PREVIEW

WATFORD vs WEST HAM UNITED

SAT AUG 29 | 3:00PM

VICARAGE ROAD



JAY DEMERIT

Please be in your seats before kick-off today to welcome back to The Vic a fan favourite from across the pond!

Jay DeMerit signed for the Hornets after being spotted playing for Northwood FC and went on to make more than 200 appearances in the Golden Boys defence between 2004 and 2010.

Who can forget his thumping header which set the ball rolling in the 2006 play-off final victory over Leeds United, when he also put in a man-of-the-match performance?

Great to have you back with us, Jay.



SCOTT TINGLEY

Everyone at Watford would like to wish all the very best to our multiple award-winning Grounds Manager Scott Tingley, who is moving on after more than a decade of producing exemplary pitches at Vicarage Road.

Highlights from his spell at the club include winning the Premier League Grounds Team of the Year award in 2017/18, as well as the top prize in the Championship in both 2020/21 and 2024/25.

Scott is departing for Borussia Dortmund.
Thank you from all of us at the Hornets.

NANI'S NOTES

The ideal is always to have the new squad in place as soon as possible, and there has certainly been no lack of will to try.

We did a good part of our business early, and as we've seen from the opening two games in the Championship, the players we've brought in are extremely effective.

We know we still need more players to complete the squad, and we will do everything we can to get them before the window closes.



"
FROM THE
HEAD COACH

I reflected when running on the streets of Watford this week how responsive the players have been to our ideas, as well as the amazing welcome my staff and I have received from the fans.

We're very grateful. The encouraging results against Southampton and Wrexham are positive steps as we look to improve our mentality.

The atmosphere at Vicarage Road has been incredible, and we can't wait to play in front of a capacity crowd today.

Forza Watford!



“HECTOR KYPRIANOU

The crowd today will be so important!

Against Southampton we had to switch sides at the start, so in the first half, when we scored in front of the Rookery, it was amazing.

When we were defending the Rookery in the second half, you could hear the support behind us and it gives you that edge.

I love it and it gives me goosebumps as a player.

I know that I’m speaking for the rest of the lads when I say that it helps us massively, so please keep it up!

YOU'ORNS



Thank you to Kevin Thompson who has been in touch to announce the birth of his grandson in Gibraltar, a new little Hornet called George!

Congratulations to the family and welcome to George - he's one of our own!

YOU'ORNS



Frank Rainbow, 1938-2026.
Frank Rainbow was a Watford supporter for well over 80 years. He leaves behind his wife Barbara, three children, four grandchildren and a great-grandson.



Lester 'Pops' Phillips, 1955-2026.
A lifelong Watford supporter and steward at Vicarage Road, Pops gave his time to the club he loved and passed on his love of the Hornets to his family.

Service to others defined his life. He served with great pride in the Territorial Army, refereed across Hertfordshire and managed Evergreen Colts.

Above all, Pops was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, with family at the heart of everything he did. His family, friends and colleagues will remember his kindness, generosity and willingness to help others.
Forever loved and never forgotten.



MEMORABLE MOMENT

Odion Ighalo showed his class as the Hornets downed West Ham 2-0 in October 2015.

The striker grabbed both of the goals, first tapping home from close range after Nathan Ake had won the ball from Andy Carroll.

Ighalo was in the midst of his productive partnership with Troy Deeney and fired home his second after the break as he latched onto Ikechi Anya's cutback.

Victory was Watford's second at home in the Premier League following promotion the previous season, prompting delirious scenes at The Vic.

For Ighalo, it continued an astonishing purple patch as he had now been involved in Watford's last nine league goals, scoring seven and assisting two.



GOLDEN GIRLS

The Golden Girls are ready for life in WSL 2 after winning promotion to the second tier as champions last term, and you can be a part of it!

Season Tickets for 2026/27 are now on sale, priced at just £95 for adults and £35 for 18s and under if bought before Wednesday.

With home games taking place at Vicarage Road this season, make sure you don't miss out on the action!

TAP HERE TO GET YOUR SEASON TICKET

WATFORD

KELME

26/27 PRE-MATCH RANGE

AVAILABLE NOW

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YOUR GOLDEN BOYS

WATFORD

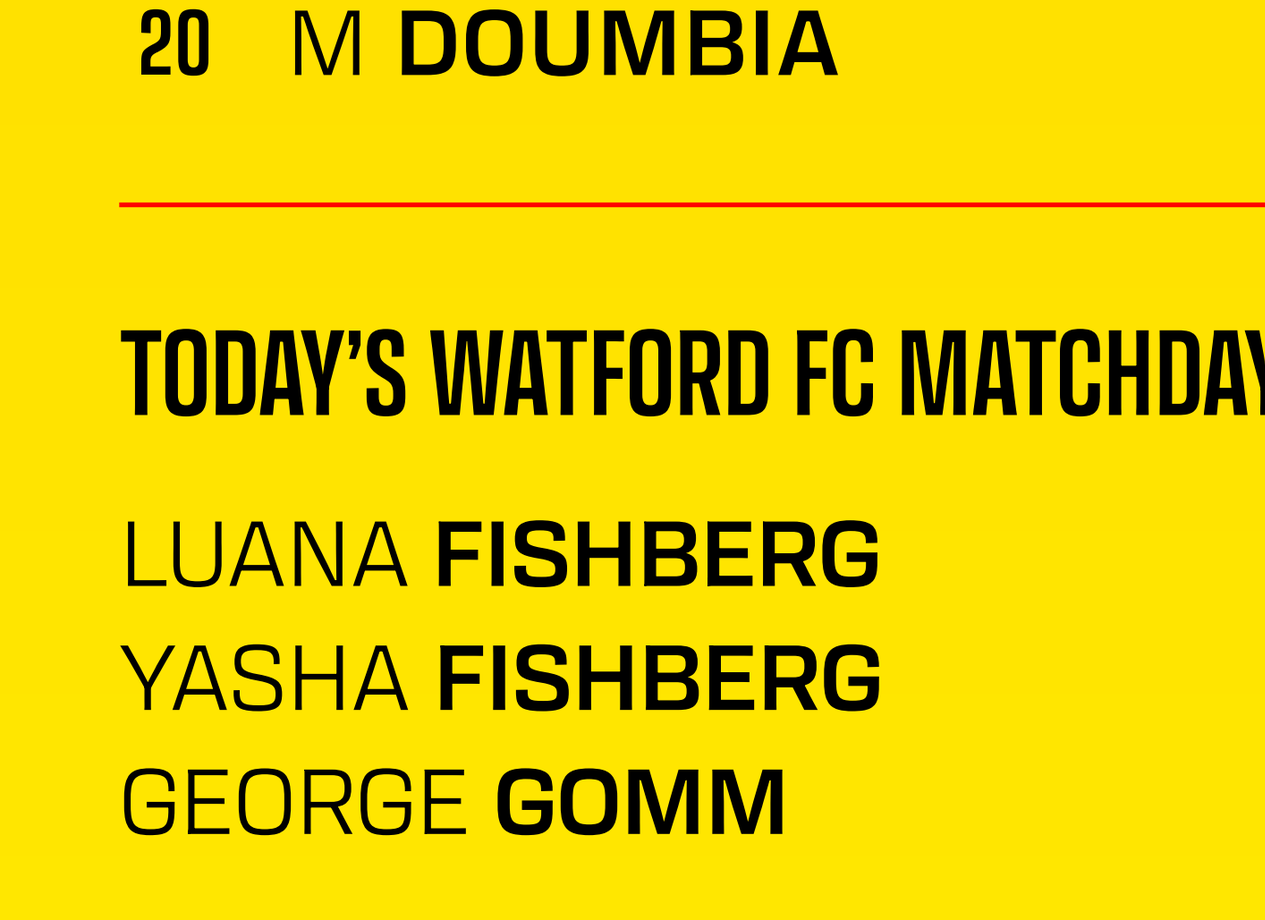
HEAD COACH

ALESSIO DIONISI

1	F **RAVAGLIA**	21	A **NABIZADA**
2	J **NGAKIA**	22	M **PAYERO**
4	K **KEBEN**	23	O **TRAORÉ**
5	H **KYPRIANOU**	24	S **WALKER**
6	M **POLLOCK**	26	D **BACHMANN**
7	O **MAAMMA**	33	J **ZEMURA**
8	E **BOVE**	39	E **KAYEMBE**
9	L **KJERRUMGAARD**	43	J **GRIEVES**
11	R **VATA**	48	M **ADU-POKU**
14	K **BAAH**	53	J **CLARRIDGE**
16	M **BOLA**	56	A **EAMES**
17	I **BRAVO**	75	T **AKINYIMIKA**
19	N **CHIKOVANI**	80	R **LONDON**
20	M **DOUMBIA**		

TODAY'S WATFORD FC MATCHDAY MASCOTS

LUANA **FISHBERG**
YASHA **FISHBERG**
GEORGE **GOMM**
COOPER **RAINBOW**
MITCHELL **SHEEHY**



THE MATCHDAY EDITION

YOUR BESPOKE POST-MATCH SOUVENIR

OUR VISITORS
WEST HAM UNITED

HEAD COACH
NUNO ESPÍRITO SANTO

1	M **HERMANSEN**	21	K **LAMADRID**
2	K **WALKER-PETERS**	22	M **CORNET**
3	M **KILMAN**	23	A **AREOLA**
4	E **ÁLVAREZ**	25	J-C **TODIBO**
7	A **ENGELS**	27	S **MAGASSA**
8	J **WARD-PROWSE**	28	T **SOUČEK**
9	J **PIROE**	30	O **SCARLES**
10	M **SOLOMON**	34	J **VELTMAN**
11	T **CASTELLANOS**	42	K **CASEY**
12	E H M **DIOUF**	49	F **HERRICK**
14	D **MUKASA**	58	A **GOLAMBECKIS**
15	K **MAVROPANOS**	61	L **ORFORD**
17	M **KANTÉ**	63	E **MAYERS**
19	**PABLO**	66	J **AJALA**
20	J **BOWEN (C)**		

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS
REFEREE ROBERT MADLEY
ASSISTANT REFEREE 1 CONSTANTINE HATZIDAKIS
ASSISTANT REFEREE 2 CONOR BROWN
FOURTH OFFICIAL BEN ATKINSON

NEXT UP AT *THE VIC*
WATFORD FC vs PRESTON NORTH END
TUE SEP 8 | 7:45PM | TICKETS.WATFORDFC.COM

sky bet CHAMPIONSHIP | EFL

THE MATCHDAY EDITION

YOUR BESPOKE POST-MATCH SOUVENIR



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