With 17 points separating league leaders Arsenal from fifth-placed Tottenham, the two are in different worlds. After demolishing Chelsea on Tuesday night, Mikel Arteta's Gunners are fighting for their first Premier League title in 20 years, and though they will be relieved that Liverpool are three points behind, perennial winners Manchester City have a game in hand and could overtake the Gunners.

On the other side of the north London derby, Spurs trail their local rivals but still have objectives of their own as manager Ange Postecoglou's team battle it out with Aston Villa for a Champions League spot. It's not fair to compare both projects as Arsenal are in deep into Arteta's tenure while Spurs entered this season with a blank slate after big changes, saying goodbye to striker Harry Kane and welcoming Big Ange to his first ever season in the Premier League. In a way, both teams are exactly where they need to be.

But this does not discount the fact that Sunday's north London derby comes with massive implications and that's why we place this storyline in the "onside" section, because hopefully it will be a match with a tremendous amount of entertainment. At least that's what happened last September at Emirates stadium when Bukayo Saka and Son Heung-Min each delivered a brace for their respective teams in a pulsating back-and-forth that ended in a 2-2 draw.

Goals will surely come. In fact, the last time a north London derby gave us a stalemate was in 2009.

But what about permutations? For Spurs, it's quite simple really. If they want to hold on to the hope of Champions League football for next season, Tottenham -- who trail Villa by six points and a lesser goal differential -- must win. Anything less becomes a mountain too high to climb, especially as they still have to face Liverpool and Man City in the space of nine days in May and the momentum is with Unai Emery's Villa. Spurs have matches in hand on them, but they have to make those results count, otherwise it's of no use.

As for Arsenal, the table could look different by the time the derby's kick-off comes and goes. It is sandwiched between Liverpool's early kick off against West Ham on Saturday and Man City's trip to Nottingham Forest, which is the last game of the weekend. But Arteta can't worry about anything else but his team. He knows that all they can do is to take care of their business and the next step of this marathon.

All eyes are on a five-mile trip down to Tottenham Hotspur stadium, playing host to a north London derby with huge stakes.

These numbers are good news for MLS as Messi's popularity continues to attract more people, but it's important to continue to fight for parity when it comes to ticket sales. For this game, the prices range from $179 to $4000 when you include the secondary market, but the club has saved some aside for season ticket holders and regular attendants with the hope of balancing the hunger to see Messi and not making it financially impossible for regular fans to attend. Messi's presence should not create an unfair playing field in terms of attendance and ticket prices because the fact remains: there will be MLS after Messi.