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McGinn loses cool as Villa hand initiative to Tottenham

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Wales humbled by rampant France in Six Nations

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Sport



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Mac Allister 50pen	Stones 23

'He almost kills him' Klopp baffled after City escape penalty drama

▲ Jérémy Doku's high boot connects with Alexis Mac Allister in the box in stoppage time, but play was waved on
PAUL ELLIS/AP/GETTY IMAGES

Andy Hunter
Anfield

Jürgen Klopp claimed Liverpool proved they can "go the distance" in the title race with their impressive recovery against Manchester City, but he was bewildered at the failure to award his team a stoppage-time penalty at Anfield.

The Liverpool manager described his injury-hit team's second-half display as the best he has witnessed against Pep Guardiola's champions and evidence they will take City and Arsenal to the wire this season. Alexis Mac Allister secured a point for

Liverpool from the penalty spot after John Stones had given the visitors a first-half lead.

Klopp was adamant his team should have had a second penalty and the chance to return to the top of the Premier League, however, when Jérémy Doku caught Mac Allister with a high challenge in the final seconds. Neither the referee Michael Oliver nor the VAR Stuart Attwell were moved by Liverpool's claims, to the astonishment of their manager.

"This situation on all positions on the pitch is 100% a foul and it's a yellow card," Klopp insisted. "He hit the ball but he can only hit the ball because his foot was right there. If

the ball is not there, he kills him. It's as easy as that. It's a penalty for all football people on the planet."

The Liverpool manager later claimed he was "over it" and more enthused by a performance that

confirmed his side's title credentials. Klopp said: "Why would the guy in the VAR studio think that is not clear and obvious? What must you have for lunch if you think that is not clear and obvious? I'm really not angry, it's just the situation. It's fine. I'm so happy about the way we played."

"For us, besides the result, the most important information is that we are right there. We go the distance. Let's see what we get for it. The boys fought so hard for absolutely everything to be there."

"Arsenal is firing on all cylinders at the moment, City is City, and for us it is probably a bit of 'How did we get through all that?' but

Borthwick backs England players for title showdown

Gerard Meagher

England will head to France next weekend with the belief that an unlikely Six Nations title is "within arm's reach", with Steve Borthwick urging his players to improve on their remarkable victory against Ireland.

Marcus Smith's last-gasp drop goal on Saturday sealed the most significant win of Borthwick's tenure. England scored three tries for the first time since dispatching Chile in the World Cup pool stages, played with an attacking verve and finished the match with eight players with fewer than 20 caps.

Ireland remain heavy favourites to defend their title next week but should they slip up against Scotland in Dublin the door is open for England to leapfrog them, even if they would almost certainly need a bonus-point victory in Lyon to do so.

England have not beaten *les Bleus* in France since clinching their last grand slam in 2016 and though Borthwick is predicting "a bigger, physical challenge", confidence is flowing after they shook the defeat by Scotland from the system. "I want to keep backing the players," he said.

"We're going to get things wrong, and we're going to have to learn fast. And we have to learn fast what we did well because in seven days we're playing another Test match. It is important to get tangible results. That is important for the team and my job is to reinforce that."

England may rue their failure to collect any bonus points from their four matches. The fact they go into the final weekend of the championship in the hunt for the title for the first time since 2020 is a sign of progress, however. Asked if England believe they can win the title, the hooker Theo Dan said: "100%. We've given ourselves a chance. We're within arm's reach of winning a Six Nations."

Six Nations coverage Pages 36-37 →



▲ Steve Borthwick believes France will offer a bigger physical challenge

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ضربه کاری دو کو به مک آلیستر جوری بود که یورگن کلوپ می گوید بازیکن سیتی نزدیک بود هافبک لیورپول را بکشد!

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