



Paris are a great team, they fought their way into the semifinal and then reached the final. We will analyse some things, we know they have quick players. We will look to organise our defence, but we know our biggest strength is putting our opponents under pressure.

HANSI FLICK



We have a final to play in, which we absolutely want to win. Stay calm, stay cool, and try to prepare for it like any other game. Don't do special stuff; the game is special itself, so why should we overload it with videos, with speeches, with motivation?

THOMAS TUCHEL

2019-20 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals
Bayern Munich	10	10	0	0	42/8
PSG	10	8	1	1	25/5

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals
PSG	8	5	0	3	12/11
Bayern	8	3	0	5	11/12

RECENT MATCHES

Bayern 3-1 PSG (6 Dec, 2017)  
PSG 3-0 Bayern (28 Sep, 2017)

PLAYER TO WATCH

Player	Matches	Goals	Assists	MoTM	Mins/Goal
Lewandowski	9	15	6	4	53
Neymar	6	3	4	2	165

# Ruthless Bavarians face clinical Parisiens

## BOISTEROUS BAYERN

Bayern have reached their 11th final in the competition, with a previous record of winning five and losing five on the biggest stage.

The Bundesliga champions are seeking to become the joint-third most successful club with Liverpool (6 titles) in the European Cup/UEFA Champions League history behind Real Madrid (13 titles) and AC Milan (7).

The Bavarians have the best goals-per-game ratio in a single season in the Champions League history (4.2). With 42 goals in only ten outings, they need three more goals to equal Barcelona's record of 45 strikes (16 matches) set in 1999-2000 season.

Bayern star Robert Lewandowski has scored in all nine matches that he played so far in this year's competition. Bagging 15 goals, the Polish striker is now just two goals away from matching Cristiano Ronaldo's record, which came in 2013-14 season, of most goals in a single Champions League campaign (17).

## PROFICIENT PSG

PSG are the 41st club to appear in the European Cup/UEFA Champions League final, with an opportunity to become the 23rd to win it.

Le Parisiens are the fifth French side to reach the final of Europe's elite club competition. Only one of the previous four has been victorious, as Marseille stunned AC Milan 1-0 in the 1992-93 final.

The Ligue 1 champions have reached only their third major European final, previously achieving the same feat in the 1995-96 and 1996-97 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup. They won the former 1-0 against Rapid Vienna and lost the latter 1-0 to Barcelona.

PSG coach Thomas Tuchel has lost more matches against Bayern Munich than any other team (9) in his managerial career.

AGENCIES, Lisbon



Bayern Munich can complete only the second treble in their proud history by beating Paris Saint Germain in Sunday's Champions League final to underline their status as Germany's super club.

Bayern have cruised to the Lisbon final, scoring 42 goals in their Champions League matches. In all competitions, they are on a 20-game winning streak stretching back to early February.

"We don't have to say anything more about Bayern Munich, because their opponents will no longer be beaten but destroyed," grumbled Borussia Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke in the wake of the 8-2 quarterfinal drubbing of Barcelona.

On the other side, Paris feature the best defence in the Champions League. But their attack, orchestrated by Neymar, is capable of damaging the German champions.

German great Lothar Matthaeus warned Bayern about 'stability' in defence, also encouraging them to dump the high line in defence that leaves spaces in behind for the pacy Kylian Mbappe to exploit, something Lyon did as well.

"In attack, Bayern still have their quality, but at the back they need to be more stable. Maybe against Paris they shouldn't defend so high, because Paris will use the speed of Neymar and Mbappe".

Bayern coach Hansi Flick agreed with that assessment, but was not willing to



change the high pressure system that Bayern have imbued with a ruthless streak.

"We were lucky to hold out in the first phase of the match (vs Lyon)," admitted Flick. "We'll have to see that we organise the defence a little differently. Our great strength is pressuring on the opponent and I think that we will succeed against Paris as well."

Even the great Franz Beckenbauer stepped in to caution the Germans, saying: "I've watched PSG's games, they're one heck of a team. It'll be the most difficult game of this Champions League season. I can't find any weak points in the team and I expect them to vary their playing style. I hope that both teams don't hold back too much,

don't show each other too much respect and play just as refreshingly and with a joie de vivre like they have done up to now. Then we can expect a wonderful final.

"It'll be a match played on equal terms. I'd say it's 50-50. Sometimes you need luck. If Bayern get that, they'll win the game."

Angel di Maria has been inspirational for Le Parisiens and he also sees the match as a finely balanced contest.

"They're tough, they're a really well-organised team, and I think this will be their 11th European Cup final," Di Maria said. "We know they have amazing players, players in incredible form, but we also have good players, our own system, our own way of playing, and I think we have a group that

deserves to win the Champions League." History is on PSG's side. The two sides have faced off on eight occasions, all of them Champions League encounters, and Munich have walked off as losers five times, although they won the last encounter.

The difference-maker for the French side could be Neymar, who scored in both legs against Borussia Dortmund in the last 16 and cried afterwards. He was excellent against Atalanta in the quarterfinals and magnificent against Leipzig in the semifinals, even if he did not score in either game.

PSG will hope the Brazilian -- who has scored 70 times altogether in 84 matches for them -- has been saving his next goal for the final. "I hope that the good lord will help him to score on Sunday and us to win," said his compatriot Thiago Silva.

He added: "Speaking of Bayern Munich is easy. All of us who enjoy football see Bayern Munich as a role model in both the European and world stage. A team that plays with a high intensity and has a lot of quality."

"From their keeper, who is among the greatest in the world, to their striker who is the current top scorer in this season's [UEFA] Champions League, and has been putting in great performances. Bayern Munich must be regarded as one of the best teams in the world."

"We must respect their team, and try to play in our style, as we've been doing all season, to play at our highest level. And we're aware of all that comes along with a final, the motivation on the other side."



Inter Milan striker Romelu Lukaku was an unfortunate bystander, deflecting a brilliant overhead effort from Diego Carlos into the back of his own net in the 74th minute of the Europa League final against Sevilla. (R) Sevilla players celebrate with coach Julen Lopetegui after winning a record-extending sixth Europa League title.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



## Six in six for Sevilla

Lopetegui's side beat Conte's Inter 3-2 in rollercoaster final

AFP, Cologne



Julen Lopetegui said he does not look back at what might have been with Spain and Real Madrid after leading Sevilla to a sixth Europa League title thanks to a 3-2 win over Inter Milan in Cologne.

Lopetegui was sacked as Spain boss days before the start of the 2018 World Cup for accepting the role as Madrid coach and then also fired by Real just four months later.

Sevilla have a perfect record in UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League finals: six games, six wins.

De Jong is the 12th player to score two goals in a one-off UEFA Europa League/UEFA Cup final. Nobody has registered a hat-trick.

Lukaku scored for the 11th UEFA Europa League game running, extending his all-time competition record.

Sevilla centre-back Diego Carlos conceded penalties in the quarterfinals, semifinals and final.

Most successful clubs in UEFA Cup (1971/72-2008-09)/Europa League (2009/10-)

- Sevilla (Esp) -- 6 titles
- Inter Milan (Ita) -- 3 titles
- Juventus (Ita) -- 3 titles
- Liverpool (Eng) -- 3 titles
- Atletico Madrid (Esp) -- 3 titles

But in his first season in Seville, the former Madrid and Barcelona goalkeeper has restored his reputation with a fourth-placed finish in La Liga and seeing off European giants Inter, Manchester United and Roma in the latter stages of the Europa League.

"Fortunately I don't look back," said Lopetegui. "I have the luck to be in a club that has given me this chance to be with a real team with everything that word means."

By contrast, Inter coach Antonio Conte suggested his time in Milan might be over after just one season despite finishing second in Serie

A and leading the Italians to a first European final in 10 years.

"It is only right that we analyse the entire season, look at everything in a very calm way and try to plan the future of Inter, whether it's with or without me," said Conte. "This year will always have a place in my heart, it's been such a strange year and exhausting year. It's been a worthwhile and incredible experience."

The outcome could have been very different had match winner Diego Carlos been sent off inside three minutes for hauling down Romelu Lukaku in the area. Carlos was only shown a yellow card before Lukaku slotted home his 34th goal of the season to equal his idol Ronaldo's record in his first season at Inter, which ended in the club's last UEFA Cup win 1997/98.

Luuk De Jong hit form at the right time as he powered home from Jesus Navas's cross and then looped another header into the far corner from Ever Banega's free-kick to turn the game around.

"I dedicate this to the Sevilla fans," said De Jong. "I got the feeling, even in the group stages, how important this cup is for them and we knew if we win this trophy if it also for them."

## My career flashed before my eyes, says Crawley

REUTERS, Southampton

England batsman Zak Crawley had a nagging feeling early in his innings that a hundred was on the cards before he realised his dream of a first Test century with a sparkling unbeaten 171 against Pakistan at the Rose Bowl on Friday.

Crawley's career-best score led England to 332-4 at the close of the opening day of the third and final Test, as he put on an unbeaten 205 for the fifth wicket with Jos Buttler.

The 22-year-old had spoken in the second Test of targeting a maiden five-day hundred, but a lack of concentration saw him dismissed for 53 in England's only innings when the milestone had looked on as the game meandered to a draw.

There were no such lapses on Friday as he looked confident, organised and in

command from the moment he strode out at first wicket down and then, with Buttler, helped England recover from a precarious position at 127-4.

"It's the best feeling I've had on the cricket field by some way," Crawley told reporters at the close. "It's an unbelievable feeling, to see everybody on the balcony, it was almost like my whole career flashed before my eyes in that moment."

Asked about his toughest part of the day, Crawley says it was not getting carried away with the feeling that a hundred was there for the taking very early in his innings.

"I was trying to keep the hundred out of my head when I was on about 25, I just felt in such decent form that I couldn't stop thinking about it."

"When I was on around 91 I was really nervous. Jos didn't think I was, so I must have been hiding it pretty well."



England batsmen Zak Crawley brought up a double century while Jos Buttler also got in on the act with a hundred as the hosts powered to 401 for four on the second day of the third Test at the Ageas Bowl yesterday.

PHOTO: TWITTER