



Ohio State wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba (11) scores a touchdown past Utah cornerback Kenzel Lawler (2) during the first half in the Rose Bowl NCAA college football game in Pasadena, Calif. Ohio State edged Utah 48-45. (AP) - See Page 14

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Chelsea recover to draw with Reds

Brighton pile pressure on Benitez

LONDON, Jan 2, (AP): The only winners Sunday was Manchester City. And Romelu Lukaku certainly lost out.

What a pulsating, entertaining encounter for Lukaku to miss — not out of his own choosing — as Chelsea recovered to draw 2-2 with Liverpool without the temporarily exiled striker.

It left City 10 points clear from Chelsea at the top of the Premier League with Liverpool a further point back.

The sky blue ribbons look like remaining on the trophy for another year thanks to the fading challenge from the chasing pack.

That's even before Liverpool are the hardest hit by players heading to the African Cup of Nations. Before leaving for what could be more than a month away, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah did contribute Liverpool's goals.

Liverpool seemed to be coasting but were stung twice at the end of the first half with Mateo Kovacic's volley and Christian Pulisic's strike pulling Chelsea level.

It was an engrossing and wild game that was only tempered after the break by the goalkeeping of Chelsea's Edouard Mendy denying Salah and Liverpool's Caoimhin Kelleher's reflexes thwarting Pulisic's pursuit of a winner.

Turn away and you could miss another wondrous moment. It was a game to keep fans on their toes — which they could do legally in parts of a Premier League stadium for the first time in 28 years as part of standing trials.

There was no standing, or seat, though for Chelsea record-signing Lukaku who was dropped by manager Thomas Tuchel for an outburst questioning his limited role in the team.

Only 15 seconds into the game, it looked like Mane might also have had no further role in the game.

Elbowing César Azpilicueta in the face while trying to beat the Chelsea captain, Mane immediately faced action from the referee. But he escaped with only a booking — the earliest recorded in a Premier League match.

It meant Mane was still on the pitch to score the opener in the ninth minute. Trevoh Chalobah's weak headed clearance created the opening for Mane to round Mendy and place the ball in the net past the helpless Azpilicueta.

Chelsea had wilted and looked rattled. Especially when Salah's brilliance extended Liverpool's advantage in the 26th minute.

The top scorer was involved in the buildup before receiving the ball back from Trent Alexander-Arnold's pass and controlling it past the befuddled Marcos Alonso and squeezing a shot past Mendy at his near post.

It was just the latest moment of awe from a striker enjoying another stand-out season that's seen him hit 23 goals, including 16 in the league.

The game swung around inside three minutes at the end of the first half.

A free kick from the right was

punched clear by Kelleher but only to the edge of the penalty area. Unbalanced but still able to make a clean first-time connection, Mateo Kovacic volleyed impressively into the top corner off the inside of the post.

Chelsea's anxiety that the goal could be ruled out for an offside soon subsided for fresh celebrations. And Chelsea was celebrating again quickly again in stoppage time when Pulisic leveled after being released by N'Golo Kante and lifting the shot over Kelleher.

The third goal from Pulisic in 11 league appearances this season rescued a point for Chelsea that had seemed to be out of reach.

Alexis Mac Allister scored twice to lead Brighton to a 3-2 win at Everton that piled more pressure on manager Rafael Benitez.

Even the long-awaited return of Dominic Calvert-Lewin after almost five months out with a thigh injury failed to change Everton's fortunes, with the striker's main contribution being a missed first-half penalty.

SOCCER

By then the home side were already 2-0 down after Mac Allister's opener in the third minute was followed by a header from Dan Burn in the 21st.

Everton conceded the first goal for the 14th time in 20 matches this season in the Premier League and seventh time in succession.

While academy graduate Anthony Gordon scored his first two goals for Everton in the 53rd and 76th minutes, Mac Allister's second in between that double made it an unhappy start to 2022 for Benitez, whose side have now won just once in the last 12 matches.

Everton are 15th in the 20-team standing, while Brighton are in eighth place.

Mads Roerslev was an unlikely match-winner for Brentford, scoring his first goal in professional football against Aston Villa.

The defender sealed a 2-1 win in the 83rd minute. Goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez beat away his first shot but the 22-year-old Dane struck from the rebound.

Villa had led through a strike from Danny Ings in the 16th minute, but Yoane Wissa curled in an equalizer three minutes before halftime.

Brentford moved above Villa into 12th place.

Stuart Dallas and Dan James scored second-half goals as Leeds beat Burn-

ley 3-1 to help their Premier League survival chances.

Jack Harrison's first-half opener for Leeds was canceled out by Maxwell Cornet's fine free kick. During the Burnley celebrations, defender Matt Lowton was hit by a plastic bottle thrown from the home fans.

A thumping drive from Dallas put Leeds in front in the 77th minute and James sealed the team's first league win since the end of November with a stoppage-time header.

Leeds halted a run of three straight losses and climbed eight points clear of Sean Dyche's side, which remain third from bottom in the relegation zone.

Watching an electrifying first half and wowed by Bukayo Saka's goal, Arsenal fans were euphoric with the display against Manchester City.

For 45 minutes, Arsenal made the runaway Premier League leaders look average. Then the second half brought an all-too-familiar Arsenal capitulation to hand City a 2-1 win.

There was a 100th red card for Arsenal in the three decades of the Premier League — more than any other team — when Gabriel was sent off in the 59th minute. It was for a needless second booking for grabbing at Gabriel Jesus near the halfway line. The first yellow card had only been shown two minutes earlier for trying to scuff the penalty spot before Riyadh Mahrez leveled.

The penalty had been awarded after Granit Xhaka brought down Bernardo Silva with a trailing leg and a tug at the City midfielder's shirt.

Frustratingly for the Gunners, they had been denied a first-half penalty before Saka swept in the 31st-minute opener after Martin Odegaard fell when caught by Ederson's left boot but the goalkeeper did appear to get the ball first.



Leeds United's Jack Harrison celebrates scoring his side's first goal of the game, during the English Premier League soccer match between Leeds United and Burnley, at Elland Road, in Leeds, England. (AP)



Liverpool's James Milner (right), tackles Chelsea's N'Golo Kante during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in London. (AP)

Resilient Bulls pip Wizards

GSW find flow in 4th-quarter after trading leads with Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan 2, (AP): Stephen Curry scored 28 points and had nine assists to lead the Golden State Warriors to a 123-116 win over the Utah Jazz on Saturday night.

Andrew Wiggins had 25 points for the Warriors, and Otto Porter Jr. had 20 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. Andre Iguodala added 12 points, eight assists and seven rebounds off the bench — including a late 3-pointer to seal the win.

Donovan Mitchell, Bojan Bogdanovic and Jordan Clarkson all scored 20 points, and Rudy Gobert had 20 points and 19 rebounds in Utah's seventh home loss.

BASKETBALL

Utah erased a 16-point deficit in the third quarter and took the lead with a 19-5 run. The Jazz scored 41 points in the third quarter — the most given up by Golden State during a single quarter this season.

Bulls 120, Wizards 119

In Washington, DeMar DeRozan hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer for the second straight game to give Chicago a win over Washington.

Kyle Kuzma's 3-pointer with 3.3 seconds to play gave Washington a 119-117 lead, until DeRozan beat the Wizards in the same way he beat Indiana on Friday night.

DeRozan finished with 28 points and Zach LaVine had 35 points to help the Bulls to their seventh straight win, which is their longest streak since Dec. 18-29, 2014.

The Wizards led nearly the whole game, outscoring Chicago 72-30 in points in the paint.

Kuzma scored 29 points and had 12 rebounds, while Bradley Beal had 27 points and a career-high 16 assists in his first start at point guard. Beal also passed the 14,000 point mark.

Pistons 117, Spurs 116, OT

In Detroit, Saddiq Bey hit a 3-pointer with 1.9 seconds left in overtime and finished with 21 points to lead Detroit over San Antonio.

Hamidou Diallo had 34 points and 13 rebounds for Detroit, which had lost four in a row and 18 of its last 19 games. The Pistons had five players score in double figures and three — Diallo (14), Luka Garza (14) and Bey (17) — with double-digit rebounds. Garza scored 20 points. Caasius Stanley 17 and Derrick Walton had a career-high 11 points in the win.

Bucks 136, Pelicans 113

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 35 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists for his second triple-double of the season and Milwaukee won its sixth straight game by beating New Orleans.

NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Jan 2, (AP): Results and standings from NBA games on Saturday.

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	136	117	.543	-	L.A. Clippers	120	116	.510	-
Chicago	120	117	.508	16	Denver	124	111	.523	-
Detroit	117	116	.505	19	Golden State	123	116	.514	-
Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Southwest Division				
Brooklyn	23	11	.676	-	Memphis	23	14	.622	-
Philadelphia	19	16	.543	4	Dallas	17	18	.486	5
Boston	17	19	.472	7	San Antonio	14	21	.400	8
New York	17	19	.472	7	New Orleans	13	23	.361	9
Toronto	15	17	.469	7	Houston	10	27	.270	13
Southeast Division					Northwest Division				
Miami	23	13	.639	-	Utah	26	10	.722	-
Charlotte	19	17	.528	4	Denver	18	16	.529	7
Washington	18	18	.500	5	Minnesota	16	19	.457	9
Atlanta	16	19	.457	6	Oklahoma City	13	22	.371	12
Orlando	7	29	.194	16	Portland	13	22	.371	12
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Chicago	24	10	.706	-	Golden State	28	7	.800	-
Milwaukee	25	13	.658	1	Phoenix	27	8	.771	1
Cleveland	20	16	.556	5	L.A. Clippers	19	18	.514	10
Indiana	14	22	.389	11	L.A. Lakers	18	19	.486	11
Detroit	6	28	.176	18	Sacramento	15	22	.405	14

Antetokounmpo has averaged 33 points, 11.5 rebounds and 6.5 assists in four games since returning from COVID-19 protocols that caused him to miss five games. Jordan Nwora had 23 points and shot 5 of 7 from 3-point range for the Bucks. Jrue Holiday scored 21, Allen added 16 points and Bobby Portis 14.

New Orleans' Josh Hart narrowly missed a triple-double with 14 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists. New Orleans was missing its top two scorers, though Jaxson Hayes had 23 points.

Clippers 120, Nets 116

In New York, Eric Bledsoe scored a season-high 27 points and short-handed Los Angeles, playing on the second night of a back-to-back, rallied to beat Brooklyn.

Terance Mann and Reggie Jackson added 19 points apiece for the Clippers, who were coached for the second

straight night by assistant Brian Shaw with coach Tyrone Lue in health and safety protocols.

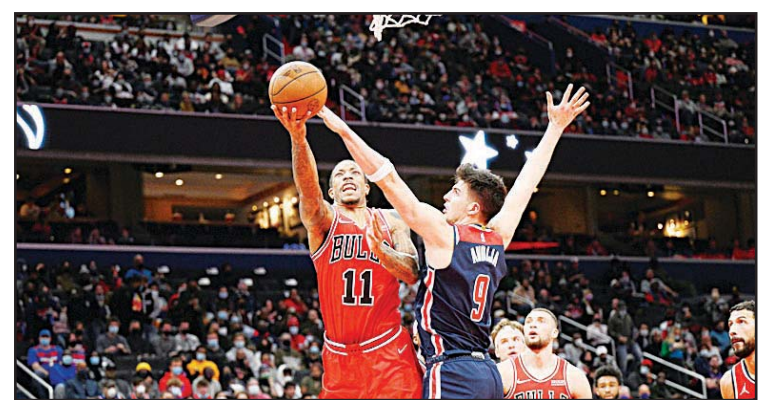
The Nets wasted James Harden's seventh triple-double. He finished with 34 points, 13 assists and 12 rebounds. Kevin Durant added 28 points and nine rebounds.

Nuggets 124, Rockets 111

In Houston, Nikola Jokic scored 24 points and Facundo Campazzo added a career-high 22 as Denver used a huge second quarter to take control in a win over Houston.

The Nuggets resumed play after their game against Golden State on Thursday was postponed because they didn't have enough players available due to injuries and health and safety protocols.

It's the third consecutive victory for Denver, and extends Houston's losing streak to seven games.



Chicago Bulls forward DeMar DeRozan (11) goes to the basket against Washington Wizards forward Deni Avdija (9) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Washington. (AP)

Getafe end Real 15-game unbeaten streak

BARCELONA, Spain, Jan 2, (AP): Getafe ended Real Madrid's 15-game unbeaten streak after beating the Spanish league leaders 1-0 in the capital derby on Sunday.

Striker Enes Unal got the hosts winner in the ninth minute after he stole the ball from Madrid defender Eder Militao near the goal and beat Thibaut Courtois.

SOCCER

Madrid went no closer to an equalizer than Luka Modric's strike that hit the crossbar in the 17th. Eden Hazard and Marcelo came on as halftime substitutions but could not spark a



Real Madrid's Casemiro (right), and Getafe's Enes Unal jump for the ball during the La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Getafe at Coliseum Alfonso Perez stadium in Getafe, Spain, Jan 2. (AP)

comeback.

Madrid's previous loss came on Oct. 3 when they fell 2-1 at Espanyol. Since then, they had won 13 and drawn two across all competitions.

Carlo Ancelotti had steered Madrid to wins over Barcelona, Atlético Madrid, Sevilla and Inter Milan during their unbeaten run.

But they were unable to rally after a mistake by Militao, who tarnished his otherwise excellent season along with centerback partner David Alaba, with the pair filling the void left by the exits of veterans Sergio Ramos and Raphael Varane.

Toni Kroos appeared to have snuffed out Getafe's attack when he recovered the ball and shuffled it over to Militao, but Unal pressured him hard and poked the ball clear before scoring.

Getafe, which beat Osasuna 1-0 in the last round before the winter break, rose three points clear of the relegation zone in 15th place.

The modest club from a neighborhood of Madrid started the season losing their first seven matches. But they have turned things around in the league after Quique Sanchez Flores took over in early October.

Courtois started the match after it was determined that his positive COVID-19 result from earlier this week was erroneous. Madrid were without in-form winger Vinicius Junior after he tested positive for the coronavirus.

The defending champions had not lost more than two league games in a row under Simeone. But they finished 2021 with consecutive defeats to Mallorca, Madrid, Sevilla and Granada.

Atlético leapfrogged Rayo to reclaim fourth place, the last spot that will earn a Champions League berth.