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LEAGUE

Media Guide

VELUX EHF Champions League
Season 2014/15
Quarter-finals

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Foreword



Dear Media Representative,

The VELUX EHF Champions League 2014/15 rapidly approaches its late May climax and we look forward to the quarter-final phase of the competition. Only the top eight teams have survived until this stage of the game, but just four of them will make their way to the LANXESS arena in Cologne next month. With the departure of the current champions, SG Flensburg-Handewitt; two former title-holders, two previous VELUX EHF FINAL4 participants and four more enthusiastic quarter-finalists remain.

To the arenas, on behalf of the European Handball Federation, I welcome the delegations from France, Paris Saint-Germain Handball; Germany, THW Kiel; Hungary, MVM-MKB Veszprém and MOL-Pick Szeged; FYR Macedonia, HC Vardar Skopje; Poland, KS Vive Tauron Kielce; Spain, FC Barcelona and Croatia, HC PPD Zagreb.

While we had four quarter-final rookies last season, there was no space left for newcomers this time around. From the start of the group phase, through the Last 16, and as they stand on the eve of the quarter-finals, these eight teams have shown abundance of skills and will power to stand at the threshold of the season's pinnacle event. However to reach this phase of the season is a double-edged sword. On one hand they survived the group phase marathon and the first knockout round in the Last 16; on the other hand their successful campaigns can turn to ashes if they fail to take the last step. Inevitable, four teams will estimably depart the competition, while four teams step triumphantly towards Cologne and the 2015 VELUX EHF FINAL4.

For the second time in a row FC Barcelona will travel to a lion's den in the quarter-finals. After eliminating Rhein-Neckar Löwen last year, the seven-time winners now face the "white lions" of Zagreb, the biggest surprise package of the season so far as the Croatian underdogs maintained their perfect home record, even against the likes of Kiel, PSG or KIF this season.

Another fancied team THW Kiel are hungry to return to the Champions League throne, but the German team will face Szeged, who proved to be enormously successful against German teams recently. Not only did they eliminate the EHF Cup Finals hosts Füchse Berlin on the way to the trophy last May, but they also outmuscled Löwen in the Last 16. Last season the FINAL4 ticket slipped out of Vardar's hands in the dying moments of the quarter-final against Flensburg. The team from FYR Macedonia are back in the top eight and are eager to end the European season of Kielce as they did to another Polish team Plock in the Last 16. Again the quarter-final draw in Vienna has put Veszprem and PSG together. The perennial Hungarian champions were impressive last season, but which team will take the upper hand this time? Will Thierry Omeyer and William Accambray, the two new reinforcements of PSG, be able to make a difference and avoid the same fate as last year? Only time will tell...

We pride ourselves on our positive and cooperative relationship with the press and media and I am sure this will continue and develop in the future. I therefore hope you consider this media guide a useful and enriching resource for your work in the upcoming weeks and months.

Should you require any further information, help or assistance during the course of the season, your first point of contact is the EHF Media and Communications Department based in our office in Vienna.

They will be more than happy to assist you with any questions you might have.

We look forward to working with you in the coming season!

Jean Brihault
EHF President



EHF/M Media contacts

Media matters

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Media accreditation for the quarter-final matches

The written media and photographer's accreditation procedure in the quarter-finals is entirely in the responsibility of the participating clubs.

TV and Radio accreditations are subjects to approval by EHF Marketing GmbH – please contact Miguel Mateo Marcellán.

Clubs – Media contacts

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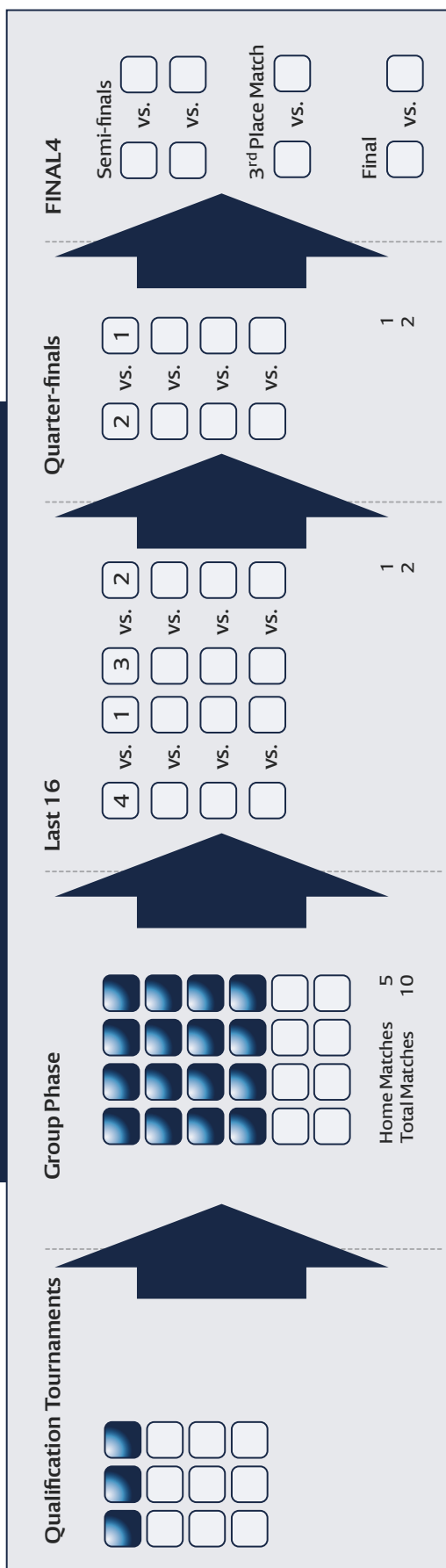
Season 2014/15

○ Teams qualified for the quarter-finals

● Eliminated teams



VELUX EHF Champions League 2014/15 playing system



Season 2014/15 playing dates

Qualification Tournaments	Group Phase	Last 16	Quarter-finals	FINAL4
12 teams	4 groups with 6 teams each	16 teams	8 teams	4 teams
3 tournaments with semi-finals and finals	24. - 28.09.2014 01. - 05.10.2014 08. - 12.10.2014 15. - 19.10.2014 12. - 16.11.2014	first leg 11.03. - 15.03.2015 second leg 18.03. - 22.03.2015	first leg 08.04. - 12.04.2015 second leg 15.04. - 19.04.2015	30/31.05.2015
06. - 07.09.2014	19. - 23.11.2014 26. - 30.11.2014 03. - 06.12.2014 11. - 15.02.2015 18. - 22.02.2015			



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FINAL4

30 / 31 May 2015 LANXESS arena Cologne

2015 VELUX EHF FINAL4


TICKET SALE

Admission prices

Category 1:	€ 265,-
Category 2:	€ 195,-
Category 3:	€ 135,-
Category 4:	€ 65,-

Tickets are available
by phone, online and
at the LANXESS arena
ticket shops
www.ehfFINAL4.com
Ticket hotline
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Media Accreditation for the VELUX EHF FINAL4

With nine weeks to go before the start of the VELUX EHF FINAL4, the final round of the VELUX EHF Champions League, accreditation requests from media representatives are now being accepted.

For the sixth time the top event of the club season will take place in the LANXESS arena, Cologne on 30 and 31 May 2015 and will see the continent's best four teams battling it out over two days to lift the coveted VELUX EHF Champions League trophy.

Journalists, photographers, TV and radio representatives can now submit their request for accreditation via an online form at www.ehfFINAL4.com, the event's official website.

Requests for media accreditation could only be made online and should be made by Monday 27 April at 15.00, almost two weeks after the completion of the quarter-final matches.

Media accreditation is only open to professional media representatives working at the event. Freelance media representatives may be asked to provide additional evidence of their work. There are limited places and it may not be possible to accept all requests for an accreditation.

[Click here to enter the media accreditation page](#)



All-star team voting opens

The time has come again for all handball fans to have their say on the selection of the greatest stars of the season. Following the huge success in the past two seasons with more than 20,000 handball fans taking part in online votes for the VELUX EHF Champions League All-Star Team, the new opportunity to choose the star selection of the European top flight is here again.

In its third edition, the All-Star Team vote will also ask the fans to cast their online ballots for the two new positions as the the best coach and the best young player (born in 1992 or younger) have been added to the previous eight. In another developments the selection for each position has been extended from four to five names.

Players from 19 clubs and from 17 nations in the current season have been selected. The vote will be open until Sunday 24 May 2015. The fans' choice for the All-star team will be announced during the VELUX EHF FINAL4 event in Cologne on 30/31 May 2015.

The players nominated for the 2014/15 season are:

GOALKEEPER

Filip Ivic (CRO)
Roland Mikler (HUN)
Thierry Omeyer (FRA)
Arpad Sterbik (ESP)
Danijel Saric (BIH)

HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)
MKB-MVM Veszprem (HUN)
PSG Handball (FRA)
HC Vardar (MKD)
FC Barcelona (ESP)

LEFT WING

Timur Dibirov (RUS)
Uwe Gensheimer (GER)
Samuel Honrubia
Juanin Garcia (ESP)
Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson (ISL)

HC Vardar (MKD)
Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)
PSG Handball (FRA)
Naturhouse La Rioja (ESP)
FC Barcelona (ESP)

LEFT BACK

Momir Ilic (SRB)
William Accambray (FRA)
Karol Bielecki (POL)
Bo Dybdal Spellerberg (DEN)
Nikola Karabatic (FRA)

MKB-MVM Veszprém (HUN)
PSG Handball (FRA)
Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)
KIF Kolding København (DEN)
FC Barcelona (ESP)

CENTRE BACK

Mikkel Hansen (DEN)
Thomas Mogensen (DEN)
Igor Karacic (CRO)
Dean Bombac (SLO)
Joan Cañellas (ESP)

PSG Handball (FRA)
SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)
HC Vardar (MKD)
MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)
THW Kiel (GER)

LINE PLAYER

Kamil Syprzak (POL)
Renato Sulic (CRO)
Julen Aguinalalde (ESP)
Patrick Wiencek (GER)
Tolga Özbahar (TUR)

Orlen Wisla Plock (POL)
MKB-MVM Veszprem (HUN)
Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)
THW Kiel (GER)
Besiktas MOGAZ HT (TUR)

RIGHT BACK

Kiril Lazarov (MKD)
Zsolt Balogh (HUN)
Marko Vujin (SRB)
Alexander Petersson (ISL)
Kim Andersson (SWE)

FC Barcelona (ESP)
MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)
THW Kiel (GER)
Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)
KIF Kolding København (DEN)

RIGHT WING

Dragan Gajic (SLO)
Zlatko Horvat (CRO)
Valentin Ghionea (ROU)
Victor Tomas (ESP)
Patrick Groetzki (GER)

Montpellier Agglomération HB (FRA)
HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)
Orlen Wisla Plock (POL)
FC Barcelona (ESP)
Rhein-Neckar Löwen

DEFENDER

Piotr Grabarczyk (POL)
Rene Toft Hansen (DEN)
Lars Jörgensen (DEN)
Viran Morros (ESP)
Jakov Gojun (CRO)

Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)
THW Kiel (GER)
KIF Kolding København (DEN)
FC Barcelona (ESP)
PSG Handball (FRA)

YOUNG PLAYER (1992 and younger)

Alexander Dereven (RUS)
Sander Sagosen (NOR)
Alex Dujshebaev (ESP)
Blaz Janc (SLO)
Theophile Causse (FRA)

Chekhovskie Medvedi (RUS)
Aalborg Handball (DEN)
HC Vardar (MKD)
Celje Pivovarna Lasko (SLO)
Dunkerque HB Grand Littoral (FRA)

COACH

Alfred Gislason (ISL)
Raul Gonzalez (ESP)
Juan Pastor (ESP)
Veselin Vujovic (MNE)
Talent Dujshebaev (ESP)

THW Kiel (GER)
HC Vardar (MKD)
MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)
HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)
Vive Targi Kielce (POL)



[Enter the vote of the 2014/15 VELUX EHF Champions League All-star team here.](#)

Facts and figures of the last 16

7 nations, 850 goals and a new attendance record

After an overall of 136 matches of group phase and Last 16 it is again time to look upon the numbers of this VELUX EHF Champions League season with the focus on those teams which proceeded to the quarter-finals.

0 times a winner of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 defended their title in Cologne. History continued this season, as reigning champions SG Flensburg-Handewitt were eliminated in the Last 16

0 teams have qualified for all five previous VELUX EHF FINAL4 events

0 Last 16 matches ended in a draw, so the season total remains on 9

1 club is both quarter-finalist of VELUX EHF Champions League and Women's EHF Champions League: Vardar Skopje

1 quarter-finalist turned around a deficit from the first leg: Vardar Skopje, eliminating Plock by a 31:20 home win after a 26:32 away defeat

2 former EHF Champions League winners are still part of the race to Cologne, representing ten trophies: record winner FC Barcelona (seven titles) and THW Kiel (three)

2 consecutive times the defending VELUX EHF Champions League champion was eliminated in the Last 16: 2014 Hamburg and 2015 Flensburg

2 teams lost their second leg matches of the Last 16, but managed to qualify for the quarter-final: Zagreb and Kielce.

2 teams had been part of all quarter-finals since the implementation of the current playing system in the 2009/10 season: FC Barcelona and THW Kiel.

4 – which means all – group winners have clinched their berth for the quarter-finals. Zagreb are the only third ranked team of the first stage entering the last stage prior to Cologne, while PSG, Szeged and Vardar were second ranked

4 Last 16 matches are among the top 18 games of the season in terms of attendance, topped by Zagreb vs. Kolding (14,500)

5 teams of the 2013/14 quarter-finals of the VELUX EHF Champions League have again reached this stage of the competition: Kiel, Barcelona, Veszprem, PSG and Vardar

5 quarter-finalists manage to win both Last 16 duels: Barcelona, Kiel, PSG, Veszprem and Szeged

5 goals only were scored in the first half by Aalborg in the first leg against Barcelona

5 of the 13 matches with the lowest overall scores of the whole season where played in the Last 16.

7 nations – so many have not been seen in the past decade – are represented by the eight quarter-finalists. For the first time since 2002 only one German team is among the top eight sides. The only country represented by two teams is Hungary

11 consecutive matches won by Kielce, ten in the group phase and the opener of the Last 16 against Montpellier, before they were defeated for the first time in this season in the second leg

11 wins in 12 matches so far were not only achieved by Kielce, but also by Kiel (after their opening defeat at Zagreb) and Veszprem

16 times FC Barcelona and THW Kiel are part of a quarter-final of the EHF Champions League, for Veszprem it is the 14th time

20 goals in the 31:11 of Barcelona against Aalborg was the biggest margin in all VELUX EHF Champions League 2014/15 matches so far; before, the 19-goal difference of Kiel against Metalurg (35:16) was the record

20 goals were scored by Uwe Gensheimer in the two Last 16 matches Rhein Neckar Löwen against Szeged, but were not enough to proceed

27 goals was the aggregate advance of Barcelona after the two duels against Aalborg (31:11 and 29:22). It is the biggest gap since the implementation of the Last 16, before it was 22 goals in the duels Chekhovskie Medvedi vs Sarajevo (31:22, 30:17) in 2010

33 goals Barcelona conceded in both Last 16 matches against Aalborg, while Zagreb had the second best defensive record with 38 conceded goals against Kolding

39 goals in the match Zagreb vs Kolding (22:17) was the second lowest scoring of the season below the group match Zagreb vs Metalurg (19:17/36 goals) and just ahead of the 42 goals of Aalborg vs Barcelona (11:31)

43 goals in two Last 16 matches were enough for Zagreb to clinch the quarter-final berth – compared to 68 goals Veszprem netted in their games against La Rioja

49 matches of the whole season so far (group phase and Last 16) ended with away wins

78 matches of the whole season so far (group phase and Last 16) ended with home wins

86 goals were scored by Momir Ilic (Veszprem) in 12 matches so far.

850 goals were scored in the 16 Last 16 matches, which means an average of 53.1 per match. In the group phase the average was 56.8

14,500 spectators attended the Last 16 match of Zagreb vs Kolding, topping the all-season spectators list

Important regulations

Scoring of the matches in the last 16 and quarter-finals

If, after completion of the two matches, both clubs have won the same number of points (no extra time will be played), the teams' standings shall be determined by the following criteria:

- a) goal difference
- b) higher number of plus goals scored in away match
- c) penalty throws

Rules for execution of penalty throws

- Prior to the penalty throws, each team shall name five players eligible to play at the end of the match by handing the referees a list of numbers. These players shall then take one throw each, alternating with their opponents. Each team is free to determine the sequence in which throwers will take their throws.
- The goalkeepers may be freely selected from the match report and exchanged in accordance with the Rules of the Game. Goalkeepers may take throws and throwers may perform as goalkeepers.
- The referees shall choose the goal at which throws are taken. The team taking the first penalty throw shall be determined by the referees by drawing lots. The team winning the draw may choose whether it wishes to throw first or last.
- If the scores are equal after the first round of penalty throws, it

shall be continued until a decision is reached. In the second round, the other team shall start. Again five players shall be named who are eligible to play (the players named before may be named once again).

- In the second round, a decision is reached when a goal difference arises after both teams have taken one throw each.
- Eligible players are players entered in the match report that have not been disqualified or suspended at the time of the final whistle.
- Serious infractions committed during penalty throws shall be sanctioned by disqualification. If a thrower is disqualified or suffers an injury, an eligible substitute player shall be supplementary named.
- While the throws are being taken, only the player taking the throw, the current goalkeeper and the referees may enter the respective half of the playing court.
- If the number of eligible players falls below five, players may be named to take a second throw in the same round.

[Find all the regulations here](#)

VELUX EHF FINAL4 Draw

The draw of the semi-finals will take place at Palais Flora in Cologne on Tuesday 21 April

The draw of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 Semi-finals will take place on Tuesday, 21 April, at 12:00 hrs local time at the Palais Flora in Cologne, Germany and it will be live streamed on ehfTV.com with commentary from Tom O Brannagrain.

The draw will be preceded by the official press conference and followed by interviews and reactions from the clubs' representatives. The live

ticker of the draw will go live on Tuesday morning on eurohandball.com and the event will also be extensively covered on the official Twitter channel of the VELUX EHF Champions League [@ehfcl](https://twitter.com/ehfcl).

There will be no seeding for the semi-final draw.

HC PPD Zagreb vs FC Barcelona



First leg

Thursday 9 April, 20:10 hrs. local time

Second leg

Saturday 18 April, 18:30 hrs. local time



The VELUX EHF Champions League Quarter-finals throws off with what most pundits expect to be a David-versus-Goliath clash between HC PPD Zagreb and FC Barcelona.

But despite being the overwhelming favourites to reach the season-ending VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne, Barcelona will take nothing for granted against a side who have eliminated more fancied KIF Kolding København in the previous round after impressive home wins over Kiel and PSG in the group stage.

Zagreb face their match of the season and undoubtedly the biggest challenge their talented outfit could have asked for when the Croatian title holders take on their old nemesis Barcelona.

These two kept running into each other time and again in Europe's premier club competition but only Barcelona have happy memories from their historic encounters, having beaten Zagreb in three successive finals in the mid 1990s when the Spanish side reigned supreme.

It was a glorious spell for Barca, who won five consecutive titles from 1996 to 2000, with the three victories against Zagreb sandwiched between their first triumph against compatriots Elgorriaga Bidasoa and the fifth when they beat THW Kiel.

Boasting a stack of European stars who strolled through the group stage as well as the Last 16 against Danish rivals Aalborg, Barcelona will head into the two-leg clash as odds-on favourites.

They also enjoyed a perfect warm-up, twice beating compatriots Naturhouse La Rioja in domestic competitions. Zagreb, on the other hand, enjoyed mixed fortunes at the regional SEHA League Final Four, where they finished third with a 26:23 win over Macedonian rivals Vardar after a dramatic 25:24 semi-final defeat by hosts and eventual winners MKB-MVM Veszprem.

Apart from a youthful pool of success-hungry talents, Zagreb will also bank on the vast experience of their Montenegrin coach Veselin Vujovic – a former Barcelona player who won Europe's premier club competition with the Spanish giants in 1991.

"Our chance lies in Barcelona not being used to playing too many tough matches," Vujovic said in an interview to the Balkan Handball website (www.balkan-handball.com).

"We have nothing to lose and everything to win in front of 20,000 fans roaring on my team, who will be up against some of their childhood idols. These 60 minutes in the Zagreb Arena will be worth more to them than an entire season of league handball and sky will be the limit if we manage to knock out Barcelona."

Head-to-head stats

HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs FC Barcelona 1-1-15 (389:496) 3:31

08.02.1996	FC Barcelona vs Croatia Banka Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	26:16 (14:6)
26.03.1996	Croatia Banka Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	21:23 (7:11)
12.04.1997	FC Barcelona vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Final	31:22 (17:6)
19.04.1997	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Final	23:30 (9:14)
18.04.1998	FC Barcelona vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Final	28:18 (10:10)
25.04.1998	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Final	22:28 (9:10)
01.11.1998	FC Barcelona vs Badel Zagreb, European Championship for Club Teams – Final	28:22 (11:9)
10.04.1999	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Final	22:22 (14:13)
17.04.1999	FC Barcelona vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Final	29:18 (14:7)
24.02.2001	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	17:29 (9:12)
03.03.2001	FC Barcelona vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	26:23 (12:10)
27.03.2010	HC Croatia Osiguranje vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	26:33 (12:17)
03.04.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs HC Croatia Osiguranje, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	36:33 (17:18)
22.10.2011	Croatia Osiguranje vs FC Barcelona Intersport, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:31 (14:13)
18.02.2012	FC Barcelona Intersport vs Croatia Osiguranje, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:30 (14:15)
20.10.2012	Croatia Osiguranje vs FC Barcelona Intersport, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	21:32 (12:13)
16.02.2013	FC Barcelona Intersport vs Croatia Osiguranje, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	35:25 (19:10)

Winner 3 vs 2

RUKOMETNI KLUB
 PRVO PLINARSKO DRUŠTVO
 ZAGREB



Playing hall

Arena Zagreb
 Laniste b.b.,
 10000 Zagreb
 Croatia
 Capacity: 15,200

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 Facebook: [RK-Zagreb](https://www.facebook.com/RK-Zagreb)
 Twitter: [@RKZagreb](https://twitter.com/RKZagreb)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
 Player short: white
 Goalkeeper shirt: blue

Dark

Player shirt: blue
 Player short: blue
 Goalkeeper shirt: red

HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)

Having advanced to the VELUX EHF Champions League Last 16 for the first time since the 2011/12 season, a fired-up Zagreb went a step further and emulated the success of three years ago when they reached the quarter-finals. They are the only third ranked team of the group phase who made it through to the top eight after leaving KIF Kolding Kobenhavn behind courtesy of their brilliant defence.

In the group phase Zagreb could not have qualified in more dramatic fashion, with their Bosnian acquisition Dusko Celica scoring a last-gasp winner from almost the halfway line in a 31:30 defeat of Naturhouse La Rioja which sealed the Croatian side's passage with a match to spare.

They won all five games in the Croatian capital and two of those highlighted the abundance of talent and ability within the youthful roster. Their opening victory over group winners Kiel sent shockwaves throughout Europe and they followed up with a success against runners-up PSG.

Zagreb shone on home court thanks to inspired and masterful guidance by new coach Veselin Vujovic, who took over shortly before the competition started but missed the first few games due to a suspension dating back to when he coached Macedonian giants Vardar Skopje.

Last 16

vs KIF Kolding Kobenhavn (DEN) W22:17 (15:8)
 @ KIF Kolding Kobenhavn (DEN) L21:23 (9:11)

Aggregate: 57:52

GROUP A Final Table:

1. THW Kiel	10	9	0	1	322:259 (63)	18
2. PSG Handball	10	6	0	4	297:266 (31)	12
3. HC PPD Zagreb	10	6	0	4	241:248 (-7)	12
4. Naturhouse La Rioja	10	4	1	5	305:305 (0)	9
5. HC Meshkov Brest	10	2	2	6	267:293 (-26)	6
6. HC Metalurg	10	1	1	8	233:294 (-61)	3

Group Phase results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss)

vs THW Kiel	W27:25 (9:13)
@ PSG Handball	L22:27 (9:11)
vs HC Metalurg	W19:17 (10:8)
@ Naturhouse La Rioja	L21:22 (12:9)
@ HC Meshkov Brest	L22:26 (7:12)
vs HC Meshkov Brest	W25:23 (11:8)
@ THW Kiel	L27:34 (16:16)
vs PSG Handball	W25:24 (14:13)
vs Naturhouse La Rioja	W31:30 (16:13)
@ HC Metalurg	W22:20 (12:10)

Top scorers:

1. Zlatko Horvat (CRO)	57
2. Luka Stepancic (CRO)	38
3. Josip Valcic (CRO)	31
4. Sandro Obranovic (CRO)	28
5. Ilija Brozovic (CRO)	25

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 21

Final (4): 1994/95, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99

Semi-final (1): 1999/00

Quarter-final (6): 1995/96, 2000/01, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2008/09, 2011/12

Last 16 (3): 2005/06, 2009/10, 2010/11

Main Round (1): 2007/08

Group Phase (5): 1993/94, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2012/13, 2013/14

Other

EHF Cup: Runners-up 2004/05

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-final 2006/07

SEHA League: 1 title (2013)

Croatian league: 24 titles (1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

Croatian cup: 22 titles

HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)

RUKOMETNI KLUB
PRVO PLINARSKO DRUŠTVO
ZAGREB



Biggest win	34:15 (16:8) v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH (h), 04.12.2010
Biggest defeat:	17:29 (9:12) v FC Barcelona ESP (h), 24.02.2001
Longest winning run:	6 matches (12.12.1998 – 27.02.1999)
Longest unbeaten run:	6 matches (09.11.1996 – 18.01.1997)
	6 matches (12.12.1998 – 27.02.1999)
	6 matches (30.10.1999 – 05.12.1999)
	6 matches (04.10.2008 – 22.11.2008)
Longest losing run:	7 matches (11.10.2012 – 16.02.2013)
Longest run without win:	8 matches (04.10.2012 – 16.02.2013)
Most goals:	38 v Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI 38:30W (h), 23.02.2013
Most goals opponent:	36 v SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 36:29L (a), 16.03.2008
	36 v FC Barcelona Borges ESP 36:33L (a), 03.04.2010
Most goals both teams:	69 v FC Barcelona Borges ESP 36:33L (a), 03.04.2010
Fewest goals:	15 v Portland San Antonio ESP 31:15L (a), 22.10.2005
Fewest goals opponent:	13 v THW Kiel GER 22:13W (h), 25.03.2000
	13 v Pelister Bitola MKD 37:13W (h), 16.10.2005
Fewest goals both teams:	36 v ZTR Zaporozhye UKR 18:18D (a), 20.11.1999
	36 v HC Metalurg MKD 19:17W (h), 11.10.2014

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1993/94 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	6	0	2	4	135:147	-12	2		4th Gr. A
1994/95 Badel Zagreb CRO	8	5	1	2	203:203	0	11		Runner-up
1995/96 Croatia Banka Zagreb CRO	6	2	1	3	138:144	-6	5		3rd Gr. B
1996/97 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	6	3	3	310:294	+16	15		Runner-up
1997/98 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	7	0	5	300:287	+13	14		Runner-up
1998/99 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	8	1	3	288:269	+19	17		Runner-up
1999/00 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	10	7	1	2	260:230	+30	15		1/2-finals
2000/01 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	8	4	1	3	195:192	+3	9		1/4-finals
2002/03 RK Zagreb CRO	8	3	2	3	209:216	-7	8		1/4-finals
2003/04 RK Zagreb CRO	10	4	0	6	273:258	+15	8		1/4-finals
2004/05 RK Zagreb CRO	6	3	0	3	165:170	-5	6		3rd Gr. B
2005/06 RK Zagreb CRO	8	5	1	2	212:194	+18	11		Last 16
2006/07 RK Zagreb CRO	6	3	0	3	153:148	+5	6		3rd Gr. D
2007/08 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	5	1	6	339:344	-5	11		3rd MR Gr. 3
2008/09 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	7	3	2	357:313	+44	17		1/4-finals
2009/10 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	6	0	6	351:335	+16	12		Last 16
2010/11 HC Croatia Osiguranje ZAGREB CRO	12	6	3	3	358:319	+39	15		Last 16
2011/12 Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb CRO	14	9	1	4	391:359	+32	19		1/4-finals
2012/13 HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb CRO	10	2	1	7	266:284	-18	5		5th Gr. D
2013/14 HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb CRO	10	4	0	6	267:282	-15	8		5th Gr. A
Total	194	96	22	76	5170:4988	+182	214		

HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
18	Zlatko	Horvat	CRO	Right Wing	25.9.1984	179	80	57
7	Luka	Stepancic	CRO	Right Back	20.11.1990	201	97	38
22	Josip	Valcic	CRO	Centre Back	21.4.1984	190	96	31
37	Sandro	Obranic	CRO	Centre Back	18.10.1992	194	83	28
5	Ilija	Brozovic	CRO	Line Player	26.5.1991	195	110	25
74	Mario	Vuglac	CRO	Right Back	30.1.1992	191	92	17
14	Luka	Sebetic	CRO	Right Back	26.5.1994	197	93	16
11	Luka	Rakovic	CRO	Right Wing	6.6.1988	179	86	12
4	Lovro	Mihic	CRO	Left Wing	25.8.1994	180	74	11
94	Domagoj	Pavlovic	CRO	Left Back	21.3.1993	190	85	11
77	Antonijo	Kovacevic	CRO	Left Wing	21.5.1987	190	90	9
11	Lovro	Sprem	CRO	Left Wing	26.1.1990	185	85	8
19	Leon	Susnja	CRO	Line Player	5.8.1993	204	113	7
10	Dusko	Celica	BIH	Left Back	16.8.1986	190	90	6
27	Stipe	Mandalinic	CRO	Left Back	9.9.1992	195	90	5
13	Teo	Coric	CRO	Line Player	25.3.1992	197	120	2
24	Tonci	Valcic	CRO	Left Back	9.6.1978	194	100	1
45	Jakov	Vrdoljak	CRO	Left Back	1.11.1996	189	85	
43	Marko	Sehic	CRO	Line Player	21.8.1996	188	84	
48	Petar	Medic	CRO	Left Back	12.6.1996	187	80	
36	Robert	Tokic	CRO	Left Back	9.3.1996	190	85	
35	Bruno-Vili	Zobec	CRO	Left Back	29.1.1996	185	78	
83	Mateo	Lukacec	CRO	Centre Back	24.1.1995			
51	Arijan	Jovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	18.6.1996	184	82	
41	Matej	Mudrinjak	CRO	Goalkeeper	18.1.1994	188	90	
12	Ivan	Stevanovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	18.5.1982	193	101	
16	Filip	Ivic	CRO	Goalkeeper	30.8.1992	195	96	





Veselin Vujovic coach

- hired by Zagreb right before the beginning of the 2014/15 CL campaign
- one of the best players ever worked as a head-coach in Ciudad Real, Vardar, Yugoslavian national team, Serbia and Montenegro (fourth place the OG in Sydney 2000)
- with Vardar won the regional SEHA League title in its first season
- known as an outstanding specialist but also as an impulsive coach

EC: Champions Cup 1985, 1986, 1991 (as player)
OG: G 1984, WCh: G 1986 (as player)



Filip Ivic goalkeeper

- home-grown goalkeeper from Zagreb's school
- won European gold and was fourth in the world as the captain of Croatian junior national team
- in the 2013/14 season he was given a chance in Zagreb's first team
- used the opportunity to open gates of senior handball in great style through some great saves
- in his first senior season he also made it to the national team and backed Mirko Alilović on the way to bronze at the 2013 WCh

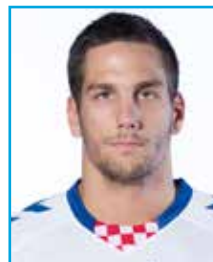
WCh: B 2013



Lovro Sprem left wing

- well-known surname in Croatian handball, his older brother Goran won many medals with Croatia
- Goran's copy in speed, aggressiveness and rhythm
- became the junior world champion in Tunisia in 2009
- very skillful at counter attacks and playing on top of the 5-1 defence

WCh: B 2013



Stipe Mandalinac left back

- one of the surprises in the 2013/14 season but a knee injury has slowed down his development
- impressive at all junior selections, especially due to his extraordinary jump shot
- played all matches in the 2013/14 season reaching his personal best of 43 goals in total

WCh: B 2013



Josip Valcic centre back

- valuable and experienced centre back would probably be called Croatian "golden reserve"
- Zagreb's engine in the game for many years
- in the national team remained in the shadows of Domagoj Duvnjak and Ivano Balic, but still got a chance and won two medals with Croatia
- played nine seasons in Gummersbach in the past
- ninth CL season with Zagreb.

EURO: S 2008, WCh: S 2009



Ilija Brozovic line player

- Croatian national team player
- started playing in Metkovic, a big city for Croatian handball
- first choice among line players after Igor Vori left Zagreb to join HSV
- strong, tall, important both in attack and defence often taking responsibility in decisive moments
- cousin with Kielce's Ivan Cupic and former Zagreb's player Domagoj Srsen



Luka Stepancic right back

- one of the most exciting of Zagreb's players and one of the most wanted on the European player's market
- more than two meters tall leftie with a great jump shot and ability to play in defence
- member of Croatian national team and already has a bronze medal from the WCh 2013 in Spain
- at the 2009 Junior WC in Tunisia won the gold

WCh: B 2013



Zlatko Horvat right wing

- captain and speedy wing is a counter-attack specialist, but he is an important part of defence at the same time
- had his debut in the national team in 2006 and since then he has won four medals
- played in Zagreb from the beginning of his career and has already 13 campaigns in the CL under his belt
- in the 2010/11 season the third best scorer with 94 goals

OG: B 2012, EURO: B 2012, WCh: S 2009, B 2013

Winner 4 vs 1



Playing hall

Palau Blaugrana

Av. Aristides Maillol, s/n
08028 Barcelona
Spain
Capacity: 7,250

Club Address:

FC Barcelona
Avda. Aristides Maillol, s/n
08028 Barcelona
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Online information:

Website: www.fcbarcelona.cat
Facebook: [FCBHandbol](https://www.facebook.com/FCBHandbol)
Twitter: [@FCBHandbol](https://twitter.com/FCBHandbol)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: red and yellow
Player short: red
Goalkeeper shirt: green/grey

Dark

Player shirt: blue and red
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: black/dark red

FC Barcelona (ESP)

Being favourites was no new experience to Barcelona, as they started out in Group B in September. Being Barcelona will always make the pride of Catalonia favourites, and like so many times before, they lived up to that status.

An injury or two along the way as no big deal for a team who have two world class players in virtually all positions, and a few hick-ups on away ground in the form of a 27:27 draw against KIF Kolding Kobenhavn and a 34:31 defeat against Orlen Wisla Plock did not really spoil the impression of a Barca team in full control.

When they were forced into a direct show-down for the group win against Kolding on the second to last matchday, they did not stumble in the Palau Blaugrana, of course, but decided the matter already in the first half, and finally winning 33:27, leaving no doubt who was the better team in the group.

They continued in an impressive fashion in the Last 16 as they easily sailed past Aalborg. Barca practically clinched the quarter-final berth in the first half-time of the first leg.

Last 16

@ Aalborg Handball (DEN) W31:11 (16:5)

vs Aalborg Handball (DEN) W29:22 (14:9)

Aggregate: 60:33

GROUP B Final Table:

1. FC Barcelona	10	8	1	1	338:280 (58)	17
2. KIF Kolding Kobenhavn	10	6	2	2	292:273 (19)	14
3. Orlen Wisla Plock	10	6	1	3	288:280 (8)	13
4. SG Flensburg-Handewitt	10	6	0	4	288:277 (11)	12
5. Alingsas HK	10	1	0	9	252:298 (-46)	2
6. Besiktas MOGAZ HT	10	1	0	9	253:303 (-50)	2

Group Phase results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss)

@ Alingsas HK	W38:28 (21:16)
vs Orlen Wisla Plock	W30:25 (13:12)
vs Besiktas MOGAZ HT	W35:25 (19:12)
@ KIF Kolding Kobenhavn	D27:27 (16:14)
@ SG Flensburg-Handewitt	W37:33 (16:16)
vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt	W36:27 (14:16)
vs Alingsas HK	W42:29 (18:17)
@ Orlen Wisla Plock	L31:34 (15:17)
vs KIF Kolding Kobenhavn	W33:27 (19:11)
@ Besiktas MOGAZ HT	W29:25 (14:12)

Top scorers:

1. Kiril Lazarov (MKD)	85
2. Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson (ISL)	51
3. Nikola Karabatic (FRA)	48
4. Siarhei Rutenka (BLR)	42
5. Victor Tomas (ESP)	32

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 18
Winner (7): 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2004/05, 2010/11
Final (3): 2000/01, 2009/10, 2012/13
Semi-final (2): 2007/08, 2013/14
Quarter-final (3): 2005/06, 2006/07, 2011/12
Last 16 (1): 2003/04
Main Round (1): 2008/09

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2002/03, Runners-up 2001/02
Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 1993/94, 1994/95

Spanish league: 21 titles (1969, 1973, 1980, 1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

Spanish cup: 18 titles
Asobal cup: 9 titles

FC Barcelona (ESP)



Biggest win	43:17 (21:9) v HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH (a), 19.11.2011
Biggest defeat	21:31 (10:13) v SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER (a), 23.02.2007 31:41 (15:20) v THW Kiel GER (a), 06.04.2008
Longest winning run	12 matches (24.04.2011 – 12.02.2012)
Longest unbeaten run	16 matches (24.01.1996 – 16.03.1997)
Longest losing run	2 matches (25.03.2000 – 22.04.2000) 2 matches (16.10.2004 – 23.10.2004) 2 matches (11.12.2004 – 05.03.2005) 2 matches (15.03.2008 – 06.04.2008) 2 matches (23.11.2008 – 14.02.2009) 2 matches (30.05.2010 – 25.09.2010)
Longest run without win	3 matches (30.05.2010 – 03.10.2010)
Most goals	46 v KIF Kolding DEN 46:36W (h), 17.10.2009
Most goals opponent	41 v THW Kiel GER 41:31L (a), 06.04.2008
Most goals both teams	82 v KIF Kolding DEN 46:36W (h), 17.10.2009
Fewest goals	21 v ABC Braga POR 21:21D (a), 09.11.1997 21 v SC Pick Szeged HUN 22:21L (a), 23.10.2004 21 v Portland San Antonio ESP 25:21L (a), 25.02.2006 21 v SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 31:21L (a), 23.02.2007
Fewest goals opponent	11 v Aalborg Handbold DEN 31:11W (a), 15.03.2015
Fewest goals both teams	38 v Elgorriaga Bidasoa ESP 23:15W (a), 20.04.1996 38 v Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD 12:26W (a), 06.11.2004

VELUX EHF Champions League record

		MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1995/96	FC Barcelona ESP	8	5	2	1	213: 173	+ 40		12	Winner
1996/97	FC Barcelona ESP	12	10	1	1	358: 264	+ 94		21	Winner
1997/98	FC Barcelona ESP	12	9	1	2	358: 284	+ 74		19	Winner
1998/99	FC Barcelona ESP	12	8	3	1	357: 289	+ 68		19	Winner
1999/00	FC Barcelona ESP	12	10	0	2	345: 271	+ 74		20	Winner
2000/01	FC Barcelona ESP	12	8	2	2	316: 281	+ 35		18	Runner-up
2003/04	FC Barcelona ESP	8	5	1	2	262: 212	+ 50		11	Last 16
2004/05	FC Barcelona Cifec ESP	14	8	0	6	400: 360	+ 40		16	Winner
2005/06	FC Barcelona-Cifec ESP	10	9	0	1	293: 244	+ 49		18	1/4-finals
2006/07	FC Barcelona-Cifec ESP	10	8	0	2	314: 263	+ 51		16	1/4-finals
2007/08	FC Barcelona ESP	14	11	0	3	475: 407	+ 68		22	1/2-finals
2008/09	FC Barcelona Borges ESP	10	6	0	4	307: 275	+ 32		12	3rd MR Gr. 4
2009/10	FC Barcelona Borges ESP	16	13	1	2	545: 461	+ 84		27	Runner-up
2010/11	FC Barcelona Borges ESP	16	10	3	3	501: 451	+ 50		23	Winner
2011/12	FC Barcelona Intersport ESP	14	11	0	3	459: 357	+102		22	1/4-finals
2012/13	FC Barcelona Intersport ESP	16	13	0	3	488: 404	+ 84		26	Runner-up
2013/14	FC Barcelona ESP	16	12	1	3	535:426	+109		25	Third Place
Total		212	156	15	41	6526:5422	+1104		327	

FC Barcelona (ESP)

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
77	Kiril	Lazarov	MKD	Right Back	10.5.1980	195	99	85
9	Gudjon Valur	Sigurdsson	ISL	Left Wing	8.8.1979	187	82	51
33	Nikola	Karabatic	FRA	Centre Back	11.4.1984	196	102	48
22	Siarhei	Rutenka	BLR	Left Back	29.8.1981	199	109	42
8	Victor	Tomas Gonzalez	ESP	Right Wing	15.2.1985	178	85	32
3	Jesper Brian	Nöddesbo	DEN	Line Player	23.10.1980	199	100	29
9	Raul	Entrerrios Rodriguez	ESP	Centre Back	12.2.1981	193	92	24
11	Daniel	Sarmiento Melian	ESP	Centre Back	25.8.1983	186	85	27
10	Cedric	Sorhaindo	FRA	Line Player	7.6.1984	192	100	17
37	Joan	Saubich Mir	ESP	Right Wing	7.11.1989	186	88	14
18	Eduardo	Gurbindo Martinez	ESP	Right Back	8.11.1987	194	92	9
42	Wael	Jallouz	TUN	Left Back	3.5.1991	197	92	9
27	Viran	Morros de Argila	ESP	Left Back	15.12.1983	199	99	5
13	Aitor	Arino Bengoechea	ESP	Left Wing	5.10.1992	185	75	5
20	Alberto	Miralles Anguera	ESP	Right Wing	20.3.1990	186	84	
21	Alejandro	Marquez Coloma	ESP	Right Back	5.1.1995	194	90	
24	Oriol	Rey Morales	ESP	Back	31.3.1994	190	95	
38	Francisco	Revuelta Mora	ESP	Goalkeeper	13.4.1995	191	84	
1	Gonzalo	Perez de Vargas	ESP	Goalkeeper	10.1.1991	189	93	1
12	Danijel	Saric	BIH	Goalkeeper	27.6.1977	194	93	





Xavi Pascual coach

- “double feature” at FC Barcelona, as the coaches of both the handball and the basketball section hold the same name
- played for a lengthy period for Barcelona and some other Spanish clubs, before becoming the goalkeeper coach at the CL record winners in 2005
- started working with the legendary David Barrufet and others
- in 2009 he succeeded Manolo Cadenas at Barcelona’s helm.

EC trophies: CL 2011



Danijel Šarić goalkeeper

- known for his incredible quality in goal and for the joy he brings to the team
- Bosnian-born Qatari goalkeeper won the CL in 2011 with Barcelona
- best goalkeeper of the ASOBAL league in 2011 and 2012, and the best player overall in 2011
- joined Barca in 2009, after spells with Spanish clubs San Antonio, Leon, Alcobendas and Cantabria, but began his career in Serbia with Crvena Zvezda and RK Sintelon

EC trophies: CL 2011
WCh: S 2015



Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson left wing

- before his arrival to Barcelona spent just one season away from the Bundesliga - in 2011/12 he played for AG Kobenhavn
- former Tusem Essen, VfL Gummersbach and Rhein-Neckar Löwen player
- real key player with his enormous experience from top handball and his equally large talent

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2005
OG: S 2008



Siarhei Rutenka left back

- in 2011 the Belarusian became the second player to win five CL titles with three clubs after Jose Javier Hombrados (with Santander, San Antonio, Ciudad Real)
- lifted the trophy with Celje, with Ciudad Real (three times) and with Barcelona
- top scorer of the 2006 EHF EURO, the 2003/04 and the 2004/05 CL season

EC trophies: CL 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011



Nikola Karabatic centre back / left back

- 2007 and 2014 World Handball Player of the Year
- one of Barcelona transfer coups with Kiril Lazarov before the 2013/14 season
- won everything there is to win, as he has triumphed at Olympic Games, WChs and EHF EUROs with the French national team and twice the CL (with Montpellier and Kiel)
- one of the most complete handball players with strengths in attack and defence

EC trophies: CL 2003, 2007
OG: G 2008, 2012, WCh: G 2009, 2011, 2015, B 2003, 2005
EURO: G 2006, 2010, 2014, B 2008



Jesper Nøddesbo line player

- started his career at Team Tvis Holstebro
- started spiralling upwards when he joined KIF Kolding in 2004
- since then, he has been among Europe’s elite year after year – with Kolding from 2004 to 2007, and ever since with FC Barcelona
- joined Barcelona in the summer of 2007
- imposing presence on the court, not afraid of anything when it comes to stopping opposing attackers

EURO: G 2008, S 2014, WCh: S 2011, 2013



Kiril Lazarov right back

- powerful back court shooter from FYR Macedonia
- most successful scorer at a single EHF EURO event (2012 Serbia, 61 goals) and also at WCh level (2009 Croatia, 92 goals)
- top scorer of the CL twice (2005/06 and 2007/08)
- in the 2012/13 ASOBAL season he converted 62 per cent of his shots, being particularly effective from the penalty line (76 per cent) and with counter attack (86 per cent)



Victor Tomas right wing

- following the victories in 2005 and 2011, the Barcelona-born Tomas hopes to lift his third CL trophy at the FINAL4 in Cologne
- joined Barcelona’s youth team in 1998 and has not played for any other club
- his biggest assets are his great pace and his impressive flexibility that make him a strong player in attack but also in defence

EC trophies: CL 2005, 2011, EHF Cup 2003
OG: B 2008, EURO: B 2014, WCh: G 2013

HC Vardar vs Vive Tauron Kielce



First leg

Saturday 11 April, 19:00 hrs. local time

Second leg

Sunday 19 April, 15:30 hrs. local time



The clash between HC Vardar and KS Vive Tauron Kielce is one of the most intriguing in the EHF Champions League quarter-finals, with both sides banking on frenetic home support in their bid to reach the FINAL4.

Having eliminated Orlen Wisla Plock in the Round of 16 with an impressive 31:20 home win after a 32:26 setback in the first leg, Macedonian giants Vardar now face even stronger Polish opposition in the last eight.

If Vardar's dramatic comeback against Wisla in the previous round is anything to go by, their double-header against Kielce should be a real treat for handball fans in FYR Macedonia and Poland when the two sides lock horns for a berth in the VELUX EHF FINAL4.

Kielce are aiming to reach the season-ending showdown for the second time in the last three seasons, having finished third in the 2012/13 edition after a 31:30 win over THW Kiel followed a 28:23 semi-final defeat by Barcelona.

Vardar, on the other hand, are trying to get there for the first time following last term's dramatic elimination at the hands of eventual winners Flensburg, when the German giants went through on away goals.

Vardar had previously eliminated Hamburg, then the reigning champions, and fell just short against Flensburg after trailing by five goals at half-time in the return leg at home.

The spirited second half performance in that game, the sensational victory against Hamburg and the recent enthralling comeback against Wisla should be Vardar's script to pull off the biggest success in the

club's history, as emphasised by their Croatian centre back Igor Karacic.

"I'd rather not talk about Flensburg, although that day will probably stick in our memories forever," the versatile Karacic told the club's official website (www.rkvardar.com.mk).

"Victory slipped out of our grasp in the final 50 seconds and we were left ruing a missed opportunity although we played at the top of our limits. However, I think we have a very good chance against Kielce and I am looking forward to a thrilling contest against some of friends from the national team playing for them."

"I hope we can repeat the feat we achieved against Hamburg. We played the first match at home against them and knocked them out after the return leg, so perhaps we can have a carbon copy of that scenario against Kielce. I am confident this Vardar generation has matured and is strong enough to reach the FINAL4."

Vardar did not warm up in the best possible way for the clash though, having finished fourth at the regional SEHA League final tournament after losing the semi-final to Meshkov Brest and then the third-place match to Zagreb.

Kielce will bank on their excellent away form for the first leg in Skopje, having beaten French rivals Montpellier 29:25 on the road in the first leg of the previous round and went through despite a 33:31 reverse at home.

The Polish champions kept their perfect record intact in the domestic league with a comfortable 38:26 home rout of MMTS Kwydzin, handing them 23 wins from as many matches in the country's top flight.

Head-to-head stats

no previous encounters in the European Cup competitions

Winner 3 vs 2



Playing hall

Jane Sandanski
Skopje
FYR Macedonia
Capacity: 5,000

Club Address:

HC Vardar - Skopje
Marko Savovski
BUL 8 mi Septemvri 20
FYR Macedonia

Media contact:

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+389 75 200 008
markosavovski@live.com

Online information:

Website: www.rkvardar.com.mk
Facebook: [rkvardar](https://www.facebook.com/rkvardar)
Twitter: [HCVardar](https://twitter.com/HCVardar)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: red/white
Player short: red/white
Goalkeeper shirt: red/black/yellow

Dark

Player shirt: black/Red
Player short: red/white
Goalkeeper shirt: black/grey

HC Vardar Skopje (MKD)

Just like the other hot shots of the group, the Macedonian team also had their ups and downs but Vardar's otherwise smooth run to the second spot only saw one notable hiccup: their defeat in Veszprém (32-24).

The off-day in Veszprém was made up for one in Mannheim, where the Skopje outfit put up a near-perfect performance. It is not such a great surprise from a Spanish coach to built his team around defense and Raúl Gonzalez has a hugely effective wall backed by the ever excellent Arpad Sterbik.

With the occasional injuries of Alex Dujšebaev, Matjaz Brumen and Sterbik and long-term absentee Blazenko Lackovic the burden of scoring falls mainly on Timur Dibirov and Igor Karacic, who both have outstanding seasons.

Vardar's main strength is their defence, however, the Skopje outfit are also prolific in attack: Gonzalez's men scored the most goals in Group C. While last year Vardar tended to lose focus away from their passionate crowd this year they only lost once on the road and beat Löwen, Medvedi and Celje away.

Dujšebaev proved to be the most powerful engine in the Vardar's attack in the Last 16 double-header against Plock paving his club's way to the quarter-finals with 19 goals.

Last 16

@ Orlen Wisla Plock (POL) L26:32 (12:14)
vs Orlen Wisla Plock (POL) W31:20 (14:10)

Aggregate: 57:52

GROUP C Final Table:

1. MKB-MVM Veszprém	10	9	0	1	300:262 (38)	18
2. HC Vardar	10	7	1	2	313:289 (24)	15
3. Rhein-Neckar Löwen	10	6	0	4	302:282 (20)	12
4. Montpellier Aggl. HB	10	3	2	5	293:317 (-24)	8
5. RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	10	3	0	7	284:293 (-9)	6
6. Chekhovskie Medvedi	10	0	1	9	300:349 (-49)	1

Group Phase results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss)

@ RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W27:26 (12:12)
vs Chekhovskie Medvedi	W39:28 (24:12)
vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen	W28:25 (13:13)
@ Montpellier Aggl. HB	D34:34 (19:17)
vs MKB-MVM Veszprém	L23:24 (11:13)
@ MKB-MVM Veszprém	L24:32 (10:16)
vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W34:32 (19:17)
@ Chekhovskie Medvedi	W39:34 (19:16)
vs Montpellier Aggl. HB	W30:26 (18:13)
@ Rhein-Neckar Löwen	W35:28 (20:13)

Top scorers:

1. Timur Dibirov (RUS)	75
2. Igor Karacic (CRO)	63
3. Alex Dujšebaev (ESP)	62
5. Sergei Gorbok (RUS)	35
4. Alem Toskic (SRB)	33

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 9

Quarter-final (1): 2013/14

Last 32 (1): 1999/2000

Group Phase (6): 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2007/08, 2009/10

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: semi-final 1998/99, 2004/05, 2010/11, quarter-final 2006/07

SEHA league: 2 titles (2012, 2014)

Macedonian league: 8 titles (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2013)

Macedonian cup: 8 titles

HC Vardar Skopje (MKD)



Biggest win:	37:24 (19:11) v Wacker Thun SUI (a), 19.10.2013
Biggest defeat:	41:19 (19:08) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 18.10.2003
Longest winning run:	4 matches (29.11.2014 – 21.02.2015)
Longest unbeaten run:	4 matches (29.11.2014 – 21.02.2015) 4 matches (28.09.2014 – 19.10.2014)
Longest losing run:	7 matches (12.10.2003 – 09.10.2004)
Longest run without win:	8 matches (12.10.2003 – 16.10.2004) 8 matches (03.10.2009 – 20.02.2010)
Most goals:	39 v Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS 39:28W (h), 04.10.2014
Most goals opponent:	41 v FC Barcelona ESP 41:19L (a), 18.10.2003
Most goals both teams:	73 v Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS 39:34W (a), 06.12.2014
Fewest goals:	12 v FC Barcelona ESP 12:26L (h), 06.11.2004
Fewest goals opponent:	22 v HCM Constanta ROU 22:22D (h), 13.11.2004 22 v GC Amicitia Zürich SUI 22:22D (h), 07.11.2009 22 v HC Metalurg MKD 22:27W (a), 14.11.2013 22 v HC Dinamo Minsk BLR 30:22W (h), 09.02.2014
Fewest goals both teams:	38 v FC Barcelona ESP 12:26L (h), 06.11.2004

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2001/02 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	1	1	4	152:175	-23	3		4th Gr. D
2002/03 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	2	0	4	152:181	-29	4		4th Gr. D
2003/04 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	0	0	6	157:210	-53	0		4th Gr. B
2004/05 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	1	2	3	124:153	-29	4		3rd Gr. A
2007/08 HC Vardar PRO – Skopje MKD	6	2	1	3	161:180	-19	5		4th Gr. C
2009/10 HC Vardar PRO – Skopje MKD	10	1	1	8	253:316	-63	3		5th Gr. D
2013/14 HC Vardar – Skopje MKD	14	6	3	5	376:369	+7	15		1/4-finals
Total	54	13	8	33	1375:1584	-209	34		

HC Vardar Skopje (MKD)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
31	Timur	Dibirov	RUS	Left Wing	30.7.1983	180	74	75
18	Igor	Karacic	CRO	Centre Back	2.11.1988	189	87	63
19	Alex	Dujshebaev	ESP	Right Back	17.12.1992	187	88	62
32	Sergei	Gorbok	RUS	Left Back	4.12.1982	196	98	35
10	Alem	Toskic	SRB	Line Player	12.2.1982	190	108	33
33	Daniil	Shishkarev	RUS	Right Wing	6.7.1988	190	85	23
7	Matjaz	Brumen	SLO	Right Wing	23.12.1982	190	90	17
5	Stojanche	Stoilov	MKD	Line Player	30.4.1987	191	110	16
80	Mikhail	Chipurin	RUS	Line Player	17.11.1980	190	110	11
23	Filip	Lazarov	MKD	Left Back	21.4.1985	199	100	11
8	Nemanja	Pribak	MKD	Centre Back	26.3.1984	190	103	10
6	Blazenko	Lackovic	CRO	Left Back	25.12.1980	197	99	7
15	Dobrivoje	Markovic	SRB	Left Wing	22.4.1986	188	81	4
9	Stefan	Terzic	SRB	Right Back	17.5.1994	195	93	2
20	Ilija	Abutovic	SRB	Left Back	2.8.1988	202	99	1
25	Alexei	Rastvortsev	RUS	Left Back	8.8.1978	200	128	
13	Vladimir	Petric	SRB	Right Back	5.8.1975	189	98	
26	Petar	Angelov	MKD	Goalkeeper	8.3.1977	192	103	
12	Strahinja	Milic	SRB	Goalkeeper	20.12.1990	198	135	
1	Arpad	Sterbik	ESP	Goalkeeper	20.11.1979	200	119	





Raul Gonzalez Gutierrez coach

- stalwart of BM Valladolid and a member of the Spanish national team during his playing career
- started his coaching carrier in Atletico Madrid and Ciudad Real working in team with Talant Dujshebaev
- replaced Zoran Kastratovic early in the 2013/14 season at Vardar
- steered the team to a historical success the quarter-finals of the CL for the first time and was just one goal shy of the FINAL4

OG: B 1996 (as player)



Arpad Sterbik goalkeeper

- one of the best goalkeepers who holds there different citizenship Hungarian, Serbian and Spanish
- after ten seasons spent in Spain moved from Barcelona in 2014 and signed a four-year contract with Macedonian runners-up
- dozens of international awards including the 2005 IHF World Handball Player of the Year
- voted as the best goalkeeper of the Spanish league five times

EC trophies: CL 2006, 2008, 2009
WCh: B 1999, B 2001, B 2011, G 2013



Timur Dibirov left wing

- in 2013 he joined Vardar as just the second club in his career
- the first was Chekhovskie Medvedi, with whom he reached the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in 2010
- voted best left wing of at the 2013 WCh
- fast breaks specialists also valid in defence

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2006



Sergey Gorbok left back

- started his carrier in Minsk, played in several countries (Ukraine, Russia, Slovenia, Germany)
- took Russian citizenship and started playing for Russia after playing three seasons in Chekov
- in the 2013/14 season with Rhein-Neckar Löwen he was step close to the FINAL4
- joined the Russian "colony" of Vardar in 2014



Igor Karacic centre back

- voted into the 2012/13 SEHA League All-Star team
- regarded as a fast and tough player who is brilliant when it comes to 'one-on-one' situations
- scored 62 goals on the way to the last 16 in the 2010/11 CL season with Bosna Sarajevo
- born in Mostar he plays for the Croatian national team, while his brother Ivan plays for Bosnia-Herzegovina



Stojance Stoilov line player

- not only Vardar's first choice line player, but occupies the same position in the Macedonian national team
- joined Vardar four seasons ago from city rivals Metalurg – a step that saw his career spiralling upwards
- played a brilliant tournament at the EHF EURO 2012 when FYR Macedonia finished 5th



Alex Dujshebaev right back

- son of Talant Dujshebaev joined Vardar at the beginning of the 2013/14 season
- played for Spain at the Junior World Championship in 2013 and helped his team to win silver
- best right back of the All-star team at the 2012 Men's 20 EHF EURO and the 2013 Junior WCh
- top scorer of the Spanish ASOBAL with BM Aragon in 2011/12 and 2012/13



Matjaz Brumen right wing

- only Vardar player with a European Cup title under his belt
- won the EHF Champions League with Celje and the Challenge Cup with Koper
- played for Slovenian clubs Prule 67, Celje and Koper, Vardar is his first foreign club
- played for Slovenia at several major tournaments and was part of the team which only narrowly missed out on a medal at the 2013 WCh

EC trophies: CL 2004, Challenge Cup 2011

Winner 4 vs 1



Playing hall

Hala M.O.S.I.R. – Legionów

ul. Boczna 15A
25-093 Kielce
Poland
Capacity: 4,000

Club Address:

KS Vive Tauron Kielce
ul. Robotnicza 5
25-662 Kielce
Poland

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Online information:

Website: www.vivetargi.pl
Facebook: [vivetargikielce](https://www.facebook.com/vivetargikielce)
Twitter: [@ksvive](https://twitter.com/ksvive)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: green

KS Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)

The game that all Kielce supporters will remember from this season's group phase is the Round 10 encounter against Motor Zaporozhye. Kielce were trailing 10:19 at half-time, but staged an astonishing comeback in the second half to take home a 28:27 win.

This victory saw them extending their winning streak to 10 out of 10, making Kielce the only team to reach the Last 16 with a flawless record.

In the 2012/13 season they had achieved the same and eventually reached the VELUX EHF FINAL4. However, Kielce's streak was far from being a walk in the park.

Injuries to key players such as line player Julen Aguinagalde forced coach Talant Dujshabaev to put left back Michal Jurecki on the line, while right wing Ivan Cupic became centre back in the 27:25 away win against Aalborg in Round 5.

The perfect run came to an unexpected end on the home court in the return Last 16 leg against Montpellier, however a 31:33 defeat could not stop the Polish champions marching to the top eight of the competition. A surprising setback was anything but marginalised by their coach though, as Dujshabaev held his players in the dressing room for 20 minutes after the game making sure they will not forget it soon.

Last 16

@ Montpellier Agglomeration HB (FRA)
vs Montpellier Agglomeration HB (FRA)

W29:25 (16:13)
L31:33 (14:15)

Aggregate: 60:58

GROUP D Final Table:

1. KS Vive Tauron Kielce	10	10	0	0	312:271 (41)	20
2. MOL-Pick Szeged	10	6	1	3	276:264 (12)	13
3. Dunkerque HB G. Littoral	10	4	0	6	257:263 (-6)	8
4. Aalborg Handball	10	2	3	5	256:269 (-13)	7
5. HC Motor Zaporozhye	10	3	0	7	283:284 (-1)	6
6. Kadetten Schaffhausen	10	2	2	6	264:297 (-33)	6

Group Phase results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss)

@ Kadetten Schaffhausen	W33:28 (15:14)
vs MOL-Pick Szeged	W37:32 (18:17)
vs HC Motor Zaporozhye	W30:26 (17:14)
@ Dunkerque HB G. Littoral	W28:25 (14:12)
@ Aalborg Handball	W27:25 (13:12)
vs Aalborg Handball	W33:26 (18:15)
vs Kadetten Schaffhausen	W33:24 (14:12)
@ MOL-Pick Szeged	W27:26 (14:11)
vs Dunkerque HB G. Littoral	W36:32 (19:15)
@ HC Motor Zaporozhye	W28:27 (10:19)

Top scorers:

1. Karol Bielecki (POL)	65
2. Ivan Cupic (CRO)	45
Denis Buntic (CRO)	45
4. Michal Jurecki (POL)	34
5. Krzysztof Lijewski (POL)	31

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 12
Semi-final (1): 2012/13
Last 16 (5): 1993/94, 1994/95, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2013/14
Last 32 (2): 1996/97, 1998/99
Group Matches (3): 1999/2000, 2003/04, 2010/11

Other

Other EC records: 11 participations in other ECs

Polish league: 11 titles (1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014)
Polish cup: 11 titles

KS Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)



Biggest win:	35:23 (16:13) v FC Porto Vitalis POR (h), 29.09.2013
Biggest defeat:	30:41 (19:19) v Fotex KC Veszprém HUN (h), 15.11.2003
Longest winning run:	11 matches (25.09.2014 - 15.03.2015)
Longest unbeaten run:	11 matches (25.09.2014 - 15.03.2015)
Longest losing run:	5 matches (13.02.2010 – 27.03.2010) 5 matches (19.02.2011 – 09.10.2011)
Longest run without win:	6 matches (26.09.2010 – 27.11.2010)
Most goals:	38 v Orlen Wisla Plock POL 38:30W (h), 23.02.2014
Most goals opponent:	41 v Fotex KC Veszprém HUN 30:41L (h), 15.11.2003
Most goals both teams:	72 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 40:32L (a), 27.11.1999
Fewest goals:	21 v HC Bosna BH Gas BIH 25:21L (a), 27.02.2010 21 v HC Metalurg MKD 21:20W (h), 24.11.2012
Fewest goals opponent:	20 v HC Metalurg MKD 21:20W (h), 24.11.2012
Fewest goals both teams:	41 v HC Metalurg MKD 21:20W (h), 24.11.2012

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1999/00 KS Iskra-Lider Market POL	6	3	0	3	173:186	-13	6		3rd Gr. B
2003/04 KS 'Vive' Kielce POL	6	2	1	3	159:177	-18	5		3rd Gr. G
2009/10 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	5	1	6	345:344	+1	11		Last 16
2010/11 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	10	1	2	7	276:300	-24	4		6th Gr. A
2011/12 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	6	1	5	345:336	+9	13		Last 16
2012/13 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	16	14	0	2	469:400	+69	28		Third Place
2013/14 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	7	1	4	362:331	+31	15		Last 16
Total	74	38	6	30	2129:2074	+55	82		

KS Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
14	Karol	Bielecki	POL	Left Back	23.1.1982	202	101	65
27	Ivan	Cupic	CRO	Right Wing	22.3.1986	178	78	45
21	Denis	Buntic	CRO	Right Back	13.11.1982	199	110	45
5	Michał	Jurecki	POL	Left Back	27.10.1984	198	110	34
19	Krzysztof	Lijewski	POL	Right Back	7.7.1983	198	94	31
6	Grzegorz	Tkaczyk	POL	Centre Back	22.12.1980	194	94	26
13	Julen	Aguinagalde Akizu	ESP	Line Player	8.12.1982	195	110	26
23	Uros	Zorman	SLO	Centre Back	9.1.1980	189	96	24
17	Manuel	Strlek	CRO	Left Wing	1.12.1988	181	79	21
19	Tobias	Reichmann	GER	Right Wing	27.5.1988	188	85	21
15	Mateusz	Jachlewski	POL	Left Wing	27.12.1984	185	88	14
10	Piotr	Chrapkowski	POL	Left Back	24.3.1988	202	100	9
22	Zeljko	Musa	CRO	Line Player	8.1.1986	200	114	8
24	Tomasz	Rosinski	POL	Centre Back	24.2.1984	192	85	1
2	Piotr	Grabarczyk	POL	Line Player	31.10.1982	200	99	
12	Wojciech	Swiader	POL	Goalkeeper	18.8.1996	188	95	
16	Marin	Sego	CRO	Goalkeeper	2.8.1985	194	100	2
1	Slawomir	Szmal	POL	Goalkeeper	2.10.1978	190	90	





Talant Dujshebaev coach

- most awarded figure in the club
- during his longstanding player career he won plenty of trophies with three different teams (CIS, Russia, Spain) and a lot of individual distinctions
- since ten years he has successfully continued as a coach, known for his impulsiveness
- joined Kielce in the half of the 2013/14 season, replacing Bogdan Wenta
- changed the playing style of Kielce placing greater emphasis on the aggressive defence

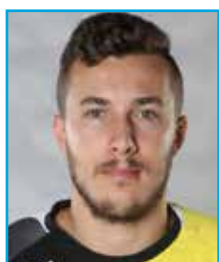
EC Trophies: CL 1994, 2006 (as coach), 2008 (as coach), 2009 (as coach), EHF Cup 1993, Cup Winners' Cup 2002, 2003
OG: G 1992, B 1996, 2000, WCh: G 1993, EURO: S 1996, 1998, B 2000



Sławomir Szmal goalkeeper

- 2009 World Handball Player of the Year
- one of the key players in the Polish national champions' defence
- spent several years in German Bundesliga playing for TuS N-Lübbecke and Rhein Neckar Löwen
- competed in two VELUX EHF FINAL4 events with Löwen in 2010/11 and Kielce in 2012/13
- on the court a hardworking Titan, beyond it a great man always keen on handball initiatives for kids

WCh: S 2007, B 2009, 2015



Manuel Štrlek left wing

- his arrival in Kielce in 2012 were his first steps abroad, after leaving his boyhood club Zagreb
- started gathering CL experience in 2006
- together with his fellow countryman Cupic on the other side, they soon created extremely effective duet of wingers
- All-Star Team left wing at the EHF EURO 2010

WCh: G 2013, B 2011, EURO: B 2014



Michał Jurecki left back

- Kielce's powerful left back returned to Poland in 2010 after a three-season stint in Germany
- had spells at HSV Hamburg and TuS N-Lübbecke
- one of the club's most consistent scorers
- under his steel covering the Polish tank hides a cheerful nature and a volcano of energy exploding in the most thrilling moments of the game

WCh: S 2007, B 2009, 2015



Uroš Zorman centre back

- one of the best playmakers in the game
- on the hunt for his fourth CL success
- not known for scoring lots of goals, but his movement and passes provide ample space for his teammates in attack
- longstanding captain of Slovenian national team famous for his charisma, weakness for coffee and great approach to children, for whom he has been organising summer camps over past years

EC Trophies: CL: 2004, 2008, 2009
EURO: S 2004



Julen Aguinagalde line player

- one of the world's top line players
- All-Star team line player of the 2013 WCh in Spain and the EHF EURO 2014 in Denmark
- nominated for World Handball Player of the Year 2012
- joined Kielce from Atlético Madrid in 2013 for his first foreign league experience
- three VELUX EHF FINAL4 participations in 2010-2012

WCh: G 2013, B 2011, EURO: B 2014



Denis Buntic right back

- born in Ljubuski, traditional handball city of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- played for Izvidac, Zagreb, Koper and Ademar Leon in the past
- joined Kielce in the summer of 2011 and one year later reached his first FINAL4 with the club
- set his scoring record in the EC in 2009/10 with Ademar (57 goals)

OG: B 2012, EURO: S 2010, B 2012, WCh: S 2005, 2009



Ivan Čupić right wing

- second best goal scorer at the London 2012 Olympics
- named on the All-Star team at the 2009 WCh
- despite losing one finger in an accident in 2008 remained an important player of each team he has played including the national team
- sharing the position with the new face in the club, German Tobias Reichmann.

OG: B 2012, WCh: S 2009, B 2013, EURO: S 2008, 2010, B 2012

PSG Handball vs MKB-MVM Veszprem



HANDBALL

First leg

Sunday 12 April, 17:30 hrs local time

Second leg

Sunday 19 April, 17:30 hrs local time



Same place, same time as last season. PSG coach Philippe Gardent hoped to travel somewhere he had never been to, instead the draw gave him the right to play against Veszprem again, at the same stage of the competition where the Hungarian powerhouse won last season (26-28, 26-31).

Both teams had a very different outcome during their past few months in the VELUX EHF Champions League. Veszprem finished first of its group, with comforting wins against top teams like Rhein-Neckar Löwen and Vardar Skopje.

PSG, on the other hand, reached the second place of the Group A, with four losses including two against THW Kiel. Moreover, while Veszprem quite easily defeated Spanish side Naturhouse La Rioja in the Last 16, PSG struggled against fellow compatriots Dunkerque, only earning their qualification with a three goals difference on aggregate.

Since then, Veszprem won the SEHA League, beating Vardar Skopje and Meshkov Brest amongst others, while PSG struggled in Aix in the French league, only winning thanks to a last second Mikkel Hansen goal.

That's not to say that Veszprem are firm favourites though. The Hungarian team have been bothered by other French team Montpellier AHB earlier this season, and Philippe Gardent certainly thinks there might be room for surprise.

"I think last year what cost us our qualification was our defeat at home. We've got a better team this season, they have as well, so this confrontation will show which team has made the most progress," the French coach says.

With the addition of Thierry Omeyer between the posts, who used to play and win against Veszprem every season with THW Kiel, there might be something to do.

Antonio Carlos Ortega, on the other hand, meets this double-header with a lot of hunger : "We've had our share of top teams in the first round, and we had to stay focused in order to make it to this stage of competition.

"We know it's very hard to beat us in our arena, but we can't afford to lose at PSG in order not to give them any confidence."

Head-to-head stats

Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs MKB-MVM Veszprém 0-0-2 (52:59) 0:4

19.04.2014	PSG Handball vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	26:28 (14:12)
26.04.2014	MKB-MVM Veszprém vs PSG Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	31:26 (12:12)

Winner 3 vs 2



HANDBALL



Playing hall

Halle Georges Carpentier

81 boulevard Massena

75013 Paris

France

Capacity: 4,800

Club Address:

PSG Handball

82 avenue Georges Lafont

75016 Paris

France

Media contact:

Louise Cosnard

+33 (0)675 591 939

lcornard@psg.fr

Online information:

Website: www.psghand.fr

Facebook: [PSGHand](https://www.facebook.com/PSGHand)

Twitter: [@psghand](https://twitter.com/psghand)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white

Player short: white

Goalkeeper shirt: grey

Dark

Player shirt: blue

Player short: blue

Goalkeeper shirt: grey

PSG Handball (FRA)

As expected, one of the most expensively assembled outfits in the history of club handball progressed to the Last 16 without too much fuss but their tally of 12 points from a possible 20 in the group phase is a modest one given the resources poured into the star-studded outfit.

PSG made a ferocious start by winning their opening four games, but the first real test of their credentials – a double-header against THW Kiel – exposed all the chinks in a glittering armour and highlighted defensive weaknesses that coach Philippe Gardent will want to address urgently. Apart from losing twice to Kiel, PSG were also beaten by HC PPD Zagreb and in the last round by modest Naturhouse La Rioja, albeit with a makeshift outfit as Gardent rested several key players.

PSG are a side packed with attacking talent but lack of defensive steel was clearly seen in most of their group matches, as they also ground out a somewhat fortuitous 29:28 win at eliminated Meshkov Brest before the sharp dip in form.

With Thierry Omeyer between the posts and a myriad of fellow Frenchmen who covered themselves in glory when they won the country's fifth world championship title in Qatar last month, PSG locked horns with well-known faces of Dunkerque in the Last 16 and after two tight games they successfully repeated their last year's trip to the quarter-finals.

Last 16

@ Dunkerque HB Grand Littoral (FRA) W23:21 (12:13)

vs Dunkerque HB Grand Littoral (FRA) W23:22 (15:15)

Aggregate: 46:43

GROUP A Final Table:

1. THW Kiel	10	9	0	1	322:259 (63)	18
2. PSG Handball	10	6	0	4	297:266 (31)	12
3. HC PPD Zagreb	10	6	0	4	241:248 (-7)	12
4. Naturhouse La Rioja	10	4	1	5	305:305 (0)	9
5. HC Meshkov Brest	10	2	2	6	267:293 (-26)	6
6. HC Metalurg	10	1	1	8	233:294 (-61)	3

Group Phase results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss)

@ HC Metalurg	W27:22 (11:11)
vs HC PPD Zagreb	W27:22 (11:9)
vs Naturhouse La Rioja	W32:25 (18:9)
@ HC Meshkov Brest	W29:28 (15:12)
vs THW Kiel	L25:27 (13:12)
@ THW Kiel	L29:33 (15:14)
vs HC Metalurg	W35:24 (19:10)
HC PPD Zagreb	L24:25 (13:14)
vs HC Meshkov Brest	W36:25 (18:14)
@ Naturhouse La Rioja	L33:35 (16:15)

Top scorers:

1. Mikkel Hansen (DEN)	80
2. William Accambray (FRA)	33
3. Fahrudin Melic (MNE)	31
4. Narcisse Daniel (FRA)	30
5. Marko Kopljarić (CRO)	28

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 3

Quarter-final (1): 2013/14

Last 16 (1): 2005/06

Other

EHF Cup: quarter-final 2006/07, Last 16 2003/04

French league: 1 title (2012/13)

French cup: 2 titles

PSG Handball (FRA)



HANDBALL

Biggest win:	38:24 (22:11) v Wacker Thun SUI (h), 23.11.2013
Biggest defeat:	44:28 (22:12) v THW Kiel GER (a), 10.12.2005
Longest winning run:	4 matches (17.11.2013 – 08.02.2014) 4 matches (28.09.2014 - 19.10.2014)
Longest unbeaten run:	4 matches (17.11.2013 – 08.02.2014) 4 matches (28.09.2014 - 19.10.2014)
Longest losing run:	4 matches (23.11.1996 – 18.01.1997)
Longest run without win:	4 matches (23.11.1996 – 18.01.1997)
Most goals:	38 v Wacker Thun SUI 38:24W (h), 23.11.2013
Most goals opponent:	44 v THW Kiel GER 44:28L (a), 10.12.2005
Most goals both teams:	72 v THW Kiel GER 44:28L (a), 10.12.2005
Fewest goals:	20 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 20:26L (h), 11.01.1997 20 v Caja Cantabria Santander ESP 26:20L (a), 18.01.1997
Fewest goals opponent:	18 v HC Banik Karvina CZE 21:18W (h), 09.10.2005
Fewest goals both teams:	39 v HC Banik Karvina CZE 21:18W (h), 09.10.2005

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 PSG Asnières FRA	6	1	0	5	131:161	-30	2		4th Gr. D
2005/06 Paris Handball FRA	8	4	1	3	212:229	-17	9		Last 16
2013/14 PSG Handball FRA	14	7	1	6	429:402	+27	15		1/4-finals
Total	28	12	2	14	772:792	-20	26		

PSG Handball (FRA)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
24	Mikkel	Hansen	DEN	Back	22.10.1987	192	93	80
6	William	Accambray	FRA	Left Back	8.4.1988	194	104	33
4	Fahrudin	Melic	MNE	Right Wing	22.7.1984	183	90	31
25	Daniel	Narcisse	FRA	Back	16.12.1979	189	93	30
35	Marko	Kopljar	CRO	Right Back	12.2.1986	210	108	28
9	Igor	Vori	CRO	Line Player	20.9.1980	203	114	27
34	Samuel	Honrubia	FRA	Left Wing	5.7.1986	180	75	26
90	Jeffrey	M'tima	FRA	Left Wing	16.7.1991	188	80	21
18	Robert	Gunnarsson	ISL	Line Player	22.5.1980	191	100	19
19	Luc	Abalo	FRA	Right Wing	6.9.1984	182	80	15
14	Xavier	Barachet	FRA	Right Back	19.11.1988	195	95	13
13	Zacharia	N'diaye	FRA	Back	2.6.1984	194	90	7
15	Jakov	Gojun	CRO	Line Player	18.4.1986	204	110	5
11	Benoit	Koukoud	FRA	Right Wing	19.2.1997	188	78	3
17	Dylan	Garain	FRA	Left Back	22.8.1996	192	86	1
91	Mladen	Bojinovic	SRB	Line Player	17.1.1977	202	101	
20	Ludwig	Appolinaire	FRA	Back	27.5.1994	190	97	
48	Clement	Branco	FRA	Right Wing	25.8.1996	190	85	
95	Kevin	Durosier	FRA	Line Player	14.5.1994	187	90	
32	Ulysse	Fodor	FRA	Right Wing	3.4.1995	180	80	
5	Steve	Marie Joseph	FRA	Left Wing	3.1.1994	185	90	
3	Axel	Rosier	FRA	Centre Back	20.2.1994	192	90	
33	Julio	Rupaire	FRA	Line Player	1.3.1995	195	102	
92	Boubou	Toure	FRA	Left Wing	29.1.1994	186	76	
21	Jonathan	Troudart	FRA	Line Player	15.1.1996	194	82	
94	Bryan	Jabea Njo	FRA	Goalkeeper	28.6.1992	193	103	
39	Jordy	Jacoby	FRA	Goalkeeper	8.2.1995	191	91	
1	Patrice	Annonay	FRA	Goalkeeper	17.5.1979	192	96	
16	Thierry	Omeyer	FRA	Goalkeeper	2.11.1976	192	93	





Philippe Gardent coach

- joined PSG in 2012 after coaching Chambéry for 16 years (head coach and before assistant coach)
- right in his first season, the former line player of the French national team took the French title
- played for several clubs in Paris winning two champion and two cup titles
- 298 caps in 13 years with France
- as Chambéry coach won the league in 2001 and cup in 2002.

OG: B 1992, WCh: G 1995, B 1993 (all as player)



Thierry Omeyer goalkeeper

- crowned best goalkeeper of history by the IHF
- played in one of the most prestigious clubs in the world, Kiel, and achieved more than any other goalkeeper
- returned to Montpellier for the 2013/14 season, reached the EHF Cup Final and decided to move on to PSG in the summer of 2014
- awarded the best goalkeeper and the MVP at the WCh 2015 in Qatar

EC trophies: CL 2003, 2007, 2010, 2012

OG: G 2008, 2012, EURO: G 2006, 2010, 2014, B 2008

WCh: G 2001, 2009, 2011, 2015, B 2003, B 2005



Samuel Honrubia left wing

- joined PSG at the start of the 2012/13 season after having played in Montpellier for more than a decade
- immediately showed what he is capable of and why is he is regarded as one of the best left wings in Europe
- very efficient at scoring from fast breaks and at one-on-one situations on limited space

OG: G 2012, EURO: G 2014, WCh: G 2011, 2015



Mikkel Hansen left back

- 2011 IHF World Handball Player of the Year
- reached the VELUX EHF FINAL4 with AG København in 2012
- son of former Danish international Flemming Hansen
- having grown into a top class player at GOG, played for Barcelona for two seasons before joining AG in 2011
- arrived in PSG before the 2012/13 season

EURO: G 2012, S 2014, WCh: S 2011, 2013



Daniele Narcisse centre back

- might well go down in history as one of the most decorated French players
- 2012 IHF World Handball Player of the Year
- nicknamed "Air France" because it looks like he's flying when he's jumping
- now reunited with former Kiel teammate Thierry Omeyer to fulfill his goal of winning the CL title

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012

OG: G 2008, 2012, EURO: G 2006, 2010, 2014, B 2008

WCh: G 2001, 2009, 2015, B 2003, 2005



Igor Vori line player

- at 203 cm a pillar in any team's defence
- won nearly every title the sport has on offer and PSG recruited him to bring some CL experience to his position
- played handball in five countries so far, including Spain (Barcelona), Germany (Hamburg) and, more strangely, Italy
- had some troubles adapting to his new team in his first season with PSG (2013/14)

EC trophies: CL 2013

OG: G 2004, B 2012, EURO: S 2008, 2010, B 2012, WCh: G 2003, S 2005, 2009, B 2013



Xavier Barachet right back

- returned to France in the 2013/14 season to play with Saint Raphaël after playing only one season in Spain
- moved on to PSG before the 2014/15 season
- formed in Chambéry, the left-hander has already an impressive CL experience
- injured a lot over the past seasons and due to a shoulder injury, has only focused on defending
- thanks to surgery, he has now recovered and should be able to bring danger in the attack too

OG: G 2012, EURO: G 2010, WCh: G 2009, 2011, 2015



Luc Abalo right wing

- spectacular right wing returned to France from Spanish side Atletico Madrid in 2012
- immediately showed how much progress he has made
- during his four seasons in Spain reached the final of the CL in 2011 and 2012
- regular fixture in the national team as well
- with his high jumps and all the tricks a winger must have in his bag, he is one of the best at his position

EC trophies: CL 2009

OG: 2008, 2012, EURO: G 2006, 2010, 2014, WCh: 2009, 2011

Winner 4 vs 1



MKB-MVM Veszprém (HUN)

MKB-MVM Veszprém won their group in the VELUX EHF Champions League in the third year running but this time it was arguably the strongest group of the competition. Carlos Ortega's men overran the group with only one considerable hiccup (in Mannheim, where Veszprém was badly beaten) and did so with Laszlo Nagy absent from four games.

Summer signing Roland Mikler has been outstanding and so are Christian Zeitz, who filled in for László Nagy without a problem and Máté Lékai also had some great games for the defending Hungarian champion.

Veszprém are trying to implement new offensive variations but the strength of the Hungarian outfit remains their solid defence as best seen in Skopje, where Veszprém kept Vardar on 23 goals and won thanks to a marvellous Mikler save and cheeky steal from Cristian Ugalde in the last minute.

They cruised to the quarter-finals after two convincing victories over Naturhouse La Rioja, which also gave their head coach Ortega a good opportunity to rest some of his key players.

Last 16:

@ Naturhouse La Rioja (ESP) W31:23 (15:10)

vs Naturhouse La Rioja (ESP) W37:31 (18:15)

Aggregate: 68:54

GROUP C Final Table:

1. MKB-MVM Veszprém	10	9	0	1	300:262 (38)	18
2. HC Vardar	10	7	1	2	313:289 (24)	15
3. Rhein-Neckar Löwen	10	6	0	4	302:282 (20)	12
4. Montpellier Agg. HB	10	3	2	5	293:317 (-24)	8
5. RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	10	3	0	7	284:293 (-9)	6
6. Chekhovskie Medvedi	10	0	1	9	300:349 (-49)	1

Group Phase results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss)

@ Chekhovskie Medvedi	W37:32 (19:17)
vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen	W27:24 (10:11)
vs Montpellier Aggl. HB	W30:29 (14:11)
@ RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W24:21 (14:9)
@ HC Vardar	W24:23 (13:11)
vs HC Vardar	W32:24 (16:10)
vs Chekhovskie Medvedi	W38:31 (17:16)
@ Rhein-Neckar Löwen	L25:32 (10:18)
vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W29:26 (15:10)
@ Montpellier Aggl. HB	W34:20 (14:9)

Top scorers:

1. Momir Ilic (SRB)	86
2. Renato Sulic (CRO)	47
3. Christian Zeitz (GER)	34
4. Gaspar Marguc (SLO)	30
5. Andreas Nilsson (SWE)	28

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 20

Final (1): 2001/02

Semi-final (3): 2002/03, 2005/06, 2013/14

Quarter-final (9): 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2012/13

Last 16 (2): 1993/94, 2010/11, 2011/12

Group Phase (3): 1994/95, 1995/96, 2007/08

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2007/08, Runners-up 1996/97

Hungarian league: 22 titles (1985, 1986, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

Hungarian cup: 23 titles



Playing hall

Veszprém Arena

Küldő-Kádártai út

8200 Veszprém

Hungary

Capacity: 5,020

Club Address:

MKB-MVM Veszprém

Küldő-Kádártai út 5

8200 Veszprém

Hungary

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Twitter: [@mkbveszpremkc](https://twitter.com/mkbveszpremkc)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white

Player short: white

Goalkeeper shirt: grey

Dark

Player shirt: red

Player short: red

Goalkeeper shirt: black

MKB-MVM Veszprém (HUN)



Biggest win:	38:17 (18:9) v HC Granitas Kaunas LTU (h), 06.11.2004
Biggest defeat:	30:18 (16:8) v Badel Zagreb CRO (a), 24.01.1995
Longest winning run:	11 matches (11.10.2009 – 03.04.2010)
Longest unbeaten run:	11 matches (11.10.2009 – 03.04.2010)
Longest losing run:	3 matches (16.01.1996 – 08.02.1996)
Longest run without win:	4 matches (09.01.1999 – 31.10.1999)
Most goals:	46 v MSK SIRS Povazska Bystrica SVK 46:26W (h), 07.10.2006 46 v MSK SIRS Povazska Bystrica SVK 30:46W (a), 21.10.2006
Most goals opponent:	39 v THW Kiel GER 39:32L (a), 01.03.2007
Most goals both teams:	76 v MSK SIRS Povazska Bystrica SVK 30:46W (a), 21.10.2006
Fewest goals:	15 v TEKA Santander ESP 25:15L (a), 15.03.1995
Fewest goals opponent:	13 v SO Chambéry FRA 29:13W (h), 18.11.2001 13 v Panellinios AC Athens GRE 19:13W (h), 17.11.2002
Fewest goals both teams:	32 v Panellinios AC Athens GRE 19:13W (h), 17.11.2002

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 Fotex Veszprem HUN	6	2	2	2	131:147	-16	6		3rd Gr. A
1995/96 Fotex Veszprem HUN	6	3	0	3	147:144	+3	6		3rd Gr. A
1997/98 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	5	1	2	228:204	+24	11		1/4-finals
1998/99 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	3	1	4	200:188	+12	7		1/4-finals
1999/00 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	4	0	4	203:202	+1	8		1/4-finals
2001/02 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	12	9	0	3	310:267	+43	18		Runner-up
2002/03 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	8	0	2	276:238	+38	16		1/2-finals
2003/04 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	7	0	3	306:276	+30	14		1/4-finals
2004/05 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	7	0	3	317:259	+58	14		1/4-finals
2005/06 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	9	0	3	373:318	+55	18		1/2-finals
2006/07 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	10	7	0	3	338:288	+50	14		1/4-finals
2007/08 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	6	2	2	2	184:171	+13	6		3rd Gr. F
2008/09 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	8	0	4	351:320	+31	16		1/4-finals
2009/10 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	14	11	0	3	419:368	+51	22		1/4-finals
2010/11 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	9	0	3	373:338	+35	18		Last 16
2011/12 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	7	0	5	321:322	-1	14		Last 16
2012/13 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	14	11	0	3	410:348	+62	22		1/4-finals
2013/14 MKB-MVM Veszprém HUN	16	11	1	4	477:410	+67	23		4th Place
Total	186	123	7	56	5364:4808	+556	253		

MKB-MVM Veszprém (HUN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
13	Momir	Ilic	SRB	Left Back	22.12.1981	200	109	86
33	Renato	Sulic	CRO	Line Player	12.10.1979	192	109	47
20	Christian	Zeitz	GER	Right Back	18.11.1980	186	103	34
24	Gasper	Marguc	SLO	Right Wing	20.8.1990	182	82	30
18	Andreas	Nilsson	SWE	Line Player	12.4.1990	196	117	28
19	Laszlo	Nagy	HUN	Right Back	3.3.1981	207	117	26
23	Cristian	Ugalde Garcia	ESP	Left Wing	19.10.1987	187	82	24
3	Peter	Gulyas	HUN	Right Wing	4.3.1984	200	106	21
11	Carlos	Ruesga Pasarin	ESP	Line Player	10.3.1985	184	98	16
66	Mate	Lekai	HUN	Centre Back	16.6.1988	190	89	17
25	Jose Maria	Rodríguez Vaquero	ESP	Line Player	5.1.1980	187	98	15
4	Gergő	Ivancsik	HUN	Left Wing	30.11.1981	190	89	13
21	Iman	Jamali	IRI	Left Back	11.10.1991	200	102	4
30	Mirsad	Terzic	BIH	Left Back	12.7.1983	196	104	4
5	Istvan Timuzsin	Schuch	HUN	Line Player	5.6.1985	197	110	2
34	David	Fekete	HUN	Left Wing	12.10.1996	180	85	
35	Daniel	Füzi	HUN	Line Player	9.8.1996	180	78	
34	Otto	Kancel	SVK	Left Back	1.2.1995	205	95	
37	Peter	Schmid	HUN	Centre Back	6.8.1996	180	75	
38	Martin	Varju	HUN	Right Wing	3.1.1996	185	82	
12	Adam	Borbely	HUN	Goalkeeper	22.6.1995	197	122	
36	Gergely	Rozsavölgyi	HUN	Goalkeeper	8.5.1996	187	93	
32	Mirko	Alilovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	15.9.1985	201	113	1
16	Roland	Mikler	HUN	Goalkeeper	20.9.1984	190	102	





Antonio Carlos Ortega coach

- six time Spanish champion, 14 different cup titles in Spain
- as a player for Barcelona he won every possible title at least three times
- in 2005 started his coaching career in Antequera
- in 2012 left Spain for the first time to take on the challenge in Veszprém and in his second year he steered them to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 for the first time

EC trophy: CL 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2005, Cup Winners' Cup 1995, EHF Cup 2003
OG: B 2000, EURO: S 1998, B 2000



Mirko Alilovic goalkeeper

- like his predecessor Dejan Perić belongs to the elite class of goalkeepers who can send the audience to their feet and inspire his teammates
- member of the Croatian national team and his medal tally consists of three silver medals and two bronze
- in 2013 recorded 11 goal assists during the WCh
- very familiar with the Spanish contingent in Veszprém as he played for five years in the Asobal

OG: B 2012, EURO: S 2008, 2010, WCh: S 2009, B 2013



Cristian Ugalde left wing

- brought up by Barcelona and played regularly in the first team since he was 18
- excelled at international level in the 2007/08 season with his 34 goals and participation in the national team
- won every possible title with Barca – some of them multiple times
- found a new challenge in Veszprém altering with Gergő Iváncsik, who is one of the best players in this position according to Ugalde

EC trophies: CL 2005, 2011
EURO: B 2014, WCh: B 2011



Momir Ilic left back

- top scorer and only player passing 100 goals (103) in the 2013/14 CL season
- joined THW Kiel in 2009 from VfL Gummersbach and won seven titles during his four years with the club, including two CL titles
- led Serbia to their first medal as an independent nation at EHF EURO 2012
- MVP of the EHF EURO 2012
- 2013/14 All-Star team left back

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012
EURO: S 2012



Chema Rodríguez Vaquero centre back

- until 2012 played only in Spain (Valladolid, Ciudad Real, Atlético Madrid)
- in 2007 he transferred to Ciudad Real in what was one of the most expensive transfers in handball history
- won the Spanish Championship and the Spanish Cup three times

EC trophies: CL 2008, 2009
EURO: S 2006, WCh: G 2005, B 2011



Renato Sulic line player

- at his second stint of the robust Croatian in Veszprém, but in the 2004/05 season he did not have a chance to wear their jersey as he was injured in a car incident before his first match
- came back to Veszprém after several years in Zagreb and Celje
- share his time on the court with the defensive specialist Timužsin Schuh and Andreas Nilsson.

EURO: S 2008, WCh: G 2003



Laszlo Nagy right back

- started his career as a basketball player and was close to a move to the USA at the age of 13
- in the end he decided for handball and became one of the best right backs of the world
- transferred from Szeged to Barcelona in 2006 and became the captain despite being a foreigner
- All-Star team right back of the 2013 WCh
- All-Star team right back of the 2012/13 CL season

EC trophies: CL 2005, 2011, EHF Cup 2003



Gašper Marguc right wing

- took part in the WCh in Spain 2013, where Slovenia placed fourth
- came to Veszprém from Celje where he was playing since 2009
- in the 2012/13 season played his best season so far and became Slovenia's top scorer in the CL, netting 72 times (10th overall)
- played two amazing matches against THW Kiel in 2012/13, scoring 18 times from 18 shots against the legendary Thierry Omeyer

MOL-Pick Szeged vs THW Kiel



First leg

Sunday 12 April, 19:15 hrs local time

Second leg

Sunday 19 April, 19:30 hrs local time



While the duel of MOL-Pick Szeged and THW Kiel is considered to be a one-sided clash the injury-hit German side will have to work for their money especially in Szeged.

However, Kiel are the favourites as the Bundesliga leaders seem to be almost invincible this year, too.

"We did not want Löwen either but here we are one step away from Cologne," said Zsolt Balogh after the draw, but even MOL-Pick Szeged's right back admitted that the Hungarian runners-up need a miracle to get past VELUX EHF Champions League favourites THW Kiel.

Kiel might have wanted to pick Szeged before the draw but the German powerhouse are also aware that Pick Szeged have a splendid recent record against German teams: the Hungarian team won the EHF Cup in Berlin last year (eliminating Füchse in the semi-final) while in the last 16 they ousted Löwen.

Rhein-Neckar snatched a point in Kiel in the Bundesliga to put Szeged's heroics in context in the last 16 but in the meantime Szeged lost the Hungarian derby to Veszprem quite easily.

Injuries hit both sides

Kiel are far from full strength as the German outfit will miss crucial players like Andreas Palicka and Dominik Klein, whose places will be filled by new veteran signings Steinar Ege and Henrik Lundström respectively.

Szeged will also have a notable absentee at the wing as Jonas Kjällman, who had had appendectomy is highly doubtful and the Swede is also a focal point of Juan Carlos Pastor's defensive strategy.

The Hungarian runners-up, who have never been this close to Cologne, will also have to do without Nico Mindegia, Dean Bombac is the only option at centre back.

Above all Kiel players one is particularly anxious about the first leg in Szeged: Marko Vujin, who faced the noisy crowd at the Újszegedi Arena lots of time while in Veszprém, expects a hostile welcome from the Szeged faithful.

Head-to-head stats

MOL-Pick Szeged vs THW Kiel 0-0-2 (50:72) 0:4

02.10.2011	Pick Szeged vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	26:38 (14:16)
09.02.2012	THW Kiel vs Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	34:24 (18:12)

Winner 3 vs 2



Playing hall

Varosi Sportcsarnok Szeged
Temesvari Krt.33
6726 Szeged
Hungary
Capacity: 3,200

Club Address:

Pick Szeged
Deák Ferenc u. 28-30.
6720 Szeged
Hungary

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+36 70 3878234
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Online information:

Website: www.pickhandball.hu
Facebook: [pickszeged](https://www.facebook.com/pickszeged)
Twitter: [@pickhandball](https://twitter.com/pickhandball)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: orange
Player short: silver
Goalkeeper shirt: black / red / green

Dark

Player shirt: blue or red
Player short: blue or red
Goalkeeper shirt: black / red / green

MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)

The reigning Men's EHF Cup champions enjoyed a bright start to the group phase, losing just one of their first seven matches (32:37 against Kielce).

Backed by their Spanish quintet – four players and coach Juan Carlos Pastor stem from Spain – the Hungarian side secured their spot at the Last 16 already after Round 7.

But neither Jose Manuel Sierra's heroic saves in goal nor top scorer Zsolt Balogh's thunderous strikes were enough to overcome the injuries the team suffered from at the start of 2015.

A 23:23 draw against Aalborg in Round 10 stopped Szeged's two-game losing streak who nevertheless finished second in Group D.

Perhaps Rhein-Neckar Löwen believed this lullaby of Szeged in the group phase's end, but this has proved to be a disaster for Lions as the Hungarian team stunned them in the opening leg in Mannheim and never really gave them a chance to rekindle the quarter-final hopes in the return leg.

Last 16

@ Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER) W34:30 (16:17)
vs Rhein Neckar Löwen (GER) W31:29 (16:13)

Aggregate: 57:52

GROUP D Final Table:

1. KS Vive Tauron Kielce	10	10	0	0	312:271 (41)	20
2. MOL-Pick Szeged	10	6	1	3	276:264 (12)	13
3. Dunkerque HB G. Littoral	10	4	0	6	257:263 (-6)	8
4. Aalborg Handball	10	2	3	5	256:269 (-13)	7
5. HC Motor Zaporozhye	10	3	0	7	283:284 (-1)	6
6. Kadetten Schaffhausen	10	2	2	6	264:297 (-33)	6

Group Phase results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss)

vs HC Motor Zaporozhye	W27:26 (13:11)
@ KS Vive Tauron Kielce	L32:37 (17:18)
@ Aalborg Handball	W28:25 (15:11)
vs Kadetten Schaffhausen	W34:24 (16:13)
vs Dunkerque HB G. Littoral	W23:21 (11:10)
@ Dunkerque HB G. Littoral	W25:24 (15:12)
@ HC Motor Zaporozhye	W29:25 (16:12)
vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce	L26:27 (11:14)
@ Kadetten Schaffhausen	L29:32 (15:19)
vs Aalborg Handball	D23:23 (10:10)

Top scorers:

1. Zsolt Balogh (HUN)	68
2. Dean Bombac (SLO)	61
3. Jonas Källman (SWE)	30
4. Ferenc Ilyés (HUN)	29
5. Roberto Parrondo (ESP)	27

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 13
Quarter-final (2): 1996/97, 2003/04
Last 16 (5): 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2010/11, 2012/13
Main Round (1): 2007/08
Group Phase (3): 2008/09, 2009/10, 2011/12
Qualification (1): 2013/14

Other

EHF Cup: quarter-final 2000/01, Last 16 1994/95, 1999/2000
Cup Winners' Cup: semi-final 1993/94, quarter-final 2002/03, 2008/09

Hungarian league: 2 titles (1996, 2007)
Hungarian cup: 6 titles

MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)



Biggest win:	39:24 (15:10) v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH (h), 07.10.2007
Biggest defeat:	40:17 (19:5) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 15.02.1997
Longest winning run:	6 matches (03.10.2007 – 24.11.2007)
Longest unbeaten run:	6 matches (03.10.2007 – 24.11.2007)
Longest losing run:	6 matches (17.10.2009 – 20.02.2010) 6 matches (06.03.2011 – 15.10.2011)
Longest run without win:	7 matches (17.10.2009 – 27.02.2010)
Most goals:	39 v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH 39:24W (h), 07.10.2007
Most goals opponent:	40 v FC Barcelona ESP 40:17L (a), 15.02.1997
Most goals both teams:	73 v Montpellier Agglomeration HB FRA 38:35W (h), 19.11.2011
Fewest goals:	17 v FC Barcelona ESP 40:17L (a), 15.02.1997
Fewest goals opponent:	16 v Wisla Plock SA POL 16:26W (a), 05.10.2008
Fewest goals both teams:	39 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 20:19W (h), 08.03.2008

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 Pick Szeged HUN	8	3	2	3	205:216	-11	8		1/4-finals
2003/04 SC Pick Szeged HUN	10	4	0	6	269:262	+7	8		1/4-finals
2004/05 SC Pick Szeged HUN	8	4	2	2	190:187	+3	10		Last 16
2005/06 SC Pick Szeged HUN	8	3	0	5	219:218	+1	6		Last 16
2006/07 SC Pick Szeged HUN	8	3	2	3	202:203	-1	8		Last 16
2007/08 Pick Szeged HUN	12	9	0	3	361:310	+51	18		3rd MR Gr. 4
2008/09 Pick Szeged HUN	6	2	0	4	159:161	-2	4		3rd Gr. H
2009/10 Pick Szeged HUN	10	2	2	6	287:307	-20	6		5th Gr. A
2010/11 Pick Szeged HUN	12	5	0	7	336:351	-15	10		Last 16
2011/12 Pick Szeged HUN	10	3	0	7	285:316	-31	6		5th Gr. D
2012/13 Pick Szeged HUN	12	4	0	8	313:350	-37	8		Last 16
Total	104	42	8	54	2826:2881	-55	92		

MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
19	Zsolt	Balogh	HUN	Right Back	29.3.1989	189	96	68
44	Dean	Bombac	SLO	Centre Back	4.4.1989	188	92	61
8	Jonas	Källman	SWE	Left Wing	17.7.1981	200	100	30
18	Ferenc	Ilyés	HUN	Left Back	20.12.1981	198	103	29
51	Roberto	Garcia Parrondo	ESP	Right Wing	12.1.1980	187	86	27
22	Rajko	Prodanovic	SRB	Right Wing	24.4.1986	188	87	26
5	Niko	Mindegia Elizaga	ESP	Centre Back	19.7.1988	184	87	23
90	Gabor	Ancsin	HUN	Right Back	27.11.1990	202	97	21
77	Vladimir	Vranjes	BIH	Line Player	14.12.1988	200	107	16
17	Szabolcs	Zubai	HUN	Line Player	31.3.1984	193	93	15
9	Antonio Jesus	Garcia Robledo	ESP	Left Back	6.3.1984	191	93	10
21	Alen	Blazevic	CRO	Left Back	29.3.1986	200	110	7
23	Márk	Hegedüs	HUN	Line Player	14.09.1992	190	103	5
7	Attila	Vadkert	HUN	Left Wing	22.2.1982	182	88	3
15	Balint	Fekete	HUN	Right Back	27.6.1995	190	80	
11	Mate	Gidai	HUN	Right Wing	18.1.1994	180	75	
98	Gergő	Haszillo	HUN	Left Back	30.9.1996	192	92	
88	Bence	Molnar	HUN	Centre Back	7.3.1994	186	85	
24	Vladan	Loncar	BIH	Left Back	25.01.1997	201	93	
94	Richard	Mezei	HUN	Right Back	28.11.1996	189	96	
89	Lenard	Nagy	HUN	Centre Back	8.5.1997	182	72	
87	Gabriel	Papp	SVK	Line Player	18.12.1995	197	92	
20	Patrik	Arpasi	HUN	Line Player	17.9.1996	190	100	
31	Nikola	Stojanov	HUN	Left Wing	28.10.1993	192	85	
91	Bence	Szabo	HUN	Left Back	11.8.1994	200	111	
96	Egon	Urban	HUN	Right Wing	12.12.1996	180	75	
10	Peter	Velky	HUN	Left Wing	25.4.1992	186	82	
97	Peter György	Matrai	HUN	Goalkeeper	17.4.1996	190	80	
12	Imre	Pasztor	HUN	Goalkeeper	23.7.1996	190	120	
16	Piotr	Wyszomirski	POL	Goalkeeper	6.1.1988	194	95	
1	Jose Manuel	Sierra Mendez	ESP	Goalkeeper	21.5.1978	194	92	





Juan Carlos Pastor coach

- one of the masterminds of contemporary handball with an incredible amount of silverware in his career
- Szeged found him fit for the job of rebuilding their team in order to be able to challenge for the Hungarian title against Veszprém
- won the EHF Cup in his first year at the helm
- became also the sporting director after Szeged legend Richárd Mezei resigned

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2009, EHF Cup 2014
WCh: G 2005, EURO: S 2006, OG: B 2008



José Manuel Sierra goalkeeper

- together with Piotr Wyszomirski supposed to fill in for Hungarian international Roland Mikler, who joined Veszprém
- one of the most influential goalkeepers in the world, the Valladolid legend has won an enormous amount of trophies through his almost two decades long career
- signed from PSG, has done a grand slam of great Spanish teams (Barcelona, Ciudad Real and Valladolid) in the past

EC trophies: CL 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, Cup Winners' Cup: 2009
WCh: G 2013, EURO: B 2014



Jonas Källman left wing

- signed in the winter of 2013/14 and showed his unique ability to defend in three positions
- vital part of both coach Juan Carlos Pastor's defensive variations and Szeged's attacking edge
- spent more than a decade in Spain with Ciudad Real and Atlético Madrid before returning home (IFK Skövde) and finally signing a three-and-a-half year contract with Pick

EC trophies: CL 2006, 2008, 2009, EHF Cup 2014
OG: S 2012



Ferenc Ilyés left back

- one of the most influential Hungarian players at both club and international level
- one of the many who played both for Szeged and Veszprém
- defensive specialist can also be an impact player at left back as shown by his marvellous performance in the 2014 EHF Cup Finals
- great talisman for his team as won three international trophies with three different clubs

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2008, EHF Cup: 2010, 2014



Antonio García Robledo left back

- without a doubt the biggest name the EHF Cup winner signed in the summer of 2014
- won a great deal of both individual, club and national team silverware and a lot is expected from the Granollers-raised shooter in Szeged
- former Spanish player of the year
- Szeged is his third team in the CL having tried his luck with Leon and PSG before

WCh: G 2013, EURO: B 2014



Szabolcs Zubai line player

- one of the most technically gifted in his position in Hungary
- coming from the famous Dunaferri school
- U2 fan signed a contract with Pick Szeged in 2008 and has been the focal point of both the team's attacks and defence
- well over his 100th cap and a decade in the grinder of opponents' walls finally managed to get a grip on a trophy, which came in 2014

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2014



Zsolt Balogh right back

- joined Pick Szeged from Braun Gyöngyös in 2012
- by 2014 overtook Gábor Ancsin in the Pick roster at his position
- not as tall as one would expect from a backcourt player but has outstanding dribbling skills and a sharp eye for passing
- new coach Pastor gave him more time and he grabbed his chance

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2014



Roberto García Parrondo right wing

- brought by coach Pastor when he took the Szeged hotseat
- the two won an incredible amount of trophies together
- Madrid-born played for seven Spanish teams before he decided to bring his talents to international courts
- one of the few players to have literally won all international trophies EHF had to offer

EC trophies: CL 2008, 2009, Cup Winners' Cup 2005, EHF Cup 2013
WCh: G 2005, EURO: B 2011

Winner 4 vs 1



Playing hall

Sparkassen-Arena-Kiel

Europaplatz 1,

24103 Kiel

Germany

Capacity: 10,000

Club Address:

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Twitter: [@thw_handball](https://twitter.com/thw_handball)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white

Player short: white

Goalkeeper shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: black

Player short: black

Goalkeeper shirt: red

THW Kiel (GER)

The German champions cruised into the knockout stage of Europe's premier club competition with an impressive nine wins out of 10, having suffered their only defeat in the opening round when they lost 27:25 at HC PPD Zagreb.

The upset seemed to have spurred the treble former VELUX EHF Champions League winners into action as they demonstrated trademark high-tempo handball for the remainder of the group stage campaign. Especially impressive was their double win over an expensively assembled Paris Saint-Germain Handball within a week, as they dislodged the French side despite the protracted absence of prolific left back Filip Jicha who had undergone ankle surgery before the competition started.

Icelander Aron Palmarsson, who also suffered an injury early in the campaign, initially did a good job taking over Jicha's scoring mantle but the depth of Kiel's roster showed when he too was sidelined, as Croatia's Domagoj Duvnjak, Serb Marko Vujin and Germany's own Steffen Weinhold held the backcourt together.

Nothing could reveal Kiel's strength in every department better than the Last 16 tie with SG Flensburg-Handewitt as the injury depleted defending champions stood no chance against their regional rivals.

Last 16

@ SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)

W30:21 (16:9)

vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)

W33:28 (16:10)

Aggregate: 63:49

GROUP A Final Table:

1. THW Kiel	10	9	0	1	322:259 (63)	18
2. PSG Handball	10	6	0	4	297:266 (31)	12
3. HC PPD Zagreb	10	6	0	4	241:248 (-7)	12
4. Naturhouse La Rioja	10	4	1	5	305:305 (0)	9
5. HC Meshkov Brest	10	2	2	6	267:293 (-26)	6
6. HC Metalurg	10	1	1	8	233:294 (-61)	3

Group Phase results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss)

@ HC PPD Zagreb	L25:27 (13:9)
vs Naturhouse La Rioja	W34:32 (20:16)
@ HC Meshkov Brest	W25:24 (11:11)
@ HC Metalurg	W 42:27 (22:15)
@ PSG Handball	W27:25 (12:13)
vs PSG Handball	W33:29 (14:15)
vs HC PPD Zagreb	W34:27 (16:16)
@ Naturhouse La Rioja	W34:30 (14:11)
vs HC Metalurg	W35:16 (17:3)
vs HC Meshkov Brest	W33:22 (17:11)

Top scorers:

1. Marko Vujin (SRB)	58
2. Joan Cañellas Reixach (ESP)	45
3. Domagoj Duvnjak (CRO)	44
4. Steffen Weinhold (GER)	39
5. Dominik Klein (GER)	37

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 18

Winners (3): 2006/07, 2009/10, 2011/12

Runners-up (4): 1999/2000, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2013/14

Semi-final (3): 1996/1997, 2000/01, 2012/13

Quarter-final (5): 1998/99, 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2010/11

Group Phase (2): 1994/95, 1995/96

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 1997/98, 2001/02, 2003/04

German league: 19 titles (1957, 1962, 1963, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014)

German cup: 9 titles

THW Kiel (GER)



Biggest win:	26:50 (13:24) v Banik OKD Karvina CZE (a), 22.10.2006
Biggest defeat	22:13 (12:8) v Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO (a), 25.03.2000
Longest winning run	10 matches (21.02.2010 – 25.09.2010)
Longest unbeaten run	17 matches (22.10.2011 – 11.10.2012)
Longest losing run	3 matches (07.02.1996 – 19.03.1996)
Longest run without win	3 matches (07.02.1996 – 19.03.1996)
Most goals	50 v Banik OKD Karvina CZE 26:50W (a), 22.10.2006
Most goals opponent	44 v FC Barcelona ESP 44:37L (a), 13.04.2008
Most goals both teams	81 v FC Barcelona ESP 44:37L (a), 13.04.2008
Fewest goals	13 v Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO 22:13L (a), 25.03.2000
Fewest goals opponent	15 v SKA Minsk BLR 15:27W (a), 10.11.1996
	15 v SKA Minsk BLR 21:15W (h), 12.01.1997
Fewest goals both teams	35 v Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO 22:13L (a), 25.03.2000

VELUX EHF Champions League record

		MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95	THW Kiel GER	6	3	0	3	137: 136		+ 1	6	2nd Gr. B
1995/96	THW Kiel GER	6	3	0	3	151: 148		+ 3	6	2nd Gr. A
1996/97	THW Kiel GER	10	6	1	3	247: 211		+ 36	13	1/2-finals
1998/99	TKW Kiel GER	8	7	0	1	229: 199		+ 30	14	1/4-finals
1999/00	THW Kiel GER	12	7	1	4	319: 283		+ 36	15	Runner-up
2000/01	THW Kiel GER	10	5	1	4	279: 255		+ 24	11	1/2-finals
2002/03	THW Kiel GER	8	4	1	3	234: 211		+ 23	9	1/4-finals
2004/05	THW Kiel GER	10	8	0	2	336: 274		+ 62	16	1/4-finals
2005/06	THW Kiel GER	10	8	0	2	346: 293		+ 53	16	1/4-finals
2006/07	THW Kiel GER	14	11	1	2	517: 420		+ 97	23	Winner
2007/08	THW Kiel GER	16	13	0	3	533: 462		+ 71	26	Runner-up
2008/09	THW Kiel GER	16	12	1	3	548: 461		+ 87	25	Runner-up
2009/10	THW Kiel GER	16	14	1	1	534: 444		+ 90	29	Winner
2010/11	THW Kiel GER	14	9	2	3	456: 393		+ 63	20	1/4-finals
2011/12	THW Kiel GER	16	12	3	1	496: 414		+ 82	27	Winner
2012/13	THW Kiel GER	16	11	0	5	518: 457		+ 61	22	Fourth Place
2013/14	THW Kiel GER	16	13	1	2	491:427		+64	27	Runner-up
Total		204	146	13	45	6371:5488		+883	305	

THW Kiel (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
41	Marko	Vujin	SRB	Right Back	7.12.1984	201	104	58
21	Joan	Cañellas Reixach	ESP	Centre Back	30.9.1986	198	95	45
4	Domagoj	Duvnjak	CRO	Centre Back	1.6.1988	198	100	44
13	Steffen	Weinhold	GER	Right Back	19.7.1986	191	100	39
33	Dominik	Klein	GER	Left Wing	16.12.1983	190	86	37
24	Aron	Palmarsson	ISL	Centre Back	19.7.1990	193	95	30
17	Patrick	Wiencek	GER	Line Player	22.3.1989	200	108	27
18	Niclas	Ekberg	SWE	Right Wing	23.12.1988	191	91	27
11	Christian	Sprenger	GER	Right Wing	6.4.1983	190	94	23
39	Filip	Jicha	CZE	Left Back	19.4.1982	201	103	21
19	Rasmus	Lauge	DEN	Centre Back	20.6.1991	196	96	13
7	Rene	Toft Hansen	DEN	Line Player	1.11.1984	200	106	9
23	Rune	Dahmke	GER	Left Wing	10.4.1993	190	81	9
25	Alexander	Williams	GER	Back	15.8.1996	187	95	2
6	Fynn	Ranke	GER	Line Player	5.1.1993	201	106	1
26	Lukas	Wucherpennig	GER	Right Wing	23.8.1995	184	81	
16	Kim	Sonne-Hansen	DEN	Goalkeeper	23.6.1992	200	87	
12	Andreas	Palicka	SWE	Goalkeeper	10.7.1986	189	90	
1	Johan	Sjöstrand	SWE	Goalkeeper	26.2.1987	195	94	





Alfred Gislason coach

- earned nine German championships (with Magdeburg and Kiel), four German cup titles, five European club titles
- five times “coach of the year” in Germany
- his first job on the bench was in his home town Akureyri, before taking over Hameln, Magdeburg and Gummersbach in Germany
- joined Kiel in 2008 as the successor of Noka Serdarcic – to lead THW to 15 trophies by now

EC trophies: CL 2002, 2010, 2012 (as coach), EHF Cup 2001 (as coach)



Johan Sjöstrand goalkeeper

- brought in to replace the legendary Thierry Omeyer together with a Sweden's teammate Andreas Palicka
- former junior world champion
- already got a journey through Europe behind him, with spells at Skövde, Flensburg, Barcelona and Aalborg
- horse racing is another passion of him, just one look at his Instagram account will tell you that

EC trophies: CL 2011
OG: S 2012



Filip Jicha left back

- 2010 World Handball Player of the Year as the first Czech
- twice top scorer of the CL, top scorer and MVP at the EHF EURO 2010
- captain of the THW squad since 2013
- one-against-one ability and tough shots make him feared by defences, also a strong defender
- only active player in the CL's 20-year Ultimate Selection and Czech player of the year seven times

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012, EHF Cup 2006



Joan Canellas centre back

- scored 50 goals in eight matches on the way to the top goal scorer title of the EHF EURO 2014
- fits perfectly with Domagoj Duvnjak, with whom he played in Hamburg since summer 2013
- with Barcelona and Ciudad Real Spanish champion and cup winner
- twice (2011, 2012) CL finalist with Ciudad Real and Atletico Madrid – the club with which he also won the IHF Super Globe twice (2010, 2012)

WCh G 2013, B 2011, EURO: B 2014



Domagoj Duvnjak centre back

- top signing of THW before the 2014/15 season
- 2013 IHF World Handball Player of the Year
- arrived from Hamburg, where he played since 2009
- not just a typical playmaker he is also a scorer and is an essential part of defence
- best Bundesliga player in 2013
- started his career in Zagreb

EC trophies: CL 2013
OG: B 2012, WCh: S 2009, B 2013, EURO: S 2010, B 2012



Rene Toft Hansen line player

- even better in defence than on the line in attack, but after Marcus Ahlm's departure in 2013, the learning period in attack is over for him
- EHF EURO 2012 All-Star Team member is
- in the CL since 2007 with former clubs KIF Kolding and AG København
- his brother Henrik is playing for Hamburg, his brother Allan for Mors-Thy and his sister Majbritt for Skive – and all four are line players

WCh: S 2011, 2013, EURO: G 2012, S 2014



Marko Vujin right back

- in 2012 the Serbian shooter arrived to fill the gap after the departure of Kim Andersson to KIF
- top scorer of the 2013/14 Bundesliga (248 goals)
- won seven consecutive national championships with Veszprém and Kiel
- in the national team he is one of the stalwarts who were key to silver at the EHF EURO 2012
- started his international career in Dunafer (Hungary), then played five years in Veszprem

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2008
EURO: S 2012



Christian Sprenger right wing

- worked under coach Alfred Gislason also at former club SC Magdeburg
- after seven years, including one EHF Cup title in 2007, the former German international transferred to Kiel in 2009
- won twelve titles with THW
- member of the EHF EURO 2012 All-Star team
- started his sportive career in judo, before joining the Magdeburg handball team.

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012, EHF Cup 2007

Current top scorers 2014/15

1	Ilic Momir (SRB)	MKB-MVM Veszprém (HUN)	86
2	Lazarov Kiril (MKD)	FC Barcelona (ESP)	85
3	Hansen Mikkel (DEN)	Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)	80
4	Dibirov Timur (RUS)	HC Vardar (MKD)	75
5	Gajic Dragan (SLO)	Montpellier Agglomération HB (FRA)	71
6	Balogh Zsolt (HUN)	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)	68
7	Spellerberg Bo Dybdal (DEN)	KIF Kolding København (DEN)	66
8	Bielecki Karol (POL)	KS Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)	65
	Gensheimer Uwe (GER)	Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)	65
10	Karacic Igor (CRO)	HC Vardar (MKD)	63
11	Dereven Alexander (RUS)	Chekhovskie Medvedi (RUS)	62
	Dujšhebaev Alex (ESP)	HC Vardar (MKD)	62
	Mogensen Thomas (DEN)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	62
14	Bombac Dean (SLO)	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)	61
15	Zhitnikov Dmitry (RUS)	Chekhovskie Medvedi (RUS)	59
16	Vujin Marko (SRB)	THW Kiel (GER)	58
17	Horvat Zlatko (CRO)	HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)	57
	Kavtchnik Vid (SLO)	Montpellier Agglomération HB (FRA)	57
	Liniger Manuel (SUI)	Kadetten Schaffhausen (SUI)	57
20	Butto Baptiste (FRA)	Dunkerque HB Grand Littoral (FRA)	56

Bold text indicates players of teams still in the competition.

Past Winners

2014	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	(GER)
2013	HSV Hamburg	(GER)
2012	THW Kiel	(GER)
2011	FC Barcelona Borges	(ESP)
2010	THW Kiel	(GER)
2009	BM Ciudad Real	(ESP)
2008	BM Ciudad Real	(ESP)
2007	THW Kiel	(GER)
2006	BM Ciudad Real	(ESP)
2005	FC Barcelona-Cifec	(ESP)
2004	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	(SLO)
2003	Montpellier HB	(FRA)
2002	SC Magdeburg	(GER)
2001	Portland San Antonio	(ESP)
2000	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
1999	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
1998	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
1997	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
1996	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
1995	Elgorriaga Bidasoa	(ESP)
1994	TEKA Santander	(ESP)

2014/15 VELUX EHF Champions League Quarter-final

Media Guide

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