

Group B (Friday)

19.00 Waspo 98 Hannover (GER) v Dinamo Tbilisi (GEO)

Last 5 matches:

Hannover: LLWLL

Tbilisi: LLLLL

Last game:

Waspo: 10-11 Terrassa (away)

Dinamo: 3-13 Recco (Home)

Day 6:

Dinamo v Waspo 10-11

Karsten Seehafer, head coach, Hannover.

"We won in Tbilisi, we will win at home. It's not easy, in the past days most of our players were sick."

Aleksander Radovic, player, Hannover

"We played a really bad game in Tbilisi but we won in the end. Now in Hannover we are the absolute favourites and anything but a win would be a surprise. We are a better team."

Revaz Chomakhidze, head coach, Dinamo

"We are aware of that even if we played quite a good game last time against Hannover, playing at their swimming pool will be much harder. However, if we play well in defence and try to stop opponent's best players we can have some chances in this match."

Khvicha Jakhaia, player, Dinamo

"It's going to be a very hard match against a very good opponent, we will do our best to take our first three points."

20.30 HAVK Mladost Zagreb (CRO) v FTC-Telekom Budapest (HUN)

Last 5 matches:

Mladost: WWLWW

FTC: WDWDL

Last game:

Mladost: 14-11 Marseille (away)

FTC: 8-11 OSC (home)

Day 6:

FTC v Mladost 14-5

Zoran Bajic, head coach, Mladost

"Unfortunately, in Budapest we didn't show our real face and I am sure we can't play that bad again. Just opposite, at home I am full of optimism and sure we can show a good game and hope to have a good result in the end"

Ligue Européenne
de Natation

9, rue de la Morâche
CH 1260 Nyon
SWITZERLAND

Tel: +41 22 552 99 99
Fax: +41 22 552 99 89
lenoffice@len.eu

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even against such a good team as FTC. My opinion is that we need one more good game like we had against Pro Recco that ended in a draw and that may take us to the Final 8 in Genova."

Cosmin Radu, player, Mladost:

„Even though we were not playing our best water polo recently, I do think that we will have a good fight against Ferencvaros, especially since we remember all too well the routing in the game in Budapest."

Ioannis Fountoulis, player, FTC-Telekom

"We are facing a really good team in their home and we need to play on our best level in order to win. This match will be for sure different than the game in the first round. We are coming from our first loss of the season and we need these points to remain in the top positions of our group."

20.30 Pro Recco (ITA) v A-Híd OSC Budapest (HUN)

Last 5 matches:

Recco: WDWWW

OSC: LWLDW

Last game:

Recco: 13-3 Dinamo (away)

OSC: 11-8 FTC (away)

Day 6:

OSC v Recco 10-14

Pietro Figlioli, player, Pro Recco:

"An insidious match awaits us against a team made up of great players. OSC is running for the top place of the group so I'm sure it will be a top water polo game: we will have to approach it with maximum concentration. Playing in Verona with the stands full will be beautiful, a show that we can't wait to experience."

Lajos Vad, head coach, OSC:

"We know Pro Recco is one of the best teams in the Champions League. It won't be easy but we will try to surprise them!"

Krisztian Manhercz, player, OSC:

"Pro Recco is one of the best teams in the world and they will play at home. It will be a hard game, but we'll do our best!"

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20.30 CN Terrassa (ESP) v CN Marseille (FRA)

Last 5 matches:

Terrassa: LLWWW

Marseille: WWLLL

Last game:

Terrassa: 11-10 Hannover (home)

Marseille: 11-14 Mladost (away)

Day 6:

Marseille v Terrassa 9-10

Didac Cobacho, head coach, Terrassa:

"We're looking forward to the match against Marseille, as we have done throughout the entire Champions League. We don't have any kind of pressure. We're fifth, enjoying a very sweet moment. We've won three games in a row, four in total, something we didn't expect at the start of the season. We didn't know if we were going to score any points and now we have 12. Marseille is a team that will be looking for an avenger because we beat them in their pool just when they were very close to fourth position. We'll have to be very organised in defence to have a chance again. Among their players Croatian Ante Vukicevic and the left-handed Ugo Crousillat, European champion with Szolnok, stand out."

Oriol Rodriguez, player, Terrassa:

"Marseille is a very difficult opponent, with great players, especially Ugo Crousillat. They also have a number of international players from the French national team. We were able to surprise them in the first round match, when nobody was expecting it. Now, at home, we'll try to play a great game and, thanks to the support of our fans, keep on adding points to our tally."

Marc Amardeilh, head coach, Marseille:

"We want to play a good game in Spain against Terrassa which achieves a beautiful series of results in the Champions League. We will have to be more efficient in attack than in the first leg and control their dynamic play in defence."

Mathias Olivon, player, Marseille:

"We are ready and motivated to win in Spain. We want to be in the Final 8 so we need this victory. We have to play as great as we could in order to impose our game and pace."

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Group A (Saturday)

19.00 Szolnoki Dozsa (HUN) v Jug Adriatic Osiguranje Dubrovnik (CRO)

Last 5 matches:

Szolnok: LWLWL

Jug: LWLWL

Last game:

Szolnok: 7-8 Spandau (home)

Jug: 13-9 Olympiacos (home)

Day 6:

Jug v Szolnok 14-11

Zivko Gocic, head coach, Szolnok:

"One of the strongest teams in the Champions League is coming to visit us. They have been among the best for several years, they line up world and Olympic champions. In the last round of the Champions League we have suffered an unexpected defeat against Spandau, so if we want to be in the Final Eight we cannot make too many mistakes. At the beginning of the season I have said that all the games will be title bout. The game with Dubrovnik will especially be one. I feel that our shape is improving, and I hope we prove that."

Kristof Szatmari, player, Szolnok:

"We played a good game in Dubrovnik last December. Unfortunately at the end of the 3rd quarter we had a short blackout when we got 3 goals. We could not recover that throughout the rest of the game. We are expecting to have a tough game since Dubrovnik is one the best teams in the Champions League. Unfortunately, we have lost against Spandau in the last round so we have to improve if we want to qualify. We have been preparing hard this week, we want to win against Jug Dubrovnik."

Vjekoslav Kobescak, head coach, Jug:

"This game is very important on our road to the Final 8. Szolnok made mistake last round at home against Spandau but still have good chance for the Final 8. We had some health issues recently, I will make some changes in the team but still think we have good chances in Szolnok."

Toni Popadic, goalkeeper, Jug:

"The key to our win is the defence and of course the fast transition on a level which we had during the first part of the club season. Despite the health problems we faced in the last days, we are ready for this game and we will give our best in Szolnok."

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19.00 Jadran Carine Herceg Novi (MNE) v Jadran Split (CRO)

Last 5 matches:

Jadran Carine: DLWWW

Jadran: WLLLL

Last game:

Jadran Carine: 15-11 Sintez (away)

Jadran: 12-16 Barceloneta (away)

Day 6:

Split v Jadran Carine 6-12

Petar Radanovic, head coach, Jadran Carine:

"It's a very important game for our team to stay in the race for the F8. Till now in this season we've played three games against Jadran Split and our team bettered them all three times. Hope it will remain the same after this game. Jadran Split has good players, especially in the centre position, so we have to be smart in defence and fast with our transition to find our chances in attack."

Marko Petkovic, captain, Jadran Carine:

"Once again in this season, we have a game against a very good team since we are direct opponents in the Adriatic League as well as in the Champions League. They have excellent players, Croatian national team members and in static positions they are very good. Our team is ready for this important game and we hope to get three more points in this game."

Mile Smodlaka, head coach, Jadran Split:

"We played against Jadran Carine a week ago in the Regional League and we came close. I saw many good things from my players. We are improving, I wanted to win that game mostly because of my players and they fought hard and would have deserved to get at least a point. We will try to do more this time around."

Mate Anic, goalkeeper, Jadran Split:

"We had a close game in the Regional league. We are motivated to show once more that we can play on high level in the Champions League, hopefully we can win now."

19.00 Spandau 04 Berlin (GER) v Sintez Kazan (RUS)

Last 5 matches:

Spandau: DLWLW

Sintez: LLLLL

Last game:

Spandau: 8-7 Szolnok (away)

Sintez: 11-15 Jadran Carine (home)

Day 6:

Sintez v Spandau 11-12

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Marat Zakirov, head coach, Sintez:

“Spandau is a high level team which brings together players from the national teams of Serbia, Russia, Montenegro, Romania, Germany. We lost to them in our home game in Kazan and we know that we will have a hard clash in Berlin. We worked well and we hope for a good result.”

Sergey Lisunov, player, Sintez:

“Spandau is a strong team. We lost our first match against them. We made account of our mistakes from the last match and prepared for this game. We hope for a good result.”

20.00 Olympiacos Piraeus (GRE) v Zodiac Athletic Barceloneta (ESP)

Last 5 matches:

Olympiacos: WWDWL

Barceloneta: WWDWW

Last game:

Olympiacos: 9-13 Jug (away)

Barceloneta: Jadran 16-12 (home)

Day 6:

Barceloneta v Olympiacos 11-11

Theodoros Vlachos, head coach, Olympiacos

“We started our quest in 2020 with a bad result against Jug. In this coming game we want to return to our good performances and wins, against a very familiar and strong opponent. There is still a long way to go in the group, but gaining three points in this game would be like gold for both teams, as we both want to be take the first place.”

Konstantinos Genidounias, player, Olympiacos:

“This is one of the toughest games we will play at home. It’s also a game that will decide a lot about the top positions in the group. We are aware of the strengths of Barceloneta and we need to limit them. We play at home and as always we want to win.”

Jesus Martin, head coach, Barceloneta:

“After our home win against Jadran Split and Olympiacos’ defeat by Jug in Dubrovnik, we are tied on points in the rankings. We’ll be playing in a very tricky pool, where the host team has won all their matches so far. They drew with us in our pool in a game we thought we’d win; now we’re determined to play a great game and collect those three points and position ourselves as leaders in our group.”

Felipe Perrone, player, Barceloneta:

“We’re really enthusiastic about the match against Olympiacos because we’ll be up against one of the greats in Europe. It’s a team that in the last two

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years was champion and runner-up in the Champions League. We're currently neck and neck with them at the top of our group, tied on points, so this game will be crucial. The spectators are going to enjoy it to the max as this will be a top level encounter."

Daniel Lopez, goalie, Barceloneta:

"The game against Olympiacos will be amazing. It will be the most exciting match of the competition 'cause Olympiacos is our direct rival. Both teams know each other perfectly. The Greek team is a very experienced one with very talented players. We must play our best water polo to beat them, especially in their home."

20 February 2020

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9, rue de la Morâche
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