

Coventry v Crystal Palace: Thomas Frank Starts Against Lampard

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Coventry v Crystal Palace is the match where Thomas Frank starts his Selhurst Park story. The Eaglesâ?? new manager takes charge at the Coventry Building Society Arena on Saturday 21 November 2026, with kick-off at 3pm GMT, which is 11pm in Singapore. Standing in his way is another Frank, and another former Chelsea great.



Source: Crystal Palace FC official website (cpfc.co.uk)

Thomas Frank returns to the Premier League

Frank has over 200 Premier League matches behind him. He was last on the touchline at Tottenham Hotspur after a successful spell at Brentford, and he has been out of management for nine months. Yet at his first press conference at Copers Cope on Thursday, he sounded like a man who had been waiting for this.

â??Itâ??s a little bit scary to feel how I feel, how good it is to be back,â?• he said. He called Palace â??an iconic club in Englandâ?• and praised Selhurst Park as â??a fantastic place to go to watch

footballâ?•. He was frank, too, about the situation. â??We are in a position where we donâ??t want to be,â?• he admitted, promising to work with players and staff to improve it.

A familiar backroom

Frank has already built a familiar team around him. He has confirmed three new members of staff: a first-team coach who worked with him at Brentford and Tottenham and now also works within the England national team set-up, a fitness and athletic performance coach, Haslam, who has followed him from Brentford and Spurs, and a Mexican set-piece coach arriving from Chelsea. They join Paddy McCarthy and Andy Quy, the latter another Brentford alumnus.

That Brentford DNA matters. Frankâ??s sides were organised, direct and brilliant at set pieces. Palace supporters will be hoping for the same, quickly.

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Source: Crystal Palace FC official website (cpfc.co.uk)

Lampardâ??s Coventry will not be a pushover

The home side are managed by Frank Lampard, and the pair clearly respect each other. Lampard revealed that Frank invited him to watch Brentford train after a dinner with fellow managers that

included Gareth Southgate and Roy Hodgson. â??He was very nice with me. I really appreciated his time,â?• said Lampard. â??Heâ??s a very polite, very smart man.â?•

Lampard is not expecting a gift, though. He believes a new manager usually brings a burst of energy, but noted that Frank has had only a few days with the squad. â??Itâ??s a guessing game in those terms,â?• he said.

Coventry have shown their quality this season. They thrashed Newcastle United 4-1 in October, as covered in our report on Coventry climbing out of the relegation zone, though they were beaten 3-1 by Tottenham a week later in Spursâ?? first league win of the season.

On the injury front, Haji Wright has returned to outdoor training and is working on match fitness after an early injury, while Bobby Thomas, who missed the last two matches, was also training.

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Source: Crystal Palace FC official website (cpfc.co.uk)

Palaceâ??s pull: Mateta missing, Morrisonâ??s prediction

Palace will be without suspended striker Jean-Philippe Mateta. Club legend Clinton Morrison, who also spent two seasons at Coventry, called it a â??tough gameâ?• because of that absence. Even so, he

predicted a 2-1 Palace win and said Frank â??will have his impactâ?•.

Morrison made a sensible point about the table, too. â??Itâ??s so close. Itâ??s so tight down there,â?• he said. He suggested a win at Coventry and another against Hull in the following game could lift the Eagles into the middle of the pack.

It is a reminder of what Palace have done recently. They can call themselves European champions after the Conference League, and they hold an FA Cup and a Community Shield. A squad that has lifted three trophies should not need much convincing that it can climb out of a tight spot.

Coventry v Crystal Palace: what to watch

Look at Palaceâ??s shape and intensity first. A new managerâ??s early games often show urgency before systems, so expect hard running and quick transitions. At the other end, Coventry will fancy their chances of testing a Palace side without its main striker.

My call is a 1-1 draw: Frankâ??s first match brings energy, but not yet a win. Whatever happens, it is a game full of storylines. Catch more on our Sports section, and read our Tottenham v Ipswich preview to see how Frankâ??s old club is faring.

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