

Miracles in handball?

The first leg of the Men's EHF Champions League gave answers for some of the questions. The 14-goal victory of Kiel put the North Germans in a very comfortable position before travelling to Mannheim. Very few experts would place bets on Löwen's Final now...

At the same time, Ciudad Real won the first game in Hamburg. This is, once again, a very good starting point for the Spanish title holders that showed a brilliant performance in Germany.



With these two results last weekend, you could say that Hamburg and Löwen both need a miracle to qualify. However, it is easy to see the difference between the two "miracles".

No matter how, Löwen's coach Wolfgang Schwenke is proud of the achievement of his club during the entire season. Below you can read what he thinks about ending the competition on a positive note by paying Kiel back.

Just as last season, the game in Ciudad Real will surely stage one more epic clash between the two clubs.

Whether a miracle will happen or not, you can watch it on TV. Find the coverage times in the weekly Champions League Newsletter together with a preview to the Final Draw scheduled for next Tuesday.

THU 30.04.2009
19:00 GMT+2, Mannheim GER
2008/09 EHF Champions League, Men - 1/2 Final
 **Rhein-Neckar Löwen**
VS
THW Kiel 

SAT 02.05.2009
19:00 GMT+2, Ciudad Real ESP
2008/09 EHF Champions League, Men - 1/2 Final
 **BM Ciudad Real**
VS
HSV Hamburg 

EHFCL.COM REPORTS

Visit the official EHF Champions League website, ehfCL.com, for daily news updates, interviews and stories coming from an expert network of European handball journalists.

No handbrake in Mannheim

Kiel winger, Dominik Klein, talks about the return game on Thursday.

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Historic success

Though Löwen have only slight chance for the Final, this has been the most successful season for the club ever. Coach Wolfgang Schwenke talks about his experience in the CL.

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Enough time to prepare


Viborg secured their place in the Danish Final and now they must only focus on the Gyor games.

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COMING UP

Men's semi-finals, 2nd leg

 **30.04.2009 19:00 – Mannheim**
Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER) vs THW Kiel (GER)

 **02.05.2009 19:00 – Ciudad Real**
BM Ciudad Real (ESP) vs HSV Hamburg (GER)

All times are shown in local times.

For the latest coverage times and possible changes, please check ehfCL.com.

CHAMPIONS ON TV

THURSDAY, 30.04.2009

 Rhein-Neckar Löwen
vs
 THW Kiel
Live » ehfTV.com
Live » Eurosport 2
Live » Eurosport German
Live » A2 Television
Live » SPORTKLUB
Live » Cyprus Sports Channel
Live » Sport1 Lithuania
Live » NTV Plus Sport ONLINE

19:00

SATURDAY, 02.05.2009

 BM Ciudad Real
vs
 HSV Hamburg
Live » TV2 Sport
Live » Teledeporte
Live » ehfTV.com
Live » A2 Television
Live » SPORTKLUB
Live » Cyprus Sports Channel
Live » Eurosport German
Live » NTV Plus Sport
Delayed » Sport + on Sunday at 12:30
Delayed » Eurosport 2 on Sunday at 23:00

19:00



The determination of Jogi Bitter will be needed in Spain

FINAL DRAW

The draw for the European Cup and EHF Champions League Final is scheduled to take place on 5 May 2009 at 11:00hrs in the EHF Headquarters, Vienna. However, it is possible that a draw will not be needed to determine the home and away rights for the 2008/09 Men's EHF Champions League Final.

Home and away rights

The 2008/09 Men's Champions League Regulation includes a particular point dealing with the matter (chapter II, point 2.9):

2.9 Home right in the final

A team that had the home right in the second game of its last appearance in a Champions League final will automatically have the home right at the first leg at its next appearance in a Champions League final by considering the order of the years.

For the Champions League finals of the 2008/09 season, the seasons 2007/08 (BM Ciudad Real vs THW Kiel), 2006/07 (SG Flensburg vs THW Kiel) and 2005/06 (Portland San Antonio vs Ciudad Real) are taken into consideration in this respect in this particular order.

The home right shall be drawn by lot in all cases, in which the home right is not defined after having put into practice this regulation point.



Possible finals in practice:

- HSV Hamburg and Rhein-Neckar Löwen → **draw**
- THW Kiel vs HSV Hamburg → **no draw**
Kiel has the home right at the first leg (May 23/24) and HSV has the home right at the second leg (May 30/31)
- THW Kiel vs BM Ciudad Real → **no draw**
Kiel has the home right at the first leg (May 23/24) and Ciudad Real has the home right at the second leg (May 30/31)
- BM Ciudad Real and Rhein-Neckar Löwen → **no draw**
Ciudad Real has the home right at the first leg (May 23/24) and RN Löwen has the home right at the second leg (May 30/31)