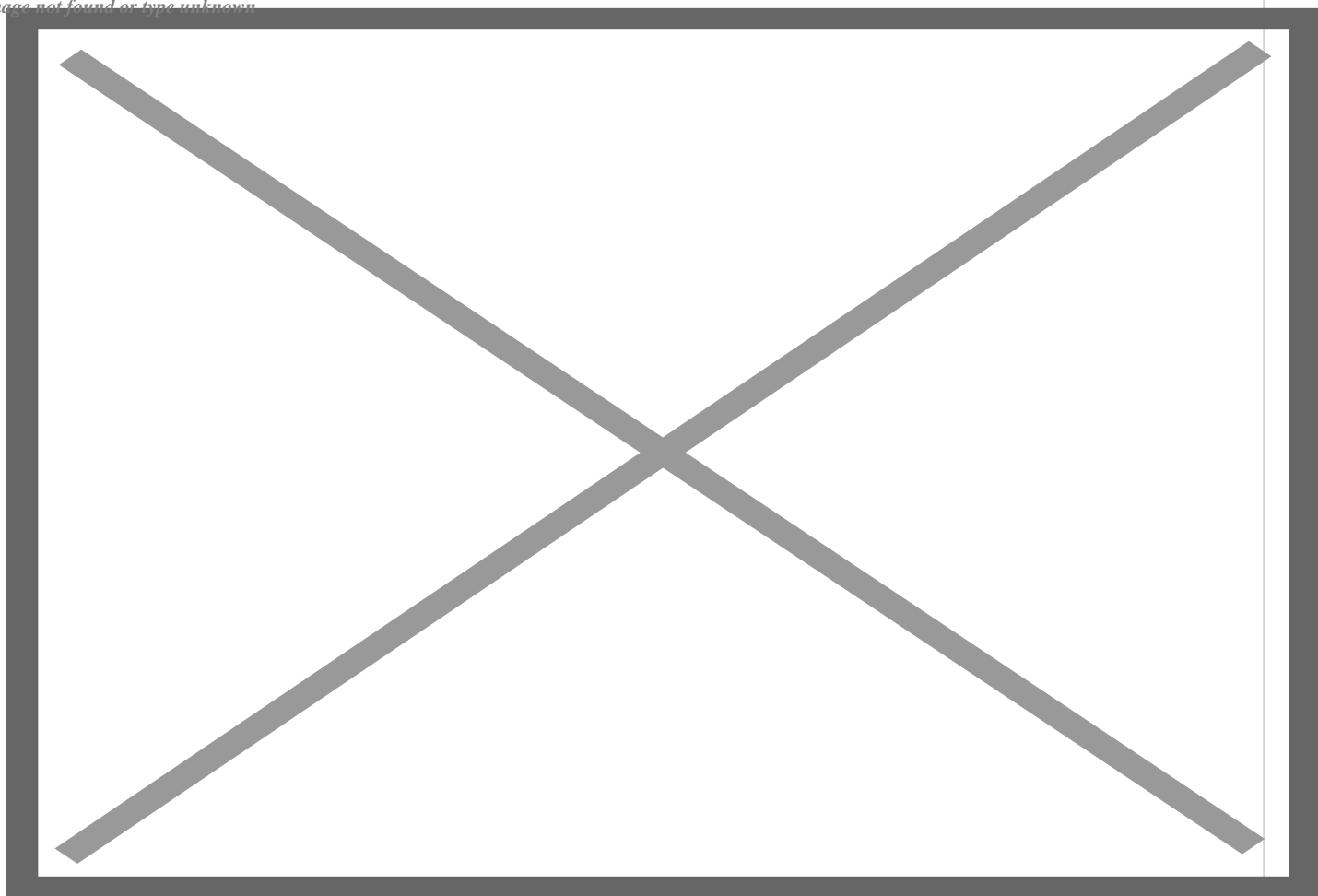


Manchester United going for ninth win in English soccer

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Havana, December 27 (RHC)-- Manchester United will be looking for their ninth win in the English Football League today, when they host Nottingham Forest for matchday 17.

The Red Devils come to the challenge after beating Fulham 2-1 away at Craven Cottage, with goals from Spain's Alejandro Garnacho and Denmark's Christian Eriksen.

Dutch coach Erik ten Hag's team is in fifth place in the championship with 26 points, 14 points behind leaders Arsenal.

Meanwhile, Nottingham Forest beat Crystal Palace 1-0 in their last Premier League match, with a goal by Morgan Gibbs-White, and is in 19th place in the table with 13 points.

Arsenal secured top spot on Monday with a 3-1 win over West Ham in the London derby, played after the traditional Boxing Day celebrations.

The men coached by Spaniard Mikel Arteta played a great second half to come back from the Hammers' opening goal, scored from the penalty spot by Algerian Said Benrahma in the 28th minute.

Bukayo Saka (53rd minute), Brazilian Gabriel Martinelli (58th) and Edward Nketiah (69th) scored for the Premier League leaders to record their 13th win of the season.

With this victory, Arsenal reached 40 points, seven ahead of Newcastle, now second by one unit ahead of third-placed Manchester City, who do not play until Wednesday, when they take on Leeds (15th in the table).

Newcastle beat Leicester 3-0 with goals from New Zealander Chris Woods (third minute, penalty), Paraguayan Miguel Almiron (seventh) and Brazilian Joelinton Cassio (32nd).

Relegated from title contention due to their poor start to the season, Liverpool moved up to sixth place with 25 points after beating Birmingham 3-1, with goals from Egyptian Mohamed Salah (fifth minute), Dutchman Virgil van Dijk (37th) and Spaniard Stefan Bajcetic (81st). Spanish coach Unay Emery's side pulled one back through Ollie Watkins (59th minute).

The Reds moved to within five points of the Champions League places, which Tottenham, fourth in the standings, are closing, after salvaging a 2-2 draw at Brentford after going 2-0 down.

Germany's Vitaly Janelt in the 15th minute and Ivan Toney (54th) opened the scoring for the home side, but Harry Kane (64th) and Denmark's Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg (71st) brought the scores level.

Meanwhile, former Spain coach Julen Lopetegui made his debut as Wolverhampton's new manager and did so with a 2-1 win over Everton (17) to lift Wolves off the bottom of the table (18).

A header from a corner kick by Colombian Yerry Mina put Everton ahead shortly after the start of the match (seventh minute), but Lopetegui's disciples equalized with a goal by Portuguese Daniel Podence (22nd) and clinched the win in stoppage time thanks to a drill by Algerian Rayan Ait-Nouri (90+5).

The new bottom of the Premier League is Southampton, defeated 3-1 by Brighton (sixth), while Fulham (eighth) beat Crystal Palace (11th) 3-0.

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