

Arsenal beat Aston Villa 1-0 as Saka seals Artetaâ??s 250th Premier League game

Description

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Arsenal beat Aston Villa 1-0 at Villa Park on Monday (Aug 31), with Bukayo Sakaâ??s 59th-minute goal sealing three points on Mikel Artetaâ??s 250th Premier League match in charge.

Saka scored from close range after Eze, on as a half-time substitute, and Calafiori combined. The result left the defending champions on two wins from two in the 2026/27 Premier League season.

Villa almost took the lead in the first half when Emiliano Buendia struck the woodwork. Arsenal pressed through set pieces, with Declan Riceâ??s corners causing problems for Villa debutant goalkeeper Zion Suzuki.



Photo: Arsenal FC

Saka settles it

Ten minutes into the second half, referee Jarred Gillett pointed to the spot after Ian Maatsen fouled Saka. A video assistant referee review ruled the foul was outside the box, and a free-kick was given instead. Martin Odegaardâ??s free-kick then hit the side netting.

The breakthrough followed soon after. Cristhian Mosquera found half-time substitute Eberechi Eze, who rolled the ball to left-back Riccardo Calafiori. The Italian slid the ball across for Saka to tap beyond Suzuki. It was Sakaâ??s second Premier League goal in as many matches.

Arteta later brought on Mikel Merino and Bruno Guimaraes, who made his Premier League debut for Arsenal. Ezri Konsa, a former Villa defender, also debuted when he replaced Mosquera for the final 12 minutes.

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Photo: Arsenal FC

Artetaâ??s 250th

Arteta described the result as a squad victory after the final whistle. â??Extremely happy,â?• he said. â??Itâ??s a really tough place to come and win, when we came here last year, and we lost with the last kick of the game. I think we still had that in our tummies.â?•

â??I would define it as a squad victory â?? I think everybody contributed in a really great way,â?• Mr Arteta said. On the milestone, he added: â??Iâ??m extremely grateful. It starts to be a big number! So Iâ??m really grateful for all the support, the love that I feel from all of them, and yeah, really great to celebrate with a win.â?•

Arteta became the second person to both play and manage at least 250 Premier League games, after Mark Hughes. Villa finished the match without a shot on target.

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Photo: Arsenal FC

Whatâ??s next

Arsenal next host Chelsea at Emirates Stadium on Sunday (Sep 6), with kick-off at 4.30pm UK time (11.30pm Singapore time). The Gunners then travel to Napoli on Wednesday (Sep 9) for their Champions League campaign.

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