

# Man City back at the summit

Man City go top as Erling Haaland breaks 92-year goal landmark

● Newcastle, Man Utd press top-four claims

● Jota ruins Spurs fightback as Liverpool win seven-goal thriller

AFP | London

**E**rling Haaland scored his 50th goal of the season yesterday as Manchester City beat Fulham to return to the Premier League summit, with Newcastle and Man Utd



**”**The game was so tight until the end. We knew after we beat Arsenal that winning these types of games is really important. The players behaved amazingly. The Alvarez goal was extraordinary. We have incredible strikers

CITY BOSS PEP GUARDIOLA

chester United winning to close in on a top-four finish. Liverpool maintained their unlikely pursuit of a Champions League place by beating Tottenham 4-3 in a thriller but Southampton and Leeds

**34**

Premier League goals have been scored by Erling Haaland in just 30 appearances in the competition

Manchester City's Erling Haaland celebrates after scoring

are staring into the abyss.

City's 2-1 win at Craven Cottage left Pep Guardiola's men a point clear of long-time leaders Arsenal, with a game in hand.

The defending champions, chasing their fifth Premier League title in six seasons, were ahead in the third minute when Haaland scored from the penalty spot after Julian Alvarez was fouled.

Haaland's 34th Premier League goal of the season equals the competition record held by Andy Cole and Alan Shearer -- set in the days of 42-game campaigns.

The Norwegian is the first player to reach a half-century of goals across all competitions in a single English top-flight season since 1931.

"Before Winston Churchill was Prime Minister? Wow. Sounds a long time ago. Congratulations to Erling," said City boss Pep Guardiola.

Fulham equalised in the 15th minute through Carlos Vinicius but Alvarez restored City's lead nine minutes before half-time.

Treble-chasing City, on top for the first time in 10 weeks, have won their past eight league games and are unbeaten in their last 18 matches in all competitions.

They are red-hot favourites to retain their title, taking full advantage of Arsenal's stumbles -- the Gunners are winless in their past four matches.

Arsenal host struggling Chelsea on Tuesday, with City at home to West Ham on Wednesday.



Liverpool's Portuguese striker Diogo Jota (2R) shoots to score their second goal

day.

"It's important but on Tuesday Arsenal will play," said Guardiola. "Important is the West Ham game, it's a game in hand. After that we'll be top of the table and it will be more real."

Callum Wilson came off the bench to score twice as third-placed Newcastle fought back to beat Southampton 3-1 and edge their opponents towards relegation.

The England forward was left out of Eddie Howe's starting line-up despite scoring twice at Everton in midweek but produced the perfect response.

He cancelled out Stuart Armstrong's first-half opener and then helped himself to a second after Theo Walcott's own goal had given the Magpies the lead.

The win keeps Newcastle two points ahead of Manchester United but Southampton are

anchored at the foot of the table, six points from safety with just four games to play.

Erik ten Hag's Manchester United edged in-form Aston Villa 1-0, courtesy of a first-half goal from Bruno Fernandes.

"We look from game to game and next we have Brighton so we need to work hard again," Ten Hag told the BBC.

"We need to show passion again and not worry about the table. We are totally in control (in the race for the top four). It's all about us and it's in our hands."

The match came just two days after Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Al Thani and Jim Ratcliffe submitted their third, and what is expected to be final, offers to buy United from unpopular American owners the Glazers.

Other parties are interested in minority investment, and it was

While Tottenham's top four hopes are in tatters, Liverpool are unbeaten in their last six games and have won four in a row to climb to fifth place. Sixth placed Tottenham are without a win in four games and sit nine points adrift of the top four with four matches left

reported that Joel and Avram Glazer could remain stakeholders under one deal being proposed by British billionaire Ratcliffe.

A group of United fans marched to Old Trafford yesterday in protest against the Glazers, with a giant banner reading "Full Sale Only".

Liverpool hit managerless Tottenham with a three-goal blitz in the first 15 minutes but Richarlison scored an improbable equaliser in the 93rd minute.

Just when it seemed that Spurs had grabbed a dramatic point Diogo Jota won the game, leaving the Reds seven points behind fourth-placed Manchester United having played a game more.

Colombia midfielder Jefferson Lerma scored twice in four first-half minutes as Bournemouth moved 10 points clear of the relegation zone with a 4-1 home win over Leeds who remain in deep trouble.

## Raza helps Punjab down Chennai in last-ball IPL thriller



Sikandar Raza of Punjab Kings celebrates after the win

AFP | Chennai

**Z**imbabwe batsman Sikandar Raza helped Punjab Kings pull off a stunning chase to edge out Chennai Super Kings by four wickets in a last-ball Indian Premier League thriller yesterday.

Chasing 201 for victory, Liam Livingstone (40), Sam Curran (29) and Jitesh Sharma (21) played attacking cameos before Pakistan-born Raza sealed the win with his unbeaten 13 in Chennai.

Sri Lanka fast bowler Matheesha Pathirana was tasked with bowling the final over, with Punjab needing nine to win. Raza got three runs off the final ball, his arms outstretched in celebration.

Punjab moved to fifth in the 10-team table, one below Chennai. Holders Gujarat Titans top the standings.

**Scorecard**

**Punjab Kings** 201 for 6 (Prabhsimran 42, Livingstone 40, Deshpande 3-49, Jadeja 2-32) beat **Chennai Super Kings** 200 for 4 (Conway 92\*, Gaikwad 37) by four wickets

Devon Conway's 92 off 52 balls proved to be in vain after the left-handed New Zealand opener steered Chennai to 200-4, having elected to bat first.

Livingstone and the left-handed Curran, who became the most expensive player in the tournament's history at \$2.23 million, revived the chase after Punjab fell to 94-3.

They put on 57 off 33 balls before Livingstone departed and Curran was bowled by Pathirana, called "Baby Malinnga" for a slinging action similar to that of Lasith Malinga.

## Nuggets thrash Suns in NBA Western Conference semi-final opener

AFP | Los Angeles

**T**he Denver Nuggets, fueled by 34 points from Jamal Murray, dominated Kevin Durant and the Phoenix Suns 125-107 Saturday in game one of their NBA Western Conference semi-final series.

Denver's two-time reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Nikola Jokic scored 24 points and grabbed 19 rebounds as six Nuggets players scored in double-digits to give the top seeds a convincing victory against the potentially explosive Suns.

Jokic had gone so far as to say the Suns could be consid-



Jamal Murray #27 of the Denver Nuggets outlets the ball while being guarded by Kevin Durant #35 of the Phoenix Suns

ered favorites in the series, and Phoenix looked dangerous as they connected on 66.7 percent of their shots from the field in a nip-and-tuck first quarter that featured 14 lead changes.

But they led by just one heading into the second period, and

the Nuggets inexorably took control to lead 68-51 at halftime.

The Nuggets responded to every run the Suns produced and Phoenix -- led by 29 points from two-time NBA champion Durant and with 27 from Devin Booker -- didn't get the deficit



Murray drained back-to-back three-pointers to launch a 14-0 fourth quarter run that carried the Nuggets to a 120-95 lead

below 10 points in the second half.

With five minutes remaining, Phoenix waved the white flag and pulled their stars.

Deandre Ayton scored 14 points and Chris Paul had 11 for the Suns, but Denver had 16 three-pointers to Phoenix's seven and scored 18 points off 16 Suns turnovers.

## Mumbai beat Rajasthan in last-over thriller

News18 | Mumbai

**M**umbai Indians (MI) defeated Rajasthan Royals (RR) by 6 wickets in match number 42 of the 2023 Indian Premier League (IPL) and the 1000th match of the tournament's history at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

Suryakumar Yadav smashed 55 runs from just 29 balls and

was aided by Camron Green, who hit a 26-ball 44, and a 14-ball unbeaten 45 from Tim David, in their highest-ever chase at home.

Earlier, Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed the highest score by an uncapped Indian batter in the IPL, a stunning 124 off 62 balls that propelled Rajasthan Royals to a massive 212/7 against Mum-

bai Indians.

In the 1000th IPL game, Jaiswal shined the brightest by mixing solidity in technique and power in shots which were conventional and innovative while using the crease well in hitting 16 fours and eight sixes at a strike-rate of 200 in an innings where the next best score was just 18.



Tim David