

Neymar scores winner on PSG return

Neymar was jeered by own fans but scored a stunning overhead-kick to seal victory over Strasbourg

AFP | Paris

Neymar shrugged off a hostile reception as he marked his return to action for Paris Saint-Germain with a stunning injury-time winner on Saturday, and then insisted it was time to move on from the saga of his aborted return to Barcelona.

The world's most expensive player was booed and insulted by sections of the PSG support in the Ligue 1 match against Strasbourg at the Parc des Princes.

That seemed set to be the only story of the afternoon until the second minute of added time when, with the game still goalless, the Brazilian met Abdou Diallo's cross with an acrobatic effort that sent the ball arcing back over his own head and into the net off the post, sealing a 1-0 win.

It was a remarkable goal and a reminder of why PSG paid a world record 222 million euros (\$264 million at the time) to sign Neymar two years ago. It also moved them three points clear at the top of the early Ligue 1 table.

"I made it clear that I have nothing against the fans, nothing against Paris Saint-Germain as a club. Everyone knows I wanted to leave. I am not going to get into the details of what happened," he told reporters after the game.

"It is time to turn the page. Today I am a Paris Saint-Germain player and I am going to give everything on the field."

He had not played for his club since May and had been left on



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar (L) vies with Strasbourg's French defender Lionel Carole

the sidelines in their first four league games of the campaign because of the uncertainty surrounding his future.

However, having been resigned to a third season in the French capital, he was handed a start by coach Thomas Tuchel here, and loud jeers greeted his name as the teams were read

out before kick-off. He was also regularly whistled by fans when he touched the ball.

"It is not the first time I have been booed by everyone," Neymar admitted.

"I played in Brazil away from home, I was widely booed. I have played in finals and been booed, I have played here in France,

away from home, and also been booed.

"It is sad but I know that, from now on, every game I play will be an away game."

One banner briefly unfurled at one end of the ground in Portuguese, aimed at Neymar's father who is also his agent, read: "Neymar Senior, sell your son in the

Vila Mimosa".

Vila Mimosa is a district of Rio de Janeiro notorious for prostitution.

Another banner mockingly called Neymar "Calimero", a reference to the always unlucky Italian cartoon character.

Certainly not much was going right on the field for the 27-year-



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old or for his team, who had been held by Strasbourg twice in the league last season.

Revenge

Neymar hit the post direct from a corner late on but ended up getting his revenge -- it was against Strasbourg that he suffered a broken foot in a French Cup tie back in January.

As brilliant as the goal was, it was not met with unanimous approval from the supporters, but Neymar will clearly be missed when he sits out Wednesday's Champions League opener against Real Madrid due to suspension.

PSG were still without the injured Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani here, but Mauro Icardi appeared as a second-half substitute after arriving on loan from Inter Milan just before the transfer deadline.

Marquez wins San Marino MotoGP to close in on sixth world title



Repsol Honda Team Spanish rider, Marc Marquez competes on his way to win the San Marino MotoGP

AFP | San Marino

Spaniard Marc Marquez snatched victory on the final lap at the San Marino Grand Prix yesterday to close in on a sixth world title.

The Honda rider, starting on the second row, took a third MotoGP win in Misano ahead of France's Fabio Quartararo, on a Yamaha-SRT, who had the lead for most of the race.

"At the end I just decided to go for it," said Marquez, who had been pipped at the line at the last two races in Silverstone and the Dutch GP.

Five-time world champion Marquez won the 77th Grand Prix of his career in all catego-

ries to overtake British legend Mike 'the bike' Hailwood.

The 26-year-old has won 51 MotoGP races, 16 Moto2 and ten Moto3.

Marquez now has a 93-point lead on Italian Ducati rider Andrea Dovizioso with six races left this season. Dovizioso finished sixth yesterday on front of his home crowd.

Pole sitter Maverick Vinales completed the podium for Yamaha.

"It was a very tough race," said Quartararo, 20. "It was the first time that I battled like that with Marquez."

Marquez has won five times in Misano and twice before in the MotoGP category in 2015 and 2017.

Smith out as England close to win

AFP | London

Steve Smith was dismissed for just 23 as England closed in on a series-levelling victory against Australia in the fifth Test at the Oval yesterday.

While the former captain was at the crease, Australia retained a faint hope of chasing down a daunting target of 399 to seal their first Ashes series win in England since 2001.

But when Ben Stokes dived to his left at leg slip to catch Smith off paceman Stuart Broad, England knew they had removed the last serious obstacle in their victory charge.

It was the first time that Smith, who has scored an astonishing 774 runs in seven innings, had been out for a score of less than fifty during this series.

The Oval crowd gave him a standing ovation as he walked back to the dressing room in the September sunshine, with Australia in deep trouble at 85-4 in the post-lunch session.

Earlier, England added 16 runs to their overnight tally, with Jofra Archer and Jack Leach the last men out.

Broad then pounded in, roared on by a packed crowd, who raised the roof when he demolished Marcus Harris's off-stump in the fifth over of the Australian innings.

In his following over, Broad ended David Warner's miserable series, with the opener edging him to Rory Burns in the



Australia's Steve Smith looks back to see England's Ben Stokes catch him out

774

runs have been scored by Steve Smith in seven innings in the Ashes series

slips and departing for 11.

Warner, who returned to international cricket in June after a 12-month ban for ball-tamper-

ing, had a good World Cup but has endured a torrid time in the Ashes. The attacking batsman scored just 95 runs in 10 innings and was dismissed by Broad seven times.

Warner's dismissal brought Smith to the crease and he opened his account with a sweet drive through the covers for four off Archer.

Smith and Marcus Labuschagne took the score to 56 before off-spinner Jack Leach beat the outside edge of Labuschagne's bat and Jonny Bairstow whipped off the bails to

complete a sharp stumping.

Smith's demise brought all-rounder Mitchell Marsh to the crease.

He was caught in the slips by Rory Burns off a Chris Woakes delivery but was reprieved when replays showed a no-ball.

England, who became world champions in the one-day game for the first time in July, are desperate to end a long summer by levelling the five-match series at 2-2.

If they complete the win, as expected, it would be the first drawn Ashes series since 1972.