

HELLO UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE. WE ARE READY!

MATCHDAY

P R O G R A M M E



MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF GNK DINAMO ZAGREB // VIKTORIA EDITION



**New European
Autumn in Zagreb**

GROUP C

Dinamo Zagreb
Viktoria Plzeň
Astana
Ballkani



Editorial

Mirko Barišić, the President of GNK Dinamo



GNK Dinamo has continued its impressive run on the European stage: our club has qualified for the group phase of the UEFA club competitions a remarkable 16 times in the last 17 seasons. It has also reached the knockout stage three times in the past five years. Overall, this is our 19th participation in the group stages of the UEFA competitions. In this record, GNK Dinamo has played in the UEFA Champions League eight times, in the UEFA Cup/Europa League ten times, and will now make its debut in the UEFA Europa Conference League. Furthermore, our club concluded the previous season by securing its 34th national championship title in its history, with 24 of them won in the independent Croatian league which has been launched back in 1992. In the past

18 seasons alone, Dinamo has clinched 17 national championship titles. This may seem like dry statistics, but it clearly demonstrates a continuity of success both domestically and internationally, reflecting the high standards that the club has set for itself in recent history. We conceived and implemented the idea of creating a firm Central European club with the goal of building, preserving, and enhancing a strong system at all levels - in business, organization, and the sporting aspect. We have created a platform on which GNK Dinamo has achieved its longest streak of club trophies, producing historic generations of players who led the Croatian national team to the silver and bronze medals at the FIFA World Cups and to the UEFA Nations League finals.


UEFA Europa Conference League 2023/2024

Group C

Matchday 1 September 21st

	Dinamo Astana	5 1
	Viktoria Plzeň Ballkani	1 0

Matchday 2 October 5th

	Ballkani Dinamo	2 0
	Astana Viktoria Plzeň	1 2



Matchday 3 October 26th

	Dinamo Viktoria Plzeň	
	Ballkani Astana	

Matchday 4 November 9th

	Viktoria Plzeň Dinamo	
	Astana Ballkani	

Matchday 5 November 30th

	Astana Dinamo	
	Ballkani Viktoria Plzeň	

Matchday 6 December 14th

	Dinamo Ballkani	
	Viktoria Plzeň Astana	

GNK Dinamo in the group stages of the UEFA club competitions:

1998/'99 UEFA Champions League
1999/'00 UEFA Champions League
2004/'05 UEFA Cup
2007/'08 UEFA Cup
2008/'09 UEFA Cup
2009/'10 UEFA Europa League
2010/'11 UEFA Europa League
2011/'12 UEFA Champions League
2012/'13 UEFA Champions League
2013/'14 UEFA Europa League

2014/'15 UEFA Europa League
2015/'16 UEFA Champions League
2016/'17 UEFA Champions League
2018/'19 UEFA Europa League
2019/'20 UEFA Champions League
2020/'21 UEFA Europa League
2021/'22 UEFA Europa League
2022/'23 UEFA Champions League
2023/'24 UEFA Europa Conference
League



Our history

GNK Dinamo is the most successful Croatian football club and was founded on April 26, 1911, under the name "Prvi hrvatski građanski športski klub" (literally translated as the "First Croatian Citizens' Football Club"), or simply – Gradjanski or „Citizens“. Therefore, the clubs' prefix was changed from NK (FC) to GNK (Citizens' Football Club) with the letter G symbolizing the clubs' roots with the ancient name of Gradjanski. The new prefix was added before the club's annual assembly ahead of the 100th anniversary celebration. In its rich history, the club has won 66 trophies. Among these achievements are 34 national championship titles, with 24 of them coming in the Prva HNL (Croatian First Football League), 23 domestic Cup titles, including 16 in Croatia, and eight Croatian Supercups. Notably, Dinamo also stands out with its victory in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, a competition that later evolved into the UEFA Cup and today's UEFA Europa League. Dinamo was the 1963 finalist and later claimed the title in 1967.

The club from Maksimir has participated in European competitions a total of 19 times, including eight appearances in the UEFA Champions League, 10 in the UEFA Europa League, and

one in the UEFA Europa Conference League. Special attention is drawn to their second-place finish in the Champions League group stage in 1998/99 and three recent European knockout stages in the UEFA Europa League: the Round of 16 in 2018/'19, the quarter-finals in 2020/'21, and the Intermediate round in 2021/'22.

In the distant past, when the club was named "Gradjanski," there were no continental club competitions, so friendly matches played a significant role. During that time, Gradjanski defeated Barcelona in the away game, scored five goals against Liverpool in Zagreb, defeated Juventus twice in a week, beat both Inter and Milan within two weeks, and outplayed the top three Turkish clubs in Istanbul. There was also a 0-0 draw in a friendly match against the Brazilian national team in Zagreb.

During that time, "Purgeri" (the popular nickname of the Zagreb citizens and the club itself) won six national championship titles as Gradjanski and later they continued their winning ways under the Dinamo name, clinching the state championship four times. Many will point out that during this period, they were actually champions five times,

but their 1979 title, although judicially awarded to Dinamo, was not officially credited in the archives of the Football Federation of Yugoslavia.

Starting with 2005/06 season, the club reached its longest streak of trophies, producing historic generations of players, including former Dinamo captain Luka Modrić, who emerged from our youth academy and rose to become the world's best footballer. The club has maintained a tradition of nurturing young talents, and Dinamo played a key role in the success of the Croatian national team. In the 2018 FIFA World Cup there were 14 players who played for GNK Dinamo during their career including national team captain, FIFA Player of the World and Ballon d'Or winner Luka Modrić. GNK Dinamo Zagreb holds a record relating to the FIFA World Cup. No other club has had more homegrown players in a single FIFA World Cup final than GNK Dinamo Zagreb. Former GNK Dinamo players also had a key role four years later when Croatia secured bronze at the World Cup in Qatar, as well as this year when our national team reached the finals of the UEFA Nations League.



Trophy case

1911 Founding of I. HSK Gradjanski **1945** Name change from Gradjanski to Dinamo **1967** Inter-Cities Fairs Cup (predecessor of the UC/UEL) winners **1991/93** Name change to HAŠK Gradjanski and later to NK Croatia Zagreb

1923 First out of 34 domestic championship titles

1948 First championship title after WWII Relocating to the Maksimir Stadium

1982 Last domestic championship title in former Yugoslavia

1992 Start of the Croatian Football League



34x Domestic National Championships Winners



23x Domestic National Cup Winners



8x Croatian National SuperCup Winners



1x Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

2000 Renaming back to Dinamo

2004/07/08/09/10/13/14/18/20/21 UEFA Cup/Europa League group stage

2021 UEFA Europa League quarterfinals

and counting...

1998/99/11/12/15/16/19/22 UEFA Champions League group stage

1997 UEFA Cup round of 16

2019 UEFA Europa League round of 16

2022 UEFA Europa League knockout round play-offs (round of 24)

Overall statistics in the history of the European club competitions

competition	games	w-d-l	goal difference
UEC / UCL *	160	67-33-60	239-221
ICFC / UC / UEL **	178	72-41-65	269-215
UECL ***	2	1-0-1	5-3
CWC ****	31	11-06-14	31-38
overall	371	151-80-140	544-477

*European Cup / UEFA Champions League **Inter-Cities Fairs Cup / UEFA Cup / UEFA Europa League *** UEFA Europa Conference League ****Cup Winner's Cup

Most goals scored for GNK Dinamo in European club competitions

28 Mislav Oršić
21 Bruno Petković
15 Slaven Zambata
15 Igor Cvitanović
13 Sammir
13 El Arabi Hilal Soudani
13 Arijan Ademi
11 Mario Mandžukić
10 Marijan Novak

Most appearances for GNK Dinamo in European club competitions

104 Arijan Ademi
76 Sammir
74 Dominik Livaković
70 Mislav Oršić
67 Bruno Petković
53 Amer Gojak
52 Milan Badelj
50 Kevin Theophile
48 Edin Mujčin
48 Mihael Mikić
48 Petar Stojanović



UEFA

**EUROPA
CONFERENCE
LEAGUE™**





Stadium

25.074

TOTAL CAPACITY

1.254

TICKETS FOR AWAY FANS

1912

BUILDING OF THE STADIUM

2011-2013

RECONSTRUCTION

The unique natural harmony of the park and the game of football... In such an environment, the concept of the new football pitch was envisioned back in 1911, and a year later, the project to build a sports field near Maksimir Park was implemented. The park, the Zoo, and the stadium, three symbols of Zagreb located side by side in perfect harmony between nature and sports, have become an integral part of our city's identity.

The construction of the stadium complex began in 1953, according to the design by the architect Vladimir Turina. The stadium was built in stages, and in June 2011, the club's management decided to invest in the city property and renovate part of the complex by 2013. They installed new seats, a heated pitch, an automatic irrigation system, artificial turf around the field, a modern club hotel, top-notch locker rooms, a chapel, and numerous practice fields with artificial turf where over 500 young footballers from Dinamo's academy train.

The pitch was originally planted in 1951 and lasted a full 58 years until 2009, when it was replaced after two back-to-back U2 concerts held at a full stadium. The field couldn't withstand the strain, so it was replaced, and a heating system was also installed. Since the summer of 2018, a new hybrid surface, consisting of 70% natural grass and 30% artificial turf, has been used on the pitch.

Unfortunately, due to an earthquake in Zagreb and the surrounding area on March 22, 2020, the eastern stand remains out of use for safety reasons.

A full-page photograph of Coach Jakirović walking on a football pitch. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt and dark trousers. He is looking down and adjusting his shirt. The background is a blurred stadium with spectators.

Coach Jakirović

Sergej Jakirović took over the team of GNK Dinamo in this August and secured two important victories in the first two league matches, both derbies against Rijeka and Osijek. Although he already won convincingly against Sparta Prague in his debut match on the Maksimir bench, in the first leg of the UEFA Europa League play-off, the Czechs managed to overturn the result in the return leg. Nevertheless, coach Jakirović, with three wins in his first four appearances, has shown strong foundations in his initial matches, bringing optimism ahead of the group stage of the UEFA Europa Conference League.

His coaching journey reveals a clear and proper path, starting with youth teams, progressing through the second division, and moving up to higher levels. He began his coaching career with U-19 teams in Dugo Selo, continued in Sesvete, and then came to Gorica where he secured a great fifth-place finish in the 2018/19 Prva HNL (top tier of Croatian football). After a brief stint in Slovenian side Maribor, he achieved a remarkable success with Zrinjski Mostar, leading them to the 2021/22 Bosnia and Herzegovina championship title, with a staggering 27-point lead over the second-placed Tuzla City. Since November 2022, Jakirović has been in charge of Rijeka, elevating them from seventh place to the upper part of the table and securing a spot in European competitions.

In his communication, he is open, direct, full of energy, and he strives to transmit his character to the team itself.



OUR TEAM THE PURGERS

WE'RE READY! Team for the UEFA Europa Conference League-
with this squad, we aim to earn points in the current season.



1

GOALKEEPER

DANIJEL ZAGORAC

February 7, 1987 / Croatia



12

GOALKEEPER

ANTONIO RAJIĆ

March 4, 2007 / Croatia



33

GOALKEEPER

IVAN NEVISTIĆ

July 31, 1998 / Croatia



2

DEFENDER

SADEGH MOHARRAMI

March 1, 1996 / Iran



3

DEFENDER

JOAQUÍN SOSA

January 10, 2002 / Uruguay

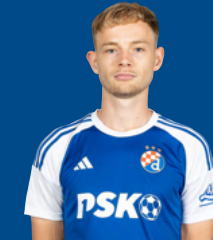


4

DEFENDER

BOŠKO ŠUTALO

January 1, 2000 / Croatia

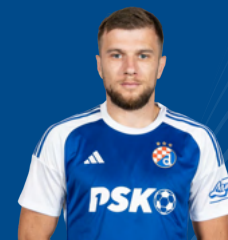


6

DEFENDER

MAXIME BERNAUER

July 1, 1998 / France

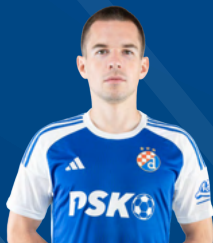


13

DEFENDER

STEFAN RISTOVSKI

February 12, 1992 / N. Macedonia

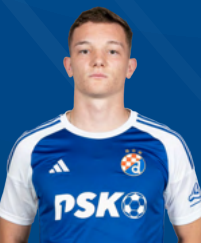


15

DEFENDER

BOHDAN MYKHAYLICHENKO

March 21, 1997 / Ukraine

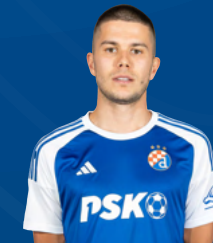


39

DEFENDER

MAURO PERKOVIĆ

March 22, 2003 / Croatia



55

DEFENDER

DINO PERIĆ

July 12, 1994 / Croatia



10

MIDFIELDER

MARTIN BATURINA

February 16, 2003 / Croatia

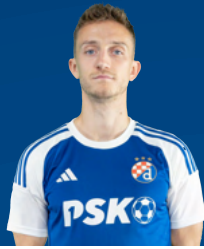


14

MIDFIELDER

ROBERT LJUBIČIĆ

July 14, 1999 / Austria-Croatia

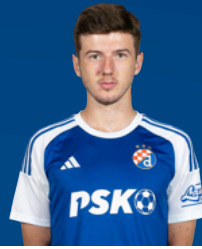


23

MIDFIELDER

TIBOR HALILOVIĆ

March 18, 1995 / Croatia



25

MIDFIELDER

PETAR SUČIĆ

October 25, 2003 / BiH-Croatia



27

MIDFIELDER

JOSIP MIŠIĆ

June 28, 1994 / Croatia



31

MIDFIELDER

MARKO BULAT

September 26, 2001 / Croatia



36

MIDFIELDER

LUKA VRBANIĆ

July 4, 2005 / Croatia



72

MIDFIELDER

GABRIEL VIDOVIĆ

December 1, 2003 / Germany-Croatia



9

STRIKER

BRUNO PETKOVIĆ

September 16, 1994 / Croatia



11

WINGER

MAHIR EMRELI

July 1, 1997 / Azerbaijan



17

STRIKER

SANDRO KULENOVIĆ

December 4, 1999 / Croatia



18

STRIKER

JOSIP DRMIĆ

August 8, 1992 / Switzerland-Croatia



20

WINGER

ANTONIO MARIN

January 9, 2001 / Croatia



30

WINGER

TAKURO KANEKO

July 30, 1997 / Japan

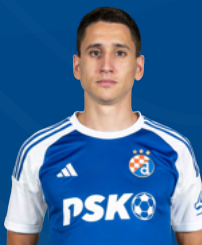


41

WINGER

GABRIEL RUKAVINA

January 16, 2004 / Croatia



70

WINGER

LUKA MENALO

July 22, 1996 / BiH-Croatia



77

WINGER

DARIO ŠPIČIĆ

March 22, 1999 / Croatia



TEAM PHOTO THE PURGERS

UEFA Europa Conference League, get ready for us! A powerhouse in Croatian football, GNK Dinamo Zagreb, boasts a proud tradition and a dedicated fan base.

ROBERT LJUBIČIĆ

Ambasador Zaklade Nema predaje



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NEMA PREDAJE
ZAKLADA GNK DINAMO



FC Viktoria Plzeň



Exactly on its 100th anniversary, they won their first championship title and immediately after, they entered the UEFA Champions League group stage for the first time. Viktoria Plzeň was founded on June 11, 1911, and it quickly established itself as a significant force in Czech football. However, the golden era of the club's history began during the centenary celebration. In the summer of 2011, the team won its first championship title in history and immediately opened the season in which it made its debut in the group stage of the UEFA competitions. That inaugural season started in the UEFA Champions League and later on Viktoria continued in the knockout stages in the UEFA Europa League.

In its early history, during the 1930s, the club became a part of the elite class of Czech football. In terms of quality and results, it was just a step behind the Prague giants Sparta and Slavia. However, in the post WWII period in Czechoslovakia, the club often moved between the top and second division and made a significant step forward by reaching the final of the domestic Cup. According to the competition system at the time, the winners of the Czech and Slovak Cups, Viktoria Plzeň and Spartak Trnava, qualified for the Czechoslovakian Cup final. Spartak won the Cup, and since they were also the national champions, Viktoria as the Cup finalist secured a spot in the Cup Winners' Cup for the 1971/72 season. They lost to Bayern Munich in the first round. This was Viktoria's only appearance in the European club competitions during the Czechoslovak era.

At that time, the team competed under the sponsor's name, Škoda Plzeň. The club has played under its current name, Viktoria, since its foundation in 1911 until 1948 and again from 1992. In the meantime, there were several name changes, including Sokol, Spartak, Škoda.

They returned to the European stage nearly four decades later when they won their only domestic Cup trophy in Czech Republic, earning them a place in the UEFA Europa League qualifiers, where they were stopped by Turkish side Beşiktaş. It was after this, in the summer of 2011, following the celebration of the club's 100th anniversary, that a rapid rise followed. That summer, they won their first out of six Czech championship titles

and initiated an impressive streak in Europe.

In eight seasons, from the summer of 2011 to 2018, Viktoria qualified for the group stages of the UEFA competitions seven times. After a defeat against GNK Dinamo Zagreb in the UEFA Europa League Round of 32 in 2019, they experienced three seasons without group stage appearances, being stopped in the qualifiers. However, they made a swift return to the group stage, first in the UEFA Champions League in 2022 and then in the UEFA Europa Conference League in the current season.

Moreover, in this millennium, alongside Sparta and Slavia, Viktoria is the most successful Czech football club in the UEFA competitions. They have participated in group stage competitions nine times – four in the UCL and UEL and once in the UECL. They have secured three Round of 16 berths in the UEFA Europa League and two Round of 32 berths in the same competition.

The 2012/13 season was particularly notable when Viktoria Plzeň topped the UEFA Europa League group stage, ahead of the defending champions, Atletico Madrid. In the knockout stage, they outplayed Napoli but were stopped by Fenerbahçe in the Round of 16 in two closely contested matches. The following season, they reached the same stage of the competition, this time through the UEFA Champions League group stage, despite conceding 17 goals. As the third-placed team in the group, they moved to the UEFA Europa League, where they beat Shakhtar Donetsk before being eliminated by Olympique Lyon.

In the 2017/18 season, they repeated the same success, progressing past the group stage and overcoming Partizan in the knockout phase. However, Sporting Lisbon stood in their way, ultimately winning in an extra time in the return leg.

In the meantime, Viktoria Plzeň also passed the group stage two more times, but they were stopped by Schalke in 2012 and Dinamo Zagreb in 2019. They returned to the UEFA Champions League in 2022, facing tough competition and conceding a total of 24 goals.

Miroslav Koubek



Date of Birth: September 1st, 1951
Place of Birth: Prague, Czech Republic
Playing Career: Union Žižkov (from 1968),
Admira Prague (1968 – 1971), Slany (1971 –
1973), Kladno (1973 – 1978), Sparta Prague
(1978 – 1982)

Coaching career: Amberg, Germany (1994 –
1995), Viktoria Plzeň (2000 – 2001), Kladno
(2002 – 2007), Teda (2008), Časlav (2008 –
2009), Banik (2009 – 2010), Mlada Boleslav
(2011 – 2012), Czech U-19 national team (2013
– 2014), Slavia Prague (2013 – 2014), Viktoria
Plzeň (2014 – 2015), Bohemians (2016 – 2017),
Hradec Kralove (2021 – 2023), Viktoria Plzeň
(from 2023.)

Miroslav Koubek was born in 1951 and is a former goalkeeper, currently serving as the head coach of the Viktoria Plzeň first team. His playing career lasted for fifteen years, but his coaching spell is about to celebrate its 20th anniversary. In 1994, Koubek took his first coaching role with the German lower-league club Amberg, marking his debut in a new football role. He has managed a total of ten clubs, and about a decade ago, he served as the head coach of the Czech U-19 national team for a six-month period. Interestingly, this is his third stint as the coach of Viktoria, and it's worth mentioning that during his previous tenure from August 2014 to August 2015, he won his only coaching trophy when he led Viktoria to the national championship title. His third and current stint with the Plzeň club began in July 2023.



Squad list



GOALKEEPERS

Marián Tvrdoň	18.08.1994.
Dominik Sváček	24.02.1997.
Viktor Baier	16.01.2005.
Jindřich Staněk	27.04.1996.

DEFENDERS

Lukáš Hejda	09.03.1990.
Robin Hranáč	29.01.2000.
Radim Řezník	20.01.1989.
Václav Jemelka	23.06.1995.
Sampson Dweh	10.10.2001.
Libor Holík	12.05.1998.
Jan Paluska	23.06.2005.

MIDFIELDERS

Jan Sýkora	29.12.1993.
Jan Kopic	04.06.1993.
Ibrahim Traoré	16.09.1988.
Jhon Mosquera	08.05.1990.
Pavel Bucha	11.03.1998.
Cadu	08.08.1997.
Lukáš Kalvach	19.07.1995.
Pavel Šulc	29.12.2000.
Erik Jirka	19.09.1997.
Adam Vlkánova	04.09.1994.

FORWARDS

Jan Kliment	01.09.1993.
Matěj Vydra	01.05.1992.
Tomáš Choroý	26.01.1995.
Rafiu Durosini	01.01.2003.





PREVIOUS HEAD-TO-HEAD MATCHES

PLZEŇ, February 14, 2019 (Thursday, 21:00)
UEFA Europa League, Round of 32, first leg

VIKTORIA PLZEŇ – DINAMO 2-1
Štruncovy Sady Stadion

VIKTORIA PLZEŇ: 1-Kozačik – 24-Havel, 44-Pernica, 4-Hubnik (c), 19-Kovařík – 7-Hořava, 17-Hrošovský; 90-Ekpai (70' 11-Petržela), 25-Čermak (46' 6-R.Prochazka), 5-Kayamba – 9-Beauguel (81' 18-Chory)
Coach: Pavel Vrba
(Subs not used: 16-Hruška; 14-Řezník, 23-Bakoš, 35-Kepl)

DINAMO: 40-Livaković – 30-Stojanović, 28-Theophile, 66-Dilaver, 22-Leovac – 14-Gojak, 5-Ademi (c), 7-Olmo – 16-Šitum (64' 27-Moro), 21-Petković, 99-Oršić (76' 20-Atiemwen)
Coach: Nenad Bjelica
(Subs not used: 1-Zagorac; 10-Majer, 13-Rrahmani, 55-Perić, 95-Andrić)

REFEREE: Serdar Gözübüyük (the Netherlands), ATT.: 9,731

SCORERS: 0-1 Olmo (41') (as. Petković), 1-1 Pernica (54') (as. Beauguel), 2-1 Pernica (83') (as. R.Prochazka)

ZAGREB, February 21, 2019 (Thursday, 18:55)
UEFA Europa League, Round of 32, second leg

DINAMO – VIKTORIA PLZEŇ 3-0
Stadion Maksimir

DINAMO: 40-Livaković – 2-Moharrami, 28-Theophile, 66-Dilaver, 22-Leovac – 5-Ademi (c), 34-Šunjić, 7-Olmo – 8-Hajrović (68' 27-Moro), 21-Petković (90+2' 95-Andrić), 99-Oršić (88' 14-Gojak)
Coach: Nenad Bjelica
(Subs not used: 1-Zagorac; 13-Rrahmani, 20-Atiemwen, 55-Perić)

VIKTORIA PLZEŇ: 1-Kozačik – 24-Havel (74' 14-Řezník), 44-Pernica, 8-Limbersky, 19-Kovařík – 6-R.Prochazka, 17-Hrošovský (c); 5-Kayamba, 7-Hořava (57' 23-Bakoš), 11-Petržela – 9-Beauguel (67' 18-Chory)
Coach: Pavel Vrba
(Subs not used: 16-Hruška; 25-Čermak, 35-Kepl, 90-Ekpai)

REFEREE: Istvan Kovacs (Romania), ATT.: 25,860

RED CARD: Limbersky (Viktoria Plzeň, 86', second yellow)

SCORERS: 1-0 Oršić (15') (as. Petković), 2-0 Dilaver (33') (as. Hajrović), 3-0 Petković (73') (as. Oršić)

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ZAKLADA GNK DINAMO



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Zaklada Nema predaje



City of Plzeň

Plzeň is a Czech city located in the eastern part of the country, about 80 kilometers from the capital city of Prague. The history of Plzeň dates back to the year 1295 when the ruling monarch, Vaclav II, ordered the construction of a fortress at the confluence of the Berounka River. Even then, in the monarch's thoughts, the plan to build a great city that could rival Prague and Kutná Hora was maturing. The city soon laid its foundations, and it didn't take long to become an important industrial, commercial, and cultural center in western Bohemia, aided by its strategic location at the intersection of significant and highly trafficked trade routes. Plzeň is the fourth most populous city in the Czech Republic with just over 180,000 residents. In the German language, the city is known as "Pilsen," which is closely associated with perhaps the city's most popular brand – the brewing industry. Pilsner beer was invented in Plzeň by the Bavarian brewer Josef Groll in 1842. It is a brewing hub of the Czech Republic, so it's no surprise that you can find a brewery at every corner, and the city is also home to the highly visited and popular Beer Museum. Plzeň is traversed by four rivers – Mže, Úhlava, Úslava, and Radbuza, and its developed infrastructure means you can choose between trams, traditional buses, and electric buses for public transportation. The city also has a railway station connecting Plzeň to the rest of the Czech Republic and Europe. In terms of sports clubs, Viktoria Plzeň, the football club, takes the lead, along with the Škoda Plzeň hockey club and the Talent Plzeň handball club.



Plzeň City Stadium

The stadium of Viktoria Plzeň is known by its sponsor name Doorsan Arena, but in the UEFA competitions, it officially uses its old and well-known simple name, Plzeň City Stadium (Stadion města Plzně). Moreover, due to its location, many still colloquially refer to it as Stadion ve Štruncových sadech, which can be roughly translated as "Stadium in Štrunc Park." It's a multifunctional sports facility that has been in operation since 1955. Initially, it was intended for a regional Spartakiad, a sports and physical

education event that was held in former Czechoslovakia to commemorate the liberation of the country in 1945. In the past, the stadium has undergone several renovations and reconstructions, and at one point, it could accommodate 35,000 spectators, even though the seating capacity was just over 7,000. The last renovation was in 2011 when the stadium got its current appearance and capacity.

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Fun Facts

GNK Dinamo's all-time top scorer, Franjo Mara Wöfl, spent his early playing days at Viktoria Plzeň. Wöfl played for Concordia Zagreb until he was 16 years old, after which he left for Plzeň in 1934. The Zagreb Electric Power Plant had announced an apprenticeship and specialization opportunity at Škoda's factories in Plzeň. Due to his good football recommendations from Zagreb, he played for Viktoria alongside his studies, where he immediately shone with three goals in a 6-3 win over the strong team of Židenice. After three years of education in Plzeň, Wöfl returned to Zagreb in November 1937 and became a player for Gradjanski, the former name of current GNK Dinamo, playing against his former club Viktoria just a few weeks later. It was only his second appearance for Gradjanski.

The first historical away international match of Gradjanski (today GNK Dinamo) took place in 1919 on a tour in Czechoslovakia, where they played in Prague, Brno, and Plzeň. In the first two matches, Gradjanski was narrowly defeated by Slavia in Prague and Židenice in Brno, but they managed to win in Plzeň, defeating the home team Česky Lev with by 5-2.

In their 107 years of existence, Viktoria Plzeň and Dinamo have played only two friendly matches, with a gap of seven decades between them. In 1937, Dinamo won 2-1, and Viktoria "returned the favor" in 2010, defeating Dinamo with the same score.

The first match between Dinamo and Viktoria occurred much later, on December 12, 1937, when Zagreb team, then known as Gradjanski, won 2-1 with goals from August Lešnik and Mirko Kokotović. Gradjanski had to play without their star player, Milan Antolković, while the main striker, Lešnik, only played in the second half. Gradjanski had the strong lineup: Glaser, Hügl, Cesarec, Cimermančić, Jazbinšek, Kokotović, Brozović, Chmelicek (Lešnik), Wöfl, Pogačnik, and Pleše. Rudolf Chmelicek, who was of German-Czech descent, played as a right midfielder at that time. Gradjanski were the reigning champions of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The day before, Viktoria had also played a friendly match against another Zagreb club, Concordia, and despite leading 3-0, the match ended in a 3-3 draw.

The next match between Dinamo and Viktoria occurred 73 years later. During the preseason in Langenfeld on June 27, 2010, the Czech team "returned the favor" for their ancient defeat, winning 2-1. However, Zagreb players had numerous chances in that match. Adrian Calello hit the crossbar, and Sammir hit the post. Viktoria scored the winning goal from a penalty kick in the 82nd minute, with Pavel Horvath as the scorer. Dinamo starting lineup included: Lončarić – Etto, Bišćan, Mesarić, Ibañez – Calello, Badelj; Sivonjić, Sammir, Morales – Šlepička. Players who came in as substitutes were Vidaković, D. Šimić, Ademi, Vrsaljko, Tomić, Kramarić, Antolić, and Chago.

Arijan Ademi, current GNK Dinamo captain (not eligible for the UECL group stage games this season), also played in the preseason game against Viktoria back in 2010. It was only his

third appearance for Dinamo after joining from Šibenik.

Three players in history have worn both Viktoria and Dinamo jerseys: Franjo Mara Wöfl and Svetozar Lala Džanić in the 1930s, and more recently, Czech Jan Lecjaks.

Former GNK Dinamo Academy player Marko Alvir also played for Viktoria.

Two players born in Plzeň have played in the Croatian First Football League (HNL): Jan Lecjaks and Petr Stoilov. Lecjaks came through Viktoria's youth system and played for the Plzeň team until 2010. His fellow Plzeň native, Petr Stoilov, played for Viktoria until 1997 before moving to Zadar. In addition to Lecjaks and Stoilov, four other players have played in both the HNL and for Viktoria during their careers: Siniša Rožman (Lokomotiva, Rudeš), Diego Živulić (Rijeka), Erik Janža (Osijek), and Sorin Colceag (Zagreb).

Several current players from both sides appeared in the two-legged games between Dinamo and Viktoria in the 2019 UEFA Europa League Round of 32. There were five current Dinamo players: Arijan Ademi, Bruno Petković, and Sadegh Moharrami appeared on the pitch, while Danijel Zagorac and Dino Perić were on the bench. On the other side, four current Viktoria players were involved in those matches: Ludek Pernica, Milan Havel, Tomáš Chory, and Radim Reznik. Lukaš Hejda was also with Viktoria at that time, but he was out of the squad due to an injury.

Two current players from both sides had a significant roles in the games between Dinamo and Viktoria in the 2019 UEL edition. Bruno Petković made an assist for the 1-0 lead in the first match in Plzeň that ended with Viktoria's 2-1 win. In the return leg Petković also made an assist for the 1-0 lead and later scored the final goal for the 3-0 win. Ludek Pernica scored twice for Viktoria in the first leg to overturn the score for the 2-1 win.

Dinamo defeated Slovakia's side Spartak Trnava 3-1 in the 2018/19 UEFA Europa League group stage game thus securing the knockout phase. Erik Jirka, a current Viktoria player, was in Spartak's lineup in that game.

Erik Jirka was part of the Slovak national team in both EURO qualifying games. In September 2021, Croatia beat Slovakia 1-0 in Bratislava, which was followed by a 2-2 draw in Osijek in October.

Matej Vydra was part of the Czech national team at the 2021 European Championship. The game between Croatia and the Czech Republic ended in a 1-1 draw in Glasgow, with Vydra watching the match from the bench.

Matej Vydra and former Dinamo goalkeeper Ivan Kelava played together for Udinese

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