

# UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE - 2020/21 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



**AZ Alkmaar**

**AZ Stadion - Alkmaar**  
Thursday 29 October 2020  
21.00CET (21.00 local time)  
Group F - Matchday 2



**HNK Rijeka**

Last updated 29/10/2020 17:28CET



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## Match background

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Buoyed by an unlikely away win on Matchday 1, AZ Alkmaar pursue their ambitions in UEFA Europa League Group F with a home fixture against Croatian Cup winners Rijeka.

- There were contrasting fortunes for the clubs on Matchday 1 as AZ claimed a momentous 1-0 win at Napoli through Dani de Wit's 57th-minute strike while Rijeka conceded an added-time winner at home to Real Sociedad to lose by the same score.

### Previous meetings

- AZ have never previously met Croatian opponents, whereas Rijeka's experience of Dutch opposition is limited to two meetings with Feyenoord in the 2014/15 UEFA Europa League group stage, a 3-1 home win preceding a 2-0 defeat in the Netherlands.

### Form guide

#### AZ

- AZ were second in the standings behind Ajax on goal difference when the 2019/20 Eredivisie was prematurely concluded in March, which earned them a place in this season's UEFA Champions League second qualifying round. Arne Slot's side won that tie, 3-1 after extra time at home to Viktoria Plzeň, but lost the next, 2-0 away to Dynamo Kyiv, and therefore moved into the UEFA Europa League group stage, where they are competing for the seventh time.
- The Alkmaar club have finished in the top two of their UEFA Europa League group on four occasions, most recently last season when they recorded nine points and 15 goals – the joint highest tally in 2019/20 – in finishing runners-up to Manchester United. Hopes of matching or bettering their run to the quarter-finals in 2011/12 and 2013/14 were ended, however, in the round of 32 by LASK (1-1 h, 0-2 a).
- The 1980/81 UEFA Cup runners-up are undefeated in nine European home fixtures (W4 D5). Their all-time record at home in the UEFA Europa League group stage is W8 D6 L4.

#### Rijeka

- Third in the Croatian league last season, Rijeka retained the domestic cup thanks to a 1-0 win against league runners-up Lokomotiva Zagreb in the final, which earned the club a third successive UEFA Europa League third qualifying round berth.
- Eliminated on entry by Sarpsborg in 2018/19 and in the play-offs by Gent in 2019/20, Rijeka battled their way through to the group stage this season, a 2-0 extra-time home win for Simon Rožman's side against Kolos of Ukraine in their opening qualifier preceding a 1-0 victory at Copenhagen in the play-offs. The Croatian side have participated in three previous UEFA Europa League group stages, in 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2017/18, but have yet to make further progress.
- Rijeka's away record in the UEFA Europa League group stage is W1 D2 L6. They failed to score in their first six away matches but were on target seven times in their three 2017/18 fixtures.

### Links and trivia

- De Wit and Rijeka's Robert Murić were team-mates with Ajax and Jong Ajax from 2016 to 2018.
- AZ midfielder Jordy Clasie and Rijeka's Ivan Tomečak played together in Belgium for Club Brugge during the second half of 2017/18.

# 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

<b>F:</b> Final	<b>GS:</b> Group stage
<b>GS1:</b> First group stage	<b>GS2:</b> Second group stage
<b>3QR:</b> Third qualifying round	<b>R1:</b> First round
<b>R2:</b> Second round	<b>R3:</b> Third round
<b>R4:</b> Fourth round	<b>PR:</b> Preliminary round
<b>SF:</b> Semi-finals	<b>QF:</b> Quarter-finals
<b>R16:</b> round of 16	<b>QR:</b> Qualifying round
<b>R32:</b> Round of 32	<b>1QR:</b> First qualifying round
<b>1st:</b> first leg	<b>2QR:</b> Second qualifying round
<b>2nd:</b> second leg	<b>FT:</b> Final tournament
<b>PO:</b> Play-off	<b>ELITE:</b> Elite round
<b>Rep:</b> Replay	<b>3rdPO:</b> Third-place play-off
<b>PO - FT:</b> Play-off for Final Tournament	<b>GS-FT:</b> Group stage – final tournament

## Other abbreviations

<b>(aet):</b> After extra time	<b>pens:</b> Penalties
<b>No.:</b> Number	<b>og:</b> Own goal
<b>ag:</b> Match decided on away goals	<b>P:</b> Penalty
<b>Pld:</b> Matches played	<b>agg:</b> Aggregate
<b>Pos.:</b> Position	<b>AP:</b> Appearances
<b>Pts:</b> Points	<b>Comp.:</b> Competition
<b>R:</b> Sent off (straight red card)	<b>D:</b> Drawn
<b>Res.:</b> Result	<b>DoB:</b> Date of birth
<b>sg:</b> Match decided by silver goal	<b>ET:</b> Extra Time
<b>GF:</b> Goals for	<b>GA:</b> Goals against
<b>gg:</b> Match decided by golden goal	<b>t:</b> Match decided by toss of a coin
<b>Y/R:</b> Sent off (two yellow cards)	<b>W:</b> Won
<b>f:</b> Match forfeited	<b>Y:</b> Booked
	<b>L:</b> Lost
	<b>Nat.:</b> Nationality
	<b>N/A:</b> 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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