

# Liverpool fire four past Leicester in Singapore friendly

AFP | Singapore

Liverpool geared up for the start of their new Premier League campaign with an impressive display in Singapore yesterday as they thumped English rivals Leicester City 4-0 in a pre-season friendly.

Goals by Darwin Nunez, Bobby Clark and Diogo Jota in an eight-minute spell late in the first half gave the Reds a 3-0 lead at the interval.

Ben Doak then headed in their fourth midway through the second half to seal a thumping victory at the National Stadium.

With two weeks left before Liverpool kick off their Premier League season at Chelsea, manager Jurgen Klopp could reflect on a good day of preparation for his side.

"We had a lot of good moments but we can do better," said the German.

"I'm absolutely fine (with how things went). The result was good, nobody was injured - just



Liverpool's Darwin Nunez kicks the ball towards Leicester City's goalkeeper Mads Hermansen

a few knocks - and the atmosphere during and after the game was top class. So yeah, it was a good day in the office."

Liverpool face Bayern Munich in another pre-season friendly in Singapore on Wednesday while Leicester, who were relegated

from the Premier League last season, are returning to England for the start of their Championship campaign against Coventry City next Sunday.

Leicester had the first big opportunity after nine minutes when Kasey McAteer's through

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JURGEN KLOPP

ball found Wilfred Ndidi behind the Liverpool defence but the Nigerian midfielder's attempt was smothered by goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher at point-blank range.

Liverpool were denied an opening goal shortly afterwards when Nunez's effort was ruled out for offside while Leicester goalkeeper Mads Hermansen

**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
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did well to palm the ball away when Mohamed Salah attempted to find Jota with a low cross.

However, Liverpool's pressure would finally pay off on the half-hour mark. Hermansen kept out Jota's hard low shot from the left channel but he could only parry the ball to the far post where Nunez arrived to turn in for his side's opening goal.

A second arrived five minutes

later when Salah laid the ball off in the box for Clark with the 18-year-old sending a right-footed shot past Hermansen into the bottom corner of the net.

Salah also played a big part in Liverpool's third three minutes later as the Egyptian scooped the ball up for Jota to head the ball home.

Liverpool changed all 10 of their outfield players at half-time but they continued to enjoy the lion's share of possession in the second half.

They added a fourth in the 64th minute from a well-worked set-piece as Joel Matip flicked Dominik Szoboszlai's corner to the far post for Doak to nod home.

Leicester went close to a consolation goal when Patson Daka's attempt was well blocked by Jarell Quansah while at the other end, Luis Diaz was twice left frustrated as he saw his headed goal disallowed for offside before being denied by a good save by Hermansen.

## Australia openers start strongly in pursuit of Ashes glory

AFP | London

Australia openers David Warner and Usman Khawaja hit unbeaten fifties as the tourists reached 135-0 on a rain-shortened yesterday in pursuit of a mammoth target of 384 runs to win the fifth Ashes Test at The Oval.

They kept Stuart Broad waiting for a farewell wicket after the England fast-bowling great made a shock announcement on Saturday that he was retiring after the match.

Warner was 58 not out and fellow left-hander Khawaja unbeaten on 69 when rain at 2:41 pm (1341 GMT) ended play on the fourth day.

Australia need 249 more runs to complete a 3-1 series win and a first Ashes campaign triumph in England since 2001.

If Australia do manage to reach that target, it will be the



Usman Khawaja of Australia bats as Jonny Bairstow of England keeps wicket

eighth-highest fourth-innings total to win any Test and the second-highest in England, behind Australia's 404-3 at Headingley in 1948 when Arthur Morris made 182 and batting great Don Bradman an unbeaten 173.

It would also be a new ground record -- the highest successful fourth-innings chase in a Test at The Oval is England's 263-9 against their arch-rivals in 1902.

Fast-medium bowler Broad has dismissed Warner 17 times

in Test cricket.

Neither he, nor the rest of England's pace attack were able to break through, however, before rain sent the players hurrying from the field, with a persistent downpour then ruling out any hope of a resumption later yesterday.

Warner, 30 not out at lunch, lofted England veteran James Anderson, who turned 41 yesterday, straight back over the paceman's head for a resounding boundary.

Two balls later Anderson, struggling to produce swing, shook Warner up with an accidental head high full-toss, or beamer, the bowler immediately apologising as the ball sped away to the boundary for four.

Khawaja, the leading run scorer in the series, went to fifty with his fifth four in 110 balls when he edged express quick Mark Wood.

## Man Utd in reported deal for Hojlund, ten Hag tight-lipped



Atalanta's Danish forward Rasmus Hojlund (L) fights for the ball with Juventus' US midfielder Weston McKennie (file photo)

AFP | London

Manchester United have reportedly agreed a deal worth an initial £64 million to sign Atalanta striker Rasmus Hojlund.

The Denmark international is the third major arrival at Old Trafford during the summer transfer window after the signings of Chelsea midfielder Mason Mount and Inter Milan goalkeeper Andre Onana.

United are understood to have agreed a fee of £64 million (\$82 million) for Hojlund, with a further £8 million in add-ons.

The 20-year-old is reported to have agreed terms on a five-year deal with the option of a

**”**  
With this squad, we built a foundation last season...now we have to find the right players to fit in and who can help to raise the bar. I think we succeeded with Andre Onana, we succeeded with Mason Mount and now we are looking for a striker

UNITED MANAGER ERIK TEN HAG

further season.

Hojlund joined Atalanta in August 2022 from Austrian club Sturm Graz for a reported 17 million euros. He scored nine goals in 32 appearances in Serie A last season.

United manager Erik ten Hag was tight-lipped about the reports when asked by reporters on Saturday ahead of yesterday's friendly against Borussia Dortmund in Las Vegas.

"I can't talk about the player who is still under contract (with) another club," said the

## Barca and the woodwork defeat Real in Texas 'Clasico'

AFP | Arlington

Barcelona beat Real Madrid 3-0 in a fiercely contested friendly match on Saturday with an early strike from Ousmane Dembele and late goals from Fermin Lopez and Ferran Torres.

The result was harsh on Carlo Ancelotti's team, who struck the woodwork five times and created plenty of opportunities. But Spanish champions Barcelona's more clinical finishing proved to be the difference.

A packed AT&T Stadium, home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, witnessed a game which had all the passion and commitment of a real derby despite being a pre-season warm-up.

The crowd were soon on their feet when Oriel Romeu rattled



Barcelona's Ousmane Dembele (L) scores past Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham

the Real cross-bar with a thundering drive in the fourth minute but Barca soon had their fans celebrating.

A cleverly worked free-kick

saw Pedri slide a diagonal pass into the path of Dembele, who expertly drilled the ball into the far corner.

Real had a great chance to

**”**  
The result is very favorable but it doesn't mean we played a super match. There are many things to improve. It was a very even match in which Madrid also had many chances

BARCELONA COACH XAVI HERNANDEZ

get level just five minutes later when Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo handled in the box but Vinicius Junior blasted the penalty against the bar.

The action was non-stop as Rodrygo then forced Barcelona keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen into a fine, full-length save with a free-kick that was flying towards the top corner.

**9**  
goals were scored by Rasmus Hojlund in 32 appearances in Serie A last season