

SPORTS

Liverpool's halftime chat inspired goal

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Reuters | Cardiff, Wales

Liverpool's 2-0 win at Cardiff City on Sunday restored their two-point lead over Manchester City in the Premier League title race but their inspired breakthrough goal came only as the result of a half-time chat about set pieces.

Juergen Klopp's side had been struggling to create clear openings against a determined Cardiff defence and went in goalless at the break.

But in the 57th minute, a corner was played low and deep by Trent Alexander-Arnold to

Georginio Wijnaldum, who was free to drive it home in the penalty area with a sweet first-time drive that finally set Liverpool on the way to victory.

"It was so smart," said Klopp. "We used experience from the first half for that corner in the second half.

"It was not from the training ground, it was from the dressing room at halftime when the boys decided to do that. I love that, a brilliant goal."

Klopp said that the team had realised that their normal routines had not been effective and opted to move to another approach.

"If you are not happy with all of the things on the day then we have to try something different. That's difficult on the pitch to decide because you need too many players being involved.

"But at halftime, it is possible so they did it. Brilliant, I love it."

The hard-fought win puts the pressure on City ahead of their Manchester derby on Wednesday. They have to win their game in hand to regain the lead by a point.

Then come three more games for both sides which will determine the outcome



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of the title.

Klopp was delighted that his team had been able to battle through a difficult test on a dry, hard surface to pick up the three vital points.

"Going to Cardiff, you have to work there. We spoke a lot about this game, how special it is, how special the situation is for the opponent just to make clear what we had to do today," he said.

"It was not a game for a little bit of playing around, it was a game for a 100 percent fight, a battle of will again and who wants it more?"

BCC top ETS League

TDT | Manama

BCC defeated Exelon Young Boys by 74 runs in the ETS Division A league organized by Cricket Bahrain Association.

Batting first BCC posted 210 runs. Anasim Khan top scored with 78 runs, Adil Hanif supported him with 64 runs. Naim Chaudry claimed 3 wickets for Exelon Young Boys. In reply Exelon Young Boys could only manage 136 runs. Rizwan Baig and Babar Ali claimed 3 wickets each for BCC.

BCC A defeated Indian Blue by 25 runs in another fixture. Batting first BCC A posted 196 runs. Rana Kashif top scored with 71 runs and was supported by Mohd Elahi who made 54 runs. In reply Indian Blue could only manage 171 runs. Nishant Bhat top scored with 58 runs.

Pak Arab Zalmi defeated Awan Bassali by 2 wickets in another fixture. Batting first Awan Bassali posted 156 runs. Faisal Nazir top scored with 30 runs. Rizwan Gondal claimed 3 wickets for Pak Arab Zalmi. In reply Pak Arab Zalmi chased target for the loss of 8 wickets. M Usman top scored with 58 runs.

Sterling to pay for funeral of teenager who 'touched his life'

AFP | London

England star Raheem Sterling is to pay for the funeral of former Crystal Palace youth player Damary Dawkins who he says was an "example to us all".

Dawkins died aged 13 of leukaemia in March -- Sterling had supported a campaign to find a suitable stem cell donor for him.

According to an appeal page, Dawkins did receive a stem cell match a few days before Christmas but he relapsed in February.

His family had set up a GoFundMe page to raise £15,000 (\$19,400) to give Dawkins the "best send off and celebration of life" -- but Sterling has assumed all the costs himself.

ISB, NMS make good start

TDT | Manama

The Indian School and New Millennium School started well in the CBA - ALBA under 14 School Cricket Tournament.

The Indian School has registered a big margin victory over Bangladesh school by 159 runs in their first league match. The Indian School has made a huge total of 201 for 4 wickets in 20 overs. The highlights of the Indian School innings were a superb half century by the opener Aryan Pande (51 not out), well polished unbeaten 29 by captain Aravind Rajeev and a quick fire 43 runs by Nidhin Krishna.

Zubir Ahmed was the most successful bowler for Bangladesh School who took 2 wickets for 32 runs. Chasing a huge total, Bangladesh School was bowled out for just 42 runs. Yasin Arafat top scored with 21 runs. Aryan Pande was declared the man of the match.

The New Millennium School has also made a good start in the tournament with a 45 runs victory over Pakistan School.

Batted first New Millennium School has made a reasonable total of 114 for 7 wickets. All rounder Jayshnav Ravishankar top scored with an unbeaten 30 runs. Mohd.Ali bowled extremely well to take 4 wickets for 15 runs and Wajahat Habib Ur Rehman gave a good support to Mohd. Ali with 2 wickets for 21 runs.

In reply Pakistan School was bowled out for 69 runs. All rounder Jayshnav was the most successful bowler who



Aryan Pande

took 4 wickets for 12 runs and he was fully supported by Rujul Shayam (3 wickets for 14 runs) and Ansh Katayan (2 for 1 run). Jayshnav was declared the man of the match.

The other match results are as follows:

1. Noor Sports beat Colts Bahrain by 32 runs. (Noor Sports -98 for 8 wickets. Sayed Hreryan -23, Aadvik -18 and Ethan 2wickets for 16 runs.) Colts Bahrain -66 for 8 wickets. (Samuel Fisher -18 not out, Harish 2 wickets for 8 runs.
2. Colts Bahrain beat Cric Bahrain by 8wickets. (Cric Bahrain all out for 60 runs. Lawrence took 4 wickets for 7 runs. Colts Bahrain 61 for 2 wickets. Deon Shaji -19 not out and Ayan Khan-20.)
3. Pakistan School beat Ibn Al Hytham Islamic School by 2 wickets. (Ibn Al Hytham -86 all out. Hassam Ahmed (2 for 14 runs) and Muhammed Ali (2 for 6 runs). Pakistan School 87 for 8 wickets. (Abdullah Umer - 41 not out, Mohd.Ahmed -2 for 17 runs and Thaha - 2 for 21 runs).

Brave CF creates new sports milestone

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation held its biggest-ever fight card last Friday, in Amman, Jordan. Brave 23: Pride and Honour was a legendary show, with the rise of three world champions, several knockouts and amazing performances all around. For the people of Jordan, Brave 23 meant the resurgence of mixed martial arts as part of the country's sporting culture.

Even though two Jordanian champions lost their belt, the fans still proved they are one of the most passionate crowds in the world, with an electric atmosphere greeting every fighter from the locker room to the cage. The biggest cheer was undoubtedly for Jordanian MMA pioneer Hashem Arkhagha, who made his comeback to the sport after almost seven years away.

Arkhagha is one of the most famous faces of the sport in



Audience cheer athletes at Brave 23

Jordan, and had a victorious comeback, as he floored Jeremy Smith with a one-punch knockout, making the crowd erupt with cheers for their hero. Earlier in the night, Ali Qaisi also had the fans in bliss as he dominated Georges Bardawil en route to his second win under the Brave banner.

The pre-fight events were also proof that MMA has been brought back to life by Brave's return to Jordan, as the Abdali Mall was packed with fans for open workouts, on Wednesday, and press conference and ceremonial weigh-ins a day later.

International fighters were amazed at the passion Jordanian fans showcased throughout fight week. Brazilian Luan "Miau" Santiago, who won the Lightweight title with a stunning KO of Abdul-Kareem Al-Selwady, claiming that Jordan was the best crowd he ever witnessed in any sporting competition. Bahrain's own Eldar Eldarov, victorious in the Super Lightweight championship bout against Mounir Lazzez, also praised the Jordanian fan-base's passion.

Former foes unite to lead France into Fed Cup final

AFP | Paris

France set up a Fed Cup final against Australia on Sunday when Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic, who once were barely on speaking terms, teamed-up to crown a 3-2 victory over Romania.

Former Roland Garros doubles champions Garcia and Mladenovic beat Simona Halep

and Monica Niculescu 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 to secure the winning point and a final date against Australia in November.

Victory was a diplomatic coup for France coach Julien Benneteau who teamed up Garcia and Mladenovic for the first time in Fed Cup since 2016 after which the pair had a bitter falling out which led to a self-imposed Fed Cup exile for Garcia, her coun-



France's Kristina Mladenovic (R) and Caroline Garcia celebrate the win

try's top player.

"Every match was incredible," said Benneteau. "I am so proud of them. It was always my intention to put them together -- and it was not hard to do."

Earlier Sunday, French Open champion Halep won her second singles of the weekend, seeing off Garcia 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 6-4 for a 2-1 lead in the semi-final.