

Match points: Burnley v Manchester United



Key battles

Aaron Lennon v Luke Shaw

Shaw has been United's lone success story this season, a player long criticised by manager Jose Mourinho but who earned praise for his performance against Tottenham and is now back in the England squad. Former Tottenham winger Lennon's England days are long behind him, but his pace and work rate should set up a keenly fought duel.



Jack Cork v Paul Pogba

Pogba has scored in two of United's three games but admitted his attitude was poor at Brighton and he was underwhelming against Tottenham. Mourinho ought to use him in a new-look midfield three, with a licence to roam, if Nemanja Matic and summer signing Fred offer the ballast. Cork, together with Ashley Westwood in central midfield, could be outnumbered.



James Tarkowski v Romelu Lukaku

Tarkowski has actually outscored Lukaku this season, two to one, but the Burnley centre-back's problem is that the Clarets have lost the defensive excellence that underpinned their rise last season. Lukaku missed a glorious chance against Tottenham, but it has scarcely helped him that his supporting cast are changing by the game.



Key statistics

Devils in the doldrums?

26

Years since United lost two straight Premier League games in August.

LLWLWDL

Manchester United have lost four of their last seven competitive games.

133

Seconds between United conceding two goals against Tottenham.

Europa fatigue

W2 D4 L3

In nine competitive games this season, Burnley have crashed out of Europa League qualifying, and earned just one point from three league games.

Suspect at the back

7

Goals United and Burnley have each conceded in their three games. Only Huddersfield and West Ham, both in the drop zone, have let in more.

Resources

£315 million

United manager Jose Mourinho's \$561 million net spend on transfers since taking over at Old Trafford two seasons ago. Only Manchester City (£399 million) have spent more in that period.