

# Arsenal vs Crystal Palace Carabao Cup Preview: Team News, Confirmed XI, Injuries & Predicted Lineup

Arsenal are preparing to host Crystal Palace in the **Carabao Cup quarter-final** at the Emirates Stadium, with progression to the semis at stake. Mikel Arteta's side have navigated a busy December schedule and now face a London derby in a competition they take seriously, even amid a congested fixture list. This preview covers all the **essential team news, injury updates** and **predicted XI** as both clubs gear up for this crucial cup tie.

## Match Context: Carabao Cup Quarter-Final Stakes

Arsenal and Crystal Palace meet in a high-profile cup fixture that could define momentum going into the hectic winter schedule. Victory for the Gunners would book a **two-legged semi-final** against Chelsea, underlining the importance of this tie. Palace, led by Oliver Glasner, will be aiming for an upset but are battling fatigue and injuries after a demanding sequence of matches across competitions.

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## Arsenal Team News

### Rotation Expected

Arteta has signaled that he will **rotate heavily** for this clash, with up to eight changes from the Premier League lineup that featured against Everton at the weekend. The Carabao Cup has typically offered fringe players and returning stars a chance to impress, and Arsenal will take advantage of that flexibility.

### Goalkeeper

- **Kepa Arrizabalaga** is expected to start in goal, continuing his role as Arsenal's preferred goalkeeper in the League Cup this season, having kept clean sheets in earlier rounds.

## **Defensive Unit**

Arsenal's defensive group will look slightly different from the typical Premier League backline due to ongoing injury issues:

- **Ben White, Gabriel Magalhães and Cristhian Mosquera** are all currently sidelined with fitness problems, limiting Arteta's options at the back.
- The likely defensive selection could feature **Jurrien Timber, William Saliba, Piero Hincapié** and **Myles Lewis-Skelly** — though exact combination could shift depending on training reports.
- Arsenal are managing defensive minutes carefully given the congested schedule, which means less experienced defenders might see action.

## **Midfield Options**

Arsenal's midfield might see a mix of experience and rotation:

- **Christian Norgaard** looks set for a starting role in the defensive midfield anchor spot, with **Mikel Merino** expected to partner him.
- Expect rotation in midfield to preserve energy; **Martin Zubimendi, Declan Rice** and **Martin Ødegaard** could feature from the bench to manage workloads.
- **Eberechi Eze** is highly likely to start in his familiar creative role, especially given his history against Palace and his impact off the bench recently.

## **Attacking Line**

Arsenal's attacking lineup is the most intriguing part of their XI:

- **Gabriel Jesus** is poised to make his **first start of the season** after recovering from a long-term knee injury. Arteta has hinted that Jesus is fit and ready for a starting berth.
- On the flanks, **Noni Madueke** and **Gabriel Martinelli** are both expected to start, providing pace and creativity from wide areas.

- Rotation is likely here too, with Arteta balancing cup ambitions and league continuity.
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## Arsenal Injury Update

Arsenal's injury situation remains significant:

- **Ben White, Gabriel Magalhães** and **Cristhian Mosquera** are all out, creating defensive headaches.
  - **Kai Havertz** is nearing a comeback but isn't expected to be available for the Palace clash.
  - Most attacking and midfield stars are fit, but Arteta will still manage their minutes carefully due to fatigue and schedule density.
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## Crystal Palace Team News

### Injury Struggles for Palace

Crystal Palace arrive in north London with their own fitness challenges, compounded by **Europa Conference League and Premier League commitments** that have stretched their squad depth.

### Key Absentees

- **Daichi Kamada** is out long-term with a hamstring issue.
- Right-back **Daniel Muñoz** is sidelined with a knee injury.
- **Ismaila Sarr** is unavailable due to **Africa Cup of Nations duty**, leaving a significant attacking vacancy.
- Other injuries include **Cheick Doucouré, Rio Cardines, Caleb Kporha** and **Jean-Philippe Mateta** (doubtful), further depleting options.

Palace's injury list gives them limited rotation options, and fatigue is an added concern after their busy schedule across competitions.

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## Predicted Arsenal Starting XI (Carabao Cup)

Based on team news, rotation signals and injury updates, here's a likely Arsenal lineup in a 4-2-3-1 formation:

### Arsenal Predicted XI:

**Kepa; Timber, Saliba, Hincapié, Lewis-Skelly; Norgaard, Merino; Eze, Jesus, Madueke; Martinelli**

(Substitutes likely to include bench options like Zubimendi, Rice, Odegaard, others)

This lineup balances rotation with quality, giving key squad players an opportunity while keeping core attacking threats on the pitch.

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## Crystal Palace Likely XI

Crystal Palace are expected to reshuffle due to absentees but may use a formation similar to:

### Predicted Palace XI:

**Benitez; Richards, Guehi, Canvot, Clyne; Lerma, Wharton, Sosa; Pino, Devenny; Uche**

This XI reflects the absence of key starters and relies on squad depth to cope with Arsenal's strength at home.

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## Match Outlook & Key Considerations

### Arsenal Advantage

- Arsenal's squad depth and rotation options give them a clear edge.
- Jesus' potential return adds a significant attacking weapon.
- Arsenal have a strong home record and silverware ambition in this cup.

### Crystal Palace Challenges

- Palace's injury and fatigue issues could blunt their effectiveness.
  - Key attackers and midfielders are missing, limiting tactical flexibility.
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## **Final Thoughts**

Arsenal head into this Carabao Cup quarter-final with a strong chance of progression. While rotation will shape their tactical approach, the Gunners possess enough quality to secure victory. Crystal Palace face an uphill battle due to injuries, fixture fatigue and depleted squad numbers. As both sides look to manage fitness and momentum, the Emirates should be the setting for an entertaining cup tie with Arsenal favorites to advance.