

Man City 1-1 Fulham: Anderson volley rescues a point, but Haalandâ??s goal is ruled out

Description

default watermark

Man City 1-1 Fulham was a frustrating Saturday lunchtime at the Etihad, where Elliot Andersonâ??s second-half volley rescued a point but Erling Haalandâ??s disallowed goal dominated the debate. Cityâ??s 20-match winning run against Fulham is over.



Elliot Anderson volleys City level. Source: Manchester City official website (mancity.com)

Muniz punishes a slow City start

This was not a first half to cherish. Coming off the international break, City looked short of rhythm and sharpness, and Fulham made them pay in the 16th minute. Oscar Bobb was the creator, Rodrigo Muniz the finisher, and the Brazilianâ??s rising shot flew past Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Enzo Maresca made three changes, with Nico Oâ??Reilly, Ayyoub Bouaddi and Phil Foden coming in, but the home side struggled to find a way through a well-organised Fulham back line. Bobb nearly doubled the lead before the break after robbing Oâ??Reilly inside the box, and only a strong angled

save from Donnarumma kept it at 1-0.

The Haaland goal ruled out

Ten minutes after going behind, City felt they were level. Iliman Ndiayeâ??s cross found Haaland, Bernd Leno appeared to fumble the save, and the Norwegian bundled the ball over the line. The referee decided it was a foul on the goalkeeper and VAR backed him.



Erling Haalandâ??s first-half goal was ruled out for a foul on Bernd Leno. Source: Manchester City official website (mancity.com)

It was a subjective call, and the sort that fuels the weekly argument about whether referees should be sent to the pitch-side monitor for a look. Maresca himself said afterwards that the decision should have stood in Cityâ??s favour. Haaland, by all accounts, was convinced he had scored. Those are the margins that decide title races, and City cannot afford many more of them.

The statistics tell a similar story. City had the territory but not the clean openings, and Fulham, unbeaten in five league games, defended with discipline and composure. Fulham broke up play smartly and used Bobb and Muniz to threaten whenever space appeared. A draw is a decent result for the visitors, and it ends a long run of defeats against City in all competitions.

Andersonâ??s volley lifts the mood

The response came on 57 minutes. A corner was only half-cleared, and Anderson met it first time from 20 yards, volleying beyond Leno to make it 1-1. It was a fine strike and fully deserved, as the England midfielder was Cityâ??s best player and a constant threat from the edge of the area.

He might have had a second. Late on, a clever flick from Haalandâ??s cross rolled inches past the post, and at the other end Muniz forced a good save from Donnarumma to remind City that Fulham were not just there to defend. Cherki, Gvardiol, Allan and Fernandez all came on as the hosts pushed, but the winner would not arrive in front of 60,038 fans.

default watermark



Gianluigi Donnarumma kept City in it with a fine save to deny Oscar Bobb. Source: Manchester City official website (mancity.com)

What this Man City 1-1 Fulham draw means

City are winless in four Premier League games. They sit third on 22 points, level with Brighton, who have a better goal difference and a game in hand. Leaders Arsenal are five points clear with a game in hand too. You can read how the leaders got on in our report on Newcastle 2-2 Arsenal, and how the weekend began in our preview of the Fulham game.

Maresca pointed to conceding early goals as the recurring problem. After falling behind, his players rush, and that does not suit a side trying to build something new. He is right. City have been chasing games when they should be controlling them, and the cost is showing in the table.

Two huge games next

There is no time to dwell on it. Napoli visit the Etihad on Tuesday 24 November (kick-off 8pm GMT, which is 4am on Wednesday in Singapore) in the Champions League league phase, with Kevin De Bruyneâ??s side the opponents. Then comes the big one: a trip to the Emirates to face Arsenal on Sunday 29 November, with a 4.30pm UK kick-off.

Those two matches could define Cityâ??s season. A win over Napoli would put them in a strong position for the knockout stages, and a result in north London would cut the gap at the top. For more of the weekendâ??s action, head to the Little Big Red Dot Sports section or catch up on Liverpool 4-0 Manchester United.

There is also the matter of the squad. Fodenâ??s return to the starting line-up was encouraging, and Jeremy Doku kept stretching Fulham on the flank, but too many passes went astray in the final third. Until the sharpness comes back, every game against a well-drilled opponent will look like this one.

default watermark

City will hope the lunchtime blues stay in Manchester. Andersonâ??s goal showed there is plenty of quality in this team. They just need to stop starting matches a goal behind.

Date Created
23/11/2026
Author
jadeyeo