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RC Lens, commonly referred to as Les Sang et Or, is a French professional football club based in the northern city of Lens, Pas-de-Calais. The team competes in Ligue 1, having won the Division 1 title in the 199798 season and finishing runner-up five times, most recently in the 202223 season. They have a strong rivalry with Lille OSC, contesting the Derby du Nord. Established in 1906 by local students, the club was originally named after popular clubs Racing Club de France. The team's first board of directors was formed by the parents of those students. Initially playing in green and black to represent their founding location, they changed home grounds twice before settling at the Parc des Glissoires. During World War I, the club's activities were halted until 1919. In the 1920s, they adopted red and gold as their colours, reportedly due to a colleague's comment about the Saint-Lger church ruins or as a reference to the local coal mines. Briquet, now known as Lo Lagrange, made its debut in new colours with a match at the stadium inauguration. In 1926, British footballer Kid Fenton became the first star to play for Lens, staying for eight seasons and earning popularity among fans. This year also saw the formation of the first supporters group and Lens' first Championnat d'Artois title. By 1929, Lens won the North championship and promoted to Division d'Honneur with clubs Olympique Lillois, RC Roubaix, Excelsior Athltic Club de Roubaix, and AC Amiens. Lens continued to grow in prestige through the Artois League until 1932, when it inaugurated Stade Flix Bollaert. In 1937, Lens gained access to the first division after finishing first in the second division, led by players like Stefan Dembicki and Spechtl. The team even reached the Coupe de France last 16 but was eliminated by Red Star. In 1943, Lens won the Northern Zone's first division thanks to Dembicki's 43 goals in 30 games. A year earlier, he scored 17 goals in a single competitive match, still a world record. Following World War II, Lens finished sixth in the 1945-46 season but was relegated the following year. In 1948, the club played its first Coupe de France final, losing to Lille. The next year, Lens promoted to the first division and recruited Maryan Wisnieski, who quit due to board issues. In 1962, the city's mines closed, threatening the club's future as most players were miners by profession. Between 1956 and 1968, survival was tough. In 1964, Lens finished third with Ahmed Oudjani scoring 30 goals. Georges Lech joined the team, but it was relegated in 1968. The mine administrators rescinded their ownership of Lens, ending professional football at Stade Bollaert-Delelis. Lens became an amateur club, facing a bleak future. However, better days came in 1960 when the town council supported the club's survival. With mayor Andr Delelis and future president Jean Bondoux, volunteers and subscriptions helped the club survive. The city recovered ownership of the stadium from the closing mine industry. Over the next twenty years, the club saw steady improvement. Lens' history from 1972 to 2002 was marked by several key moments of success and setbacks. The club's rise began in 1972 when it reached the semi-finals of the Coupe de France, with the addition of two Polish players helping secure promotion to the top division. In 1975, Lens narrowly missed out on winning the title after losing to Saint-tienne, but this setback didn't deter them from progressing further in European competitions. The club continued its steady ascent, eventually qualifying for the UEFA Cup and knocking out strong teams like Malm FF and Lazio. However, their run was short-lived as they were eliminated by 1. FC Magdeburg in the next round. This early exit led to a brief stint in the second division, but Lens rebounded quickly, earning promotion back to the top tier with Roger Lemerre at the helm. The 1980s saw Grard Houllier and Joachim Marx take the reins, bringing further success to the club despite losing key players. In 1991, Arnaud Dos Santos led Lens back to the first division, and the team's fortunes continued to rise with a strong squad that qualified for the UEFA Cup twice in a row.Lens' most notable achievement came under Daniel Leclercq in 1998, where they won their first major title as French champions. The following year, they secured the Coupe de la Ligue against Metz and had a remarkable run in the UEFA Champions League, beating Arsenal at Wembley Stadium but ultimately being eliminated. After Leclercq's departure, Lens continued to perform well under Jol Muller, finishing second in the 2001-02 season. Despite these successes, the club faced challenges, including setbacks in European competitions and a brief stint back in the second division, only to bounce back stronger than before. The club secured qualification for its second Champions League campaign, but subsequently finished eighth in the UEFA Cup during his tenure. The team's performance fluctuated over the next few seasons, with Guy Roux taking over briefly before resigning. Jean-Pierre Papin took charge, but Lens ultimately finished 18th and was relegated to Ligue 2, finishing as leaders during the first half of the season before struggling in the second half. Despite this, they managed to secure promotion back to Ligue 1 after the 2010-11 season. However, they dropped down again to Ligue 2 and spent several seasons trying to regain their top-flight status. In 2014, Lens sealed promotion back to Ligue 1 on the final day of the season, but this was later blocked by the DNCG due to irregularities in the club's proposed budget. The issue centered around a 10 million payment from major shareholder Hafiz Mammadov that was missing from the accounts. After multiple appeals and a recommendation from the CNSOF, Lens was eventually allowed to play in Ligue 1 for the 2014-15 season. Due to renovations at their home stadium, Lens played several matches at the Stade de la Licorne and Stade de France during this period. However, on January 29, 2015, it was announced that Lens' promotion from Ligue 2 for the following season. As a result, Lens returned to Ligue 2 in August 2015. Despite this setback, the club drew an average home attendance of 28,996 during the 2016-17 season. Lens had a tumultuous last day of the season in Ligue 2, missing promotion to Ligue 1 despite being the top team at the time. The club struggled early on in the 2017-18 season, losing their first seven matches and setting a new low for worst start to a season. However, they managed to turn things around and finish 5th in the table the following season. Lens finally earned promotion to Ligue 1 in 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the seasons of both leagues to be ended early. In their first season, Lens had a strong start, winning all 10 of their home matches in the first half of the season. They also became the first team to defeat Paris Saint-Germain, which had been unbeaten since the start of the season. Lens finished the season. Lens finished the season. Lens finished the season. Lens finished the season as runners-up and qualified for the Champions League for the third time in their history. The club has a rich history of success, having won several domestic cups and league titles. They have also had success in European competitions, reaching the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup once.RC Lens player list with nationalities RC Lens player list w home stadium is the Stade Nord, which has a seating capacity of 39,376 spectators. President and staffThe president of RC Lens is Joseph Oughourlian. The CEO of the club is Arnaud Pouille. ric Sikora serves as the chief instructor, while Gregory Thil is the sports coordinator. Will Still is the manager, with Edward Still serving as his assistant. Nicolas Still also assists as an assistant manager. Herv Sekli coaches goalkeeping, and Vincent Lannoy handles conditioning. Other staff: Aymen Djedidi serves as a scout. Patrick Barul works in scouting. Didier Snac is also involved with scouting. Grgory Thil acts as an assistant to the manager. Alaeddine Yahia functions as a sports scientist.- Ghislain Dubois serves as the club doctor.- Dr. Eric Furmaniak heads the physiotherapists.- Aurlien Latour works as a physiotherapist, alongside Florian Dupre and Julien Kunsztowicz, who also assist in this role.- Philippe Darques is part of the staff, working with the team. Former coaches RC Lens has had several former coaches, including Grard Houllier and Roger Lemerre. Other former coaches include Jack Harris, Robert De Veen, Jack Galbraith, Raymond Franois, Jzsef Eisenhoffer, Richard Buisson, Georges Beaucourt, Anton Marek, Nicolas Hibst, Ludvic Dupal, Flix Witkowski, Karel Michlowski, Jules Bigot, lie Fruchart, Arnold Sowinski, Jean Serafin, Joachim Marx, Jean Parisseaux, Philippe Redon, Marcel Husson, Arnaud Dos Santos, Patrice Bergues, Slavoljub Muslin, Daniel Leclercq, Francis Gillot, Guy Roux, Jean-Pierre Papin, Jean-Guy Wallemme, Lszl Blni, Jean-Louis Garcia, and ric Sikora. A French football institution found themselves at the bottom of Lique 2 on September 12th, 2017. The same day, Vachoux's blunders were criticized as Dijon secured a spot in Lique 1. Later that year, Paris St-Germain was awarded the French title due to an early season finish. In June 2021, the complete review of the Lique 1 season, "It's the Adam and Erics 2021!" revealed some impressive stats. The following year, Lens secured a spot in Champions League after defeating Ajaccio on May 27th, 2023. In 1896, the sports club SV Victoria 96 Magdeburg was founded. Initially, it experienced its best times before World War II, reaching the German championship finals multiple times. After the war, clubs in the Soviet Occupation Zone were dissolved, and smaller teams emerged. In 1945, players from two disbanded clubs formed Sportgruppe Sudenburg. The team went through several name changes, becoming BSG Stahl Magdeburg and eventually BSG Motor Mitte Magdeburg. In the mid-1950s, the football department was moved to SC Aufbau Magdeburg due to a political decision. However, in 1965, it was separated from the club again to form a pure football team, 1. FC Magdeburg achieved significant success in the early 1960s, winning the FDGB-Pokal in 1964 and becoming the first East German club to play internationally. Although they were eliminated from the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup by West Ham United, 1. FC Magdeburg continued to grow under new management, eventually returning to prominence in the late 1960s. With their third FDGB-Pokal win in 1969, the team established itself among the top clubs in East German football. The golden era of East German football. The golden era of East German football was marked by the dominance of 1. FC Magdeburg and SG Dynamo Dresden during the 1970s. Under Heinz Krgel's management, Magdeburg produced nine international players between 1969 and 1974, including four who participated in the 1974 FIFA World Cup. The team won its first East German championship in 1972 with the youngest squad ever, attracting an average of 22,231 spectators per game that season. In the following year, Magdeburg finished third again, while their European campaign ended in the second round of the European Cup after a 0-2 aggregate loss to Juventus. The home leg drew an impressive attendance of 50,000 spectators. Despite this setback, Magdeburg went on to win its fourth FDGB-Pokal title with a 3-2 victory over 1. FC Lokomotive Leipzig. The 1973-74 season is considered the most successful in Magdeburg's history, as they won their second East German championship and defeated AC Milan 2-0 in the Cup Winners' Cup. Magdeburg defended its Oberliga title in the next season, topping its record attendance once more with an average of 22,923 spectators. However, they were unable to participate in the European Super Cup due to scheduling conflicts or political motivations. In 1976, Heinz Krgel was relieved of his duties as manager due to falling out of favor with the SED cadres. His successor, Klaus Urbanczyk, took over the team and led it to several top-four finishes throughout the remainder of the decade. Magdeburg also experienced success in the FGDB-Pokal, winning the competition twice in 1978 and 1979 against Dynamo Dresden and BFC Dynamo.In the late 1970s, Magdeburg faced some of Europe's top teams in various competitions. In the 1976-77 UEFA Cup, they were eliminated by eventual winner Juventus in the quarterfinals. The following season, they defeated FC Schalke 04 4-2 and 3-1, becoming the only team to beat them at their home stadium in a European competition.1. FC Magdeburg's Quest for Glory Continues Despite Quarter-Final ExitFC Magdeburg faced another guarter-final exit, with PSV Eindhoven securing the winning goal in the final seconds of the match. The team's struggles in the league since the 1970s have had a significant impact on attendance figures. Prior to their seventh FDGB-Pokal title in 1983, 1. FC Magdeburg's average attendances dropped from over 18,000 spectators per game to just 13,000. The club's return to prominence brought increased fan support, with approximately 25,000 supporters attending the match against FC Karl-Marx-Stadt, a record that still stands today. However, 1. FC Magdeburg's position among the top clubs in East Germany weakened over time, with BFC Dynamo, Dynamo Dresden, and Lok Leipzig emerging as stronger contenders. Qualifying for the UEFA Cup became their primary goal during this period, although they often struggled to progress beyond the early rounds against renowned teams like AC Torino and Borussia Mnchengladbach. The 15 home defeat to Barcelona, featuring Diego Maradona, marked a turning point for the club, highlighting their inability to compete with European elite. Attendances continued to decline from the mid-1980s, reaching around 10,000 spectators per game. Despite some brief moments of success, including competing for the championship in the 198990 season and finishing third, 1. FC Magdeburg struggled to regain their footing in top-flight football. Grave management mistakes led to a decline in performance, ultimately resulting in relegation to the Second Bundesliga in 1990. The team's inability to replace key players and managers, such as Joachim Streich and Dirk Schuster, further hindered their progress. In the 199192 season, they managed to stay competitive with 1. FC Union Berlin but ultimately finished second, narrowly missing out on promotion to the Second Bundesliga. In the following seasons, Magdeburg's performances continued to be inconsistent, although they did win the Saxony-Anhalt Cup in 1992, securing a spot in the DFB-Pokal. Their subsequent matches against Bayer 04 Leverkusen and Wuppertaler SV showcased their resilience, with a dramatic penalty shootout victory over the latter team. Magdeburg's football history is marked by ups and downs since its first stint in the top tier. Despite failing to qualify for promotion, the team has shown resilience and determination. In 1993-94, Magdeburg narrowly missed out on qualification after finishing seventh. However, they continued to compete in lower divisions, eventually winning promotion back to the Regionalliga Nordost in 2001. That season was a resounding success, with Magdeburg dominating their league and reaching the quarterfinals of the DFB-Pokal. The team's performances were impressive, scoring over 120 goals and outscoring their opponents by a significant margin. Despite this success, financial struggles plagued the club, forcing them to raise 5 million DM in a short span. A fan-driven donation campaign helped cover part of the shortfall, but the club still required additional funding from banks. In 2002, Magdeburg's financial woes led to receivership, resulting in relegation to tier IV. The team was forced to rely on young players and reserves for the next season, finishing tenth in Oberliga Nordost-Sd. However, this setback did not deter the club, which began a slow but steady reconstruction process under new management. In 2004, the city of Magdeburg announced plans to build a new stadium, forcing the team to temporarily relocate to the smaller Heinrich Germer Stadium. Magdeburg announced plans to build a new stadium, forcing the team to temporarily relocate to the smaller Heinrich Germer Stadium. Magdeburg announced plans to build a new stadium, forcing the team to temporarily relocate to the smaller Heinrich Germer Stadium. time. The team's new stadium increased attendance, but they ultimately finished 11th. The club missed out on promotion to 3rd Liga in the next season after a poor first half of the campaign. However, with manager Paul Linz, Magdeburg secured a qualifying spot just two games from the end. Magdeburg's managerial turmoil continued beyond the 2011-12 season, with Detlef Ullrich taking over in March and Carsten Mller serving as interim manager before Ronny Thielemann and Andreas Petersen came on board. Despite Petersen's initial success, including a Landespokal win, his contract was not renewed after two seasons. Jens Hrtel succeeded him, signing a two-year deal and guiding the club to qualification for the DFB-Pokal and a second-place finish in the league. A revamped squad with players like Silvio Bankert and Marcel Schlosser helped Magdeburg secure promotion to the 3. Liga after winning the Regionalliga Nordost. The team's subsequent performances included finishing fourth in their inaugural season, qualifying for the DFB-Pokal, and ultimately achieving promotion back to 2. Bundesliga by topping the league in 2017-18. However, their stint in the second tier was short-lived, as they were relegated back to the 3. Liga in 2019. After a challenging return to the third division, Christian Titz took over and led Magdeburg to an 11th-place finish before the team's fortunes improved under his guidance. They eventually reclaimed their spot in the 2. Bundesliga by winning the 2021-22 3. Liga season.1. FC Magdeburg's 2023-24 season saw the club reach the DFB-Pokal last 16. The stadium, opened in December 2006, has a seating capacity of 25,000 and is fully covered. It is common for stadiums in Germany to have standing room that can be converted to seats.MDCC-Arena was the stadium's name before it was renamed Avnet Arena prior to the 2024-25 season. The club traditionally has a large number of supporters, with thousands attending important matches or derbies. 1. FC Magdeburg has fan rivalries with Hallescher FC and Dynamo Dresden. The rivalry with Hallescher FC centers on being no. 1 in Saxony-Anhalt. The rivalry with Dynamo Dresden dates back to the 1970s when both clubs formed the elite of East German football. Magdeburg fans have friendly relations with fans of Polish team Hutnik Krakw and Welsh club Wrexham AFC. UEFA Cup Winners: 1973-74 DDR-Oberliga Winners: 1971-72, 1973-74, 1974-75Runners-up: 1976-77, 1977-78 DDR-Liga (II) Winners: 1966-67 Runners-up: 1954-55, 1959DDR-Liga (III) Winners: 2017-18, 2021-22FDGB-Pokal Winners: 1963-64, 1964-65, 1968-69, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1977 leagues, including the NOFV-Oberliga Sd and the Saxony-Anhalt Cup. The team has also had success in the Regionalliga Nordost, winning the title in 2014-15. The club has a strong tradition of developing young players, with many notable alumni including Jrgen Sparwasser, who scored a goal against West Germany in the 1974 FIFA World Cup. Other famous players include Martin Hoffmann, Irgen Pommerenke, and Joachim Streich. As of 2025, the team is coached by Christian Titz, with assistant managers Andreas Schumacher and Silvio Bankert. The club's athletic coach is Andr Kilian, and their goalkeeping coach is Matthias Tischer. The team has a strong squad, with players such as Dominik Reimann, Samuel Loric, Patric Pfeiffer, and Bryan Teixeira. They also have a number of young players on loan from other clubs, including Augsburg and Sturm Graz.1. FC Magdeburg has had several head coaches since its founding in 1970. The team's history includes numerous European competitions, such as the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and the European Champions Cup. Some notable head coaches include Klaus Urbanczyk, who led the team from 1985 to 1990. The team has also had several caretakers, including Carsten Mller and Ruud Kaiser. The club's U19 team is currently coached by Olympic gold medalist Martin Hoffmann and competes in the U19 Bundesliga. Talents from the youth teams have made it to the men's team on a regular basis. Today, more than 200 players compete in the various youth teams at the club. The only exceptions are the U19 and U17 teams, which play in their respective top divisions. Some notable results of the team include: *A quarterfinal appearance in the European Champions Cup against FC Bayern Munich* Quarterfinal appearances in the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup* Group stage appearances in the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup Winners' Cup team from former East Germany to win a national title in unified Germany, taking home the U19 DFB-Pokal trophy. The club has a strong youth setup, with 27 coaches overseeing various teams and offering accommodation for some young players. Magdeburg also partners with local schools and medical institutions to identify and develop talent. The team's junior championships are impressive, with wins in the East German Junior Championship (1963-65, 1970, and 1989) and the East German Youth Championship, winning a record-breaking seven titles. In addition to these junior championships, Magdeburg has won several other youth tournaments, including the U19 DFB-Pokal in 1999 and the U17 NOFV Cup twice (2000 and 2005).1. FC Magdeburg e. V., a German sports club, has a rich history dating back to 1994. The team's stadium, MDCC-Arena, was renamed due to sponsorship agreements with MDCC in 2009. Since then, the team has continued to participate in various competitions, including the third division of German football. As per official records, 1. FC Magdeburg has achieved several milestones, including winning the Cup seven times, as reported by Berliner Zeitung on June 6, 1983. The club also has a strong fan base, with multiple fan clubs affiliated to it. The team's coaching staff and medical team play a crucial role in the players' performance and overall website provides updates on the team's progress and upcoming matches. References: 1. Official website provides updates on the team's progress and upcoming matches. References: 1. Official website provides updates on the team's progress and upcoming matches. References: 1. Official website provides updates on the team's progress and upcoming matches. References: 1. Official website provides updates on the team's progress and upcoming matches. References: 1. Official website provides updates on the team's progress and upcoming matches. References: 1. Official website provides updates on the team's progress and upcoming matches. References: 1. Official website provides updates on the team's progress and upcoming matches. References: 1. 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