

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE - 2020/21 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



FK Crvena zvezda

Stadion Rajko Mitić - Belgrade

Thursday 29 October 2020

18.55CET (18.55 local time)

Group L - Matchday 2



FC Slovan Liberec

Last updated 29/10/2020 17:27CET



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Match background

Crvena zvezda have home advantage as they bid to get their first points on the board in UEFA Europa League Group L against Czech visitors Slovan Liberec.

- As Crvena zvezda kicked off their group campaign with a 2-0 defeat in Germany against Hoffenheim, Liberec upstaged Czech rivals Slavia Praha and Sparta Praha on Matchday 1 by registering their country's only points thanks to a 1-0 home win against Gent, striker Abdulla Yusuf Helal scoring the decisive goal a third of the way through the contest.

Previous meetings

- The clubs have been paired together once before, in the 2006/07 UEFA Cup first round, Liberec winning both games (2-0 h, 2-1 a) to reach a European group stage for the first time. Those are the Czech side's only previous UEFA contests against Serbian opposition.

- That home defeat by Liberec is the only one suffered by Crvena zvezda against Czech visitors. The other three have all ended in victory, most recently 2-0 against Sparta Praha in the first leg of a 2017/18 UEFA Europa League third qualifying round tie that the Serbian side won 3-0 on aggregate with Richmond Boakye scoring in both legs.

Form guide

Crvena zvezda

- The 2019/20 season brought Crvena zvezda their 30th national title, completing a hat-trick of Serbian Super Liga successes. The Belgrade giants also reached the UEFA Champions League group stage for the second successive season, again finishing in fourth place, behind Bayern München, Tottenham Hotspur and Olympiacos.

- The 1990/91 European champions' bid to return to the UEFA Champions League group stage this season under new head coach Dejan Stanković ended in the third qualifying round with a penalty shoot-out defeat in Cyprus against Omonoia, but a 2-1 win at Ararat-Armenia in the UEFA Europa League play-offs ensured a fourth successive autumn of European group stage football. In 2017/18 Crvena zvezda reached the UEFA Europa League proper for the first time and finished runners-up in their group to Arsenal before losing to CSKA Moskva (0-0 h, 0-1 a) in the round of 32.

- Unbeaten at home in 13 European qualifying matches over the last four seasons (W9 D4), Crvena zvezda have won just one of their group games in Belgrade in each of the last three campaigns (D2 L4). In the UEFA Europa League, group stage to final, their home record is W1 D2 L1.

Liberec

- Liberec finished fifth in last season's Czech Liga and also reached the cup final, which they lost 2-1 to Sparta. The league placing earned the club a return to UEFA competition after a three-season absence.

- Having kicked off their 2020/21 UEFA Europa League campaign with away wins at Rieriai (5-1) and FCSB (2-0), the Czech side secured a fourth appearance in the competition's group stage by overcoming APOEL 1-0 at home in the play-offs. Liberec came through their group at the first attempt in 2013/14, finishing second behind eventual winners Sevilla before losing in the round of 32 to AZ Alkmaar, but failed to make further progress in both 2015/16 (third place) and 2016/17 (fourth).

- Liberec have lost only three of their ten away fixtures in the UEFA Europa League proper, winning the same number, although those defeats have all come in the last four matches.

Links and trivia

- Guélor Kanga's first spell at Crvena zvezda ended with a transfer to Sparta in February 2018. In two and a half seasons with the Czech club he scored 27 goals, the last a penalty in the 2019/20 Czech Cup final against Liberec that sealed Sparta's 2-1 win.

- Liberec coach Pavel Hoftych was the sporting director of the Spartak Trnava side eliminated by Crvena zvezda in the third qualifying round of the 2018/19 UEFA Champions League (1-1 a, 1-2 h).

- Crvena zvezda midfielder Sékou Sanogo's next appearance in UEFA club competition will be his 50th.

- Stanković captained Serbia to a 3-1 friendly victory against Czech Republic in Uherské Hradiště on 16 August 2006. It was the final international appearance of Czech football legend Pavel Nedvěd, with whom Stanković played for three seasons at Lazio, winning the Italian Serie A title in the second of them (1999/2000).

- Crvena zvezda are one of six former European Cup winners in this season's UEFA Europa League group stage, the others being Benfica (Group D), PSV Eindhoven (E), Celtic and AC Milan (H), and Feyenoord (K).

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	(aet): After extra time	pens: Penalties
GS1: First group stage	GS2: Second group stage	No.: Number	og: Own goal
3QR: Third qualifying round	R1: First round	ag: Match decided on away goals	P: Penalty
R2: Second round	R3: Third round	PID: Matches played	agg: Aggregate
R4: Fourth round	PR: Preliminary round	Pos.: Position	AP: Appearances
SF: Semi-finals	QF: Quarter-finals	Pts: Points	Comp.: Competition
R16: round of 16	QR: Qualifying round	R: Sent off (straight red card)	D: Drawn
R32: Round of 32	1QR: First qualifying round	Res.: Result	DoB: Date of birth
1st: first leg	2QR: Second qualifying round	sg: Match decided by silver goal	ET: Extra Time
2nd: second leg	FT: Final tournament	GF: Goals for	GA: Goals against
PO: Play-off	ELITE: Elite round	gg: Match decided by golden goal	t: Match decided by toss of a coin
Rep: Replay	3rdPO: Third-place play-off	Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)	W: Won
PO - FT: Play-off for Final Tournament	GS-FT: Group stage – final tournament	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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