



PSG vs Arsenal UCL Final 2026: Team News, Predicted Lineups and the Budapest Countdown

Description

The biggest night in European club football is just hours away. **PSG vs Arsenal UCL Final 2026 team news** has been the talk of Budapest since both camps arrived in the Hungarian capital, with one major injury concern dominating Mikel Arteta's pre-match preparations. Here is everything you need to know ahead of Saturday's showdown at the Puskás Aréna and why the tactical battle between these two magnificent sides promises to be unlike anything we've seen in recent Champions League history.

PSG vs Arsenal UCL Final 2026 Team News

Arsenal: Timber and White Doubts Cast Long Shadows

Arsenal head into the 2026 Champions League Final carrying an injury cloud that Arteta will be desperate to clear before kick-off. Right-back **Jurrien Timber** remains the headline concern – the Dutch defender has not featured since suffering a severe groin injury before the March international break. Despite working exhaustively with Arsenal's medical team in Budapest, Timber is rated as 'touch and go' and a final decision on his availability will not be made until Saturday morning.

The news on **Ben White** is far less encouraging: the England full-back is *definitely* sidelined with a knee injury and will play no part in the final. With both first-choice right-backs unavailable or doubtful, versatile 18-year-old **Myles Lewis-Skelly** is expected to fill in, potentially in a more conservative defensive role as Arteta reshapes his back line around the absence.

Beyond those concerns, Arteta's squad is in excellent shape. **Bukayo Saka** is firing on all cylinders after an outstanding campaign that has drawn admiring glances from across Europe. **Martin Ødegaard** has returned to his best form, and **Viktor Gyökeres** – the Champions League's top scorer with 14 goals – arrives in Budapest fully fit and hungry for his first European winners' medal. Arsenal have conceded a miserly **six goals in 14 UCL matches** this season, and that defensive fortress will need to hold against the most prolific attack in the competition.



The Puskás Aréna in Budapest hosts the 2025/26 Champions League Final on 30 May 2026. Source: UEFA official website (uefa.com)

PSG: Hakimi Racing the Clock, Dembélé Confirmed to Start

On the Parisian side, all eyes have been on **Achraf Hakimi**, who has missed several weeks with a muscular injury. The world-class Moroccan full-back has been pushing hard to make the final – training separately from the main group at the Puskás Aréna on Friday – and may earn a place on the bench, but is unlikely to start from the first whistle. In his absence, **Warren Zaire-Emery** is set to operate as a makeshift right-back: an unconventional solution for the biggest occasion in club football, but one PSG's coaching staff have prepared for carefully.

Better news for Luis Enrique: **Ousmane Dembélé** has shaken off his minor muscular issue and confirmed he will start on the right of a fearsome front three. **Khvicha Kvaratskhelia** is fully fit after a sensational debut campaign in Paris, and the Georgian winger will occupy the left flank. Central striker **Gonçalo Ramos** is expected to lead the line, with the midfield trio of **Vitinha**, **João Neves** and **Fabián Ruiz** providing the engine room. PSG have scored an astonishing **44 goals** in 14 UCL games this season – one short of the all-time record set by Barcelona in 1999/2000 – and they will arrive at the Puskás Aréna with supreme attacking confidence.

Predicted Lineups for the UCL Final

Arsenal (predicted XI): Raya; Lewis-Skelly, Saliba, Gabriel, Zinchenko; Rice, Å?degaard; Saka, Havertz, Trossard; Merino

PSG (predicted XI): Donnarumma; ZaÃ¬re-Ã?mery, Marquinhos, Pacho, Mendes; Vitorinha, Neves, Ruiz; DembÃ©IÃ©, Ramos, Kvaratskhelia

GyÃ¶keres is expected to begin on the bench for Arsenal, but his explosive pace and lethal finishing could make him the decisive impact substitute if the game remains tight into the second half. Similarly, if Hakimi recovers to take a spot on the PSG bench, his introduction could alter the dynamic down the right flank in the closing stages.



The Killers will headline the UCL Final 2026 Kick Off Show presented by Pepsi at the Puskás Aréna. Source: UEFA official website (uefa.com)

The Bigger Picture – History at Stake in Budapest

The stakes could not be higher for either club. Arsenal are chasing an extraordinary **domestic and European double** – just days after clinching the Premier League title for the first time in 22 years, they now stand one win away from the Champions League crown that has eluded them throughout their history. Victory would cement Arteta’s legacy as one of the finest managers the club has ever had.

For PSG, the mission is equally historic: a successful defence of their 2025 Champions League title would make them **only the second club in the Champions League era** to retain the trophy, placing them alongside Real Madrid’s legendary three-in-a-row between 2016 and 2018.

Kick-off at the 67,000-capacity Puskás Aréna is at **18:00 CET (01:00 SGT, Sunday 31 May)**. Before the match, global rock icons The Killers will headline the Kick Off Show presented by Pepsi in what promises to be a spectacular occasion for the 2026 Champions League Final.

Read our full tactical breakdown of the [five key battles that will define Budapest](#), and check our earlier [PSG countdown to the final](#) for more on how Paris have prepared. For all our football coverage, visit our [Sports section](#).

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