

UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE - 2021/22 SEASON

MATCH PRESS KITS



Feyenoord

**Stadion Feijenoord "De Kuip" -
Rotterdam**

Thursday 21 October 2021
18.45CET (18.45 local time)
Group E - Matchday 3



1. FC Union Berlin

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Match background	2
Legend	3

Match background

With confidence boosted by victories on Matchday 2, Feyenoord and Union Berlin meet in Rotterdam hoping to maintain the winning habit in UEFA Europa Conference League Group E.

- The Dutch club followed a goalless draw at Maccabi Haifa with a 2-1 home win against Slavia Praha that lifted them above their opponents to the top of the group, while Union responded to an opening 1-3 loss in Prague by defeating the Israeli side 3-0 in the German capital.

Previous meetings

- This is Union's first UEFA encounter against Dutch opposition.
- Feyenoord, in contrast, have faced German clubs 32 times (W13 D10 L9), scoring 50 goals and conceding the same number. They have won 11 of the 17 matches in Rotterdam, including the 2002 UEFA Cup final at their own stadium in which Bert van Marwijk's side overcame Matthias Sammer's Borussia Dortmund 3-2. Since then just one German club has visited the Stadion Feijenoord, Schalke becoming the third in a row to suffer defeat there when they went down 2-1 in the 2004/05 UEFA Cup group stage.

Form guide

Feyenoord

- Fifth in the Dutch Eredivisie last season, 29 points in arrears of champions and traditional rivals Ajax, Feyenoord secured their fifth UEFA group stage appearance in six seasons by coming through three UEFA Europa Conference League qualifying rounds under new head coach Arne Slot at the expense of Drita (3-2 on aggregate), Luzern (6-0 agg) and Elfsborg (6-3 agg).
- The Rotterdam club have failed to make further progress in any of their last four group stage participations, the most recent last season when they finished third in UEFA Europa League Group K behind Dinamo Zagreb and Wolfsberg, their only win coming on Matchday 3 at home to CSKA Moskva (3-1).
- Although Feyenoord were beaten in Rotterdam by both Wolfsberg (1-4) and Dinamo Zagreb (0-2) last term, those are the only two defeats they have suffered in their last 13 European home games (W8 D3). They have won all four this season, scoring 13 goals in the process.

Union

- Seventh in the 2020/21 German top flight with 50 points at the end of only their second Bundesliga campaign, both under Urs Fischer, the Swiss coach who had masterminded their historic promotion, Union thus returned to Europe for the first time in 20 years, their sole previous continental adventure, in the 2001/02 UEFA Cup, having ended in the second round.
- Union secured a first appearance in a European group stage by winning their UEFA Europa Conference League play-off against Finnish side KuPS (4-0 a, 0-0 h) and thus becoming the new competition's first German group stage participants.
- Union were unbeaten in their first three European away matches, two draws in 2001/02 supplemented by this season's 4-0 win at KuPS, before losing on Matchday 1 at Slavia.

Links and trivia

- Feyenoord duo Marcus Pedersen and Fredrik Aursnes are Norway team-mates of Union's Julian Ryerson, while Gernot Trauner (Feyenoord) and Christopher Trimmel (Union) both play for Austria.
- Feyenoord's Reiss Nelson (Hoffenheim 2018–19) and Guus Til (Freiburg 2020–21) have both played on loan for German Bundesliga clubs.
- Timo Baumgartl is on loan to Union from PSV Eindhoven, where he arrived in 2019, while team-mate Sheraldo Becker also has experience of Dutch football (Ajax 2014–15, PEC Zwolle 2015/16 loan, ADO Den Haag 2016–19).
- Feyenoord are the sole former European Cup winners competing in the UEFA Europa Conference League group stage. Furthermore, they and Tottenham (Group G) are the only two teams in the field to have won the UEFA Cup, both having done so twice.
- Union are one of eight clubs making their debut appearance in a UEFA group stage this season; the others – one in each group – are Alashkert (Group A), Flora Tallinn (B), Bodø/Glimt (C), Randers (D), Lincoln Red Imps (F), Mura (G) and Kairat (H).

Legend

Competitions

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