

West Ham boss Moyes reveals family concern after violence at AZ Alkmaar



David Moyes
AFP | London

West Ham manager David Moyes admitted he was concerned for the safety of his family after AZ Alkmaar hooligans attacked Hammers fans following Thursday's Europa Conference League semi-final in the Netherlands.

Pablo Fornals' stop-page-time goal sealed a 1-0 victory that booked West Ham's first European final appearance for 47 years.

But the semi-final second leg was marred by ugly scenes when a gang of black-shirted, hooded AZ fans attempted to storm into the area reserved for friends and family of the West Ham players and management.

West Ham stars including Michail Antonio, Said Benrahma, Aaron Cresswell and Flynn Downes climbed over the advertising hoardings in a bid to stop the trouble.

Moyes, whose 87-year-old father was at the match, said: "I can't explain what happened and why it happened."

Arteta hits back at criticism of Arsenal's title collapse

Mikel Arteta insists Arsenal 'will not bottle' Premier League title despite losing lead

● Arteta says Arsenal have made strong steps no matter how title race ends

AFP | London

Mikel Arteta insists Arsenal deserve respect for their unexpected Premier League title challenge despite the collapse that allowed Manchester City to move into pole position.

City will be crowned champions if second placed Arsenal lose at Nottingham Forest on Saturday or if the leaders beat Chelsea on Sunday.

One win from their final three games is enough for City to take the title for a fifth time in six seasons.

It is a bitter pill to swallow for Arteta after his team led the title race for much of the season.

The Gunners have endured criticism of their failure to hold off City, with last weekend's dismal 3-0 defeat against Brighton sparking questions about the character of Arteta's squad.

But, in a thinly-veiled dig at their detractors, Arsenal boss Arteta said his team had surpassed expectations by pushing



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola (L) and Arsenal's Spanish manager Mikel Arteta watch the players from the touchline (file photo)

"What happens next season will depend on what we do, how we evolve and how we start. That prediction is very difficult to do today."

Arteta did concede improvements will need to be made to his young team before Arsenal can expect to hold their own in the Champions League next season.

"At the level that we want? No. We didn't have the capacity to do that as well with the Europa League so it's part of that evolution," he said.

“We’re still there, with two games to go (City have three as they have a game in hand) we can still be champions against probably the best team in Premier League history. For 10 months we’re still there. There’s two games still to go and we’re not going to bottle that for sure”

MIKEL ARTETA

before he moved to Arsenal in 2016.

"The clarity is there. He is a player that has played I think every minute since I have been the manager," Arteta said.

"He is an incredibly respected figure at the club. Whatever happens is something we will discuss, certainly not now."

Arsenal duo Oleksandr Zinchenko (calf) and Gabriel Martinelli (ankle) will not feature again this season.

"Gabi's is a pretty nasty injury, we need to assess in the next week how long he'll be out for," Arteta said.

Leeds boss Allardyce hopes Hammers' eyes are on European final

AFP | London

Sam Allardyce hopes West Ham, having reached the Europa Conference League final, will play safe when they face his relegation-threatened Leeds side on Sunday.

The 68-year-old veteran manager, brought in as a last-ditch effort for Leeds to avoid the drop due to reputation for keeping sides up, desperately needs three points this weekend.

Victory over West Ham, who



Sam Allardyce

in contrast to their European campaign have struggled in the Premier League this season, would keep Leeds' hopes alive of saving their Premier League status for a second successive season on the final day.

Leeds are third from bottom and involved in a four team dog-fight battling to avoid being one of the two teams to join already relegated Southampton in the Championship next term.

Allardyce's side are a point adrift of Everton and three shy

of Nottingham Forest with two matches remaining.

Leicester are second from bottom, four points off safety.

Leeds face a Hammers side -- one of innumerable clubs

Allardyce has managed in the past -- who are on a high after beating Dutch side AZ Alkmaar on Thursday to reach their first major final since 1976. Allardyce was in no doubt when asked at his pre-match press conference yesterday what result had suited him the most.

Marquinhos extends PSG contract to 2028

AFP | London

Paris Saint-Germain captain and Brazil defender Marquinhos has extended his contract until 2028, the club announced yesterday.

"The 29-year-old Brazilian defender and the Red and Blue will continue their adventure together until June 30, 2028," Qatari-owned PSG said yesterday in a statement.

Marquinhos joined the club from Roma in 2013 when he was just 19. He has become an indispensable part of the PSG set-up and was a member of the side that reached the 2020 Champions League final.

"I am very happy to announce this contract extension but also very proud," said Marquinhos.



Marquinhos

"This is a very special moment for me," he added, saying he was "convinced that we will continue to achieve great things together in the years to come".

With Lionel Messi on the point of leaving and speculation surrounding the futures of Neymar and Kylian Mbappe, the decision of Marquinhos to throw his weight behind PSG has been welcomed by the club.

Injury-cursed Jones to leave Man Utd after 12 years

AFP | London

Injury-plagued defender Phil Jones will leave Manchester United at the end of the season after 12 years with the Old Trafford club.

United announced yesterday Jones' troubled time in Manchester will end when his contract expires in June.

The 31-year-old, who joined from Blackburn in 2011, played 229 times, scoring six goals for



Manchester United's Phil Jones reacts during a match (file photo)

United and helping them win one Premier League title, an FA Cup and the Europa League.

Jones, who is yet to decide whether he will carry on playing, wrote on Twitter: "It's not a time to be sad. It's a time to look back, for me and my family, and be happy that I managed to live

a dream at United. "I can always say to my family and friends that not many people get to play for this club, to always be in its history and to be able to look back with such happy memories."

Jones has not played in over a year and managed only 13 ap-

pearances since the start of the 2019-20 season.

"I wish I could have played more. I wish I could have given more to the many squads I played alongside," he said.

"I will say, from the bottom of my heart, I did everything I could. I've said before that I found it hard to even speak to my team-mates because I was hurt that I couldn't help them."

13

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