



EPL Matchday 33 Roundup: Man United Seize Third, Van Dijk Rescues Reds as City Keep Title Race Alive

Description

Matchday 33 of the 2025-26 Premier League season delivered late drama, title-race twists and another painful weekend for Tottenham Hotspur as the run-in reached fever pitch. Manchester United tightened their grip on a Champions League place, Manchester City closed the gap on leaders Arsenal, and Virgil van Dijk etched his name into Merseyside derby folklore with a 100th-minute winner at the Hill Dickinson Stadium. Here is the full **EPL Matchday 33 roundup** from the weekend of 18 and 19 April 2026.

Cunha sinks Chelsea as Manchester United open 10-point top-four gap



Old Trafford: Michael Carrick's Manchester United now hold a 10-point advantage in the race for the Champions League.

Stamford Bridge hosted the pick of Saturday's fixtures, and it was Manchester United who left west London with all three points. Matheus Cunha's first-time finish on the stroke of half-time, teed up by Bruno Fernandes for the Portuguese's 18th Premier League assist of the campaign, proved enough for Michael Carrick's side to seal a 1-0 victory.

Chelsea dominated large spells, with Willian Estevao rattling the outside of the post and Liam Delap heading against the crossbar after the interval. Yet Liam Rosenior's side could not find a way through for a fourth straight blank in the league - their fourth defeat on the bounce - and their hopes of a Champions League return are now fading fast. United, by contrast, sit third with a 10-point

cushion over fifth-placed Chelsea and look well placed to secure a return to Europe's top table.

Haaland strikes as Manchester City blow the title race wide open



The Etihad Stadium, where Erling Haaland's winner cut Arsenal's lead at the top of the Premier League to three points.

Sunday's heavyweight clash at the Etihad did not disappoint. **Manchester City 2-1 Arsenal** was settled by Erling Haaland's close-range finish in the second half after a frenetic afternoon in which Rayan Cherki opened the scoring for the hosts and Kai Havertz equalised within two minutes by

charging down Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Arsenal twice threatened to break Pep Guardiola's side - Havertz forced a fine save and Ebere Eze rattled the inside of the post - before Haaland pounced inside the six-yard box. The result lifts City to within three points of leaders Arsenal with a game in hand, and transforms the title race heading into the final five matchdays. Arsenal stay top on 70 points; City are now on 67 and firmly back in the conversation.

Van Dijk writes new derby chapter at the Hill Dickinson Stadium

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Virgil van Dijk's 100th-minute header sent the travelling Kop into pandemonium at the first-ever Merseyside derby played at Everton's new Hill Dickinson Stadium.

Across Stanley Park, the first Merseyside derby at Everton's new Hill Dickinson Stadium produced an instant classic. Mohamed Salah nudged Liverpool in front in the 29th minute before Beto powered home an equaliser early in the second half to send the home end into raptures.

With the clock ticking into the 100th minute, Virgil van Dijk rose between the Everton defenders to thump in a header and send the travelling Kop into pandemonium. The skipper's late intervention puts Arne Slot's Reds seven points clear of sixth-placed Chelsea with five games remaining and tightens their hold on a top-four finish. For Everton, who had fought superbly, it was a cruel way for the historic first derby at their new home to end.

Spurs stuck in the drop zone as De Zerbi waits for first win



Tottenham remain in the relegation zone after Georginio Rutter's stoppage-time leveller spoiled Roberto De Zerbi's home debut.

Roberto De Zerbi's home bow as Tottenham boss ended in heartbreak. Pedro Porro and Xavi Simons appeared to have dragged Spurs to the brink of a desperately needed victory before Georginio Rutter struck in the fifth minute of stoppage time to salvage a 2-2 draw for Brighton & Hove Albion.

Spurs now sit 18th on 31 points, one behind West Ham and two adrift of Nottingham Forest, with only five matches to save their season. With captain Cristian Romero out for the campaign and goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario still recovering from hernia surgery, the Italian coach's task of keeping a club of Tottenham's stature in the top flight has rarely looked more daunting.

Forest, Villa and Bournemouth grab crucial wins

Elsewhere on Sunday, Morgan Gibbs-White stole the show at the City Ground as his 15-minute hat-trick inspired a **Nottingham Forest 4-1 Burnley** rout that all but secured Nuno Espirito Santo's side another Premier League campaign. Aston Villa edged a breathless **4-3 thriller over Sunderland** thanks to Tammy Abraham's stoppage-time winner, a result that keeps Unai Emery's men firmly in the Champions League hunt.

Saturday's other fixtures saw Bournemouth continue their remarkable run with a 2-1 victory at St James' Park a 12th game unbeaten in the league to push their European dream closer and deepen the crisis around Eddie Howe's Newcastle, who lost a third straight match to jeers from their own supporters. Leeds United eased their relegation worries with a 3-0 home win over a Wolves side now staring into the Championship abyss, while Brentford and Fulham played out a drab 0-0 stalemate in west London.

What it all means heading into Monday Night Football

With Crystal Palace hosting West Ham on Monday evening still to come, the matchday paints a vivid picture. Arsenal's destiny is no longer in their own hands alone; Manchester United are marching towards the Champions League; Liverpool are a point closer to sealing second; and Tottenham, remarkably, are now five games from the drop. The final stretch of the 2025-26 Premier League season is wide open, and few seasons in recent memory have delivered so many headlines at both ends of the table.

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