

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE - 2020/21 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



SK Rapid Wien

Weststadion - Vienna
Thursday 22 October 2020
18.55CET (18.55 local time)
Group B - Matchday 1



Arsenal FC

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Match background

Rapid Wien welcome English powerhouses Arsenal to the Austrian capital for their opening game of UEFA Europa League Group B.

Previous meetings

- This is the clubs' first UEFA competition encounter.
- Rapid overcame Aston Villa two seasons running in the UEFA Europa League play-offs to qualify for the group stage – in 2009/10 (1-0 h, 1-2 a) and 2010/11 (1-1 h, 3-2 a). Those are their most recent fixtures against English opposition, though the most famous was the 1985 European Cup Winners' Cup final, which they lost 3-1 to Everton in Rotterdam. Their all-time record against English visitors to Vienna is W1 D2 L1.
- Arsenal have been paired with Austrian opposition just once before in UEFA competition, and although they lost the second leg of their European Cup first round tie in 1991/92 against Rapid's city rivals Austria Wien 1-0 in Vienna, they had already taken command with a 6-1 victory at Highbury – English football's first European Cup match in six years following the Heysel ban – in which striker Alan Smith scored four goals in 16 second-half minutes on his European debut.

Form guide

Rapid Wien

- A runners-up spot in the 2019/20 Austrian Bundesliga, 12 points behind champions Salzburg, earned Rapid a return to Europe after a year's absence and a place in the UEFA Champions League second qualifying round. There they overcame Lokomotiva Zagreb 1-0 away before losing 2-1 at Gent – a result that transported Dietmar Kühbauer's team into the UEFA Europa League group stage.
- This is the Vienna club's eighth participation in the UEFA Europa League group stage. They have progressed through to the knockout phase just twice previously, in 2015/16 and on their most recent appearance in 2018/19, when they finished second on ten points behind Villarreal, eliminating both Rangers and Spartak Moskva. They were subsequently knocked out in the round of 32 by Internazionale (0-1 h, 0-4 a).
- Rapid are unbeaten in their last 13 home games in the UEFA Europa League group stage (W8 D5) since Bayer Leverkusen defeated them 4-0 at the Ernst-Happel-Stadion in October 2012.

Arsenal

- A disappointing eighth in the 2019/20 Premier League, Arsenal ensured a 25th consecutive season in Europe by winning the FA Cup – their record 14th triumph in the competition – with a 2-1 victory over London rivals Chelsea in the final. Their third successive UEFA Europa League campaign ended in the round of 32 with an extra-time away goals defeat by Olympiacos (1-0 a, 1-2 h).
- UEFA Champions League ever-presents for 19 seasons in a row from 1998/99 to 2016/17, Arsenal reached the UEFA Europa League semi-finals at the first attempt in 2017/18, losing to eventual winners Atlético de Madrid, before going one step further and making it to the 2018/19 final, where they were defeated 4-1 by Chelsea in Baku. They have been group winners on all three of their appearances.
- The 1999/2000 UEFA Cup runners-up are unbeaten in six European away games (W4 D2). Their overall away record in the UEFA Europa League is W11 D3 L4 (W6 D2 L1 in the group stage).

Links and trivia

- Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta came on as a half-time substitute in both legs of Paris Saint-Germain's 6-2 aggregate win against Rapid in the 2001/02 UEFA Cup second round (4-0 h, 2-2 a).
- Rapid's Srdjan Grahovac and Arsenal's Sead Kolašinac are fellow internationals for Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Rapid's Christoph Knasmüllner played for English second-tier club Barnsley for six months in 2018, whereas teammate Marcel Ritzmaier is currently on loan to Rapid from the Yorkshire club.
- Three Arsenal players have already appeared against Rapid in the UEFA Europa League, all in victories with clean sheets. Bernd Leno kept goal in a 4-0 win for Bayer Leverkusen in the 2012/13 group stage, Shkodran Mustafi was in the Valencia defence for another 4-0 win, in the 2015/16 round of 32, and Cédric played in both games for Internazionale (1-0 a, 4-0 h) in the 2018/19 round of 32.

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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