

Devin McNamara Pittler

Giants Collide



Due to the international break this week, there were no Premier League matches. However, reflecting on last week's fixtures, two giants of the Premier League clashed: Arsenal vs. Manchester City. The game kicked off amidst high anticipation from fans worldwide, and the atmosphere at the Emirates Stadium was electric. Fans didn't have to wait long for the game's first significant chance. This opportunity arose from a corner kick and a sliding shot at the back post by Manchester City's left-back Gvardiol. However, Arsenal's defensive midfielder, Declan Rice, cleared the ball off the line.

The game's next opportunity came in the 16th minute. Arsenal's keeper, David Raya, held onto the ball a tad too long and inadvertently kicked it towards City's attacking midfielder, Julian Alvarez. The ball grazed the outside netting, narrowly missing the goal. Controversy struck in the 29th minute when Manchester City's Kovacic made a reckless slide into Arsenal's captain, Martin Odegaard. The officials consulted VAR to determine if a red card was warranted, but they ultimately decided on a yellow card.

The match remained balanced, with neither side crafting clear-cut chances until the 86th minute. At this juncture, all four of Arsenal's substitutes — Thomas Partey, Havertz, Tomiyasu, and Gabriel Martinelli — combined to set up a goal for Martinelli. This proved to be the match's sole goal, granting Arsenal their first Premier League victory over Manchester City in six years. This win propelled Arsenal to 2nd place, tying them on

points with their 1st-placed North London rivals, Tottenham. City, on the other hand, slipped to 3rd, two points behind the top two.