have key Champions League matches this week. Sevilla must win at Salzburg to move on, while Villarreal play Atlanta needing a draw to advance.