

Match points: Chelsea v Sunderland

Key battles

Diego Costa v John O'Shea

Costa has scored only three goals in three months and those, against Maccabi Tel Aviv, Aston Villa and Norwich, were against weaker opponents. Sunderland's position suggests they are similarly poor but the veteran O'Shea has seemed more assured in a back-three. They have three clean sheets in his last five starts.



Willian v Patrick van Aanholt

One man could not be blamed for Mourinho's dismissal. Willian mounted a one-man effort to keep the Portuguese employed. His non-stop running could be required to track wing-back van Aanholt and exploit the space the Dutchman leaves behind him. Mourinho never selected van Aanholt and sold him to Sunderland in 2014 for just £1.5 million.



Branislav Ivanovic v Duncan Watmore

Ivanovic has had a wretched season and, while he has improved after an awful start, the speedy Watmore could be just the sort of player to unsettle him. The 21-year-old, who graduated in economics recently, has been Sunderland's success of the season. He is raw, direct and has an eye for goal when cutting in from either flank.



Key statistics

Nine lives this time?

League losses

9

Mourinho's first 118

9

Last 15 games

Chelsea have lost nine of their last 15 league games. They lost only nine of their first 118 under Jose Mourinho in 2004-07. Chelsea have lost nine of their first 16 fixtures. The last time they did that, in 1978-79, they were relegated.

Points dropped

27

2014-15

33

2015-16

Home truths

Home losses

1

First 99 games

4

Last 7 games

Chelsea have lost four of their last seven home league games. They lost only one of the first 99 under Mourinho (over two spells). Sunderland were the first team to beat the manager's Chelsea at home in the league – 2-1 in April 2014.

Assists

12

2014-15

2

2015-16

Cesc Fabregas has two league assists. He had 12 at this stage last season.

Bruised brothers

Goals

12

2014-15

3

2015-16

Chelsea's joint top scorer in the league is Own Goals – level on three with Diego Costa. The Spaniard had 12 at this stage last season.

Eden Hazard's last Chelsea goal

230

days ago