

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE - 2020/21 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



SC Braga

Estádio Municipal de Braga - Braga

Thursday 22 October 2020

21.00CET (20.00 local time)

Group G - Matchday 1



AEK Athens FC

Last updated 29/10/2020 17:14CET



Match background

2

Legend

3

Match background

The iconic Estádio Municipal in northern Portugal plays host to a Matchday 1 encounter in UEFA Europa League Group G between Braga and AEK Athens.

Previous meetings

- The clubs have been drawn together just once previously – in the 1966/67 European Cup Winners' Cup first round in what was Braga's first ever UEFA competition tie. The Portuguese side won both legs, 1-0 away and 3-2 at home.
- Braga's only other official encounter with Greek opposition was a 1-1 draw away to Aris Thessaloniki in the group stage of the 2007/08 UEFA Cup.
- AEK have lost on all four of their visits to Portugal, most recently going down 1-0 in Lisbon to a late Benfica winner in the 2018/19 UEFA Champions League group stage.

Form guide

Braga

- Braga's 16th European qualification in the last 17 years was achieved with a third-placed finish in the 2019/20 Portuguese Liga, a season in which they also topped their UEFA Europa League group undefeated ahead of Wolves, Slovan Bratislava and Beşiktaş before losing out to Rangers in the round of 32 (2-3 a, 0-1 h).
- The 2010/11 runners-up are competing in the UEFA Europa League group stage for the sixth time. They have gone through to the knockout phase in four of their previous five campaigns, winning their group on three occasions, including the last two.
- Braga were unbeaten in 13 European matches (W9 D4) until they lost twice to Rangers last spring. The home defeat in the return leg was only their second loss in their last 13 continental fixtures at the Estádio Municipal (W8 D3). In the UEFA Europa League group stage their record at home is W9 D3 L3.

AEK

- Third in last season's Greek Superleague, 22 points adrift of champions Olympiacos, AEK's 2019/20 European campaign ended in the UEFA Europa League play-offs, where they lost on away goals to Trabzonspor (1-3 h, 2-0 a).
- Massimo Carrera's side overcame St Gallen (1-0 a) and Wolfsburg (2-1 h) in this season's qualifying phase, enabling the club to reach the UEFA Europa League group stage for the fifth time. They failed to make further progress in their first three participations, in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12, but made it through at the fourth attempt, in 2017/18, as runners-up to AC Milan. Indeed, they remained unbeaten in that campaign, going out on away goals to Dynamo Kyiv in the round of 32 after two draws (1-1 h, 0-0 a) having also shared the points in five of their six group games in addition to an opening 2-1 win at Rijeka.
- AEK are unbeaten in their last ten away fixtures in the UEFA Europa League, qualifiers included, winning and drawing five apiece. They have kept clean sheets in eight of those matches, including all of the last six. The last home side to score against them in this competition was Rijeka on Matchday 1 three seasons ago.

Links and trivia

- There are three Portuguese players in AEK's squad – Hélder Lopes, André Simões and Néilson Oliveira. All have played top-flight football in their homeland, the latter having spent some of his formative years at Braga.
- Nicolás Gaitán (Braga) and Emanuel Insúa (AEK) both began their careers with Boca Juniors in their native Argentina. Gaitán was a Benfica team-mate of Néilson Oliveira in 2014/15.
- Brazilian defender Bruno Viana spent 2016/17 with Olympiacos, winning the Greek Superleague title, before joining Braga, initially on loan.
- Carlos Carvalhal returned to Braga as head coach in August, 14 years after his first spell in charge. He coached ten other clubs in the interim but experienced just two European campaigns during that time, leading Sporting CP (2009/10) and Beşiktaş (2011/12) to the UEFA Europa League round of 16, where both clubs were knocked out by eventual winners Atlético de Madrid.
- Carvalhal was coach of Greek club Asteras Tripolis in the early part of 2008/09, his first job outside Portugal. His one league game against AEK resulted in a 2-1 away defeat.

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

Disclaimer: Although UEFA has taken all reasonable care that the information contained within this document is accurate at the time of publication, no representation or guarantee (including liability towards third parties), expressed or implied, is made as to its accuracy, reliability or completeness. Therefore, UEFA assumes no liability for the use or interpretation of information contained herein. More information can be found in the competition regulations available on UEFA.com.