

IFK KRISTIANSTAD vs HBC NANTES

Venue

2023-11-14 / 18:45
Kristianstad Arena

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Foreword EHF President

Dear handball friends,

The EHF European League Men returns, and it is bigger and better than ever. We have already seen 10 fiercely contested matches in the qualification round, and now the group phase begins with 32 teams all playing in the hopes of lifting the trophy at the EHF Finals Men in May.

Last year's champions Füchse Berlin are back in group G, with Dinamo Bucuresti, Chambéry Savoie Montblanc Handball, and HC Izvidac as their opponents. Berlin are not the only German side in the competition. SG Flensburg-Handewitt compete in group E, against Elverum Handball, Kadetten Schaffhausen and HC Lovcen-Cetinje.

Rhein-Neckar Löwen, having defeated HC Vardar 1961 in the qualification round, play against HBC Nantes, IFK Kristianstad, and 2022 champions Sport Lisboa e Benfica in group A. "Recken"-TSV Hannover-Burgdorf also came through qualification to make it four German sides in the group phase, beating Ystads IF HF to claim a spot in group B alongside Górnik Zabrze, AEK Athens and HC Kriens-Luzern.

Romania is also well-represented in the competition this year. CSM Constanta defeated Fraikin BM Granollers in the qualification round to make it to their spot in group H, where they will meet Sporting CP, MOL Tatabanya KC and KGHM Chrobry Glogow.

REBI Balonmano Cuenca are drawn in group C alongside RK Gorenje Velenje, IK Sävehof and Pfadi Winterthur in group F, the last Spanish team, BM Logroño La Rioja, face Bjerringbro-Silkeborg, HC Alkaloid and HC Vojvodina.

Finally, group D consists of RK Nexø, who reached the EHF Finals 2022 and this year must overcome MSK Povazska Bystrica, Skjern Handbold and ABC de Braga if they want to progress in the competition.

As in the last two seasons, all EHF European League Men games will be played on Tuesday evenings at 18:45 CE(S)T and 20:45 CE(S)T, starting on 17 October. The top two teams in each group will progress to the main round; the winners of each of the four main round groups will earn direct qualification to the quarter-finals, with the second and third teams in each main round group taking part in play-offs to determine the remaining quarter-finalists.

Enjoy the matches!

Yours in sport,

Michael Wiederer
EHF President



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Next step in the battle of Europe for IFK Kristianstad

IFK Kristianstad have had a tough start in their comeback of the European club competitions. After losses against Rhein Neckar Löwen at home and Benfica away in Portugal they now have to find new tactics to grasp the last chance to get into the fight for the main round in February.

The first game vs Löwen was even in the first part but the home team of Kristianstad never got on top of Löwen who finally won with 6 goals (20-26). The match itself was full of unforced errors and the Kristianstad had great difficulties to score. In the next game, a tricky away match in Portugal vs Benfica, the scoring was much better. In a crazy match which started with a home club lead 18-8 the guests from Kristianstad made a fantastic comeback and at 22-22 it was all open again. Benfica got their act together in the end and won 36-33. In this match it was the defence that did not work for Kristianstad.

Now it is time for the third round, and it will probably be Kristianstad's last chance to get into the fight for the first two positions in the group when they take on HC Nantes from the coastline of Bretagne in France. The French team won their first match with nine goals at home vs Benfica but lost the away game in Germany vs Löwen. Kristianstad need to outsmart the experienced goalkeepers Hallgrímsson (Iceland) and Pesic

(Croatia). In their defence they need to neutralise the playmaker Aymeric Minne and keep an eye on the pivot Theo Monar as well as the left-wing veteran Valero Rivera from Spain who has scored 16 goals so far in two matches.

IFK Kristianstad has started the season very uneven in the Swedish League and lost the most recent match at home vs Skövde. One positive sign from that match was Andreas Cederholm who made his first really successful match this season, coming back from operations and injuries. Hopefully he will continue the positive development and that the national team break of one week will get the team some time to recover and sharpen the tactics to get on a higher level for the Tuesday battle against Nantes because it will be a very tough and critical game. The home crowd was large at the first match against Löwen and I really hope they will return to the fantastic Kristianstad Arena to support their orange team as I think it is time for a positive surprise from the Swedish champions.

See you in the Arena!

Nikolas Larsson
Chairman of Handbollsliga Herr Sweden
(and former club manager IFK Kristianstad)

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one

IFK KRISTIANSTAD



- 1 Victor Skjellerup Bang
- 12 Gustaf Banke
- 16 Elias Karlsson
- 4 Markus Olsson
- 5 Hampus Henningsson
- 6 Philip Henningsson
- 7 Victor Kløve
- 9 Anton Hallbäck
- 10 Matias Helt Jepsen
- 14 Albin Leyman
- 20 Emil Frend-Öfors
- 25 Ludvig Jurmala Åström
- 30 Anton Halén
- 34 Andreas Cederholm
- 37 Zoran Bozic
- 42 Albin Selin
- 46 Herman Josefsson
- 48 Noah Martinsson
- 49 Isaac Biel Nielsen

- Stian Tønnesen
 Ulf Larsson
 Stefan Ljunglöf
 Dan Beutler
 Lars Møller Madsen
 Sofie Stjernberg



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Let's Play



HBC NANTES



1. Ivan Pesic
16. Viktor Hallgrímsson
30. Sirius Rambaud
3. Thibaud Briet
4. Aymeric Minne
5. Jorge Maqueda Peno
6. Baptiste Bonnefond
7. Valero Rivera Folch
8. Alexandre Cavalcanti
9. Théo Avelange Demouge
10. Rok Ovnicek
11. Baptiste Damatrin
13. Julien Bos
14. Lucas De La Breteche
15. William Höghielm
17. Jérémy Toto
18. Théo Monar
19. Kauldi Odriozola Yeregui
20. Salomon Nassequela
21. Mathys Lobgeois
22. Alban Simonnet
23. Edgar Gohier
24. Ernest Pineau
25. Jules Berriau
26. Pierre-Alexis Favril
27. Eloi Gnanhouan
28. André Wenkegheu Tchambou Mouko

Gregory Cojean
Adrien Couty
Dimitri Fleurance
Valentin Hulin
Pierre Le Meur
Gaël Pelletier

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