

EUROPA LEAGUE

REVIEW

New Saints get better of Red Imps, while Dundalk draw

The New Saints take a 2-1 lead to Gibraltar after beating Lincoln Red Imps at Oswestry.

Dean Ebbe's sixth-minute goal for the hosts was cancelled out by Joseph Chipolina only for Blaine Hudson's 83rd-minute strike to give the Welsh champions the advantage.

League of Ireland side Dundalk face a tricky task in Cyprus next week after a goalless home draw to AEK Larnaca.

Crusaders battled bravely before eventually succumbing 5-1 to Olimpija Ljubljana in Slovenia.

Kingsley Boateng put the home side ahead on 30 minutes. Matic Crnic curled in Ljubljana's second on 56 minutes and Boateng netted his second on 68.

Crusaders responded with Jordan Forsythe's deflected effort but Crnic and Haris Kadric completed the scoring.

Dundalk and AEK Larnaca played out a scoreless draw in the first leg of their Europa League second qualifying round tie at Oriel Park in what was a cagey encounter.

A draw was perhaps a fair result considering neither goalkeeper was ever really tested, but Dundalk will be quietly confident heading into the return leg in Cyprus next week.

Bundesliga club RB Leipzig have one foot in the third qualifying round after a convincing 4-0 win over Swedish side BK Hacken.

Bruma, Matheus Cunha and Kevin Kampl put them 3-0 up inside 50 minutes and, even after the sending-off of Stefan Ilsanker, they were still able to add another through Jean-Kevin Augustin.

Slovenian's Maribor, Liverpool's Champions League opponents last season, were held to a goalless draw at Georgian side Chikhura Sachkhere.

Results and fixtures

PLAYED YESTERDAY Uefa Europa League Second Qualifying Round First Leg:

Aberdeen 1 Burnley 1
Olimpija Ljubljana 5 Crusaders 1
The New Saints FC 2 Lincoln Red Imps 1
Hibernian 3 Asteras Tripoli 2
Dundalk 0 AEK Larnaca 0
Osijek 0 Rangers 1



Hibernian's Florian Kamperi wheels away to celebrate his late winner against Asteras Tripolis. Picture: SNS.

Stoppage-time winner caps fightback by Hibs

Neil Lennon's side battle back from poor start against Asteras Tripolis

WILL JACKSON

HIBERNIAN 3 ASTERAS TRIPOLIS 2

Florian Kamperi capped a memorable night at Easter Road as Hibernian came from two goals down to win 3-2 in stoppage time against Asteras Tripolis.

The striker scored in added time to cap a brilliant second-half fightback from Neil Lennon's side, whose Europa League hopes looked dead and buried at the break.

Georgios Kyriakopoulos hit a first-half brace to leave Hibs facing a premature exit in the second round of qualifying, but an inspired second-half comeback was capped by goals from Efe Ambrose and David Gray to restore parity.

After the visitors had Triantafyllos Pasalidis dismissed, Kamperi completed the turnaround as the clock ticked past 90 minutes, poking the ball into the net at the far post to give the hosts a dramatic win and the upper hand in the tie.

Hibs struggled defensively when beating Runavik 12-5 on aggregate in the first round last week, and those frailties were again laid bare in the first period.

They enjoyed moments of their own, with John McGinn and Steven Whittaker

going close, but only had themselves to blame after going behind.

It was a well-worked move down the left that did it for Asteras, with Michalis Manias and Kyriakopoulos exchanging passes before the full-back hit a fierce drive at goal.

It appeared to catch Adam Bogdan off-guard and the ball somehow made its way through him at the near post, but he had no chance with the second.

Again it came down the Hibs right, and again it was Kyriakopoulos with the goal but this time it was a brilliant hit, slicing across the ball to send it swerving away from Bogdan and in off the post from 25 yards on the angle.

It meant the Greek side had a two-goal lead going into the break, and Hibs with seemingly little chance of clawing it back.

The players responded brilliantly after the break, however.

They came flying out of the blocks with Martin Boyle leading the way, whipping the crowd into a frenzy before seeing a low drive beaten away by the goalkeeper.

Lennon's change to bring Gray on at right-back and move Vyikintas Slivka into a more familiar position in the middle of the pitch paid off, and Hibs dominated the second half.



Efe Ambrose pulls a goal back for Neil Lennon's men.

The visitors gradually dropped deeper inside their own half and once the first goal came, there was no doubt about a second.

It was Ambrose who sparked the comeback, thundering a header off the bar before scrambling it in, before Gray lashed in to pull the sides level.

Asteras tried desperately to slow the game down but their cynical play eventually came unstuck as Pasalidis was sent off for a second yellow card with five minutes to play.

The Hibs pressure continued to mount and they got their winner after Boyle's shot was saved but Kamperi poked in to spark wild celebrations and give the hosts a one-goal lead to take into the second leg in Greece.

Hibernian – Bogdan, Whittaker (Gray 45), Hanlon (Porteous 90+4), Boyle, Slivka, McGinn, Stevenson, Mallan, Ambrose, McGregor, Kamperi. Subs not used – Bartley, Swanson, Laidlaw, Martin, Shaw.

Asteras Tripolis – Athanasiadis, Pasalidis, Bellocq (Rolle 55), Triantafyllopoulos, Manias, Iglesias, Tsilianidis (Christopoulos 86), Kyriakopoulos, Munafo Horta, Kotsiras, Kaltsas (Martinez 77).

Referee – Andreas Ekberg, Sweden.