

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - 2021/22 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Villarreal CF

Estadio de la Cerámica - Villarreal

Tuesday 23 November 2021

18.45CET (18.45 local time)

Group F - Matchday 5



Manchester United FC

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UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE OFFICIAL SPONSORS



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Match background

Having scored crucial late goals in their last three matches, Group F leaders Manchester United go to Villarreal with the sides level on seven points.

- A Cristiano Ronaldo goal five minutes into added time gave United a 2-1 victory at home to Villarreal on 29 September, earning the English club a measure of revenge for their defeat on penalties against the Spanish side in last season's UEFA Europa League final. Paco Alcácer had put the visitors in front in the 53rd minute at Old Trafford, Alex Telles levelling seven minutes later.
- Ronaldo also scored late goals home (3-2) and away (2-2) against Atalanta on Matchdays 3 and 4 as United recovered from their 2-1 opening defeat at Young Boys. Villarreal, who were held 2-2 at home by Atalanta in their opening fixture, have since beaten YB 4-1 in Switzerland and 2-0 in Spain.
- United will go through if they beat Villarreal, or if both games in the group are drawn, while Villarreal will progress with a win if Atalanta do not beat Young Boys.
- On Sunday United parted company with manager Ole Gunnar Solskjær with first-team coach Michael Carrick placed in temporary charge.

Previous meetings

- Gerard Moreno's 29th-minute opener for Villarreal was cancelled out by Edinson Cavani ten minutes into the second half at the Stadion Gdańsk in Poland on 26 May 2021, and with no further goals, the 2020/21 UEFA Europa League final went to penalties. Moreno, Dani Raba, Alcácer, Alberto Moreno, Dani Parejo, Moi Gómez, Raúl Albiol, Francis Coquelin, Mario Gaspar, Pau Torres and goalkeeper Gerónimo Rulli all converted for Villarreal; Juan Mata, Telles, Bruno Fernandes, Marcus Rashford, Cavani, Fred, Daniel James, Luke Shaw, Axel Tuanzebe and Victor Lindelöf did likewise for United before David de Gea's kick was saved by opposite number Rulli to give Villarreal their first major trophy.
- Villarreal and Manchester United had met in four European matches before that final – on each occasion in the UEFA Champions League group stage – and every one ended in a goalless draw.
- The first encounter in September 2005, which marked Villarreal's debut in the UEFA Champions League proper, was notable for the sending-off of visiting United striker Wayne Rooney. Another stalemate at Old Trafford two months later turned out to be costly for Sir Alex Ferguson's side as they would ultimately finish bottom of the group, ending a run of nine successive qualifications for the knockout phase, whereas Manuel Pellegrini's debutants finished top – despite scoring just three goals – and went on to reach the semi-finals, where they were beaten by Arsenal.
- Ferguson and Pellegrini were both still in charge as the clubs played out two further 0-0 draws three years later, the first at Old Trafford, where United began the defence of the trophy, the second at El Madrigal, where the outcome ensured both teams qualified for the next stage. Villarreal went on to reach the quarter-finals, again losing to Arsenal, while United made it all the way to another final only to lose 2-0 to another Spanish side, Barcelona, in Rome.
- Carrick played 86 minutes of United's 0-0 draw at Villarreal on 25 November 2008.

Form guide

Villarreal

- Seventh in the Spanish Liga in 2020/21, Villarreal's UEFA Europa League triumph means they are playing in the UEFA Champions League group stage for the fourth time, and the first since 2011/12.
- That most recent campaign was also their least successful, Villarreal losing all six games to finish bottom of a section that also included Bayern München, Napoli and Manchester City.
- The Yellow Submarine have twice reached the UEFA Champions League knockout rounds. Semi-finalists on debut in 2005/06, they made it to the quarter-finals three years later – both campaigns ended by Arsenal.
- Having lost none of their first 11 UEFA Champions League group games (W4 D7), Villarreal had been beaten in seven in a row before drawing with Atalanta on Matchday 1. The Matchday 3 win at Young Boys ended a run of 11 group games without a victory (D3 L8), since a 6-3 home win against Aalborg on Matchday 3 in 2008/09.
- That defeat of Aalborg was also Villarreal's last home win in the UEFA Champions League, group stage to final, before they beat YB last time out. Their record between those two wins was D4 L3; however, they won all six home games in last season's UEFA Europa League and are now unbeaten in eight home European matches (W7 D1).
- In 2020/21, Unai Emery's team cruised to first place in UEFA Europa League Group I ahead of Maccabi Tel-Aviv, Sivasspor and Qarabağ to reach the round of 32 for the eighth time before comfortably disposing of UEFA Champions League group stage participants Salzburg (2-0 a, 2-1 h) and Dynamo Kyiv (2-0 a, 2-0 h). They also won both quarter-

final matches against Dinamo Zagreb (1-0 a, 2-1 h) and then knocked out Emery's former employers Arsenal in the semi-final (2-1 h, 0-0 a) before beating United in Gdańsk. Villarreal were undefeated in Europe in 2020/21 with 11 wins and three draws.

- The defeat of United came in Villarreal's first major European final, though they were twice winners of the UEFA Intertoto Cup (2003, 2004) having finished as runners-up in 2002.
- This is Villarreal's sixth European game of the season; they were defeated 6-5 on penalties by UEFA Champions League holders Chelsea after a 1-1 draw in the UEFA Super Cup on 11 August in Belfast.
- With that counted as a draw, defeat at United on Matchday 2 ended Villarreal's 26-match unbeaten run against non-Spanish opposition in European matches (W16 D10), since a 1-0 loss at home to Lyon in the 2017/18 UEFA Europa League round of 32 second leg.
- Villarreal's overall record against English clubs is W5 D9 L6. They have won four of their nine home games against Premier League visitors, suffering only one defeat – against United's neighbours Manchester City in the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League group stage (0-3).

Manchester United

- United are making their 24th appearance in the UEFA Champions League group stage, an English record, with Arsenal (19) second on that list and Chelsea (18) third. Overall, only Barcelona and Real Madrid (both 26) and Porto and Bayern München (both 25) have featured more often.
- The Red Devils have qualified for the knockout phase on 18 occasions, also an English record, although they missed out in 2020/21.
- Solskjær's side finished third in their section in 2020/21 behind Paris Saint-Germain and Leipzig, a 3-2 loss in Germany on Matchday 6 enabling the latter to leapfrog United into second place.
- United therefore moved into the UEFA Europa League, beating Real Sociedad (4-0 a, 0-0 h), AC Milan (1-1 h, 1-0 a), Granada (2-0 a, 2-0 h) and Roma (6-2 h, 2-3 a) en route to their final defeat against Villarreal.
- United had lost three successive away games in the UEFA Champions League before drawing at Atalanta, and have now been beaten in five of the last eight; the other two games in that sequence were both wins at Paris Saint-Germain.
- Ronaldo is one of three players to have found the net in all four matches, along with Ajax's Sébastien Haller and Robert Lewandowski of Bayern.
- The Manchester club have won their UEFA Champions League section 15 times, although only once since 2013/14.
- United finished second in the Premier League in 2020/21, 12 points behind local rivals Manchester City.
- European Cup winners in 1968, United lifted the UEFA Champions League trophy in 1999 and 2008, also reaching the final in 2009 and 2011 – the latter four all under Sir Alex Ferguson.
- Solskjær's side faced Spanish clubs five times in 2020/21, all in the UEFA Europa League. The 2-0 away win against Granada in the quarter-finals is one of only four victories in their 27 games in Spain (D11 L12)
- Despite beating Villarreal on Matchday 2, United have still won only 17 of their 63 UEFA matches against Spanish opposition (D24 L22) though, with the final counted as a draw, they were unbeaten in all five last season (W3 D2), scoring nine goals and conceding only one, Moreno's strike in the final. However, their last four European campaigns have all ended in defeat by Liga opposition – Sevilla in both the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League round of 16 (0-0 a, 1-2 h) and 2019/20's one-off UEFA Europa League semi-final in Cologne (1-2), and Barcelona in the 2018/19 UEFA Champions League quarter-final (0-1 h, 0-3 a) in addition to last season's defeat by Villarreal.

Links and trivia

- Emery replaced long-serving Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger in May 2018 and oversaw 78 matches for the Gunners until his dismissal in November 2019. He was unbeaten in three Premier League games against United, drawing twice away (2-2 and 1-1) and winning once at home (2-0). However, his Arsenal side were defeated 3-1 at home by Solskjær's United in the fourth round of the 2018/19 FA Cup.
- The two coaches also locked horns in the 2015/16 UEFA Europa League round of 32 as Emery's Sevilla overcame Solskjær's Molde (3-0 h, 0-1 a) en route to completing their title hat-trick.
- In their seven head-to-head contests overall Solskjær has three wins to Emery's two, with two draws, including last season's UEFA Europa League final.
- United defender Eric Bailly joined from Villarreal in 2016 after 18 months with the Spanish club. He was a UEFA Europa League winner in 2017 though missed the final through suspension.
- Have also played in Spain:

Raphaël Varane (Real Madrid 2011–21)
David de Gea (Atlético de Madrid 2008–11)
Juan Mata (Real Madrid Castilla 2006/07, Valencia 2007–11)

- Varane won four UEFA Champions Leagues, three UEFA Super Cups, four FIFA Club World Cups, three Spanish Liga titles and the 2013/14 Copa de Rey with Madrid.

- Have played in England:

Juan Foyth (Tottenham 2017–20)
Étienne Capoue (Tottenham 2013–15, Watford 2015–21)
Francis Coquelin (Arsenal 2008–18)
Alberto Moreno (Liverpool 2014–19)
Dani Parejo (Queens Park Rangers 2008/09 loan)

- International team-mates:

Pau Torres, Raúl Albiol, Gerard Moreno, Paco Alcácer & David de Gea (Spain)

Latest news

Villarreal

- Having been undefeated in their first seven league games of the season (W2 D5), Villarreal have lost three of their last six, although they were 1-0 winners at home to Getafe on 9 November.
- Manu Trigueros scored the only goal in that game, his third in this season's Liga – as many as in his previous three campaigns combined.
- Villarreal drew 1-1 at Celta Vigo on Saturday, Alberto Moreno opening the scoring with his second Liga goal of 2021/22; it is the first time since 2014/15 he has found the net more than once in a league campaign.
- The defeat of Getafe ended a run of four league games without a victory (D1 L3); Villarreal have drawn seven of their 13 Liga fixtures in 2021/22 (W3 L3).
- Villarreal have won just five matches in all competitions this season (D9 L4).
- Pervis Estupiñán scored in Ecuador's 2-0 FIFA World Cup qualifying victory away to Chile on 16 November.
- Gerard Moreno and Juan Foyth both picked up hamstring injuries in a 2-1 defeat at Athletic Club on 23 October; the latter returned to play 83 minutes on Saturday while Moreno has not featured since.
- On 4 October, former Tottenham defender Serge Aurier joined Villarreal as a free agent, signing a contract until the end of the season with the option for a two-year extension. He is ineligible for the UEFA Champions League group stage.
- Moreno is on the 30-man shortlist for the Ballon d'Or, with the winner to be announced on 29 November.

Manchester United

- Cristiano Ronaldo's Matchday 4 appearance was his 180th in the UEFA Champions League, group stage to final, extending his own competition record. He had gone ahead of Iker Casillas's previous best of 177 in the second round of games.
- United have lost seven of their last 13 games in all competitions (W4 D2), including five of their last seven in the Premier League. They were beaten 4-1 at Watford on Saturday, their heaviest defeat against a promoted club since a 5-1 loss at Manchester City in September 1989.
- That proved to be Ole Gunnar Solskjær's last match in charge, with the Norwegian being dismissed the following morning. He had been appointed, initially on an interim basis, in December 2018 to succeed José Mourinho, and was made permanent manager four months later.
- Donny van de Beek scored United's goal at the weekend, his first for the club since his Premier League debut, a 3-1 home defeat by Crystal Palace on 19 September 2020.
- Harry Maguire was sent off for two bookings at Watford, the first red card of his United career in his 121st game.
- Ronaldo has nine goals in 13 appearances for United since rejoining the club this summer.
- Solskjær's side were beaten 5-0 at Old Trafford by Liverpool on 24 October, the first time they had conceded five goals at home without scoring themselves since February 1955.
- It was also the first time United had been 4-0 down at half-time in the Premier League era.
- United have conceded 19 goals in their last seven games. They have shipped 29 in all competitions this season; only Norwich and Leicester (30) have let in more among Premier League sides.

- A 4-2 loss at Leicester on 16 October was United's first away league defeat in 30 games, since a 2-0 reverse at Liverpool in January 2020, and the first time they had conceded four goals in an away league game since a 4-0 loss at Everton in April 2019.
- A 2-1 win at West Ham on 19 September was United's 29th successive away league game without defeat (W19 D10), extending the new English Football League record they had set with a 1-0 victory at Wolves on 29 August before it was ended at Leicester.
- Maguire became England's highest-scoring defender with his goals in a 5-0 victory against Albania on 12 November and a 10-0 success in San Marino three days later, results that confirmed England's place at the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Maguire now has seven international goals.
- Victor Lindelöf's 50th cap for Sweden ended in disappointment on 14 November as a 1-0 Spain victory consigned the Scandinavian side to the World Cup play-offs.
- Fred played the first half on 11 November as Brazil beat Colombia 1-0 to reach next year's finals.
- Ronaldo twice played 90 minutes for Portugal as they drew 0-0 in the Republic of Ireland on 11 November three days before a 2-1 home defeat by Serbia that forced them into the World Cup play-offs. Bruno Fernandes started in Ireland and was a substitute against Serbia, while Diogo Dalot played 90 minutes in Dublin.
- Raphaël Varane suffered an adductor strain in France's 2-1 win against Spain in the UEFA Nations League final on 10 October, returning to play 90 minutes of the 3-0 win at Tottenham on 30 October. However, he had to be replaced on Matchday 4 after picking up a thigh injury and has not played since.
- Paul Pogba, whose last appearance came at Atalanta on 2 November, has been sidelined by a thigh problem.
- Edinson Cavani has also been out since Matchday 4 with a tendon injury.
- Scott McTominay missed Scotland's internationals with a throat virus; he started United's weekend loss at Watford but was withdrawn at half-time.
- Amad Diallo has not played this season due to a thigh injury.
- Fernandes and Ronaldo are both on the 30-man shortlist for the Ballon d'Or, with the winner to be announced on 29 November.
- On 7 October Rashford received an honorary doctorate from the University of Manchester; he collected a Member of the British Empire (MBE) on 9 November.

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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