



UEFA
EUROPA
CONFERENCE
LEAGUE™



EUROPA FC

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UEFA Europa Conference League first qualifying round second leg

EUROPA FC V KF DUKAGJINI

Thursday 20.07.2023 | 17.00 | Victoria Stadium, Gibraltar

OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME OF EUROPA FC 2023-24

SUPPORTING EUROPA FC



THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUED BACKING...

T H E

PRESIDENT



A warm welcome to Victoria Stadium for tonight's UEFA Europa Conference League first qualifying round second leg tie against KF Dukagjini.

We thank you for your attendance and wish our opponents a safe journey home afterwards.

Looking back at the first leg encounter in Kosovo, it was a hard-fought tie, which is still very much in the balance going into this evening's game.

We know only too well that our first half performance fell below the level that we have come to expect, but credit to the players, they responded after the break and we were unfortunate not to come home with a draw.

The Kosovan League has developed extremely quickly and there are some strong teams involved, of which KF Dukagjini are amongst the strongest.

That said, I am confident we can finish the job off tonight. We will need to be at it from the very first whistle, and that is where the backing of you, the fans, will come in to it to create a very special atmosphere.

Let's make this a night to remember and extend our European involvement into the next round of this competition.

Enjoy the game...

PETER CABEZUTTO
President

Today's special souvenir Matchday Programme has been produced on behalf of Europa FC by

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HEAD COACH

WE RETURN TO ACTION WITH THIS UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND SECOND LEG TIE AGAINST KF DUKAGJINI AS WE LOOK TO OVERTURN A 2-1 DEFICIT FROM THE AWAY LEG.



I would like to start by welcoming everyone connected to our opponents before wishing them a safe journey home afterwards.

May I also extend a warm welcome to the supporters who are here this evening to cheer us on to what we hope will be a victory and progress into the next round of this competition.

It is fair to say that the pre-season has not been easy. Since we started training, we have had to build practically a new team and that means patience is needed as we strive to reach our maximum level.

As a team, we have not played many games together, but what we have done is worked extremely hard in training to ensure that we are at a good fitness level to meet the demands of this competition.

With the more minutes we get together on the pitch, the better we will become. There is no doubt about the quality that we have within this group, we just need the time to be able to gel together in our play.

Of course we were disappointed to lose in the first leg, particularly as we conceded the second goal so late on in the game.

We accept that we were not at our best on the night and there are areas that we need to improve, but we were up against tough opponents with very clear ideas.

Despite this, we are still very much in this tie and I am looking for us to live up to the expectations that are placed upon us this evening and turn this scoreline around.

There is no reason whatsoever why we cannot do that; yes, our opponents will make it

difficult for us but we have the ability to overcome this and get ourselves into the next round, which is what we all want.

Our togetherness is growing all of the time and with your support, we can get to where we want to be.

Thank you for your support – enjoy the game...

MARIO

... THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE QUALITY THAT WE HAVE WITHIN THIS GROUP, WE JUST NEED THE TIME TO BE ABLE TO GEL TOGETHER IN OUR PLAY...



CAPTAIN

WELCOME TO THIS UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND SECOND LEG TIE.

Looking back at last season and it was a good season for us overall. The hard work that we put in throughout the campaign has allowed us to compete on this stage once more and to be part of this competition is something that we will never take for granted.

There have been a lot of changes since the end of last season. The club has brought together a great group of players and coaches and together we are looking forward to what can be achieved.

We started our preparations early and things have gone really well; the team has worked extremely hard and to a man we have given everything to ensure that we are as well prepared as we can be for the challenges that we will face.

It has been a really team effort with everyone giving their all both in training and each time that we step out onto the pitch. We are all fighting to be the best that we possibly can be and this has been

reflected in our performances.

We were able to take plenty of positives from our display in the first leg in Kosovo.

There are aspects of our play that we need to improve upon, of course, and we will be looking to do that this evening and overturn the 2-1 deficit.

It is an encounter that we are looking forward to. We want to be able to showcase everything that we have worked on and hopefully you, the supporters, will be right behind us every step of the way because we need your

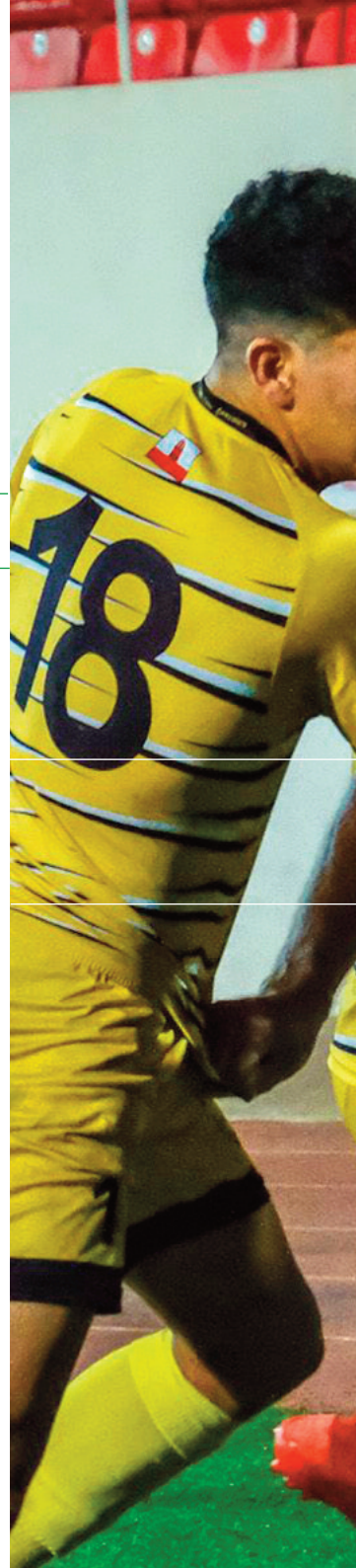
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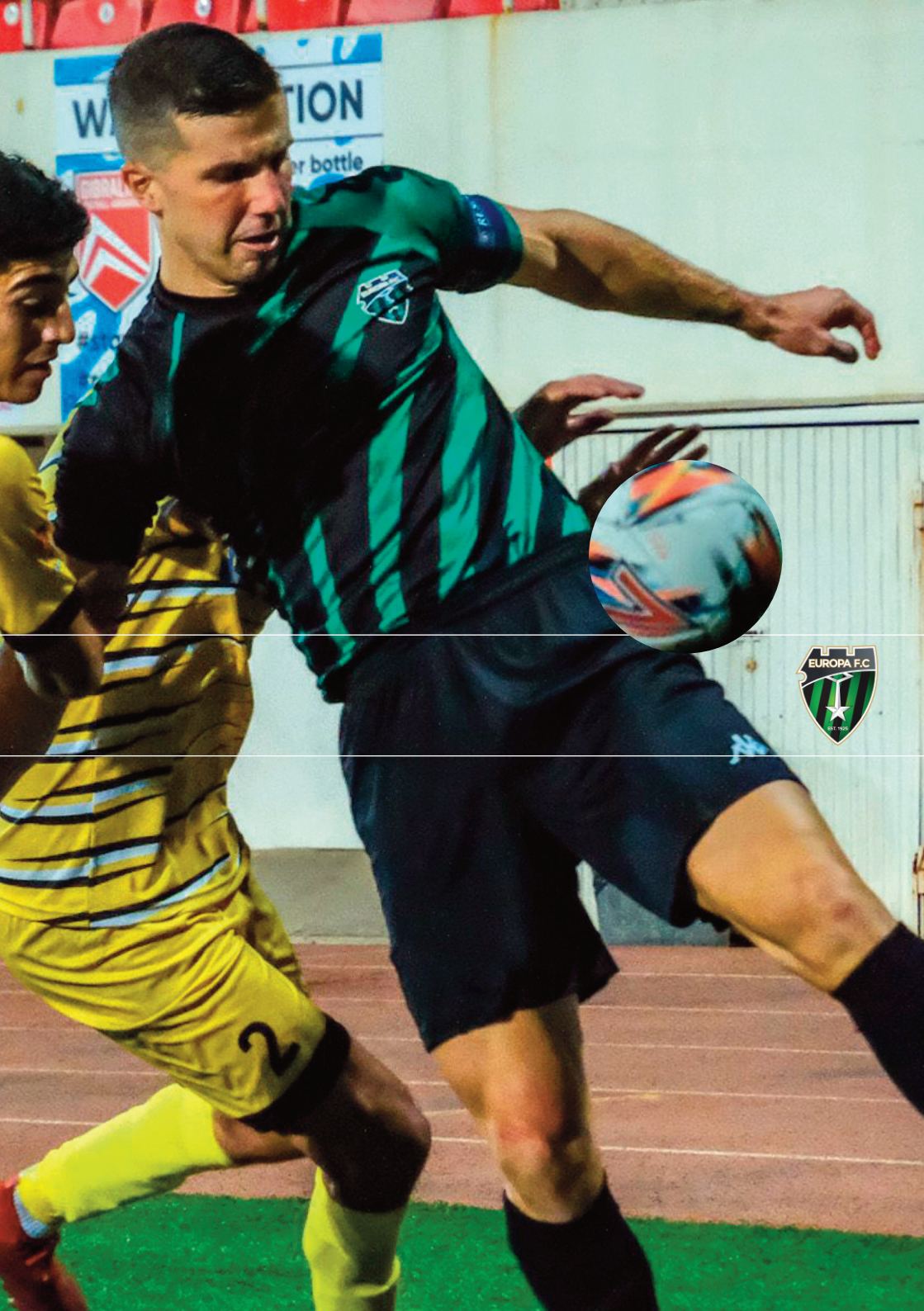
The players are ready to give everything on the pitch and we ask you to give all you can from the sidelines so that we can remain in this competition.

Enjoy the game...

JAYCE

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STATS 22/23



Matchday 1 of 11

Europa FC 1 – 1 FCB Magpies

Matchday 2 of 11

Manchester 1962 FC 1 – 4 Europa FC

Matchday 3 of 11

Europa FC 1 – 0 St Joseph's FC

Matchday 4 of 11

Europa Point FC 0 – 9 Europa FC

Matchday 5 of 11

Europa FC 2 – 1 Lynx FC

Matchday 6 of 11

Europa FC 7 – 0 Glacis United FC

Matchday 7 of 11

Mons Calpe SC 0 – 2 Europa FC

Matchday 8 of 11

Europa FC 5 – 0 College 1975 FC

Matchday 9 of 11

Lions Gib FC 0 – 3 Europa FC

Matchday 10 of 11

Europa FC 0 – 1 Lincoln Red Imps FC

GFL CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2023

Matchday 1 of 10

Europa FC 2 – 1 Lynx FC

Matchday 2 of 10

Europa FC 4 – 2 Glacis United FC

Matchday 3 of 10

St Joseph's FC 2 – 0 Europa FC

Matchday 4 of 10

Europa FC 0 – 0 FCB Magpies

Matchday 5 of 10

Europa FC 0 – 2 Lincoln Red Imps FC

Matchday 6 of 10

Lynx FC 2 – 0 Europa FC

Matchday 7 of 10

Glacis United FC 0 – 1 Europa FC

Matchday 8 of 10

Europa FC 3 – 0 St Joseph's FC

Matchday 9 of 10

FCB Magpies 1 – 2 Europa FC

Matchday 10 of 10

Lincoln Red Imps FC 1 – 2 Europa FC

ROCK CUP

Matchday 1 of 4

Lincoln Red Imps FC 3 – 2 Europa FC

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

Championship Group 22/23

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Lincoln Red Imps FC	20	17	1	2	54	52
Europa FC	20	14	2	4	33	44
FCB Magpies	20	11	4	5	21	37
Lynx FC	20	10	3	7	6	33
St Joseph's FC	20	10	2	8	11	32
Glacis United FC	20	4	1	15	-28	13



EUROPA

C O N F E R E N C E L E A G U E 2 0 2 3 - 2 4

UEFA Europa Conference League qualifying for the 2023/24 season began on 13 July and concludes on 31 August.

A total of 22 teams will earn their places in the 2023/24 UEFA Europa Conference League group stage via qualifying, with the other ten sides parachuting down from the UEFA Europa League play-offs.

First qualifying round | Teams involved (62) - 62 automatic entrants

Dates | Draw: 20 June 2023 - First legs: 13 July 2023 - Second legs: 20 July 2023

The sides play each other over two legs. The 31 winners advance to the second qualifying round (Main Path).

All defeated sides are eliminated from UEFA club competition for the season.

Second qualifying round | Teams involved (106) - 3 teams eliminated from UEFA Champions League preliminary round - 13 teams eliminated from UEFA Champions League first qualifying round - 59 automatic entrants - 31 first qualifying round winners

Dates | Draw: 21 June 2023 - First legs: 27 July 2023 - Second legs: 3 August 2023

The third qualifying round is divided into two paths:

- The Champions Path features 13 teams eliminated from UEFA Champions League first qualifying round and three teams eliminated from UEFA Champions League preliminary round.
- The Main Path features 59 automatic entrants and 31 first qualifying round winners.

The 16 sides in the Champions Path play each other over two legs. The eight winning sides advance to the third qualifying round (Champions Path).

The 90 sides in the Main Path play each other over two legs. The 45 winning sides advance to the third qualifying round (Main Path).

All defeated sides are eliminated from UEFA club competition for the season.

Third qualifying round | Teams involved (64) - 8 second qualifying round Champions Path winners - 2 teams eliminated from UEFA Champions League first qualifying round - 9 automatic entrants - 45 second qualifying round Main Path winners

Dates | Draw: 24 July 2023 - First legs: 10 August 2023 - Second legs: 17 August 2023

The third qualifying round is divided into two paths:

- The Champions Path features eight second qualifying round Champions Path winners plus two teams eliminated from the UEFA Champions League first qualifying round.
- The Main Path features 9 automatic entrants and 45 second qualifying round winners.

The ten sides in the Champions Path play each other over two legs. The five winning sides advance to the play-off round (Champions Path).

The 54 sides in the Main path play each other over two legs. The 27 winning sides advance to the play-off round (Main Path).

All defeated sides are eliminated from UEFA club competition for the season.

Play-off round | Teams involved (44) 5 automatic entrants - 5 third qualifying round Champions Path winners - 27 third qualifying round Main Path winners - 5 teams eliminated from UEFA Europa League third qualifying round (Champions Path) - 2 teams eliminated Europa League third qualifying round (Main Path)

Dates | Draw: 7 August 2023 - First legs: 24 August 2023 - Second legs: 31 August 2023

The play-off qualifying round is divided into two paths:

- The Champions Path features five third qualifying round Champions Path winners plus five teams eliminated from UEFA Europa League third qualifying round (Champions Path).
- The Main Path features 5 automatic entrants, 27 third qualifying round Main Path winners and two teams eliminated from UEFA Europa League third qualifying round (Main Path).

The ten sides in the Champions Path play each other over two legs. The five winning sides advance to the group stage.

The 34 sides in the Main path play each other over two legs. The 17 winning sides advance to the group stage.

All defeated sides are eliminated from UEFA club competition for the season.

FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND SECOND LEG FIXTURES (FIRST LEG SCORES IN BRACKETS)

TUESDAY 18 JULY

Balzan (MLT) vs Domžale (SVN) (4-1)

THURSDAY 20 JULY

Birkirkara (MLT) vs Maribor (SVN) (1-1)

Europa (GIB) vs Dukagjini (KOS) (1-2)

FC Santa Coloma (AND) vs Penybont (WAL) (1-1)

Narva Trans (EST) vs Pyunik (ARM) (0-2)

RFS (LVA) vs Makedonija (MKD) (1-0)

Paide (EST) vs B36 (FRO) (0-0)

Milsami (MDA) vs Panevezys (LTU) (2-2)

Honka Espoo (FIN) vs Tobol Kostanay (KAZ) (1-2)

Dila Gori (GEO) vs Dunajská Streda (SVK) (1-2)

Levadia Tallinn (EST) vs Žilina (SVK) (1-2)

Dinamo Minsk (BLR) vs Željezničar (BIH) (2-2)

Zimbru Chisinau (MDA) vs La Fiorita (SMR) (1-1)

Dinamo Batumi (GEO) vs Tirana (ALB) (1-1)

Neman Grodno (BLR) vs Vaduz (LIE) (2-1)

Egnatia (ALB) vs Ararat-Armenia (ARM) (1-1)

Vikingur (FRO) vs Inter Escaldes (AND) (1-2)

Gjilani (KOS) vs Progrès Niederkorn (LUX) (2-2)

Connah's Quay Nomads (WAL) vs KA (ISL) (0-2)

Arsenal Tivat (MNE) vs Alashkert (ARM) (1-1)

Glentoran (NIR) vs Gžira United (MLT) (2-2)

Cosmos (SMR) vs Sutjeska (MNE) (0-1)

Dundalk (IRL) vs Magpies (GIB) (0-0)

Vllaznia (ALB) vs Linfield (NIR) (1-3)

Haverfordwest (WAL) vs Shkëndija (MKD) (0-1)

Derry City (IRL) vs HB (FRO) (0-0)

Vikingur Reykjavík (ISL) vs Riga (LVA) (0-2)

St Patrick's (IRL) vs Diddeleng (LUX) (1-2)

Sarajevo (BIH) vs Torpedo Kutaisi (GEO) (2-2)

Crusaders (NIR) vs Haka (FIN) (2-2)

Shkupi (MKD) vs Hegelmann Litauen (LTU) (5-0)



WE ARE FAMILY

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I N O P P O S I T I O N

KF DUKAGJINI

This evening we extend a warm welcome to everyone associated with KF Dukagjini who are with us at Victoria Stadium before wishing them a safe journey home afterwards.

In the heart of Northern Western Kosovo lies KF Dukagjini, a football club that has been making waves in recent years.

Despite its humble beginnings, the club has become a symbol of hope and passion for football enthusiasts in the region.

Dukagjini, based in Klina, Kosovo, was founded in 1958. The club played in the Kosovo Province League which was at the time part of the Yugoslav football league



system. Named after the Albanian historical figure, Lekë Dukagjini, the club initially struggled to establish its presence among more established football institutions.

KF Dukagjini faced financial and infrastructure challenges, but the determination of its players, coaching staff, and loyal supporters kept the club afloat.

They steadily climbed through the ranks of Kosovar football. The club's commitment to youth development and investment in player talent played a significant role in its ascent.

With a focus on fostering local talent, KF Dukagjini became a breeding ground for promising young players, elevating its competitiveness and reputation.

The club would have to wait until the 1993/94 season for its first success when they won the League title for the first time.

They wouldn't have to wait long for another trophy as the following season, Dukagjini would win the Kosovar Super Cup by defeating



Kosovar giants FC Prishtina on penalties.

Prishtina would get their revenge that same season in 1994/95 when the two clubs met again but this time for the Kosovar Cup, it was the team from the capital that would be victorious.

One year later Dukagjini would reach the Kosovar Cup Final again and lose again to a team from Prishtina but this time they would be defeated by KF Flamurtari.

After the Kosovo War ended in 1999, the Kosovo SuperLiga was officially established. Dukagjini wouldn't have much success in the following years. In fact, the 2019/20 season saw Dukagjini suffer relegation after finishing bottom of the table.

In 2020/21 current manager Armend Dallku would be appointed at the helm and not only would he get Dukagjini promoted back to the Superliga by way of the promotion play-offs, but he would also lead them to the Kosovar Cup Final.

This was the first time in 18 years a team from Kosovo's second-tier had reached a Cup Final, but it would end in heartbreak for Dukagjini as they would be defeated by Llapi on penalties.

In their first season back in Kosovo's top division, Dukagjini would do just enough to stay in the division, finishing just above the relegation zone.

This past season Dukagjini finished in an impressive fourth place and due to Prishtina failing to obtain UEFA license, the European berth was given to Dukagjini who makes their European debut this season.

The players to look out for are their two wingers; Iljasa Zulfu, who already scored in the first leg, and Altin Merlaku, who scored seven goals for the club last season.

With the tie finely balanced going into this second leg tie, it promises to be an intriguing battle to see who will make it through to the next round of this competition.

WORDS: Salvador Garcia Jr | @kosovarfootball



AT THE HELM ARMEND DALLKU

As a player, he went on to win 64 caps for Albania during a career which began with his hometown club, KF Kosova Vushtri.

He landed a move to KF Prishtina in 2003 before joining Elbasani a year later. The summer of 2005 saw him move to Ukrainian outfit, Vorskla Poltava, and he went on to become a key figure in their back-line.

Going on to spend 11 years with the club where he gained legendary status, he initially decided to hang up his boots upon his departure in May 2016, but returned to Prishtina and went on to appear 31 times in 2016/17 as the club finished runners-up in the League.

Moving into coaching, where his vast experience proved invaluable for the Prishtina Under-19 team, he then had a season with the senior team in 2019/2020 before accepting the challenge at KF Dukagjini.

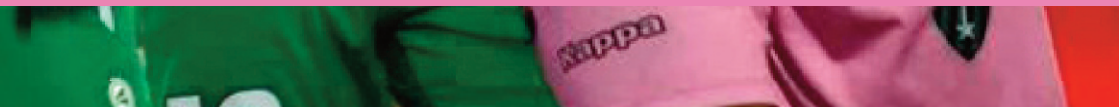
Guiding the club back into the top-flight and Cup Final, which in turn has led to their first-ever adventure in European competition, he is much-loved around the club.





P O S T C A R D F R O M K O S O V O

FIRST LEG ACTION







KF DUKAGJINI 2 EUROPA 1

13.07.2023 | UEFA Europa Conference League first qualifying round first leg | Stadiumi Fadil Vokrri

We began our 2023/24 UEFA Europa Conference League campaign on a humid evening at Stadiumi Fadil Vokrri in Kosovo as we faced opponents who were making their first-ever appearance in the competition.

The opening exchanges saw niggly fouls from both teams as they looked to settle down and find their rhythm.

It was the home side who had the first effort on goal as Merlaku saw his strike blocked by Zappacosta and from the resulting corner, we were able to clear our lines.

Our hosts continued to ask questions as Zulfiji fired wide but we were working hard to get a foot-hold in proceedings.

With 20 minutes on the clock, Quintana had an opening but he was off target but in truth, there was no flow to the game.

The deadlock was broken on the half-hour mark when Shabani was able to find the net for the home side.

As we looked to hit back straight away, Vera went close and then Haxhihamza in the home goal did well to block a follow-up effort.

There was a high number of fouls as the opening period went on but it took until the 36th minute for the first yellow card to appear as Shala was booked for the home side following a foul on Quintana. A booking was also handed out to Heredia for his part.

Shabani went close for our hosts whilst Vera did the same for Europa as further yellow cards were brandished.

Right on the stroke of half-time, we restored parity when Quintana linked up well with Pozo who was able to equalise.

It meant that we ended the opening period in positive mood and Vera almost turned the scoreline on its head in stoppage time at the end of the first half.

We started the second period in a similar vein as Bello went close early on and then Ruiz was unable to capitalise upon an opening on 55 minutes.



LATE AGC

FIRST LEG REPORT





ONLY



There continued to be a high number of cheap fouls given away and this effected the flow of the game.

As the momentum started to swing back in the favour of our opponents, Januzi went close as Zappacosta did well to thwart him before an inviting corner from Zulfiji picked out Hugo who was wide of the target.

With the game looking like heading for a stalemate, Kameraj was denied by a save from the 'keeper and then at the other end, Badr had an opportunity but he failed to take advantage.

There was cruel luck deep into stoppage time at the end, as Merlaku was able to find Zulfiji who turned the ball home for our hosts with 96 minutes on the clock.



There was still time for Dallku to be sent off for the home side for his second booking of the evening and, try as we might, we just could not find a leveller as we came away with a 2-1 first leg defeat.

What it does mean is that things are still finely balanced for this evening's action.

EUROPA: Zappacosta, Heredia (Hernandez 69), Olmos, Bello (Tello 80), Vera (Valle 46), Paul Curado, Quintana, Jesus Pozo, Cipri, Ruiz (Labra 90+3), Gimenez (Badr 79). Subs not used: Lopez, Nunez, Cataruozzolo, Gibson.

Booking(s): Heredia, Bello, Cipri

Goal(s): Pozo

Referee: Jóhan Hendrik Ellefsen (FRO)

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RESTSSO

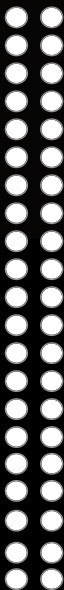
**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR VALUED
BACKING...**



EUROPA FC

1 MARCOS ZAPPACOSTA
4 ANDONI TELLO
5 ALBERTO NUNEZ
6 ANDREW HERNANDEZ
7 MOHAMED BADR
8 CHRISTIAN VALLE
9 CIPRI
10 ALBERTO QUINTANA
11 MANU HEREDIA
12 JAYCE OLIVERO
14 FRANCISCO PAUL CURADO
15 JESUS POZO
16 LUCAS OLMOS
18 ANTONIO BELLO
19 ALDAIR RUIZ
20 FEDERICO CATARUOZZOLO
21 ANTONIO VERA
22 MITCH GIBSON
23 LIAM CRISP
24 GONZALO GIMENEZ
25 LABRA
81 CHRISTIAN LOPEZ (GK)

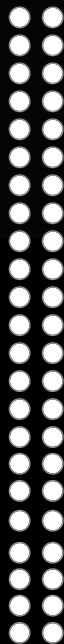
PLD SUB



KF DUKAGJINI

1 ALTIK MUHAXHIRI (GK)
3 ARBER SHALA
5 ELTON BASRI
6 ILIR SYLA
7 GRANIT ELEZAJ
8 DREN FEKA
9 MARCLEI SANTOS
10 ALTIN MERLAKU
12 GRANIT BUQINCA (GK)
14 BLERIND MORINA
19 RINOR KUCI
21 VIERSON BERISHA
22 KRASNIQI AMSAL
23 ILJASA ZULFIJI
25 BUJAR SHABANI
27 AHMED JANUZI
30 KENAN HAXIHAMZA
34 MORINA DORDAN
44 ARDIN DALLKU
55 RION SELIMI
77 VITOR HUGO
88 DIOR ZABERGJA
95 IRAN CONCEICAO
99 CENDRIM KAMERAJ

PLD SUB



MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Neil Doyle IRL

ASSISTANT REFEREE: Wayne McDonnell IRL

ASSISTANT REFEREE: Allen Lynch IRL

FOURTH OFFICIAL: Rob Hennessy IRL

