



Manchester United's English striker Wayne Rooney applauds at the end of the match

Rooney breaks United record

Liverpool rocked by Swansea

London
Wayne Rooney became Manchester United's all-time leading scorer in dramatic fashion as his last-ditch wonder goal rescued a 1-1 draw at Stoke, while Liverpool's title challenge suffered a major setback in a shock 3-2 defeat against Swansea yesterday.

Rooney surpassed Bobby Charlton's tally of 249 goals for United when he struck with a superb effort deep into stoppage-time at the Britannia Stadium.

The 250th goal of Rooney's glittering United career was just the 31-year-old's fifth of a difficult season and came as a timely reminder of the striker's class after he was relegated to the role of a fringe player for long periods this term. It was also much needed by United, who had fallen behind in the 19th minute when Juan Mata deflected Erik Pieters' shot into his own net.

Jose Mourinho sent on Rooney in the 67th minute and the England star, who had gone two games without a goal since equalling Charlton's record in an FA Cup win over Reading on January 7, wasted his first chance to make history when he headed wide from six yards.

But Rooney refused to be denied and, with Charlton watching from the stands, his magic moment arrived four minutes into stoppage-time when he curled a superb free-kick past Stoke goalkeeper Lee Grant and into the top corner.

Rooney's gem extended United's unbeaten run in the league to 13 matches, but lost in the euphoria of his landmark strike was a disappointing result that leaves his team three points adrift of the top four.

"It means a hell of a lot. It is a great honour and I'm very proud," said Rooney, who signed for United from Everton in 2004. "It is not something I expected when I joined. The players who have played for this club have been world class.

At Anfield, Jurgen Klopp's third-placed side wasted a chance to close the gap on leaders Chelsea in an error-strewn display that left them without a win in their last three league games.

Fernando Llorente put Swansea ahead in the 48th minute when the Spanish striker punished poor defending from a corner to slot home from close-range.

Palace are now third bottom and have yet to secure a league win since Sam Allardyce replaced the sacked Alan Pardew in December.

Andy Carroll showed West Ham can thrive without Dimitri Payet as his brace inspired a 3-1 victory at Middlesbrough.

Sunderland slumped to the bottom of the table after a 2-0 defeat at West Bromwich Albion, whose goals came from Darren Fletcher and Chris Brunt. (AFP)

English Premier League results:			
Bournemouth	2	Watford	2
(King 48, Afobe 82)		(Kabasele 24, Deeney 64)	
Crystal Palace	0	Everton	1
		(Coleman 87)	
Liverpool	2	Swansea	3
(Firmino 55, 69)		(Llorente 48, 52, Sigurdsson 74)	
Middlesbrough	1	West Ham	3
(Stuani 27)		(Carroll 9, 43, Calleri 90+4)	
Stoke	1	Manchester United	1
(Mata 19-og)		(Rooney 90+4)	
West Brom	2	Sunderland	0
(Fletcher 30, Brunt 36)			
Manchester City	v	Tottenham	(1730 GMT)
Playing Sunday			
Arsenal	v	Burnley	(1415 GMT)
Chelsea	v	Hull	(1630 GMT)
Southampton	v	Leicester	(1200 GMT)

Brighton regain top spot as three see red

London
Brighton regained pole position in the race for the Premier League as the Championship leaders beat promotion rivals Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 on Friday in a fiery clash featuring three red cards.

Chris Hughton's side took the lead through a Anthony Knockaert strike at the Amex Stadium, but Wednesday levelled before half-time thanks to a Lewis Dunk own goal.

Wednesday had a golden opportunity to go ahead when Brighton striker Glenn Murray was sent off for a handball that gave the visitors a second half penalty.

But Brighton goalkeeper

David Stockdale saved Fernando Forestieri's spot-kick and the hosts made light of

League results:			
Championship			
Aston Villa	2	Preston	2
Blackburn	1	Birmingham	1
Cardiff	1	Burton	0
Derby	3	Reading	2
Huddersfield	2	Ipswich	0
Newcastle	4	Rotherham	0
Norwich	3	Wolves	1
Nottingham Forest	1	Bristol City	0
QPR	1	Fulham	1
Wigan	2	Brentford	1
Barnsley	v	Leeds	(1730 GMT)
Played Friday			
Brighton	2	Sheffield Wednesday	1

their numerical disadvantage to snatch the points five minutes from full-time when former Leicester winger Knockaert struck again.

Brighton's win moved them two points clear of second placed Newcastle and 12 points ahead of sixth placed Wednesday.

Newcastle could reclaim top spot if they beat bottom of the table Rotherham on Saturday.

Brighton broke the deadlock 11 minutes before the interval when

Knockaert scored with an angled shot from Tomer Hemed's pass. Wednesday equalised on the stroke of half-time when Forestieri's cross was diverted towards goal by Oliver Norwood into the path of Dunk, who headed into his own net.

After the break, Murray was dismissed for handling Glenn Loovens' shot, but Stockdale denied Forestieri from the spot.

Knockaert pounced to give Brighton victory, prodding home at the far post from Sebastien Pocognoli's cross.

In a bad-tempered finale, Fletcher was sent off for a flare-up with Dale Stephens before Hutchinson saw red after clattering Solly March. (AFP)



Glenn Murray of Brighton (left) battles with Sam Hutchinson of Sheffield Wednesday