

(((WATCH LIVE!))) Ajax vs Jagiellonia Bialystok live free 29 August 2024

8 min ago - With one foot already in the Europa League group phase, Ajax aim to confirm their place via the playoffs, as they reconvene with Jagiellonia Bialystok on Thursday.



The Dutch giants hold a three-goal lead before kickoff at Johan Crujff Arena, despite trailing early on in last week's first leg. Shocked by conceding a fifth-minute goal in Poland last Thursday, Ajax responded in the best possible style, scoring twice before half time and taking control of the first leg.

Chuba Akpom went on to complete a hat-trick during the second half at Stadion Miejski, resulting in a comprehensive 4-1 away win for the Amsterdam club, who had already come through two rounds to reach the playoffs.

It took a dramatic 34-kick penalty shootout to overcome Panathinaikos, having previously seen off Vojvodina in the second qualifying round, when a 4-1 aggregate victory saw them start a new season with four straight wins for the first time in two decades.

New coach Francesco Farioli arrived after a dismal 2023-24 campaign, in which the four-time champions of Europe finished 35 points adrift of Eredivisie champions PSV Eindhoven and were briefly embroiled in the relegation zone.

The highly-rated Italian seems to be settling in well, though his team did lose their most recent league fixture, going down 2-1 away to NAC Breda.

Having benefited from a weekend off to aid their European ambitions, Ajax - who lost in the Conference League's last 16 last term - will now expect to book their place in UEFA's new-look Europa League. The prize of eight group games in Europe's second-tier tournament seems to have slipped from Jagiellonia's grasp, though it seemed a very different story when they seized the lead last week, through an early strike from Adrian Dieguez.

Barring an improbable comeback in the Netherlands, last season's Ekstraklasa winners will now have to settle for a spot in the Conference League.

After being crowned Polish champions for the very first time, Jaga started this summer's continental campaign in Champions League qualifying, where they cruised past Panevezys in the second round before falling to a 5-1 aggregate defeat against Norway's Bodo/Glimt.

Adrian Siemieniec's side had previously started their domestic title defence by posting three wins from three, but that setback in Europe kicked off a streak of five straight defeats across all competitions.

Including a 3-1 defeat to GKS Katowice in their most recent league fixture, Jagiellonia have shipped some 16 goals during that run, so their priority on Thursday will be keeping the back door shut.