

# Sports

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

'CHANGED' BALOTELLI VOWS TO RESIST DETRACTORS

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**SUNDERLAND:** Sunderland's captain John O'Shea (left) vies for the ball with Manchester City's Raheem Sterling (right) during the English League Cup third round soccer match between Sunderland and Manchester City at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland on Tuesday, Sept 22, 2015. — AP

## STYLISH CITY CRUISE IN LEAGUE CUP; SWANSEA OUT

**LONDON:** Record signing Kevin De Bruyne scored again as Manchester City crushed Sunderland 4-1 to reach the League Cup fourth round on Tuesday, but Swansea City fell to second-tier Hull City. Manchester City's perfect start to the Premier League season was abruptly ended by a 2-1 loss at home to West Ham United at the weekend, but Manuel Pellegrini's team bounced back in style at the Stadium of Light. They were 4-0 up inside 36 minutes through a ninth-minute Sergio Aguero penalty, De Bruyne's second goal for the club, an own goal by Sunderland goalkeeper Vito Mannone and a neat finish by Raheem Sterling.

"We played well, especially in the first half," said Pellegrini, whose side also lost 2-1 at home to Juventus in their Champions League opener. "Maybe in the second half, winning 4-0, we stopped our pace a little bit, but I am pleased because we started this game after two impor-

tant defeats in the Champions League and Premier League. "It was important to continue in this cup and it was important to try to win from the first minute. We scored four beautiful goals." Struggling Sunderland, bottom of the Premier League table after six games without victory, replied courtesy of an 83rd-minute header by close-season signing Ola Toivonen.

Swansea lost to a 41st-minute David Meyler strike at Hull, who were relegated from the Premier League in May, to become the second top-flight team to be knocked out of this season's tournament after second-round casualties Watford, although they were later joined by West Ham. Andy King scored a 116th-minute header as Leicester City continued their fine form to beat the Hammers 2-1 after extra time in the only all-Premier League tie of the evening. Young striker Joe Dodoo put Leicester ahead in the early stages, with Mauro Zarate's deflected shot bring-

ing West Ham level in the 27th minute.

Leicester, the last unbeaten team in the English top tier, prevailed four minutes from the end of extra time when Wales international King rose to plant a header in the top-left corner from Christian Fuchs's cross. Everton had to come from behind to win 2-1 at Championship side Reading. Nick Blackman's opener was cancelled out by a powerful Ross Barkley strike in the 62nd minute before Gerard Deulofeu sealed victory with his first goal since returning to Everton on a permanent basis from Barcelona, a plunging 30-yard free-kick. Bournemouth, meanwhile, needed penalties to win at second-tier Preston North End after the game finished 2-2 following extra time.

Daniel Johnson scored a 118th-minute penalty for Preston that sent the game to extra time, but then saw his spot-kick saved by Adam Federici to hand Bournemouth a

3-2 success in the shootout. Peter Crouch's cool first-half finish earned Stoke City a 1-0 win at Fulham, while Aston Villa saw off Championship derby rivals Birmingham City 1-0 courtesy of an emphatic 62nd-minute header from Rudy Gestede. "It was a tough game today," said Gestede, whose side have lost four and drawn one of their last five Premier League games. "It was important to get the win for our confidence because we haven't started the season very well."

Holdes Chelsea launched their trophy defense at third-tier Walsall yesterday as Arsenal visited north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur in the tie of the round. Manchester United, second in the Premier League, entered the competition with a home game against second-tier Ipswich Town, while Liverpool hosted League Two Carlisle United, the lowest-ranked team left in the competition. — AFP

## 5-STAR LEWANDOWSKI SHOOTS BAYERN TO TOP OF BUNDESLIGA

**BERLIN:** Robert Lewandowski admitted he had little idea how fast his goals flew in after scoring five times in nine minutes to write Bundesliga history in Bayern Munich's 5-1 rout of Wolfsburg. The 27-year-old scored all five goals within an official time of eight minutes, 59 seconds after coming off the bench at half-time with Bayern 1-0 down at the Allianz Arena. A superb strike by Wolfsburg's Daniel Caligiuri had given the visitors a shock lead until the 27-year-old Lewandowski sent Bundesliga records tumbling, including needing just three minutes, 19 seconds to claim his hat-trick. But he admitted it was a bit of a blur. "I have no idea how quick my hat-trick was, maybe five minutes?" he told German Sky on the sidelines before being told the official time. "Okay, it was a bit quicker than that."

It was his best haul since scoring all four for ex-club Borussia Dortmund in their 4-1 win over Real Madrid in the 2013 Champions League semi-final. "To score four goals in a Champions League semi-final was very important and a big story in my career, but to score five goals means this is another big evening for me," added Lewandowski, who sent Bayern top of the Bundesliga. Bayern coach Pep Guardiola held his head in disbelief on the sidelines as Lewandowski scored his superb fifth with a turn-and-volley on 60 minutes which gave Wolfsburg goalkeeper Diego

Benaglio no chance. "I've never experienced anything like that in my life! Five goals in nine minutes! Wow!" said Guardiola. "I may never see anything like that again, either."

### Shoot and shoot again

Lewandowski said his goal had simply been to score when he came on. "I just wanted to shoot and shoot again. At 1-0 down, I had to score at least two goals," he added. "It's been an incredible evening. What a great feeling." His haul was the first time a player has come off the bench to score five goals in a Bundesliga game. It was the first time five goals have been scored in a single German league match since Michael Toennis in August 1991 in a 6-2 win for Duisburg against Karlsruhe.

"The fact my old record is gone is, of course, a bit of a shame, but what Robert conjured up was simply sensational. Congratulations, Robert," wrote Toennis on Duisburg's Facebook page. Lewandowski's stats for the game were five goals, nine shots from 30 touches and his incredible tally could have been more as he missed two clear chances. "He could have gone home with seven," admitted Bayern captain Philipp Lahm. "You have to be critical there and point out the two opportunities which went begging right under his nose," he added with a grin.

Wolfsburg coach Dieter Hecking took the



**MUNICH:** Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski shoots the third goal for Munich during the German first division Bundesliga football match FC Bayern Muenchen vs VfL Wolfsburg on September 22, 2015. — AFP

defeat with good grace. "What can you say? A world-class striker shot five times on goal and could have scored seven times," he said. There was only one record which went begging. Lewandowski fell just short of matching the record goal-haul for a single Bundesliga match of six achieved by Cologne's Dieter Mueller in their 7-2 win over Werder Bremen in August 1977. It was little surprise that Lewandowski was named man-of-the-match and he proved the ankle injury which kept him out of Saturday's 3-0 win at Darmstadt was not an issue. "I think the ankle's fine," he grinned. — AFP

## GRIEZMANN'S DOUBLE FIRES ATLETICO TO TOP OF LA LIGA

**BARCELONA:** In-form Atletico Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann struck twice to earn a comfortable 2-0 derby victory over toothless visitors Getafe that sent his side top of La Liga on Tuesday. The France striker, who is developing into a talisman for Atletico, scored at the start of the first half and the end of the second after a competent display by the hosts. Atletico have 12 points from five games, having only dropped points against Barcelona who have a 100 percent record from four games and visit Celta Vigo on Wednesday when Real Madrid, with 10 points from four matches, visit Athletic Bilbao. Atletico controlled the game but they eased off for long spells against a side incapable of putting them under sustained pressure.

Griezmann netted after four minutes with a volley from six metres and wrapped up the win with another close-range finish from a Jackson Martinez pass in the final minute. "We scored quickly and we were well placed but we stopped looking to build play," Atletico coach Diego Simeone told a news conference. "We then improved again in the final stages of the game. In the middle section we looked to close the game down too much." Valencia's dismal start to the season continued as they lost 1-0 at Espanyol, with Victor Alvarez scoring in the first half. They are eighth with six points after one win and three draws.

Low on confidence they did not take advantage of early openings for Zakaria Bakkali and Rodrigo Moreno before Alvarez tucked home a Marco Asensio cross after 18 minutes. There was little rhythm to their game and in the second half they relied on keeper Jaime Domenech to make important blocks to deny Hernan Perez and Asensio. "I have no doubts over my work nor that of the players," Valencia coach Nuno Espirito Santo told reporters. "In the first half we were the better side and looked dangerous but then in the second half we didn't play well." Someone continued with his rotation policy and it was a lively start from Atletico characterized by good link-up play.

Gabi Fernandez put the ball back into the box following a corner and Griezmann turned to finished clinically. Atletico recruited well ahead of the season and the skills of Yannick Ferreira-Carrasco and Oliver Torres meant that they did not miss the injured Koke as they pressed Getafe back. But Atletico started to relax at the back before halftime and Stefan Savic hit a firm drive that was just too close to keeper Jan Oblak who made the save. After the break a mistake by Guilherme Siqueira put Pedro Leon through on goal but he missed the target before Griezmann put gloss on the scoreline for Atletico by slipping the ball home following a well worked move. — Reuters