

Everton v Liverpool Preview: Merseyside Derby, Isak, Wirtz and a Tarkowski Gap (29 November 2026)

Description

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This Everton v Liverpool preview comes with a Singapore-friendly twist: the Merseyside derby kicks off at 12:00 GMT on Sunday 29 November 2026, which is 8pm SGT. Liverpool arrive fourth and flying, Everton arrive bruised and short of a centre-back. It is the first league derby of the season, and it has more edge than the table suggests.

Everton v Liverpool preview: the table and the mood

Liverpool sit fourth on 21 points from 11 games (six wins, three draws, two defeats), with 18 goals scored and 10 conceded. Everton are ninth on 16 points, with 12 scored and 14 shipped. Arsenal lead the way on 28, so the Reds still have ground to make up, but the recent run is healthy.

Andoni Iraolaâ??s side thrashed Manchester United 4-0 at Anfield on 22 November, a night Florian Wirtz scored and set up a goal and was then voted Premier League Player of the Matchweek by the fans. We covered it in Liverpool 4-0 Manchester United, and the short version is that it was Liverpool at their sharpest. Three days later they went to Belgium and won 3-0 at Club Brugge, which we previewed here.

Everton are heading the other way. They lost 4-0 at Brentford on Monday 23 November, a result we covered in Brentford 4-0 Everton. Before that they had beaten Coventry 3-1 and Newcastle 1-0, so this is a side capable of grinding results out. The problem is the shape of the team that has to turn up on Sunday.



Source: Liverpool FC official website (liverpoolfc.com)

Isak and Wirtz are the main event

Alexander Isak scored twice at Club Brugge on Wednesday night, the first a first-time finish after Bradley Barcola pressed Yann Sommer into a loose pass and Dominik Szoboszlai pulled the ball back. His second, late on, saw him dink the ball over the goalkeeper after running through on the left. Wirtz struck in the 79th minute in between, curling in off the post after a pass from Rio Ngumoha.

Isak now has seven Premier League goals this season, according to the official Premier League stats, which puts him second in the scoring chart behind Manchester Cityâ??s Erling Haaland on nine. Iraola said after the Brugge game that Isak and Wirtz are both in a good moment, and praised the strikerâ??s link-up play in the first half. That detail matters on Sunday, because Liverpool want their number nine dropping into pockets and releasing the runners around him.

Everton have a scorer of their own. Thierno Barry has six league goals, third in the Premier League chart, so David Moyes does not lack a threat. What he lacks, for this game at least, is stability behind it.

Team news and the Tarkowski problem

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Reports from the Everton side say captain James Tarkowski was sent off in the Brentford defeat and will miss the derby. Jake Oâ??Brien has been mentioned as a possible option in central defence, which would leave Moyes a decision at right-back. Against a front line that is moving this well, a rejigged back four is a serious ask.

Liverpool have their own gaps. Iraola confirmed Cody Gakpo will be out â??even for the weekendâ?• with a calf problem picked up on international duty, and Ryan Gravenberch, who has a heel issue and has missed the last three matches, still has no return date. Victor Munoz went off injured after 41 minutes at Brugge, with Ngumoha replacing him, so his availability is one to watch. The forwards on the trip include Isak, Ngumoha, Munoz and Lewis Koumas.



Source: Liverpool FC official website (liverpoolfc.com)

Tactical angles

Expect Everton to sit compact and try to hit Liverpool on the break, which is exactly what they did for long spells in April. In that game at the Hill Dickinson Stadium, Mohamed Salah gave Liverpool a half-hour lead, Beto levelled early in the second half, and Virgil van Dijk headed a winner from a Szoboszlai corner in the 100th minute. It finished Everton 1-2 Liverpool, and nobody in blue forgot it.

Liverpoolâ??s best route is tempo. Iraola valued the clean sheet in Belgium because his team had been conceding too much in Europe, and Sundayâ??s test is whether that defensive discipline travels across Stanley Park. With Szoboszlai picking passes from deep and Wirtz drifting between the lines, the Reds should create enough. The danger is a set-piece, which is how derbies like this are often decided.

Prediction: Liverpool to edge it

Form, firepower and fitness of the back line all point one way. Everton at home will make it ugly, and the crowd will be loud, but I see Liverpool prevailing 2-1, with Isak getting one of them. If Everton keep it level past the hour, expect the nerves to bite on both sides.

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Source: Liverpool FC official website (liverpoolfc.com)

Elsewhere this Premier League weekend

Matchweek 12 starts on Friday 27 November with Nottingham Forest v Chelsea at 8pm GMT, a 4am Saturday kick-off in Singapore. Chelsea are eighth on 16 points after their 1-4 defeat at Leeds, while Forest are 17th on nine.

On Saturday, Manchester United host Brentford at 3pm GMT (11pm SGT). United sit 19th on eight points and Brentford are sixth on 17, so the visitors arrive with the confidence. On Sunday, Sunderland v Tottenham is at 2:05pm GMT (10:05pm SGT), 18th against 10th.

The weekend closes with Arsenal v Manchester City at 4:30pm GMT, which we have already previewed . Kick-off times are as listed on the Premier Leagueâ??s fixtures feed at the time of writing and can change. For more, see more Sports coverage on Little Big Red Dot.

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Author
jadeyeo

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