



Manchester City's Raheem Sterling (left), fights for the ball with Burnley's James Tarkowski during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Burnley at Etihad stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

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Man United lose at Leicester as '5-star' Reds ruin Ranieri return

City win

LEICESTER, England, Oct 16, (AP): Leicester consigned Manchester United to a first away loss in the English Premier League in nearly two years thanks to late goals by Jamie Vardy and Patson Daka in a wild 4-2 victory on Saturday.

United had just made it 2-2 in the 82nd minute through fit-again Marcus Rashford, on as a substitute for his first appearance of the season, when Vardy scored within seconds of the restart with a fierce shot into the top corner. Daka bundled home his first Premier League goal in stoppage time to seal United's first loss in 30 away games in the top flight, a record streak dating to January 2020. It was a third defeat in United's last five games in all competitions under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, whose team's defending was shambolic at times despite captain Harry Maguire - a former Leicester player - making an unexpected return from injury.



Salah

United went ahead in the 19th through Mason Greenwood's long-range strike that flew in off the post, only for Yuri Tielemans to equalize with an exquisite chip into the far top corner after Maguire was dispossessed.

Çağlar Söyüncü put Leicester in front for the first time with a close-range effort to spark a frantic finale that saw four goals scored in 13 minutes.

United, for whom Cristiano Ronaldo played the whole game, has collected only one point from its last three league matches after losing to Aston Villa 1-0 and drawing with Everton 1-1 - both at home.

Liverpool 5, Watford 0

With a deft touch, a roll of the ball with a dummy and then a sublime finish into the bottom corner, Mohamed Salah produced another goal-of-the-season contender to headline Liverpool's 5-0 win at Watford.

On a tough day for Claudio Ranieri in his first match as Watford manager, Salah delivered almost a replica of his stunning individual goal against Manchester City before the international break - and overshadowed a hat trick scored by Roberto Firmino - to show just why many are calling him the world's best player on current form.

Salah's 54th-minute solo goal started just inside the area where he was surrounded by three Watford players. Salah somehow managed to extricate himself out of the situation with marvellous footwork -- including the foot-rolloff that was a feature of the goal against City -- before cutting back onto his left foot and curling into the far corner.

The Egypt winger was mobbed by his teammates after his seventh league



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Conor Coady heads towards goal, during the English Premier League soccer match between Wolverhampton and Aston Villa, at Villa Park, Birmingham, England. (AP)

goal of the season. He has now scored in his last eight games for Liverpool in all competitions.

Liverpool were already well clear by then after an eighth-minute opener by Sadio Mane - off Salah's exquisite pass from off the outside of his left boot - and tap-ins either side of half-time by Firmino. The Brazil striker completed his hat trick with virtually the last kick of the game.

Mane became the 31st player to score 100 Premier League goals, and the third from Africa after Didier Drogba and Salah.

Liverpool started the eighth round of games in second place, a point behind Chelsea.

Man City 2, Burnley 0

Bernardo Silva and Kevin De Bruyne scored as Manchester City claimed a battling 2-0 win over Burnley.



Dortmund's Erling Haaland (left), and Mainz's Silvan Widmer challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and FSV Mainz 05 in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

City's players were not at their fluid best after manager Pep Guardiola rang the changes for the first game after the international break but they still did enough to earn a customary home win over the Claret, who had lost 5-0 in their last four trips to Etihad Stadium.

Silva put City on course for victory in the 12th minute, slamming home from close range after Phil Foden's shot was saved by Nick Pope.

De Bruyne made sure of the victory in the 70th after pouncing on a loose ball in the area to sweep in a left-footed shot.

The visitors felt Riyad Mahrez fouled Ashley Westwood in the area as City attacked but nothing was given and De Bruyne thumped home unerringly.

City, which started the day in third place, stayed a point behind Liverpool,

which beat Watford 5-0 earlier.

Wolverhampton 3, Villa 2

Ruben Neves struck in stoppage time to seal a dramatic win for Wolverhampton which recovered from a 2-0 deficit with 10 minutes left to beat Aston Villa 3-2.

Hosts Villa enjoyed second-half goals from Danny Ings and John McGinn at Villa Park before Romain Saiss scored in the 80th and Conor Coady equalized five minutes later in the West Midlands derby.

Neves' deflected free kick snatched the victory in injury time to settle a remarkable match as Wolves earned their fourth win in five games. Wolves moved to eighth in the league, with two points more than Villa in 12th.

After a goalless first half, McGinn rolled Saiss on the right and his pinpoint cross was headed into the corner by the onrushing Ings to give the hosts a 48th-minute lead.

McGinn then struck after 68 minutes to cap an excellent individual display. Ollie Watkins seized on a poor pass from Hwang Hee-chan and his drive was blocked by Coady. The ball rolled for McGinn 20 yards out and his first-time strike struck Neves to arrow into the corner.

Southampton 1, Leeds 0

Armando Broja struck his first English Premier League goal as Southampton picked up an overdue first win of the season by beating Leeds 1-0 at home.

Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuttl expressed doubt ahead of kickoff about whether Broja, a Chelsea loanee, was ready to start top-flight games.

But the Albania striker responded in emphatic fashion, capping a scintillating display by powerfully finishing at the end of a breakaway in the 53rd minute.

Victory for Southampton ended a nine-match winless run in the league dating to last season to lift the team a point above their below-par opponents.

Leeds - deprived of influential midfielders Calvin Phillips and Raphinha due to injury and international commitments, respectively - created little on the south coast and could have few complaints about the result.

Norwich 0, Brighton 0

Norwich's wait for a first English Premier League win of the season goes on after a scoreless draw with Brighton.

At least Norwich earned a second point in their campaign to make it two games without defeat after losing their first six matches back in the top flight.

While Norwich missed a chance to move off the bottom of the table, Brighton missed a chance to move higher than fourth, though their unbeaten in five consecutive league games.

The Canaries enjoyed plenty of good moments at Carrow Road, the majority involving Josh Sargent, who fluffed his lines at the crucial moment on the stroke of half-time.

'Nordic group' oppose biennial WC plan

PSG need late penalty to scrape past Angers

PARIS, Oct 16, (AP): Runaway French leaders Paris Saint-Germain needed a late penalty from striker Kylian Mbappe to come from behind and scrape a 2-1 win against Angers.

PSG won their opening eight games but was soundly beaten by Rennes in their last game and looked out of sorts again without managing a shot on target in the first half.

PSG have needed injury-time goals despite an armada of attacking talent and a huge squad, and produced another late winner at home. Mbappe slotted in from the spot in the 87th minute after midfielder Pierrick Capelle was adjudged to have handled the ball even though PSG striker Mauro Icardi appeared to knock him off balance when he handled.

After a video review, Mbappe sent goalkeeper Paul Bernardoni the wrong way.

Mbappe set up the equalizer in the 69th when midfielder Danilo Pereira headed in his cross.

Angers were unlucky to lose considering it played better in the first half and took the lead in the 36th when Angelo Fulgini turned in fellow midfielder Sofiane Boufal's low cross from the right.

PSG were without their contingent of Argentina and Brazil players such as Lionel Messi and Neymar because of World Cup qualifiers.

The six-nation Nordic group of European soccer federations detailed their opposition to FIFA's push to stage the World Cup every two years.

Increasing the number of World Cups would "cannibalize" existing competitions, make European Championships "obsolete" and marginalize women's tournaments, the federations wrote in a co-signed statement.

"It (the FIFA proposal) can fundamentally make it impossible to continue with our current model of national tournaments and national team matches," said the statement, which was released after a meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Nordic opposition wasn't unexpected with influential officials from the region working at European governing body UEFA, which has called for "proper consultation" before a decision is

made. Karl-Erik Nilsson of Sweden is UEFA's first vice president and Danish soccer president Jesper Møller is a UEFA executive committee member.

Still, most of the Nordics meet FIFA's target market of national teams which typically are not at the World Cup and might vote to get twice as many chances to qualify.

Finland and the Faeroe Islands have never qualified, Iceland's appearance in 2018 was its first and Norway has not played at the World Cup since 1998.

The former president of Spanish club Barcelona denied accusations by the current leadership that his board had left the team on the brink of bankruptcy because of poor management.

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Josep Bartomeu said that most of the club's financial woes had been caused by the impact of the pandemic, which closed down Camp Nou for more than a year and reduced other sources of revenue.

"There was no mismanagement, we did not leave a poor legacy," Bartomeu told three Barcelona-based sports papers in a joint interview. "The club is viable, it has many resources to get out of this problem, and without the pandemic it would have only had 50 million euros (\$58 million) in losses in 2020-21."



Angers' Thomas Mangani (left), challenges for the ball with PSG's Marco Verratti during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Angers at the Parc des Princes in Paris, France. (AP)

Freiburg remain only unbeaten team after holding Leipzig

Haaland scores 2, Dortmund to go top

BERLIN, Oct 16, (AP): Erling Haaland scored twice on his return for Borussia Dortmund to beat Mainz 3-1 and move to the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Haaland blasted a penalty straight down the middle in the 54th minute and sealed the result in injury time to move Dortmund two points clear of Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen ahead of their eighth-round game on Sunday.

Haaland missed Dortmund's previous three games with what the club said were muscular problems. The team struggled in his absence with a loss at Borussia Mönchengladbach followed by narrow wins over Sporting Lisbon and Augsburg.

But it was captain Marco Reus who opened the scoring on Saturday, unleashing a brilliant shot with his left boot inside the top right corner in the third minute.

Dortmund went on to dominate the game with almost 80% possession in the first half alone.

Thomas Meunier fired narrowly wide after Haaland did well to hold up the ball, and the Norwegian was involved again before the break when he drew a good save from Mainz goalkeeper Robin Zentner. Haaland followed up and sent the ball back in toward goal, where Jude Bellingham's effort was cleared off the line by Moussa Niakhaté.

Haaland used sheer force to score Dortmund's second after Silvan Widmer was penalized through VAR for hand ball after the ball hit his elbow. Mainz coach Bo Svensson was booked for sarcastically applauding the decision to award the spot kick. Zentner got his hand to Haaland's centrally placed shot but couldn't keep out the shot.

Jonathan Burkardt's 87th-minute goal prompted a late push from the visitors, but Bellingham won the ball off a defender and crossed for Haaland to seal the result with what was effectively the last play of the game. He has 13 goals in eight games this season.

SOCCER

Both Berlin teams won: Union defeated Wolfsburg 2-0 to stretch their unbeaten record at home in the Bundesliga to 21 games, and Hertha claimed a surprise 2-1 win at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Modest Freiburg remain the only unbeaten team after holding Leipzig to 1-1 in their first Bundesliga game at their new stadium.

Jeong Woo-yeong canceled Emil Forsberg's penalty for Leipzig.