

# SWEDEN - ITALY

## MATCH PRESS KIT

### Olympia, Helsingborg

### Friday 19 June 2009 - 16.00CET (16.00 local time)

### Group A - Matchday 2



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#### Match background

Hosts Sweden will face Italy for the first time in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship since the Azzurrini consigned them to second place in the 1992 event.

- Italy defeated Sweden 2-1 on aggregate to capture the U21 crown – the first of their five successes at this level. Yet, looking ahead to this contest in Helsingborg, Sweden's young footballers may prefer to focus on the memory on the teams' most recent meeting just four months ago, when they earned a creditable 1-1 draw in Trieste.
- The Swedes should be high on confidence after the 5-1 opening win they achieved against Belarus in Malmo on Tuesday. Marcus Berg struck a hat-trick for Jörgen Lennartsson and Tommy Söderberg's team, who came from a goal down to achieve the tournament's biggest win since 2000.
- Italy opened their campaign with a goalless draw against Serbia on the same day.
- Overall these Group A rivals have met six times in competitive fixtures, with the Azzurrini winning twice and losing only once.

• The full breakdown is:

#### 1992 final

28.05.92 Italy 2-0 Sweden, Ferrara

03.06.92 Sweden 1-0 Italy, Växjö

#### 1988 Qualifying Group 2

04.06.87 Sweden 2-2 Italy

12.11.87 Italy 0-0 Sweden, Perugia

#### 1986 Quarter-finals

12.03.86 Sweden 1-1 Italy, Gothenburg

29.03.86 Italy 2-1 Sweden, Bergamo

- In the two-legged final in 1992, Italy claimed a decisive 2-0 first-leg advantage in Ferrara through goals from Renato Buso (69) and Gianluca Sordo (76) on 28 May. Pascal Simpson's 56th-minute goal earned Sweden a 1-0 win in the return in Växjö on 3 June but it was not enough for the Scandinavians.
- Sweden's team featured Niclas Alexandersson and Håkan Mild while Demetrio Albertini was at the heart of the Italy side.
- The two sides had previously crossed paths in qualifying for the 1988 competition, drawing both games, and in the quarter-finals of the 1986 event. An Italy side that included Roberto Donadoni, Giuseppe Giannini, Roberto Mancini, Gianluca Vialli and Walter Zenga drew 1-1 in Gothenburg on 12 March 1986 before advancing with a 2-1 win in Bergamo 17 days later. After beating England in the semi-finals, Italy lost to Spain on penalties in the two-legged final.
- It was a tale of two penalties when the teams met on 11 February this year in Trieste. Robert Acquafresca's penalty gave Italy a 24th-minute lead but Pontus Wernbloom levelled on 64 minutes, also from the spot.



• The lineups for the game were:

**Italy:** Andrea Consigli, Domenico Criscito (Lorenzo De Silvestri 66), Salvatore Bocchetti (Fabiano Santacroce 46), Marco Andreolli, Marco Motta (Lino Marzoratti 80), Antonio Candreva (Andrea Poli 46), Piermario Morosini, Daniele Dessena (Davide Bottone 66), Sebastian Giovinco (Alessio Cerci 80), Ignazio Abate, Robert Acquafresca (Mario Balotelli 46).

**Sweden:** Kristoffer Nordfelt (Pär Hansson 46), Martin Olsson (Emil Johansson 52), Rasmus Bengtsson (Per Karlsson 63), Mattias Bjärsmyr Mikael Lustig, Emir Bajrami (Pierre Bengtsson 81), Albin Ekdal (Andreas Landgren 41), Gustav Svensson, Gabriel Özkan (Guillermo Molins 63), Pontus Wernbloom, Ola Toivonen (Johan Oremo 81).

- Italy coach Pierluigi Casiraghi played at the Olympia for Chelsea FC in a UEFA Cup Winners' Cup first-round tie against Helsingborgs IF in October 1998. Casiraghi was a 90th-minute substitute in a goalless draw that secured Chelsea a 1-0 aggregate success.
- It was the second stalemate in Sweden for Casiraghi who had earlier played for S.S. Lazio in a 0-0 draw at Trelleborgs FF in the UEFA Cup second round in October 1994 – although, as with Chelsea, his team finished 1-0 aggregate winners.
- Denni Avdic, Guillermo Molins, Rasmus Elm and Emir Bajrami were in the Sweden side that lost 5-2 to Italy in a UEFA European U19 Championship Elite round game in June 2007, Elm scoring the opening goal. Martin Olsson was an unused substitute against an Italy side that included Andrea Poli.
- Alberto Paloschi struck Italy's opener in a 2-0 win against Sweden in the 2008 U19 Elite round last May. Poli came on as a second-half substitute against a Sweden team captained by Andreas Landgren, with Joel Ekstrand also playing and Kristoffer Nordfeldt an unused substitute.
- Sweden joint-coach Söderberg was on the bench for the countries' most recent meeting at senior international level on 18 June 2004. Söderberg, then joint-national coach alongside Lars Lagerbäck, saw his charges earn a 1-1 draw in the group stage at UEFA EURO 2004™. Antonio Cassano gave Italy a 37th-minute lead but Zlatan Ibrahimović levelled with five minutes remaining.
- Söderberg had a less happy experience against Italy four years earlier when the Azzurri eliminated his Sweden team from UEFA EURO 2000™. It was exactly nine years ago, on 19 June 2002, that Italy won the teams' final group game 2-1 in Eindhoven, goals from Luigi Di Biagio and Alessandro Del Piero sandwiching a Henrik Larsson strike.
- The overall head-to-head record at senior level is nine wins for Italy, six for Sweden and six draws from 21 matches.

## **Squad news**

### **Sweden**

- Marcus Berg won the Carlsberg Man of the Match award for his three-goal performance against Belarus. "It felt good right from the beginning for us and I scored with my first chance," Berg said. "The whole team played well and it was fun."
- It was the first time a player has scored a hat-trick in an U21 final tournament, though Pierre Littbarski managed three goals for Germany against England in the 1982 final when the showpiece was still played over two legs – and it was not enough to prevent England's 5-4 aggregate win.
- It was Berg's first game for the U21s since he played in a 1-1 friendly draw with France on 31 May 2008. He has scored once in seven appearances for the senior Sweden team since then. His only previous U21 goal came in a 4-2 defeat against France on 14 November 2006.
- Sweden joint-coach Lennartsson pinpointed his side's equaliser on 34 minutes – when Aleksandr Martynovich deflected in Elm's shot just a minute after Belarus scored – as the key to victory. "It was very important for us mentally," he said. "We got the energy from the first goal and after that we controlled the rest of the match."
- The hosts' 5-1 victory against Belarus was their biggest win in a UEFA European U21 Championship final tournament. Their biggest win in a competitive U21 match is 6-0 which they have achieved three times, most recently against Malta on 3 June 2005 in the 2006 qualifying group stage at Örjans vall, Halmstad.
- It is just the second time a team has scored five goals or more in an U21 final tournament match. The previous team to manage the feat were England who hold the record for the biggest win in a final tournament after beating Turkey 6-0 in the group stage in 2000.
- One of the biggest cheers of the evening at the Malmö New Stadium came in the 84th minute when a former Malmö FF hero, Ola Toivonen, was replaced by current favourite Labinot Harbuzi.

- Midfielder Gustav Svensson scored Sweden's fifth goal with a long-range strike, his first for the U21 side.
- Bajrami was booked against Belarus and will miss the final Group A game against Serbia if he is cautioned again versus Italy.
- Rasmus Bengtsson, Emil Johansson, Svensson, Elm, Bajrami, Molins, Harbuzi and Landgren all made their competitive U21 debuts against Belarus.
- Sweden will go into their Midsummer's match against Italy with a fully-fit squad. On Wednesday only the reserves were put through their paces on the training pitch while the players involved in the Belarus game enjoyed some recovery time in the hotel pool.
- Joint-coach Lennartsson insisted his side would not be guilty of over-confidence as they prepare to meet the five-time champions. "It's important to have a combination of humility and confidence, but it's not good if confidence turns into arrogance," he said. "That shouldn't be a problem in this team. If someone loses touch with reality, then Wernbloom will quickly bring him back down."

### Italy

- Italy players Mario Balotelli, Claudio Marchisio and Francesco Pisano were booked in the 0-0 draw against Serbia and will miss the final Group A game against Belarus if cautioned again versus Sweden.
- It was the fourth final tournament in a row that Italy had failed to win their opening match. In 2007 (Serbia 0-1) and 2006 (Denmark 3-3) they were knocked out in the group stage after false starts, although in 2004 they recovered from losing 2-1 to Belarus to win the tournament.
- Italy started with a 4-3-3 formation against Serbia, with Paolo De Ceglie preferred to Daniele Dessena for one of the three places in central midfield. Balotelli, Acquafresca and Sebastian Giovinco started in attack.
- Midway through the second half Casiraghi switched to 4-4-2, replacing Balotelli with right winger Ignazio Abate and moving De Ceglie wide on the left side of midfield. "I liked the way the team played," the Italy coach said. "We were the better team in the first half and had a great chance in the second before Serbia also went close twice. I think we just lacked a goal and probably we deserved to score."
- A tired Marco Motta was replaced by Pisano with 13 minutes to play. The Italy captain was not injured and will be available against Sweden when Casiraghi is expected to have his full squad at his disposal.
- After the match Italy remained in Helsingborg, where their training camp is based. On Wednesday those who played against Serbia took part in a recovery session while the rest of the squad trained as usual at Harlyckan.

## 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 Brolin 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: 5-1** Sweden v Belarus 17.06.09  
2009 group stage, Malmö New Stadium, Malmö

**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

**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

Squad list

**Sweden**

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

**Key:** Squad list is ordered by position and then numerically

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

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

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

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

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

**Italy**

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

**Key:** Squad list is ordered by position and then numerically

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

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

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

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

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

Match-by-match lineups - Group A

	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Sweden	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Italy	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Serbia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Belarus	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
16.06.2009	Sweden - Belarus	5-1	Malmö New Stadium, Malmo
<b>Goals:</b> 0-1 Kislyak 33, 1-1 Martynovich 34 (o.g.) , 2-1 Berg 38, 3-1 Berg 44, 4-1 Berg 81, 5-1 Svensson 89			
<b>Sweden:</b> Dahlin, Lustig, Bjärnsmyr, R.Bengtsson, Johansson, Toivonen (Harbuzi 84), Berg, Svensson (Landgren 89), Elm, Wernbloom, Bajrami (Molins 71)			
<b>Belarus:</b> Chesnovski, Osipovich, Martynovich, Shitov, Krivets (Yurchenko 78), Volodko, Kovel, Komarovski (Putilo 53), Afanasiev (Chukhlei 53), Kislyak, Verkhovtsov			
16.06.2009	Italy - Serbia	0-0	Olympia, Helsingborg
<b>Goals:</b> -			
<b>Italy:</b> Consigli, Motta (Pisano 78), Andreolli, Criscito, Marchisio, Acquafresca, Giovinco, De Ceglie, Bocchetti, Balotelli (Abate 67), Cigarini			
<b>Serbia:</b> Brkić, Fejsa, Kačar, Petković, Smiljanić, Sulejmani, Z. Tošić, Tomović, Pejčinović, Vuković, Matić (Tomić 85)			
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>	Tony Chapron (FRA)
<b>Assistant referees</b>	Alain Hoxha (AUT), Nisan Davidi (ISR)
<b>Fourth official</b>	Claudio Circhetta (SUI)
<b>UEFA Delegate</b>	Pat Quigley (IRL)
<b>UEFA Referee observer</b>	Hugh Dallas (SCO)

**Referees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nat.</b>	<b>Date of birth</b>	<b>U21</b>	<b>UEFA</b>
Tony Chapron	FRA	23.04.1972	3	5

**Tony Chapron**

- Born in the town of Flers in north-west France on 23 April 1972, Tony Chapron has been a referee since 1998 and within eight years had made the step up to Ligue 1.
- His first UEFA engagement came at the 2001 UEFA Regions' Cup, where he took charge of four games including the final between Braga AMA and Moravia AMA.
- Chapron, who now resides in Grenoble where he works as a sociology teacher and is father to two daughters, took charge of four games in the 2008/09 UEFA Cup, including the fixture between Hamburger SV and NEC Nijmegen in the Round of 32.

**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>
15.10.2008	U21	P-O	Israel - Italy	1-3	Tel Aviv

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 Vaxjo, 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.

**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.

## Competition facts

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

### **Previous winners (hosts)**

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

### **Leading scorers (competitive matches)**

#### **All-time**

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

#### **In a final tournament since 2000**

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

#### **Per U21 campaign (qualifying to final) since 2000**

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

### **Biggest wins**

#### **All-time**

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

#### **Final tournament**

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

#### **Final**

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

**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	2 - 1	Finland	Halmstad
15.06.2009	Grp B	Spain	0 - 0	Germany	Gothenburg
16.06.2009	Grp A	Sweden	5 - 1	Belarus	Malmo
16.06.2009	Grp A	Italy	0 - 0	Serbia	Helsingborg
18.06.2009	Grp B	Germany	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	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
2	Italy	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
3	Serbia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
4	Belarus	1	0	0	1	1	5	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

Top scorers - Final tournament

- 3** - Marcus Berg (SWE)
- 1** - Gustav Svensson (SWE)
- 1** - Sergei Kislyak (BLR)
- 1** - Lee Cattermole (ENG)
- 1** - Micah Richards (ENG)
- 1** - Tim Sparv (FIN)

## 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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