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26 Hansen hails 'new-level' attack after Ireland demolition job

27 Everton beat West Ham to ease pressure on Marco Silva



Alonso silences Newcastle taunts

Tielemans smashes Leicester winner as VAR denies Burnley



LONDON: Chelsea's Spanish defender Marcos Alonso (R) shoots to score the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Newcastle at Stamford Bridge in London yesterday. — AFP

LONDON: Chelsea climbed to third in the Premier League as Marcos Alonso clinched a 1-0 win that silenced the Newcastle fans who jeered the Spanish defender at Stamford Bridge. Alonso's blistering strike ended Newcastle's stubborn resistance with 17 minutes left and provided the perfect riposte to the taunts from the stands.

The Chelsea left-back spent the second half of the 2013-14 season on loan at Newcastle's arch rivals Sunderland and played in a derby win at St James' Park. The Magpies supporters clearly hadn't forgotten as they booed him throughout yesterday's match.

But Alonso's first goal since April gave him the last laugh as Chelsea made it five successive victories in all competitions. After winning just two of their opening eight games under Frank Lampard, the Blues are beginning to find their stride.

The mature way Lampard's young side kept probing and found a way to beat obdurate Newcastle bodes well for the future. And for only the second time in Lampard's 13 games in charge, Chelsea kept a clean-sheet as the Blues boss celebrated just his second home league.

While a title challenge is likely to be beyond Chelsea, they look well equipped to challenge for a top four finish. Newcastle have now won just one of their last 26 league visits to Chelsea after a defeat that punctured the momentum from their 1-0 win against Manchester United before the international break.

Fikayo Tomori, Ross Barkley, Mason Mount, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Tammy Abraham all featured for Chelsea, making it five English players in their starting line-up in the Premier League for the first time since February 2013.

Hudson-Odoi led the charge of Chelsea's

homegrown youngsters when he cleverly worked space for a cross that Willian headed wide. Mount was next to contribute when the midfielder collected Hudson-Odoi's pass and spun for a fierce shot that was pushed away by Martin Dubravka.

Alonso earned a yellow card for a crunching challenge on DeAndre Yedlin, prompting a barrage of abuse from the Newcastle supporters crammed into one corner of the Shed End.

Willian drilled wide from a tight angle as Chelsea monopolised possession without delivering the knockout blow. Chelsea suffered a blow when Barkley limped off with a leg injury just before half-time.

But Lampard's team continued to push Newcastle back after the interval and came close to taking the lead through Abraham. With nine goals already this term, Abraham was inches away from getting into double figures when his header from Willian's corner crashed against the bar.

Frustrated by Chelsea's failure to make the breakthrough, Lampard sent on Christian Pulisic for Mount just after the hour. Abraham was narrowly off-target with a towering header from Chelsea's eighth corner. Hudson-Odoi was a constant menace with his mesmerising bursts and when his cross found Pulisic, the United States winger was denied by Dubravka's fine scrambling save.

Dubravka kept out Willian's near-post drive as Chelsea poured forward. The pressure finally told in the 73rd minute when Hudson-Odoi teed up Alonso, unmarked inside the Newcastle area, for a powerful effort that flashed under Dubravka's hand into the far corner.

Meanwhile, Yuri Tielemans capped an inspired individual performance with a fine second-half winner as Leicester City came

from behind to beat Burnley 2-1 at the King Power Stadium after the visitors had a late equaliser controversially disallowed by VAR. Former Leicester striker Chris Wood, who had put Burnley ahead on 26 minutes, thought he had scored for a second time on 80 minutes before technology intervened to rule that he had fouled Jonny Evans in the build-up.

Burnley manager Sean Dyche was furi-

ous that his side left with nothing from a game marked by much emotion on the first anniversary of the death of former Leicester chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha and four others in a helicopter crash.

Jamie Vardy equalised Wood's opener with a superb header just before the break, rising high to powerfully meet Harvey Barnes' cross from seven yards out for his

sixth goal of the season. Substitute Demarai Gray had an effort rightly disallowed for offside before making a telling contribution on 74 minutes when he centred for Harvey Barnes to pick out Tielemans, who crashed the ball home at the far post.

The win moved Leicester second, ahead of Manchester City's late kickoff against Crystal Palace, on 17 points, while Burnley are eighth on 12. —Agencies

Alli saves Spurs from another defeat to bottom club Watford

LONDON: Dele Alli struck four minutes from time to prevent Tottenham suffering another demoralising Premier League defeat, but their struggles continued in a 1-1 draw with bottom-of-the-table Watford yesterday.

The Hornets have still not won in the league since April and will rue a series of missed chances after Abdoulaye Doucoure put them in front after just six minutes. Spurs seemed set for a third straight defeat after humiliating heavy losses to Bayern Munich and Brighton before the international break.

But a mix-up between Ben Foster and Kiko Femenia handed Alli an equaliser to at least salvage a point for last season's Champions League finalists. Mauricio Pochettino insisted prior to the game that he remained sure Spurs' quality will eventually shine through this season.

But once again the Argentine again failed to rouse a response from his side as doubts over his ability to turn the tide in his sixth season in charge grow.

Tottenham have now won just three of their first 12 games in all competitions and, just like at Brighton a fortnight ago, they paid a heavy price for a slow start.

The match had barely started before Watford were forced into a substitution when Danny Welbeck hobbled off to be replaced by Gerard Deulofeu. And Spurs were caught napping when play got back underway as Daryl Janmaat got in behind Danny Rose and crossed for Doucoure to apply the finish.

After his exertions in a World Cup qualifier in North Korea for South Korea in midweek, Pochettino left Son Heung-min and club-record signing Tanguy Ndombele on the bench. But Son's spark was badly missed from an impotent Spurs before the break.

Indeed the hosts were fortunate to be just 1-0 down at half-time as Jan Vertonghen somehow escaped conceding a penalty for bringing down Deulofeu despite a VAR review. Son was introduced for Davinson Sanchez at the break

as Pochettino switched formation and he instantly offered more pace and directness to the Spurs' attack.

His powerful drive from a narrow angle was tipped onto the bar by Foster on 50 minutes. But in Tottenham's search for an equaliser they were leaving huge gaps for the visitors to exploit on the counter-attack and Quique Sanchez Flores's men lived to regret not at least doubling their advantage.

Serge Aurier's last-ditch challenge denied Roberto Pereyra a simple chance after a purposeful burst from Deulofeu. Doucoure then eased through the Spurs midfield before setting up Janmaat, who miscued his shot with the goal gaping.

Just as Tottenham seemed to be running out of ideas, Watford gifted them an equaliser when Foster collided with his own defender in Femenia and spilled the ball into the path of Alli, who swept the ball into an empty net for his first goal since January.

The visitors were infuriated as VAR checked the goal for a potential handball by Alli, but not a push by Harry Kane in the build-up. Watford did at least withstand a late flurry from Tottenham to secure a point, but they remain rooted to the foot of the table. —AFP