



Newcastle 3-1 Brighton: Osula, Burn And Barnes End Magpies' Five-Match Slump

Description

Newcastle 3-1 Brighton at St James' Park on Saturday 2 May 2026 was the result Eddie Howe's men had been begging the football gods for. After five straight defeats had derailed what once looked a certain march into the European places, William Osula, Dan Burn and Harvey Barnes combined to end Brighton's five-game unbeaten run and breathe life back into a stuttering Newcastle season.

Newcastle 3-1 Brighton: how the match unfolded

The 52,099 inside St James' Park endured an anxious opening. Nick Pope's smart save from Jack Hinshelwood inside two minutes was a warning, and Carlos Baleba's dipping 25-yarder rattled the top of the Leazes End crossbar shortly after. Brighton, top scorers in the league across April, looked the more composed side right up until the moment Bart Verbruggen rushed out of his goal to challenge Jacob Murphy in the 12th minute and got nowhere near it. Murphy regained his footing and crossed for Osula to head into an empty net.



Source: Newcastle United FC official website ([newcastleunited.com](https://www.newcastleunited.com))

Twelve minutes later it was 2-0. Bruno Guimaraes whipped in a left-wing corner, and there was Dan Burn marking his 150th Premier League appearance, against the club where it all began for him to bury the header past his former side. The home support, who had grown weary of conceding leads, dared to believe.

Brighton's pushback and Newcastle's nerves

Brighton refused to fold. Pope had to be alert again to deny Kaoru Mitoma at point-blank range after the break, although the Japan international appeared to control with his arm. The Magpies' best chances kept arriving at the other end, with Lewis Miley and Joe Willock both forcing saves, and Malick Thiaw blocked from close range by an outstretched Verbruggen.

The pivotal moment came on 67 minutes. Hinshelwood, the architect of much of Brighton's good work, drifted into the Newcastle box, controlled Danny Welbeck's pass and finished superbly past Pope. Suddenly the visitors had a foothold, the home crowd's nerves were jangling, and Newcastle's habit of surrendering points from winning positions threatened to bite again.



Source: Newcastle United FC official website (newcastleunited.com)

Barnes settles it as Newcastle 3-1 Brighton ends the slump

The closing minutes were torture. Pope produced a stunning reaction save to deny Charalampos Kostas' overhead kick. Yankuba Minteh, on loan from Newcastle's recruitment list less than two years ago, somehow scuffed wide from six yards with Brighton's last meaningful chance. Then, with virtually the final kick of the game, Yoane Wissa cushioned a Lewis Hall cross into the path of substitute Harvey Barnes, who lashed home to settle it.

It was Newcastle's 23rd victory of the season in all competitions and a first in six matches. After defeats to Manchester City, Crystal Palace, Aston Villa, Bournemouth and Arsenal had stripped the gloss off a campaign that had once carried European momentum, three points against in-form Brighton felt almost transformative.

"We needed that," said Howe afterwards. "The players have been hurting and the supporters have been brilliant. We have to use this as a launchpad."

Where Newcastle and Brighton sit now

The win lifted Newcastle from 15th to 13th, although their European hopes look beyond rescue with three games to play. For Brighton, defeat dropped them to seventh, with the gap to fifth-placed Aston Villa now five points and Europa League qualification suddenly in real jeopardy.



Source: Newcastle United FC official website (newcastleunited.com)

Spare a thought, too, for Verbruggen. The Dutchman has been one of the Premier League's most reliable goalkeepers this season, but his rush of blood for the opening goal will not be one he watches back any time soon. Fabian Hurzeler, the youngest manager in the league, will need to remind his side that small margins matter when Europe is on the line.

What's next

Newcastle travel to Chelsea next weekend in a fixture that no longer carries the same European subtext but remains a chance to add momentum heading into a summer of likely change. Brighton host Liverpool – not exactly an ideal opportunity to recover Europa League ground.

For now, however, St James's Park can savour a result that ended a damaging slide. Osula has scored in three of his last four matches, Burn marked a milestone with a goal, and Barnes underlined again why Howe trusts him from the bench. After a month of frustration, the Geordie roar finally had something to celebrate.

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Date Created

03/05/2026

Author

jadeyeo

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