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Champions League 2015/16 - Round of 16 - First leg (16-17 February)

General

Real Madrid's perfect knockout status still intact

- Real Madrid have qualified for the Champions League knockout stages in each of their 20 participations in the main competition.
- Apart from Real Madrid, there is not a single team with multiple CL participations that have always reached the knockout stages.
- Real Madrid have converted three of their previous 19 CL knockout stage appearances into trophies and are one shy of the competition record by FC Barcelona.
- Next in line are Bayern München, who will appear in the CL knockout stages for the 18th time (in 19 participations).
- FC Barcelona are third in this list. The holders have clinched their 17th knockout stage berth in their 20th participation.

Ten different nations represented in CL Last 16

- Clubs from 10 different countries have reached the Last 16 of the Champions League this season.
- This is a record for the highest diversity nation-wise in this stage of the competition.
- Since the current competition format was launched in 2003/04, the Last 16 was always contested by teams from seven, eight or nine different countries.
- Last season, teams from eight different countries played in the Last 16. Countries represented in this year's Last 16, but not present last year are Russia, Netherlands and Belgium.
- Netherlands return to this stage for the first time since 2006/07. Belgium have a team in the knockout stages for the first time in the Champions League.
- The only country represented in last season's Last 16 and not in this season's is Switzerland

Cristiano Ronaldo can equal Champions League KO phase record

- Cristiano Ronaldo's next appearance in the Champions League will be his 56th in the knockout stages of the competition.
- This would equal the CL record which is currently held by Xavi. The former FC Barcelona stalwart is currently playing his trade in the United States.
- In this respect, Cristiano Ronaldo is currently tied on 55 with Iker Casillas, but the custodian is on a team (FC Porto) that has not reached the knockout stages this season.
- Cristiano Ronaldo already holds the CL record for most goals scored in the knockout stages. The Portuguese has netted 39 times beyond the group stages, six times more often than Lionel Messi (33). No other player has scored more than 18 goals in the CL knockout stages

Arsenal and Real Madrid extend Last 16 participation streak

- Arsenal and Real Madrid are the only two teams that have reached the Last 16 in each of the 13 seasons since the current competition format was installed in 2003/04.
- This year's Last 16 season line-up will feature another three teams that have missed out in only one of the 13 seasons, FC Barcelona, Bayern München and Chelsea.
- It also features three teams that have reached the Last 16 knockout round for only the first time, AA Gent, Dynamo Kyiv and VfL Wolfsburg.



Benfica - Zenit St. Petersburg (16 February 2016)

Head-to-Head.

- Benfica have lost three of the four encounters with Zenit, but they eliminated the Russians in the only knockout clash: the Last 16 of the 2011/12 Champions League.
- In that 2011/12 L16, Benfica lost the away leg in St. Petersburg 3-2, before winning 2-0 at home and progressing to the quarterfinals. Maximiliano Pereira and Nélon Oliveira scored the goals in that home win.
- Zenit won the last two encounters 2-0 at home and 1-0 away in the 2014/15 group phase. Danny, Hulk and Alex Witsel scored the three goals for the Russians.
- Zenit have won their last three away matches against Portuguese clubs

Benfica

- Benfica have reached the quarterfinals on three previous occasions, in 1994/95, 2005/06 and 2011/12.
- Benfica won the CC/CL trophy twice, in 1961 and 1962. They have lost the final on five occasions, for the last time in 1990 against AC Milan.
- In recent years, Benfica reached the final of the Europa League in 2013 and 2014, losing both time: 2-1 against Chelsea (2013) and 0-0, 4-2aps v Sevilla in 2014.
- Benfica failed to win their last two group phase matches this season. AS Roma are the only other team in this season's L16 to have not won their last to matches.
- Nicolás Gaitán is this season's CL top scorer for Benfica on three goals.
- Since Nélon Oliveira scored against Zenit in 2012, only one of Benfica's next 26 CL goals has scored by a Portuguese player: Gonçalo Guedes in their 2-1 away win v Atlético Madrid on 30 September 2015.
- Guedes became the youngest Portuguese goalscorer in the CL: 18 years - 305 days.
- Julio César won the CL with Inter in 2010.
- Jardel, Luisão, Gonçalo Guedes and André Almeida will all be suspended if booked

Zenit St. Petersburg

- This is the third time Zenit have reached the KO stages. They were eliminated in the L16 in 2011/12 (against Benfica) and in 2013/14 (against Borussia Dortmund).
- Zenit's best result in Europe is winning the 2007/08 UEFA Cup.
- They had won their first five group matches before a 2-1 defeat at AA Gent. Zenit never won more matches during a single season in the CL main tournament.
- CSKA Moskva are the last Russian club to reach the quarterfinals of the CL, in 2009/10 (lost to winners Inter).
- Artem Dzyuba has scored six goals this CL season, already most for a Russian player in a single CL season.
- It is also the most of any player for a Russian team in a single CL season.
- Manager André Villas-Boas and players Danny and Luis Neto are from Portugal.
- As manager of FC Porto and Zenit, Villas-Boas has won six of his last seven matches against Benfica, including two wins in last season's CL group phase.
- Axel Witsel and Ezequiel Garay moved from Benfica to Zenit.
- Javi Garcia played for Benfica in 2009-2012.
- Yuri Zhirkov could play his first CL match since 6 April 2011, when he played for Chelsea in the first leg of the quarterfinal at home against Manchester United (1-0 loss).
- Hulk, Artur Yusupov, Domenico Criscito, Javi Garcia and Danny will all be suspended if booked.



Paris Saint-Germain - Chelsea (16 February 2016)

Head-to-Head.

- PSG eliminated Chelsea last season in the Last 16 after a 1-1 home draw and a 2-2 draw after extra time in London. Eden Hazard (96', pen) gave Chelsea the lead in extra time, but a header by Thiago Silva (114') ultimately brought PSG victory on away goals.
- In 2013/14, Chelsea ousted PSG in the quarterfinals. PSG won their home match 3-1, but goals by Andre Schürrle and Demba Ba in the return at Stamford Bridge gave Chelsea a place in the semifinals.
- The first time these two teams met, Chelsea won 3-0 in Paris in the 2004/05 group phase before drawing 0-0 at home.
- PSG can become the fourth club in the CL to eliminate Chelsea more than once, after Barcelona (3), Liverpool (2) and Man United (2).
- Cesc Fàbregas, Pedro, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Maxwell have all played for Barcelona, but have not necessarily played together at the club.

Paris Saint-Germain

- PSG can reach the quarterfinals for the fourth consecutive season. Their best result is reaching the semifinals in 1994/95 (lost to AC Milan).
- They have kept a clean sheet in their three CL home matches this season.
- David Luiz scored an own goal when he played for Chelsea against PSG in Chelsea's 3-1 away defeat in April 2014. A year later, he played for PSG and scored a late equaliser against Chelsea in March 2015.
- Zlatan Ibrahimovic was sent off in the 2-2 draw at Chelsea last year, equalling Edgar Davids' record four CL red cards.
- Ibrahimovic can play his 116th CL match, surpassing Carles Puyol in ninth place of most matches.
- Ibrahimovic has surpassed George Weah (16) as PSG's all-time leading scorer in European competition with 17 goals. Ibrahimovic is already PSG's all-time top scorer in all competitions.
- Ezequiel Lavezzi has scored three CL goals against Chelsea: no player has netted four times against them.
- Serge Aurier and Marco Verratti will be suspended if booked.

Chelsea

- Chelsea won the CL in 2011/12 and lost the final against Manchester United in 2007/2008.
- They have reached five different stages in their previous five CL seasons: QF, W, group, SF, L16.
- Chelsea can reach the quarterfinals for the 10th time.
- John Terry scored against PSG in Chelsea's 3-0 away win in September 2004. He is the only player of the current Chelsea squad who featured in those group stage clashes.
- Terry can play his 110th CL match, third most for a British player after Ryan Giggs (WAL, 141) and Paul Scholes (ENG, 124).
- Willian is this season's Chelsea CL top scorer on five goals, including four from direct free kicks.
- Guus Hiddink is unbeaten with Chelsea in CL matches, all in 2009 (W2-D4). Chelsea were eliminated then against FC Barcelona after a 0-0 draw in Camp Nou and a 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge: Andrés Iniesta scored the equaliser in the 93rd minute.
- Hiddink is one of three managers left in the round of L16 to have won the CC/CL, and the only non-Spanish coach: Luis Enrique and Pep Guardiola are the others.
- In the same season when Hiddink won the Champions Cup with PSV (1987/88), Chelsea were relegated to the second tier of English football
- Nemanja Matic is suspended.



AA Gent - VfL Wolfsburg (17 February 2016)

Head-to-Head.

- This will be the first ever meeting between AA Gent and VfL Wolfsburg in a competitive match.
- Belgian sides have never won a Champions League match against German sides (D4-L10). In seven home matches, they avoided defeat three times.
- No sides from a specific country have played more matches in the CL against any other specific country without winning.
- Only sides from Romania (12) have also played at least 10 times against German opposition without winning.
- Both AA Gent and VfL Wolfsburg have never played a CL knockout match. The last fixture in the CL KO phase that featured two teams that had never played a KO match before, was Fenerbahçe v Sevilla in the L16 of 2007/08.

AA Gent

- AA Gent are the first Belgian side to play a knockout match in the Champions League.
- The last debutants to play a Champions League last 16 match were Málaga in 2012/13. They went on to reach the quarterfinal after defeating FC Porto.
- The last Belgian side to reach a KO quarterfinal in CC/CL was KV Mechelen in 1989/90, when they lost against the eventual winners AC Milan.
- Gent have reached a quarterfinal in any European cup competition once, when they met Ajax in the UEFA Cup in 1991/92. They drew 0-0 at home and lost 3-0 away.
- AA Gent are the only Belgian side with a positive balance in CL matches (W3-D1-L2).
- Gent are unbeaten in CL home matches. They drew against Olympique Lyon (1-1) and won against Valencia (1-0) and Zenit (2-1).
- Gent can become the second Belgium club to win four successive CL matches, after Anderlecht (4) in 2000.
- AA Gent can become the second Belgian side to win three consecutive home matches, after Anderlecht won four in 2000/01.
- The reigning Belgian champions have scored in six consecutive CL matches. Anderlecht is the only Belgian team to have a longer scoring run: 10 matches in 2000-2001.
- Nana Asare, Laurent Depoitre, Thomas Foket and Kenny Saief will be suspended if booked.

Wolfsburg

- VfL Wolfsburg are the eighth German team to feature in the CL knockout stages. Only Spain (10) and France (8) have had that many different teams reaching the CL KO stage.
- Wolfsburg have reached the quarterfinal of a European cup competition only twice, both in the Europa League (2009/10 and 2014/15).
- Last season, four German sides reached the Last 16 round but only Bayern München progressed. They ultimately reached the semifinals.
- VfL Wolfsburg won their last away match against CSKA Moskva and can win back-to-back away matches in the CL for the first time.
- Wolfsburg have won only one of 11 European KO away matches. This win came last season against Internazionale, in the Last 16 round of the Europa League (2-1).
- Only opponents AA Gent (17) have used fewer players this CL campaign than Wolfsburg (18).
- Naldo is suspended. Daniel Caligiuri will be suspended if booked.



AS Roma - Real Madrid (17 February 2016)

Head-to-Head.

- AS Roma and Real Madrid have met eight times in the CL. Roma won three, lost four (1 draw).
- Roma eliminated Real Madrid in the CL Last 16 in 2007/08, when they won both matches 2-1.
- AS Roma are unbeaten in their last three CL home matches against Spanish opposition (W2-D1).
- Real Madrid are winless in their last eight matches on Italian soil (D4-L4). Their last win came at the Stadio Olimpico against AS Roma on 8 December 2004 (3-0). Ronaldo (BRA) and Luís Figo (2) scored for Real.
- Miralem Pjanic and Karim Benzema played at Lyon (2008-09).
- Iago Falque was a teammate of Gareth Bale and Luka Modric at Tottenham in 2011-12/13.

AS Roma

- The last time AS Roma reached the Last 16 (2010/11), they were knocked out by Shakhtar Donetsk (3-2 home defeat and 3-0 away loss).
- Roma have won only one of their last 11 CL matches (D5-L5), at home against Bayer Leverkusen this season (3-2).
- Roma are two goals shy from scoring their 100th in the Champions League.
- Roma kept a clean sheet in their last CL match against, BATE Borisov (0-0), their first in 28 European matches. The last time they kept back-to-back clean sheets was in 2006/07 CL (3).
- Francesco Totti is already the oldest goalscorer in the CL (38-059) and he can now become the oldest goalscorer in the CL knockout phase. On 17 February, he will be 39 years and 143 days, almost two years older than Ryan Giggs when he scored for Man United against Schalke 04 on 26 April 2011 (37-148 days).
- No Roma player has scored more CL goals than Totti (17), but he has scored only once in the KO phase.
- Totti can win a CL match against Real Madrid for the fourth time. So far, only players from Bayern München and Juventus's Alessandro Del Piero have recorded 4+ wins against Real.
- Totti and Daniele De Rossi played in the 2006 World Cup final, when Zidane's career ended with a red card.
- Luciano Spalletti was coach of Roma when they eliminated Real in the Last 16 in 2007/08.
- Radja Nainggolan and Daniele de Rossi will be suspended if booked.

Real Madrid

- Real Madrid have reached the KO phase in all 20 of their participations and for the 19th time in a row.
- They have reached at least the semifinals in each of the last five seasons, after being eliminated in the L16 six times in a row from 2004/05 to 2009/10.
- Real Madrid and Barcelona will play a record 75th CL match in the KO phase.
- Real and Barcelona are the only unbeaten teams this CL campaign.
- Real are winless in their last two CL KO matches (against Juventus) and they can remain winless in three consecutive CL KO matches for the first time since 2011-2012 (Barcelona (2), CSKA Moskva).
- Cristiano Ronaldo can equal Xavi on a record 56 CL KO matches.
- Ronaldo and Barcelona's Andrés Iniesta can win a record 30th KO match.
- Ronaldo is already on a record 39 goals in CL KO matches. Messi has 33.
- Cristiano has scored 11 CL goals against Italian teams: only against German sides he scored more (14).
- Raúl is top scorer against Italian clubs in the CL with 13 goals.
- Ronaldo is on a season high 11 CL goals this season. Besides Ronaldo (17) and Messi (14), only Ruud van Nistelrooy (12) and Mario Gomez (12) scored more CL goals in a single season.
- Zinedine Zidane's first CL match as a Real Madrid player was the 1-1 draw with Roma on 24 October 2001.
- Zidane hopes to become the second man in the CL era to win the CL as a player and as a coach. Frank Rijkaard achieved this in 1995 (Ajax, player) and 2006 (Barcelona, coach).
- Casemiro will be suspended if booked.