

## LEICESTER'S VARDY EARNS 1-1 DRAW AT HUDDERSFIELD



**HUDDERSFIELD TOWN:** Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy's second-half equaliser earned the visitors a 1-1 draw at a dominant Huddersfield Town in the Premier League yesterday. David Wagner's hosts squandered early opportunities from precise crosses before striker Laurent Depoitre marked his first league start this season with a goal straight after the break.

Leicester equalised four minutes later, with England forward Vardy converting a penalty after Chris Loew brought down midfielder Andy King at the John Smith's Stadium. Craig Shakespeare's visitors came closest to picking up all three points but Vardy somehow managed to miss an open

goal following a counter-attack led by winger Riyad Mahrez.

Huddersfield maintained their unbeaten run at home this season, with Wagner particularly impressed by his side's quick recovery from their loss to West Ham United on Monday. "We got the response I wanted from the West Ham game in terms of the performance... the team showed great attitude," the German said.

"I was very pleased with the three players who made their first starts. We scored a great goal, but gave possession away too quickly afterwards and Leicester punished our mistake." Shakespeare chose to look at the positives and praised Leicester for their fighting spirit after suffering three defeats in their first four league games.

"We have played better this season and got nothing, but that can happen. We were second best first half, but we showed character to get something. A point can here can still take us forward," he said. "We created chances second half and dug in while despite being a little off the pace." — Reuters



**MUNICH:** Mainz's German defender Stefan Bell and Bayern Munich's French midfielder Franck Ribery vie for the ball during the German First division Bundesliga football match FC Bayern Munich v Mainz 05 in Munich, southern Germany, yesterday. — AFP

### SOCCER

## BAYERN ROUTS MAINZ TO START OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATIONS

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich shrugged off a couple of lackluster performances to start its traditional Oktoberfest celebrations with a 4-0 rout of Mainz in the Bundesliga yesterday.

Robert Lewandowski marked his 100th league appearance for Bayern with his 81st and 82nd goals, which came on the first day of the 184th beer festival. Bayern players traditionally go on an annual team visit to Oktoberfest, which ends Oct 3. On the field, Bayern needed to show a reaction - after last weekend's loss at Hoffenheim and an uninspired Champions League opener against 10-man Anderlecht on Tuesday - and the home side wasted little time in breaking the visitors' resistance.

Mainz, the last side to beat Bayern at home in March 2016, at no stage looked like doing it again. "We were never 100 percent satisfied the last few weeks. It was obvious there was room for improvement, and today we had a game where we performed better on the pitch, perhaps a bit more like a team," said Thomas Mueller, who claimed his first goal of the season after 10 minutes, though Arjen Robben provided a decisive deflection.

Goalkeeper Rene Adler made two good saves in succession to deny Robben and then Arturo Vidal from the rebound, and Kingsley Coman missed an open goal by striking the crossbar, but it was only a matter of time before the lead grew. Robben scored minutes later, a rare goal with his right foot after Joshua Kimmich sent him through. The Dutch winger ran to the sideline to celebrate with substitute Franck Ribery, suggesting Tuesday's frustration was over. Ribery had thrown his jersey at the dugout after he was taken off against Anderlecht, and Robben had sharply criticized the team's performance. Five minutes into the second half, Lewandowski slid in to meet Mueller's cross. The Polish striker wasn't satisfied with that, claiming his second of the day with a brilliant header inside the far post with just over 10 minutes remaining.

"We want to keep going," Mueller said. "It won't do us any good to keep the agitation

going, but especially in the busy weeks we have to concentrate on football ... Today was a start."

### BIZARRE OWN-GOAL

Leon Goretzka scored late to give Schalke a 2-1 win at Werder Bremen.

Lamine Sane rewarded Bremen's early endeavor with the opening goal in the 20th minute, only for the good work to be undone almost immediately when Milos Veljkovic scored a bizarre own-goal. Both Veljkovic and Sane wanted to clear the ball - Sane with a bicycle kick and Veljkovic with his head. Instead Sane kicked his teammate in the head and the ball ended in their own net.

Goretzka got the winner with seven minutes remaining after a corner for Schalke to claim its

third win from four games.

### SUPER SUB STRIKES

Substitute Caiuby's stunning strike gave Augsburg a 2-1 win at Eintracht Frankfurt. The Brazilian midfielder was only on the pitch for eight minutes when he looked up and let fly from almost 30 meters (yards) to crash the ball in off the underside of the crossbar. Luka Jovic pulled one back but it wasn't enough for the home side despite a frenetic finale. Promoted Stuttgart defeated Wolfsburg 1-0 in a game overshadowed by Christian Gentner's injury. The Stuttgart captain was struck in the head by Wolfsburg goalkeeper Koen Casteels' knee when he emerged to claim the ball. Gentner was taken off on a stretcher. — AP

## INTER MILAN LEAVES IT LATE TO BEAT CROTONE AND STAY PERFECT

**CROTONE:** Inter Milan stayed perfect in Serie A with a hard-fought 2-0 win at Crotone, which remained yesterday the only team yet to score a goal in the league. Inter won its previous three matches comfortably but found it harder than expected at Crotone until eight minutes from time when defender Milan Skriniar broke the deadlock.

Ivan Perisic sealed the result in stoppage time. Opportunities were few and far between at Stadio Scida and it was Crotone which had the best chances, with Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic pulling off two fine second-half saves to deny Aleksandar Tonev and Marcus Rohden.

However, Inter took the lead when a free kick ricocheted around the area before Skriniar bundled in the ball with his third attempt for his first Serie A goal. Perisic was left unmarked to gather Joao Mario's pass, cut inside, and fire into the bottom right corner.

Later, Roma welcomes newly promoted Hellas Verona.

### LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Federico Chiesa scored a goal his father would have been proud of to set Fiorentina on its way to beating Bologna 2-1. Little of note happened before Chiesa - the son of prolific former goalscorer Enrico - cut inside the left of the area, beat a defender, and curled a fantastic strike into the far side of the net in the 51st minute.

However, Bologna was back level a minute later when Rodrigo Palacio finished off a rapid counterattack with a half-volley. German Pezzella scored what was to prove the winner in the 69th with a looping header from a corner. Palacio almost equalized but his header came off the left post. It was Fiorentina's second successive victory after losing its first two matches. — AP

## NO HODGSON EFFECT AS PALACE LOSE 1-0 AT HOME TO SAINTS



**SELHURST PARK:** Crystal Palace failed to benefit from the Roy Hodgson effect as Steven Davis's early goal and two saves by Fraser Forster helped Southampton beat the Premier League's bottom club 1-0 at Selhurst Park on Saturday.

Palace were playing for the first time under new manager Hodgson but were reeling in the sixth minute when Davis steered the ball into the bottom corner after home goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey beat out a low right cross from Dusan Tadic.

Palace are without a goal in their opening five league games, a Premier League record, but not for want of trying with Ruben Loftus-Cheek twice going close after half an hour and Forster also saving from Christian Benteke.

Hodgson took charge at Palace this week after Dutchman Frank de Boer was sacked following four defeats and no goals in his debut Premier League season and faces a tough challenge to rebuild confidence and turn the team's form around.

"I still believe in the long-term, these players will pick themselves up from where they have been knocked down to," he said. "It's going to be a long road and there might be some more pain before we see some light at the end of the tunnel."

Palace's long wait for a first league goal of the season could have ended 10 minutes after Saints went ahead through Davis when Benteke met Loftus-Cheek's low cross at the near post but Forster got his body in the way to make the save.

Palace's impressive midfielder Loftus-Cheek came close when he skimmed the outside of the post with a shot from the edge of the box then had an effort deflected for a corner. Two more chances went begging in a downpour early in the second half when another Loftus-Cheek centre flew across the face of goal before Forster saved from Jason Puncheon.

There were boos from the Palace crowd when Hodgson brought off Loftus-Cheek, his best player, for Bakary Sako with 15 minutes to go and the change did not work for his goal-shy team. Saints, who had last scored when they beat West Ham United 3-2 at home on Aug. 19, notched their second win to move up to provisional fifth spot on

eight points before the afternoon kickoffs, while Palace are rooted to the bottom of the table. "You have to fight for every single point. You could see today that Crystal Palace were good," said Southampton manager Mauricio Pellegrino.

"They created chances in the first half and pressed higher in the second but in general we controlled the game. We could have scored another goal but playing here is really difficult." — Reuters

### Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Chelsea v Arsenal	15:30	beIN SPORTS HD 2
Manchester United v Everton	18:00	beIN SPORTS HD 11 EN
SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA		
Deportivo Alaves v Villarreal	13:00	beIN SPORTS HD 3
Girona v Sevilla	17:15	beIN SPORTS HD 3
Las Palmas v Athletic de Bilbao	19:30	beIN SPORTS HD 3
Real Sociedad v Real Madrid	21:45	beIN SPORTS HD 3
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
Sassuolo Calcio v Juventus	13:30	beIN SPORTS HD 4
Milan v Udinese Calcio	16:00	beIN SPORTS HD 4
Napoli v Benevento	16:00	beIN SPORTS HD 9
Torino v Sampdoria	16:00	beIN SPORTS
spal v Cagliari Calcio	16:00	beIN SPORTS
Chievo Verona v Atalanta	19:00	beIN SPORTS HD 4
Genoa v Lazio	21:45	beIN SPORTS HD 4
GERMAN LEAGUE		
Hoffenheim v Hertha Berlin	14:30	beIN SPORTS HD 5
Leverkusen v Freiburg	16:30	beIN SPORTS HD 5
Borussia Dortmund v Koln	19:00	beIN SPORTS HD 5
FRENCH LEAGUE		
Amiens v Marseille	16:00	beIN SPORTS HD 6
Stade Rennais v Nice	18:00	beIN SPORTS HD 7
Angers v Metz	18:00	beIN SPORTS MAX 5 FR
Paris Saint-Germain v Lyon	22:00	beIN SPORTS HD 6

# KUWAIT'S FOOTBALL SEASON KICKS OFF

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait football 2017-2018 season kicked off on Thursday with a match between Al-Tadhamon and Kazma sports clubs, which ended in a draw as they scored two goals each.

The first half saw the orange shirted Kazma draw first blood with a header from Lima only 10 minutes into the match, then four minutes later added a second goal with a header following a pass from Omar Hubaiter.

Meanwhile, the second half saw an improved performance by Al-Tadhamon which started to attack and got closer to Kazma's goal resulting in Farhan Saad and Hamed Ayedh score in the 9th and 42nd minutes to draw the match.

The season opener was officiated by Jassim Jaafar, assisted by Yaboub Al-Suhail and Abdallah Al-Hindal.

The second match had the league champion Kuwait FC square off against the fourth during the past season Salmiya Club. Kuwait FC trailed most of the match until Saeed Jumaa equalized seconds before the whistle, ending the match 2-2.

Meanwhile, on Friday two matches took place, the second of which was a true derby and was highly competitive and can be called Kuwait's classico! It was the match between Al-Qadissiya and Al-Arabi Sports Clubs, which ended yet in another 2-2 draw. The match saw large number of fans, as each team got out with one point at the



**Salmiya and Kuwait FC.**

start of the season.

Al-Arabi scored in the 17th minute by Mahmoud Al-Mardhi when Hussein Al-Mousawi sent a pass and he shot the ball from outside the box to the right of goal keeper Ahmad Al-Fadhly. Al-Qadissiya did not take long before equalizing on the 27th minute with a shot, also from outside the box by the Brazilian Tiago De Silva. The excitement continued to the last minute of the first half, with Ali Maqseed scoring Al-Arabi's second goal.

### LACK OF FITNESS

As the second half started, Al-Qadissiya defender Musaed Nada scored the equalizer into the 3rd minute of the second quarter, as he followed a pass from Tiago.

Al-Arabi players seemed to suffer from lack of fitness but were able to maintain the draw, though they played with 10 players for over 15 minutes.

The match was officiated by referee Ammar Ashkanani, and assisted by Fares Al-



**Al-Qadissiya and Al-Arabi Sports Club in action.**

Shimari, Yousuf Al-Enezi and Dhaifallah Al-Fadhly. The match saw the second red card of the season when Al-Arabi's Nigerian player Clement was given a second yellow card for rough play.

Al-Jahra sports team was the only winner in the opening week as it beat Al-Nasser Sports Club 2-1. Faisal Zayed and Francisco Tores scored for Jahra while Mishal Fawaz scored the only goal for Al-Nasser.

Al-Nasser started well and had two shots at the goal in the first eight minutes, but it

was Al-Jahra that scored in the 26th minute by Faisal Zayed. As Al-Nasser players were pushing forward, Al-Jahra counter attacks were very dangerous and almost scored in the 35th minute.

Al-Nasser was able to equalize at the start of the second half by Mishal Fawaz. Jahra coach Boris Bojac made two substitutions who were able to score the winning goal. The match saw the first red card of the season as Abdallah Salama was kicked out of the match.