

# Man City survive late scare

Manchester City went five points clear at the top of Premier League after beating Watford

● Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola called on his side to learn from a nervy end to their victory at Watford

● Riyad Mahrez scored City's second goal the a 2-1 win

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola called on Manchester City to learn from a nervy finish to a seventh straight Premier League victory as a 2-1 win at Watford moved the champions five points clear of Liverpool at the top of the table.

City's goals came either side of half-time as Leroy Sane chested home before Riyad Mahrez doubled the visitors' lead early in the second period.

However, despite dominating for the majority of the game, Guardiola's men had to withstand a nervy finish after Abdoulaye Doucoure bundled in five minutes from time.

"We have in mind the last minutes, (in) the last minutes anything could happen," said Guardiola. "I think we played 65-70 minutes at a top, top level. "After 0-2 we lost a little bit our control. We suffered, but that is what it is.

"We have to learn from what happened in the last 20-25 minutes."



Leroy Sane of Man City scores the first goal past Ben Foster of Watford

Guardiola made six changes to his starting line-up despite also missing Sergio Aguero and Kevin De Bruyne through injury.

Yet, City were still too strong for the dogged hosts with Watford thankful to goalkeeper Ben Foster for the visitors not racking up the 5-0 and 6-0 thrashings they did on their two previous visits to Vicarage Road.

"When I came to London I thought Big Ben was in the city but no, he is in Watford for us," said Watford manager Javi Gracia.

However, Gracia's side also had chances before the break against a City defence that appeared to miss Aymeric Laporte

as the Frenchman was rotated for the first time in the league this season.

"It was a good old Premier League game, as soon as they scored long balls start coming, they are extremely physical up front," said City captain Vincent Kompany.

"We managed the game pretty well. You can't win every game playing fantasy football."

Roberto Pereyra has already produced some spectacular goals for the Hornets this season and the Argentine was inches away from another when he curled just wide inside 10 minutes.

Foster then made great saves

to deny Sane and Mahrez when one-on-one, but the best stop of the opening half came down the other end when Ederson stretched out his left foot to block Troy Deeney's effort from point-blank range.

City finally broke through five minutes before the break when Mahrez's cross picked out Sane unmarked at the back post and he cleverly used his chest to power the ball below Foster.

Six minutes into the second half, the visitors struck again when Gabriel Jesus -- who endured another lean night in front of goal in the absence of Aguero -- at least made a contribution as a provider by pulling the ball



Last season Manchester City they won the title with a record 100 points and scored a record number of goals

back for Mahrez to fire home.

City got uncharacteristically slack in the final quarter, though, and were made to pay when Doucoure finally turned home after a goalmouth scramble.

Guardiola was forced to throw on Laporte and Nicolas Otamendi in the closing stages to repel Watford's aerial assault, but City held on.

"They have dominated the game, they have created a lot of chances but I think we have done very good work and, at the end in the last minutes, we had some set pieces to try and get another result," added Gracia.

Elsewhere, Bournemouth moved above Manchester United up to sixth courtesy of a 2-1 win over Huddersfield thanks to early goals from Callum Wilson and Ryan Fraser to end a run of four straight defeats.

## Brave CF to host open workouts at Sun City Resort

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation will host the open workouts at 05:00 PM on 6th December at the Valley of the Waves Sun City Resort in Johannesburg, South Africa. Athletes competing at Brave 19 will showcase their skills before the public, fans, and media in South Africa.

The athletes will demonstrate their moves in front of the fans and will bring forth fans to join the workout sessions. Brave 19 will take place during the Combat Week Africa taking place from 2nd to 8th of December, 2018. The Combat Week Africa is held at the Super Bowl in Sun City.

The initiative is the largest combat sports festival held in South Africa. Brave 19 will be held on December 8th, at the Sun City Resort, in South Africa and will feature the debut of highly-touted American welterweight, Adam Townsend.

Townsend will face Mark Hulme from South Africa in the main event of the evening. The co-main event will feature a battle of bantamweights trying to get back into the win column.

## IMMAF Gold medallists to compete at Brave 19

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Brave 19 taking place in the Sun City Resort in Johannesburg, South Africa will feature two gold medallists from IMMAF World Championships.

Frans Mlambo who won the gold medal at 2015 IMMAF World Championships will be featured in the co-main event while Abdul Hussien who won the gold medal at the 2017 IMMAF World Championships will return to Brave Combat Federation after the ten edition of the event hosted in Amman, Jordan.

Frans Mlambo will face Arnold Quero from France while Abdul Hussien will face Sylvester Chipfumbu from Zimbabwe. Brave Combat Federation had actively supported the growth of Mixed Martial Arts globally and had hosted two IMMAF World Championships in



Arnold Quero during Open Workouts at Brave Combat Federation



Abdul Hussien

the Kingdom of Bahrain during the Brave International Combat Weeks hosted in 2017 and 2018.

The initiative found by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa has featured the most number of IMMAF

Medallists in the roster.

The active support has developed the Kingdom of Bahrain as a lead destination for the sport of Mixed Martial Arts and attracted upcoming talent from around the world to Brave Combat Federation.

## Guardiola would welcome UEFA probe clarity to end rumours

AFP | Watford, United Kingdom

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola hopes a swift conclusion to UEFA's investigation over alleged Financial Fair Play (FFP) irregularities committed by Premier League champions will silence the speculation surrounding the case.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said after an Executive Committee meeting of European football's governing body on Monday that an independent body looking into the allegations

made by German magazine Der Spiegel as part of their Football Leaks campaign would provide answers "very soon".

Reports on Tuesday claimed City could even be banned from next season's Champions League should they be found guilty.

Guardiola insisted the story hasn't been a distraction to his players, as they moved five points clear at the top of the Premier League on Tuesday with a 2-1 win at Watford.

However, the Catalan coach is hoping for an end to what he de-



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola gesturing on the sidelines during the EPL match against Watford



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PEP GUARDIOLA

scribed as "voices" surrounding the club's business.

"If UEFA found something the

club will make a statement and I'd like to do that because we will know exactly and to finish with these voices," said Guardiola.

"We will know if we did something irregular and if we didn't do something irregular, the people is going to finish talking about it."

It is claimed City bypassed UEFA's FFP rules, designed to restrict the losses clubs can make and therefore lavish spending on player transfers and wages, by allowing their Abu Dhabi-based sponsors to make cash injections

and backdate sponsorship contracts.

A member of the Abu Dhabi ruling family, Sheikh Mansour, has owned City since 2008, transforming the club by investing billions of pounds in players and the club's facilities.

In a repeated statement City said they would not comment on what they described as "out of context materials purportedly hacked or stolen from City Football Group and Manchester City personnel and associated people".

## City top World Cup player pay-out table

AFP | Paris

Manchester City received more money from FIFA than any other club from their players' participation at the 2018 World Cup, the European Club Association (ECA) said on Tuesday.

World football's governing body gave the Premier League champions just over \$5 million (4.4 million euros) in reference to their 16 players selected for their national team for the tournament and the number of days each individual was in Russia.

Champions League winners Real Madrid earned \$4.8m and Chelsea and Manchester United both gained more than \$3.6m.

Elsewhere in Europe, Paris Saint-Germain received \$3.9m for their 12 players, Serie A champions Juventus \$3m and Bundesliga title holders Bayern Munich \$2.7m.

The competition organisers paid \$209m to a total of 416 clubs worldwide.

## Southampton appoint Hasenhuttl as manager

AFP | London

Ralph Hasenhuttl has been tasked in reviving Premier League strugglers Southampton's fortunes after being named their new manager yesterday.

The 51-year-old Austrian -- who comes into the role on the back of Mark Hughes being sacked on Monday -- has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract with the club.

Hasenhuttl attracted Saints' interest through his success at his previous club RB Leipzig, guiding them to second in the Bundesliga in the 2016/17 season and the Europa League quarter-finals last term.

He left Leipzig after they finished sixth in the 2017/18 Bundesliga campaign.

"The urgency to find a path back to our potential and to the results that we expect cannot be underestimated," said Southampton chairman Ralph Krueger.

"For that reason, we are extremely pleased that Ralph Hasenhuttl has agreed to become our new manager and do all he can to help guide us back on that path."