

13 World trounces USA to jump start all-star weekend

14 Czech snowboarder Ledecka stuns Alpine world with super-G gold

15 'Ice Prince' Hanyu defies injury to retain skate crown



Lukaku eases Man Utd into Cup quarters

West Brom knocked out of FA Cup



HUDDERSFIELD: Huddersfield Town's Moroccan midfielder Abdelhamid Sabiri (C) cannot direct his header at the goal during the English FA Cup fifth round football match between Huddersfield Town and Manchester United at the John Smith's stadium in Huddersfield. — AFP

LONDON: Debate over the merits of video assistant refereeing was again raised as a Romelu Lukaku double eased Manchester United into the FA Cup quarter-finals in a 2-0 win at Huddersfield despite a controversial call going against Jose Mourinho's men.

Juan Mata thought he had put United into a 2-0 lead just before half-time only for the Spaniard's effort to be ruled out by the video referee after a lengthy delay, and without conclusive proof the officials on the field had made the wrong decision.

Thankfully for United, and the authorities, that decision didn't have a definitive influence on the outcome as Lukaku struck early in both halves to take his tally for the season to 21. Brighton and Southampton were also fifth round victors to join Chelsea and Leicester, who beat Hull and Sheffield United respectively on Friday, in the draw for the last eight later on Saturday.

United were without Paul Pogba due to illness as a frustrating few weeks for the Frenchman continued after

a dramatic dip in form that has seen him hauled off by Mourinho in recent defeats at Tottenham and Newcastle.

Mourinho made six changes in all from last weekend's shock reverse at St. James' Park, but his decision to retain Lukaku paid dividends when the Belgian burst onto Mata's pass to open the scoring inside three minutes.

Mata then had the ball in the net himself a minute before the break. A delay in referring the decision was exacerbated as the lines used to help the video official decipher offside decisions appeared to be far from straight.

United were left to mull over their grievance at half-time, but quickly ensured it wasn't to cost them too dearly as a brilliant one-two between Lukaku and Alexis

Sanchez freed the former to slot low past Jonas Lossel.

MORE WEST BROM WOE

Elsewhere, a week to forget for West Brom was rounded off with an FA Cup exit as fellow Premier League strugglers Southampton won 2-1 at the Hawthorns yesterday.

West Brom boss Alan Pardew named Jonny Evans and Gareth Barry in his starting line-up despite the experienced duo forming half of a group of four players questioned by Spanish police this week over the theft of a taxi on the club's warm weather training trip to Barcelona.

"There was a problem in terms of selection because of the incident to go with my strongest team," said Pardew. "I decided to do that. I felt I

needed to make a little bit of a statement about the events. I was far from happy over them and made Gareth (McAuley) captain today."

Wesley Hoedt took advantage of some slack West Brom marking to head home his first goal for Southampton just 11 minutes in. Dusan Tadic doubled the visitors' advantage on the counter-attack after the break and Southampton held out despite Salomon Rondon's spectacular volley pulling a goal back.

Brighton cruised into the last eight as fourth-tier Coventry City's fairytale run came to a crashing end in a 3-1 defeat. Sheffield Wednesday and Swansea City face an unwanted replay after an insipid 0-0 draw on Swansea boss Carlos Carvalhal's return to Hillsborough.

"It's a score nobody wants," said Carvalhal, whose side are also battling for Premier League survival. "Maybe in the future, if the managers and referee agree after the first game we can go to penalties, we can finish the game today. — AFP



Lukaku takes his tally for the season to 21

Lewandowski late penalty rescues Bayern

BERLIN: Robert Lewandowski converted a 91st-minute penalty to rescue Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich with a 2-1 win at Wolfsburg yesterday which took their winning streak to 13 and extended their advantage at the top of the table to 21 points.

With Bayern hosting Besiktas in the last 16, first-leg, of the Champions League on Tuesday, they rested several stars and were almost made to pay. Wolfsburg striker Daniel Didavi gave the hosts an early lead while Bayern winger Arjen Robben had a second-half penalty saved.

However, Sandro Wagner headed Bayern level in the 64th minute before substitute Lewandowski hit the winning penalty in injury time. The win extended Bayern's run-away lead to 21 points as they steam towards a sixth straight title.

Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes named a weakened team with David Alaba, Jerome Boateng, Mats Hummels, Joshua Kimmich,

Thomas Mueller and Lewandowski started on the bench. Wolfsburg profited from Bayern's slow start after only eight minutes when Yunus Malli's cross was headed home by Didavi.

Bayern winger Franck Ribery was then booked when the video referee spotted he had swatted Renato Steffen in the face in a challenge for the ball. It was 1-0 at the break, but Bayern were awarded a penalty when Steffen barged over Corentin Tolisso in the area on 53 minutes.

Steffen was booked for his furious protest, but Wolfsburg goalkeeper Koen Casteels palmed Robben's spot kick onto the post. Bayern drew level when Robben's cross was met in the middle by Wagner-Lewandowski's back-up-to head home on 64 minutes. Heynckes responded by bringing on captain Mueller, Alaba and Lewandowski in the final half an hour. When Germany Under-19 international Gian-Luca Itter pulled Robben back in the area, the referee pointed to the spot. Casteels got a glove to the ball, but Lewandowski claimed his 20th league goal this season with the last-gasp spot kick.

BAILEY STRIKES AGAIN

RB Leipzig are at Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga's first Monday night kick-off

which allowed Bayer Leverkusen to climb to second with a 2-1 win at Hamburg. Leon Bailey continued his stellar season by rounding Hamburg's goalkeeper Christian Mathenia on 40 minutes.

It was the 20-year-old Jamaican's ninth league goal this season. Leverkusen's 18-year-old striker Kai Havertz doubled their lead after the break, finishing a move Bailey started. Hamburg forward Andre Hahn came off the bench to claim a consolation goal. Freiburg captain Nils Petersen converted a first-half penalty in their 1-0 win at home to Werder Bremen in persistent falling snow. The win ended Freiburg's three-match run without a win while Bremen stay just above the relegation places.

Bottom side Cologne remain nine points from safety as they drew 1-1 at home to Hanover. Japan striker Yuya Osako gave Cologne an early lead before Hanover forward Niclas Füllkrug equalised with his 10th league goal of the season.

In the dying stages, Claudio Pizarro, 39, came off the Cologne bench and had the ball in the net, but his header was ruled offside. Today, Borussia Dortmund can go second with a win at Borussia Moenchengladbach as Michy Batshuayi looks to add to his five goals in three games. — AFP



WOLFSBURG: Bayern Munich's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski (R) celebrates with Bayern Munich's Austrian defender David Alaba after scoring during the German first division Bundesliga football match between VfL Wolfsburg and FC Bayern Munich. — AFP