

League Cup final: Aston Villa v Man City



Key battles

Jack Grealish v Kyle Walker

Grealish is by some distance the most-fouled player in the Premier League. As captain, best player, leading dribbler and likeliest scorer, he shoulders a heavy burden. Walker's speed equips him in a race, but Grealish's ball-carrying ability and habit of drifting infield into the No. 10 position make him a doubly difficult opponent.



Douglas Luiz v Kevin de Bruyne

De Bruyne was the man of the match in last season's FA Cup final, even though he was only a substitute. He deserved the award more for his match-winning performance against Real Madrid on Wednesday. The task of halting the most-creative player goes to an old teammate, though Luiz never made a first-team appearance for City.



Tyrone Mings v Sergio Aguero

Aguero may feel he has a point to prove after being benched for City's historic win at Real in the Champion League. He scored in the 2018 final and got a hat-trick in the 6-1 win against Villa last month. Mings is Villa's best defender and was sorely missed when he sat out the defeat by Tottenham, but their three centre-backs face a stiff test.



Key statistics



It is 24 years since Aston Villa won a major trophy, the League Cup, after a 3-0 win over Leeds United.



City's League Cup trophies.



Villa's League Cup trophies.

7W 1D

City are unbeaten in eight games in all competitions against Villa and have scored 17 goals in their last four meetings.



Goals City have averaged in their last 16 domestic Cup games, 56 in all.