



## UEL match against Winion, apanese captain Endo played 45 minutes

Liverpool won 2-0 over Royal Union Saint-Gillelois in the second match of Group E of the 2023/24 Europa League group stage held at Anfield in Liverpool, England on the 6th (Korean time). Liverpool took the lead in Group E with two consecutive wins.

Liverpool struggled against Union, currently ranked first in the Belgian Professional League. Liverpool attempted 11 shots in the first half but could not easily score a goal. Liverpool, who constantly knocked on Winion's goal, opened the scoring with Ryan Gravenbergh's first goal in the 44th minute of the first half.

In the second half, Liverpool deployed key resources such as Luis Diaz, Alexis Mac Allister, and Dominik Szoboszlai. At the end of the second half, Liverpool added another goal. Diogo Jota scored an additional goal in the 47th minute of the second half, giving Liverpool a 2-0 win. Endo started as a defensive midfielder in this game. He got his third opportunity to start since the Europa League match against Newcastle United last August and LASK Linz last September. According to soccer statistics media 'Sofa Score', Endo recorded an 83% pass success rate, 39 ball touches, 1 duel win, and 1 successful tackle in 45 minutes in this game. The British media gave Endo an acceptable evaluation. The local Liverpool newspaper 'Liverpool Echo' said of Endo, "He came into his own early on with some great attempts and neat passes from close range. "He was substituted in the second half," he said. 'Liverpool Echo' gave Endo a rating of 7. Endo was replaced by Alexis Mac Allister at the end of the first half.

Endo left VFB Stuttgart for 20 million euros (about KRW 28.4 billion) in this summer transfer market and wore a Liverpool uniform. Liverpool hoped that Endo would fill the void left by Fabinho, who left for Saudi Arabia. Endo was a player who was recognized for both his athletic ability and leadership, enough to serve as captain of the Japanese national team.

Contrary to expectations, Endo is having difficulty adapting to Liverpool. He had only played two games as a starter since joining Liverpool before this game. In his last match against Linz, he showed a poor performance, losing possession of the ball 12 times. Endo, who had not been able to blend in with Liverpool, was able to get better than before in this game and provide an opportunity for a rebound.

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