

# UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE - 2019/20 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



**APOEL FC**

**GSP Stadium - Nicosia**  
Thursday 19 September 2019  
18.55CET (19.55 local time)  
Group A - Matchday 1



**F91 Dudelange**

Last updated 19/09/2019 18:33CET



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## Match background

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The reigning champions of Cyprus and Luxembourg meet in Nicosia as APOEL and F91 Dudelange get their Group A campaigns under way. The visitors have made an immediate return to this stage of the competition following last season's debut, whereas their hosts are making their fourth appearance at this juncture.

### Previous meetings

- The clubs have been paired once before in UEFA competition, APOEL defeating Dudelange 1-0 both home and away in the second qualifying round of the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League. It was the first time Dudelange had lost both games in a two-legged European tie for five years, and they have not done so since.
- Those are APOEL's only previous encounters with opposition from Luxembourg and Dudelange's sole experience against a Cypriot club.

### Form guide

#### APOEL

- Cypriot champions a record 28 times, APOEL made it seven national titles in a row with last season's triumph, which came at the end of a campaign in which they were absent from Europe in the autumn for the first time in six years having lost their UEFA Europa League play-off against Astana on penalties.
- APOEL failed to reach the knockout phase in their first two UEFA Europa League group participations (in 2013/14 and 2015/16) but made it all the way to the round of 16 on their most recent appearance, in 2016/17, having topped a section containing Olympiacos, Young Boys and Astana.
- This season, having comfortably eliminated Montenegro's Sutjeska in the UEFA Champions League second qualifying round (1-0 a, 3-0 h), APOEL ensured a return to European group stage football by overturning a first-leg 1-2 home defeat against Qarabağ in the next round with a 2-0 second-leg victory in new coach Thomas Doll's first match at the helm. They were then defeated 2-0 on aggregate by Ajax in the play-offs (0-0 h, 0-2 a) to move into the UEFA Europa League.
- That home defeat by Qarabağ ended APOEL's five-match winning run in UEFA matches at their own stadium. Their record in Nicosia in UEFA Europa League group games is W5 D1 L3, with victories in each of the last three.

#### Dudelange

- The premier force in Luxembourg since the turn of the millennium, Dudelange won their 15th national championship last season to make it four in a row. They also shone in continental competition, becoming the first club from Luxembourg to reach a European group stage when they beat CFR Cluj home and away in the UEFA Europa League play-offs. They lost their first five group games before bowing out with a 0-0 draw at home to Real Betis.
- Like last season, Dudelange lost their UEFA Champions League first qualifying round tie – albeit only on away goals to Valletta (2-2 h, 1-1 a) – but once again impressed in the UEFA Europa League preliminaries, eliminating Shkëndija of North Macedonia and Estonia's Nõmme Kalju before seeing off Ararat-Armenia on penalties in the play-offs.
- Although Dudelange lost 2-1 in Armenia last time out, it was their first away defeat in seven European qualifying matches; they had been victorious in their previous four on the road, including this term at both Shkëndija (2-1) and Kalju (1-0). Conversely, they lost all three away fixtures in last season's group stage, scoring three goals but conceding 13.

### Links and trivia

- APOEL and Dudelange are their respective countries' sole representatives in Europe this autumn.

### The coaches

- A gifted attacking midfielder who played for both East Germany and the unified German national side, scoring a total of eight goals in 47 full internationals, Thomas Doll won two Oberliga titles with BFC Dynamo and later plied his trade in both the Bundesliga and Serie A, where he spent three seasons at Lazio. Doll hit the ground running as a coach with former club Hamburg, but was less successful at Borussia Dortmund before he reasserted his credentials during a five-year spell in Hungary with Ferencváros. He was appointed APOEL coach in August 2019.
- Former Belgian international Bertrand Crasson stepped into the breach at Dudelange ahead of matchday one after experienced Belgian coach Emilio Ferrera brought his short reign to an end on 17 September. Ferrera had been in charge for just three months as successor to Dino Toppmöller, who led Dudelange into the 2018/19 UEFA Europa League group stage. A defender during his playing days, Crasson won 26 caps for Belgium and appeared at the 1998 FIFA World Cup, while also enjoying two lengthy stints at Anderlecht either side of two years in Italy with Napoli. He joined Dudelange's coaching staff in September 2019, swiftly finding himself in temporary charge following Ferrera's departure.

# Legend

## Competitions

### Club competitions

**UCL:** UEFA Champions League  
**ECCC:** European Champion Clubs' Cup  
**UEL:** UEFA Europa League  
**UCUP:** UEFA Cup  
**UCWC:** UEFA Cup Winners' Cup  
**SCUP:** UEFA Super Cup  
**UIC:** UEFA Intertoto Cup  
**ICF:** Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

### National team competitions

**EURO:** UEFA European Football Championship  
**WC:** FIFA World Cup  
**CONFCUP:** FIFA Confederations Cup  
**FRIE:** Friendly internationals  
**U21FRIE:** Under-21 friendly internationals  
**U21:** UEFA European Under-21 Championship  
**U17:** UEFA Under-17 Championship  
**U16:** UEFA European Under-16 Championship  
**U19:** UEFA Under-19 Championship  
**U18:** UEFA European Under-18 Championship  
**WWC:** FIFA Women's World Cup  
**WEURO:** UEFA European Women's Championship

## Competition stages

<b>F:</b> Final	<b>GS:</b> Group stage	<b>(aet):</b> After extra time	<b>pens:</b> Penalties
<b>GS1:</b> First group stage	<b>GS2:</b> Second group stage	<b>No.:</b> Number	<b>og:</b> Own goal
<b>3QR:</b> Third qualifying round	<b>R1:</b> First round	<b>ag:</b> Match decided on away goals	<b>P:</b> Penalty
<b>R2:</b> Second round	<b>R3:</b> Third round	<b>PI:</b> Matches played	<b>agg:</b> Aggregate
<b>R4:</b> Fourth round	<b>PR:</b> Preliminary round	<b>Pos.:</b> Position	<b>AP:</b> Appearances
<b>SF:</b> Semi-finals	<b>QF:</b> Quarter-finals	<b>Pts:</b> Points	<b>Comp.:</b> Competition
<b>R16:</b> round of 16	<b>QR:</b> Qualifying round	<b>R:</b> Sent off (straight red card)	<b>D:</b> Drawn
<b>R32:</b> Round of 32	<b>1QR:</b> First qualifying round	<b>Res.:</b> Result	<b>DoB:</b> Date of birth
<b>1st:</b> first leg	<b>2QR:</b> Second qualifying round	<b>sg:</b> Match decided by silver goal	<b>ET:</b> Extra Time
<b>2nd:</b> second leg	<b>FT:</b> Final tournament	<b>GF:</b> Goals for	<b>GA:</b> Goals against
<b>PO:</b> Play-off	<b>ELITE:</b> Elite round	<b>gg:</b> Match decided by golden goal	<b>t:</b> Match decided by toss of a coin
<b>Rep:</b> Replay	<b>3rdPO:</b> Third-place play-off	<b>Y/R:</b> Sent off (two yellow cards)	<b>W:</b> Won
<b>PO - FT:</b> Play-off for Final Tournament	<b>GS-FT:</b> Group stage – final tournament	<b>f:</b> Match forfeited	<b>Y:</b> Booked
			<b>L:</b> Lost
			<b>Nat.:</b> Nationality
			<b>N/A:</b> Not applicable

## Statistics

**-:** Denotes player substituted  
**\***: Denotes player sent off

**+**: Denotes player introduced  
**+/-:** Denotes player introduced and substituted

## Squad list

**D:** Disciplinary

**\***: Misses next match if booked

**S:** Suspended

**QUAL:** All UEFA qualifiers

**UEL:** Current season total UEFA Europa League appearances from the group stage onwards prior to the current matchday

**UEL:** Total appearances in the UEFA Europa League, group stage to final only

**UEFA:** All-time total appearances in UEFA club competition including qualifying

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