

FA Cup Final 2026 Preview: Chelsea vs Manchester City â?? Haaland Hunts History At Wembley

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The FA Cup Final 2026 descends on Wembley this Saturday, 16 May, as Chelsea take on Manchester City in one of English footballâ??s most anticipated showpiece occasions of the season. For Pep Guardiolaâ??s side, it is a shot at domestic treble glory. For the Blues, it is a chance to rescue something meaningful from a campaign that has, at times, threatened to unravel entirely.

FA Cup Final 2026: The Stage Is Set At Wembley

Kick-off is at 3pm BST at Wembley Stadium on Saturday 16 May 2026. The match will be broadcast live on BBC One and TNT Sports in the UK, and through local FA Cup rights holders internationally, with viewers in Singapore able to follow via official broadcast partners.

It is a contest rich in history. City and Chelsea have met in FA Cup Finals before â?? Chelsea won 1-0 in the 1970 replay, while City gained revenge in 2021, also 1-0. This will be the first time they have met in a Final since that Wembley encounter five years ago, and the stakes could hardly be higher for both sides.



Source: The FA official website (thefa.com)

Man City Chasing the Domestic Treble

Manchester City have been the dominant force in FA Cup football in recent seasons, winning 21 of their last 23 matches in the competition. Having already claimed the EFL Cup this season, they are chasing a historic domestic double â?? and only Erling Haaland, their devastating Norwegian striker, could make this Final even more remarkable. The 25-year-old has played nine finals for City (including Community Shields) and is yet to score in one â?? Wembley is, astonishingly, the only ground he has played at more than twice for City without getting on the scoresheet.

City arrive as clear favourites, and their form through this Cup run has been commanding. Haalandâ??s hat-trick against Liverpool in the quarter-final served as a reminder of precisely why defenders lose sleep. Their left-wing threat through JÃ©rÃ©my Doku is another dimension â?? no player has contributed more goals and assists in the FA Cup over the past two seasons, with Doku recording three goals and five assists in that span. If Chelsea are to upset the odds, keeping Doku and Haaland quiet simultaneously may prove an impossible ask.

Cityâ??s road to the final saw them edge past Southampton 2-1 in the semi-finals, with goals from Doku and Nico GonzÃ¡lez completing a dramatic comeback from behind. They are relentless. They are hungry. And they are making history â?? becoming the first club ever to play in four consecutive FA Cup Finals.

Chelseaâ??s Final Chance For Redemption

Chelseaâ??s season has been difficult by any measure. They have won just three of their last twelve Premier League matches, and all three of those victories have come in this very competition. The FA Cup has been their escape route, their redemption arc â?? and Enzo FernÃ¡ndez has been the man driving them forward at crucial moments. The Argentine midfielder has been involved in six FA Cup goals this season, scoring the winner against Leeds in a tense semi-final. His ability to unlock defences and carry a goal threat from midfield will be Chelseaâ??s greatest weapon on Saturday.

Chelseaâ??s Wembley record has been famously stingy â?? their last eight matches at the national stadium have produced just seven goals in total, including four conceded. They have not scored in their last four finals at Wembley, a run that stretches back to the 2020 FA Cup final against Arsenal. Defensive solidity will be built into this performance by necessity.

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Also worth watching: Alejandro Garnacho, who memorably scored for Manchester United against City in the 2024 FA Cup Final, is now in Chelsea blue. No player has ever scored against the same opponent in FA Cup Finals for two different clubs â?? could Garnacho write another piece of history?



Source: The FA official website (thefa.com)

Key Battles And Tactical Angles

The midfield contest will define this game. If Enzo FernÃ¡ndez can dictate tempo against Cityâ??s physicality of Rodri and Kevin De Bruyne, Chelsea can disrupt Cityâ??s flow. But if De Bruyne is allowed to play his game â?? cycling the ball, threading through-balls, dragging defenders out of shape â?? it could be a long afternoon for the Blues.

Cityâ??s stat that should alarm Chelsea most: since losing the 2021 Champions League Final to the Blues, City have not lost in their last 13 games against Chelsea in all competitions (W10 D3). That is a remarkable mental hold. Chelseaâ??s 13-game winless run against City is their longest against any opponent since a run of 17 without victory against Arsenal between 1999 and 2004.

This is a match where history weighs heavily â?? on both sides. City are chasing immortality. Chelsea are fighting for pride, for relevance, for proof that the season was not wasted. At Wembley, on a sunny May afternoon, anything remains possible. For Singapore football fans staying up late or catching highlights across the time zones, this is the fixture to watch this weekend. Find out more about the wider English football season in our Sports coverage.

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Also read: EPL Title Race 2026: Arsenal Two Wins From History As Man City Stalk The Summit and Liverpool 1-1 Chelsea: Gravenberch Goal Not Enough As Fernandez Free-Kick Dents Redsâ?? Top-Four Push.

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