

Sport
Football

Right place, right time: Bruno Guimarães celebrates after scoring his second goal to secure victory for Newcastle

Goals flow as Newcastle step up European push

Nottm Forest Elanga 26, Hudson-Odoi 45+6	2
Newcastle Bruno 10, 66, Schar 43	3

By Neil Squires
at the City Ground

Newcastle United are the Premier League's golden ticket this season with goals, at one end or the other, guaranteed. Five more at the City Ground makes it 90 and counting.

If another thrill-a-minute game could not quite match last week's 4-4 draw with Luton for scoreboard burnout then it still represented an early evening well spent, with a classy double from Bruno Guimarães proving decisive.

How much three points at Forest will be worth to Newcastle in their pursuit of European football will only be revealed at the end of the season, but it felt important.

If this has at times seemed like a cursed campaign for Newcastle,

what with the betting ban for Sandro Tonali and the injuries which have beset them, then they could yet salvage something from it.

"To get the three points today was massive for us," said Bruno. "It is clear for me we have to get Europe again – try for the Champions League, I know it's difficult, but at least the Europa League."

Bruno won it with a 66th-minute cracker from 25 yards after setting Newcastle on their way with a smart 10th-minute volley from a short-corner routine. "They were two incredible finishes. When we can get him the ball in those areas he has undoubted quality," said Newcastle manager Eddie Howe.

Bruno, playing in a more advanced midfield role, was an elegant presence throughout and a worthy man of the match. The debate over Dan Burn's worth to Newcastle rumbles on, though. It reignited in the 26th minute when Anthony Elanga embarrassed him, and Sven Botman, for pace to equalise for Forest. Nine minutes earlier Burn had again been flambéed by

Elanga but goalkeeper Martin Dubravka came to the rescue.

Forest were incisive on the break but their defence shut down in a costly fashion in the 43rd minute. A long, looping free-kick from Kieran Trippier caused inexplicable confusion and Fabian Schar buried the chance to restore Newcastle's lead.

It was 2-2 before the half was out as Callum Hudson-Odoi's shot from the edge of the area took a cruel deflection off Newcastle teenager Lewis Miley. But when Elanga coughed up possession on the edge of his own area in the second half, Bruno was on to the loose ball and produced a terrific finish past Matz Sels from 25 yards to win the game.

For Forest, these are anxious times. Manager Nuno Espirito Santo felt his side should have been awarded a second-half penalty when Taiwo Awoniyi fell under a challenge from Dubravka.

"For me it was a clear penalty," said Nuno. "When you have a VAR it is so obvious. That's why I don't understand. That was the decisive moment for sure."

her to have those extra couple of seconds, because she protects it so well. You could give it to her in a phone box and you'd struggle to get it off her. Yuka just continually shows flashes of magic."

Momiki, who scored in eight consecutive games for Linköping immediately prior to her switch to Leicester, demonstrated great balance – utilising her low centre of gravity to turn defenders with ease – and vision, playing in a free-looking role roughly as a No10.

In the deep-lying midfield role, Takarada was finding time to turn and launch perfect cross-field balls out wide to great effect in the first half, and she provided a neat assist for Janice Cayman to slot in the Women's Super League side's equaliser to make it 1-1, after Bir-

Fulham's boys from Brazil turn on style and vindicate Silva

Fulham De Cordova-Reid 5, Muniz 36, 52	3
Bournemouth Senesi 50	1

By Tom Prentki
at Craven Cottage

The sky turned pink at full-time over Craven Cottage as the boys from Brazil danced the samba to bring a little glitz and glamour to a grey afternoon by the Thames.

Willian and Rodrigo Muniz were the catalysts for a Fulham victory that lifted them above opponents Bournemouth as Marco Silva's side won their first league game in 2024.

Since the arrival of Armando Broja on loan from Chelsea at the end of the transfer window, Muniz has scored three times in two games, keeping the Albania international confined to the bench.

"I'm really pleased for him [Muniz]," Silva said. "When you have the chance you have to step in and when the chance is there you have to show your quality. He scored an important goal last week and this afternoon was probably his best performance in a Fulham shirt."

"When a striker in two games scores three goals, and not just the goals but the way he linked the game, it was really good to have him there. This is his third season for us but he is still really young and of course it is an emotional moment for him. Last season was not the best for him. We took the decision to send him out on loan [to Middlesbrough] and that loan didn't work."

Given the way these two teams approach things, it was unsurprisingly an open, entertaining game. Fulham went in front after just five minutes when Bobby De Cordova-Reid capitalised on a slip by Lewis Cook to fire low into the corner of the net from close range.

Willian was electric down the left and was denied a goal by Neto's brilliant save after he had ghosted past Adam Smith. But soon it was Wil-

lian's cross, headed back across goal, which saw Muniz score his first goal as he nipped in front of Illya Zabarnyi.

Bournemouth were poor in the first half with Dominic Solanke's only contribution of note being to lift Marcus Tavernier's corner over the crossbar at the far post as Fulham seized a firm grip on the game.

"I think we conceded too much at the beginning of the game and that's why we ended with nothing," said Bournemouth manager Andoni Iraola, whose team were much better in the second half.

"The first goal is a player that slips in a dangerous position but for the second we had the players to deal with the cross much better. We



Faith repaid: Rodrigo Muniz scores his first goal to put Fulham 2-0 up

were not at the level the game required, then we did very good things but it was too late."

A relentless second half began with Bournemouth pulling a goal back as Solanke headed down Tavernier's corner to Marcos Senesi and the Argentine defender swivelled cleverly to score low into the Fulham net.

But within two minutes, Willian and Muniz were at it again as the former crossed to the latter who volleyed in crisply at the far post to restore the two-goal cushion.

"It was crucial to score the third goal straight away [after Bournemouth scored]," Silva said.

'Magical' Japanese pair cast spell on Birmingham

WOMEN'S FA CUP

Leicester Cayman 19, O'Brien 23, 42, Takarada 59, Rose 66, Whelan 82	6-2	Birmingham Goodwin 2 og, Smith 41
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By Tom Garry
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL REPORTER
at the Pirelli Stadium

The quality of new Japanese signings Saori Takarada and Yuka Momiki shone through as Leicester City came from behind to reach the Women's FA Cup quarter-finals.

Leicester manager Willie Kirk hailed the impact of the duo, who were both signed from Swedish side Linköping last month, praising Takarada's close control and lauding Momiki's "moments of magic", after an afternoon when their technical abilities stood out on a bobbly pitch at Burton Albion.

"They've settled in so quickly. They're just fantastic, fantastic football players," Kirk said. "Saori knows that the quality of her touch will give her time, and even when she's tightly pressed, it will allow

tingham had gone ahead inside two minutes. The Championship side had benefited from the match's first set-piece, courtesy of a Missy Goodwin own goal.

Takarada got on the scoresheet herself, heading in to make it 4-2, but not the before first half had ended with the hosts 3-2 up. Leicester winger Shannon O'Brien scored twice, either side of a dinked finish from Libby Smith for Birmingham.

Leicester substitutes Deanne Rose and Aileen Whelan added

clinically taken goals to knock out the 2012 Cup winners.

Birmingham, who are fifth in the Championship, will now turn their focus to their push for promotion, and manager Darren Carter said: "Today you've seen the ruthlessness of a WSL team. At WSL level, they punish you."

WSL side Tottenham had to rely on Kit Graham's low strike with just under 15 minutes remaining to beat Championship leaders Charlton.

Leicester City (4-4-1-1) Leitzig 6; Bott 6 (Ale 75), Green 6, Howard 7, Cayman 7; Goodwin 6 (Rose 66), Tierney 7, Takarada 8 (Pelgander 75), O'Brien 8 (Baker 66); Momiki 8; Rantala 6 (Whelan 66). Subs Kop (g), Nevin, Palmer, Thibaud. Booked Bott.
Birmingham City (3-5-2) Thomas 6; Lawley 6, Herron 7, Finn 6; Mason 6, Moore 6 (Dungate 76), Cho 6, Harrison-Murray 6, Quinn 6 (Fuso h-t); Smith 7 (Choe 63), Walker 7 (Devlin 76). Subs Clarke (g), Holloway. Booked Lawley, Smith. Referee Megan Wilson.



Talent: Leicester's Saori Takarada found the net and showed her technical skill against Birmingham