

## Match Pack: Watford v Millwall

24 December 22

By Media Team

### Match Info

- Watford v Millwall
- Sky Bet Championship
- Vicarage Road Stadium
- Monday December 26, 12noon KO

### Officials

- Referee: Josh Smith
- Assistant Referees: Sam Lewis and Lee Venamore
- Fourth Official: Andy Woolmer

### Opposition

Millwall head into the game sitting 10th in the Sky Bet Championship, on 32 points. Coming into the clash off the back of a 3-0 defeat to Sunderland and a 1-1 draw with Wigan Athletic, the Lions sit just two points outside the play-off positions.

Playmaker Zian Flemming has scored four goals in his last three appearances for the Londoners, including a hat-trick against Preston North End last month in a 4-2 away win at Deepdale.

### Stats Buzz

- Watford have won five of their last six home games against Millwall (D1), including a promotion-clinching 1-0 victory in 2021, keeping four clean sheets in this run since a 2-0 loss in March 2006.
- This will be the 100th Football League meeting between Watford and Millwall, with the Lions becoming the eighth different opponent the Golden Boys have faced at least 100 times.
- Following their 3-0 win at The Den in October, Millwall are looking to complete the league double over Watford for the first time since the 2001/2002 campaign.

For a full statistical breakdown check out [Stats Buzz: Millwall In Numbers](#).

### Team News

Without any fresh injury concerns for the game, Slaven Bilić expects a similar squad to be available as in [last Saturday's win over Huddersfield Town](#).

Illness has disrupted training this week however, with Keinan Davis, James Morris and Mattie Pollock all affected.

Benik Afobe and Ryan Leonard may be available to Millwall manager Gary Rowett, with loanee Callum Styles set to be assessed.

### **What Are They Saying?**

#### **Slaven Bilić, Watford Head Coach:**

“It’s a big test, we didn’t forget Millwall away, it was a game that hurt us. Every defeat hurts but that was done in 35 minutes, we couldn’t cope.

“At that time we had injury problems with the back four and it was very painful. Now we are in a different moment, we have options at the back, not only quantity but quality also. As a team we have improved a lot, have kept four clean sheets and to keep a fifth one we will have to be at the top of our game, not only at set-pieces but especially in that area.

“Every game is difficult, but this one especially so. We have extra motivation because of that defeat, that feels like yesterday.”

#### **Gary Rowett, Millwall Manager:**

“They [Watford] are a very good side with a really big, experienced manager in Slaven Bilić, who is a great guy.

“You can see the influence he’s had on that team – they have started to be very consistent.

“They have got some excellent players, the likes of João Pedro, Ismaïla Sarr and Keinan Davis – it almost seems silly some of those players are in the Championship, but that’s where they are.

“Their recent form shows they are a Premier League side with parachute money, trying to find their way to the top end of the Championship.”

### **Head-to-Head**

#### **Overall:**

Won: 33

Drawn: 28

Lost: 43

#### **Last Six:**

October 2022: Millwall 3-0 Watford (Championship)

April 2021: Watford 1-0 Millwall (Championship)

January 2021: Millwall 0-0 Watford (Championship)

January 2017: Millwall 1-0 Watford (FA Cup)

April 2015: Millwall 0-2 Watford (Championship)

November 2014: Watford 3-1 Millwall (Championship)

### **Golden Flashback**

Watford sealed promotion to the Premier League in Millwall’s last Vicarage Road visit, in April 2021. A first-half penalty from Ismaïla Sarr made the difference, as Xisco Muñoz’s Hornets went up to the top-flight in second place.

<https://www.watfordfc.com/news/2022/december/24/match-pack-watford-v-millwall>