

## Greenwood bags brace as Man Utd sink Burnley



Mason Greenwood shoots to score  
AFP | London

Manchester United moved within eight points of Premier League leaders Manchester City as Mason Greenwood's double inspired a 3-1 win over Burnley, while Eddie Nketiah's last-gasp goal gave Arsenal a 1-1 draw against struggling Fulham yesterday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side are unlikely to catch City, but Greenwood's late winner puts a little pressure on their bitter rivals with six games left.

Greenwood had opened the scoring early in the second half at Old Trafford before James Tarkowski equalised moments later.

Greenwood's second made him the joint-top scoring teenager in Premier League history for United, level with Wayne Rooney on 15 goals.

Edinson Cavani grabbed the third goal in stoppage-time as second placed United won six consecutive Premier League games for the first time since January 2019.

Although they have probably left it too late to overhaul City, United are on course for a second place finish and could still win the first silverware of

**15** goals have been scored by Mason Greenwood to become the joint-top scoring teenager in Premier League history for Manchester United, level with Wayne Rooney

Solskjaer's reign.

They face Roma in the Europa League semi-finals after easing past Granada in the quarter-final second leg on Thursday. United were beaten in three of their opening six league matches this season but have lost only one of their subsequent 26.

Amid talk of United being one of six Premier League teams who have agreed to join a proposed European Super League that would replace the Premier League, Solskjaer's team looked far from elite in a scrappy first half.

They were fortunate not to fall behind in the opening minute when Chris Wood's header was disallowed for offside after keeper Dean Henderson failed to reach Matt Lowton's cross.

# Verstappen wins at Imola after Hamilton blunder

Max Verstappen wins Emilia Romagna Grand Prix thriller as Lewis Hamilton recovers to beat Lando Norris to second

● World champion recovers from slide to finish second

AFP | Imola

Max Verstappen kept his cool to claim a chaotic rain-hit Emilia Romagna Grand Prix yesterday as seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton recovered from a rare mistake to sneak in second.

Red Bull driver Verstappen muscled past pole sitter Hamilton on the first corner at Imola to set up his impressive first win of the season.

"I surprised myself. We worked really hard to make that better. In these tricky conditions we did a great job," the delighted Dutch driver said.

Lando Norris in a McLaren took third ahead of Charles Leclerc for Ferrari at the F1 giant's 'home' track close to their Maranello HQ.

The outcome of a compelling second leg of the Formula One season confirmed Verstappen's stature as a formidable obstacle to Hamilton's quest for an unprecedented eighth drivers' crown.

After winning the season-opener in Bahrain and put-



Max Verstappen (centre) overtakes Lewis Hamilton in the wet on lap one of the Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix

ting in the fastest lap yesterday Hamilton leads Verstappen by a mere point - 44 to 43 - ahead of the Portuguese Grand Prix next time out.

Drama in the race itself had been on the cards as rain drenched the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari in the run up to lights out, sparking mayhem.

Aston Martin mechanics had to scramble to douse flames on the rear brakes of Lance Stroll's car, their counterparts at Mercedes got to work repairing a puncture on Valtteri Bottas' car, as Fernando Alonso's Alpine underwent a nose job after the two-time former champion hit a wall.

Drivers then stood under umbrellas during a passionate

rendition of the Italian national anthem. As the last note faded, the Italian AirForce's Arrows squadron executed an immaculate and deafening flyby over the circuit.

Once racing got underway Verstappen's silky smooth getaway proved decisive, the Dutchman leading out of the first corner, more or less untouched from here to the chequered flag by the mayhem in his wake.

A high-speed crash concerning Bottas and George Russell in a Williams forced the race to be red-flagged as debris was cleared off the old Imola circuit.

### Red flags

The pair collided at over 300kmh on lap 34, both drivers



A high-speed crash involving Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas and George Russell in a Williams forced the race to be red-flagged as debris was cleared off the Imola circuit

shaken as their wrecked cars were lifted off the track.

Russell was furious, remonstrating with Bottas before the Finn had even got out of his car, slapping his helmet.

The air was filled with four-letter expletives as the pair let off steam.

Once back in the pits Russell tweeted: "Thanks for all the messages. I'm fine, just disappointed."

The red flags appeared a lap after an uncharacteristic slip-up from Hamilton saw the Mercedes world champion hurtle off the circuit into a gravel pit when placed second on a treacherous rain-hit track.

## Casimero faces Cuban legend Rigondeaux

TDI | Manila

Filipino Johnriel Casimero will have his hands full when he goes up against future Hall of Famer, Cuban legend Guillermo Rigondeaux, in a unification fight on August 14.

The fast-rising star Casimero will put his World Boxing Organization (WBO) 118-pound bantamweight title on the line and Rigondeaux his World Boxing Association (WBA) regular belt. The venue will be announced later.

The fight has finally materialized after reports surfaced that the two have mutually expressed their desire to clash in the ring.

Rigondeaux called out Casimero in December and the three-division world champion readily accepted.

The 32-year-old Casimero knows if he gets past the 40-year-old Rigondeaux, Naoya Inoue of Japan has no excuses left to avoid him.

Casimero, who owns a 30-4 record on top of 21 KOs, has been calling out Inoue, the unified IBF and WBA super champion, several times but it has not transpired yet due to various reasons.

The Casimero-Inoue bout was reset twice as Hall of Fame promoter and Top Rank chief Bob Arum eventually matched up Inoue against Jason Moloney of Australia.

They were supposed to meet last April 25 at Mandalay Bay



Casimero's skills and bravado will be tested against Rigondeaux

“Here it is, bosses. A really big fish. Hopefully, my haters will appreciate it. Watch out for it

JOHNRIEL CASIMERO

Events Center in Las Vegas, but that card was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Here it is, bosses. A really big fish. Hopefully, my haters will appreciate it. Watch out for it," Casimero posted on social media.

Casimero has made it known that he is very confident that he would emerge victorious if the fight comes to fruition. He wants to retire the Cuban fighter.

The Filipino will come into the fight riding high on crest of a six-match win streak with the latest coming from a technical knockout victory against Ghanaian Duke Micah in Sep-

tember last year, marking his first fight amid the COVID-19 pandemic on a high note.

Rigondeaux last saw action in February last year, scoring a split decision victory over Liborio Solis of Venezuela to climb at 20-1 slate with 13 KOs

His lone defeat came from former Ukrainian champion Vasyil Lomachenko in December 2017.

In Rigondeaux, the hard-hitting Casimero will encounter a highly skilled but aged champion.

The left-handed Rigondeaux (20-1, 13 KOs, 1 NC) will end an 18-month layoff. He outpointed Solis (30-6-1, 14 KOs, 1 NC) by split decision, a 12-round title fight last year at PPL Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Casimero, a three-division champion, has won six straight bouts by knockout since fellow Filipino Jonas Sultan (16-5, 10 KOs) defeated him by unanimous decision in their 12-rounder in 2017 in Cebu City, Philippines.

## Skater Martinez seeks help for Winter Olympics

TDI | Manama

Filipino figure skater and Winter Olympian Michael Christian Martinez is officially back on ice but he badly needs help.

The 24-year-old athlete and the country's lone two-time Winter Olympian is bidding to qualify for the 2022 Winter Olympics set from February 4 to 20 in Beijing, China.

He is currently launching a fund-raising drive to support his campaign and make his third appearance in the prestigious quadrennial competition.

The Filipino figure skating star admits he currently needs financial support "to help out with the training expenses."

Martinez, who took a break from the sport in the last couple of years, said he's "officially back on ice".

"My team and I have organized a fundraising campaign called MICHAEL MARTINEZ - Road to 2022 Winter Olympics to help out with the training expenses for the reason that I currently don't have sponsors yet," Martinez wrote in a Facebook post.

"So I am humbly reaching out to you to join me on my journey towards the 2022 Winter Olympics and bring recognition once again to the Philippines."

A member of his team, Geofried Viz, created a GoFundMe drive with a goal of reaching \$50,000 to help Martinez sustain his training expenses in the US as he targets to become the



Martinez hopes to make the Philippines proud again

“I am humbly reaching out to you to join me on my journey towards the 2022 Winter Olympics and bring recognition once again to the Philippines

MICHAEL CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ

first Southeast Asian to win a Winter Olympics medal.

"Figure skating is a very expensive sport," wrote Viz, noting that they're spending around \$13,000-\$16,000 a month for coaching, ice rental, doctor and chiropractor, athletic training supplies, medication, accommodation, food, among others.

Viz added that Martinez - who competed in his second Olympics in the 2018 Pyeongchang Games - struggled to find more sponsors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The post was also verified by the figure skating star as he reposted it in his Instagram stories.

Martinez made history as the first Southeast Asian to compete in the Winter Olympics during the 2014 Sochi Games.

He currently trains with Russian coach and former Winter Olympian Nikolai Morozov, who has mentored some of the best figure skaters in the world championships and Olympics.

Only 17 years old during his historic 2014 Sochi Games stint, Martinez - who learned how to skate in a shopping mall - was also the youngest figure skater then in the male event.

In the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, the Muntinlupa native ended his Winter Olympics campaign with a score of 55.56, recording 26.04 points in the technical elements and 29.52 points for the presentation with zero deductions. He failed to advance to the free skate round after finishing 28th out of 30 participants.