Match points: Man United v Arsenal

Key battles

Anthony Martial v Per Mertesacker

An ill-timed injury to Gabriel Paulista has brought Mertesacker back into the team. The German may hope Martial, who is far quicker than him, is sidelined by the hamstring problem that ruled him out of the Midtjylland game, in which case teenager Marcus Rashford will replace him again. Frenchman Martial has two goals in his last three league matches.

Memphis Depay v Hector Bellerin

Depay won back his place only when Wayne Rooney was injured. Aman Louis van Gaal has described as the greatest talent of his generation rarely looked it, with both his work ethic and goal return proving disappointing, until a sparkling display against Midtjylland. But he will need to track back against the speedy Spaniard Bellerin.

Guillermo Varela v Alexis Sanchez

United have begun with three right-backs in as many games. Just Varela's second Premier League start promises to be a difficult occasion as he is pitted against Arsenal's trump card. Sanchez was electric against United at the Emirates but has scored only one league goal since then. A meeting with a rookie might prompt a return to form.

Key statistics

Goal-shy Red Devils

Goals

33

Last 26 league games

Manchester United have scored 33 goals in 26 league games, their lowest tally at this stage of the season since 1989-90.

Slim pickings

Last win

2006

At Old Trafford

Arsenal last won at Old Trafford in the Premier League in 2006. Since then, they have earned just one point in eight trips.

Heavy defeats

Conceded goals

3

First 20 minutes

The only time United have conceded three goals in the first 20 minutes of an EPL game was away at Arsenal in October.

Conceded goals

8

In a game

The only time Arsenal have conceded eight goals in a game since 1896 was when they lost 2-8 to United in 2011.

Key creator

17

Assists

Mesut Oezil has got 17 Premier League assists this season. No United player has managed more than four.

TEXT: RICHARD JOLLY PHOTOS: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, ACTION IMAGES, REUTERS