

West Ham Crush Wolves to Escape Drop Zone as Packed EPL Weekend Awaits

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West Ham United delivered a stunning performance on Friday night, thrashing Wolverhampton Wanderers 4-0 at the London Stadium to climb out of the Premier League relegation zone and send Tottenham Hotspur tumbling into the bottom three for the first time since 2009. With a packed Matchday 32 weekend ahead â?? headlined by Arsenal vs Bournemouth, Liverpool vs Fulham, and Sundayâ??s blockbuster Chelsea vs Manchester City â?? the race for the title, European spots, and survival intensifies further.

West Ham 4-0 Wolves: Hammers Deliver Relegation Lifeline

Friday nightâ??s headline act belonged to West Ham, who produced their most complete performance of the season to demolish a hapless Wolves side. Konstantinos Mavropanos broke the deadlock with a towering header in the 42nd minute, before ValentÃn Castellanos took centre stage in the second half.

The Argentine striker fired home twice in the space of just two minutes â?? in the 66th and 68th minutes â?? to put the result beyond doubt, before Mavropanos completed his own brace with a fine volley in the 83rd minute. The 4-0 scoreline flattered no one; West Ham were dominant from start to finish.



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> Tottenham have dropped into the relegation zone for the first time since 2009 (Source: Tottenham Hotspur FC)

The result has massive implications at the bottom of the table. West Ham have now won five of their last 11 matches and have climbed out of the relegation zone for the first time since December. Meanwhile, Tottenham â?? who are still without a league win in 2026 and recently sacked manager Igor Tudor, replacing him with Roberto De Zerbi â?? have slipped into 18th place. For a club of Spursâ?? stature, the prospect of relegation for the first time since 1977 is now very real. Spursâ?? 13-match winless run is the worst in the clubâ??s modern history.

Wolves, rooted to the bottom of the table and 15 points from safety with only 18 left to play for, look all but certain to go down.

Saturday Preview: Arsenal Look to Extend Lead at the Top

Arsenal vs Bournemouth (12:30 SGT)

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Arsenal
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Arsenal are nine points clear at the top of the Premier League (Source: Arsenal FC)

League leaders Arsenal host Bournemouth in Saturdayâ??s early kick-off at the Emirates Stadium. The Gunners sit top with 70 points from 31 matches (W21 D7 L3) and a goal difference of +37, nine points clear of second-placed Manchester City. A fifth consecutive league win would stretch that lead to 12 points before City travel to Chelsea on Sunday â?? a potentially decisive gap with just seven matches remaining.



Bukayo Saka could make his return for the Gunners (Source: Premier League)

There is encouraging news on the injury front for Mikel Artetaâ??s side, with Bukayo Saka and JurriÃ«n Timber both in contention to return, though Eberechi Eze is unlikely to feature and Mikel Merino and Piero HincapiÃ© are definitely ruled out. Bournemouth arrive on an impressive 11-match unbeaten run in the league â?? with Arsenal the last team to beat the Cherries way back in early January â?? but the Cherries are missing Justin Kluivert, Lewis Cook, Tyler Adams, and Julio Soler, while striker Junior Kroupi is rated 50:50.

Other Saturday 3pm Kick-offs

Brentford vs Everton â?? Both sides are in the mix for a potential fifth Champions League spot, which the Premier League has secured for a second consecutive season. Just seven points separate fifth

from 13th in what is a remarkably tight race for European qualification.

Burnley vs Brighton â?? Burnley, back in the top flight this season, host a Brighton side who have been inconsistent of late, with their 2-1 win over Liverpool a recent highlight.

Liverpool vs Fulham (17:30 SGT)

Reigning champions Liverpool welcome Fulham to Anfield in Saturdayâ??s late kick-off. Arne Slotâ??s side have endured a torrid run of form â?? just two wins in their last eight matches across all competitions, including heavy defeats to Manchester City (0-4 in the FA Cup), PSG (0-2), and Brighton (1-2). Liverpool sit fifth on 49 points, just one point ahead of sixth-placed Chelsea, and need to start picking up results to secure Champions League football next season.

Fulham, however, are no pushovers. Marco Silvaâ??s men have claimed four wins in their last seven games, including a convincing 3-1 victory over Burnley, though they continue to struggle away from home. Trips to Anfield have rarely been kind to the Cottagers.

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Sundayâ??s Big Clash: Chelsea vs Manchester City



Chelsea welcome title-chasing Manchester City to Stamford Bridge (Source: Chelsea FC)

The weekendâ??s marquee fixture sees sixth-placed Chelsea (13W 9D 9L) host second-placed Manchester City (18W 7D 5L) at Stamford Bridge on Sunday afternoon. City, trailing leaders Arsenal by nine points (with a game in hand), simply cannot afford to drop points if they are to maintain any hope of catching the Gunners â?? especially with the two title contenders set to meet at the Etihad on 19

April in what could be the title decider.

City arrive in excellent form, fresh from a dominant 4-0 FA Cup victory over Liverpool, with Erling Haaland â?? the leagueâ??s top scorer with 22 goals â?? leading the line. Chelsea, meanwhile, have taken just five points from a possible 18 in recent weeks, with four consecutive defeats exposing their inconsistency. Blues boss Liam Rosenior has confirmed that Enzo FernÃ¡ndez remains dropped, while Trevoh Chalobah and Jamie Gittens are also sidelined. City will be without Ruben Dias due to a muscle problem.

Chelsea have not beaten City since the 2021 Champions League final, and with City having won 28 of their last 31 Premier League matches in April historically, the odds are stacked against the hosts.

Other Weekend Fixtures to Watch

Sunderland vs Tottenham (Sunday) â?? Roberto De Zerbi makes his Spurs debut as manager in a must-win fixture against a Sunderland side chasing European football. The Black Cats beat rivals Newcastle before the international break and are full of confidence, though they have lost their last three home league games. Spursâ?? 13-match winless run is the worst in the clubâ??s modern history â?? can De Zerbi turn things around?

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Crystal Palace vs Newcastle (Sunday) â?? Newcastle head to Selhurst Park looking to bounce back from their derby defeat to Sunderland, while Palaceâ??s winless run has stretched to six matches in all competitions. Oliver Glasnerâ??s record following midweek European knockout games is a major concern â?? just one win in 10 matches in that scenario.

Nottingham Forest vs Aston Villa (Sunday) â?? A huge match for Forest, who sit just two points above the relegation zone, against fourth-placed Villa. Forest will take confidence from their 3-0 demolition of Tottenham last time out, while Villa are reeling from a 4-0 hammering at Arsenal. Manchester United vs Leeds United rounds off the weekend on Monday night at Old Trafford in a heated Roses rivalry clash.

Across Europe: Barcelona Derby, Bundesliga Showdown

In **La Liga**, Barcelona host city rivals Espanyol in the Catalan derby on Saturday. BarÃ§a hold a seven-point lead over Real Madrid at the top of the table, though Hansi Flick faces a selection headache following their Champions League quarter-final first-leg defeat to AtlÃ©tico Madrid. Sevilla vs AtlÃ©tico Madrid is another key fixture on Saturday.



Dortmund welcome Leverkusen to Signal Iduna Park in a top Bundesliga clash (Source: Borussia Dortmund)

The **Bundesliga** serves up a cracker as second-placed Borussia Dortmund host sixth-placed Bayer Leverkusen at Signal Iduna Park. Dortmund have been in sensational form, winning 10 of their last 12

league matches and scoring at least two goals in 14 consecutive games. Meanwhile, runaway leaders Bayern Munich â?? who have already scored 100 Bundesliga goals this season â?? visit St. Pauli needing just two more to break the leagueâ??s 54-year goalscoring record.

Badminton Asia Championships: Loh Kean Yew Falls in Quarter-Finals

In badminton, Singaporeâ??s former world champion Loh Kean Yew bowed out of the 2026 Badminton Asia Championships in Ningbo, China, at the quarter-final stage on Friday. Seeded seventh in the menâ??s singles draw, Loh had earlier impressed with a strong win over Indiaâ??s Kidambi Srikanth in the round of 16, but could not progress further in the tournament. Singaporeâ??s national badminton programme has recently undergone restructuring, with a new framework introduced from 1 April 2026 in preparation for the 2028 and 2032 Olympics â?? a timely reminder of the challenges facing Singapore sport at the international level.

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The tournamentâ??s surprise package has been Indiaâ??s Ayush Shetty, who stunned world number one Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the semi-finals (10-21, 21-19, 21-17) to become the first Indian menâ??s singles player to reach a continental championship final since 1969. The finals take place today (Saturday).

Singaporeâ??s Yeo Jia Min also competed in the womenâ??s singles but was defeated by world number one An Seyoung of South Korea in straight games (15-21, 10-21). The KFF Singapore Badminton Open 2026 is next on the calendar for local fans, running from 26 to 31 May at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.



Full Matchday 32 fixtures continue across the weekend (Source: Premier League)

Stay tuned to Little Big Red Dot Sports for full weekend match reports, results, and analysis.

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