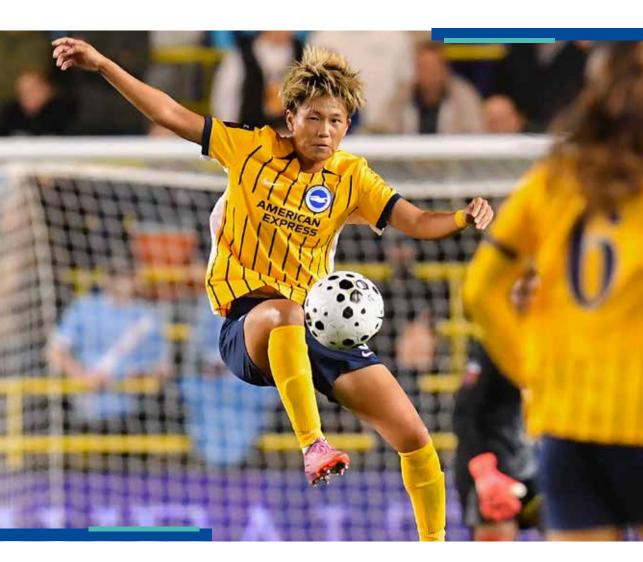








# Albion



v West Ham United

Sunday 21st September 2025 Kick-off 12.00 noon







Good afternoon and welcome to Broadfield Stadium for today's fixture against West Ham United.

We head into today's game off the back of the 2-1 defeat to Manchester City. It was a disappointing result but I felt we did really well – particularly in the first half – and that was certainly my feeling watching the game back.

We really made a mark in the first 45 minutes and at half-time I couldn't have been much happier with the way the girls applied themselves. It was great to see that rewarded with a goal too, but we took our foot off the pedal and that's not something you can do against any team in this league, but especially against a side like Manchester City.

In our opening two games of the season we have shown how good we can be. Now it's about making the most of the spells we have in matches when we are on top and showing that extra bit of resilience when the opposition are looking to hurt us. This week we've been focusing on these things as we prepare to face a West Ham side who we know have the players that can hurt us.

What gives me encouragement is not only our two WSL performances so far, but the way the new players have settled in and have positively impacted us. That's down to not only them, but the group we have and how they've welcomed their new teammates.

Against City, we had three 'new' signings start the game - the 'new' is because I include Michelle Agyemang in that after we signed her on a second season-long loan - while Bex Rayner made her first WSL start since joining us a year ago. Rosa Kafaji and Carla Camacho were also brought on off the bench, as they start to get up to full speed.

This Wednesday's League Cup game against Portsmouth will offer us an opportunity to rotate and give those players who haven't had many minutes yet an opportunity to impress.

Our attention is very much on today though against a team that will be wanting to produce a positive response after their defeat to Arsenal last week. We will have to match the first-half performance against City for 90 minutes if we want to come away with something.

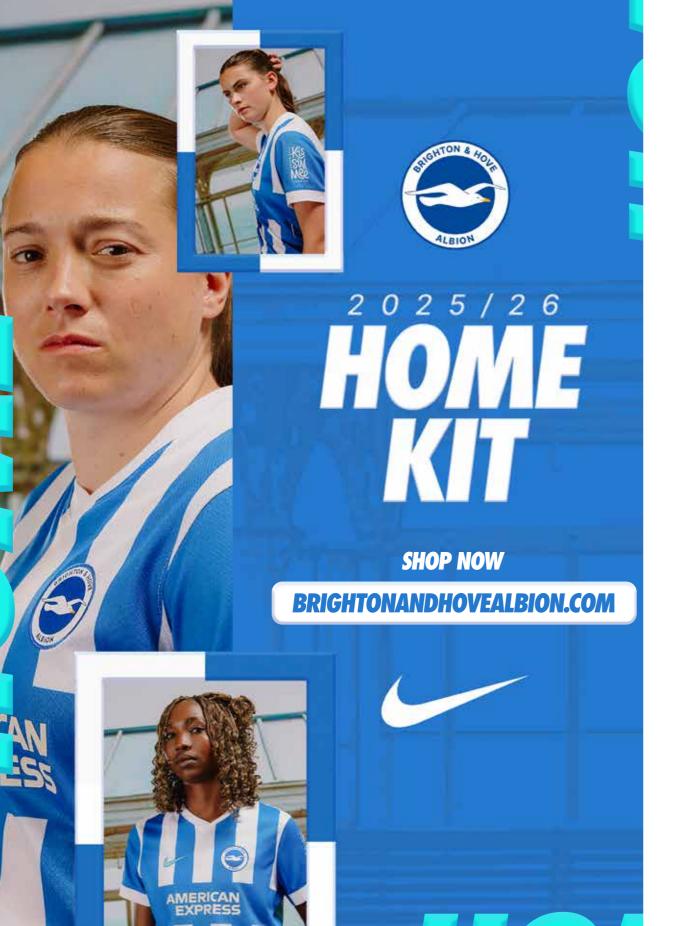
Finally, thanks to all the fans who travelled to Manchester last Friday for your support - it is appreciated by the players and staff. Get behind us today - your encouragement can make a difference.

Dario

is not only
our two WSL
performances
so far, but the
way the new
players have
settled in and
have positively
impacted us"

"What gives me

encouragement





# Jason Ayto appointed sporting director

Jason Ayto has joined the club as sporting director and takes up the position with immediate effect.

Deputy chairman and chief executive Paul Barber said, "We are delighted to welcome Jason to the club. We are all very much looking forward to working with one of the most talented young sporting directors in the country."

Jason will report to Paul Barber and work closely with men's and women's team head coaches Fabian Hurzeler and Dario Vidosic. The 40-year-old will also oversee all footballing areas of the club, including player recruitment, performance and medical for the club's senior men's and women's teams and academies.

Jason said: "This is a special club, admired across the footballing world for its culture, ambition and smart thinking, which has made some remarkable progress in recent years. To be joining at a time when there is such a strong desire to build on those excellent foundations, innovate further and bring success is incredibly exciting."

Meanwhile, Mike Cave has been promoted to technical director.

STADIUM

Mike has been with the club since 2022 as assistant technical director and replaces David Weir.

Mike said: "I'd like to thank Tony Bloom and Paul Barber for their continued support during my time at Brighton. I'd also like to put on record my thanks to David Weir for the opportunity and support he's shown me since I joined.

"Having the chance to take on this role working alongside Jason is something I'm extremely excited about. Jason's reputation amongst his peers and within the wider game is outstanding.

"We have complementary skills and experiences that I believe will allow us to continue to innovate and develop our goals as a club."











INTERVIEW

# FROM MADRID TOSUSSEX

#### Carla Camacho lived the dream playing for the club she supported, but now she's ready to embrace a new challenge in the WSL

"Of

mostly

sunny,

so I have

used to

had to get

more rain

- and the

wind, it's

so windy!"

Carla Camacho had the opportunity that most fans can only dream of and played for her childhood club.

But after five seasons with Real Madrid, the 20-year-old striker was happy to switch clubs, colours, leagues and countries to try to forge a successful career in the WSL with

"I was born in Madrid, and all my family are Real Madrid fans, so when they called me, it was like a dream come true," said Carla. "They phoned my dad and asked if I could join the academy. I came back from school to be told the news, and they were all wearing their Real Madrid shirts and singing the Madrid songs. They were all crying, as you would expect."

For Carla, playing for Real was a dream she'd had since she first kicked a football with her brother and his friends. "When I was very young. I used to play on the street with my brother and all his friends. I really fell in love with football when I was that age. I wanted to make a career out of playing football and that's the reason why I'm here and why I fight to play every day.

"I developed a lot as a player and a person at Real Madrid. I learnt a lot on the pitch, but it was also an age where you start to grow and become a woman, so the values off the pitch, like being respectful to people, were important to me.

"The past few years were an incredible experience to grow and learn all their values. I can only be grateful to Real Madrid and say good things about the club."

youth system before going to Atlético Madrid

in 2012. She joined Real Madrid's youth team in 2020, spending three seasons in the academy and B team. course Carla was promoted to the first-team squad Spain is

in 2022 and made 17 appearances, scoring three goals across La Liga and the Champions League. She has also represented Spain at youth level, winning the Golden Boot at the 2022 UEFA Women's Under-17 Championship. Later that year, she was part of the squad that won the U-17 World Cup, and she also went on to win the UEFA U-19 Championship.

What Madrid couldn't offer Carla was regular game time, which is why she headed to Sussex ready to embrace the challenge of a new league and culture. And different weather, "Of course Spain is mostly sunny, so I have had to get used to more rain - and the wind, it's so windy!

"It's funny - I was with my family when I made the decision to come to Brighton. We were on a beach near La Manga and suddenly, a seagull was flying around us a thousand times and we said, 'This is a sign!'

"My family enjoyed watching me play for Real Madrid, but they are excited to see me at Brighton in this new chapter. Of course, it was very difficult to leave, but I needed to grow and have more opportunities to play. Brighton is the place for me to grow, especially in this league, where we compete against some of the best teams of Europe.

"I think Brighton is a very ambitious club with clear targets, and I know I can get better here. And despite the distance, I know my family are always the first ones there for me they support me fully."



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# **TOGETHER AGAINST SUICIDE**

# Albion are proud to stand alongside all 20 Premier League clubs in launching Together Against Suicide, a major new initiative launched in partnership with Samaritans.

The campaign, created with broadcaster and mental health advocate Roman Kemp, aims to raise awareness of suicide and provide vital support for those affected.

Every 90 minutes – the length of a football match – someone in the UK takes their own life. With suicide the leading cause of death for men under 50, the initiative harnesses the power of the game to reach those who may be most at risk.

Albion officially launched the campaign at the men's home fixture against Tottenham Hotspur yesterday.

A specially commissioned video, teased during Kemp's Premier League show last Friday, will be showcased at the Amex Stadium as part of the matchday activity.

#### **LOCAL ACTION IN BRIGHTON & HOVE**

Brighton & Hove has some of the highest suicide rates in the country, with an average of 43 deaths by suicide each year. In response, Albion will work closely with Samaritans' Brighton & Hove branch, who have supported the club and fans for many years.

#### As part of the initiative, Albion will:

- Provide safe spaces and trained listeners at all men's and women's home matches
- Share information on spotting the signs that someone may be struggling
- Direct fans towards trusted support, including Samaritans' 24/7 helpline
- Train 1901 Club fans and community members in listening skills over the course of the 2025/26 season, with sessions delivered at the stadium and training ground

#### **VOICES OF SUPPORT**

Premier League Chief Executive Richard Masters said: "Sadly, suicide is an issue that affects people of all ages from all backgrounds. We believe football can play a vital role in reducing the stigma around it and connecting fans who are experiencing suicidal thoughts with the support they need."

Roman Kemp added: "As football fans, we are always there for our

clubs. This initiative flips that around – now clubs can be there for fans when they need it most. As someone who has felt the impact of suicide, I know that football's sense of community can help save lives. One conversation really can make the difference."

Julie Bentley, Chief Executive at Samaritans, said: "One in four of us experience suicidal thoughts, but suicide is not inevitable. A moment of connection can be all it takes to save a life. Together Against Suicide is an amazing opportunity to reach thousands of people with the message that it's okay to talk – and that support is always there"

#### A SEASON-LONG COMMITMENT

Together Against Suicide was launched on World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September) and will run throughout the 2025/26 season. Albion are among 11 clubs piloting enhanced matchday support, alongside Arsenal, Aston Villa, Brentford, Chelsea, Everton, Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham United, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Southampton.

Fans can learn more and access resources here: brightonandhovealbion.com/together-against-suicide

Below: Roman with Dean Gallagher, of the Brighton & Hove branch of Samaritans at the launch of the campaign.













# **Albion action!**

- 1A selfie for Charlie Rule and one of our fans 2 Kiko Seike lets fly in the 0-0 draw against Aston Villa 3 Maisie Symonds captained Albion for the first time
- against Villa

  4 Michelle Agyemang stretches the Manchester City
- 5 Our Japanese trio thank the fans in a traditional way at the end of the Villa match
- 6 Bex Rayner slides in against City on her first WSL start
  7 Fran Kirby scores our first goal of the season at the
  Joie Stadium
  8 The Albion line-up before our 2-1 defeat against
- Manchester City







Representative example Representative

28.9% APR

urchase rate

28.9% p.a.

Based on a

£1,200

Credit

 $Subject \ to \ application, financial circumstances \ and \ borrowing \ history. \ T\&Cs \ apply.$ 

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# Positive thinking

West Ham United will be looking to improve on their ninth-placed finish last season as they continue to cement their place as an established WSL side

The Hammers have maintained their top-flight status since gaining entry to the Women's Super League in 2018, previously finishing in sixth and seventh place, but in recent seasons they have failed to hit those relative heights.

Last term, an unbeaten five-game run towards the end of the season – which included creditable draws against Manchester City and champions Chelsea – had seen Rehanne Skinner's side compete with the Albion for fifth place in the table, but back-to-back defeats to Aston Villa and Leicester City at the end of the campaign resulted in a slip down the table.

Skinner will be looking for more consistency from her side this season, which has been boosted by a quartet of new signings. Japan international Yu Endo, who has arrived from Urawa Red Diamonds, will bring experience to the Hammers' rearguard, while Wales international forward Ffion Morgan has moved to the capital following a four-

year stint at Bristol City.
Midfielder Sarah Brasero
has arrived from Portuguese
side Estoril along with
forward Leila Wandeler, who
has signed from French
powerhouses Lyon.

In terms of notable departures, Dagny Brynjarsdottir, Shannon Cooke and Kirsty Smith were all regulars last term, but the Hammers have maintained the services of German forward Shekiera Martinez, who impressed after her loan at Freiburg came to an end - scoring ten goals from just 12 appearances, which was only two short of Golden **Boot winners Bunny Shaw** and Alessia Russo.

"If we're able to be more consistent this season, the points will come off the back of that and we should be in a position to push a bit higher in the table," said Skinner on the eve of the season, having seen her side pick up pre-season wins against Sparta Prague and Liverpool, which preceded 2-0 defeats against Arsenal and Albion. "The players,

staff and the fans have been superb and so I'm delighted to look forward to the next chapter, and what we can achieve.

"Our home form last season was one of the best in the league and we want to make ourselves really difficult to beat when we go away from home as well. That'll be a big, positive step for us (and) the never-saydie attitude is something that we've really wanted to show to the fans, that we're prepared to do whatever it takes."

It was with a positive attitude that Skinner's side approached the opening game of the WSL season against Tottenham Hotspur, but it was the hosts who picked up the points following a late Beth England penalty. There was further disappointment with goalkeeper Kinga Szemik hobbling off, to be replaced by former Seagull Megan Walsh.

Last Friday, the Hammers again faced London opposition, with Champions League winners Arsenal the visitors to the Chigwell Construction Stadium. Walsh kept her place, while opposite number Daphne van Domselaar fumbled after five minutes to hand the hosts an unexpected lead.

The Gunners then went into overdrive to score five times - the margin of victory helped by 90th- and 93rd-minute goals from Russo - but Skinner was able to take positives from the game.

"I think for 65 minutes, we were in the game, we played really well and made life really difficult for them to break us down," she said. "I thought the pressing intensity was excellent in the first half and the team made life really tough (for Arsenal). Overall the players were really brave and positive. I'm pleased with the way that they tried to go about the game.

"We were a lot more positive in our pressing, being on the front foot. I didn't think we did that against Tottenham - and that's something that we'll obviously keep working on."

#### **ONE TO WATCH**

#### **Shekiera Martinez**

Signed by the Hammers in July 2024 from Eintracht Frankfurt, Martinez spent the first half of last season on loan at SC Freiburg, where she scored five goals in 12 Bundesliga appearances.

The forward made an emphatic return to London in January, going on to net ten goals and winning back-to-back WSL Player of the Month awards in March and April. She was also named the league's Rising Star for 2024/25.

Shekiera, who grew up in Germany, made her debut for Eintracht during the 2018/19 season and made a total of 135 appearances, scoring 32 goals.

She is a former Germany youth international and was part of the squad that finished runners-up in the UEFA U17 Championship in 2017 and U19 Championship the following year.

"If we play like the last half of last season, we can be really good," she said ahead of the new WSL season. "We will improve the things that went wrong and be better."



#### **PREVIOUS MEETING**

# West Ham 4 Albion 5 Sunday 6 November, 2022

Seagulls striker Danielle Carter netted a brace and set up another in Albion's first game since head coach Hope Powell departed the club.

With Amy Merricks taking the hotseat, the Seagulls were looking to bounce back from the previous week's 8-0 defeat against Spurs but fell behind to an early Lisa Evans cross-shot.

However, the lead lasted just five minutes as Carter pounced on goalkeeper Sophie Hillyerd's poor touch to equalise. She then turned provider to cross for Veatriki Sarri to slide home on 11 minutes.

Former Arsenal forward Carter made it 3-1 from the penalty spot after Grace Fisk has tripped Julia Zigiotti, only for Victoria Williams' own goal to hand the Hammers a lifeline after the break.

Excellent finishes from Elisabeth Terland and Jorja Fox seemingly put the game out of the hosts' reach, but Viviane Asseyi's late double set up a frantic finale, including almost ten minutes of added-on time.

"I was really proud of the way the players applied themselves," said Merricks. "Before the game we said we were going to focus on a professional performance and they did that.





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INTERVIEW

TURNING JAPANESE

Summer signing Moeka Minami talks about being a role model for other Japanese players thinking about the WSL and settling into life with Albion

# Having come from Italy, what differences have you noticed in England so far?

From my very first training session I felt how different it was. The spacing between players, for example, feels closer to Japan than to Italy. Technically, the players here have a different kind of quality compared to Italy, and training has really highlighted that. I also find the game more tactical and you have to think a lot more. That's been a big challenge but it's also exciting for me.

One-on-one situations are also different. In Italy, players often add an extra feint or twist, a bit like what I experienced in the Champions League. Here, the matchups are unique again, and that pushes me to grow further.

# These days many Japanese players are choosing the WSL. From your perspective, how do players view the league compared to America or other places?

I always had the goal of playing in England. With Japan now under a new coach in Nils Nielsen, I felt the WSL was the best place for me to adapt to his style and develop. Every player's decision is different, but I think a lot of us felt this was the right time to come. Having so many Japanese players also makes it easier for younger players to take the

leap abroad. That can really help raise the level of Japanese women's football as a whole, and I think it's important that more players challenge themselves overseas.

# What kind of things has Dario Vidosic been asking of you?

One area I've always wanted to improve is my role in the build-up. Our style is very much about playing out, attracting pressure, then finding the pass or carrying the ball forward. My main focus is to keep improving there.

# You mentioned Brighton's facilities were part of your decision to join. What stood out to you?

The facilities weren't the main reason I joined, I wanted to play for this team above all. But the facilities here are incredible. The women's team shares the same level of support as the men with a clubhouse, gym, spa and dining area - everything you need to stay in top condition in one place. There are also so many staff supporting us, which allows me to fully focus on football. On a personal note, being in the south of England the weather isn't too bad, and I can even see the sea from where I live. I love the ocean, so it helps me relax off the pitch as well.



# Do you sense the scale of the league as well?

Definitely. You see women's players featured in men's stadiums, in supermarkets, even on snack packaging, just part of everyday life. That visibility is so different from Japan. It shows the value women's football has here, and I'd love to help bring that kind of presence to Japan

"I wanted to play for Brighton. The facilities weren't the main reason I joined, they are incredible"

# This season there are 19 Japanese players in the WSL. Why do you think so many are coming now?

I think it's the result of those who came before us. Their performances created demand, and clubs realised Japanese players can really help their teams. Of course, players want to go abroad, but it's about receiving an offer. The opportunities we have now are built on the success of earlier players. That's why it's so important for us to keep performing, to maintain and grow that value for the next generation.

#### Fuka Tsunoda recently joined us too. Did you give her any advice as someone with more experience overseas?

Yes, both Kiko (Seike) and I had played with her before, so she already knew us. We just told her she could feel safe coming here, that we'd support her with whatever she needed, and that the most important thing is to settle in without stress. We're trying to help her adjust step by step while also pushing together for the team. Fuka's quite independent and steady, and the team really welcomed her. Technically. she showed her quality from the first training session, and the players noticed that. That makes it easier to integrate. I think she's had a really good start.

– 4th sub 1st sub – 2nd sub
 – 3rd sub 5th sub

D0-0 6 2,219 R.Atkin

L1-2 8 3,316 A.Soneye

DATE OPPOSITION RES/KO POS ATT REFEREE

**STARTING XI** 

























1	1-1
avec	Kafaii

Hayes	Kafaji
Tsunoda	Hayes

#### 28 Everton OCTORED

**SEPTEMBER** 7 Aston Villa

12 Manchester City

21 West Ham United

24 Portsmouth (LC)

UC	IOBER		
5	Tottenham Hotspur	11.55am	
8	West Ham United (LO	C) 7.00pm	
12	Arsenal	2.30pm	
19	Southampton (LC)	2.00pm	

12.00noon

7.00pm 12.00noon

#### **NOVEMBER**

2	Manchester United	2.00pm
9	Liverpool	2.00pm
12	Charlton Athletic (LC)	7.00pm
16	Leicester City	12.00noon

#### **DECEMBER**

7	London City Lior	nesses 2.00pn
14	Chelsea	2.00pn

#### **JANUARY**

**FEBRUARY** 

11	Aston Villa	2.00pm	
18	FAC4		
25	Everton	2.00pm	

2.00pm

#### London City Lionesses 2.00pm West Ham United 12.00noon

15	Arsenal	2.00pn			

#### **MARCH**

15	Chelsea	2.00pm
22	Liverpool	2.00pm
29	Leicester City	3.00pm

#### **APRIL** 26 Chelsea

M/	AY .		
3	Manchester United	2 00nm	

17 Tottenham Hotspur 2.00pm

## Today's mascot

Zimei Neighbour Score prediction: 3-1 Favourite player: Michelle Agyemang



2	#	#	1	
Nnadozie	McLauchlan	Olislagers	Rule	
Nnadozie	McLauchlan*	Olislagers	Rule	





















Noordam Auee











WSL la	test ta	ble 2	025	/26
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		P	w	D	L	F	Α	+/-	Pts	
1	Manchester United	2	2	0	0	9	1	+8	6	
2	Arsenal	2	2	0	0	9	2	+7	6	
3	Chelsea	2	2	0	0	5	2	+3	6	
4	Tottenham Hotspur	2	2	0	0	3	0	+3	6	
5	Everton	2	1	0	1	4	3	+1	3	
6	Manchester City	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3	
7	Leicester City	2	1	0	1	1	4	-3	3	
8	<b>Brighton &amp; Hove Albion</b>	2		1	1	1	2	-1	- 1	
9	Aston Villa	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1	
10	Liverpool	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0	
11	West Ham United	2			2	1	6	-5		
12	London City Lionesses	2	0	0	2	2	9	-7	0	

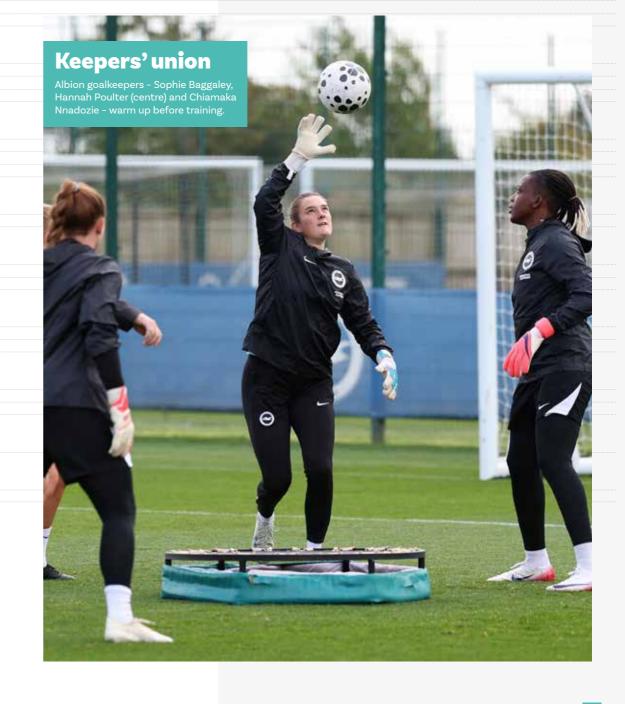
### **Today's other fixtures**

Aston Villa v Liverpool Chelsea v Leicester City Man United v Arsenal

### Albion statistics 2025/26

1 Chiamaka Nnadozie 2				_	
				2	-
2 Manuela Vanegas -					-
3 Moeka Minami 2				2	-
5 Maelys Mpome -					-
6 Rosa Kafaji 0+1				0+1	-
7 Aisha Masaka -				0+2	-
8 Maisie Symonds 2				33+43	2
9 Michelle Agyemang 2				11+16	5
10 Jelena Cankovic 2				15+6	3
11 Kiko Seike 1+1				15+8	6
12 Libby Bance -				22+22	-
14 Fran Kirby 2	1			18+2	9
15 Nadine Noordam 0+2				9+2	-
16 Jorelyn Carabali -				27+10	1
17 Bex Rayner 1+1				3+4	-
18 Caitlin Hayes -				2+3	-
19 Marisa Olislagers 2				22+5	2
21 Madison Haley 2				25+14	2
22 Carla Camcho 0+2				0+2	-
23 Marit Auee 0+1				1+1	-
25 Hannah Poulter -					-
27 Rachel McLauchlan 2				11+6	2
28 Melina Loeck -				16	-
29 Fuka Tsunoda -					-
32 Sophie Baggaley -				35	-
33 Charlie Rule 2				7+9	2
- Evie Milner -				0+1	-
- Mia Balmer -				0+1	-
- Olivia Johnson -				0+2	

PL LC FAC BHAFC





### **Albion**

- 1 Chiamaka Nnadozie
- 2 Manuela Vanegas
- 3 Moeka Minami
- 5 Maelys Mpome
- 6 Rosa Kafaji
- 7 Aisha Masaka
- 8 Maisie Symonds
- 9 Michelle Agyemang
- 10 Jelena Cankovic
- 11 Kiko Seike
- 14 Fran Kirby
- 15 Nadine Noordam
- 16 Jorelyn Carabali
- 17 Bex Rayner
- 18 Caitlin Hayes
- 19 Marisa Olislagers
- 21 Madison Haley
- 22 Carla Camacho
- 23 Marit Auee
- 25 Hannah Poulter
- 27 Rachel McLauchlan
- 29 Fuka Tsunoda
- 32 Sophie Baggaley
- 33 Charlie Rule
- 64 Emilie Gay

# WEST HAM UNITED

### West Ham United

- 1 Kinga Szemik
- 2 Yu Endo
- 4 Oona Siren
- 5 Amber Tysiak
- 7 Ines Belloumou
- 9 Riko Ueki
- 11 Manuela Pavi
- 13 Eva Nystrom
- 14 Shelina Zadorsky
- 15 Anna Csiki
- 18 Anouk Denton
- 19 Shekiera Martinez
- 20 Viviane Asseyi
- 21 Sarah Brasero
- 22 Katrina Gorry
- 23 Ffion Morgan 25 Megan Walsh
- 27 Leila Wandeler
- 29 Verena Hanshaw
- 30 Katie O'Hanlon
- 33 Halle Houssein
- 42 Emily Taylor-Brown
- 43 Celin Cemal
- 77 Seraina Piubel

#### Match officials

Referee: Grace Lowe Assistant Referees: Lorraine Catchpole & Luke Bowles Fourth Official: Aaron Ford

#### Next at home



Everton WSL

Sunday 28 September Kick-off 12 noon

AMERICAN

