



BUSINESS



PLEASURE

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DARIO VIDOSIC

Good afternoon everyone and welcome back to Broadfield Stadium

We undoubtedly face one of the toughest challenges of the season today. Sonia Bompastor has guided the reigning champions to the top of the league and Chelsea have a world-class squad with a lot of depth.

They are the hardest challenge in the WSL for any side but it's an opportunity we are going to relish and enjoy. I certainly felt we caused them problems at Kingsmeadow back in December, and although we lost the game 4-2 we showed in long spells of that one that we can compete with the best in the league.

So that is the challenge for the girls today. Can we win our individual battles? Can we play our style with confidence? Can we do that bit more to help out teammates when Chelsea are on top? If we do all those things and get a bit of luck that all teams need in both boxes, we will give every side a tough 90 minutes.

Preparation for today hasn't been perfect, with players returning after playing for their countries and, in some cases, travelling considerable distances. All that has to be taken into account in terms of training and selection, but it's the same for both teams. We're always proud of the girls when they go away and represent their country and, in particular, it was good to see Nikita Parris back involved with England again, something she deserves for her consistent performances this season.

Our last game at West Ham ended in a disappointing 3-1 defeat. Had it not been for their keeper we could have been in control at half-time, but our second-half performance fell well below our expectations and what I know the squad is capable of. We can't afford a repeat today. Everyone needs to know their roles within the team structure and focus for 90 minutes plus. If we don't, it could end up being a really long afternoon.

It was good to see Fran Kirby back on the pitch against West Ham and we are close to getting a few more players back and available for selection.

and available for selectic That will be important going into the final few months of the season.

Finally, my thanks on behalf of the players and staff to those of you who gave us such good support at West Ham two weeks ago. The away following doesn't go unnoticed and obviously the backing we get here at Broadfield has played a part in our excellent home form this season. We will need every one of you being loud and proud today, playing your part in what I'm sure will be a terrific atmosphere and helping



the girls

during





ALBION REACH U19s FINAL

Albion women's under-19s sealed their place in the final of the Sussex Challenge Cup after a convincing 3-1 win against Worthing

Goals from Clarabella Hall. Rhianna Fowler and an own goal gave Albion their place in the final against Lewes on 29 April

"The group deserved it with the work rate, the effort and attitude they've had this season," said head coach Dani Bowman after the game. "It probably wasn't the prettiest game, but that's credit to Worthing, who have been on a good run of form.

"They're a decent team with experienced players in their squad.



"It was a different challenge in terms of style of play, what they came up against and the opposition's level of physicality. There are still things that we need to be a little bit better at and we could have been more clinical.

"We don't have a massive squad, so the girls have managed themselves really well under the circumstances. We've lost only one game since Christmas and I'm really happy for them - they've stuck together."



INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Congratulations to all our players who were on international duty

Senior: Guro Bergsvand - Norway: Jelena Cankovic – Serbia; Jorelyn Carabali – Colombia; Caitlin Hayes - Ireland: Rachel McLauchlan -Scotland; Nikita Parris - England; Under-23s: Michelle Agyemang and Maisie Symonds - England.

COMFORT FOR POMPEY

Comfort Erhabor has joined Championship side Portsmouth until the end of the season.

The 19-year-old goalkeeper played six games on loan at Plymouth Argyle prior to her move to Pompey.

Women's under-19 head coach Dani Bowman said. "I'd like to thank Plymouth, who have helped Comfort's development, and this is another great opportunity for her to get first-team experience in a senior environment.

"She will link up with her Albion teammate Hannah Poulter and we hope she can continue her growth with Portsmouth for the remainder of the season."

Erhabor signed her first professional contract in January 2024 before spending the rest of last season on loan with Scottish



WOMEN'S RUGBY WORLD CUP TICKETS ON SALE

With a little over six months to go until the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 kicks off in England and with more than 220,000 tickets already sold, fans can now apply for tickets across all matches in what promises to be the biggest celebration of women's rugby.

Two matches will be staged at the Brighton & Hove Albion Stadium across the weekend of 6-7 September 2025, with England

facing Australia in Pool A on Saturday 6 (5pm kick-off) before holders New Zealand meet Ireland on Sunday in Pool C. kick-off 2.45pm.

WOMEN'S ENG25

As excitement continues to sweep across the host nation and beyond following the match schedule announcement, the latest ticket window is open until 28 March for you to secure tickets to see the world's best 16 teams and rugby's biggest stars compete across the length and breadth of England.

With such a high demand already for tickets, fans are urged to secure theirs now through the only official website tickets.rugbyworldcup.com and be part of an unforgettable and historic tournament.

Fans can take their matchday experience to the next level with a range of ticket-inclusive premium packages. All available packages are on sale now. Fans can guarantee their place today with RWC Experiences at experiences. rugbyworldcup.com





ADOBE FA CUP DEFEAT

Nikita Parris scored twice but Albion were knocked out of the Adobe Women's FA Cup with a 3-2 defeat at Aston Villa on 8 February.

Parris scored her 22nd and 23rd goals in 40 FA Cup appearances, but strikes from Anna Patten, Rachel Daly and Chasity Grant won it for Villa at Walsall's Poundland Stadium.

"There's a bit of disappointment with some of their goals," said Dario Vidosic after the game. "It just seems that when we have those little lapses that the ball goes perfectly between two of our players and falls to the opponent for an easy tap-in, which happened for one of their goals.

"If we don't get things right we can get punished, but I can't fault the girls' effort - how hard they were pressing, I think we made it really difficult for them."





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'WEARE STILL BUILDING'

Fran Kirby reflects on her opening months of the season and looks ahead to today's encounter against her former club...

You've got half a season with Albion under your belt. How's it been?

It's been an enjoyable first few months. Everyone has been so welcoming, I couldn't have asked for it to go any better really. I get the feeling that everyone in the squad has got each other's back, and that makes a big difference. I think I have settled in quite well because everyone is easy to work with and for me it's been good to get to know new people behind the scenes, new teammates and find a new way of working It's different going into a new building and meeting new people; I've just tried to fit in, but this is a very professional set-up which makes it easier.

What's life been like vorking with Dario Vidosic?

I have enjoyed working with him. He's come into the club with a style of play which I like. I enjoy being challenged and his way of playing is enjoyable because I'm a player who likes to play and have the ball, progressing up the pitch. There are moments when it hasn't worked, but I'd rather us keep trying to do the right thing rather than change it because it doesn't work in one or two games. I have

learned a lot working with him and hopefully he can help us grow as a team and as individuals.

How has the journey back to the pitch been for you after

It's been a tough few months, but I actually enjoyed the rehab process as much as you can. It's really challenging when you get injured and you know it's going to take time to get back. I felt that I'd had a really good start to my form in games But then happened so I just stripped everything back and focused on what I needed to do to first get back on the pitch

and then stay on

the pitch. I tried to be

around everyone as

much as I could, but

it's really hard when

vou're not on the

pitch. I hope I was

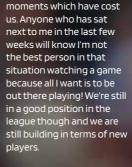
able to help keep

people motivated.

We've had a tough run of results, so it must have been frustrating having to watch from the sidelines...

The way we've been playing has been good, it's just been that final bit or a lack of

物



concentration in certain

What will help us turn the results around?

The first step is acknowledging that we're not performing as wel as we did in the first few months of the season. We are performing in most games; we just need to find that consistency across the entire 90 minutes. You're not always going to be in control of the ball or have the momentum in the game, but what you can do is make sure you're always switched on, keep your positive energy and confidence high. Footbal is such a crazy sport; you can lose five games in a row. then you win one and that gets the confidence back This league is tough, but we have a lot of experienced players and exciting players and that makes me fee quite positive about the rest of the season.



today. What are you expecting? It's always a tough game. They are

one of the best teams in Europe and have some quality players. They have had an amazing start and it's a club I have so much respect for. It's going to be a massive moment for me to play against my old club and I am really excited for the game. We produced a really good performance against them at Kingsmeadow earlier in the season and we can take lots of positives from that into this game. They are a team stacked with talent and some of the best players in the world play for Chelsea. It will be a challenge for us all over the pitch, so we need to win our individual battles. Everyone will have to be ready and full of confidence going into it. Each of us will have to do a job-and-a-half because that's the level you need to put in against Chelsea if you are going to get something from the game. We have to approach it believing we can do that. I always believe that if you do everything right in your preparation you give yourselves a chance to win.

195 **APPEARANCES** made for Chelsea, scoring 108 goals!





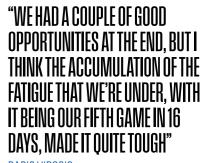






















It's gearing up to be a debut season to remember for new Chelsea head coach Sonia Bompastor

The former Lyon star and France international took over from the departing Emma Hayes at the end of May and while she had big shoes to fill, results to date suggest a seamless transition.

What has made the club's form this season even more impressive is the fact that there was a hefty overhaul of the squad prior to the start of the campaign. Julia Bartel arrived from Barcelona,

while Sandy Baltimore and Oriane Jean-Francois were signed from Paris Saint-Germain. The French influence continued with Louna Ribadeira (Paris FC) and Maelys Mpome (Montpellier) putting pen

to paper, while Veerle Buurman (PSV) arrived before the window shut. January also saw Naomi Girma (San Diego Wave), Femke Liefting (AZ Alkmaar) and Keira Walsh (Barcelona) arrive to help

bolster the squad ahead of the second half of the campaign.

Some 15 players also left the club, including Albion duo Fran Kirby and Jelena Cankovic, Jess Carter (NJ/NY Gotham FC), Melanie Leupolz (Real Madrid) and Maren Mjelde (Arna-Bjornar), but it was business as usual for the champions as they opened the campaign with a 1-0 win against Aston Villa.

Eight successive WSL wins followed, including a

at Emirates Stadium, a 2-0 home victory against Manchester City at Stamford Bridge and a narrow 1-0 victory against Manchester came at Leicester City prior to the winter break, but the Blues have returned to winning ways since with four successive WSL victories – leaving the top of the table.

2-1 win against Arsenal United. A surprise 1-1 draw club seven points clear of Manchester United at the

CLUB CONNECTION

Fran Kirby is a bona fide Chelsea club legend.

During her nine-year career with the Blues, the midfielder won seven WSL titles, five FA Cups and two League Cups. A two-time PFA Women's Players' Player of the Year, Fran is also Chelsea's leading scorer with 101 goals. The England Lioness moved to the Albion last July and has recently returned to action following injury.



WSL titles won by the club, with five won in the past five seasons

Champions League Final appearance came in 2021 against Barcelona

Doubles have been won by the Blues and one treble - in 2020/21

Chelsea have also

reached the quarter-

Women's FA Cup against

Women's League Cup at

Allied to a Champions

appearance against City

later this month, it truly

and unbeaten campaign

to date, but Bompastor

has been a dominant

League quarter-finals

Crystal Palace, and will

face Manchester City

in the final of the

Pride Park.

finals of the Adobe

39,398 is a club record attendance for the visit of Barcelona in the

Champions League in April 2024 **156**

games played for France by Sonia Bompastor

Chelsea Player of the Year awards won by Fran Kirby

warns that nothing has been won yet.

"The reality is we haven't won anything yet," she said. "If you get to the final, but you don't win, it doesn't mean anything.

"The focus is making sure we go deep in every competition, as deep as we can. But also game by game, we just have a focus in the next game and how we can make sure we have big chances to win."

2 | ALBION

ALBION | 13







WHERE GREATNESS LIVES



JAIME RECOGNISED WITH COMMUNITY CAPTAIN AWARD

Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation coach Jaime Quinn has been recognised for her fantastic contribution to youth football in Sussex, writes Jacob Heath

Jaime, a football coach and PE teacher for the Foundation, first got involved with Premier League Kicks as a young player before later being employed as a coach.

When she was 14 years old, Jaime was struggling to find opportunities to play the game she loved. That all changed when she discovered the Foundation's free Premier League Kicks programme.

Jaime thrived in the programme and has gone

to inspire the next generation of players. She now works as community coach at the Foundation's Premier League Kicks sessions in Brighton, while she also teaches PE lessons at Parkland Junior School in Eastbourne.

In recognition of her dedication to supporting young people, Jaime was given a Community Captain award as part of the Premier League's More Than A Game celebrations.

More Than A Game is a campaign to highlight the positive impact of Premier League investment into

communities and all levels of football – investment which has totalled more than £1.6 billion between 2022 and 2025.

Jaime received her award at a special session attended by former Albion striker Glenn Murray.

"I was always interested in football, but before I got involved with the Foundation, I didn't have the facilities to pursue it as much as I wanted to," Jaime revealed. "I grew up in quite a rough area; there wasn't that much support and there weren't many positive role models.

"I was a girl playing in a male-dominated sport. I faced a lot of obstacles trying to play, because of my background and because of money. For a lot of clubs you have to pay fees to sign on. I was

"I stumbled across the work of the Foundation. It was accidental. When I first got involved, I was the only girl there and a lot of the participants were a lot older than me.

pretty down

"But the coaches got me involved straight away. It massively improved my confidence and made me feel like I was able join in those sessions.

"Attending that first Premier League Kicks session was definitely a life-changing moment for me."

Over the years and through her transition

from a player to coach, Jaime has seen significant development in the availability of girls' football locally.

"Premier League Kicks offers opportunities for anyone under the age of 19 to play, for free. It is superb," Jaime added. "Now we have more facilities, more funding and there's a lot more for the girls to do, such as tournaments in different countries and around the UK.

"As a coach, the most

important responsibility is to be there for the participants, for the girls, to be there for them, to be someone who they can go to and have a good relationship with. It is less about the football and it is a lot more about the relationships you're

building with them.

"Coaching makes me

feel good about myself. It makes me feel like I'm giving back to people in the best way that I know how to. Premier League Kicks is like a second family to me. The programme has taught me to stand up for myself and that if I want something, I have the ability to go and get it.

"Being named as a Premier League Community Captain hasn't sunk in yet. I never expected it in a million years. It's a massive honour and it feels really nice to be recognised.

"When I reflect on all the things I've done with Premier League Kicks, it makes me feel very proud to be a part of it. It also makes me feel very grateful for the opportunities that I was given when I was younger and that I continue to have now."











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SEPTEMBER

Saturday 21

Sunday 29

Wednesday 2

Saturday 5

Sunday 13

Sunday 23

Sunday 30

Sunday 20

Sunday 27

Sunday 4

Sunday 11

APRII

Saturday 19

OCTOBER

SFASON **2024/25**

EVERTON

Manchester City

ASTON VILLA

Crystal Palace

Leicester City

LIVERPOOL

Everton

ARSENAL

Aston Villa

PRODUCTION

Head of media Paul Camillin

Publications editor Luke Nicoli Proofreader Jade Craddock

Photographer Paul Hazlewood

Contributors Heather Miller, Bruce Talbot,

Programme

Design Alchemy

MANCHESTER CITY

Birmingham City (LC)

MANCHESTER UNITED



KICK-OFF

12.30pm

12.30pm

7.00pm

12.30pm

2.00pm

12.30pm

3.00pm

2.00pm

2.00pm

2.00pm

2.00pm

2.00pm

Home fixtures in **BOLD BLUE CAPS**

W4-0

L0-1

W3-0

W4-2

W/1−0

D1-1

L. Impey

A Fearns

R. Atkin

K. Dowle

S. Fullicks

S. Pearson



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| Maria THO | Poppy PA | Guro BER | Vicky LOS | Aisha MA | Pauline 🖪 |
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| Jelena CANKO | Kiko Seike | Caitlin HAYES | Fran KIRBY | Nadine NOORD | Jorelyn CARAB | Bex RAYNER | O'D'CVA |
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HENRY SEYMOUR



ABBIE JEWELL Age: 10





Poppy Pattinson



LUCIA STANDEN Age: 11 Fran Kirby



AMBER FLAHERTY Age: 12 Fave player: Millie Bright



1 CHELSEA

3 Arsenal

9 Everton

10 Leicester City

12 Crystal Palace

11 Aston Villa

2 Manchester United

4 Manchester City

6 Tottenham Hotsour 7 Liverpool 8 West Ham United

TODAY

2024/25 WSL

14 10

5 BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION 14 5 3 6 20 25 -5 18

PWDLFACDPT 14 13 1 0 40 7 +33 40

14 9 1 4 34 18 +16 28

14 3 3 8 9 19 -10 12

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Arsenal v West Ham United Aston Villa v Everton Crystal Palace v Liverpool Manchester United v Leicester City Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City

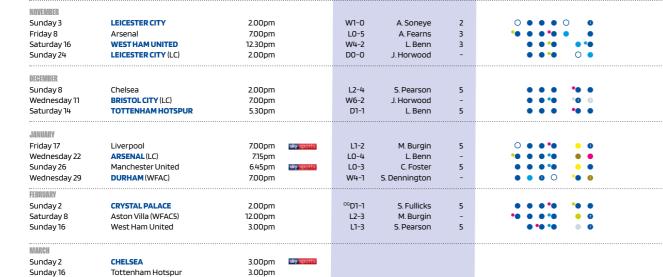


| | WSL | | LG . | | HAG | |
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| | APP | GLS | APP | GLS | APP | GLS |
| 2 Maria Thorisdottir | 8 | - | - 1 | - | 2 | |
| 3 Poppy Pattinson | 13 | - | 4 | - | 1(1) | |
| 5 Guro Bergsvand | 14 | - | 4 | - 1 | 2 | - 1 |
| 6 Vicky Losada | 14 | - | 3 | - | - 1 | |
| 7 Aisha Masaka | -(1) | - | -(1) | - | - | |
| 8 Pauline Bremer | 8(4) | - 1 | 1(2) | - 1 | 1(1) | |
| 9 Nikita Parris | 12(2) | 5 | 1(3) | 2 | 1(1) | 3 |
| 10 Jelena Cankovic | 7(3) | 1 5 | 2(2) | - | 2 | |
| 11 Kiko Seike | 8(3) | 5 | 3 | - | - | |
| 12 Caitlin Hayes | - 1 | - | | - | -(1) | |
| 14 Fran Kirby | 8(1) | 3 | -(1) | 1 | - | |
| 15 Nadine Noordam | 1 | - | | - | - 1 | |
| 16 Jorelyn Carabali | 10(3) | - | 1(3) | - | 2 | |
| 17 Bex Rayner | -(3) | - | - 1 | - | - 1 | |
| 18 Maisie Symonds | 3(8) | - | 2(1) | - 1 | - 1 | |
| 19 Marisa Olislagers | 11(2) | - 1 | 3(1) | - | 1(1) | |
| 20 Bruna Vilamala | 8(3) | - 1 | 3 | - 1 | - 1 | - 1 |
| 21 Madison Haley | 6(5) | - | 3 | - | 1(1) | |
| 22 Dejana Stefanovic | -(2) | - | -(1) | - | -(2) | |
| 23 Marit Auee | -(1) | - | - 1 | - | - | |
| 25 Hannah Poulter | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 27 Rachel McLauchlan | 8(3) | - 1 | 4 | - 1 | 1(1) | |
| 28 Melina Loeck | 2 | - | 4 | - | 2 | |
| 32 Sophie Baggaley | 12 | - | | - | - | |
| 33 Charlize Rule | - | - | | - | - | |
| 47 Evie Milner | - | - | -(1) | - | - | |
| 59 Michelle Agyemang | -(11) | - 1 | 3 | - 1 | 1(1) | - 1 |
| 61 Mia Balmer | - | - | -(1) | - | - | |
| 63 Olivia Johnson | - | - | -(1) | - | - | |
| | | | | | | |



Matchday **OFFICIALS**

Referee: Kirsty Dowle Assistant Referees: Ruby Sykes & Laura Van Lier Fourth Official: Aaron Ford



















DAISY HAYES















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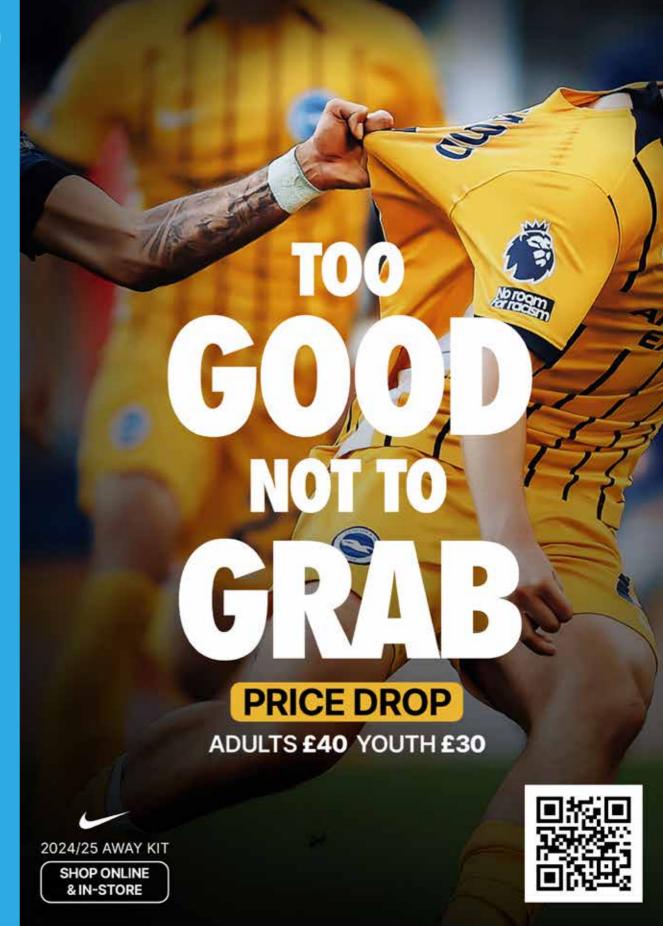
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ALBION



BLUES

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

HEAD COACH: SONIA BOMPASTOR

1 ZECIRA MUSOVIC
2 MIA FISHEL
4 MILLIE BRIGHT
5 SOPHIE INGLE
6 SJOEKE NUSKEN
7 MAYRA RAMIREZ
8 ERIN CUTHBERT
9 CATARINA MACARIO
10 LAUREN JAMES
11 GURO REITEN
12 ASHLEY LAWRENCE
14 NATHALIE BJORN
16 NAOMI GIRMA
17 SANDY BALTIMORE

18 WIEKE KAPTEIN 19 JOHANNA RYTTING KANERYD

20 SAM KERR
21 NIAMH CHARLES
22 LUCY BRONZE
23 MAIKA HAMANO
24 HANNAH HAMPTON
25 MAELYS MPOME
26 KADEISHA BUCHANAN

27 ORIANE JEAN-FRANCOIS 28 FEMKE LIEFTING 30 KEIRA WALSH 33 AGGIE BEEVER-JONES 40 KATIE COX

53 LOLA BROWN

NEXT AT HOME

MANCHESTER CITY

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE SUNDAY 30 MARCH 2025 | 2.00PM



