



Christian Benteke heads home Crystal Palace's first away (Picture courtesy: theguardian)

Benteke strikes as Palace win

London
Christian Benteke put his penalty misery behind him to inspire resurgent Crystal Palace to their first away win of the season as 10-man Leicester were beaten 3-0.

The striker scored his first goal since May in a victory that came a week after he defied team orders by taking -- and missing -- a penalty against Bournemouth.

Another apology saw him set up the impressive Wilfred Zaha for a goal, with Bakary Sako adding a late third as Palace moved up to 14th.

Roy Hodgson's men are now unbeaten in seven games and their cause was aided by sloppy Leicester, who had birthday boy Wilfred Ndidi sent off in the second half.

Vicente Iborra had a goal disallowed for the hosts, who had previously won four straight games, as they missed the chance to move within two

points of the top five. Benteke had been in the spotlight after missing the last-minute spot kick in the 2-2 draw with Bournemouth and he was keen to make amends but failed to pounce on Jeff Schlupp's early cross.

Kasper Schmeichel also saved smartly from Ruben Loftus-Cheek during Palace's bright start.

Buoyed by their late 2-1 comeback win against Watford on Tuesday Palace bossed sloppy Leicester and cashed in after 19 minutes.

It was a simple goal but a well-crafted one as Andros Townsend made room to cross for Benteke, who lost Wes Morgan to head in from 12 yards before celebrating with his fingers in his ears.

It was Palace's first away goal of the season but owed much to Leicester's slapdash marking while Schmeichel's positioning was also suspect as he failed to

OTHER SCORES

Arsenal	1	Newcastle United	0
Manchester City	4	Tottenham Hotspur	1
Chelsea	1	Southampton	0
Stoke City	0	West Ham United	3
Brighton	0	Burnley	0
Watford	1	Huddersfield Town	4

stop Benteke's central header.

Conceding at least woke Leicester up and Benteke almost gifted them an immediate equaliser, heading inches wide of his own goal.

The hosts' penalty appeals then went unanswered when the ball struck Scott Dann and it got worse for Leicester five minutes before the break.

Riyad Mahrez gave the ball away which allowed Benteke to stride forward, hold off the challenge of Ndidi and find Zaha.

The forward sidestepped Ben Chilwell and drilled low

past Schmeichel for his fourth goal of the season.

It was a deserved half-time lead and one which Palace looked to build on -- but Benteke miscued a header from Townsend's second-half cross.

Mahrez, who had been poor, then forced Julian Speroni into a fine low stop but Leicester's plans unravelled further during one madcap minute.

First, Iborra saw his header ruled out for a shove on James Tomkins on the hour before Ndidi saw red just 51 seconds later. (espn.in)

PSG thrash Rennes 4-2

Rennes

Neymar scored twice as 10-man Paris St Germain asserted their dominance over reigning Ligue 1 champions Monaco with a 4-2 victory at Rennes.

The Brazilian striker, who became the most expensive player ever when he swapped Barcelona for PSG in a 222 million euro deal this August, opened and closed the scoring at Roazhon Park.

His first goal, poked home from a Kylian Mbappe pass early on, brought him to 10 league goals for the season and in the 17th minute he set up the Frenchman for PSG's second.

Giovani Lo Celso and Edinson Cavani both came closer to propelling the capital club further clear before the break but Rennes goalkeeper Tomas Koubek contained the threat.

The hosts reignited the contest when Firmin Mubele halved the deficit with a 53rd-minute goal when Morgan Amalfitano found him in good space to notch.

But PSG turned the screw in the last 15 minutes, Cavani making it 3-1 with a sumptuous chip from distance before Mbappe once again found Neymar for a classy finish beyond Koubek.

Rennes thought they had a lifeline when Presnel Kimpembe conceded a penalty and saw red for his troubles at the death, but Sunderland loanee Wahbi Khazri blasted his spot-kick over the bar.

Monaco had closed the gap on the leaders to six points with their Friday thrashing of St Etienne but the Parisians are now nine points ahead once more. (espn.in)

PSG's Neymar celebrates with teammates



Eibar beat Valencia

London

Valencia's unlikely title bid stumbled yesterday when they were beaten 2-1 away by Eibar and they now risk falling eight points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona by the end of the weekend.

Japanese international Takashi Inui put Eibar ahead in the 49th minute in heavy rain with the help of some haphazard defending from the visitors.

Santi Mina levelled for Marcelino's side eight minutes later with a simple near-post finish from close range but the visitors failed to build up any momentum with their equaliser and Eibar came back at them even stronger. (Reuters)

No agreement with Ronaldinho, says Brazilian Party

Rio de Janeiro

A far-right Brazilian party on Friday denied reports that World Cup-winning footballer Ronaldinho is to be one of its candidates in elections for the Senate.

"There is no agreement between the party and Ronaldinho for him to launch a bid for a Senate seat," the party, Patriota, said.

Patriota is led by Jair Bolsonaro, a firebrand former army officer dubbed the "Brazilian Donald Trump" who is riding high in opinion polls ahead of next year's presidential elections.

O Globo's website reported Thursday that

former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star Ronaldinho was to run for a seat in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais.

The article showed a photograph of Ronaldinho with Bolsonaro, with the footballer holding a copy of a book by the politician.

Patriota's president Adilson Barroso said: "He is not a member of our party, but the door is open and it would be an honour to have him with us."

Ronaldinho, 37, won the 2002 World Cup with Brazil. (AFP)



Ronaldinho (file pic)