



## Ansu-perb! Fati shows Setien his worth ahead of Dembele return

The Barcelona youngster broke records on Sunday with a standout performance that broke him out of a recent dry spell

Ansu Fati's Barcelona career started like a whirlwind so it was only normal for it to slow down.

The teenager became the club's youngest ever player to score in La Liga this season when he headed home against Osasuna back in September, following it up with a goal and assist against Valencia.

Since then, with the notable exception of a five-minute cameo at Inter Milan where he scored the winner to silence the San Siro, Ansu became increasingly quiet.

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The ice-cool veneer he showed melted. Even as team-mates looked for him he didn't seem to be getting in as good positions as he did at the start.

That changed on Sunday night. Ansu struck twice in two minutes as Barcelona beat Levante 2-1 at Camp Nou, before this netting just once in his last 14 appearances across all competitions.

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It was just as well Ansu delivered, because Messi has had trouble finding the net of late in La Liga. With 11 shots against Valencia last weekend - the most he has had in a game without scoring - and 10 more today, it's something of a curiosity. However his assists for Ansu showed he's still in fine form - and he's still the division's top scorer.

The teenager's goals helped Gerard Pique celebrate his 33rd birthday too. Referee Cordero Vega also 'helped', giving the defender a card - a yellow one - and a weekend off - he misses the clash at Real Betis next Sunday.

Ansu, however, will be there, after this performance, which earned him a standing ovation when he was replaced in the final stages.



## Sancho brilliant achivment: 11 goals in 11 games

Erling Haaland is Borussia Dortmund's new teenage superstar, scoring seven goals in his first three games for the club.

Despite joining in January, he has already formed an excellent connection with fellow teenager Jadon Sancho, and the pair broke more records in Saturday's 5-0 demolition of Union Berlin .

Haaland is enjoying playing with the England international, but joked that he might have to stop scoring from Sancho's deliveries if the partnership is to continue past the summer. "You see on the pitch that he is very good and I do not want him to give me too many assists so we have to keep it down a bit," Haaland told reporters.

The striker will have a very difficult time keeping attention away from Sancho, who is one of the most in-form players in the world right now.

In his past 11 games in all competitions, the 19-year-old winger has 11 goals and eight assists for Dortmund, including two goals and an assist in the Champions League in that spell. Sancho scored the opening goal against Union, taking his career tally to 25 Bundesliga goals, becoming the first-ever player to reach

that mark as a teenager .

"Twenty-five goals at that age is unbelievable," Dortmund sporting director Michael Zorc beamed after the game.

His 26 assists since the start of 2018-19 are also the most from any player in Europe's top five leagues, making him a complete attacker and bringing him onto the radar of some of Europe's biggest clubs.

Chelsea are huge admirers of Sancho , but did not make a move for the €150 million-rated (£127m/\$166m) wonderkid in January as Dortmund wanted to keep him for the rest of the season.

Manchester United looked at a January deal as well, while numerous Liverpool legends have suggested that Sancho would be the perfect addition for the Reds.

Zorc rebuffed all offers or even the notion that Sancho could leave last month, having repeated the party line that the winger is going nowhere at least once a month throughout this season.

"We're continuing to plan with him," he told reporters . "He's a fundamental player for us and I do not see any scenario where he leaves us."



## Oxlade-Chamberlain loving Liverpool's finishing school

The Reds midfielder has found his shooting boots of late, with the England international admitting that he has the perfect tutors at Anfield

Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino "set the example for anyone that wants to learn how to score goals", says Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, with the Liverpool midfielder benefitting from the lessons taught at Anfield's finishing school.

The England international has rediscovered his shooting boots of late, netting in back-to-back Premier League outings against West Ham and Southampton.

Oxlade-Chamberlain admits he is relishing the opportunity to play a leading role in a stunning title bid from Jurgen Klopp's side, with a 22-point lead opened up at the top of the table. A fearsome attacking unit have been leading the charge for more silverware in 2019-20, but others have also been stepping up after taking inspiration from talismanic performers in the final third.

Oxlade-Chamberlain forms part of that group, with the 26-year-old telling Liverpool's official website: "It helps playing. I think I've played the last five now, which is really nice. That obvious-

ly helps you get a feeling with the way that the team's playing and with the boys around you.

"I think a lot of it's just down to maybe being a bit more clinical, getting myself in more areas where I can shoot and affect the game. Luckily, the last few have gone in.

"But that's what the top goalscorers do. We've got Mo, Sadio, Bobby and they set the example for anyone that wants to learn how to score goals. I get to watch them a lot and try to follow situations and put yourself in the position to score.

"We've got players that can find you, so there's always opportunities that this team creates.

"I'm delighted to have scored a couple of goals in the last two games, but it's about us all and making sure that we chip in where we can and finish the season strong now."

Oxlade-Chamberlain's effort in a 4-0 victory over his former club Southampton owed plenty to the efforts of those lining up in front of him, with an audacious flick from Brazil international Firmino allowing him to hit the back of the net.

"It becomes a little bit normal when you play with that guy," Oxlade-Chamberlain said of Firmino and his value to the collective cause.