

# SPORTS

## sports

### Welbeck has surgery on ankle but recovery time is unclear

Reuters | London

Arsenal striker Danny Welbeck had an operation on Friday, a day after breaking his ankle in his side's goalless draw against Sporting Lisbon, but it remains unclear how long his recovery will take, Gunners' manager Unai Emery said on Sunday.

Speaking after Arsenal's 1-1 draw with Wolverhampton Wanderers at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday, Emery confirmed the England international needed surgery after breaking his ankle in the midweek Europa League game.

Emery at first appeared to suggest that Welbeck could be back with the club before too long but he also made it clear that he had no idea how long the player's recovery from the "big injury" might take.

"We spoke with him yesterday and today... I think he's going to come with us in not a long time. He did the operation Friday," Emery said.

### Guardiola confronts Sterling over derby showboating

Reuters | Manchester

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola's delight at his team's 3-1 derby win over Manchester United did not stop him from delivering a strong message to winger Raheem Sterling over his showboating at the end of the game.

With City 3-1 up in the final minutes, Sterling had the ball deep in the United half on the left wing but, rather than take the ball to the corner flag or keep possession, the England forward produced some fancy-footwork stepovers.

The antics angered United's Spanish midfielder Juan Mata, who appeared to believe that Sterling was taunting his team and, at the final whistle, Guardiola's first move was to confront Sterling on the field about the episode.

# Verstappen shoves Ocon

Red Bull's Max Verstappen ordered to do public service for the incident with Esteban Ocon

AFP | Sao Paulo, Brazil

Dutch driver Max Verstappen was accused of trying to punch French rival Esteban Ocon after a controversial clash at Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix which was won by five-time world champion Lewis Hamilton.

Red Bull star Verstappen was seen on TV pushing Force India's Ocon three times and accused of threatening to hit him, after the pair had collided on track.

The collision on lap 44 of the 71-lap race at Interlagos' famed Senna S curves cost Verstappen the race and he had to settle for second place.

The livid Dutchman, 21, had earlier said he did not see the Frenchman in the paddock after the race, but made no effort to avoid him in the drivers' weighing room where he walked straight at him.

"We were at the scales room," said Ocon. "He wanted to punch me. He pushed me and he was wanting to be violent. It was not professional."

Ocon added that his rivalry with Verstappen "goes back a few years" and said he "has always been the same".

"I was behind Max for two laps," Ocon told Sky Sports. "On the first lap, I was a lot faster



Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing clashes with Esteban Ocon of Sahara Force India

and, on the second lap, I was a lot faster. The rules say you are allowed to un-lap yourself so that's what I did.

"I'm used to the fights with Max. He's always been the same. It goes back a few years."

Verstappen swore so much on team radio that his comments bleeped out after he described him as an "idiot".

Ocon was given a 10-second stop-go penalty by the race stewards for causing the collision.

A video clip of the post-race incident went viral soon afterwards but Verstappen said he had no regrets.

"I don't care what people say" -

"He came out of the pit lane and he had the right to overtake, but the level of risk he was taking, it was not right," he explained.

"The stewards gave him a penalty. You can say, 'Max, you should have given room', but we were not racing and you don't

expect that."

Asked about confronting and pushing Ocon, he said: "We are all passionate about the sport, but it would be odd if I shook his hand. I don't care what people say."

"I'm a winner. To get taken out by that and to get a stupid response from their side, I was not happy about that."

Verstappen told his team over the radio on the slowdown lap that he had better not bump into Ocon because there could be



Esteban Ocon, who was attempting to un-lap himself, was given a 10-second stop-go penalty for causing the crash

trouble.

The Ocon incident overshadowed a brilliant drive from Verstappen who had charged from fifth on the grid to take the lead.

"The car was working brilliant today. I don't know what to say. I am happy for second, but we should have won," added Verstappen.

Verstappen's Red Bull team boss Christian Horner said: "I think Max has been pretty restrained. It cost him a Grand Prix victory."

"He's driven his heart out with a damaged car -- Esteban was lucky to get away with a push to be honest. Emotions are running high and I told him to just get yourself under control on the cool down lap."

## Silva believes United's bid has ended

AFP | Manchester

Manchester City's Bernardo Silva reckons a derby win over Manchester United has dealt a huge blow to their local rivals' title hopes, saying Jose Mourinho's men would need to be "almost perfect" between now and the end of the season if they were to win the Premier League.

City, the reigning English champions and Premier League leaders, opened up a 12-point lead over United with a 3-1 victory at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

Goals early in each half from David Silva and Sergio Aguero put City in command at 2-0 up before United pulled one back through an Anthony Martial penalty just before the hour

tenders even if they lost, but Silva was not so sure.

"It won't be easy. Not only Man City -- (they are) 10 points from Liverpool, a lot of points from the other ones as well," Silva said.

"They need to be almost perfect and wait for the other ones to lose a lot of points. I think it won't be easy," the Portugal international added.

Silva, who provided the final cross from which Gundogan scored, was proud of the way City responded after Martial gave United hope of a comeback.

"After their goal we knew they would have confidence to try to come for a second but I think our performance was amazing. We didn't concede one chance -- only the penalty."

United would remain title con-

## Madrid 'very happy' with Solari - Butragueno

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid director Emilio Butragueno has said the club are delighted with Santiago Solari's spell in charge after the team posted their fourth consecutive win by beating Celta Vigo on Sunday.

Madrid claimed a 4-2 victory at Balaidos and the expectation is Solari will now be given the job full-time, following a transformation in results.

Four victories during his tenure have brought 15 goals scored and just two conceded while Real have cut the gap behind Barcelona to four points in La Liga.



We know it won't be easy this season. Liverpool are doing a fantastic Premier League as well

BERNARDO SILVA

## Gonzalo Higuain misses penalty, sees red card



AC Milan's Gonzalo Higuain (R) argues with Juventus' Giorgio Chiellini (2ndL) after he received a red card

AFP | Milan

On-loan AC Milan striker Gonzalo Higuain apologised for his meltdown in the 2-0 defeat to his parent club Juventus on Sunday which saw him sent off for screaming at the referee after earlier missing a penalty.

Argentine Higuain had shrugged off a back injury to take on his former teammates after being loaned to AC Milan last summer to make space for the arrival of Portuguese

superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

But tensions boiled over as AC Milan struggled to find a way past the reigning seven-time champions.

Higuain was sent off after 83 minutes, two minutes after Ronaldo, the player who took his place in Turin on an 100-million-euro (\$115m) deal, fired in his eighth league goal in 12 matches since arriving from Real Madrid.

Higuain saw red after screaming at referee Paolo Mazzoleni in protest at a yellow card for a foul on Medhi Benatia.

"I know that we are an example for all children, for those who play football, for the people watching, but we are not robots, and we carry things within us," Higuain said after.

"We are human, we feel emotions, the game was not going the right way and it was one of those days."

8 league goals have been scored by Cristiano Ronaldo in 12 matches since arriving at Juventus

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