



THE CARD IS FOR **BUSINESS** 



THE POINTS ARE FOR **PLEASURE** 

Q AMEX BUSINESS CARD

DARIO VIDOSIC

Good afternoon and welcome to Nick Cushing, his staff and players and everyone from Manchester City.

Our game up there in September was one I felt we were unfortunate not to get a result from as we played with our identity against a top team. A lot has happened since then of course, but here at the Broadfield Stadium we are very proud of our home record and we're looking forward to the challenge of playing another top team in front of our own fans.

Congratulations to Maisie Symonds, Nikita Parris and Fran Kirby for their call-up to the Lionesses squad this week. Of course, Nikita and Fran have lots of experience of the England set-up and I am sure they will offer lots of advice and tips to Maisie.

I know she was surprised to get the phone call from Sarina Wiegman this week but it is well deserved and I hope all three, and the rest of the girls going on international duty next week, relish the experience and do themselves, their families and the club proud.

Since our last game at home against Chelsea at the start of the month we've had mixed experiences on the road. It was great to get back to winning ways away from home against Spurs. Defensively we were organised all over the pitch and we had the chances to add to Fran's goal. I thought we were good value for the three points.

Last Sunday at Leicester City our first-half performance fell well below the standards I expect of the players and they demand of themselves. We defended really poorly and left ourselves with a lot to do 3-0 down at half-time. We were much more like ourselves in the second half and after pulling two goals back we had a couple of opportunities to draw level. But the damage was done and if we have learned one thing it's that we have to maintain our standards on and off the ball regardless of who the opponent is, from minute one to minute 90 and beyond. In both games we had great

support from our fans which we appreciate and it is great to see increasing numbers travelling to follow the team away from

We will certainly need to be at our best today and our fans can play their part. We've made the Broadfield Stadium a really tough place for visiting teams this season and that's thanks to the tremendous support we receive. Against one of the best teams in the WSL we will need you all again so make sure you give the players all your encouragement and backing.





# **SYMONDS STUNNED** BY ENGLAND CALL

Congratulations to midfielder Maisie Symonds who has been called up to the England senior squad for the first time

The midfielder joins Albion teammates Nikita Parris and Fran Kirby in Sarina Wiegman's squad for England's Nations League doubleheader against Belgium next month.

Maisie has played for England at all age groups and the 22-year-old is Albion's longest-serving player, having made 70 appearances for the club since her debut in the 2020/21 season.

Maisie said. "When I found out I was a bit stunned to be honest - it was a big surprise but a really nice one and a bit overwhelming! When Sarina first called it was an unknown number, so I thought at first it was a scam, then we spoke and she asked me to come to the next camp and I cried and cried and then when I spoke to my mum and dad and brothers and sisters they were crying too!

"But I'm really looking forward to showing what I can do, and it will be great to have Keets and Fran there as well. They've already explained to me what to expect and it will be great to meet the rest of the girls. Everyone is buzzing for me and that's such a nice feeling as well." Pictured above are Albion's three Lionesses Fran Kirby, Maisie Symonds and Nikita Parris.



# **BACK AT THE AMEX!**

We're back at the Amex on Saturday April 19 (kick-off 12.30pm) when we take on Liverpool in the WSL and tickets are now on sale.

It will be our third game there this season and we're defending an unbeaten record after drawing 1-1 against Manchester United and beating West Ham United 3-1.

Head coach Dario Vidosic said. "We've really enjoyed the two games at the

Amex so it's great to be playing there again. The support in the matches against United and West Ham really helped the team and hopefully all our fans, their friends and families will come out and get behind the girls - it really makes a big difference."

# **COUNTRY** CALLS

As well as our England senior trio Maisie Symonds, Nikita Parris and Fran Kirby, 14 other players are heading off next week to represent their countries in the final international break of the season.

Michelle Agyemang, Jess Pegram, Olivia Johnson (England U19s), Marit Auee, Marisa Olislagers, Nadine Noordam (Netherlands). Pauline Bremer (Germany), Jelena Cankovic (Serbia), Madison Haley (USA), Caitlin Hayes (Republic of Ireland), Rachel McLauchlan (Scotland), Kiko Seike (Japan), Guro Bergsvand and Maria Thorisdottir (Norway) are all in action over the next few days.

For Mady, it's her first call-up for the USA senior squad.



#### INNAY'S <mark>Masents</mark>



Fave player: Poppy Pattinson



AMFI IA ANDFRSON Age: 9 Fave player:



**ELLIE SWEENEY Age: 12** Fave player: Fran Kirby



GEORGE SWEENEY Age: 9 Fave player: Sophie Baggaley



BECCA MOORE **Age: 10** 

Fave player: Fran Kirby



LUCY KIRKHAM

**Age:** 12 Fave player: Fran Kirby



OLIVIA TIERNAN

Age: 9 Fave player: Fran Kirby



DELILAH JOHNSON

Fave player: Fran Kirby



ELIZA DI MARTINO **Age: 12** 

Fave player: Fran Kirby



Fave player: Maisie Symonds



FVI FORD Age: 9

Fran Kirby



CHARIOTTF FRANCIS

Fave player: Fran Kirby



Age: 11 Fave player: Fran Kirby





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# THERE'S SOMETHING

Defender Maria Thorisdottir says this season has been a 'joy' but there is still a lot to fight for in the remaining weeks of the WSL season

This is your second season with the club, Maria, so how does it compare to the previous one?

We've managed to get back into our rhythm again, especially the game against Chelsea, and the way we're playing is very enjoyable. I love it. It's the way I like to play. Compared to last season, this season has been a joy. I've been in the game for a long time and I know there's always going to be dips. It's just the way you handle it. That's why I love playing football because teams need to solve problems together and when you succeed, and you know you've done something right, you learn a lot from it. Next time we have a dip we will know how to deal with it better, so it won't last as long.

As a squad you must have been pleased with the

We had a national break before where some people went away and some people got a bit of time to switch off and I think that did us good. We came back and we just cracked on against Chelsea and I think that performance was one of the best in my time here. We followed up against Spurs, which was a different type of performance because we had to dig in, and it's a shame we couldn't get something at Leicester

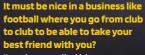
last Sunday, especially after our second-half fightback.

chester United where there was an tation to win. Is that what we're trying to

We don't have that same pressure, so you can always surprise teams, and I think that's what we've done this season. We brought a lot of new players in during the summer, but we quickly got some momentum and we've taken points off some of the top teams at home, like Chelsea and United, which is very satisfying. We haven't quite had that consistency in the second half of the season, but there are still enough games left to have a strong finish, and we're still unbeaten at home, which is a record we want to try to

n about football. How's your dog Theo w does he feel about becoming the

I think he loves it! It looks like he's got a lot of confidence at the moment because he's running up to people on the street saying hi! It feels like he's taking the role seriously.



Θ

I've always called him my soulmate and he's definitely my psychologist. It's always nice to come home after you have lost a game or had a bad training session to someone who's always happy to see you. He's been to the Amex, and I just

> wish I could bring him in

> > every day. He would

> > > be such

a good addition to the team, bringing joy! He's never upset; he just enjoys life so much. Sometimes I think 'what's going on in your head' because he seems so happy and gives me and people who meet him good feelings as well. I live near the beach and when he's pulling on the lead I can tell how happy he is and it makes me feel good as

We played well there earlier in the season and were a bit unlucky to lose 1-0. They have obviously had a hard run of games against Chelsea in the last fortnight, but they have got a strong squad and they always make it tough for us. But we're

proud of our home form and want it to continue. The fans have been brilliant this season, here and away where we seem to have more supporters each week. It should be a really good game and one we're looking





AMERIC







"I am thrilled that Brighton & Hove Albion are working with UNICEF for every child everywhere to have the chance to realise their dreams.

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"Please support Albion and UNICEF so more children can have clean water, life-saving food and vaccines, and safe places to rest, play and learn"

Kaoru Mitoma



### Support children like Samar and help build a better world for every child.

War in Sudan forced Samar, age 11, to flee her home in Khartoum. Samar now lives with her family in a classroom at a primary school in Kassala, eastern Sudan.

Samar, age 11, pretends to play her missing

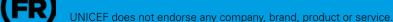
violin with her father in Kassala, Sudan.

The war has separated Samar from her beloved violin.

"I didn't take my violin with me because we all thought we would return home soon. The violin is my friend. When I draw, sing, dance, I see the violin. I want the war to end so I can get my violin back."

## **DONATE NOW FOR CHILDREN**





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SCAN HERE





City arrive at the Broadfield Stadium looking for points to keep their challenge for a topthree finish alive after another route into the Champions League closed on Thursday

City took a 2-0 lead into the second leg of their quarter-final against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, but their injuryravaged side were 3-0 down at the break and Chelsea rarely looked like relinquishing their advantage in the second half as they sealed a 3-2 aggregate win. Such are their injury

worries, City could only name four outfield players on the bench, while Vivianne Miedema. who scored both goals in the first leg, had to play in midfield.

"It's difficult for me to say where we're at because we have had so many key players missing - but that is not an excuse," head coach Nick Cushing said. "I am proud of the group. We have shown the togetherness and the fight and spirit

is there. We have caused Chelsea real problems." It completed a fourmatch sequence against the WSL champions, who beat City 2-1 in the Subway League Cup final a fortnight ago and repeated the scoreline last Sunday after City

had taken the lead in the league game through Brazilian winger Kerolin. Chelsea's comeback win left City seven points behind Manchester United in fourth place in the WSL table with five games to go.

Having had such a hectic schedule, expect rotation in the City team today, although they are limited in their options. Key midfielders Yui Hasegawa and Laura Blindkilde Brown, Spain defender Leila Ouahabi and goalkeeper Ayaka Yamashita have all been sidelined in recent weeks.

#### The season so far City made a great

start to the campaign, drawing 2-2 at Arsenal on the opening day before reeling off six successive wins. But a 2-0 defeat at Chelsea in mid-November was the first of four in their next five matches and since then City have struggled to find the consistency of those early weeks, as their injury list began to grow. Defeats to Manchester United. Arsenal and Chelsea since the start of the year have left them with work to do if they are to finish in the top three.

#### Christiansen

WSL

Goals scored by Khadiia Shaw in 14 games this season – more than anvone else in the

During her time with City

the club joined the

WSL in 2014: Steph Houghton, Jill Scott,

Karen Bardsley, Toni

Duggan and Izzv

They are still in the FA Cup though, having beaten Ipswich Town, Leicester City and Aston Villa all at home. They face Manchester United in the semi-final on 13 April for a place at Wembley.

#### Change at the top

It was a brave move by City when they replaced boss Gareth Taylor a few days before the Subway Cup final, but in Cushing they knew they were in safe hands.

1988

Full-time players when City played their first game - a 4-1 win over Oldham Athletic in a friendly on the plastic pitch at **Boundary Park** 

Goals scored by City in the Champions League this season, including eight in the second qualifying round against Paris FC

During his first spell in charge between 2013-20 Cushing won the league, FA Cup and three League Cups before heading to MLS side New York City FC.

Under Cushing City have tried to dominate the ball more while retaining defensive solidity, and they are still a threat in attack despite the absence of top scorer Khadija Shaw and winger Aoba Fujino who are sidelined with injury.

ALBION | 13

2 | ALBION



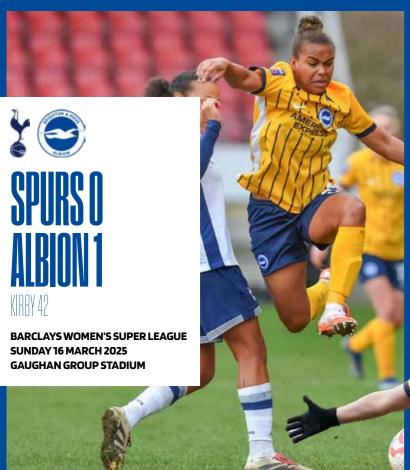






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Saturday 21

Sunday 29

Wednesday 2

Saturday 5

Sunday 13

MOVEMBER

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Friday 8

Saturday 16

Sunday 24

DECEMBER

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MARCH

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Sunday 23

Sunday 30

Saturday 19 Sunday 27

APRIL

MAY Sunday 4

Sunday 11

20 ALBION

Saturday 14

JANUARY Friday 17

Saturday 19

OCTOBER

# SFASON 2024/25

**EVERTON** 

Manchester City

**ASTON VILLA** 

Crystal Palace

LEICESTER CITY

**WEST HAM UNITED** 

LEICESTER CITY (LC)

BRISTOL CITY (LC)

**TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR** 

Arsenal

Chelsea

Liverpool

ARSENAL (LC)

Manchester United

**DURHAM** (WFAC)

CRYSTAL PALACE

Aston Villa (WFAC5)

West Ham United

Tottenham Hotspur

**MANCHESTER CITY** 

CHELSEA

Leicester City

LIVERPOOL

Everton

**ARSENAL** 

Aston Villa

PRODUCTION

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**Editor** Bruce Talbot Proofreader Jade Craddock

Paul Hazlewood

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Birmingham City (LC)

**MANCHESTER UNITED** 



WFA CUP WOMEN

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Home fixtures in <b>BOLD BLUE CAPS</b>	ria g
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Bex RAYNER	Maisie <b>SYMON</b>	Marisa <b>OLISLA</b>	Bruna VILAM	Madison <b>MALI</b>	Dejana <b>STEFA</b>	Marit <b>AUEE</b>	Hannah <b>Pou</b> L
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1 Chelsea

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9 Tottenham Hotspur

10 Leicester City

11 Aston Villa

#### 2024/25 WSL **FIXTURES**

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2024/25 WSL

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#### TODAY Chelsea v West Ham United Crystal Palace v Arsenal Leicester City v Tottenham Hotspur



Manchester United v Everton

Liverpool v Aston Villa

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3 Poppy Pattinson	16	-	4	-	1(1)	-
5 Guro Bergsvand	17	-	4	- 1	2	- 1
6 Vicky Losada	15	- 1	3	-	- 1	-
7 Aisha Masaka	-(1)	-	-(1)	-	- 4	-
B Pauline Bremer	8(8)	- 1	1(2)	- 1	1(1)	-
9 Nikita Parris	15(2)	5	1(3)	2	1(1)	3
10 Jelena Cankovic	7(3)	- 1	2(2)	-	2	-
11 Kiko Seike	8(6)	5	3	-	- 4	-
12 Caitlin Hayes	1(1)	-	-	-	-(1)	-
14 Fran Kirby	12(1)	5	-(1)	- 1	-	-
15 Nadine Noordam	5	-	-	-	- 1	-
16 Jorelyn Carabali	10(3)	-	1(3)	-	2	-
17 Bex Rayner	-(3)	-	- 1	-	- 1	-
18 Maisie Symonds	5(8)	-	2(1)	- 1	- 1	-
19 Marisa Olislagers	15(2)	2	3(1)	-	1(1)	-
20 Bruna Vilamala	8(3)	- 1	3	- 1	- 1	- 1
21 Madison Haley	10(5)	- 1	3	-	1(1)	-
22 Dejana Stefanovic	-(5)	-	-(1)	-	-(2)	-
23 Marit Auee	-(2)	-	- 1	-	-	-
25 Hannah Poulter	-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Rachel McLauchlan	12(3)	- 1	4	- 1	1(1)	-
28 Melina Loeck	6	-	4	-	2	-
32 Sophie Baggaley	12	-	-	-	-	-
33 Charlize Rule		-	-	-	-	-
47 Evie Milner		-	-(1)	-	-	-
59 Michelle Agyemang	-(13)	- 1	3	- 1	1(1)	- 1
61 Mia Balmer	- :	-	-(1)	-	-	-
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#### Matchday **OFFICIALS**

Referee: Stacey Fullicks Assistant Referees: Ruby Sykes & Jon Ashworth-Sears Fourth Official: Aimee Keir

ALBION | 21

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KICK-OFF

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S. Fullicks

A. Soneye

A. Fearns

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S. Pearson

J. Horwood

L. Benn

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S. Dennington

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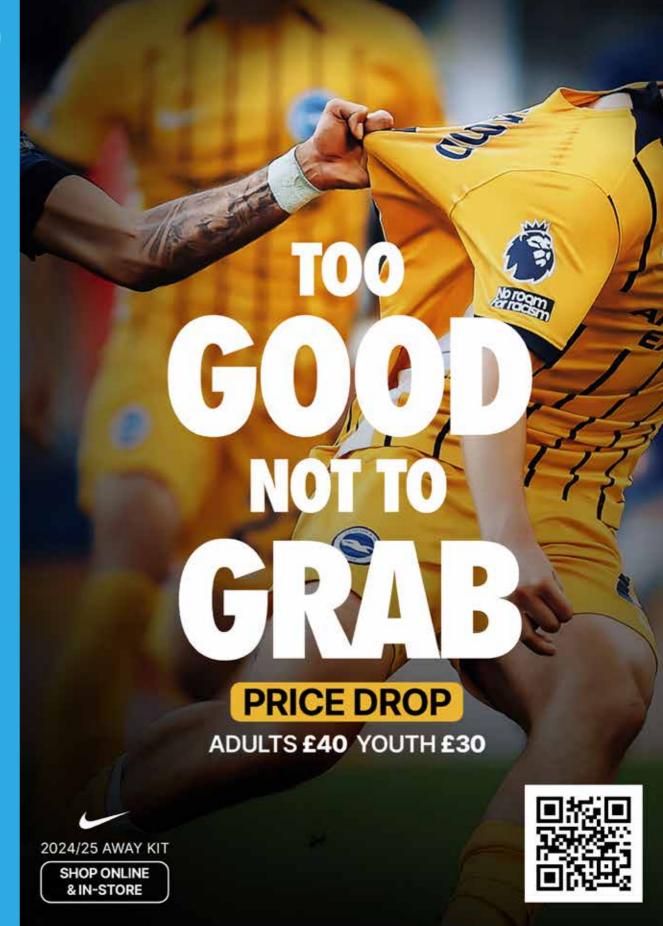
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# **ALBION**

**HEAD COACH: DARIO VIDOSIC** 

2 MARIA THORISDOTTIR **3 POPPY PATTINSON 5 GURO BERGSVAND 6 VICKY LOSADA** 7 AISHA MASAKA **8 PAULINE BREMER** 9 NIKITA PARRIS 10 JELENA CANKOVIC 11 KIKO SEIKE 12 CAITLIN HAYES 14 FRAN KIRBY 15 NADINE NOORDAM **16 JORELYN CARABALI** 17 BEX RAYNER 18 MAISIE SYMONDS 19 MARISA OLISLAGERS 20 BRUNA VILAMALA 21 MADISON HALEY 22 DEJANA STEFANOVIC 23 MARIT AUEE 27 RACHEL MCLAUCHLAN 28 MELINA LOECK 32 SOPHIE BAGGALEY 33 CHARLIZE RULE 59 MICHELLE AGYEMANG



# CITY

**HEAD COACH: NICK CUSHING** 

2 RISA SHIMIZU 3 NAOMI LAYZELL **4 LAIA ALEIXANDRI 5 ALEX GREENWOOD 6 VIVIANNE MIEDEMA 7 LAURA COOMBS** 8 MARY FOWLER 10 JILL ROORD 11 LAUREN HEMP 12 EVE ANNETS 13 LAURA WIENROITHER 14 KEROLIN 15 LEILA OUAHABI 16 JESS PARK 18 KERSTIN CASPARIJ 19 LAURA BLINDKILDE BROWN **20 AOBA FUJINO** 21 KHADIJA SHAW 25 YUI HASEGAWA 26 TARA O'HANLON 27 REBECCA KNAAK 28 GRACIE PRIOR 30 AEMU OYAMA 31 AYAKA YAMASHITA 35 KHIARA KEATING 40 KATIE STARTUP 44 CODIE THOMAS **46 LILY MURPHY** 

52 EVE O'CARROLL

**NEXT AT HOME** 

LIVERPOOL

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE SATURDAY 19 APRIL 2025 | 12.30PM



