



Edmonton Oilers' Darnell Nurse (25) and Toronto Maple Leafs' Ilya Mikheyev (65) battle for the puck during third-period NHL hockey game action in Edmonton, Alberta, on Jan 30. (AP) — See Page 15

Sports

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Leicester miss chance to go 2nd

Chelsea down Burnley 2-0 in EPL to give Tuchel 1st win

LEICESTER, England, Jan 31, (AP): Leicester missed the chance to move above Manchester United into second place in the Premier League by losing 3-1 at home to Leeds, for whom striker Patrick Bamford scored one goal and set up the other two on Sunday.

Marcelo Bielsa's Leeds recovered from conceding the opening goal of the game to Harvey Barnes in the 13th minute by equalizing two minutes later through Stuart Dallas and adding goals after half-time from Bamford and then Jack Harrison on a counterattack.

Bamford now has 11 goals this campaign and is starting to dispel his reputation as a wasteful finisher. His goal against Leicester was excellent, collecting the ball after being played in on the left of the penalty area and smashing a fierce shot into the far top corner.

SOCCER

It was only Leicester's second league loss since Nov. 30 and kept Brendan Rodgers' team in third place — when it could have moved two points behind leader Man City.

Chelsea 2, Burnley 0

In London, Thomas Tuchel secured his first win as Chelsea manager as his team beat Burnley 2-0 in the Premier League thanks to goals by Cesar Azpilicueta and Marcos Alonso.

After beginning his tenure with a 0-0 draw against Wolverhampton at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday, Tuchel again saw his Chelsea players dominate possession against another team that struggles to score goals.

They finally found a cutting edge this time, though, as Callum Hudson-Odoi ran at the Burnley defense on the right before setting up Azpilicueta — on the overlap — to smash a rising shot past goalkeeper Nick Pope in the 40th minute.

Hudson-Odoi struck a deflected effort against the post early in the second half as Burnley struggled to get out of its own half, before Alonso collected a short pass from substitute Christian Pulisic and powered a volley in off the underside of the crossbar in the 84th.

Chelsea climbed to seventh place but the opposition will get tougher for Tuchel, with his next game at Tottenham on Thursday.

Tuchel, who replaced the fired Frank Lampard on Tuesday, appears ready to give every member of Chelsea's large squad a chance to take a claim for a starting spot.

After making a raft of changes against Wolves — and also switching formation to 3-4-2-1 — he tinkered again by restoring Timo Werner, Mason Mount, Alonso and Tammy Abraham to the lineup and leaving out playmaker Hakim Ziyech from the matchday squad altogether.

The German coach seems settled on a three-man backline of Azpilicueta, Thiago Silva and Antonio Rudiger, while Jorginho and Mateo Kovacic have started both games under Tuchel. The other places in the team look up for grabs, though.



Players of Brazil's Palmeiras celebrate with the trophy after winning the Copa Libertadores final soccer match against Brazil's Santos at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, Jan 30, 2021. Palmeiras defeated Santos 1-0. (AP)

Leverkusen sign winger Gray from Leicester

Wolf shines, Cologne beat relegation rivals Bielefeld

COLOGNE, Germany, Jan 31, (AP): Two goals from Marius Wolf lifted Cologne to a 3-1 win over Arminia Bielefeld on Sunday in a game between two teams trying to avoid relegation from the Bundesliga.

Cologne moves up two places to 14th with its second win of 2021, dropping Bielefeld into 16th and a relegation playoff spot.

Wolf gave Cologne the lead with a goal on the rebound in the 10th minute after Ellyes Shkiri's header was palmed away by the goalkeeper at a corner. He added the second 18 minutes later with a powerful low volley off a misplaced headed clearance.

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Elvis Rexhepaj extended Cologne's lead in the 63rd, finishing off an incisive team move, before Sergio Córdoba reduced the deficit for Bielefeld.

Wolfsburg can move up to third with a win over Freiburg in Sunday's late game.

Meanwhile, Bayer Leverkusen signed winger Demarai Gray from Leicester on a one and a half-year deal on Sunday in its third signing from a British club this month.

Al-Nasr hold off Qadisiya in Kuwait Premier League



Photo taken during Al-Nasr and Qadisiya match, held as part of the second round of Kuwait Premier League. KUNA photo

Leverkusen said Gray signed a deal through the end of the 2021-22 season. Sporting managing director Rudi Völler said the plan was for him to add depth to the squad. Leverkusen is in a tight battle for a

Champions League place in the Bundesliga.

"The whole world was watching when the Bundesliga was the first big league to start playing again last year after the break caused by the

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31, (KUNA): Al-Nasr beat Qadisiya 1-0 in a match held on Sunday as part of the second round of Kuwait Premier League.

General atmosphere of the game was largely lackluster with the players' movements largely confined to the middle of the pitch.

The match heated up in the second half, when Al-Nasr managed to score the single goal by its Bahraini player Sayed Diyaa, in the 86th minute, raising its score to six points, while Qadisiya retained its three points.

coronavirus. I like German football," Gray said on the club website.

"I can, and I would, like to develop here and be successful with this attractive team."

Gray won the Premier League title with Leicester as a 19-year-old in 2016 but dropped out of the first team this season, playing only 18 minutes in the league.

Gray continues a trend of Leverkusen looking to Britain for signings after bringing in full-back Jeremie Frimpong from Scottish champion Celtic and defender Timothy Fosu-Mensah from Manchester United.

Metz top Brest

PSG 'slump' to shock 3-2 loss

PARIS, Jan 31, (AP): Neymar's two penalties were not enough as Paris Saint-Germain slumped to a shock 3-2 defeat at struggling Lorient, opening the door for Lille to move three points clear at the top of the French league if it wins later Sunday.

After pulling a silly face to celebrate his second penalty, Neymar cut a different figure at the final whistle, throwing his arms up in exasperation as he looked at the defense. An equally frustrated Kylian Mbappe did the same.

Defending champion PSG has lost five league games already this season, and this was coach Mauricio Pochettino's first defeat since replacing Thomas Tuchel, who was fired in December.

But the manner of this loss, with two goals conceded late, will raise concerns with PSG facing Lionel Messi's Barcelona in the Champions League on Feb. 16.

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Lorient is languishing in 18th place but took the lead in the 35th minute through captain Laurent Abergel after PSG's Danilo Pereira was closed down on the edge of the penalty area.

Neymar's first penalty came on the stroke of halftime when Houboulang Mendes fouled him and the Brazil star sent goalkeeper Matthieu Dreyer the wrong way.

The day after 250 fans of struggling Saint-Etienne interrupted the club's training session, the players responded to their demands with a 1-0 win at Nice.

Striker Charles Abi got the winner with just three minutes left as coach Claude Puel secured a much-needed victory against his former side.

"This success is for everyone at the club and for our supporters," Puel said. "They were constructive yesterday (Saturday) in their discussions. The players listened to them."

Saint-Etienne is in 16th place. Elsewhere, Angers beat Nimes 3-1, Metz topped Brest 4-2, and Reims beat Strasbourg 1-0.



Atalanta's Ruslan Malinovskyj, (right), and Lazio's Lucas Leiva jump for the ball during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Atalanta and Lazio, at the Gewiss Stadium in Bergamo, Italy on Jan 31, 2021. (AP)

Getafe hold Alavés to 0-0 draw

Suárez stays hot, Atlético increase lead

MADRID, Jan 31, (AP): Luis Suárez continued his good form with Atlético Madrid on Sunday, scoring twice in a 4-2 win over Cádiz to help Diego Simeone's team open a 10-point lead in the Spanish league.

Suárez scored a goal in each half to reach 14 league goals this season, marking his best-ever league start in Spain. The Uruguayan striker, who was let go by Barcelona at the end of last season, has scored nine goals in his last eight matches with Atlético. It was the eighth league win in a row for Atlético, which reaches the halfway mark of the season 10 points ahead of second-place Real Madrid with a game in hand. Simeone's team has 50 points from 19 matches, remaining on pace for a 100-point season for the first time.

Suárez opened the scoring with a well-placed curling free kick in the 28th minute and added his second from the penalty spot in the 50th. He's been decisive for Atlético in recent matches, scoring and setting up his teammates. Saúl Níguez netted before halftime and Koke Resurrección got on the board near the end of the match to complete the scoring for Atlético, which is seeking its first league title since 2014.

Cádiz, winless in its last three league matches and sitting 13th in the standings, got goals from Álvaro Negredo in the 35th and 71st minutes.

Earlier on Sunday, 12th-place Getafe was held to a 0-0 draw against Alavés, which had lost four in a row in all competitions and is just inside in the relegation zone.

FA vows to act after more online 'abuse' of players

LONDON, Jan 31, (AP): England's Football Association vowed to work with the British government and social media platforms to tackle racism after a spate of incidents over the past week involving Premier League players from Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion and Manchester United being targeted by online abuse.

In the aftermath of his team's goalless draw with Arsenal on Saturday, Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford claimed he was racially abused on social media platforms. Rashford did not post screenshots of the offensive messages he received after the match, instead tweeting that it was "humanity and social media at its worst."

"Yes I'm a black man and I live every day proud that I am," he wrote. "No one, or no one comment, is going to make me feel any different. So sorry if you were looking for a strong reaction, you're just simply not going to get it here. I'm not sharing screenshots. It would be irresponsible to do so and as you can imagine there's nothing original in them."

Greater Manchester Police said in a statement it was investigating racist comments sent to Manchester United players, with two of Rashford's teammates.



Chelsea's Marcos Alonso scores his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Burnley at Stamford Bridge Stadium in London, England, on Jan 31, 2021. (AP)