

# the gooner gazette

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The Arsenal FC Blog Weekly Review

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## Weekly Wrap

### Carling Cup 4th Round

#### Arsenal 3-0 Wigan

**Goals:** Simpson 2, Vela

**Best:** Wilshere, Vela, Simpson, Djourou

**Game notes (taken from the match report):**

In its own way the 3-0 victory over Wigan last night was just as exciting and enthralling as the first-teamers victory over United on Saturday. But while the feeling at the end of the United game was one relief at staying in the title race, the feeling following this one was something approaching a blissful euphoria.



Perhaps the most surprising thing about the young Arsenal team's performance was the tenacity and aggression they showed in the tackle. Well-lead by Alex Song and Johan Djourou at the back they may have been but everyone from Wilshere to Mark Randall were playing their part with some crunching tackles on their physically stronger opponents. It may have had something to do with the British contingent on the pitch but the team certainly taught the older members of the squad a thing or two about how to deal with the physical side of the game.

### Premier League

#### Arsenal 0-2 Aston Villa

**Goals:** None

**Best:** Denilson

**Game Notes (taken from the match report):**

Obviously I can't talk too much about the performance but from what I've read the team showed none of the desire that was so apparent against Manchester United as we hit the brick wall that was the Aston Villa defence. Apparently Villa could have won by more than two as their simple game plan of putting men behind the ball and hitting on the break with Young and Agbonlahor worked a treat. Once again we failed to adapt.

This result was so painful because it was so predictable. I woke up the morning of the game to check the result and almost expected to see us lose. I don't know why, call it a hunch or something else but I just had a bad feeling about this one. It's clear from the reports that our players just weren't up to it and they were punished quite severely for their approach.



## The Week in Photos



Carlos Vela scores finishes his immaculate chip against Wigan.

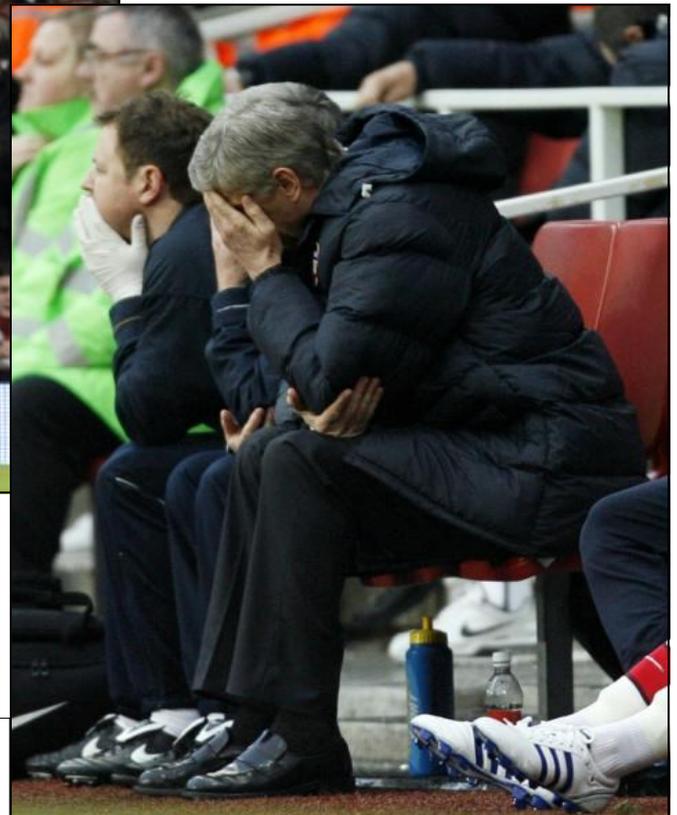


Arsenal's young guns celebrate another goal as they beat Wigan 3-0 at the Emirates.

Gabriel Agbonlahor celebrates Villa's second goal and victory over Arsenal at the Emirates. It was our boys fourth loss of the season.



Arsene Wenger cannot hide his frustration after losing yet again at home against Aston Villa.



## Good Week Bad Week

It's been a **good week** for...

### Arsenal's Young Guns

There would be plenty of supporters who like to see Arsenal's first team and the team which taught Wigan a football lesson switch places next week. And although that might be going a bit too far there's no question that the young Arsenal players were the stars of the week as Jack Wilshere and Co put on a performance of skill and romance that will be remembered for some time.

### Amaury Bischoff

Sure, he might only have played just over 10 minutes but the fact that he's even playing at all means he's had a good week. His purchase was described as a gamble by the manager but his availability for the Wigan game makes him one step closer to a gamble that might yet pay off.

### Johan Djourou

With the three more experienced defenders ahead of him in the pecking order undoubtedly struggling for form Djourou's excellent performance against Wigan came at just the right moment. It's surely only a matter of time now before Wenger has no choice but to put him on the park.

And a **bad week** for...

### Cesc Fabregas

There is no question that our most important player is not himself at the moment. He looks tired and jaded and nothing like the dominant force he was last season. Whether it's the lack of a compatible partner in the middle or something else, Fabregas will have a chance to get his spark back after receiving his 5th yellow card of the season and an automatic one-match ban.

### Bacary Sagna

Having just recently returned from injury, Sagna is now reportedly out for at least three more weeks. Both times he has been desperately unlucky and the team will miss arguably our most consistent player.

### Robin van Persie

Nicklas Bendtner received copious amounts of criticism for his performance against Aston Villa but the man who should really take the blame is van Persie. It was his brain explosion against Stoke which has forced Wenger to rely on a 20-year-old to operate as a lone striker against two of the toughest opponents we will face this season.

## 3 Things We Learnt This Week

### (1) Arsenal probably won't win the title

Arsenal's loss to Aston Villa was their fourth of the season from just 13 games. We're now nine points off Chelsea and Liverpool at the top of the table and the cold, hard fact is that it's looking more and more like it is not going to be our year. Unless Arsene Wenger and his squad of players can produce an astounding fightback then Arsenal are probably not going to win the Premiership this season. Regardless, it's time for the team to get back to basics and, as the old cliché says, start taking things one game at a time.

### (2) Jack Wilshere is a phenomenal talent

It's almost unbelievable to comprehend that 16-year-old Jack Wilshere was Man of the Match in the Carling Cup side who beat full-strength Wigan. He ran the show with his close control, intelligent movement and sublime passing, setting up Jay Simpson with the opener and generally tearing an experienced Wigan defence to shreds. We already kind of knew it, but this week was proof that Wilshere has all the tools at his disposal to become a fantastic player.

### (3) Motivation and desire count for a lot in the modern game

The team that lost to Aston Villa on Saturday was the exact same as the one who beat Manchester United just a week earlier. So what went wrong? It's pretty clear that the motivation and desire to beat our 'smaller' opponent this week was lacking and the team was duly punished for it.

## Coming Up **This Week**

**Saturday, 22 November, 3pm**  
**Arsenal (A) v Manchester City**  
**English Premier League**



## **Final Bits & Pieces**

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**Until next week... have a good one!**