

ITALY - GERMANY

MATCH PRESS KIT

Olympia, Helsingborg

Friday 26 June 2009 - 20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Matchday 4 - Semi-finals



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Match background

Two of world football's traditional powerhouses, Italy and Germany have never before crossed paths in a competitive international at this level but the stakes could hardly be higher when they meet in Helsingborg in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship semi-finals.

- Italy opened their campaign with a goalless draw against Serbia before 2-1 wins against Sweden and Belarus sent Pierluigi Casiraghi's side into the last four as Group A winners. Draws against Spain (0-0) and England (1-1), either side of a 2-0 victory over Finland, ensured Horst Hrubesch's Germany would be their semi-final opponents as Group B runners-up.

- Italy are based in Helsingborg and have made the Oresund port a home from home having played all three of their games so far at the Olympia, where their semi will take place.

- Although they have never before played competitively, these teams met in a friendly international in Osnabruck on 18 November 2008, Germany running out 1-0 winners thanks to a 48th-minute goal from Toni Kroos.

- The teams that night were:

Germany: Ralf Fährmann, Andreas Beck, Daniel Schwaab, Benedikt Höwedes, Dennis Aogo, Gonzalo Castro, Jerome Boateng (Daniel Adlung 78), Markus Steinhöfer (Fabian Johnson 46), Mesut Özil (Chinedu Ede 67), Toni Kroos, Ashkan Dejagah (Sandro Wagner 19).

Italy: Salvatore Sirigu, Marco Motta (Lorenzo De Silvestri 46), Fabiano Santacroce, Marco Andreolli (Salvatore Bocchetti 59), Domenico Criscito (Antonio Candrevà 46), Daniele Dessena (Davide Di Gennaro 80), Francesco Bolzoni (Davide Bottone 64), Paolo De Ceglie, Davide Lanzafame (Alessio Cerci 46), Mario Balotelli (Alberto Paloschi 80), Sebastian Giovinco.

- The sides also crossed paths in a goalless friendly draw in Reutlingen on 21 February 2007.

- On that occasion the teams were:

Germany: Florian Fromlowitz (Thorsten Kirschbaum 46), Andreas Beck, Robert Müller, Torben Joneleit (Mergim Mavraj 67), Mounir Chaftar (Sebastian Boenisch 46), Kai Bülow (Robert Flessers 46), Stephan Fürstner, Jan Rosenthal (Daniel Brinkmann 46), Sören Halfar, Bernd Nehrig, Marcel Heller (Rouwen Hennings 46).

Italy: Daniele Padelli (Andrea Consigli 46), Nicola Belmonte, Michele Canini, Marco Rossi (Salvatore Bocchetti 46), Michele Cremonesi (Cesare Rickler 58), Antonio Candreva (Salvatore Burrai 46), Piermario Morosini, Simone Bentivoglio, Paolo De Ceglie (Andrea Russotto 46), Robert Acquafresca (Riccardo Maniero 58), Gabriele Paonessa (Sebastian Giovinco 58).

- At senior level Italy beat West Germany 3-1 in the 1982 FIFA World Cup final – with Hrubesch in the losing side – and also had the better of the sides' meeting in the 2006 semi-finals, running out 2-0 winners after extra time in Dortmund on 4 July. The most epic meeting between Italy and West Germany, though, came in the semi-finals of the 1970 World Cup. The Azzurri won 4-3 after extra time, the opening 90 minutes having finished 1-1. The match is known in Italy as the 'Partita del Secolo' – the game of the century – and has inspired numerous books and films.



- Perhaps the finest moment of Hrubesch's playing career came on Italian soil as – in what was only his fifth international appearance – he headed both goals in West Germany's 2-1 victory against Belgium in the UEFA European Championship final at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome on 22 June 1980.
- In contrast, Casiraghi failed to score in four international appearances against Germany, with the last of those games – a goalless draw at Old Trafford, Manchester, on 19 June 1996 – ending the Azzurri's interest in EURO '96™.
- Overall, the teams have crossed paths on 29 occasions, Italy winning 14 – including the last three – and Germany seven with eight draws.

Player links

- Andrea Poli and Alberto Paloschi were in the Italy side beaten by Hrubesch's Germany in last season's European U19 Championship final in Jablonec, going down 3-1 on 26 July 2008.
- Marco Andreolli, Lino Marzoratti, Piermario Morosini and Domenico Criscito featured as Italy drew 1-1 with Germany in a European U17 Championship Elite round Group 7 game in March 2003, with Andrea Consigli an unused substitute and Ashkan Dejagah in the Germany ranks.
- A number of the Germany squad encountered Italian opposition with their clubs in 2008/09, Sebastian Boenisch and Mesut Özil starting Werder Bremen's 2-1 victory against FC Internazionale Milano on 9 December with Mario Balotelli coming on as a second-half substitute for the visitors. Balotelli and Özil had been in the respective starting lineups as Bremen and Inter drew 1-1 on 1 October, the latter setting up Claudio Pizarro's 62nd-minute equaliser.
- Mats Hummels started BV Borussia Dortmund's 2-0 home defeat against an Udinese Calcio team who included Motta as a late substitute in the UEFA Cup first round first leg on 18 September. Marcel Schmelzer started the return leg on 2 October, where Dortmund won 2-0 but ultimately lost on penalties.
- Dejagah played as VfL Wolfsburg earned a 2-2 draw at AC Milan in the UEFA Cup group stage on 17 December.
- A number of the Germany squad have already experienced semi-finals this season, Gonzalo Castro coming on as 115th-minute substitute in Bayer 04 Leverkusen's 4-1 extra-time win against 1. FSV Mainz at that stage in the German Cup in April. Özil helped Werder Bremen defeat a Hamburger SV team featuring Jerome Boateng and Dennis Aogo in the other semi and then scored the only goal in the final on 30 May. Boenisch also played both matches for Bremen.
- All four players played a part in the UEFA Cup semi-finals too, Bremen eliminating Hamburg on away goals after their two-legged tie finished 3-3 on aggregate. Boenisch and Özil could not inspire Bremen to victory in Istanbul, however, as they lost the final 2-1 to FC Shakhtar Donetsk.
- Claudio Marchisio was a second-half substitute as Juventus lost 2-1 at S.S. Lazio in the first leg of the Coppa Italia semi-final on 3 March. Marchisio, Paolo De Ceglie and Sebastian Giovinco all played from the start in the return leg in Turin on 22 April, Juve again going down 2-1.
- Daniele Dessena was an unused substitute when UC Sampdoria ran out 3-0 winners against an FC Internazionale Milano featuring Balotelli in the first leg of their Coppa Italia semi-final on 4 March. Balotelli played 90 minutes in the return on 23 April, Inter winning 1-0 as Dessena again remained on the bench.

Semi-final records

- Surprisingly this is only Germany's second U21 semi-final, although they won their previous last-four tie:
21.04.1982, West Germany 5-0 USSR, Aachen
30.04.1982, USSR 3-4 West Germany, Kharkov
- Italy, on the other hand, are old hands at this level having won five of their previous eight semi-finals, and also reached the 2000 final direct from the group stage. The full breakdown of results is:
05.06.2004, Italy 3-1 Portugal, Bochum
25.05.2002, Czech Republic 3-2 Italy, Zurich
28.05.1996, Italy 1-0 France, Barcelona
15.04.1994, France 0-0 Italy (3-5 penalties), Montpellier
09.04.1992, Denmark 0-1 Italy, Aalborg
22.04.1992, Italy 2-0 Denmark, Perugia
11.04.1990, Yugoslavia 0-0 Italy, Zagreb
09.05.1990, Italy 2-2 Yugoslavia, Parma
09.04.1986, Italy 2-0 England, Pisa
23.04.1986, England 1-1 Italy, Swindon
18.04.1984, England 3-1 Italy, Manchester
02.05.1984, Italy 1-0 England, Florence

• Germany got the better of Italy in the European U17 Championship semi-finals in May, late goals from Reinhold Yabo and Bienvenue Basala-Mazana giving the hosts a 2-0 victory in Dessau en route to lifting the trophy.

Squad news

Italy

• Mario Balotelli is available again after serving a one-match ban for his dismissal against Sweden. Pierluigi Casiraghi will, however, be without central midfielder Claudio Marchisio who is suspended after picking up his second booking of the tournament against Belarus.

• Salvatore Bocchetti was also booked against Belarus and he, Marco Motta, Andrea Consigli, Francesco Pisano and Balotelli would miss the final should Italy get there if they are cautioned again against Germany. Balotelli's booking in the first match against Serbia still stands.

• Paolo De Ceglie will play no further part in the finals as he has returned to Italy after twisting his left ankle against Belarus. He was replaced by Daniele Dessena on 14 minutes.

• Casiraghi had been forced into one change from the team that had beaten Sweden 2-1, with Ignazio Abate replacing the suspended Balotelli on the right side of a three-man front line.

• Two Azzurrini players made their tournament debuts against Belarus, Piermario Morosini and Antonio Candreva. Candreva replaced Abate on 62 minutes and played a key role in Italy's winner, pulling the ball across goal for Acquafresca to tap in. Morosini came on for Luca Cigarini with five minutes left.

• Italy dominated possession against Belarus with 63 per cent of the ball and had 24 shots to Belarus's seven, but were made to wait until the 75th minute before Acquafresca settled their nerves. With Sweden leading Serbia in the other match in Group A, had Belarus defeated Italy the Azzurrini would have been eliminated.

• On Wednesday Marco Motta sealed a permanent switch to AS Roma from Udinese Calcio for €3.5m. The Italy captain spent the second half of last season on loan with the Giallorossi.

• Ignazio Abate has sealed a return to AC Milan, the Rossoneri paying €2.2m to re-sign a player they sold to Torino FC on a co-ownership deal 12 months ago.

Germany

• Hrubesch made two changes to Germany side that had beaten Finland, Patrick Ebert replacing Dennis Aogo in central midfield, while Ānis Ben-Hatira came in for Marko Marin's on the left. Gonzalo Castro overcame a slight strain to his right thigh to open the scoring after five minutes.

• Marcel Schmelzer again deputised for the injured Sebastian Boenisch at full-back. Boenisch pulled ligaments in his right ankle in Germany's opening game against Spain.

• Seven Germany players would miss any final if they pick up yellow cards against Italy: Ashkan Dejagah, Andreas Beck, Sami Khedira, Marko Marin, Mesut Özil, Patrick Ebert and Schmelzer. "It is no time for a cautious approach," Hrubesch warned. "If someone has the misfortune of being suspended then someone else will take over."

• Having won the UEFA European Under-19 Championship last July and claimed the U17 continental crown last month, Germany are on course for an unprecedented clean sweep of UEFA age-group competitions.

• On Wednesday Marin agreed a four-year deal with Werder Bremen, sealing his switch from VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach for an undisclosed fee. Bremen's Boenisch and Özil are also in the U21 party.

• The draw against England attracted a television audience of 6.1 million, just a million fewer than for the senior side's last outing, a 7-2 friendly victory against the United Arab Emirates on 2 June.

Team facts

Italy

Italy are the Under-21 championship's most successful side, having lifted the trophy five times in the last nine editions. After finishing runners-up in 1986, when Azeglio Vicini's team – featuring the likes of Roberto Mancini, Giuseppe Giannini, Roberto Donadoni, Walter Zenga and Gianluca Vialli – were pipped to the title by Spain on penalties, the Azzurrini won the tournament three times in succession, in 1992, 1994 and 1996.

In the first of those triumphs a side led by Demetrio Albertini beat Sweden in the final, while two years later Portugal's 'golden generation' were overcome by a team boasting Fabio Cannavaro, Christian Panucci, Christian Vieri and Filippo Inzaghi. In 1996, Italy avenged their 1986 defeat by beating Spain on penalties with Francesco Totti and Alessandro

Nesta in an already talented squad; Andrea Pirlo was the star four years later when the Azzurrini saw off the Czech Republic. The midfielder was part of the senior squad that claimed the 2006 FIFA World Cup, as were Andrea Barzagli, Marco Amelia, Daniele De Rossi, Cristian Zaccardo and Alberto Gilardino, who all helped Italy to their fifth U21 crown in 2004.

Tournament record

Winners: 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004

Runners-up: 1986

Semi-finalists: 1984, 1990, 2002

Quarter-finalists: 1978, 1980, 1982, 1988

Final tournament appearances: 1994, 1996, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009

2009 qualifying

P12 W8 D4 L0 F24 A6

Top scorer: Robert Acquafresca, 5 goals

Most appearances: 12 Andrea Consigli, Marco Motta

Biggest win: 5-0 v Azerbaijan (H) 16.11.2007

Biggest defeat: n/a

Youngest player: Mario Balotelli (18 years, 24 days v Greece on 05.09.2008)

Oldest player: Pablo Osvaldo (12.01.1986)

Red cards: Fabiano Santacroce

Friendly results since qualifying

18.11.2008 Germany 1-0 Italy

11.02.2009 Italy 1-1 Sweden

31.03.2009 Netherlands 1-1 Italy

09.06.2009 Denmark 0-4 Italy

Italy U21s capped at senior level: None

Players with previous U21 final tournament experience

Netherlands 2007: Luca Cigarini, Daniele Dessena, Marco Motta, Marco Andreolli, Andrea Consigli, Domenico Criscito

Most capped player

All-time: 46 Andrea Pirlo

Current: 35 Marco Motta

Leading scorer

All-time: 19 Alberto Gilardino

Current: 8 Robert Acquafresca

Biggest wins

Final tournament: 3-0 Italy v Serbia and Montenegro 08.06.2004

2004 final, Ruhrstadion, Bochum

Qualifying: 8-1 Italy v Wales 05.09.2003

2004 qualifying group stage, Stadio Pietro Fortunati, Pavia

7-0 Italy v Estonia 23.03.1995

1996 qualifying group stage, Stadio Catanzaro, Catanzaro

Heaviest defeats

Final tournament: 3-2 Czech Republic v Italy* 29.05.2002

2002 semi-finals, Hardturm, Zurich

*Of their four defeats in final tournaments Italy have never been beaten by more than one goal

Qualifying: 6-0 Norway v Italy 05.06.1991

1992 qualifying group stage, Viking Stadium, Stavanger

Germany

Given Germany's glittering football history, their lack of success at this level comes as a surprise. Germany have never won the UEFA European Under-21 Championship and have rarely come close since unification. In 1982, a West Germany team boasting Rudi Völler, Thomas Allofs and Pierre Littbarski lost 5-4 on aggregate to England in a two-legged final; they have also fallen at the quarter-final stage on several occasions.

Even so, this is just the third time since 2000 that Germany have reached the finals and they have never advanced beyond their group since the current tournament format was introduced nine years ago. That run looked likely to end on home soil in 2004, but a side including Lukas Podolski and Bastian Schweinsteiger were unable to get out of their section. More disappointment followed in 2006 when Dieter Eilts's men seemed certain to progress to the semi-finals only for João Moutinho's added-time strike for Portugal to let Serbia and Montenegro in through by the back door. The Democratic Republic of Germany fared better in the competition's early days, being runners-up in the first two tournaments in 1978 and 1980, succumbing over two legs to Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union respectively.

Tournament record**Winners:** –**Runners-up:** 1978, 1980 (Democratic Republic of Germany); 1982 (West Germany)**Final tournament appearances:** 1998, 2004, 2006, 2009**2009 qualifying**

P10 W6 D3 L1 F26 A4

Top scorer: Rouwen Hennings, 7 goals**Most appearances:** 9 Andreas Beck**Biggest win:** 7-0 v Luxembourg (A) 20.11.2007**Biggest defeat:** 0-1 v Moldova (A) 19.08.2008**Youngest player:** Richard Sukuta-Pasu (18 years, 1 month, 26 days v Moldova on 19.08.2008)**Oldest player:** Pascal Bieler (26.02.1986)**Red cards:** None**Friendly results since qualifying**

18.11.2008 Germany 1-0 Italy

10.02.2009 Republic of Ireland 1-1 Germany

27.03.2009 Germany 0-4 Netherlands

31.03.2009 Germany 1-1 Belarus

Capped at senior level: Gonzalo Castro, Marko Marin, Manuel Neuer, Andreas Beck, Mesut Özil**Players with previous U21 final tournament experience**

2006 Portugal – Florian Fromlowitz, Gonzalo Castro

Most capped player

All-time: 31 Fabian Ernst

Current: 25 Andreas Beck

Leading scorer

All-time: 18 Pierre Littbarski

Current: 13 Rouwen Hennings

Biggest wins**Final tournament:** 2-0 Germany v Finland

2009 group stage, Öljans vall, Halmstad

Qualifying: 8-0 Germany v Albania 23.03.2001

2002 qualifying group stage, Köln-Süd, Cologne

Germany v Republic of Ireland 23.03.1993

1994 qualifying group stage, Baunatal

Heaviest defeats**Final tournament:** 0-3 France v Germany 25.05.2006

2006 group stage, Estádio D. Afonso Henriques, Guimaraes

Qualifying: 1-4 France v Germany 26.03.1996

1996 quarter-finals, Stade Saint-Symphorien, Metz

Squad list

Italy

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				Overall U21	
						a Qual.	Gls	a FT	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Andrea Consigli	27.01.1987	22	Atalanta BC	*	12	-	3	-	15	-
12	Salvatore Sirigu	12.01.1987	22	Ancona Calcio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Andrea Seculin	14.07.1990	18	ACF Fiorentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders											
2	Marco Motta	14.05.1986	23	AS Roma	*	12	1	3	-	22	1
3	Marco Andreoli	10.06.1986	23	US Sassuolo Calcio	-	3	-	3	-	14	-
4	Domenico Criscito	30.12.1986	22	Genoa Cricket and Football Club	-	11	1	3	-	17	1
6	Lino Marzoratti	12.10.1986	22	Empoli FC	-	9	-	-	-	9	-
13	Andrea Ranocchia	16.02.1988	21	AS Bari	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
14	Francesco Pisano	29.04.1986	23	Cagliari Calcio	*	5	-	1	-	7	-
15	Salvatore Bocchetti	30.11.1986	22	Genoa Cricket and Football Club	*	3	-	3	-	6	-
Midfielders											
5	Piermario Morosini	05.07.1986	22	Vicenza Calcio	-	10	-	1	-	12	-
7	Ignazio Abate	12.11.1986	22	Torino FC	-	2	1	3	-	5	1
8	Claudio Marchisio	19.01.1986	23	Juventus	S	8	-	3	-	11	-
11	Paolo De Ceglie	17.09.1986	22	Juventus	-	7	-	3	-	10	-
16	Antonio Candreva	28.02.1987	22	AS Livorno Calcio	-	2	-	1	-	3	-
17	Andrea Poli	29.09.1989	19	US Sassuolo Calcio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Luca Cigarini	20.06.1986	23	Atalanta BC	-	11	1	3	-	15	1
23	Daniele Dessena	10.05.1987	22	UC Sampdoria	-	10	3	2	-	13	3
Forwards											
9	Robert Acquafresca	11.09.1987	21	Cagliari Calcio	-	8	5	3	3	11	8
10	Sebastian Giovinco	26.01.1987	22	Juventus	-	11	-	3	-	14	-
18	Alessio Cerci	23.07.1987	21	Atalanta BC	-	2	1	-	-	2	1
19	Alberto Paloschi	04.01.1990	19	Parma FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Mario Balotelli	12.08.1990	18	FC Internazionale Milano	*	3	3	2	1	5	4
Coach											
-	Pierluigi Casiraghi	04.03.1969	40	ITA	-	12	-	3	-	23	-

Key: Squad list is ordered by position and then numerically

No. Number, **Nat.** Nationality, **DoB** Date of birth, **Pld** Matches played, **Gls** Goals

BL Booking list: * Misses next match if booked, **S** Suspended

1 - : Total appearances in Under21 Championship including all qualifying round and play-off matches

2 - : Total appearances in the Under21 Championship final tournament only

(NOTE: These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition)

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Germany

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				Overall U21	
						a Qual. Pld	Gls	a FT Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Manuel Neuer	27.03.1986	23	FC Schalke 04	-	5	-	3	-	8	-
12	Florian Fromlowitz	02.07.1986	22	Hannover 96	-	2	-	-	-	3	-
23	Tobias Sippel	22.03.1988	21	1. FC Kaiserslautern	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Defenders											
2	Andreas Beck	13.03.1987	22	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim	*	8	-	3	-	11	-
3	Sebastian Boenisch	01.02.1987	22	Werder Bremen	-	3	-	1	-	4	-
4	Benedikt Höwedes	29.02.1988	21	FC Schalke 04	-	5	1	3	1	8	2
5	Jerome Boateng	03.09.1988	20	Hamburger SV	-	3	-	3	-	6	-
6	Dennis Aogo	14.01.1987	22	Hamburger SV	-	6	1	3	-	9	1
14	Fabian Johnson	11.12.1987	21	TSV 1860 München	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Mats Hummels	16.12.1988	20	BV Borussia Dortmund	-	5	-	-	-	5	-
16	Daniel Schwaab	23.08.1988	20	SC Freiburg	-	5	-	-	-	5	-
21	Marcel Schmelzer	22.01.1988	21	BV Borussia Dortmund	*	-	-	3	-	3	-
Midfielders											
7	Patrick Ebert	17.03.1987	22	Hertha BSC Berlin	*	3	1	3	-	6	1
8	Sami Khedira	04.04.1987	22	VfB Stuttgart	*	5	3	3	-	8	3
10	Mesut Özil	15.10.1988	20	Werder Bremen	*	7	4	3	-	10	4
17	Dennis Grote	09.08.1986	22	VfL Bochum 1848	-	7	-	-	-	7	-
18	Daniel Adlung	01.10.1987	21	VfL Wolfsburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Änis Ben-Hatira	18.07.1988	20	Hamburger SV	-	-	-	3	-	3	-
20	Gonzalo Castro	11.06.1987	22	Bayer 04 Leverkusen	-	3	-	3	1	13	2
Forwards											
9	Ashkan Dejagah	05.07.1986	22	VfL Wolfsburg	*	4	2	3	1	10	3
11	Marko Marin	13.03.1989	20	VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach	*	3	-	3	-	6	-
13	Sandro Wagner	29.11.1987	21	FC Bayern München	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
22	Chinedu Ede	05.02.1987	22	Hertha BSC Berlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coach											
-	Horst Hrubesch	17.04.1951	58	GER	-	-	-	3	-	3	-

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No. Number, **Nat.** Nationality, **DoB** Date of birth, **Pld** Matches played, **Gls** Goals

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1 - : Total appearances in Under21 Championship including all qualifying round and play-off matches

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Match-by-match lineups -

	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Italy	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Sweden	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
Serbia	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Belarus	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
16.06.2009	Italy - Serbia	0-0	Olympia, Helsingborg

Goals: -

Italy: Consigli, Motta (Pisano 78), Andreolli, Criscito, Marchisio, Acquafresca, Giovinco, De Ceglie, Bocchetti, Balotelli (Abate 67), Cigarini

19.06.2009	Sweden - Italy	1-2	Olympia, Helsingborg
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Goals: 0-1 Balotelli 23, 0-2 Acquafresca 53, 1-2 Toivonen 89

Italy: Consigli, Motta, Andreolli, Criscito, Marchisio (Dessena 89), Acquafresca (Ranocchia 76), Giovinco (Abate 62), De Ceglie, Bocchetti, Balotelli, Cigarini

23.06.2009	Belarus - Italy	1-2	Olympia, Helsingborg
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Goals: 1-0 Kislyak 45, 1-1 Acquafresca 45+3 (pen) , 1-2 Acquafresca 75

Italy: Consigli, Motta, Andreolli, Criscito, Abate (Candrea 62), Marchisio, Acquafresca, Giovinco, De Ceglie (Dessena 14), Bocchetti, Cigarini (Morosini 85)

Match-by-match lineups -

	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Germany	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Spain	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Finland	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
15.06.2009	Spain - Germany	0-0	Gamla Ullevi, Gothenburg
Goals: -			
Germany: Neuer, Beck, Boenisch (Schmelzer 38), Höwedes, J.Boateng, Aogo, Khedira, Dejagah, Özil, Marin (Ben-Hatira 70), Castro (Ebert 86)			
18.06.2009	Germany - Finland	2-0	Örjans vall, Halmstad
Goals: 1-0 Höwedes 59, 2-0 Dejagah 61			
Germany: Neuer, Beck, Höwedes, J.Boateng, Aogo (Ebert 46), Khedira, Dejagah, Özil (Wagner 85), Marin (Ben-Hatira 58), Castro, Schmelzer			
22.06.2009	Germany - England	1-1	Örjans vall, Halmstad
Goals: 1-0 Castro 5, 1-1 Rodwell 30			
Germany: Neuer, Beck, Höwedes, J.Boateng, Ebert (Aogo 85), Khedira, Dejagah, Özil, Ben-Hatira (Marin 68), Castro, Schmelzer			

Match officials

Referee	Pedro Proenca Oliveira Alves Garcia (POR)
Assistant referees	Derek Rose (SCO), György Ring (HUN)
Fourth official	Claudio Circhetta (SUI)
UEFA Delegate	Pat Quigley (IRL)
UEFA Referee observer	Bo Karlsson (SWE)

Referees

Name	Nat.	Date of birth	U21	UEFA
Pedro Proenca Oliveira Alves Garcia	POR	03.11.1970	4	21

Pedro Proença

- Pedro Proença has been on the rise in European refereeing circles since making his continental bow at the UEFA Regions' Cup in 2002. Within two years he was taking charge of the UEFA European Under-19 Championship final.
- Proença achieved UEFA Premier referee status in January 2007 but had been a fixture on the international scene for some time, enjoying regular outings in UEFA's two high-profile club competitions. He has also been responsible for UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifying matches and took charge of two games in qualifying for UEFA EURO 2008™.
- A financial director from Pinhal Novo, Proença enjoys skiing in his spare time along with a love of reading and writing. His most notable match has been the 2006/07 Portuguese Cup final, when Sporting Clube de Portugal were 1-0 winners against CF Os Belenenses. He also ran the rule over two FC Porto successes in the domestic Super Cup in August 2003 and 2006.

UEFA European Under-21 Championship matches involving teams from the two countries involved in this match

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res.	Venue
05.09.2003	U21	QR	Italy - Wales	8-1	Pavia
16.06.2009	U21	GS - FT	Italy - Serbia	0-0	Helsingborg

Head coach

Italy: Pierluigi Casiraghi

Date of birth: 4 March 1969

Playing career: Monza Calcio, Juventus, S.S. Lazio, Chelsea FC, Italy (44 caps, 13 goals)

Coaching career: AC Monza Brianza youth team (2002), AC Legnano (2003-04), AC Monza Brianza youth team (2005) Italy Under-21s (since 2006)

It came as some surprise when Pierluigi Casiraghi was chosen to succeed Claudio Gentile as Italy coach after the 2006 UEFA European Under-21 Championship. The 39-year-old had little experience and needed to learn on the job during the Azzurrini's next qualifying campaign. The former Juventus and S.S. Lazio striker rose to the occasion, much as he did throughout a successful playing career for both club and country before his injury-enforced retirement in 1998.

After breaking through at Monza Calcio, Casiraghi signed for Juventus in 1989. He scored 20 times in 98 Serie A appearances for the Bianconeri, winning the UEFA Cup twice and the Coppa Italia. During his four-year spell in Turin he was capped by Italy, making his debut in February 1991 and going on to score 13 times in 44 appearances for the national side. He represented his country at the 1994 FIFA World Cup and EURO '96™. 'Gigi' moved to Lazio in 1993 and celebrated another Coppa Italia victory before joining Chelsea for €8m in 1998, but his move to London proved ill-fated. After just one goal in ten appearances, he suffered the cruciate ligament injury that, after numerous operations, brought an untimely end to his playing days.

Casiraghi returned to Monza where he took charge of the youth team before becoming coach of fourth division side AC Legnano in 2003. His lack of experience at the highest level did not prevent former Italy team-mate Demetrio Albertini, now vice-president of the Italian Football Federation, appointing him to the U21 role, and Casiraghi quickly took to the job, guiding the Azzurrini to the 2007 finals and earning a spot for the 2009 tournament in Sweden. He also led Italy to the quarter-finals at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Germany: Horst Hrubesch

Date of birth: 17 April 1951

Playing career: SC Westünnen, Hammer SV, SC Rot-Weiss Essen, Hamburger SV, R. Standard de Liège, BV Borussia Dortmund, West Germany (21 caps, 6 goals)

Coaching career: SC Rot-Weiss Essen (1986-87), VfL Wolfsburg (1988-89), FC Wacker Innsbruck (1991-92), FC Hansa Rostock (1993), SG Dynamo Dresden (1994-95), FK Austria Wien (1995-96), Samsunspor (1997), Germany youth setup (2000 to present)

Horst Hrubesch replaced Dieter Eilts as Germany coach in January and will lead the team during the 2009 UEFA European Under-21 Championship. He will make way for Rainer Adrion on 1 July, when he will resume his role as coach of the U19 side. Hrubesch is now into his ninth year with the German Football Association (DFB) and enjoyed his greatest success in 2008, guiding his side to glory in the UEFA European U19 Championship.

He remains best known, however, for his exploits as a player. Nicknamed Das Kopfball-Ungeheuer (the Header Beast) Hrubesch was all-conquering in the air. Having waited until he was 28 for his international debut, in only his fifth game he scored both goals in West Germany's 1980 UEFA European Championship final win against Belgium. He was capped 21 times, his last game the 1982 FIFA World Cup final. He had fired in the winning spot-kick in the thrilling semi-final win against France following an epic 3-3 draw. At club level Hrubesch helped Hamburger SV to league titles in 1979, 1982, and 1983 and captained them to victory against Juventus in the 1983 European Champion Clubs' Cup final. He had two seasons in Belgium with R. Standard de Liège before retiring with Dortmund in 1986, scoring 136 goals in 224 Bundesliga matches overall.

Since returning to SC Rot-Weiss Essen as coach in 1986, Hrubesch has had spells in charge of a number of German clubs as well as stints in Austria and Turkey. He has enjoyed his greatest success since joining the DFB in 2000 and has developed an excellent reputation for his work with the country's top young players. He also had a short spell as assistant to Erich Ribbeck at UEFA EURO 2000™.

Competition facts

Sweden are striving to become only the second team to win the competition on home territory since the switch to a new format from a two-legged final in 1994. Until the Netherlands triumphed last time out, Spain had come closest to ending that streak when they lost the 1996 showpiece on penalties to Italy.

Previous winners (hosts)

2007 Netherlands (Netherlands)*
2006 Netherlands (Portugal) *
2004 Italy (Germany) *
2002 Czech Republic (Switzerland) *
2000 Italy (Slovakia)
1998 Spain (Romania)
1996 Italy (Spain)
1994 Italy (France)
1992 Italy
1990 USSR
1988 France
1986 Spain
1984 England
1982 England
1980 USSR
1978 Yugoslavia
*Current format

Leading scorers (competitive matches)

All-time

15 Lampros Choutos (Greece)
14 Roy Makaay (Netherlands), Klaas Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands)
12 Francis Jeffers (England), Imre Szabics (Hungary), Steffen Iversen (Norway), Óscar García (Spain)
11 Andrea Pirlo (Italy), Alberto Gilardino (Italy), Hélder Postiga (Portugal), Hugo Almeida (Portugal), Spartak Gogniev (Russia), Ricardo Cabanas (Switzerland)

In a final tournament since 2000

4 Andrea Pirlo (Italy, 2000), Alberto Gilardino (Italy, 2004), Klaas Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands, 2006), Maceo Rigters (Netherlands, 2007), Johan Elmander (Sweden, 2004)
3 Thomas Kahlenberg (Denmark, 2006), Leroy Lita (England, 2007), Massimo Maccarone (Italy, 2002), Giorgio Chiellini (Italy, 2007), Nicky Hofs (Netherlands, 2006), Hugo Almeida (Portugal, 2004), Markus Rosenberg (Sweden, 2004)

Per U21 campaign (qualifying to final) since 2000

2007: 4 Theo Walcott (England), Maceo Rigters (Netherlands), Igor Denisov (Russia), Nikita Bazhenov (Russia), Dragan Mrdja (Serbia)
2006: 14 Klaas Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands)
2004: 11 Alberto Gilardino (Italy)
2002: 9 Ricardo Cabanas (Switzerland)
2000: 15 Lampros Choutos (Greece)

Biggest wins

All-time

14-0: Spain v San Marino, 08.02.2005
2006 qualifying group stage, Estadio Santo Domingo, El Ejido

Final tournament

6-0: England v Turkey, 29.05.2000
2000 final tournament group stage, Tehelné Pole Stadium, Bratislava

Final

4-1: Netherlands v Serbia, 23.06.2007
2007 Euroborg, Groningen, Netherlands

ITALY - GERMANY

MATCH PRESS KIT

Friday 26 June 2009 - 20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Olympia, Helsingborg

Most goals in a game

All-time

14: Spain 14-0 San Marino (see above)

Final tournament

7: Czech Republic 4-3 Croatia, 01.06.2000

2000 group stage, Mestský Stadium, Trenčín, Slovakia

Final

8: Yugoslavia 4-4 German Democratic Republic 31.05.1978

(second leg, Yugoslavia won 5-4 on agg), Mostar, Yugoslavia

Record attendance

All-time

42,000: Turkey 1-1 Germany, 18.11.2003

2004 qualifying play-off, Sükrü Saraçoğlu Stadium, Istanbul

Final tournament

35,500: Italy 1-1 Spain (Italy win 5-4 on pens), 31.05.1996

1996 final, Olímpico de Montjuïc, Barcelona

Final

35,500: Italy 1-1 Spain (see above)

Competition information

• **Qualifying:** Qualifying kicked off on 31 May 2007 and ran until 15 October 2008 with a group stage followed by play-offs to determine which seven nations joined Sweden, who qualified automatically as hosts, at the eight-team final tournament.

• **How the 2009 final round works:** The group stage is based on a league system (three points for a win, one for a draw, none for a defeat) to produce four semi-finalists.

If two or more teams are equal on points on completion of all the matches in their group, the following criteria will be used to determine the rankings in the order given:

- a) number of points obtained in the matches among the teams in question;
- b) goal difference in the matches among the teams in question;
- c) number of goals scored in the matches among the teams in question (if more than two teams finish equal on points);
- d) goal difference in all the group matches;
- e) number of goals scored in all the group matches;
- f) coefficient from the qualifying competitions (only group stage matches) for the 2006/07 and 2007/09 UEFA European Under-21 Championship (points obtained divided by the number of matches played);
- g) goal difference from the play-offs;
- h) average number of goals scored per play-off;
- i) fair play conduct of the teams (final tournament);
- h) drawing of lots.

If two teams with the same number of points, goals scored and conceded play their last group match against each other and are still equal at the end of that match, the ranking of the two teams in question will be determined by penalties, provided no other teams within the group have the same number of points on completion of all group matches.

The winners and runners-up in each group play each other over one match to produce the two finalists – Winner Group A v Runner-up Group B/Winner Group B v Runner-up Group A. If in the semi-finals or final the match ends in a draw, extra time then penalties will be played to determine the winner.

- **Eligibility:** Players are eligible to play in the competition if they were born on or after 1 January 1986.
- **Disciplinary information:** A player is automatically suspended for the next match after two cautions in two different matches. Yellow cards are not cancelled after the group stage but do expire on completion of the competition.
- **Referees:** The six referees chosen to officiate in Sweden are among the most promising in Europe. The selection includes Peter Rasmussen (Denmark), Tony Chapron (France), Bjorn Kuipers (Netherlands), Pedro Proença (Portugal), Claudio Circhetta (Switzerland) and Cüneyt Çakir (Turkey).
- **Trophy:** The UEFA European Under-21 Championship trophy was created for the 1996-98 campaign after Italy kept the previous one following their three consecutive tournament wins. A bigger trophy, 60cm as opposed to the previous 37cm, has been forged for this summer's finals. The winning nation will receive a full-sized replica of the trophy.
- **Medals:** 33 gold medals are presented to the winning team and 33 silver medals to the runners-up. The teams beaten in the semi-finals will each receive 33 bronze medals.
- **Ambassadors:** Four former internationals with an aggregate of 395 Sweden caps have been enlisted as ambassadors for the four cities hosting matches. Marcus Allbäck (Gothenburg), Niclas Alexandersson (Halmstad), Roland Nilsson (Helsingborg) and Patrik Andersson (Malmö) will supplement the work of the overall tournament ambassador, striker Henrik Larsson.
- **Carlsberg Man of the Match:** A member of the UEFA Technical Study Group will select a man of the match at every game in the finals. The player will receive his award at the post-match press conference.
- **Official ball:** The adidas TERRAPASS was unveiled at the tournament draw in Gothenburg with a futuristic design to celebrate the colours of host nation Sweden. The bright blue and yellow of the Swedish flag are enhanced by 12 watermarks containing the silhouette of Europe, along with the official event logo.
- **Official song:** Get Up and Go by indie artist Keren DeBerg is the official tune of the finals and will be played at every match before being performed live at the final. Keren DeBerg's personal website can be found at www.kerendeborg.com.

• **TV rights:** Television rights for the finals have been sold to more than 130 countries and territories worldwide. Partnerships exist with leading broadcasters in all the participating countries including RAI (Italy), Sky Sports (UK), TV Viisi (Finland), TV4 (Sweden), RTS (Serbia), Sogecable (Spain), ZDF and DSF (Germany) and Belarus TV (Belarus). Free live streaming will be available on www.uefa.com in Europe in all the remaining national associations where broadcast rights have not been acquired and outside Europe in Japan and India among others. [uefa.com](http://www.uefa.com) will also be offering free two-minute highlights of each game as well as extensive full highlights and full match reruns. Regular vodcasts and video features will be available to complement the extensive news and live coverage on site.

uefa.com: A team of reporters in Sweden is helping [uefa.com](http://www.uefa.com) provide unrivalled coverage in eight European languages – English, Swedish, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Russian – including a live MatchCentre for every game. The Swedish version is run in close co-operation with the host national association.

• **Quicklinks:** A media information guide is being updated daily on [uefa.com](http://www.uefa.com), providing times of press conferences and training. It can be accessed via this link:

<http://www.uefa.com/competitions/under21/finals/newsid=836979.html>

Tournament schedule

Final tournament

Date		Home	Res.	Away	Venue
15.06.2009	Grp B	England	2 - 1	Finland	Halmstad
15.06.2009	Grp B	Spain	0 - 0	Germany	Gothenburg
16.06.2009	Grp A	Sweden	5 - 1	Belarus	Malmo
16.06.2009	Grp A	Italy	0 - 0	Serbia	Helsingborg
18.06.2009	Grp B	Germany	2 - 0	Finland	Halmstad
18.06.2009	Grp B	Spain	0 - 2	England	Gothenburg
19.06.2009	Grp A	Sweden	1 - 2	Italy	Helsingborg
19.06.2009	Grp A	Belarus	0 - 0	Serbia	Malmo
22.06.2009	Grp B	Finland	0 - 2	Spain	Gothenburg
22.06.2009	Grp B	Germany	1 - 1	England	Halmstad
23.06.2009	Grp A	Serbia	1 - 3	Sweden	Malmo
23.06.2009	Grp A	Belarus	1 - 2	Italy	Helsingborg

Group A

Pos.	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Italy	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
2	Sweden	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
3	Serbia	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
4	Belarus	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

Group B

Pos.	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	England	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
2	Germany	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
3	Spain	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
4	Finland	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Semi-finals

Date	Home	Res.	Away	Venue
26.06.2009	Italy	20.45	Germany	Helsingborg
26.06.2009	England	18.00	Sweden	Gothenburg

Top scorers - Final tournament

- 5** - Marcus Berg (SWE)
- 3** - Robert Acquafresca (ITA)
- 2** - Ola Toivonen (SWE)
- 2** - Sergei Kislyak (BLR)
- 1** - Gustav Svensson (SWE)
- 1** - Gojko Kačar (SRB)
- 1** - Mario Balotelli (ITA)
- 1** - Marc Torrejón (ESP)
- 1** - Pedro León (ESP)
- 1** - James Milner (ENG)

Legend

:: Squad list

No: number
DoB: date of birth
Qual: qualifying
FT: final tournament
Pld: played
Gls: goals
Overall U21: final tournament only

:: Match officials

Nat: nationality
DoB: date of birth

Under-21: Total matches officiated in the UEFA European U21 Championship including all qualifying round matches. Matches as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

UEFA: Total matches officiated in all UEFA competitions including all qualifying round matches. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

:: Group statistics/Tournament schedule

Pos: position
Pld: played
W: won
D: drawn
L: lost
GF: goals for
GA: goals against
Pts: points

:: NOTE: All-time statistics

Goals totals include the outcome of disciplinary decisions (eg. match forfeits when a 3-0 result is determined). Goals totals do not include goals scored from the penalty mark during a penalty shoot-out.

:: Competitions

Club competitions

ECCC: European Champions Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League
UCUP: UEFA Cup • **UCWC:** UEFA Cup Winners' Cup
SCUP: UEFA Super Cup • **UIC:** UEFA Intertoto Cup
ICF: Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

National team competitions

EURO: UEFA European Football Championship
WC: FIFA World Cup • **CONFCUP:** Confederation Cup
FRIE: Friendly internationals • **U21FRIE:** Under-21 friendly internationals
U21: UEFA European Under-21 Championship
U17: UEFA Under-17 Championship • **U16:** UEFA European Under-16 Championship
U19: UEFA Under-19 Championship • **U18:** UEFA European Under-18 Championship

:: Competition stages

F: Final	QR3: Third qualifying round
GS: Group stage	R1: First round
GS1: First group stage	R2: Second round
GS2: Second group stage	R3: Third round
KO1: First knockout round	R4: Fourth round
PR: Preliminary round	SF: Semi-finals
QF: Quarter-finals	1/8: Eighth-finals
QR: Qualifying round	1/16: Sixteenth-finals
QR1: First qualifying round	1st: first leg
QR2: Second qualifying round	2nd: second leg
FT: Final tournament	P-O: Play-off

:: Statistics

(-) : Denotes player substituted

(*) : Denotes player dismissed/sent off

(+) : Denotes player introduced

(+/-) : Denotes player introduced and substituted

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