

Jose Izquierdo earns Brighton draw Stoke



Pascal Gross of Brighton (C) celebrates his side's first equaliser with teammates (Picture courtesy: theguardian)

London
Jose Izquierdo snatched a point for Brighton as they twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with Stoke.

The Seagulls' club record signing struck after an hour to extend their unbeaten run to five matches.

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting had fired Stoke, looking to climb into the top 10 with a win, into an early lead.

Then a frantic two minutes before the interval saw Brighton equalise through Pascal Gross, before Kurt Zouma headed home his first Stoke goal.

But Izquierdo had the final say with his second goal since his £13 million summer switch from Club Brugge to secure a point.

A surprisingly open game

saw Stoke defender Ryan Shawcross have an early header tipped over by Mathew Ryan, before Brighton got into their stride.

Davy Propper's through-ball sent Izquierdo haring clear only to curl his shot around Lee Grant but also wide of a post.

Brighton went close again when a Gross free-kick was met by the head of Propper, but the ball flew straight into the arms of Grant.

The hosts were in the ascendency, but suddenly found themselves behind in the 28th minute when Xherdan Shaqiri lifted a long ball into the area.

Lewis Dunk misjudged the flight, but Choupo-Moting read it perfectly, expertly bringing the ball down before

sidefooting past Ryan Grant.

It was the Cameroon forward's third goal of the season, and his first since the brace which earned a 2-2 draw against Manchester United in September.

Brighton were then incensed when Shawcross tripped Glenn Murray in the box, only for referee Lee Mason to refuse them what looked a clear penalty.

Nevertheless, just before the interval Brighton hauled themselves level courtesy of a third goal of the season for Gross.

The impressive Propper tip-toed past four Stoke defenders before being forced out wide, from where he laid the ball back for Gross to smash through the legs of

But moments later Stoke retook the lead, Choupo-Moting heading Darren Fletcher's corner back across goal for Zouma to nod home his first Potters goal.

However, Zouma was at fault when Brighton equalised for a second time on the hour mark, missing his header and allowing Murray to touch the ball through to Izquierdo.

The winger initially tried to cross the ball, but it bounced back off Kevin Wimmer, allowing Izquierdo to prod home from close range.

Peter Crouch came on for Stoke, setting a new Premier League record with his 143rd substitute appearance in the process, but he was unable to mark it with a winner. (espn.in)

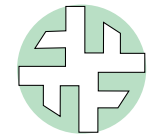
Telstar 18: World Cup match ball

FIFA have unveiled the official match ball for the World Cup in Russia. The new adidas Telstar 2018 harks back to their first match ball in 1970



TELSTAR 2018

Russia: Modern interpretation of the iconic *Telstar* which was used from 1970-74, based on similar carcass to 2014 *Brazuca*



Six panels glued in seamless construction, with distinct 3D textured surface for greater control and grip



1970-74 TELSTAR

Mexico: Designed for black-and-white TV – 32 hand-stitched leather panels



1978-82 TANGO
Argentina, Spain: Sealed seams cut water intake



1986 AZTECA

Mexico: First synthetic ball with improved durability



1990 ETRUSCO
Italy: Polyurethane foam layer increases response and water resistance



1994 QUESTRA

U.S.: Polyethylene foam increases energy return, boosts speed



1998 TRICOLORE
France: Syntactic foam matrix layer further increases energy return



2002 FEVERNNOVA

Korea/Japan: Durable woven chassis, syntactic foam. Speed can exceed 130km/h



2006 TEAMGEIST
Germany: 14-panel thermal-bonded layer. Surface responds more evenly for better control



2010 JABULANI

South Africa: Eight panels. Aero grooves improve flight stability



2014 BRAZUCA
Brazil: Six thermally-bonded TPU panels

Sources: FIFA, adidas

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Everton's Niasse charged with diving

London

Everton striker Oumar Niasse has become the first Premier League player to be charged by the Football Association for "successful deception of a match official".

The Senegal international won a controversial penalty, after minimal contact from Scott Dann, during Saturday's 2-2 draw at Crystal Palace.

Leighton Baines scored the spot-kick, and Niasse later scored his side's second equaliser at Selhurst Park.

Everton will contest the charge.

New laws were introduced in May allowing players to

be charged after a game for simulation.

Carlisle forward Shaun Miller was the first to be banned for two games, in October.

Bristol City defender Bailey Wright was suspended for two games earlier this month after being found guilty of simulation. He went down in an off-the-ball incident with Fulham's Aboubakar Kamara, whose red card for the clash was later rescinded.

Manchester City forward Bernardo Silva and Watford's Richarlison have both avoided charges this season. (BBC)



Oumar Niasse (file pic)

'I want to stay at barca forever'



London

Sergi Roberto says he has no plan to leave Barcelona as he hopes to stay at the club for the rest of his career.

A graduate of the club's youth system, the midfielder turned right-back has been a regular in the Barca senior squad

over the last three years.

The 25-year-old has been linked to a move to Manchester City and Juventus

as his contract expires in June 2019, but the Catalan club have no interest in letting him go.

And Spain international Roberto has assured that he intends to extend his deal and hopes he never has to leave Camp Nou.

"Barca is the club of my life and I want to stay here forever, so it's clear that nobody should worry about my renewal," he told Sport.

"I am at the best club in the world and I was lucky to have moved from the academy to the first team.

"I never stopped working to help the first team and now I am happy to be consolidated, it has not been easy."

President Josep Maria Bartomeu also has no doubts that he will stay put, saying: "I have no doubt that Sergi will continue with us, he's a reference player, an example, he knows he has to stay with us until he says, we've been talking for days."

Roberto has missed Barca's last two games with a hamstring injury and although he will miss another two big games, he has promised he will be fit for the Clasico, which takes place just before Christmas.

"My recovery is going well, but I will not get there in time to play against Juventus or Valencia," he added. "Yes, I will be ready for the game against Madrid." (goal.com)

Sergi Roberto (file pic)