

UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE - 2021/22 SEASON

MATCH PRESS KITS



Anorthosis Famagusta FC

GSP - Nicosia

Thursday 25 November 2021
21.00CET (22.00 local time)
Group B - Matchday 5



KAA Gent

Last updated 24/11/2021 00:28CET



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Match background

Group B leaders Gent have already confirmed their place in the UEFA Europa Conference League knockout phase and will go through to the round of 16 as section winners if they win in Nicosia against an Anorthosis side who must claim a victory of their own to stand any chance of remaining in the competition.

- Anorthosis lost their opening two games before picking up their first points of the section in back-to-back 2-2 draws against Flora Tallinn. Gent are an unassailable eight points better off and lead the group by three, having taken over at the top thanks to a 1-0 win at Partizan on Matchday 3 followed by a 1-1 home draw against the same opponents last time out.
- Gent have clinched a top-two finish and will be confirmed as Group B winners with a victory in Cyprus, or if they match or better Partizan's result away to Flora in the other Matchday 5 fixture. Anorthosis's only hope of further progress is to beat Gent and hope Partizan fail to win in Tallinn.

Previous meetings

- The clubs' first UEFA encounter, in Ghent on Matchday 2, produced a 2-0 win for the home side, an own goal preceding Sven Kums' 81st-minute strike.
- Anorthosis lost their first home game to Belgian opponents 0-7 against Beerschot in the 1971/72 European Cup Winners' Cup first round – still their heaviest home defeat in Europe – but are unbeaten in the three since (W2 D1), defeating Cercle Brugge 3-1 in the most recent to win their 2010/11 UEFA Europa League third qualifying round tie 3-2 on aggregate.
- Gent's one previous pairing with Cypriot opposition brought a 4-1 aggregate victory over AEK Larnaca in the 2019/20 UEFA Europa League third qualifying round (1-1 a, 3-0 h), Laurent Depoitre scoring the first of the three second-leg goals.

Form guide

Anorthosis

- Winners of the 2020/21 Cypriot Cup with a 2-1 extra-time victory over Olympiakos in the final, Anorthosis fell in the third qualifying round of the UEFA Europa League this summer for the second successive season, going down to Rapid Wien (0-3 a, 2-1 h). However, they recovered to win their UEFA Europa Conference League play-off against Hapoel Beer-Sheva (0-0 a, 3-1 h) and secure European group stage football for only the second time.
- Anorthosis's sole previous group stage involvement was in the 2008/09 UEFA Champions League, where, then as now coached by ex-Georgian international Temuri Ketsbaia, they accumulated six points in a section including Werder Bremen, Panathinaikos and Inter, but still finished fourth.
- Anorthosis had won four successive European home fixtures, scoring ten goals in the process, before losing 0-2 to Partizan on Matchday 1. They were unbeaten in Nicosia in the 2008/09 UEFA Champions League group stage (W1 D2).

Gent

- Gent finished fifth in Belgium's First Division A last season to qualify for the second qualifying round of the UEFA Europa Conference League. They defeated Vålerenga of Norway in their opening tie (4-0 h, 0-2 a), then RFS of Latvia (2-2 h, 1-0 a) and, in the play-offs, Polish Cup winners Raków Częstochowa (0-1 a, 3-0 h).
- Gent lost all six matches – to Slovan Liberec, Hoffenheim and Crvena zvezda – in last season's UEFA Europa League group stage, where they were appearing for the second season in a row, having reached the round of 32 as section winners in 2019/20.
- Despite their 1-0 victories at Flora and Partizan in this group stage, Gent have won just four of their last 17 European away matches (D4 L9). They have failed to score more than once in any of the last 11, managing just five goals over that stretch.

Links and trivia

- Anorthosis's Nika Ninua and Gent's Giorgi Chakvetadze were team-mates at Dinamo Tbilisi during 2016/17.
- Chakvetadze is a Georgia national team-mate of Anorthosis pair Nika Kacharava and Giorgi Loria.
- Anorthosis boss Ketsbaia has now coached Cypriot teams in the group stages of all three current UEFA club competitions, having also taken charge of APOEL in their 2015/16 UEFA Europa League campaign.

Legend

Competitions

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