

Manchester United vs Manchester City Half-Time Update

Old Trafford has enjoyed a good first half of football in the lunchtime sunshine of Manchester, as Manchester United are currently winning 1-0 against the 'noisy neighbours' Manchester City.

Last season's bout at Old Trafford was described by reds boss Sir Alex Ferguson as "probably the best derby of all time" after striker Michael Owen's 96th-minute winner helped United win 4-3.

City will not want a repeat of that game, and it is the blue half of Manchester who will perhaps argue that they've had the better of the opening exchanges, with David Silva proving lively, with Roberto Mancini's physical three-man midfield is bustling United's creative midfield into uncharacteristic mistakes and slack long passes.

The early chance fell to Manchester City, three minutes in with some good short passing resulting in a good chance for Silva, but the eventual shot was just wide of the far post, due to good closing down from Van Der Sar.

Reds winger Nani had a fierce effort after ten minutes, cutting inside onto his favoured left foot and firing a quick shot just over Joe Hart's crossbar.

It was Nani who opened the scoring five minutes before half-time - a long kick from goalkeeper Van der Sar was flicked on by Rooney. Ryan Giggs found Nani with a great pass, and one-on-one, the Portuguese winger comfortably slotted beyond Joe Hart.

A win in this fixture would see Manchester United gain a seven-point lead at the top of the Premier League table, but perhaps do more damage to their rivals' title chances as the season turns into the last few months of action.

Manchester United make four changes, with one forced. Jonny Evans is unfit, and with Rio Ferdinand still absent young centre back Chris Smalling starts for the reds. Leading goalscorer Dimitar Berbatov is left on the bench, with the preference given to midfielder Anderson, as United line up in a 4-2-3-1 formation with Wayne Rooney as the lone striker. O'Shea is preferred to Rafael, and Fletcher starts alongside veteran Paul Scholes, with Michael Carrick on the bench. Park Ji-Sung is still not considered fit to feature.

Man City also field a few changes; Micah Richards returns to the starting 11, as does Joleon Lescott, in place of Kolo Toure. There is no place for new striker Edin Dzeko, as Carlos Tevez features alongside attacking wide players Silva and Kolarov.

Tevez, who scored a hat-trick in City's last league game, remains perhaps their best option for a goal. The stat repeated before kick-off was that City haven't lost any of the 25 league games in which he has scored.

Manchester United: Van der Sar, Evra, Smalling, Vidic, O'Shea, Anderson, Giggs, Nani, Scholes, Fletcher, Rooney

Substitutes: Lindegaard, Brown, Rafael, Carrick, Owen, Berbatov, Hernandez

Manchester City: Hart, Richards, Kompany, Zabaleta, Kolarov, Lescott, Milner, Barry, Silva, Yaya Toure, Tevez

Substitutes: Given, Boateng, Kolo Toure, Wright-Phillips, Vieira, Dzeko, Jo