

# African players in Europe: Marmoush wreaks havoc in 14 minutes

AFP- Manchester City new boy Omar Marmoush scored a 14-minute hat-trick in the 4-0 demolition of Newcastle United at the weekend amid a torrent of African goals in Europe. "He's a player that we missed. His movement in behind, his pace," said City boss Pep Guardiola. "He's a guy who likes to attack the space and help us to create more."

Fellow Egyptian Mohamed Salah maintained his remarkable scoring consistency for Liverpool, converting a penalty in a 2-1 win over Wolves for his 23rd Premier League goal this season.

Here, AFP Sport highlights African headline-makers in the top European leagues:

## ENGLAND

### OMAR MARMOUSH (Man City)

Marmoush announced his arrival to the Premier League with a first-half treble as City thrashed Newcastle to climb back into the top four. He had failed to find the net in his first four appearances since a £59 million (\$72.6 million) move from Eintracht Frankfurt last month. But he showed why he had scored 20 goals already in Germany this season with a trio of composed finishes.

### MOHAMED SALAH (Liverpool)

Not to be outdone by his compatriot, the original Egyptian King was on target to keep Liverpool on course for a record-equalling 20th English top-flight title. Salah's penalty proved to be the winner as the Reds remained seven points clear of Arsenal at the top.

## YANKUBA MINTEH (Brighton)

Gambian winger Minteh enjoyed his finest night in the Premier League to date by scoring twice in Brighton's 3-0 rout of Chelsea. The 20-year-old terrorised former Brighton full-back Marc Cucurella, much to the delight of the home fans, and struck either side of half-time.

## DANGO OUATTARA (Bournemouth)

Ouattara scored for the sixth time in seven games as the fifth-placed Cherries boosted their chances of Champions League football next season with a 3-1 win at Southampton. Ouattara has proved an able deputy for injured strikers Evanilson and Enes Unal and the Burkina Faso international headed in the opening goal.

## SPAIN

### CHRISTANTUS UCHE (Getafe)

The Nigeria midfielder was on the scoresheet again as Getafe won 2-1 at Girona, with a second goal in his last four La Liga matches. Uche capitalised on a loose ball in the area and drilled home in the third minute to give the visitors an early advantage.

### UMAR SADIQ (Valencia)

Brought on from the bench, the Nigerian forward grabbed Valencia a crucial goal with a well-placed header to snatch a 1-1 east coast derby draw against Villarreal. It was Sadiq's first after joining Los Che on loan from Real Sociedad in January.

## ITALY

### ASSANE DIAO (SENEGAL)

Just 19, the Senegal-born winger, who has opted to play

internationally for Spain, scored the first goal in a surprise 2-0 win for Como over Fiorentina to ease his team's Serie A relegation fears. It was his fourth goal since arriving from Real Betis in January.

## GERMANY

### MOHAMED AMOURA (Wolfsburg)

Amoura helped engineer a 2-1 come-from-behind Bundesliga win against Stuttgart. After creating the equaliser, the Algerian converted an 87th-minute penalty to snatch victory.

## FRANCE

### NABIL BENTALEB (Lille)

Nine months after suffering a heart attack and five days after being cleared to play by French football's medical commission, Bentaleb made an inspirational and match-winning comeback as Lille won 2-0 at Rennes. After Lille dominated but failed to score, the 30-year-old Algerian midfielder stepped onto the pitch after 76 minutes, and four minutes later pounced after yet another save by Congolese goalkeeper Brice Samba, to poke the rebound home.

### GEORGE ILENIKHENA (Monaco)

The 18-year-old Nigeria-born striker, who had been out injured since December and had scored only one Ligue 1 goal all season, made his return in ideal circumstances with Monaco three up at home to Nantes. He seized his chance. Twice. He powered in a header after 81 minutes and fired in the final goal in a 7-1 rout.

### FARID EL MELALI (Angers)

The Algerian winger made the decisive contribution as Angers eased away from the relegation places with a 1-0 victory at Reims, the club that started the day immediately below them.

El Melali curled a free kick under the bar on the stroke of half-time for the only goal.

AFP