

SWEDEN - BELARUS

MATCH PRESS KIT

Malmö New Stadium, Malmö

Tuesday 16 June 2009 - 18.15CET (18.15 local time)

Group A - Matchday 2



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Match background

Hosts Sweden will end their long wait for competitive action when they kick off their UEFA European Under-21 Championship finals campaign against outsiders Belarus in Malmö.

- The team co-coached by Tommy Söderberg and Jörgen Lennartsson qualified automatically for the tournament and so have not played a competitive match since the crushing 5-0 home play-off defeat by Serbia in October 2006 that ended their hopes of qualifying for the previous final edition.

- They will hope to hit the ground running in Group A, a section that also includes Italy and Serbia, yet history suggests they should not underestimate a Belarus side who caused a major upset in their opening game on their previous finals appearance.

- That was in 2004 when Belarus beat eventual champions Italy 2-1 through an Aleksandr Hleb winning goal, albeit before subsequently missing out on a semi-final place. The eastern Europeans booked a return to the finals by bettering Turkey 2-1 on aggregate in a qualifying play-off.

- The Belarus coach Yuri Kurnenin is suspended for the Sweden match having been sent off in the second leg of that play-off victory in Borisov.

- Sweden, like Belarus, had their first experience of an eight-team final U21 tournament in 2004 and they did well, reaching the semi-finals. But their best performance to date was a runners-up spot in 1992.

- The Swedes' goal now is to emulate the Netherlands side who became the first hosts to lift the trophy when they were crowned European U21 champions in Groningen two years ago.

- Prior to then host teams had recorded mixed fortunes with Slovakia (2000) and Switzerland (2002) both reaching the last four, but Germany (2004) and Portugal (2006) falling at the group stage.

- Sweden and Belarus have met twice before in competitive fixtures at this level, each winning once in the qualifying round for the 1998 UEFA European U21 Championship:

1998 Qualifying Group 4

31.05.96 Sweden 1-3 Belarus, Karlstad

19.08.97 Belarus 0-1 Sweden, Minsk

- Two goals from Vadim Skripchenko helped Belarus defeat Sweden 3-1 in Karlstad on 31 May 1996 in the opening game of that qualifying campaign, the only points a Sweden side containing the likes of Fredrik Ljungberg and Olof Mellberg dropped.

- Sweden won their next nine games to secure first place in the group, including a 1-0 win over Belarus in Minsk, Erik Wahlstedt the scorer.

- Belarus goalkeeper Pavel Chesnovski was an unused substitute when his side lost 3-2 to Sweden in a UEFA European Under-19 Championship qualifying round tie in September 2002.



- Sweden and Belarus have met twice at senior international level, the Swedes recording home and away wins in the qualifying campaign for the 1998 FIFA World Cup.
- Sweden last hosted a major international football tournament in 1992, the UEFA European Championship. They drew the opening game against France but went on to reach the semi-finals.
- The Scandinavians will look to emulate the success of their senior forebears both in that competition and, looking further back, in 1958 when they finished FIFA World Cup runners-up on home soil.

Squad news

- Sweden arrived at their tournament base camp in the resort town of Bastad on Thursday evening following a two-day break for the players. The squad had spent the previous week training in Falkenberg and also played two friendly matches against Poland and Estonia, winning both 2-1.
- Marcus Berg and Rasmus Elm were rested on Friday after joining the U21s from the senior squad. Elm played in both FIFA World Cup qualifiers last week, a 1-0 defeat by Denmark on 6 June and a 4-0 win over Malta four days later, while Berg played in the latter match, scoring one of the goals.
- Sweden have no injury concerns going into the tournament and joint coach Jörgen Lennartsson was in high spirits on Sunday. "We're delighted with the interest from the media and the general public," he said. "We're expecting a full house for our opener on Tuesday, and it will be like throwing a party in our own home."
- Belarus left their training camp in the German town of Ruit and flew to Copenhagen on Sunday, making the short journey to Malmö, the venue for their two opening matches in Group A.
- They arrived without FC Dinamo Minsk striker Aleksandr Gavryushko, who had been with the squad as a standby player in the event of any injuries. As it was was Yuri Kurnenin's party reported a clean bill of health prior to their departure for Sweden, having recorded a 11-1 warm-up win against the amateurs of FC Haubersbronn on Friday.
- Shortly after their arrival on Sunday afternoon, the Belarus squad held a training session at the Malmö Old Stadium. Coach Kurnenin, who was celebrating his 55th birthday, pledged that his team would not be "whipping boys" despite their underdog status in Group A.

Team facts

Sweden

The only other time Sweden appeared in the Under-21 finals in their current eight-team format was the 2004 championship in Germany when a side featuring forwards Johan Elmander and Markus Rosenberg collected maximum points from the group stage, beating Portugal, Germany and Switzerland. In the semi-finals, however, Sweden lost a penalty shoot-out to Serbia and Montenegro, the match having finished 1-1 after both full time and extra time.

It was the Swedes' best showing in the competition since the early 1990s. Their most notable performance had come in 1992 when Tomas Brodin and Patrik Andersson played a big part in taking them to the final. Opponents Italy, led by Demetrio Albertini, proved too strong though in the last final to be decided over two legs, prevailing 2-1 on aggregate. Two years before, Sweden had again got to the last four where they fell to the eventual winners from the Soviet Union. The team also made a quarter-final appearance in 1986, knocking out West Germany, Czechoslovakia and Portugal before succumbing to Italy.

Tournament record

Winners: –

Runners-up: 1992

Semi-finalists: 1990, 2004

Quarter-finalists: 1986, 1998

Final tournament appearances: 1998, 2004, 2009

Friendly results since finals draw

19.11.2008 Netherlands 0-3 Sweden

11.02.2009 Italy 1-1 Sweden

27.03.2009 Finland 1-0 Sweden

31.03.2009 Spain 0-0 Sweden

05.06.2009 Sweden 2-1 Poland

09.06.2009 Sweden 2-1 Estonia

Capped at senior level: Denni Avdic, Rasmus Bengtsson, Marcus Berg, Mattias Bjärnsmyr, Johan Dahlin, Andreas Landgren, Gustav Svensson, Mikael Lustig, Ola Toivonen, Pontus Wernbloom

Players with previous U21 final tournament experience: None

Most capped player

All-time: 35 Alexander Farnerud

Current: 25 Mattias Bjärnsmyr

Leading scorer

All-time: 12 Alexander Farnerud, Johan Elmander

Current: 9 Ola Toivonen

Biggest wins

Final tournament: 3-1 Sweden v Portugal 28.05.04

2004 group stage, Carl-Benz, Mannheim

Sweden v Switzerland 02.06.04

2004 group stage, Carl-Benz, Mannheim

Qualifying: 6-0 Sweden v Malta 03.06.2005

2006 qualifying group stage, Öljans vall, Halmstad

Sweden v Bulgaria 06.10.1992

1994 qualifying group stage, Öljans vall, Halmstad

Sweden v Cyprus 01.05.1991

1992 qualifying group stage, Olympia, Helsingborg

Heaviest defeats

Final tournament: 1-0 v Norway 24.05.98

1998 quarter-finals, Steaua Stadium, Bucharest

Qualifying: 0-5 Sweden v Serbia 10.10.2006

2007 play-off, Edsberg Stadium, Trollhattan

Belarus

This is Belarus's second appearance in a UEFA European Under-21 Championship final tournament, their first coming in 2004. Midfielder Aleksandr Hleb, then with VfB Stuttgart, was the star of that side and he scored the winner as Belarus defeated eventual winners Italy 2-1 in their opening match of the group stage. Yuri Puntus's charges then drew 1-1 with a Croatia team boasting Darijo Srna, Eduardo da Silva, Niko Kranjčar and Danijel Pranjić, but a 2-1 reverse in their final game against Serbia and Montenegro – a match which Belarus finished with nine men following the dismissals of Hleb and Timofei Kalachev – ended their challenge.

Tournament record

Winners: –

Semi-finalists: –

Final tournament appearances: 2004, 2009

2009 qualifying

P10 W6 D2 L2 F17 A6

Top scorer: Dmitri Komarovski, 4 goals

Most appearances: 10 Nikolai Osipovich, Dmitri Komarovski, Sergei Kryvets, Igor Shitov

Biggest win: 6-0 v San Marino (H) 16.11.2007

Biggest defeat: 1-3 v Serbia (A) 08.09.2007

Youngest player: Vladimir Yurchenko (26.01.1989)

Oldest player: Aleksandr Sachivko (05.01.1986)

Red cards: Pavel Chesnovski

Friendly results since qualifying

31.03.2009 Germany 1-1 Belarus

05.06.2009 Finland 1-0 Belarus

Capped at senior level: Dmitri Verkhovtsov, Igor Shitov, Sergei Kryvets, Nikolai Osipovich, Leonid Kovel, Anton Putilo, Andrei Chukhlei, Maksim Bordachov

Players with previous U21 final tournaments experience: None

Most capped player

All-time: 38 Yuri Zhevnov and Mikhail Afanasiev

Current: 38 Mikhail Afanasiev

Leading scorer

All-time: 11 Mikhail Afanasiev

Current: 11 Mikhail Afanasiev

Biggest wins

Final tournament: 2-1 Belarus v Italy 27.05.04

2004 group stage, Ruhrstadion, Bochum

Qualifying: 6-0 Belarus v San Marino 16.11.2007

2009 qualifying group stage, Central sport complex, Vitebsk

Heaviest defeats

Final tournament: 2-1 Serbia and Montenegro v Belarus 01.06.04

2004 group stage, Niederrhein, Oberhausen

Qualifying: 5-1 Norway v Belarus 05.06.2001

2002 qualifying group stage, Marienlyst Stadium, Drammen

4-0 Norway v Belarus 08.09.1994

1996 qualifying group stage, Hønefoss Stadium, Hønefoss

Squad list

Sweden

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				All-time	
						Qual.		FT		U21	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Johan Dahlin	08.09.1986	22	FC Lyn Oslo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Pär Hansson	22.06.1986	22	Helsingborgs IF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Kristoffer Nordfeldt	23.06.1989	19	Brommapojkarna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders											
2	Mikael Lustig	13.12.1986	22	Rosenborg BK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Mattias Bjärnsmyr	03.01.1986	23	IFK Göteborg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Rasmus Bengtsson	26.06.1986	22	Trelleborgs FF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Emil Johansson	11.08.1986	22	Hammarby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Per Karlsson	02.01.1986	23	AIK Solna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Andreas Landgren	17.03.1989	20	Helsingborgs IF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Martin Olsson	17.05.1988	21	Blackburn Rovers FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Joel Ekstrand	04.02.1989	20	Helsingborgs IF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders											
11	Robin Söder	01.04.1991	18	IFK Göteborg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Gustav Svensson	07.02.1987	22	IFK Göteborg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Guillermo Molins	26.09.1988	20	Malmö FF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Labinot Harbuzi	04.04.1986	23	Malmö FF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Pierre Bengtsson	12.04.1988	21	AIK Solna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Rasmus Elm	17.03.1988	21	Kalmar FF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Emir Bajrami	07.03.1988	21	IF Elfsborg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Gabriel Özkan	23.05.1986	23	AIK Solna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards											
7	Ola Toivonen	03.07.1986	22	PSV Eindhoven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Marcus Berg	17.08.1986	22	FC Groningen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Denni Avdic	05.09.1988	20	IF Elfsborg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Pontus Wernbloom	25.06.1986	22	IFK Göteborg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coach											
-	Tommy Söderberg	19.08.1948	60	SWE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Jörgen Lennartsson	10.04.1965	44	SWE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Belarus

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				All-time	
						Qual.		FT		U21	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Pavel Chesnovsky	04.03.1986	23	FC Vitebsk	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
12	Artem Gomelko	08.12.1989	19	FC Lokomotiv Moskva	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Anton Kovaleuski	02.02.1986	23	FC Naftan Novopolotsk	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders											
2	Nikolai Osipovich	29.05.1986	23	FC MTZ-RIPO Minsk	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
3	Aleksandr Martynovich	26.08.1987	21	FC Dinamo Minsk	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
4	Igor Shitov	24.10.1986	22	FC BATE Borisov	-	9	1	-	-	-	-
5	Maksim Bordachov	18.05.1986	23	FC BATE Borisov	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
16	Oleg Veretilo	10.07.1988	20	FC Dinamo Minsk	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
18	Dmitri Verkhovtsov	10.10.1986	22	FC Naftan Novopolotsk	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
19	Aleksei Yanushkevich	15.01.1986	23	FC Shakhtyor Soligorsk	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders											
6	Sergei Balanovich	29.08.1987	21	FC Shakhtyor Soligorsk	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
7	Sergei Krivets	08.06.1986	23	FC BATE Borisov	-	9	3	-	-	-	-
8	Aleksandr Volodko	18.06.1986	22	FC BATE Borisov	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
11	Mikhail Afanasyev	04.11.1986	22	FC Amkar Perm	-	7	1	-	-	-	-
13	Aleksandr Sachivko	05.01.1986	23	FC Minsk	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
14	Anton Putilo	23.06.1987	21	FC Dinamo Minsk	-	6	1	-	-	-	-
15	Sergei Kislyak	06.08.1987	21	FC Dinamo Minsk	-	8	1	-	-	-	-
17	Sergei Gigevich	26.01.1987	22	FC Dinamo Minsk	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
21	Mikhail Sivakov	16.01.1988	21	Cagliari Calcio	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
23	Andrei Chukhlei	02.10.1987	21	FC Dinamo Minsk	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards											
9	Leonid Kovel	29.07.1986	22	FC Saturn Moskovskaya Oblast	-	7	3	-	-	-	-
10	Dmitri Komarovsky	10.10.1986	22	FC Naftan Novopolotsk	-	9	4	-	-	-	-
20	Vladimir Yurchenko	26.01.1989	20	FC Saturn Moskovskaya Oblast	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Coach											
-	Yuri Kurnenin	14.06.1954	55	BLR	S	10	-	-	-	-	-

Match-by-match lineups - Group A

	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belarus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
16.06.2009	Sweden - Belarus	-	Malmö New Stadium, Malmö
16.06.2009	Italy - Serbia	-	Olympia, Helsingborg
19.06.2009	Sweden - Italy	-	Olympia, Helsingborg
19.06.2009	Belarus - Serbia	-	Malmö New Stadium, Malmö
23.06.2009	Serbia - Sweden	-	Malmö New Stadium, Malmö
23.06.2009	Belarus - Italy	-	Olympia, Helsingborg

Match officials

Referee	Claudio Circhetta (SUI)
Assistant referees	Alain Hoxha (AUT), Oleksandr Voytyuk (UKR)
Fourth official	Bjorn Kuipers (NED)
UEFA Delegate	Adonis Procopiou (CYP)
UEFA Referee observer	Hugh Dallas (SCO)

Referees

Name	Nat.	Date of birth	U21	UEFA
Claudio Circhetta	SUI	18.11.1970	2	15

Claudio Circhetta

• Based in Reinach, Switzerland, Claudio Circhetta made his debut as a UEFA Champions League referee on Matchday 6 of the 2008/09 competition, although he has been a regular in UEFA competition since August 2000. Born on 18 November 1970, Circhetta began his refereeing career in 1988 and, by the time he was awarded his FIFA badge in 2005, had already established himself as one of Europe's most promising match officials.

• Circhetta was fourth official at two UEFA Cup matches in summer 2000 and became a familiar figure in that role in the competition over the next few years, also filling the same position in three games at the 2004 UEFA European Under-19 Championship in his homeland. Refereeing appointments then began to come his way and in 2007 he was back at the U19 tournament when he took charge of Spain's 1-0 win against Greece in the final in Linz, Austria.

• By then, he had already made his debut as a referee in the UEFA Cup proper in the first-round tie between FK Crvena Zvezda and FC Slovan Liberec in September 2006. Circhetta – who counts dancing and cooking among his hobbies – has continued to combine his refereeing duties with work as a fourth official, a position he held in the 2007/08 UEFA Champions League semi-final first leg between FC Barcelona and eventual winners Manchester United FC.

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

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res.	Venue
07.09.2005	U21	QR	Hungary - Sweden	0-1	Budapest

Head coach

Sweden: Tommy Söderberg and Jörgen Lennartsson

Tommy Söderberg

Date of birth: 19 August 1948

Playing career: Ängby IF, Continental

Coaching career: BK Väster (1972), IF Brommapojkarna youth team (1973-77), Spånga IS (1980-81), IF Brommapojkarna (1982-85), Djurgårdens IF FF (1986-89), Djurgården youth team (1990), AIK Solna (1991-93), Sweden U21 (1994-1997), Sweden (1998-2004), Sweden U21 (2004-)

Jörgen Lennartsson

Date of birth: 10 April 1965

Playing career: Växjö Norra IF, FK Växjö

Coaching career: Växjö Norra youth team (1979-88), Vederslöv/Dänningelanda 1989, Östers IF youth team (1990-93), Helsingborgs IF youth team (1994-99), Helsingborg assistant coach (2000-01), BK Häcken (2002-04), Sweden U21 assistant coach (2004-05), Sweden U17 (2005-06), Sweden U21 (2006-)

The coaching team of Tommy Söderberg and Jörgen Lennartsson have been in joint command of the Under-21 side since 2006. Both coaches have a wealth of experience at club and international level.

Stockholm-native Söderberg first occupied the U21 helm in the mid-1990 before stepping up to the seniors in 1998. He passed his first serious test with flying colours, defeating England 2-1 in a UEFA EURO 2000™ qualifier en route to qualifying for the tournament. Working with young players has always been Söderberg's passion, and he chose to return to the U21 post when his contract with the full squad expired. By then he had taken Sweden to the 2002 FIFA World Cup and to UEFA EURO 2004™, together with Lars Lagerbäck. Söderberg returned to the concept of joint leadership when he asked Jörgen Lennartsson to join him in guiding Sweden's next generation.

Lennartsson started coaching in his home town of Växjö, deciding at the age of 23 that he had greater potential as a coach than a player. In 1995, Helsingborgs IF handpicked Lennartsson to oversee their youth team and five years later he had his first taste of managing senior players when he was promoted to assistant coach. Lennartsson helped steer Helsingborg into the UEFA Champions League, knocking out FC Internazionale Milan along the way, and then got the chance to become a head coach at BK Häcken in 2002, steering the small Gothenburg outfit to promotion to the Allsvenskan two years later before taking up his current post.

Belarus: Yuri Kurnenin

Date of birth: 14 June 1954

Playing career: FC Dinamo Moskva (1971-75), FC Dinamo Minsk (1976-87)

Coaching career: KIM Vitebsk (1989-90), FC Dinamo Brest (1991-92), Samotlor XXI Nizhnevartovsk (1993-94), Syria (1995-96), Al-Ahli Oman (1997), FC Dinamo Minsk (1999-2000), FC Chernomorets Novorossiysk (2000-2001), FC Shakhtar Soligorsk (2002), FC Dinamo Minsk (2003), Belarus (assistant coach 2003), Belarus Under-21s (February 2006 to present)

Despite taking Belarus to the 2009 UEFA European Under-21 Championship, Yuri Kurnenin is still best known in his homeland for his success as a player. He began at FC Dinamo Moskva but made his name with FC Dinamo Minsk between 1976 and his retirement in 1987. A member of the Dinamo side that became the only Belarussian club to win the Soviet title in 1982, Kurnenin initially played in midfield, but switched to wing-back, where his attacking instincts brought a famous hat-trick in a victory against FC Kairat Almaty during the title-winning season. Kurnenin entered the record books by scoring Belarus's first goal in UEFA competition when his free-kick against Grasshopper-Club earned Dinamo a 1-0 first-round victory in the European Champion Clubs' Cup in September 1983.

His coaching career began with KIM Vitebsk in the minor Soviet leagues in 1989 before a move to FC Dinamo Brest, whom he led to third place in the inaugural Belarus championship in 1992, still the club's best finish. Kurnenin went on to coach in Russia, Syria and Oman, notably leading the Syrian national side to the 1996 AFC Asian Cup finals.

He returned to Belarus, and Dinamo, in 1999 but was unable to emulate his playing success and was sacked midway through the 2000 season. Spells at FC Chernomorets Novorossiysk and FC Shakhtar Soligorsk followed before another brief stint at Dinamo in 2003. He then teamed up with former Dinamo Moskva and Dinamo Minsk team-mate Anatoliy Baidachniy as assistant coach of the Belarus national side before taking over the U21s in February 2006.

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), Oscar 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

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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	18.15	Finland	Halmstad
15.06.2009	Grp B	Spain	20.45	Germany	Gothenburg
16.06.2009	Grp A	Sweden	18.15	Belarus	Malmö
16.06.2009	Grp A	Italy	20.45	Serbia	Helsingborg
18.06.2009	Grp B	Germany	18.15	Finland	Halmstad
18.06.2009	Grp B	Spain	20.45	England	Gothenburg
19.06.2009	Grp A	Sweden	16.00	Italy	Helsingborg
19.06.2009	Grp A	Belarus	18.15	Serbia	Malmö
22.06.2009	Grp B	Finland	20.45	Spain	Gothenburg
22.06.2009	Grp B	Germany	20.45	England	Halmstad
23.06.2009	Grp A	Serbia	20.45	Sweden	Malmö
23.06.2009	Grp A	Belarus	20.45	Italy	Helsingborg

Group A

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

Group B

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

Legend

:: Competitions

Club competitions

ECCLC: 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

GS: Group stage

GS1: First group stage

GS2: Second group stage

KO1: First knockout round

PR: Preliminary round

QF: Quarter-finals

QR: Qualifying round

QR1: First qualifying round

QR2: Second qualifying round

FT: Final tournament

QR3: Third qualifying round

R1: First round

R2: Second round

R3: Third round

R4: Fourth round

SF: Semi-finals

1/8: Eighth-finals

1/16: Sixteenth-finals

1st: first leg

2nd: second leg

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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