

YOUTH BLOSSOMS AS PSG & CHELSEA CLASH IN THE CLUB WORLD CUP FINAL THIS WEEKEND

Luis Enrique and Enzo Maresca will meet for the first time on Sunday as PSG contest Chelsea at the MetLife stadium, New Jersey, in an extra high-stakes affair, with £90 million on the line for the winning team.

Both clubs entered this tournament on the back of winning a European trophy little over six weeks ago. Both clubs boasted an exact average age of 24.8 years old in their respective semi-final ties. Both clubs, most importantly, will be full of confidence for this final with Chelsea winning 13 of their last 15 games and PSG winning 10 of their last 11 games.

Domestically, PSG coasted to a treble. Winning Ligue 1, Coupe de la Ligue (French cup) and the Tropheé des Champions (French Super Cup). Following this, a 5-0 demolition of Inter Milan saw them collect their first-ever and highly coveted Champions League trophy in June.

Chelsea cruised to a European Conference League final and after an early scare against Real Betis, they breezed to a 4-1 victory to complete their mission of winning every trophy in club football. In the league, they left it to the last day to secure Champions League qualification as a single Levi Colwill goal saw them achieve 4th place.

PSG have netted 16 goals in 6 games in this competition so far. In their 4-0 destruction of Real Madrid in the semi-final, Ousmane Dembele was the star of the show, contributing with a goal and assist, while looking a menace anytime he had the ball. His positional change from winger to false 9 by Luis Enrique has been a masterstroke — a truly remarkable redemption arc story by the Frenchman.

Desire Doue has had a stunning campaign in Paris, he's conjured up 32 goal contributions in 61 appearances (16 goals, 16 assists). The 20 year-old was signed last summer for £43.5m off the back of 10 goal contributions (4 goals,

5 assists) in 43 appearances. He was instrumental in the Champions League final with 2 goals and an assist in a game which arguably put the wider footballing audience on notice. Many are tipping him to become one of the world's best players alongside the likes of Lamine Yamal in the upcoming years.

Chelsea have scored 14 goals in 6 games. While on his summer holiday, Joao Pedro was signed from Brighton for £55m a fortnight ago in time for the quarter finals. But Chelsea didn't need to announce this on their website, the Brazilian did it himself with two spectacular strikes against his former club, Fluminense, on his full-debut.

Speaking ahead of Sunday, Maresca was remaining tight-lipped on whether the 23 year-old would start the final: "Joao is a very good player. We bought him because we think he will help us. We are lucky we can choose different options. We'll see for the final if he's going to play or not."

Chelsea have spent a combined £85m on Joao Pedro and Liam Delap (22) to reinforce their centre forward options this summer, plunging Nicolas Jackson's future at the club into doubt. 23 year-old Cole Palmer followed up his outstanding 42 goal contribution (27 goals, 15 assists) debut Chelsea season with 27 more goal contributions (15 goals, 12 assists). The Manchester City academy graduate was signed for £42.5m in a deal that the masses are suggesting will mirror the mistake Chelsea initially made by selling Kevin De-Bruyne without inserting a buy back clause.

In both their recent European finals, Doue and Palmer both stepped up to the plate, putting their clubs on their backs and shouldering responsibility when the pressure was on. These two terrific talents symbolise the youthful presence that'll dominate Sunday's match up. Will Doue be at the double again and lead the Parisians to an all-conquering season or will "Cold" Palmer put this potent PSG side on ice?