

# ITALY - SERBIA

## MATCH PRESS KIT

### Olympia, Helsingborg

### Tuesday 16 June 2009 - 20.45CET (20.45 local time)

### Group A - Matchday 2



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#### Match background

The most successful country in UEFA European Under-21 Championship history, Italy will be seeking a different outcome when they meet Serbia in a rematch of the sides' opening game two years ago.

- Five-times winners Italy succumbed to a surprise 1-0 defeat at De Goffert Stadium in Nijmegen in the 2007 finals, Dejan Milovanović's 63rd-minute strike doing the damage. Serbia went on to finish top of the group while Italy, despite a victory and a draw subsequently, ended up in third place so both sides will know the importance of a winning start in Helsingborg.

- The lineups for that meeting in Nijmegen on 11 June 2007 were:

**Serbia:** Damir Kahrman, Branislav Ivanović, Antonio Rukavina, Aleksandar Kolarov, Milan Smiljanić, Boško Janković, Dejan Milovanović, Duško Tošić, Stefan Babović (Nikola Drinčić 76), Miloš Krasić (Zoran Tošić 32), Dragan Mrdja (Djordje Rakić 83).

**Italy:** Gianluca Curci (Emiliano Viviano 22), Marco Andreolli, Giorgio Chiellini, Antonio Nocerino, Andrea Mantovani, Riccardo Montolivo, Alberto Aquilani (Graziano Pellè 82), Giampaolo Pazzini, Alessandro Rosina, Andrea Raggi, Raffaele Palladino (Giuseppe Rossi 74).

- The Azzurrini – champions in 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000 and 2004 – secured their berth in Sweden by beating Israel 3-1 in a qualifying play-off.

- Serbia overcame play-off rivals Denmark 2-0 on aggregate to qualify. As part of the former Yugoslavia, Serbia's footballers were winners of the very first European U21 Championship in 1976.

- Given both countries' strong tradition of producing young talent, it is no surprise they are old rivals at this level – indeed it was Serbia and Montenegro whom Italy beat to win the trophy in the 2004 final in Bochum, Daniele De Rossi, Cesare Bovo and Alberto Gilardino the scorers.

- There have been four competitive U21 fixtures between Italy and either Serbia or Serbia and Montenegro, with each team recording two victories.

- The breakdown of past meetings is:

#### 2007 Final tournament Group B

11.06.07 Serbia 1-0 Italy, Nijmegen

#### 2004 Final

08.06.04 Italy 3-0 Serbia and Montenegro, Bochum

#### 2004 Final tournament Group A

29.05.04 Italy 2-1 Serbia and Montenegro, Bochum

#### 2004 Qualifying Group 9

09.09.03 Serbia and Montenegro 1-0 Italy, Novi Sad

- In qualifying for the 2004 finals, the teams also meet in Avellino on 11 October 2002, albeit the visitors were then still technically known as Yugoslavia. Italy won the match 4-1.



- Italy coach Pierluigi Casiraghi was a member of the Azzurrini team defeated by the former Yugoslavia at the semi-final stage of this competition in 1990. After a 0-0 first-leg draw in Zagreb, Yugoslavia earned an away-goals victory after drawing the return match 2-2 in Parma – thanks to an equalising goal by future AC Milan midfielder Zvonimir Boban.
- Italy and Yugoslavia first met in the competition when drawn to meet at the group stage in 1980-82. Both sides recorded a 1-0 home win but it was Italy who finished top to reach the quarter-finals.
- At senior level, Italy met Serbia/Serbia and Montenegro three times between 2002 and 2005 with all three games finishing 1-1.
- Italy and the former Yugoslavia met 17 times. The Italians won eight of those encounters, with four victories for Yugoslavia and five draws.
- Serbia coach Slobodan Krčmarević was in the Apollon Limassol FC team beaten 4-3 on aggregate by eventual winners FC Internazionale Milano in the second round of the 1993/94 UEFA Cup.
- In the group stage of the same competition this season, Italy's Daniele Dessena scored UC Sampdoria's winning goal in a 2-1 victory at an FK Partizan side featuring Marko Jovanović, Ivan Obradović and Zoran Tošić.
- Alessio Cerci, Andrea Consigli and Sebastian Giovinco were in the Italy side held 1-1 by Serbia and Montenegro in the European U17 Championship Elite round in March 2004. Gojko Kačar and Tošić was in opposition.
- Italy have never lost by more than a single goal in U21 final tournament history.

### Squad news

- After defeating Denmark 4-0 on 9 June in their last friendly ahead of the finals, the Italy squad stayed on in the country, training at the sporting centre of Elsinore until they moved north to Helsingborg, venue for all their group stage games, on Saturday.
- The Azzurrini had late afternoon training sessions on Saturday and Sunday at Harlyckan, their training centre in Helsingborg. All 23 players in Casiraghi's squad played a full part in the sessions with no fitness problems reported.
- "It does not matter whether you are strong on paper, you have to prove it on the field," said Italy coach Casiraghi. "I am not setting a minimum objective and I think that all the teams in the final phase start off with the aim of winning. This group has grown a lot over the past three years and now is the time to see the results of the work they have done. I think we were not yet at top condition against Denmark but we've had a few more days to work on that aspect."
- Serbia arrived in Sweden on Thursday, four days after beating FYR Macedonia 4-1 in their final warm-up game on 7 June. They left Helsingborg to move into their base for the group stage, the quiet coastal village of Glumslöv, on Sunday lunchtime.
- Kačar featured as a substitute in the Serbia senior side's FIFA World Cup qualifying wins over Austria and the Faroe Islands on 6 and 10 June respectively. Miralem Sulejmani also featured as a substitute against the Faroes while Nemanja Matić was an unused substitute.
- Krčmarević's squad trained for the first time in Glumslöv on Sunday afternoon when they also said goodbye to forward Filip Djordjević, who flew back to Belgrade to begin his recovery from the foot fracture that ruled him out of the finals. His replacement, FK Crvena Zvezda midfielder Slavko Perović, flew in on the same day.
- Serbia midfielder Kačar admitted that Djordjević's departure was "very bad for us" but added: "We have more than 20 players and they are all good players playing in good clubs and are able to do what the coach expects from them."

## 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 ousted Sweden in the showpiece match, 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 as Francesco Totti and Alessandro Nesta joined an already talented squad; and Andrea Pirlo was the star four years later when the Azzurrini prevailed for a fourth time by seeing off the Czech Republic. The same midfielder would be 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 (17 years, 2 months, 11 days v Albania on 23.10.2007)

**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 v 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: 31 Marco Motta

**Leading scorer**

All-time: 19 Alberto Gilardino

Current: 5 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

**Serbia**

Serbia will be competing in their fourth successive UEFA European Under-21 Championship final tournament in Sweden. It is a record matched only by Italy, and indicates a fine pedigree at this level where they have participated under a number of guises.

Yugoslavia were the inaugural winners of the competition in 1978, defeating the Democratic Republic of Germany 5-4 on aggregate following a remarkable 4-4 second-leg draw in Mostar. That remains the nation's sole U21 triumph, though they have come close several times since – finishing runners-up as Yugoslavia in 1990, as Serbia and

Montenegro in 2004, and as Serbia, in their debut tournament as an independent nation, in 2007. Vladimir Petrović, Dušan Savić, Dragan Stojković, Miroslav Đukić, Danko Lazović and Vladimir Stojković are just some of the Serbs to have played significant parts for the U21s since 1978.

**Tournament record**

**Winners:** 1978 (Yugoslavia)

**Runners-up:** 1990 (Yugoslavia), 2004 (Serbia and Montenegro), 2007 (Serbia)

**Semi-finalists:** 1980, 1984 (both (Yugoslavia), 2006 (Serbia and Montenegro)

**Final tournament appearances:** 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009

**2009 qualifying**

P10 W7 D2 L1 F26 A5

**Top scorer:** Gojko Kačar, 6 goals

**Most appearances:** 9 Nikola Petković

**Biggest win:** 8-0 v Hungary (H) 07.09.2008

**Biggest defeat:** 1-2 v Hungary (A) 12.09.2007

**Youngest player:** Adem Ljajić (16 years, 11 months, 9 days v Hungary on 07.09.2008)

**Oldest player:** Dragan Milovanović (03.01.1986)

**Red cards:** None

**Friendly results since qualifying**

19.11.2008 Israel 2-3 Serbia

11.02.2009 Cyprus 0-2 Serbia

27.03.2009 Serbia 0-0 Ukraine

01.04.2009 Serbia 1-1 Romania

07.06.2009 Serbia 4-1 FYR Macedonia

**Capped at senior level:** Milan Smiljanić, Gojko Kačar, Zoran Tošić, Ivan Obradović, Miralem Sulejmani, Nemanja Pejčinović, Nenad Tomović, Ljubomir Fejsa, Nemanja Matić, Dušan Tadić

**Players with previous U21 final tournament experience**

2007 Netherlands: Nikola Petković, Gojko Kačar, Milan Smiljanić, Zoran Tošić

**Most capped player**

All-time: 36 Danko Lazović

Current: 23 Milan Smiljanić

**Leading scorer**

All-time: 17 Danko Lazović

Current: 7 Stefan Babović

**Biggest wins**

**Final tournament: 2-0** Serbia v Belgium 20.06.2007

2007 semi-finals, Gelredome, Arnhem

**2-0** Serbia and Montenegro v Portugal 25.05.2006

2006 group stage, Cidade de Barcelos, Barcelos

**Qualifying:9-0** Serbia and Montenegro v San Marino 12.10.2004

2006 qualifying group stage, Vojvodina, Novi Sad

**Heaviest defeats**

**Final tournament: 4-1** Netherlands v Serbia 23.06.2007

2007 final, Euroborg, Groningen

**3-0** Serbia and Montenegro v Italy 08.06.2004

2004 final, Ruhrstadion, Bochum

**Qualifying:0-7** France v Yugoslavia 16.11.1985

1986 qualifying group stage, Stade Auguste-Delaune, Reims

Squad list

**Italy**

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

**Serbia**

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				All-time	
						Qual.		FT		U21	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
<b>Goalkeepers</b>											
1	Željko Brkić	09.07.1986	22	FK Vojvodina	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
12	Bojan Šaranov	22.10.1987	21	OFK Beograd	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
23	Živko Živković	14.04.1989	20	FK Partizan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Defenders</b>											
2	Marko Jovanović	26.03.1988	21	FK Partizan	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
4	Gojko Kačar	26.01.1987	22	Hertha BSC Berlin	-	8	6	-	-	1	-
5	Nikola Petković	28.03.1986	23	FK Vojvodina	-	9	2	-	-	1	-
13	Ivan Obradović	25.07.1988	20	FK Partizan	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
14	Nenad Tomović	30.08.1987	21	FK Crvena Zvezda	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
15	Nemanja Pejčinović	04.11.1987	21	FK Crvena Zvezda	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
18	Marko Milinković	16.04.1988	21	MFK Košice	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
19	Rajko Brežančić	21.08.1989	19	FK Partizan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Milan Vilotić	21.10.1986	22	FK Čukarički	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Midfielders</b>											
3	Ljubomir Fejsa	14.08.1988	20	FK Partizan	-	8	1	-	-	-	-
6	Nikola Gulan	23.03.1989	20	TSV 1860 München	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
7	Milan Smiljanić	19.11.1986	22	FK Partizan	-	7	-	-	-	4	-
11	Zoran Tošić	28.04.1987	22	FK Partizan	-	2	1	-	-	5	-
17	Nemanja Matić	01.08.1988	20	MFK Košice	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
20	Dušan Tadić	20.11.1988	20	FK Vojvodina	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
22	Nemanja Tomić	21.01.1988	21	FK Partizan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Forwards</b>											
8	Rade Veljović	09.08.1986	22	CFR 1907 Cluj	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
9	Slavko Perović	09.06.1989	20	FK Crvena Zvezda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Miralem Sulejmani	05.12.1988	20	AFC Ajax	-	5	3	-	-	-	-
16	Jagoš Vuković	10.06.1988	21	FK Rad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Coach</b>											
-	Slobodan Krčmarević	12.06.1965	44	SRB	-	10	-	-	-	-	-

**Match-by-match lineups - Group A**

	<b>Pld</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
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

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

**Match officials**

<b>Referee</b>	Pedro Proença (POR)
<b>Assistant referees</b>	Derek Rose (SCO), Nisan Davidi (ISR)
<b>Fourth official</b>	Peter Rasmussen (DEN)
<b>UEFA Delegate</b>	Pat Quigley (IRL)
<b>UEFA Referee observer</b>	Marc Batta (FRA)

**Referees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nat.</b>	<b>Date of birth</b>	<b>U21</b>	<b>UEFA</b>
Pedro Proença	POR	03.11.1970	2	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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Comp.</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Res.</b>	<b>Venue</b>
05.09.2003	U21	QR	Italy - Wales	8-1	Pavia

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.

**Serbia: Slobodan Krčmarević**

**Date of birth:** 12 June 1965

**Playing career:** OFK Beograd, FK Partizan, Vasalunds IF, Apollon Limassol FC, Anorthosis Famagusta FC, PAOK FC, Panionios GSS

**Coaching career:** Serbia and Montenegro Under-19s (2002-03 coaching staff), FK Partizan (2003-05 Under-19 coach), OFK Beograd (2005-07), Serbian Under-21s (2007-present)

Slobodan Krčmarević was a technically gifted player, but he readily admits that too often artistry rode roughshod over industry. As a coach, it is a mistake he is determined his charges will not repeat. Krčmarević came through the ranks at OFK Beograd, and as a left winger he hardly left the touchline and gained a reputation for his flamboyant style. In 1990, he joined FK Partizan, but soon found his playing time curtailed as coach Ivica Osim demanded hard work complement flashes of brilliant individual skill. Krčmarević may not have heeded the advice at the time, but he now repeats the mantra religiously to his players: "Hard work above all else".

Krčmarević went on to play in Sweden, Cyprus and Greece before the end of his playing career, getting his first coaching job with Serbia and Montenegro's Under-19 side in 2002. The following year he returned to Partizan to work in their youth academy and quickly established a reputation as having a fine eye for young talent. It was on his insistence that Partizan signed Stevan Jovetić from Montenegrin club FK Sutjeska and after helping the youngster establish himself in the first team, Jovetić was quickly snapped up by ACF Fiorentina.

A brief but impressive stint in charge of OFK followed and once again Krčmarević's work with young players caught the eye, leading to his appointment as coach of the U21s following Serbia's run to the final of the 2007 UEFA European Under-21 Championship. He achieved his first objective by qualifying for Sweden despite losing a number of players to the senior side, and the great harmony he has created is a hallmark of his new-look squad.

## 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

**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](http://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](http://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	Malmo
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	Malmo
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	Malmo
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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