

Everton Transfer DealSheet: Summer window latest, key targets and likely exits



By **Patrick Boyland**

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There are two ways of looking at the summer to come for Everton.

With so many players out of contract, the task in front of them appears daunting at first glance.

It is rare for an established Premier League club to have quite this much to do in one window, but Everton are seeing it as an opportunity to reshape and improve the squad, backed by fresh funds from their new owners at The Friedkin Group (TFG). Get it right, and they have a chance to really progress.



overseen Leeds United's Championship title win last season. Plenty has changed behind the scenes already and, with so much to do, the new regime will need to hit the ground running.

Here, *The Athletic* previews what is likely to be a lively window for Everton.

Who will make their key decisions this window?

Most of the old hierarchy, including director of football Kevin Thelwell, have left and the arrivals are still bedding in.

But manager David Moyes and Kinnear will be crucial figures in what Everton are calling a "flatter structure".

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Potential targets will be filtered up the chain by the scouting department, with input also coming from head of strategy Chris Howarth, who is another Kinnear appointment. James Smith, Manchester City's director of scouting and recruitment, is a leading contender for a similar role in Kinnear's revamped setup, although a deal is yet to be concluded.

Moyes and Kinnear will then decide which targets are sent to TFG for final approval, with head of trading Nick Hammond in charge of negotiating the deals that get the green light.

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Given the amount of churn we're going to see at Everton, it would probably be easier to list the positions where they don't need to strengthen!

A new backup goalkeeper is needed, as are full-backs on both sides. Everton will also look to strengthen on the wings, in central midfield and up front.

What is the manager's priority?

More quality in the final third. Moyes sees Everton's defence as a strong point and wants to build on that solid foundation.

Goals have been a problem, even if the situation improved after his return in January for a second spell as manager.



Moyes knows Everton need attacking reinforcements (Carl Recine/Getty Images)

What sort of budget do they have and what is their PSR position?

TFG-owned Everton are expected to have a significant budget, but that will need to be spread across anything up to 10 players.

They will need to remain careful on PSR (the Premier League's profit and sustainability rules) until the end of the financial year (and thus this cycle) in June, but their position has improved due to the results gained under Moyes in the second half of the season and the new stadium's naming-rights deal with Hill Dickinson.

The picture should further improve from next season, with another heavy loss dropping out of the calculation and improved revenues from the stadium kicking in.



Are there any specific players they are targeting?

As reported by *The Athletic* in April, Ipswich Town striker Liam Delap was one ambitious target. He was seen as someone who could immediately improve the team and was attainable for Everton financially due to his £30million release clause in the event of Ipswich getting relegated, which they were.

Everton were one of a number of suitors to speak to the 22-year-old and promised to make him their main man up front, but a move elsewhere was always considered far more likely and Delap has instead chosen to join Champions League-bound Chelsea.

A new striker will be needed to compete with Beto, who has impressed Moyes and his coaching staff. Thierno Barry, 22, of Spain's Villarreal and German side Stuttgart's 23-year-old Nick Woltemade have been tracked.

Liverpool winger Ben Doak, 19, has his admirers following a season on loan at Middlesbrough in the second-tier Championship and is one potential option on the wing. In January, Everton chose not to progress with deals for Championship side West Bromwich Albion's Tom Fellows, 21, and Ernest Nuamah of France's Lyon despite having made significant headway on both. Nuamah, also 21, sustained an ACL knee injury in April and will be out long-term. Newcastle midfielder Sean Longstaff was another player of interest in January.

West Ham United midfielder Tomas Soucek is a Moyes favourite from his time in charge at the London Stadium, although there has so far been no sign of a move for him. Right-back Vladimir Coufal is leaving West Ham as a free agent this summer and could come onto the manager's radar again.

There will be a focus on players from established leagues who can come in and immediately help the team.

Moyes' staff have been seen regularly at Championship games involving teams such as eventually-promoted duo Burnley and Sunderland, with the former's French defender Maxime Esteve, 23, among those watched.

Will they be looking to sell?

Given the number of Everton players who are going to be out of contract, the summer is likely to be less about sales and more about strengthening the squad.

Jarrad Branthwaite has been coveted by several top English clubs, but Everton have informed interested parties that they intend to keep the 22-year-old defender. It remains to be seen if a big-money offer would make them change their mind. A move for someone such as Esteve would become more likely in the event of a sale there.



Everton intend to keep hold of defender Branthwaite (Visionhaus/Getty Images)



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That depends on the signings Everton make. But it is possible striker Youssef Chermiti, 21, and midfielder Harrison Armstrong could head out on loan for game time if their pathway to the Everton first team is blocked. Armstrong, 18, had a successful loan with Championship side Derby County in the second half of last season and remains highly regarded. He is likely to be assessed by Moyes and his coaching staff in pre-season before a final decision is made.

What moves have they made already?

The big decisions so far have centred on those players whose contracts are up this summer.

Ashley Young, Asmir Begovic and Joao Virginia are not being retained, while loanees Jack Harrison, Orel Mangala, Armando Broja and Jesper Lindstrom have been sent back to their parent clubs, with Everton deciding not to activate purchase options on the latter two.

Abdoulaye Doucoure was offered a new one-year deal, including a club option for an additional 12 months, to stay on reduced terms but he received far more lucrative interest from elsewhere — notably the Middle East — and decided to leave.

Everton chose to trigger the €15million (£12.7m/\$17.1m) option to make Carlos Alcaraz's mid-season loan from Flamengo permanent after negotiations with the player and Brazilian club over the past week.

Captain Seamus Coleman has been offered a package to stay but striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin's future is in doubt, with his contract among those expiring at the end of June. Defender Michael Keane's situation remains unresolved, but a new deal for him has not been discounted.

(Top photos: Getty Images)

to joining the company, he worked for ESPN, Mail Online and press agency Sportsbeat, where he covered numerous major sporting events. Boyland's views on Everton have been sought out by local and national media, while he is also a regular on a number of podcasts focusing on the club. Follow him on Twitter: [@Paddy_Boyland](#)

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