



Manchester City's Brazilian striker Gabriel Jesus (L) vies with Middlesbrough's Uruguayan striker Christian Stuani

Jesus saves City at Boro

Middlesbrough

Gabriel Jesus's header five minutes from time saw Manchester City to a 2-2 draw at relegation-threatened Middlesbrough yesterday as his side stayed just ahead in the race for a Champions League spot.

City twice had to come from behind against a Boro side who could be demoted to the second-tier after the next round of Premier League fixtures.

But the way the northeast club rattled Pep Guardiola's men showed they were not prepared to give up their top-flight status without a fight.

Former City striker Alvaro Negredo put Boro ahead seven minutes before half-time at the Riverside, only for Sergio Aguero to convert a controversial penalty with 21 minutes remaining when Leroy Sane hit the ground after a challenge from Marten de Roon.

But Middlesbrough rallied and restored the lead when Calum Chambers, on loan from Arsenal, grabbed his first goal for the club in the 77th minute.

However, there was still time for Jesus to earn City a draw that kept them in the fourth and final Champions League place on offer to English clubs, a point clear of local rivals Manchester United, who remained fifth after a 1-1 draw at home to Swansea earlier on Sunday.

Both Manchester clubs have four league games left to play this season.

Even though Middlesbrough boast an impressive home record

against Manchester City at the top level, it was always going to be difficult given their respective positions in the Premier League.

City's only league win in 40 years on Teesside was 10 years ago, but they must have fancied their chances more given Middlesbrough's descent towards the Championship in 2017.

Steve Agnew, the Middlesbrough head coach, left out Gaston Ramirez, who wanted away in January and has frustrated ever since, completely, while Guardiola sprang a surprise by including both Jesus and Aguero up front.

The attacking pair came within inches of combining to score an opener inside 70 seconds too.

Aguero got to the byline and drilled a low cross through the six-yard area where Jesus was unable to turn beyond goalkeeper Brad Guzan.

Middlesbrough, buoyed by the midweek victory over relegated local rivals Sunderland, showed a desire to attack their more illustrious opponents.

Negredo dragged a half-volley across goal from an unmarked position when Fabio da Silva's cross found its way to him, while de Roon saw a long-range shot shave the side netting.

Annoyed Guardiola

City controlled most of the possession but rarely tested Guzan and were made to pay by Boro in the 38th minute.

A City attack broke down when George Friend intercepted a pass bound for

Aguero. The left-back passed to De Roon, who then rolled in Stewart Downing down the left.

The former England winger had loads of space and his pass found Negredo, whose first-time shot hit the inside of Willy Caballero's right-hand post before crossing the line.

City manager Guardiola was clearly annoyed and within five minutes of the restart Raheem Sterling and Sane were introduced.

And with the exception of a low Adam Clayton drive that was held by Caballero, City spent almost the entire half probing the home defence, looking for an equaliser.

That eventually arrived with 21 minutes remaining, even if it needed the assistance of referee Kevin Friend.

He deemed that it was a penalty when Sane went to ground under a challenge from de Roon. After the protests had died down, Aguero converted.

An incensed Middlesbrough, hadn't finished, though. After Adama Traore was tripped as he charged towards the box, Downing was given a chance from the dead ball.

His free-kick was initially saved, only for the ball to bounce around the area where Chambers had remained to lift over the ball over Caballero and put second-bottom Boro 2-1 up.

But Jesus deflated the Riverside five minutes from time with City's second equaliser. From a quick free-kick, Aguero chipped into the area and the unattended Jesus headed beyond Guzan. (AFP)

Dubai Endurance: Batelco victorious

Manama

Batelco Racing were crowned winner of the 12 Hours Dubai Kartdrome Endurance Autodrome 2017 Round Two after following on from its success in Round One held in February.

The race took place over the weekend at the Dubai Autodrome Circuit with Batelco Racing represented by Mohammed Matar, Ramez Azzam and Saeed Al Muhairi who successfully completed the twelve hours race with 600 laps and 30 seconds ahead of its nearest competitor, demonstrating the team's extensive experience and skills and continues the team's success over the past five years, confirming their effective administrative and technical abilities.

Following the success, Batelco Corporate Affairs Senior Manager, Osama Alsaad said, "We are thrilled with the team's strong performance, reflecting the efforts of all



Batelco Racing - Round Two Winners of Dubai Kartdrome

members who took part and those who work behind the scenes to help achieve such results and hope for further successes."

Team captain Mohammed Mattar said, "Thanks to Batelco

and Bahrain Motor Federation for their continuous support. This achievement would not have been possible without the team's expertise in endurance races and their extensive knowledge of the track."

Endurance: Wins for Croneborg, Frodeno



Fredrik Croneborg

Manama

Bahrain Endurance 13 swept the top spots at Challenge Taiwan this weekend, with Fredrik Croneborg defending his title over the full distance and Jan Frodeno putting on a worthy exhibition in the half distance.

The Swede won last year in 8 hours 30 minutes 28 seconds in relatively slow and hot conditions. Triathlon statistician Thorsten Radde had tipped him to win again this year.

With cooler temperatures and a wetsuit swim, Croneborg's (8:03:21) defended his title with a new

course record for the event and eight minutes ahead of his nearest rival.

"I'm pretty happy because I could win again," he said.

"To defend my title from last year with a course record is really special."

Frodeno a late invitational entry into the half distance, traveling 40 hours to arrive in Taitung from Sardinia where only a week ago he topped another half distance. It was the two-time world champion's first half distance win in Asia, which he achieved with a (22:51) swim, (2:03:48) cycling and (1:14:01) to finish in (3:48:20).

He said, "The course has some of the smoothest, fastest roads in the world, maybe second only to Roth. And it's got the right spirit, there's good fans out there and the run course is really nice. It's a good race and I'm looking forward to coming back here next year."

"My coach told me to keep pushing on the run, so I was pushing pretty hard at the end," he said. "It was a good time but to be honest I was tired... But you know you have to make the hard days, you've got to take them home as well and push hard, which is what I did."