

UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE - 2021/22 SEASON

MATCH PRESS KITS



HJK Helsinki

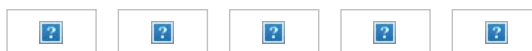
Helsinki Football Stadium - Helsinki

Thursday 21 October 2021
16.30CET (17.30 local time)
Group A - Matchday 3



Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC

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Match background

Boosted by a big win in Armenia last time out, HJK Helsinki will be hoping to make home advantage count as they welcome to the Finnish capital a Maccabi Tel-Aviv side who have made an encouraging start to UEFA Europa Conference League Group A.

- HJK recovered from an opening 0-2 home defeat by LASK to win 4-2 at Alashkert on Matchday 2 – their first away success in a UEFA group stage – while Maccabi followed up an opening 4-1 home victory against the Armenian champions by scoring a late equaliser to draw 1-1 in Austria.

Previous meetings

- The clubs have been paired together once previously, in the 2004/05 UEFA Champions League second qualifying round, Maccabi taking the tie 1-0 on aggregate with a late winner from substitute Liran Cohen in the home second leg en route to making their debut appearance in the competition's group stage.
- That is the only instance both of HJK facing Israeli opposition in UEFA competition and Maccabi taking on a team from Finland.

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 and the 2014/15 UEFA Europa League.
- The Helsinki club played four games in the qualifying phase of each of those competitions this season, beating Budućnost (3-1 h, 4-0) but losing to Malmö (1-2 a, 2-2 h) in the UEFA Champions League and then overcoming 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 sent Toni Koskela's side 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), and the subsequent loss to LASK means that HJK's European group stage record in Helsinki is now W3 D1 L3.

Maccabi

- Maccabi were runners-up in the Israeli top flight last season, missing out on a hat-trick of titles as they finished four points adrift of Maccabi Haifa. They had a lengthy 2020/21 European campaign that lasted from the first qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League to the UEFA Europa League round of 32, where they were eliminated by Shakhtar Donetsk (0-2 h, 0-1 a).
- Three qualifying rounds were successfully negotiated by Maccabi this summer en route to the UEFA Europa Conference League group stage as Patrick van Leeuwen's team went unbeaten in knocking out Sutjeksa Nikšić (0-0 a, 3-1 h), Spartak Trnava (0-0 a, 1-0 h) and Shakhter Karagandy (2-1 a, 2-0 h).
- Maccabi have won just four of their 22 away fixtures in UEFA group stage football (D4 L14), though they have lost only one of the last five (W2 D2).

Links and trivia

- Roope Riski's goal against Alashkert on Matchday 2 was his ninth in Europe for HJK this season. His older brother Riku was also on target in Armenia with his fourth of the European campaign, making it 13 goals for the Riski family out of the 21 scored by the Helsinki club in their ten continental fixtures this term.

Legend

Competitions

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