

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE - 2020/21 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



AEK Athens FC

OACA Spyros Louis - Athens

Thursday 29 October 2020

18.55CET (19.55 local time)

Group G - Matchday 2



Leicester City FC

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Match background

Leicester City's first away fixture in the UEFA Europa League brings them to the Greek capital as they take on Group G rivals AEK Athens.

- While AEK were beaten 3-0 by Braga in Portugal on Matchday 1, Leicester marked their debut in the competition with a convincing victory by the same score at home to Zorya Luhansk, James Maddison getting the opening goal on his European debut before further strikes from Harvey Barnes – also his first European goal – and Kelechi Iheanacho clinched the three points.

Previous meetings

- Leicester are taking on Greek opposition in Europe for the first time, while this is AEK's 11th meeting with an English club. Only two of the previous ten have taken place since the 1970s, and both ended in defeat as Everton overcame them 4-0 in Liverpool and 1-0 in Athens in the inaugural UEFA Europa League group stage of 2009/10.

- AEK's home record against English visitors is W2 L3. One of Leicester's two East Midlands rivals, Derby County, lost 2-0 in the Greek capital in the 1976/77 UEFA Cup second round (in a 5-2 aggregate defeat) but another, Nottingham Forest, won 2-1 there two years later (and then 5-1 at home) in the second round of the club's triumphant debut European Cup campaign.

Form guide

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's Matchday 1 defeat in Braga was only the second loss in their last 17 UEFA Europa League fixtures, including qualifiers. In contrast, they lost all six group matches in the 2018/19 UEFA Champions League and have won only two of their 12 home games in the UEFA Europa League group stage (D5 L5).

Leicester

- Leicester finished fifth in the 2019/20 Premier League to qualify for a first appearance in the UEFA Europa League and direct entry to the group stage.

- This is only the club's fifth European campaign. Their most successful was the most recent, in 2016/17, when, as champions of England, they made their debut appearance in the UEFA Champions League, topped their group and went on to reach the quarter-finals – the best performance by any English club in the competition that season.

- Leicester's last three European away games have all ended in defeat. They have won only two of their nine away fixtures in UEFA competition, most recently defeating Club Brugge 3-0 on their UEFA Champions League debut four years ago.

Links and trivia

- AEK's Portuguese striker Néelson Oliveira spent the 2015/16 season on loan at Leicester's local rivals Nottingham Forest. He also had loan spells in England with Swansea and Reading as well as spending two seasons as a Norwich City player, the second of them, in 2017/18, alongside Leicester's Maddison.

- Two other AEK players have also operated briefly in England, Muamer Tankovic with Fulham in 2013/14 and Karim Ansarifard with Forest in 2018/19.

- Leicester reserve goalkeeper Eldin Jakupović played in the Greek Superleague for Olympiakos Volou (2010/11) and Aris Thessaloniki (2011/12).

- AEK midfielder Yevhen Shakhov's next appearance in UEFA club competition will be his 50th.

- Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers has been successful in his two previous UEFA Europa League group campaigns, leading Liverpool to first place ahead of Anji, Young Boys and Udinese in 2012/13 and Celtic to a runners-up spot behind Salzburg but above RB Leipzig and Rosenborg in 2018/19. However, his four round of 32 ties – two with Liverpool (against Zenit in 2012/13 and Beşiktaş in 2014/15) and two with Celtic (against Zenit again in 2017/18 and Valencia in 2018/19) – all ended in elimination.

- Leicester are one of just six group stage debutants in this season's UEFA Europa League – alongside CSKA-Sofia (Group A), Granada and Omonoia (both E), Sivasspor (I) and Royal Antwerp (J).

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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