

City bounce back

AFP, Newcastle



Manchester City won 3-1 at Newcastle United through goals from Sergio Agüero, Javi Garcia and Yaya Toure on Saturday to improve the mood of manager Roberto Mancini.

Mancini was an angry man after City lost at home to title rivals Manchester United in their previous game, sparking talk of rifts within the dressing room.

But, if there are problems at the club, they were not obvious at St James' Park, and particularly during a first half when City were in scintillating form that warranted more than two goals.

Their failure to take other opportunities gave Newcastle a chance to gain a foothold in the game with a goal from Demba Ba -- his 11th of the season -- early in the second half.

But Toure's goal made the points safe for City, underlining their determination to stay in the title race and adding to the relegation worries of Newcastle, who have now lost six of their last seven league games.

There was certainly a gulf between the two teams in the first half, apart from the opening minutes, when City were second-best.

Only two minutes had gone when Papiss Cisse's shot was brilliantly turned away by the City goalkeeper Joe Hart.

It was a period of Newcastle pressure that clearly upset Mancini, who was soon on the touchline anxiously making changes to his team's system.

He need not have worried. Once City settled down, the movement, pace and trickery of their frontmen cruelly exploited Newcastle's immobile back four.

The visitors went ahead in the 10th minute and were in control to such an extent that they could have added three further goals in the following 10.

The goal was an excellent one. Toure created it with a superb through ball that sent Samir Nasri clear and, ignoring the chance to score, he slid the ball across to present Agüero with a simple opportunity.

Helpless on that occasion, Tim Krul, the Newcastle goalkeeper, soon did well to block a close-range shot by Carlos Tevez with an outstretched leg, then a cross by the influential Nasri just eluded the reach of two team-mates.

Krul survived again when Nasri hit the post and Mike Williamson did well to block the follow-up shot from Agüero.



PHOTO: AFP

Manchester City striker Sergio Agüero is ecstatic after scoring the opening goal during their Premier League encounter against Newcastle United at St James Park yesterday.

Becks rules out Perth move

REUTERS, Undated

The future playing career of former England captain David Beckham is unlikely to include a short-term contract in Australia's A-League, the owner of the Perth Glory has said.

There has been a great speculation about the 37-year-old's future following his decision to end his stint in Major League Soccer with the Los Angeles Galaxy.

He has been linked with clubs in England, France, Italy and Australia since he helped the Galaxy to their second successive MLS Cup with a 3-1 win over the Houston Dynamo last month.

Beckham's management had already ruled out a move to the A-League, but it did not stop Glory owner Tony Sage approaching him on a recent visit to London.

"I got the chance to chat to David, and of course I asked him about coming to Australia," Sage told the FFA website.

"He looked me in the eye and basically said, 'That would be nice, but it's too far away from my businesses'."



DAY'S EVENT
Bangladesh Premier League
Arambagh v Soccer Club, Feni
Time: 4:30pm
Venue: Bangabandhu

Borussia hold Bayern

REUTERS, Berlin



Substitute Xherdan Shaqiri's first Bundesliga goal for Bayern Munich rescued a 1-1 home draw for the runaway leaders on Friday after Borussia Moenchengladbach had taken a surprise first-half lead.

Bayern enjoyed almost total dominance but were shaken when Thorben Marx converted a harshly-awarded penalty for Gladbach midway through the first half.

Marx went from hero to villain when his misplaced pass fell to Shaqiri, who joined from Basel at the start of the season, and the 21-year-old Kosovo-born Swiss international fired the equaliser in the 59th minute.

Shaqiri, who had already scored in the Champions League and German Cup, went on in the first half following an injury to Spanish midfielder and record German signing Javi Martinez.

It was a rare hiccup for the Bavarians who failed to win for only the fourth time in the league this season.

Bayern reached the halfway point of the campaign and the mid-season break with an impressive 42 points from 17 games, 44 goals scored and just seven conceded. They are 12 points clear of Bayer Leverkusen, who host mercurial Hamburg SV on Saturday. Champions Borussia Dortmund, a further three points behind in third spot, visit Hoffenheim on Sunday.

Referee Tobias Welz held his nerve and turned down several Bayern penalty appeals throughout the match despite furious protests from the players and crowd on each occasion.

Sixth-placed Gladbach survived an early battering and went ahead when Tolga Cigerci's cross hit Jerome Boateng's elbow from close range as the defender turned away and Marx confidently steered the penalty low into the right corner.

Bastian Schweinsteiger's free kick was headed off the line by Juan Arango with Ter Stegen beaten and Brazilian Dante's header scraped the crossbar in the next attack as Bayern hit back.

Ter Stegen made an outstanding save at full stretch to stop Schweinsteiger's low shot from finding the bottom corner.

Dante also went close with a header and Franck Ribery was foiled by a borderline offside decision as he was poised to put the finishing touch to a counter attack.

Bayern levelled when Marx lost possession on the edge of the area and Shaqiri won the ball, slipped past his marker and fired a low shot between Ter Stegen and the near post.

Ter Stegen made another save to deny a dipping 30-metre effort by Toni Kroos while Mario Gomez produced the loudest penalty appeal with a triple somersault in the area.

City reveal huge losses

AFP, London

Manchester City revealed they made an annual loss of £97.9 million (\$157.9 million, 120.2 million euros) during their Premier League title-winning season.

While the figure would represent a massive problem for most clubs, it was actually a significant improvement for the big-spending Eastlands outfit, who lost £197.5 million 12 months ago.

City's turnover last season was £231.1 million, the highest in the club's history, and although the failure of Roberto Mancini's team to progress from the Champions League group stage for the last two years has had an impact on turnover, the club's Abu Dhabi-based owners are still happy with the financial performance.

And they are confident even the huge losses confirmed will not have an impact on their ability to meet UEFA's strict Financial Fair Play guidelines as £15 million comes from infrastructure and youth development costs.

City owner Sheikh Mansour clearly still has to put in his own cash to make the club viable in the short-term however, as the annual statement also confirms the "capital base of the club has also been strengthened through the issuing of £169 million in new equity during the year, avoiding debt-based funding and continuing to ensure that the club is virtually debt free".

'Wenger lucky to survive'

Football

AFP, London

Arsenal legend Ian Wright claims Gunners manager Arsene Wenger is lucky to still have a job because any other boss would have been sacked for going so long without success.

Wright, one of the club's all-time greats, has added his voice to the growing criticism of Wenger in the aftermath of Tuesday's humiliating League Cup quarterfinal defeat at Bradford.

Wenger, 63, has not delivered a trophy since the FA Cup in 2005 and the dismal display against League Two minnows Bradford, which ended with a penalty shoot-out loss, has only increased Wright's belief that the Frenchman is losing his fight to stop Arsenal sliding into obscurity.

Wright, who played under Wenger at the end of his seven-year spell with Arsenal, claims his former boss is now living off past glories that will take years to recapture.

"I wouldn't say 'surely he has to go', but it is a unique position he's in because I think any manager in any country in any world with a record like this and no prospect of light at the end of the tunnel, they would've been gone," Wright told Absolute Radio's RocknRoll Football show.

"People are holding onto the fact to what Arsene has done, and people are saying he is going to tarnish what he has done, but I don't think that will ever happen.

"However, it is a long way back. I feel there are a lot of deluded Arsenal fans who are out in the wilderness still saying 'in Arsenal we trust' and stuff like that."

Wenger is rightly regarded as Arsenal's greatest ever manager after leading the club to three Premier League titles, four FA Cup and a Champions League final during his 16-year reign, as well introducing an eye-catching style of play that became the envy of the rest of Europe for several years.

But there has been a gradual disintegration of Wenger's squad in recent years, with the likes of Cesc Fabregas, Samir Nasri and Robin van Persie all making moves to more successful clubs.



ESPN	
Australia v Sri Lanka	First Test, Day 3
Live from 5:30am	
English Premiership	Tottenham v Swansea
Live from 7:30pm	
West Bromwich v West Ham	
Live from 10:00pm	
STAR Cricket	India v England
Fourth Test, Day 4	
Live from 10:00am	
STAR Sports	Serie A
Fiorentina v Siena	
Live from 4:30pm	
Juventus v Atalanta	
Live from 7:00pm	
Primera Liga	Real Madrid v Espanyol
Live from 12:00am (Monday)	



Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery (R) is slide-tackled by Moenchengladbach defender Tony Jantschke during their Bundesliga clash in Munich on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP



জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর

ক্ষুদ্র ক্ষুদ্র সম্পদ করে আহরণ গড়ে তুলি সঞ্চয়ের নব জাগরণ

সঞ্চয়পত্রে বিনিয়োগ করুন নিরাপদ ও ঝুঁকিমুক্ত থাকুন

- পরিবার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী): মুনাফার হার ১৩.৪৫%, এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি মাসে নীট মুনাফা ১,০৭০/- (এক হাজার সত্তর) টাকা।
- ১৮ (আঠার) ও তদূর্ধ্ব বয়সের যে কোন বাংলাদেশী মহিলা
- যে কোন বাংলাদেশী শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী (পুরুষ ও মহিলা) এবং
- ৬৫ (পঁয়ষাট) ও তদূর্ধ্ব বয়সের বয়োজ্যেষ্ঠ যে কোন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক (পুরুষ ও মহিলা) নির্ধারিত ফরমে এই সঞ্চয়পত্র ক্রয়ের আবেদন করতে পারবে।
- পেনশনার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী): মুনাফার হার ১৩.১৯%, এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা ৩,১৪৫/- (তিন হাজার একশত পঁয়তাল্লিশ) টাকা।
- ৫-বছর মেয়াদী বাংলাদেশ সঞ্চয়পত্র: মুনাফার হার ১৩.১৯%, এক লক্ষ টাকায় মেয়াদান্তে (৫-বছর) নীট মুনাফা ৬২,৯০০/- (ষাট হাজার নয়শত) টাকা।
- ৩-মাস অন্তর মুনাফাভিত্তিক সঞ্চয়পত্র (৩-বছর মেয়াদী): মুনাফার হার ১২.৫৯%, এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা ৩,০০০/- (তিন হাজার) টাকা।



৬২/৩, পুরানা পল্টন, এন.এস.সি টাওয়ার (১৮ তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০।

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