



EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

MEDIA INFORMATION

MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2023/24

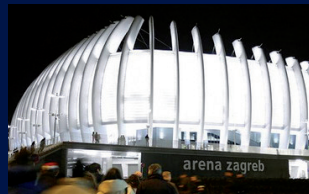
MOTW Play-offs, Leg 1: HC Zagreb vs Montpellier HB

HC ZAGREB (CRO) VS MONTPELLIER HB (FRA)

PLAY-OFFS



Wednesday 27 March 2024, 20:45 CET



Playing hall

Arena Zagreb
Laniste 30
10000 Zagreb
Croatia
Capacity: 15,200

LEG 1



Most games vs Montpellier HB:

Senjanin Maglajlija	4
Denis Špoljarić	4
Zlatko Horvat	3
Valter Matošević	3
Mitko Stoilov	3

Most goals vs Montpellier HB:

Zlatko Saračević	17
Igor Vori	15
Ivan Cupic	12
Denis Špoljarić	11
Nikša Kaleb	9
Blaženko Lacković	9

- The MOTW in the first leg of the Machineseecker EHF Champions League 2023/24 play-offs features two teams with a rich history in the competition: HC Zagreb and Montpellier HB.

- Zagreb progressed as the fifth-ranked team from group A; Montpellier finished fourth in group B.

- The aggregate winners of this play-off tie will next meet THW Kiel, who advanced to the quarter-finals directly as the winners of group A.

- Zagreb are aiming for their first quarter-final berth since 2015/16, when they lost to an other team from France – Paris Saint-Germain Handball.

- Montpellier last appeared in the quarter-finals two seasons ago, when eventual finalists Industria Kielce kept them away from the EHF FINAL4 in Cologne.

- Zagreb play their 30th CL season; Montpellier are in their 24th season in Europe's top flight.

- Patrice Canayer has been on the Montpellier bench for all those 24 years, but the coach leaves the club after the season; Érick Mathé will be his successor.

- Four-time CL finalists in the 1990s, Zagreb have not been to the semi-finals since the year 2000.

- Montpellier have played three semi-finals – and went on to win the title twice: in 2003 and 2018.

- No other French team has won the CL so far.

- Despite the teams' long history in the competition, they have only met eight times, with Zagreb winning twice and Montpellier five times, plus one draw.

- Both of Zagreb's wins came in the first two duels more than 25 years ago as the Croatian side have not beaten Montpellier since December 1998.

- Montpellier won their last five encounters, though the most recent one – in December 2021 – was really close: 24:23 in a group phase match in France.

- Both teams are the record champions of their domestic league: Zagreb are 31-time Croatian champions; Montpellier have won the French title 14 times, but not since 2012.

- Zagreb's squad includes two players who won the CL with an other team: Timur Dibirov and Ivan Cupic both lifted the trophy twice with Vardar (2017, 2019); Cupic had previously won the title with Kielce (2016).

- Timur Dibirov is Zagreb's best scorer so far this season with 53 goals – 10 less than Montpellier's leading scorer, Sebastian Karlsson.

- Five Montpellier players were part of the French team that won the Men's EHF EURO 2024 in January: Remi Desbonnet, Charles Bolzinger, Yanis Lenne, Karl Konan, and Valentin Porte; Sebastian Karlsson and Lucas Pellas won bronze with Sweden.

Most games vs HC Zagreb:

Andrej Golić	6
Laurent Puigsegur	6
Gregory Anquetil	5
Damien Kabengele	5
Mladen Bojinović, Cédric Burdet, Michael Guigou, Nikola Karabatic, Daouda Karaboue, Thierry Omeyer	4

Most goals vs HC Zagreb:

Gregory Anquetil	20
Cédric Burdet	17
Michael Guigou	17
Patrick Cazal	15
Mladen Bojinović	14
Laurent Puigsegur	14

Domestic league

Paket24 Premijer liga

Last 3 games:

22/03 vs Porec	W43:35
02/03 @ Varazdin	W23:35
25/02 vs Sesvete	W35:22

Next game:

06/04 @ RK Nexa

Standings as of 26/03, championship group:

1. Zagreb	4	154:107	8
2. Sesvete	4	134:124	6
3. Nexa	4	130:122	6
4. Vinkovci	4	110:122	2
5. Porec	4	112:131	2
6. Varazdin	4	113:147	0

Domestic league

Liqui Moly StarLigue

Last 3 games:

24/03 @ Créteil	W26:35
10/03 vs Limoges	W36:34
03/03 @ Nîmes	W16:27

Next game:

30/03 vs Chartres Métropole HB

Standings as of 26/03:

1. PSG	21	769:622	41
2. Nantes	21	740:595	36
3. Montpellier	21	677:590	33
4. Toulouse	21	678:643	28
5. St.-Raphaël	21	706:714	23
...			
16. Dijon	21	630:738	6

PREVIOUS MATCHES IN EUROPEAN CLUB COMPETITIONS



HC Zagreb vs Montpellier HB 2-1-5 (202:220) 5:11

15.11.1998	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs Montpellier HB, EHF Champions League – Group A	25:24 (12:11)
12.12.1998	Montpellier HB vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group A	21:23 (10:11)
01.03.2003	RK Zagreb vs Montpellier HB, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	28:28 (17:16)
09.03.2003	Montpellier HB vs RK Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	34:25 (17:13)
24.10.2004	RK Zagreb vs Montpellier HB, EHF Champions League – Group B	27:30 (14:14)
14.11.2004	Montpellier HB vs RK Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group B	34:29 (21:13)
27.10.2021	HC PPD Zagreb vs Montpellier HB, EHF Champions League – Group A	22:25 (13:12)
01.12.2021	Montpellier HB vs HC PPD Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group A	24:23 (14:12)

HC ZAGREB VS FRENCH CLUBS 12–4–22

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
1965/66	SMUC Marseille	30:16	17:15	Champions Cup – Last 16
1992/93	HB Venissieux	27:18	23:19	Champions Cup – Semi-final
1993/94	USAM Nîmes	23:23	22:25	EHF Champions League – Group A
1998/99	Montpellier HB	25:24	23:21	EHF Champions League – Group A
2002/03	Montpellier HB	28:28	25:34	EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2004/05	Montpellier HB	27:30	29:34	EHF Champions League – Group B
2008/09	Chambery Savoie HB	30:32	30:26	EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 2
2011/12	Chambery Savoie HB	28:20	28:26	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2014/15	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	25:24	22:27	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2015/16	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	23:25	23:34	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2015/16	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	20:28	32:32	VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2017/18	HBC Nantes	23:22	27:28	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2018/19	Paris Saint-Germain HB	21:32	28:33	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2018/19	HBC Nantes	27:27	20:23	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2019/20	Paris Saint-Germain HB	29:37	26:37	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2020/21	HBC Nantes	24:34	28:30	EHF Champions League – Group B
2021/22	Montpellier HB	22:25	23:24	EHF Champions League – Group A
2022/23	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	30:33	31:40	Machineseecker EHF Champions League – Group A
2023/24	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	28:26	31:35	Machineseecker EHF Champions League – Group A

DETAILS OF THE MOST RECENT DIRECT ENCOUNTER

Montpellier HB vs HC PPD Zagreb 24:23 (14:12) 01.12.2021 (Montpellier, FRA)

(EHF Champions League 2021/22 – Group A)

Referees: Ivan Pavicevic/Milos Raznatovic (Montenegro).

Suspensions: 12' – 10' (Gudmundsson 2', Moscariello 2', Porte 2', Wallinius 4', Nacinovic 2' – Cavar 2', Klarica 2', Gojun 2', Srna 2', Obranovic 2').

Number of 7m: 4/4 – 7/6.

Attendance: 2,800.

	Marin Sego -> Göppingen/GER	(2)	(1)	Dino Slavic -> Limoges/FRA	
	Charles Bolzinger			Matej Mandic	
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	Alexis Berthier			Marin Šipic -> Kriens-Luzern/SUI	
	Kyllian Villemillot	(2)	(3)	Filip Vistorop -> Balingen/GER	
	Olafur Gudmundsson -> Karlskrona/SWE	(2)	(4)	Davor Cavar	
	Hugo Descat -> Veszprém/HUN	(2)	(2)	Luka Lovre Klarica	
	Lucas Pellas	(3)		Jakov Gojun	
	Julien Bos -> Nantes/FRA	(2)	(3)	Zvonimir Srna	
	Benjamin Bataille -> St.-Raphaël/FRA			Edin Klis	
	Marko Panic	(2)		Željko Musa -> Kriens-Luzern/SUI	
	Arthur Lenne		(1)	Vlado Matanovic -> Vinkovci/CRO	
	Lucas Moscariello -> Benidorm/ESP		(5)	Ivan Cupic	
	Valentin Porte	(2)		Valentino Ravnic -> Constanta/ROU	
	Yanis Lenne	(1)	(2)	Matej Hrstic -> Limoges/FRA	
Karl Wallinius -> Kiel/GER	(5)	(2)	Sandro Obranovic -> Kriens-Luzern/SUI		
Veron Nacinovic	(1)		Nikola Grahovac -> Balingen/GER		

MONTPELLIER HB VS CROATIAN CLUBS 9–1–2

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
1998/99	Badel 1862 Zagreb	21:23	24:25	EHF Champions League – Group A
2001/02	Zamet Autotrans Rijeka	24:14	24:23	Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16
2002/03	RK Zagreb	34:25	28:28	EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2004/05	RK Zagreb	34:29	30:27	EHF Champions League – Group B
2020/21	RK Nexe	37:25	23:22	EHF European League – Group C
2021/22	HC PPD Zagreb	24:23	25:22	EHF Champions League – Group A

MOST GOALS IN ONE GAME FOR HC ZAGREB VS MONTPELLIER HB

Igor Vori	10	14.11.2004	Montpellier HB vs RK Zagreb	34:29
Zlatko Saračević	9	12.12.1998	Montpellier HB vs Badel 1862 Zagreb	21:23
Zlatko Saračević	8	15.11.1998	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs Montpellier HB	25:24
Nikša Kaleb	7	24.10.2004	RK Zagreb vs Montpellier HB	27:30
Ivan Cupic	7	27.10.2021	HC PPD Zagreb vs Montpellier HB	22:25

MOST GOALS IN ONE GAME FOR MONTPELLIER HB VS HC ZAGREB

Patrick Cazal	10	12.12.1998	Montpellier HB vs Badel 1862 Zagreb	21:23
Gregory Anquetil	8	15.11.1998	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs Montpellier HB	25:24
Cedric Burdet	8	09.03.2003	Montpellier HB vs RK Zagreb	34:25
Michael Guigou	8	24.10.2004	RK Zagreb vs Montpellier HB	27:30
Rastko Stefanović	7	01.03.2003	RK Zagreb vs Montpellier HB	28:28
Mladen Bojinovic	7	14.11.2004	Montpellier HB vs RK Zagreb	34:29
Julien Bos	7	27.10.2021	HC PPD Zagreb vs Montpellier HB	22:25

LAST 10 GAMES IN THE MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



HC Zagreb: current run – lost one

06.03.2024 Kiel GER	@ THW Kiel GER	L 33:22
29.02.2024 Zagreb CRO	vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	W 28:26
21.02.2024 Trondheim NOR	@ Kolstad Handball NOR	W 25:34
15.02.2024 Aalborg DEN	@ Aalborg Håndbold DEN	L 32:22
07.12.2023 Bitola MKD	@ HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD	W 22:23
29.11.2023 Zagreb CRO	vs OTP Bank - PICK Szeged HUN	W 30:25
23.11.2023 Kielce POL	@ Industria Kielce POL	L 28:24
16.11.2023 Zagreb CRO	vs Industria Kielce POL	D 22:22
26.10.2023 Szeged HUN	@ OTP Bank - PICK Szeged HUN	L 27:26
19.10.2023 Zagreb CRO	vs HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD	W 27:18



Montpellier HB: current run – won one

07.03.2024 Barcelona ESP	@ Barça ESP	W 34:37
29.02.2024 Montpellier FRA	vs Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	L 31:37
21.02.2024 Plock POL	@ Orlen Wisła Plock POL	L 22:18
14.02.2024 Montpellier FRA	vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško SLO	W 32:21
06.12.2023 Montpellier FRA	vs GOG DEN	W 36:25
30.11.2023 Magdeburg GER	@ SC Magdeburg GER	L 28:24
23.11.2023 Porto POR	@ FC Porto POR	W 25:29
15.11.2023 Montpellier FRA	vs FC Porto POR	W 35:24
25.10.2023 Montpellier FRA	vs SC Magdeburg GER	L 25:28
18.10.2023 Gudme DEN	@ GOG DEN	L 32:27

'PLAYER OF THE MATCH' TROPHY AWARDED AFTER EACH MOTW

The Match of the Week 'Player of the Match' trophy, introduced by EHF Marketing GmbH in the 2017/18 season, is awarded at all MOTWs in the Machineseeker EHF Champions League 2023/24 season.

The trophy will be handed over on court shortly after the match.

Awarded players in the 2023/24 season:

Round 1: Tomáš Mrkva (THW Kiel)

Round 2: Gergő Fazekas (Orlen Wisla Plock)

Round 3: Arkadiusz Moryto (Industria Kielce)

Round 4: Elias Ellefsen á Skipagøtu (THW Kiel)

Round 5: Emil Nielsen (Barça)

Round 6: Niklas Landin (Aalborg Håndbold)

Round 7: Michael Damgaard (SC Magdeburg)

Round 8: Andreas Palicka (Paris Saint-Germain HB)

Round 9: Gonzalo Pérez de Vargas (Barça)

Round 10: Janus Smárason (SC Magdeburg)

Round 11: Alex Dujšhebaev (Industria Kielce)

Round 12: Miloš Kos (HC Zagreb)

Round 13: Gísli Kristjánsson (SC Magdeburg)

Round 14: Sergey Hernández (SC Magdeburg)

Play-offs, leg 1: ...



HC ZAGREB PLAYERS' CAREER STATISTICS AGAINST MONTPELLIER HB

Goalkeeper		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Ante Grbavac	BIH	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Matej Mandić	CRO	1	0	0	1	0	0,00	0	0
Aljaz Panjtar	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Player		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Gabriel Buvinić	CRO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Davor Cavar	CRO	2	0	0	2	4	2,00	4	2'
Yoel Cuni Morales	CUB	2	1	0	1	4	2,00	3	2'
Ivan Cupić	CRO	13	7	0	6	62	4,77	7 (3)	2'
Timur Dibirov	RUS	18	10	2	6	92	5,11	12	6'
Adin Faljić	BIH	1	0	0	1	0	0,00	0	0
Niko Franković	CRO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Filip Glavaš	CRO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Jakov Gojun	CRO	4	1	0	3	1	0,25	1	6'
Zlatko Horvat	CRO	3	0	1	2	5	1,67	4	2'
Aleks Kavčić	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Luka Lovre Klarica	CRO	2	0	0	2	6	3,00	4	2'
Edin Klis	BIH	2	0	0	2	0	0,00	0	0
Miloš Kos	SRB	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Paolo Kraljević	CRO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Maksimilijan Molc	CRO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Karpo Sirotić	CRO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Zvonimir Srna	CRO	2	0	0	2	8	4,00	5	2'
Matic Suholežnik	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Patryk Walczak	POL	6	1	1	4	2	0,33	1 (2)	2'

Yoel Cuni Morales (HC Vardar 1961 2021/22); Ivan Cupić (Rhein-Neckar Löwen 2010/11, KS Vive Tauron Kielce 2014/15, KS Vive Tauron Kielce 2015/16, HC Vardar 2017/18, HC Vardar 2018/19, HC Vardar 2019/20);

Timur Dibirov (Chehovski Medvedi, Chekhov 2005/06, Chekhovskie Medvedi 2009/10, Chekhovskie Medvedi 2012/13,

HC Vardar 2014/15, HC Vardar 2015/16, HC Vardar 2017/18, HC Vardar 2018/19, HC Vardar 2019/20, HC Vardar 2021/22);

Jakov Gojun (Füchse Berlin 2020/21); Matic Suholežnik (RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko 2014/15 – DNP);

Patryk Walczak (KS Vive Tauron Kielce 2016/17, HC Vardar 1961 2021/22, Sporting CP 2022/23).

MONTPELLIER HB PLAYERS' CAREER STATISTICS AGAINST HC ZAGREB

Goalkeeper		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Charles Bolzinger	FRA	1	1	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Remi Desbonnet	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Niels Martin	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Player		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Mathis Becker Fischer	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Alexis Berthier	FRA	1	1	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Matéo Caille	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Mathieu Cornette	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Thibault Dambacher	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Adrien Dubois	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Jaime Fernandez	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Léo Fournié	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Lucas Guigon	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Ahmed Hesham	EGY	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Sebastian Karlsson	SWE	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Karl Konan	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Arthur Lenne	FRA	2	2	0	0	1	0,50	1	2'
Yanis Lenne	FRA	2	2	0	0	3	1,50	2	0
Bryan Monte	BRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Mathis Mougín	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Veron Nacinovic	CRO	4	4	0	0	1	0,25	1	6'
Marko Panic	BIH	1	1	0	0	2	2,00	2	0
Lucas Pellas	SWE	2	2	0	0	5	2,50	3	0
Valentin Porte	FRA	2	2	0	0	4	2,00	2 (2)	2'
Kylian Prat	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Diego Simonet	ARG	1	1	0	0	1	1,00	1	0
Stas Skube	SLO	8	6	1	1	16	2,00	5	2'
Roland Terjek	HUN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Kyllian Villeminot	FRA	2	2	0	0	4	2,00	2 (2)	2'

Yanis Lenne (FC Barcelona Lassa 2017/18 – DNP); Veron Nacinovic (RK Celje Pivovarna Laško 2020/21);
Stas Skube (MOL-Pick Szeged 2016/17, MOL-Pick Szeged 2017/18, HC Vardar 2018/19, HC Meshkov Brest 2021/22).



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DARE TO RISE

Machineseeker EHF Champions League
season 2023/24

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