



Crystal Palace vs West Ham Preview: Hammers Eye Premier League Safety at Selhurst Park

Description

Monday Night Football rounds off a dramatic Premier League weekend as **Crystal Palace host West Ham** at Selhurst Park on 20 April 2026, with the Hammers chasing a result that could all but end their relegation worries. Kick-off is 8pm BST (3am SGT, Tuesday) and the contrast between the two London sides tells the story of the run-in: Oliver Glasner's Eagles are already eyeing European football, while Graham Potter's West Ham need every point they can grab.

Palace fly high as Europa League semi-final beckons

Crystal Palace sit 14th on 41 points and have effectively banked their top-flight status for another season. Glasner's side have been unbeaten in eight of their last ten matches across all competitions and now turn most of their attention to a glittering Europa League semi-final, reached after an all-star run in Europe. The Eagles will arrive on Monday buoyed by the knowledge that the relegation trapdoor is shut behind them, but Glasner has publicly warned his players that momentum in the league carries over onto the continent.

There is good news on the injury front too, with Adam Wharton back in training after an adductor problem and Maxence Lacroix pushing for a return following a knee knock picked up in last week's continental defeat to Fiorentina. Evann Guessand, Cheick Doucoure and Eddie Nketiah remain unavailable, but Palace's spine is largely intact.

West Ham have to win and they know it



Selhurst Park hosts the final match of Matchday 33 as Palace welcome West Ham on Monday night.

West Ham occupy 17th and sit just two points above the drop zone with six matches to go. Potter's side have quietly rebuilt form in recent weeks, losing only twice in their last 11 league outings, and go to SE25 with the confidence of a team that knows what it needs to do. Victory would pull the Hammers six points clear of 18th-placed Tottenham, who were held at home by Brighton on Saturday, and hand them a vital psychological cushion heading into the final run of fixtures.

Jarrod Bowen is the man in form. The England forward has scored in each of his last two meetings with Palace and has produced seven assists since the turn of the year. He is expected to lead the line again at Selhurst Park, supported by Lucas Paqueta and Mohammed Kudus. Veteran goalkeeper Lukasz

Fabianski remains a slight doubt with a back complaint, but otherwise Potter can call on what is widely seen as the healthiest squad in the division.

Key battles at Selhurst Park

The midfield fight will be fascinating. Palace captain Marc Guehi has been outstanding at centre-back this season and will need to be alert against Bowen's movement. In the other direction, West Ham's defensive pairing must deal with Ismaila Sarr's blistering pace and Jean-Philippe Mateta's aerial threat - the striker has been a consistent bright spot for Glasner and is the archetypal Selhurst Park centre-forward.

Tactically, expect Palace to press high and use the wide areas, particularly with Daniel Munoz advancing from right-back. Potter's side are likely to set up compactly, trust in Bowen's counter-attacking instincts and try to suffocate the game into a 1-0 or 1-1 - a scoreline that would still represent a decent Monday night for the visitors.

Head-to-head and form guide

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Crystal Palace's recent home form at Selhurst Park has been outstanding as Glasner's side are unbeaten in eight of their last ten matches across all competitions.

Head-to-head numbers slightly favour West Ham, who have lost just once in their last six meetings with Palace across all competitions. The last trip to Selhurst Park ended in a 1-1 draw, but Palace have

improved significantly under Glasner since. For neutrals, the two London sides tend to produce open, end-to-end fixtures – four of the last six meetings have featured three or more goals.

Team news at a glance

Crystal Palace: Henderson; Munoz, Lacroix (doubt), Guehi, Mitchell; Wharton, Hughes; Sarr, Eze, Kamada; Mateta. *Out:* Guessand, Doucoure, Nketiah.

West Ham: Areola (or Fabianski if fit); Wan-Bissaka, Mavropanos, Todibo, Emerson; Alvarez, Soucek; Bowen, Paqueta, Kudus; Fullkrug. *Doubt:* Fabianski.

What a result would mean

For Crystal Palace, the prize is a tenth win in all competitions since mid-February and real momentum heading into their European semi-final. A victory would also tighten their grip on a potential seventh-placed finish, which may be enough for continental football next season depending on FA Cup outcomes.

For West Ham, three points would effectively guarantee Premier League safety and almost certainly consign Tottenham, Wolves or one of Burnley/Sunderland to the Championship. A draw keeps them nervously looking over their shoulders. A defeat, however, drags the Hammers right back into the thick of a relegation fight that looked to be drifting away.

Prediction: Crystal Palace 1-2 West Ham

Palace will be dangerous on the break, but the urgency and experience in Potter's squad should edge them home. Expect Bowen to be the difference-maker as West Ham land the blow they desperately need, carrying on a Monday Night tradition of away sides raising their game in London derbies. Either way, Selhurst Park should produce an absorbing watch to close out a memorable Matchday 33.

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Author

jadeyeo