

## Sports

# Wilson's double helps Bournemouth to 3-1 home victory over Everton

## Bournemouth's first home win of the season

LONDON: Callum Wilson scored twice for Bournemouth as they enjoyed a 3-1 home victory over a defensively fragile Everton side to move into mid-table in the Premier League yesterday.

Wilson nodded the hosts into the lead from a corner in the 23rd minute only for Dominic Calvert-Lewin to level it up with a header just before the break — Everton's first away goal in the league this season.

Ryan Fraser's dangerous ball into the area flicked off Everton's Fabian Delph in the 67th minute to restore Bournemouth's lead before Wilson exploited some dreadful defending five minutes later.

It was Bournemouth's first home win of the season. Everton, who could have gone third with a win, are now 11th, below Bournemouth on goal difference with both clubs having seven points from five games.

It was a bitterly disappointing afternoon for Everton who only had themselves to blame for going home empty-handed. "It was a big frustration," Everton boss Marco Silva said. "We lost the game and we gave some things too easily to our opponent. We have to be ruthless away from home and you have to be clinical in attack.

"Our home form is fantastic but to win our away games we have to be more aggressive and more solid so that we do not concede easy goals."

Everton began strongly in the south-coast sunshine with Calvert-Lewin being denied by a brave save from Aaron Ramsdale and Brazilian Richarlison unleashing a

dipping pile-driver that thudded against the angle of post and crossbar but minutes later Bournemouth were ahead.

Everton keeper Jordan Pickford made a smart save, tipping over Dominic Solanki's strike.

But from a corner Everton allowed Solanki to connect with a glancing header that was then sliced up in the air by team mate Josh King and Wilson was well placed to head it in.

Richarlison was a continual danger to Bournemouth and his superb cross was headed home by a towering Calvert-Lewin in the 44th minute to restore parity.

Bournemouth were again indebted to Ramsdale after the break as he denied Gylfi Sigurdsson. The hosts went back in front though when substitute Fraser's dangerous delivery into the area should have been hacked clear by Delph but the former Manchester City midfielder opted to use his wrong leg and sliced past a helpless Pickford.

If that was bad, Bournemouth's third goal was embarrassing for Everton's defence who were caught out by a hopeful ball forward and Wilson advanced alone before shooting confidently home.

Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe said it had been a vital three points for his side. "Psychologically, it was hugely important to win that first home game which is why today was a huge moment in our season," he said.

"Callum took his goals really well and he pressed really well. He was an all-round threat and his second goal was a brilliant finish." — Reuters



BOURNEMOUTH: Bournemouth's Dutch defender Nathan Ake (R) has an unsuccessful shot during the English Premier League football match between Bournemouth and Everton at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth, southern England yesterday. Bournemouth won the game 3-1. — AFP

## Leeds strike late to go top of the Championship

LONDON: Leeds moved to the top of the Championship as late goals from Eddie Nketiah and Mateusz Klich secured a 2-0 win at Barnsley yesterday. Swansea's defeat to Nottingham Forest on Saturday opened the door for Marcelo Bielsa's men to claim top spot as they look to end a 15-year wait to return to the Premier League.

However, they were made to wait in a hard-fought Yorkshire derby until Arsenal loanee Nketiah came off the bench to make the difference.

The 20-year-old turned home Calvin Phillips's free-kick eight minutes from time and was then upended in the box to allow Klich the chance to seal all three points from the penalty spot.

Leeds edge ahead of Swansea on goal difference at the top of a congested Championship table with just three points separating first from eighth. Earlier, Garry Monk won the battle of two new managers in another Yorkshire derby as Sheffield Wednesday beat Huddersfield 2-0 John Smith's Stadium.

Steven Fletcher's 10th-minute header and a rare goal from substitute Sam Winnall separated the sides as Monk celebrated his first game in charge in style.

"It wasn't perfect, but for a first attempt at some of the stuff we were asking, it was very good," said Monk. "I'm very pleased." Huddersfield remain second bottom with just one point from their opening seven games after relegation from the Premier League last season.

Former PE teachers Danny Cowley, along with assistant boss and brother Nicky, have been handed the tough task of lifting the Terriers after impressing at League One Lincoln.

"We saw a football club that's hurting and a team that's hurting," said Cowley, after Huddersfield's wait for a first league win since February continued. "What we have to do is try to help them - technically, tactically, physically and psychologically. "They need my help and not criticism at this point. In the short-term, we need to get back to basics." — AFP

## Norwich inflict stunning first defeat in eight months on Man City

NORWICH: Newly-promoted Norwich stunned Manchester City 3-2 at Carrow Road on Saturday to inflict a first Premier League defeat on the English champions since January. Kenny McLean, Todd Cantwell and the prolific Teemu Pukki took advantage of a ragged City defence without the injured Aymeric Laporte for a remarkable upset despite Sergio Aguero and Rodri pulling goals back for the visitors.

Defeat for City sees Pep Guardiola's men already fall five points behind European champions Liverpool — who have a perfect record from their first five games — in the title race. "We are absolutely delighted, it is a great day for us, for the whole club and for the supporters," said Norwich manager Daniel Farke, who had to name two goalkeepers on his substitute bench just to make up the numbers due to an injury crisis. "I can't praise enough the spirit and mentality of my players because it was an unbelievably complicated week. "We worked on a different approach because we thought we have to change a bit our base formation for this game, but after all these injuries, we turned back because I didn't want to annoy the lads too much or confuse them."

City's decision not to strengthen at centre-back over the summer despite former captain Vincent Kompany's departure to become player-manager at Anderlecht could cost Guardiola's side the title with Laporte sidelined by a serious knee injury until at least January. "We have to learn from this and carry on," said Guardiola. "We did not have urgency in the final third that we normally have. In football you can't always avoid mistakes."

"I don't know how many shots we had or how many they had, but football is about goals and about what you do in the boxes." The City manager fielded his only two fit centre-backs John Stones and Nicolas Otamendi, but they struggled to cope and gifted Norwich back their two-goal lead at the start of the second-half after Aguero had reduced the arrears.

Guardiola's decision to rest Kevin de Bruyne will also be questioned as the visitors started slowly and were punished when McLean rose highest from a corner to head home the opening goal.

It was 2-0 just before the half hour mark as Kyle Walker played Pukki inside and the Finn unselfishly squared for Cantwell to tap into an empty net. "We were a bit scared of the quality they have, but from the beginning you could see we do have a chance and from that we built our belief," said Pukki.

City looked to have a route back into the game just before half-time when Bernardo Silva's cross picked out Aguero to continue his record of scoring in every game so far this season in the Premier League. But the visitors' momentum was halted just five minutes after the restart. Stones needlessly played Otamendi into trouble and the Argentine was robbed by Emiliano Buendia, who fed Pukki to prod home his sixth goal of the season.

Guardiola responded by throwing on De Bruyne and Gabriel Jesus, but it was not until Rodri drilled into the bottom corner two minutes from time that City looked like mounting a late comeback.

Aguero, Jesus and Raheem Sterling all fired too close to Tim Krul in the dying seconds as Norwich held out for a famous victory. — AFP

## Teenage sensation Fati leads Barca thrashing of Valencia

BARCELONA: Barcelona's 16-year-old forward Ansu Fati continued his explosive start to life in the first team by scoring and providing an assist as the La Liga champions thrashed Valencia 5-2 on Saturday.

Goals from Fati, Frenkie de Jong, Gerard Pique and two from Luis Suarez gave Barca their second win of the season.

Kevin Gameiro and Maxi Gomez scored for Valencia, who suffered their biggest defeat in over three years in coach Albert Celades' first game.

The victory took Barca on to seven points after four games, while Valencia have four.

Fati, who became Barca's youngest ever goalscorer two weeks ago by netting at Osasuna, struck his first goal at the Camp Nou to give Barca the lead with less than two minutes on the clock by smashing a pass from De Jong into the net.

The goal had the injured Lionel Messi grinning in admiration as he watched on from the stands but the teenager had fans on their feet again five minutes later as he dashed into the area and teed up De Jong to score his first goal for the club.

Valencia were playing their first game since owner Peter Lim took the surprise decision to sack Marcelino, the coach who had secured Champions League football twice and also led the team to victory over Barca in last year's Copa del Rey final.

They pulled a goal back later in the half through Kevin Gameiro but Barca came flying back at them after the interval.

Pique bundled the ball into the net in the 51st minute after Antoine Griezmann had hit the post while Luis Suarez netted twice after coming off the bench.

Making his return after getting injured on the first day of the season, Suarez flummoxed Valencia goalkeeper and former team mate Jasper Cillessen with two thumping finishes, one which went in off the near post, the other settling in the near corner.

### STANDING OVATION

Suarez was given a warm reception by Barca fans but it was nothing compared to the remarkable standing ovation they gave to Fati, who heard his name chanted by supporters when he came off to make way for the Uruguayan.

"He (Fati) is delighting the fans and making them very excited," said Sergio Busquets of the teenage sensation.

"Every time a player like him bursts on to the scene he is compared to many players but we need to support him and let him continue to grow. He still needs to be aware of where he is and how difficult it is to make it."

Maxi Gomez got a consolation goal in stoppage time for Valencia, who fell to their heaviest defeat since they were thumped 7-0 at the Camp Nou in 2016 when Gary Neville was in charge.

"We cannot forget what has happened in the last few days and how traumatic it has been for some," said beaten coach Celades, who is in his first role as a senior first team coach.

"This scoreline hurts us a lot but we can only look forward and keep working and try to improve." — Reuters



ZHENGZHOU: Karolina Pliskova (L) of Czech Republic poses for photographs with second-placed Petra Martic (R) of Croatia after the women's singles final match at the Zhengzhou Open tennis tournament in Zhengzhou in China's central Henan province yesterday. — AFP

## Pliskova beats Martic in Zhengzhou to win her fourth title of 2019

ZHENGZHOU: World number two Karolina Pliskova beat Croatia's Petra Martic 6-3 6-2 in the final of the inaugural Zhengzhou Open yesterday to win the 15th WTA singles title of her career and her first in China.

The title was the Czech's fourth of the season to add to trophies won in Brisbane, Rome and Eastbourne — moving her ahead of Australian world number one Ash Barty and Canadian Bianca Andreescu for most titles won so far this year.

Pliskova won 74% of her first service points, fired seven aces and broke the Croatian four times in a rain-interrupted match that was initially delayed by more than five hours due to heavy rain.

Martic, who held a superior 4-1 head-to-head record against Pliskova and also beat her at Roland Garros earlier this year, took a 2-0 lead in the first set when she broke the top seed in the opening game.

However, that was the only time Pliskova conceded a break of serve and she soon took control with powerful groundstrokes, using the full width of the court to smash winners and passing shots with precision.

Martic's service game suffered — she won only 53% of her first service points — and Pliskova duly took advantage to punish the seventh seed and win five games in a row. Pliskova's consistency in the baseline rallies was a force to reckon with and Martic had no answer to her superior court coverage, eventually conceding the 96-minute match after saving one championship point.

Meanwhile, Japan's Nao Hibino beat compatriot and doubles partner Misaki Doi 6-3 6-2 at the Hana-cupid Japan Women's Open in Hiroshima yesterday to win her first WTA title since 2015. The two unseeded players were playing in the first all-Japanese WTA Tour final in 22 years and Hibino, who ousted top seed Hsieh Su-Wei in the quarter-finals, wrapped up the contest in 68 minutes.

Although Doi broke early twice in the opening set to take a 3-1 lead, Hibino stormed back into the tie to win the next nine games to swing the momentum her way. "I was so nervous today, so much more than the semi-finals," Hibino said. "But because I experienced being nervous in the semi-finals, I knew what to expect. I was able to stay positive during the match today."

Hibino broke Doi seven times in the match and won 71% of her first service points to win her second career title since her maiden win at the Tashkent Open four years ago. Doi made 14 unforced errors in the opening set alone and did not recover until going down 4-0 in the second set. "She was playing well. Today, she was persistent," Doi said. "She has a strong backhand but she was also using her forehand to structure points well, giving me very little chance to play my game. "I learned to believe in my own game and never give up this week. What I learned will be useful as I head to Osaka."

Doi did not go home empty handed, though, as she teamed up with Hibino to beat Christina McHale and Valeria Savinykh 3-6 6-4 10-4 in the doubles final.

"I've watched Misaki struggle with a drop in her ranking and have been happy to watch her get her ranking up," Hibino added. "I think hard work has paid off for both of us because we are both in the finals of this tournament in Japan." Both players will crack into the top 100 when the WTA rankings are updated on Monday. — Agencies

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
<b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>		
Aston Villa v West Ham United	beIN SPORTS HD 2	22:00
<b>ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE</b>		
Torino FC v US Lecce	beIN SPORTS HD 4	21:45