Spain vs England

Sunday 15th November, 19:45

It's a big night in Madrid on Sunday as Spain host England in a winner-takes-all clash for top spot in Nations League A, Group 3. England know that only a victory will see them leapfrog the reigning world champions, while a draw or Spanish success will be enough for the hosts to finish top of the tree.

Unsurprisingly, Spain are strong odds-on favourites, and it's difficult to argue with that assessment. La Roja are now unbeaten in an extraordinary 44 competitive matches (W35-D9-L1), including 17 encounters against top-10 ranked opposition. Thomas Tuchel's travellers will certainly have their work cut out in the Spanish capital.

However, while Spain deserve their favouritism, I still fancy England to make a proper game of this, and the numbers suggest we could be in for another entertaining encounter. The reverse fixture at Wembley finished 3-2 to Spain, continuing a remarkable sequence of high-scoring competitive meetings between these two nations.

Spain and England's previous four meaningful matches have finished 3-2, 2-1, 2-3 and 1-2, with the Iberians winning three of those encounters. And there's every reason to expect more goalmouth action this weekend...

Spain have seen Both Teams To Score and Over 2.5 Goals land together in nine of their last 12 competitive matches against top-10 nations. England's numbers are equally eye-catching, with their past 11 competitive fixtures against top-10 ranked opposition producing goals at both ends and at least three goals.

Widen the sample to top-25 opposition and England's most recent 13 matches have all featured Over 2.5 Goals, while BTTS has banked in 14 of their last 18 such contests. Those are some seriously compelling trends, particularly given the Three Lions' need to chase a victory here.

With that in mind, backing Both Teams To Score is the first leg of my Bet Builder. Spain's attacking quality is obvious, but England have enough firepower to contribute, especially in a game where sitting back and protecting a point simply isn't an option.

For the second selection, I'm heading to the corners market, specifically England to win Over 3.5 Corners. The Three Lions have forced at least six corners in all five of their Nations League fixtures so far, while they've cleared this relatively modest four-corner barrier in 24 of their last 27 competitive matches.

There's encouragement from Spain's recent defensive numbers, too. La Roja conceded six corners against England at Wembley and allowed Czechia four as recently as Thursday night. With England needing to take the game to Spain, there should be plenty of opportunities, particularly if the visitors find themselves chasing the scoreline.

Spain might be the likelier winners, but I still expect England to have their moments in what promises to be a fascinating finale to the Nations League group campaign.

Best Bet

- Both Teams To Score and England Over 3.5 Corners (2.40)