

# Man City crush Burton

Manchester City hit nine past Burton Albion to cruise towards League Cup final

● Gabriel Jesus scored four of Manchester City's goals

● Manchester City closed in on the League Cup final after showing their League One opponents absolutely no mercy in the first leg

AFP | Manchester

Holders Manchester City can look forward to defending the League Cup in next month's final at Wembley as Gabriel Jesus struck four goals in a 9-0 thrashing of Burton Albion in their semi-final, first leg on Wednesday.

Kevin de Bruyne, Aleksandr Zinchenko, Phil Foden, Kyle Walker and Riyad Mahrez were also on target against Nigel Clough's League One side as City ensured their visit to the Pirelli Stadium on January 23 is a mere formality.

"Of course we are already in the final. We have to play second leg and we will take it seriously. Happy to be in the final again," said City boss Pep Guardiola.

"It's not easy to play this kind of game. We spoke (before the game) to take it seriously, we started well."

After also thrashing Rotherham 7-0 in the FA Cup on Sunday with a much-changed



Gabriel Jesus heads the ball past Burton's goalkeeper for his hat-trick

side, Guardiola was able to again hand a rest to a number of his key players but named a strong side with De Bruyne continuing his comeback from injury.

And the Belgian set the tone for the evening by heading City into a fifth-minute lead as he timed his run into the box perfectly to head home David Silva's cross.

Clough admitted before the game it would take a "miracle" for Burton to blunt the Premier League champions' might over two legs.

"We didn't expect anything less given the gulf in class between the teams, we actually feared it could be more," said

Clough, a two-time League Cup winner as a player under his father Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest.

"We've made history with the club getting to the last four of a Cup competition. Once we saw the three teams (in the semi-finals) it was always going to be trouble."

So it proved, but the visitors missed a glorious chance to get straight back on level terms when Marcus Harness blasted over Lucas Akins's cross when completely unmarked inside the penalty box.

It took City until the half hour mark to double their advantage, but a glut of three goals in seven minutes followed to put the tie

to bed before the break.

Jesus headed home his first from close range after Bradley Collins had denied Leroy Sane before the Brazilian slotted home Silva's cushioned pass via the inside of the post.

"Players like me want to play more, to help the team, and we went out there to win," said Jesus.

City didn't need any luck, but still got some when Zinchenko's intended cross then looped over Collins to make it 4-0.

Other sides may have slacked off in the second period, but with competition for places so fierce among Guardiola's side, the hosts were ruthless to match



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PEP GUARDIOLA

the Catalan's biggest ever win as a coach.

Jesus powered home a header to complete his second hat-trick of the season.

De Bruyne was then replaced by home favourite Foden, who was surprisingly left out the starting XI, just before the hour mark.

It took just four minutes for the 18-year-old to score his third City goal as he profited from the rebound after Collins did well to parry Jesus's first effort.

Jesus did soon have his fourth with a delicate finish from Sane's cross and City's dominance was summed up when right-back Kyle Walker strode forward to fire home his side's eighth of the evening.

Mahrez made it nine seven minutes from time and those City fans still in the Etihad cried for a historic 10th.

But that was the only thing City fell short of on the night with a final meeting against Tottenham or Chelsea on February 24 guaranteed.

## PSG stunned in League Cup



Guingamp's French forward Marcus Thuram (R) shoots and scores a penalty kick past Paris Saint-Germain's French goalkeeper Alphonse Areola (L)

AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain saw their 43-match winning run in domestic cup competitions come to an end as Thomas Tuchel's men suffered a shock 2-1 home defeat by Ligue 1 bottom club Guingamp in the French League Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday.

The visitors were awarded three penalties at the Parc des Princes in a dramatic second half, as PSG failed in their bid for a sixth straight League Cup title.

It was only a second defeat in all competitions this season for the capital club, after a 3-2 loss to Liverpool at Anfield in the Champions League last September.

Guingamp, who have won just two league games all season, join Monaco, Strasbourg and Bordeaux in the semi-finals.

"We came here to win and we know it's very difficult here," said Marcus Thuram, the son of 1998 World Cup

winner Lilian Thuram, who scored the winner.

"We know that in the Cup anything can happen... We knew how to hinder PSG."

Neymar broke the deadlock in the 63rd minute after Thuram missed from the spot, but Guingamp rallied, with Thuram's successful injury-time penalty snatching victory with a shootout looming.

Earlier on Wednesday, Monaco goalkeeper Loic Badia-shile scored the winning penalty in a marathon shootout against Rennes.

Monaco, runners-up in the past two seasons, salvaged a 1-1 draw after normal time thanks to Rony Lopes' second-half equaliser, before Badiashile's heroics as he also saved three spot-kicks.

Thierry Henry's young team are floundering in Ligue 1, sitting second-bottom and five points from safety, but managed to keep their coach's hopes of a first trophy alive at the Stade Louis II.

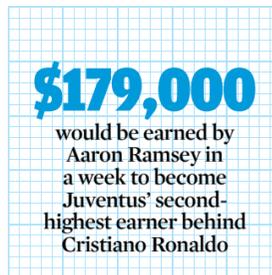
## Ramsey set to cash in with Juventus move

AFP | London

Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey is set to seal a money-spinning move to Italian champions Juventus when his contract expires with the Gunners in the summer, according to reports yesterday.

The Welsh international will bring an end to 10 years at Arsenal at the end of the season after talks over a new deal broke down with the Premier League giants in September.

According to The Guardian,



Ramsey will become Juventus' second-highest earner behind Cristiano Ronaldo by signing a five-year deal worth £140,000

(£179,000) a week (£7.2m a season).

Ramsey, 28, is already free to sign a pre-contract agreement with foreign clubs and had been courted by a number of big names with Bayern Munich, Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan also reportedly interested.

Having joined from his hometown club Cardiff City for £4.8m in 2008, Ramsey has scored 62 goals in 354 appearances for Arsenal and won the FA Cup in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

## Vinicius inspires Madrid to much-needed win over Leganes

AFP | Girona, Spain

Vinicius Junior starred and Real Madrid steadied the ship as a 3-0 win over Leganes on Wednesday put them on the brink of the Copa del Rey quarter-finals.

Vinicius, the 18-year-old Brazilian signed by Madrid last summer, capped an electric display at the Santiago Bernabeu with a stunning volley, his third goal for the club and the team's third of the night.

By then, Sergio Ramos had converted a first-half penalty and Lucas Vazquez doubled the advantage to set Madrid on their way to a much-needed first victory of 2019.



Michael Schumacher at Spa-Francorchamps in 2012

It will take a seismic comeback for Leganes to overturn the deficit in next week's second leg but more important to

coach Santiago Solari was the rhythm regained, following two La Liga games without a victory.

The home crowd, who had whistled and waved white handkerchiefs on Sunday after the loss to Real Sociedad, were also treated to the sight of Brahim Diaz making his debut, the 19-year-old coming off the bench following his move from Manchester City.

Vinicius was the shining light, however. The striker was alive to every ball in the final third and his finish, a sweet shot with his body off balance, was a triumph for technical talent.

## India's Mary Kom becomes world's top woman boxer

AFP | New Delhi

India's Mary Kom rose to the top of the boxing world rankings yesterday, two months after becoming the first female boxer to win six world championships.

The 36-year-old mother-of-three was ranked number one by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) in the Light Fly 45-48 kilogramme category, scoring 1700 points.

Kom capped her 2018 campaign with her sixth world championship title after defeating Ukraine's Hanna Okhota by 5-0 in Delhi.

Okhota is ranked number two in the world, with 1100 points.

That victory took her past Ireland's Katie Taylor, and level with the men's record held by Cuban legend Felix Savon as the most successful pugilist ever at the world championships.

## Cagliari sign Slovenian winger Birsa

AFP | Milan

Slovenian international Swinger Valter Birsa has signed for Cagliari from Serie A bottom team Chievo, his new Italian club confirmed on Wednesday.

The 32-year-old, who has spent the last three years in Verona, agreed a deal until June 30, 2021.

Cagliari did not reveal financial details but praised Birsa as a player "with great technique and imagination, skilled in set pieces".

Birsa played for French clubs Sochaux and Auxerre before moving to Italy where he joined Genoa in 2011.

He also played for Torino and AC Milan until signing for Chievo in 2014, where he scored 18 goals in 163 games.

The first game for the 90-times capped Slovenian, who played in the 2010 World Cup, will be against Atalanta in the Italian Cup on Monday.

## Pellegrini hopes to keep Arnautovic amid Chinese interest

AFP | London

West Ham manager Manuel Pellegrini insists he wants to keep Marko Arnautovic amid reports of a bid from a Chinese Super League team.

Arnautovic was the subject of a reported £35 million (\$44 million) offer from an unnamed Chinese club this week.

It was suggested that Shanghai SIPG are the side interested in the Austrian striker, who was said to have been offered wages of £200,000 per week over a four-year deal.

But Arnautovic is West Ham's joint-top scorer this season with eight goals in all competitions and Pellegrini is keen to hold on to the 29-year-old.