

# City are champions: Turning points

Manchester City stormed to their third Premier League title in four years with three games to spare after closest rivals Manchester United lost to Leicester on Tuesday



## 1 BACK TO BASICS

A 1-1 draw at home to West Brom on Dec 15 led manager Pep Guardiola "to go back to basics", resulting in 15 successive Premier League wins, all but ensuring they would wrest the

title back from Liverpool. "We just came back to the principles – A, B, C, that is all. So wingers high and wide, a lot of players in the middle... the quality of the players has done the rest," he told BT Sport.



## 2 BACK TO WORK

The players would take almost three weeks to fully adjust to the tactical tweak, with City's season really taking off on Jan 3 when they won 3-1 at Chelsea. While they had suffered only two defeats before, they were eighth

at the turn of the year and performing far below their usual high standards. Captain Fernandinho told The Players' Tribune: "We needed to be shaken. We were still at a point in the campaign where we could turn things around. Or we could passively watch it slide away."

## 3 GRITTY FIGHTBACK

City beating Aston Villa 2-1 away on April 21. After losing at home to Leeds in the previous game for a fourth defeat of the season, all eyes were on Villa Park to see if Guardiola's men would suffer another wobble. A loss could have let Manchester United back into the title race. The visitors conceded in the first minute but even a red card for John Stones did not knock them off their stride as they fought back to win 2-1. "Not the start I dreamt of... Ten against 11, we reacted well, we played so good," Guardiola said.



## Charting their 2020-21 success

