



PSG Retain The Champions League: Holders Down Arsenal On Penalties In Budapest

Description

Paris Saint-Germain have retained the **PSG Champions League final 2026** trophy in the most dramatic fashion, edging Arsenal 4-3 on penalties after a riveting 1-1 draw at the Puskás Aréna in Budapest on 30 May 2026. It is the second consecutive European crown for Luis Enrique's side and one that will live long in the memory of every football supporter who witnessed it.

Havertz Strikes Early, Dembélé Levels From The Spot

For all the tactical analysis that dominated the build-up [the team news and lineup debates that consumed football all week](#) it was a moment of individual brilliance that opened the scoring. Kai Havertz, the German forward who had already scored in the Champions League final with Chelsea in 2021, found the back of the net inside the opening minutes to give Mikel Arteta's men the lead. The noise inside the Puskás Aréna was extraordinary: Arsenal's travelling red army in full cry, 18,000 PSG supporters stunned into silence.

Luis Enrique's team, though, are not built to panic. They reorganised methodically, pressing higher and winning the territorial battle as the half wore on. The equaliser arrived on 62 minutes, and it carried Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's fingerprints all over it. The Georgian winger arguably PSG's player of the tournament with ten Champions League goals this season drove into the Arsenal box and was hauled down. Ousmane Dembélé stepped forward, sent David Raya the wrong way, and the stadium erupted. At 1-1, the final was perfectly poised.



Source: Paris Saint-Germain official website (psg.fr)

Extra Time Drama And Gabriel's Heartbreaking Miss

Ninety minutes were not enough. Extra time produced chances at both ends – Arsenal had shouts for a penalty of their own, and Gonçalo Ramos twice tested Raya at close range – but neither side could find a winner. The penalty shootout that followed was as tight and nervy as any in recent Champions League memory.

Ramos converted first for PSG. Arsenal responded. Doucoure stepped up and slotted home to make it 2-1 to PSG. Then came the swing point: Eberechi Eze – excellent throughout Arsenal's Premier League title-winning campaign – missed wide. PSG could not fully capitalise when Nuno Mendes saw his effort saved brilliantly by Raya, and Declan Rice tucked home to level at 2-2 on penalties. Achraf Hakimi then held his nerve to restore PSG's lead at 3-2. An Arsenal reply made it 3-3. Then Lucas Beraldo – 22 years old, composed beyond his years – placed his kick firmly into the corner. Four from five for PSG.

Up stepped Gabriel Magalhães. The Brazilian centre-back had been immense all evening – perhaps Arsenal's best player on the night – but under the crushing weight of the moment, he sent his effort blazing high over the crossbar. The Puskás Arena exploded in red and blue. Paris Saint-Germain had done it again.



Source: Paris Saint-Germain official website (psg.fr)

PSG Champions League Final 2026: A Dynasty In Full Bloom

Captain Marquinhos making a record-equalling 122nd European appearance for the club raised the trophy aloft as gold confetti and fireworks cascaded around him. It was PSG's 60th trophy since their founding, and their fifth consecutive Ligue 1 title alongside back-to-back European crowns confirms a dominance French football has never seen before.

The numbers behind this campaign are staggering. PSG scored 45 goals across their Champions League campaign, averaging 2.8 per match a tally only equalled by FC Barcelona in 1999-2000. With an average age of 24 years and 221 days, they are the third-youngest side ever to lift the trophy. Four players registered five or more Champions League goals each Kvaratskhelia (10), Dembélé (8), Vitorinha (6) and Doucoure (5) a competition record. Under Luis Enrique, now the most decorated manager in PSG's history with 12 trophies, these Rouge et Bleu look unstoppable.

For Arsenal, the pain will be immense. They arrived in Budapest as Premier League champions and genuine contenders, and they ran a two-time European champion desperately close. Havertz gave them the lead. Raya was superb in the shootout. But the trophy stays in Paris. For all European football coverage and the latest sports action, visit the [Little Big Red Dot Sports section](#). And revisit our [pre-final countdown piece](#) to see how this remarkable evening was set up.

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