

Olympique Lyonnais - ACF Fiorentina

MATCH PRESS KIT

Stade de Gerland, Lyon
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Group F - Matchday 1



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This press kit includes information relating to this UEFA Champions League match. For more detailed factual information, and in-depth competition statistics, please refer to the matchweek press kit, which can be downloaded at: <http://www.uefa.com/uefa/mediaservices/presskits/index.html>

Match background

The group stage of the UEFA Champions League has proved a happy hunting ground for Olympique Lyonnais. They finished second behind FC Barcelona last season but previously had posted four successive first-place finishes. The challenge once again as they start at home to ACF Fiorentina in Group F will be to continue that dominance into the knockout rounds.

- France's seven-in-a-row champions begin a ninth successive tilt at the group stage under new coach Claude Puel and against Italian opponents who take their place in the UEFA Champions League for only the second time, and the first since 1999/00. On that occasion, the Viola finished in second place in the first group stage to qualify for the next group phase, where they finished third behind Manchester United FC and Valencia CF.
- Last season, Lyon began with a 3-0 defeat at FC Barcelona, followed by a home loss by the same score against Rangers FC. In the previous three campaigns, they had achieved two wins and a draw on Matchday 1. However, after that stuttering start Lyon dropped only two more points in their four remaining fixtures to finish in second place.
- In the first knockout round they had high hopes as they led Manchester United FC on home soil until Carlos Tévez equalised three minutes from time. At Old Trafford, they succumbed to Cristiano Ronaldo's first-half goal to depart at the last-16 stage for the second successive season. Their previous three campaigns had all ended in the quarter-finals.
- Italian sides were responsible for Lyon's demise in two of those seasons, 2005/06 and 2006/07. On neither occasion did Lyon manage to win – or even score a goal – at the Stade de Gerland. In the first game, a quarter-final tie against AC Milan, it ended 0-0 in France with the Italians winning their home game 3-1. A year later, AS Roma were the opponents and after a 0-0 draw in the Italian capital, Lyon went down 2-0 at home.
- That defeat, and Rangers' success 12 months ago, have taken the gloss off the club's splendid home record in the UEFA Champions League. Until 6 March 2007, they were unbeaten in 18 games at home, with 12 resulting in victory. Now, over 23 games, their record is W13 D8 L2.
- Lyon have welcomed Italian visitors to their ground on six previous occasions in total, winning twice, drawing twice and losing twice. This is the first time they have met Fiorentina in European club competition, while the Florence club have won once in their previous four visits to France.



- In the 1989/90 UEFA Cup, they drew 1-1 at FC Sochaux-Montbéliard in the second round, a result which was enough to put them through on away goals. In the quarter-finals, they beat AJ Auxerre 1-0 at home and matched that scoreline in France. In an all-Italian final, they lost 3-1 on aggregate to Juventus.
- Fiorentina drew 0-0 away to FC Girondins de Bordeaux in the second group stage of the 1999/00 UEFA Champions League. That result fell between wins at home against Valencia and United, but they lost their grip on a semi-final place in the next three games and ended up in third. That contrasted wildly with their fortunes in the first group stage, when they began with two draws and a defeat but then showed improved form to earn a qualifying berth.
- The Italian league's fourth-place finishers qualified for the group stage after coming through the third qualifying round. Cesare Prandelli's side got off to a flyer at home to SK Slavia Praha with Adrian Mutu putting them ahead within three minutes. Alberto Gilardino, making his competitive debut after his summer switch from AC Milan, then made it 2-0 in the second half, an advantage Fiorentina protected in a 0-0 draw in Prague.
- Gilardino was in the AC Milan that side beat Lyon in the 2005/06 quarter-final. He started the first leg, a 0-0 draw in France, but failed to get off the bench as the Italian side won 3-1 at home in the return fixture.
- In the UEFA EURO 2008™ final tournament, Mutu scored for Romania against an Italian team which included Lyon full-back Fabio Grosso. He also missed a penalty. In Romania's previous outing, he faced a French side featuring Karim Benzema and Jérémy Toulalan. Against Grosso and his Italian team-mates, France included Benzema, Toulalan, Sidney Govou, François Clerc and, as a substitute, Jean-Alain Boumsong.
- The other game in the group features FC Steaua București at home against FC Bayern München.

Match facts

Lyon

UEFA milestones

- The Fiorentina match is Lyon's 75th game in the European Champion Clubs' Cup.

UEFA Champions League statistics

- None

Disciplinary information

- Lyon have no players suspended or within a booking of a ban.

Latest domestic information

- **Saturday 13 September: Olympique Lyonnais 3-2 OGC Nice (Juninho 40 71, Benzema 90pen; Bamogo 3, Rémy 20)**

The home side recovered from two goals down to register their third Ligue 1 win in succession in dramatic style. Habib Bamogo and former Lyon man Loïc Rémy struck inside the first 20 minutes but two free-kicks from Juninho Pernambucano drew the hosts level. Karim Benzema then snatched victory with an added-time penalty after Vincent Hognon had been penalised for handball.

- Juninho said: "We were behind but we stayed calm and, after the first goal, Nice were taken aback. We put in a lot of effort and showed maturity and resilience."
- Nice's opener was the first goal Lyon have conceded this season.
- Claude Puel deployed John Mensah at left-back on his comeback from a calf injury sustained on 28 July though there was again no starting place for Jean-Alain Boumsong. He was on the substitutes' bench alongside rested trio Sidney Govou, Benzema and Jérémy Toulalan as Puel opted for Cris and Mathieu Bodmer in the heart of the defence. Fred made his first start of the season.
- The last time Lyon trailed 2-0 at Stade de Gerland, they also came back to win 3-2, against Le Mans UC 72 on 1 September 2007.
- For the first time in seven years, Lyon tasted defeat in the French Super Cup on 2 August, losing on penalties at fellow UEFA Champions League pretenders FC Girondins de Bordeaux. After 90 goalless minutes, the hosts prevailed 5-4 in the shoot-out despite two saves from new Lyon goalkeeper Hugo Lloris. Govou, Cris and Fabio Grosso all failed from the spot.

- After topping the Ligue 1 scoring charts last season, Benzema has already registered five goals from five games this term.
- Benzema scored his fourth goal in four Rhone derbies on 31 August as Lyon prevailed 1-0 at AS Saint-Etienne to help maintain a record of never having experienced defeat against Lyon's neighbours at professional or youth level.
- The St-Etienne win continued Lyon's impressive start to the campaign, with home wins against Toulouse FC and Grenoble Foot 38 sandwiching a goalless draw at FC Lorient.

Injury news

- Fabio Grosso – out since 7 September (rib)
- François Clerc – out since 10 August (knee)
- John Mensah – out 28 July to 13 September (calf)
- Kader Keita – out since 22 July (forearm)
- Joan Hartock – out since 25 August (ribs)
- Clément Grenier – out since July (knee)
- Fábio Santos – out since 24 July (cheekbone)
- Cris – out from the beginning of the season to 17 August (knee)
- Fred – out from start of pre-season training to 13 September (foot)

Summer transfers

•In

Frédéric Piquionne (AS Monaco FC)
John Mensah (Stade Rennais FC)
Jean II Makoun (LOSC Lille Métropole)
Hugo Lloris (OGC Nice)
Miralem Pjanić (FC Metz)
Ederson Honorato Campos (OGC Nice)
Fábio Santos (São Paulo FC)
Thimothée Kolodziejczak (RC Lens)

•Out

Grégory Coupet (Club Atlético de Madrid)
Hatem Ben Arfa (Olympique de Marseille)
Sébastien Squillaci (Sevilla FC)
Milan Baroš (Galatasaray AŞ)
Loïc Rémy (OGC Nice)
Anderson Cléber (São Paulo FC)
Patrick Müller (AS Monaco FC)
Daouda Karaboué (CS Sedan-Ardenne)
Aurélien Badin (ES Troyes AC)
Sandy Paillot (Grenoble Foot 38)
Romain Beynié (AFC Tubize)

- Kolodziejczak joined Lyon on a season-long loan deal from Lens, while Cléber, Paillot and Beynié all departed in similar arrangements.
- Ederson signed for Lyon from Nice in January, but was then loaned out to the southern French club for the rest of the campaign.
- Marc Crosas returned to FC Barcelona after his loan spell at Lyon and has since joined Celtic FC.

International news

- Having struck twice in the August friendly victory (3-2) in Sweden, Govou was again on target on 6 September as France kicked off their FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign with a 3-1 loss against Austria. Benzema and Toulalan also featured in Vienna, though the trio had more joy four days later as Les Bleus beat Serbia 2-1, Govou teeing up Thierry Henry's opening goal. Lloris was an unused substitute in both games.
- Kim Källström was on target for Sweden in the 3-2 loss to France and, after the side had begun their World Cup qualifying Group 1 campaign with a goalless draw against Albania, he was among the goals again four days later. Källström struck the 55th-minute opener to set up a 2-1 victory at home to Hungary.

- Having made his senior international bow on 20 August in Bosnia-Herzegovina's 2-1 defeat by Bulgaria, Miralem Pjanić experienced more disappointment on 6 September, coming on as a late substitute as the side lost 1-0 to Spain. He was introduced midway through the second half four days later as Bosnia-Herzegovina recovered with a 7-0 victory at home to Estonia.
- Grosso lasted just 18 minutes of Italy's 2-1 victory against Cyprus on 6 September as he suffered broken ribs. On the same day, Makoun helped Cameroon advance to the third round of World Cup qualifying with a 2-1 win away to the Cape Verde Islands.
- Anthony Mounier played a key role as France booked their place in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship play-offs. The 20-year-old was involved in three goals as Les Bleuets beat Malta 5-0 on 5 September, and four days later a 1-0 win against Bosnia-Herzegovina sent the side through as one of the best runners-up.
- Seven Lyon players took part in UEFA EURO 2008™ this June, with Grosso the most successful as Italy reached the quarter-finals before succumbing to eventual winners Spain on penalties. Frenchmen Boumsong, Govou, Benzema, Toulalan and François Clerc all exited after the group stage, as did Swedish midfielder Källström.

Miscellaneous

- Midfielder Lamine Gassama was handed his first professional contract with Lyon earlier this month. The 18-year-old impressed during pre-season but is yet to make his senior debut.
- The Stade de Gerland pitch was replaced in July. "Around 10,000m³ of earth was removed to make this change," said head groundsman Alain Venditti. "The layer below the grass had lost its ability to absorb rainfall."
- For the second year in succession, Lyon are reigning French champions in both the men's and women's game. The club also have an Olympic medalist in their ranks after midfielder Simone claimed silver with the Brazilian women's team in Beijing.
- Brazilian-born defender Cris was granted Portuguese citizenship this summer.
- Toulalan celebrated his 25th birthday on 10 September.

Fiorentina

UEFA milestones

- None

UEFA Champions League statistics

- Eleven Fiorentina players appeared in both qualifying games: Sébastien Frey, Dario Dainelli, Juan Manuel Vargas, Luciano Zauri, Massimo Gobbi, Zdravko Kuzmanović, Mario Alberto Santana, Felipe Melo, Pablo Daniel Osvaldo, Alberto Gilardino and Giampaolo Pazzini.

Disciplinary information

- Fiorentina have no players booked or within a yellow card of a ban.

Latest domestic information

• Sunday 14 September: SSC Napoli 2-1 ACF Fiorentina (Hamšík 48, Maggio 69; Mutu 40)

The Viola are still seeking their first win of the Serie A season after defeat in Naples. Things initially looked promising for the visitors, who took the lead just before half-time when Gilardino latched on to Riccardo Montolivo's long ball and back-heeled into the path of Adrian Mutu. The Romanian striker fired in a precise left-footed shot, having struck an earlier effort back off the crossbar. As had the home side, and they drew level after the restart before former Fiorentina player Christian Maggio scored the winner.

- "We were in control but were too naïve in defence when Napoli scored," said coach Cesare Prandelli. "I think we played well and we would have been upset with a draw, let alone a defeat. However, it's a lesson for us because we have to learn to close down games when we dominate as we did in the first half."
- Fiorentina were without the suspended Melo while Vargas was rested, as Gobbi replaced the latter at left-back. With Alessandro Gamberini injured, Prandelli opted for debutant Manuel da Costa at centre-back instead of Per Krøldrup.
- Mutu and Gilardino have scored all of Fiorentina's goals this season. They were both on target in the 2-0 win against SK Slavia Praha, while Gilardino scored a minute from time to salvage a point for the Viola against Juventus in the first game of the Serie A season on 31 August. That goal came despite the hosts being a man down for the final seven minutes following the dismissal of Melo, making his Serie A debut along with Stefan Jovetić.

Injury news

- Adrian Mutu – out 19 August to 14 September (dislocated elbow)
- Alessandro Gamberini – out since 6 September (shoulder)
- Riccardo Montolivo – out 18 August to 14 September (left thigh)
- Gamberini dislocated his left shoulder after only three minutes of Italy's 2-1 victory against Cyprus in 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifying and is expected to be out for up to a month.

Summer transfers

•In

Stefan Jovetić (FK Partizan)
Felipe Melo (UD Almería)
Alberto Gilardino (AC Milan)
Juan Manuel Vargas (Calcio Catania)
Gianluca Comotto (Torino FC)
Marco Storari (AC Milan)
Luciano Zauri (S.S. Lazio)
Sergio Almirón (Juventus, loan)

•Out

Tomáš Ujfaluši (Club Atlético de Madrid)
Christian Vieri (Atalanta BC)
Fabio Liverani (US Città di Palermo)
Alessandro Potenza (Genoa CFC)
Daniele Cacia (Piacenza FC)
Samuel Di Carmine (Queens Park Rangers FC, loan)
Arturo Lupoli (Norwich City FC, loan)

International news

- A number of Viola players were in action during the recent World Cup qualifiers, though Gamberini lasted just three minutes of Italy's 2-1 win against Cyprus on 6 September after dislocating his shoulder. Gilardino, who had scored in the friendly draw against Austria (2-2) in August, played for the duration in Larnaca but was an unused substitute during the 2-0 win against Georgia four days later.
- Jovetić scored a penalty in Montenegro's 2-2 draw with Bulgaria and played another 90 minutes at home against the Republic of Ireland four days later. Elsewhere, Denmark's Krøldrup remained on the substitutes' bench during the goalless draw with Hungary and Kuzmanović was also unused for Serbia against the Faroe Islands on the same day but started the 2-1 loss in France before being replaced after 56 minutes.
- Vargas was in the Peru side that claimed their first win in seven qualifiers against Venezuela (1-0), following it up with a 1-1 draw against Argentina.
- Osvaldo was in action for Italy as 1-1 draws against Greece and Croatia on 5 and 9 September sent the Azzurrini through to the UEFA European Under-21 Championship play-offs.
- Frey, Mutu and Gamberini were all involved in Group C of UEFA EURO 2008™. Mutu scored for Romania against Italy but his side failed to progress from the pool, a fate which also befell Frey's France. Gamberini, a last-minute call up to replace the injured Fabio Cannavaro, did not make an appearance for Italy, who lost on penalties to eventual winners Spain in the quarter-finals.

Miscellaneous

- Kuzmanović celebrates his 21st birthday on 22 September.
- Gamberini signed a two-year contract extension until 2013 on 28 August, a day after turning 27, while Mutu committed until 2012 on 6 August.
- On 31 July, Fiorentina played FC Barcelona in a memorial game to mark the 25th anniversary of the death of former UEFA President, Dr Artemio Franchi. The game, played in front of over 40,000 spectators, ended 3-1 in favour of the Catalan club with Pazzini scoring the only goal for the Viola.

Squad list

Lyon

No.	Player	Nat.	DoB	Age	BL	Current season						All-time			
						UCLQ		UCL		League		UCL		UEFA	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers															
1	Hugo Lloris	FRA	26.12.1986	21	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
25	Joan Hartock	FRA	17.02.1987	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Rémy Vercoutre	FRA	26.06.1980	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9	-
44	Mathieu Gorgelin	FRA	05.08.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	Anthony Lopes	POR	01.10.1990	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders															
2	François Clerc	FRA	18.04.1983	25	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	18	-	18	-
3	Cris	BRA	03.06.1977	31	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	31	3	31	3
4	Jean-Alain Bounsong	FRA	14.12.1979	28	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	7	-	38	1
11	Fabio Grosso	ITA	28.11.1977	30	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	13	-	32	-
15	John Mensah	GHA	29.11.1982	25	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
20	Anthony Réveillère	FRA	10.11.1979	28	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	42	-	48	-
35	Nicolas Seguin	FRA	06.03.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	Sébastien Faure	FRA	03.01.1991	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	Thomas Fontaine	FRA	08.05.1991	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	Loïc Abenzoar	FRA	14.02.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
43	Mickael Fourtier	FRA	02.10.1990	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders															
5	Mathieu Bodmer	FRA	22.11.1982	25	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	18	-	37	1
6	Kim Källström	SWE	24.08.1982	26	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	14	2	25	4
7	Ederson	BRA	13.01.1986	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Juninho	BRA	30.01.1975	33	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	52	15	59	16
12	Thimothée Kolodziejczak	FRA	01.10.1991	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Pierrick Valdivia	FRA	18.04.1988	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Jean Il Makoun	CMR	29.05.1983	25	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	14	1	30	1
18	Miralem Pjanic	LUX	02.04.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
26	Fábio Santos	BRA	09.10.1980	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	5	1
27	Anthony Mounier	FRA	27.09.1987	20	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
28	Jérémy Toulalan	FRA	10.09.1983	25	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	13	-	19	-
31	Saïd Mehamha	FRA	04.09.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Lamine Gassama	FRA	20.10.1989	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41	Maxime Gonalons	FRA	10.03.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	Yoann Court	FRA	14.01.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
47	Romain Dedola	FRA	02.01.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards															
9	Fred	BRA	03.10.1983	24	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	17	4	17	4
10	Karim Benzema	FRA	19.12.1987	20	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	11	7	11	7
14	Sidney Govou	FRA	27.07.1979	29	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	56	8	60	9
19	César Delgado	ARG	18.08.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
22	Clément Grenier	FRA	07.01.1991	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Kader Keita	CIV	06.08.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	1	19	1
29	Yannis Tafer	FRA	11.02.1991	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Jérémy Pied	FRA	23.02.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39	Frédéric Piquionne	FRA	08.12.1978	29	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	8	3
46	Romain Miguet	FRA	20.03.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coach															
-	Claude Puel	FRA	02.09.1961	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	56	-

Fiorentina

No.	Player	Nat.	DoB	Age	BL	Current season						All-time			
						UCLQ		UCL		League		UCL		UEFA	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers															
1	Sébastien Frey	FRA	18.03.1980	28	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	47	-
13	Marco Storari	ITA	07.01.1977	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Vlada Avramov	SRB	05.04.1979	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	Matteo Bacciosi	ITA	10.08.1992	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders															
2	Per Krøldrup	DEN	31.07.1979	29	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	13	1
3	Dario Dainelli	ITA	09.06.1979	29	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	-
5	Alessandro Gamberini	ITA	27.08.1981	27	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	14	-
6	Juan Manuel Vargas	PER	05.10.1983	24	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
14	Luciano Zauri	ITA	20.01.1978	30	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	7	1	18	1
36	Dario Fedi	ITA	13.02.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41	Massimiliano Tagliani	ITA	04.04.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders															
4	Marco Donadel	ITA	21.04.1983	25	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	17	1
18	Riccardo Montolivo	ITA	18.01.1985	23	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	11	1
19	Massimo Gobbi	ITA	31.10.1980	27	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	11	-
20	Martin Jørgensen	DEN	06.10.1975	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	3
22	Zdravko Kuzmanović	SRB	22.09.1987	20	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	27	4
24	Mario Alberto Santana	ARG	23.12.1981	26	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	19	1
30	Sergio Almirón	ARG	07.11.1980	27	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
37	Giacomo Lepri	ITA	10.10.1990	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	Marco Augusto Romizi	ITA	13.02.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
88	Felipe Melo	BRA	26.06.1983	25	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Forwards															
8	Stevan Jovetić	MNE	02.11.1989	18	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	4
9	Pablo Daniel Osvaldo	ITA	12.01.1986	22	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	10	1
10	Adrian Mutu	ROU	08.01.1979	29	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	15	2	40	20
11	Alberto Gilardino	ITA	05.07.1982	26	-	2	1	-	-	2	1	26	4	45	9
29	Giampaolo Pazzini	ITA	02.08.1984	24	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	14	-
38	Lorenzo Morelli	ITA	25.04.1988	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coach															
-	Cesare Prandelli	ITA	19.08.1957	51	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-

Head coach

Olympique Lyonnais: Claude Puel

Date of birth: 2 September 1961

Nationality: French

Playing career: AS Monaco FC

Coaching career: AS Monaco FC, LOSC Lille Métropole, Olympique Lyonnais

Olympique Lyonnais coach Claude Puel is no stranger to big European nights, having spent 22 years as player and coach at AS Monaco FC and then led LOSC Lille Métropole into the UEFA Champions League. Puel amassed 488 league games as Monaco's midfield anchorman, winning two French titles (1982 and 1988) and the 1991 French Cup in addition to reaching the 1992 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup final and the UEFA Champions League semi-finals two years later.

When appointed Lille coach in the summer of 2001, Puel focused on the long-term, laying down the foundations for a five-year plan; his ambitions came to fruition well ahead of schedule as he steered his team into Europe's premier club competition in less than four years thanks to a second-placed finish in Ligue 1 in 2004/05. Although Lille failed to progress from the UEFA Champions League group stage the next season, the club went on to the UEFA Cup Round of 16 – losing to eventual winners Sevilla FC.

Puel's coaching philosophy is simple: assemble a team with high fitness levels, stamina and speed in abundance and a miserly defence and – with a bit of luck – any team is beatable. Such virtues helped Monaco to the French title in 2000 and earned Lille a UEFA Intertoto Cup victory in 2004 before the northern club secured second place in Ligue 1 in 2005 – their best finish for 50 years.

They earned another tilt at the UEFA Champions League after finishing third in the French top flight in 2006 and defeating F.Y.R. Macedonia's FK Rabotnicki in the third qualifying round that August, with Puel having signed a new contract earlier in the year. This time they reached the first knockout round, thanks to a memorable group-stage win at AC Milan, only for Manchester United FC to prove too strong. After two mid-table finishes in Ligue 1, Puel joined Lyon in the summer of 2008.

ACF Fiorentina: Cesare Prandelli

Date of birth: 19 August 1957

Nationality: Italian

Playing career: US Cremonese, Atalanta BC, Juventus

Coaching career: Atalanta BC, US Lecce, Hellas-Verona FC, AC Venezia, Parma FC, AS Roma, ACF Fiorentina

Cesare Prandelli initially made his name as a promising coach in the prestigious youth system at Atalanta BC, the club where he finished his playing career in 1990 after winning three league titles with Juventus. He also added the Coppa Italia, the 1984 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and the European Champion Clubs' Cup a year later in his six seasons in Turin, although he struggled to win a regular role with the Bianconeri.

Having impressed at Atalanta, Prandelli accepted the head coach position at US Lecce in the summer of 1997 but resigned the following January with his side struggling against relegation at the bottom of Serie A. He then earned two promotions to the top flight with Hellas-Verona FC – whom he guided to ninth place in Serie A in 1999/00 – and AC Venezia before moving to Parma FC in 2002. He further boosted his burgeoning reputation at the Stadio Tardini despite the club's worsening financial plight.

In 2004 Prandelli took over at AS Roma but decided to leave his post before the season started as his wife Manuele – who sadly died in November 2007 – was seriously ill. He moved to ACF Fiorentina in 2005 leading the side to fourth place in Serie A in his first season although they were subsequently stripped of their achievement for their part in Italy's sporting fraud trial. Despite starting the following campaign with minus 15 points as a further punishment, Prandelli guided the club to sixth in 2006/07 and a year later earned a place in UEFA Champions League qualifying. His achievements in Florence were recognised as he was awarded the 'Panchina d'Oro', for the best coach in Serie A, in both 2006 and 2007.

Match officials

Referee	Peter Fröjdfeldt (SWE)
Assistant referees	Henrik Andrén (SWE), Magnus Sjöblom (SWE)
Fourth official	Markus Strömbergsson (SWE)
UEFA Delegate	Frantisek Laurinec (SVK)
UEFA Referee observer	Peter Jones (ENG)

Referee

Name	Nat.	Date of birth	UCL	UEFA
Peter Fröjdfeldt	SWE	14.11.1963	15	34

Peter Fröjdfeldt has made a lasting impression since his elevation to join Europe's top-ranked referees. The Eskilstuna-based official reached the higher Swedish levels in the mid-1990s, made his top-flight bow in 1997, and has passed the 200-match mark in the élite Swedish domestic game. His FIFA international badge followed at the start of 2001.

Early years of picking up experience were followed by his UEFA Champions League debut in September 2003 with the meeting of FC Dynamo Kyiv and FC Lokomotiv Moskva. Fröjdfeldt's promotion to UEFA Elite status came in January 2005 and he continued to get regular appointments at the highest club and international levels, including six FIFA World Cup qualifiers. In 2005/06 Fröjdfeldt became a regular face in the UEFA Champions League and the married father of two has become well used to high-profile appointments, ending the 2007/08 club season by taking charge of the UEFA Cup final between FC Zenit St. Petersburg and Rangers FC in Manchester. He followed that by taking charge of three matches at UEFA EURO 2008™ and was also the fourth official at the semi-final between Germany and Turkey and for Spain's 1-0 final victory against Germany in Vienna.

Back in Sweden, Fröjdfeldt has become the main man in the middle following Anders Frisk's retirement, and has taken charge of a number of important Allsvenskan fixtures. He also took charge of the 2006 Scandinavian Royal League final in April that year, in which FC København defeated Lillestrøm SK 1-0, and the 2007 Swedish Cup final. An arena manager by profession, he lists his favourite hobby as golf.

UEFA Champions League matches involving teams from the two countries involved in this match

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res.	Venue
27.09.2005	UCL	GS	LOSC Lille Métropole - Villarreal CF	0-0	Paris
01.11.2005	UCL	GS	Olympiacos CFP - Olympique Lyonnais	1-4	Athens
14.03.2006	UCL	1/8	FC Internazionale Milano - AFC Ajax	1-0	Milan
28.03.2006	UCL	QF	Arsenal FC - Juventus	2-0	London

Other matches - Matches involving teams from either of the two countries involved in this match

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res.	Venue
09.06.2008	EURO	GS - FT	Netherlands - Italy	3-0	Berne

Domestic information

Olympique Lyonnais (Ligue 1)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	10/08/08	Toulouse FC (H)	3-0	Makoun 12, Benzema 58, 66
League	17/08/08	FC Lorient (A)	0-0	
League	23/08/08	Grenoble Foot 38 (H)	2-0	Makoun 6, Benzema 37
Lineups: Lloris, Cris, Grosso, Réveillère, Bodmer, Källström (Toulalan 62), Ederson, Juninho (Mounier 76), Makoun, Benzema (Pjanic 84), Piquionne				
League	31/08/08	AS Saint-Etienne (A)	1-0	Benzema 58
Lineups: Lloris, Boumsong, Réveillère, Bodmer, Källström, Ederson (Mounier 83), Juninho (Pjanic 66), Makoun, Toulalan, Benzema (Piquionne 73), Govou				
League	13/09/08	OGC Nice (H)	3-2	Juninho 40, 71, Benzema 90(pen)
Lineups: Lloris, Cris, Réveillère, Bodmer, Källström (Benzema 46), Ederson (Govou 73), Juninho, Mensah, Makoun, Fred (Piquionne 64), Mounier				
League	20/09/08	Le Havre AC (A)		
League	27/09/08	AS Nancy-Lorraine (H)		
League	05/10/08	Stade Rennais FC (A)		
League	18/10/08	LOSC Lille Métropole (H)		
League	25/10/08	AJ Auxerre (A)		
League	29/10/08	FC Sochaux-Montbéliard (A)		
League	01/11/08	Le Mans UC 72 (H)		
League	08/11/08	AS Monaco FC (A)		
League	15/11/08	FC Girondins de Bordeaux (H)		
League	22/11/08	Paris Saint-Germain FC (A)		
League	29/11/08	Valenciennes FC (H)		
League	06/12/08	FC Nantes (A)		
League	13/12/08	Olympique de Marseille (H)		
League	20/12/08	SM Caen (A)		
League	10/01/09	FC Lorient (H)		
League	17/01/09	Grenoble Foot 38 (A)		
League	31/01/09	AS Saint-Etienne (H)		
League	07/02/09	OGC Nice (A)		
League	14/02/09	Le Havre AC (H)		
League	21/02/09	AS Nancy-Lorraine (A)		

Olympique Lyonnais - ACF Fiorentina

MATCH PRESS KIT

Wednesday 17 September 2008 - 20.45 CET

Stade de Gerland, Lyon

Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Olympique Lyonnais	5	4	1	0	9	2	13
2	Olympique de Marseille	5	3	2	0	12	6	11
3	Paris Saint-Germain FC	5	3	1	1	4	2	10
4	Grenoble Foot 38	5	3	1	1	5	4	10
5	Le Mans UC 72	5	3	0	2	9	5	9
6	OGC Nice	5	3	0	2	7	5	9
7	AS Monaco FC	5	2	2	1	5	3	8
8	Toulouse FC	5	2	2	1	4	5	8
9	SM Caen	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
10	FC Girondins de Bordeaux	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
11	Valenciennes FC	5	2	1	2	6	7	7
12	AJ Auxerre	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
13	Stade Rennais FC	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
14	AS Nancy-Lorraine	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
15	LOSC Lille Métropole	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
16	Le Havre AC	5	1	1	3	4	6	4
17	FC Lorient	5	1	1	3	2	7	4
18	AS Saint-Etienne	5	1	0	4	2	6	3
19	FC Sochaux-Montbéliard	5	0	2	3	5	8	2
20	FC Nantes	5	0	1	4	3	10	1

ACF Fiorentina (Serie A)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	31/08/08	Juventus (H)	1-1	Gilardino 89
Lineups: Frey, Zauri, Krøldrup, Gamberini, Vargas, Donadel (Kuzmanović 78), Santana, Almrón (Jovetić 54), Melo, Osvaldo (Pazzini 63), Gilardino				
League	14/09/08	SSC Napoli (A)	1-2	Mutu 40
Lineups: Frey, Zauri, Da Costa, Dainelli, Donadel, Almrón, Montolivo (Pazzini 72), Gobbi, Santana, Gilardino, Mutu (Osvaldo 75)				
League	21/09/08	Bologna FC (H)		
League	24/09/08	S.S. Lazio (A)		
League	27/09/08	Genoa Cricket and Football Club (H)		
League	05/10/08	AC Chievo Verona (A)		
League	19/10/08	Reggina Calcio (H)		
League	26/10/08	US Città di Palermo (A)		
League	29/10/08	FC Internazionale Milano (H)		
League	02/11/08	AC Siena (A)		
League	09/11/08	Atalanta BC (H)		
League	16/11/08	Cagliari Calcio (A)		
League	23/11/08	Udinese Calcio (H)		
League	30/11/08	AS Roma (A)		
League	07/12/08	Torino FC (A)		
League	14/12/08	Calcio Catania (H)		
League	21/12/08	UC Sampdoria (A)		
League	11/01/09	US Lecce (H)		
League	18/01/09	AC Milan (A)		
League	25/01/09	Juventus (A)		
League	28/01/09	SSC Napoli (H)		
League	01/02/09	Bologna FC (A)		

Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	S.S. Lazio	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
2	Atalanta BC	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
3	Torino FC	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
4	FC Internazionale Milano	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
5	SSC Napoli	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
6	Juventus	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
7	Udinese Calcio	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
8	Genoa Cricket and Football Club	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
9	AC Siena	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
10	US Città di Palermo	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
11	Bologna FC	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
12	Calcio Catania	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
13	AC Chievo Verona	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
14	US Lecce	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
15	ACF Fiorentina	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
16	Reggina Calcio	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
17	AS Roma	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
18	UC Sampdoria	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
19	AC Milan	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
20	Cagliari Calcio	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

UEFA information

Elite Coaches Forum

UEFA has given Europe's top club coaches another unique opportunity to come together and exchange views with the governing body on the state of the European game at a gathering in Nyon, Switzerland. The UEFA Elite Coaches Forum celebrated its tenth anniversary with discussions on tactical and technical trends, the evolution of the European club competitions, the leadership role of the modern coach, how coaches cope with the demands of the high-pressure game today and their relationship with match officials. "It's a short but very intense gathering. Twenty-three top coaches were here, a fantastic turnout from our point of view," said UEFA technical director Andy Roxburgh. "UEFA respects them and listens to what they say, and there are many things that UEFA has taken on board [over the years]."

EURO example

UEFA hopes that the UEFA Champions League season will carry on in the same spirit that marked UEFA EURO 2008™ in Austria and Switzerland in June. At the UEFA Champions League group stage draw in Monaco, UEFA General Secretary David Taylor recalled the attitude of players, supporters and officials at the EURO tournament, which heartened European football's governing body as it strives to promote the idea of respect throughout football. Congratulating the 32 clubs that have qualified for the UEFA Champions League group phase, Mr Taylor said: "The new European club football season comes hot on the heels of a hugely successful European Championship, where the spirit of both respect and fair play were seen both on and off the field. I'd therefore like to take this opportunity to ask all the clubs, players and officials to continue in that spirit for the season."

Only a Game? exhibition

Fans from across the globe will be able to get close to some of football's most coveted trophies at the ground-breaking Only a Game? exhibition which opens in Liverpool next month. The UEFA Champions League trophy, the UEFA Cup and the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup will all be on display at the interactive exhibition in the World Museum Liverpool. While providing a traditional museum experience, the exhibition also aims to provoke visitors into considering the social and cultural impact of the planet's most popular sport. The exhibition, which will run from 11 October to 1 March 2009, has been organised by UEFA in conjunction with the Northwest Development Agency, the National Football Museum and National Museums Liverpool to mark the city's year as 2008 European Capital of Culture.

Charity cheque

As ambassador for the European Leukodystrophy Association (ELA), Zinedine Zidane accepted a cheque from UEFA for CHF1m (€619,000) during the draw for the group stage of the UEFA Champions League in Monaco. At the start of each season UEFA donates CHF1m to a charitable or humanitarian cause. "It is a major contribution by UEFA and an important help for the association I have been sponsoring for the past eight years," Zidane told uefa.com. "I believe we have made good progress and ELA is lucky to receive a cheque from UEFA and its president Michel Platini." Leukodystrophies are rare genetic diseases, and UEFA's donation will help support a four-year project developing a European information and exchange network.

Support for referees

Europe's top referees and assistant referees have been urged by UEFA to carry on the good work this season and build on the positive results from UEFA EURO 2008™. The annual UEFA summer gathering for its leading match officials was an ideal platform for European football's governing body to give a resounding thumbs-up to the referees, assistants and fourth officials who played a crucial role in nurturing the theme of respect UEFA is striving to promote among players, referees, officials and spectators. "I want to congratulate the 12 referees, 24 assistant referees and eight fourth officials who were at the EURO tournament," said Referee Committee member Volker Roth, who added that the officials had stood up to the challenge of replacing recently retired elite referees. "We had no Pierluigi Collina, Anders Frisk or Markus Merk, but you responded, your performances were great, and we are proud. We ask you to keep up this high level of performance."

Match-by-match lineups

Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
ACF Fiorentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FC Steaua Bucureşti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FC Bayern München	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Olympique Lyonnais	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
17.09.2008	FC Steaua Bucureşti - Bayern	-	Steaua Stadium, Bucharest
17.09.2008	Lyon - Fiorentina	-	Stade de Gerland, Lyon
30.09.2008	Fiorentina - FC Steaua Bucureşti	-	Artemio Franchi, Florence
30.09.2008	Bayern - Lyon	-	Fußball Arena München, Munich
21.10.2008	Bayern - Fiorentina	-	Fußball Arena München, Munich
21.10.2008	FC Steaua Bucureşti - Lyon	-	Steaua Stadium, Bucharest
05.11.2008	Fiorentina - Bayern	-	Artemio Franchi, Florence
05.11.2008	Lyon - FC Steaua Bucureşti	-	Stade de Gerland, Lyon
25.11.2008	Bayern - FC Steaua Bucureşti	-	Fußball Arena München, Munich
25.11.2008	Fiorentina - Lyon	-	Artemio Franchi, Florence
10.12.2008	FC Steaua Bucureşti - Fiorentina	-	Steaua Stadium, Bucharest
10.12.2008	Lyon - Bayern	-	Stade de Gerland, Lyon

Competition facts

• UEFA Champions League: Group stage milestones

Holders Manchester United FC are hoping to avoid becoming the first defending champions to fail to get through a group stage since the UEFA Champions League began. (This record, like the others, includes the seasons between 1999/00 and 2002/03 that featured a second group stage).

In 1992/93, FC Barcelona were the reigning European Champion Clubs' Cup holders and were beaten 4-3 on aggregate in the second round by PFC CSKA Moskva.

S.S. Lazio goalkeeper Marco Ballotta became the oldest player to compete in the UEFA Champions League in 2007/08 when he featured against Olympiacos CFP on Matchday 1 at the age of 43 years and 168 days. The record was previously held by Alessandro Costacurta, the AC Milan defender who played against AEK Athens FC in the 2006/07 season at the age of 40 years and 211 days. Ballotta was aged 43 years 252 days when he featured against Real Madrid CF on Matchday 6.

Laurent Blanc is the oldest player to score in the competition, aged 36 years and 339 days, having found the net for Manchester United FC in their 3-2 defeat of Olympiacos CFP on 23 October 2002.

Celestine Babayaro is the youngest player to have appeared in the UEFA Champions League. He was 16 years and 87 days when he started for RSC Anderlecht against FC Steaua Bucureşti on 23 November 1994. He was then sent off in the 37th minute.

In 2006/07, PFC Levski Sofia joined 1. FC Košice in being the only team to have played in the UEFA Champions League and never picked up a point. The Slovakian side have not returned to the competition since losing all six games in their only campaign to date in 1997/98. Six other teams have gone through a single group stage campaign without picking up a point: FC Dynamo Kyiv (2007/08), SK Rapid Wien (2005/06) and RSC Anderlecht (2004/05) plus FC Spartak Moskva and Bayer 04 Leverkusen (2002/03, first and second group stage respectively) and Fenerbahçe SK (2001/02, first group stage).

Dynamo also conceded 19 goals in their six outings in 2007/08, equalling the record let in during a group stage set by Ferencvárosi TC in the 1995/96 campaign.

Before their 3-1 win against Sporting Clube de Portugal on Matchday 6 of the 2006/07 campaign, FC Spartak Moskva went 22 games without a win in the competition, surpassing the unwanted record set by AEK Athens FC on Matchday 3 of the same campaign.

The lowest total for a team qualifying from the group stage is seven points. The first to do it, since three points for a win was introduced in 1995/96, were Legia Warszawa that same season before Bayer 04 Leverkusen managed it in 1999/2000 and Liverpool FC in 2001/02. FC Lokomotiv Moskva and eventual finalists Juventus both progressed with seven points in 2002/03, a feat achieved by Rangers FC and Werder Bremen in 2005/06.

Last updated: 01.09.2008

Team facts

Olympique Lyonnais

UEFA club competition milestones

• Aside from winning the 1997 UEFA Intertoto Cup, Lyon's furthest venture came when they reached the 1963/64 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup semi-finals before losing to the eventual winners Sporting Clube de Portugal.

UEFA Champions League milestones

• The three consecutive quarter-final appearances in 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 remains the best achievement, although this is their ninth consecutive participation since their maiden campaign in 2000/01.

UEFA club competition honours

• UEFA Intertoto Cup: 1997

Ten-year record

2007/08: UEFA Champions League – first knockout round

2006/07: UEFA Champions League – first knockout round

2005/06: UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals

2004/05: UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals

2003/04: UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals

2002/03: UEFA Cup – third round (having transferred from UEFA Champions League group stage)

2001/02: UEFA Cup – fourth round (having transferred from UEFA Champions League group stage)

2000/01: UEFA Champions League – second group stage

1999/00: UEFA Cup – third round (having transferred from European Champion Clubs' Cup third qualifying round)

1998/99: UEFA Cup – quarter-finals

2007/08 season

Domestic record: Lyon won Ligue 1 for the seventh straight season, finishing four points ahead of nearest rivals FC Girondins de Bordeaux. Their first French Cup success since 1973 thanks to a 1-0 defeat of Paris Saint-Germain FC after extra time in the final completed a maiden domestic double. Lyon were beaten 1-0 by Le Mans UC 72 in the League Cup quarter-final.

European record: After opening Group E with consecutive 3-0 reverses, Lyon won their next two matches before drawing with FC Barcelona to set up a must-win decider against Rangers FC in Glasgow. Lyon avenged their Matchday 2 defeat by the Scottish club, prevailing 3-0 to qualify at their opponent's expense. Things initially looked promising in the first knockout round when Karim Benzema opened the scoring against Manchester United FC at Stade de Gerland, however, United levelled and a 1-0 win in the return was enough to eliminate Lyon.

Records

UEFA club competition

• Biggest win

7-0: Olympique Lyonnais v FA Red Boys Differdange
17.09.1974, UEFA Cup first round first leg

• Biggest home win

7-0: Olympique Lyonnais v FA Red Boys Differdange (see above for details)

• Biggest away win

0-5: MŠK Žilina v Olympique Lyonnais
05.07.1997, UEFA Intertoto Cup group stage

• Heaviest defeat

4-0: PAOK Saloniki v Olympique Lyonnais
07.11.1973, UEFA Cup Winners' Cup second round second leg

4-0: Werder Bremen v Olympique Lyonnais
07.12.1999, UEFA Cup third round second leg

- Heaviest home defeat

0-3: Olympique Lyonnais v Rangers FC

02.10.2007, UEFA Champions League group stage

2-5: Olympique Lyonnais v VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach

05.11.1974, UEFA Cup second round second leg

- Heaviest away defeat

4-0: PAOK Saloniki v Olympique Lyonnais (see above for details)

4-0: Werder Bremen v Olympique Lyonnais (see above for details)

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only)

- Biggest win

7-2: Olympique Lyonnais v Werder Bremen

08.03.2005, UEFA Champions League first knockout round second leg

5-0: Olympique Lyonnais v AC Sparta Praha.

08.12.2004, UEFA Champions League group stage

5-0: Olympique Lyonnais v Rosenborg BK

25.09.2002, UEFA Champions League first group stage

- Biggest home win

7-2: Olympique Lyonnais v Werder Bremen (see above for details)

5-0: Olympique Lyonnais v AC Sparta Praha (see above for details)

5-0: Olympique Lyonnais v Rosenborg BK (see above for details)

- Biggest away win

0-3: Rangers FC v Olympique Lyonnais

12.12.07, UEFA Champions League group stage

0-3: FC Dynamo Kyiv v Olympique Lyonnais

17.10.2006, UEFA Champions League group stage

0-3: FC Steaua București v Olympique Lyonnais

26.09.2006, UEFA Champions League group stage

1-4: Olympiacos CFP v Olympique Lyonnais

01.11.2005, UEFA Champions League group stage

0-3: Werder Bremen v Olympique Lyonnais

08.03.2005, UEFA Champions League first knockout round first leg

- Heaviest defeat

0-3: Olympique Lyonnais v Rangers FC (see above for details)

3-0: FC Barcelona v Olympique Lyonnais

19.09.2007, UEFA Champions League group stage

- Heaviest home defeat

0-3: Olympique Lyonnais v Rangers FC (see above for details)

- Heaviest away defeat

3-0: FC Barcelona v Olympique Lyonnais (see above for details)

Last updated: 20.07.2008

ACF Fiorentina

UEFA club competition milestones

• Victory in the 1960/61 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup final remains Fiorentina's crowning European achievement but they have reached three other continental finals, losing all. They triumphed 2-0 away and 2-1 at home against Rangers FC to take the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup trophy, having lost out to Real Madrid CF (2-0) in the European Champion Clubs' Cup showpiece four years earlier. They failed to defend their title as Club Atlético de Madrid beat them 4-1 on aggregate in the final 12 months later. They also lost to Juventus in the 1989/90 UEFA Cup final.

UEFA Champions League milestones

- Fiorentina have only previously competed in one UEFA Champions League season, finishing second behind FC Barcelona in the first group stage of the 1999/00 before losing out to holders Manchester United FC and eventual runners-up Valencia CF in the second group stage. Fiorentina also reached the final of the European Champion Clubs' Cup in 1957, losing 2-0 to Real Madrid CF in Madrid, and went down to Celtic FC in the 1969/70 quarter-finals.

UEFA club competition honours

- UEFA Cup Winners' Cup: 1960/61

Ten-year record

2007/08: UEFA Cup – semi-finals

2006/07: Did not compete in UEFA club competition

2005/06: Did not compete in UEFA club competition

2004/05: Did not compete in UEFA club competition

2003/04: Did not compete in UEFA club competition

2002/03: Did not compete in UEFA club competition

2001/02: UEFA Cup – third round

2000/01: UEFA Cup – first round

1999/00: UEFA Champions League – second group stage

1998/99: UEFA Cup – second round

2007/08 season

Domestic record: Having finished sixth in Serie A the previous season, a solid start helped Fiorentina claim fourth place – and Italy's last UEFA Champions League qualifying berth – with 66 points, two more than AC Milan but six behind third-placed Juventus FC and 19 adrift of FC Internazionale Milano, the champions. Their Coppa Italia campaign was ended by a 4-2 defeat against S.S. Lazio over the two legs of their quarter-final.

European record: Fiorentina started their UEFA Cup campaign in the first round, edging out FC Groningen 4-3 in a penalty shoot-out after both legs had finished 1-1. A 6-1 home win against IF Elfsborg was the highlight of their Group C fixtures which ended with the Viola in second place behind Villarreal CF, before Rosenborg BK were dispatched 3-1 on aggregate in the Round of 32. The Florence club then overcame Everton FC on penalties after a 2-2 aggregate draw in the last 16 and then beat PSV Eindhoven 3-1 in the quarter-finals, but after their semi-final tie with Rangers FC had finished goalless after two legs, the Italian side went down 4-2 on penalties in front of their home supporters.

Records

UEFA club competition

- Biggest win

6-1: ACF Fiorentina v IF Elfsborg
08.11.2007, UEFA Cup group stage

- Biggest home win

6-1: ACF Fiorentina v IF Elfsborg (see above for details)

- Biggest away win

2-6: SK Rapid Wien v AC Fiorentina
25.10.1961, UEFA Cup Winners' Cup first round second leg

- Heaviest defeat

6-2: RSC Anderlecht v AC Fiorentina
07.11.1984, UEFA Cup second round second leg

- Heaviest home defeat

0-3: AC Fiorentina v Grasshopper-Club
03.11.1998, UEFA Cup second round second leg

0-3 (forfeit): AC Fiorentina v FC Schalke 04
14.09.1977, UEFA Cup first round first leg

0-3: AC Fiorentina v Club Atlético de Madrid
05.09.1962, UEFA Cup Winners' Cup final second leg

- Heaviest away defeat

6-2: RSC Anderlecht v AC Fiorentina (see above for details)

Olympique Lyonnais - ACF Fiorentina

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UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only)

- Biggest win

3-0: AC Fiorentina v AIK Solna

19.10.1999, 1999/00 UEFA Champions League, first group stage

- Biggest home win

3-0: AC Fiorentina v AIK Solna (see above for details)

- Biggest away win

0-1: Arsenal FC v AC Fiorentina

27.10.1999, 1999/00 UEFA Champions League, first group stage

- Heaviest defeat

4-2: FC Barcelona v AC Fiorentina

22.09.1999, 1999/00 UEFA Champions League, first group stage

3-1: Manchester United FC v AC Fiorentina

15.03.2000, 1999/00 UEFA Champions League, second group stage

2-0: Valencia CF v AC Fiorentina

07.03.2000, 1999/00 UEFA Champions League, second group stage

- Heaviest home defeat

N/A

- Heaviest away defeat

4-2: FC Barcelona v AC Fiorentina (see above for details)

3-1: Manchester United FC v AC Fiorentina (see above for details)

2-0: Valencia CF v AC Fiorentina (see above for details)

Last updated: 01.09.2008

Legend

:: All-time statistics

The all-time record of the competing clubs in UEFA club competition.

UEFA club competition: These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in UEFA club competition defined as the European Champion Clubs' Cup, the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup (1960-1999), the UEFA Cup, the UEFA Super Cup (1973 -), the UEFA Intertoto Cup and the European/South American Cup (1960-2004). Matches in the Inter-Cities' Fairs Cup and the 1972 Super Cup are included only for information as these were not held under UEFA auspices, while the FIFA Club World Cup is excluded.

:: Squad list

The eligible list of players ordered first by playing position and then numeric order.

Current season - UCLQ: Total UEFA Champions League appearances in qualifying rounds only.

Current season - UCL: Total UEFA Champions League appearances from the group stage onwards prior to the current matchday.

Current season - League: Total league appearances based on the date press kit was last updated

All-time - UCL: Total appearances in the UEFA Champions League from the 1992/93 season, group stage to final only. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

All-time - UEFA: Total appearances in UEFA club competition (as defined above) including all qualifying round matches. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

Age: based on the date press kit was last updated

BL: Booking list (*: misses next match if booked, S: suspended)

:: Match officials

The match officials appointed to officiate the fixture.

UCL: Total matches officiated in the UEFA Champions League from 1992/93 season, group stage to final only. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records.

UEFA: Total matches officiated in UEFA club competition including all qualifying round matches. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records.

:: Competitions

Club competitions

ECCL: European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League

UCUP: UEFA Cup • **UCWC:** UEFA Cup Winners' Cup

SCUP: UEFA Super Cup • **UIC:** UEFA Intertoto Cup

National team competitions

EURO: UEFA European Football Championship

WC: FIFA World Cup • **CONFCUP:** Confederation Cup

FRIE: Friendly internationals • **U21FRIE:** Under-21 friendly internationals

U21: UEFA European Under-21 Championship

U17: UEFA Under-17 Championship • **U16:** UEFA European Under-16 Championship

U19: UEFA Under-19 Championship • **U18:** UEFA European Under-18 Championship

:: Competition stages

F: Final

GS: Group stage

GS1: First group stage

GS2: Second group stage

KO1: First knockout round

PR: Preliminary round

QF: Quarter-finals

QR: Qualifying round

QR1: First qualifying round

QR2: Second qualifying round

FT: Final tournament

QR3: Third qualifying round

R1: First round

R2: Second round

R3: Third round

R4: Fourth round

SF: Semi-finals

1/8: Eighth-finals

1/16: Sixteenth-finals

1st: first leg

2nd: second leg

P-O: Play-off

:: Other Abbreviations

AP: Appearances

Comp.: Competition

D: Drawn

DoB: Date of birth

GA: Goals against

GF: Goals for

L: Lost

Nat.: Nationality

N/a: Not Applicable

No.: Number

Pld: Matches played

Pos.: Position

Pts: Points

R: Sent off (red card)

Res.: Result

W: Won

Y: Booked

Y/R: Sent off (yellow card then direct red)

:: Statistics

(-) : Denotes player substituted

(*) : Denotes player dismissed/sent off

(+) : Denotes player introduced

(+/-) : Denotes player introduced and substituted

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