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Hamilton equals Schumacher record with 68th pole

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Relief for Benitez as Newcastle crush Hammers

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

NEW ZEALAND BEAT AUSTRALIA IN BLEDISLOE CUP THRILLER

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MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku (R) jumps to win a header during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Leicester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

MAN UTD SUBS RASHFORD, FELLAINI SINK LEICESTER

	Man United	2
	Leicester City	0

MANCHESTER: Substitutes Marcus Rashford and Marouane Fellaini struck to maintain Manchester United's 100 percent start to the Premier League season in a 2-0 win over Leicester City yesterday. Rashford, dropped to the bench to make way for Anthony Martial, turned in Henrikh Mkhitaryan's corner in the 70th minute, less than three minutes after coming on. Fellaini added a late second from Jesse Lingard's cross-shot to

send Jose Mourinho's side back to the top of the table after Huddersfield Town briefly overtook them by drawing with Southampton earlier in the day. But it looked as if they would be denied when Kasper Schmeichel made a superb penalty save from Romelu Lukaku early in the second half. The Leicester goalkeeper, son of former United great Peter Schmeichel, dived to his right to push away Lukaku's kick. The home side began full of confidence, threatening in the opening minute as Leicester captain Wes Morgan blocked a shot from Mkhitaryan after good build-up play down the United right. Craig Shakespeare's side had to work hard to withstand that early pressure, with Morgan at full stretch in central defence alongside new England squad member Harry Maguire. United, though, continued to press, with Juan

Mata unlucky to have a goal ruled out for a marginal offside in the 18th minute. Paul Pogba's cross was cleared unconvincingly by Maguire and Lukaku turned on the edge of the area to hit a shot that Mata followed up to sweep in after Schmeichel had parried. Assistant referee Constantine Hatzidakis raised his flag, but Mata looked to have been level with the Leicester back line as Lukaku let fly. Fired by that perceived injustice, United went close twice in quick succession. **MAHREZ MENACES** First Pogba half-volleyed Martial's outswinging cross just wide at the far post and then Schmeichel dived athletically to his right to paw away a bending Mata shot. Shinji Okazaki had a half-chance for Leicester

at the other end, with David de Gea gathering his low shot from Jamie Vardy's knock-down. But United continued to look the more dangerous side, with Pogba hitting a fierce 30-yard shot that flew just wide. Schmeichel was alert to gather Martial's snapshot from 20 yards, before beating away a Pogba effort and then watching another drive from the France midfielder whizz by his right-hand post. Having been well protected by his defenders in the first half, Schmeichel was inspired to keep the game goalless when United were awarded a penalty in the seventh minute of the second half. Leicester's former United right-back Danny Simpson was adjudged to have handled Martial's driven cross from the left, but Schmeichel flung himself to his right to push away Lukaku's spot-kick. That gave the visitors the confidence to be a

little more adventurous, with winger Riyad Mahrez cutting in from the right and driving a ball to the near post that De Gea kicked away. Mahrez, repeatedly linked with a move away from Leicester, began to carry more of a threat, scuffing one shot wide and then breaking onto a pass by substitute Demarai Gray to deliver a dangerous cross. But 20 minutes from the end, Rashford diverted in Mkhitaryan's right-wing corner on the volley, with Schmeichel only able to push it into the roof of the net. Victory was secured in the 82nd minute as Fellaini diverted in fellow substitute Lingard's cross, despite replays suggesting he had been offside. The visitors almost pulled one back in stoppage time, but De Gea reacted well to turn away Andy King's close-range shot. Lukaku then blazed over at the other end. — AFP

LAST-GASP STERLING BREAKS BOURNEMOUTH HEARTS

	Bournemouth	1
	Man City	2

BOURNEMOUTH: Raheem Sterling scored a 97th-minute winner and was then sent off as Manchester City snatched a dramatic 2-1 victory at Bournemouth in the Premier League yesterday. Bournemouth took a 13th-minute lead through a remarkable strike from left-back Charlie Daniels, who slammed a half-volley in off Ederson's crossbar from a position wide on the left. But David Silva teed up Gabriel Jesus to equalise eight minutes later and just as it looked like victory would elude City, Sterling struck deep into stoppage time with the aid of a big deflection off Andrew Surman. Sterling, whose late volley earned City a 1-1 draw with Everton on Monday, celebrated by throwing himself into the away section and was shown a second yellow card by referee Mike Dean. The outcome was harsh on Bournemouth, who are still searching for their first point of the season. But for City manager Pep Guardiola, Sterling's strike will spare him from the kind of inquest about his team's goal-scoring problems that he faced after the draw with Everton. He sprang a surprise before kick-off by dropping Sergio Aguero to the bench. A glum-looking Aguero took his seat in the dug-out behind Guardiola and for 15 minutes it looked as though the visitors might have cause to regret their manager's decision. Bournemouth started positively, pressing the visitors high up the pitch and in particular making headway down the right flank. Left-back Benjamin Mendy was making his City debut following his £52 million (\$67 mil-

lion, 56.2 million euros) move from Monaco and took time to settle against Adam Smith, the energetic home right-back. The home side's early efforts were rewarded when Daniels produced a wonderfully clean strike to beat Ederson. **QUICK-THINKING JESUS** There seemed little danger when the Bournemouth wing-back moved onto a loose ball wide on the left flank following Vincent Kompany's clearing header. But Daniels met the ball on the half-volley, arrowing a sublime shot past the soaring Ederson and in off the underside of the bar. Bournemouth might have doubled their lead when Jermain Defoe-making his first league start-volleyed too close to Ederson from Surman's chipped through-ball. But Jesus was becoming more prominent and it was the striker's quick thinking, together with Silva's vision, that led to the equaliser. The Brazilian played a quick free-kick to Silva after Bernardo Silva had been fouled by Nathan Ake before running beyond the Bournemouth defender to collect the return pass and slot home. Ake had been caught out and a minute later he was fortunate to escape with only a yellow card after being robbed of possession by Jesus before tripping the City forward, blocking a clear run on goal. The visitors were incensed by Dean's decision not to send Ake off, but it appeared as though it would prove academic as City dominated the remainder of the first half, creating a succession of clear chances. Jesus, whose explosive start to his City career was stalled here last February when he broke his foot, fired wide with a good oppor-

tunity before Bernardo Silva saw a shot saved after another mistake by Ake. Somehow Bournemouth survived to reach half-time on level terms and having maintained a foothold in the game, they could have gone ahead in the 61st minute when Joshua King fired against the post. That chance came after Nicolas Otamendi and Fernandinho combined to lose possession in a dangerous area and with his side wasteful at the other end, Guardiola's frustration was becoming clear on the touchline. Otamendi should have done better than direct a free header against the post from Kevin De Bruyne's cross, which summed up his side's second-half efforts up to then. Then, with the game deep into added time, Sterling was twice involved in a move that ended with him collecting Danilo's cross and sending a deflected shot past Asmir Begovic. —AFP

BOURNEMOUTH: Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling shoots to score their late winning goal during the English Premier League football match between Bournemouth and Manchester City at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth, southern England yesterday. —AFP

MESSI MAKES AMENDS FOR MISSED PENALTY IN BARCELONA WIN

MADRID: Lionel Messi scored twice and saw a penalty saved as Barcelona maintained their perfect start to the season in La Liga with a 2-0 win at Alaves yesterday. Without new signing Ousmane Dembele, who completed the second most expensive transfer ever by moving for 105 million euros (\$125 million) from Borussia Dortmund on Friday, or the injured Luis Suarez, Messi ensured Barca didn't lose any early ground in the title race despite a tumultuous start to the campaign off the field. The five-time World Player of the Year missed from the penalty spot for the 20th time in his career as Fernando Pacheco produced a stunning save midway through the first half. However, Messi wasn't to be denied as his deflected effort opened the scoring shortly after half-time before a sweetly-struck volley secured all three points. Alaves shocked Barca a year ago by winning at the Camp Nou, and the hosts were left to rue a big chance missed by Ruben Sobrino at 0-0 before succumbing to Messi's magic. Sobrino burst past the leaden-footed Gerard Pique on the half-hour mark, but placed his shot too close to Barca keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen as he bore down on goal. Pique was involved at the other end as Barca were awarded a penalty moments later when he was hauled to the ground by Rodrigo Ely at a Messi free-kick. Messi's record from the spot had improved greatly since he briefly quit international football after blasting a spot-kick over as Argentina lost the Copa America Centenario final to Chile little over a year ago. However, Pacheco sprung to his right impressively to turn Messi's effort round the post. Visibly annoyed at himself, Messi responded with the opening goal 11 minutes after the break as his powerful low drive struck helpless Alaves defender Alexis to fly past Pacheco. Alexis was also at fault when Barca doubled their advantage 11 minutes later as his poor clearance was headed by substitute Paco Alcacer into Messi's path to smash home on his favoured left foot. — AFP