

#MOTW



# MEDIA INFORMATION

MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2024/25

MOTW round 4: Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold



## BARÇA (ESP) vs AALBORG HÅNDBOLD (DEN)

Group B, round 4 | Thursday 10 October 2024, 20:45 CEST

### Playing hall:

Palau Blaugrana

Av. Aristides Maillol, s/n

08028 Barcelona, Spain

Capacity: 7,585

### Key facts:

- This MOTW pairing has been the EHF Champions League final twice: in 2021 and 2024.
- Barça won both times – as they have done in all 12 duels with Aalborg Håndbold so far.
- Aalborg's squad includes two EHF Champions League winners – both with THW Kiel in 2020: Niklas Landin and Lukas Nilsson; however, both players will miss the MOTW due to injuries.
- Barça's triumph in 2024 made Carlos Ortega the man with the most EHF Champions League titles in history – eight: six as a player, two as a coach.
- Ortega worked as coach in Denmark for one season, at KIF Kolding in 2016/17.
- Aalborg coach Maik Machulla was assistant coach at SG Flensburg-Handewitt when they famously beat Barça in the 2013/14 semi-final and went on to win the title.
- Later as Flensburg head coach, though, Machulla lost all four duels with Barça.
- Barça are the only team in group B with the maximum of six points after three matches; Aalborg are third in the group with three points.
- Two greats of the game have played for both clubs: Aron Pálmarsson and Mikkel Hansen, though the latter never played against Aalborg during his Barça time (2010-12).
- Pálmarsson currently plays for FH Hafnarfjörður in the EHF European League; Hansen retired from the game after winning gold with Denmark at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- Aalborg players Niklas Landin, Simon Hald, Henrik Møllgaard, and Thomas Arnoldsen, as well as Barça goalkeeper Emil Nielsen were also part of the golden Danish team at the Olympics.
- Melvyn Richardson is the leading scorer for Barça this season with 16 goals; Thomas Arnoldsen and Sebastian Barthold have both netted 13 times for Aalborg.
- On eurohandball.com: [MOTW page](#) | [group phase standings](#) | [match schedule](#)



## Previous matches in European club competitions

### Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold 12-0-0 (413:317) 24:0

23.03.2014	Aalborg Handball vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	22:29 (13:15)
29.03.2014	FC Barcelona vs Aalborg Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	31:20 (16:11)
15.03.2015	Aalborg Handball vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	11:31 (5:16)
22.03.2015	FC Barcelona vs Aalborg Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	29:22 (14:9)
10.11.2019	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:34 (14:15)
16.11.2019	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	44:35 (22:17)
29.10.2020	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF Champions League – Group B	42:33 (20:18)
02.12.2020	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça, EHF Champions League – Group B	32:35 (15:19)
13.06.2021	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF FINAL4 – Final	36:23 (16:11)
26.10.2022	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça, Machineseeker EHF Champions League – Group B	33:39 (19:19)
08.12.2022	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold, Machineseeker EHF Champions League – Group B	32:26 (15:16)
09.06.2024	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça, TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 – Final	30:31 (15:15)

## Barça vs Danish clubs 38-4-3

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
1980/81	KFUM Aarhus	26:16	18:18	Champions Cup – Last 16
1985/86	Hellerup IK	24:19	18:21	Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16
1992/93	GOG Gudme	27:13	22:21	Champions Cup – Quarter-finals
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1994/95	GOG Gudme	26:22	31:24	Cup Winners' Cup – Final
1995/96	GOG Gudme	35:23	22:22	EHF Champions League – Group B
1997/98	Kolding IF		37:26	ECh for Club Teams – Semi-finals
1997/98	Virum Sorgenfri	30:23	25:21	EHF Champions League – Group C
2007/08	GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme	29:24	33:35	EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4
2008/09	GOG Svendborg TGI	36:27	35:29	EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4
2009/10	KIF Kolding	46:36	25:25	EHF Champions League – Group D
2011/12	AG København	36:33	23:29	VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-finals
2012/13	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg	26:24	32:26	VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16
2013/14	Aalborg Handball	31:20	29:22	VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16
2014/15	KIF Kolding København	33:27	27:27	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2014/15	Aalborg Handball	29:22	31:11	VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16
2015/16	KIF Kolding København	28:25	36:28	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2016/17	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg	34:19	27:23	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2019/20	Aalborg Håndbold	44:35	34:30	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A



2020/21	Aalborg Håndbold	42:33	35:32	EHF Champions League – Group B
2020/21	Aalborg Håndbold		36:23	EHF FINAL4 – Final
2022/23	Aalborg Håndbold	32:26	39:33	Machineseeker EHF Champions League – Group B
2022/23	GOG	36:31	37:30	Machineseeker EHF CL – Quarter-finals
2023/24	GOG	38:30	30:23	Machineseeker EHF Champions League – Group B
2023/24	Aalborg Håndbold		31:30	TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 – Final

## Aalborg Håndbold vs Spanish clubs 1-1-14

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
2013/14	Naturhouse La Rioja	28:24	23:25	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D
2013/14	FC Barcelona	22:29	20:31	VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16
2014/15	FC Barcelona	11:31	22:29	VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16
2015/16	Fraikin BM. Granollers	25:31	24:24	EHF Cup – Group A
2019/20	Barça	30:34	35:44	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A
2020/21	Barça	32:35	33:42	EHF Champions League – Group B
2020/21	Barça		23:36	EHF FINAL4 – Final
2022/23	Barça	33:39	26:32	EHF Champions League – Group B
2023/24	Barça		30:31	TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 – Final

## Most goals in one game for Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold

Aleix Gómez	11	26.10.2022	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça	33:39
Aleix Gómez	9	10.11.2019	Aalborg Handbold vs Barça	30:34
Aleix Gómez	9	16.11.2019	Barça vs Aalborg Handbold	44:35
Aleix Gómez	9	13.06.2021	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold	36:23
Dika Mem	9	08.12.2022	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold	32:26

## Most goals in one game for Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça

Nikolaj Læsø	10	02.12.2020	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça	32:35
Lukas Sandell	8	13.06.2021	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold	36:23
Lukas Sandell	8	26.10.2022	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça	33:39
Mikkel Hansen	8	09.06.2024	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça	30:31
Morten Slundt	6	23.03.2014	Aalborg Handball vs FC Barcelona	22:29
Magnus Saugstrup	6	10.11.2019	Aalborg Handbold vs Barça	30:34
Magnus Saugstrup	6	16.11.2019	Barça vs Aalborg Handbold	44:35
Nikolaj Læsø	6	29.10.2020	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold	42:33
Felix Claar	6	08.12.2022	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold	32:26
Thomas Arnoldsen	6	09.06.2024	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça	30:31
Mads Hoxer	6	09.06.2024	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça	30:31



## Players who played for both clubs in direct encounters

Aron Pálmarrsson      7 matches, 26 goals      w/Barça 5/19 (2019-2021); w/Aalborg Håndbold 2/7 (2022)

## Current players who played in EHF competitions for both clubs

N/A

## Most games for Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold

Aitor Ariño	10
Gonzalo Perez de Vargas	10
Raul Entrerrios	9
Cedric Sorhaindo	9
Aleix Gómez	8
Thiagus Petrus	8
Timothey N'guessan	8

## Most goals for Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold

Aleix Gómez	44
Dika Mem	37
Timothey N'guessan	35
Luka Cindric	26
Ludovic Fabregas	19
Aron Pálmarrsson	19
Cedric Sorhaindo	19
Victor Tomas	19



## Most games for Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça

Buster Juul	10
Henrik Møllgaard	8
René Antonsen	7
Sebastian Barthold	7
Benjamin Jakobsen	7
Magnus Saugstrup	7

## Most goals for Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça

Sebastian Barthold	22
Buster Juul	21
Nikolaj Læsø	20
Lukas Sandell	20
Magnus Saugstrup	19

## Details of the most recent direct encounter

**9 June 2024 | Cologne, Germany:**

**Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça (TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 – Final) 30:31 (15:15)**

**Referees:** Slave Nikolov/Gjorgji Nachevski (North Macedonia).

**Suspensions:** 6' – 6' (Hald 2', Larsen 2', Vlah 2' – Mem 4', Petrus 2').

**Number of 7m:** 5/5 – 5/4.

**Attendance:** 19,750.

**Aalborg Håndbold:** Niklas Landin, Fabian Norsten; Lukas Nilsson (1), Patrick Wiesmach, Sebastian Barthold (2), Thomas Arnoldsen (6), Jesper Nielsen, Simon Hald, Mads Hoxer (6), Martin Larsen, Aleks Vlah (2), Kristian Bjørnsen (4), Henrik Møllgaard, Rene Antonsen (1), Buster Juul, Mikkel Hansen (8).

**Barça:** Gonzalo Perez de Vargas, Emil Nielsen; Jonathan Carlsbogard (2), Dika Mem (7), Aitor Ariño, Hampus Wanne (1), Blaz Janc (2), Timothee N'guessan (6), Aleix Gómez (2), Thiagus Petrus, Domen Makuc, Haniel Langaro, Melvyn Richardson (8), Luis Frade (2), Petar Cikusa i Jelcic (1), Javier Rodríguez.



## Last 10 matches in the Machineseecker EHF Champions League

### Barça: current run – won seven

25.09.2024	Kielce POL	@ Industria Kielce POL	W 28:32
19.09.2024	Barcelona ESP	vs OTP Bank - PICK Szeged HUN	W 31:30
11.09.2024	Trondheim NOR	@ Kolstad Håndbold DEN	W 30:35
09.06.2024	Cologne GER	@ Aalborg Håndbold DEN	W 30:31
08.06.2024	Cologne GER	vs THW Kiel GER	W 30:18
02.05.2024	Barcelona ESP	vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	W 32:31
25.04.2024	Paris FRA	@ Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	W 22:30
07.03.2024	Barcelona ESP	vs Montpellier HB FRA	L 34:37
29.02.2024	Magdeburg GER	@ SC Magdeburg GER	L 29:28
22.02.2024	Barcelona ESP	vs FC Porto POR	W 40:33

### Aalborg Håndbold: current run – winless two

25.09.2024	Aalborg DEN	vs SC Magdeburg GER	D 33:33
18.09.2024	Zagreb CRO	@ HC Zagreb CRO	L 31:23
11.09.2024	Aalborg DEN	vs HBC Nantes FRA	W 38:31
09.06.2024	Cologne GER	vs Barça ESP	L 30:31
08.06.2024	Cologne 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

## 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: Thomas Arnoldsen (Aalborg Håndbold)

Round 2: Ignacio Biosca (HBC Nantes)

Round 3: Andreas Palicka (Paris Saint-Germain Handball)

Round 4: ...



## Barça players' career statistics against Aalborg Håndbold

<b>Goalkeepers</b>	<b>NOC</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>PIM</b>
Emil Nielsen	DEN	5	4	0	1	1	0,20	1	0
Gonzalo Perez de Vargas	ESP	10	10	0	0	5	0,50	3	0
Filip Saric	BIH	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
<b>Players</b>	<b>NOC</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>PIM</b>
Aitor Ariño	ESP	10	10	0	0	16	1,60	4 (2)	2'
Antonio Bazan	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Jan Blas Clos	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Jonathan Carlsbogard	SWE	3	3	0	0	2	0,67	2	0
Petar Cikusa I Jelcic	ESP	1	1	0	0	1	1,00	1	0
Luis Frade	POR	5	5	0	0	12	2,40	4	0
Aleix Gómez	ESP	8	8	0	0	44	5,50	11	0
Thiagus Petrus	BRA	10	9	0	1	6	0,60	2 (2)	6'
Oscar Grau	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Blaz Janc	SLO	8	8	0	0	20	2,50	6	0
Domen Makuc	SLO	9	6	0	3	8	0,89	3	0
Dika Mem	FRA	7	7	0	0	37	5,29	9	8'
Timothy N'guessan	FRA	8	8	0	0	35	4,38	6 (3)	2'
Manuel Ortega	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Juan Palomino	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Melvyn Richardson	FRA	3	3	0	0	9	3,00	8	0
Javier Rodríguez	ESP	1	1	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Pol Valera Rovira	ESP	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Hampus Wanne	SWE	9	8	0	1	25	2,78	6	6'

*Thiagus Petrus (Naturhouse La Rioja 2013/14); Blaz Janc (PGE Vive Kielce 2017/18);  
Domen Makuc (RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko 2017/18, RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko 2019/20);  
Emil Nielsen (HBC Nantes 2020/21); Hampus Wanne (SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2013/14,  
SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2017/18, SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2019/20 – DNP,  
SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2020/21).*



## Aalborg Håndbold players' career statistics Barça

<b>Goalkeepers</b>	<b>NOC</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>PIM</b>
Tobias Bugge-Sørensen	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Anton Hellberg	SWE	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Carl Kirkegaard	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Niklas Landin	DEN	19	5	2	12	0	0,00	0	0
Fabian Norsten	SWE	1	0	0	1	0	0,00	0	0
<b>Players</b>	<b>NOC</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>PIM</b>
René Antonsen	DEN	7	0	0	7	14	2,00	4 (2)	10'
Thomas Arnoldsen	DEN	1	0	0	1	6	6,00	6	0
Sebastian Barthold	NOR	7	0	0	7	22	3,14	5 (2)	0
Kristian Bjørnsen	NOR	5	0	0	5	23	4,60	11	0
Simon Hald	DEN	9	0	0	9	5	0,56	2 (2)	14'
Mads Hoxer	DEN	3	0	0	3	14	4,67	6	0
Daniel Jensen	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Bjarki Jóhannsson	ISL	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Buster Juul	DEN	10	0	0	10	21	2,10	5 (2)	4'
Mads Krarup	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Martin Larsen	DEN	3	0	0	3	4	1,33	3	4'
Miguel Martins	POR	2	0	0	2	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	DEN	10	1	0	9	12	1,20	4	10'
Marinus Munk	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Lukas Nilsson	SWE	5	1	1	3	8	1,60	2 (3)	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	0,00	0	0
Aleks Vlah	SLO	6	0	0	6	21	3,50	7	2'
Patrick Wiesmach	DEN	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0 4'

*Kristian Bjørnsen (IFK Kristianstad 2015/16); Simon Hald (SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2019/20 – DNP, SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2021/22); Niklas Landin (GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme 2007/08, GOG Svendborg TGI 2008/09, Rhein-Neckar Löwen 2013/14, THW Kiel 2015/16, THW Kiel 2016/17, THW Kiel 2020/21, THW Kiel 2021/22, THW Kiel 2022/23); Miguel Martins (Pick Szeged 2022/23); Henrik Møllgaard (Paris Saint-Germain Handball 2016/17); Lukas Nilsson (THW Kiel 2016/17); Aleks Vlah (HC PPD Zagreb 2019/20, HC PPD Zagreb 2020/21, RK Celje Pivovarna Laško 2022/23).*

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