

Liverpool extend perfect start

Liverpool stretch Premier League lead as Chelsea, Tottenham hit form

● Liverpool cruised to a 3-1 win over Newcastle United, with Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah on target

● Tammy Abraham scores hat-trick and own goal as Chelsea hammer Wolves

● Super Son strikes twice as Tottenham demolish Crystal Palace

● Marcus Rashford's early penalty edges blunt Manchester United past Leicester

AFP | Liverpool

Liverpool recovered from a shock Newcastle opener to open up a five-point lead at the top of the Premier League with a 3-1 win at Anfield, as Tottenham and Chelsea bounced back to form with big wins yesterday.

Tammy Abraham's sensational form continued as the English forward scored a hat-trick as Chelsea romped to a 5-2 win at Wolves.

Spurs were 4-0 up by half-time against Crystal Palace to record just their second win of the season as Son Heung-min scored twice, while Erik Lamela and an own goal from Patrick van Aanholt rounded off the scoring on a miserable day for the Eagles.

An injury-hit Manchester



Mohamed Salah of Liverpool holds off Jetro Willems of Newcastle United

United also coped without Paul Pogba to inflict Leicester's first defeat of the season as Marcus Rashford scored the only goal from the penalty spot in a 1-0 win at Old Trafford.

United join Tottenham and Chelsea on eight points from five games, but Liverpool protected the only 100 percent record in the league by reacting to a slow start in style.

Manchester City could close the gap at the top to two points with victory in a later match at Norwich.

Jetro Willems fired Newcastle in front on seven minutes to leave the European champions trailing at Anfield for the first time since March.

Sadio Mane fired into the top corner to start the revival, but it was the introduction of Roberto Firmino off the bench for the injured Divock Origi that truly turned the tide in Liverpool's favour.

The Brazilian's through ball was spilled by Martin Dubravka to allow Mane a simple task for his second just before half-time,

and another brilliant Firmino flick teed up Salah to seal the points 18 minutes from time.

Relief for Lampard

Frank Lampard has endured a difficult start on his return to Stamford Bridge as manager, but he enjoyed his finest day so far in charge of the Blues with his faith in youth again fully vindicated.

Fikayo Tomori, 21, fired the visitors in front at Molineux with his first goal for the club before Abraham took over to take his tally to seven in his last

three games with three brilliant finishes from close range.

"All three goals were so different, it just shows what he can do," said Lampard.

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino hoped that the end of the European transfer window would settle his squad and the Champions League finalists looked more like their old selves by tearing apart Palace from the off.

Son was the star as the South Korean opened the scoring then finished off a fine team move by

Liverpool trailed at home for the first time since March, but quickly rallied to record a 14th straight Premier League victory

volleying home Serge Aurier's cross after Van Aanholt deflected a cross into his own net.

"I think the players deserve more than three points today," said Son.

Harry Kane was unable to build on his goalscoring form for England, but did play a part in the fourth as his cross was turned home by Lamela.

United had to suffer far more for just a second win in 10 league matches.

Rashford shrugged off his recent miss from the spot in defeat to Palace to convert a penalty on eight minutes after he had been brought down by Caglar Soyuncu.

"We hung in there. It was the first time this season where we have had to defend for large periods," said United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Brighton edged out Burnley 1-0 at the Amex thanks to Neil Maupay's winner early in the second-half.

Southampton were also 1-0 victors at Sheffield United courtesy of a brilliant strike from Moussa Djenepo.

Australia's hopes fade as England dominate fifth Test

AFP | London

Ben Stokes and Joe Denly batted England into a potentially match-winning position in the fifth and final Ashes Test at the Oval yesterday as Australia's hopes of a series win faded.

At tea the home side -- desperate to finish their World Cup-winning season on a high by levelling the series at 2-2 -- were 193-2, leading by 262 runs.

England captain Joe Root will be wary of declaring too soon though as India last year made 345 batting fourth at the Oval chasing 464.

Denly was unbeaten on a Test-best score of 82 while Stokes, playing as a specialist batsman, was 57 not out after passing 400 runs for the series.

England enjoyed two slices of good fortune on a pitch offering little in the way of help for the bowlers as the September sun beat down from a clear London sky.

Steve Smith dropped Stokes in the slips when the batsman was on seven and Denly should have been out lbw on 54 but Australia failed to review.

Stokes started his innings slowly but accelerated, reaching his fifty off 89 balls with a huge six off leg-spinner Marcus Labuschagne over wide long-on.

The left-handed batsman is second only to Smith in the combined run-scoring charts



England's Joe Denly plays a shot

over the series, albeit more than 300 runs adrift of the Australian's total of 751.

Denly looked increasingly confident as his innings progressed, finding the boundary regularly as the tourists' spirits drooped.

Off-spinner Nathan Lyon struck twice in the morning session, removing Rory Burns and Root but Australia failed to make a much-needed breakthrough after lunch.

England are aiming to restore pride even though Australia have already retained the Ashes urn.

The tourists came into the

400
runs milestone has been achieved by Ben Stokes for the Ashes Test series

match hungry to wrap up their first series victory in England since 2001 after winning last week's fourth Test to take a 2-1 lead but that looks increasingly unlikely.

Burns and Denly put on 54 for the first wicket -- the highest opening stand of the series for either side -- after surviving a torrid four over on Friday evening during which they scratched nine without loss and had Denly dropped by Marcus Harris.

The Australian opener split the webbing in his left hand in the drop and did not take the field yesterday. He required stitches but is expected to bat.

Off-spinner Lyon struck in his third over when Burns bottom-edged a short ball outside off-stump, with wicketkeeper Tim Paine taking the catch.

Juve held in Fiorentina

AFP | Milan

Maurizio Sarri's first game on the Juventus bench ended with a goalless draw at Fiorentina as the Italian champions held on despite losing three players to injury.

Former Chelsea coach Sarri missed the opening two wins with pneumonia, but was back fit just days before Juventus travel to Atletico Madrid in the Champions League.

But the match in Tuscany proved costly for the reigning eight-time Serie A champions with winger Douglas Costa limping off early, followed by midfielder Miralem Pjanic and defender Danilo.

Brazilian Costa, who turned 29 yesterday, pulled up with a

hamstring problem minutes into the game, as Pjanic had a muscular issue just before the break with Danilo suffering cramps in the heat.

Sarri's side are already missing injured captain Giorgio Chiellini, Mattia De Sciglio and Marko Pjaca.

They nevertheless held on in Fiorentina despite pressure from hosts with former French international Franck Ribery impressive on his first start.

Ex-Bayern Munich player Ribery went off to a standing ovation from the crowd at the Artemio Franchi Stadium after an hour as his team earned their first point this season.

"I hadn't played a game like this for almost three months," said Ribery.



Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo passes the ball after being confronted by Fiorentina's Brazilian defender Dalbert