# [***Battle for Blues  helsea out to gun down Arsenal***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47K3-PW60-015H-510T-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

Soccer

English Premier League

LONDON: Chelsea's biggest hurdle to winning the English soccer title for the first time since 1955 is not Arsenal, but themselves.

  Chelsea's title credentials will be tested early tomorrow morning (Queensland time) in a London derby that the often inconsistent Blues need to win to haul in Arsenal's five- point lead.

   "Our battle is not against Arsenal, but against ourselves," said Chelsea manager Claudio Ranieri. "Everyone likes to put Arsenal and Chelsea together, but we're only concerned with our own performance.

 "The points difference now is not important.

   "Chelsea is Chelsea and we shouldn't be thinking about Arsenal, Manchester United  or Liverpool."

   Defending champions Arsenal have 43 points, with Chelsea and Manchester United on 38 points. Newcastle and Everton have 35 points in a tie for fourth place, with Liverpool on 34 points.

   Premier League clubs are lining up for their third matches in five days and minor injuries have hit many of them.

   Those doubtful include Liverpool's Michael Owen (hamstring), Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy (toe), Everton's Kevin Campbell (ankle), Newcastle's Kieron Dyer (calf) and Leeds' Harry Kewell (leg).

   In other key games, Manchester United meet Sunderland, Newcastle host Liverpool, Everton are at home to Manchester City and Leeds play Birmingham.

   Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said Arsenal's 1-1 draw was a boost.

   "The draw has given us a glimmer of hope again," said Ferguson.

   "We have to make sure the glimmer gets stronger."

   Liverpool seek their first win in 10 games. They have just four points from a possible 27 this month and are on their worst league run since 1954.

   Newcastle will be without midfielders Gary Speed, Dyer and Nolberto Solano, who all picked up injuries in Monday's 2-1 win over Tottenham.

   Everton's visit to Manchester City is unique as it is the first time two Chinese players could meet in the Premier League. Both are defenders who played at the World Cup.

   Everton's Li Tie signed in August, prompting Chinese ***cell phone*** company Kejian to sponsor their shirts. Sun Jihai joined then-first division Manchester City in February, helping the club to promotion to the Premier League.

   Leeds' teenage prodigy James Milner could make his first Premier League start against Birmingham. On Friday, he became the youngest player to score in the Premier League in Leeds' 2-1 win over Sunderland and again scored against Chelsea.

   Now paid around $230 a week as a trainee, Milner can earn 10 times that when he turns 17 on Saturday.

   "There's not much missing from his performance," said Leeds manager Terry Venables.

   "He has a lot in his locker."

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