

Manchester United Takes On Atletico Madrid

By Ndodana Nleya

Their last encounter in a UEFA championship earlier in the year saw Atletico Madrid emerge superior against their opponents. Manchester United are looking forward to avenging that painful loss.

Atletico hasn't been actively involved in the pre-season matches and they have only played one match against Numancia. However, their form in their last match showed that they are now a polished side. The way they demolished the Segunda Division outfit brought so much hope to their faithful supporters.

Manchester United played four games with three of those being emphatic wins and one game against Aston Villa ended in a stalemate. Their form so far has lifted Erik Ten Hag's profile ahead of the 2023 premiership start.

The match against Atletico will be a test of Ten Hag's tactical resilience and character in the Red Devils' hot seat. A full house is expected at the Ullevaal Stadion which has a capacity of 28,000.

The Dutch manager has signed some promising additions to the Red Devils and Christian Eriksen is already on the score sheet. He scored a beautiful free kick against Wrexham.

Another new signing, Lisandro Martinez played a full game against Wrexham where he showed signs of brilliance combining with Varane.

Atletico Madrid finished third last season in La Liga. Diego Simeone brought in Antione Griezmann from Barcelona after severing ties with the temperamental character of Luis Suarez.

Griezmann was not clinical against Numancia when he missed a couple of chances.

Atletico confused some soccer pundits with their formations in a game against Numancia. They played a 5-3-2 formation in the first half, the one they have employed in the past two years. However, in the second half, Simeone resorted to the 4-4-2 formation.

The second-half formation reminded Atletico fans of the 2018/19 formation that brought some slick and incisive footballing display. Rodrigo Riquelme was aggressive on the left wing while Marcos Llorente found more space on the right.

Meanwhile, Anthony Martial and Jadon Sancho appear to have stamped their authority in the attack for Man United. Martial has been in great form and he has scored in almost every

pre-season match played so far. Sancho has shown some valuable touches, especially with the way he drilled in Luke Shaw's cross against Wrexham.

Erik Ten Hag will likely opt for the 4-3-3 formation given their opponent's unpredictable structure, shape, and counter-attacking tendencies.

Predicted Line Ups

Manchester United: (Gk) de Gea, (Dfs) Dalot, Martinez, Maguire, Shaw, (Mfs) Mctominay, Fernandes, Fred, (Fws) Sancho, Rashford, Martial.

Atletico Madrid: (GK) OBlak, (Dfs) Savic, Hersono, Reinildo, Llorente, Witsel, (Mfs) Koke, Saul, Lodi, (Fws) Cunha, Griezmann.

Predicted Scoreline: Manchester United: 2; Atletico Madrid: 2

Judging by the historical clashes involving these two football teams, this encounter is set to produce a thriller. Manchester United is already in the pick after playing four games and is now being inspired by their results, Diego Simeone's side will not give it easily to their opponents, despite playing a few games in pre-season matches, a draw will be an ideal result.