

Newcastle 2-2 Arsenal: Maduekeâ??s Late Equaliser Keeps Gunners Six Clear

### Description

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Newcastle 2-2 Arsenal was a Saturday evening that swung one way, then the other, then back again at St Jamesâ?? Park. Noni Maduekeâ??s 78th-minute equaliser rescued a point for the leaders, who stay six clear after 11 games but left Tyneside feeling they had dropped two.

## Newcastle 2-2 Arsenal: how the goals came

Arsenal were the better side before the break. Madueke hit the post inside the first five minutes, and the opener arrived around the half-hour mark. Ezri Konsa fed Kai Havertz, who got the better of Lewis Hall and slipped the ball behind Amar Dedic for Eberechi Eze to hit first time past Lukas Hornicek. Arsenalâ??s own report puts it at 32 or 33 minutes, and it was Ezeâ??s first Premier League goal since April.

Newcastle changed three players at half-time and the game turned fast. Four minutes after the restart, Martin Odegaard miscued a pass from a throw-in, William Osula picked it up and found Harvey Barnes in the box, and Barnes made it 1-1. It was Barnesâ??s first goal in 15 Premier League appearances against Arsenal, and the first goal Arsenal have conceded from a lead this season.

Then came the one that stung. On 62 minutes Hall swung in a corner, Dan Burnâ??s header struck Joe Willock and dropped for Malick Thiaw, who finished from close range. VAR checked for offside and let it stand, and the home crowd, which had been booing Bruno Guimaraes at every touch, found its voice.




Source: Arsenal official website (arsenal.com)

# Maduekeâ??s late equaliser keeps Arsenal six clear

Arsenal needed a response and got one 12 minutes from time. Myles Lewis-Skelly won the ball in midfield, played in Odegaard, and Odegaard found Madueke on the right. He cut inside and drilled a low shot past Hornicek for 2-2.

The goal also added to a striking record. Arsenalâ??s report notes that 14 of Maduekeâ??s 18 Premier League goals have come away from home, a 78 per cent share that is the highest among players with more than 10 league goals. Viktor Gyokeres, on as a late substitute, curled a shot over with two minutes left, but there was no winner. Nine minutes of stoppage time had been signalled, partly because of a VAR check and a stoppage for an injury.

The draw ended a run of 21 Premier League games without a draw for Arsenal, and it was only the second draw in the last 28 league meetings between these clubs. Arsenal have won 22 of those and Newcastle four, with the previous stalemate a 0-0 in January 2023.

## Raya injury and Artetaâ??s verdict

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The biggest worry for Arsenal came after the break. David Raya went off injured after collecting a corner and was replaced by Kepa Arrizabalaga. Mikel Arteta called it bad news, said he did not yet know how it happened or how serious it was, and expected Raya to have an MRI scan on Sunday. Arsenal have not confirmed the problem.

On the result, Arteta was blunt. He said Arsenal felt they had lost two points, were excellent in the first half and should have been three or four goals up. After the interval, he said, they lost their edge and gave Newcastle belief, and they were punished by a throw-in goal and a corner. His team, he added, lacked that moment of magic to get over the line.




Source: Arsenal official website (arsenal.com)

Madueke echoed that mood. He said the team were disappointed not to win after such a strong first half, and that the second-half display was not good enough, though he praised the character that earned the point. He also admitted his late goal was a personal relief, since he felt he had chances to

settle the game earlier, and said nothing is decided in November.

## What the table says

Arsenal sit top on 28 points from 11 games, six ahead of second-placed Brighton on 22 from 10, with Manchester City third. Newcastle are 12th on 13 points, a handy cushion above the bottom three but nowhere near the European places.

For Arsenal, the question now is less about the table and more about the squad. A first-half performance like that, followed by a collapse in control after the restart, is something Arteta will want fixed quickly. If Raya misses time, Kepa steps in for a Champions League week and a long winter schedule.

Newcastle will take heart from a fightback against the league leaders. Their last five league draws at St Jamesâ?? Park have all finished 2-2 since the start of last season, and this one at least came against the best team in the division.

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**Date Created**
22/11/2026
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