

PSV Eindhoven v FC Girondins de Bordeaux

MATCH PREVIEW

PSV Stadium, Eindhoven

Tuesday, 5 December 2006 - 20:45CET

Group C - Matchday 6



With PSV Eindhoven and FC Girondins de Bordeaux already assured of finishing second and third respectively in UEFA Champions League Group C, Tuesday's encounter in the Netherlands will allow both clubs to experiment ahead of new challenges in the new year.

Points target

PSV's hopes of winning the section disappeared with a 2-0 defeat at Liverpool FC on Matchday 5, when Bordeaux overcame Galatasaray SK 3-1 in France to secure a berth in the UEFA Cup. According to PSV coach Ronald Koeman, who also guided SL Benfica into the knockout rounds 12 months ago, the build-up to the game has not been as intense as usual, though there is still plenty to play for. "There will be around 30,000 supporters in the stadium, so we have to win it for them," he said. "I would also very much like to finish on 13 points."

'Fresh faces'

Koeman continued: "It's a good opportunity for the fringe players to show what they can do. There will probably be two or three fresh faces in the starting lineup." Two players who did not travel to Anfield, Brazilian striker Diego Tardelli and midfield tyro Ismail Aissati, appear likely starters, while Patrick Kluivert will almost certainly make his first appearance in the competition in PSV colours. "He's not quite ready to start a match yet," said Koeman of the 30-year-old. Mexico defender Carlos Salcido, on two yellow cards, will not be risked as Koeman looks ahead to the last 16.

Fine form

PSV continued their excellent domestic form on Saturday, Ecuador midfielder Edison Méndez scoring the only goal as the Dutch champions defeated BV Vitesse 1-0 in Arnhem to extend their winning sequence in the Eredivisie to nine matches. The clean sheet means goalkeeper Heurlho Gomes has gone 649 minutes without conceding a league goal. In contrast, Bordeaux failed to make it three straight victories in Ligue 1 as they went down 3-0 at RC Lens to drop to seventh, 18 points behind leaders Olympique Lyonnais.

'Experience'

Bordeaux arrived in Eindhoven with a weakened squad. Johan Micoud remained in France to rest, while Marc Planus, Marouane Chamakh (both knee), Geraldo Mauricio Wendel (ankle) and Vladimír Šmicer (thigh) are missing through injury and Fernando Menegazzo is suspended. Coach Ricardo Gomes remains bullish, however. "We are looking forward to the match, and will certainly do our best," he said. "The experience will also help prepare us for the UEFA Cup."

Special occasion

Ulrich Ramé, Bordeaux's goalkeeper and captain, admitted that a hectic schedule has taken its toll on the team while acknowledging that UEFA Champions League matches are always special occasions. "Playing at this level is all the motivation you need as a player," he said. "You can be sure that, regardless of our lineup on Tuesday, we will do everything possible to secure a victory."

Probable teams

PSV: Heurlho Gomes; Jan Kromkamp, Alex, Manuel Da Costa, Michael Lamey; Edison Méndez, Timmy Simons, Phillip Cocu, Ismail Aissati; Diego Tardelli, Jefferson Farfán.

Bordeaux: Ulrich Ramé; David Jemmali, Henrique, Joseph Enakohire, Franck Jurietti; Julien Faubert, Stéphane Dalmat, Rio Antonio Mavuba, Pierre Ducasse; Lilian Laslandes, Jean-Claude Darcheville.

