

((WATCH LIVE!)) Beşiktaş vs Lugano live free 29 August 2024

1 min ago - After last week's six-goal first-leg thriller in Switzerland, Besiktas and Lugano square off at the Tupras Stadium in Istanbul for the second leg of their Europa League playoff tie on Thursday.



The winners of this two-legged tie will qualify to the newly-expanded 36-team Europa League, while the losers will drop down into the Europa Conference League. After winning each of their opening three competitive games of the new season by an aggregate score of 11-2, Besiktas let a two-goal lead slip to draw 3-3 in an entertaining first-leg contest with Lugano last week.

Both sides entered half time with the scores level at 1-1 before the second half began in electric fashion, with three goals scored in the space of just six minutes. Gedson Fernandes netted his second goal of the match shortly before Al-Musrati gave Besiktas a two-goal cushion in the 55th minute.

However, Lugano immediately responded and pulled one back just seconds after the restart through Renato Steffen, before an own goal from Gabriel Paulista restored parity for the Swiss visitors just after the hour mark, keeping the tie nicely poised ahead of Thursday's second leg.

Besiktas boss Giovanni van Bronckhorst has suggested that a dry pitch prevented his team from implementing their desired gameplan and believes that a "different game" on a "better pitch" in front of their home supporters will be on show in the second leg.

The Black Eagles, who won the Turkish Cup last season and were also eliminated in the Conference League group stage, are bidding to qualify for the Europa League proper for the first time since 2019-20.

Like Besiktas, Lugano were not in domestic action last weekend, so they will have had a full seven days to rest and prepare for Thursday's second leg in Istanbul.

The Bianconeri finished second in the Swiss Super League last season and began the 2024-25 campaign by winning five, drawing two and losing three of their first 10 competitive matches, failing to win any of their three matches in European qualifiers.

Indeed, Lugano have already suffered European heartache to Turkish opposition this season, as they were beaten 6-4 on aggregate to Fenerbahce in the Champions League second qualifying round at the end of last month.

Mattia Croci-Torti is tasked with steering his side to a memorable victory in Turkey, with his Lugano side seeking to progress to the main stage of the Europa League for just the third time in their history and for the first time in five years.