



Dave Thompson/AP Photo

Manchester City's Antoine Semenyo reacts after scoring third goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Sunderland in Manchester, England on Sunday.

Man City wins 8-goal thriller against Sunderland, Man United rescues late draw

BY JAMES ROBSON
AP SOCCER WRITER

MANCHESTER, England — No Pep Guardiola. No problem.

Not yet anyway for Manchester City after moving clear at the top of the Premier League on Sunday with a 5-3 win over Sunderland.

New coach Enzo Maresca extended his perfect winning start to the season to five games and goes into the international break three points ahead of defending champion Arsenal in second place.

But that doesn't tell half the story of a chaotic match at the Etihad Stadium that saw City twice squander the lead and Sunderland striker Brian Brobbey outshine Erling Haaland with a hat trick.

Eventually it was Haaland who ended the visitors' brave fight with City's fifth goal in the 81st minute.

Manchester United left it even later to salvage a 1-1 draw at Fulham and avoid three straight defeats in all competitions. Matheus Cunha's heavily deflected shot in the 89th earned Michael Carrick's team a point at Craven Cottage.

Alexander Isak scored his fourth goal of the season as Liverpool beat Bournemouth 1-0, and Leeds drew 0-0 with Crystal Palace.

PERFECT ENZO

Maresca's 100% record continues after taking on arguably the most daunting task in soccer when stepping into Guardiola's shoes over the summer. Charged with the responsibility of continuing City's unprecedented era of success, which included six league titles and the Champions League among 17 major trophies, he has made the best possible start in terms of results.



Kin Cheung/AP Photo

Manchester United's Matheus Cunha celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Fulham and Manchester United in London on Sunday.

But City will likely have to tighten up defensively if it is to end a two-year title drought.

"I would prefer to win 1-0 than 5-3," Maresca said. "I'm always trying to see what we can do better. Two of the three goals that we concede, they have been too easy."

Sunderland repeatedly cut City open, scoring three goals and creating numerous chances to add more.

City twice squandered leads in the first half before going in at the break 3-2 up.

Enzo Fernandez opened the scoring in the ninth minute with a free kick that curled into the near post, but Brobbey got in behind City's defense to quickly level.

Rayan Cherki restored the home team's advantage with a low effort from inside the area before Brobbey equalized for a second time as Sunderland again took advantage of slack City defending.

Antoine Semenyo drilled a low shot past Sunderland goalkeeper Robin Roefs shortly before halftime and lashed home his second in the 57th to give City breathing room.

Brobbey completed his hat trick by forcing the ball over the line from close range and Ruben Dias had

to clear off the line to avoid the game being leveled again with an own-goal.

Haaland's seventh goal in his last five games avoided a tense finish and ensured that City sits clear at the top after Arsenal's surprise loss to Brighton on Saturday.

"It is much better to win games. It is better to have three points more than not, but it is quite early (in the season)," Maresca said.

MAN UNITED RELIEF

After back-to-back losses, United really needed a win to ease the pressure going into the international break.

By full-time at Craven Cottage there was relief all around just to pick up a draw against winless Fulham.

"We came to get the win, but the way it has panned out and the way we finished the game are the positives we take from it," United coach Carrick said. "We know we can be better and we need to be better about certain things. That is pretty clear and we will be."

Lisandro Martinez's own-goal shortly after the hour looked like piling more misery on Carrick after defeats to Man City and Brighton over the past week.

United twice hit the post in the first half but rarely looked like finding an equalizer until Cunha's long-range shot deflected off David Affengruber and wrong-footed Fulham 'keeper Bernd Leno.

"In the second half it was like they put in more energy than us. We cannot accept this. We always play better after conceding a goal, and it cannot be like this," Cunha said. "We were a little bit unlucky. Me and Bruno (Fernandes) hit the post, but we have to keep creating things and hope they come to more things."

"It is the same as last season where there was a bit of noise around and we finished third. This season we need to improve further."

The point for Fulham leaves big-spending Tottenham at the bottom of the standings on goal difference.

ISAK ON TARGET AGAIN

It was a winning return to Bournemouth for Liverpool coach Andoni Iraola after leaving the south coast club at the end of last season.

The Spanish coach had three successful seasons at the Vitality Stadium before taking over at Anfield.

He had Isak to thank for Liverpool's second league win of the campaign with the Sweden international providing a composed finish from close range in the 57th.

The \$170 million striker endured a difficult first season at Liverpool which was disrupted by injury. But he has started impressively this season with four goals in five league appearances.

Leeds maintained its unbeaten start to the season with a 0-0 draw at home to Crystal Palace and, after battling relegation last term, is fifth in the standings.



Alastair Grant/AP Photo

Arsenal's team captains Kin Little, left, and Leah Williamson, right, lift the trophy after winning the Women's Champions Cup final soccer match between Arsenal FC and SC Corinthians in London on Sunday, Feb. 1.

Women's Champions Cup final set for Miami's Nu stadium

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
AP SOCCER WRITER

will compete for the fourth spot in Miami.

The final round of the second Women's Champions Cup, an intercontinental competition for club teams, will be played at Inter Miami's Nu Stadium in late January, FIFA announced Sunday.

No U.S. women's club is set to play. Mexico's Club America will represent CONCACAF after defeating the Washington Spirit in the confederation's W Champions Cup in May.

Spanish powerhouse Barcelona also has qualified for the four-team final round as the representative for UEFA. The winner of October's Copa Libertadores Femenina will qualify for CONMEBOL.

The Champions Cup was created to give women's professional club teams greater opportunities for global competition, while building on the success of the game's marquee national team tournament, the Women's World Cup.

"You're just seeing a lot more attention and growth to the sport, and I think that's really what we're trying to do, is not just focus on national teams, but now help and grow and develop and stimulate the players' week-in and week-out environment, and that's again through minimum standards. It's through financial investment. It's through creating competitions," FIFA Chief Football Officer Jill Ellis said.

Ellis, former coach of the U.S. women's national team, told The Associated Press that Nu Stadium was chosen because it is a soccer-specific venue and a suitable size (26,700) for the competition.

FIFA previously announced it was targeting the Miami area, which has demonstrated community support for soccer through a variety of competitions in recent years, Ellis said. The time zone and mild winter temperatures also were considered, as well as the fact that the United States has a strong domestic pro league, the National Women's Soccer League.

In addition to Club America, Barcelona and the CONMEBOL representative, teams from Africa, Asia and Oceania

Auckland United FC, which won the OFC Champions League, will face AFC Champions League winners Naegohyang Women's FC in October. The winner of that match will advance to face Africa's representative from the CAF Women's Champions League tournament in December.

Arsenal won the inaugural Women's Champions Cup with a 3-2 victory over Brazil's Corinthians in February. Arsenal earned \$2.3 million for winning the intercontinental tournament. Corinthians took home \$1 million as the runner-up.

The Champions Cup also builds on the growing number of regional club competitions, led by the success of the UEFA Women's Champions League.

"Part of building out a club competition is also with that will come club minimum standards," Ellis said. "We're working with the confederations now to make sure that there are minimum standards for you to be able to compete. So when you try and create a competition, it's not just creating a competition that brings global recognition to clubs and helps promote players, etc. There's also the incentive of stimulating growth in leagues and in confederations that obviously host the leagues."

FIFA also is introducing a 16-team Women's Club World Cup, which will launch in 2028 and be played every four years. The new Champions Cup will be held every year, except years when the Club World Cup takes place.

Ellis said when FIFA was considering the Champions Cup, there were only two confederations that had competitions for a confederation winner: UEFA and CONMEBOL.

"Once we announced this competition, we've seen now we have all six of our confederations that have a competition," she said. "So sometimes when you build a competition, it actually drives investment in people wanting to participate and people wanting to invest in club football."



The Daviess County Public Schools' Local Planning Committee (LPC) will conduct a **PUBLIC MEETING** at 5:30 pm CDT (6:30 EST) on September 29 at the Daviess County Public Schools Central Office, 4801 Frederica St, Owensboro KY 42301. This is a meeting to develop a District Facilities Plan for Daviess County Public Schools. The Kentucky Department of Education will conduct a training session for LPC members at this meeting. A Public forum will also be conducted with the LPC meeting. This meeting and future meetings will be informal gatherings to encourage local participation through community suggestions relative to future utilization of existing school facilities and construction of new school facilities. These community suggestions or recommendations will be closely monitored by the Local Planning Committee in the development of a proposed District Facility Plan for Daviess County Public Schools. The public is welcome and invited to this series of meetings.

Zverev leads Germany into Davis Cup Final 8; Britain advances

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HALLE, Germany — Alexander Zverev sent Germany through to the Davis Cup Final 8, outclassing Dino Prizmic on Sunday to secure a 3-1 victory over Croatia.

Zverev took just 77 minutes to ease to a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Prizmic, who was ranked more than 100 places below the U.S. Open and French Open champion.

Just like in Saturday's victory over Matej Dodig, the second-ranked Zverev dominated on the indoor hardcourt in Halle, Germany, with Prizmic having no break-point chances.

Earlier Sunday, Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz overcame Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic 7-5, 6-2 to hand Zverev the opportunity to send Germany to the Final 8 in Bologna, Italy, in November.

Britain also advanced on Sunday, with doubles pair Henry Patten and Neal Skupski beating Gonzalo Escobar and Diego Hidalgo 6-3, 6-4 to secure a 3-0 win over Ecuador.

Spain, without Carlos Alcaraz, secured an unsailable 3-0 lead over Chile after Pedro Martínez and Jaume Munar defeated Tomás Barrios Vera and Alejandro Tabilo 6-0, 6-3.



Christoph Reichwein/AP Photo

Germany's Alexander Zverev plays Croatia's Dino Prizmic during their Davis Cup tennis match in Halle, Germany on Sunday.