

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE - 2019/20 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



KAA Gent

KAA Gent Stadium - Ghent

Thursday 19 September 2019

21.00CET (21.00 local time)

Group I - Matchday 1



AS Saint-Étienne

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Match background

A first ever meeting of Belgium's Gent and France's Saint-Étienne gets the teams' UEFA Europa League Group I campaign under way, with the hosts fresh from three successful summer qualifying ties and their visitors making their first European outing of the season.

Previous meetings

- Gent's five previous home games against French opponents have all ended in draws, most recently 0-0 against Bordeaux in the first leg of last season's UEFA Europa League play-off; they bowed out after a 2-0 second-leg defeat in south-west France.
- St-Étienne are unbeaten in three matches against Belgian sides, their last cross-border visit having brought a 3-2 win at Anderlecht on matchday six of the 2016/17 UEFA Europa League – Les Verts' most recent European campaign.

Form guide

Gent

- Fifth in the 2018/19 Belgian top flight, and also runners-up in the domestic cup, Gent qualified for Europe for the fifth successive season, extending the longest sequence in the club's history.
- Ousted in the qualifying phase of the UEFA Europa League in each of the past two seasons, they have come through three ties to reach the group stage this term, defeating Romania's Viitorul (6-3 h, 1-2 a), AEK Larnaca of Cyprus (1-1 a, 3-0 h) and, in the play-offs, Croatian club Rijeka (2-1 h, 1-1 a). Their two previous participations at this juncture of the competition had different outcomes, with elimination in 2010/11 and progress through to the round of 16 in 2016/17.
- Gent are undefeated in their last eight European home games against foreign opposition (W5 D3). The last European fixture they lost on home soil was against another Belgian club, Genk, in the 2016/17 round of 16 (2-5).

St-Étienne

- Absent from Europe since they reached the UEFA Europa League round of 32 in 2016/17, St-Étienne made it back by finishing fourth in Ligue 1 last term to secure a fourth group stage appearance in this competition.
- Unable to get out of their group in 2014/15, when they drew their first five matches before losing the last, they were successful in both 2015/16 and 2016/17 before exiting both times at the round of 32 stage, latterly to eventual winners Manchester United (0-3 a, 0-1 h).
- Les Verts have a positive away record in the UEFA Europa League group stage of W3 D4 L2, with no defeats in the last five matches (W3 D2).

Links and trivia

- Gent midfielder Sven Kums is a former team-mate of St-Étienne's Gabriel Silva (Udinese 2016/17) and Robert Berić (Anderlecht 2017/18).
- Gent's Dylan Bronn and St-Étienne's Wahbi Khazri are fellow Tunisian internationals who were both squad members at the 2018 FIFA World Cup and this year's CAF Africa Cup of Nations. Khazri scored a late consolation goal against Belgium in a 5-2 defeat at the World Cup in Russia.

The coaches

- A tall striker who spent most of his playing career in his native Denmark with OB and Esbjerg but also had short spells in Germany, Austria and Norway, Jess Thorup has lately become one of his country's most upwardly mobile coaches. After a two-year stint in charge of the Danish Under-21 side he became Midtjylland's head coach in 2015 and steered the Jutland club to the Superliga title in 2017/18. That prompted interest from abroad and he was recruited in October 2018 by Gent, whom he guided to a runners-up spot in the Belgian Cup and a fifth-placed finish in the league in his first season.
- Ghislain Printant stepped up from his position as Jean-Louis Gasset's assistant to become Saint-Étienne's head coach in June 2019 – a month after his 58th birthday. Only once previously had he taken charge of a Ligue 1 club, at Corsican side Bastia from November 2014 to January 2016, leading the team to the final of the French League Cup. A goalkeeper at amateur level, he was also Gasset's No2 for a short spell at Montpellier in 2017 before the pair moved to St-Étienne.

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

F: Final	GS: Group stage
GS1: First group stage	GS2: Second group stage
3QR: Third qualifying round	R1: First round
R2: Second round	R3: Third round
R4: Fourth round	PR: Preliminary round
SF: Semi-finals	QF: Quarter-finals
R16: round of 16	QR: Qualifying round
R32: Round of 32	1QR: First qualifying round
1st: first leg	2QR: Second qualifying round
2nd: second leg	FT: Final tournament
PO: Play-off	ELITE: Elite round
Rep: Replay	3rdPO: Third-place play-off
PO - FT: Play-off for Final Tournament	GS-FT: Group stage – final tournament

Other abbreviations

(aet): After extra time	pens: Penalties
No.: Number	og: Own goal
ag: Match decided on away goals	P: Penalty
Pld: Matches played	agg: Aggregate
Pos.: Position	AP: Appearances
Pts: Points	Comp.: Competition
R: Sent off (straight red card)	D: Drawn
Res.: Result	DoB: Date of birth
sg: Match decided by silver goal	ET: Extra Time
GF: Goals for	GA: Goals against
gg: Match decided by golden goal	t: Match decided by toss of a coin
Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)	W: Won
f: Match forfeited	Y: Booked
	L: Lost
	Nat.: Nationality
	N/A: 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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