Title: Arsenal v Newcastle: Wenger handed Ramsey blow

Arsenal will be without Aaron Ramsey for Saturday's Barclays Premier League match with Newcastle United at Emirates Stadium.

The midfielder - who scored twice in Tuesday's 4-1 win over Galatasaray in the UEFA Champions League, is struggling with a hamstring injury, and the defensive pair of Nacho Monreal (ankle) and Laurent Koscielny (calf) are also ruled out. While Kieran Gibbs and Mathieu Flamini are available and Francis Coquelin has been recalled from a loan spell at Charlton Athletic, Wenger has made his disappointment of missing the Welshman clear.

"It's a shame because he was getting close to matching last season's form," Wenger said of Ramsey.

Arsenal welcome Newcastle looking to get back on track in the Barclays Premier League after a poor first half at the Britannia Stadium last weekend that helped them to go down 3-2 to Stoke City. With Newcastle in fine form after ending Chelsea's unbeaten start to the campaign on Saturday, Wenger acknowledged the difficulties his side will likely face.

"They are doing well and are on a good run so it'll be a good challenge for us,” Wenger said. “Overall we are on a good trend.

"[Pardew and I] had a problem once but we sorted it out. He has done very well because he's gone through a difficult patch. Society wants to win the next game and it's a permanent tribunal for everyone. Pardew has done a great job this season. We are united for one target: to do well for the club we love and that's what we want to achieve."

A haul of 19 points from a possible 24 allows Newcastle to travel to Arsenal, a club against whom they have struggled of late, in good spirits. Goalkeeper Jak Alnwick, 21, will make his first senior start for the club. Fellow goalkeepers Tim Krul and Rob Elliott, who Alnwick replaced, are both injury absentees along with Rolando Aarons and Davide Santon, while Steven Taylor and Moussa Sissoko miss out through suspension.

Pardew hailed the job done by opposite number Wenger, and expects a tough test in north London.

"Arsene Wenger has done an unbelievable job at Arsenal and in some ways their stadium should be named after him," he said. "Arsenal has not been a happy hunting ground for us in recent years. The games at St James' Park have been tight and we hope this one is too.

"There will be no Rolando Aarons or Davide Santon. We are pretty much where we were for Chelsea in terms of injuries."

Arsenal (from): Martinez, Ospina, Szczesny, Debuchy, Gibbs, Mertesacker, Monreal, Cazorla, Coquelin, Flamini, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Rosicky, Sanchez, Campbell, Giroud, Podolski, Sanogo, Walcott, Welbeck.

Newcastle United (from): Alnwick, Dummett, Haidara, Janmaat, Streete, Williamson, Abeid, Anita, Bigirimana, Cabella, Colback, Coloccini, Tiote, Vuckic, Ameobi, Armstrong, Cisse, Ferreyra, Gouffran, Perez, Riviere.