

BETZE NEWS

FCK NEWS RECAP



RED DEVILS PRIMED FOR HOT BATTLE

The Red Devils are eager to extend their unbeaten streak to fourteen games when they play host to fourth-placed FC Energie Cottbus in the first of their final three home games of the year.

The 4-0 defeat against FC Bayern Munich in the second round of this season's DFB Cup did not faze Foda's men who went on to notch a superb 4-1 home win over FC Erzgebirge Aue before holding Paderborn to a 1-1 draw in a hard-fought encounter away from home.

FCK boss Franco Foda was satisfied with his side's performance against FC Erzgebirge Aue which saw the Red Devils climb into second place in the table. Hendrick Zuck put FCK in the lead early, and man-of-the-match Alexander Baumjohann hit the target twice before providing the assist for Idrissou's winning goal nine minutes from time.

"As for me, I am just happy that I helped the team win and was able to play my part. This win meant a lot to the team and the fans," a modest Baumjohann said after the match.

Team captain Bunjaku returned to the starting line-up against SC Paderborn after sitting out some weeks with a strained adductor muscle. The Red Devils started strongly and Idrissou came within inches of putting his side in front twice before half-time, but the game took a sudden turn after the break when Jessen headed the ball into FCK's own goal. Foda's men battled fiercely and their efforts were rewarded as Idrissou scored the equalizer from the penalty spot after Bunjaku was felled in the box by Paderborn's goalkeeper. Despite being reduced to ten men, the Red Devils almost scored the winner in the dying seconds, but Zuck's cannoning



12-yard drive was cleared off the line as the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

The Red Devils have no fresh injury concerns ahead of their encounter with FC Energie Cottbus as they look to clinch their third consecutive home win and move back into the second automatic promotion spot.

'TRUST IN OUR STRENGTHS!'

INTERVIEW WITH FRANCO FODA

Franco Foda, your team claimed a stunning home win over Aue before drawing 1-1 away at Paderborn. Are you satisfied with your team's performances in the past two games?

We displayed a very good performance against Erzgebirge Aue. We dominated throughout the match and we fully deserved the win. The lads pushed forward straight from the off. As soon as the first goal went in, we started playing our game and the pressure was off. We wanted to win the game and we did; that's great. We had to make do without several key players and the young players did a very good job. The team had a real lift from the supporters. They were right behind us throughout the game and it was great to play in what was a party atmosphere.

What about the game against Paderborn?

I would like to pay a compliment to my team as the players showed great character to come back from a one-goal deficit and defend the draw despite being one man down. We certainly went into the game wanting to win three points, but when you look at the course of game, we can be satisfied with the draw. All in all, it was a very tactical game. We lost possession too often and our passes often were too imprecise. We managed to keep the home side in check, but we did not create many chances. In my opinion, the draw was a fair result for both sides.

The Red Devils play host to high-flying Energie Cottbus on Friday evening. What do you think of your team's next opponent?



We have been closely monitoring Energie Cottbus for a few weeks now, and we are aware of their strengths and weaknesses. However, we focus on ourselves and our strengths and weaknesses first as we want to play our game. We need to be fully focused and trust in our strengths. The team is well prepared and highly motivated for the clash. We are absolutely eager to win the game and add another three points to our tally in front of our home crowd on Friday.

FC ENERGIE COTTBUS

After narrowly escaping the relegation playoff last season thanks to a final-day win over Union Berlin, Energie Cottbus came off to a flying start to the 2012/13 campaign. Having recorded seven wins, four draws, and two defeats, Energie Cottbus has taken 25 points from the first 13 games and sits fourth in the table, level on points with FCK.

Energie Cottbus head coach Rudi Bommer has done a good job improving his side's attacking potential without jeopardizing his team's defense for the sake of goals. Boubacar Sanogo, Sebastian Glasner, and Marco Stiepermann were brought in to reinforce the frontline, and especially center forward Sanogo, who came to Brandenburg from St. Etienne, made his presence felt straight from the off. The Ivorian striker, formerly of 1. FC Kaiserslautern, Hamburger SV, Werder Bremen, and 1899 Hoffenheim, has already netted eight goals in twelve appearances for FC Energie Cottbus.

"It's always good to score, but picking up three points is the most important thing," Sanogo commented on his high-flying start to the season. "The coach is the man behind our success. He always thinks positively, gets behind the players and communicates with them."

Preferring an attack-minded approach, Bommer usually fields a 4-2-3-1 or a 4-4-2 formation built around a mid-field diamond, with Marc-Andre Kruska anchoring in front of a four-man back-line of Engel, Möhrle, Börner, and Bittroff, and Kirschbaum in goal. In the injury-enforced absence of Farina, Banovic, Fandrich, Sörensen and Adlung compete for places in midfield, while Sanogo acts as a lone striker or lines up alongside Stiepermann up front.

Bommer wants his players to press the opposition, win the ball back early and keep it, be patient in midfield, and create quality chances. Putting Bommer's



words into action, the Cottbus players are now reaping the fruits of their labor by earning points and lots of praise for their strong build-up play.

However, the Red Devils are something like Cottbus' bogey team as Cottbus has picked up only one point from nine encounters with FCK.

'WE DON'T WANT TO RETURN HOME EMPTY-HANDED!'

INTERVIEW WITH BOUBACAR SANOGO

Boubacar Sanogo, FC Energie Cottbus is this season's surprise team. What makes the team so strong?

Everything's just in place, and the guys are all fully focused on the task at hand. That's the most important thing. The coach has brought a great atmosphere to the team. He always thinks positively, gets behind the players and communicates with them a lot. There is a great spirit among the players and I really enjoy playing for this team.

Having scored eight goals in twelve games, you are enjoying a strong run of form too. What is the secret reason for your success?

There is no secret reason. I've enjoyed an injury-free pre-season and I'm feeling really good at the moment. I have

found my rhythm here. The team and the coach have plenty of trust in me and that's very important.

You joined 1. FC Kaiserslautern in 2005 and spent one season with the Red Devils. What are your fondest memories of your time at FCK?

I have very good memories of Kaiserslautern because it was my first club in Europe. I'm looking forward to play against the club that you could say was my birthplace in European soccer. It was a dream come true and I will always be grateful to Michael Henke and Olaf Marschall for giving me the opportunity to play in Europe.

What are you expecting from the encounter with FCK, and how are you going to approach this game?



We need to be strong and try to play our game. There is no reason for us to hide. It's a meeting between equals. I'm expecting a close game, but we don't want to return home empty-handed.

MASTHEAD

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