



Chelsea players celebrate with the trophy after beating Arsenal 3-0 to win Women's FA Cup at Wembley Stadium, in London. Chelsea clinched a domestic treble with this victory for the first time. (AP)

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Portland Timbers players celebrate a 2-0 victory over Real Salt Lake in the MLS soccer Western Conference final in Portland, Ore. (AP)

Rangnick opens Man United tenure with win as Tottenham rout Norwich

Man City go top

MANCHESTER, England, Dec 5, (AP): Ralf Rangnick began his tenure as Manchester United manager with a 1-0 win over Crystal Palace in the Premier League thanks to a rare goal from Fred at Old Trafford on Sunday.

The Brazil midfielder took aim with his weaker right foot and curled a shot from the edge of the area into the far corner in the 77th minute.

Rangnick was hired on Monday as manager until the end of the season but had to wait nearly a week before taking charge of his first game while he secured his work permit.

He has already made an imprint on United's approach, deploying a 4-2-2-2 formation and getting his players to press high and play with more urgency compared to how the team set up under Rangnick's predecessor, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

However, a performance that started strongly tailed off in the second half, only for Fred to provide the telling intervention for just his second goal of the season.

Before that, Alex Telles had clipped the crossbar with a curling free kick and opposite full back Diogo Dalot had curled over at the end of a marauding run.

Cristiano Ronaldo started and played the full game, but didn't have a clear-cut chance.

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Palace should have gone ahead just before Fred's goal when the ball fell to Jordan Ayew following a corner. Just a few meters (yards) from goal and at an angle, Ayew drove a shot across the face of the goal.

United jumped to sixth place in the standings.

Tottenham 3, Norwich 0

Antonio Conte's unbeaten run in the Premier League at Tottenham goes on. So does Harry Kane's goal drought.

Lucas Moura, Davinson Sanchez and Son Heung-min were the scorers in Tottenham's 3-0 win over Norwich.

In four league matches under Conte, Tottenham have won three and drawn the other, conceding only one goal. He has, though, lost in the Europa Conference League at Slovenian minnows Mura.

Kane, the top scorer in the Premier League last season, remains on just one goal this campaign having missed a couple of half-chances at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Spurs climbed to fifth place and are two points off fourth-place West Ham with a game in hand.

Lucas opened the scoring with a stunning solo goal in the 10th minute, after playing a one-two with Son and then beating a defender before smashing a shot into the top corner from 25 meters (yards).

Sanchez lashed in from close range in the 67th to make it 2-0 after the ball

dropped invitingly for him after Ben Davies flicked on a corner.

Davies then made a piercing run into the area and passed to Son, who went round a defender and shot low into the net in the 77th.

Leeds 2, Bamford 2

Patrick Bamford marked his first appearance in more than two months with an equalizer in the fifth minute of added time to earn Leeds a 2-2 draw at home to Brentford.

The England striker came off the bench in the 68th minute and prodded in off his outstretched knee from close range after latching onto a flick-on from Luke Ayling following a corner.

Brentford struck twice in seven second-half minutes, through Shandon Baptiste and Sergi Canos, to turn the game on its head following Tyler Roberts' 27th-minute opener.

For the second straight game, Leeds scored in time added on - with Raphinha having scored a penalty to seal a win over Crystal Palace on Tuesday.

Leeds were dealt an early blow when captain Liam Cooper hobbled off in the 13th minute holding his hamstring after an awkward fall. Manager Marcelo Bielsa switched Junior Firpo into central defense and sent on Jack Harrison to slot in at left back.

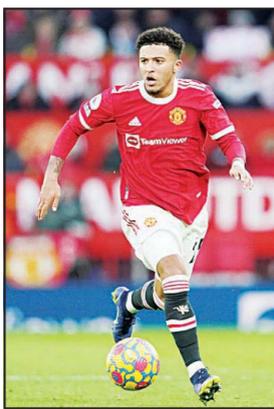
Leeds' players had lived dangerously on several occasions prior to Cooper's withdrawal without conceding any clear-cut chances, but began to make headway themselves soon after and took the lead with their first effort on goal in the 27th.

Raphinha popped up on the left and, after his initial cross was headed straight back at him by former Leeds defender Pontus Jansson, the Brazilian sent in another ball, this time low, and Roberts slid in to turn home his first goal since the next-to-last game of last season.

It was Roberts' first goal at Elland Road since July 2020 and appeared to boost his confidence.

He fired in a drive at the end of another sweeping Leeds attack, with Brentford goalkeeper Alvaro Fernandez tipping the shot over, and then sent in a dangerous ball across the face of goal.

Kalvin Phillips lashed a shot over



Manchester United's Jadon Sancho in action during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Crystal Palace at Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

the crossbar as Leeds continued to push the visitors back and the same pattern resumed at the start of the second half.

Fernandez's one-handed save kept out Ayling's header following Raphinha's excellent free kick but, Leeds was soon pegged back. Rico Henry wriggled free on the left and, when Canos' cross was deflected to Baptiste, the Brentford forward found the bottom corner with a neat finish.

Leeds had another injury setback as Phillips was forced to withdraw and Brentford then went ahead in the 61st.

Bryan Mbeumo's deft pass inside the box wrong-footed the home defense and Canos pounced to unleash an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net.

Leeds had been in complete control and all of a sudden was floundering. Bamford, back from injury, made his first appearance since mid-September off the bench and the hosts began to reassert themselves.

Stuart Dallas' curling effort was saved by Fernandez, who then held

Egypt cruise into quarters, Palestine hold Saudi Arabia

DOHA, Dec 5, (KUNA): Egypt qualified for the 2021 FIFA Arab Cup quarter-finals after defeating Sudan 5-0.

Egypt's Ahmad Sayed, Mahmoud Hamdi, Hussein Faisal and Mohammad Sherif scored in the 13th, 31st, 57th and 80th minutes respectively.

By this win, Egypt booked a berth at the quarter-finals competition and will meet Algeria which have six points next Tuesday.

Lebanon will meet Sudan in the same Group on Tuesday.

The Saudi Arabia drew 1-1 with Palestine.

Mohammad Bassem scored the opener for Palestine in the 45th minute and Abdullah Al-Hamdan equalised for Saudi Arabia in the

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81st minute.

The Moroccan team ranks top with six points followed by the Jordanians - three points.

Saudi Arabia and Palestine each have one point.

Rennes move up to 2nd

Roberts' long-range shot, but Bamford rescued Leeds with seconds left.

Man City 3, Watford 1

Defending champions Manchester City went on top of the English Premier League for the first time this season after a dominant 3-1 win at Watford.

Bernardo Silva scored twice as City took full advantage of Chelsea's loss earlier in the day to take top spot in a tight three-way title race.

City are one point ahead of Liverpool and two in front of Chelsea after winning their last five league games.

Raheem Sterling put City ahead in just the fourth minute and Silva doubled the lead in the 31st by weaving past two defenders before slotting the ball past goalkeeper Daniel Bachmann.

City completely dominated the first half, with 81% possession, and could have added more goals before Silva got the third with a clever curled effort into the top corner in the 63rd.

SAINT-ETIENNE, France, Dec 5, (AP): Saint-Etienne remained rooted to the foot of the French league standings after a humiliating 5-0 rout by Rennes on Sunday that lifted the Brittany club to second place.

Martin Terrier led the Rennes attack with a hat-trick against the former ten-time French champions that have managed just two wins from 17 matches this season.

The emphatic result took Rennes to within 11 points of runaway leaders Paris Saint-Germain, which was held to a 1-1 draw at Lens on Saturday. Rennes have a two-point lead over third-place Marseille following the southern side's 2-1 home loss to Brest.

Terrier scored all three of his goals after assists from Croatian midfielder Lovro Majer.

"This is my first career hat-trick," Terrier said. "I am very pleased, especially because it helped the team win three points. It's one of the most complete matches I've played."

Rennes led 2-0 after 28 minutes

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before Saint-Etienne defender Yvann Maçon beat his own goalkeeper at the stroke of halftime. Terrier completed his hat-trick three minutes into the second half with a curled 20-meter strike into the top corner and Lesley Ugochukwu sealed the result.

Many disappointed Saint-Etienne fans left Geoffroy-Guichard stadium before the end of the match amid angry chants and whistles.

Once a powerhouse of French football, Saint-Etienne dominated the league during the 1960s and '70s, winning a record 10 league titles. The club lost its past luster in the wake of a financial scandal that rocked the club in the 1980s and is now enduring its worst start to a season since 1994.

Monaco made light work of struggling Metz 4-0 to post a second straight win and move to sixth place. Forward Sofiane Diop found the net in the opening minute, with Kevin Volland, Gelson Martins and Wissam Ben Yedder adding second-half goals. It was Ben Yedder's ninth goal this season.

RSL beaten

Timbers advance to MLS Cup final

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec 5, (AP): Felipe Mora and Santiago Moreno scored and the Portland Timbers advanced to the MLS Cup final with a 2-0 victory over Real Salt Lake in the Western Conference final on Saturday.

The Timbers, who won the MLS Cup in 2015, also went to the final in 2018 but fell to Atlanta United.

"It was a very strong performance. The guys were motivated," Timbers coach Giovanni Savarese said. "They understood the moment that was at stake and they performed very well today."

Seventh-seeded Real Salt Lake had appeared in the MLS Cup final three times, winning the title in 2009. It was the team's fifth trip to the conference finals since joining the league in 2005.

Salt Lake had won all three previous playoff matches against the Timbers, including the last meeting in 2019 when RSL won 2-1 at home in the opening round.

But the Timbers swept Salt Lake in their three meetings during the regular season, outscoring their opponent 12-4 in the three matches.

RSL advanced to the conference final with a 2-1 victory at Sporting Kansas City. The team was undefeated in its previous four straight road matches.

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"I couldn't be more proud of being a part of this group. Nobody gave us a shot when the season started. And no one gave us a shot in the playoffs either," RSL interim coach Pablo Mastroeni said. "So to have the mental toughness to overcome the perception of who we are, is fantastic. And so you can always look at things from either perspective, but I couldn't be more proud of the effort and commitment of this group that I was able to lead."

Mastroeni rallied RSL after he was promoted to interim coach when Freddy Juarez unexpectedly departed in August for a position with the Seattle Sounders.

The Timbers downed top-seeded Colorado 1-0 on the road in the conference semifinals.

Portland went up early with Mora's goal in the fifth minute. RSL defender Aaron Herrera tried to clear the ball from out in front of the goal, but it fell to Mora, who scored. It was Mora's 12th goal this year.

The Timbers added an insurance goal in the 61st minute. Moreno's right-footed blast from atop the penalty area hit the post then caromed off the back of RSL goalkeeper David Ochoa.

"A lot of happiness," Mora said about heading to the championship game. "We've done a lot of hard work this year and it was important for us to get this win."



Mora



Leeds United's Jack Harrison (left) and Brentford's Christian Norgaard compete for a header, during the English Premier League soccer match between Leeds United and Brentford FC at Elland Road, in Leeds, England. (AP)