

UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE - 2021/22 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



HJK Helsinki

Helsinki Football Stadium - Helsinki

Thursday 16 September 2021

18.45CET (19.45 local time)

Group A - Matchday 1



LASK

Last updated 15/09/2021 00:00CET



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Match background

Autumn European football returns to Finland for the first time in seven years as HJK Helsinki make their UEFA Europa Conference League bow with a Group A encounter at home to a LASK side appearing in a European group stage for the third year in a row.

Previous meetings

- Whereas this is LASK's first experience of Finnish opposition, HJK's sole previous official engagement with an Austrian club proved memorable as they beat Rapid Wien in the 2014/15 UEFA Europa League play-offs (2-1 h, 3-3 a) to reach that competition's group stage for the first time.

Form guide

HJK

- Domestic double winners in 2020 as they racked up their record-extending 30th league title, HJK are playing European group stage football for the third time, having competed in the 1998/99 UEFA Champions League as well as that 2014/15 UEFA Europa League.

- The Helsinki club have already played four games in the qualifying phase of each of those competitions this season, beating Budućnost (3-1 h, 4-0) before losing to Malmö (1-2 a, 2-2 h) in the UEFA Champions League. They then overcame Neftçi (2-2- a, 3-0 h) before going down to Fenerbahçe (0-1 a, 2-5 h) in the UEFA Europa League, that play-off defeat despatching them into the inaugural UEFA Europa Conference League group stage.

- The second-leg defeat by Fenerbahçe ended a six-game unbeaten run at home in UEFA competition for the Finnish champions (W4 D2). Their European group stage record in Helsinki is W3 D1 L2.

LASK

- LASK's fourth successive season of UEFA competition means they are competing as Austria's lone representative in the group stage of the UEFA Europa Conference League. Fourth in the 2020/21 Bundesliga, they came unbeaten through two qualifying ties, beating Vojvodina of Serbia (1-0 a, 6-1 h) and St Johnstone of Scotland (1-1 h, 2-0 a).

- LASK have appeared in the UEFA Europa League group stage in each of the past two seasons, going on to reach the round of 16 as section winners in 2019/20 but finishing third behind Tottenham Hotspur and Antwerp in 2020/21.

- The team from the Danube city have won five of their last six European away fixtures (L1), including all of the last three. Their group stage record on the road is W3 D1 L2.

Links and trivia

- Roope Riski scored eight goals for HJK during this season's qualifying phase, including at least one in every tie. His older brother Riku added another three goals, making it 11 goals out of 17 for the Riski family.

- Roope Riski played in Austria for St Pölten in 2017/18 and 2019/20, scoring five goals in 33 Bundesliga appearances. He appeared twice against LASK, losing both matches.

Legend

Competitions

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