

Match points: Arsenal v Manchester City



Key battles

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang v Kyle Walker

A meeting of two of the quickest players around. Unai Emery could compromise to accommodate Alexandre Lacazette by using Aubameyang on the left but Arsenal's record buy had an extraordinary record last season, scoring from 32 per cent of his shots in the Premier League. Walker, who cut his summer break short, may not be at his sharpest.



Lucas Torreira v Bernardo Silva

The £26 million (\$\$46 million) Uruguayan Torreira promises to be the defensive midfielder Arsenal have long lacked. He averaged 2.8 tackles per game, more than any Arsenal player, for Sampdoria in Serie A. Silva excelled in the Community Shield win over Chelsea and could start in a central role if Kevin de Bruyne and David Silva are not ready.



Sokratis Papastathopoulos v Sergio Aguero

Papastathopoulos is a short-term signing, a 30-year-old bought to shore up Arsenal's defence. The £17 million Greek will stand in for injured captain Laurent Koscielny. Subduing Aguero, the scorer of five goals in his last six games against Arsenal, will be no simple task. His Community Shield double took him to 201 goals for City.



Key statistics

Gulf

37

Points Arsenal (6th) were behind Manchester City (1st) last season.

Champions' rampage

3-1 EPL
3-0 League Cup
3-0 EPL

City scored three goals past Arsenal in each of their three meetings last season.

W16 D2 L1

City won a Premier League record 50 away points last term.

Baptism of fire

10

Arsenal's new manager Unai Emery has never beaten City counterpart Pep Guardiola in 10 meetings.

Error-prone

6

Mistakes Arsenal's Petr Cech made leading to goals last season, the most in the league.