UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - 2019/20 SEASON
MATCH PRESS KITS

SSC Napoli

Stadio San Paolo - Naples
Tuesday 17 September 2019
21.00CET (21.00 local time)
Group E - Matchday 1

Liverpool FC

Last updated 16/09/2019 02:39CET

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE OFFICIAL SPONSORS

NISSAN   PS4   GAZPROM   Lay's   Santander   mastercard.   Hotels.com   Heineken

Match background	2
Legend	5

Match background

Liverpool kick off their defence of the UEFA Champions League against a team who came perilously close to ousting them from last season's competition as they travel to Italy to take on Napoli.

• The teams were paired together in last season's group stage and both games featured late drama; indeed, only a vital late save from Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker on matchday six prevented Napoli progressing to the round of 16 at the expense of the English side.

• While this is Napoli's fourth successive UEFA Champions League campaign, Liverpool are in the competition for the third year in a row having reached the final in 2018 and lifted the trophy 12 months later.

Previous meetings
• Each side recorded a 1-0 home win in last season's group stage, Lorenzo Insigne getting Napoli's 90th-minute winner at the Stadio San Paolo on matchday two. Mohamed Salah was the Liverpool match-winner at Anfield on matchday six, his 34th-minute strike proving enough to take Jürgen Klopp's side into the knockout stages at the expense of their Italian opponents – although but for a last-gasp Alisson save to deny Arkadiusz Milik, Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli would have progressed instead.

• The clubs also met in the 2010/11 UEFA Europa League group stage. With the game in Naples having ended scoreless, Ezequiel Lavezzi gave Napoli a first-half lead at Anfield before Steven Gerrard's hat-trick in the final 15 minutes, including goals in the 88th and 89th minutes, secured a dramatic late win for Liverpool. The Reds went on to finish top of their section, with Napoli second; the Italian club were eliminated in the round of 32, Liverpool losing in the last 16.

Form guide
Napoli
• Serie A runners-up for the second season running in 2018/19, Napoli are in the group stage for the sixth time – all in the last nine seasons. They reached the round of 16 in 2011/12 and 2016/17 but have finished third in their section in the other three campaigns.

• The Partenopei picked up seven of their nine points in last season's group stage in Naples. Napoli have, however, won only four of their last nine home games in the UEFA Champions League, group stage to final; they have lost three in that sequence.

• Napoli have won only four of their last 12 UEFA Champions League matches (D3 L5) – all those victories coming at the Stadio San Paolo.

• Having finished third behind Paris Saint-Germain and Liverpool in last season's group stage, Napoli kicked off their UEFA Europa League campaign with a comfortable 5-1 aggregate win against Zürich before edging out Salzburg 4-3 over two legs in the round of 16. They were then eliminated from a second European competition of the season by an English club, however, losing 2-0 away to Arsenal and 1-0 at home in the quarter-finals.

• Napoli have therefore lost their last three matches against Premier League clubs, home and away, and five of the last six. At home, they have been beaten in two of the last three games against English visitors, although their record in Naples overall is W5 D1 L2.

Liverpool
• Premier League runners-up in 2018/19, finishing a single point behind Manchester City, Liverpool are in the UEFA Champions League group stage for the 12th time; they have only failed to progress to the last 16 or further three times.

• Klopp's team lost all three away games in last season's group stage, but were rescued by three wins at Anfield as they edged out Napoli on goal difference. They then beat Bayern München 3-1 away in the second leg of their round of 16 tie, going through by the same aggregate score, before ousting Porto 6-1 over two legs in the quarter-finals (2-0 h, 4-1 a). The journey looked to be over when the Reds went down 3-0 at Barcelona in the semi-final first leg, but two goals apiece from Georginio Wijnaldum and Divock Origi sealed a rousing second-leg turnaround, before Salah and Origi secured the club's sixth European Cup with a 2-0 final defeat of Tottenham in Madrid.

• Liverpool's record in last season's UEFA Champions League was W8 D1 L4 F24 A12. They have won five of their last seven European fixtures (D1 L1) but have lost six of their last ten UEFA competition matches outside England.

• Klopp's side have lost their last two matches in Italy but have been beaten in only three of their last nine away games against Italian clubs, winning three.

• Liverpool have already claimed European silverware this term, beating Chelsea 5-4 on penalties after a 2-2 draw in the UEFA Super Cup in Istanbul.

Links and trivia

• Ancelotti was Chelsea manager between 2009 and 2011, winning the Premier League and the FA Cup in 2010.

• Klopp's Borussia Dortmund side were beaten 2-1 at Napoli on matchday one of the 2013/14 UEFA Champions League; the German club won the reverse fixture 3-1 and went on to the round of 16 alongside Arsenal, Napoli missing out as all three teams finished on 12 points.

• Salah played in Serie A for Fiorentina (2015) and Roma (2015–17), scoring for the latter in a 3-1 win at the Stadio San Paolo in October 2016.

• Have also played in Italy:
Alisson Becker (Roma 2016–18)
Xherdan Shaqiri (Inter 2015)

• Have played in England:
David Ospina (Arsenal 2014–18)
Fernando Llorente (Swansea 2016/17, Tottenham 2017–19)

• Llorente was an 81st-minute substitute in Spurs' defeat by Liverpool in last season's final, having scored the decisive goal of the quarter-final against Manchester City.

• Have played together:
Kostas Manolas & Mohamed Salah (Roma 2015–17)
Kostas Manolas & Alisson Becker (2016–18)
Kalidou Koulibaly & Sadio Mané (Metz 2011/12)
Dries Mertens & Georginio Wijnaldum (PSV Eindhoven 2011–13)
José Callejón & Fabinho (Real Madrid 2012/13)

• International team-mates:
Dries Mertens & Divock Origi (Belgium)
Kalidou Koulibaly & Sadio Mané (Senegal)

Latest news

Napoli
• **Summer transfers**
In: Giovanni Di Lorenzo (Empoli), David Ospina (Arsenal), Kostas Manolas (Roma), Eljif Elmas (Fenerbahçe), Hirving Lozano (PSV), Fernando Llorente (free agent)
Out: Roberto Insigne (Benevento), Amadou Diawara (Roma), Raúl Albiol (Villarreal), Carlos Vinícius (Benfica), Marko Rog (Cagliari, loan), Gennaro Tutino (Hellas Verona, loan), Adam Ounas (Nice, loan), Vlad Chiricheș (Sassuolo, loan), Simone Verdi (Torino, loan)

• Napoli's first home game of the season ended in a 2-0 defeat of Sampdoria on Saturday evening, Dries Mertens scoring both goals – the Belgian's first double since a 3-1 UEFA Champions League win against Crvena zvezda on 28 November 2018.

• Mertens has scored in Napoli's last six home games in Serie A.

• Napoli started the Serie A season with two away games due to ongoing renovation at the Stadio San Paolo. Both matches finished 4-3, a victory at Fiorentina in which Lorenzo Insigne scored twice and defeat at Juventus, Kalidou Koulibaly with an added-time own goal after the Partenopei had managed to recover from 3-0 down in Turin.

• All three of Napoli's goals at Juve were scored by summer signings: Manolas, Lozano and Di Lorenzo.

• Elseid Hysaj was on target in Albania's 4-2 win against Iceland on 10 September.

• Insigne missed Italy's UEFA EURO 2020 qualifying games against Armenia and Finland due to a thigh injury; he returned as a late substitute against Sampdoria.

• A thigh injury also kept Arkadiusz Milik out of Poland's internationals, the striker having suffered the problem ahead of the game at Juventus. He also missed the Sampdoria match.

Liverpool
• **Summer transfers**
In: Harvey Elliott (Fulham), Sepp van den Berg (Zwolle), Adrián (West Ham)
Out: Daniel Sturridge (Trabzonspor), Alberto Moreno (Villarreal), Ádám Bogdán (released), Danny Ings (Southampton), Sheyi Ojo (Rangers, loan), Rafael Camacho (Sporting CP), Marko Grujić (Hertha Berlin, loan), Ben Woodburn (Oxford United, loan), Simon Mignolet (Club Brugge), Harry Wilson (Bournemouth, loan), Taiwo Awoniyi (Mainz), Ovie Ejaria (Reading, loan), Bobby Duncan (Fiorentina), Ryan Kent (Rangers)

• Virgil van Dijk was named UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2018/19 in Monaco on 29 August; the Dutchman also collected the Defender of the Season award, with Alisson Becker taking the Goalkeeper's prize.

• James Milner's next appearance in UEFA club competition will be his 100th.

• Xherdan Shaqiri has played in 49 matches in UEFA club competition.

• The Reds kicked off the season by losing 5-4 on penalties to English champions Manchester City after a 1-1 draw in the FA Community Shield at Wembley on 4 August.

• Liverpool did come out on top on spot kicks against Chelsea in the UEFA Super Cup on 14 August, prevailing 5-4 after a 2-2 draw in Istanbul.

• The Merseyside club are the only team with maximum points after five games of the new Premier League season. They came from behind to beat Newcastle 3-1 at Anfield on Saturday and are five points clear of Manchester City.

• Liverpool have won their last 14 Premier League matches, and are unbeaten in 22 league fixtures (W18 D4), since a 2-1 loss at Manchester City on 3 January.

• Liverpool are the first team in the history of the English top flight to win 14 successive matches and score more than once in each win.

• The Reds also won their first five league matches in 2018/19, and are only the third team to do so in successive seasons in the Premier League era after Chelsea (2009/10, 2010/11) and Manchester City (2015/16, 2016/17).

• Georginio Wijnaldum scored in both the Netherlands' 4-2 UEFA EURO 2020 win in Germany on 6 September and the 4-0 success in Estonia three days later.

• Dejan Lovren's goal helped Croatia to a 4-0 defeat of Slovakia on 6 September.

• Alisson has been out since suffering a calf injury in Liverpool's 4-1 home win against Norwich on the first day of the Premier League season on 9 August.

• Naby Keïta has been sidelined with a groin problem picked up in the Community Shield on 4 August.

• Divock Origi was replaced in the 37th minute against Newcastle having suffered an ankle injury.

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 European Champion Clubs' Cup, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Cup Winner's Cup UEFA Super Cup, UEFA Intertoto Cup and European/South American Cup. Matches in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup and the 1972 Super Cup are not included as they were not held under UEFA auspices, while the FIFA Club World Cup is excluded.

Match officials

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
UCL: UEFA Champions League
ECCC: European Champion Clubs' Cup
UEL: UEFA Europa League
UCUP: UEFA Cup
UCWC: UEFA Cup Winners' Cup
SCUP: UEFA Super Cup
UIC: UEFA Intertoto Cup
ICF: Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

National team competitions
EURO: UEFA European Football Championship
WC: FIFA World Cup
CONFCUP: FIFA Confederations 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
WWC: FIFA Women's World Cup
WEURO: UEFA European Women's Championship

Competition stages

F: Final
GS1: First group stage
3QR: Third qualifying round
R2: Second round
R4: Fourth round
SF: Semi-finals
R16: round of 16
R32: Round of 32
1st: first leg
2nd: second leg
PO: Play-off
Rep: Replay
PO - FT: Play-off for Final Tournament

GS: Group stage
GS2: Second group stage
R1: First round
R3: Third round
PR: Preliminary round
QF: Quarter-finals
QR: Qualifying round
1QR: First qualifying round
2QR: Second qualifying round
FT: Final tournament
ELITE: Elite round
3rdPO: Third-place play-off
GS-FT: Group stage – final tournament

Other abbreviations

(aet): After extra time
No.: Number
ag: Match decided on away goals
Pld: Matches played
Pos.: Position
Pts: Points
R: Sent off (straight red card)
Res.: Result
sg: Match decided by silver goal

GF: Goals for
gg: Match decided by golden goal
Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)
f: Match forfeited

pens: Penalties
og: Own goal
P: Penalty
agg: Aggregate
AP: Appearances
Comp.: Competition
D: Drawn
DoB: Date of birth
ET: Extra Time
GA: Goals against
t: Match decided by toss of a coin
W: Won
Y: Booked
L: Lost
Nat.: Nationality
N/A: Not applicable

Statistics

-: Denotes player substituted
*: Denotes player sent off

+: Denotes player introduced
+/-: Denotes player introduced and substituted

Squad list

D: Disciplinary

*: Misses next match if booked

S: Suspended

UCLQ: Current season total UEFA Champions League appearances in the qualifying rounds and play-offs only

UCL: Current season total UEFA Champions League appearances from group stage onwards prior to current matchday

UCL: Total appearances in the UEFA Champions League from 1992/93 season, group stage to final only

UEFA: All-time total appearances in UEFA club competition including qualifying

Disclaimer: Although UEFA has taken all reasonable care that the information contained within this document is accurate at the time of publication, no representation or guarantee (including liability towards third parties), expressed or implied, is made as to its accuracy, reliability or completeness. Therefore, UEFA assumes no liability for the use or interpretation of information contained herein. More information can be found in the competition regulations available on UEFA.com.