

UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE - 2021/22 SEASON

MATCH PRESS KITS



F.C. Copenhagen

Parken - Copenhagen
Thursday 21 October 2021
18.45CET (18.45 local time)
Group F - Matchday 3



PAOK FC

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Match background

First faces second in UEFA Europa Conference League Group F as FC Copenhagen welcome Greek Cup holders PAOK to the Danish capital on Matchday 3.

- Copenhagen have kept up their impressive form of the qualifying phase by winning their opening two group games 3-1, Jonas Wind scoring twice in the Matchday 1 victory away to Slovan Bratislava and once at home to Lincoln Red Imps a fortnight later, with Jens Stage also on target in both matches. PAOK, meanwhile, won their first game 2-0 in Gibraltar before drawing 1-1 at home to Slovan, on-loan Englishman Chuba Akpom finding the net in both games.

Previous meetings

- This is the clubs' first encounter in UEFA competition.
- Copenhagen have previously faced only one Greek club, Panathinaikos. They lost 0-1 at home to the Athens side in the 2007/08 UEFA Cup group stage but did the double over them three years later in the UEFA Champions League, winning 2-0 in Greece and 3-1 in Denmark.
- PAOK have also been paired with Danish opponents twice previously, the most recent encounters in the 2015/16 UEFA Europa League play-offs, where they easily accounted for Copenhagen's local rivals Brøndby, winning 5-0 at home before drawing 1-1 away. They have yet to win in Denmark (D1 L1).

Form guide

Copenhagen

- Copenhagen are back for a 14th campaign of UEFA group stage football having missed out last season when they were eliminated in the UEFA Europa League play-offs by Rijeka (0-1 h). Domestically they finished third in the Danish Superliga, six points behind champions Brøndby.
- Jess Thorup's side made light work of their three UEFA Europa Conference League qualifying ties, scoring 21 goals in overcoming Torpedo Zhodino (4-1 h, 5-0 a), Lokomotiv Plovdiv (1-1 a, 4-2 h) and Sivasspor (2-1 a, 5-0 h).
- Copenhagen have won six of their last seven European home games, the exception that defeat against Rijeka. This season they have scored 16 goals in four European matches at Parken.

PAOK

- Regular performers in the UEFA Europa League group stage, where they have made eight appearances, PAOK are Greece's first representatives in the UEFA Europa Conference League equivalent. They qualified for the competition twice over last season, as runners-up in the league to Olympiacos and winners of the Greek Cup – for the eighth time – thanks to a 2-1 victory over the champions in the final.
- Having exited last season's UEFA Europa League at the group stage, with PSV Eindhoven and Granada both getting the better of them, PAOK entered the UEFA Europa Conference League in the third qualifying round, where, under returning head coach Răzvan Lucescu, they edged out Irish club Bohemians (1-2 a, 2-0 h) before beating Rijeka in the play-offs (1-1 h, 2-0 a).
- That victory at Rijeka in August ended PAOK's nine-match winless run on the road in UEFA competition (D1 L8). They have now won two successive European away games for the first time in five years and only the fourth time ever; they have never managed three in a row.

Links and trivia

- PAOK midfielder Stefan Schwab's next appearance in UEFA club competition will be his 50th.
- With his three goals so far Wind is the joint top scorer in the UEFA Europa Conference League group stage alongside Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane.
- Copenhagen captain Zeca made 248 appearances in all competitions for Panathinaikos from 2011 and 2017 and has faced PAOK more than any other club in his career, playing 20 matches against them (W10 D3 L7), scoring once – in a 2-0 Super League win in November 2012 – and registering four assists.
- Copenhagen's Marios Oikonomou started his career in northern Greece, at Giannina (2012–13), and also had a two-year spell at AEK Athens, for whom he made 64 appearances from 2018 to 2020 before joining Copenhagen.
- Zeca, Oikonomou and PAOK duo Alexandros Paschalakis and Giannis Michailidis have all played for Greece.
- Kamil Wilczek (Copenhagen) and Karol Świdorski (PAOK) are both Polish internationals. Copenhagen goalkeeper Karol Grabara also played alongside Świdorski for Poland's Under-21 side, the pair appearing together at the 2019 UEFA European Championship in Italy.

Legend

Competitions

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