

# Media Guide

VELUX EHF Champions League Season 2015/16 Quarter-finals



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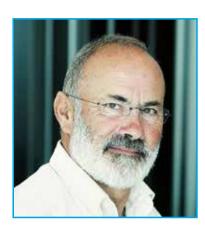


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## **Foreword**



Dear Media Representative,

Europe's finest club handball competition, the VELUX EHF Champions League rapidly approaches its late May climax and we can now look forward to the quarter-finals. Only the top eight teams have survived a long race to this stage of the game and no matter whether the odds consider teams favourites or outsiders, there is one thing they all have in common. No team which has made it to the very threshold of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 is ready to settle down with the prospect of being eliminated at this stage.

On behalf of the European Handball Federation, I welcome to the arenas the delegations from France, Paris Saint-Germain Handball; Germany, THW Kiel and SG Flensburg-Handewitt; Hungary, MVM Veszprém; FYR Macedonia, HC Vardar; Poland, KS Vive Tauron Kielce; Spain, FC Barcelona Lassa and Croatia, HC PPD Zagreb. For the second straight year there was no space left for quarter-final newcomers as the only missing team from last year are Szeged, while 2014 winners SG Flensburg-Handewitt have returned to the elite eight.

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 willpower 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; on the other hand their successful campaigns can turn to ashes if they fail to take the last step. Inevitably, four teams will estimably depart the competition, while four teams step triumphantly towards Cologne and the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2016.

Although we still have all four contenders of last year's event in action, one of them will certainly bow out from the competition as two of the most heralded teams in EHF Champions League history stand face-to-face. Defending champions and eight-time winners FC Barcelona Lassa will travel Germany for the quarter-finals for the second time in three years. After eliminating Rhein-Neckar Löwen two years ago, the record trophy holders now take on the "zebras" of Kiel, who won the European top flight three times and were crowned in Cologne in 2010 and 2012.

Another fancied team Paris Saint-Germain Handball are hungry to finally make a splash in club handball and reach the final tournament, if not win it. But the French star-studded team faces the ever-dangerous HC PPD Zagreb, who proved their giant-killing reputation once again in the Last 16 against Rhein-Neckar Löwen. The Macedonian powerhouse HC Vardar are as eager as PSG to claim their maiden place at the season-ending party on the river Rhine's banks, but they have to find a way how to outmuscle MVM Veszprem, who are eyeing their third straight participation in Cologne. SG Flensburg-Handewitt, the surprising winners of the 2014 edition, are back in the top eight and look in good shape to try bring an end to the European season of the perennial Polish champions from Kielce.

I wish all eight teams best of luck. They are ready to take to the court and we eagerly await the throw-off to the matches that will deliver to our fans the essence, passion, power, and determination that is synonymous with Europe's premier club competition.

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.

Jean Brihau 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 within 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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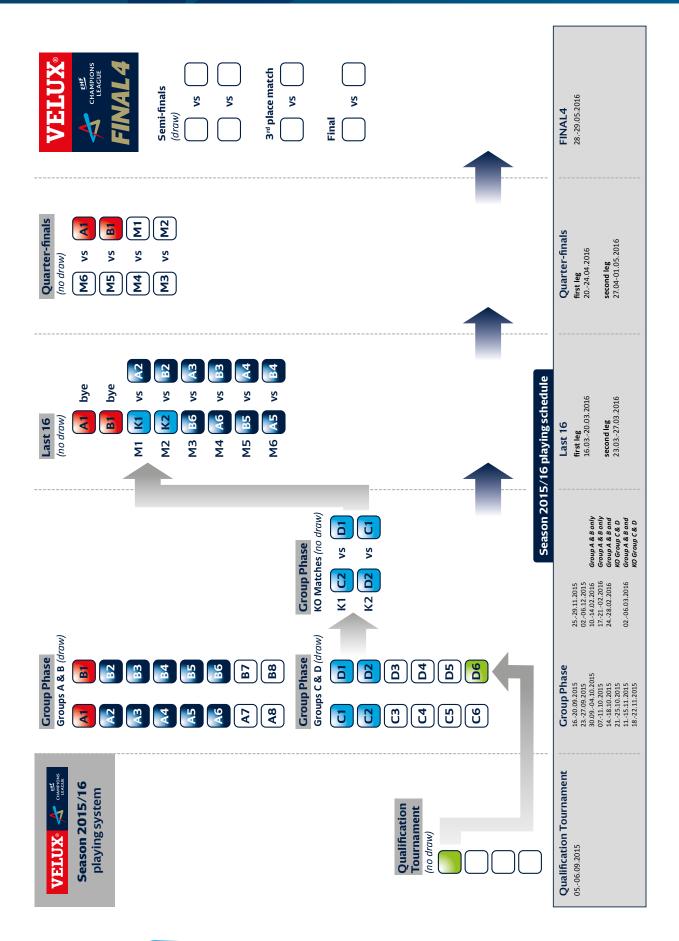
#### **KS Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)**

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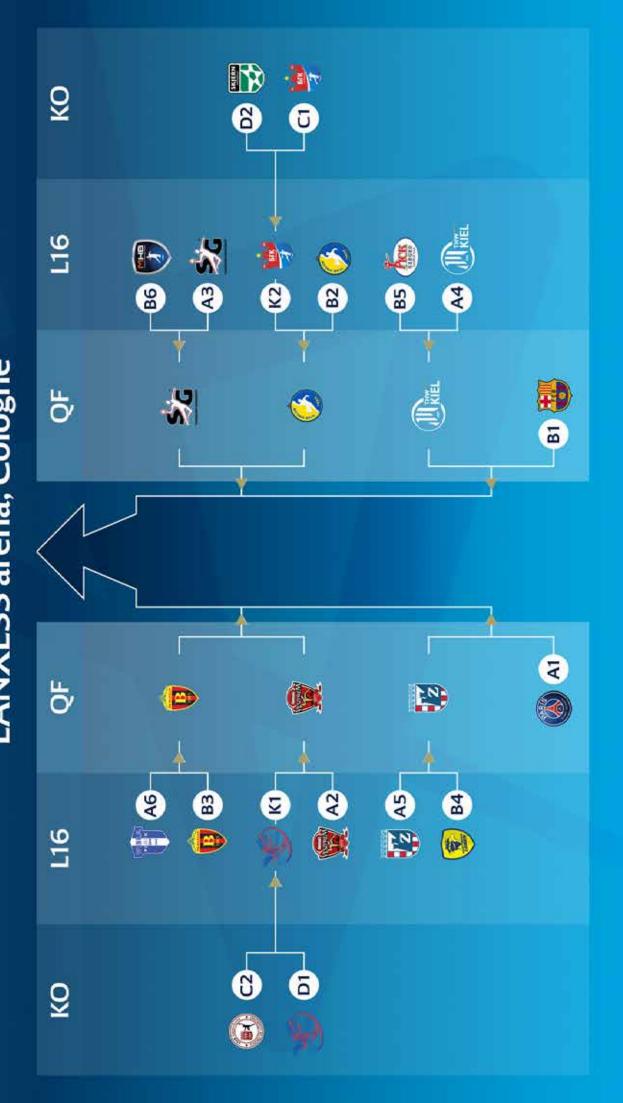






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# **Media Accreditation for the VELUX EHF FINAL4**

With 15 weeks to go before the start of VELUX EHF FINAL4, the final round of the VELUX EHF Champions League, the media accreditation started.

The event will take place for the seventh time in the LANXESS arena, Cologne on 28/29 May 2016 and will see the continent's top 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 ehfFINAL4.com, the event's official website. Requests can only be made online.

Requests for media accreditation should be made by Friday 6 May 2016, almost one week after the completion of 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 accreditations.

By applying for a media accreditation, media representatives also agree to the Media Terms and Conditions (EHF Events). Please read them carefully before making your application

Click here to enter the media accreditation page



# **VELUX EHF FINAL4 Draw**

#### The draw of the semi-finals will take place at The View Cologne on Tuesday 3 May

The draw of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 Semi-finals will take place on Tuesday, 3 May, at 12:00 hrs local time on the Rhine bank at The View Cologne (Kennedy-Ufer 11, 50679 Cologne, Germany) and it will be live streamed on <a href="https://enemo.org/ehfTV.com">ehfTV.com</a> following the EHF Cup Finals Draw in Nantes, France.

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 <a href="mailto:eurohandball.com">eurohandball.com</a> and the event will also be extensively covered on the official Twitter channel of the VELUX EHF Champions League <a href="mailto:eehfcl">eehfcl</a>.

There will be no seeding and no country protection at the semi-final draw.





# Facts and figures of the group phase

#### 7 countries still in competition, 6 former winners on the bench

With HC PPD Zagreb's sensation and Flensburg's fortunate entry, the Last 16 matches of the VELUX EHF Champions League were completed on the last weekend of March. Seven different countries are represented by the quarter-finalists, to which Paris Saint-Germain Handball and FC Barcelona Lassa belong as group winners.

Here are some more facts and figures about the competition.

0 times since the implementation of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in 2010, any champion defended their title - but Barcelona are already one step further as their predecessors Hamburg (2013) and Flensburg (2014) were already been eliminated in the Last 16 as defending champions.

1 time before – Kiel in 1997 – Zagreb eliminated a German club in a knock-out stage of the VELUX EHF Champions League, before they threw out Rhein-Neckar Löwen.

1 club has reached both - male and female - EHF Champions League Quarter-finals: HC Vardar.

2 teams turned defeats in the first Last 16 legs into tickets to the quarter-finals: THW Kiel (29:33 at Szeged, 36:29 at home) and Zagreb (23:24 at home against Löwen, 31:29 at Mannheim).

1 goal in aggregate was the smallest margin in the Last 16 duels, scored by Vardar against Orlen Wisla Plock (55:54) and by Zagreb against Löwen (54:53).

1 of the current quarter-final pairings had already been take place since the implementation of the current playing system in the 2009/10 season: Barcelona vs Kiel in 2011. The Catalans eliminated the that time defending champions to later-on win their first ever trophy at Cologne.

2 teams made it straight from the group phase to the quarter-finals: PSG (winner of group A) and Barcelona (winner of group B).

2 clubs made it to the previous two quarter-finals in 2014 and 2015 but never made it to Cologne: Vardar and PSG.

3 former EHF Champions League winners representing 12 trophies are among those last eight teams, which made it to the quarter-finals: Barcelona (8), Kiel (3) and Flensburg (1). In addition, MVM Veszprém and Zagreb were finalists.

5 of the eight quarter-finalists have at least once been part of a VELUX EHF FINAL4: Barcelona (5 times/2 trophies), Kiel (5/2), Flensburg (1/1), Veszprem (2/0), Kielce (2/0).

6 of eight coaches of the quarter-finalists were leading their respective teams to at least one EHF Champions League title: Alfred Gislason (Kiel/3 titles, with Kiel/2 and Magdeburg), Talant Dujshebaev (KS Vive Tauron Kielce, 3 titles with BM Ciudad Real), Raul Gonzales (Vardar/3 titles as assistant coach of Ciudad Real), Xavi Pascual (Barcelona/2 with Barcelona), Ljubomir Vranjes (Flensburg/1 with Flensburg) and Noka Serdarusic (PSG/1 with Kiel).

7 of the eight current quarter-finalists were part of the same stage in the previous season: Barcelona, Veszprém, Kielce, Kiel, Vardar, Zagreb and PSG.

7 different countries are represented by the eight teams: Germany (2), Spain, France, Hungary, Poland, Croatia and Macedonia. Last year, it were seven nations, too, but with MOL-Pick Szeged a second Hungarian team joined instead of Flensburg.

12 goals each were scored by Anders Eggert (Flensburg) and Dragan Gajic (Montpellier) in their personal shoot-out in the second leg of the Last 16.

16 points - the optimum - were taken by Veszprém in all their eight home matches including the Last 16.

17 matches since the start of the group phase ended by a margin of +10 or more goals, 1 (Veszprem vs Zaporozhye 41:28) in the Last 16.

17 times, including the current season, each THW Kiel and FC Barcelona Lassa qualified for the quarter-finals of the EHF Champions League. Thus, they are ahead of Veszprém (15), Zagreb (12), Flensburg (8), Vardar, Kielce and PSG (3 each).

18 goals in aggregate was the biggest margin in the Last 16 duels, scored by Veszprém against HC Motor Zaporozhye (70:52).

62 matches since the start of the group phase were attended by 5000 or more spectators, seven in the Last 16.

63 times, more than 60 goals were scored in all matches since the start of the group phase, 8 times it happened in the Last 16.

63 times in all matches since the start of the group phase, the away teams were the victors, five times it occurred in the Last 16.

107 goals, scored by Mikkel Hansen in only 14 matches, still mean the first place of the top scorer ranking, even though the PSG left back did not take part in the Last 16 matches. New number two is Dean Bombac (101), who will not score any more goals, as he and his club Pick Szeged were eliminated.

110 times in all matches since the start of the group phase, the home teams were the victors, six times it occurred in the Last 16.

10,849 was the average number of spectators in Zagreb's eight home matches ahead of THW Kiel (9671 in average).

13,800 fans attended the match HC PPD Zagreb vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen, which is the highest attendance of all Last 16 matches.

24,321 spectators in total saw the two Last 16 matches of Löwen and Zagreb.

# **Important regulations**

#### Scoring of the matches in the 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



# HC PPD Zagreb (CRO) vs PSG Handball (FRA)



First leg
Saturday 23 April, 20:30 hrs. local time

**Second leg**Sunday 1 May, 17:00 hrs. local time



Zagreb and PSG will meet for the third and fourth time this season but this time it is in the quarter-final where stakes are higher than in the group phase. Over two games both teams want to book their tickets to Cologne for the first time. Both Zagreb and PSG lost last year in the quarter-final and failed to make it to Cologne. That was not a big disappointment for Zagreb who played Barcelona and had slim chances of winning against eventual winner.

On the other hand, PSG in their second consecutive quarter-final lost to Veszprem. Now they hope third time is a charm and that they will finally play under the spotlights of LANXESS arena in Cologne.

Their first game this season, played in Paris, ended up with a huge 34:23 win for PSG. Noka Serdarusic outfoxed Zagreb who played one of the worse matches of the season. Second match in packed Arena Zagreb was almost second biggest surprise Zagreb fans have seen after Kiel fell in Round 1. Stars of PSG did not allow something like that to happen so they eventually won 25:23.

Before the most important clash of the season Zagreb has injury problems. Sandro Obranovic is definitely lost for this season. His shoulder injury got worse and now needs to undergo surgery. Luka Sebetic is still a questionmark for Saturday because he has torn hamstrings. Even though they have problems, Zagreb still believe they have a chance of winning with interesting solution on the right back position.

"There are some cracks in the PSG game that we can use. They are not extraterrestrials; they are people of flesh and blood just like us.

We are focused on our defensive tactics and we are practicing attack with three right-handed players.

"It is not going to be easy to play 60 minutes with three right-handers so Zlatko Horvat is helping by playing on right back," explained Domagoj Pavlovic for ehfCL.com.

PSG seems to be on the roll now and are pumped up with confidence. Recent win against Toulouse secured them another title in the French Championship and now next goal is the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne. Apart from Xavier Barachet, everyone is fit to play on Saturday in Arena Zagreb.

"From now on we are preparing for Zagreb. We can talk about tactics but if we are off to a bad start all tactical preparation goes to waste. I think we all know each other very well and in next few days we won't learn anything new, but it's very hard to expect that we can surprise each other. We need to focus only on our game and concentrate for 120 minute of good fight and sports war on the court," said Igor Vori for ehfCL.com.

After Zagreb won in Mannheim coach Veselin Vujovic said for Croatian Television that no one wins three times against him. Seems like his players also share his mindset and think they can win for the first time this season against star-filled team like PSG.

"We have to be concentrated on our game, our engagement and I think we can do anything," said Pavlovic whose team will showcase new jerseys for next season in this spectacular match in Arena Zagreb.

#### Head-to-head stats

#### HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball 1-0-3 (93:110) 2:6

05.10.2014	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:22 (11:9)
09.12.2014	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:24 (14:13)
11.10.2015	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	34:23 ((18:8)
10.02.2016	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	23:25 (10:15)







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

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#### Online information:

Website: <u>www.rk-zagreb.hr</u> Facebook: <u>RK-Zagreb</u> Twitter: <u>@RKZagreb</u>

#### **Kit colours**

#### Light

Player shirt: white Player short: white Goalkeeper shirt: orange

#### Dark

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

# **HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)**

PPD Zagreb's road to VELUX EHF Champions League knock-out phase was not at all easy, but first goal that club management asked for is achieved. It all started bright and shiny for Veselin Vujovic's team. A huge 29:22 win over THW Kiel in Zagreb was a big push at the beginning of the season. It continued with a close away win over Celje 21:20 and it looked like Zagreb is on a road to make spectacular season opening.

Arena Zagreb did not manage to scare and hold Veszprem who were the first team to beat Zagreb. The toughest defeat Zagreb had in Paris where PSG won by 11 goals. A win over Wisla boosted their confidence, but a surprising defeat to Besiktas in Istanbul made coach Vujovic resign for a day, but after consultations he decided to stay. In two matches against Flensburg, Zagreb experienced some changes in team. In first match they lost Luka Stepancic who suffered a knee injury (torn ACL) but signed new left wing Dobrivoje Markovic (SRB). Eventually Zagreb lost both encounters with the 2014 winners. Zagreb ended 2015 with a revenge win over Besiktas in Zagreb and a draw with Wisla in Plock where Vujovic came with youngest players he had due to series of injuries.

Croatia winning bronze medal at EHF EURO in Poland was a huge boost for handball fans in Zagreb who filled all seats in Zagreb Arena (15,200) for the match against PSG, but Zagreb failed to win. That was first match for defence specialist Velko Markoski (MKD) who signed with Zagreb in December. In last three matches Zagreb experienced two defeats and one win. Veszprem and Kiel in last round secured close wins. Winning against Celje in Zagreb was very important because Zagreb secured fifth position in Group A. What also marked February for Zagreb was return of injured Stipe Mandalinic who came back with style scoring 10 goals against Celje.

But it was Luka Sebetic, Stepancic's replacement on the right back position, who was instrumental in the Last 16 against Rhein-Neckar Löwen as he scored 10 goals in two matches of the "lions derby" and contributed to a surprising exit of the German favourites.

#### Last 16 results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss) vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen L23:24 (12:10) @ Rhein-Neckar Löwen W31:29 (13:15)

#### **Group Phase results:**

vs THW Kiel	W29:22 (13:11)
@ RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W20:21 (10:9)
vs MVM Veszprém	L20:21 (10:9)
@ PSG Handball	L34:23 (18:8)
vs Orlen Wisla Plock	W29:25 (13:13)
@ Besiktas JK	L32:30 (17:13)
@ SG Flensburg-Handewitt	L28:27 (12:13)
vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt	L23:30 (10:15)
vs Besiktas JK	W32:26 (14:11)
@ Orlen Wisla Plock	D23:23 (11:12)
vs PSG Handball	L23:25 (10:15)
@ MVM Veszprém	L27:25 (16:12)
vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W24:23 (8:9)
@ THW Kiel	L31:29 (14:17)

#### **Past achievements**

#### **VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2015/16 season): 22 Final (4): 1994/95, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99 Semi-final (1): 1999/00

Quarter-final (6): 2000/01, 2002/03, 2003/04,

2008/09, 2011/12, 2014/15)

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

Main Round (1): 2007/08 Group Phase (4): 1993/94, 2004/05, 2006/07,

2012/13

#### Other

EHF Cup: Runners-up 2004/05 Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 2006/07

SEHA League: 1 title (2013)

Croatian league: 25 titles (1991-2015) Croatian Cup winner: 22 times

#### **GROUP A Final Table:**

1. PSG Handball	14	12	0	2	442:389 (53)	24
2. MVM Veszprém	14	11	1	2	402:364 (38)	23
3. SG Flensburg-Handewitt	14	10	0	4	429:380 (49)	20
4. THW Kiel	14	8	1	5	400:388 (12)	17
5. HC PPD Zagreb	14	5	1	8	358:367 (-9)	11
5111511 = Eug. 62			-	U	330.307 ( 3)	
6. Orlen Wisla Plock	14	3	2	9	372:397 (-25)	8
_	14		2	9		



# **HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)**

**Biggest win** 34:15 (16:8) v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH (h), 04.12.2010

**Biggest defeat:** 21:43 (10:23) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 18.04.2015

**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:** 43 v FC Barcelona ESP 43:21L (a), 18.04.2015

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	<b>-12</b>	2:10	4th Gr. A
1994/95 Badel Zagreb CRO	8	5	1	2	203:203	0	11:5	Runner-up
1995/96 Croatia Banka Zagreb CRO	6	2	1	3	138:144	-6	5:7	3rd Gr. B
1996/97 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	6	3	3	310:294	+16	15:9	Runner-up
1997/98 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	7	0	5	300:287	+13	14:10	Runner-up
1998/99 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	8	1	3	288:269	+19	17:7	Runner-up
1999/00 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	10	7	1	2	260:230	+30	15:5	1/2-finals
2000/01 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	8	4	1	3	195:192	+3	9:7	1/4-finals
2002/03 RK Zagreb CRO	8	3	2	3	209:216	-7	8:8	1/4-finals
2003/04 RK Zagreb CRO	10	4	0	6	273:258	+15	8:12	1/4-finals
2004/05 RK Zagreb CRO	6	3	0	3	165:170	-5	6:6	3rd Gr. B
2005/06 RK Zagreb CRO	8	5	1	2	212:194	+18	11:5	Last 16
2006/07 RK Zagreb CRO	6	3	0	3	153:148	+5	6:6	3rd Gr. D
2007/08 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	5	1	6	339:344	-5	11:13	3rd MR Gr. 3
2008/09 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	7	3	2	357:313	+44	17:7	1/4-finals
2009/10 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	6	0	6	351:335	+16	12:12	Last 16
2010/11 HC Croatia Osiguranje ZAGREB CRO	12	6	3	3	358:319	+39	15:9	Last 16
2011/12 Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb CRO	14	9	1	4	391:359	+32	19:9	1/4-finals
2012/13 HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb CRO	10	2	1	7	266:284	-18	5:15	5th Gr. D
2013/14 HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb CRO	10	4	0	6	267:282	-15	8:12	5th Gr. A
2014/15 HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb CRO	14	7	0	7	328:356	-28	14:14	1/4-finals
Total	208	103	22	83	5498:5344	+154	228:188	



# **HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)**

#### **Team roster**

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weig	ht Goals
18	Zlatko	Horvat	CRO	Right Wing	25.9.1984	Zagreb, CRO	179	87	47
9	Tin	Kontrec	CRO	Line Player	9.9.1989	Nasice, CRO	196	95	31
77	Antonijo	Kovacevic	CRO	Left Wing	21.5.1987	Zagreb, CRO	190	90	15
27	Stipe	Mandalinic	CRO	Left Back	9.9.1992	Split, CRO	195	90	29
64	Velko	Markoski	MKD	Left Back	05.04.1986	Struga, MKD	194	100	1
15	Dobrivoje	Markovic	SRB	Left Wing	22.04.1986	Teslic, BIH	188	81	18
48	Petar	Medic	CRO	Centre Back	12.6.1996	Zagreb, CRO	187	80	
4	Lovro	Mihic	CRO	Left Wing	25.8.1994	Zagreb, CRO	180	74	4
37	Sandro	Obranovic	CRO	Centre Back	18.10.1992	Karlovac, CRO	194	83	29
94	Domagoj	Pavlovic	CRO	Left Back	21.3.1993	Zagreb, CRO	189	82	56
17	Luka	Rakovic	CRO	Right Wing	6.6.1988	Zagreb, CRO	179	86	16
7	Stanko	Sabljic	CRO	Line Player	28.1.1988	Mostar, BIH	202	108	10
20	Josip	Sandrk	CRO	Left Back	27.4.1987	Zagreb, CRO	209	100	2
14	Luka	Sebetic	CRO	Right Back	26.5.1994	Bjelovar, CRO	197	93	48
11	Lovro	Sprem	CRO	Left Wing	26.1.1990	Zagreb, CRO	186	88	9
7	Luka	Stepancic	CRO	Right Back	20.11.1990	Pula, CRO	200	104	36
19	Leon	Susnja	CRO	Line Player	5.8.1993	Siroki Brijeg, BIH	204	113	11
22	Josip	Valcic	CRO	Centre Back	21.4.1984	Zadar, CRO	190	97	14
24	Tonci	Valcic	CRO	Left Back	9.6.1978	Zadar, CRO	194	100	4
45	Jakov	Vrdoljak	CRO	Left Back	1.11.1996	Zagreb, CRO	189	85	
4	Stefan	Vujic	CRO	Centre Back	6.7.1991	Rijeka, CRO	192	91	31
14	Marko	Vukic	CRO	Left Back	24.2.1993	Split, CRO	202	90	1
16	Filip	lvic	CRO	Goalkeeper	30.8.1992	Zagreb, CRO	196	95	
12	Ivan	Stevanovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	18.5.1982	Rijeka, CRO	193	101	
51	Arijan	Jovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	18.6.1996	Zagreb, CRO	184	82	



# 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) and is in charge of Slovenia now
- 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



#### Domagoj Pavlovic left back

- born in Ivanic, where he began playing handball before joining RK Dubrava club where he rose to prominence, which took him to HC PPD Zagreb in 2014
- came through all Croatian youth selections, before establishing himself as the key member of junior national team
- playing his second season for HC PPD Zagreb, alongside Croatian youth selection teammates Filip Ivic, Sandro Obranovic and Stipe Mandalinic
- Enjoys working with Veselin Vujovic, who is said to give him great confidence



# Stipe Mandalinic left back

- voted MVP of U20 EHF EURO 2012, where he also won a silver medal with his team
- $\bullet$   $\,$  his best season in the CL was 2013/14 when he scored 43 goals
- nicknamed "Little Lacković" (or "Little Lac") because of similar style of shooting and playing
- had a great return from the second knee injury (torn ACL) scoring 25 goals in four matches in early 2016

WCh: B 2016



# Luka Sebetic right back

- holds gold medal from U18 EHF EURO 2010
- scored his first goal in the CL when he was 17
- in his 21 years he had already six CL seasons under his belt
- first choice on right back after his namesake Luka Stepancic got injured



#### Lovro Sprem left wing

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

WCh: B 2013



#### Tonci Valcic left back

- made a debut for Zagreb in 1999, currently playing his ninth season for the club.
- older brother to Zagreb and Croatia teammate Josip Valcic
- defensive specialist, known for his great anticipation of player movement in 6-0 zone
- made Croatia national team debut in 2003 and has since made 109 appearances scoring 189 goals

WCh: G 2003, S 2009, EURO: S 2008, S 2010



#### Tin Kontrec line player

- played in other Croatian clubs: Nexe Nasice,
   Zagreb, Dubrava, Medvescak, Bjelovar and Varazdin
- used to be a centre back and left back, became line player in Medvescak
- his nickname is "Marble" because he was and still is under 100kg unlike other line players
- used to train karate and football but his friends persuaded him to start handball
- studies on Faculty of Economics at Zagreb University



# 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 top scorer with 94 goals

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

EURO: B 2016







# Playing hall Halle Georges Carpentier 81 boulevard Massena 75013 Paris France Capacity: 4,800

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Twitter: <a href="@PSGHANDBALL">@PSGHANDBALL</a>

#### **Kit colours**

#### Light

Player shirt: white Player short: red Goalkeeper shirt: red

#### Dark

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

# Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)

Having set the bar high in the transfer market this summer, Paris Saint-Germain Handball's thoughts can only be on a serious challenge for the VELUX EHF Champions League trophy this season. Veszprem brought an end to their challenge at the quarter-final stage two years in a row, but this season nothing less than a trip to Cologne will suffice.

Former VELUX EHF Champions League winners SG Flensburg-Handewitt, THW Kiel and last season's finalists MVM Veszprem couldn't stop PSG from finishing first in Group A. After their initial loss in Flensburg, Nikola Karabatic's partners turned things around, winning twelve of the thirteen games remaining, including the group final against "Ljubo's Jungs" from Flensburg, to qualify directly for the quarter-finals.

Most impressive performance was probably their ten-goal win against THW Kiel, while, even when they struggled away from home like they did in Celje or in Zagreb, Noka Serdarusic's boys still manage to come back with a win. Thanks to the impressive performances by Mikkel Hansen, current top scorer of the competition, Paris ended the group phase as the most prolific attack of the group phase. Defence was not bad either, as Thierry Omeyer is as decisive as he's ever been, helping PSG remaining one of the only two teams who have won all games on home ground.

Parisians even managed to overcome difficult injuries. The right side was especially damaged, since Xavier Barachet suffered an early knee injury and will probably be missing the rest of the season for the same reason. To make up for them, some less known figures stepped in the spotlight. Samuel Honrubia and Sergyi Onufryienko proved to be key against Kiel or Flensburg, while Daniel Narcisse provided much-needed rest for Mikkel Hansen. Finally, PSG looks like the amazing team it has been set to be for some time. Winning against big teams has given them confidence and proved that they are on the right track, giving them the opportunity to reach Cologne for the first time ever.

#### **Group Phase results:**

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

@ SG Flensburg-Handewitt	L39:32 (21:16)
vs Orlen Wisla Plock	W29:24 (16:13)
@ Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu	W30:40 (17:21)
vs HC PPD Zagreb	W34 :23 (18 :8)
@ RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W30 :32 (15 :16)
vs MVM Veszprém	W29:27 (16:12)
@ THW Kiel	W26:30 (10:16)
vs THW Kiel	W37:30 (18:12)
@ MVM Veszprém	L28:20 (16:14)
vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W32 :27 (17 :12)
@ HC PPD Zagreb	W23 :25 (10 :15)
vs Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu	W40 :28 (16 :11)
@ Orlen Wisla Plock	W22 :27 (12 :16)
vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt	W35 :32 (16 :16)

#### Past achievements

#### **VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2015/16 season):

Quarter-final (2): 2013/14, 2014/15 Last 16 (1): 2005/06

#### Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2006/07, Last 16 2003/04

French league: 3 titles (2013, 2015, 2016) French cup: 2 titles

#### **GROUP A Final Table:**

1. PSG Handball	14	12	0	2	442:389	(53)	24
2. MVM Veszprém	14	11	1	2	402:364	(38)	23
3. SG Flensburg-Handewitt	14	10	0	4	429:380	(49)	20
4. THW Kiel	14	8	1	5	400:388	(12)	17
5. HC PPD Zagreb	14	5	1	8	358:367	(-9)	11
6. Orlen Wisla Plock	14	3	2	9	372:397	(-25)	8
7. RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	14	3	1	10	385:398	(-13)	7
8. Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu	14	1	0	13	382:487	(-105)	2



# Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)



 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:
 7 matches (27.09.2015 – 28.11.2015)

 Longest unbeaten run:
 7 matches (27.09.2015 – 28.11.2015)

 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: 40 v Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu TUR 30:40W (a), 03.10.2015 40 v Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu TUR 40:28W (h), 20.02.2016

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	2:10	4th Gr. D
2005/06 Paris Handball FRA	8	4	1	3	212:229	-17	9:7	Last 16
2013/14 PSG Handball FRA	14	7	1	6	429:402	+27	15:13	1/4-finals
2014/15 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	14	8	1	5	395:367	+28	17:11	1/4-finals
Total	42	20	3	19	1167:1159	+8	43:41	



# **Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)**

#### **Team roster**

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weight	t Goals
19	Luc	Abalo	FRA	Right Wing	6.9.1984	Creteil, FRA	182	80	43
6	William	Accambray	FRA	Left Back	8.4.1988	Cannes, FRA	194	94	
20	Ludwig	Appolinaire	FRA	Centre Back	27.5.1994	Kourou, FRA	190	97	
14	Xavier	Barachet	FRA	Right Back	19.11.1988	Nice, FRA	195	95	14
48	Clement	Branco	FRA	Left Wing	25.8.1996	Perpignan, FRA	190	85	
13	Paul	Correia	FRA	Right Back	12.2.1997	Nantes, FRA	191	85	
95	Kevin	Durosier	FRA	Line Player	14.5.1994	Paris, FRA	187	90	
17	Dylan	Garain	FRA	Left Back	22.8.1996	Les Abymes, FRA	192	86	
18	Robert	Gunnarsson	ISL	Line Player	22.5.1980	Reykjavik, ISL	191	100	4
24	Mikkel	Hansen	DEN	Centre Back	22.10.1987	Helsingor, DEN	192	93	
34	Samuel	Honrubia	FRA	Left Wing	5.7.1986	Beziers, FRA	180	75	38
22	Luka	Karabatic	FRA	Line Player	19.4.1988	Strasbourg, FRA	202	90	32
44	Nikola	Karabatic	FRA	Centre Back	11.4.1984	Nis, SRB	196	102	77
29	Adama	Keita	FRA	Left Wing	5.6.1997	Paris, FRA	183	77	
11	Benoit	Kounkoud	FRA	Right Wing	19.2.1997	Versailles, FRA	188	78	10
7	Janus	Lapajne	SLO	Centre Back	3.3.1995	Sampeter pri Gorici, SLC	192	93	
90	Jeffrey	M'tima	FRA	Left Wing	16.7.1991	Schlitighelm, FRA	188	80	13
4	Fahrudin	Melic	MNE	Right Wing	22.7.1984	Prijepolje, MNE	183	90	4
5	Henrik	Møllgaard Jensen	DEN	Left Back	2.1.1985	Bramming, DEN	195	97	18
25	Daniel	Narcisse	FRA	Centre Back	16.12.1979	St Dennis-Reunion, FRA	189	92	47
33	Sergiy	Onufryienko	UKR	Right Back	31.1.1985	Zaporozhye, UKR	190	95	18
3	Axel	Rosier	FRA	Left Back	20.2.1994	PARIS, FRA	192	90	
21	Jonathan	Troudart	FRA	Line Player	15.1.1996	FORT DE FRANCE, FRA	194	82	
9	Igor	Vori	CRO	Line Player	20.9.1980	Zagreb, CRO	203	114	12
16	Thierry	Omeyer	FRA	Goalkeeper	2.11.1976	Mulhouse, FRA	191	92	
1	Patrice	Annonay	FRA	Goalkeeper	17.5.1979	La Trinite, FRA	192	96	
39	Jordy	Jacoby-Koaly	FRA	Goalkeeper	8.2.1995	Pointe a Pitre, FRA	191	91	
70	Clement	Gaudin	FRA	Goalkeeper	13.3.1997	Martigues, FRA	197	87	



# Noka Serdarusic coach

- born in Yugoslavia, became a German citizen in 2008
- came out of retirement two years ago to coach Aix, then moved to PSG this summer
- does not speak French, only German, but since many players in PSG have played in Germany before it seems to be no problem
- his previous coaching experience includes eleven seasons with THW Kiel and three with SG Flensburg-Handewitt
- almost a honourary member of the Karabatic family

EC Trophies : CL 2007, EHF Cup 1998, 2002, 2004







# Thierry Omeyer goalkeeper

- crowned best goalkeeper in history by the IHF
- 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
- at 39 has no intention of retiring and extended his contract for another season recently
- awarded the best goalkeeper and the MVP at the WCh 2015 in Oatar

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



#### Mikkel Hansen left back

- 2011 IHF World Handball Player of the Year
- reached the VELUX EHF FINAL4 with AG Kobenhavn 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; his headbands have now become a collector item among PSG fans

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 of his jumping skills
- now reunited with former Kiel teammate
  Thierry Omeyer to fulfill his goal of winning the CL
  Hitle

  History

  History

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012 OG: G 2008, 2012, EURO: G 2006, 2010, 2014, B 2008 WCh: G 2001, 2009, 2015, B 2003, 2005



# Sergiy Onufryienko right back

- Ukrainian right back arrived last summer from HC Motor Zaporozhye, but has already signed a contract with Aix for next season
- at 31 years he had already 12 campaigns in the European top flight under his belt
- after having a hard time at the beginning on the season, he gave some great performances against Kiel and Flensburg in the group phase
- with the long-term injury of Xavier Barachet, he should be given greater responsibilities



#### 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 in one-on-one situations

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



# Nikola Karabatic centre back / left back

- 2007 & 2014 World Handball Player of the Year
- one of Barcelona transfer coups with Kiril Lazarov before the 2013/14 season and arguably the biggest transfer of the 2015 summer
- won everything there is to win, as he has triumphed at Olympic Games, WChs and EHF EUROs with the French national team and thrice the CL (with Montpellier, Kiel and Barcelona)
- one of the most complete handball players with strengths both in attack and defence

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



#### Luka Karabatic line player

- was a national-level tennis player until he was 19, only then turned his back on the yellow ball and chose handball
- began in Montpellier, then moved to Aix and finally to PSG in the summer of 2015
- on the CL list of Montpellier in six seasons, but did not enjoy too much playing time (in total 22 goals)
- PSG is the third club where he reunites with his brother Nikola

ECh: G 2014, WCh: G 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 their 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



# THW Kiel (GER) vs FC Barcelona Lassa (ESP)



First leg
Sunday 24 April, 19:30 hrs. local time

Second leg
Saturday 30 April, 18:30 hrs. local time



It took THW Kiel only some hours to sell all 10,385 tickets for the handball classic - and whole Kiel will be electrified for the first quarter-final leg, in which three former THW players will return to their old home Sparkassen-Arena - Filip Jicha, Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson and Wael Jallouz.

"It will be our match of the matches in this Champions League season," said Kiel's coach Alfred Gislason. "Barcelona have one of the strongest squads in the world, with a huge width full of quality options to rotate. But we have proved in our Last 16 match on home ground against Szeged that we can stand the heat and the pressure. Thus I am optimistic to gain a positive result - as of course Cologne is our goal."

On both sides, the right backs are back after injury breaks: Marko Kopljar (Barcelona) and Steffen Weinhold (Kiel) have had their comebacks as both got injured during the EHF EURO.

Barcelona so far have won only twice at Kiel - including the last encounter of those titans, when they eliminated Kiel in the 2011 quarter-finals in their den. Like then, the history repeated every year that no team could manage to defend its title at the VELUX EHF FINAL4. Kiel were the first, followed by Barcelona in 2012, when eliminated by Kobenhavn. In the previous two seasons the exit for the defending champions Hamburg and Flensburg had even been the Last 16. As Barcelona became winner of Group B, they skipped this stage, marching directly into the quarter-finals.

Kiel and Barcelona are the only teams with five out of six possible participations at the VELUX EHF FINAL4, and both are the only teams with more than one trophy: Kiel won the tournament in 2010 and 2012, Barcelona in 2011 and 2015 - so the series of one of them will not continue. In total, both teams represent eleven Champions League trophies, eight for record winner Barcelona, three for Kiel.

Kiel on the other hand finished only fourth after their weakest group phase since the implementation of the new playing system in 2009. They suffered five defeats, including the first home setback since more than four years against PSG last November. For one shining star of Barcelona, those will be the last duels with Kiel as goalkeeper Danijel Saric (38) announced that he will leave the Catalans after seven seasons and so far 30 titles, including two VELUX EHF Champions League trophies (2011 and 2015). Saric will transfer to the Qatari club Al-Quyada after this season, as the Bosnian-born is Qatari citizen since more than a year and was part of the successful Qatar squad at the 2015 World Championship, winning the silver medal. At Doha, he signed a three years contract: "Barcelona made me a better player and a better person," the goalkeeper said. His replacement will arrive from Germany: Macedonian international Borko Ristovski, since November playing for Rhein Neckar Löwen will join the squad and his best friend Kiril Lazarov for two seasons.

While Barcelona have won all 23 domestic matches in Liga Asobal so far and only mathematical need one point for their 23rd title, Kiel currently are fighting with Flensburg and Löwen (one point below) for their 21st German title.

#### Head-to-head stats

#### THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Lassa 9-1-9 (578:570) 19:19

	751 C Dai (Ciona Labba 5 1 5 (51 Cio 1 C) 15115	
22.04.2000	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Final	28:25 (15:14)
29.04.2000	FC Barcelona vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Final	29:24 (15:12)
25.03.2001	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	28:24 (12:11)
31.03.2001	FC Barcelona vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	33:28 (14:11)
20.04.2002	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona, EHF Cup – Final	36:29 (19:13)
28.04.2002	FC Barcelona vs THW Kiel, EHF Cup – Final	28:24 (14:08)
05.03.2005	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	30:25 (13:14)
12.03.2005	FC Barcelona vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	33:27 (17:14)
06.04.2008	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	41:31 (20:15)
13.04.2008	FC Barcelona vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	44:37 (19:20)
19.10.2008	FC Barcelona Borges vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group C	27:31 (15:15)
23.11.2008	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Borges, EHF Champions League – Group C	33:26 (16:11)
11.10.2009	FC Barcelona Borges vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group D	27:30 (17:20)
14.02.2010	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Borges, EHF Champions League – Group D	30:32 (15:17)
30.05.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs THW Kiel GER, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Final	34:36 (20:17)
03.10.2010	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:28 (14:10)
05.12.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	32:29 (13:15)
24.04.2011	FC Barcelona Borges vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	27:25 (14:15)
01.05.2011	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	33:36 (15:19)





# **THW Kiel (GER)**

To finish on a fourth position was the weakest final ranking of the three times EHF Champions League winners in as group phase ever. But this position results from a long series of long-term injuries: At the start of the season, both left wings - Dominik Klein and Torsten Jansen - were out, then Patrick Wiencek tore his crucial ligament in October, followed by the severe knee injury of team captain Rene Toft Hansen in December - thus, both line players are out until the end of the season.

During the EURO in Poland, Steffen Weinhold and Christian Dissinger were out with adductor injuries, Weinhold is supposed to miss the rest of the season. Besides, Filip Jicha had left Kiel to Barcelona right before the first match of the season. Several new players - Igor Anic, Ilja Brozovic and Dener Jaanimaa - were signed during the season.

"It simply does not fit in such a short term", was the short analyse of coach Alfred Gislason. His team had started with a defeat at Zagreb, and then lost their first home match in the VELUX EHF Champions League after more than four years against Paris. Mainly those two clear defeats against the French champions (26:30, 30:37) hit the confidence of THW. But even before the winter break they showed their best Champions League match, beating Veszprem in a thrilling endgame at the comeback of Klein.

Having the 2007 World Champion back on track in his last season at THW, Kiel rose - but then were again hit hard by the biggest ever derby defeat against Flensburg (27:37). By winning the last two group matches they sealed the fourth position - and had something like a re-match in the Last16, facing Szeged, the team they eliminated in the last season's quarter-finals.

Although Szeged created a promising four-goal cushion in the first leg, they lost it before the half-time of the second leg and Kiel avoided any thrilling moments in the closing minutes.



Playing hall
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Europaplatz 1,
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Twitter: <a href="mailto:@thw\_handball">@thw\_handball</a>

#### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white Player short: white Goalkeeper shirt: black

#### Dark

Player shirt: black Player short: black Goalkeeper shirt: red

#### Last 16 results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss) @ MOL-Pick Szeged L29:33 (14:16) vs MOL-Pick Szeged W36:29 (14:18)

#### **Group Phase results:**

@ HC PPD Zagreb	L29:22 (13:11)
vs Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu	W32:21 (16:12)
vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt	W27:23 (14:13)
@ Orlen Wisla Plock	W23:37 (8:18)
@ MVM Veszprém	L29:27 (17:15)
vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W35:32 (16:14)
vs PSG Handball	L26:30 (10:16)
@ PSG Handball	L37:30 (18:12)
@ RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	D23:23 (14:14)
vs MVM Veszprém	W25:24 (11:12)
@ SG Flensburg-Handewitt	L37:27 (17:14)
vs Orlen Wisla Plock	W26:24 (14:14)
@ Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu	W27:32 (14:17)
vs HC PPD Zagreb	W31:29 (14:17)

#### **Past achievements**

#### **VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2015/16 season): 19 Winners (3): 2006/07, 2009/10, 2011/12 Runners-up (4): 1999/2000, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2013/14

Semi-final (4): 1996/1997, 2000/01, 2012/13, 2014/15

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: 20 titles (1957, 1962, 1963, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

German Cup winners: 9 times

#### **GROUP A Final Table:**

1. PSG Handball	14	12	0	2	442:389 (53)	24	
2. MVM Veszprém	14	11	1	2	402:364 (38)	23	
3. SG Flensburg-Handewitt	14	10	0	4	429:380 (49)	20	
4. THW Kiel	14	8	1	5	400:388 (12)	17	
5. HC PPD Zagreb	14	5	1	8	358:367 (-9)	11	
6. Orlen Wisla Plock	14	3	2	9	372:397 (-25)	8	
7. RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	14	3	1	10	385:398 (-13)	7	
8. Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu	14	1	0	13	382:487 (-105)	2	



# **THW Kiel (GER)**



Biggest win: 26:50 (13:24) v Banik OKD Karvina CZE (a), 22.10.2006

Biggest defeat 27:37 (14:17) v SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER (a), 14.02.2016

 Longest winning run
 11 matches (2.10.2014 – 22.03.2015)

 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)

3 matches (12.11.2015 – 06.12.2015)

Most goals50 v Banik OKD Karvina CZE 26:50W (a), 22.10.2006Most goals opponent44 v FC Barcelona ESP 44:37L (a), 13.04.2008Most goals both teams81 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	6:6	2nd Gr. B
1995/96 THW Kiel GER	6	3	0	3	151:148	+3	6:6	2nd Gr. A
1996/97 THW Kiel GER	10	6	1	3	247:211	+36	13:7	1/2-finals
1998/99 TKW Kiel GER	8	7	0	1	229:199	+30	14:2	1/4-finals
1999/00 THW Kiel GER	12	7	1	4	319:283	+36	15:9	Runner-up
2000/01 THW Kiel GER	10	5	1	4	279:255	+24	11:9	1/2-finals
2002/03 THW Kiel GER	8	4	1	3	234:211	+23	9:7	1/4-finals
2004/05 THW Kiel GER	10	8	0	2	336:274	+62	16:4	1/4-finals
2005/06 THW Kiel GER	10	8	0	2	346:293	+53	16:4	1/4-finals
2006/07 THW Kiel GER	14	11	1	2	517:420	+97	23:5	Winner
2007/08 THW Kiel GER	16	13	0	3	533:462	+71	26:6	Runner-up
2008/09 THW Kiel GER	16	12	1	3	548:461	+87	25:7	Runner-up
2009/10 THW Kiel GER	16	14	1	1	534:444	+90	29:3	Winner
2010/11 THW Kiel GER	14	9	2	3	456:393	+63	20:8	1/4-finals
2011/12 THW Kiel GER	16	12	3	1	496:414	+82	27:5	Winner
2012/13 THW Kiel GER	16	11	0	5	518:457	+61	22:10	4th Place
2013/14 THW Kiel GER	16	13	1	2	491:427	+64	27:5	Runner-up
2014/15 THW Kiel GER	16	12	0	4	498:421	+77	24:8	4th Place
Total:	220	158	13	49	6869:5909	+960	329:111	



# **THW Kiel (GER)**

#### Team roster

No.	First Name	First Name Surname I		Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height Weight		t Goals
28	Malte	Abelmann-Brockmann	GER	Left Wing	11.6.1995	Kiel, GER	183	76	
19	Igor	Anic	FRA	Line Player	12.06.1987	Mostar, BIH	196	102	14
27	Thies	Bergemann	GER	Right Back	19.1.1996	Kiel, GER	188	80	
34	Ilija	Brozovic	CRO	Line Player	26.05.1991	Split, CRO	195	107	18
21	Joan	Cañellas Reixach	ESP	Centre Back	30.9.1986	St. Maria de Palau, ESP	197	95	58
23	Rune	Dahmke	GER	Left Wing	10.4.1993	Kiel, GER	189	81	49
15	Christian	Dissinger	GER	Left Back	15.11.1991	Ludwigshafen, GER	202	102	35
4	Domagoj	Duvnjak	CRO	Centre Back	1.6.1988	Dakovo, CRO	198	100	73
18	Niclas	Ekberg	SWE	Right Wing	23.12.1988	Ystad, SWE	191	89	35
6	Rogerio	Ferreira Moraes	BRA	Line Player	11.1.1994	Abaetetuba, BRA	204	118	4
26	Lucas	Firnhaber	GER	Right Back	23.4.1997	Buxtehude, GER	200	93	
24	Dener	Jaanimaa	EST	Right Back	9.8.1989	Tallinn, EST	185	92	9
5	Torsten	Jansen	GER	Left Wing	23.12.1976	Adenau, GER	185	86	1
33	Dominik	Klein	GER	Left Wing	16.12.1983	Miltenberg, GER	190	86	18
9	Erlend	Mamelund	NOR	Left Back	1.5.1984	Bærum, NOR	197	99	6
11	Christian	Sprenger	GER	Right Wing	6.4.1983	Ludwigsfelde, GER	190	94	15
7	Rene	Toft Hansen	DEN	Line Player	1.11.1984	Rybjerg, DEN	200	110	17
41	Marko	Vujin	SRB	Right Back	7.12.1984	Backa Palanka, SRB	201	104	82
13	Steffen	Weinhold	GER	Right Back	19.7.1986	Fuerth, GER	191	100	17
17	Patrick	Wiencek	GER	Line Player	22.3.1989	Duisburg, GER	200	108	7
25	Alexander	Williams	GER	Left Back	15.8.1996	Hamburg, GER	187	95	
1	Niklas	Landin Jacobsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	19.12.1988	Soborg, DEN	201	102	1
29	Nikolas	Katsigiannis	GER	Goalkeeper	17.9.1982	Werne, GER	195	104	2
12	Dominik	Plaue	GER	Goalkeeper	14.7.1995	Bad Homburg, GER	196	87	
32	Fynn Malte	Schröder	GER	Goalkeeper	12.2.1997	Bremen, GER	186	79	



# Alfred Gıslason coach

- won 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 Serdarusic – to lead THW to 15 trophies to date

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







#### Niklas Landin goalkeeper

- joined Kiel in the summer of 2015 after three seasons with bundesliga rivals Rhein-Neckar Löwen
- successor of legendary Kasper Hvidt in the Danish national team broke through during the 2011 WCh
- played also for Gudme in Denmark, where he was number 1 already at the age of 20
- best goalkeeper at the 2013 WCh, the EHF EURO 2014 and the 2013/14 CL

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013 WCh: S 2011, 2013, EURO: G 2012, S 2014



# Domagoj Duvnjak centre back

- THW's top signing 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, 2016



#### Igor Anic line player

- arrived at Kiel in October 2015 from HBC Nantes, after Patrick Wiencek had torn his ACT in the CL match against Flensburg
- had been playing for THW already from 2007 until 2010, winning in total seven titles in three seasons
- started his career at Montpellier, before he went to Nantes, he played for Gummersbach (23010-2012) and Cesson-Rennes (2012-2014)
- famous for his cartoons, mostly portraits other handball players

EC trophies: CL 2010, EHF Cup 2011 EURO: G 2014



# Marko Vujin right back

- $\bullet \hspace{1.5mm}$  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 Dunaferr (Hungary), then played five years in Veszprem

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



# Rune Dahmke left wing

- only Kiel-born player in the THW squad and was in his younger days sitting on the stands cheering for his idols
- got his first professional contract in December 2013 after being part of the THW youth teams
- his father Frank Dahmke was THW player and now is member of the club board
- at least until October 2015 replacement for Dominik Klein who tore his cruciate ligament in the previous season

**EURO: G 2016** 



#### 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 in 2013/14
- 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, S 2016



#### Erlend Mamelund left back

- signed in 2015, when Filip Jicha transferred to FCB; played for Nordhorn and Flensburg before, also had a spell with Montpellier
- Danish cup winner with FC Kobenhavn and Norwegian champion and cup winner with Haslum; top scorer of the Norwegian league in 2011 & 2014
- wanted to finish his career at Haslum after the 2015/16 season, as he had already started a fulltime job as financial analyst at Ernst&Young
- part of the successful Norwegian EURO 2016 squad, making it to their first ever semi-final

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2008



# Niclas Ekberg right wing

- spotted and signed by AG Kobenhavn in 2010
- tall winger from Ystad has large variety of shots, also effective on counterattacks and reliable on penalty throws
- these qualities have also earned him more than 90 internationals for Sweden
- joined Kiel in 2012 after AG went bankrupt and after he experienced his first VELUX EHF FINAL4
- top scorer of the London Olympics 2012 with 50 goals

OG: S 2012







# Playing hall

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

#### Club Address:

FC Barcelona Lassa Avda. Aristides Maillol, s/n 08028 Barcelona Spain

#### Media contact:

Gustau Galvache +34 618522789 gustau.galvache@fcbarcelona.cat

#### Online information:

Website: <a href="www.fcbarcelona.cat">www.fcbarcelona.cat</a> Facebook: <a href="FCBHandbol">FCBHandbol</a> Twitter: <a href="@FCBHandbol">@FCBHandbol</a>

#### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: red and yellow Player short: blue Goalkeeper shirt: dark red or black

#### Dark

Player shirt: blue and red Player short: red Goalkeeper shirt: yellow or green

# FC Barcelona Lassa (ESP)

It wasn't easy, but Barcelona did it once again. The Champions League record winners with eight trophies in their museum, passed the first exam with a very high grade. They began the group phase with a defeat in Manheim. Rhein-Neckar Löwen beat the Catalan team in a bad September, because they lost Superglobe semi-finals against Füchse Berlin at the beginning of the month. Three goals in a row of Schmid let Barcelona without a win in Mannheim (22:21) and maintained Barca's winless record in Mannheim.

They also struggled in their first match at home at Palau Blaugrana against the Swedish newcomers from IFK Kristianstad, but the team of Xavi Pascual won the first two points. The first away victory followed against Pock Szeged and another two points against Montpellier before Barca had to settle with one point in Kielce after a heart-attack game a last second game-tier of Jesper Noddesbo.

Despite a bad start (1:8) they also gained two points with Kolding and courtesy of a brilliant 12-goal performance of Wael Jallouz they also beat ambitious Vardar. With this victory, Barcelona reached the top of the group and they increased the distance with the away victory with a signature of spectacular Gonzalo Pérez de Vargas in the goal. It was very difficult to stop the defending champions and they won easily in Denmark against Kolding, but Kielce didn't surrender the race for the top spot and dealt Barca surprisingly their only home defeat in the season before the competition took a break for the EHF EURO. Despite a setback three more wins in February (Montpellier, Szeged, Kristianstad) and a March revenge against Löwen followed as the heavy favourites for the title clinched the top spot in the group and a safe passage to the quarter-finals.

#### **Group Phase results:**

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

@ Rhein-Neckar Löwen	L22:21 (10:9)
vs IFK Kristianstad	W34:32 (17:16)
@ MOL-Pick Szeged	W28:30 (12:13)
vs Montpellier HB	W37:27 (19:12)
@ KS Vive Tauron Kielce	D30:30 (14:17)
vs KIF Kolding Kobenhavn	W28:25 (11:13)
vs HC Vardar	W31:30 (16:13)
@ HC Vardar	W25:27 (15:12)
@ KIF Kolding Kobenhavn	W28:36 (15:16)
vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce	L31:33 (19:16)
@ Montpellier HB	W23:31 (11:15)
vs MOL-Pick Szeged	W30:25 (19:14)
@ IFK Kristianstad	W24:31 (12:19)
vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen	W26:20 (11:10)

#### **Past achievements**

#### **VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 19

Winner (8): 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2004/05, 2010/11, 2014/15

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: 22 titles (1969, 1973, 1980, 1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2006,

2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) Spanish Cup winner: 19 times Asobal Cup winner: 10 times

#### **GROUP B Final Table:**

1. FC Barcelona Lassa	14	11	1	2	423:372 (51)	23
2. KS Vive Tauron Kielce	14	9	3	2	425:399 (26)	21
3. HC Vardar	14	9	0	5	416:373 (43)	18
4. Rhein-Neckar Löwen	14	8	1	5	369:353 (16)	17
5. MOL-Pick Szeged	14	7	1	6	404:390 (14)	15
6. Montpellier HB	14	3	1	10	372:413 (-41)	7
7. IFK Kristianstad	14	3	1	10	409:437 (-28)	7
8. KIF Kolding Kobenhavn	14	2	0	12	348:429 (-81)	4

# FC Barcelona Lassa (ESP)



43:17 (21:9) v HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH (a), 19.11.2011 **Biggest win 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 12 matches (24.04.2011 - 12.02.2012) Longest winning run 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 21 v Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER 22:21L (a), 20.09.2015 11 v Aalborg Handbold DEN 31:11W (a), 15.03.2015 Fewest goals opponent 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	Т	L	GF GA	GD	PTS	Store
	IVIP	vv	<u> </u>		GF GA	dD	PIS	Stage
1995/96 FC Barcelona ESP	8	5	2	1	213:173	+40	12:4	Winner
1996/97 FC Barcelona ESP	12	10	1	1	358:264	+94	21:3	Winner
1997/98 FC Barcelona ESP	12	9	1	2	358:284	+74	19:5	Winner
1998/99 FC Barcelona ESP	12	8	3	1	357:289	+68	19:5	Winner
1999/00 FC Barcelona ESP	12	10	0	2	345:271	+74	20:4	Winner
2000/01 FC Barcelona ESP	12	8	2	2	316:281	+35	18:6	Runner-up
2003/04 FC Barcelona ESP	8	5	1	2	262:212	+50	11:5	Last 16
2004/05 FC Barcelona Cifec ESP	14	8	0	6	400:360	+40	16:12	Winner
2005/06 FC Barcelona-Cifec ESP	10	9	0	1	293:244	+49	18:2	1/4-finals
2006/07 FC Barcelona-Cifec ESP	10	8	0	2	314:263	+51	16:4	1/4-finals
2007/08 FC Barcelona ESP	14	11	0	3	475:407	+68	22:6	1/2-finals
2008/09 FC Barcelona Borges ESP	10	6	0	4	307:275	+32	12:8	3rd MR Gr. 4
2009/10 FC Barcelona Borges ESP	16	13	1	2	545:461	+84	27:5	Runner-up
2010/11 FC Barcelona Borges ESP	16	10	3	3	501:451	+50	23:9	Winner
2011/12 FC Barcelona Intersport ESP	14	11	0	3	459:357	+102	22:6	1/4-finals
2012/13 FC Barcelona Intersport ESP	16	13	0	3	488:404	+84	26:6	Runner-up
2013/14 FC Barcelona ESP	16	12	1	3	535:426	+109	25:7	Third Place
2014/15 FC Barcelona ESP	16	14	1	1	527:408	+119	29:3	Winner
Total	228	170	16	42	7053:5830	+1223	356:100	



# FC Barcelona Lassa (ESP)

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth Place of Birth		Height	Weigh	t Goals
13	Aitor	Arino Bengoechea	ESP	Left Wing	5.10.1992	Penarth, GBR	184	81	9
44	Daniel	Dujshebaev	ESP	Centre Back	4.7.1997	Santander, ESP	197	100	
9	Raul	Entrerrios Rodriguez	ESP	Centre Back	12.2.1981	Gijon, ESP	195	89	44
14	Aleix	Gomez Abello	ESP	Right Wing	7.5.1997	Sabadell, ESP	181	72	
18	Eduardo	Gurbindo Martinez	ESP	Right Back	8.11.1987	Pamplona, ESP	195	89	13
42	Wael	Jallouz	TUN	Left Back	3.5.1991	Grombalia, TUN	197	92	62
39	Filip	Jicha	CZE	Left Back	19.4.1982	Pilsen, CZE	201	105	26
35	Marko	Kopljar	CRO	Right Back	12.2.1986	Pozega, CRO	210	108	12
77	Kiril	Lazarov	MKD	Right Back	10.5.1980	Veles, MKD	195	99	98
27	Viran	Morros de Argila	ESP	Left Back	15.12.1983	Barcelona, ESP	197	92	2
3	Jesper Brian	Nöddesbo	DEN	Line Player	23.10.1980	Herning, DEN	199	100	11
24	Oriol	Rey Morales	ESP	Back	31.3.1994	St Maria Palautordera	190	95	
22	Carlos	Ruesga Pasarin	ESP	Centre Back	10.3.1985	Gijon, ESP	184	94	2
11	Daniel	Sarmiento Melian	ESP	Centre Back	25.8.1983	Las Palmas, ESP	188	85	12
19	Gudjon Valur	Sigurdsson	ISL	Left Wing	8.8.1979	Reykjavik, ISL	187	82	45
10	Cedric	Sorhaindo	FRA	Line Player	7.6.1984	La Trinite, FRA	192	100	20
21	Kamil	Syprzak	POL	Line Player	23.7.1991	Plock, POL	206	120	19
8	Victor	Tomas Gonzalez	ESP	Right Wing	15.2.1985	Barcelona, ESP	178	89	48
1	Gonzalo	Perez de Vargas	ESP	Goalkeeper	10.1.1991	Toledo, ESP	189	93	
12	Danijel	Saric	BIH	Goalkeeper	27.6.1977	Doboj, BIH	194	93	
23	Frederik	Ohlander	SWE	Goalkeeper	11.2.1976	Kungsbacka, SWE	200	110	
38	Francisco	Revuelta Mora	ESP	Goalkeeper	13.4.1995	Barcelona, ESP	191	84	
48	Xoan	Ledo Menendez	ESP	Goalkeeper	6.7.1996	Lalin, ESP	188	82	



# 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, 2015







# Danijel Saric goalkeeper

- known for his incredible quality in goal and for the joy he brings to the team
- Bosnian-born goalkeeper won the CL in 2011
   with Barca and led Qatar to silver at the WCh 2015
- best goalkeeper of the ASOBAL league in 2011 and 2012, and the best player overall in 2011
- joined in 2009, after spells with Spanish clubs San Antonio, Leon, Alcobendas and Cantabria; began his career in Serbia with Crvena Zvezda and Sintelon

EC trophies: CL 2011, 2015 WCh: S 2015



#### Wael Jallouz left back

- key player in the Tunisian national team, which also made it to the Rio 2016 Olympics
- became the first African player at the VELUX
   EHF FINAL4 in 2014 in his first season with THW Kiel
- discovered by THW coach Alfred Gislason during the 2012 edition of the IHF Super Globe in Doha, when "Willy" played for Saudi club Mudhar
- transferred from his home town Hammamet to Kiel in 2013 and then to Barcelona in 2014

EC trophies: CL 2015



# Raul Entrerrios centre back

- has matured into one of the household names in Spanish handball and one of the leading players of the national team
- although his natural position sees him playing in the centre, his many skills in the first line allow him to change permanently with effectiveness and perform with ease in all positions
- with 3 Spanish clubs (Leon, Valladolid, FC Barcelona) has won all the most important European Cup competitions including the CL

EC trophies: CL 2011, 2015, Cup Winners' Cup 2005, 2009 OG: B 2008, EHF EURO: S 2006, 2016, B 2014, WCh: G 2005, B 2011



# 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)
- joined Barca in 2013 after stints with Pelister, Zagreb, Veszprem, Ciudad Real/Atletico Madrid

EC trophies: CL 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, Rhein-Neckar Löwen and THW Kiel player
- real key player with his enormous experience from top handball and his equally large talent
- $\bullet \hspace{1.5mm}$  his fifth trip to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 brought him the CL title

EC trophies: CL 2015, EHF Cup 2005 OG: S 2008



#### Filip Jícha left back

- 2010 World Handball Player of the Year as the first Czech to win the award
- $\bullet$   $\,$   $\,$  twice top scorer of the CL, top scorer and MVP at EHF EURO 2010
- former captain of the THW Kiel came to Barcelona in the summer of 2015
- 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



#### Jesper Nöddesbo 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
- imposing presence on the court, not afraid of anything when it comes to stopping opposing attackers

EC trophies: CL 2015 EURO: G 2008, S 2014, WCh: S 2011, 2013



# Victor Tomas right wing

- following the victories in 2005, 2011 and 2015 the Barcelona-born captain hopes to lift his fourth 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, 2015, EHF Cup 2003 OG: B 2008, EURO: S 2016, B 2014, WCh: G 2013



# HC Vardar (MKD) vs MVM Veszprem (HUN)



# First leg Saturday 23 April, 16:00 hrs. local time

**Second leg**Saturday 30 April, 17:30 hrs. local time



Vardar and Veszprem continue their ever-growing rivalry, as the Hungarian giants make their fourth visit to Jane Sandanski on Saturday. However, despite their seven previous encounters in all competitions, the upcoming VELUX EHF Champions League Quarter Final is by far the most important, historic doubleheader, given the VELUX EHF FINAL4 berth at stake.

Seems like the current VELUX EHF Champions League season is marked with the dueling Spanish coaches. Having outwitted the experienced Manolo Cadenas beforehand, Raul Gonzalez now faces the talismanic Xavi Sabate, a disciple of Carlos Ortega, who has done wonders in what may have a turbulent season for Veszprem.

With the joint history, regional rivalry and quality each team posses, every factor needs to be taken into account ahead of this difficult duel.

Both teams are experiencing a steady rise in competitive form, with domestic challenges underway. Trophy defenders Veszprem have already lifted their 24th (ninth consecutive) Hungarian Cup trophy last weekend, while Vardar made a flying start to their Macedonian league title defence.

Veszprem stand the more successful of the two, with four wins, while Vardar have recorded a single victory over the Hungarians thus far. Handing them their most recent defeat to defend the SEHA League crown, for which Vardar will seek revenge.

"On paper, Veszprem are the favorites because of its excellent game in the past few years. They played excellent this year in the Champions' League, they won the SEHA League, but I still think that they are not so far from where we are. We have a chance, but many pieces of the puzzle have to fall into place, and we have to play both matches on the highest level. Those will be our days and if we

play as we know, I think we will go further" said the experienced line player Alem Toskic, for rkvadar.com.mk. Moreover, during the course of the SEHA League season, the two regional behemoths have met three times in 2015/16 season alone; with two matches ending with a draw, and one narrow Veszprem win.

Whilst Vardar have unsurprisingly recorded their only triumph in front of the home fans back in 2015, Raul Gonzalez and his team will take heart from that performance, in hope to recapture the spirit that brought them the fabled victory that put a dent to Veszprem's perfect season in the SEHA League last season.

On the VELUX EHF Champions League stage, the two teams have crossed swords twice, in the group stage. Veszprem stole the victory in Skopje with the last gasp winner, before steamrolling the Macedonians and their dreams of topping the group, in a seven-goal rout in Veszprem Arena.

The news are encouraging, albeit Vardar will have to address the injury of the Macedonian left back Filip Lazarov. Lazarov was not the only one to miss the last match, as the quintessential goalkeeper Arpad Sterbik was rested; presumably, in order to preserve the edge and form of the 36-year old for the all-important encounter.

It is safe to expect the tinkerer Gonzalez coming with a special game plan for Veszprem, especially with the vast rotation options at his disposal and a number of in-form players thriving in their role.

The Balkan connection seems to be working wonders for Vardar, with the line player Alem Toskic playing at the top of his game on his farewell season, desiring the longed-for FINAL4 berth as his farewell gift. His influence on both ends will be the decisive factor for keeping the favorable goal-ratio in the first leg.

#### Head-to-head stats

#### HC Vardar vs MVM Veszprém 0-0-4 (93:110) 0:8

10.11.2001	Vardar Vatrost. Skopje vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF Champions League – Group D	24:27 (11:10)
08.12.2001	Fotex KC Veszprém vs Vardar Vatrost. Skopje, EHF Champions League – Group D	27:22 (14:10)
15.11.2014	HC Vardar vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	23:24 (11:13)
22.11.2014	MKB-MVM Veszprém vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	32:24 (16:10)









#### Playing hall Jane Sandanski Skopje FYR Macedonia Capacity: 5,000

#### Club Address:

**HC Vardar** Marko Savovski BUL 8 mi Septemyri 20 **FYR Macedonia** 

#### Media contact:

Marko Savovski +389 75 200 088 markosavovski@live.com

#### Online information:

Website: www.rkvardar.com.mk

Facebook: <u>rkvardar</u> Twitter: @HCVardar

#### Kit colours

Player shirt: white Player short: white Goalkeeper shirt: orange and red

Player shirt: black/red

Goalkeeper shirt: black and blue

# **HC Vardar (MKD)**

Macedonian champions are playing one of the most successful group phase seasons ever. The "red-black" team shined in the first four opening matches in the VELUX EHF Champions League, but during this series the Russian right back Alexander Dereven suffered a serious injury in the match against Rhein-Neckar Löwen which sidelined the new Vardar acquisition for several

This winning streak was stopped surprisingly in Copenhagen when the Danish team managed to cause the first defeat to Raul Gonzales squad (33:31). However Vardar returned back on the winning track with a high-score (34:24) victory over Kielce, but then the defending champions FC Barcelona demonstrated their superiority by defeating Macedonian champions twice (31:30; 27:25). A payback from Kielce followed in the home match which the Polish team ended in their favor (23:20). Vardar once more shined at home against Copenhagen with another supreme victory (34:24) and ended successfully the 2015 year.

After the break, Vardar started the New Year with one-goal away defeat from Rhein-Neckar Löwen (28:27), but they missed Manaskov and Stoilov who were suspended because of violating club regulation and also Igor Karacic who had small injury. In addition Blazenko Lackovic left the club and transferred to THW Kiel. IFK Kristianstad caused a serious headache for local fans in Jane Sandanski when Vardar managed to secure the points only in the last minutes of the match (38:36). In the end of the group phase Szeged and Montpelier were an easy "catch" brining Vardar three consecutive victories and final third position in the group phase.

Vardar entered the Last 16 against Plock without their captain Filip Lazarov who broke his finger and Sergei Gorbok missed the first leg due to muscle injury. After they squandered a four-goal lead in the end of the first leg they were also on the brink of elimination in the second half of the return leg, but in the dying moments earned a narrow win.

#### Last 16 results:

D30:30 (14:16)
W25:24 (13:15)

#### **Group Phase results:**

@ Montpellier HB	W25:30 (12:9)
vs MOL-Pick Szeged	W27:23 (11:11)
@ IFK Kristianstad	W25:30 (13:15)
vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen	W25:19 (11:10)
@ KIF Kolding Kobenhavn	L33:31 (17:15)
vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce	W34:24 (18:14)
@ FC Barcelona Lassa	L31:30 (16:13)
vs FC Barcelona Lassa	L25:27 (15:12)
@ KS Vive Tauron Kielce	L23:20 (10:6)
vs KIF Kolding Kobenhavn	W34:24 (18:8)
@ Rhein-Neckar Löwen	L28:27 (14:15)
vs IFK Kristianstad	W38:36 (21:19)
@ MOL-Pick Szeged	W29:31 (14:13)
vs Montpellier HB	W34:26 (17:17)

#### Past achievements

#### **VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2015/16

season): 10

Quarter-final (2): 2013/14, 2014/15

Last 32 (1): 1999/2000

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

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 1998/99, 2004/05, 2010/11, Quarter-finals 2006/07

SEHA league: 1 title (2012)

Macedonian league: 9 titles (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009,

2013, 2015)

Macedonian cup: 10 titles

#### **GROUP B Final Table:**

1. FC Barcelona Lassa	14	11	1	2	423:372 (51)	23
2. KS Vive Tauron Kielce	14	9	3	2	425:399 (26)	21
3. HC Vardar	14	9	0	5	416:373 (43)	18
4. Rhein-Neckar Löwen	14	8	1	5	369:353 (16)	17
5. MOL-Pick Szeged	14	7	1	6	404:390 (14)	15
6. Montpellier HB	14	3	1	10	372:413 (-41)	7
7. IFK Kristianstad	14	3	1	10	409:437 (-28)	7
8. KIF Kolding Kobenhavn	14	2	0	12	348:429 (-81)	4

# **HC Vardar (MKD)**



Biggest win: 37:24 (19:11) v Wacker Thun SUI (a), 19.10.2013 41:19 (19:08) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 18.10.2003 **Biggest defeat:** Longest winning run: 4 matches (26.04.2014 – 12.10.2014) 4 matches (29.11.2014 - 21.02.2015) 4 matches (20.09.2015 - 18.10.2015) 5 matches (26.04.2014 - 19.10.2014) Longest unbeaten run: 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 39 v Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS 34:39W (a), 06.12.2014 41 v FC Barcelona ESP 41:19L (a), 18.10.2003 Most goals opponent: Most goals both teams: 74 v IFK Kristianstad SWE 38:36W (h), 20.02.2016 Fewest goals: 12 v FC Barcelona ESP 12:26L (h), 06.11.2004 Fewest goals opponent: 20 v Orlen Wisla Plock 31:20W (h), 21.03.2015 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	3:9	4th Gr. D
2002/03 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	2	0	4	152:181	<b>-</b> 29	4:8	4th Gr. D
2003/04 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	0	0	6	157:210	-53	0:12	4th Gr. B
2004/05 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	1	2	3	124:153	-29	4:8	3rd Gr. A
2007/08 HC Vardar PRO – Skopje MKD	6	2	1	3	161:180	-19	5:7	4th Gr. C
2009/10 HC Vardar PRO – Skopje MKD	10	1	1	8	253:316	-63	3:17	5th Gr. D
2013/14 HC Vardar – Skopje MKD	14	6	3	5	376:369	+7	15:13	1/4-finals
2014/15 HC Vardar MKD	14	8	1	5	421:396	+25	17:11	1/4-finals
Total	68	21	9	38	1796:1980			



## **HC Vardar (MKD)**

#### **Team roster**

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Date of Birth Place of Birth		Weigh	nt Goals
20	Ilija	Abutovic	SRB	Left Back	2.8.1988	Vrbas, SRB	202	99	1
7	Matjaz	Brumen	SLO	Right Wing	23.12.1982	Ljublana, SLO	190	90	19
25	Luka	Cindric	CRO	Centre Back	5.7.1993	Ogulin, CRO	185	89	43
17	Alexander	Dereven	RUS	Left Back	26.3.1992	Toliatti, RUS	199	88	4
31	Timur	Dibirov	RUS	Left Wing	30.7.1983	Petrozavodsk, RUS	180	74	69
19	Alex	Dujshebaev	ESP	Right Back	17.12.1992	Santander, ESP	187	84	53
32	Sergei	Gorbok	RUS	Left Back	4.12.1982	Minsk, RUS	196	98	55
18	Igor	Karacic	CRO	Centre Back	2.11.1988	Mostar, BIH	191	91	40
23	Filip	Lazarov	MKD	Left Back	21.4.1985	Veles, MKD	199	100	9
11	Dejan	Manaskov	MKD	Left Wing	26.8.1992	Veles, MKD	181	78	18
15	Jorge	Maqueda Pena	ESP	Right Back	6.12.1988	Toledo, ESP	195	102	44
93	Mijajlo	Marsenic	SRB	Line Player	9.3.1993	Berane, MNE	202	107	20
77	Vlado	Nedanovski	MKD	Left Wing	23.061985	Resen, MKD	187	90	
33	Daniil	Shishkarev	RUS	Right Wing	6.7.1988	Kustanai, RUS	190	85	35
5	Stojanche	Stoilov	MKD	Line Player	30.4.1987	Skopje, MKD	191	110	5
10	Alem	Toskic	SRB	Line Player	12.2.1982	Priboj, SRB	190	108	51
1	Arpad	Sterbik Capar	ESP	Goalkeeper	20.11.1979	Senta, SRB	200	119	
12	Strahinja	Milic	SRB	Goalkeeper	22.12.1990	Pristina, SRB	200	132	
26	Petar	Angelov	MKD	Goalkeeper	8.3.1977	Kavadarci, MKD	192	103	



### Raul Gonzalez Gutierrez

- 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 Hungarian, Serbian and Spanish citizenship
- 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, EURO: S 2016



## 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 key in defence

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2006



#### 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

EURO: B 2016



## 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 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
- voted best young player of the CL in 2014/15

EURO: S 2016



#### Jorge Maqueda right back

- arrived in Skopje at the beginning of the 2015/16 season and signed a two-year contract
- before his arrival in Vardar he played for Barcelona, Alcobendas, Aragon and Nantes
- the world class defender is gold medalist from the World Championship 2013 in Spain and bronze holder from EHF EURO 2011

WCh: G 2013, EURO: S 2016



#### 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 Chekhov
- in the 2013/14 season with Rhein-Neckar Löwen he was close to the FINAL4
- joined the Russian "colony" of Vardar in 2014



#### Alem Toskic line player

- joined Vardar in 2013 and currently plays the most successful season in the "red-black" team
- started his career in Partizan and transferred to Celje where he played six seasons; for two seasons he wore Zagreb jersey
- has been chosen among the best players of the third round in the 2015/16
- plays his last season in Skopje before moving to Gorenje Velenje

EURO: S 2012



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## Daniil Shishkarev right wing

- with his first club Zarja Kaspija Astrakhan played in three club competitions (EHF Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and CL)
- Russian national team winger arrived in Skopje in 2014 and plays his second season in Vardar
- in the period from 2009-2014 played for Chekovskie Medvedi and has number of titles in the Russian championship
- has played more than 70 matches for the Russian national team







## Playing hall Veszprém Arena Külso Kadartai ut 8200 Veszprém Hungary Capacity: 5,020

#### **Club Address:**

Veszprem HC 5 Külső Kádártai út 8200 Veszprém Hungary

#### Media contact:

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#### Online information:

Website: <a href="www.handballveszprem.hu">www.handballveszprem.hu</a> Facebook: <a href="weszpremhandballteam">weszpremhandballteam</a> Twitter: <a href="@mkbveszpremkc">@mkbveszpremkc</a>

#### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white Player short: white Goalkeeper shirt: grey

#### Dark

Player shirt: red Player short: red Goalkeeper shirt: black

## **MVM Veszprém (HUN)**

Last year's finalist lost MKB from their name and Carlos Ortega from their bench in a matter of two months. While the bank's contract as sponsor simply ran out the Spanish coach's was terminated after an unlucky draw at Plock in the first round of the VELUX EHF Champions League. All this at the wake of the defeat in the final of the Super Globe proved too much and the club parted ways with Ortega. His assistant Xavier Sabaté had been a popular figure eversince his arrival, yet there were few who thought that Ortega's departure could have a positive impact on Veszprém. Yet, Sabaté proved to be perfectly fit for the job and quickly prompted the management to erase the word "interim" from his title. However, Xavi's magic couldn't have worked if it wasn't for the players willingness to swallow the bitter pill – needless to say his men loved Ortega – and picked up the pace their new coach demanded.

By no surprise Veszprém maintained their 100 percent home record even when both right backs were injured and winger Péter Gulyás had to fill in, but both PSG and Kiel managed to beat the Hungarian powerhouse on home soil. However, with the full squad at his disposal Sabaté conquered the Flensburg fortress to prove Veszprém are still one of the top title contenders, who deliver when it matters. As long as inspirational leader and team captain László Nagy is fit, Veszprém have the slight edge against any of the other teams. The partnership of Mirko Alilovic and the massive defensive wall is hard to beat while Gasper Marguc, Ivan Sliskovic and Andreas Nilsson enjoy a great season in attack and the old guard of Chema, Nagy and Ilic can urge the long due conquest of the throne.

In the Last 16 against Motor Zaporozhye there was never really a doubt of which team qualifies for the top eight as the Hungarian champions dominated both on the away and home court.

#### Last 16 results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss) @ HC Motor Zaporozhye vs HC Motor Zaporozhye

#### **Group Phase results:**

@ Orlen Wisla Plock	D27:27 (11:13)
vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt	W28:24 (15:14)
@ HC PPD Zagreb	W20 :21 (10 :9)
vs Besiktas JK	W33:25 (17:12)
vs THW Kiel	W29:27 (17:15)
@ PSG Handball	L29:27 (16:12)
@ RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W27:30 (11:17)
vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W34 :28 (17 :15)
vs PSG Handball	W28:20 (16:14)
@ THW Kiel	L25 :24 (11 :12)
@ Besiktas JK	W34 :38 (15 :21)
vs HC PPD Zagreb	W27:25 (16:12)
@ SG Flensburg-Handewitt	W28:29 (12:10)
vs Orlen Wisla Plock	W27:25 (16:13)

#### **Past achievements**

#### **VELUX EHF Champions League**

Final (2): 2001/02, 2014/15 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 (3): 1993/94, 2010/11, 2011/12 Group Phase (3): 1994/95, 1995/96, 2007/08

Participations (including 2015/16 season): 21

#### Other

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

Hungarian league: 23 titles (1985, 1986, 1992-1995, 1997-1999, 2001-2006, 2008-

2015)

Hungarian Cup winner: 25 times

SEHA-league: 1 title (2015)

#### **GROUP A Final Table:**

1. PSG Handball	14	12	0	2	442:389	(53)	24
2. MVM Veszprém	14	11	1	2	402:364	(38)	23
3. SG Flensburg-Handewitt	14	10	0	4	429:380	(49)	20
4. THW Kiel	14	8	1	5	400:388	(12)	17
5. HC PPD Zagreb	14	5	1	8	358:367	(-9)	11
6. Orlen Wisla Plock	14	3	2	9	372:397	(-25)	8
7. RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	14	3	1	10	385:398	(-13)	7
8. Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu	14	1	0	13	382:487	(-105)	2



## **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 Chambery 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	<b>-16</b>	6:6	3rd Gr. A
1995/96 Fotex Veszprem HUN	6	3	0	3	147:144	+3	6:6	3rd Gr. A
1997/98 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	5	1	2	228:204	+24	11:5	1/4-finals
1998/99 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	3	1	4	200:188	+12	7:9	1/4-finals
1999/00 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	4	0	4	203:202	+1	8:8	1/4-finals
2001/02 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	12	9	0	3	310:267	+43	18:6	Runner-up
2002/03 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	8	0	2	276:238	+38	16:4	1/2-finals
2003/04 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	7	0	3	306:276	+30	14:6	1/4-finals
2004/05 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	7	0	3	317:259	+58	14:6	1/4-finals
2005/06 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	9	0	3	373:318	+55	18:6	1/2-finals
2006/07 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	10	7	0	3	338:288	+50	14:6	1/4-finals
2007/08 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	6	2	2	2	184:171	+13	6:6	3rd Gr. F
2008/09 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	8	0	4	351:320	+31	16:8	1/4-finals
2009/10 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	14	11	0	3	419:368	+51	22:6	1/4-finals
2010/11 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	9	0	3	373:338	+35	18:6	Last 16
2011/12 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	7	0	5	321:322	-1	14:10	Last 16
2012/13 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	14	11	0	3	410:348	+62	22:6	1/4-finals
2013/14 MKB-MVM Veszprém HUN	16	11	1	4	477:410	+67	23:9	4th Place
2014/15 MKB-MVM Veszprém HUN	16	13	1	2	480:423	+57	27:5	Runner-up
Total	202	136	8	58	5844:5231	+613	280:124	

## **MVM Veszprém (HUN)**

#### **Team roster**

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weigh	t Goals
34	David	Fekete	HUN	Left Back	12.10.1996	Budapest, HUN	180	82	
35	Daniel	Füzi	HUN	Line Player	9.8.1996	Veszprém, HUN	186	88	
3	Peter	Gulyas	HUN	Right Wing	4.3.1984	Veszprem, HUN	200	100	14
13	Momir	Ilic	SRB	Left Back	22.12.1981	Andrelovac, SRB	200	104	87
4	Gergö	Ivancsik	HUN	Left Wing	30.11.1981	Györ, HUN	190	87	24
66	Mate	Lekai	HUN	Centre Back	16.6.1988	Budapest, HUN	190	83	13
24	Gasper	Marguc	SLO	Right Wing	20.8.1990	Celje, SLO	180	74	66
45	Balazs	Molnar	HUN	Left Wing	25.6.1997	Veszprem, HUN	175	70	
19	Laszlo	Nagy	HUN	Right Back	3.3.1981	Szeged, HUN	208	113	53
18	Andreas	Nilsson	SWE	Line Player	12.4.1990	Trelleborg, SWE	197	110	45
14	Aron	Palmarsson	ISL	Centre Back	19.7.1990	Reykjavik, ISL	193	100	41
25	Jose Maria	Rodriguez Vaquero	ESP	Centre Back	5.1.1980	Palencia, ESP	185	91	15
37	Peter	Schmid	HUN	Centre Back	6.8.1996	Veszprém, HUN	189	90	
5	Istvan Timuzsin	Schuch	HUN	Line Player	5.6.1985	Nagyatad, HUN	197	105	1
19	Ivan	Sliskovic	CRO	Left Back	23.10.1991	Split, CRO	197	98	28
33	Renato	Sulic	CRO	Line Player	12.10.1979	Rijeka, CRO	192	109	49
27	Benedek	Szakaly	HUN	Right Wing	7.9.1997	Budapest, HUN	178	65	
17	Erik	Szeitl	HUN	Line Player	18.7.1997	Tapolca, HUN	194	98	
29	Zoltan	Szita	HUN	Left Back	10.2.1998	Veszprem, HUN	196	88	
30	Mirsad	Terzic	BIH	Left Back	12.7.1983	Priboj, BIH	196	103	4
31	Attila	Toth	HUN	Right Back	17.3.1997	Budapest, HUN	192	84	
23	Cristian	Ugalde Garcia	ESP	Left Wing	19.10.1987	Barcelona, ESP	186	80	27
38	Martin	Varju	HUN	Right Wing	3.1.1996	Szekszard, HUN	185	82	1
20	Christian	Zeitz	GER	Right Back	18.11.1980	Heidelberg, GER	186	103	4
16	Roland	Mikler	HUN	Goalkeeper	20.9.1984	Dunaujvaros, HUN	190	100	
32	Mirko	Alilovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	15.9.1985	Ljubuski, CRO	200	110	
1	Barnabas	Nagy	HUN	Goalkeeper	8.6.1998	Veszprem, HUN	190	87	
12	Bence	Gödör	HUN	Goalkeeper	9.10.1999	Veszprem, HUN	186	79	



## Javier Sabate coach

- signed with Veszprém as assistant coach of Antonio Carlos Ortega but became interim coach after Ortega parted ways with the club
- Spanish tactician earned a permanent contract on 8th January 2016, he is contracted until June 2017
- worked as an assistant coach under Ortega for more than ten years, their cooperation started at BM Antequera in Spain
- Veszprém is the first club Sabaté has lead as head coach but in March 2016 he was appointed as interim coach to train the Hungarian national team







#### Mirko Alilovic goalkeeper

- like his predecessor Dejan Peric belongs to the elite class of goalkeepers who can send the audience to their feet and inspire his teammates
- Croatian national team member and his medal tally consists of three silver medals and two bronze
- recorded 11 goal assists during the 2013 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, B 2016, 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 Gergö Iváncsik, who is one of the best players in this position according to Ugalde

EC trophies: CL 2005, 2011, EURO: S 2016, B 2014, WCh: B 2011



## Aron Palmarsson centre back

- before joining Veszprem in summer 2015 the versatile and tactically as well as technically skilled playmaker was with Kiel for six years
- one of the biggest signing in the whole competition before the 2015/16 season followed the steps of two other former Kiel players Ilic and Zeitz
- after the departure of Momir Ilic and Daniel Narcisse, the 2012 Olympics All-Star become more of an influential figure of Kiel on court

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012 EURO: B 2010



## 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



## Roland Mikler goalkeeper

- 2005 All-Star goalkeeper of the junior world championship
- Hungarian national team goalkeeper is quick, compact and excellent at directing the defence
- as a teenager Mikler reached the semi-final of the EHF Cup over a decade ago, with Dunaferr in 2003
- joined Veszprem in 2014 after the EHF Cup success with Szeged

EC trophy: EHF Cup 2014



#### Momir Ilic left back

- top scorer and only player passing 100 goals (103) in the 2013/14 CL season and again top scorer in 2014/15 (114 goals)
- 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 EHF EURO 2012
- 2013/14 All-star team left back

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012



## Renato Sulic line player

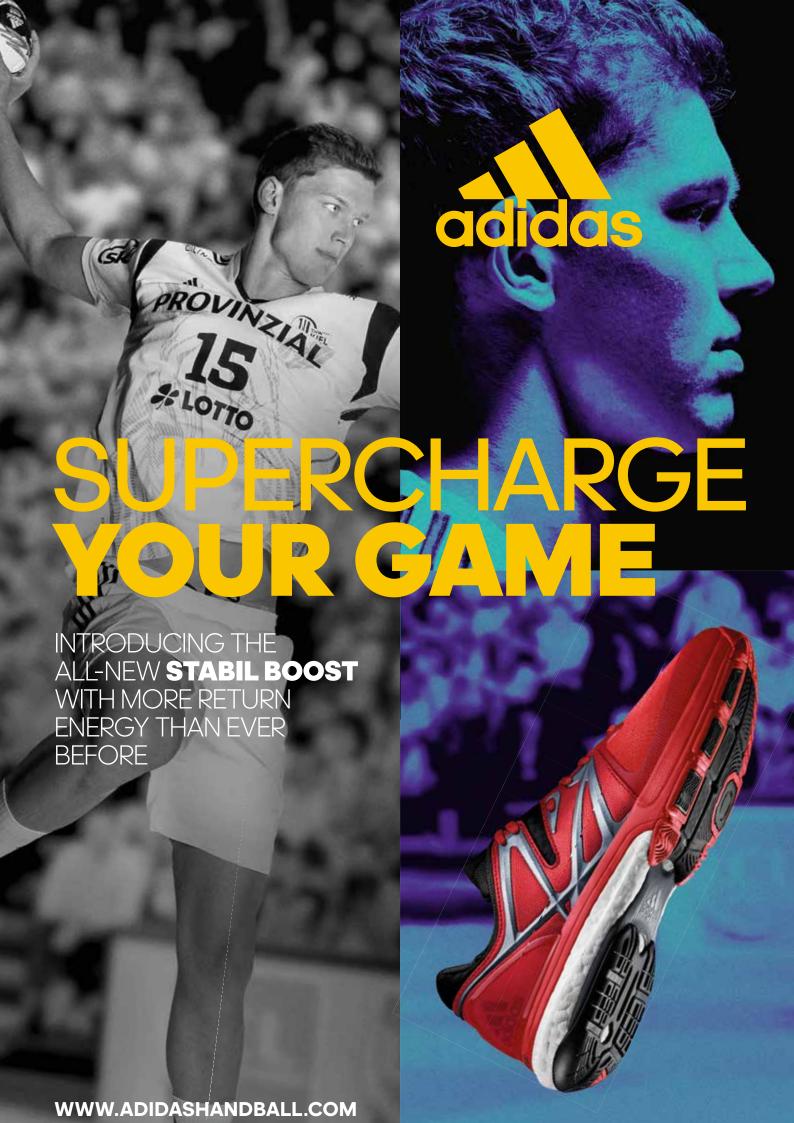
- at his second stint in Veszprém, in the 2004/05 season he did not have a chance to play as he was injured in a car incident before his first match
- came back to Veszprém after several years in Zagreb and Celje
- 2013/14 and 2014/15 All-star team line player
- shares his time on the court with the defensive specialist Timuzsin Schuh and Andreas Nilsson

EURO: S 2008, WCh: G 2003



## Gasper Marguc right wing

- took part in the WCh in Spain 2013, where Slovenia placed fourth
- came to Veszprem 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



## SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER) vs Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)



## First leg Saturday 23 April, 17:30 hrs. local time

Second leg
Wedensday 27 April, 18:30 hrs. local time



It is the eleventh participation in the EHF Champions League for SG Flensburg-Handewitt and even the 13th for Vive Tauron Kielce - but never before those top contenders faced in any Champions League match so far. The premiere will decide, whether Flensburg make it to Cologne for the second time after 2014 (when they sensationally took the trophy) or if Kielce will have their third appearance after 2013 and 2015 (both times finishing on the third position).

Talant Dujshebaev has a dream. Once to face his son Alex (Vardar Skopje) at the VELUX EHF FINAL4. This season, the family re-union can happen again, but both Dujshebaevs have high quarter-final hurdles ahead. While Alex face 2015 finalists Veszprem, Talant duel with Flensburg.

"He is a tactical mastermind," Flensburg's wing Lasse Svan praises Dujshebaev, who won the Champions League three times as a coach of Ciudad Real. But Svan is confident that his side is not chanceless, mainly in the first leg on home ground: "Our fans need to put big pressure on Kielce and we mainly need to be aware of their back court shooters."

Flensburg expect a 50:50 chance to make it again to Cologne: "We will see extremely equal matches," team captain Tobias Karlsson is sure - like for three of four quarter-finals: "Seven of eight teams - except Zagreb - in my opinion can win the Champions League, and three of them will even miss the final tournament."

Both sides had no problems in their Last 16 matches, when Flensburg (third ranked after the group phase) eliminated Montpellier, and

Kielce (second ranked) defeated Brest. More or less both sides can count on their strongest squads, in contrast to the previous season, when Flensburg were knocked out by Kiel as they had enormous injury problems. Even line player Anders Zachariassen will be back in Flensburg's roster after a seven-month break (torn ACT).

In their preparation for this crucial duel, Kielce had no problems to beat Kwidzyn twice in the semi-finals of the Polish league, Flensburg are still in the race for the German league title and qualified for the cup semi-final against Rhein-Neckar Löwen, which is played only three days after the Champions League re-match in Kielce.

For SG coach Ljubomir Vranjes, Kielce are supposed to be the stronger team, but: "We are not the favourites, but we have shown some outstanding matches during this season, which makes me hope that it might be enough to reach the VELUX EHF FINAL4. We want to tease Kielce a bit."

Flensburg were defeated only once on home ground during this Champions League season - by Veszprem -, but have shown mainly two impressive results, beating Paris Saint Germain 39:32 and Kiel 37:27. On the other hand, Kielce were the only team to win at Barcelona's den Palau Blaugrana this season (33:31). Their last appearance on German ground ended by a 32:32 draw at Rhein-Neckar Löwen in the initial period of the group phase.

Two of the last three times, Kielce were beaten on aggregate in knock-out stage matches against German teams, both in Last 16: 2014 by Löwen and 2010 by Hamburg.

#### Head-to-head stats

no previous encounters in the European Cup competitions





# The same

#### Flens Arena Campusallee 2 24943 Flensburg Germany Capacity: 6,000

#### **Club Address:**

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#### Media contact:

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#### Online information:

Website: www.sg-flensburg-handewitt.de

Facebook: <u>SGFleHa</u> Twitter: <u>@SGFleHa</u>

#### **Kit colours**

#### Light

Player shirt: blue-orange Player short: blue Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

#### Dark

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

## **SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)**

The 2014 Champions League winners were the best and the most stable German side in the group phase. Flensburg started in a brilliant way, clashing Paris 39:32. Losing at Kiel (well-deservingly) and Veszprem (unlucky and close) were setbacks, before the team of coach Ljubomir Vranjes started the longest Champions League winning streak in their club history.

Nine straight wins, including demolishing Kiel by a ten-goal victory, made Flensburg top the ranking prior to the final two rounds. But the painful defeat at home against Veszprem and the unsuccessful top table fight at Paris shattered the hopes of clinching the straight berth for the quarter-finals.

"It was possible, but our tough schedule in the domestic competitions was, maybe, the reason, why we did not have the power and the concentration you need to beat those two top teams," Vranjes said. In contrast to Kiel, Flensburg had not been hit by injuries that hard, as only Jim Gottfridsson, Anders Zachariassen and Jakob Heinl were out for a long-term. The four new arrivals at the start of the season - Djordjic, Mahe, Toft Hansen and mainly Lauge Schmidt - fit perfectly in the team, the same occurred with late arrival Kresimir Kozina.

Lauge was awarded best European player in February, the Danish left back is in the form of his life. As all the injured players were back for the Last 16 against Montpellier, Vranjes could save some power of the usual stalwarts and still win both clashes, even though with only the narrowest margin.

#### Last 16 results:

(W - win, D - draw, L - loss) @ Montpellier HB W28:27 (15:13) vs Montpellier HB W31:30 (20:14)

#### **Group Phase results:**

vs PSG Handball	W39:32 (21:16)
@ MVM Veszprém	L28:24 (15:14)
@ THW Kiel	L27:23 (14:13)
vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W30:20 (13:10)
vs Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu	W33:25 (16:14)
@ Orlen Wisla Plock	W30:34 (13:17
vs HC PPD Zagreb	W28:27 (12:13)
@ HC PPD Zagreb	W23:30 (10:15
vs Orlen Wisla Plock	W27:25 (13:11)
@ Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu	W26:34 (16:17)
vs THW Kiel	W37:27 (17:14)
@ RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	W26:30 (15:12)
vs MVM Veszprém	L28:29 (12:10)
@ PSG Handball	L35:32 (16:16)

#### **Past achievements**

**VELUX EHF Champions League** 

Participations (including 2015/16 season):

Winners (1): 2013/14

Final (2): 2003/2004, 2006/2007 Semi-final (1): 2005/2006

Quarter-final (4): 2004/2005, 2008/2009,

2010/2011, 2012/2013 Last 16 (1): 2014/15 Main round (1): 2007/2008

#### Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2000/2001

2011/2012

EHF Cup: Winners 1996/1997 City Cup: Winners 1998/1999

German league: 1 title (2004)

German cup: 4 titles

#### **GROUP A Final Table:**

1. PSG Handball	14	12	0	2	442:389	(53)	24
2. MVM Veszprém	14	11	1	2	402:364	(38)	23
3. SG Flensburg-Handewitt	14	10	0	4	429:380	(49)	20
4. THW Kiel	14	8	1	5	400:388	(12)	17
5. HC PPD Zagreb	14	5	1	8	358:367	(-9)	11
6. Orlen Wisla Plock	14	3	2	9	372:397	(-25)	8
7. RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	14	3	1	10	385:398	(-13)	7
8. Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu	14	1	0	13	382:487	(-105)	2



## **SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)**



 Biggest win:
 43:24 (23:12) v RK Metalurg Skopje MKD (h), 19.10.2006

 Biggest defeat:
 36:22 (16:10) v Montpellier HB FRA (a), 06.03.2005

 24:38 (8:19) v Renovalia Ciudad Real ESP (h), 21.04.2011

21:35 (13:19) v KIF Kolding Kobenhavn DEN (a), 28.09.2014

 Longest winning run:
 9 matches (11.10.2015 – 27.02.2016)

 Longest unbeaten run:
 9 matches (11.10.2015 – 27.02.2016)

 Longest losing run:
 3 matches (04.03.2006 - 01.04.2006)

 3 matches (22.02.2015 - 22.03.2015)

**Longest run without win:** 5 matches (10.02.2008 – 08.03.2008)

Most goals:44 v Redbergslids IK SWE 44:33W (h), 22.11.2003Most goals opponent:41 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 41:31L (a), 02.12.2006

Most goals both teams: 80 v FC Barcelona ESP 39:41W (a), 31.05.2014

Fewest goals:19 v Renovalia Ciudad Real ESP 27:19L (a), 22.09.2010Fewest goals opponent:18 v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH 25:18W (h), 02.03.2011Fewest goals both teams:43 v Montpellier HB FRA 22:21W (h), 01.03.2009

43 v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH 25:18W (h), 02.03.2011 43 v Renovalia Ciudad Real ESP 21:22W (a), 01.05.2011

#### VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2003/04 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	14	10	1	3	450:401	+49	21:7	Runner-up
2004/05 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	10	7	1	2	319:270	+49	15:5	1/4-finals
2005/06 SG Flensburg Handewitt GER	12	7	0	5	372:326	+46	14:10	1/2-finals
2006/07 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	14	8	1	5	437:398	+39	17:11	Runner-up
2007/08 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	12	4	2	6	355:356	-1	10:14	4th MR Gr. 3
2008/09 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	12	8	0	4	360:329	+31	16:8	1/4-finals
2010/11 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	14	11	0	3	394:354	+40	22:6	1/4-finals
2012/13 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	14	9	3	2	416:384	+32	21:7	1/4-finals
2013/14 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	16	12	1	3	489:441	+48	25:7	Winner
2014/15 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	12	6	0	6	337:340	-3	12:12	Last 16
Total	130	82	9	39	3929:3599	+330	173:87	

## **SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)**

#### **Team roster**

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weigh	t Goals
2	Lukas	Blohme	GER	Right Wing	7.11.1994	Flensburg, GER	188	72	
17	Petar	Djordjic	SRB	Left Back	17.9.1990	Sabac, SRB	197	102	11
7	Anders	Eggert	DEN	Left Wing	14.5.1982	Aarhus, DEN	179	77	87
9	Holger	Glandorf	GER	Right Back	30.3.1983	Osnabrück, GER	195	90	70
24	Jim	Gottfridsson	SWE	Centre Back	2.9.1992	Ystad, SWE	190	95	10
21	Jacob	Heinl	GER	Line Player	9.10.1986	Hamburg, GER	195	101	1
19	Johan Mikael	Jakobsson	SWE	Right Back	12.2.1987	Lundby, SWE	195	89	25
3	Tobias	Karlsson	SWE	Line Player	4.6.1981	Karlskrona, SWE	196	102	
44	Kresimir	Kozina	CRO	Line Player	25.06.1990	Derventa, BIH	197	106	7
4	Maik	Machulla	GER	Centre Back	9.1.1977	Greifswald, GER	189	95	
22	Kentin	Mahe	FRA	Centre Back	22.5.1991	Paris, FRA	185	81	38
10	Thomas	Mogensen	DEN	Centre Back	30.1.1983	Odder, DEN	187	100	50
17	Michael	Nicolaisen	GER	Left Back	6.5.1995	Husum, GER	195	100	
41	Bogdan	Radivojevic	SRB	Right Wing	2.3.1993	Beograd, SRB	192	80	10
19	Rasmus Lauge	Schmidt	DEN	Centre Back	20.6.1991	Randers, DEN	193	96	62
11	Lasse	Svan	DEN	Right Wing	31.8.1983	Stevns, DEN	184	84	64
15	Henrik	Toft Hansen	DEN	Line Player	18.12.1986	Skive, DEN	200	108	36
40	Ljubomir	Vranjes	SWE	Centre Back	3.10.1973	Göteborg, SWE	168	80	
14	Hampus	Wanne	SWE	Left Wing	10.12.1993	Lundby, SWE	184	84	14
22	Anders	Zachariassen	DEN	Line Player	4.9.1991	Sonderborg, SWE	192	96	3
1	Mattias	Andersson	SWE	Goalkeeper	29.3.1978	Malmö, SWE	185	93	
77	Thore	Jöhnck	GER	Goalkeeper	28.7.1995	Flensburg, GER	184	84	
32	Andreas	Meyer Ejlersen	DEN	Goalkeeper	28.6.1997	Horsens, DEN	188	85	
16	Kevin	Möller	DEN	Goalkeeper	20.6.1990	Tonder , DEN	200	103	



## Ljubomir Vranjes coach

- former Swedish national team player, still on the players' list of Flensburg
- became club manager in 2009 and coach in November 2010
- after winning the CL in the 2014/15 season he declined the number of top offers from PSG and the German national team
- led Serbia to the 2014 EHF EURO in Denmark in a caretaker role, but did not continue
- highly creative photographer in his spare time and just started to write his memoirs

EC trophies: CL 2014 (as coach), Cup Winners' Cup 2012 (as coach) OG: S 2000, WCh: G 1999, EURO: G 1998, 2000 and 2002







#### **Mattias Andersson** goalkeeper

- awarded "best player of the Bundesliga season 2011/12"
- already in the younger age categories part of all All-Star teams and became member of the senior national team
- played at Kiel (2001-08), TV Großwallstadt before signing in Flensburg
- his saves at the 2014 FINAL4 were the major keys to win his last missing EC trophy

EC trophies: CL 2007, 2014, EHF Cup: 2002, 2004, Cup Winners' Cup: 2012 OG: S 2012. EHF EURO: G 2000



#### **Kentin Mahe** centre back

- joined Flensburg in 2015 after spells with HSV Hamburg, VfL Gummersbach and Bayer Dormagen (coached by his father Pascal in Dormagen)
- MVP and top scorer (49 goals) of the Men's 20 EHF EURO 2010 and MVP of the 2015 EHF Cup Finals
- in 2010 a debut in the French national team
- reached the Cup Winners' Cup final with Gummersbach in 2011/12 and EHF Cup final with HSV in 2014/15

WCh: G 2015



#### **Henrik Toft Hansen** line player

- his girlfriend Ulrike Agren is playing for the Swedish national team and German club Buxtehude
- his whole family is involved in handball: brothers Rene (also a line player of THW Kiel) and Allan (Mors-Thy) and sisters Majbritt (Skive) and Jeanette top players in the Danish league
- part of AG Kobenhavn, which eliminated Barcelona on the way to 2012 VELUX EHF FINAL4
- transferred to Aalborg, before he joined Hamburg in 2013 and then Flensburg in 2015

EURO: G 2012, WCh: S 2013



#### **Holger Glandorf** right back

- left-handed shooter and one of two German 2007 world champions in the Flensburg roster
- despite some injury breaks, the right back always returned to a high level of performance
- has the full set of three major European Cup competitions titles on his tally, with Nordhorn and Flensburg
- in August 2014 retired from the German national team to only focus on his club now

EC trophies: CL 2014, EHF Cup: 2008, 2010, Cup Winners' Cup: 2012



#### **Anders Eggert** left wing

- had big shoes to fill in Flensburg as successor of legendary Lars Christiansen
- top scorer of the German Bundesliga in 2011 (248 goals) and top scorer of the 2013 WCh in Spain (55 goals)
- started his career at Gudme, in his ninth season in Flensburg after intermediately being on Ioan at Skjern Handball
- also famous for one of the highest percentages in the CL from the penalty throws

EC trophies: CL 2014, Cup Winners' Cup: 2012

WCh: S 2011, 2013, EURO: G 2008, 2012, silver medallist 2014



#### **Thomas Mogensen** centre back

- highly experienced playmaker with more than 1,000 goals for his club and long list of silverware
- since 2007 playing for Flensburg his first stop outside his home country Denmark
- before played for Viborg and Svendborg, becoming Danish champion and cup winner twice
- to focus only on SG he quit his career in the Danish national team after the EHF EURO 2014

EC trophies: CL 2014, Cup Winners' Cup 2012 WCh: S 2011, 2013, EURO: G 2012, S 2014



#### **Tobias Karlsson** line player

- typical powerful Scandinavian defence specialist, who - together with Magnus Jernemyr build the Swedish middle block in the last years
- team captain, a great honour after legendary Lars Christiansen left SG
- Swedish champion three times with Hammarby IF
- best defence player at the EHF EURO 2014

EC trophies: CL 2014, Cup Winners' Cup: 2012 OG: S 2012



#### Lasse Svan right wing

- one of the fastest wing players in the CL
- same qualities as Eggert on the other side: fast counter-attacks and a high scoring efficiency
- another task in his team: motivation and relaxing - as his business is mental coaching
- after four seasons at GOG Svendborg he moved to Flensburg in 2008
- in addition to all his merits and trophies in handball, he was also a billiard's champion in his home region Seeland

EC trophies: CL 2014, Cup Winners' Cup: 2012 WCh: S 2011, 2013, EURO: G 2012, S 2014







#### 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

#### Media contact:

Sebastian Kozubek +48 505031244 s.kozubek@vtkielce.pl

#### Online information:

Website: <a href="www.vtkielce.pl">www.vtkielce.pl</a>
Facebook: <a href="kielcehandball">kielcehandball</a>
Twitter: <a href="@ksvive">@ksvive</a>

#### Kit colours

#### ight

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

#### Dark

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

## **KS Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)**

When you win all the matches in the group phase two times and you gain a place in the history books of the Champions League, it's really a hit to lose the first game in the next edition of contest. Kielce had to swallow a bitter failure in Szeged after a weak attitude in the defence and unsuccessful try to catch up with the gap they allowed to make their rivals.

Further matches in the group affirmed that this season was not going to be that kind for the Polish Champions. After first five rounds Kielce had only two victories, two draws and a loss. To make matters worse their next duel with Vardar turned out to be a total disaster. Talant's boys brought back from Skopje a ten-goal defeat 24:34!

But since that moment Vive got a grip and turned the proportions of their balance showing a handball on the highest level. They won seven from eight matches left and achieved a historical first victory over Barcelona. They had a huge chance to gather a full set of wins, but in the very last moments of the battle in Kristianstad Tobias Reichmann missed a penalty what gave another draw 35:35. The scapegoat winger fully made up for his blooper and in the last match against Szeged he gave the club the one and only lead few seconds before the final whistle scoring an empty-net goal!

During the season they lost their previous captain Grzegorz Tkaczyk due to his shoulder injury, but they also regained the centre back Mariusz Jurkiewicz who debuted in the season at the beginning of March after ten months of struggle with his knee ligaments. Although he still did not play in the Last 16 against HC Meshkov Brest. his team comfortably reached the quarter-finals after winning both legs.

#### Last 16 results:

#### **Group Phase results:**

@ MOL-Pick Szeged L31:30 (17:14) W30:23 (12:11) vs Montpellier HB D32:32 (19:15) @ Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs IFK Kristianstad W35:27 (20:12) D30:30 (14:17) vs FC Barcelona Lassa L34:24 (18:14) @ HC Vardar @ KIF Kolding Kobenhavn W25:33 (13:12) vs KIF Kolding Kobenhavn W33:31 (13:14) vs HC Vardar W23:20 (10:6) @ FC Barcelona Lassa W31:33 (19:16) @ IFK Kristianstad D35:35 (17:19) vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen W28 :27 (12 :10) @ Montpellier HB W27:32 (16:17) W27:26 (12:16) vs MOL-Pick Szeged

#### **Past achievements**

**VELUX EHF Champions League** 

Participations (including 2015/16 season): 13

Semi-final (2): 2012/13, 2014/15 (third

ranked in VELUX F4)

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

11 participations in other ECs

Polish league: 12 titles (1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012-2015)

Polish cup: 12 titles

#### **GROUP B Final Table:**

1. FC Barcelona Lassa	14	11	1	2	423:372 (51)	23	
2. KS Vive Tauron Kielce	14	9	3	2	425:399 (26)	21	
3. HC Vardar	14	9	0	5	416:373 (43)	18	
4. Rhein-Neckar Löwen	14	8	1	5	369:353 (16)	17	
5. MOL-Pick Szeged	14	7	1	6	404:390 (14)	15	
6. Montpellier HB	14	3	1	10	372:413 (-41)	7	
7. IFK Kristianstad	14	3	1	10	409:437 (-28)	7	
8. KIF Kolding Kobenhavn	14	2	0	12	348:429 (-81)	4	





 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

20 v HC Vardar MKD 20:22W (a), 11.04.2015 20 v HC Vardar MKD 23:20W (h), 28.11.2015

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	<b>-1</b> 3	6:6	3rd Gr. B
2003/04 KS 'Vive' Kielce POL	6	2	1	3	159:177	-18	5:7	3rd Gr. G
2009/10 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	5	1	6	345:344	+1	11:13	Last 16
2010/11 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	10	1	2	7	276:300	-24	4:16	6th Gr. A
2011/12 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	6	1	5	345:336	+9	13:11	Last 16
2012/13 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	16	14	0	2	469:400	+69	28:4	Third Place
2013/14 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	7	1	4	362:331	+31	15:9	Last 16
2014/15 KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL	16	14	0	2	483:439	+44	28:4	Third Place
Total	90	52	6	32	2612:2513	+99	110:70	

## **KS Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)**

#### **Team roster**

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	n Place of Birth	Height	Weight Goals	
13	Julen	Aguinagalde Akizu	ESP	Line Player	8.12.1982	Irun, ESP	195	116	52
14	Karol	Bielecki	POL	Left Back	23.1.1982	Sandomierz, POL	202	101	65
18	Bartlomiej	Bis	POL	Line Player	25.3.1997	Kielce, POL	198	102	
3	Jakub	Bulski	POL	Line Player	29.4.1998	Kielce, POL	195	96	
21	Denis	Buntic	CRO	Right Back	13.11.1982	Ljubuski, BIH	198	93	44
10	Piotr	Chrapkowski	POL	Left Back	24.3.1988	Goreczno, POL	202	100	8
27	Ivan	Cupic	CRO	Right Wing	22.3.1986	Metkovic, CRO	178	75	60
4	Michal	Grabowski	POL	Right Wing	28.11.1997	Kielce, POL	188	87	
15	Mateusz	Jachlewski	POL	Left Wing	27.12.1984	Gdynia, POL	185	88	19
5	Michal	Jurecki	POL	Left Back	27.10.1984	Koscian, POL	198	110	72
19	Mariusz	Jurkiewicz	POL	Left Back	3.2.1982	Lubin, POL	199	103	1
11	Mateusz	Kus	POL	Line Player	14.7.1987	Piekary SL, POL	200	100	2
19	Krzysztof	Lijewski	POL	Right Back	7.7.1983	Ostrów Wlkpl. POL	198	94	40
22	Pawel	Paczkowski	POL	right back	14.06.1993	Swiecie, POL	195	93	5
9	Tobias	Reichmann	GER	Right Wing	27.5.1988	Berlin, GER	188	85	45
17	Manuel	Strlek	CRO	Left Wing	1.12.1988	Zagreb, CRO	182	84	39
6	Grzegorz	Tkaczyk	POL	Left Back	22.12.1980	Warszawa, POL	194	94	6
2	Branko	Vujovic	MNE	Right Back	20.4.1998		197	82	2
23	Uros	Zorman	SLO	Centre Back	9.1.1980	Kranj, SLO	189	96	30
1	Slawomir	Szmal	POL	Goalkeeper	2.10.1978	Strzelce Opolskie, POL	190	90	
16	Marin	Sego	CRO	Goalkeeper	2.8.1985	Mostar, BIH	194	100	
	Krzysztof	Markowski	POL	Goalkeeper	5.8.1997	Kielce, POL	185	82	



## Talant Dujshebaev coach

- most awarded figure in the club
- during his longstanding playing career won plenty of trophies with three different national teams (CIS, Russia, Spain)
- has successfully continued as a coach for the last 10 years, 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







#### **Marin Sego** goalkeeper

- his first stop in Poland was Wisla Plock when he came from Zagreb in 2012 and stayed until 2014
- like in Plock with Marcin Wichary also in Kielce he has a strong competition in a goal from a Polish national team goalkeeper - Szmal
- before his move to Poland spent half of his career in Bosnia Herzegovina, and half in Croatia
- before his first FINAL4 start in 2015 was most successful with Zagreb, where he helped his club to progress twice to the CL quarter-finals

**EURO: S 2010** 



#### **Manuel Striek** 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 EHF EURO 2010

OG: B 2012, WCh: G 2013, B 2011, EURO: B 2012, 2016



#### **Uros 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, work with children, for whom he has been organising summer camps over past years

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



#### Krzysztof Lijewski right back

- wanted to be a basketball player, but under the influence of his father and older brother Marcin, he chose handball
- joined Kielce in 2012 after seven successful years spent in Germany with Hamburg and Rhein-Neckar Löwen
- best right back of EHF EURO 2014
- most versatile player in the team, clever in attack and vigilant in defence

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2007

WCh: S 2007, B 2009, 2015



#### Slawomir Szmal goalkeeper

- 2009 World Handball Player of the Year
- one of the key players in the Polish national
- spent several years in German Bundesliga playing for TuS N-Lübbecke and Rhein Neckar Löwen
- competed in three VELUX EHF FINAL4 events with Löwen in 2010/11 and twice with Kielce in 2012/13 and 2014/15
- on the court a hardworking Titan, beyond it always keen on handball initiatives for kids

WCh: S 2007, B 2009, 2015



#### Michal Jurecki left back

- Kielce's powerful left back returned to Poland in 2010 after a three-season stint in Germany and spells at HSV Hamburg and TuS N-Lübbecke
- All-Star Team Left back of the EHF EURO 2016
- 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
- since 2015/16 a new captain of the team

WCh: S 2007, B 2009, 2015



#### Julen Aguinagalde line player

- one of the world's top line players
- All-Star team line player of the 2013 WCh in Spain and EHF EURO 2014 in Denmark
- nominated for World Handball Player of the Year 2012
- joined Kielce from Atlético Mardid in 2013 for his first foreign league experience
- four VELUX EHF FINAL4 participations in 2010-2015

WCh: G 2013, B 2011, EURO: B 2014, S 2016



#### **Tobias Reichmann** right wing

- started his career at SC Magdeburg
- played three seasons in Kiel and two in Wetzlar before he transferred to Kielce in 2014 as the first German player in the Polish league
- All-Star team right winger of the EHF EURO 2016 in Poland
- shares his position with Croatian Ivan Cupic
- winner of the IHF Super Globe in 2011 as part of THW Kiel

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012 EURO: G 2016





## **Current top scorers 2015/16**

1	Mikkel Hansen (DEN)	Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)	107
2	Dean Bombac (SLO)	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)	101
3	Kiril Lazarov (MKD)	FC Barcelona Lassa (ESP)	98
4	Barys Pukhouski (BLR)	HC Motor Zaporozhye (UKR)	90
5	Rastko Stojkovic (SRB)	HC Meshkov Brest (BLR)	89
6	Darko Djukic (SRB)	Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu (TUR)	87
	Anders Eggert (DEN)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	87
	Momir Ilic (SRB)	MVM Veszprém (HUN)	87
9	Marko Vujin (SRB)	THW Kiel (GER)	82
10	Andre Schmid (SUI)	Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)	78
11	Nikola Karabatic (FRA)	Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)	77
12	Ramazan Döne (TUR)	Besiktas Jimnastik Kulubu (TUR)	74
	Iman Jamali (HUN)	IFK Kristianstad (SWE)	74
14	Domagoj Duvnjak (CRO)	THW Kiel (GER)	73
	Dragan Gajic (SLO)	Montpellier HB (FRA)	73
	Jonas Källman (SWE)	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)	73
17	Michal Jurecki (POL)	KS Vive Tauron Kielce (POL)	72
18	Janko Bozovic (AUT)	HC Metalurg (MKD)	71
	Jure Dolenec (SLO)	Montpellier HB (FRA)	71
20	Holger Glandorf (GER)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	70
	Jerry Tollbring (SWE)	IFK Kristianstad (SWE)	70

**Bold text** indicates players of teams still in the competition.

## **Past Winners**

2015	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
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)

2015/16 VELUX EHF Champions League Quarter-finals

#### Media Guide

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