

#MOTW



MEDIA

INFORMATION

MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2024/25

MOTW round 1: Aalborg Håndbold vs HBC Nantes

#MOTIW



AALBORG HÅNDBOLD (DEN) vs HBC NANTES (FRA)

Group B, round 1 | Wednesday 11 September 2024, 18:45 CEST

Playing hall:

Sparekassen Danmark Arena

Willy Brandts Vej 31

9220 Aalborg Ost, Denmark

Capacity: 5,020

Key facts:

- While Aalborg were finalists at the Truckscout24 EHF FINAL4 2024, HBC Nantes missed qualifying for the last EHF Champions League season – and failed in the EHF European League quarter-finals against eventual finalists Füchse Berlin. Their last CL season in 2022/23 ended in the play-offs, where OrLEN Wisła Płock eliminated them
- Aalborg play their ninth CL season (consecutively since 2019/20), Nantes have their sixth appearance
- Four Aalborg players became Olympic champions this summer: Niklas Landin, Simon Hald, Henrik Møllgaard and Thomas Arnoldsen. Slovenian Aleks Vlah was the second-best scorer at Paris and Lille and steered Slovenia to their first-ever Olympic semi-final
- For HBC, Spaniard Kauldi Odriozola was among the medallists and won bronze; Nicolas Tournat and Aymeric Minne were Nantes' French players at the Olympic Games
- It will be Aalborg's first international match after Mikkel Hansen ended his career, making it to the CL final and winning gold at the Olympic Games with the national team
- Swede Felix Möller (from Sävehof, who replaced his country-fellow Jesper Nielsen) and Portuguese Miguel Martins (from Szeged) were Aalborg's only two arrivals, in 2025, German Juri Knorr (All-star team player at the 2024 Olympics will follow)



- After five years – including two CL finals and three league trophies in Denmark, Aalborg replaced coach Stefan Madsen with German Maik Machulla, who had coached SG Flensburg-Handewitt until April 2023
- Machulla was assistant coach of Ljubomir Vranjes, when Flensburg won the CL in 2014
- Aalborg's two only CL winners are Niklas Landin and Lukas Nilsson, who both won the trophy with THW Kiel in 2020
- Two line players are the biggest names among Nantes' new arrivals: Slovenian Matej Gaber from Pick Szeged and French Nicolas Tournat, who returned to his former club from Kielce, exchanging clubs with Théo Monar. Besides, Nantes have to replace their extraordinary Icelandic goalkeeper Viktor Hallgrímsson (Wisła Płock/POL), Spanish veteran Jorge Maqueda (Kielce/POL) and Portuguese defence specialist Alexandre Cavalcanti (Melsungen/GER)
- Gaber will face his national teammate Vlah, one of the rare non-Scandinavian players in Aalborg's squad
- When Hansen finished his career at the EHF FINAL4 at Cologne, two young guns had already stepped in his footprints: Thomas Arnoldsen and Mads Hoxer were their best scorers in the victorious semi-final against dethroned 2023 champions SC Magdeburg (28:26) and in the final against Barça (30:31)
- In both participations at the EHF FINAL4 in 2022 and 2024, Aalborg made it to the final but lost twice against the same opponents: Barça
- Nantes made it twice to Cologne, reached the final in 2018 after beating PSG, but lost against Montpellier, and in 2021 when they lost the semi against Barça
- In 2013 and 2016, Nantes were finalists of the EHF Cup, both on home ground and lost against German clubs (Rhein-Neckar Löwen and Göppingen)
- Nantes' Spanish veteran Valero Rivera was the top scorer of the EHF Champions League in the 2020/21 season with 95 goals; his father is the most successful coach in the EHF Champions League with five trophies – even consecutive from 1996 to 2000, all with FC Barcelona
- Both sides duelled four times in the EHF Champions League (2020/21 and 2022/23), Nantes won three times, including the last match at Aalborg

Previous matches in European club competitions

14.10.2020	Aalborg Håndbold vs HBC Nantes, EHF Champions League – Group B	32:24 (16:9)
10.02.2021	HBC Nantes vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF Champions League – Group B	38:29 (18:14)
23.11.2022	Aalborg Håndbold vs HBC Nantes, Machineseeker EHF Champions League – Group B	32:35 (17:20)
01.12.2022	HBC Nantes vs Aalborg Håndbold, Machineseeker EHF Champions League – Group B	35:28 (18:12)

Aalborg Håndbold vs French clubs 5-0-10

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
2014/15	Dunkerque HB Grand Littoral	25:28	26:21	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D
2017/18	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	26:33	28:31	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2019/20	Paris Saint-Germain HB	29:32	24:37	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2020/21	HBC Nantes	32:24	29:38	EHF Champions League – Group B
2020/21	Paris Saint-Germain Handball		35:33a)	EHF FINAL4 – Semi-final
2021/22	Montpellier HB	36:28	33:31	EHF Champions League – Group A
2022/23	HBC Nantes	32:35	28:35	Machineseeker EHF Champions League – Group B
2023/24	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	30:32	30:33	Machineseeker EHF Champions League – Group A

a) Match played in Köln GER.

HBC Nantes vs Danish clubs 12-2-1

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
2012/13	Team Tvis Holstebro	26:20		EHF Cup – Final Tournament – Semi-final
2015/16	Team Tvis Holstebro	32:23a)	28:27	EHF Cup – Group B
2016/17	TTH Holstebro	31:26b)	35:25	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D
2017/18	Skjern Håndbold	33:27c)	27:27	VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2018/19	Skjern Håndbold	35:27	34:32	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2020/21	Aalborg Håndbold	38:29	24:32	EHF Champions League – Group B
2021/22	GOG	27:24	29:29d)	EHF European League – Group B
2022/23	Aalborg Håndbold	35:29	35:32	Machineseeker EHF Champions League – Group B

a) Match played in Rezé FRA.

b) Match played in Rezé FRA.

c) Match played in Rezé FRA.

d) Match played in Odense/Fyn DEN.

Most goals in one game for Aalborg Håndbold vs HBC Nantes

Sebastian Barthold	7	10.02.2021	HBC Nantes-Aalborg Håndbold	38:29
Sebastian Barthold	7	23.11.2022	Aalborg Håndbold-HBC Nantes	32:35
Magnus Saugstrup Jensen	6	14.10.2020	Aalborg Håndbold-HBC Nantes	32:24



Magnus Saugstrup Jensen	6	10.02.2021	HBC Nantes-Aalborg Håndbold	38:29
Mikkel Hansen	6	23.11.2022	Aalborg Håndbold-HBC Nantes	32:35

Most goals in one game for HBC Nantes vs Aalborg Håndbold

Valero Rivera Folch	8	23.11.2022	Aalborg Håndbold-HBC Nantes	32:35
Aymeric Minne	7	10.02.2021	HBC Nantes-Aalborg Håndbold	38:29
Valero Rivera Folch	7	10.02.2021	HBC Nantes-Aalborg Håndbold	38:29
Thibaud Briet	6	23.11.2022	Aalborg Håndbold-HBC Nantes	32:35
Alexandre Cavalcanti	6	23.11.2022	Aalborg Håndbold-HBC Nantes	32:35
Alexandre Cavalcanti	6	01.12.2022	HBC Nantes-Aalborg Håndbold	35:28

Players who played for both clubs in direct encounters

N/A

Current players who played in EC competitions for both clubs

N/A

Most games for Aalborg Håndbold vs HBC Nantes

Mikael Aggefors	4
Rene Antonsen	4
Sebastian Barthold	4
Simon Gade	4
Benjamin Jakobsen	4
Henrik Møllgaard Jensen	4
Lukas Sandell	4

Most goals for HBC Nantes vs Aalborg Håndbold

Sebastian Barthold	20
Magnus Saugstrup Jensen	12
Mikkel Hansen	10
Lukas Sandell	9
Felix Claar	8



Most games for Aalborg Håndbold vs HBC Nantes

Thibaud Briet	4
Baptiste Damatrin-Bertrand	4
Valero Rivera Folch	4
Théo Monar	3
Rok Ovnicek	3

Most goals for HBC Nantes vs Aalborg Håndbold

Valero Rivera Folch	19
Thibaud Briet	17
Alexandre Cavalcanti	12
Baptiste Damatrin-Bertrand	8
Rok Ovnicek	8

Details of the most recent direct encounter

1 December 2022 | Nantes, France

HBC Nantes vs Aalborg Håndbold (Machineseeker EHF Champions League – Group B) 35:28 (18:12)

Referees: Bojan Lah/David Sok (Slovenia)

Suspensions: 8' – 6' (Maqueda Peno 2', Toto 2', Odriozola Yeregui 4' – Sandell 2', Hoxer Hangaard 2', Møllgaard Jensen 2') Disqualification: Sandell.

Number of 7m: 2/2 – 7/5

Attendance: 5,902

HBC Nantes: Ivan Pesic, Viktor Hallgrímsson; Ruben Marchan Criado, Thibaud Briet (5), Lucas De La Breteche (2), Linus Persson (2), Valero Rivera Folch (4), Alexandre Cavalcanti (6), Alexander Shkurinskiy, Rok Ovnicek (2), Baptiste Damatrin (1), Pedro Portela (1), Jorge Maqueda Peno (4), Jérémy Toto (5), Théo Monar (1), Kauldi Odriozola Yeregui (2).

Aalborg Håndbold: Simon Gade, Mikael Aggefors; Benjamin Jakobsen (2), Aron Pálmársson (4), Victor Kløve, Sebastian Barthold (4), Felix Claar (3), Jesper Nielsen, Lukas Sandell, Mads Hoxer Hangaard (5), Kristian Bjørnsen (2), Andreas Flodman (4), Henrik Møllgaard Jensen, Rene Antonsen, Mikkel Hansen (4), Mikkel Ladefoged.



Last 10 matches in the Machineseecker EHF Champions League

Aalborg Håndbold: current run – lost one

09.06.2024	Köln GER	vs Barça ESP	L 30:31
08.06.2024	Köln GER	@ SC Magdeburg GER	W 26:28
01.05.2024	Aalborg DEN	vs Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	W 33:28
25.04.2024	Veszprém HUN	@ Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	L 32:31
06.03.2024	Aalborg DEN	vs Industria Kielce POL	D 35:35
28.02.2024	Bitola MKD	@ HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD	W 28:33
21.02.2024	Aalborg DEN	vs OTP Bank – PICK Szeged HUN	W 31:26
15.02.2024	Aalborg DEN	vs HC Zagreb CRO	W 32:22
07.12.2023	Aalborg DEN	vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	L 30:32
29.11.2023	Trondheim NOR	@ Kolstad Handball NOR	W 18:29

HBC Nantes: current run – winless four

29.03.2023	Nantes FRA	vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL	L 29:30
22.03.2023	Płock POL	@ Orlen Wisla Plock POL	D 32:32
01.03.2023	Szeged HUN	@ Pick Szeged HUN	D 28:28
23.02.2023	Nantes FRA	vs Lomza Industria Kielce POL	L 30:33
15.02.2023	Elverum NOR	@ Elverum Handball NOR	W 36:42
09.02.2023	Nantes FRA	vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško SLO	L 31:32
15.12.2022	Nantes FRA	vs Barça ESP	L 33:37
08.12.2022	Kiel GER	@ THW Kiel GER	L 37:33
01.12.2022	Nantes FRA	vs Aalborg Håndbold DEN	W 35:28
23.11.2022	Aalborg DEN	@ Aalborg Håndbold DEN	W 32:35

Player of the Match trophy awarded after each MOTW

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 Machineseecker EHF Champions League 2024/25 season.

The trophy will be handed over on court shortly after the match.

Awarded players in the 2024/25 season:

Round 1: ...



Aalborg Håndbold players' career statistics against HBC Nantes

Goalkeepers	NOC	GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Tobias Mark Bugge-Sørensen	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Carl Valdemar Ploug Kirkegaard	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Niklas Landin Jacobsen	DEN	4	2	1	1	0	0,00	0	0
Fabian Norsten	SWE	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Players	NOC	GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
René Antonsen	DEN	4	1	0	3	6	1,50	3	2'
Thomas Arnoldsen	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0
Sebastian Barthold	NOR	4	1	0	3	20	5,00	7 (2)	0
Kristian Bjørnsen	NOR	2	0	0	2	3	1,50	2	0
Simon Hald Jensen	DEN	2	1	1	0	7	3,50	4	2'
Mads Hoxer Hangaard	DEN	2	0	0	2	6	3,00	5	4'
Daniel Jensen	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Bjarki Jóhannsson	ISL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0
Buster Juul	DEN	1	1	0	0	3	3,00	3	0
Mads Krarup	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Martin Larsen	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Miguel Martins	POR	2	0	1	1	3	1,50	2	0
Felix Möller	SWE	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Hjalte Møller	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Henrik Møllgaard Jensen	DEN	7	2	1	4	6	0,86	3 (2)	6'
Marinus Munk	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Lukas Nilsson	SWE	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Jens Rasmussen	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Jack Thurin	SWE	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Mads Vestergaard	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0
Aleks Vlah	SLO	3	1	0	2	16	5,33	9	2'
Patrick Wiesmach	DEN	3	0	0	0	3	16	5,33	7 (2)

Simon Hald Jensen (SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2018/19); Niklas Landin Jacobsen (Rhein-Neckar Löwen 2012/13, THW Kiel 2020/21, THW Kiel 2022/23); Miguel Martins (Pick Szeged 2022/23); Henrik Møllgaard Jensen (Paris Saint-Germain Handball 2016/17, Paris Saint-Germain Handball 2017/18); Aleks Vlah (HC PPD Zagreb 2018/19 – DNP, HC PPD Zagreb 2020/21, RK Celje Pivovarna Laško 2022/23); Patrick Wiesmach (Team Tvis Holstebro 2012/13, Team Tvis Holstebro 2015/16)



HBC Nantes players' career statistics against Aalborg Håndbold

Goalkeepers	NOC	GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Ignacio Biosca García	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Leo Grenapin	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Ivan Pesic	CRO	5	3	1	1	0	0,00	0	0
Sirius Rambaud	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0

Players	NOC	GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM	
Ayoub Abdi	ALG	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Théo Avelange Demouge	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Jules Berriau	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Baptiste Bonnefond	FRA	2	0	0	2	9	4,50	8	4'	
Julien Bos	FRA	2	0	0	2	5	2,50	4	0	
Thibaud Briet	FRA	4	3	0	1	17	4,25	6	0	
Lucas De la Breteche	FRA	3	2	0	1	3	1,00	2	0	
Pierre-Alexis Favril	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Matej Gaber	SLO	7	2	1	4	3	0,43	2	10'	
Eloi Gnanhouan	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Edgar Gohier	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Mathys Lobgeois	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Marko Milosavljevic	SRB	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Aymeric Minne	FRA	1	1	0	0	7	7,00	7	0	
Salomon Nassequela	COD	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Leopold Noam	SUI	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Kauldi Odriozola Yeregui	ESP	2	2	0	0	4	2,00	2 (2)	6'	
Rok Ovnicsek	SLO	3	3	0	0	8	2,67	4	0	
Yoni Peyrabout	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Valero Rivera Folch	ESP	4	3	0	1	19	4,75	8	0	
Alban Simonnet	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	
Nicolas Tournat	FRA	3	2	0	1	7	2,33	4	4'	
André Wenkegeheu Tchambou Mouko	FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Shuichi Yoshida	JPN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	

Ignacio Biosca García (FC Barcelona 2013/14 – DNP); Baptiste Bonnefond (HC Meshkov Brest 2021/22); Julien Bos (Montpellier HB 2021/22); Matej Gaber (MOL-Pick Szeged 2019/20, Pick Szeged 2021/22, Pick Szeged 2022/23, OTP Bank – PICK Szeged 2023/24); Rok Ovnicsek (RK Gorenje Velenje 2013/14 – DNP); Ivan Pesic (HC Meshkov Brest 2017/18, HC Meshkov Brest 2021/22); Nicolas Tournat (Barlinek Industria Kielce 2022/23, Industria Kielce 2023/24)

European Handball Federation

Media & Communications Department
Hoffingergasse 18
1120 Vienna
Austria

+43 1 80 151 164
media@eurohandball.com
eurohandball.com