

# Dortmund ease past Man City

Mario Gotze penalty saw The BVB down City in International Champions Cup opener

AFP | Chicago, United States

Pep Guardiola's start to his pre-season campaign ended in defeat as Borussia Dortmund captain Mario Gotze's first half penalty was enough to see off the Premier League champions Manchester City 1-0 at Soldier Field in Chicago on Friday.

Guardiola was able to call on the likes of new signing Riyad Mahrez and German Leroy Sane but his otherwise highly inexperienced, young team were unable to get the better of a Dortmund side who have already played one game this summer and looked far sharper in the opening match of this year's International Champions Cup tournament.

Gotze's winner came in the 28th minute when American international Christian Pulisic was hauled down in the box allowing the midfielder who famously scored the winning goal in the 2014 World Cup final to beat Claudio Bravo.

Mahrez showed flashes of his quality yet Guardiola will be disappointed about the lack of cutting edge on show.

With the bulk of his Premier League title-winning squad enjoying an extended break after their exertions at the World Cup, it was a vastly inexperienced side sent out by the Spaniard at



Borussia Dortmund midfielder Mario Gotze, right, scores a goal during the first half

Soldier Field.

Mahrez, the \$75 million signing from Leicester, made his debut while the precocious young English midfielder Phil Foden also started.

There was a healthy crowd of 34,629 inside Soldier Field and although a young City side held their own early on, Dortmund created the better chances with Gotze pulling the strings togeth-

er with Pulisic.

Mahrez was City's best player, who showcased his attacking threat with a decent run and cross midway through the first half.

## A satisfied coach

But on 28 minutes the Germans were ahead.

Alex Zinchenko, who is set to leave the club before the start

of the English domestic season, brought down the lively Pulisic in the box and Gotze beat Bravo from the spot before Alexander Isak almost made it two soon after.

Jack Harrison should have done better just before the interval when he miscued a shot from close range and then Mahrez forced a great save from Dortmund keeper Marwin Hitz.

Nevertheless, Guardiola would have been all too aware of his side's lack of killer instinct.

Jadon Sancho, who quit the Premier League club for Dortmund last August following a fall-out with Guardiola, was introduced in the second half and began promisingly.

Joe Hart, the former England keeper, was making his first City appearance since August 2016



For the first seven years of their history, Manchester City were known as Ardwick FC

but it was opposite number Hitz who was almost beaten on 55 minutes when another Mahrez set-piece flew just past the post. Guardiola said his team played well despite not having a lot of time to train together.

"It was really good for their futures because we played one of the best teams in Germany and we did many good things," he said. "The courage, intensity and desire to play was very good. I'm so satisfied."

The Algerian's cute pass set Lukas Nmecha through on 70 minutes but his finish was lacking before Hart produced an excellent point blank save to deny Mahmoud Dahoud.

Dortmund, however, held firm to seal a deserved win.

## Fraile ends Belgian hopes with first win

AFP | Mende, France

Spaniard Omar Fraile ended Belgian hopes of a Tour de France victory on their national holiday with a gutsy, maiden victory on the race on the 14th stage Saturday.

Britain's Geraint Thomas, of Team Sky, retained the race leader's yellow jersey after crossing the line with teammate Chris Froome and Dutch rival Tom Dumoulin (Sunweb) just over 18 minutes in arrears.

With four days of climbing in the Pyrenees yet to decide the outcome of the yellow jersey, the main peloton and all the race favourites were happy to allow an early breakaway escape in the opening kilometres.

Intentions seemed clear on Belgium's national holiday after seven Belgians got in among a group of 32 frontrunners in-



Astana rider Omar Fraile of Spain celebrates as he crosses the line to win stage 14

cluding Philippe Gilbert and yellow jersey holder Greg Van Avermaet.

But Astana rider Fraile, who claimed his maiden Giro d'Italia stage last year following a long breakaway, was desperate for a repeat.

"It was one of the stages I had marked and when I saw the breakaway go, I told myself that I had to get in it," he said.

"It's a dream. Soloing over the finish line was incredible.

"I think when a cyclist wins on the Tour de France it's fabulous. It's the most important race in the world.

"I dedicate this victory to my girlfriend, to my family and to all those who have supported me."

When Jasper Stuyven (Trek) capitalised on a mid-race spat between Gilbert and Fraile to break away on his own with

over 30km to race, it looked like Belgium would have an extra reason to celebrate.

But Stuyven, a one-day classics specialist who finished in the top ten of Paris-Roubaix and the Tour of Flanders earlier this season, fell victim to his lack of climbing prowess.

He held a 1min 40sec lead on a group of chasers with 10km to race, with the main peloton and Thomas at over 20 minutes in arrears.

But on the final, 3km climb leading to the flat finish at Mende Fraile launched an audacious counter-attack.

The Spaniard dug deep on the climb, whose average gradient is a punishing 10.1 per cent, and soon had Stuyven in his sights.

When he overtook Stuyven with two kilometres to race, Fraile did not look back.

## Bayern dominate PSG 3-1 in International Champions Cup



Paris Saint-Germain's Timothy Weah (L) vies for the ball with Bayern Munich's Josip Stanisic

AFP | Klagenfurt, Austria

German champions Bayern Munich hit three second-half goals as they beat French titlists Paris Saint-Germain, 3-1, yesterday in International Champions Cup in Klagenfurt, Austria.

PSG were without their World Cup winners, but they did start Adrien Rabiot, who refused to serve as a reserve for the French squad. Bayern were without their legion of German internationals, despite the national team's early exit in Russia.

PSG had the best of the first half and took the lead with a 31st minute goal by American Timothy Weah, the 18-year-old son of African legend George Weah.

Bayern dominated the second half and struck three times in 18 minutes. Spaniard Javier Martinez opened the scoring past Gianluigi Buffon, the Italian veteran who joined PSG this summer.

Portuguese midfielder Renato Sanchez and 17-year-old Dutch striker Joshua Zirkzee added the other two, after Buffon had gone off.

## Bahrain-Merida considering legal action against organisers

Cycling News | Paris

The Bahrain-Merida team have confirmed to Cyclingnews that they are con-



Vincenzo Nibali

sidering legal action against the organisers of the Tour de France after team leader Vincenzo Nibali was brought down and fractured a vertebrae in a chaotic incident on the Alpe d'Huez.

Nibali was forced to quit the Tour de France, ending his and Bahrain-Merida's chances of overall victory.

The crash was not captured by live television coverage, and it was initially suspected that the incident had been caused by police motorbikes slowing in front of him.

## Kiwi Bevin abandons Tour

AFP | Mende, France

New Zealand's Patrick Bevin quit the Tour de France after struggling to keep pace with the peloton on the 14th stage from Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux to Mende.

Bevin, 27, was part of the BMC team that raced to victory in the team time trial on stage three. BMC then lost their team leader Richie Porte to injury following a crash on stage nine.

Bevin went on to help Belgian teammate Greg Van Avermaet defend the yellow jersey from stage three until he lost the race lead to Geraint Thom-

as on stage 11 to La Rosiere in the Alps.

Despite coming through Friday's mainly flat 13th stage to Valence, Bevin's efforts over three tough days in the Alps appeared to catch up with him.



Patrick Bevin