UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE - 2019/20 SEASON
MATCH PRESS KITS

Wolverhampton Wanderers FC

Molineux - Wolverhampton
Thursday 7 November 2019
21.00CET (20.00 local time)
Group K - Matchday 4

ŠK Slovan Bratislava

Match background
Legend

Last updated 04/11/2019 15:14CET
Wolverhampton Wanderers welcome Slovan Bratislava to Molineux with their sights set on a third straight win in Group K following a 2-1 comeback success on Matchday 3 in the Slovakian capital, where second-half strikes from Romain Saïss and Raúl Jiménez, a penalty, cancelled out Andraž Šporar’s 11th-minute opener. Wolves sit second in the standings on six points, one behind leaders Braga and two above Slovan.

- The English side were beaten 1-0 at home by Braga on their group stage debut, but recovered well on their travels, striking a late winner to beat Beşiktaş in Istanbul before triumphing again in Bratislava. The Slovakian champions scored twice in added time to beat Beşiktaş 4-2 at home on Matchday 1 before coming from behind twice to snatch a 2-2 draw at Braga.

Previous meetings
- While Wolves had never faced a Slovakian club in UEFA competition prior to Matchday 3, that was Slovan’s 11th fixture against English opponents. All of their five previous trips to England have resulted in defeat, with 18 goals conceded and just three scored, though this is their first visit to the country for 22 years.

Form guide
- Wolves
  - In their first season after promotion to the Premier League, Wolves finished seventh in 2018/19 to qualify for European competition for the first time since they lost in the 1980/81 UEFA Cup first round to PSV Eindhoven.
  - The West Midlanders’ best European experience by some distance came in the inaugural UEFA Cup of 1971/72, when they went all the way to the final before losing 3-2 on aggregate to English rivals Tottenham Hotspur.
  - Wolves won all six of their qualifying matches this season, knocking out Crusaders (2-0 h, 4-1 a), Pyunik (4-0 a, 4-0 h) and, in the play-offs, Torino (3-2 a, 2-1 h), but the Matchday 1 defeat by Braga ended a seven-match European winning streak at Molineux that had lasted since they were beaten 2-1 by Spurs in the first leg of that 1972 UEFA Cup final.

- Slovan
  - Slovan’s ninth Slovakian league title since independence – and 21st national championship in all – was won at a canter in 2018/19, with a final victory margin of 17 points. Their European campaign, however, ended in the UEFA Europa League third qualifying round at the hands of Rapid Wien.
  - This term the club from the Slovakian capital lost a penalty shoot-out against Montenegro’s Sušica in the UEFA Champions League first qualifying round, but won both legs of their first two UEFA Europa League qualifying ties against Feronikeli and Dundalk before stunning Greek double winners PAOK on away goals (1-0 h, 2-3 a) to reach the group stage for the third time. Their previous two participations, in 2011/12 and 2014/15, yielded just one point.
  - Slovan had lost all six of their away fixtures in the UEFA Europa League group stage, scoring just one goal and conceding 18, until they stopped the rot with that 2-2 draw at Braga on Matchday 2.

Links and trivia
- Slovan’s Rabiu Ibrahim came through the youth ranks of Sporting CP when Wolves midfielder João Moutinho was an established first-teamer with the Lisbon club.
- Slovan boss Ján Kozák had a brief experience as a player in England with Wolves’ local rivals West Bromwich Albion in 2006.
- Although a run of nine successive defeats in the UEFA Europa League, group stage to final, ended for Slovan on Matchday 1, it remains a competition record.
- With four goals, Šporar is the leading scorer in this season’s UEFA Europa League group stage.
- Wolves are one of six UEFA Europa League group stage debutants this season; the others are Espanyol, Ferencváros, Olexandriya and two Austrian clubs, LASK and Wolfsberg.

The coaches
- A former goalkeeper who was in Portugal’s UEFA EURO 2008 squad but never won a senior cap, Nuno Espírito Santo was mostly a back-up during his playing career but as a manager he is very much at the forefront, having emerged as a studious, progressive coach during spells at Valencia, Porto and, since May 2017, Wolves. He first made his mark by taking Portuguese provincial club Rio Ave to two cup finals and into Europe before shining in Spain during an 18-month stint at Mestalla. He led Wolves into the Premier League in his first season and into the UEFA Europa League in his second.
- The assistant coach in Slovan’s runaway 2018/19 Slovakian title triumph, his fourth season in the role, Kozák was
promoted to the position of head coach in the summer as a replacement for Martin Ševela and duly succeeded in fulfilling his first assignment by steering the club through to the UEFA Europa League group stage. Capped 25 times by Slovakia, and a participant at the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the former midfielder won four Slovakian league titles – one each with Košice and Slovan and the other two with MFK Petržalka.
Legend

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  
UIF: UEFA Intertoto Cup  
ICF: Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

National team competitions

EURO: UEFA European Football Championship  
WC: FIFA World Cup  
CONF: FIFA Confederations Cup  
FRIE: Friendly internationals  
U21 FRIE: Under-21 friendly internationals  
U21: UEFA 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  
(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 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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