

# Leeds pull clear of trouble, Bournemouth sink Newcastle

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Leeds beat Wolves 3-0 to open up a nine-point cushion in the battle for Premier League survival before Tottenham aim to dig themselves out of trouble at home to Brighton yesterday.

Fresh from a first league win away at fierce rivals Manchester United since 1981, Leeds all but secured their top-flight status.

Two goals in two first-half minutes from James Justin and Noak Okafor pushed Wolves to the brink of relegation before Dominic Calvert-Lewin's penalty in stoppage time rounded off the scoring.

Rooted to the foot of the table, with just three wins from 33 games, Wolves will be mathematically relegated if Spurs break their 14-game winless run in the Premier League against the Seagulls.

Tottenham's woeful campaign has been compounded by an impressive return to the top flight by Sunderland and Leeds, to buck the trend of recent seasons.

For the past two years all three promoted sides have gone straight back down.

However, Daniel Farke's men not only look set for survival, but could reach a first FA Cup final since 1973 should they beat Chelsea in next weekend's semi-finals.

Spurs boss Roberto De Zerbi

## English Premier League results

Brentford 0 Fulham 0

Leeds 3 (Justin 18, Okafor 20, Calvert-Lewin 90+5-pen) Wolves 0

Newcastle 1 (Osula 68) Bournemouth 2 (Tavernier 32, Truffert 85)

Playing later (all times GMT)

Tottenham v Brighton (1630), Chelsea v Manchester United (1900)

Sunday (1300 GMT unless stated)

Aston Villa v Sunderland, Everton v Liverpool, Nottingham Forest v Burnley, Manchester City v Arsenal (1530)

Monday

Crystal Palace v West Ham (1900)

Howe did not include Anthony Gordon as speculation mounts that the England international could leave St. James' Park this summer.

## Howe under pressure

Bournemouth piled more pressure on Eddie Howe's future as Newcastle manager with a 2-1 win at St. James' Park.

The Cherries showed no ill effects from the news that Andoni Iraola will depart as boss at the end of the season.

Marcus Tavernier and Adrien Truffert struck for the visitors to extend their unbeaten Premier League run to 13 matches.

Bournemouth climb to eighth and within four points of the Champions League places.

Newcastle, by contrast, remain in 14th with their hopes of European football next season all but over.

Despite delivering Newcastle's first domestic trophy for 70 years last season, Howe is another high-profile Premier League manager who could move on at the end of the campaign.

Brentford missed the chance to leapfrog Chelsea into the top six after being held to a 0-0 draw by west London rivals Fulham.

Chelsea need to snap a three-game losing streak to revitalise their chances of Champions League football next season when Manchester United visit Stamford Bridge in a 1900GMT kick-off.

Third-placed

United lead the Blues by seven points but travel to London decimated by injuries in defence.

Leaders Arsenal travel to Manchester City in a clash that could decide the destiny of the title race on Sunday.

The Gunners hold a six-point lead, but City have a game in hand and home advantage when the top two clash at the Etihad Stadium.

Bournemouth's US midfielder #12 Tyler Adams battles for the ball with Newcastle United's Danish striker #18 William Osula during the English Premier League football match between Newcastle United and Bournemouth at St James' Park in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, north east England



## Rybakina powers past Andreeva to reach Stuttgart final



Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina returns the ball to Russia's Mirra Andreeva (not in picture) during their semifinal match at the Women's Tennis Grand Prix WTA tournament in Stuttgart, southwestern Germany.

AFP | Stuttgart, Germany

Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina surged to a 7-5, 6-1 victory over teenager Mirra Andreeva on Saturday and will face Karolina Muchova for the title in Stuttgart.

Rybakina shook off any lingering fatigue from a late finish in Friday's quarter-final win over Leylah Fernandez to reach her third final of the year.

Top seed Rybakina snatched a tight opening set by breaking Andreeva, who was 7-0 on clay this season and won in Linz last week, with the Russian serving to force a tie-break.

She carried over that momentum to sweep into a 5-0 lead in the second set before closing out victory in 77 minutes.

"First set, we were going pretty even," said Rybakina. "I had some opportunities to go up but didn't take them. But I'm happy that in these important moments, my serve worked and I stayed aggressive."

"Then in the second set being up, I was more free to hit, to step in, to play even more aggressive."

"So I'm pretty happy with the performance. It was really solid. And I guess the three-hour match yesterday, it did help me today."

Muchova edged Elena Svitolina 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 earlier in the day to book her spot in the final. The world number 12 will play the first 500-level final of her career as she goes in search of a third WTA title.



Rybakina, who finished runner-up at Indian Wells last month, will have a chance on Sunday to regain the title she won two years ago and drive off with a second Porsche sports car -- the coveted prize awarded to the champion in Stuttgart.

# 24-hour arrival, instant impact

## Deshawndre Washington fires Muharraq to championship glory

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Muharraq's championship-clinching victory on Friday night carried significance far beyond a single result. It completed a historic domestic treble and reaffirmed their dominance in Bahraini basketball, with one explosive performance at its center.

Deshawndre Washington arrived just 24 hours earlier, but immediately became central to the outcome. He delivered a title-defining performance as Muharraq edged Manama in overtime to win Game 4 and seal the Zain Bahrain Basketball League final series 3-1.

Thrown straight into a finals decider, the American guard delivered under pressure. He finished with 27 points, nine rebounds, six assists and three steals. It was his blistering third quarter that flipped the game on its head. He scored 17 points in that period, which is the most in a single quarter of a finals game since 2016.

The final itself had all the ingredients of a classic. Muharraq, coached by Peter Schomers, built a double-digit lead deep



Washington embraced by Muharraq supporters at Khalifa Sports City



A statement dunk from the American guard



Deshawndre Washington celebrates with Muharraq's league and cup titles

into the fourth quarter, only for Manama to respond with relentless pressure to erase the deficit and force overtime.

In the extra period, the Red Wolves held their pack together. Their defense tightened at the rim, possessions became more deliberate, and they executed cleanly to secure the title.

The victory sealed Muharraq's fifth league championship in their history. While still well behind Manama's record 25 titles, it crowns a season of complete domestic dominance.

Manama's resistance was led by Donovan Smith, who quickly became their interior focal point after joining just before the fi-

nals. He produced 31 points and 13 rebounds, driving a 13-point comeback that nearly overturned the series. But Muharraq had enough depth and composure to respond. The win completed a clean sweep of domestic honours, adding the Khalifa bin Salman Cup and the Bahrain Super Cup to their league triumph.

Captain Bader Malabes once again stood at the heart of their success, adding another chapter to an already decorated career. He now holds five league titles, seven Khalifa bin Salman Cups, and three Super Cups — a record that reflects his long-standing influence at the top of Bahraini basketball.

For Manama, defeat came with both frustration and pride. Captain Abdulla Salman was candid after the game. "I normally don't take pride in silver medals, I wouldn't have them in my house," he said. "That's the standard Manama are used to. But this season, I'll put it right next to our 2023 West Asian Super League gold medal. I've never been in a team like this — the brotherhood is something special."

Head coach Salman Ramadhan also chose perspective over disappointment. "We couldn't do anything about Washington," he said after the game, acknowledging the performance that ultimately decided the series. In the dressing room, his message to the players focused on belief. "This is the best team I've ever had and I'm proud of you," he said, taking responsibility for the loss and urging his squad to keep their heads up.

In the end, Muharraq's season will be remembered for its trophies and dominance. Yet the final chapter belonged to one explosive performance that swung a championship series and sealed a treble under pressure.