

Sunderland relegated, Vardy makes Leicester safe



Leicester City's English striker Jamie Vardy

London

David Moyes's sorry Sunderland were relegated from the Premier League after a 1-0 home defeat by Bournemouth at the Stadium of Light yesterday.

Allied to Hull City's 0-0 draw at Southampton, the result left Sunderland 13 points adrift of safety with only 12 points to play for this season.

"I'm really disappointed," said Sunderland manager Moyes.

Josh King scored the goal that condemned Sunderland to the Championship, converting a pass from Ryan Fraser after a sweeping counter-attack in the 88th minute.

Southampton had a chance to give Sunderland a stay of execution, but Dusan Tadic's stoppage-time penalty was

saved by Hull goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic.

Ask if he will remain in his post, Moyes replied: "To think about it and talk about it now is just too quick.

"They're questions for a week or two down the line. I'm not sure it's for now. I'd like to make sure we get Sunderland back in the Premier League."

Sunderland have been in the Premier League since 2007, but their return to the second-tier Championship has long appeared only a matter of time.

They have been in the relegation zone since September and have not moved off the foot of the table since January.

"The league table never lies," said Sunderland captain John O'Shea. "Performances and results are the obvious

thing that have brought us down."

Victory effectively secured Bournemouth's safety, catapulting Eddie Howe's side up the table to 10th place, 10 points above the relegation zone.

Hull's draw at Southampton left Marco Silva's side three points clear of danger, ahead of third-bottom Swansea City's trip to Manchester United on Sunday.

With Stoke City and West Ham United also drawing 0-0, the only other goal in the four afternoon games came in outgoing champions Leicester City's 1-0 victory at West Bromwich Albion.

Jamie Vardy settled the game in the 43rd minute, rifling home his 15th goal of the season from Shinji Okazaki's pass down the

inside-right channel.

After an arduous season for Leicester, last season's fairytale champions have now reached the 40-point mark that usually guarantees survival.

"I want Jamie Vardy to finish on a high," said Leicester manager Craig Shakespeare, whose side sit 11th. "He's scored quite a few of late and I want that to continue."

Burnley also took a giant stride towards safety after their first away league win of the season, a 2-0 success at Crystal Palace, left them on 39 points.

Leaders Chelsea travel to Everton on Sunday looking to preserve their four-point lead over second-place Tottenham Hotspur, who host Arsenal in the last north London derby at White Hart Lane. (AFP)

Football

Scores as of closing

English Premier League:



West Brom	0	Leicester	1
Crystal Palace	0	Burnley	2
Southampton	0	Hull	0
Stoke	0	West Ham	0
Sunderland	0	Bournemouth	1

English Championship:



Barnsley	1	Burton	1
Birmingham	2	Huddersfield	0
Blackburn	1	Aston Villa	0
Brighton	0	Bristol City	1
Derby	3	Wolves	1
Fulham	1	Brentford	1
Ipswich	0	Sheff Wed	1
Leeds	3	Norwich	3
Preston	1	Rotherham	1
QPR	2	Nottm Forest	0
Reading	1	Wigan	0

Brighton loss keeps race alive

London

Brighton missed out on the chance to win English football's second-tier title after a shock loss to Bristol City yesterday as Wigan were relegated from the Championship.

Both Brighton and Newcastle were already assured of playing in the Premier League next season after securing the two automatic promotion spots.

But the race between them for the title will go right to the last day of the regular season after Bristol City's Josh Brownhill scored the only goal of a game where the west

country club secured their place in the division.

Brighton now lead Newcastle by just a single point.

Wigan were relegated after a 1-0 defeat at Reading while Blackburn improved their chances of staying up with a 1-0 win against Aston Villa.

Graham Barrow's Wigan -- in the Premier League just four years ago -- needed a victory and other results to go their way to avoid a quick return to League One, but they were unable to complete their part of the equation.

Reading striker Yann Kermorgant netted early on

and Wigan striker Nick Powell squandered several chances to stop his team falling into the third tier one year after promotion.

While Wigan go down, third-placed Reading are looking up after securing their spot in the play-offs.

At Ewood Park, Danny Graham's goal was enough to take Blackburn's relegation fight to the final day of the season.

Having missed a sitter on the stroke of half time, Graham made up for it with a 54th minute finish. A first home win in almost two months stretched

third-bottom Blackburn's unbeaten run to five games and they are behind Nottingham Forest only on goal difference.

Forest were beaten 2-0 by QPR as Conor Washington and Joel Lynch scored early in the second half at Loftus Road.

Forest, who are at home to Ipswich next weekend, will go down if they fail to match Blackburn's result at Brentford.

Jonathan Grounds and Craig Gardner kept 10-man Birmingham's hopes alive with crucial goals in a 2-0 win over fifth placed Huddersfield at St Andrew's. Caretaker manager Harry Redknapp saw

Birmingham's Che Adams sent off in the first half, but Grounds' second goal of the season could not have come at a better time.

Birmingham secured only their third win in 24 league games when Gardner converted a penalty in the 75th minute.

Redknapp's side are two points above the relegation zone and their future will be decided on the last day of the season at Bristol City.

Leeds' play-off hopes were all but ended by a 3-3 draw with Norwich at Elland Road.

The hosts were three down after 44 minutes thanks to

Steven Naismith's strike and Nelson Oliveira's double.

Chris Wood, Kyle Bartley and Pablo Hernandez all scored as Leeds hit back, but their vastly inferior goal difference means Fulham are certain to take the final play-off berth.

Fulham drew 1-1 at west London rivals Brentford, with Tom Cairney's opener for the visitors cancelled out by Nico Yennaris. A year after losing in the play-off final against Hull, fourth-placed Sheffield Wednesday are back in the hunt for promotion after sealing their top six spot with a 1-0 win at Ipswich.