



EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

MEDIA INFORMATION

MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2023/24

MOTW Round 5: RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Barça

RK CELJE PIVOVARNA LAŠKO (SLO) VS BARÇA (ESP)

GROUP B



Wednesday 18 October 2023, 18:45 CEST



Playing hall

Dvorana Zlatorog
Opekarniska cesta 15
3000 Celje
Slovenia
Capacity: 5,827

ROUND 5



Most games vs Barça:

Edouard Kokcharov	8
Aleš Pajovič	7
Renato Vugrinec	7
Dejan Perič	6
Roman Pungartnik	6
Uroš Šerbec	6
Rastko Stefanovič	6
Tomaž Tomšič	6

Most goals vs Barça:

Edouard Kokcharov	28
Rastko Stefanovič	24
Aleš Pajovič	23
Roman Pungartnik	19
David Razgor	19

- Two former titleholders with contrasting starts to the 2023/24 season meet in the Match of the Week in round 5 of the Machineseecker EHF Champions League: RK Celje Pivovarna Laško and Barça.

- Celje have lost all their four matches in group B so far, but three defeats were by just one or two goals.

- Barça are one of the two still unbeaten teams in the competition – alongside THW Kiel in group A.

- Two former Celje players are part of Barça's squad: right wing Blaz Janc and playmaker Domen Makuc; however, Makuc is out for months with a knee injury.

- Blaz Janc will face his younger brother Mitja Janc, who is Celje's best scorer with 23 goals – five less than Barça's leading scorer, Dika Mem.

- Celje have not beaten Barça in 11 matches since winning the first leg of their CL 2004/05 semi-final.

- The series includes Celje's biggest ever defeat in the CL – 45:21, from a group phase game at the Palau Blaugrana in Barcelona in September 2019.

- Their first eight duels were all CL semi-finals, which were played over two legs at that time.

- At each semi-final both teams won one leg, but Barça advanced on all four occasions – and went on to win the trophy each time: in 1997, 1999, 2000, 2005.

- Two players won the CL with both clubs: Dejan Peric in 2004 (with Celje) and 2005 (Barça); Sjarhei Rutenka in 2004 (Celje), 2011 and 2015 (Barça).

- Barça coach Carlos Ortega is a seven-time CL winner with the Spanish club – six times as a player, once as a coach (in 2022).

- When it comes to Barça's matches against Celje, Ortega holds the all-time club records for most goals in total (37) and most goals in one match (12).

- Like Ortega at Barça, Celje head coach Alem Toskić also played for his current club in the past.

- Barça's Gonzalo Pérez de Vargas and Aitor Ariño are the only players in the 2023/24 group phase who have won the CL four times.

- Celje play their 28th CL season; Barça their 26th.

- In the CL all-time standings, Barça lead with 287 wins from 372 matches; Celje have won 120 of their 278 matches so far.

- Celje's Serbian centre back Stefan Dodic, who arrived from HC Zagreb last summer, was the MVP of the M20 EHF EURO 2022, where Serbia won bronze.

- Both sides are the record champions and cup winners of their countries: Celje have won the league 26 and the cup 22 times in Slovenia; Barça the league 30 and the cup 27 times in Spain.

Most games vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško:

Andrei Xepkin	10
David Barrufet	8
Xavier O'Callaghan	8
Luka Cindrić, Rafael Guijosa, Demetrio Lozano, Enric Masip, Dika Mem, Carlos Ortega, Tomas Svensson, Víctor Tomás, Tomas Svensson, Víctor Tomás, Iñaki Urdangarin	all 6

Most goals vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško:

Carlos Ortega	37
Iker Romero	33
Enric Masip	32
Dika Mem	28
László Nagy	27

Domestic league

Liga NLB

Last 3 games:

14/10 vs Velenje	W29:27
06/10 vs Koper	W40:26
01/10 @ Ribnica	W37:38

Next game:

21/10 @ RK Dobova

Standings as of 17/10:

1. Velenje	6	191:158	10
2. Trebnje	6	192:152	10
3. Celje	6	199:176	9
4. Krka	5	144:126	7
5. Skofljica	6	156:159	7
...			
14. Dobova	6	132:186	0

Domestic league

Liga Plenitude ASOBAL

Last 3 games:

15/10 @ Puente Genil	W28:36
06/10 vs La Rioja	W38:29
03/10 @ Granollers	W23:40

Next game:

21/10 vs BM Benidorm

Standings as of 17/10:

1. Barça	8	314:205	15
2. Irun	6	287:152	11
3. Granollers	7	217:211	9
4. Valladolid	6	178:176	8
5. Anaitasuna	7	203:213	8
...			
16. Sinfín	6	159:205	0

PREVIOUS MATCHES IN EUROPEAN CLUB COMPETITIONS

RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Barça 4-0-14 (498:601) 8:28

16.03.1997	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	24:29 (11:14)
23.03.1997	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	22:26 (14:10)
27.02.1999	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	35:32 (18:18)
06.03.1999	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	30:26 (19:11)
18.03.2000	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	39:25 (14:14)
25.03.2000	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	27:20 (13:12)
02.04.2005	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	34:31 (16:15)
09.04.2005	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	31:26 (16:16)
16.02.2008	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4	39:28 (20:11)
01.03.2008	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4	27:32 (12:15)
09.10.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	44:33 (22:15)
05.03.2011	HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:30 (15:16)
21.09.2019	Barça vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	45:21 (21:13)
23.02.2020	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Barça, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:37 (14:19)
24.09.2020	Barça vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško, EHF Champions League – Group B	42:28 (21:14)
24.02.2021	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Barça, EHF Champions League – Group B	29:32 (17:16)
29.09.2022	Barça vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško, Machineseecker EHF Champions League – Group B	38:30 (19:15)
15.02.2023	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Barça, Machineseecker EHF Champions League – Group B	27:28 (15:12)

DETAILS OF THE MOST RECENT DIRECT ENCOUNTER

RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Barça 27:28 (15:12) 15.02.2023 (Celje, SLO)



(Machineseecker EHF Champions League 2022/23 – Group B)

Referees: Radojko Brkic/Andrei Jusufhodzic (Austria).

Suspensions: 12' – 10' (Mazej 4', Ivankovic 4', Mlakar 2', Suholežnik 2' – Mem 2', Wanne 2', N'guessan 2', Richardson 2', Frade 2').

Number of 7m: 10/7 – 2/2.

Attendance: 5,207.

	Yassine Belkaied -> Kriens-Luzern/SUI Gal Gaberšek -- Tilen Strmljan -> Hannover-Burgdorf/GER (5) Domen Knez -> Bernbach-Köflach/AUT Tadej Mazej (3) (5) Tim Cokan (5) Gal Marguc -> Nexe/CRO (8) (2) Vukasin Antonijevic (2) Ante Ivankovic (3) Mitja Janc (1) Amir Muhovic (2) Stefan Žabic (2) Žiga Mlakar (2) (2) Aleks Vlah -> Aalborg/DEN (4) (4) Patrik Martinovic -> Athens/GRE (1) (2) Matic Suholežnik -> Zagreb/CRO (1) (1)	Gonzalo Pérez de Vargas Emil Nielsen -- Pol Valera Jonathan Carlsbogard Dika Mem Hampus Wanne Blaz Janc Timothy N'guessan Aleix Gómez Martí Soler -> La Rioja/ESP (on loan) Luka Cindrić -> Dinamo/ROU Artur Parera -> Puerto Sagunto/ESP Domen Makuc Melvyn Richardson Ludovic Fabregas -> Veszprém/HUN Luis Frade	
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RK CELJE PIVOVARNA LAŠKO VS SPANISH CLUBS 17–0–31



Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
1993/94	EKA Santander	19:21	19:20	EHF Champions League – Group B
1996/97	Caja Cantabria Santander	24:20	23:24	EHF Champions League – Group D
1996/97	FC Barcelona	24:29	26:22	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
1997/98	Prosesa Ademar Leon	35:26	26:24	EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
1998/99	Portland San Antonio	27:24	31:35	EHF Champions League – Group A
1998/99	FC Barcelona	35:32	26:30	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
1999/00	Prosesa Ademar Leon	26:20	28:30	EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
1999/00	FC Barcelona	27:20	25:39	EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2000/01	Portland San Antonio	29:32	28:30	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
2001/02	C.BM. Ademar Leon	28:26	30:31	EHF Champions League – Group C
2002/03	ADC Ciudad Real	28:25	27:34	Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final
2003/04	BM Ciudad Real		35:31	ECh for Club Teams – Semi-final
2003/04	C.BM. Ademar Leon	34:21	25:38	EHF Champions League – Last 16
2003/04	BM Ciudad Real	34:32	36:35	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
2004/05	Portland San Antonio	29:27	30:32	EHF Champions League – Group D
2004/05	FC Barcelona	34:31	26:31	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
2005/06	C.BM. Ademar Leon	35:27	26:27	EHF Champions League – Group B
2005/06	BM Ciudad Real	28:33	27:34	EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2007/08	FC Barcelona	27:32	28:39	EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4
2009/10	Reale Ademar		25:26	EHF Champions League – Qualification Tournament Group Q
2010/11	FC Barcelona Borges	27:30	33:44	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2012/13	BM Atletico Madrid	22:28	24:26	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2019/20	Barça	25:37	21:45	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2020/21	Barça	29:32	28:42	EHF Champions League – Group B
2022/23	Barça	27:28	30:38	Machineseecker EHF Champions League – Group B

BARÇA VS SLOVENIAN CLUBS 16–0–4

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
1996/97	Celje Pivovarna Lasko	22:26	29:24	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
1998/99	Celje Pivovarna Lasko	30:26	32:35	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
1999/00	Celje Pivovarna Lasko	39:25	20:27	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
2004/05	Celje Pivovarna Lasko	31:26	31:34	EHF Champions League – Semi-final
2006/07	RK Gold Club Kozina	38:21	29:26	EHF Champions League – Group G
2007/08	Celje Pivovarna Lasko	39:28	32:27	EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4
2010/11	HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko	44:33	30:27	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2019/20	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	45:21	37:25	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2020/21	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	42:28	32:29	EHF Champions League – Group B
2022/23	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	38:30	28:27	Machineseecker EHF Champions League – Group

LAST 10 GAMES IN THE MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



RK Celje Pivovarna Laško: current run – lost seven

11.10.2023	Celje SLO	vs Montpellier HB FRA	L 29:31
27.09.2023	Magdeburg GER	@ SC Magdeburg GER	L 39:23
20.09.2023	Celje SLO	vs FC Porto POR	L 29:30
13.09.2023	Odense DEN	@ GOG DEN	L 38:36
01.03.2023	Celje SLO	vs Aalborg Håndbold DEN	L 31:34
22.02.2023	Kiel GER	@ THW Kiel GER	L 39:27
15.02.2023	Celje SLO	vs Barça ESP	L 27:28
09.02.2023	Nantes FRA	@ HBC Nantes FRA	W 31:32
15.12.2022	Kielce POL	@ Lomza Industria Kielce POL	L 36:28
07.12.2022	Celje SLO	vs Elverum Handball NOR	W 29:26



Barça: current run – won five

12.10.2023	Barcelona ESP	vs GOG DEN	W 38:30
28.09.2023	Porto POR	@ FC Porto POR	W 30:38
21.09.2023	Barcelona ESP	vs SC Magdeburg GER	W 32:20
13.09.2023	Pérols FRA	@ Montpellier HB FRA	W 25:30
18.06.2023	Cologne GER	vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	W 37:31
17.06.2023	Cologne GER	@ SC Magdeburg GER	L 40:39
18.05.2023	Barcelona ESP	vs GOG DEN	W 36:31
11.05.2023	Odense DEN	@ GOG DEN	W 30:37
02.03.2023	Kielce POL	@ Lomza Industria Kielce POL	W 31:32
22.02.2023	Barcelona ESP	vs Pick Szeged HUN	W 35:25

MOST GOALS IN ONE GAME FOR RK CELJE PIVOVARNA LAŠKO VS BARÇA

Rastko Stefanovič	11	27.02.1999	Celje Pivovarna Laško vs FC Barcelona	35:32
Siarhei Rutenka	11	02.04.2005	Celje Pivovarna Laško vs FC Barcelona	34:31
Pepi Manaskov	10	06.03.1999	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Laško	30:26
Gasper Marguc	10	05.03.2011	HC Celje Pivovarna Laško vs FC Barcelona Borges	27:30
David Razgor	9	23.02.2020	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Barça	25:37

MOST GOALS IN ONE GAME FOR BARÇA VS RK CELJE PIVOVARNA LAŠKO

Carlos Ortega	12	06.03.1999	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Laško	30:26
Iker Romero	10	02.04.2005	Celje Pivovarna Laško vs FC Barcelona	34:31
Siarhei Rutenka	10	09.10.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs HC Celje Pivovarna Laško	44:33
Dika Mem	10	29.09.2022	Barça vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	38:30
Iker Romero	9	16.02.2008	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Laško	39:28

PLAYERS WHO PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS IN DIRECT ENCOUNTERS

Domen Makuc	6 matches, 12 goals	w/Celje 2/4 (2019-2020), w/Barça 4/8 (2020-2023)
Dejan Perič	8 matches, 0 goals	w/Celje 6/0 (1997-2000), w/Barça 2/0 (2005)
Siarhei Rutenka	4 matches, 33 goals	w/Celje 2/17 (2005), w/Barça 2/16 (2010-2011)
Dragan Škrbič	6 matches, 21 goals	w/Celje 4/15 (1999-2000), w/Barça 2/6 (2005)
Luka Žvižej	3 matches, 6 goals	w/Celje 1/2 (2010), w/Barça 2/4 (2005)

CURRENT PLAYERS WHO PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS IN EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITIONS

Blaz Janc	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško (2012-2017); Barça (2020-2023)
Domen Makuc	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško (2017-2020); Barça (2020-2023)

MOTW 'PLAYER OF THE MATCH' TROPHY

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 Machineseker 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 Wisła Płock)
- Round 3: Arkadiusz Moryto (Industria Kielce)
- Round 4: Elias Ellefsen á Skipagøtu (THW Kiel)
- Round 5: ...



RK CELJE PIVOVARNA LAŠKO PLAYERS' CAREER STATISTICS AGAINST BARÇA

Goalkeeper		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Gal Gaberšek	SLO	3	0	0	3	0	0,00	0	0
Ian Mesarec	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Rok Zaponšek	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Player		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Vukasin Antonijevic	SRB	2	0	0	2	0	0,00	0	0
Nik Cirovic	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Tim Cokan	SLO	2	0	0	2	0	0,00	0	0
Stefan Dodic	SRB	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Leon Gregoric	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Ante Ivankovic	CRO	2	0	0	2	6	3,00	6	6'
Mitja Janc	SLO	2	0	0	2	2	1,00	1 (2)	0
Vid Kacicnik	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Žan Korže Lesjak	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Grega Krecic	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Tio Malovic	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Mai Marguc	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Tadej Mazej	SLO	4	0	0	4	10	2,50	3 (3)	8' (D)
Uroš Milicevic	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Žiga Mlakar	SLO	5	0	0	5	10	2,00	4	6'
Amir Muhovic	BIH	2	0	0	2	0	0,00	0	0
Luka Peric	BIH	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Filip Rakita	SLO	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Stefan Žabic	SLO	4	0	0	4	6	1,50	3	2'

BARÇA PLAYERS' CAREER STATISTICS AGAINST RK CELJE PIVOVARNA LAŠKO

Goalkeeper		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Emil Nielsen	DEN	6	5	0	1	0	0,00	0	0
Gonzalo Pérez de Vargas	ESP	5	5	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Filip Saric	BIH	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Player		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Aitor Ariño	ESP	5	5	0	0	8	1,60	3 (2)	0
Ian Barrufet	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Jonathan Carlsbogard	SWE	2	2	0	0	1	0,50	1	0
Petar Cikusa I Jelcic	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Djordje Cikusa Jilicic	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Luis Frade	POR	4	4	0	0	11	2,75	8	2'
Jaime Gallego	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Alex Gómez	ESP	4	4	0	0	15	3,75	6	0
Thiagus Petrus	BRA	7	7	0	0	6	0,86	3	4'
Blaz Janc	SLO	6	5	0	1	17	2,83	7	4'
Haniel Langaro	BRA	3	3	0	0	11	3,67	5	0
Domen Makuc	SLO	4	4	0	0	8	2,00	5	4'
Dika Mem	FRA	6	6	0	0	28	4,67	10	6'
Timothee N'guessan	FRA	4	4	0	0	10	2,50	4	4'
Melvyn Richardson	FRA	2	2	0	0	7	3,50	4	2'
Javier Rodríguez	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Pol Valera	ESP	1	1	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Hampus Wanne	SWE	9	8	0	1	34	3,78	8	4'
Oriol Zarzuela	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0

Thiagus Petrus (MOL-Pick Szeged 2016/17); Blaz Janc (PGE Vive Kielce 2017/18); Emil Nielsen (Skjern Handbold 2018/19, HBC Nantes 2020/21); Hampus Wanne (SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2013/14 – DNP, SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2015/16, SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2017/18, SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2018/19, SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2019/20).



MACHINESEEKER



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DARE TO RISE

Machineseeker EHF Champions League
season 2023/24

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