Champions League Semi-Final Preview: PSG Host Bayern, Arsenal Travel To Atletico In Madrid

Description

default watermark

The **Champions League semi-final first legs** arrive on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, and Singapore football fans are looking at two of the most loaded ties European football could ask for at this stage. **Paris Saint-Germain host Bayern Munich** at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday 28 April 2026, while **Atletico Madrid welcome Arsenal** to the Riyadh Air Metropolitano on Wednesday 29 April 2026. Reigning champions PSG, treble-chasing Bayern, defending Premier League leaders Arsenal and a Diego Simeone Atletico side at home in the Madrid heat â?? this is a midweek European football fans will not want to miss.

PSG vs Bayern Munich: Tuesday 28 April, Parc des Princes

Reigning Champions League winners **Paris Saint-Germain** host treble-hunting **Bayern Munich** in the most anticipated semi-final tie of the round. Kick-off is at 20:00 BST (03:00 SGT Wednesday morning), giving Singapore fans a 3am alarm or a very long Tuesday night.

This is a re-run of one of European footballâ??s defining modern rivalries. Bayern have won each of their last five Champions League meetings against PSG â?? the longest active winning run any side has put together against the French giants in major European competition. PSG, however, are at home, are the defending European champions, and have been ruthless in this seasonâ??s knockout stage. They have scored two or more goals in **each of their last eight Champions League knockout-stage matches**, the joint-longest run in competition history alongside Luis Enriqueâ??s own Barcelona side from 2015 to 2016.

PSGâ??s 2025/26 Champions League campaign continues with a Bayern Munich first leg in Paris. Image: Paris Saint-Germain official website (psg.fr).

Team news from Paris

Luis Enrique has welcome news on the fitness front. **Nuno Mendes** and **Desire Doue** were both substituted in PSGâ??s 2-0 win at Anfield earlier in the campaign but are available again. **Fabian Ruiz** has returned from a two-month layoff and adds another senior midfield option. There is some doubt over **Vitinha**, who is still working through a heel issue and may be managed carefully.

The expected PSG line-up reads: Safonov; Hakimi, Marquinhos, Pacho, Mendes; Ruiz, Zaire-Emery, Neves; Doue, Dembele, Kvaratskhelia. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Ousmane Dembele on the flanks

remains the kind of attacking pair that decides Champions League semi-finals.

Bayern carry their own swagger

Vincent Kompanyâ??s side have already wrapped up the Bundesliga title, smashing the record for most goals in a single Bundesliga season with 113 from 31 matches, and remain in the German Cup final. Bayern are arguably the in-form team in Europe right now.

Harry Kane already has 12 Champions League goals this season, the most by an English player in a single European Cup or Champions League campaign. **Michael Olise**, **Jamal Musiala** and **Luis Diaz** in support give Bayern arguably the deepest forward unit in the competition.

The catch is the bench. **Kompany has been suspended** for the first leg after picking up a yellow card against Real Madrid, and will watch from the stands in Paris. **Serge Gnabry**, **Sven Ulreich** and **Tom Bischof** are missing, but the spine remains intact: Neuer; Stanisic, Upamecano, Tah, Laimer; Pavlovic, Kimmich; Olise, Musiala, Diaz; Kane.

default watermark

Atletico Madrid vs Arsenal: Wednesday 29 April, Riyadh Air Metropolitano

Wednesday night brings the other half of the bracket. **Atletico Madrid host Arsenal** at the Riyadh Air Metropolitano, kick-off 20:00 BST (03:00 SGT Thursday). Arsenal return to Madrid as the Premier League leaders on 73 points, while Atletico arrive with momentum from a 3-2 home win over Athletic Club, in which **Antoine Griezmann** scored and **Alexander Sorloth** grabbed a brace.

Arsenalâ??s Champions League semi-final dates have been confirmed: Atletico away on 29 April, Emirates return leg on 5 May. Image: Arsenal FC official website (arsenal.com).

The October memory will not save Arsenal

Arsenal will arrive in Madrid with one piece of statistical confidence. The two clubs met for the first time in their history in the Champions League league phase in October 2025, and Mikel Artetaâ??s side won 4-0 in north London, with **Viktor Gyokeres**, **Gabriel**, and **Gabriel Martinelli** on the scoresheet.

However, semi-finals tighten up dramatically. Atletico at home are a different proposition. The Metropolitano under floodlights, with Diego Simeone working the touchline, is the kind of European venue that has historically punished elegant football and rewarded directness, set-piece quality and

persistence. Arsenal have improved both physically and tactically over the season, but a four-goal win in October will mean nothing once the first leg starts.

Atleticoâ??s key men

Julian Alvarez is the headline attacker, supported by Griezmann, Sorloth and **Marcos Llorente**. The injury picture is light: **Pablo Barrios** is the only confirmed absentee. Simeone has options, an in-form striker rotation, and a stadium that traditionally wraps tight around opposition midfielders.

Arsenalâ??s big questions

Arsenalâ??s spine is well known: David Raya in goal, William Saliba and Gabriel in central defence, Declan Rice anchoring the midfield, Martin Odegaard creating, Bukayo Saka driving from the right, Gabriel Martinelli on the left, Viktor Gyokeres leading the line. The fitness flag is over **Kai Havertz**, who left Arsenalâ??s win over Newcastle with what Mikel Arteta described as a â??muscular niggleâ?•.

default watermark

If Havertz is unavailable, Arsenal lose a player who has become important for pressing structure and physical presence in the final third. Even with him, breaking down a low Atletico block in the Metropolitano will require patience and strong individual moments from Saka and Odegaard.

Second-leg dates and the road to Budapest

The second legs follow the next week: **Bayern Munich host PSG** at the Allianz Arena on Wednesday 6 May, while **Arsenal host Atletico Madrid** at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday 5 May 2026. The Champions League final is set for **Saturday 30 May 2026 at the Puskas Arena** in Budapest.

How to watch in Singapore

Both first legs kick off at 03:00 SGT (the morning after the European date), which is the standard semi-final slot for Singapore-based viewers. Expect plenty of late nights and early mornings across the next eight days.

LBRD prediction round-up

Tuesday in Paris feels like a high-scoring draw given both teamsâ?? attacking depth, with Kompany suspended in the stands and Vitinha potentially below full sharpness. **PSG 2-2 Bayern** would set up an explosive return at the Allianz Arena.

Wednesday in Madrid points towards a tighter, lower-scoring leg. Atletico at home will not give up four again, and Arsenal will accept anything that keeps the tie open for the Emirates. **Atletico Madrid 1-1 Arsenal** looks like the cautious call, with both head coaches happy to take the result back to north London.

For more from this Champions League run, see our quarter-final recap and semi-final draw piece, our Arsenal Sporting CP and Bayern Real Madrid preview, and the full LBRD Sports section.

Date Created

28/04/2026
Author
jadeyeo

default watermark