



EPL 2026/27 Season Preview: Arsenal Eye History as Chelsea, Liverpool and City Hunt the Crown

Description

The EPL 2026/27 season preview is here and with the Premier League kicking off on Friday 21 August 2026, a tantalising title race is already taking shape. Arsenal return as defending champions, but a reshaped Chelsea under Xabi Alonso, a Florian Wirtz-powered Liverpool, and a new-look Manchester City under Enzo Maresca are all coming for the crown. Here is everything you need to know.

Arsenal: Defending Champions With a Point to Prove

Mikel Arteta's Gunners open their title defence at the Emirates against newly promoted Coventry City on 21 August and there is plenty of storyline in that fixture alone. Viktor Gyokeres, who scored 41 Championship goals across his two-and-a-half seasons at Coventry, now lines up against his former employers as Arsenal's talismanic striker. It promises to be a charged occasion.

Arteta has not stood still this summer. Christos Tzolis, the Greek winger who set the Bundesliga alight before his move to north London, has hit the ground running in pre-season, scoring in Arsenal's tour match in Girona. Eberechi Eze has also joined the squad after a stellar spell in England, bringing pace and creativity from the flanks. Goalkeeper Illan Meslier arrives to challenge for the number-one shirt, while Piero Hincapi brings international-calibre defensive steel.



Christos Tzolis celebrates scoring for Arsenal in pre-season in Girona. Source: Arsenal FC official website (arsenal.com)

The big question for Arsenal is whether they can back up their title triumph with a sustained European challenge. A first-week trip to the Champions League group stage looms large, but this squad is deeper and more experienced than the one that won in 2025/26. Arteta, it seems, is finally building a dynasty.

Chelsea: Xabi Alonso's Revolution at Stamford Bridge

The appointment of Xabi Alonso as Chelsea manager in the summer was the most talked-about managerial move in English football. The Spaniard, who won back-to-back Bundesliga titles with Bayer Leverkusen before going unbeaten in his final campaign, brings a brand of intense, positional football that has the Premier League buzzing. His pre-season in Australia looked impressive, with Morgan Rogers and 18-year-old Geovany Quenda catching the eye.

Chelsea have invested heavily in squad depth, and Alonso's proven ability to develop young talent makes Stamford Bridge one of the most exciting venues in English football once more. If he can replicate what he achieved in Germany, Chelsea could be title contenders by the turn of the year.

Liverpool: Iraola's Pressing Revolution

Andoni Iraola's Liverpool are still rebuilding after Mohamed Salah's departure, but Florian Wirtz who arrived from Leverkusen as Alonso's replacement is a world-class addition. The German playmaker's ability to drift between the lines and unlock defences gives Liverpool a creative hub they have lacked since Salah's exit. Iraola's intense, high-energy pressing style has been installed during a demanding pre-season, and Liverpool's 2-4 loss to Leeds was more about tactical experimentation than final-week form.



Eberechi Eze is introduced to Arsenal fans ahead of the EPL 2026/27 season. Source: Arsenal FC official website (arsenal.com)

Manchester City: The Maresca Era Begins

Enzo Maresca faces perhaps the toughest brief in English football – succeeding the most successful manager in Premier League history at the Etihad. His City side drew 1-1 with Inter Milan in their Hong Kong pre-season tour, showing glimpses of the intricate passing style Maresca intends to implement. Erling Haaland remains the focal point of their attack, and if the squad adapts quickly to Maresca’s demanding system, City will be in the title mix from the first weekend.

Tottenham and Manchester United: The Chasing Pack

Roberto De Zerbi’s Tottenham have looked lively in pre-season, with Dejan Kulusevski starring in their tour of Australia. De Zerbi’s attacking, aggressive football is a natural fit for a squad with genuine quality in the final third. Meanwhile, Michael Carrick’s Manchester United – who finished third in 2025/26 – have added Andrey Santos and Youri Tielemans in midfield and will be eyeing a genuine top-two challenge. Carrick has instilled genuine defensive solidity while retaining United’s tradition of attacking football.

The LBRD Verdict

This feels like one of the most open title races in years. Arsenal’s quality and Arteta’s obsessive preparation make them narrow favourites to defend, but Chelsea under Alonso and Liverpool under Iraola are both capable of winning the league. City will be dangerous once Maresca’s system beds in. Our prediction: Arsenal edge it in May 2027, with Chelsea and Liverpool trading blows for the runners-up spot.

For more pre-season coverage, read our deep-dives on [Arsenal’s summer signings](#) and [Manchester United’s pre-season under Carrick](#). Find all our football coverage at the [Sports section](#).

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