

HBC NANTES VS BARÇA

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Foreword EHF President

The last obstacle on the Road to Cologne!

Dear handball fans,

It is time to decide the Machineseeker EHF Champions League 2025/26 semi-finalists! An exciting season has flown by, and we find ourselves at the business end of the EHF's pinnacle club competitions. Only one obstacle blocks the Roads to Cologne, where the 2025/26 calendar will culminate.

The TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2026 will take place on 13 and 14 June in the iconic LANXESS arena, and the upcoming quarter-finals will determine the four participants.

The latest competition stage saw four thrilling two-leg play-offs, with One Veszprém HC, Sporting Clube de Portugal, OTP Bank - PICK Szeged and HBC Nantes the aggregate winners. The four are set to take on the top-ranked teams from the group phase in the quarter-finals: Defending title holders SC Magdeburg, 2024/25 finalists Füchse Berlin, 2023/24 finalists Aalborg Håndbold and 2024 trophy winners Barça.

Veszprém continue their quest for a first EHF Champions League title, having enjoyed a clear aggregate win over Paris Saint-Germain in the play-offs. The Hungarian powerhouse will take on Füchse Berlin in the quarter-finals, after being knocked out by another German side, Magdeburg, in this stage last season.

Sporting aim to progress from the EHF Champions League quarter-finals for the first time ever when they meet Aalborg. It is only Sporting's second time in the quarter-finals of the top-flight competition, while Aalborg made it to this stage in four of the previous five seasons. Sporting were the only quarter-finalists to lose one of their play-off games, but still knocked out an in-form Orlen Wisla Plock with a three-goal win on aggregate.

Szeged also eliminated a Polish team with a three-goal aggregate victory, beating Industria Kielce in the first leg then drawing in the second. Now Szeged, hoping to pass the quarter-finals for the first time, face the mighty title holders Magdeburg, who target their fourth straight EHF FINAL4 appearance.

Nantes are to play Barça in a rematch of last season's 3/4 placement match, when the French side pulled off a stunning match in Cologne to clinch third – their second-best ranking ever. HBC beat GOG clearly on aggregate, but by just one goal in the first leg before a commanding victory at home clinched their quarter-final berth.

The stage is certainly set for four thrilling quarter-final ties, and eight exciting matches, as the Road to Cologne continues! Best of luck to all participating teams.

Yours in sport,

Michael Wiederer
EHF President



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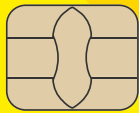


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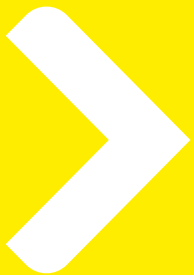
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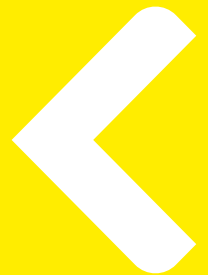
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WHO WILL LIFT THE TROPHY NEXT?

13/14 June
LANXESS arena, Cologne



TRUCKSCOUT24
EHF FINAL4 2026



HBC NANTES

Grégory COJEAN (Coach) – Dimitri FLEURANCE (Assistant coach)



#	NAME	SURNAME	YEAR	HEIGHT (CM)	WEIGHT (KG)	POS.	NATIONALITY	SELECTION
1	PEŠIĆ	Ivan	1989	194	114	GK	Croatia	Croatia
2	LAGARDE	Romain	1997	194	98	LB	France	France
3	BRIET	Thibaud	1999	205	105	RB	France	France
4	MINNE	Aymeric	1997	187	87	CB	France	France
5	YOSHIDA	Shuichi	2001	193	110	LP	Japan	Japan
6	TARRAFETA	Ian	1999	188	88	CB	Spain	Spain
7	RIVERA©	Valero	1985	186	86	LW	Spain	Spain
8	NYATEU	O'Brian	1992	188	99	CB	France	
9	AVELANGE-DEMOUGE	Théo	1996	183	79	RW	France	
10	OVNIČEK	Rok	1995	183	88	CB	Slovenia	Slovenia
11	TOURNAT	Nicolas	1994	200	116	LP	France	France
13	BOS	Julien	1998	188	84	RB	France	France
15	GABER	Matej	1991	198	124	LP	Slovenia	Slovenia
16	BIOSCA	Ignacio	1995	193	100	GK	Spain	Spain
17	LEOPOLD	Noam	2002	186	86	LW	Switzerland	Switzerland
18	ABDI	Ayoub	1997	197	98	RW	Algeria	Algeria
19	ODRIOZOLA	Kauldi	1997	182	90	RW	Spain	Spain



BARÇA

Antonio ORTEGA (Coach) – Konstantin IGROPULO, Tomas SVENSSON (Assistant coach)



#	NAME	SURNAME	YEAR	HEIGHT (CM)	WEIGHT (KG)	POS.	NATIONALITY	SELECTION
1	HALLGRÍMSSON	Viktor	2000	204	120	GK	Iceland	Iceland
3	BAZÁN	Antonio	1996	195	104	LP	Spain	Spain
6	FERNÁNDEZ	Daniel	2001	180	73	LW	Spain	Spain
9	CARLSBOGARD	Jonathan	1995	195	98	LB	Sweden	Sweden
10	MEM	Dika	1997	194	109	RB	France	France
11	CIKUSA	Djordje	2005	192	90	RB	Spain	Spain
12	NIELSEN	Emil	1997	195	125	GK	Denmark	Denmark
18	JANC	Blaz	1996	186	88	RW	Slovenia	Slovenia
19	N'GUESSAN	Timothy	1992	196	110	LB	France	
20	GÓMEZ	Aleix	1997	183	82	RW	Spain	Spain
27	GRAU	Oscar	2004	188	99	LP	Spain	
35	MAKUC	Domen	2000	188	93	CB	Slovenia	Slovenia
40	ORTEGA	Manuel	2005	182	78	LW	Spain	
45	YEHIA	Seif	1998	187	91	CB	Egypt	Egypt
72	FABREGAS	Ludovic	1996	198	104	LP	France	France
82	SOUSA	Luis	1998	194	117	LP	Portugal	Portugal
83	BARRUFET	Ian	2004	198	91	LW	Spain	Spain
88	CIKUSA	Petar	2005	195	81	CB	Spain	Spain

REFEREES JORUM, LARS / KLEVEN, HAVARD

DELEGATE KONECNY, JIRI / VAN DER HELM, FERDINAND

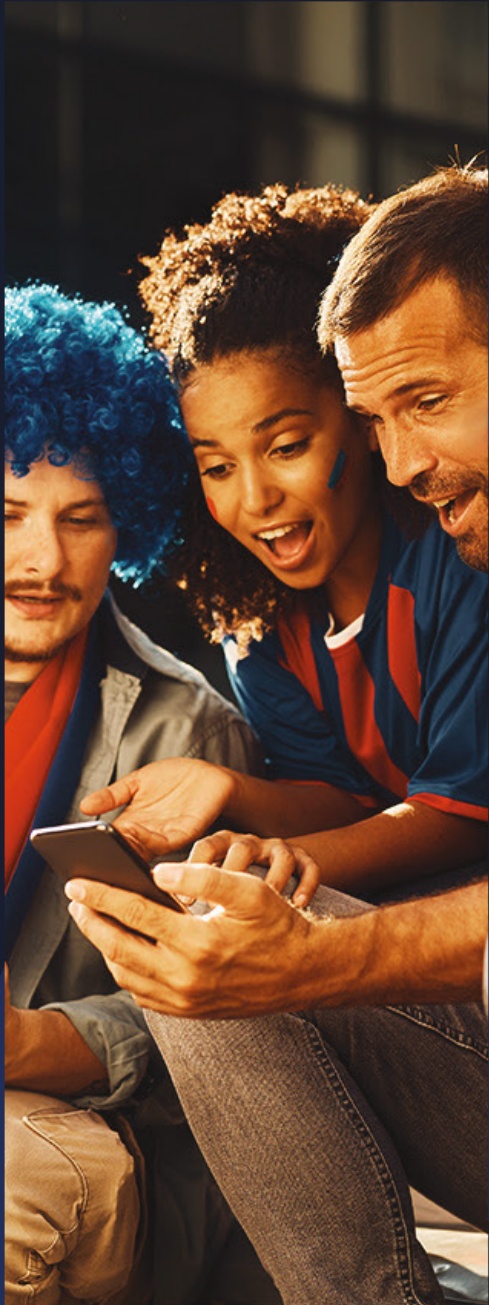


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