

ENGLAND - FINLAND

MATCH PRESS KIT

Örjans vall, Halmstad

Monday 15 June 2009 - 18.15CET (18.15 local time)

Group B - Matchday 1



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Match background

A quarter of a century after they last lifted the European Under-21 crown, England will open the 2009 finals in Sweden with a Group B encounter against a Finland side new to this advanced stage of the competition.

- Stuart Pearce's team enter the tournament's curtain-raiser in Halmstad aiming to better their impressive performance in the Netherlands two summers ago when they came within a whisker of reaching the UEFA European U21 Championship final, only to go down on penalties to the hosts in the semi-finals.

- England qualified for the eight-team final round for the fourth time thanks to a 5-4 aggregate play-off victory over Wales. They arrive in Sweden seeking a third U21 triumph after previous successes in 1982 and 1984, when the entire competition still comprised home-and-away two-legged contests.

- Markku Kanerva's Finland are competing in the finals for the first time. They booked their place in Sweden by defeating Austria on penalties after a 3-3 aggregate draw in their play-off tie. The Finns' goalkeeper, Tomi Manooja, saved two spot-kicks in the shoot-out win but misses these finals through injury.

- England can take heart from the countries' head-to-head record in competitive U21 fixtures, with four wins and just one loss from six previous meetings.

- The full breakdown is:

2002 Qualifying Group 9

10.10.00 Finland 2-2 England, Valkeakoski

23.03.01 England 4-0 Finland, Barnsley

1986 Qualifying Group 3

16.10.84 England 2-0 Finland, Southampton

21.05.85 Finland 3-1 England, Mikkeli

1978 Qualifying Group 5

26.05.77 Finland 0-1 England, Helsinki

12.10.77 England 8-1 Finland, Hull

- Dave Sexton's England achieved that 8-1 victory at Hull's Boothferry Park in 1977 through goals from Tony Woodcock (3), John Deehan (2), Steve Sims, Peter Daniel and Laurie Cunningham. It remains their biggest margin of victory at U21 level – albeit equalled by Pearce's men with their 7-0 rout of Azerbaijan shortly before their departure for Sweden on 8 June.

- Finland captain Tim Sparv spent three years in the Southampton FC youth academy between 2003 and 2006. He played alongside England's Theo Walcott in the Southampton side that reached the 2005 FA Youth Cup final.

- The teams were last paired in the UEFA European U21 Championship in qualifying for the 2002 finals. They drew 2-2 in Valkeakoski in October 2000 – midfielder Daniel Sjölund scoring twice for the hosts either side of goals by David Dunn and Alan Smith for England.



- England won the return 4-0 in Barnsley in March 2001, Darius Vassell, Sean Davis and Shola Ameobi (2) all finding the net.
- As a player with England's senior team, U21 coach Pearce had an unhappy experience at the European Championship in Sweden in 1992. England went home after the group stage after scoring only one goal in three games and finishing bottom of their section with two points.
- Pearce played in a 2-1 win for England's senior team in Finland in June 1992.
- Finland have never beaten England in a senior international, the head-to-head record reading nine wins for England and two draws in eleven encounters.

Squad news

- England arrived in Sweden on Thursday and travelled to their base in Varberg, a coastal town equidistant between Gothenburg and Halmstad, the cities which host the Group B fixtures.
- Twenty-one players took part in training on Friday morning, and were later joined by Walcott and James Milner after both were given an extra day off following their involvement with the senior squad. Walcott played in both FIFA World Cup qualifiers as England beat Kazakhstan 4-0 away and Andorra 6-0 at Wembley.
- Manchester City FC defenders Nedum Onuoha and Micah Richards had a lighter session with physiotherapist Dave Galley.
- Pearce said on Friday: "We trained very well today, for about an hour and 20 minutes, finishing off with practising penalties. Last night the boys had a bit of a stretch then we went through a few videos looking at certain teams, as well as the Azerbaijan victory, to feed back into the players. For me, I want to sit here on Sunday night with a full list of 23 players saying 'I'm ready to play for you'."
- Finland trained in Helsinki on Friday morning before crossing the Gulf of Bothnia and landing in Gothenburg.
- Kanerva expects to have a fully-fit squad to choose from for Monday's opener.
- The only minor concern on Saturday was Berat Sadik after the striker – called into the senior squad for Wednesday's 3-0 World Cup qualifying defeat by Russia – kicked the turf instead of the ball in training. He was taken off and received immediate ice treatment as a precautionary measure.
- Kanerva said: "We had a good session before leaving for Sweden. Everyone seemed fine and fully fit. Berat has a little bit of a sore toe but will be OK – it was more of a comical incident than an injury."

Team facts

England

After coming so close in 2007, England will attempt to achieve a hat-trick of Under-21 titles in Sweden this summer. Stuart Pearce's men reached the semi-finals two summers ago in the Netherlands, only to lose on penalties to the eventual champions, 13-12.

That was the first time England had got to the last four since 1986, and their best run since the eight-team final round was introduced in 2000. England had been a dominant force in the competition's early days, however, making it to the semi-finals in the first two editions in 1978 and 1980, before finally winning the tournament in 1982 by beating West Germany 5-4 on aggregate. Dave Sexton's charges successfully defended the trophy two years later – Mark Hateley, Howard Gayle and Mel Sterland scoring in a 3-0 aggregate triumph over Spain. However, a last-four defeat by Italy in 1986 marked the start of a downturn, exacerbated when an Eric Cantona-inspired France repeated the dose two seasons later. This will be England's fourth participation in the final round – they went out in the group stage in 2000 and 2002 before their near miss in the Netherlands.

Tournament record

Winners: 1982, 1984

Semi-finalists: 1978, 1980, 1986, 1988, 2007

Final tournament appearances: 2000, 2002, 2007, 2009

2009 qualifying

P10 W8 D2 L0 F22 A5

Top scorer: James Milner, 5 goals

Most appearances: 10 Joe Hart, Steven Taylor, James Milner

Biggest win: 3-0 v Montenegro (A) 07.09.2007, Republic of Ireland (A) 16.10.2007, Republic of Ireland (H) 05.02.2008.

Biggest defeat: None

Youngest player: Joe Mattock (17 years, 6 months, 1 day v Bulgaria on 16.11.2007)

Oldest player: James Milner (04.01.1986)

Red cards: Tom Huddlestone

Friendly results since qualifying

18.11.2008 England 2-0 Czech Republic

10.02.2009 England 2-3 Ecuador

27.03.2009 Norway 0-5 England

31.03.2009 England 0-2 France

08.06.2009 England 7-0 Azerbaijan

England U21s capped at senior level: Joe Hart, Theo Walcott, Gabriel Agbonlahor, Micah Richards

Players with previous U21 Championship final tournament experience

Netherlands 2007: James Milner, Mark Noble, Nedum Onuoha, Joe Hart

Most capped player

All-time: 42 James Milner

Current: 42 James Milner

Leading scorer

All-time: 13 Alan Shearer, Francis Jeffers

Current: 8 James Milner

Biggest wins

Final Tournament: 2-0 England v Serbia 17.06.2007

2007 group stage, De Goffert, Nijmegen

Qualifying: 8-1 England v Finland 12.10.1977

1978 qualifying group stage, Boothferry Park, Hull

Heaviest defeats

Final tournament: 3-1 Portugal v England 22.05.2002

2002 group stage, Hardturm, Zurich

Qualifying: 0-4 Romania v England 14.10.1980

1982 qualifying group stage, Ilie Oana, Ploiesti

Finland

Finland had never qualified for an Under-21 final tournament before this year and had rarely threatened to do so. They suffered heavy defeats by Russia and Hungary in their only two qualifying games for the 2007 UEFA European U21 Championship so their success this time came as a surprise.

Prior to this campaign, Finland came closest in 1996 and 2000. Mikael Forssell and Teemu Tainio were top men in the class of 2000 who recorded a memorable 3-1 home win against Germany and lost just once in eight group matches, only to finish third, three points behind group winners Turkey. Four years earlier, Finland had led their group with two games to play, but defeats in Scotland and Russia dashed their hopes. Key players of that vintage included Sami Hyypiä and Joonas Kolkka as well as former international strikers Antti Sumiala and Mika Kottila; current Finland No1 Jussi Jääskeläinen was the third-choice goalkeeper.

Tournament record

Winners: –

Runners-up: –

Semi-finals: –

Final tournament appearances: 2009

2009 qualifying

P10 W7 D1 L2 F14 A9

Top scorer: Tim Sparv, 3 goals

Most appearances: 10 Kasper Hämäläinen, Jonas Portin

Biggest win: 3-2 v Scotland (H) 08.09.2007

Biggest defeat: 1-2 v Scotland (A) 26.03.2008, Austria (A) 10.10.2008

Youngest player: Jukka Raitala (18 years, 4 months, 22 days v Malta on 06.02.2007)

Oldest player: Teemu Turunen (19.01.1986)

Red cards: None

Friendly results since qualifying

27.03.2009 Finland 1-0 Sweden

05.06.2009 Finland 1-0 Belarus

Capped at senior level: Joni Aho, Jukka Raitala, Tuomo Turunen, Berat Sadik, Kasper Hämäläinen, Juha Hakola, Mehmet Hetemaj, Perparim Hetemaj, Tim Sparv, Jarno Parikka, Teemu Pukki

Players with previous U21 final tournament experience: None

Most capped player

All-time: 33 Daniel Sjölund

Current: 17 Jarno Parikka, Kasper Hämäläinen, Jonas Portin

Leading scorer

All-time: 6 Henri Schewelev

Current: 4 Tim Sparv

Biggest wins

Final tournament: n/a

Qualifying: 6-0 San Marino v Finland 28.03.1995

1996 qualifying group stage, Stadio Olimpico, Serravalle

Heaviest defeats

Final tournament: n/a

Qualifying: 8-1 England v Finland 12.10.1977

1978 qualifying group stage, Boothferry Park, Hull

Squad list

England

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				All-time	
						Qual.		FT		U21	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Joe Hart	19.04.1987	22	Manchester City FC	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
13	Joe Lewis	06.10.1987	21	Peterborough United FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Scott Loach	27.05.1988	21	Watford FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders											
2	Martin Cranie	26.09.1986	22	Portsmouth FC	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
3	Andrew Taylor	01.08.1986	22	Middlesbrough FC	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
5	Richard Stearman	19.08.1987	21	Wolverhampton Wanderers FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Nedum Onuoha	12.11.1986	22	Manchester City FC	-	4	1	-	-	4	-
15	Jack Rodwell	11.03.1991	18	Everton FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	James Tomkins	29.03.1989	20	West Ham United FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Micah Richards	24.06.1988	20	Manchester City FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Michael Mancienne	08.01.1988	21	Chelsea FC	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
19	Kieran Gibbs	26.09.1989	19	Arsenal FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders											
4	Lee Cattermole	21.03.1988	21	Wigan Athletic FC	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
7	James Milner	04.01.1986	23	Aston Villa FC	-	10	5	-	-	4	-
8	Craig Gardner	25.11.1986	22	Aston Villa FC	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
10	Mark Noble	08.05.1987	22	West Ham United FC	-	7	3	-	-	4	-
11	Adam Johnson	14.07.1987	21	Middlesbrough FC	-	7	2	-	-	-	-
12	Fabrice Muamba	06.04.1988	21	Bolton Wanderers FC	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
20	Andrew Driver	20.11.1989	19	Heart of Midlothian FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Danny Rose	02.07.1990	18	Tottenham Hotspur FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards											
9	Gabriel Agbonlahor	13.10.1986	22	Aston Villa FC	-	8	4	-	-	-	-
14	Theo Walcott	16.03.1989	20	Arsenal FC	-	7	1	-	-	-	-
21	Fraizer Campbell	13.09.1987	21	Manchester United FC	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Coach											
-	Stuart Pearce	24.04.1962	47	ENG	-	10	-	-	-	4	-

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Finland

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				All-time	
						Qual.		FT		U21	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Anssi Jaakkola	13.03.1987	22	AC Siena	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
12	Jon Masalin	29.01.1986	23	Ham-Kam Fotball	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Jukka Lehtovaara	15.03.1988	21	FC TPS Turku	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders											
2	Ville Jalasto	19.04.1986	23	FC Honka Espoo	-	9	1	-	-	-	-
3	Jukka Raitala	15.09.1988	20	HJK Helsinki	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
4	Jonas Portin	30.09.1986	22	FF Jaro	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
5	Tuomo Turunen	30.08.1987	21	FC Honka Espoo	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
14	Joni Aho	12.04.1986	23	FC International Turku	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
21	Petri Viljanen	03.02.1987	22	FC Haka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Joona Toivio	10.03.1988	21	Stormvogels Telstar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders											
6	Tim Sparv	20.02.1987	22	Halmstads BK	-	9	3	-	-	-	-
7	Kasper Hämäläinen	08.08.1986	22	FC TPS Turku	-	10	1	-	-	-	-
8	Mehmet Hetemaj	08.12.1987	21	Thrasivoulos Fylis	-	9	1	-	-	-	-
10	Nicholas Otaru	15.07.1986	22	FC Honka Espoo	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
13	Pyry Kärkkäinen	10.11.1986	22	HJK Helsinki	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
15	Ilari Äijälä	30.09.1986	22	Myllykosken Pallo-47	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
16	Perparim Hetemaj	12.12.1986	22	AEK Athens FC	-	3	2	-	-	-	-
17	Juha Hakola	27.10.1987	21	Heracles Almelo	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
18	Jussi Vasara	14.05.1987	22	FC Honka Espoo	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Forwards											
9	Berat Sadik	14.09.1986	22	DSC Arminia Bielefeld	-	5	1	-	-	-	-
11	Jarno Parikka	21.07.1986	22	HJK Helsinki	-	7	1	-	-	-	-
19	Aleksandr Kokko	04.06.1987	22	FC Honka Espoo	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
20	Teemu Pukki	29.03.1990	19	Sevilla FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coach											
-	Markku Kanerva	24.05.1964	45	FIN	-	10	-	-	-	-	-

Match-by-match lineups - Group B

	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
15.06.2009	England - Finland	-	Örjans vall, Halmstad
15.06.2009	Spain - Germany	-	Gamla Ullevi, Gothenburg
18.06.2009	Germany - Finland	-	Örjans vall, Halmstad
18.06.2009	Spain - England	-	Gamla Ullevi, Gothenburg
22.06.2009	Finland - Spain	-	Gamla Ullevi, Gothenburg
22.06.2009	Germany - England	-	Örjans vall, Halmstad

Match officials

Referee	Cüneyt Cakir (TUR)
Assistant referees	György Ring (HUN), Jaanus Mutli (EST)
Fourth official	Markus Strömbergsson (SWE)
UEFA Delegate	Arno Sargsyan (ARM)
UEFA Referee observer	Hugh Dallas (SCO)

Referees

Name	Nat.	Date of birth	U21	UEFA
Cüneyt Cakir	TUR	23.11.1976	1	8

Cüneyt Çakir

- One of Turkey's most promising match officials, Cüneyt Çakir has enjoyed a rapid rise up the ladder since his UEFA debut as the fourth official in the UEFA Champions League first qualifying round game between Skonto FC and Sliema Wanderers FC in July 2003.
- He took charge of two matches at the 2007 UEFA European Under-19 Championship in Austria and was also the referee for two qualifying fixtures in the run-up to UEFA EURO 2008™.
- Çakir, who lives with his wife in Istanbul and works in insurance, made his refereeing debut in the UEFA Cup proper in 2008/09, taking charge of two games including the group-stage fixture between FC Twente and FC Schalke 04 in December 2008. He has been in the middle for more than 100 matches in the Turkish Süper Lig.

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

No matches found

Head coach

England: Stuart Pearce

Date of birth: 24 April 1962

Playing career: Wealdstone FC, Coventry City FC, Nottingham Forest FC, Newcastle United FC, West Ham United FC, Manchester City FC, England (78 caps, five goals)

Coaching career: Nottingham Forest (1996-97 player-manager), Manchester City (2001-05 first-team coach), Manchester City (March 2005-May 2007 manager), England Under-21s (part-time since February 2007, full-time since May 2007)

As an England player, Stuart Pearce wore his heart on his sleeve and he demands the same pride and passion from his Under-21 charges. Pearce was named England coach in February 2007 and has enjoyed an impressive run of success so far, leading England to the semi-finals of the 2007 UEFA European U21 Championship – where they lost in a penalty shoot-out against eventual champions the Netherlands – and then back to the final tournament in 2009.

Pearce began his professional career with Coventry City FC before coming under the influence of Brian Clough following a 1987 transfer to Nottingham Forest FC. A left-back, he made his international debut in a friendly against Brazil that year and became a fans' favourite during a 78-match England career. His disappointment after missing a penalty in England's shoot-out defeat by Germany in the 1990 FIFA World Cup semi-finals was felt by the nation, yet they shared his joy when he netted a successful conversion in the penalties victory against Spain at EURO '96™.

Forest gave Pearce his first chance in management midway through 1996/97, but as player-manager he was unable to keep his side in the top division. He left to continue playing, at Newcastle United FC, before heading home to London to represent West Ham United FC. Two years later Pearce moved on again, linking up with Kevin Keegan as first-team coach at Manchester City FC. When Keegan departed in 2005, Pearce took over, surviving his first seven games unbeaten, although he was sacked in May 2007. Three months beforehand, Pearce had been appointed U21 boss on a part-time basis. He took the role full time after parting company with City.

Finland: Markku Kanerva

Date of birth: 24 May 1964

Playing career: HJK Helsinki, IF Elfsborg, FinnPa, HJK, Finland (59 caps, 1 goal)

Coaching career: HJK (2001-02 assistant coach), FC Viikingit (2003), Finland Under-21s (2003-present)

Former Finnish international Markku Kanerva was a no-nonsense centre-back during a distinguished playing career and has similarly built his Under-21 side around a well-drilled defence. With strikers expected to also contribute defensively, Finland are at their most dangerous when winning possession in midfield before hitting sides on the break. Kanerva likes to keep the ball on the ground and deploys two wingers, and allies his tactical acumen with great motivational skills.

A team captain in his playing days, Kanerva likes to encourage his players to take responsibility on the field and express themselves, and this has helped foster an excellent team spirit that was best shown in the play-off for the 2009 UEFA European U21 Championship final tournament against Austria, when the side scored two late goals in the second leg to force extra time before going on to win on penalties.

After learning his trade as an assistant coach at HJK Helsinki, Kanerva had a short stint in sole charge of second division side FC Viikingit before moving on to the U21s in 2003. After learning the lessons of fruitless qualifying campaigns in 2004, 2006 and 2007, he got things right this time round.

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.

• **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	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	Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
2	Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
3	England	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
4	Finland	-	-	-	-	-	-	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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