

Man City 2-2 Napoli: City twice come from behind as Bouaddi and Cherki strike in the Champions League

Description

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Manchester City twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with Napoli at the Etihad Stadium in the Champions League on Tuesday night, and Rayan Cherkiâ??s equaliser four minutes from time lifted them to sixth in the league phase. The match kicked off at 4am on Wednesday, 25 November, Singapore time.

Ayyoub Bouaddi, 19, scored his first goal for the club in between, after Rasmus Hojlund and Noa Lang had each put the Italians in front.



Rayan Cherki celebrates his late equaliser against Napoli with Ayyoub Bouaddi. Photo: Manchester City FC

Two Napoli goals, two City replies

City had the early chances. Elliot Anderson forced a low save from Vanja Milinkovic-Savic in the opening minutes, and Nico Oâ??Reilly headed over from a Matheus Nunes cross. At the other end, Gianluigi Donnarumma clawed away a Sam Beukema header from a corner on the stroke of half-time.

Napoli struck on 55 minutes. Billy Gilmour found Hojlund on the left edge of the box, and the former Manchester United striker opened up space past Marc Guehi before drilling a low shot past Donnarumma.

Enzo Maresca sent on Jeremy Doku, and the Belgian made the equaliser, picking out Bouaddi in the box. The Moroccan teenager, who started in midfield alongside Anderson, stroked it home.

Lang restored the lead on 76 minutes with a volley from Leonardo Spinazzolaâ??s cross. Josko Gvardiol then hit the post, and with four minutes left substitute Iliman Ndiaye slipped the ball to Cherki, who drilled a low shot in from a tight angle on the right.

De Bruyne back at the Etihad

Kevin De Bruyne, who joined Napoli on a free transfer in 2025 after a decade at City, started for the visitors on his first return to the Etihad. He and Hojlund were both withdrawn on 75 minutes.

â??I am proud of what I have done as a football player and, honestly, this is my club,â?• De Bruyne told BBC Sport before the game.

Where it leaves City

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The point takes City to 10 points from five matches, with three wins, a draw and a defeat. That puts them sixth, level on points with Borussia Dortmund and one behind Arsenal, who drew 1-1 with Dortmund at the Emirates on the same night with Kepa Arrizabalaga in goal for the injured David Raya. The top eight after the league phase go straight to the round of 16, and teams finishing ninth to 24th go into a play-off.

The table will move again on Wednesday night, when 18 clubs play their fifth match. Napoli are 27th on four points, outside the play-off places for now.

â??We take the point, [and we have] 10 points from five games. Good result in the end and we move on,â?• Maresca said afterwards, adding that both Napoli goals â??could have been avoidedâ?•.

The draw also leaves City with one win in their last six Premier League and Champions League matches, the 3-2 victory at RB Leipzig on 4 November. Aston Villa, Brighton and Nottingham Forest all beat them in the league in that spell, and Fulham held them 1-1 at the Etihad on 21 November.

City are third in the Premier League on 22 points, six behind leaders Arsenal. They visit the Emirates on Sunday, 29 November, with kick-off at 12.30am on Monday, 30 November, Singapore time. Their next Champions League match is away to Barcelona on 8 December, at 4am on 9 December in Singapore.

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