

Man City's O'Reilly savours 'unbelievable' double in League Cup final win

Defender's two headers punish Arsenal errors to give City ninth League Cup

● Manchester City won their ninth League Cup title

● Kepa Arrizabalaga's mistake led to the opening goal

AFP | London

Nico O'Reilly savoured a weekend to remember after the Manchester City defender's double sealed a 2-0 win over Arsenal in the League Cup final on Sunday -- just 24 hours after his birthday.

O'Reilly turned 21 on Saturday and followed his birthday celebration with a man of the match performance at Wembley.

The left-back punished a mistake from Arsenal goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga to open the scoring with a close-range header on the hour.

And O'Reilly struck again with another header four minutes later to give City their ninth League Cup triumph.



Manchester City's English midfielder #33 Nico O'Reilly (C) heads in from close range to score the opening goal

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"My whole family came down today. They are all in the stand and I know they will be buzzing. I can't wait to celebrate with them."

O'Reilly has been converted from a midfielder to a defender by Pep Guardiola since breaking into the City team.



Converted from midfielder to defender, O'Reilly's attacking instincts paid off -- both goals came from classic box arrivals honed earlier in his career

The England international said that familiarity with being in attacking positions allowed him to capitalise on Arsenal's mistakes.

"Since I was a kid I always played in midfield, I was always arriving in the box and scoring goals," he said.

"To bring it in at senior level and the highest level, it's good for me and adds goals to my game. A great feeling."

Bezzecchi wins second race of the season at Brazil MotoGP

AFP | Goiania

Italy's Marco Bezzecchi of Aprilia won the Brazil MotoGP Grand Prix on Sunday at the Autodromo Ayrton Senna in Goiania.

Bezzecchi also won the season's opening GP in Thailand three weeks ago and repeated the feat here by finishing ahead of his Spanish team-mate Jorge Martin and Italian pole-sitter Fabio Di Giannantonio of Ducati.

"Honestly, I didn't expect to leave Brazil with a win," Bezzecchi said, adding he was "super happy" with his performance, especially following Friday's poor practice showing in which he was 20th fastest on the grid.

"We worked super hard in the box with my guys to try to adjust everything, including my riding the bike -- we tried to make the perfect combination," he added.

It was a milestone moment for the 27-year-old as it marked the first time in his career he had won four Grands Prix in a row, and was also the first time an Aprilia rider had done so.

Aprilia's one-two in Brazil also means they lead the constructors championship with 64 points.

Spanish reigning world champion Marc Marquez of Ducati, who had won Saturday's sprint race on the Brazilian circuit, had to settle for fourth place.

His compatriot Pedro Acosta (KTM), who had arrived in Brazil at the top of the championship standings, lost his lead to



Aprilia Racing's Italian rider Marco Bezzecchi (L), Ducati Lenovo's Spanish rider Marc Marquez (C) and Pertamina Enduro VR46 Racing Team's Italian rider Fabio Di Giannantonio compete

Bezzecchi after finishing seventh on Sunday.

Bezzecchi now boasts 56 points, 11 more than Martin in second, with Acosta a further three points adrift.

"Every day I'm closer to the top guys," Martin said, but he nonetheless insisted his chances for a title run over the 22-race season were very slim "at the moment".



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