



THE HEART OF WOMEN'S SOCCER



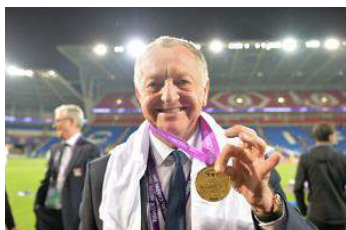
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The word from... The « OL ANG'ELLES » team

They did it! Two triples in a row... It is even bigger since the opposition is improving and since all teams are now more and more prepared.

This season thus came to an end with this incredible triple match-up with PSG: 3 out of 3 for OL.



First, it is a well-deserved reward for J.M. AULAS, who knew how to build a fantastic team, probably the best in the world right now (we are eagerly waiting for a hypothetic FIFA Women's Clubs World Cup).



He was visionary and contributed to the development of women's soccer. The adventure keeps going on and promises to be even more entertaining with the progress of the biggest French and European clubs.

This conclusion coincides in addition with a happy ending for Gérard PRÊCHEUR who – together with his staff and a good chemistry with his team – ends this three-year cycle with 8 of 9 possible trophies.



A new cycle now begins: best of luck to Reynald PEDROS. May he pursue this golden age for the OL Women's Team and accomplish the goals set for him: winning new trophies and playing an even more spectacular style of soccer..

OL ANG'ELLES will still be present to support these exceptional players, who are so endearing and nice with the fans.



Results... D1 Championship

OL-PSG : 3-0 (Eugénie LE SOMMER, Ada HEGERBERG, Alex MORGAN)

PSG had a slightly better start of the game, in 3-5-2 and with more players in the middle, but EUGENIE found the opening with an exceptional solo goal, confirming her splendid season. Playing in 4-3-3, it was this time the "Lyonnaises" who then played very well the fast-breaks, having lots of space.



12th minute : EUGENIE with great dribbles inside the defense, beating Paredes and then Georges.



26th minute : nice pass forward from Alex to ADA, who scores after a give and go with Eugénie.



27th minute : second assist of the day for Eugénie, this time for ALEX.



Alex MORGAN went quickly from the joy of her first goal in "Parc OL" to the pain caused by an injury which compromised the end of the season for her.



Clearly it was not OL's best game collectively, but it was still an easy win. Two other games were then following, and for both sides it was important to keep some energy and some surprises for the opponent.



For the first out of 3 games, PSG tried to play a high pressing to disturb Lyon. But they found out that they did not have enough energy to play like this for a very long time.



The Title of French Champions had of course already been celebrated by the Lyonnaises after the game against Soyaux.

Metz-OL : 0-3 (Ada HEGERBERG, Griedge M'BOCK, Wendie RENARD)

This game – where nothing was at stake – saw the return of Pauline BREMER from an injury. She was able to play the whole game, and could then hope to play in the Champions League final one week later. The first half saw a succession of corner kicks and big opportunities for Lyon, but without any goal until ADA scored on a header after a pass by Jessica HOUARA D'HOMMEAUX.



In the second half, **GRIEDGE** quickly made it 2-0, scoring **the 2000th goal of OL**. Then **WENDIE** added a third goal on a header following a corner kick.



Her goal allowed **ADA** to equal **EUGENIE**'s total for first in the goalscorers' ranking in D1: **20 goals**.
The two "sisters" then shared the trophy...
Sometimes everything ends well.
For the anecdote, this trophy could not be given on this day: officially it was still traveling between Paris and Metz (or was it the fact that one had not planned for two of them?).

A moment of silence was observed before the game in memory of the victims of the terror attack in Manchester, where we went a few weeks earlier for the semi-finals of Champions League.



Gérard PRÊCHEUR and Méline GERARD having already announced their respective departures, it was their last game with OL in the Championship, and thus the first opportunity for the supporters to thank them. Their actual last game would then arise in Cardiff...

Results... French Cup

OL-PSG : 1-1 (7-6 on penalties)

PSG was this time back at its fundamentals: extremely defensive style of play, fouls, and visibly waiting for the penalty shootout since the beginning of the second half. They were dangerous on one or two counter-attacks with talented players like Cristiane.



OL

PSG

1st half

2' Laura George is beaten by EUGENIE and holds her back by her shirt. That could – should? – have been a penalty for OL

6' Following a corner kick for OL, Geyoro sends the ball far ahead. **CRISTIANE** wins the foot race with Amel and scores an exceptional goal on a splendid strike.



14' Laura Georges pushes violently CAMILLE in the back. That could have been a second penalty for OL...

25' PAREDES, bothered by her teammate Shirley Cruz, touches the ball with her hand in her own penalty area. Still no penalty.

31' On a corner by Marozsan, Shirley Cruz fouls Eugénie Le Sommer. Penalty for Lyon, scored by Saki KUMAGAI.



2nd half

54' Elodie LE SOMMER with a nice cross, shoot by Ada HEGERBERG, that Kiedrzynek stops with her foot.

60' ELODIE shoots from 20 meters – like Cristiane did – but just a little too high.

The Lyonnaises did not manage to score on their few serious opportunities. Many fouls that could probably have been signaled by the referee were not.



(2')



(14')



(25')

Since there is no extra time in the French Cup, the two clubs were then headed to the penalty shootout.



During this shootout, PAREDES shoots above the goal, giving the opportunity to SAKI to win it for Lyon. But she misses, her penalty ending on the post... Her first miss since she became professional had to happen some day.



This time it was ADA who managed to conclude this shootout favorably for Lyon, after a save by Méline GERARD on the penalty by GEYORO.

The mental strength of the Lyonnaises allowed them to win after a nice penalty shootout, and to be rewarded for being the more offensive team of the two.

MELINE, for her last game with OL – being the substitute goalkeeper, she usually only plays in the French Cup games –, was decisive.



It is finally a 6th French Cup title in a row for Lyon, and thus a 6th Cup-Championship double in a row too.



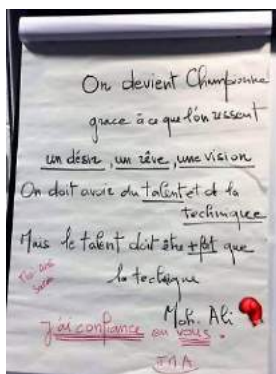
Despite their will to win everything, this game appeared difficult for the Lyonnaises, whose minds seemed already focused on Cardiff and the Champions League final.



The tension between the two teams rose a little after this really tense second game.

Results... Champions League Final in Cardiff

OL-PSG : 0-0 (7 tirs au but à 6) (attendance : 22433)



"Champions aren't made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them – a desire, a dream, a vision. They have to have the skill, and the will. But the will must be stronger than the skill."

Muhammad Ali

"I trust you." JMA

The club was behind the team for this last game of the season, and Jean-Michel AULAS was quoting Muhammad Ali to encourage his players to get this unbelievable second triple Championship-Cup-Champions League in a row.

The pressure was also very much on PSG for this one :

one win and their season would be one of their very best, one loss and it would be one of the worse, with no Champions League to play next season...



OL

PSG

1st half

11' Header from Ada after a cross by Eugénie, moment of confusion in the penalty area but Geyoro manages to block ADA's shot.

32' Shirley CRUZ beats Camille with her speed, shoots from inside the penalty area, splendid save by SARAH.

2nd half

46' Free-kick by MAROZSAN, Geyoro has no choice but to deflect the ball really close to the post. Nothing that Kiedrzynek could have done if it went in.

52' Free-kick by MARO again, for Ada, whose shot is saved by Kiedrzynek. The ball goes back to Ada, who puts it slightly wide.

62' pass by SHIRLEY to DELIE, who cannot find the goal.



(11')



(46')



(52') Double opportunity for Ada



(32')

In total the real opportunities were scarce.
OL got only 3, PSG 2.

While the first half was equally dominated by both teams, most of the offensive actions of the second half and extra-time were "Lyonnaises".



(62')

The efficiency was not there, probably in part because many offensive players for OL were either not playing or not in full health: Delphine CASCARINO was still injured, Ada HEGERBERG was sick during the entire night before the game, Pauline BREMER had barely got back from her injury, and Alex MORGAN got injured again after 15 minutes of play.

Winning the coin toss, the "Parisiennes" won the right to play **the penalty shootout** in front of their fans, whereas Wendie chose to shoot second during this shootout, after PSG.



The experience was on Lyon's side and allowed them to win. It finally ended with **a duel between the goalkeepers**, that SARAH won.



At the end it is probably fair that Lyon won, even if it is not that often that PSG can have two real opportunities to score in one game against OL (0 in the Championship game in Parc OL, 1 – Cristiane's goal – in the French Cup final).



After the first half Lyon mainly dominated the game, forcing PSG to commit fouls to avoid being beaten by OL's speed, and to gain some time every time they had the opportunity.



Three games between OL and PSG in such a short span of time could lead to some resentment between the players, but it is time to put them aside as the European Championship approaches. It will still be time to recall it next season, but not in the Champions League...

Let us give credit to Kiedrzynek for shaking hands with all the Lyon players before receiving her medal, despite her huge disappointment.



😊 No, the Lyon was not dead after that game in December (when OL lost in Paris in the Championship), it was merely a fleshwound!

What a nice way for ADA to celebrate her 100th game with OL.



Conclusion... After the trilogy OL vs PSG

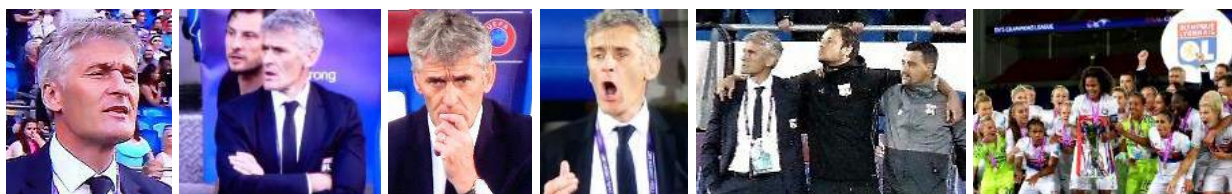
It appears that PSG is becoming more and more competitive, capable of causing problems for OL, but not yet able to win consistently against this opponent. The few wins that they were able to get were usually when they were extremely efficient – scoring on their only opportunity – and Lyon was not at all.

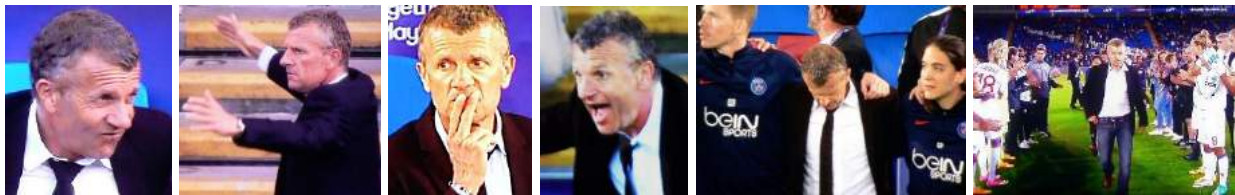
They have some good players, with good physical strength and fighting spirit, PAREDES, LAWRENCE, some promising young players – EVE Périsset, GEYORO –, some experimented ones – FORMIGA and SHIRLEY Cruz, who is still the best player on the team but can now not really play a whole game –, and some special talents like CRISTIANE.

Patrice LAIR sometimes used the fact that his team is quite young to explain OL's superiority. Others have argued that PSG's team had changed a lot last summer.

	<u>Average Age</u> <u>In the Final</u>	<u>Players less than 22</u> <u>In the Final</u>	<u>Players more than 30</u> <u>In the Final</u>
OL	25 ans	4 (5 with Lavogez)	3
PSG	27 ans	4	6
	<u>New players among</u> <u>14 in the Final</u>	<u>New players among</u> <u>18 in the Final</u>	<u>New players</u> <u>in total</u>
OL	3	6	9 / 26
PSG	5	7	10 / 24

A more precise look at the figures show that it is really not that obvious. In particular Gérard PRÊCHEUR's team was almost as modified as PSG last summer.





It appears that probably none of the players of PSG would be able to take the place of one of the 11 starters for OL. The team play in Lyon is also more elaborated and focused on attacking.



Focus on... The former «Parisiennes»

The former players who were at PSG last season probably had some shivers during the Champions League final: even with the wins in Championship and French Cup, they would have been disappointed if the most important trophy had taken the opposite direction from theirs and gone to Paris.



Even if none of them has played in this final, they have of course taken part in the adventure : Jessica HOUARA D'HOMMEAUX and Caroline SEGER all along this competition, Kheira HAMRAOUI, Kenza DALI (and Josi HENNING) rather in the French Cup competition. In the end they can be happy that they made the right choice.

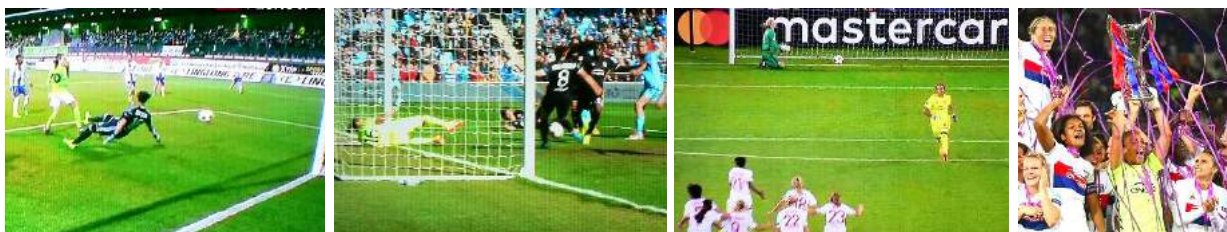


Spotlight on... Sarah BOUHADDI

Sarah BOUHADDI (on the TV channel "France 2", after the Champions League final) : « *The whole team played a great game, and I took my responsibilities at the end. There were two fine teams and we won another triple, but there is no hero tonight* ».

Of course SARAH is right : football is a team sport, that cannot be reduced only to the winning action. The first penalty by Amel MAJRI was important to get the team started, the one by Wendie RENARD of paramount importance to equalize, as was Saki KUMAGAI's not to lose...

But if KIEDRZYNEK lost the goalkeepers' duel, it is because SARAH won it, showing once again that she can also play well with her feet, despite some occasional mistakes which are gladly forgiven. The one that she made against Manchester cannot make us forget that she was decisive in all the important games: in the 2 games against Wolfsburg, in the one at Manchester...



It is no surprise that every coach of OL and of the French National Team considers that she is their number 1 goalkeeper. But many people tend to difficultly forgive Sarah, whereas the mistakes that other goalkeepers do seem quickly forgotten.

When she was named "Best Goalkeeper in the World" in 2016, some suggested that Schult – the german goalkeeper of Wolfsburg – or Kiedrzynek were better. But she actually won every duel against these ones this season.



On the road... to VANNES and CARDIFF

The French Cup final was the third opportunity this year for some OL ANG'ELLES members to go to Bretagne, this time to Morbihan.



"Gold Mine Beach" at Pénestin, "Presqu'île de Quiberon", a medieval fair in Guérande, Carnac... All of these were places visited by the OL ANG'ELLES members before going to Vannes for the game.



The end of the season was even better for the group, with this trip to Cardiff for the Champions League final: really interesting city, with its castle and others historic sites, joined by the Millenium Stadium, all of it in a great atmosphere with much joy.



It was so nice to walk in the fan zone set up in the bay once the trophy was won... and celebrated with the team and the staff !



Life of the association... To the EURO with Team France

Together with other groups of supporters, OL ANG'ELLES has decided to support actively the French National Team, aiming for the 2019 World Cup in France.

A trip is then organized by OL ANG'ELLES from July 30 to August 6 - i.e. from the quarter-finals to the final - to follow the European Championship set in the Netherlands. We do hope that the French Team will perform well, with a possible France-Spain in the quarter-finals, followed by a possible France-Germany in the semis...

These games will be played in the stadiums at TILBURG, BREDA, and ENSCHEDE (FC Twente).



As always it will be the opportunity for approximately 30 OL ANG'ELLES members to discover and visit the receiving country. This time the Netherlands, from Utrecht to Delft, La Haye, Breda, Amsterdam...