

## WHO SUCCEEDS SOLSKJAER AT MANCHESTER UNITED?



**NBC LANDS £1.9BN  
PREMIER LEAGUE TV  
RIGHTS**



**ZIDANE REJECTS  
MAN UTD OFFER**

## News



# NBC LANDS £1.9BN PREMIER LEAGUE TV RIGHTS

NBC has won the Premier League TV Rights to broadcast exclusively all 380 games per season in the United States until the summer of 2028, in a six-year deal worth £1.9billion, a statement from Premier League said.

NBC, who have had the Premier League TV Rights since 2013, won the bidding process from ESPN and CBS to agree on a new six-year contract worth an astonishing £1.9billion.

The deal is almost double the \$1billion fee NBC paid for Premier League TV rights in 2015, meaning it is the biggest ever overseas TV deal in the history of the English top-flight league.

That is about double what the broadcaster paid for the most recent cycle and allays fears of the league's bubble being burst by the coronavirus pandemic in addition to providing the clearest sign yet that the game is reaching new levels of popularity in the States.

"We are delighted to announce our new US broadcast deal with NBC Sports, who have been brilliant partners for the Premier League

over the last nine seasons. NBC Sports has significantly strengthened the popularity of the league in the United States in that time through its fantastic coverage and promotion," Richard Masters, the Premier League chief executive said.

The deal means all 20 clubs are likely to receive payments of more than £10million per season with a distribution model weighted in favour of teams' finishing places meaning that those who finish in the European places are expected to get a bigger package.

Masters added: "Interest in the Premier League is going from strength to strength and it is great to see the growing global demand to watch our matches and engage with the League.

"Our international and domestic broadcast revenues over the next cycle will give stability and certainty to the game as a whole, which is particularly important as football recovers from COVID-19 losses.

"We are proud to provide more in-

vestment into our football pyramid than any other football league in the world."

It is significant news for football as a whole, with the deal indicating that the sport is breaking through in a US market previously dominated by basketball, American football, and baseball.

The Covid pandemic saw Premier League clubs lose around £2bn in broadcast and matchday revenue across the two disrupted seasons, so the new US deal will come as a huge financial boost.

When the UK Premier League TV rights renewal came round in May of this year, Sky, BT, and Amazon agreed to roll over their existing £5bn agreement, ensuring no financial improvement on the previous deal.

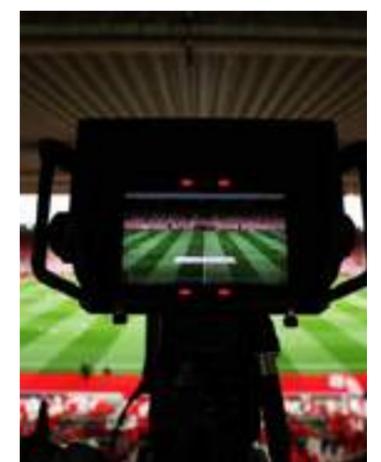
The Premier League TV Rights deal is just the latest football contract to be purchased by an American broadcaster after various deals were struck in recent months.

In May, ESPN acquired the rights to show Spanish LaLiga matches in a contract worth \$1.4bn (£1.04bn), while CBS has the rights to show the UEFA Champions League, Serie A, and most recently the FA Women's Super League.

Also, the Premier League announced that an extra £20million will be paid to EFL League One and League Two clubs this season, and an additional £5million will support clubs in the top-three National League divisions until 2025 to aid their financial recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Premier League bosses agreed to a

£250m rescue package with their Football League counterparts in December 2020, which gave League One and League Two clubs access to £30m in funding immediately.



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## News



## ZIDANE REJECTS MAN UTD OFFER

Manchester United have approached Zinedine Zidane about becoming their manager but, according to sources close to the former Real Madrid boss, he is not interested in going to Old Trafford at this point.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was sacked by United on Sunday after Saturday's 4-1 defeat at Watford.

Zidane ended his second spell as Real manager in May this year.

He won three consecutive Champions League titles with the club from 2016.

After leaving in 2018, he returned a year later and won La Liga and the

Spanish Super Cup in 2020.

The same sources have said legendary former France and Real midfielder Zidane, who is out of work, would not be keen on a move to United right now.

He has been linked with the French national side and Paris St-Germain, and would prefer to consider those options when or if they become available.

Mauricio Pochettino, who has regularly been spoken of as a future United boss, is the current manager of PSG, who have full confidence in the Argentine and have made no movements to replace him with Zidane.



## STERLING WANTS BARCELONA LOAN



Raheem Sterling has reportedly told Manchester City that he wants a loan move to Barcelona in January.

The England forward, 26, has grown frustrated at City after starting just three games this season.

Barca appear to be one of the front-runners should Sterling leave the Etihad after admitting he was "open to moving abroad".

And now he has told City that he wants them to sanction a loan to the Camp Nou during the mid-season transfer window.

The Catalan club are grappling with financial issues so are likely to favour a temporary switch rather than buying him outright.

Pep Guardiola has challenged Sterling — who has 18 months left on his current contract — to fight his way back into the City team.

The Spanish boss was typically coy about a potential departure for the Three Lions star when asked ahead of City's game against Everton.

He said: "Don't ask me from now on until the last day of the window about transfers because I'm not going to answer.

"It is not my business and it is not our business — Raheem's either. Our business is Everton, PSG, West Ham, and the rest.

"I'm not going to answer any questions about what is going to happen in the future because I don't know. And I am not concerned for one second."

And the Mirror are claiming City are unwilling to let Sterling leave on loan, and want to sign a replacement before letting him go.

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EPL Roundup in association with



# RAMPANT LIVERPOOL HUMILIATE GUNNERS



Arsenal's unbeaten run came to a shuddering halt as Liverpool cruised to a thumping 4-0 victory at Anfield.

With Liverpool losing to West Ham last time out, Arsenal went into Saturday's match holding the longest unbeaten run of any side in the Premier League, but their streak was ended in emphatic fashion.

Sadio Mane put Liverpool ahead in the 39th minute, with Diogo Jota capitalising on Nuno Tavares' error

to double the lead.

Aaron Ramsdale did his best to keep the score down but Mohamed Salah got in on the act before substitute Takumi Minamino scored within 56 seconds of coming on to add further gloss to a win that sends Liverpool second.

It took a touchline fracas that resulted in both managers being booked to spark the match into life, shortly after Alexandre Lacazette had a goal rightly disallowed for offside.

That incident seemed to fuel Liverpool's fire and Salah should have opened the scoring but instead directed a close-range attempt at Ramsdale, who subsequently flicked over Trent Alexander-Arnold's shot.

#### What's next?

Liverpool host Porto at Anfield in the Champions League on Wednesday. Arsenal welcome Newcastle United to Emirates Stadium.



# WATFORD UPSET MAN UNITED

Harry Maguire was sent off as Manchester United suffered their fifth defeat in seven Premier League games, a humbling 4-1 setback at Watford.

First-half goals from Joshua King and Ismaila Sarr, who had an earlier penalty saved.

Substitute Donny van de Beek pulled one back for United, who had captain Maguire dismissed for two bookable

offences.

But Claudio Ranieri's home team made sure with stoppage-time strikes from Joao Pedro and Emmanuel Dennis, earning a second win in seven matches to move four points clear of the relegation zone.

As United lick their wounds, Watford have now scored at least three goals in four of the

five Premier League matches this season in which they have found the net.

This result also ended a run of four successive defeats against United for Ranieri.

#### What's next?

Man United travel to Villarreal in Champions League clash on Tuesday. Watford travel to Leicester City on Sunday.



# Chelsea whip Leicester

Chelsea coasted to a 3-0 away win over Leicester City as Thomas Tuchel's team powered on at the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Brendan Rodgers' home side had twice defeated Tuchel's men in 2021 already, but the Blues raced into a two-goal lead this time as Antonio Rudiger and N'Golo Kante struck in the first half.

The visitors remained utterly dominant after the break and added a well-deserved third through substitute Christian

Pulisic against the hapless Foxes, who did not record a single shot until the 58th minute.

Chelsea, who collected a fourth successive away league win without conceding for the first time since December 2008, at least briefly moved six points clear at the summit.

No Premier League team had scored more headed goals than Chelsea this season (four), while no side had

conceded more than Leicester (four) ahead of this game, and Rudiger's 14th-minute opener continued the trend.

#### What's next?

Chelsea host Manchester United next Sunday after Tuesday's Champions League home clash against Juventus. Leicester welcome Legia Warsaw to the King Power Stadium on Thursday in the Europa League before Watford visit on Sunday.



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# CONTE EARNS FIRST LEAGUE WIN



Tottenham came from behind to beat Leeds United 2-1 and get their first win under new head coach Antonio Conte.

After starting his second spell in the Premier League with a goalless draw at Everton, the former Chelsea boss saw his side fall behind at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Sunday before half-time through a Dan James strike.

However, Spurs produced an encouraging display in the second half, levelling via Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg before Sergio Reguilon reacted quickest in the box to tap in the winner.

Leeds, without a Premier League away win over Spurs since February

2001, started the match on the front foot and had Hugo Lloris worried by shots from Stuart Dallas and Joe Gelhardt.

Conte's men offered little threat of their own, and they went into the break behind when James raced in to convert Jack Harrison's low cross from the left. It meant Spurs became the first side since at least 2003-04 to go six straight halves of play in the competition without managing a single shot on target.

They responded within 30 seconds of the restart, Harry Kane's effort squirming off the base of the right-hand post after Illan Meslier's block, before Lloris just denied James a second.

Son Heung-min's deflected strike crashed off Meslier's crossbar, and the Spurs forward then had penalty shouts waved away after a challenge by Calvin Phillips, but the breakthrough finally came 58 minutes in when Hojbjerg's scuffed shot bounced through a crowded box and into the bottom-right corner.

The result also means Conte has registered at least one win against all 54 sides he has faced as a coach in Serie A and the Premier League.

What's next?

Spurs head to Mura in the Europa Conference League on Thursday before a league visit to Burnley next Sunday. Leeds are next in action at home to Brighton and Hove Albion on November 27.



## MAN CITY TOO STRONG FOR EVERTON



Manchester City picked up from where they left off before the international break with a 3-0 win over Everton to move back into second place in the Premier League.

Pep Guardiola's side strolled to a 2-0 victory over Manchester United two weeks ago and were just as comfortable in Sunday's contest at the Etihad Stadium.

Raheem Sterling, making his 300th appearance in the English top flight, linked up with Joao Cancelo to fire City ahead after earlier having a penalty awarded and overruled.

Rodri scored an equally impressive goal from long range and Bernardo Silva then capped a win that moves City, who handed a full league debut to Cole Palmer, above Liverpool and within three points of leaders Chelsea.

But the home side made the break-

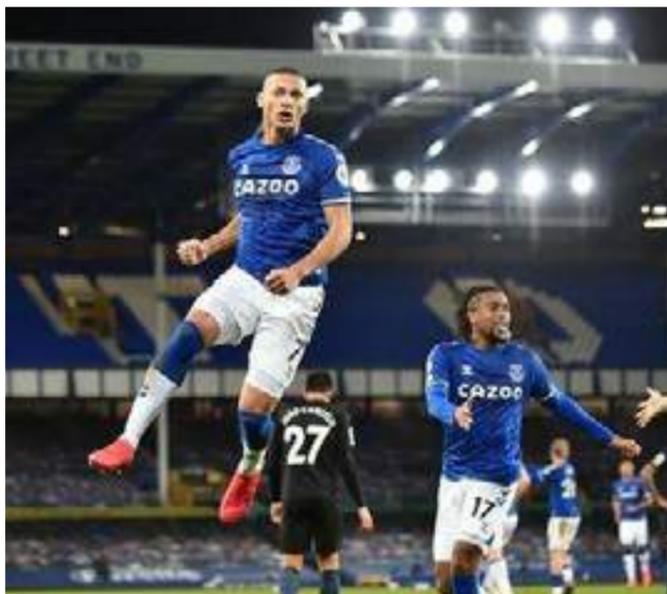
through on the brink of half-time thanks to Sterling's first-time finish after being picked out by a sublime outside-of-the-boot pass from Cancelo.

Rodri gave City some breathing space with a rocket drive from 25 yards that flew past Pickford into the top-left corner with 55 minutes played.

Guardiola's men were beaten 2-0 by Crystal Palace in their most recent home league match, but they made certain of a fourth top-flight win in five games through a simple finish for Silva late on.

What's next?

Man City turn focus to the Champions League on Wednesday at home to PSG. Everton travel to Brentford in Premier League fixture.



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**Talking Point** in association with **GUINNESS**

# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ACTIONS RETURNS



## Juventus vs Chelsea

Chelsea are winless in their last four games against the Italian side in European competition (D2 L2).

Juventus have won their last two games against Chelsea in European competition.

Chelsea's last 10 games against Italian opponents in the Champions League have seen the Blues record only one victory (D3 L6).

Juventus have won each of their last three away games against English opponents in the Champions League.

## Barcelona vs Benfica

Barcelona have lost just one of their five Champions League matches against Benfica (W2 D2).

Benfica have never won away at Barcelona in the Champions League in three attempts (D1 L2).

Benfica beat Barcelona 3-0 on MD2 of this season's Champions League.

This will be Xavi's first Champions League game as Barcelona manager.

## Villarreal vs Man Utd

Villarreal are winless in all five previous meetings (D4 L1).

United are unbeaten in five Champions League games against Villarreal (W1 D4).

Since losing 2-1 to United, Villarreal have won each of their last two Champions League games.

Villarreal have never beaten any English club in the Champions League in 11 attempts (D6 L5).

United have only won seven of their last 24 away Champions League matches (D6 L11) and are winless in their last four on the road (D1 L3).

## Dynamo Kyiv vs Bayern Munich

Dynamo Kyiv have lost five of their

seven Champions League matches against Bayern Munich (W1 D1).

Bayern are winless in their last three away Champions League matches in Ukraine (D2 L1).

Dynamo Kyiv have failed to score in any of their four Champions League matches this season.

Bayern Munich have scored 17 goals in their four Champions League matches this season.

## Sheriff Tiraspol vs Real Madrid

Sheriff Tiraspol won 2-1 in their only previous meeting with Real Madrid in European competition.

Real Madrid have won both of their away games in the Champions League this season without conceding a goal.

Sheriff Tiraspol have conceded six goals in their last two games in the Champions League.

Real Madrid will be looking to record three consecutive wins in

the group stage of the Champions League for the first time since the 2018-19 campaign.

## Sporting CP vs Borussia Dortmund

Sporting CP have lost each of their previous three European encounters with Borussia Dortmund.

In all European competition, Borussia Dortmund have never drawn a match with Portuguese opposition (W9 L4).

Sporting have lost more games (10) and conceded more goals (32) against German sides in Champions League matches than teams from any other country.

## Liverpool vs FC Porto

Liverpool are unbeaten in nine meetings with FC Porto in European competition (W6 D3), with five of those games coming during Jürgen

Klopp's reign (W4 D1).

FC Porto have only won one of their 22 away games against English teams in European competition (D3 L18).

Liverpool have only lost two of their 23 home games in the Champions League under Jürgen Klopp (W16 D5).

## Atlético Madrid vs AC Milan

Atlético Madrid have 100% record against AC Milan in European competition, winning all three of their meetings.

AC Milan have lost each of their last five away games in the Champions League against Spanish opposition.

The last Italian side to win away from home against Atlético Madrid in any European competition was Parma in 1999 (3-1).

AC Milan have only won one of

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their last 16 games against Spanish opponents in the Champions League (D6 L9).

AC Milan remain winless in the Champions League this season.

### Man City vs PSG

Man City went unbeaten in their first five meetings with PSG in European competition (W3 D2).

PSG have won two of their last three away games against English sides (L1).

City failed to score in their last meeting with PSG.

PSG have only won 20% of their meetings with Man City in the Champions League (1/5).

PSG are winless in their last three away games in the Champions League (D2 L1).

PSG's Lionel Messi has scored seven goals in seven Champions League appearances against City.

### Inter Milan vs Shakhtar Donetsk

Inter Milan are unbeaten in their six meetings with Shakhtar Do-

netnsk in European competition to date (W2 D4).

The last three meetings between Inter Milan and Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League have finished goalless.

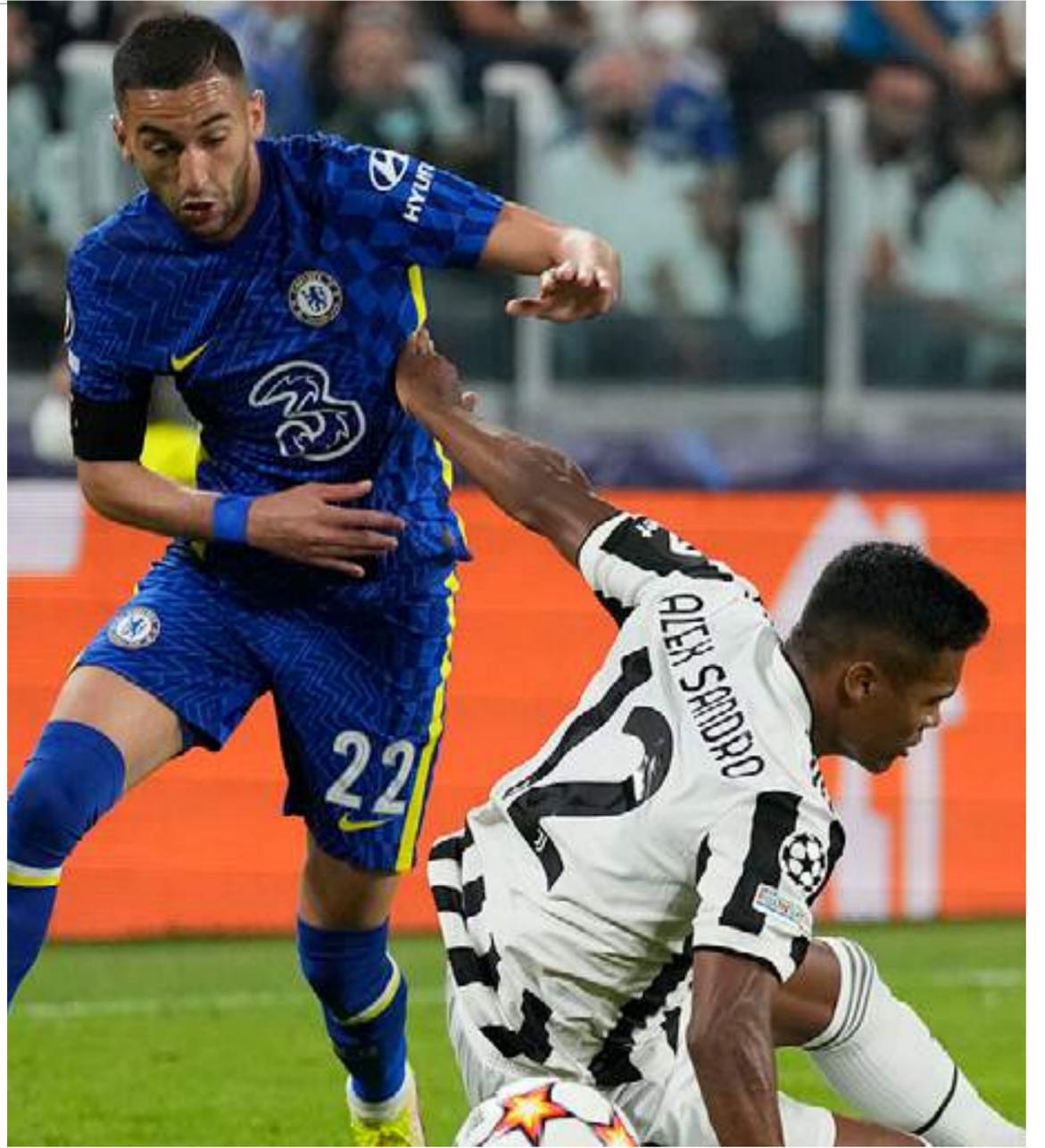
Shakhtar Donetsk have lost two of their last six away games against Italian sides in the Champions League (W2 D2).

### Besiktas vs Ajax

Besiktas have lost all five of their meetings with Ajax across all European competitions.

Ajax's five wins from five games against Besiktas represents their best 100% record against an opponent in European competition.

Besiktas have lost each of their last six games in the Champions League.



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## Xavi off to winning start

Xavi enjoyed a winning start as Barcelona head coach as they claimed a 1-0 derby win over Espanyol at Camp Nou.

Appointed as Ronald Koeman's successor and tasked with restoring both style and results to Barca, the former midfielder would not have wanted to countenance the end of a 22-match unbeaten run against their city rivals.

The Blaugrana were profligate

with their chances, though, and it took a controversial Memphis Depay penalty to secure victory as Espanyol missed out on the chance to move three points clear of Barca in the table.

Barca had 77 per cent of the possession in the first 15 minutes, Depay and Ilias Akhomach leading a dangerous-looking attack in front of a buoyant crowd of more than 74,000.

Espanyol proved a difficult defence to breach and the visitors came closest to snatching the lead, Raul de Tomas' shot deflecting just over Marc-Andre ter Stegen's crossbar.

What's next?

Xavi gets his first taste of Champions League action as a coach on Tuesday, when Barcelona host Benfica.



## Messi opens Ligue 1 account



Real Madrid returned to the top of La Liga as they put four past Granada.

Goals from Marco Asensio and Nacho gave Carlo Ancelotti's side an early lead, but Granada's Luis Suarez pulled a goal back just before half-time.

Winger Vinicius Junior restored Los Blancos' two-goal advantage shortly after the

restart with Monchu then sent off for the hosts in the 67th minute.

Ferland Mendy wrapped up the win for the visitors, adding a fourth after 76 minutes.

The win meant Real Madrid climbed above Sevilla and Real Sociedad to the summit of LaLiga.

Meanwhile, strugglers Grana-

da dropped into the bottom three on goal difference.

What's next?

Real Madrid travel to face Sheriff in the Champions League on Wednesday, before tackling Sevilla in a big LaLiga clash at the Santiago Bernabeu next Sunday. Granada head to Athletic Bilbao on Friday.

Lionel Messi's first Ligue 1 goal helped Paris Saint-Germain beat Nantes 3-1 at the Parc des Princes despite Keylor Navas getting sent off in the second half.

and failing to deal with Randal Kolo Muani's header, allowing the forward to back-heel an effort at goal that he could not keep from crossing the line.

The hosts scored in just the second minute as Leandro Paredes' well-hit effort from range took a wicked deflection off Kylian Mbappe in the box and wrong-footed Alban Lafont.

However, Dennis Appiah deflected Messi's throughball over the goalkeeper and in before the Argentine grabbed his first league goal for PSG with a terrific long-range strike.

Navas was shown a straight red card in the 65th minute for jumping into Ludovic Blas outside the box as the Nantes midfielder bore down on goal, with Sergio Rico coming on between the sticks

What's next?

PSG battle Man City at Etihad Stadium in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Nantes' next outing is a Ligue 1 trip to Lille next Saturday

## Real Madrid go top of LaLiga table

## Ibrahimovic's brace fails to lift Milan

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice but was unable to rescue Milan as their unbeaten start in Serie A ended with a thrilling 4-3 loss at Fiorentina on Saturday.

The Rossoneri had made their best start to a top-flight season in the three-points-per win era after 12 matches and had a chance to move clear at the top of the table, but their

17-game unbeaten run in the league stretching back into last season was halted.

What's next?

Milan have a must-win game at Atletico Madrid in the Champions League on Wednesday. Fiorentina are back in Serie A action in a week's time with a trip to Empoli.



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# WHO SUCCEEDS SOLSKJAER AT MANCHESTER UNITED?



Manchester United have finally sacked manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer following Saturday's devastating 4-1 defeat to Watford at Vicarage Road.

The defeat to Watford has left Manchester United board to relieve Solskjaer of his duties at Old Trafford.

Solskjaer has been under enormous pressure at Old Trafford in recent weeks and had reached a point where the board has to make a decision.

"Ole will always be a legend at Manchester United and it is with regret that we have reached this difficult decision. While the past few weeks have been disappointing, they should not obscure all the work he has done over the past three years to rebuild the foundations for long-term success.

"Ole leaves with our sincerest thanks for his tireless efforts as Manager and our very best wishes for the future. His place in the club's history will always be secure, not just for his story as a player, but as a great man and a Manager who gave us many great moments. He will forever be welcome back at Old Trafford as part of the Manchester United family," a statement from Manchester United.

Solskjaer had promised fans would see a positive reaction from his players at Vicarage Road but the reality couldn't have been further removed.

About a week past a survey by Manchester

Evening News reveals that most Manchester United fans want a new manager at Old Trafford, casting doubt on the technical and tactical competence of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Of the 9,984 votes cast, 75 per cent said that a new manager is what Manchester United need at the moment to turn the fortunes of the club around.

13 per cent voted for a more formidable midfield, 12 per cent a better defence and just one per cent a new attack, making it clear that the supporters believe it is in the technical area where the main problem lies.

Former United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel said in his recent autobiography that his former



team-mate had brought the "heart and soul back" to the club after the divisive Mourinho reign but in the end that did not prove enough.

Solskjaer, 48, said after his side's chastening 4-1 defeat to lowly Watford on Saturday that he felt for the fans and understood their pain after they vented their fury at Vicarage Road.

"We've had a hard time since Sir Alex Ferguson left the club and fans who have been with us the last few years since I came in, they've been unbelievable, they've understood the situation," he said.

"The signings this summer with Raphael Varane, Jadon Sancho, and Cristiano Ronaldo raised everyone's expectations, rightly so, because we brought some top players."

But the big question is, who takes over from Solskjaer and what's next for Man Utd?

A club statement on Sunday stated former midfielder Michael Carrick will take charge for the forthcoming games while the club shops for a new manager.

Failing to sack Solskjaer earlier cost the team as Tottenham snatched up a former Premier League winner in Antonio Conte.

Another name that comes up is Paris Saint-Germain boss Mauricio Pochettino and the Argentine may well be the right man for the job.

Former Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane, Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers and Ajax coach Erik ten Hag have also been linked with the role.

Spain boss Luis Enrique is Cristiano Ronaldo's preferred option to take over

from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer at Manchester United, according to reports.

Ronaldo wants Enrique to succeed Solskjaer as he is deemed to be the right manager to get United challenging the likes of Chelsea, Manchester City, and Liverpool.

United are seventh in the Premier League table, six points off the top four and out of the title race after just 12 games.

Whoever takes over at Old Trafford will have a richly talented squad to work with and must get Man United back to winning ways.

Man United can boast abundant riches in attack, with Ronaldo, Edinson Cavani, Marcus Rashford, Sancho, Marcus Greenwood, and Anthony Martial all top-class players.



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