WATFORD

V

BIRMINGHAM CITY FOOTBALL CLUB - 1875 -

PREVIEW

VICARAGE ROAD
THU JAN 1 | 3:00PM

sky bet CHAMPIONSHIP | EFL



WELCOME BACK

Today, we are delighted to welcome back fan favourite and 2015/16 Player of the Season award winner Heurelho Gomes.

Gomes was a key and much-loved figure during his six-year spell at Watford, between 2014 and 2020. The Brazilian made 159 appearances, keeping 45 clean sheets.

His experience and safe hands were integral to the sides that won promotion to the Premier League, secured the club's highest league finish since the 1980s and reached an FA Cup final.

He left a legacy both on the pitch and off it with his numerous community appearances.

Please give Heurelho the reception he deserves as he is introduced before kick-off.

WINTER SALE

·UP TO 70% OFF·UP TO 70% OFF·

T&Cs Apply



FROM GINO

I hope you all had a restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year. But while many of you will have had some time off, the Championship never stops - and I think Watford fans will have been happy about that!

We are so excited about this young and talented group of players developing under Javi's expert tuition and I'm sure we can all see the seeds of a successful team blossoming to provide bright days ahead for the club.

There are no guarantees in football, but we will always strive to build a team supporters can be proud of, one that can be successful in the short term but also helps secure the future of the club for years to come.

Together, I want us to enjoy this ride and I wish you every health and success in 2026.

Gino Pozzo



“ ”
FROM THE HEAD COACH

I have loved Christmas.

My wife and three sons have been with me and have come to the last three games, I’ve worked with some amazing people at the club who have sacrificed a lot to make sure the team is ready – and we have won three games, for you, the fans.

I want to dedicate these results to Sham, the very kind man who drove me when I first arrived at Watford and helped me and my family so much during both times here. His father passed away before Christmas and I know well the pain of losing a father.
My best wishes to Sham and his family.

14
STRAIGHT APPEARANCES

MARC'S MESSAGE

We've found what we want as a collective and not as individuals.

We are an exciting young team and we have to mould that with experience and the demands daily to get what we want, which is to win and keep going, never being too high and never too low.

STAT ATTACK

WATFORD'S
LAST FIVE MATCHES v THE BLUES

W3	D1	L1

LEAGUE FORM

WATFORD	BIRMINGHAM CITY
DDWWW (6TH)	LDLDD (15TH)

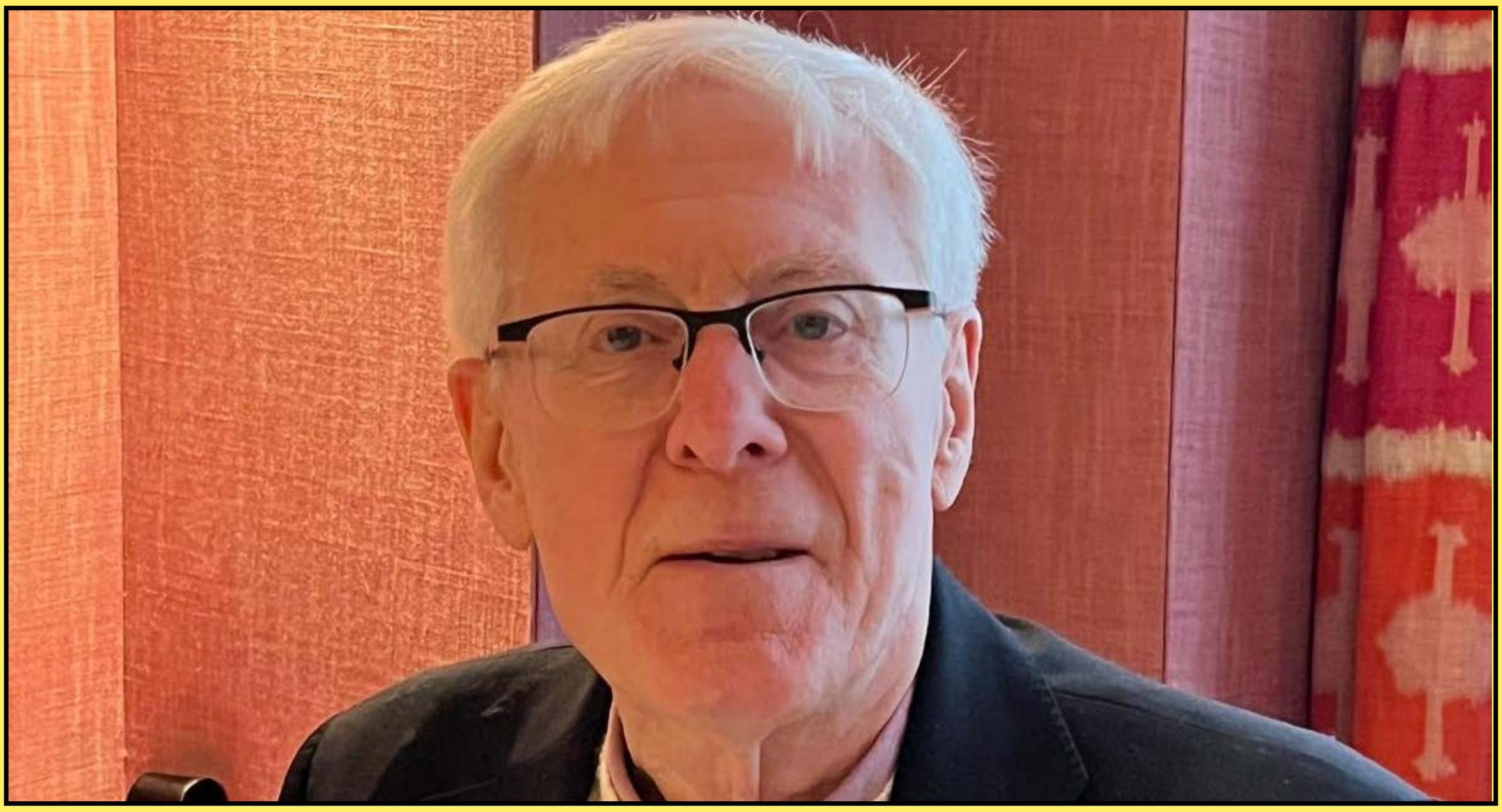
TOP SCORERS

WATFORD	BIRMINGHAM CITY
LOUZA, KJERRUMGAARD (7)	**STANSFIELD** (8)

ONE TO WATCH: JAY STANSFIELD

Versatile forward Jay Stansfield has eight goals from 23 matches this season. The 23-year-old has been a crucial attacking piece for Chris Davies' side, adding flair and potency in front of goal. Stansfield nabbed an assist for Demarai Gray's goal in the 2-1 win over the Hornets in early December.

YOU 'ORNS



Happy Birthday from everyone at the club to John Fawell, who has been a Season Ticket holder since 1986 and turned 80 on December 27.



Happy 90th Birthday to Rookery Season Ticket holder Reginald Parslow.

Happy birthday to Peter Cutler who will turn 90 tomorrow! Peter was born on Farraline Road, a stone's throw from The Vic, and has been a lifelong supporter of the Hornets.



BEEN AT BOTH

This fixture could well be known as the Troy Deeney derby and the great striker needs no introduction to fans of both clubs!

A Blues supporter since childhood, Troy played for Birmingham for two seasons after bringing his glorious Vicarage Road stint to an end in 2021.

During that spell of more than a decade he brought us countless moments of joy, as the frontman blasted in 140 goals for the Hornets.

He helped fire us to a pair of promotions as well as the FA Cup final in 2019.

Enjoy the game, Troy!



ACADEMY

Vicarage Road witnessed some glorious moments in the FA Youth Cup last season and next week the club's young stars will be gracing the stadium again.

Dan Gosling's side will take on Charlton Athletic in round four on Thursday January 8, kick-off at 7:00pm.

Tickets are on sale now at just £5 for adults and £1 for 18s and under, and the boys would love your support.

So come on down and give your backing to the next generation of Hornets!



MEMORABLE MOMENT

Michel Ngonge scored the only goal with a header in the fifth minute when Watford downed Birmingham 1-0 in the first leg of our Championship play-off semi-final back in 1999.

The Hornets were to lose the second leg by the same scoreline, but victory on penalties sent them through to the final and the cusp of the Premier League.

Graham Taylor and the sea of red and yellow were on their way to Wembley, and the rest, as they say, is history!



GOLDEN GIRLS

Golden Girls Head Coach Renée Hector said she is proud of her side's 2025 as they prepare to start the New Year away at Plymouth Argyle on Saturday.

Watford are three points adrift of the top of the league and enjoyed a 19-game unbeaten run during the last 12 months.

"When you step back and look at the results on paper, I think most teams would rip your arm off to have a run like we've had," said Hector.

"When you look at our group as a whole and how much they've grown since the start of last season, I think it's night and day.

"The group is super together and all on the same page and that helps performances on the pitch."



TRUST

Javi Gracia provided a wonderful Christmas surprise for those children at the Christmas Football Camp.

The Head Coach was busy in his office at the training base in London Colney preparing for the game at Leicester City and yet came out to The Dome at a moment's notice to greet more than 70 children who were enjoying football drills, tournaments, quizzes, and plenty of festive fun

Javi posed for photos, signed shirts and passed on tips to the delighted kids.

WATFORD

2025/26

HALF-SEASON HOSPITALITY

ON SALE NOW

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PORTSMOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB 1898

SWANSEA CITY AFC

IPSWICH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

ICH DIEN 1864 1864 WREXHAM AFC

LEICESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

CHARLTON ATHLETIC

SHEFFIELD UNITED F.C. 1889

COVENTRY CITY FOOTBALL CLUB



NEW YEAR'S DAY FIXTURES

Can you name Watford's last six opponents on New Year's Day?

TAP HERE TO PLAY

EFL | iFollow

HALF-SEASON VIDEO PASS

NOW ONLY £90

Offer available until January 31, 2026

YOUR GOLDEN BOYS
WATFORD

HEAD COACH
JAVI GRACIA

---

1 E **SELVIK** (GK)
2 J **NGAKIA**
3 M **ALLEYNE**
4 K **KEBEN**
5 H **KYPRIANOU**
6 M **POLLOCK**
7 T **INCE**
8 G **CHAKVETADZE**
9 L **KJERRUMGAARD**
10 I **LOUZA**
11 R **VATA**
12 N **BAXTER** (GK)
14 P **DWOMOH**
16 M **BOLA**
17 M **SISSOKO**
18 V **SEMEDO**
20 M **DOUMBIA**
22 J **MORRIS**
23 N **MENDY**
25 J **ABANKWAH**
26 C **WILEY**
27 F **MENDY**
29 J **PETRIS**
34 K **BAAH**
39 E **KAYEMBE**
41 A **MARRIOTT** (GK)
42 O **MAAMMA**
43 J **GRIEVES**
50 J **MULLINS**
53 A **NABIZADA**
57 I **KAMGA**
66 N **IRANKUNDA**

TODAY'S WATFORD FC MATCHDAY MASCOTS

AMELIA **GERRARD**
TEDDY **GERRARD**
STEVEN **O'SHEA**
LUCA **WEINRABE**
MASON **WELLS**

OUR VISITORS

BIRMINGHAM CITY

MANAGER
CHRIS DAVIES

2	E	**LAIRD**	**18**	W	**WILLUMSSON**
3	L	**BUCHANAN**	**20**	A	**COCHRANE**
4	C	**KLARER**	**21**	R	**ALLSOP** (GK)
5	P	**NEUMANN**	**23**	A	**SAMPSTED**
6	J	**ROBINSON**	**24**	T	**IWATA**
7	T	**DOYLE**	**25**	J	**BEADLE** (GK)
8	P	**SEUNG-HO**	**26**	B	**OSAYI-SAMUEL**
9	K	**FURUHASHI**	**27**	K	**FUJIMOTO**
10	D	**GRAY**	**28**	J	**STANSFIELD**
11	S	**WRIGHT**	**30**	L	**KOUMAS**
12	M	**LEONARD**	**33**	M	**DUCKSCH**
14	K	**ANDERSON**	**41**	E	**CASHIN**
16	P	**ROBERTS**	**48**	B	**MAYO** (GK)
17	L	**DYKES**			

TODAY'S BIRMINGHAM CITY FC MATCHDAY MASCOT

SONNY **MOORE**

NEXT UP AT HOME

MILLWALL

VICARAGE ROAD | SAT JAN 17 | 3.00PM
GRAHAM TAYLOR MATCHDAY

TAP ON AN IMAGE FOR MORE



