



UEFA
UNDER17TM
CHAMPIONSHIP



Malta 2014

9–21 May

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

game on or game over



all in or nothing

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CONTENTS

- 5 UEFA President's message
- 7 Welcome to Malta
- 8 Big shot
- 10 On the rise
- 12 Interview: Michael Mifsud

GROUP A

- 14 Malta
- 16 England
- 18 Netherlands
- 20 Turkey

- 23 Match schedule
- 25 Venues
- 26 Competition history
- 29 Competition facts and figures
- 30 Interview: Cesc Fàbregas

GROUP B

- 32 Germany
- 34 Switzerland
- 36 Scotland
- 38 Portugal

- 40 My Malta: David Carabott
- 42 Match officials

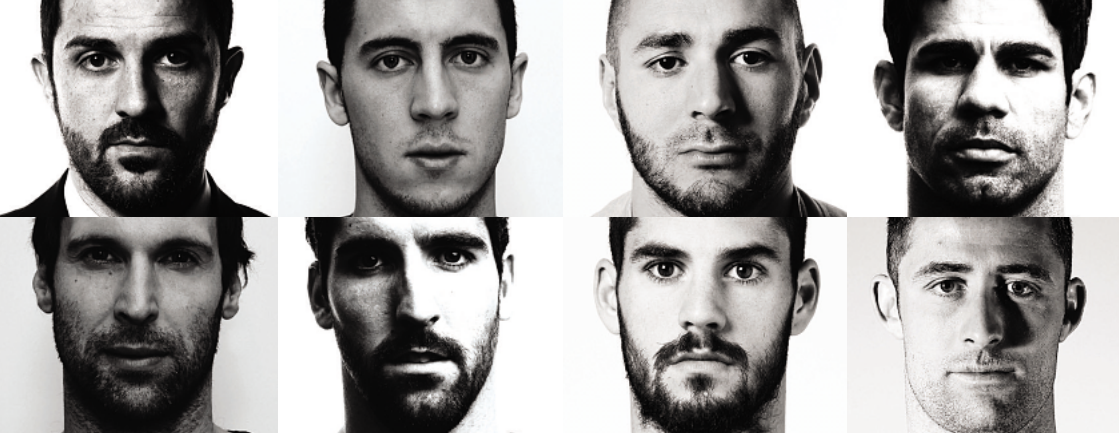


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NO TO RACISM



RESPECT

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IL-MESSAĠĠ TAL-PRESIDENT TAL-UEFA UEFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Malta for what is sure to be a memorable conclusion to the 2013/14 UEFA European Under-17 Championship. It is the first time the Malta Football Association (MFA) has hosted a UEFA final tournament, and the first time a Maltese national team has competed in such an event. We wish them the best of luck, as we do the other seven sides that have got this far.

This is also the last time the Under-17 final tournament will involve eight sides. From next season in Bulgaria, 16 nations will compete in the finals, allowing more young players to experience the thrill and intensity of international tournament football.

UEFA prides itself on assisting the development of young players, and I am sure the decision to expand the final tournament will benefit many future stars of our game. The Under-17 championship is, after all, where some of European football's biggest names started out on the international stage. Youth competitions also help instil the principles of respect and fair play and the lessons learned here will stay with these players throughout their careers.

As I look forward to watching the action unfold, I would like to thank the MFA, their president Norman Darmanin Demajo and CEO Bjorn Vassallo for their efforts in ensuring the tournament's success, as well as all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Enjoy the football!

Michel Platini
UEFA President

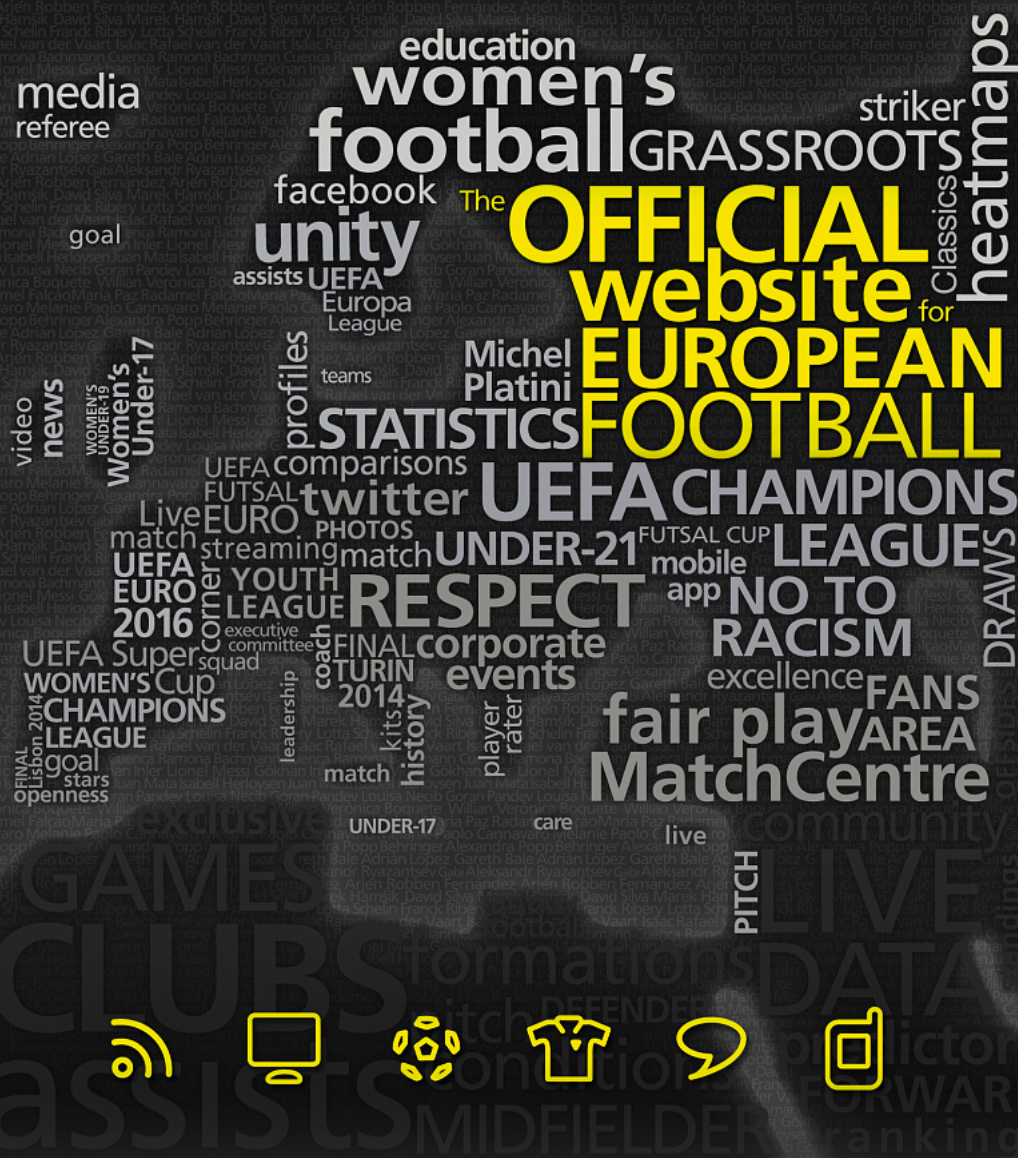
Merħba f'Malta għal dak li għandu jkun tmiem memorabbli tal-UEFA European Under-17 Championship 2013/14. Din hi l-ewwel darba li l-Malta Football Association qiegħda tospita fażi finali ta' tournament tal-UEFA, u l-ewwel darba wkoll li xi tim nazzjonali Malti qiegħed jikkompeti f'fażi finali ta' tournament tal-UEFA. Nixtiequ l-kom success, bħalma nixtiequ lis-seba' timijiet l-oħra.

Din hi wkoll l-aħħar darba li t-tournament ta' Taht is-17-il sena se jinvolvi fih tmien nazzjonijiet. Mill-istaġun li ġej, fil-Bulgarija, 16-il nazzjon se jikkompetu f'dan it-tournament, biex b'hekk aktar plejers jingħataw l-esperjenza u jkunu jistgħu jhossu l-atmosfera li jgħib miegħu tournament ta' dan it-tip.

Hu ta' unur għall-UEFA li tassisti fl-iżvilupp ta' dawn il-plejers zgħażaġh, u ninsab cert li d-deċiżjoni li nespandu l-fażi finali ta' dan it-tournament għal aktar timijiet se jibbenefikaw minnha l-istiel tal-futur li għandha l-oġġha tagħna. Wara kollox, dan l-Under 17 Championship kien il-bidu tal-hafna plejers kbar li hawn illum jilagħbu fl-Ewropa. Kompetizzjoni bħal din tgħin ukoll biex wiehed isahhah aktar il-prinċipji tar-rispett u l-fair play, filwaqt li l-plejers involuti jibdeu minn hawnhekk jtgħallmu lezzjonijiet li jservuom għall-futur tal-karriera tagħhom.

Filwaqt li nħares 'il quddiem biex nassisti għal dan it-tournament spetakolari f'Malta, xtaqt niringrazzja lil Norman Darmanin Demajo u lil Bjorn Vassallo, President u Kap Eżekuttiv tal-MFA, tal-isforzi kollha tagħhom biex jassiguraw li kollox ikun success. Niringrazzja wkoll lil dawk involuti u lill-voluntiera tax-xogħol kbir li qegħdin jagħmlu u tad-dedikazzjoni li għandhom. Gawdu l-futbol!

Michel Platini
UEFA President



WELCOME TO MALTA

Fisem il-Malta Football Association, hu ta' unur kbir ghalija li nalgħukom f'pajjiżna għall-fażi finali tal-UEFA European Under 17 Championship 2013/14. Din hi opportunità unika għall-komunità tal-futbol tagħna li se tilgħab rwol dakshekk ċentrali f'tournament magħguri tal-UEFA li-filivelli tal-Youths. Hi sfida, li ikoll kemm aħna ninsabu eċċitati dwarha. Il-futbol f'Malta hu passjoni. Hu parti kbira mill-kultura u d-demm go fina jbaqbaq għall-logħba. Il-futbol f'Malta jintagħab lukkilmien li għal-ivvelli kollha, mill-irġiel u min-nisa, miż-żgħir u mill-kbar.

Konxiji ta' fejn bhala nazzjon ninsabu fil-futbol Ewropej, imma nemmu wkoll li ghalina m'hemmx limiti. Fil-futbol, dejjem tista' tispera u tohlom. Il-futbol fil-livell tal-Youths hu kollu mdawwar mal-plejers tal-futur tal-loghba u t-tamiet u l-holm taghnom. Ix-xoghol u r-responsabbilta' taghna hi li naghmli dan kollu realta'.

In-nies jiġu f'Malta għall-kultura, għall-istorja, għall-baħar sabih li għandna u għax-xemx li jiftxa kulhadd. Il-Maltn huma wkoll magħrufa għal kemm kapaci jilqgħu u jospitaw lill-barranin, għalhekk ninsab ċert li f'Malta kulhadd se jiehu pjaċir filwaqt li nħares 'il quddiem li jkolina tournament eċċitanti.

Norman Darmanin Demajo
President Malta Football Association



ON A ROLL

Captain Rúben Neves celebrates scoring in Portugal's 3-0 victory against Ukraine in the elite round. Portugal reached the final tournament with a perfect six wins from their six qualifying and elite round matches – a tally matched by the Netherlands and England. The Dutch were the highest scorers in qualifying with 24 goals, two more than England, who boasted the competition's highest scorer prior to arriving in Malta – Adam Armstrong with seven.



AIDAN NESBITT
SCOTLAND

Nesbitt inspired Scotland's elite round comeback win against Belgium, scoring their equaliser soon after half-time. His pace on either wing is a constant threat and, as he showed against Belgium, he is also able to step inside and get on the scoresheet himself.

Performance director Mark Wotte has described the Celtic FC forward as a modern attacker with a fine knack of finding space.



KEZIAH VEENDORP
NETHERLANDS

The FC Groningen central defender captained the Netherlands for every minute of their qualifying campaign. His pace and physical strength are particularly apparent, while he can also play a key role in setting up attacks, having started life as a midfielder. Unsurprisingly, he is on the radar of a number of other teams in the Netherlands and beyond.

CONOR BORG
MALTA

Borg came through the Floriana FC football nursery before moving to Serie A side AC Chievo Verona at the beginning of the season. He has continued to stand out for both his ability and his leadership skills. A technically gifted player, the Under-17 captain has shown a fine ability to read the game, to lead by example and to threaten with his dribbling skills.



ADAM ARMSTRONG
ENGLAND

The Newcastle United FC forward's stocky physique, eye for goal and creative prowess have drawn comparisons with Wayne Rooney. Armstrong has been at Newcastle since the age of nine and made his Premier League debut as a late substitute at Fulham FC in March. He struck seven goals in qualifying, including the opener in the 2-1 win against Italy on the final day.



RENATO SANCHES
PORTUGAL

Still only 16, Sanches is marked by a maturity well beyond his years. He can play in central midfield or in an advanced role behind the strikers, and even in the excellent company he keeps in the SL Benfica academy, his technical prowess, positional skills, and ability to hold up the ball and dictate the tempo stand him out as an exceptional talent.



ALBIAN AJETI
SWITZERLAND

One of three brothers on the books of home-town club FC Basel 1893, Ajeti poses a real threat up front and contributed five goals in as many qualifiers, including a vital late equaliser against Russia. He is already on the fringes of the first team at Basel, making his debut against FC Salzburg in the UEFA Europa League in March.

ENES ÜNAL
TURKEY

With an excellent first touch and superb control, Enes is his side's attacking talisman and possesses all the necessary attributes to be a top striker. Clinical in one-on-one situations, he is equally comfortable with his back to goal and is also a fine free-kick taker. Physically advanced for his age, he scored six goals in qualifying and already has Turkish top-flight experience with Bursaspor.



PHILIPP OCHS
GERMANY

Ochs is an excellent attacking prospect for Germany. The TSG 1899 Hoffenheim forward's role model is England's Wayne Rooney. "He has this irrepressible will to win that I see in myself," he said. "I enjoy the all-or-nothing games the most. You desperately want to win those and give that extra little bit." Ochs struck three times in qualifying.



ON THE RISE

From the wealth of talented youngsters in action in Malta, these eight could prove key to their nations' prospects

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE

Malta's most celebrated player, Michael Mifsud, offers his advice to his nation's young hopefuls

Striker Michael Mifsud is Malta's most famous footballing export, but for all the times the 33-year-old found the net in Germany, England and Norway, there was nothing like playing for the national team. Mifsud's record 39 goals for Malta is the measure of his talent, and as ambassador at this tournament, he hopes the next generation can follow in his footsteps.

You have set a terrific example for Maltese players, both with the national side and your club career abroad. What advice would you give them?

To keep working hard, be as professional as they can, and to always believe in their skill and their capabilities, and that no other player is better than them. They can do the same job as any other player in the world.

What does it mean for Malta to host this tournament?

It is great for Malta, for Maltese football, and for the kids who participate. It is something big. Hopefully they'll enjoy it. This is an opportunity for them to shine.

You made your international debut 14 years ago. Can you describe how it felt when you first pulled on that Malta jersey? Amazing. It's something I always wanted. It's a difficult feeling to explain, when you put the jersey on of your country, and you have the badge on your left side.

I think that's everybody's dream, to play for their country: you can't beat that. I remember my first A-team game, which was Albania at home. I was about 18. I joined the national team youth [set-up] when I was eight, so I have a lot of games to remember!

What lessons did you learn playing for those youth teams?

You learn to be professional, to train hard, to eat well, to rest. You learn skills and techniques, and everything that makes you a football player. Of course everybody is given a gift from God to be a football player, but you have to practise that gift, to make it to your best.

It is an incredible achievement to reach 100 caps for your country.

I don't think about these things, not even about my goal record or my appearances. I just love playing for my country, and I try and keep myself as fit as possible to keep on playing and give 100%. And then whatever happens, and whatever I achieve, that's an extra bonus for me.

What was it like to leave Malta and play abroad, first for 1. FC Kaiserslautern in Germany, then in Norway and England?

It was like black and white. I was always prepared for that move, I always wanted it from when I was very young. I have interviews saying I wanted to be a professional footballer playing abroad

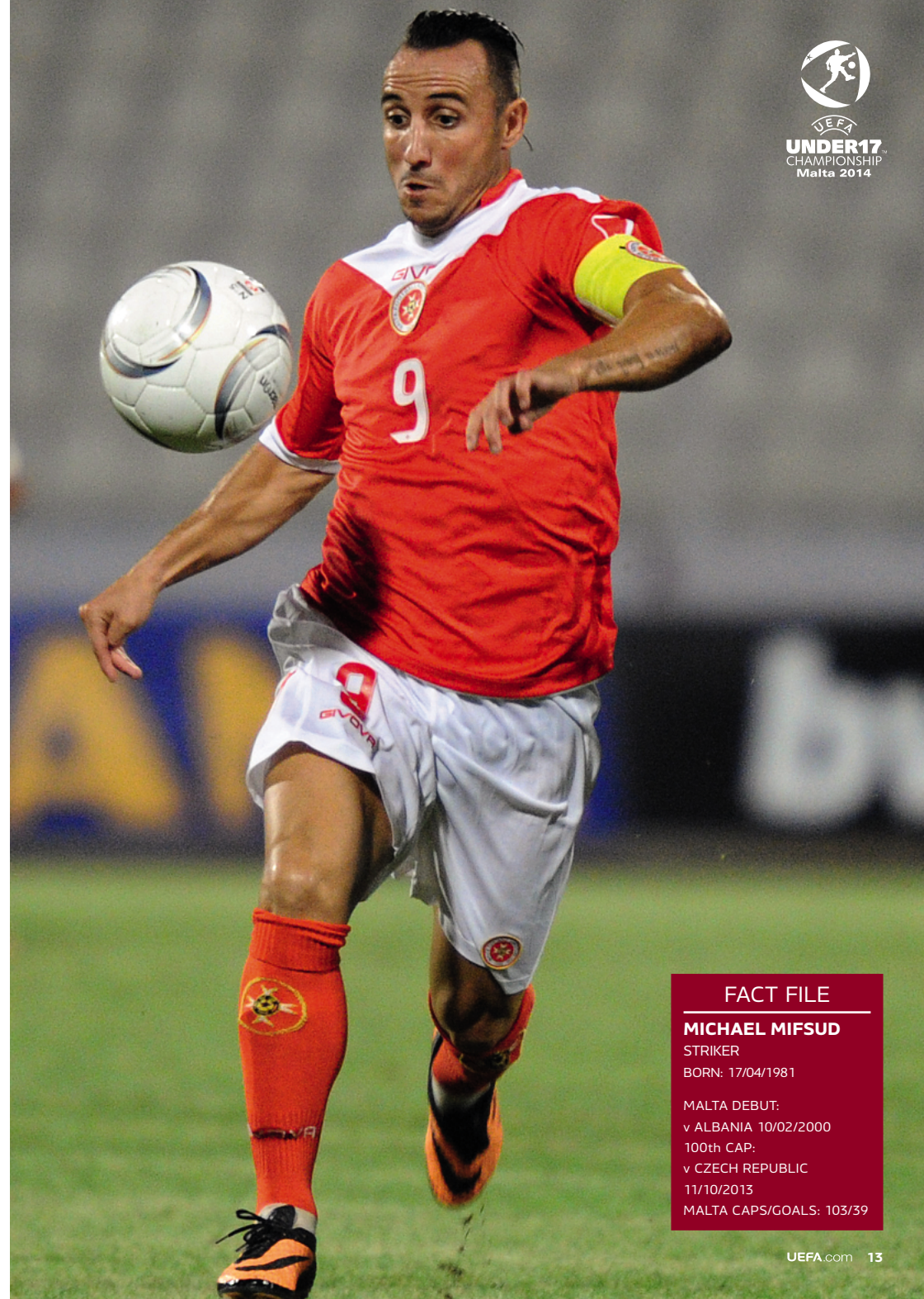
[from] when I was eight or nine years old. It was always my dream to be a professional football player and play abroad. So that was my dream come true.

Talking of moments to treasure: Old Trafford, September 2007 – you scored twice for Coventry City FC against Manchester United FC.

It was something special. To play at Old Trafford in front of 74,000 or 75,000 people, and ending up winning the game and you being the hero of the match, it is something everybody dreams about. That is my reward for all the sacrifices I make, as a football player, as a person. I guess that is what people and players get when they make a lot of sacrifices and they work hard for what they want to achieve. It was just amazing.



Mifsud celebrates scoring for Coventry at Old Trafford in 2007



FACT FILE

MICHAEL MIFSUD

STRIKER

BORN: 17/04/1981

MALTA DEBUT:

v ALBANIA 10/02/2000

100th CAP:

v CZECH REPUBLIC

11/10/2013

MALTA CAPS/GOALS: 103/39



MALTA



A strong team ethos has been created by Malta's long preparatory period, ensuring that Sergio Soldano's side are well set ahead of the start of their campaign. "We have been working very attentively and looking at every detail," said Soldano. "We know that our opponents will be of the highest level."

"There are many ways that our boys can keep improving, and this gives us hope for a brighter future as far as the senior national team is concerned. I'd like to thank the local clubs for all the support we have received, and for allowing us more quality training with the boys. During the last few months of hard preparation, we have had optimal results technically,

tactically, physically and psychologically – but there is still a long way to go."

Captain Conor Borg is among Malta's key performers, having been rewarded for his promising performances with a move from local side Floriana FC to Serie A outfit AC Chievo Verona at the start of this campaign. He caught Chievo's eye while in Under-17 action last season. Another influential figure for Soldano is Jake Grech, who has come through the Hamrun Spartans FC academy and is already a fixture in the first team. Joseph Mbong, meanwhile – son of the late former Hibernians FC player Essien Mbong – has come through the Hibernians youth department and is swiftly making a name for himself.

COACH: SERGIO SOLDANO

DATE OF BIRTH: 29/11/1960

Argentine-born Soldano was granted Italian citizenship in 1985. He has worked in a number of youth roles and was appointed director of the Malta Football Association academy in 2012.



"During the last few months of hard preparation we have had optimal results, but there is still a long way to go"

UNDER-17 FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 1

BEST PERFORMANCE: first appearance

GROUP A MATCHES: 9 May v England, 12 May v Netherlands, 15 May v Turkey

PLAYER STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Jamie Azzopardi	01/09/1997	17	0	Mosta FC
Mikhail Sciberras	17/05/1997	10	0	Balzan Youths FC
Defenders				
Jean Borg	08/01/1998	5	0	Valletta FC
Christian Degabriele	07/03/1997	14	2	Pietà Hotspurs FC
Nick Ghio	18/06/1998	17	0	Hibernians FC
Carlos Grech	07/02/1998	3	0	Hibernians FC
Ioufeli Meli	07/11/1997	15	0	Sliema Wanderers FC
Brandon Micallef	20/05/1997	0	0	Rabat Ajax FC
Neil Spiteri	03/06/1997	17	0	Floriana FC
Midfielders				
Isaac Abela	27/12/1997	1	0	Rabat Ajax FC
Myles Beerman	13/03/1999	5	0	Floriana FC
Conor Borg	13/05/1997	21	3	AC Chievo Verona
Daniel Buckle	29/07/1997	16	0	Hibernians FC
Juan Corbalan	03/01/1997	15	0	Balzan Youths FC
Jake Grech	18/11/1997	21	5	Hamrun Spartans FC
Mark Scicluna	24/02/1997	10	0	Sliema Wanderers FC
Neil Tabone	01/10/1997	2	0	Floriana FC
Forwards				
Luca Brincat	04/07/1997	10	0	Sliema Wanderers FC
Aidan Friggieri	28/04/1998	17	8	Sliema Wanderers FC
Luke Galea	05/02/1997	10	0	Hamrun Spartans FC
Joseph Mbong	15/07/1997	19	3	Hibernians FC
Kyrian Nwoko	04/07/1997	13	1	St Andrews FC

Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

FRIENDLY RESULTS

13/06/2013	Malta 0-1 Austria
21/06/2013	Northern Ireland U16s 1-4 Malta
23/06/2013	Northern Ireland 4-0 Malta
20/08/2013	Wales 4-0 Malta
22/08/2013	Wales 2-3 Malta
18/12/2013	Italy 7-0 Malta
20/12/2013	Allievi Nazionali Catania 3-3 Malta
25/02/2014	Italy LND (amateurs) U19s 3-0 Malta*
26/02/2014	Malta 5-3 English Colleges U19s*
27/02/2014	Malta 3-1 San Marino U19s*
19/04/2014	Xewkija Tigers FC 3-2 Malta

*Roma Caput Mundi Tournament, Italy



GO FIGURE

1

This is the hosts' first UEFA final tournament appearance at any age level.



2

This is Malta's second appearance beyond the qualifying round. They also made it to the elite round in 2010.



Clockwise from top: Aidan Friggieri, Joseph Mbong and Jake Grech





ENGLAND



England are back at an Under-17 final tournament for the first time since 2011, when they reached the semi-finals in Serbia. Having missed just two final tournaments in the first ten editions of the competition, the Three Lions – winners in 2010 – were eliminated at the elite round stage in 2012 and 2013.

After a hugely impressive qualifying round this season, in which England scored 18 unanswered goals, there was an early scare in the elite round. John Peacock's side started against mini-tournament hosts the Czech Republic and, up against a partisan home crowd, nearly fell behind when Václav Černý tried his luck from the halfway line. Goalkeeper Freddie Woodman

pulled off a splendid save and England never looked back, beating the Czechs 1-0 before seeing off both Albania and Italy.

"When your keeper makes a great reaction save like Freddie did, it does give everyone a lift and I think it did that against Czech Republic," said Peacock. "I can't praise my team enough. They have worked so hard the last few days. They've really listened to what we've had to say and I think they've carried it out fantastically over the three games."

Peacock's preferred 4-2-3-1 formation ensured plenty of goals for his side, with key forwards Dominic Solanke (Chelsea FC) and Adam Armstrong (Newcastle United FC) contributing 12 between them.

COACH: JOHN PEACOCK

DATE OF BIRTH: 27/03/1956

Peacock held a variety of Football Association roles before joining the Derby County FC academy and then taking charge of the England Under-17s in 2002. Since then he has also worked with the Under-20 side.



"I can't praise my team enough. They have worked so hard and they've really listened to what we've had to say"

UNDER-17 FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 9

BEST PERFORMANCE: winners 2010

GROUP A MATCHES: 9 May v Malta, 12 May v Turkey, 15 May v Netherlands



QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Dean Henderson	12/03/1997	2	0	Manchester United FC
Ryan Huddart	06/03/1997	1	0	Arsenal FC
Freddie Woodman	04/03/1997	3	0	Newcastle United FC
Defenders				
Cameron Borthwick-Jackson	02/02/1997	2	0	Manchester United FC
Tom Brewitt	11/02/1997	3	1	Liverpool FC
Callum Connolly	23/09/1997	2	0	Everton FC
Mandela Egbo	17/08/1997	2	0	Crystal Palace FC
Dael Fry	30/08/1997	1	0	Middlesbrough FC
Joseph Gomez	23/05/1997	5	0	Charlton Athletic FC
Jonjoe Kenny	15/03/1997	3	0	Everton FC
Max Lowe	11/05/1997	1	0	Derby County FC
Tafari Moore	05/07/1997	3	0	Arsenal FC
Taylor Moore	12/05/1997	2	0	RC Lens
Midfielders				
Isaac Christie-Davies	18/10/1997	3	0	Chelsea FC
Lewis Cook	03/02/1997	2	0	Leeds United AFC
Callum Cooke	21/02/1997	5	0	Middlesbrough FC
Ryan Ledson	19/08/1997	6	1	Everton FC
Ainsley Maitland-Niles	29/08/1997	1	0	Arsenal FC
Demetri Mitchell	11/01/1997	3	0	Manchester United FC
Oluwaseyi Ojo	19/06/1997	3	1	Liverpool FC
Joshua Onomah	27/04/1997	4	0	Tottenham Hotspur FC
Jordan Rossiter	24/03/1997	2	0	Liverpool FC
Josh Sims	28/03/1997	3	0	Southampton FC
Forwards				
Adam Armstrong	10/02/1997	6	7	Newcastle United FC
Isaiah Brown	07/01/1997	6	4	Chelsea FC
Patrick Roberts	05/02/1997	3	3	Fulham FC
Dominic Solanke	14/09/1997	6	5	Chelsea FC

This list consists of players who featured during qualifying. Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying round Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	18	0	9
Republic of Ireland	3	2	0	1	6	7	6
Armenia*	3	1	0	2	2	7	3
Gibraltar	3	0	0	3	2	14	0

*Hosts

England 4-0 Armenia, Republic of Ireland 4-1 Gibraltar, Gibraltar 0-8 England, Republic of Ireland 2-0 Armenia, England 6-0 Republic of Ireland, Armenia 2-1 Gibraltar

Elite round Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
Czech Republic*	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Italy	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Albania	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

*Hosts

Italy 2-1 Albania, England 1-0 Czech Republic, England 1-0 Albania, Czech Republic 2-1 Italy, Italy 1-2 England, Albania 0-2 Czech Republic

GO FIGURE

8

This will be the eighth final tournament in 12 seasons for coach John Peacock (below right).



3

England were one of three teams – along with the Netherlands and Portugal – to win all six of their qualifiers and pick up a maximum 18 points.



England forward Dominic Solanke



NETHERLANDS



The Netherlands started as they meant to go on, scoring 17 unanswered goals in qualifying round Group 11, including five second-half strikes from Ezra Walian in a 12-0 triumph over San Marino. They continued in a similar fashion in elite round Group 3, beating France 3-1 in a winner-takes-all denouement to become the first team to join Malta in the final tournament.

Coach Maarten Stekelenburg deployed a typically Dutch 4-3-3 formation throughout a perfect qualifying campaign. He was particularly reliant on a number of players, with FC Groningen defender Keziah Veendorp, Feyenoord midfielder Marlon Slabbekoom – who found the net in four of the Jong Oranje's six

fixtures – and PSV Eindhoven forward Dani van der Moot, who scored a hat-trick against San Marino, all heavily involved.

It marked an impressive return for the Netherlands, who lifted the trophy under Albert Stuivenburg in 2011 and 2012 but did not make it to the final tournament in Slovakia last summer. "Everything we have worked hard for in the recent period all came together at once," said Stekelenburg after qualification was secured. "We have all fought really hard for this and have played excellently – it is a well-deserved qualification. Most of the players go back to school and then we focus on the final tournament. We are really looking forward to returning."

COACH: MAARTEN STEKELENBURG DATE OF BIRTH: 13/12/1972

Stekelenburg started out as an AFC Ajax youth coach in 1999, then had spells as head of youth and head coach at Ajax Cape Town FC, before taking charge of the Netherlands Under-17s in July 2013.



"Everything we have worked hard for in the recent period all came together at once"

UNDER-17 FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 8

BEST PERFORMANCE: winners 2011, 2012

GROUP A MATCHES: 9 May v Turkey, 12 May v Malta, 15 May v England



QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Yanick van Osch	24/03/1997	5	0	PSV Eindhoven
Stan van Bladeren	01/10/1997	1	0	AFC Ajax
Defenders				
Hidde ter Avest	20/05/1997	4	0	FC Twente
Rick van der Meer	14/06/1997	2	0	Feyenoord
Keziah Veendorp	17/02/1997	6	0	FC Groningen
Calvin Verdonk	26/04/1997	6	0	Feyenoord
Wellington Verloof	27/02/1997	6	0	Vitesse
Teun van Zweeden	30/03/1997	2	1	AFC Ajax
Midfielders				
Donny van de Beek	18/04/1997	6	1	AFC Ajax
Danny van Haaren	21/09/1997	3	0	Feyenoord
Abdelhak Nouri	02/04/1997	5	2	AFC Ajax
Kenneth Paal	24/06/1997	3	0	PSV Eindhoven
Jari Schuurman	22/02/1997	5	0	Feyenoord
Marlon Slabbekoom	01/02/1997	6	4	Feyenoord
Forwards				
Anthony Berenstein	02/03/1997	5	2	FC Utrecht
Steven Bergwijn	08/10/1997	5	4	PSV Eindhoven
Segun Owobowale	22/03/1997	5	2	ADO Den Haag
Dani van der Moot	07/03/1997	6	3	PSV Eindhoven
Jan-Willem Tesselaar	21/10/1997	1	0	AZ Alkmaar
Ezra Walian	22/10/1997	2	5	AFC Ajax

This list consists of players who featured during qualifying. Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying round Group 11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	3	3	0	0	17	0	9
Georgia*	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Faroe Islands	3	1	0	2	1	6	3
San Marino	3	0	0	3	1	16	0

*Hosts

Netherlands 4-0 Faroe Islands, Georgia 3-1 San Marino, San Marino 0-12 Netherlands, Georgia 2-0 Faroe Islands, Netherlands 1-0 Georgia, Faroe Islands 1-0 San Marino

Elite round Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands*	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
France	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Austria	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Sweden	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

*Hosts

France 3-0 Sweden, Netherlands 2-1 Austria, Austria 1-2 France, Netherlands 2-0 Sweden, France 1-3 Netherlands, Sweden 0-1 Austria

GO FIGURE

12

The Netherlands' 12-0 win against San Marino equalled the record for Under-17 qualifying.



Assistant coach Mark van Bommel

4

The Netherlands have played in four Under-17 finals, losing to Turkey (2005) and Germany (2009), before beating the latter in 2011 and 2012.



Defender Wellington Verloof



TURKEY



Turkey are through to the UEFA European Under-17 Championship final tournament for the first time since 2010 after holding their nerve in a dramatic climax to their qualifying campaign. Hakan Tecimer's team showed impressive determination throughout, particularly when coming from behind twice to beat Norway 3-2 in elite round Group 2, then in their final winner-takes-all fixture against Poland, which they won 5-4 on penalties after a goalless 80 minutes had left the two sides dead level.

"It's a great feeling to be among the eight best Under-17 teams in Europe," said Tecimer. "We did not lose a single match in qualifying and showed our class, especially in the elite

round. After missing out on the last three tournaments at this level, going to the finals in Malta was crucial for us."

Winners in 2005 with a side containing Nuri Şahin and – at U16 – level in 1994, Turkey also made it to the last four in 2010 and 2008. Comfortable in a 4-2-3-1 formation pushing forward, then switching to 4-1-4-1 in defence, this year's crop rely on the striking skills of Bursaspor's Enes Ünal, scorer of six goals in qualifying, ably supported by club-mate Emirhan Aydoğan and Hayrullah Alici of Borussia Dortmund. Defender Ertuğrul Ersoy and Galatasaray AŞ midfielder Doğuş Can İncedere are also players to watch, the latter impressing with his performance in the elite round.

COACH: HAKAN TECIMER
DATE OF BIRTH: 06/01/1967

Tecimer was a gifted attacking midfielder who won the Turkish Super League with Fenerbahçe SK in 1989. He retired in 2000 and coached Fenerbahçe's U18s and reserves, before taking charge of Turkey U16s and U17s in November 2011.



"It's a great feeling to be among the eight best Under-17 teams in Europe"

UNDER-17 FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 6

BEST PERFORMANCE: winners 2005

GROUP A MATCHES: 9 May v Netherlands, 12 May v England, 15 May v Malta



QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Tarık Çetin	08/01/1997	5	0	Fenerbahçe SK
Übeyd Adıyaman	02/10/1997	1	0	Gençlerbirliği SK
Defenders				
Burak Bekaroğlu	16/04/1997	3	0	Sakaryaspor AŞ
Zeki Çelik	17/02/1997	4	0	Bursaspor
Bahadır Çiloğlu	05/01/1997	6	0	Fenerbahçe SK
Ertuğrul Ersoy	13/02/1997	4	0	Yeşil Bursa AŞ
Eray Karadağ	20/10/1997	2	0	Fenerbahçe SK
Zübeyir Kaya	18/04/1997	4	0	DSC Arminia Bielefeld
Savaş Polat	14/04/1997	4	0	Fenerbahçe SK
Furkan Ünver	30/01/1997	4	0	Bursaspor
Midfielders				
Emirhan Aydoğan	26/06/1997	5	0	Bursaspor
Okan Çelik	01/01/1997	2	0	Gençlerbirliği SK
Abdullah Doğan	10/02/1997	2	0	SV Werder Bremen
Doğuş Can İncedere	15/01/1997	3	1	Galatasaray AŞ
Samed Karakoç	30/06/1997	5	0	Fenerbahçe SK
Alican Özlesli	01/01/1997	2	0	Altınordu AŞ
Hasan Özkan	14/11/1997	3	0	KV Mechelen
Oğulcan Tezel	27/02/1997	3	0	Hertha BSC Berlin
Birhan Vatansever	25/04/1997	4	0	Galatasaray AŞ
Forwards				
Hayrullah Alici	07/01/1997	6	2	Borussia Dortmund
Enes Ünal	10/05/1997	6	6	Bursaspor
Sabit Yılmaz	27/07/1997	6	0	Turgutluspor

This list consists of players who featured during qualifying. Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying round Group 9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Latvia	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Northern Ireland*	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Luxembourg	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

*Hosts

Turkey 2-2 Luxembourg, Northern Ireland 0-1 Latvia, Latvia 0-1 Turkey, Northern Ireland 3-1 Luxembourg, Turkey 2-0 Northern Ireland, Luxembourg 0-2 Latvia

Elite round Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Poland	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Greece*	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
Norway	3	0	0	3	3	8	0

*Hosts

Poland 2-1 Greece, Turkey 3-2 Norway, Poland 2-1 Norway, Greece 0-1 Turkey, Turkey 0-0 Poland (Turkey win 5-4 on penalties), Norway 0-3 Greece

GO FIGURE

1

Turkey's penalty shoot-out with Poland was the first in any UEFA qualifying group.



22

Turkey have strength in depth, Hakan Tecimer having called on 22 players during their qualifying campaign.



Midfielder Emirhan Aydoğan in action

GUYS

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Follow the action on UEFA.com and on the @UEFAcom Twitter account.

The tournament's official website will have all the latest news as well as match reports, reaction and exclusive interviews.



Match schedule

GROUP STAGE

9 MAY

Group A

11.00 National Stadium, Ta' Qali	Netherlands	■ v ■	Turkey
18.00 National Stadium, Ta' Qali	Malta	■ v ■	England

Group B

11.15 Gozo Stadium, Gozo	Germany	■ v ■	Switzerland
15.15 Gozo Stadium, Gozo	Scotland	■ v ■	Portugal

12 MAY

Group A

11.15 Gozo Stadium, Gozo	England	■ v ■	Turkey
15.15 Gozo Stadium, Gozo	Malta	■ v ■	Netherlands

Group B

11.00 Hibernians Stadium, Paola	Switzerland	■ v ■	Portugal
18.00 Hibernians Stadium, Paola	Germany	■ v ■	Scotland

15 MAY

Group A

11.00 National Stadium, Ta' Qali	Turkey	■ v ■	Malta
11.00 Hibernians Stadium, Paola	England	■ v ■	Netherlands

Group B

18.00 National Stadium, Ta' Qali	Portugal	■ v ■	Germany
18.00 Hibernians Stadium, Paola	Switzerland	■ v ■	Scotland

SEMI-FINALS

18 MAY

17.45 National Stadium, Ta' Qali	■	■ v ■	■
20.45 National Stadium, Ta' Qali	■	■ v ■	■

FINAL

21 MAY

19.00 National Stadium, Ta' Qali	■	■ v ■	■
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All kick-off times are local time (CET)

GROUP A

▶	MALTA
▶	ENGLAND
▶	NETHERLANDS
▶	TURKEY

GROUP B

▶	GERMANY
▶	SWITZERLAND
▶	SCOTLAND
▶	PORTUGAL



MATCH FORMAT

Players are eligible to play in the competition if they were born on or after 1 January 1997. If a semi-final or the final stands at a draw at the end of 80 minutes of normal time, the match will go straight to a penalty shoot-out.

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VENUES

Malta's national stadium will host seven matches including the final

NATIONAL STADIUM TA' QALI

CAPACITY 16,983
OPENED 1980 (renovated 2010)
MATCHES four group games,
semi-finals, final



Malta's national stadium lies in the central village of Ta' Qali and contains the headquarters of the Malta Football Association. The stadium is the stage for Malta's international games, as well as for the majority of the country's top league fixtures, which are played there each weekend.

GOZO STADIUM KEWKIJA, GOZO

CAPACITY 1,644
OPENED 1936 (renovated 1995)
MATCHES four group games



Gozo Stadium was built as the Silver Jubilee Ground in the 1930s but was extensively renovated in the 1990s. The stadium stages matches in the island-wide Gozo Football League. Gozo FC played in the 1999/2000 Maltese Premier League, though the club no longer competes in top-level men's football.

HIBERNIANS STADIUM PAOLA

CAPACITY 2,968
OPENED 1986
MATCHES four group games



This is the training home of Paola's Hibernians FC, who have played UEFA competition matches here but play most of their league games at the national stadium in Ta' Qali. Hibernians have been champions of Malta ten times.

FIRST STEPS TO SUCCESS

The UEFA European Under-17 Championship has long been a first public showcase for the stars of tomorrow

The list of players who have participated in the UEFA European Under-17 Championship, and its Under-16 predecessor, reads like a roll call of the greats of the European game. From Thierry Henry and Luís Figo to the likes of Wayne Rooney and Cristiano Ronaldo and more recently Eden Hazard and Toni Kroos, this is where the continent's stars first shine.

The thrill of representing your country and that first taste of international tournament football leave lasting impressions; lifting the trophy is a moment the fortunate few will never forget. "I am speechless," said defender Dzhambaldin Khodzhanizayov after helping Russia defeat Sweden 10-9 on penalties in last summer's final. "I never even dreamed we would become European champions."

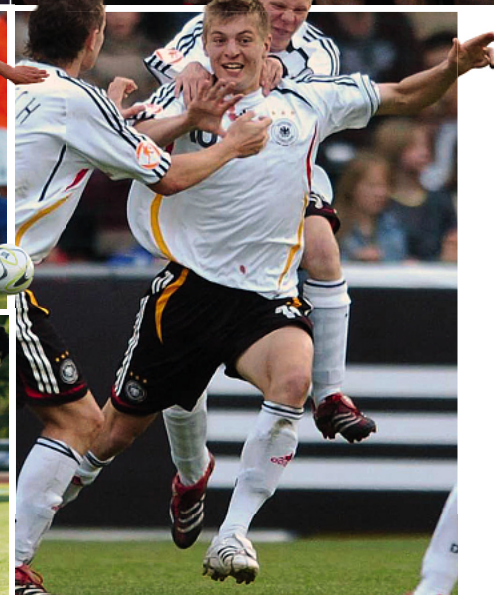
It was the second time Russia had claimed the trophy at Under-17 level, pulling them level with Spain and the Netherlands as the most successful countries in this age category. Traditionally it is the Iberian nations that have had most to celebrate, with Spain winning six times at U16 level as well, while Portugal have clinched four U16 titles and one U17 crown, in 2003.

Italy were the first Under-16 champions in 1982, and

Switzerland the first of the Under-17 era in 2002. That season's final tournament was the most recent to involve 16 teams, but it will revert to that number next season, to allow more youngsters the chance to experience a final tournament before most of their senior careers get under way.

Player development is the competition's 'raison d'être', though success here helps foster the sort of winning mentality that has benefitted the likes of Spain so greatly in recent years. Players learn to cope with the intense demands of tournament football and also benefit from the chance to measure themselves against the best of their peers, who many will meet again as their careers progress. Who could have predicted that when French striker Karim Benzema and Spanish centre-back Gerard Piqué met in the 2004 final, they would be squaring off in the colours of Real Madrid CF and FC Barcelona ten years on?

As he savoured his side's victory last summer, Russia coach Dmitri Khomukha did not lose sight of the bigger picture – the important role the competition plays in helping youngsters learn the game. "This is an invaluable experience and there is no substitute for it," he said. "The boys understand what kind of opposition awaits in the future."



Under-17 memories (clockwise from top): Russia celebrate in 2013; Germany starlet Toni Kroos; England's Theo Walcott; João Moutinho lifts the trophy in 2003; Eden Hazard takes aim



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FACTS AND FIGURES

The key names and numbers in the competition's history



24,000

A record 24,000 watched hosts Germany's 2-1 victory against the Netherlands in the 2009 final in Magdeburg.



54

For the first time this season, 54 nations have taken part in the competition, with Gibraltar entering for the first time.

6

The record winning margin in an Under-17 final tournament is six goals, shared by Denmark (6-0 v Finland, 2002) and Spain (7-1 v Luxembourg, 2006).

Most goals: 7

Spain's Jonathan Soriano holds the record for most goals scored in an Under-17 final tournament with seven in 2002, when the event involved 16 teams. In the 11 eight-team tournaments since, three players have scored six times: Paco Alcácer for Spain in 2010, Turkey's Tevfik Köse in 2005 and David Rodríguez for Spain in 2003.

4-0

Spain hold the record for the biggest win in a final – 4-0 against France in 2008. Thiago Alcántara (below) was among the Spanish scorers.

2

Spain, the Netherlands and Russia have been the most successful teams at Under-17 level, winning the competition twice each.



Roll of honour

UEFA
European Under-17
Championship

2013 Russia
2012 Netherlands
2011 Netherlands
2010 England
2009 Germany
2008 Spain
2007 Spain
2006 Russia
2005 Turkey
2004 France
2003 Portugal
2002 Switzerland

UEFA
European Under-16
Championship

2001 Spain
2000 Portugal
1999 Spain
1998 Republic of Ireland
1997 Spain
1996 Portugal
1995 Portugal
1994 Turkey
1993 Poland
1992 Germany
1991 Spain
1990 Czechoslovakia
1989 Portugal
1988 Spain
1987 Title not awarded
1986 Spain
1985 USSR
1984 West Germany
1982 Italy



"ALL THE HARD WORK HAS PAID OFF"

Cesc Fàbregas has "great memories" of his time with the Under-17s

He has won the FIFA World Cup and the UEFA European Championship twice, but ask Cesc Fàbregas about his experience in the UEFA European Under-17 Championship ten years ago and the 27-year-old's eyes still light up. This competition is where the Spain and FC Barcelona midfielder got a taste of what it takes to reach the top.

I just played because I enjoy it
Football has always been everything for me. When I played in the national youth categories I wasn't really thinking about making it into the senior team, because at that stage I didn't think I would become a professional footballer. You don't think about that, it's a dream. But football is my life, and obviously I fought and worked hard to become a professional player.

Spain has had great youth coaches
They work well on technique and tactics. They prepare you well – to respect your team-mates and your opponents; how to support each other, and to always play for the team, not as individuals. I was really lucky to have had great coaches back then.

We are all so united
All the Spanish national teams basically play the same way. The objective is the same, the young lads play to enjoy, but with the right characteristics – controlling

the ball well, and when you've lost it, trying to win it back quickly. I think all that hard work has paid off, when you see all those young lads coming into the national team. There are a lot of top-level international stars in the [senior] side, but they always think of the team. That's helped create unity and a team ethic, which makes us strong.

I remember when I put on the Spain shirt for the first time
I was 16. It was in France, a match against the French Under-17 national team. I remember wearing the No8 shirt and they made me captain.

I have great memories of the Under-17s
We played a great tournament. At a young age you try to play like a professional. You try to eat healthily and go to bed early. It's different to anything you've experienced before – it really is like a dream. Players should go and enjoy it and try to be successful with the greatest desire to learn. It is an unforgettable experience. I have played in a World Cup and two EUROs, but an Under-17 World Cup or Under-19 EURO or Under-20 World Cup are also events you remember. They're unique experiences and great memories.



Ten years on: flashback to 2004

"He possesses extraordinary quality, I love watching him play," mused Juan Santisteban, Spain coach at the 2004 UEFA European Under-17 Championship final tournament. "He passes well, attacks well; in short, he has everything." Cesc Fàbregas had celebrated his 17th birthday by helping Spain to a 1-0 victory against Turkey in their opening Group A match. He would go on to be named UEFA.com's player of the tournament, shining in particular with a typically inventive semi-final performance against England in which he also kept his cool to convert the winning penalty in the last minute. Fàbregas, though, would not leave France with a winners' medal. The trophy went to the hosts, whose side boasted the firepower of Karim Benzema, Jérémy Ménez, Hatem Ben Arfa and Samir Nasri and who defeated Spain, both at the group stage and in the final. It would not be long, however, before the experience Fàbregas gained under Santisteban's tutelage would be reaping rewards.

Fàbregas savours winning UEFA EURO 2012 (left) and on the ball with the Under-17s in 2004





UNDER-17 FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 7

BEST PERFORMANCE: winners 2009

GROUP B MATCHES: 9 May v Switzerland, 12 May v Scotland, 15 May v Portugal



Having lost to the Netherlands in the 2011 and 2012 UEFA European Under-17 Championship showpieces, Germany last year missed out on the final tournament altogether. Given a bye through to this season's elite round, Germany racked up convincing victories against Georgia and the Republic of Ireland before coming from behind to secure a decisive 1-1 draw with Group 5 hosts Serbia.

Germany have a rich history at this level, winning the Under-16 version in 1984 and 1992 and the Under-17 edition five years ago. That 2009 vintage included the likes of Mario Götze, Marc-André ter Stegen and Bernd Leno.

Christian Wück's side are typical of a German youth

team in their intent to dominate possession and overrun the opposition. "It took hard work to go through against these very strong hosts, especially after going down so early," said Wück after the Serbia match. "I think we play good football. We want lots of possession and need that for our game. The entire tournament showed that every single player in this team is eager to perform when brought on. The subs always worked out."

They are also clearly a cohesive unit, as Hertha BSC Berlin's Damir Bektic, one of the driving forces in Germany's midfield, noted: "Nobody wanted the elite round to be our last meeting together."

COACH: CHRISTIAN WÜCK

DATE OF BIRTH: 09/06/1973

Wück, a midfielder or a striker, became the third-youngest player in Bundesliga history when he made his 1. FC Nürnberg debut. After being promoted from assistant to head coach at Rot Weiss Ahlen, he immediately won promotion to the second tier. He joined the German Football Association in 2012.



"It took hard work to go through. I think we play good football. We want lots of possession and need that for our game"

QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Patrick Bade	10/01/1997	0	0	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
Timo Königsmann	05/04/1997	3	0	Hannover 96
Defenders				
Robin Tim Becker	18/01/1997	3	0	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
Lukas Boeder	18/04/1997	2	0	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
Nicolas Clasen	25/02/1997	3	0	VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach
Benedikt Gimber	19/02/1997	3	0	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim
Patrick Kammerbauer	11/02/1997	1	0	1. FC Nürnberg
David Pütz	26/01/1997	3	0	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
Midfielders				
Niclas Bahn	26/01/1997	2	0	Hannover 96
Damir Bektic	30/01/1997	3	0	Hertha BSC Berlin
Max Besuschkow	31/05/1997	3	1	VfB Stuttgart
David Sauerland	28/06/1997	1	0	Borussia Dortmund
Benjamin Henrichs	23/02/1997	3	1	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
Forwards				
Oguzhan Aydogan	04/02/1997	2	1	FC Schalke 04
Arianit Ferati	07/09/1997	3	1	VfB Stuttgart
Allessandro Fiore Tapia	04/03/1997	2	1	SC Freiburg
Philipp Ochs	17/04/1997	3	3	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim
Finn Porath	23/02/1997	2	0	Hamburger SV

This list consists of players who featured during qualifying. Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

GO FIGURE

22

Number of times Germany have reached the Under-16 and Under-17 final tournaments combined.



8

Germany scored eight elite round goals, a tally bettered only by Portugal's nine.

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Elite round Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	3	2	1	0	8	1	7
Serbia*	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Republic of Ireland	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Georgia	3	0	1	2	2	8	1

*Hosts

Germany 4-0 Georgia, Serbia 2-1 Republic of Ireland, Germany 3-0 Republic of Ireland, Georgia 0-2 Serbia, Republic of Ireland 2-2 Georgia, Serbia 1-1 Germany



Benedikt Gimber (5) and Arianit Ferati (7, far left) in action during qualifying

SWITZERLAND




UNDER-17 FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 7

BEST PERFORMANCE: winners 2002

GROUP B MATCHES: 9 May v Germany, 12 May v Portugal, 15 May v Scotland



 Switzerland are fast becoming final tournament regulars, with this the fifth appearance in the last seven attempts for the 2002 winners, despite being paired with ever-powerful Spain and holders Russia in the elite round. Harun Alpsoy's 75th-minute goal earned a requisite win in the decisive game against Spain, leaving coach Yves Débonnaire "very emotional and full of joy". For Débonnaire, though, there is plenty more to do. "All we have managed so far is to qualify," he said. "We haven't won anything yet."

Switzerland have developed the happy knack of coming through when it matters, their players refusing to buckle amid mounting pressure. The Spain denouement looked far removed

when they trailed Russia 1-0 going into added time in the penultimate elite round game, but there was no panic, and the excellent Alban Ajeti popped up with a crucial equaliser to secure a point. It was no surprise to Débonnaire. "Credit to the players for this success," he said. "We may not have always been at a high level technically, but we always stood out with our mental fortitude."

That asset has not gone unnoticed by Dany Ryser, director of national teams at the Swiss Football Association, who said: "The coach and staff are making this team live and breathe the Swiss spirit – on and off the pitch. With this mentality and our football qualities we could go all the way."

COACH: YVES DÉBONNAIRE

DATE OF BIRTH: 12/12/1956

A former FC Sion midfielder, Débonnaire is in his third spell as U17 coach, having alternated with U16 duties. He guided the U17s to the finals in 2005 and 2008, exiting after the group stage each time.



"Credit to the players for this success – we always stood out with our mental fortitude"

QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Mathieu Descoux	22/01/1997	3	0	FC Lausanne-Sport
Senad Mujovic	26/05/1997	3	0	Grasshopper Club
Defenders				
Mirind Kryeziu	26/01/1997	6	0	FC Zürich
Noah Loosli	23/01/1997	4	0	Grasshopper Club
Tobias Schättin	05/06/1997	5	0	FC Winterthur
Alban Selmanaj	19/04/1997	4	0	FC Basel 1893
Midfielders				
Roberto Alves	08/06/1997	6	2	Grasshopper Club
Harun Alpsoy	03/03/1997	2	1	Grasshopper Club
Remo Arnold	17/01/1997	5	0	FC Luzern
Arxhend Cani	02/08/1997	6	1	FC Basel 1893
Vedad Efendic	07/01/1997	5	0	BSC Young Boys
Lukas Frehner	04/08/1997	1	0	FC Zürich
Nikola Gjorgjev	22/08/1997	1	0	Grasshopper Club
Dereck Kutesa	06/12/1997	4	0	Servette FC
Valentino Pugliese	18/07/1997	1	0	FC Basel 1893
Djibril Sow	06/02/1997	6	0	FC Zürich
Forwards				
Albian Ajeti	26/02/1997	5	5	FC Basel 1893
Samir Bajrami	03/07/1997	6	0	Grasshopper Club
Boris Babic	10/11/1997	2	1	FC St Gallen
Dimitri Oberlin	27/09/1997	3	0	FC Zürich
Filipe Parreiras	20/01/1997	1	0	FC Lausanne-Sport
Nils Ryser	08/01/1997	3	0	BSC Young Boys

This list comprises players who featured in qualifying. Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

GO FIGURE

0

In two of Switzerland's three elite round matches, against Spain and Wales, they did not allow their opponents a single shot on target.



Djibril Sow fires at goal

5

All three of Switzerland's elite round goals came in the last five minutes: 75, 77 and 80+2.



Boris Babic scored the winner against Wales in the elite round

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying round Group 12

Elite round Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	2	1	0	7	0	7
Austria	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
Denmark*	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Kazakhstan	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

*Hosts

Denmark 1-0 Kazakhstan, Switzerland 4-0 Austria, Kazakhstan 0-3 Switzerland, Denmark 0-2 Austria, Switzerland 0-0 Denmark, Austria 2-0 Kazakhstan

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Russia*	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Spain	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Wales	3	0	0	3	0	4	0

*Hosts

Switzerland 1-0 Wales, Spain 1-1 Russia, Spain 1-0 Wales, Russia 1-1 Switzerland, Switzerland 1-0 Spain, Wales 0-2 Russia



SCOTLAND



Scotland will be looking to improve on their only previous finals appearance, in which they lost all three of their games – conceding five goals and scoring none – at the 2008 tournament in Turkey. Their qualification this time around looked a long way off when they went 1-0 down in their elite round opener against Belgium, but they bounced back and racked up a 3-1 win, which acted as the perfect springboard for what proved to be an unblemished campaign.

"I said to the players before the game that they can be the first generation that can show the difference," said performance director Mark Wotte following that defeat of Belgium. "We showed the Scottish mentality with a fighting spirit but there

was also great skill and technique. We want to play better and better as well as having a good team spirit and will to win."

Wotte deployed a 4-3-3 formation for much of qualifying, with Greg Kiltie – who has since been ruled out of the finals through injury – and Aidan Nesbitt prominent, two forwards who can play on either wing or through the middle behind a central striker. Craig Wighton, who is quick with good movement and a keen eye for goal, also has a big part to play in attack, especially in Wotte's alternative 4-3-2-1 and in light of Kiltie's injury. He found the net four times in qualifying. At the other end of the field, captain Jack Breslin is a commanding defender who is particularly strong in the air.

COACH: SCOT GEMMILL

DATE OF BIRTH: 02/01/1971

Gemmill is a former Scotland midfielder who played most of his career in England. He is the son of Scotland great Archie Gemmill, who has previously managed Scotland's Under-19s.



"We showed the Scottish mentality with a fighting spirit but there was also great skill and technique"

UNDER-17 FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 2

BEST PERFORMANCE: group stage 2008

GROUP B MATCHES: 9 May v Portugal, 12 May v Germany, 15 May v Switzerland

QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Robby McCrorie	18/03/1998	5	0	Rangers FC
Devlin Mackay	23/01/1997	1	0	Kilmarnock FC
Defenders				
Cameron Ballantye	13/04/1997	4	1	Dundee United FC
Jack Breslin	06/04/1997	6	0	Celtic FC
Kyle Cameron	15/01/1997	3	0	Newcastle United FC
Michael Kelly	03/11/1997	5	0	Aberdeen FC
Tom Lang	12/06/1997	5	1	Birmingham City FC
Aidan McIluff	20/04/1997	3	0	Celtic FC
Jake Sheppard	30/05/1997	2	1	Reading FC
Sam Wardrop	20/10/1997	6	0	Celtic FC
Midfielders				
Steven Boyd	12/04/1997	5	0	Celtic FC
Ross Finnie	20/09/1997	3	0	Wolverhampton Wanderers FC
Aidan Nesbitt	05/02/1997	6	1	Celtic FC
Aaron Scott	01/07/1997	2	0	Heart of Midlothian FC
Joseph Thomson	14/01/1997	4	0	Celtic FC
Forwards				
Ryan Hardie	17/03/1997	3	0	Rangers FC
Greg Kiltie	18/01/1997	5	2	Kilmarnock FC
Calvin Miller	09/01/1998	4	0	Celtic FC
Dylan Pooler	23/04/1997	3	0	Kilmarnock FC
Craig Wighton	27/07/1997	6	4	Dundee FC
Scott Wright	08/08/1997	3	1	Aberdeen FC

Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying round Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Wales	3	1	2	0	8	5	5
Slovenia*	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Hungary	3	0	1	2	8	11	1

*Hosts

Scotland 3-1 Slovenia, Hungary 5-5 Wales, Scotland 0-0 Wales, Slovenia 4-2 Hungary, Hungary 1-2 Scotland, Wales 3-0 Slovenia

Elite round Group 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland*	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Romania	3	0	1	2	0	2	1
Belgium	3	0	1	2	1	6	1

*Hosts

Romania 0-0 Belgium, Scotland 2-0 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania 0-1 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belgium 1-3 Scotland, Scotland 1-0 Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-0 Belgium

GO FIGURE

1978



Coach Scot Gemmill is the son of former international midfielder Archie (above), who scored perhaps Scotland's most famous goal against the Netherlands at the 1978 FIFA World Cup.

2

The Under-17s have emulated their women counterparts, who qualified for last year's UEFA European Women's Under-17 Championship in England.



Scotland captain Jack Breslin



PORTUGAL



Portugal made serene progress through to the final tournament, winning six out of six in qualifying and registering 3-0 victories in each of their elite round matches. The team is built around a rich crop of SL Benfica academy players: they made up 12 of the 18-man elite round squad. "We have our own model and identity but naturally we profit from the work done by the clubs," says coach Emílio Peixe, whose team advanced to the finals with a match to spare.

Captain Rúben Neves plays for FC Porto, though, and the midfielder led from the front with goals against Ukraine and Iceland in the elite round. Others who caught the eye include Sporting Clube de Portugal goalkeeper Pedro Silva, Benfica

full-back Yuri Ribeiro and his club-mate Renato Sanches, a midfielder. "This generation of players deserves to be in the finals," says Peixe. "They have the quality to leave their mark on history, but they are still growing."

Portugal had a proud tradition in the UEFA European Under-16 Championship that preceded the U17 event, winning the competition four times. A team including Miguel Veloso, Antunes, Paulo Machado and João Moutinho also won the U17s in 2003 on home soil, but Portugal have graced the final tournament just twice since, finishing third as holders in 2004 and bowing out at the group stage in 2010.

COACH: EMÍLIO PEIXE

DATE OF BIRTH: 16/01/1973

A former Portugal international midfielder, Peixe was named best player at the 1991 FIFA U-20 World Cup. He came through Sporting's academy before moving to Sevilla FC, Porto and Benfica, and is in his second season with the U17s.



"This generation has the quality to leave their mark on history, but they are still growing"

UNDER-17 FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 5

BEST PERFORMANCE: winners 2003

GROUP B MATCHES: 9 May v Scotland, 12 May v Switzerland, 15 May v Germany

QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Fábio Duarte	11/05/1998	1	0	SL Benfica
Pedro Silva	13/02/1997	5	0	Sporting Clube de Portugal
Defenders				
Pedro Amaral	25/08/1997	1	0	SL Benfica
Rúben Dias	14/05/1997	5	0	SL Benfica
Francisco Ferreira	26/03/1997	6	0	SL Benfica
Diogo Izata	06/01/1997	4	0	FC Porto
Denis Martins	30/06/1997	1	0	Vitória SC
Pedro Rodrigues	20/05/1997	6	1	SL Benfica
Yuri Ribeiro	24/01/1997	5	0	SL Benfica
Hugo Santos	08/06/1997	4	0	SL Benfica
Midfielders				
João Carvalho	09/03/1997	3	0	SL Benfica
Pedro Delgado	07/04/1997	3	1	FC Internazionale Milano
Pedro Empis	01/02/1997	1	0	Sporting Clube de Portugal
Rúben Neves	13/03/1997	3	2	FC Porto
Gonçalo Rodrigues	18/07/1997	6	2	SL Benfica
Renato Sanches	18/08/1997	5	2	SL Benfica
Forwards				
Buta	10/02/1997	6	1	SL Benfica
Diogo Gonçalves	06/02/1997	6	1	SL Benfica
Luís Mata	06/07/1997	6	0	FC Porto
Hugo Neto	07/03/1997	1	1	SC Braga
Idrissa Sambu	27/03/1998	3	2	FC Porto
Alexandre Silva	16/03/1997	3	1	Sporting Clube de Portugal

This list consists of players who featured during qualifying. Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying round Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina*	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Croatia	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Montenegro	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

*Hosts

Croatia 1-0 Montenegro, Portugal 2-0 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia 0-2 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro 1-2 Portugal, Portugal 1-0 Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina 0-0 Montenegro

Elite round Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal*	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
Ukraine	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Iceland	3	0	1	2	0	5	1
Latvia	3	0	1	2	1	8	1

*Hosts

Iceland 0-2 Ukraine, Portugal 3-0 Latvia, Latvia 0-0 Iceland, Portugal 3-0 Ukraine, Iceland 0-3 Portugal, Ukraine 5-1 Latvia

GO FIGURE

1

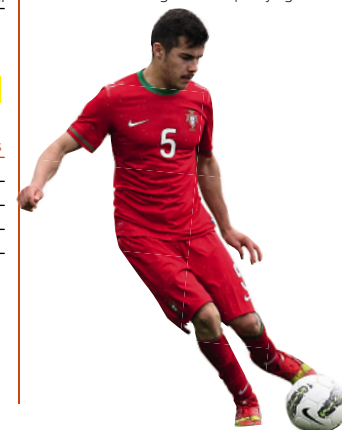
Portugal conceded a solitary goal in their six qualifying games, against Montenegro in their second outing.



Alexandre Silva takes on the Ukraine defence

6

Left-back Yuri Ribeiro (below) contributed a competition high of six assists in five games in qualifying.





MY MALTA: DAVID CARABOTT

MALTA'S MOST CAPPED PLAYER INTRODUCES HIS FRIENDLY, FOOTBALL-CRAZY HOME COUNTRY

Valletta's picturesque Vittoriosa waterfront

Capped a record 122 times for his country, tournament ambassador David Carabott won Maltese titles with Hibernians FC, Valletta FC, Sliema Wanderers FC and home-town club Marsaxlokk FC, and even represented Ghajnsielem FC on Malta's sister island, Gozo. Carabott celebrates his 46th birthday during this final tournament, and with around 500,000 people packed into Malta's 316 square kilometres, he knows the young players at the finals have plenty of friendly people to meet as well as great things to see.

"Thinking back to when I was playing, I would never have imagined that Malta would be able to stage a UEFA final tournament, but with the way that the facilities have improved in the country in recent years, this has become a possibility. Malta is a very special footballing nation, because we are so small, but football is like our religion too; it's the most popular sport here in Malta and it's the dream of every kid to be a football player.

"Visitors can expect a good standard of football here in Malta, and good weather too – it will be very sunny. And Malta is a very nice

country. Everyone who comes to the Under-17 finals should have a proper look around Malta and visit Gozo – there are lots of interesting places to see. There's a lot of good Maltese food, too!

"Playing at the Ta' Qali National Stadium is a huge deal for Maltese players. When I was a kid I always dreamed of playing there, and I treasure the memories of every game that I played there with Malta.

"The Malta team that play at this tournament are very lucky to have this opportunity to play against the very best sides of their age; they have

to give their absolute maximum and they can be sure that everyone in Malta will be behind them through the whole tournament.

"This could be the only final tournament they get to play at, so they have to take the most they can from it. They have to go with the mindset that their opponents are just players like them, and it's a great opportunity to showcase what they can do. There will be a lot of scouts around, so who knows?"

"To everyone involved: Enjoy the sun, enjoy the games, and enjoy Malta!"



TRAVEL



DON'T MISS

Visit Valletta

One of the European Capitals Of Culture for 2018, the Maltese capital (above) is a historic treasure.



Explore Mdina

A glorious walled settlement, Malta's former capital is off limits to cars – hence its nickname 'the Silent City'.

Try *bigilla*

Carabott's healthy food choice, this crushed bean dip is a favourite snack food and starter in Malta.

Hit the beach

Gozo and the tiny island of Comino have glorious beaches and snorkelers' paradise the Blue Lagoon.

Marsaxlokk

Carabott's home village is famous for fish – and the eyes (*luzzu*) traditionally drawn on local fishing boats for luck.





UEFA
UNDER17
CHAMPIONSHIP
Malta 2014



Björn Kuipers reveals how referees too learn their trade at youth level

As he prepares for this summer's FIFA World Cup, Björn Kuipers may reflect on his first steps up the refereeing ladder. Eight years ago, the 41-year-old Dutchman was involved in his first international tournament – and even refereed the final as Russia defeated the Czech Republic to win the 2006 UEFA European Under-17 Championship title.

Since then, Kuipers has established himself as one of the game's elite referees, counting the 2013 UEFA Europa League final and the 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup final among his career highlights. The Under-17s, though, remains a significant milestone. "That was my first big

acquaintance with international football," Kuipers recalls. "Youth tournaments are a fantastic experience."

As the players here in Malta expand their footballing horizons, so too will the referees. "I got to know many different people from many countries. That was very beautiful, because I only knew referees in the Netherlands. When you become an international referee you get to know other cultures. Because you're at a tournament longer than just one match you get to know the people you referee with much better. I remember 2006 very well. I remember who I was with, and those are memories that last a lifetime."

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREES

ALEXANDER HARKAM
Austria
ALIYAR AGHAYEV
Azerbaijan
JONATHAN LARDOT
Belgium
ALEKSANDRS ANUFRIJEVS
Latvia
NIKOLA DABANOVIĆ
Montenegro
ANDREAS EKBERG
Sweden

ASSISTANT REFEREES

MESROP GHAZARYAN
Armenia
DAVIT CHIGOGIDZE
Georgia
ISTVÁN ALBERT
Hungary
DAVID ELIAS BITTON
Israel
AUDRIUS JAGINTAVIČIUS
Lithuania
DAG-ROGER NEBBEN
Norway
JURE PRAPROTNİK
Slovenia
OLEKSANDR KORNIYKO
Ukraine

FOURTH OFFICIALS

CLAYTON PISANI
Malta
ALAN MARIO SANT
Malta



WIN A MATCH BALL

For a chance to win an official 2014 UEFA European Under-17 Championship tournament match ball, keep your eyes on the @UEFAcom Twitter account on the day of the final (21 May). As well as details of how to win the adidas Brazuca ball, @UEFAcom has all the latest tournament news.

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The Valletta 2018 Foundation wishes a successful
UEFA UNDER 17 Championship - Malta 2014 to all



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