

The Telegraph

Blackburn Rovers 0 Manchester City 4: match report

Read a full match report of the Premier League game between Blackburn Rovers and Manchester City at Ewood Park on Saturday Oct 1, 2011.

[PREVIEW](#) | [REPORT](#)



**BLACKBURN
ROVERS**

0 - 4
FT

**MANCHESTER
CITY**



Saturday, October 01 15:00
Premier League
Ewood Park

(HT 0-0) Johnson (56) Balotelli (59)
Nasri (73) Savic (87)



Away days: Mario Balotelli (left) is congratulated by Adam Johnson (centre) and David Silva after he scored Manchester City's second goal in their defeat of Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park Photo: GETTY IMAGES



By [Mark Ogden](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/columnists/mark-ogden/) , Ewood Park

5:00PM BST 01 Oct 2011

25.6K followers

Mario Balotelli proved there can be life after Carlos Tévez at [Manchester City](#)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/football/teams/manchester-city/>) with a match-winning display as Roberto Mancini's team secured a comfortable victory at Blackburn (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/football/teams/blackburn-rovers/>) .

The home side's heavy defeat left the club rooted in the bottom three and prompted supporters to chant for manager Steve Kean to be sacked in the closing stages.

Balotelli, making his first Premier League start of the season, scored City's decisive second goal after Adam Johnson's 55th minute opener and also hit the post on a day when Sergio Agüero added to the club's striker problems by limping off with a first-half groin injury.

Disgraced former captain Tévez, currently suspended by the club following his refusal to play as a substitute against Bayern Munich last Tuesday, was absent from Ewood Park as City attempted to bounce back from the 2-0 defeat in Germany.

But the Argentine could have learned a lesson proving a point in the correct manner as both Balotelli and Johnson took full advantage of rare opportunities to impress Mancini.

While this was Balotelli's first league start, it was also only Johnson's third, but there were no strops or half-hearted performances from the pair.

Balotelli, in particular, impressed for the visitors and the Italian went close to scoring on 36 minutes with a curling strike from 20 yards.

It was Johnson who opened the scoring, however, when he curled a shot in from the edge of penalty area ten minutes into the second-half after being left free to latch onto Aleksandar Kolarov's corner.

Five minutes later, Balotelli doubled City's lead and put the game beyond Blackburn when he scored with a stunning near post volley from Nasri's cross.

Balotelli, usually the most surly of footballers, even managed to break out in a smile as he celebrated his goal.

Blackburn, set up by Kean to frustrate and snatch a point from City, now looked clueless and without a plan of attack in order to get back into the game.

And the inevitable happened on 73 minutes when Nasri made it 3-0 to City with a deflected strike from 12 yards after poor defending by the home side.

City's third goal triggered the angry reaction from the Blackburn fans, who chanted 'We want Kean Out' and 'You don't know what you're doing' in the direction of the manager.

Blackburn's Indian owners, Venkys, have so far resisted calls for Kean to go, but with Rovers struggling at the foot of the table, the Scot must turn things around quickly to safeguard his position.

So his cause will not have been helped by Stefan Savic scoring with a near post header Kolarov's corner to make it 4-0 on 87 minutes.

But Blackburn are a poor team and they will be on the end of more defeats like this unless something changes soon.

