

Spezia reach qtrs

Dortmund lose to Leverkusen

BERLIN, Jan 20, (AP): Teenager Florian Wirtz scored for Bayer Leverkusen in a 2-1 win which dealt Borussia Dortmund its latest Bundesliga setback on Tuesday.

Dortmund, which was held 1-1 at home by lowly Mainz, slumped to their second defeat in six games under new coach Edin Terzić.

It was a lackluster display from Dortmund, which only threatened briefly in the second half and was fortunate not to concede more with Moussa Diaby missing several good chances after he opened the scoring.

The unhurried Nadiem Amiri played a cross-field pass that

Diaby controlled with his first touch and swept past Dortmund keeper Roman Bürki with his next in the 14th minute.

Diaby continued to cause problems after the break before Dortmund's first real chance in the 54th. Marco Reus almost set up Erling Haaland but the 17-year-old Wirtz managed to clear.

Thomas Meunier missed another good chance for the visitors before Julian Brandt equalized against his former team in the 67th when Raphaël Guerreiro laid the ball off for him to inside the far corner.

Brandt almost scored again a minute later, but Edmond Tapsoba cleared off the line.

Dortmund paid the price in the 80th when Wirtz scored after Meunier lost the ball. It fell to Patrik Schick and he combined with Diaby, who crossed for the unmarked Wirtz to unleash an unstoppable shot past Bürki for his fourth Bundesliga goal.

SOCCER

Goals from Sebastian Rudy and two from Andrej Kramarić gave Hoffenheim a 3-0 win at Hertha Berlin that will increase the pressure on coach Bruno Labbadia. Hertha had hopes this season of challenging for European qualification but it has dropped to 14th in the 18-team division with only one win in its last seven games.

Wolfsburg moved fifth with a 2-0 win at Mainz, and Borussia Mönchengladbach rode their luck to beat Werder Bremen 1-0. Nico Elvedi's header was enough for Gladbach.

Spezia advanced to the quarter-finals of the Italian Cup with a 4-2 win against nine-man Roma after extra time.

Former Roma winger Daniele Verde and Riccardo Saponara scored in extra time for Spezia, which next play Napoli.

The match changed two minutes into extra time as Roma defender Gianluca Mancini and goalkeeper Pau López were sent off within 30 seconds of each other, in separate incidents.

Mancini was dismissed following a second yellow card while López received a straight red for clattering into Spezia forward Roberto Piccoli.

Spezia had been 2-0 up after 15 minutes, following Andrey Galabinov's penalty and Saponara's first goal of the night.



Boca Juniors' players hold the trophy and their medals as they celebrate winning Argentina's soccer female league championship after defeating River 7-0, at Jose Amalfitani Stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Jan 19. (AP)

Leicester pile more misery on Chelsea

Antonio scores winning goal as West Ham beat West Brom

LONDON, Jan 20, (AP): Five years after achieving the unthinkable, Leicester are making another improbable run at the title with 2-0 win over Chelsea.

For big-spending Chelsea and their under-pressure manager, Frank Lampard, any ambitions of winning the league already appear to be dashed.

Leicester are showing they mean business again. Just like in the 2015-16 season, when the team managed by Claudio Ranieri famously delivered one of the biggest underdogs triumphs in sporting history to win the league at odds of 5,000-1.

Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers said it was "still too early" to talk about his team as a title contender.

"We're at the top of the league because we work hard, we're not there by fluke," said James Maddison, who scored Leicester's second goal. "We'll do our business in the background, let them talk about Liverpool, Man United and Spurs, we'll just keep doing what we're doing."

Wilfred Ndidi and Maddison scored in the first half as Leicester extended its unbeaten run in the league to six games, the last three all being wins.

Chelsea was carved open time and again at the King Power Stadium and fell to a fifth loss in its last eight games in the league, a run of results that leaves Lampard's position precarious after the club's spending spree of approaching \$300 million ahead of this season.

"It intensified for me a while ago,"

Lampard said. "Because the expectations at this club, whether they are right or wrong, are always high.

"It's not my decision (about whether he'll stay as manager). That's something that will always be there."

Lampard's side dropped to eighth place

"Yeah, I'm worried," Lampard said. "From the form we were in to get so quickly into the form that we are now in ... we should be better

than that.

As it stands, West Ham are heading into the second half of their Premier League campaign with just one senior striker.

Fortunately for manager David Moyes, that striker is in-form Michail Antonio.

Antonio scored a match-winning goal for the second time in four days, his 66th-minute volley earning West Ham a 2-1 victory over West

Bromwich Albion.

His winner against Burnley on Saturday came on his first league start since recovering from a hamstring problem, the latest fitness issue to affect an injury-prone player who was one of the league's best players after lockdown last summer.

If Moyes can keep Antonio fit - and that's always a big if - it isn't too fanciful to see West Ham remaining in the vicinity of its current position

of seventh.

"There was a period after lockdown when he was very fit and look at the goals he scored then," Moyes said. "We are looking to get him back to his level of fitness but he is certainly back to his level of goals."

West Ham sold their other senior striker, Sebastien Haller, to Ajax this month.

West Brom stayed in next-to-last place, five points from safety.

Southampton set up a fourth-round match at home to Arsenal in the FA Cup after beating third-tier Shrewsbury 2-0.

Goals by Dan N'Lundulu, one of the many fringe players who started for Southampton, and James Ward-Prowse guided the Saints to victory at its St. Mary's Stadium.

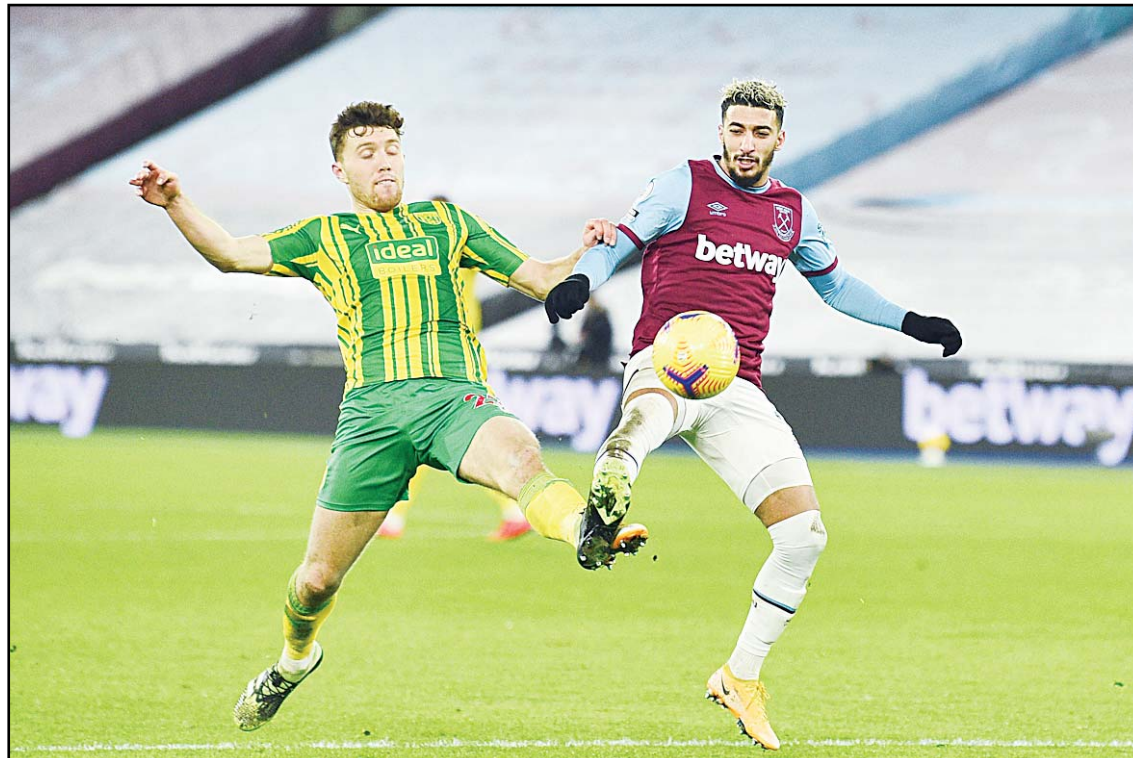
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The third-round game was rearranged from the start of this month following a coronavirus outbreak in the Shrewsbury squad. Its manager, Steve Cotterill, watched the game from the hospital as he recovers from COVID-19.

With a fair wind behind him, a goalkeeper scored direct from a goal kick in a fourth-tier match.

Newport County keeper Tom King booted the ball into Cheltenham's half, then saw it take a huge bounce and loop over the head of scrambling Cheltenham goalie Josh Griffiths and into the net.

Newport's social media team was caught out by the feat of King, who was making just his third appearance in the league.



West Bromwich Albion's Dara O'Shea, (left), challenges for the ball with West Ham's Said Banrahma during an English Premier League soccer match between West Ham and West Bromwich Albion at the London Stadium in London, England, on Jan 19. (AP)

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