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EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

Media Information

VELUX EHF Champions League
Season 2017/18

MATCH ***WEEK*** ***OF THE***

Group Phase, Round 1
Rhein Neckar Löwen (GER) vs FC Barcelona Lassa (ESP)
SAP Arena, Mannheim
Sunday 17 September, 19:30 hrs



Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER) vs FC Barcelona Lassa (ESP)



Sunday 17 September, 19:30 hrs



Playing hall
SAP Arena
An der Arena 1
68163 Mannheim
Germany
Capacity: 13,200



Most Games vs FC Barcelona Lassa:

Uwe Gensheimer	7
Patrick Groetzki	7
Andre Schmid	7
Bjarte Hakon Myrhol	5
Oliver Roggisch	5

Most Goals vs FC Barcelona Lassa:

Uwe Gensheimer	51
Bjarte Hakon Myrhol	22
Ivan Cupic	19
Andre Schmid	19
Patrick Groetzki	17

- a win (at Flensburg), a draw (at Kiel in the group phase) and a defeat (at Kiel in the quarter-final) was Barcelona's outcome in match at German clubs in the 2016/17 season

- Löwen have never lost any CL match against a Spanish team on home ground: Besides two victories and a draw against Barcelona so far, they beat Valladolid in the 2009/10 Last 16 at Mannheim

- both coaches have additional jobs at national teams: Danish born Löwen coach Nikolaj Jacobsen at the helm of Denmark and Spanish born Barca coach Xavi Pascual is coach of Romania

- one player of each side played for the opponent before: Icelandic born left Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson arrived from Barcelona in summer 2016, while Macedonian goalkeeper Borko Ristovski left from Mannheim for Barcelona at the same time

- although Löwen never won the CL, three of their players already rose the trophy: Sigurdsson (with Barcelona), Palicka and Pekeler (both with Kiel)

- three Spanish line players will be on court on Saturday - and funny enough Löwen have two (Gedeon Guardiola and Rafa Baena), while Barcelona only have one, their defence ace Viran Morros

- Mads Mensah Larsen (Löwen) and currently injured Lasse Andersson (Barcelona) were part of the Danish team, which became Olympic champions in Rio

- the third country represented in both squad is the home of the current CL winner Macedonia - Ristovski on Barca side, top talent Filip Taleski for Löwen

- on both sides, one big name ended the career after the 2016/17 season: three times CL winner Filip Jicha (Barcelona) and Swedish left back Kim Ekdahl du Rietz (Löwen)

- in September 2015, both teams already clashed for the season opener in Mannheim - Löwen beat the defending champions 22:21

- the 2013/14 quarter-final is still the most dramatic duel of both: for Löwen a 38:31 home win in the first leg was not enough as they lost at Palau Blaugrana 24:31 - and were eliminated due to the away goals rule

- while FC Barcelona had been seven (from eight) times participant of the FINAL4, Löwen made it only once there: in 2011 - when they were beaten 30:28 by FCB in the semi-finals. 24 hours later, Barca took their first of so far two trophies at Cologne

- both sides have already one 2017/18 trophy in their cabinets: FCB beat Fühse to win the IHF Super Globe in Doha, while Löwen defeated Kiel after penalty shoot-out in the German Super Cup

- both sides are current champions of their league - while Löwen managed to be on top for the second time after 2017, Barcelona have won their 24th Asobal league trophy in Spain

Most Games vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen:

Raul Entrerrios Rodriguez	7
Jesper Brian Nöddesbo	7
Danijel Saric	7
Daniel Sarmiento Melian	7
Cedric Sorhaindo	7
Victor Tomas Gonzalez	7

Most Goals vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen:

Victor Tomas Gonzalez	25
Kiril Lazarov	24
Raul Entrerrios Rodriguez	21
Siarhei Rutenka	19
Juan Antonio Garcia Lorenzana	13
Jesper Brian Nöddesbo	13

Domestic league

Bundesliga

Last 4 games

15.09.	@ Gummersbach	W26:29
07.09.	vs Minden	W37:22
03.09.	@ Flensburg	L27:22
27.08	@ Lemgo	W24:26

Next game:

24.09 vs N-Lübbecke

Standings as of 15/09

1. Hannover	4	118:106	8
2. Flensburg	5	144:123	6
3. RNL	4	114:99	6
...			
18. N-Lübbecke	5	100:139	0

Domestic leagues

Liga ASOBAL

Last 2 games

13.09.	@ Huesca	W23:17
09.09.	vs Puerto Sagunto	W34:18

Next game:

23.09. vs Puente Genil

Standings as of 15/09

1. FCB	2	57:35	4
2. Ademar Leon	2	54:49	4
3. Granollers	1	30:27	2
...			
16. Bidasoa Irun	1	25:27	0

MATCH OF THE WEEK

Historic encounters in the EC

Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs FC Barcelona Lassa 3-1-3 (201:207) 7:7

25.09.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:31 (13:14)
20.02.2011	Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	38:38 (22:17)
28.05.2011	Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Semi-final	28:30 (12:12)
20.04.2014	Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	38:31 (22:14)
26.04.2014	FC Barcelona vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	31:24 15:11)
20.09.2015	Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	22:21 (10:9)
05.03.2016	FC Barcelona Lassa vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	26:20 (11:10)

Details of last FC Barcelona Lassa vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen match: 05.03.2016 (Barcelona, Spain)

(VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B) 26:20 (11:10)

Referees: Martin Gjeding/Mads Hansen (Denmark).

Suspensions: 6' – 0 (Syprzak 2', Morros de Argila 2', Jallouz 2').

Number of 7m: 2/2 – 4/3.

Attendance: 4,714.



Gonzalo Perez de Vargas
Danijel Saric

Jesper Brian Nöddesbo	-	(5)
Victor Tomas Gonzalez	(2)	(2)
Raul Entrerrios Rodriguez	(3)	(3)
Cedric Sorhaindo	(1)	(1)
Daniel Sarmiento Melian	(1)	(2)
Aitor Arino Bengoechea		(1)
Eduardo Gurbindo Martinez		
Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson	(5)	
Kamil Syprzak		(4)
Carlos Ruesga Pasarin		
Viran Morros de Argila		(2)
Filip Jicha	(2)	
Wael Jallouz	(6)	
Kiril Lazarov	(6)	

Mikael Appelgren
Borko Ristovski

Andre Schmid
Uwe Gensheimer
Stefan Kneer
Stefan Rafn Sigurmannsson
Rafael Baena Gonzalez
Mads Mensah Larsen
Hendrik Pekeler
Patrick Groetzki
Harald Reinkind
Gedeon Guardiola Villaplana
Alexander Petersson
Marvin Gerdon
Kim Ekdahl du Rietz



MATCH OF THE WEEK

Most Goals in one game Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs FC Barcelona Lassa:

Uwe Gensheimer	15	20.02.2011	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-FC Barcelona Borges	38:38
Uwe Gensheimer	14	20.04.2014	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-FC Barcelona	38:31
Ivan Cupic	10	25.09.2010	FC Barcelona Borges-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	30:31
Bjarte Hakon Myrhol	9	20.02.2011	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-FC Barcelona Borges	38:38
Uwe Gensheimer	7	28.05.2011	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-fC Barcelona Borges	28:30
Patrick Groetzki	7	26.04.2014	FC Barcelona-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	31:24

Most Goals in one game FC Barcelona Lassa vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen:

Iker Romero Fernandez	10	20.02.2011	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-FC Barcelona Borges	38:38
Kiril Lazarov	10	20.04.2014	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-FC Barcelona	38:31
Laszlo Nagy	7	25.09.2010	FC Barcelona Borges-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	30:31
Nikola Karabatic	7	26.04.2014	FC Barcelona-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	31:24
Victor Tomas Gonzalez	6	25.09.2010	FC Barcelona Borges-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	30:31
Raul Entrerrios Rodriguez	6	20.02.2011	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-FC Barcelona Borges	38:38
Victor Tomas Gonzalez	6	26.04.2014	FC Barcelona-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	31:24
Kiril Lazarov	6	20.09.2015	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-FC Barcelona Lassa	22:21
Wael Jallouz	6	05.03.2016	FC Barcelona Lassa-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	26:20
Kiril Lazarov	6	05.03.2016	FC Barcelona Lassa-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	26:20

Last Ten Games in VELUX EHF Champions League:



Rhein-Neckar Löwen: current run – lost one

17.11.2016 Frankfurt am Main GER	vs HC Vardar MKD	L 27:33
26.11.2016 Skopje MKD	@ HC Vardar MKD	W 26:29
01.12.2016 Zagreb CRO	@ HC PPD Zagreb CRO	L 25:21
09.02.2017 Mannheim GER	vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL	W 28:25
18.02.2017 Kristianstad SWE	@ IFK Kristianstad SWE	W 29:31
22.02.2017 Frankfurt am Main GER	vs HC Meshkov Brest BLR	W 25:24
02.03.2017 Celje SLO	@ RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	L 37:31
08.03.2017 Frankfurt am Main GER	vs MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	L 24:30
22.03.2017 Kiel GER	@ THW Kiel GER	W 24:25
30.03.2017 Mannheim GER	vs THW Kiel GER	L 24:26



FC Barcelona Lassa: current run – lost two

03.12.2016 Barcelona ESP	vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	W 35:32
11.02.2017 Veszprém HUN	@ Telekom Veszprém HUN	W 22:25
16.02.2017 Schaffhausen SUI	@ Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	W 24:31
26.02.2017 Barcelona ESP	vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	W 26:23
05.03.2017 Kiel GER	@ THW Kiel GER	D 27:27
11.03.2017 Barcelona ESP	vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL	W 36:28
23.04.2017 Kiel GER	@ THW Kiel GER	L 28:26
29.04.2017 Barcelona ESP	vs THW Kiel GER	W 23:18
03.06.2017 Köln GER	@ HC Vardar MKD	L 26:25
04.06.2017 Köln GER	@ Telekom Veszprém HUN	L 34:30

MATCH WEEK OF THE WEEK

Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs Spanish clubs 7-2-3

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
2007/08	BM Valladolid	27:27	34:31	Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final
2009/10	Pevafersa Valladolid	37:33	30:29	VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16
2010/11	Reale Ademar	33:26		VELUX EHF Champions League – Qualification Tournament Group W
2010/11	FC Barcelona Borges	38:38	31:30	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2010/11	FC Barcelona Borges		28:30	VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Semi-final
2013/14	FC Barcelona	38:31	24:31	VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2015/16	FC Barcelona Lassa	22:21	20:26	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B

FC Barcelona Lassa vs German clubs 35-3-30

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
1973/74	VfL Gummersbach	23:30	15:20	Champions Cup – Last 16
1982/83	VfL Gummersbach	22:23	16:21	Champions Cup – Semi-final
1983/84	TuSEM Essen	19:13	12:15	Cup Winners' Cup – Quarter-final
1985/86	TV Grosswallstadt	20:18	19:21	Cup Winners' Cup – Final
1987/88	ASK Vorwärts Frankfurt/O	26:21	21:15	IHF Cup – Quarter-final
1988/89	VfL Gummersbach	20:15	15:17	Champions Cup – Last 16
1992/93	SG Wallau Massenheim	25:22	20:24	Champions Cup – Semi-final
1994/95	SG Wallau-Massenheim	28:21	14:19	Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final
1997/98	TBV Lemgo	31:22	32:34	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
1998/99	SG Flensburg-Handewitt		32:29	ECh for Club Teams – Semi-final
1998/99	Sportclub Magdeburg		26:25	ECh for Club Teams – Final
1999/00	THW Kiel	29:24	25:28	EHF Champions League – Final
2000/01	THW Kiel	33:28	24:28	EHF Champions League – Semi-Final
2001/02	THW Kiel	28:24	29:36	EHF Cup – Final
2002/03	TuSEM Essen	36:26	28:32	EHF Cup – Last 16
2003/04	SC Magdeburg	38:25	26:28	EHF Champions League – Group B
2004/05	THW Kiel	33:27	25:30	EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2005/06	SC Magdeburg	27:23	26:24	EHF Champions League – Last 16
2006/07	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	34:29	21:31	EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2007/08	THW Kiel	44:37	31:41	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
2008/09	THW Kiel	27:31	26:33	EHF Champions League – Group C
2009/10	THW Kiel	27:30	32:30	EHF Champions League – Group D
2009/10	THW Kiel	34:36		VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Final
2010/11	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	30:31	38:38	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2010/11	THW Kiel	32:29	28:28	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2010/11	THW Kiel	27:25	36:33	VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2010/11	Rhein-Neckar Löwen		30:28	VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Semi-final
2012/13	Füchse Berlin	34:23	30:31	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D
2012/13	HSV Hamburg		29:30aet	VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Final
2013/14	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	31:24	31:38	VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2013/14	SG Flensburg-Handewitt		39:41 ^{7m}	VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Semi-final
2014/15	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	36:27	37:33	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2015/16	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	26:20	21:22	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2015/16	THW Kiel	33:30	24:29	VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2016/17	THW Kiel	26:25	27:27	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2016/17	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	26:23	28:27	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2016/17	THW Kiel	23:18	26:28	VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final



Rhein-Neckar Löwen players' career statistics against FC Barcelona Lassa

Goalkeeper		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Mikael Appelgren	SWE	2	1	0	1	0	0,00	0	0
Lucas Bauer	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Pascal Boudgoust	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Andreas Palicka	SWE	8	3	1	4	0	0,00	0	0

Player		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Rafael Baena Gonzalez	ESP	2	1	0	1	3	1,50	2	0
Kristian Bliznac	SWE	1	0	0	1	0	0,00	0	2'
Luca Braun	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Tim Ganz	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Patrick Groetzki	GER	7	3	1	3	17	2,43	7	0
Gedeon Guardiola Villaplana	ESP	4	2	0	2	2	0,50	1 (2)	2'
Rico Keller	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Maximilian Kessler	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Pascal Kirchenbauer	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Kevin Kleinlagel	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Mads Mensah Larsen	DEN	6	2	0	4	14	2,33	4 (2)	2'
Mattes Meyer	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Hendrik Pekeler	GER	2	1	0	1	0	0,00	0	0
Alexander Petersson	ISL	4	2	0	2	10	2,50	4	0
Bogdan Radivojevic	SRB	5	1	0	4	9	1,80	6	0
Harald Reinkind	NOR	2	1	0	1	5	2,50	4	0
Momir Rnic	SRB	2	0	0	2	1	0,50	1	0
Lars Röller	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Andre Schmid	SUI	7	3	1	3	19	2,71	5 (2)	2'
Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson	ISL	6	1	1	4	17	2,83	8	0
Filip Taleski	MKD	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Jerry Tollbring	SWE	2	0	0	2	10	5,00	6	0
Maximilian Trost	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Sebastian Trost	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Patrick Zweigner	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0

Kristian Bliznac (Kadetten Schaffhausen 2016/17); Mads Mensah Larsen (AG København 2011/12, Aalborg Handball 2013/14); Andreas Palicka (THW Kiel 2008/09, THW Kiel 2009/10, THW Kiel 2010/11); Hendrik Pekeler (THW Kiel 2009/10 – DNP); Bogdan Radivojevic (SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2013/14, SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2014/15, SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2016/17); Momir Rnic (HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko 2010/11); Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson (TuSEM Essen 2002/03, AG København 2011/12); Filip Taleski (HC Metalurg 2013/14 – DNP); Jerry Tollbring (IFK Kristianstad 2015/16)



FC Barcelona Lassa players' career statistics against Rhein-Neckar Löwen

Goalkeeper		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Galve Gerard Fornis	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Gonzalo Perez de Vargas Moreno	ESP	4	2	0	2	0	0,00	0	0
Borko Ristovski	MKD	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0

Player		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Lasse Bredekjaer Andersson	DEN	2	0	0	2	8	4,00	5	6'
Aitor Arino Bengoechea	ESP	4	2	0	2	0	0,00	0	0
Jure Dolenc	SLO	5	0	0	5	26	5,20	7	0
Raul Entrerrios Rodriguez	ESP	9	3	1	5	32	3,56	6 (2)	0
Abello Aleix Gomez	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Alexis Hernandez Borges	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Wael Jallouz	TUN	2	1	0	1	6	3,00	6	2'
Yanis Lenne	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Dika Mem	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Viran Morros de Argila	ESP	4	2	0	2	0	0,00	0	4'
Timothy N'guessan	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Valero Rivera Folch	ESP	1	0	0	1	2	2,00	2	0
Cedric Sorhaindo	FRA	7	3	1	3	9	1,29	2 (3)	2'
Kamil Syprzak	POL	2	1	0	1	0	0,00	0	2'
Victor Tomas Gonzalez	ESP	7	3	1	3	25	3,57	6 (2)	2'

Lasse Bredekjaer Andersson (KIF Kolding Kobenhavn 2013/14); Kiril Lazarov (MKB Veszprém KC 2006/07, HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb 2008/09, BM Atletico Madrid 2011/12, BM Atletico Madrid 2012/13); Viran Morros de Argila (BM Ciudad Real 2007/08, BM Ciudad Real 2008/09, BM Ciudad Real 2009/10); Jesper Brian Nöddesbo (KIF Kolding 2005/06); Borko Ristovski (HC Metalurg 2008/09); Cedric Sorhaindo (Paris Handball 2005/06); Kamil Syprzak (Orlen Wisla Plock 2011/12)

New trophy for the Matches of the Week: "Player of the Match"

From the first round of the VELUX EHF Champions League 2017/18 Group Phase a new player's award will be introduced for the Matches of the Week. EHF Marketing have prepared a trophy called 'Player of the Match' which will be presented and handed over by different sponsors throughout the season. VELUX Germany is making the start in Round 1.



