

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - 2019/20 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



SL Benfica

**Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica -
Lisbon**

Tuesday 17 September 2019
21.00CET (20.00 local time)
Group G - Matchday 1



RB Leipzig

Last updated 16/09/2019 02:43CET

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE OFFICIAL SPONSORS



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Match background

RB Leipzig are in the UEFA Champions League group stage for only the second time but, as on their 2017/18 debut, they have been paired with Portuguese competition regulars as they travel to Lisbon to take on Benfica.

- The German side earned their first European win against Benfica's great domestic rivals Porto in their third fixture two years ago, and will be aiming to make a positive start in their first ever fixture against a club who are embarking on their tenth successive UEFA Champions League campaign.
- Although this is the teams' first competitive meeting, they met in a summer 2017 friendly, Leipzig winning 2-0 in London with Marcel Halstenberg scoring one of the goals.

Form guide

Benfica

- Champions of Portugal for a record 37th time last season, Benfica are in the group stage for the 15th time, although only five of those previous 14 campaigns have extended into the last 16; they also reached the quarter-finals direct in 1994/95.
- In 2018/19 Benfica finished third behind Bayern München and Ajax in Group E, advancing into the UEFA Europa League having picked up seven points. They went on to beat Galatasaray (2-1 aggregate) and Dinamo Zagreb (3-1 aggregate) only to succumb to Eintracht Frankfurt on away goals in the quarter-finals (4-2 h, 0-2 a).
- The first leg against Eintracht was the first time Benfica had scored more than one goal in normal time in 15 European games in Lisbon, managing just 11 in total during that sequence.
- The Eagles have lost only one of their last eight European home matches (W4 D3), although that sole defeat came at the hands of German opposition on matchday one last season, Bayern running out 2-0 winners.
- Benfica have vast experience against German opposition, their 48 UEFA matches having yielded 14 wins, 14 draws and 20 defeats. They have lost only three of the 23 games played at home (W12 D8).
- The Lisbon giants have reached seven European Cup finals, winning the trophy in 1961 and 1962.

Leipzig

- Third in the Bundesliga last season and German Cup finalists, this is Leipzig's third European campaign, and only their 25th match. They became the first team to make their European debut in the UEFA Champions League group stage in 2017/18, when they picked up seven points to finish third in a section including Beşiktaş, Porto and Monaco. They went on to reach the UEFA Europa League quarter-finals before losing to Marseille.
- Two years ago Leipzig lost at Beşiktaş (0-2) and Porto, but did record a 4-1 success at Monaco to claim their first European away victory.
- In 2018/19 the German club came through three qualifying rounds to reach the UEFA Europa League group stage, but finished behind Salzburg and Celtic to drop out of the competition, collecting seven points from their three games.
- Leipzig have won only three of their 12 European away matches (D4 L5).
- One of those five away defeats came in their sole previous trip to Portugal, a 3-1 loss at Porto on matchday four of the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League with Timo Werner scoring the visitors' only goal. Willi Orban and Emil Forsberg had both been on target in a 3-2 home win two weeks earlier, Leipzig's debut European success.

Links and trivia

- Benfica goalkeeper Odisseas Vlachodimos was born in Germany and began his career with hometown club Stuttgart. He was an unused squad member in Germany's 2017 UEFA European Under-21 Championship victory.
- Benfica striker Haris Seferović played for Eintracht Frankfurt for three seasons, scoring 16 Bundesliga goals, before moving to Lisbon in 2017. He was in the team that lost 3-0 to Leipzig in January 2017, Werner scoring the second goal, while Marcel Sabitzer and Yussuf Poulsen were on target in a 2-2 draw between Leipzig and Eintracht that May.
- Forsberg scored the only goal as Sweden won 1-0 win against a Switzerland for whom Seferović came on as a second-half substitute in the 2018 FIFA World Cup round of 16.
- Hannes Wolf was in the Salzburg team that beat Benfica 2-1 to win the 2017 UEFA Youth League final; Rúben Dias, Florentino Luís, Gedson Fernandes and Jota featured for the Portuguese side.

Latest news

Benfica

• Summer transfers

In: Jhonder Cádiz (Vitória FC), Caio Lucas (al-Ain), Chiquinho (Moreirense), Raúl de Tomás (Real Madrid), Carlos

Vinícius (Napoli)

Out: Raúl Jiménez (Wolves), Bruno Varela (Ajax, loan), Diogo Gonçalves (Famalicão, loan), João Félix (Atlético Madrid), Filip Krovinić (West Brom, loan), Alfa Semedo (Nottingham Forest, loan), Yuri Ribeiro (Nottingham Forest), Cristian Lema (Newell's Old Boys), Eduardo Salvio (Boca Juniors), Chris Willock (West Brom, loan)

- Benfica won the Portuguese Super Cup on 4 August with a 5-0 win against Lisbon rivals Sporting CP.
- The Eagles kicked off their defence of the Liga title with another 5-0 win at home against Paços de Ferreira before a 2-0 victory at Belenenses, but their 11-match winning league run was halted by a 2-0 loss at home to Porto on 24 August.
- That was Benfica's first home defeat since a 3-1 loss against Moreirense on 2 November 2018; their record since had been W18 D3. The Eagles beat Gil Vicente 2-0 in Lisbon on Saturday, top scorer Pizzi registering his sixth league goal of the campaign after earlier missing a penalty.
- Benfica have scored 39 goals in their last 11 league matches.
- Adel Taarabt featured in both of Morocco's friendlies during the international break, his first caps since March 2014. He has signed a new Benfica contract until 2022.
- Gabriel has been out since 4 August with a knee injury while Chiquinho limped out of the Porto match with a thigh problem. Vinícius (thigh), Gedson (foot), Germán Conti (thigh) and David Tavares (knee) are all out of action.
- In August Odisseas Vlachodimos, Haris Seferović and Tomás Tavares all signed new contracts until 2024.

Leipzig

• Summer transfers

In: Hannes Wolf (Salzburg), Luan Cândido (Palmeiras), Christopher Nkunku (Paris), Ethan Ampadu (Chelsea, loan), Ademola Lookman (Everton), Philipp Tschauner (Hannover), Patrik Schick (Roma, loan)

Out: Bruma (PSV Eindhoven), Julian Krahl (Köln), Marius Müller (Luzern), Jean-Kévin Augustin (Monaco, loan)

- Leipzig won 3-2 at second division VfL Osnabrück in the German Cup first round on 11 August, Marcel Sabitzer scoring twice, and will visit Wolfsburg in October's second round.
- Leipzig were the only team to win their first three league games this season, prevailing 4-0 at Union Berlin, 2-1 at home to Eintracht Frankfurt and 3-1 at Borussia Mönchengladbach. Their perfect start was ended by Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to champions Bayern München, but the result was good enough to keep them top of the Bundesliga.
- Timo Werner scored all three goals in Gladbach and has five in the first four Bundesliga games.
- Christopher Nkunku marked his debut at Union Berlin with a goal as a substitute.
- Sabitzer and Konrad Laimer were on target for Austria in a 6-0 UEFA EURO 2020 qualifying win against Latvia on 6 September; Patrik Schick scored for the Czech Republic in a 2-1 loss in Kosovo the following day.
- Emil Forsberg scored Sweden's equaliser in a 1-1 draw against Norway on 8 September, while Marcel Halstenberg gave Germany the lead with his first international goal in a 2-0 win away to Northern Ireland on 9 September.
- Tyler Adams has been out since the beginning of August due to a metatarsal injury.
- On 17 June Hannes Wolf scored for Austria against Serbia in their first game of the UEFA European Under-21 Championship before breaking his right ankle.

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	GS: Group stage
GS1: First group stage	GS2: Second group stage
3QR: Third qualifying round	R1: First round
R2: Second round	R3: Third round
R4: Fourth round	PR: Preliminary round
SF: Semi-finals	QF: Quarter-finals
R16: round of 16	QR: Qualifying round
R32: Round of 32	1QR: First qualifying round
1st: first leg	2QR: Second qualifying round
2nd: second leg	FT: Final tournament
PO: Play-off	ELITE: Elite round
Rep: Replay	3rdPO: Third-place play-off
PO - FT: Play-off for Final Tournament	GS-FT: Group stage – final tournament

Other abbreviations

(aet): After extra time	pens: Penalties
No.: Number	og: Own goal
ag: Match decided on away goals	P: Penalty
Pld: Matches played	agg: Aggregate
Pos.: Position	AP: Appearances
Pts: Points	Comp.: Competition
R: Sent off (straight red card)	D: Drawn
Res.: Result	DoB: Date of birth
sg: Match decided by silver goal	ET: Extra Time
GF: Goals for	GA: Goals against
gg: Match decided by golden goal	t: Match decided by toss of a coin
Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)	W: Won
f: Match forfeited	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

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