

SPAIN - ENGLAND

MATCH PRESS KIT

Gamla Ullevi, Gothenburg

Thursday 18 June 2009 - 20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Group B - Matchday 2



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Match background

Spain and England meet in their second Group B fixture in Gothenburg fully 25 years after the countries' only previous meetings in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship – when they contested that year's final.

- England would happily settle for a repeat of the outcome of the two-legged 1984 decider in which they ran out 3-0 aggregate winners.
- England go into the fixture occupying top spot in the section after beating Finland 2-1 in Halmstad on Monday, when the Spain-Germany game in Gothenburg finished goalless.
- Aside from his being the only team in the section with three points, England manager Stuart Pearce might also draw encouragement from the memory of his first match at the U21 helm, when his side fought back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Spain in February 2007.
- The results of their final showdown in 1984 were:
17.05.84 Spain 0-1 England, Seville
24.05.84 England 2-0 Spain, Sheffield
- Almost 30,000 fans were on hand at the Ramón-Sánchez-Pizjuán stadium in Seville on 17 May 1984 to see a Spain side including Emilio Butragueño, Manuel Sanchís and Andoni Zubizarreta contest their first final against the defending champions.
- After a scoreless first half England right-back Mel Sterland broke the deadlock three minutes after the restart and Dave Sexton's side took that lead back with them for the return at Bramall Lane a week later. Their goals from Mark Hateley (49) and Howard Gayle (51) sealed England's second successive title.
- It was at Pride Park, Derby that the countries drew 2-2 on Pearce's debut as England U21 coach on 6 February 2007. In front of 28,295 spectators, Roberto Soldado (35) and José Manuel Jurado (45) put Spain 2-0 ahead but England hit back to draw thanks to goals from David Nugent (50) and Leroy Lita (79).
- The full lineups that evening were:
England: Scott Carson (Joe Hart 81), Justin Hoyte, Andrew Taylor (Liam Rosenior 59), Tom Huddlestone (Kieran Richardson 51), Steven Taylor, Curtis Davies, David Bentley, James Milner (Leroy Lita 59), David Nugent, Nigel Reo-Coker, Ashley Young (Theo Walcott 46).
Spain: Antonio Adán, Antonio Barragán, Miguel Torres (Ignacio Monreal 59), Sergio Sánchez, Marc Torrejón, Raúl García (Esteban Granero 75), Pedro León (Xisco 59), Miguel Pallardó, Roberto Soldado (Juan Mata 59), José Manuel Jurado, Alfaro (Mario Suárez 75).
- As a player with England, coach Pearce famously converted a penalty in the 4-2 shootout win against Spain after a goalless draw in the EURO '96™ quarter-final at Wembley. He earlier played in England's 1-0 friendly loss in Spain in September 1992.
- Spain coach Juan Ramón López Caro suffered at the hands of English opposition during his brief spell in charge of Real Madrid CF during the 2005/06 season, losing 1-0 on aggregate to Arsenal FC in the UEFA Champions League first knockout round.



- Spain striker Xisco plays his club football in England with Newcastle United FC. He made only five Premier League appearances in 2008/09 after joining from RC Deportivo La Coruña, scoring one goal.
- Bojan Krkić scored the only goal of the 2007 UEFA European Under-17 Championship final between the sides in Tournai, Belgium, with Danny Rose in the beaten England side.
- England midfielder Mark Noble has unhappy memories of facing Spain, having collected a red card in conceding the late penalty from which Cesc Fàbregas gave the Spanish a 2-1 win in the 2004 European U17 Championship semi-finals. Fraizer Campbell and Richard Stearman were also in the England side, with Antonio Adán, Diego Capel, Javi García, Esteban Granero, Jonathan Pereira and Mario Suárez involved for Spain.
- In May 2003 James Milner scored England's equaliser as they battled back from 2-0 down to hold a Spain side for whom Jurado was on target in a group-stage game at the U17 finals in Portugal. Martin Cranie and Andrew Taylor also played for England, with Adán, Sisi and Sergio Sánchez appearing for Spain and Roberto Jiménez an unused substitute.

Squad news

- England started with their favoured 4-3-3 formation against Finland, with Micah Richards partnering Michael Mancienne in central defence as Nedum Onuoha failed to overcome a groin injury.
- Mancienne was shown a straight red card for bringing down Berat Sadik in the incident which led to Finland's 33rd-minute equaliser and will serve a one-match suspension against Spain.
- Following the Chelsea FC player's dismissal, Pearce replaced Theo Walcott with Fraizer Campbell at half-time and reverted to a 4-3-2 with James Milner switched to right-back and Martin Cranie moved across to central defence. "It was a bold move to take a midfielder off and bring a striker on," said Pearce.
- While Mancienne is suspended, Gabriel Agbonlahor, Joe Hart and James Milner will all face a ban should they be booked against Spain having all collected yellow cards in Monday's match.
- Richards injured his thigh after heading what turned out to be the winning goal and was replaced in the 89th minute by James Tomkins. Tomkins, who made his competitive debut against Finland, could be handed his first start against Spain with Mancienne banned and doubts surrounding Richards and Manchester City FC team-mate Onuoha. Pearce confirmed that Milner also suffered "a slight thigh injury".
- Mark Noble, appointed captain by Pearce in the absence of the injured Steven Taylor, was voted man of the match by the UEFA Technical Study Group.
- England returned to their base in Varberg after the match, where they staged a recovery session for those who played against Finland on Tuesday morning. The rest of the squad, including the substitutes who were used late on, trained as usual at Tvååkers IF.
- Spain enjoyed a free afternoon on Tuesday having trained in two groups in the morning before sessions with the team physiotherapists and a massage.
- Spain coach López Caro has minor concerns surrounding the man of the match against Germany, Sergio Asenjo, and Diego Capel as he prepares his side to face England. Asenjo jarred his ankle in taking a last-minute goal kick and wore a supportive bandage in training, although he is expected to be fit for Thursday. Capel sprained his right ankle against Germany and sat out training on Tuesday, but is also likely to be available.
- Having been booked against Germany, Raúl García and Marc Torrejón will miss the next game should they collect a second yellow card of the finals against England.
- "We expect a very physical match, with plenty of long passes to their forwards," said Marc Torrejón of the England game. "We're quite strong in that kind of football, but we definitely have to improve on the counterattack. Against Finland, England won with one man less for almost an hour; they always have very strong players and are one of the favorites to win the trophy. It will be a very tough game, very physical, but we have lots of quality and skill that will help us to outplay their strength."

Team facts

Spain

Spain may feel that, given the football reputation the country enjoys, particularly at youth level, two UEFA European Under-21 Championship titles in three decades is a modest return. More surprising still is that Spain have featured

in just one final tournament since the likes of Guti, Michel Salgado and Juan Carlos Valerón lifted the trophy in 1998. They finished third in 2000, but have since been notable only by their absence.

Spain made little impression on the competition in its first three editions but came into their own in 1984 when, with Andoni Zubizarreta showing youthful promise in goal, they defeated 1978 champions Yugoslavia in the semi-finals before losing to England over two legs. Two years later, under coach Luis Suárez, Spain claimed their first U21 crown with Manuel Sanchís and Quique Sánchez Flores among the triumphant squad. A last-four appearance in 1994 was bettered two years later when a team containing Raúl González and Iván de la Peña succumbed on penalties in the final to Italy – Gianluigi Buffon, Francesco Totti, Fabio Cannavaro, Andrea Pirlo et al – before a record crowd for a final-tournament match of 35,500 at Barcelona's Stadio Olímpico de Montjuïc. Two years later, though, Spain went all the way, picking up the trophy for a second time.

Tournament record

Winners: 1986, 1998

Runners-up: 1984, 1996

Semi-finalists: 1994, 2000

Final tournament appearances: 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2009

2009 qualifying

P10 W9 D0 L1 F25 A5

Top scorer: José Manuel Jurado, 4 goals

Most appearances: 10 Gerard Piqué

Biggest win: 5-0 v Kazakhstan (H) 25.03.2008

Biggest defeat: 1-2 v Switzerland (A) 11.10.2008

Youngest player: Bojan Krkić (16 years, 9 months, 8 days v Georgia on 05.06.2007)

Oldest player: César Arzo (21.01.1986)

Red cards: None

Friendly results since qualifying

18.11.2008 Portugal 4-1 Spain

10.02.2009 Spain 1-1 Norway

27.03.2009 Republic of Ireland 2-1 Spain

31.03.2009 Spain 0-0 Sweden

Capped at senior level: Bojan Krkić, Diego Capel

Players with previous U21 final tournament experience: None

Most capped player

All-time: 27 Santi Cazorla

Current: 17 Raúl García

Leading scorer

All-time: 12 Óscar García

Current: 5 José Manuel Jurado

Biggest wins

Final tournament: 4-2 Greece v Spain 23.03.1994

1994 quarter-finals, Nikos Goumas, Athens

Qualifying: 14-0 Spain v San Marino 08.02.2005

2006 qualifying group stage, Santo Domingo, El Ejido

Heaviest defeats

Final tournament: 2-0 Portugal v Spain 15.04.1994

1994 semi-finals, Costières, Nimes

Qualifying: 5-0 Netherlands v Spain 16.02.1983

1984 qualifying group stage, Galgenwaard, Utrecht

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: 43 James Milner

Current: 43 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: 4-0 Romania v England 14.10.1980

1982 qualifying group stage, Ilie Oana, Ploiesti

Squad list

Spain

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				Overall U21	
						a Qual.		a FT		Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Roberto	10.02.1986	23	RC Recreativo de Huelva	-	5	-	-	-	5	-
13	Sergio Asenjo	28.06.1989	19	Real Valladolid CF	-	5	-	1	-	6	-
23	Antonio Adán	13.05.1987	22	Real Madrid CF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders											
2	Miguel Torres	28.01.1986	23	Real Madrid CF	-	9	-	-	-	9	-
3	Nacho Monreal	26.02.1986	23	CA Osasuna	-	5	-	1	-	6	-
5	Marc Torrejón	18.02.1986	23	RCD Espanyol	*	5	-	1	-	6	-
12	César Azpilicueta	28.08.1989	19	CA Osasuna	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
14	Sergio Sánchez	03.04.1986	23	RCD Espanyol	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
15	Chico	06.03.1987	22	UD Almería	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
16	Iván Marcano	23.06.1987	21	Real Racing Club	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders											
4	Javi García	08.02.1987	22	Real Madrid CF	-	6	-	-	-	6	-
6	Javi Martínez	02.09.1988	20	Athletic Club Bilbao	-	5	-	1	-	6	-
7	Sisi	22.04.1986	23	RC Recreativo de Huelva	-	9	1	1	-	10	1
8	Raúl García	11.07.1986	22	Club Atlético de Madrid	*	8	1	1	-	13	1
10	José Manuel Jurado	29.06.1986	22	Club Atlético de Madrid	-	8	4	1	-	13	4
11	Esteban Granero	02.07.1987	21	Getafe CF	-	5	2	1	-	6	2
17	Diego Capel	16.02.1988	21	Sevilla FC	-	4	2	1	-	5	2
18	Mario Suárez	24.02.1987	22	RCD Mallorca	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
22	Pedro León	24.11.1986	22	Real Valladolid CF	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
Forwards											
9	Bojan Krkić	28.08.1990	18	FC Barcelona	-	6	3	1	-	7	3
19	Xisco	26.06.1986	22	RC Deportivo La Coruña	-	6	3	1	-	7	3
20	Jonathan Pereira	12.05.1987	22	Real Racing Club	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
21	Adrián López	08.01.1988	21	Málaga CF	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Coach											
-	Juan Ramón López Caro	23.03.1963	46	ESP	-	5	-	1	-	6	-

Key: Squad list is ordered by position and then numerically

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

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

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

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

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

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England

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				Overall U21	
						a Qual. Pld	Gls	a FT Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Joe Hart	19.04.1987	22	Manchester City FC	*	10	-	1	-	11	-
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	-	1	-	6	-
3	Andrew Taylor	01.08.1986	22	Middlesbrough FC	-	5	-	-	-	5	-
5	Richard Stearman	19.08.1987	21	Wolverhampton Wanderers FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Nedum Onuoha	12.11.1986	22	Manchester City FC	-	4	1	-	-	10	1
15	Jack Rodwell	11.03.1991	18	Everton FC	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
16	James Tomkins	29.03.1989	20	West Ham United FC	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
17	Micah Richards	24.06.1988	20	Manchester City FC	-	-	-	1	1	4	1
18	Michael Mancienne	08.01.1988	21	Chelsea FC	S	4	-	1	-	5	-
19	Kieran Gibbs	26.09.1989	19	Arsenal FC	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Midfielders											
4	Lee Cattermole	21.03.1988	21	Wigan Athletic FC	-	5	-	1	1	6	1
7	James Milner	04.01.1986	23	Aston Villa FC	*	10	5	1	-	29	7
8	Craig Gardner	25.11.1986	22	Aston Villa FC	-	4	-	-	-	4	-
10	Mark Noble	08.05.1987	22	West Ham United FC	-	7	3	1	-	12	3
11	Adam Johnson	14.07.1987	21	Middlesbrough FC	-	7	2	-	-	7	2
12	Fabrice Muamba	06.04.1988	21	Bolton Wanderers FC	-	8	-	1	-	9	-
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	1	-	11	4
14	Theo Walcott	16.03.1989	20	Arsenal FC	-	7	1	1	-	12	5
21	Fraizer Campbell	13.09.1987	21	Manchester United FC	-	3	-	1	-	4	-
Coach											
-	Stuart Pearce	24.04.1962	47	ENG	-	10	-	1	-	15	-

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 B

	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Spain	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Germany	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Finland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
15.06.2009	England - Finland	2-1	Örjans vall, Halmstad
Goals: 1-0 Cattermole 15, 1-1 Sparv 33 (pen) , 2-1 Richards 53			
England: Hart, Cranie, Cattermole, Milner, Agbonlahor (Rodwell 86), Noble, Muamba, Walcott (Campbell 46), Richards (Tomkins 89), Mancienne, Gibbs			
Finland: Jaakkola, Raitala, Portin, Turunen, Sparv, Hämäläinen (Vasara 80), M. Hetemaj (Hakola 86), Sadik, Parikka (Pukki 65), Aho, P. Hetemaj			
15.06.2009	Spain - Germany	0-0	Gamla Ullevi, Gothenburg
Goals: -			
Spain: Sergio Asenjo, Monreal, Torrejón, Javi Martínez, Sisi (Diego Capel 70), Raúl García, Bojan (Xisco 82), Jurado, Granero (Pedro León 87), Sergio Sánchez, Chico			
Germany: Neuer, Beck, Boenisch (Schmelzer 38), Höwedes, J. Boateng, Aogo, Khedira, Dejagah, Özil, Marin (Ben-Hatira 70), Castro (Ebert 86)			
18.06.2009	Germany - Finland	-	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	Bjorn Kuipers (NED)
Assistant referees	Emil Ubias (CZE), György Ring (HUN)
Fourth official	Markus Strömbergsson (SWE)
UEFA Delegate	Benny Jacobsen (DEN)
UEFA Referee observer	Marc Batta (FRA)

Referees

Name	Nat.	Date of birth	U21	UEFA
Bjorn Kuipers	NED	28.03.1973	1	12

Bjorn Kuipers

- Bjorn Kuipers is following in the family trade as he continues to work his way up the refereeing ladder, with his father having also acted as an official in the Netherlands. Kuipers Jr earned his FIFA badge in 2006, at the age of 33.
- That was also the year he took charge of the UEFA European Under-17 Championship final between the Czech Republic and Russia, and in the season that followed Kuipers stepped up to work as a fourth official in both the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup.
- A fourth official at four matches at the 2007 U21 tournament, Kuipers – who lives in the Dutch town of Oldenzaal with his wife and daughter, works as a supermarket director and counts mountain biking among his hobbies – held the same role in five qualifying games for UEFA EURO 2008™. He was then appointed as referee at five fixtures in the 2008/09 UEFA Cup, including the meeting of holders FC Zenit St. Petersburg and VfB Stuttgart in the Round of 32.

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

No matches found

Head coach

Spain: Juan Ramón López Caro

Date of birth: 23 March 1963

Managerial career: Unión Balompédica Lebrijana (1992-93), Lebrija CD (1993-95), UD Los Palacios (1995-97), Dos Hermanas CF (1997-98), UD Melilla (1998-99), RCD Mallorca B (1999-2001), Real Madrid CF B (2001-05), Real Madrid Castilla (2005), Real Madrid CF (2005-06), Real Racing Club (2006), Levante UD (2006-07), RC Celta de Vigo (2007-08), Spain Under-21s (2008-)

Prior to leading Spain into the 2009 UEFA European Under-21 Championship, Juan Ramón López Caro would have pointed to his brief stint at the helm of Real Madrid CF as his proudest moment in coaching thus far. It was during a successful period at RCD Mallorca's B side that the Sevilla-born tactician began to forge his reputation by leading the young islanders to success in Spain's lower ranks. López Caro was subsequently handed the task of improving the fortunes of Madrid's B team and his no-nonsense, disciplined style – which earned him the nickname 'The Iron Sergeant' – helped the side reach the Segunda División play-offs three times, the last of which brought promotion.

After an unbeaten start in the second tier, López Caro was appointed caretaker coach to the first team following the dismissal of Vanderlei Luxemburgo. In his first match in charge in December 2005, Madrid lost at Olympiacos CFP in the UEFA Champions League and although his team qualified for the first knockout round, they were subsequently eliminated by eventual runners-up Arsenal FC. Finishing second to FC Barcelona in the Liga brought to an end López Caro's brief reign, which featured 12 wins and just three defeats in 24 Liga matches.

Unsuccessful spells at Levante UD and RC Celta de Vigo followed before it was announced in May 2008 that he would be eased into the Under-21 job alongside former boss Iñaki Saez. On his debut in sole charge he guided Spain to an impressive 2-1 win away to Russia, and his side went on to top Group 8 with the only 100 per cent record before squeezing past Switzerland in the play-offs.

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 (2005-2007 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 successfully converted 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.

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

SPAIN - ENGLAND

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Gamla Ullevi, Gothenburg

Most goals in a game

All-time

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

Final tournament

7: Czech Republic 4-3 Croatia, 01.06.2000

2000 group stage, Mestský Stadium, Trenčín, Slovakia

Final

8: Yugoslavia 4-4 German Democratic Republic 31.05.1978
(second leg, Yugoslavia won 5-4 on agg), Mostar, Yugoslavia

Record attendance

All-time

42,000: Turkey 1-1 Germany, 18.11.2003

2004 qualifying play-off, Sükrü Saraçoğlu Stadium, Istanbul

Final tournament

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

1996 final, Olímpico de Montjuïc, Barcelona

Final

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

Competition information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tournament schedule

Final tournament

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