UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE - 2019/20 SEASON
MATCH PRESS KITS

FK Partizan

Stadion FK Partizan - Belgrade
Thursday 19 September 2019
21.00CET (21.00 local time)
Group L - Matchday 1

AZ Alkmaar

Last updated 17/09/2019 18:50CET

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Match background

Two clubs whose 2019/20 UEFA Europa League campaigns started in the second qualifying round are both through to a sixth participation in the group stage, with Partizan hosting AZ Alkmaar on matchday one of Group L in Belgrade.

Previous meetings
• The clubs have already been paired once before in a UEFA Europa League group stage, Partizan winning both encounters in 2015/16 – 3-2 at home on matchday one and 2-1 away on matchday five – but nevertheless accompanying bottom-placed AZ out of the competition in December as Athletic Club and Augsburg progressed instead.

• Partizan have a perfect home record against Dutch visitors, having also beaten Groningen twice in Belgrade, whereas AZ's 2015 defeat by Partizan is their only one in Serbia. The other two trips produced a draw and a win, the latter 3-0 at Vojvodina in the 2016/17 UEFA Europa League play-off first leg with Stijn Wuytens contributing two of the goals.

Form guide
Partizan
• Third in the Serbian Superliga last term, Partizan won the domestic cup for the fourth year running, defeating champions Crvena zvezda 1-0 in the final. In Europe they came through three UEFA Europa League qualifiers before losing out to Beşiktaş in the play-offs (1-1 h, 0-3 a).

• This term Partizan entered the competition a round later, defeating Connah's Quay and Malatyaspor before edging past Norwegian side Molde in the play-offs (2-1 h, 1-1 a) to book a sixth group stage berth. After failing to gain further progress on their first four attempts, the Serbian side succeeded on their most recent participation, in 2017/18, before falling in the round of 32 to Viktoria Plzeň (1-1 h, 0-2 a).

• Victorious at home in all three of this season's qualifying games, Partizan are unbeaten in Belgrade by European opposition in ten matches (W8 D2). However, they have won just four of their 15 home UEFA Europa League group stage fixtures, losing seven.

AZ
• Fourth in last season's Eredivisie at the end of a season that started with defeat by Kairat Almaty in the UEFA Europa League second qualifying round, AZ are one of three Dutch clubs in this season's group stage, alongside PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord.

• The Alkmaar club's six group stage participations have all required pre-qualification and this season they negotiated more summer preliminary ties than ever before, three in total, knocking out BK Häcken, Mariupol and, after extra time in the play-offs, Antwerp (1-1 h, 4-1 a). They have drawn eight of their 15 away games in the UEFA Europa League group stage, winning just two, and their last fixture on the road in the competition proper was a 7-1 loss at Lyon in the 2016/17 round of 32. Both of the other two campaigns in which they progressed from their group (2011/12 and 2013/14) ended in the quarter-finals.

• The 1980/81 UEFA Cup runners-up are unbeaten in Europe this season (W3 D3), but outside the qualifying phase they have posted just one win on their travels in their last nine continental fixtures (D3 L5), 1-0 at Dundalk three seasons ago.

Links and trivia
• Partizan goalkeeper Filip Kljajić played in the 2-1 victory against AZ in Alkmaar in the 2015/16 UEFA Europa League. His club-mate Rajko Brežančić was in the AZ side for both that game and Partizan's earlier 3-2 win in Belgrade.

• Lazar Marković, Partizan's Serbian international midfielder, was a substitute in both of Benfica's matches against AZ in the quarter-finals of the 2013/14 UEFA Europa League, helping the Portuguese club to a 1-0 win in Belgrade and a 2-0 success in Lisbon.

• Partizan's Nigerian forward Umar Sadiq, on loan to the club from Roma, spent the second half of 2017/18 in the Dutch Eredivisie with NAC Breda. He scored NAC's consolation goal in a 1-3 home defeat by AZ.

The coaches
• Short of managerial experience but a key figure at the club with whom he started his career in the early 1990s, Savo Milošević was appointed as Partizan's head coach in March 2019 and within less than two months had steered the Belgrade club to victory in the Serbian Cup. A powerful left-footed striker, he scored 37 goals in 102 international appearances, five of them for Yugoslavia at UEFA EURO 2000, where he was the tournament's joint top marksman. He left Partizan for Aston Villa in 1995 and later played in Spain (Zaragoza, Espanyol, Celta Vigo, Osasuna) and Italy (Parma) before ending his career with a Russian league title at Rubin.

• When John van den Brom ended his five-year stint as AZ's head coach by moving to Utrecht in summer 2019, his job was passed on to assistant Arne Slot, whose first task was to steer the Alkmaar club through three qualifying rounds into the UEFA Europa League group stage. This is his first post as a head coach although he is a well-known former player in the Netherlands having operated in the Eredivisie for NAC Breda, Sparta Rotterdam and PEC Zwolle, where he started both his playing and coaching careers, the latter in charge of the youth side in 2013/14.

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
GS1: First group stage
3QR: Third qualifying round
R2: Second round
R4: Fourth round
SF: Semi-finals
R16: round of 16
R32: Round of 32
1st: first leg

2nd: second leg
PO: Play-off
Rep: Replay
PO - FT: Play-off for Final Tournament

GS: Group stage
GS2: Second group stage
R1: First round
R3: Third round
PR: Preliminary round
QF: Quarter-finals
QR: Qualifying round
1QR: First qualifying round
2QR: Second qualifying round
FT: Final tournament
ELITE: Elite round
3rdPO: Third-place play-off
GS-FT: Group stage – final tournament

Other abbreviations

(aet): After extra time
No.: Number
ag: Match decided on away goals
Pld: Matches played
Pos.: Position
Pts: Points
R: Sent off (straight red card)
Res.: Result
sg: Match decided by silver goal

GF: Goals for
gg: Match decided by golden goal
Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)
f: Match forfeited

pens: Penalties
og: Own goal
P: Penalty
agg: Aggregate
AP: Appearances
Comp.: Competition
D: Drawn
DoB: Date of birth
ET: Extra Time
GA: Goals against
t: Match decided by toss of a coin
W: Won
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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