

Introduction



For the first time since 2002, the UEFA European Under-17 Championship final tournament featured 16 teams, initially split into four groups of four, with the top two in each section qualifying for the quarter-finals.

The need to determine Europe's six representatives at the FIFA U-17 World Cup meant that the four losing quarter-finalists went into two play-off ties in order to decide who would join the semi-finalists in Chile in the October-November competition. This entailed an increase in the number of matches played at the final tournament, from 15 in 2014 to 33 in 2015.

The challenge of hosting an event of such dimensions was very successfully met by the Bulgarian Football Union (BFS). They managed to locate a hotel complex in the Black Sea resort of Pomorie capable of accommodating all 16 delegations in addition to the organisational teams deployed on site by UEFA and the local organising committee. For the 33 matches, four venues were used: Burgas, Sliven, Sozopol and Stara Zagora. At approximately two hours' driving time, Stara Zagora was the most distant from the tournament HQ. Ten of the group fixtures were staged as double-headers at the same stadium.

The quarter-finals were played in Burgas and Stara Zagora; the semi-finals and World Cup play-offs took place at all four venues; and the setting for the final was Lazur Stadium in Burgas, the largest arena with a capacity of 19,004. Kick-off times ranged from 13.00 to 20.00 local time, with temperatures providing no cause for concern. A crowd of 14,680 to watch the final between France and Germany brought the cumulative attendance for the tournament to 78,912, an average of 2,391 per match. The largest crowd en route to the final was 11,684 for Bulgaria's opener against Croatia.



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Bulgaria supporters turned out in force

Nine referees and 12 assistant referees from non-participating countries were selected to gain their first experience of a UEFA competition, along with four Bulgarian referees who acted as fourth officials. As has become the custom in recent years, the tournament agenda featured educational briefings on doping controls and the dangers of match-fixing aimed at players who were, in the main, also enjoying their first taste of international competition.

UEFA's technical team in Bulgaria was formed by Savvas Constantinou (Cyprus), Jerzy Engel (Poland), Ghenadie Scurtul (Moldova) and Marc Van Geersom (Belgium). They were joined for the final by UEFA's chief technical officer, Ioan Lupescu (Romania).

Their observations have been compiled into a technical report which, in addition to providing a permanent record of the event, aims to offer useful information to coaches working at player development levels.

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World Cup places the first target for all



England rush to celebrate their shoot-out win against Spain in the World Cup play-offs ©LAP.bg

Fifteen teams travelled to Bulgaria with a common aim: that of claiming one of Europe's six berths at the FIFA U-17 World Cup. The first step towards achieving that goal was to occupy one of the top two places in the four groups which provided the opening stage of the first 16-team final tournament since 2002.

The other team, Bulgaria, had to contend with the challenge endemic to host nations – to produce top-level performances despite the lack of competitive matches in qualifying. The lack of edge became patent during an opening fixture when, in spite of fervent, numerous support, they were second-best to an impressive Croatia. Aleksandar Dimitrov's side improved game by game, fighting manfully back from a goal down against Spain and capitalising on a rare goalkeeping error to equalise – only to be defeated by a well-rehearsed set play. The hosts, playing variations on 4-3-3, produced another plucky display, again coming from a goal down to earn their only point from a 1-1 draw with Austria.

The result represented a disappointment for the compact, well-organised Austria team. In their opening game, they had responded to Spain's possession play with direct counterattacking and came from 1-0 down to draw 1-1. They displayed similar solidity against Croatia, with Manfred Zsak bravely switching to three at the back for the closing minutes after his side had fallen a goal behind. Needing to win the final match against an improving Bulgaria, they surrendered a 1-0 lead and failed to strike enough sparks in the attacking third to achieve their goal. With Croatia defending deep and rotating their squad against Spain with a view to protecting first place in Group A, the 0-0 draw signified an early exit for Austria and the hosts.



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Dejected Austria coach Manfred Zsak

In Group B, the Czech Republic had a rough ride, despite taking maximum points from their opening game against Slovenia. Václav Cerný's team worked hard and pressed aggressively, but their only reward was a solitary goal just after the break. Cerný attributed a nervy showing to big-tournament pressure, which was only relieved by the goal. The second match, against Belgium, was marked by two critical moments: firstly a missed penalty when trailing 1-0; and, minutes later, the dismissal of goalkeeper Martin Jedlička. Two subsequent goals gave Belgium a 3-0 win. Worse was to come in the final fixture against Germany, who scored three in the first half and sent the Czechs home with a 4-0 scoreline.

Germany had somehow survived a torrid first half against Belgium, when their clean sheet owed much to woodwork, goalkeeping and profligate finishing. But two long-range strikes – the first deflected – allowed them to open the campaign with a 2-0 win. Slovenia, after their opening defeat, opted for deep defending and direct counterattacking, which failed to disturb the Germans once they had taken an eighth-minute lead. The second 1-0 defeat left Igor Benedejcic's team needing to beat Belgium by three goals. But an edgy game ended cruelly for Slovenia when Belgium striker Dennis Van Vaerenbergh headed the only goal in the third minute of added time. Slovenia and the Czechs were the Group B fallers.

In Group C, Scotland were required to bounce back from a dispiriting start. Starting in a 4-2-3-1 formation, Scot Gemmill's side conceded four times during the first half against France. Switching to 4-4-2 after the break, they limited the damage to a further goal. Against Greece, determination and committed pressing in midfield sparked an improvement but, after falling behind in the 39th minute, they could find no way through resolute Greek defending. Already eliminated, they were defeated 2-0 by a Russia team which came within a whisker of joining the Scots on the journey out of Bulgaria.

After an entertaining opener in which they twice came from behind to draw 2-2, Mikhail Galaktionov's team focused on defensive aspects against France but were beaten by a solitary strike from Odsonne Edouard. France, already qualified, rotated their squad for the final match against Greece, who defended in depth with a view to securing the 0-0 draw that would push them

into the last eight. That objective was scuppered in the cruellest of fashions. A lapse of concentration allowed substitute Jordan Rambdaud to poke the ball into the Greek net in the fourth minute of added time and to send the Greeks home.

Group D pitted Italy and the Republic of Ireland against the 2014 finalists, England and the Netherlands. Tom Mohan's Irish team sprang the first surprise of the tournament by holding the Dutch to a 0-0 draw in a game which, had they taken their late chances, they could have won. Two defensive mishaps then led to a 2-0 defeat by Italy which left them needing to beat England. Ireland's commitment, spirit and organisation made them difficult to break down, but they were beaten by a solitary goal and were one of three teams to travel home without scoring.

Failure to ruffle the net was the reason for the Dutch's unexpected demise. After a rocky first half which required Maarten Stekelenburg to make hurried tactical adjustments, they came back via a penalty to draw 1-1 with England and, in the must-win final fixture against Italy, they could manage no more than an own goal which gave them another 1-1 draw and sent them home unbeaten. Italy, despite an indifferent start against John Peacock's talented England side, were through to the last eight.

Their opponents were the France team which had yet to concede a goal – and Bruno Tedino's side were unable to change that. Playing a classic 4-4-2 based on defensive acumen and direct supply from the back to the frontrunners, they struggled to cope with the fluent movement of Jean-Claude Giuntini's team and the incessant attacking along the flanks. Edouard opened the door with an early goal and sealed the 3-0 win eight minutes from time after winger Nanitamo Ikone had scored a second in the 53rd minute.

It gave France a semi-final against Belgium. Bob Browaey's, in the quarter-final against Croatia, stuck to his 4-3-3 formation with the emphasis on breaking forward along the flanks. Dario Bašić preferred a 4-2-3-1 with positional rotations and spells of high pressing. An impressive first half earned Croatia a 1-0 lead. This persuaded Belgium to open up what had been a risk-management game and a 53rd-minute equaliser by lively winger Ismail Azzaoui sent the tie into a shoot-out. Jens Teunckens, impressive throughout the tournament, saved the first Croatia penalty and this was enough to give Belgium a 5-3 win.



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Croatia lost on penalties to Belgium

On the same day, Germany took on Spain in Stara Zagora and struggled to find solutions to the possession play and high defending by Santi Denia's team. Spain, prompted by captain and playmaker Carles Aleñà, had the better of the first half, forcing Constantin Frommann to work hard to extend his unbeaten run. But Spain were to pay for their lack of punch (one penalty and two free-kicks in the tournament) and, when two of their spot kicks failed to hit the net during the shoot-out, they were beaten 4-2.

The other quarter-final was also a story of paying for a lack of goals. England had the upper hand in terms of technique and approach play against a Russia team that moved up a gear in relation to previous performances. England's fluent combinations in midfield and the advances in the wide areas – with Chris Willock rampant on the left – faded on the edge of the Russian box and, although England dominated by 20 attempts to six, Aleksandr Maksimenko was rarely troubled in the Russia goal. His crucial contribution was to save a first-half penalty and inject enough confidence for his team to push forward and score the only goal of the game in the 29th minute.

England and Spain then underscored their scoring problem by playing out a goalless draw in the World Cup play-off, with Spain again enjoying the upper hand but failing to translate this into activity for the scoreboard operator. Again, they were cruelly beaten in the penalty shoot-out and went home unbeaten, but, on the other hand, having posted three 0-0 draws in their five matches. In the other play-off, skipper Nikola Moro atoned for his shoot-out miss by scoring the 15th-minute goal which earned Croatia the consolation of a trip to Chile.

Russia, after the defend-and-counter strategy had paid off so handsomely against England, adopted the same approach to their semi-final against Germany – a battle between two teams who relied on collective virtues rather than individual talents. Captain Georgi Makhatadze again emerged as the midfield leader and the main link between the Russia lines. Germany, ringing the changes in terms of team selection but remaining faithful to the 4-2-3-1 structure, attacked insistently down the flanks and were rewarded when tall striker Janni Serra headed the 68th-minute goal which put Christian Wüick's side into the final.



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Janni Serra enjoys his goal against Russia

Their opponents were France – just. In Burgas, Giuntini's team tested Belgium relentlessly with their high-tempo, short-passing game – and, in particular, keeper Teunckens, who plunged to his left to keep out a penalty taken by Edouard. The France striker, however, put his side ahead in the 23rd minute with a direct free-kick which clipped the post on the way into the net. After the break, pushing up and pressing high, Belgium exploited another set play to draw level, the head of centre-back Rubin Seigers emphatically meeting a corner from the left to end Luca Zidane's unbeaten run of 372 minutes. The 1-1 draw signalled the start of a bizarre shoot-out in which, after Edouard's earlier failure, only three of ten spot-kicks hit the net. The tenth, struck by Edouard, beat Teunckens to give France a 2-1 shoot-out triumph and the right to return to Burgas three days later to take on Germany in the final.

The final



Potent France unlock the 'best defence'

The voices of the young singers who provided live pre-match entertainment at Lazur Stadium in Burgas were mature beyond their years, providing an accurate parallel with the players who were to offer 14,680 spectators 80 minutes of exhilarating entertainment which, in turn, endorsed the pre-game theory that the final involved the two best teams of the tournament.

The contest had been billed as an encounter between two footballing cultures. Indeed, Germany captain Felix Passlack had gone so far as to describe it as "the best attack against the best defence". France had certainly been more prolific than any other team, while Germany had not conceded a goal during the 400 minutes that had ushered them into the final.

Contrasts were highlighted by the warm-up. France honed their first touch and short passing prior to acceleration drills in the far corner. Germany's routine was about stretching, physical exercises without the ball and, finally, full use of their in-depth coaching staff with specific work-outs for each department of the team – one coach rehearsing each group in the skills they would require during the game. The other contrast was that while Jean-Claude Giuntini named an unchanged side, Christian Wück, adhering to his policy of sharing workloads, made five changes



©Sportsfile
The coaches at the pre-final media activity

to the lineup which had started the semi-final against Russia.

Within 27 seconds of the Polish referee signalling for the ball to roll, Passlack hit a low drive which tested Luca Zidane in the France goal. It was the prelude to an evening of hectic activity for the two keepers, Zidane assiduously participating in build-ups from the back and Constantin Frommann a serial killer of one-against-one situations that seemed destined to produce French goals. Both also had crucial roles to play in covering behind high defensive lines, with Zidane patrolling some 35 metres and Frommann, a Neuer lookalike and play-alike, confidently casing an area 40 or 45 metres in depth.

In front of them, the team structures provided mirror images. Giuntini's 4-2-3-1 formation featured one novelty: the pace and skills of Jeff Reine Adélaïde were deployed on the left – he had played on the right in the semi-final – with the add-on value of stifling the exuberance of Germany right-back Jonas Busam. The France winger was fast to drop back to create a compact 4-4-2 defensive block and, when breaking forward, the right-footer's instinct was to cut inside. One such run led to a touch-off and a forward sprint which was quickly read by the ubiquitous Timothé Cognat, the skipper's delightful lofted pass giving Reine Adélaïde a clear run through the middle, aborted by the outstanding Frommann.

It was one of many chances which went unexploited during 20 minutes of French domination. Their pace and technique allowed them to sneak in behind the Germany full-backs, only for most of their finishing to disappear into the evening sky. Germany, using different weapons, edged their way back into the game. Whereas the French were using solo skills in the wide areas to create danger, Wüick's side relied on teamwork, hard running and traditional fighting qualities. Crucial battles were swaying to and fro in central midfield, with Gökhan Gül, Vitaly Janelt and the more offensive Niklas Schmidt pitting power against the lithe skills of Cognat, Jean-Victor Makengo and the industrious linking play of Bilal Boutobba, operating deeper than in previous games.

While France insisted on high-tempo combination approach work, Germany depended on fast transitions – few-touch counters aimed at catching the attack-minded, risk-taking French out of position. Attempts to feed long passes over the top and into the spaces behind the high defensive line were thwarted by the sheer pace and power of Dayot Upamecano and Mamadou Doucoure, the central pillars of the France back four.

And then, on the stroke of half-time, Odsonne Edouard's predatory instincts gave France the edge. The impressive box-to-box work by right-back Alec Georgen earned him space to square the ball into the heart of the Germany box, where Boutobba distracted all and sundry by missing his shot, leaving Edouard alone at the back post to side-foot into the net off the despairing Frommann. The teams headed for the dressing rooms barely seconds after France had drawn first blood.



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Top scorer: Odsonne Edouard celebrates

Any thoughts that the final might be a 'game of two halves' were dispelled within minutes of the restart. An underhit back pass from the right by Joel Abu Hanna gave winger Nanitamo Ikone a free run at goal, only for Frommann, yet again, to

read his intentions and pounce on the ball as the France No11 attempted to round him. A similar situation allowed France to go two ahead seven minutes into the second period. Frommann worked further miracles in dealing with a one-against-one situation, but, this time, a series of rebounds left the ball with Edouard on the edge of the box. Whereas none of his team-mates could defeat the Germany keeper, his low drive went unerringly into the far corner of the net.

There was barely time to utter the words 'game over' when Germany demonstrated that it was not. And, after their attempts to penetrate during open play had proved fruitless, it was a dead-ball situation which threw them a lifeline. A diagonal free-kick yielded a header that Zidane could only parry upwards, allowing left-back Erdinc Karakas to nod the ball into the net micro-seconds before the keeper could connect with his second leap.

The goal was sandwiched between two German substitutions which allowed Wüick to give his team greater attacking potential, while Giuntini, having replaced the tiring Reine Adélaïde, had a contretemps when captain Cognat injured himself in tackle which resulted in a yellow card. France remained loyal to their fluent passing game and, at the back, continued to use pace and strength to undermine German attacking based on direct forward passing into space. With ten minutes to play, it was a through pass at the other end which decided the contest, Boutobba's delivery allowing Edouard to run clear, clip the ball past Frommann and become the first player to complete a hat-trick in a U17 final.

Edouard, leaving the field to a standing ovation as the game went into added time, allowed his replacement to have the last word. Issa Samba immediately produced an electric run on the right and his cutback was turned into his own net by Gül. To their credit, it was only at this moment that the Germany players sank to the ground and raised the white flag.

At the final whistle, Giuntini was embraced by his coaching staff – and, in gentlemanly fashion, by Wück – as his players found enough residual energy to complete a high-speed lap of honour and revel in the applause from fans who enjoyed a final that had resembled a Formula One race, rich in speed and whirlpools of action in all areas. The French climbed into the main stand to

receive medals and the trophy from their compatriot, UEFA President Michel Platini, as a reward for a performance in which their compendium of individual skills proved too much for German teamwork and fighting spirit.



©Sportsfile
France delight in their second U17 title

Technical topics for discussion



"The real education is having to play each game under pressure from the first minute to the last. At their clubs, this is usually impossible to learn because, in most countries, three or four of the teams might be good. But against the others, they score five or six goals in 20 minutes and then take it easy." The comment was made by Dario Bašić, who had a dozen GNK Dinamo Zagreb players in his Croatia squad.

"The tournament," added UEFA technical observer Jerzy Engel, "put them under non-stop pressure and some of them had to cope with penalty shoot-outs in crucial knockout games. That means, as a player, you grow up fast." "We don't play top games that often," Netherlands coach Maarten Stekelenburg admitted after the match against England. "The players had to get used to the intensity and it wasn't until they did so that you could see our quality."

Spain coach Santi Denia said "it was fantastic for the development of my players to play in front of over 9,000 spectators. It's something they will remember all their lives". In Bulgaria, the levels of physique, technique and tactical maturity made it easy to forget that this was a youth development competition. "Every year, the players seem to be taller, stronger, faster and better prepared technically and tactically," Czech coach Václav Černý commented. "This is the result of self-education, better lifestyles and early cooperation with professionals who help them with proper diets and training. They are real athletes and, when you look at them, it is difficult to say how old they are."

As Stekelenburg added, "apart from greater physical development, the U17 game is now tactically much more similar to adult football". "Coach education is the main reason behind this trend," said Greece coach Vassilis Georgopoulos, "because all the teams were very capably coached."

The upward trend in tactical maturity meant that attitudes and mental resilience could become key issues. "We conceded a goal and that was hard for the boys psychologically," Russia coach

Mikhail Galaktionov admitted after the game against France. "We couldn't re-discover our attacking touch." "Once Greece got their goal, we knew it was going to be difficult," said Scotland coach Scot Gemmill. "When the goal went in we lost our shape, left too many open spaces and couldn't really get going again," conceded Italy coach Bruno Tedino after the defeat against England. One of the striking facts was that, during the 33 matches played in Bulgaria, no team was able to come back to win after conceding the first goal.

The finishing touch

The major talking point in Bulgaria, however, was the shortage of goals. France's 4-1 victory over Germany put a final cosmetic layer over a tournament which had previously yielded 54 goals at an average of 1.68 per match. The five-goal final hauled the average up to 1.79 – the second-lowest in the history of the competition and way below senior standards. The tournament offered spectators one goal per 45 minutes of play. One team – France – provided 25% of the goals; three teams went home without scoring; the talented players of Spain and the Netherlands failed to score in open play. The final was only the eighth game in which both teams scored – and, of those eight, five ended as 1-1 draws.

Year	Goals	Average
2005	48	3.2
2006	44*	2.93
2007	42*	2.8
2008	36	2.4
2009	33	2.2
2010	41	2.73
2011	35	2.33
2012	28	1.87
2013	24	1.6
2014	46	3.07
2015	59	1.79

*Additional matches excluded

Discussion among UEFA's technical observers focused on various interlocking facets. Building from the back, the first was the standard of goalkeeping.

The new Neuers

"We are definitely seeing a new breed," commented former goalkeeper Marc Van Geersom. "Manuel Neuer's contribution during the World Cup in Brazil helped to accelerate a trend towards

a more pro-active style of goalkeeping. The two keepers we saw in the final were prime examples. They were not standing on the line waiting to save shots. They were good at covering a big area, reading the game and reacting quickly to situations, participating in team play and active in building moves from the back. The improvement in standards is not only a reflection of the work being done by the goalkeeper coaches but also a reflection of the modern way of interpreting the goalkeeper's role."

The efficacy of the keepers in their sweeping role was reflected, according to Van Geersom, by the fact that "until the final, we rarely saw instances of through passes sending attackers into one-on-one situations. The keepers were quick to spot attempts to do this."

Standards of control and distribution with the feet were high. During the first half of the semi-final against Belgium, France keeper Luca Zidane was an active participant but touched the ball only once with his gloves – when he retrieved it to place it for a goal kick. Opponents were not slow to spot the preference for measured passing by the keepers and often pressed them hard with the aim of obliging them to pick the ball up and play it long. The best keepers were technically equipped to stay calm under pressure and to continue to launch attacks or counterattacks with telling passes. Germany's Constantin Frommann and Belgium's Jens Teunckens were outstanding examples of keepers who combined traditional shot-stopping virtues with the additional roles of sweeping and constructing. "The German goalkeeper," commented Jerzy Engel, "was very influential and a strong point in his team."



©Sportsfile
Germany keeper Constantin Frommann

Defence mechanisms

The technical team clearly felt that one of the factors underlying the lack of goals was disciplined, well-organised defending based on strong, athletic centre-backs and, generally, full-backs who were ready, willing and able to contribute to attacking play on the wings. Zonal back fours were the order of the day, with Austria and Slovenia switching to three at the back in response to game situations and Stekelenburg adjusting the Dutch formation to 3-4-3 as a tactical solution to problems experienced against England's midfield diamond.

Almost all the full-backs had attacking duties written large on their worksheets. In the group stage, Bulgaria left-back Mateo Stamatov, already enrolled by a Spanish club, and his Czech counterpart Libor Holík made impressive contributions, while Croatia left-back Borna Sosa illustrated the trend by breaking forward into the spaces vacated by Josip Brekalo's infield runs or by his dropping back to receive in midfield. The knockout rounds served to confirm the value of the contributions by, for example, Spain left-back Marc Cucurella, the French full-backs Alec Georgen and Emmanuel Maouassa or the Germany right-back, Jonas Busam – although one of the factors in the final was that his upfield surges were efficiently subdued by the France double-cover in the

wide areas. "All the best teams had full-backs up and wingers cutting in," said technical observer Ghenadie Scurtul.

Centre-backs were generally strong on positional discipline, though a few, such as France's Dayot Upamecano, were prepared to burst forward (indeed, his run paved the way for his team's second goal in the final). The tournament confirmed that the modern centre-back is expected to provide more than tackling, clearances and aerial power. Stekelenburg offered a succinct job description, saying: "The centre-back needs physical power; he must choose the right position depending on situations; he must be strong in 1v1s; his decision-making must be good; he must know how to anticipate and must possess insight into the game along with construction skills."

Few of the teams in Bulgaria operated sustained high pressure, the Czech Republic providing the exception to the rule. Spain pressed high for certain periods. The general trend was to exert aggressive pressure on the ball-carrier while team-mates reacted with quick transitions into a compact defensive block. "France, Spain and Croatia had the levels of technique to play their way out of opponents' high pressure and to build through midfield," explained Technical observer Savvas Constantinou. "But many of the less-gifted teams were forced into hitting the safety-first long ball, which, very often, meant an immediate loss of possession. There were very few occasions when defences were caught out by a long ball from the opposition back line."

The predators

The lack of goals inevitably led to discussion on the lack of predatory instinct. A comment by Jerzy Engel on a specific match could easily be applied to many of the teams in Bulgaria, where a high percentage of coaches acknowledged their sides' lack of ability to convert chances into goals. "The team was well-organised," said Engel, "and played very effectively from behind, through midfield and out to the wingers. The only thing missing was a striker."

There was widespread praise for the quality of approach work, which ticked many boxes in terms of movement, skills and use of the wide areas. There was statistical evidence to support debate on the lack of efficient strikers. The number of goal attempts averaged out at 22.58 per match – not a great deal below the figure registered in the UEFA Champions League. But the number of attempts required to score a goal (12.63) was 40% higher than in the senior competition – and, had it not been for the five conversions in the final, the figure would have been 47%.

The chart reveals that France and Russia were the only teams to direct more than half their finishing accurately at the target. England and Spain reaped a dividend of only three goals from more than 70 attempts, while Bulgaria, Scotland and Slovenia failed to exceed two on-target goal attempts per game.

Team	On target	Off target	Blocked	Woodwork	Total	Average	Goals
Austria	19	18	3	0	40	13.33	2
Belgium	16	20	8	1	44	8.8	6
Bulgaria	6	10	9	3	25	8.33	2
Croatia	17	29	9	0	55	11	5
Czech Republic	12	20	10	0	42	14	1
England	20	35	19	3	74	14.8	3
France	41	36	29	1	106	17.67	15
Germany	34	36	13	4	83	13.83	9
Greece	10	12	6	1	28	9.33	3
Italy	16	18	3	0	37	7.4	3
Netherlands	15	12	9	0	36	12	2
Rep. of Ireland	9	12	4	0	25	8.33	0
Russia	21	16	4	0	41	8.2	5
Scotland	5	9	4	1	18	6	0
Slovenia	4	12	4	0	20	6.67	0
Spain	19	29	23	2	71	14.2	3

At the same time, the strikers in Bulgaria were not targets for undue criticism. The overwhelming trend was for them to make intelligent movements, to be able to play with their backs to goal and to work tirelessly in attempts to close down opponents as the first line of defence. But, often operating in a lone role, they struggled to find space. France striker Odsonne Edouard provided the exception to the rule with his technical ability to spin in tight spaces and, more importantly, to strike with a one-touch finish. He topped the scoring chart with eight goals from 13 on-target attempts.

As Engel remarked: "This was not a problem related to the quality of attacking play. There was simply a lack of players with the predatory instinct." The debating point is what can be done at youth development levels to remedy this situation.

How the goals were scored

Only 22% of the goals were scored from dead-ball situations – although the percentage would have been higher had goalkeepers not been so proficient in the saving of penalties. Only two were scored directly from free-kicks – a statistic which hints at a lack of specialists. The successes bore the signatures of Ondrej Lingr, whose shot earned the Czech Republic three points against Slovenia, and Edouard, who put France 1-0 ahead in the semi-final against Belgium. There was a general preference for playing free-kicks short with a view to retaining possession.



©LAP.bg
Ondrej Lingr scores against Slovenia

Set-play successes depend heavily on the quality of deliveries and, in this context, Russia's corners

and free-kicks from wide areas were of high quality. A high percentage of the coaches cited lack of time as a barrier to the rehearsal of set plays but, as a codicil, pointed out that their groups had worked on this aspect of play during the 18 months or two years they had spent together. Scotland were one of half a dozen teams who gave training-ground time to dead-ball situations, with Scot Gemmill dedicating 70% to attacking and the remainder to the mechanisms of defending set plays. Netherlands coach Stekelenburg gave responsibility for set-play training to his goalkeeper coach – a method also implemented by UEFA Champions League winners, FC Barcelona.

As the goalscoring chart indicates, open-play goals were evenly shared among the different modes, with defensive errors and own goals accounting for 10% of the tournament's goal tally. Eight of the goals were headers – three of them by Germany, two by Belgium and one apiece by France, Greece and Russia. Although many of the teams practised fast defence-to-attack transitions, only four goals could be directly attributed to successful counterattacks.

CATEGORY	ACTION	GUIDELINES	Goals
S E T P L A Y S	Corners	Direct from/following a corner	5
	Free-kicks (direct)	Direct from a free-kick	2
	Free-kicks (indirect)	Following a free-kick	3
	Penalties	Spot kick (or follow up from a penalty)	3
	Throw-ins	Following a throw-in	-
O P E N P L A Y	Combinations	Wall pass/combination move	8
	Crosses	Cross from the wing	8
	Cutbacks	Pass back from the byline	3
	Diagonals	Diagonal pass into the penalty box	-
	Running with the ball	Dribble and close-range shot/dribble and pass	7
	Long-range shots	Direct shot/shot and rebound	6
	Forward passes	Through pass or pass over the defence	8
	Defensive errors	Bad back pass/mistake by the goalkeeper	3
	Own goals	Goal by the opponent	3
		Total	59

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In formation

UEFA's technical team in Bulgaria signalled tactical flexibility as one of the outstanding features of the final tournament, with great credit to the coaches for the work they had evidently done in preparing their teams. "The players have to learn alternative systems," said Croatia coach Bašić, "and this was a major feature of our preparation work." Belgium coach Bob Browaeys commented "if your aim is to create the players of tomorrow and prepare players for the senior national team, they need to be educated to play against all kinds of systems".

The tournament underlined the trend towards 4-2-3-1 as the preferred formation, with no fewer than 11 of the 16 teams implementing it as a default setting. Belgium, Netherlands, Scotland and the hosts preferred a 4-3-3 though, in the case of Bulgaria, this evolved into a 4-1-4-1 for the final game against Austria. The 4-4-2 structure was only adopted by Italy, although other teams – notably Scotland and England – switched to this formation for specific games or game situations.

Controlling midfielders

The trend towards the 4-2-3-1 structure evidently implied that the majority of teams fielded two controlling midfielders in front of the back four. However, half of the teams operated at some stage with a single screening midfielder whose priority was to provide defensive cover, especially if his team had both full-backs supporting attacking play. The tournament offered scenarios where both controlling midfielders were conscious of defensive priorities (Croatia, Greece and the Czech Republic provided examples), but the general trend was for coaches to look for a balance of defensive and playmaking qualities in their selection for the central midfield roles.

Santi Denia valued defensive sobriety in his choice of companion for Spain's talented playmaker, Carles Aleñà. Christian Wüick deployed five different players in the screening positions and, against Belgium, used Niklas Dorsch in a holding role behind the more offensive Gökem Saglam and Niklas Schmidt. Generally, he sought a defence/attack balance, preferring the somewhat more conservative pairing of Gökhan Gül and Vitaly Janelt for the final.

Jean-Claude Giuntini was obliged by the injury to Jean Ruiz to make adjustments in this department of the France setup. He paired Jean-Victor Makengo with skipper Timothé Cognat to give his midfield a pacy, fluent core, with the latter more likely to appear in the opponents' box. But, whereas Aleñà could fit into the Pirlo mode, the France duo – given the team's high defensive line – were more about linking than launching.



©Sportsfile
Jean-Victor Makengo and Gökhan Gül

Professional parameters

"Teams are tactically better prepared these days and it is not easy to win games. Technology is the main reason for this improvement." The comment was made by England coach John Peacock, whose backroom staff included a video analyst for his own players in addition to one for opponents and potential opponents. This was the norm at the tournament in Bulgaria, where coaches were equipped to base their game plans on solid visual and data-based analysis of the opposition. The 2015 tournament was played by teenagers but in a thoroughly senior and professional environment.

Matters of debate from Bulgaria



Greece were cautious in defeating Scotland 1-0 on matchday two ©LAP.bg

Playing and competing

One of the pre-tournament debating points was whether the expansion to 16 finalists would imply a drop in standards. But, in their talks with UEFA's technical observers in Bulgaria, the coaches gave unanimous endorsement to the enlarged format. "It can only be positive," Netherlands coach Maarten Stekelenburg said. "Before, you used to get five top teams, two surprises and the hosts. Now, nearly all the top countries are present and this makes the final tournament more competitive."

The competitive element was enhanced in Bulgaria by the incentive of places at the FIFA U-17 World Cup, although there were, once again, reservations about safety-first approaches to some of the vital fixtures. This raised the perennial question about whether the Under-17 competition is about youth development or about results. Croatia coach Dario Bašić had clear ideas. "I was not thinking about development," he stated. "My priority was to select the 18 best players for the elite round and, when we qualified for the final tournament, to select the players I thought would give us our best chance of reaching the World Cup."

Belgium coach Bob Browaeys had a similarly pragmatic approach. "Late developers can't be



©Sportsfile
Croatia's Dario Bašić urges his team on

selected at Under-17 level. Otherwise the team can't really be competitive. So early developers or players from the first semester of the year are the ones selected. It means that around 25% of our talented players in this age group are not present, but in Belgium we do not ignore the later developers and some of them will be ready in two years' time to take part in the U19 competition." The Belgium squad contained ten players born in the first three months of 1998 and, of the 288 players originally selected for the final tournament, 102 were born in this quarter. Only seven were born in December.

In the Technical topics part of this report, the coaches underlined that the final tournament in Bulgaria was played at levels of intensity which the players had rarely, if ever, experienced at club level. In national team football, how important is it to educate players to compete and to focus on attaining objectives in terms of playing for results?

Parking the bus

One of the UEFA technical team arrived at base camp after a match, shaking his head. "It wouldn't be fair to say they parked a bus in front of the goal," he said of one of the teams. "Because they used two, in fact." His joke raised a laugh – but it also prompted some serious discussion about football at U17 level and to what extent defensive virtues should be allowed to prevail. Some of the coaches made no secret of their priorities. "The first objective was not to concede a goal and to make it six clean sheets in a row," Bašić told the media after Croatia's 0-0 draw against Spain. "The most important thing today was not conceding a goal," said Greece coach Vassilis Georgopoulos after the game against Scotland. For the sake of argument, this could be interlocked with the fact that no team bounced back to win after conceding first.

In Bulgaria, levels of team organisation and disciplined defending were unanimously praised by the UEFA technical team. On the other hand, the provocative question is, however, whether at this level and at this stage of preparing players for first-team or senior football, there is an unwritten obligation to entertain at a tournament which attracts healthy crowds and where most of the matches are screened to a pan-European television audience.

Groups and individuals

For many of the players, the finals in Bulgaria represented a first opportunity to learn to live together as a squad for a lengthy period of time and to acquire experience with a view to knowing how to cope with the demands of a senior



©LAP.bg
Croatia and Spain played out a 0-0 draw

tournament. The coaches, as a consequence, acknowledged the importance of character and attitude among their criteria for player selection. Many of them stressed the importance of talking to each individual and of consulting the player's club coach in order to assess his suitability to be part of the group. Bašić also commented that "in the youth national teams, there is not much time to teach them things, but there is enough time to build a good atmosphere and nice, positive relationships between the players and the staff".

"To be selected, a player needs to be accepted by the group and know how to behave as a member of that group," said one coach. "If the character assessment of the boy is not positive he will not be selected," said another. In Belgium, a winning mentality and emotional stability are among the elements included in pre-selection screening. In France, mindset and team spirit are also rated important factors. Spain's age-limit teams, so successful over the years, have always stressed the importance of ability to manage emotional states: to avoid extreme reactions of euphoria or despondence.

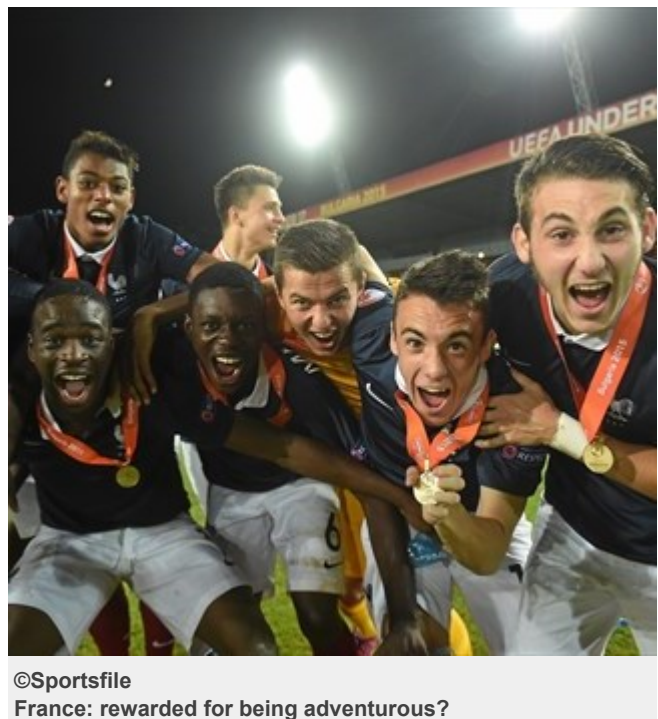
With a view to preparing players for an international career which might entail periods of up to 50 or 60 days of cohabitation, nobody would argue with those principles.

But the possible debating points emerge from some of the comments made during the tournament. There was widespread praise for team ethics, collective virtues and the way that the 'star performers' were willing to integrate fully into the teams' defensive strategies. At the same time, there were remarks such as "they depended on teamwork with players who are obviously receiving a very good football education and play in a highly disciplined fashion. The team was built on hardworking players who ticked a lot of boxes – but there were no individuals who could change the result". Hmmm...

The comment is a challenge to reflect – and maybe to question some of the principles mentioned earlier. Is it totally positive to focus exclusively on teenagers who already possess well-balanced, rounded personalities? Is there a risk of letting potential talent slip through our fingers? Is there a risk of developing teams with a lot of positive features but a negative balance in terms of personality?

Talking of risk, how positive is it to lead players in youth development teams along the risk-management road? What is the correct interpretation of a remark such as "the team focused on playing very safe passes without any risk"? Is that a positive feature? Or a negative one?

In Bulgaria, the technical team raised the question whether correct passing and discipline will ultimately produce the right results. "Playing without risk and without passion is very safe, but, for me, something is missing," one of the technical observers argued. "In my opinion, one of the reasons why France won this tournament is that, apart from having some very talented individuals, they were prepared to take risks."



©Sportsfile
France: rewarded for being adventurous?

While acknowledging the importance of educating young players to fully integrate in the group to acquire competitive edge and to develop a team ethic and winning mentality, what more can be done to encourage creativity within the framework of collective virtues?

Winning coach



Giuntini savours his 'best moment as a coach'

"I've been working with national teams for many years, across all the age categories, and this is my best moment as a coach." Jean-Claude Giuntini was understandably satisfied after his team had lifted the trophy in Burgas, despite his professed credo that "results aren't the most important thing. It's more important to perform well and to play good football". France's first Under-17 victory outside their homeland could be seen as a just reward for a man who perfectly matches the player-development job description of "coach and educator".

As a player, the Giuntini name appeared on second-division teamsheets handed in by US Boulogne and Chaumont FC. But, by the age of 26, he was already indulging his passion for coaching at Union Etoile Sportive Montmorillonaise and, after a couple of single-season jobs, spent the best part of a decade in Brive with ES Aiglons. His talents in the youth development sector led him towards 'Conseiller Technique' roles for the French Football Federation (FFF), starting in the Rhone region in 1998 and then, five years later, in Paris, where he began to appear on lists of coaching staff with the national teams. In recent seasons, he has been responsible for the U16 side and, prior to the victorious 2014/15 campaign, he had led the France U17s in 2011/12.

His philosophy with youth-development teams is "to guide and encourage the players to become self-reliant in their approach to the game. Apart from developing technique and tactical maturity, this includes a capacity for self-analysis and acquiring enough emotional intelligence to cope with specific situations and the demands of the game in general. As a coach and educator, you can pass on your own experience and warn them what to expect, but this has to be done in the form of guided discovery. That's why we encourage the players to identify and establish a set of basic rules, with the captain and the vice-captain taking a degree of responsibility for their

implementation".

He has been witness to steady improvements in the age group. "I would say that the boys are better equipped to play under pressure. The first touch is better. So are the skills and pace. I can't give statistics from the tournament, but I am sure that the real playing time has increased. I would say that today's players have a better knowledge of the different possibilities for attacking and can find better solutions in constructing attacks. On the other hand, I feel that we are still short of productivity."

His preparations for the final tournament were based on two short training camps and, after the elite round, observations of players who could potentially enrich the squad. In Bulgaria, he underlined the collective strength of a group which was highly focused on the final objective and which, apart from a couple of excursions to the nearby city of Burgas, preferred to spend downtime 'at home' in the hotel complex.

Giuntini's approach to the job is reflected by his response to questions about 'star' striker Odsonne Edouard. "He has always been a finisher – and we wanted him to behave like a forward and find ways to unbalance the opposition. But he made a lot of progress during the tournament. He improved his participation in the build-up; he improved his defensive reaction to the loss of the ball." It is symptomatic of Giuntini's ability to add collective virtues to a group which was rich in outstanding individuals.




©Sportsfile
Coach and top scorer, Odsonne Edouard

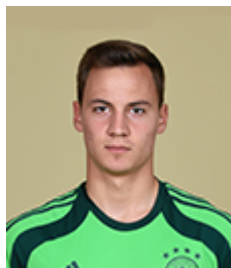
The UEFA technical team


Team of the Tournament

Goalkeepers



1 Jens Teunckens
 Belgium



1 Constantin Frommann
 Germany

Defenders



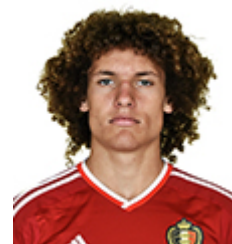
2 Alec Georgen
 France



3 Borna Sosa
 Croatia



3 Cucu
 Spain

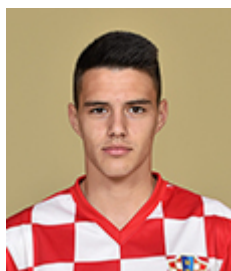



4 Wout Faes
 Belgium



4 Dayot Upamecano
 France

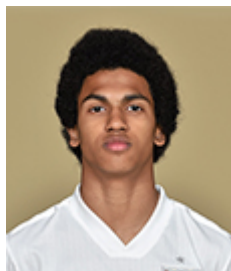
Midfielders




6 Carles Aleñá
 Spain




7 Josip Brekalo
 Croatia



8 Timothé Cognat
 France

8 Georgi Makhatadze
 Russia

10 Nikola Moro
 Croatia


10 Marcus Edwards
 England

Forwards



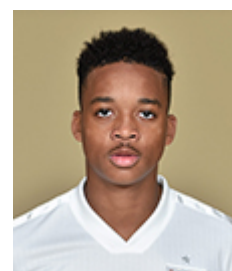
2 Felix Passlack
 Germany



7 Odsonne Edouard
 France




11 Nanitamo Ikone
 France



11 Chris Willock
 England



12 Jeff Reine Adélaïde
 France

UEFA technical observers



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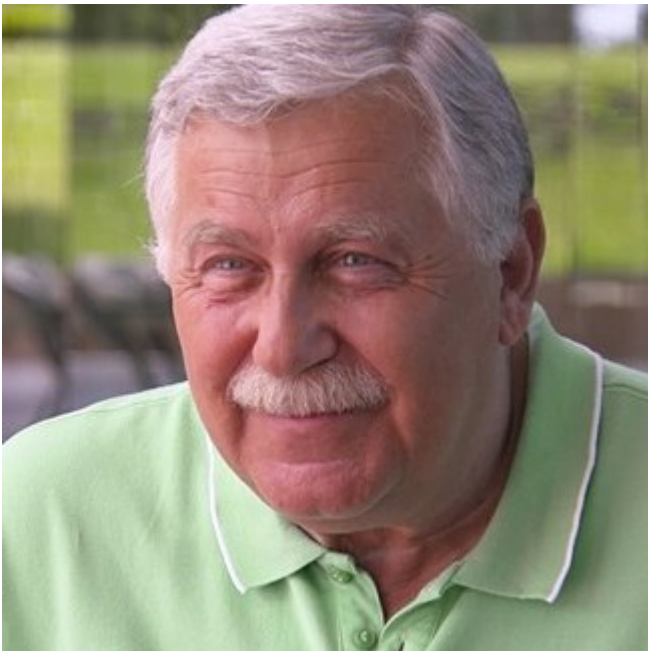
Ghenadie Scurtul (left), Savvas Constantinou (second left), Marc Van Geersom (third right), Jerzy Engel (second right)



©UEFA.com
Marc Van Geersom



©Sportsfile
Ghenadie Scurtul



©UEFA.com
Jerzy Engel

Team analysis



Austria



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	BUL	ESP	CRO	GS	Club
1	Fabian Ehmann	28/08/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80	80		SK Sturm Graz (AUT)
4	Boris Basara	22/02/1998	Defender		1+			FC Admira Wacker Mödling (AUT)
6	Aleksandar Skrbic	29/10/1998	Defender					SK Rapid Wien (AUT)
7	Albin Ramadani	15/01/1998	Midfield	80	80*	68*		SV Ried (AUT)
8	Kevin Danso	19/09/1998	Midfield	62*	52*	5+		FC Augsburg (GER)
9	Arnel Jakupovic	29/05/1998	Forward	80	79*	63*		FK Austria Wien (AUT)
10	Samuel Oppong	12/05/1998	Midfield		1+	12+		SK Rapid Wien (AUT)
11	Daniel Hautzinger	12/05/1998	Midfield	18+		17+		
12	Oliver Filip	15/01/1998	Forward	80	80	80	1	FC Salzburg (AUT)
13	Anes Omerovic	20/05/1998	Midfield	80	80	80		Aston Villa FC (ENG)
14	Maximilian Wöber	04/02/1998	Midfield	80	80	80		SK Rapid Wien (AUT)
15	Paul Sahanek	08/09/1998	Midfield	80	80	75*		SK Rapid Wien (AUT)
16	Jan Heilmann	16/03/1998	Defender	80	80	80		SK Rapid Wien (AUT)
17	Niklas Kölbl	03/04/1998	Defender	1+				SV Ried (AUT)
18	Florian Prirsch	11/09/1998	Defender	79*	80	80		Mohrenbräu Dornbirn (AUT)
19	Patrick Schmidt	22/07/1998	Forward	7+	28+	80		FC Admira Wacker Mödling (AUT)
20	Sandi Lovric	28/03/1998	Midfield	73*	80	80	1	SK Sturm Graz (AUT)
21	Dominik Krischke	21/05/1998	Goalkeeper					FK Austria Wien (AUT)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

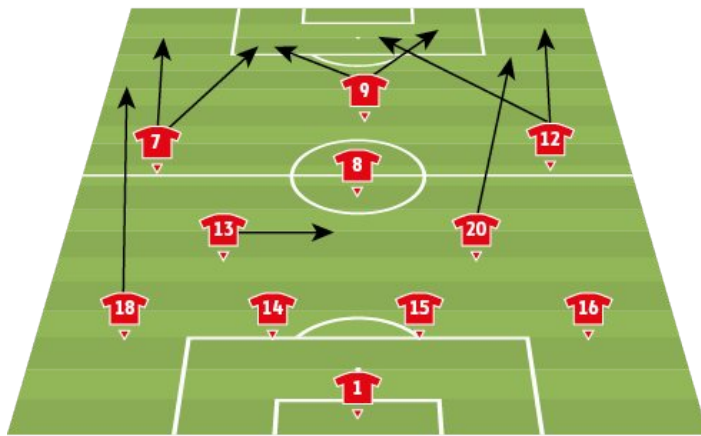
Coach: Manfred Zsak

22/12/64

"The players showed great tactical discipline and the disappointment was losing to Croatia after gaining confidence from the draw with Spain. We were not as mature in terms of scoring goals and we missed a lot of chances over the three games. But it was a valuable experience and every player went home with clear ideas about the things which need to be worked on."



Austria team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with 4-5-1 defending and structural flexibility when required
- Well-organised, disciplined deep defending blocking midfield access
- One holding midfielder in place when defensive block moved 20m higher
- Extensive use of direct long passing to target striker
- Good cooperation on wings; full-backs and attackers creating chances
- Strong in risk management; focused and concentrated even when behind
- Hard-working team based on collective virtues and spirit



Belgium



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	FRA	GER	CRO	SVN	CZE	GS	Club
1	Jens Teunckens	30/01/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80	80	80	80		Club Brugge KV (BEL)
2	Kino Delorge	05/01/1998	Defender	80	72*	70*	80	80		KRC Genk (BEL)
3	Rubin Seigers	11/01/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80	1	KRC Genk (BEL)
4	Wout Faes	03/04/1998	Defender	80	80	80		80		RSC Anderlecht (BEL)
5	Christophe Janssens	09/03/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		Club Brugge KV (BEL)
6	Matisse Thuys	24/01/1998	Midfield	80	80	80	57*	80		KRC Genk (BEL)
7	Ismail Azzaoui	06/01/1998	Forward	80	80	80	80	80*	3	Tottenham Hotspur FC (ENG)
8	Alper Ademoglu	10/04/1998	Midfield	80	80	80	80	80		RSC Anderlecht (BEL)
9	Dennis Van Vaerenbergh	26/06/1998	Forward	80	64*	80	80	80	2	Club Brugge KV (BEL)
10	Orel Mangala	18/03/1998	Midfield	28+	80		74*	69*		RSC Anderlecht (BEL)
11	Lennerd Daneels	10/04/1998	Forward	2+	68*	80	20+	40*		PSV Eindhoven (NED)
12	Gaetan Coucke	03/11/1998	Goalkeeper							KRC Genk (BEL)
13	Dries Caignau	08/01/1998	Defender		8+	10+	80			CAA Gent (BEL)
14	Siebe Horemans	02/06/1998	Defender							CAA Gent (BEL)
15	Dante Rigo	11/12/1998	Midfield	52*		77*	23+	11+		PSV Eindhoven (NED)
16	Nelson Azevedo-Janelas	12/02/1998	Forward		12+					RSC Anderlecht (BEL)
17	Jorn Vancamp	28/10/1998	Forward		16+		6+	1+		RSC Anderlecht (BEL)
18	Matthias Verreth	20/02/1998	Forward	78*		3+	60*	40+		PSV Eindhoven (NED)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

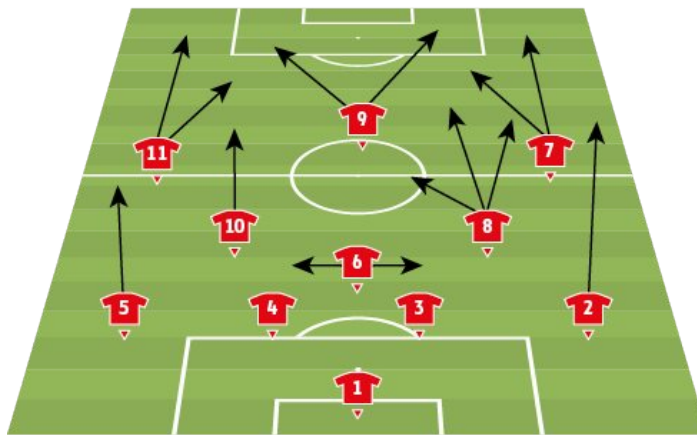
Coach: Bob Browaeys

19/09/68

"Reaching the semi-finals was a big achievement for a small country like Belgium and I was proud of the players' performance. The players were disappointed because we were close to the final, but the important thing is that they can learn a lot from the five games we played. The tournament encourages us to think about how we can do better and, for the coaching staff, the important thing was to analyse the matches and see what lessons we can learn ahead of the World Cup."



Belgium team analysis



- 4-3-3 with disciplined covering by screening midfielder Matisse Thuis
- Excellent goalkeeper initiating build-up and counterattacks
- Passing game using width with deep diagonal passes behind defenders
- 4-1-4-1 when defending, pressure on ball, but solid 4-1 shape at the back
- Pace and off-ball movement on flanks, especially Ismail Azzaoui on right
- Attack well-led by versatile Dennis Van Vaerenbergh; back-to-goal lay-offs
- High levels of technique, pace, game reading; good bench, shrewd substitutions



Bulgaria



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	AUT	ESP	CRO	GS	Club
1	Daniel Naumov	29/03/1998	Goalkeeper		80	80		PFC Ludogorets Razgrad (BUL)
2	Dimitar Savov	29/01/1998	Defender	80	80	80		PFC Slavia Sofia (BUL)
3	Danail Ivanov	07/08/1998	Defender					FC DIT Sofia (BUL)
4	Radoslav Dimitrov	03/07/1998	Midfield	27+	73*	69*		PFC CSKA Sofia (BUL)
5	Kristiyan Slavov	23/05/1998	Defender	80	80	80		PFC CSKA Sofia (BUL)
6	Georgi Rusev	02/07/1998	Forward	59*	80	80		FC DIT Sofia (BUL)
7	Aleks Borimirov	13/05/1998	Forward		21+			PFC Levski Sofia (BUL)
8	Georgi Yanev	04/01/1998	Midfield	53*		33+		PFC Levski Sofia (BUL)
9	Valentin Yoskov	05/06/1998	Forward	80	21+	12+		PFC Chernomorec Varna (BUL)
10	Iliyan Stefanov	20/09/1998	Midfield	21+	80	80		PFC Levski Sofia (BUL)
11	Svetoslav Kovachev	14/03/1998	Midfield	77*	7+	11+		PFC Ludogorets Razgrad (BUL)
12	Dimitar Sheytanov	15/03/1999	Goalkeeper	80				PFC Levski Sofia (BUL)
13	Asen Chandarov	13/11/1998	Midfield	3+	59*	47*		FC DIT Sofia (BUL)
14	Mateo Stamatov	22/03/1999	Defender	80	80	80		RCD Espanyol (ESP)
15	Petko Hristov	01/03/1999	Defender	80	80	80		PFC Slavia Sofia (BUL)
16	Georgi Chukalov	25/02/1998	Midfield					PFC Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1936 (BUL)
17	Pavel Golovodov	28/06/1998	Defender	80	80	80		PFC CSKA Sofia (BUL)
18	Tonislav Yordanov	27/11/1998	Forward	80	59*	68*	2	PFC Ludogorets Razgrad (BUL)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

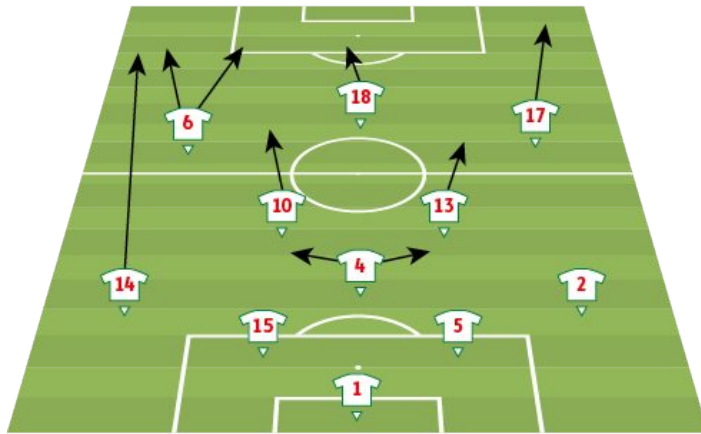
Coach: Aleksandar Dimitrov

12/09/76

"We definitely lacked a competitive edge and sharpness. That was quite visible in the opening game against Croatia, when there was a lot of pressure on us, but we improved with each match and demonstrated that there was talent in the squad. It was a tremendous learning experience and the players, after seeing the best with their own eyes, must concentrate on adding to their talents, developing their game and improving their standard."



Bulgaria team analysis



- 4-1-4-1 switching to 4-3-1-2 v Austria with midfield diamond
- Three lines of defence dropping deep and pressing hard in own half
- Attacking emphasis on individual efforts by striker and two wide players
- Rapid transitions in both directions; counters with direct supply to front
- Full-backs ready to work box to box to support attacks
- Georgi Rusev the leader and catalyst in linking attacking moves
- Strong, hard-working players with great commitment and team spirit



Croatia



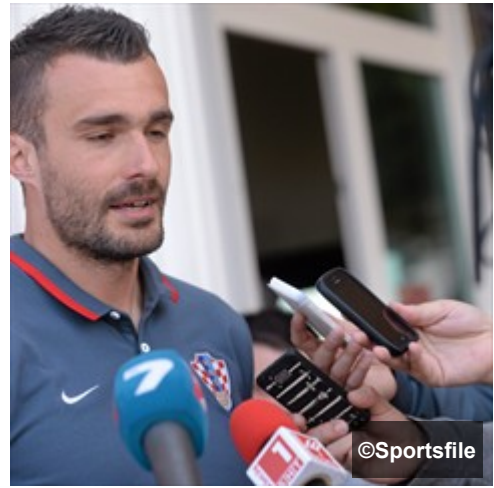
No.	Player	Born	Pos.	BUL	AUT	BEL	ITA	ESP	GS	Club
1	Adrian Šemper	12/01/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80	80	80			GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
2	Matej Hudeček	27/12/1998	Defender		80	80	80	80		GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
3	Borna Sosa	21/01/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	40*		GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
4	Martin Erlić	24/01/1998	Defender	80	34*					Parma FC (ITA)
5	Branimir Kalaica	01/06/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
6	Vinko Soldo	15/02/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	40+		GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
7	Josip Brekalo	23/06/1998	Forward	80	80	80	80	27+		GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
8	Neven Djurasek	15/08/1998	Midfield	73*	80	80*	80*			NK Varaždin (CRO)
9	Karlo Majić	03/03/1998	Forward	80	80*	65*		25+	1	GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
10	Nikola Moro	12/03/1998	Midfield	80	80	80	80		1	GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
11	Davor Lovren	03/10/1998	Forward	20+	66*	80	80	55*	1	GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
12	Ivan Nevistić	31/07/1998	Goalkeeper					80		NK Osijek (CRO)
13	Mihael Briški	02/01/1999	Defender					80		GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
14	Dino Halilović	08/02/1998	Midfield	7+		1+	20+	80		Cornella (ESP)
15	Saša Urošević	26/01/1999	Midfield					80		NK Istra 1961 (CRO)
16	Marko Gjira	05/05/1999	Midfield	80*	46+	70*	60*			GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
17	Matko Babić	28/07/1998	Forward	60*	14+	15+	15+	53*	1	NK Lokomotiva Zagreb (CRO)
18	Adrian Blečić	08/03/1998	Forward	1+	1+		65*	80	1	GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
19	Adrian Zenko	04/04/1998	Midfield			10+	1+	80		

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Dario Bašić

10/05/85

"We conceded only one goal in our five matches, but the one scored by Belgium was a psychological setback for us. It was a high-pressure game and, in the shoot-out, they kept their cool better than us. It was important for the players to realise that football – and life – are like that. The next time they are in a situation like that, they will handle the pressure better. They reacted extremely well and it was a solid performance against Italy that allowed us to achieve our objective of qualifying for Chile."



Croatia team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with player rotation but five always in controlling roles
- Rapid transitions in both directions with spells of high pressing
- Excellent constructive passing game with good options for ball-carrier
- Ubiquitous Nikola Moro the key component in linking defence to attack
- Well-organised, disciplined compact defending; good links between lines
- Good width; wingers cutting in, full-backs attacking, notably Borna Sosa on left
- Athletic, skilful players with varied tactical options, great team spirit



Czech Republic



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	GER	BEL	SVN	GS	Club
1	Filip Truksa	03/07/1998	Goalkeeper	80	6+			FC Hradec Králové (CZE)
2	Denis Granečný	07/09/1998	Defender	80	80	80		FC Baník Ostrava (CZE)
3	Libor Holík	12/05/1998	Defender	80	80	80		1. FC Slovácko (CZE)
4	Marek Richter	23/05/1998	Defender	80	80	80		FK Teplice (CZE)
5	Daniel Köstl	23/05/1998	Defender	40*				AC Sparta Praha (CZE)
6	Michal Sadílek	31/05/1999	Midfield	73*	80	80		1. FC Slovácko (CZE)
7	Antonín Vaniček	22/04/1998	Forward		18+	25+		Bohemians Praha 1905 (CZE)
8	Ondřej Lingr	07/10/1998	Midfield	40+	62*	66*	1	FC Karviná (CZE)
9	Marcel Čermák	25/11/1998	Midfield	7+	71*	55*		SK Slavia Praha (CZE)
10	Ondřej Šašík	21/03/1998	Forward	80	80	77*		FC Baník Ostrava (CZE)
11	Dominik Breda	27/02/1998	Midfield	40+	3*+	14+		FC Hradec Králové (CZE)
13	Alex Král	19/05/1998	Midfield	80	80	80		SK Slavia Praha (CZE)
15	Daniel Souček	18/07/1998	Midfield					SK Slavia Praha (CZE)
16	Martin Jedlička	24/01/1998	Goalkeeper		73	80		1. FK Příbram (CZE)
17	Tomáš Balvín	13/05/1998	Defender					AC Sparta Praha (CZE)
18	Ondřej Žezulka	25/09/1998	Midfield	80	80	80		SK Slavia Praha (CZE)
19	Daniel Turyna	26/02/1998	Forward	40*		3+		AC Sparta Praha (CZE)
20	Matěj Chalouš	02/02/1998	Defender	80	80	80		Bohemians Praha 1905 (CZE)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

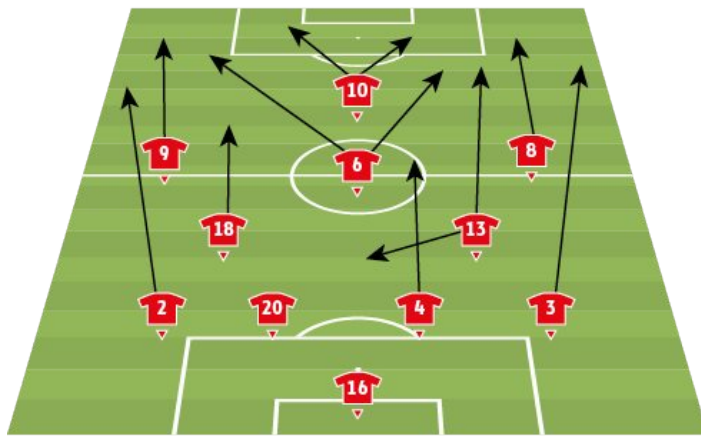
Coach: Václav Černý

09/12/68

"The players felt big-tournament pressure at the start, but we got into our rhythm and probably deserved greater rewards. Things went against us at the critical moments and that undermined our confidence. We used the tournament to see how good we were and to assess the quality of our players. One goal in three games was a clear indication that our biggest weakness was our failure to convert chances."



Czech Republic team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with attacks based on vertical moves with and without ball
- Fierce high pressure to disrupt opponents' build-up, notably v Belgium
- Central attacking midfielder quick to press centre-backs
- Quick transitions with long balls or short passing on less-protected flank
- Emphasis on attacks via flanks with full-backs supporting and overlapping
- Target striker good at holding ball up for oncoming midfielders
- Physical strength, aerial power; well-rehearsed set plays, many players in box



England



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	IRL	RUS	ITA	NED	ESP	GS	Club
1	Paul Woolston	14/08/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80	80	80	78*		Newcastle United FC (ENG)
2	James Yates	03/04/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		Everton FC (ENG)
3	Jay DaSilva	22/04/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		Chelsea FC (ENG)
4	Tom Davies	30/06/1998	Midfield		80	75*		80		Everton FC (ENG)
5	Reece Oxford	16/12/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		West Ham United FC (ENG)
6	Danny Collinge	09/04/1998	Defender	49*	63*	80	80			VfB Stuttgart (GER)
7	Nathan Holland	19/06/1998	Midfield	80	59*	80				Everton FC (ENG)
8	Daniel Wright	04/01/1998	Midfield	80			3+	20+		Sunderland AFC (ENG)
9	Ike Ugbo	21/09/1998	Forward	72*	11+	15+	25+	15+		Chelsea FC (ENG)
10	Marcus Edwards	03/12/1998	Midfield	80	80	40+	63*	80	2	Tottenham Hotspur FC (ENG)
11	Chris Willock	31/01/1998	Forward	40+	80	80	80	80		
12	Tayo Edun	14/05/1998	Defender		21+		77*			Fulham FC (ENG)
13	Will Huffer	30/10/1998	Goalkeeper					2+		Leeds United (ENG)
14	Trent Arnold	07/10/1998	Midfield			5+	80	60*		Liverpool FC (ENG)
15	Easah Suliman	26/01/1998	Defender	31+	17+			80		Aston Villa FC (ENG)
16	Stephy Mavididi	31/05/1998	Forward	8+	69*	65*	55*			Arsenal FC (ENG)
17	Layton Ndukwu	07/09/1998	Forward	40*		40*	17+	65*		Leeds United (ENG)
18	Herbie Kane	23/11/1998	Midfield	80	80	80	80	80		Liverpool FC (ENG)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

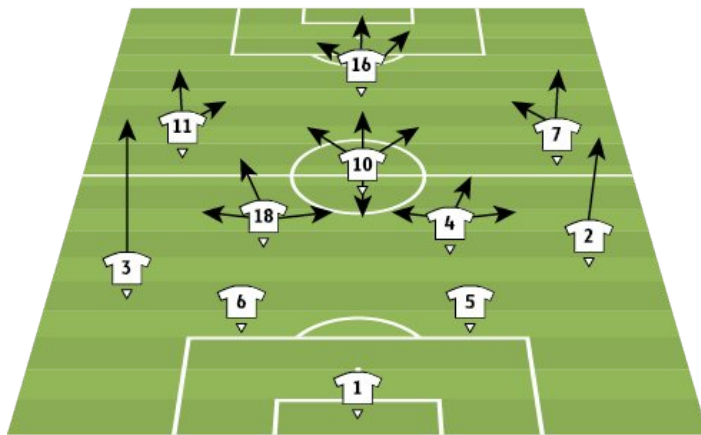
Coach: John Peacock

27/03/56

"I felt that we were one of the better sides in terms of footballing ability, but sometimes you don't get what you deserve. Losing to Russia was tough for the players to take and regrouping for the play-off against Spain was not easy. The first goal is always crucial and failing to score a penalty against Russia and then hitting the post on the rebound was something that came back to haunt us. Then we conceded from a set play. Our fault throughout the tournament was the lack of a clinical finish."



England team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with switches to 4-4-2 with midfield diamond or 4-3-3 v Spain
- Possession-based game with fluent, attractive combination play
- Full-backs contributing to excellent use of wide areas
- Good individual technique, dribbling skills, notably Marcus Edwards, Chris Willock
- Positional rotations in midfield; good support offered to attack
- High defence with keeper covering behind; spells of intense high pressure
- High levels of fitness, strength, tactical maturity and winning mentality



France



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	BEL	GER	GRE	ITA	SCO	RUS	GS	Club
1	Luca Zidane	13/05/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80	80	80	80	80		Real Madrid CF (ESP)
2	Alec Georgen	17/09/1998	Midfield	80	80		80	80	80		Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)
3	Christ-Emmanuel Maouassa	06/07/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80	80		AS Nancy-Lorraine (FRA)
4	Dayot Upamecano	27/10/1998	Defender	80	80	18+	80	80	80		Valenciennes FC (FRA)
5	Mamadou Doucoure	21/05/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80	80	1	Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)
6	Jean-Victor Makengo	12/06/1998	Midfield	80	80	80	3+		9+		SM Caen (FRA)
7	Odsonne Edouard	16/01/1998	Forward	80	80*		80	74*	80*	8	Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)
8	Timothé Cognat	25/01/1998	Midfield	80	69*		80	80	80		Olympique Lyonnais (FRA)
9	Maxime Pelican	12/05/1998	Forward	11+	19+	78*	60*	6+	18+		Toulouse FC (FRA)
10	Bilal Boutobba	29/08/1998	Midfield	58*	80	23+	66*	54*	71*	1	Olympique de Marseille (FRA)
11	Nanitamo Ikone	02/05/1998	Midfield	80	80	62*	80	80	80	3	Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)
12	Jeff Reine Adélaïde	17/01/1998	Midfield	69*	61*	57*	20+		62*		RC Lens (FRA)
13	Jordan Rambaud	16/03/1998	Forward			2+		18+		1	EA Guingamp (FRA)
14	Issa Samba	29/01/1998	Defender		1+	80		62*			AJ Auxerre (FRA)
15	Bradlay Danger	29/01/1998	Midfield			80					Le Havre AC (FRA)
16	Numan Bostan	31/01/1998	Goalkeeper								Toulouse FC (FRA)
16	Nicolas Kocik	04/08/1998	Goalkeeper								Valenciennes FC (FRA)
17	Nicolas Janvier	11/08/1998	Midfield	22+		80	14+	26+	1+		Stade Rennais FC (FRA)
18	Lorenzo Callegari	27/02/1998	Midfield		11+						Olympique de Marseille (FRA)
18	Jean Ruiz	06/04/1998	Midfield			80	77*	80	80		FC Sochaux-Montbéliard (FRA)

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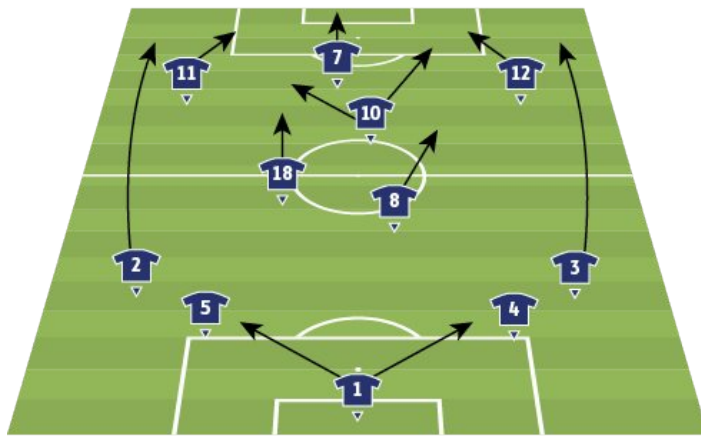
Coach: Jean-Claude Giuntini

14/12/56

"Our selection priorities were mindset, team spirit, technical skills and a winning mentality. We also tried to instil confidence, as this is a key element in playing good football, developing attacking play and trying things. We also stressed the importance of keeping emotions under control. We had to find solutions in some difficult moments and it was a real pleasure to coach such a group and see how they coped and developed during the tournament."



France team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with good balance in screening midfielders and two wingers
- Vertical, high-tempo passing game looking for defence-splitting passes
- Strong, fast, high back line; pro-active keeper participating in build-up
- Fluent off-ball movement offering good options for player in possession
- Captain and playmaker Timothé Cognat excellently linking lines
- Good use of width; wingers attacking goal; good in 1 v 1; supported by full-backs
- Fast, athletic players with technique, tactical flexibility, winning mentality



Germany



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	BEL	FRA	ESP	RUS	CZE	SVN	GS	Club
1	Constantin Frommann	27/05/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80	80	80	80	80		SC Freiburg (GER)
2	Felix Passlack	29/05/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	55*	80	3	Borussia Dortmund (GER)
3	Dzenis Burnic	22/05/1998	Midfield	28+		22+	60*		74*		Borussia Dortmund (GER)
4	Gökhan Gül	17/07/1998	Defender		80	80	80	26*	80		VfL Bochum 1848 (GER)
5	Erdinc Karakas	23/03/1998	Defender	80	80	80	20+	40*	80	2	VfL Bochum 1848 (GER)
6	Joel Abu Hanna	22/01/1998	Defender	40+	80	35*	2+	80	80		Bayer 04 Leverkusen (GER)
7	Dennis Geiger	10/06/1998	Midfield					25+	19+		TSG 1899 Hoffenheim (GER)
8	Niklas Dorsch	15/01/1998	Midfield	61*							FC Bayern München (GER)
9	Johannes Eggstein	08/05/1998	Forward	80	80	58*			52*	1	SV Werder Bremen (GER)
10	Niklas Schmidt	01/03/1998	Midfield	52*	51*	41*	26+		61*	1	SV Werder Bremen (GER)
11	Mats Köhlert	02/05/1998	Forward	80	69*	80		80			Hamburger SV (GER)
12	Markus Schubert	12/06/1998	Goalkeeper								1. FC Dynamo Dresden (GER)
13	Daniel Nesseler	15/03/1998	Defender	80	48*	80	80	54+	80		Bayer 04 Leverkusen (GER)
14	Görkem Saglam	11/04/1998	Midfield	80	11+		54*	80		1	VfL Bochum 1848 (GER)
15	Salih Özcan	11/01/1998	Midfield	19+	32+	45+	80	80	80		1. FC Köln (GER)
16	Janni Serra	13/03/1998	Forward		29+	39+	78*	80	28+	1	Borussia Dortmund (GER)
17	Enes Akyol	16/02/1998	Defender	40*			80	40+	6+		Hertha BSC Berlin (GER)
18	Jonas Busam	03/05/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80	80		SC Freiburg (GER)
20	Vitaly Janelt	10/05/1998	Midfield		80	80	80	80			RB Leipzig (GER)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Christian Wück

09/06/73

"We were proud of the team and the work they did to reach the final. Our philosophy was to try to share the workload and to keep the players as fresh as possible. That's why we made changes to the starting lineup throughout the tournament. We showed that we were prepared to play a different type of game against different opponents. We had very good players, but the disappointment was that too many of them were not at the top of their game in the final."



Germany team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with switches to 4-3-3 with single controlling midfielder
- High defensive line with excellent keeper commanding the space behind
- Compact, disciplined unit; lines well-linked; emphasis on collective virtues
- Patient passing moves from back and through midfield
- Good wing play; combinations between wingers, adventurous full-backs
- Athletic, hard-working players able to impose their game on opposition
- Strength in depth, able to share workload; winning mentality



Greece



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	FRA	SCO	RUS	GS	Club
1	Chrysostomos Iakovidis	30/07/1998	Goalkeeper					Aris Thessaloniki FC (GRE)
2	Polykarpos Liaptsis	12/03/1998	Defender					PAOK FC (GRE)
3	Alexandros Katranis	04/05/1998	Defender	80	80	80		Atromitos FC (GRE)
4	Stefanos Evangelou	12/05/1998	Defender	80	80	80		Panionios GSS (GRE)
5	Dimitris Nikolaou	13/08/1998	Defender	80	80	67*		Olympiacos FC (GRE)
6	Spyros Natsos	09/06/1998	Midfield		80	80		Atromitos FC (GRE)
7	Dimitris Limnios	27/05/1998	Forward	79*	80	80		Atromitos FC (GRE)
8	Stathis Lamprou	20/09/1998	Midfield	80	31+			Olympiacos FC (GRE)
9	Ioannis Tsingos	18/05/1999	Forward	54*	80*	80		FC Schalke 04 (GER)
10	Theodoros Mingos	06/02/1998	Midfield	80	80	80		Panathinaikos FC (GRE)
11	Kostas Kirtzialidis	23/03/1998	Forward	26+	49*	47*	1	Olympiacos FC (GRE)
12	Marios Siampanis	28/09/1999	Goalkeeper	80	80	80		PAOK FC (GRE)
14	Nikos Karamitos	14/07/1998	Midfield			13+		Asteras Tripolis FC (GRE)
15	Vangelis Pavlidis	21/11/1998	Midfield	80	49*	76*	2	VfL Bochum 1848 (GER)
16	Panagiotis Retsos	09/08/1998	Defender	80	80	80		Olympiacos FC (GRE)
17	Antonios Fouasis	13/06/1998	Defender	1+				Olympiacos FC (GRE)
18	Stergios Dodontsakis	23/11/1998	Defender	26+	1+	4+		PAOK FC (GRE)
19	Kostas Chatzidimpas	12/05/1999	Midfield	54*	31+	33+		PAOK FC (GRE)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Vassilis Georgopoulos

15/03/56

"Overall, we performed well at a very good tournament with top-quality teams. There could have been more than four goals in the game against Russia, we deserved to beat Scotland because we were very focused and very tight in our defensive play, and the way we lost to France was hard to take. We were trying to hold out for the draw that would have taken us through, but the players' minds were a bit tired and we lost concentration just for a moment."



Greece team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with deep defending; sometimes all players behind ball
- Two screening midfielders with defensive priorities
- Preference for quick counters using direct, long passes to target striker
- Athletic, industrious team; energetic pressing after loss of ball
- Aerial power a major asset in attacking and defending set plays
- Attacks based on second-ball success, individual skills of front three
- Excellent team spirit, passion, determination to achieve results



Italy



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	FRA	IRL	ENG	NED	CRO	GS	Club
1	Gianluigi Donnarumma	25/02/1999	Goalkeeper	80	80	80	80	80		AC Milan (ITA)
2	Giuseppe Scalera	26/01/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		AS Bari (ITA)
3	Federico Giraud	11/08/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		Torino FC (ITA)
4	Alessandro Mattioli	13/02/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		FC Internazionale Milano (ITA)
5	Andrea Malberti	10/04/1998	Defender				1+			AC Milan (ITA)
6	Andres Llamas	07/05/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		AC Milan (ITA)
7	Luca Cocco	23/02/1998	Defender	6+		34+				Juventus (ITA)
8	Edoardo Degl'Innocenti	07/08/1998	Midfield	23+	10+	9+	22+	60*+		ACF Fiorentina (ITA)
9	Filippo Melegoni	18/02/1999	Midfield	80	80		80	80		Atalanta BC (ITA)
10	Manuel Locatelli	08/01/1998	Midfield	74*	80	80	80	8*		AC Milan (ITA)
11	Mattia El Hilali	20/01/1998	Midfield	80	80	71*	80	80		AC Milan (ITA)
12	Tommaso Cucchietti	24/01/1998	Goalkeeper							Torino FC (ITA)
13	Luca Matarese	16/04/1998	Midfield	41*	1+	46*		12+		Genoa CFC (ITA)
14	Alessandro Eleuteri	08/06/1998	Midfield			54*				Juventus (ITA)
15	Simone Lo Faso	18/02/1998	Midfield	57*	70*	26+	58*	46*	1	US Città di Palermo (ITA)
16	Patrick Cutrone	03/01/1998	Forward	80	80*	80	70*	80	1	AC Milan (ITA)
17	Gianluca Scamacca	01/01/1999	Forward	39+	53*		10+	34+		PSV Eindhoven (NED)
18	Simone Mazzocchi	17/08/1998	Forward		27+	80	79*	80	1	Atalanta BC (ITA)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Bruno Tedino

13/08/64

"I was very proud of the lads because we improved game by game and had the talent and belief to compete with some very, very good teams. At this level it is natural that we should be a little inconsistent in our play, but we were strong as a unit and met all the challenges head-on. We fell short of our objective of reaching the FIFA [U-17] World Cup, but the lads can go home with their heads held high and enriched by the experience of having played against some extremely good teams."



Italy team analysis



- Classic 4-4-2 based on disciplined, well-organised defending
- Compact unit; lines of four closely linked with keeper sweeping behind
- Two controlling midfielders disciplined in prioritising defensive duties
- Patient play at back – but emphasis on direct supply to the two strikers
- Hard work by target and deep-lying strikers – the first line of defence
- Quick attack-to-defence transitions; fast counters after deep ball winning
- Tactical maturity; strong work ethic, positive attitude, mental resilience



Netherlands



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	IRL	ENG	ITA	GS	Club
1	Justin Bijlow	22/01/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80	80		Feyenoord (NED)
2	Giovanni Troupée	20/03/1998	Defender	80	25*	80		FC Utrecht (NED)
3	Timothy Fosu-Mensah	02/01/1998	Defender	80	80	80		Manchester United FC (ENG)
4	Mats Knoester	19/11/1998	Defender		80	80		Feyenoord (NED)
5	Rick van Drongelen	20/12/1998	Defender	80	80	41*		Sparta Rotterdam (NED)
6	Reda Boultam	03/03/1998	Midfield		79*	46*	1	AFC Ajax (NED)
7	Rashaan Fernandes	29/07/1998	Forward	70*	18+	80		Feyenoord (NED)
8	Carel Eiting	11/02/1998	Midfield	80	80			AFC Ajax (NED)
9	Nigel Robertha	13/02/1998	Forward	60*				Feyenoord (NED)
10	Teun Bijleveld	27/05/1998	Forward	20+	80	63*		AZ Alkmaar (NED)
11	Javairo Dilrosun	22/06/1998	Forward	80	62*	80		Manchester City FC (ENG)
12	Dani De Wit	28/01/1998	Midfield	80	80	80		AFC Ajax (NED)
13	Sherel Floranus	23/08/1998	Defender		1+	39+		Sparta Rotterdam (NED)
14	Matthijs de Ligt	12/08/1999	Midfield	80		34+		AFC Ajax (NED)
15	Mink Peeters	28/05/1998	Forward	60*				Real Madrid CF (ESP)
16	Thijmen Nijhuis	25/07/1998	Goalkeeper					FC Utrecht (NED)
17	Jay-Roy Grot	13/03/1998	Forward	10+	80	80		NEC Nijmegen (NED)
18	Donyell Malen	19/01/1999	Forward	20+	55+	17+		AFC Ajax (NED)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

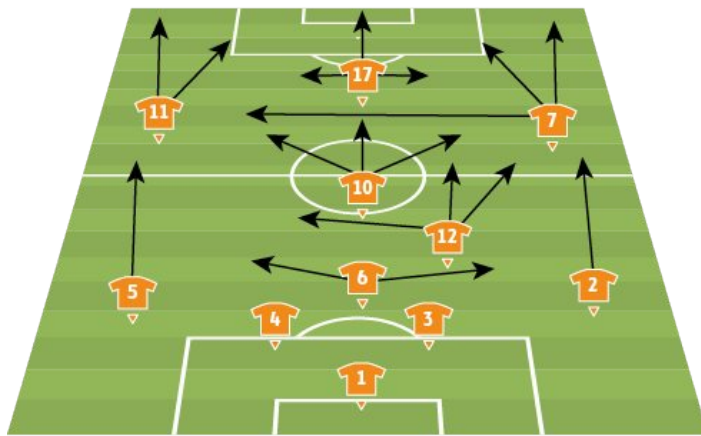
Coach: Maarten Stekelenburg

14/12/56

"The players had to get used to the intensity of the tournament and we tended to start games slowly. We managed to solve the problems we encountered and it was hard to go home undefeated. But, looking back on the three draws, we regret the missed chances, especially against Ireland, whom we were unlucky to meet when they were fresh. We created so much but didn't score – that cost us. You have to take your opportunities."



Netherlands team analysis



- 4-3-3 the default setting with variations; switch to 3-4-3 v England
- Possession-based combination game with patient build up from back
- Strong individual technique, dribbling skills; comfortable under pressure
- Good diagonal passing to bring wingers, adventurous full-backs into play
- Strong, compact defence with centre-backs able to launch attacks
- High defensive line with keeper covering spaces, building short from back
- Athletic team with fluent movement, determination, tactical maturity



Republic of Ireland



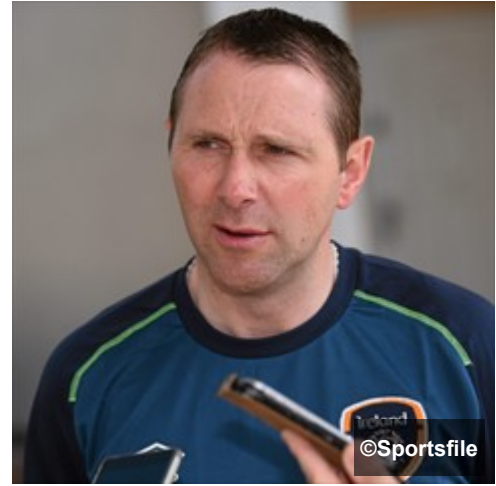
No.	Player	Born	Pos.	ENG	ITA	NED	GS	Club
1	Caoimhin Kelleher	23/11/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80	80		Ringmahon Rangers FC (IRL)
2	Corey O'Keeffe	05/06/1998	Defender	80	80			Birmingham City FC (ENG)
3	Jonathan Lunney	02/02/1998	Defender	80	80	80		Preston North End FC (ENG)
4	Conor Masterson	08/09/1998	Forward	80	80	80		Liverpool FC (ENG)
5	Darragh Leahy	15/04/1998	Midfield	80	80	80		Coventry City FC (ENG)
6	Marcus Agyei-Tabi	02/02/1999	Midfield	80	80	80		Arsenal FC (ENG)
7	Zachary Elbouzedi	05/04/1998	Forward	22+	49*	80		West Bromwich Albion FC (ENG)
8	Conor Levingston	21/01/1998	Midfield	58*	80	56*		Wolverhampton Wanderers FC (ENG)
9	Joshua Barrett	21/06/1998	Forward	75*	31+	70*		Reading FC (ENG)
10	Connor Ronan	06/03/1998	Midfield	80	80	80		Wolverhampton Wanderers FC (ENG)
11	Trevor Clarke	26/03/1998	Forward		41*	80		St. Kevins Boys FC (IRL)
12	Luke Wade-Slater	02/03/1998	Defender	34*	8+			St. Kevins Boys FC (IRL)
13	Jamie Gray	13/04/1998	Midfield					St. Kevins Boys FC (IRL)
14	Shane Hanney	19/02/1998	Midfield			80		Shamrock Rovers FC (IRL)
15	Robert McCourt	06/04/1998	Defender	80				West Bromwich Albion FC (ENG)
16	David Craddock	30/01/1998	Goalkeeper					Shelbourne FC (IRL)
17	Jamie Aherne	08/07/1998	Forward	5+	72*	10+		Lucan United FC (IRL)
18	Anthony Scully	19/04/1999	Midfield	46+	39+	24+		West Ham United FC (ENG)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Thomas Mohan

25/11/73

"There were times when we were bossing games. We created chances, we hit the woodwork, but the biggest disappointment was giving away two bad goals in a match against Italy that we basically dominated. But the boys put in a brilliant effort and I felt proud of them. But, from our side, the story of the tournament was not putting the ball in the back of the net. That's what football is all about and we weren't clinical enough in front of goal."



Republic of Ireland team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with positional rotations in midfield and attack
- Well-organised with fast transitions in both directions
- Energetic ball winning; fierce midfield and occasional high pressing
- Variety in attack; solo runs, long passes to striker or wingers
- High defensive line with keeper sweeping well behind back four
- Compact, committed well-drilled defending; difficult to break down
- Athletic, industrious players with good pace and excellent team ethic



Russia



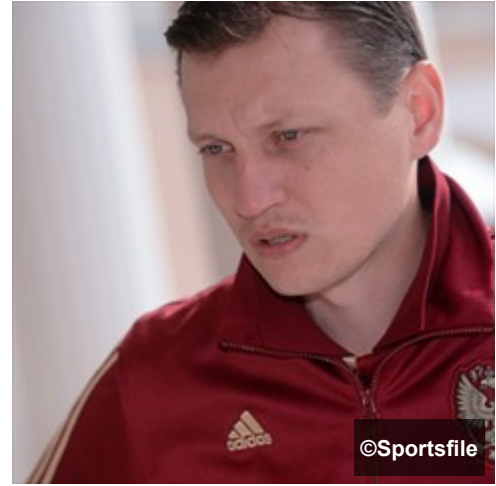
No.	Player	Born	Pos.	ENG	GER	GRE	FRA	SCO	GS	Club
1	Denis Adamov	20/02/1998	Goalkeeper							FC Krasnodar (RUS)
2	Andrei Kudryavtsev	06/11/1998	Defender	80			40+			FC Zenit (RUS)
3	Konstantin Kotov	25/06/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		FC Zenit (RUS)
4	Nikita Kalugin	12/03/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		FC Dinamo Moskva (RUS)
5	Aleksei Tataev	08/10/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80	1	FC Krasnodar (RUS)
6	Ivan Galanin	05/06/1998	Midfield	40+	76*		40*	40*		FC Lokomotiv Moskva (RUS)
7	Danil Krugovoi	28/05/1998	Defender					1+		FC Zenit (RUS)
8	Georgi Makhatadze	26/03/1998	Midfield	52*	80	69*	80	80		FC Lokomotiv Moskva (RUS)
9	Artem Galadzhani	22/05/1998	Forward			80				FC Lokomotiv Moskva (RUS)
10	Boris Tsygankov	17/04/1998	Midfield	80	40+	80	80			FC Spartak Moskva (RUS)
11	Aleksandr Lomovitski	27/01/1998	Defender		80	80	80	60		FC Spartak Moskva (RUS)
12	Aleksandr Maksimenko	19/03/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80	80	80	80		FC Spartak Moskva (RUS)
13	Yegor Denisov	06/02/1998	Forward	80	80	28+	51*	80	2	FC Zenit (RUS)
14	Artem Selyukov	16/03/1998	Midfield	28+	40*	52*		40*		Chertanovo (RUS)
15	Vladislav Bragin	25/01/1998	Forward		5+	11+	29+	40*+		FC Krasnodar (RUS)
16	Dmitri Pletnev	16/01/1998	Midfield	12*	75*	40+	68*	80	2	FC Zenit (RUS)
17	Mikhail Lysov	29/01/1998	Forward	80	4+	40*	12+	40+		FC Lokomotiv Moskva (RUS)
18	Amir Gavrilov	13/06/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		FC Rubin Kazan (RUS)
19	Aleksandr Scherbakov	26/06/1998	Midfield	28*+						

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Mikhail Galaktionov

21/05/84

"We set ourselves the highest targets and I have to praise the players for their performances. In fact, I would rate the semi-final against Germany as one of our best. Our plan was to pressurise, and we succeeded. We had chances, but, sadly, didn't take them. But we still have a lot to do – a lot to learn. The more we play at such a high level against skilful opponents the better and stronger we will become."



Russia team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with switches to 4-4-2 with midfield diamond
- Strong, well-drilled defensive block with minimal space between lines
- Extensive use of direct, long passing to striker; look for second ball
- Georgi Makhatadze the leader and hard-working linking player in midfield
- Occasional diagonals to wings with full-backs overlapping
- Aerial dominance; excellent deliveries at set plays
- Athletic, physically strong, hard-working; team spirit, mental strength



Scotland



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	GRE	FRA	RUS	GS	Club
1	Robby McCrorie	18/03/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80			Rangers FC (SCO)
2	Mark Finlayson	30/05/1998	Defender	49*	26+	71*		Falkirk FC (SCO)
3	Ross McCrorie	18/03/1998	Defender	80	80	80		Rangers FC (SCO)
4	Tom McIntyre	06/11/1998	Defender	80	80	80		Reading FC (ENG)
5	Daniel Harvie	14/07/1998	Defender	80	80	80		Aberdeen FC (SCO)
6	Liam Burt	01/02/1999	Midfield	80	80			Rangers FC (SCO)
7	Jack Aitchison	05/03/2000	Forward		56+	9+		Celtic FC (SCO)
8	Mark Hill	10/07/1998	Midfield	80	24*	80		Celtic FC (SCO)
9	Calvin Miller	09/01/1998	Forward	68*	54*	57*		Celtic FC (SCO)
10	Frank Ross	18/02/1998	Midfield	75*		80		Aberdeen FC (SCO)
11	Zak Rudden	06/02/2000	Forward		17+	1+		Rangers FC (SCO)
12	Ross Doohan	29/03/1998	Goalkeeper			80		Celtic FC (SCO)
13	Iain Wilson	15/12/1998	Midfield	80		80		Kilmarnock FC (SCO)
14	Regan Hendry	21/01/1998	Forward	80	80	79*		Celtic FC (SCO)
15	Lewis Morrison	12/03/1999	Forward	12+		23+		Kilmarnock FC (SCO)
16	Harry Souttar	22/10/1998	Defender	5+	80			Dundee United FC (SCO)
17	Glenn Middleton	01/01/2000	Forward	31+	63*	80		Norwich City FC (ENG)
18	Daniel Higgins	08/04/1998	Defender		80			Celtic FC (SCO)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Scot Gemmill

02/01/71

"We worked hard to get to the final tournament and I told the players to go home with their heads held high because of that big achievement. We had to find the mental strength to recover from a heavy defeat [5-0 against France] in the opening match and the players reacted with much-improved, much more competitive performances in the other two games. So I had no complaints and the important thing was to make sure the players went home better for the experience."



Scotland team analysis



- 4-3-3 with regular switches to 4-4-2 with midfield diamond
- Compact, disciplined back four shielded by single screening midfielder
- Attacks based on direct, long passing to striker or wingers
- Good crossing, game-opening diagonal passes, overlapping full-backs
- Intense pressure in middle third; often forward solo runs after winning ball
- No preference for building from back; keeper generally played long
- Strong, hard-working players with commitment and winning mentality



Slovenia



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	BEL	GER	CZE	GS	Club
1	Rok Vodišek	05/12/1998	Goalkeeper	80	80	80		
2	Sandi Čoralič	12/02/1998	Defender	80	80	40+		
3	Sven Karič	07/03/1998	Defender			40*		NK Maribor (SVN)
4	Sandi Ogrinec	05/06/1998	Midfield	49*	80	80		CD Isidro-Metapán (SLV)
5	Oskar Cvjetičanin	26/04/1998	Forward	80	80	80		Southampton FC (ENG)
6	Luka Guček	29/01/1999	Defender	80	80	80		NK Krsko (SVN)
7	Jakob Novak	04/03/1998	Forward	40+	7*	63*		NK Olimpija Ljubljana (SVN)
8	Dejan Petrovič	12/01/1998	Midfield	80*	73+			NK Aluminij (SVN)
9	Jan Mlakar	23/10/1998	Forward	80	80	80		ACF Fiorentina (ITA)
10	Vitja Valenčič	12/03/1999	Midfield	80	80	80		
11	Timi Elšnik	29/04/1998	Forward	80	68*	80		NK Aluminij (SVN)
12	Igor Vekič	06/05/1998	Goalkeeper					CD Isidro-Metapán (SLV)
13	Gaber Petrič	11/05/1998	Forward		25+			
14	Kristjan Sredojevič	21/06/1998	Forward	40*	55*	27+		NK Triglav (SVN)
16	Janez Pišek	04/05/1998	Midfield	31+	12+	53*		NK Celje (SVN)
17	Matija Rom	01/11/1998	Defender	80	80	80		
18	Rok Bužinel	28/03/1998	Midfield	1+				ND Gorica (SVN)
20	Kevin Žižek	21/06/1998	Forward			17+		CD Isidro-Metapán (SLV)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Igor Benedejčič

28/07/69

"We lacked big-tournament experience and maybe a bit of self-belief. We also had problems finding the right balance in midfield and it was a disappointment to lose all three games 1-0, especially when we conceded the late goal against Belgium. But the players deserved to be congratulated for their performances and the experience, I am sure, made them stronger. It was a vital part of their development."



Slovenia team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 with switches to 3-5-2 and 4-4-2 during matches
- Compact, deep defensive block with single screening midfielder
- Quick counters with fluent changes of pace and direction
- Extensive use of long, direct passing to striker or to wide areas
- When able to build, good use of wings with support from full-backs
- Good individual technique but struggled to implement short-passing strategy
- Athletic, mobile players with commitment and tactical maturity



Spain



No.	Player	Born	Pos.	BUL	GER	AUT	ENG	CRO	GS	Club
1	Alejandro Santomé	14/04/1998	Goalkeeper	80		80				Club Atlético de Madrid (ESP)
2	José María Amo	09/04/1998	Defender		80	80	80	80		Sevilla FC (ESP)
3	Cucu	22/07/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		FC Barcelona (ESP)
4	Alex Martín	25/01/1998	Defender	80	80	80	80	80		Real Madrid CF (ESP)
5	Isma	07/02/1998	Defender	80						Real Sporting de Gijón (ESP)
6	Carles Aleñá	05/01/1998	Midfield	80	80	80	80	80	1	FC Barcelona (ESP)
7	Dani Olmo	07/05/1998	Forward	71*	80	80	80	80		GNK Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
8	Fran Villarba	11/05/1998	Midfield	79*	62*	13+	80	80*	1	Valencia CF (ESP)
9	Kuki	05/05/1998	Forward	80*	78*	80	80	78*	1	Málaga CF (ESP)
10	Carles Pérez	16/02/1998	Forward	80	74*	40+	11+	80		FC Barcelona (ESP)
11	Óscar	28/06/1998	Midfield	1+	2+	7+		1+		Real Madrid CF (ESP)
12	Jon	24/05/1998	Defender				80			Athletic Club (ESP)
13	Iñaki	02/03/1999	Goalkeeper		80		80	80		
14	Pepelu	11/08/1998	Midfield	80	80		80	73*		Levante UD (ESP)
15	Toni Moya	20/03/1998	Midfield			73*		7+		Club Atlético de Madrid (ESP)
16	Dani Morer	05/02/1998	Defender	80	80	80		80		FC Barcelona (ESP)
17	Ferni	07/04/1998	Forward	9+	6+	40*	69*			Club Atlético de Madrid (ESP)
19	Fran Navarro	03/02/1998	Forward	1+	18+	67*		2+		Valencia CF (ESP)

Pos. = Position; GS = Goals scored; * = Started; + = Substitute

Coach: Santi Denia

09/03/74

"It was very tough. Our objective was to reach the semi-finals and qualify for the FIFA [U-17] World Cup, so it was difficult for the players to accept that we went home without the prize and without losing a game. Penalty shoot-outs are about luck and it was sad that neither of them went our way. A lot of tears were shed in the dressing-room. The harsh lesson to learn was that, even if we felt that we were the better team against Germany and England, if you create chances but don't score goals, life is always going to be difficult."



Spain team analysis



- 4-2-3-1 switching to 4-3-3 with single midfield screen v England
- Assured passing game based on technique and passing options
- Good use of width; wingers attacking goal; full-backs making forward runs
- Well-balanced controlling midfielders; Carles Aleñà the creative catalyst
- High defensive line with keeper covering; spells of intense, high pressing
- Good cooperation, rotation between middle-to-front players
- Comfortable under pressure; attacking philosophy; winning mentality

Results

Final

Final - Friday 22 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 22/05/2015 - 19:00CET (20:00 local time)



France

Edouard 40, 47, 70

Gül 80+3 (og)

4-1

Germany

Karakas 50



France: Luca Zidane; Alec Georgen, Christ-Emmanuel Maouassa, Dayot Upamecano, Mamadou Doucoure; Jean-Victor Makengo, Timothé Cognat (C) (Lorenzo Callegari 69), Bilal Boutobba; Odsonne Edouard (Issa Samba 80+1), Nanitamo Ikone, Jeff Reine Adélaïde (Maxime Pelican 61).

Germany: Constantin Frommann; Erdinc Karakas, Joel Abu Hanna, Daniel Nessler (Salih Özcan 48), Jonas Busam; Gökhan Gül, Niklas Schmidt (Janni Serra 51), Vitaly Janelt; Felix Passlack (C), Johannes Eggestein, Mats Köhlert (Görkem Saglam 69).

Attendance: 14680

Yellow cards: France - Jeff Reine Adélaïde (49), Timothé Cognat (66), Dayot Upamecano (74); Germany - Felix Passlack (76), Salih Özcan (80+4)

Referee: Paweł Raczkowski (POL)

Assistant referees: Mehmet Culum (SWE), Erik Weiss (SVK)

Fourth official: Danilo Grujić (SRB)

Semi-finals

Semi-finals - Tuesday 19 May 2015

Beroe - Stara Zagora 19/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



Germany

Serra 68

1-0

Russia



Germany: Constantin Frommann; Dzenis Burnic (Erdinc Karakas 60), Daniel Nesseler, Enes Akyol, Jonas Busam; Gökhan Gül, Görkem Saglam (Niklas Schmidt 54), Salih Özcan, Vitaly Janelt; Felix Passlack (C), Janni Serra (Joel Abu Hanna 78).

Russia: Aleksandr Maksimenko; Konstantin Kotov, Nikita Kalugin, Aleksei Tataev, Aleksandr Lomovitski, Amir Gavrilov; Ivan Galanin (Mikhail Lysov 76), Georgi Makhatadze (C), Artem Selyukov (Boris Tsygankov 41), Dmitri Pletnev (Vladislav Bragin 75); Yegor Denisov.

Attendance: 4127

Yellow cards: Germany - Niklas Schmidt (75), Vitaly Janelt (77), Felix Passlack (80+1); Russia - Dmitri Pletnev (13), Artem Selyukov (39), Aleksei Tataev (73)

Referee: Marius Avram (ROU)

Assistant referees: Rejdi Avdo (ALB), Namik Huseynov (AZE)

Fourth official: Erik Lambrechts (BEL)

Semi-finals - Tuesday 19 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 19/05/2015 - 15:00CET (16:00 local time)



Belgium

Seigers 52

1-1

France win 2-1 on penalties

France

Edouard 23



Belgium: Jens Teunckens; Kino Delorge, Wout Faes (C), Christophe Janssens; Rubin Seigers, Matisse Thuys, Ismail Azzaoui, Alper Ademoglu, Dante Rigo (Orel Mangala 52), Matthias Verreth (Lennerd Daneels 78); Dennis Van Vaerenbergh.

France: Luca Zidane; Alec Georgen, Christ-Emmanuel Maouassa, Dayot Upamecano, Mamadou Doucoure; Jean-Victor Makengo, Timothé Cognat (C), Bilal Boutobba (Nicolas Janvier 58); Odsonne Edouard, Nanitamo Ikone, Jeff Reine Adélaïde (Maxime Pelican 69).

Attendance: 1850

Referee: Adrien Jaccottet (SUI)

Assistant referees: Nuno Pereira (POR), Gareth Wyn Jones (WAL)

Fourth official: Alan Mario Sant (MLT)

World Cup play-offs

World Cup play-offs - Tuesday 19 May 2015

Hadzhi Dimitar - Sliven 19/05/2015 - 15:00CET (16:00 local time)



Spain

0-0

England



England win 5-3
on penalties

Spain: Iñaki; José María Amo, Cucu, Alex Martín, Jon; Carles Aleñá (C), Fran Villarba, Pepelu; Dani Olmo, Kuki, Ferni (Carles Pérez 69).

England: Paul Woolston (Will Huffer 78); James Yates, Jay DaSilva, Reece Oxford (C), Easah Suliman; Tom Davies, Marcus Edwards, Trent Arnold (Daniel Wright 60), Herbie Kane; Chris Willock, Layton Ndukwu (Ike Ugbo 65).

Attendance: 984

Yellow cards: Spain - Kuki (49), Carles Aleñá (60), Ferni (66), José María Amo (78); England - Marcus Edwards (79)

Referee: Dumitri Muntean (MDA)

Assistant referees: Sten Klaasen (EST), Ville Koskinemi (FIN)

Fourth official: Roi Reinshreiber (ISR)

World Cup play-offs - Tuesday 19 May 2015

Sozopol Stadium - Sozopol 19/05/2015 - 15:00CET (16:00 local time)



Croatia

1-0

Italy



Moro 15

Croatia: Adrian Šemper; Matej Hudeček, Borna Sosa, Branimir Kalaica, Vinko Soldo, Marko Gjira (Dino Halilović 60); Josip Brekalo, Neven Djurasek (Adrian Zenko 80+2), Nikola Moro (C), Davor Lovren; Adrian Blečić (Matko Babić 65).

Italy: Gianluigi Donnarumma; Giuseppe Scalera, Federico Giraud, Alessandro Mattioli, Andres Llamas (C); Filippo Melegoni, Manuel Locatelli (Edoardo Degl'Innocenti 8), Mattia El Hilali, Simone Lo Faso (Gianluca Scamacca 46); Patrick Cutrone, Simone Mazzocchi.

Attendance: 344

Yellow cards: Croatia - Davor Lovren (74); Italy - Mattia El Hilali (50), Simone Mazzocchi (55), Gianluca Scamacca (62), Alessandro Mattioli (76), Patrick Cutrone (79)

Referee: Mads-Kristoffer Kristoffersen (DEN)

Assistant referees: Dovydas Sužiedėlis (LTU), Romans Platonovs (LVA)

Fourth official: Paweł Raczkowski (POL)

Quarter-finals

Quarter-finals - Saturday 16 May 2015

Beroe - Stara Zagora 16/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



France

3-0

Italy



Edouard 5, 72
Ikone 53

France: Luca Zidane; Alec Georgen, Christ-Emmanuel Maouassa, Dayot Upamecano, Mamadou Doucoure; Timothé Cognat (C), Bilal Boutobba (Nicolas Janvier 66), Jean Ruiz (Jean-Victor Makengo 77); Odsonne Edouard, Maxime Pelican (Jeff Reine Adélaïde 60), Nanitamo Ikone.

Italy: Gianluigi Donnarumma; Giuseppe Scalera, Federico Giraud, Alessandro Mattioli, Andres Llamas (C); Filippo Melegoni, Manuel Locatelli (Luca Coccolo 74), Mattia El Hilali, Simone Lo Faso (Edoardo Degl'Innocenti 57); Luca Matarese (Gianluca Scamacca 41), Patrick Cutrone.

Attendance: 2114

Referee: Danilo Grujić (SRB)

Assistant referees: Oleg Maslyanko (BLR), Mehmet Culum (SWE)

Fourth official: Dumitri Muntean (MDA)

Quarter-finals - Saturday 16 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 16/05/2015 - 15:00CET (16:00 local time)



England

0-1

Russia



Tataev 29

England: Paul Woolston; James Yates, Jay DaSilva, Reece Oxford (C), Danny Collinge (Easah Suliman 63); Tom Davies, Nathan Holland (Tayo Edun 59), Marcus Edwards, Herbie Kane; Chris Willock, Stephy Mavididi (Ike Ugbo 69).

Russia: Aleksandr Maksimenko; Andrei Kudryavtsev, Konstantin Kotov, Nikita Kalugin, Aleksei Tataev, Amir Gavrilov; Georgi Makhatadze (C) (Artem Selyukov 52), Boris Tsygankov, Dmitri Pletnev (Aleksandr Scherbakov 12), Mikhail Lysov; Yegor Denisov.

Attendance: 2085

Red Cards: England: Tayo Edun (80+1)

Yellow cards: England - Tayo Edun (74), Tayo Edun (80+1); Russia - Andrei Kudryavtsev (17), Ivan Galanin (80+1)

Referee: Alan Mario Sant (MLT)

Assistant referees: Dovydas Sužiedėlis (LTU), Ville Koskiniemi (FIN)

Fourth official: Paweł Raczkowski (POL)

Quarter-finals - Friday 15 May 2015

Beroe - Stara Zagora 15/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



Germany

0-0

Spain



Germany win 4-2
on penalties

Germany: Constantin Frommann; Erdinc Karakas, Joel Abu Hanna (Salih Özcan 35), Daniel Nessler, Jonas Busam; Gökhan Gül, Niklas Schmidt (Janni Serra 41), Vitaly Janelt; Felix Passlack (C), Johannes Eggestein (Dzenis Burnic 58), Mats Köhlert.

Spain: Iñaki; José María Amo, Cucu, Alex Martín, Dani Morer; Carles Aleñá (C), Fran Villarba (Fran Navarro 62), Pepelu; Dani Olmo, Kuki (Óscar 78), Carles Pérez (Ferni 74).

Attendance: 2423

Yellow cards: Germany - Mats Köhlert (15), Salih Özcan (70); Spain - Dani Morer (43), Fran Navarro (80+1)

Referee: Roi Reinshreiber (ISR)

Assistant referees: Erik Weiss (SVK), Gareth Wyn Jones (WAL)

Fourth official: Adrien Jaccottet (SUI)

Quarter-finals - Friday 15 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 15/05/2015 - 15:00CET (16:00 local time)



Croatia

1-1

Belgium



Majić 34

Belgium win 5-3
on penalties

Azzaoui 53

Croatia: Adrian Šemper; Matej Hudeček, Borna Sosa, Branimir Kalaica, Vinko Soldo, Marko Gjira (Adrian Zenko 70); Josip Brekalo, Neven Djurasek (Dino Halilović 80+3), Nikola Moro (C), Davor Lovren; Karlo Majić (Matko Babić 65).

Belgium: Jens Teunckens; Kino Delorge (Dries Caignau 70), Wout Faes (C), Christophe Janssens; Rubin Seigers, Matisse Thuys, Ismail Azzaoui, Alper Ademoglu, Lennerd Daneels, Dante Rigo (Matthias Verreth 77); Dennis Van Vaerenbergh.

Attendance: 1073

Yellow cards: Croatia - Karlo Majić (60)

Referee: Marius Avram (ROU)

Assistant referees: Nuno Pereira (POR), Sten Klaasen (EST)

Fourth official: Mads-Kristoffer Kristoffersen (DEN)

Group A

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Croatia	3	2	1	0	3	0	3	7
Spain	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
Austria	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2
Bulgaria	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1

Legend:

P: Played W: Won D: Drawn L: Lost F: For A: Against +/-: Goal difference

Final tournament - Group stage - Wednesday 6 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 06/05/2015 - 14:00CET (15:00 local time)



Spain

Aleñá 46 (P)

1-1

Austria

Lovric 62



Spain: Alejandro Santomé; José María Amo, Cucu, Alex Martín, Dani Morer; Carles Aleñá (C), Toni Moya (Óscar 73); Dani Olmo, Kuki, Feni (Carles Pérez 41), Fran Navarro (Fran Villalba 67).

Austria: Fabian Ehmann; Paul Sahanek, Jan Heilmann, Florian Prirsch; Albin Ramadani (Samuel Opong 80+3), Kevin Danso (Patrick Schmidt 52), Anes Omerovic, Maximilian Wöber, Sandi Lovric (C); Arnel Jakupovic (Boris Basara 79), Oliver Filip.

Attendance: 1180

Yellow cards: Spain - Dani Olmo (40), Cucu (50), Kuki (59), José María Amo (67), Dani Morer (77); Austria - Anes Omerovic (38)

Referee: Mads-Kristoffer Kristoffersen (DEN)

Assistant referees: Rejdi Avdo (ALB), Nuno Pereira (POR)

Fourth official: Ivaylo Stoyanov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Wednesday 6 May 2015

Beroe - Stara Zagora 06/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



Bulgaria

0-2

Croatia



Babić 24
Blečić 80+3

Bulgaria: Daniel Naumov; Dimitar Savov, Kristiyan Slavov (C), Mateo Stamatov, Petko Hristov, Pavel Golovodov; Radoslav Dimitrov (Svetoslav Kovachev 69), Iliyan Stefanov, Asen Chandarov (Georgi Yanev 47); Georgi Rusev, Tonislav Yordanov (Valentin Yoskov 68).

Croatia: Adrian Šemper; Borna Sosa, Martin Erlić, Branimir Kalaica, Vinko Soldo, Marko Gjira (Adrian Blečić 80+1); Josip Brekalo, Neven Djurasek (Dino Halilović 73), Nikola Moro (C); Karlo Majić, Matko Babić (Davor Lovren 60).

Attendance: 10640

Yellow cards: Croatia - Neven Djurasek (30), Borna Sosa (64), Nikola Moro (77), Dino Halilović (79)

Referee: Paweł Raczkowski (POL)

Assistant referees: Sten Klaasen (EST), Ville Koskiniemi (FIN)

Fourth official: Roi Reinshreiber (ISR)

Final tournament - Group stage - Saturday 9 May 2015

Sozopol Stadium - Sozopol 09/05/2015 - 12:00CET (13:00 local time)



Croatia

1-0

Austria



Lovren 52

Croatia: Adrian Šemper; Matej Hudeček, Borna Sosa, Martin Erlić (Marko Gjira 34), Branimir Kalaica, Vinko Soldo; Josip Brekalo, Neven Djurasek, Nikola Moro (C), Davor Lovren (Matko Babić 66); Karlo Majić (Adrian Blečić 80+1).

Austria: Fabian Ehmann; Paul Sahanek (Kevin Danso 75), Jan Heilmann, Florian Prirsch; Albin Ramadani (Samuel Opong 68), Anes Omerovic, Maximilian Wöber, Sandi Lovric (C); Arnel Jakupovic (Daniel Hautzinger 63), Oliver Filip, Patrick Schmidt.

Attendance: 1732

Yellow cards: Austria - Oliver Filip (49), Sandi Lovric (55), Daniel Hautzinger (79)

Referee: Dumitri Muntean (MDA)

Assistant referees: Romans Platonovs (LVA), Gareth Wyn Jones (WAL)

Fourth official: Danilo Grujić (SRB)

Final tournament - Group stage - Saturday 9 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 09/05/2015 - 14:00CET (15:00 local time)



Bulgaria

Yordanov 35

1-2

Spain

Kuki 11
Fran Villalba 47



Bulgaria: Daniel Naumov; Dimitar Savov, Kristiyan Slavov (C), Mateo Stamatov, Petko Hristov, Pavel Golovodov; Radoslav Dimitrov (Svetoslav Kovachev 73), Iliyan Stefanov, Asen Chandarov (Aleks Borimirov 59); Georgi Rusev, Tonislav Yordanov (Valentin Yoskov 59).

Spain: Alejandro Santomé; Cucu, Alex Martín, Isma, Dani Morer; Carles Aleñá (C), Fran Villalba (Óscar 79), Pepelu; Dani Olmo (Ferni 71), Kuki (Fran Navarro 80+3), Carles Pérez.

Attendance: 9240

Yellow cards: Bulgaria - Tonislav Yordanov (48)

Referee: Marius Avram (ROU)

Assistant referees: Erik Weiss (SVK), Oleg Maslyanko (BLR)

Fourth official: Alan Mario Sant (MLT)

Final tournament - Group stage - Tuesday 12 May 2015

Sozopol Stadium - Sozopol 12/05/2015 - 16:00CET (17:00 local time)



Austria

Filip 34

1-1

Bulgaria

Yordanov 43



Austria: Fabian Ehmann; Paul Sahaneck, Jan Heilmann, Florian Prirsch (Niklas Kölbl 79); Albin Ramadani, Kevin Danso (Daniel Hautzinger 62), Anes Omerovic, Maximilian Wöber, Sandi Lovric (C) (Patrick Schmidt 73); Arnel Jakupovic, Oliver Filip.

Bulgaria: Dimitar Sheytanov; Dimitar Savov, Kristiyan Slavov (C), Mateo Stamatov, Petko Hristov, Pavel Golovodov; Georgi Yanev (Radoslav Dimitrov 53); Georgi Rusev (Iliyan Stefanov 59), Valentin Yoskov, Svetoslav Kovachev (Asen Chandarov 77), Tonislav Yordanov.

Attendance: 2213

Yellow cards: Austria - Sandi Lovric (48); Bulgaria - Pavel Golovodov (31), Mateo Stamatov (79)

Referee: Danilo Grujić (SRB)

Assistant referees: Mehmet Culum (SWE), Namik Huseynov (AZE)

Fourth official: Marius Avram (ROU)

Final tournament - Group stage - Tuesday 12 May 2015

Hadzhi Dimitar - Sliven 12/05/2015 - 16:00CET (17:00 local time)



Croatia

0-0

Spain



Croatia: Ivan Nevistić; Matej Hudeček, Borna Sosa (C) (Vinko Soldo 41), Branimir Kalaica, Mihael Briški; Davor Lovren (Karlo Majić 55), Dino Halilović, Saša Urošević, Adrian Zenko; Matko Babić (Josip Brekalo 53), Adrian Blečić.

Spain: Iñaki; José María Amo, Cucu, Alex Martín, Dani Morer; Carles Aleñá (C), Fran Villalba (Óscar 80+1), Pepelu (Toni Moya 73); Dani Olmo, Kuki (Fran Navarro 78), Carles Pérez.

Attendance: 1782

Yellow cards: Croatia - Davor Lovren (24), Matko Babić (50), Saša Urošević (61), Adrian Zenko (69); Spain - Pepelu (55)

Referee: Erik Lambrechts (BEL)

Assistant referees: Erik Arevshatyan (ARM), Erik Weiss (SVK)

Fourth official: Nikola Popov (BUL)

Group B

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Germany	3	3	0	0	7	0	7	9
Belgium	3	2	0	1	4	2	2	6
Czech Republic	3	1	0	2	1	7	-6	3
Slovenia	3	0	0	3	0	3	-3	0

Legend:

P: Played W: Won D: Drawn L: Lost F: For A: Against +/-: Goal difference

Final tournament - Group stage - Wednesday 6 May 2015

Hadzhi Dimitar - Sliven 06/05/2015 - 15:00CET (16:00 local time)



**Czech
Republic**

Lingr 44

1-0

Slovenia



Czech Republic: Martin Jedlička; Denis Granečný, Libor Holík, Marek Richter (C), Matěj Chaluš; Michal Sadílek, Marcel Čermák (Antonín Vaníček 55), Alex Král, Ondřej Žežulka; Ondřej Lingr (Dominik Breda 66), Ondřej Šašinka (Daniel Turyna 77).

Slovenia: Rok Vodišek; Sven Karič (Sandi Čoralich 41), Sandi Ogrinec, Luka Guček, Matija Rom; Vitja Valenčič, Janez Pišek (Kristjan Sredojevič 53); Oskar Cvjetičanin, Jakob Novak (Kevin Žižek 63), Jan Mlakar (C), Timi Elšnik.

Attendance: 754

Yellow cards: Czech Republic - Marek Richter (49); Slovenia - Janez Pišek (23)

Referee: Marius Avram (ROU)

Assistant referees: Mehmet Culum (SWE), Romans Platonovs (LVA)

Fourth official: Tsvetan Krastev (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Wednesday 6 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 06/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



Belgium

0-2

Germany



Passlack 43
Schmidt 46

Belgium: Jens Teunckens; Kino Delorge (Dries Caignau 72), Wout Faes (C), Christophe Janssens; Rubin Seigers, Matisse Thuys, Ismail Azzaoui, Alper Ademoglu, Orel Mangala, Lennerd Daneels (Nelson Azevedo-Janelas 68); Dennis Van Vaerenbergh (Jorn Vancamp 64).

Germany: Constantin Frommann; Erdinc Karakas, Daniel Nesseler, Enes Akyol (Joel Abu Hanna 41), Jonas Busam; Niklas Dorsch (Salih Özcan 61), Niklas Schmidt (Dzenis Burnic 52), Görkem Saglam; Felix Passlack (C), Johannes Eggstein, Mats Köhlert.

Attendance: 612

Yellow cards: Belgium - Wout Faes (55), Kino Delorge (57); Germany - Dzenis Burnic (69), Mats Köhlert (80+1)

Referee: Danilo Grujić (SRB)

Assistant referees: Erik Arevshatyan (ARM), Oleg Maslyanko (BLR)

Fourth official: Georgi Kabakov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Saturday 9 May 2015

Sozopol Stadium - Sozopol 09/05/2015 - 15:00CET (16:00 local time)



Czech Republic

0-3

Belgium



Azzaoui 29, 75 (P)
Van Vaerenbergh 78

Czech Republic: Martin Jedlička; Denis Granečný, Libor Holík, Marek Richter (C), Matěj Chalouš; Michal Sadílek, Marcel Čermák (Dominik Breda 71), Alex Král, Ondřej Žežulka; Ondřej Lingr (Antonín Vaníček 62), Ondřej Šašinka.

Belgium: Jens Teunckens; Kino Delorge, Wout Faes (C), Christophe Janssens; Rubin Seigers, Matisse Thuys, Ismail Azzaoui (Jorn Vancamp 80+1), Alper Ademoglu, Orel Mangala (Dante Rigo 69), Lennerd Daneels (Matthias Verreth 41); Dennis Van Vaerenbergh.

Attendance: 1228

Red Cards: Czech Republic: Martin Jedlička (73)

Yellow cards: Czech Republic - Martin Jedlička (54), Ondřej Šašinka (57); Belgium - Wout Faes (66), Dante Rigo (71)

Referee: Mads-Kristoffer Kristoffersen (DEN)

Assistant referees: Namik Huseynov (AZE), Ville Koskiniemi (FIN)

Fourth official: Tsvetan Krastev (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Saturday 9 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 09/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



Slovenia

0-1

Germany

Eggestein 8



Slovenia: Rok Vodišek; Sandi Čoralič, Sandi Ogrinec, Luka Guček, Matija Rom; Vitja Valenčič; Oskar Cvjetičanin, Jakob Novak (Dejan Petrovič 7), Jan Mlakar (C), Timi Elšnik (Janez Pišek 68), Kristjan Sredojevič (Gaber Petrić 55).

Germany: Constantin Frommann; Dzenis Burnic (Enes Akyol 74), Erdinc Karakas, Joel Abu Hanna, Daniel Nesseler, Jonas Busam; Gökhan Gül, Niklas Schmidt (Dennis Geiger 61), Salih Özcan; Felix Passlack (C), Johannes Eggestein (Janni Serra 52).

Attendance: 1508

Yellow cards: Slovenia - Oskar Cvjetičanin (40), Sandi Ogrinec (49), Jan Mlakar (64)

Referee: Adrien Jaccottet (SUI)

Assistant referees: Dovydas Sužiedėlis (LTU), Sten Klaasen (EST)

Fourth official: Ivaylo Stoyanov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Tuesday 12 May 2015

Beroe - Stara Zagora 12/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



Germany

4-0

Czech Republic

Passlack 10, 40+2

Karakas 33

Saglam 53



Germany: Constantin Frommann; Erdinc Karakas (Enes Akyol 41), Joel Abu Hanna, Jonas Busam; Gökhan Gül (Daniel Nesseler 26), Görkem Saglam, Salih Özcan, Vitaly Janelt; Felix Passlack (C) (Dennis Geiger 55), Mats Köhlert, Janni Serra.

Czech Republic: Filip Truksa; Denis Granečný, Libor Holík, Marek Richter (C), Daniel Köstl (Ondřej Lingr 41), Matěj Chaluš; Michal Sadílek (Marcel Čermák 73), Alex Král, Ondřej Žežulka; Ondřej Šašinka, Daniel Turyna (Dominik Breda 41).

Attendance: 1206

Yellow cards: Germany - Dennis Geiger (80+2); Czech Republic - Daniel Köstl (27), Marek Richter (59)

Referee: Alan Mario Sant (MLT)

Assistant referees: Dovydas Sužiedėlis (LTU), Nuno Pereira (POR)

Fourth official: Tsvetan Krastev (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Tuesday 12 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 12/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



Slovenia

0-1

Belgium



Van Vaerenbergh 80+3

Slovenia: Rok Vodišek; Sandi Čoralič, Sandi Ogrinec (Janez Pišek 49), Luka Guček, Matija Rom; Dejan Petrovič (Rok Bužinel 80), Vitja Valenčič; Oskar Cvjetičanin, Jan Mlakar (C), Timi Elšnik, Kristijan Sredojevič (Jakob Novak 41).

Belgium: Jens Teunckens; Kino Delorge (C), Christophe Janssens, Dries Caignau; Rubin Seigers, Matisse Thuys (Dante Rigo 57), Ismail Azzaoui, Alper Ademoglu, Orel Mangala (Jorn Vancamp 74), Matthias Verreth (Lennerd Daneels 60); Dennis Van Vaerenbergh.

Attendance: 592

Yellow cards: Slovenia - Oskar Cvjetičanin (37)

Referee: Roi Reinshreiber (ISR)

Assistant referees: Gareth Wyn Jones (WAL), Rejdi Avdo (ALB)

Fourth official: Georgi Kabakov (BUL)

Group C

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	7	0	7	9
Russia	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
Greece	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Scotland	3	0	0	3	0	8	-8	0

Legend:

P: Played W: Won D: Drawn L: Lost F: For A: Against +/-: Goal difference

Final tournament - Group stage - Thursday 7 May 2015

Sozopol Stadium - Sozopol 07/05/2015 - 15:00CET (16:00 local time)



Greece

Kirtzialidis 37
Pavlidis 64

2-2

Russia

Pletnev 59
Denisov 72



Greece: Marios Siampanis; Alexandros Katranis, Stefanos Evangelou, Dimitris Nikolaou (Nikos Karamitos 67), Panagiotis Retsos; Spyros Natsos, Theodoros Mingos, Vangelis Pavlidis (C) (Stergios Dodontsakis 76); Dimitris Limnios, Ioannis Tsingos, Kostas Kirtzialidis (Kostas Chatzidimpas 47).

Russia: Aleksandr Maksimenko; Konstantin Kotov, Nikita Kalugin, Aleksei Tataev, Aleksandr Lomovitski, Amir Gavrilov; Georgi Makhatadze (Vladislav Bragin 69), Boris Tsygankov, Artem Selyukov (Yegor Denisov 52), Mikhail Lysov (Dmitri Pletnev 41); Artem Galadzhan (C).

Attendance: 2000

Yellow cards: Greece - Dimitris Nikolaou (29), Alexandros Katranis (46), Ioannis Tsingos (60); Russia - Yegor Denisov (65), Boris Tsygankov (70)

Referee: Erik Lambrechts (BEL)

Assistant referees: Namik Huseynov (AZE), Gareth Wyn Jones (WAL)

Fourth official: Georgi Kabakov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Thursday 7 May 2015

Beroe - Stara Zagora 07/05/2015 - 16:00CET (17:00 local time)



Scotland

0-5

France



Ikone 18, 20
Edouard 25
Boutobba 35
Doucoure 47

Scotland: Robby McCrorie; Ross McCrorie (C), Tom McIntyre, Daniel Harvie, Daniel Higgins; Liam Burt, Mark Hill (Jack Aitchison 24), Regan Hendry, Harry Souttar, Glenn Middleton (Zak Rudden 63); Calvin Miller (Mark Finlayson 54).

France: Luca Zidane; Alec Georgen, Christ-Emmanuel Maouassa, Dayot Upamecano, Mamadou Doucoure, Issa Samba (Jordan Rambaud 62); Timothé Cognat (C), Bilal Boutobba (Nicolas Janvier 54), Jean Ruiz; Odsonne Edouard (Maxime Pelican 74), Nanitamo Ikone.

Attendance: 326

Referee: Alan Mario Sant (MLT)

Assistant referees: Dovydas Sužiedėlis (LTU), Erik Weiss (SVK)

Fourth official: Tsvetan Krastev (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Sunday 10 May 2015

Hadzhi Dimitar - Sliven 10/05/2015 - 15:00CET (16:00 local time)



Russia

0-1

France



Edouard 50

Russia: Aleksandr Maksimenko; Konstantin Kotov, Nikita Kalugin, Aleksei Tataev, Aleksandr Lomovitski, Amir Gavrilov; Ivan Galanin (Andrei Kudryavtsev 41), Georgi Makhatadze (C), Boris Tsygankov, Dmitri Pletnev (Mikhail Lysov 68); Yegor Denisov (Vladislav Bragin 51).

France: Luca Zidane; Alec Georgen, Christ-Emmanuel Maouassa, Dayot Upamecano, Mamadou Doucoure; Timothé Cognat (C), Bilal Boutobba (Jean-Victor Makengo 71), Jean Ruiz; Odsonne Edouard (Nicolas Janvier 80), Nanitamo Ikone, Jeff Reine Adélaïde (Maxime Pelican 62).

Attendance: 2255

Yellow cards: Russia - Boris Tsygankov (45), Konstantin Kotov (78); France - Alec Georgen (24)

Referee: Danilo Grujić (SRB)

Assistant referees: Ville Koskiniemi (FIN), Romans Platonovs (LVA)

Fourth official: Ivaylo Stoyanov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Sunday 10 May 2015

Sozopol Stadium - Sozopol 10/05/2015 - 16:00CET (17:00 local time)



Greece

1-0

Scotland



Pavlidis 39

Greece: Marios Siampanis; Alexandros Katranis, Stefanos Evangelou (C), Dimitris Nikolaou, Panagiotis Retsos; Spyros Natsos, Theodoros Mingos, Vangelis Pavlidis (Stathis Lamprou 49); Dimitris Limnios, Ioannis Tsingos (Stergios Dodontsakis 80), Kostas Kirtzialidis (Kostas Chatzidimpas 49).

Scotland: Robby McCrorie; Mark Finlayson (Glenn Middleton 49), Ross McCrorie (C), Tom McIntyre, Daniel Harvie; Liam Burt, Mark Hill, Frank Ross (Harry Souttar 75), Iain Wilson, Regan Hendry; Calvin Miller (Lewis Morrison 68).

Attendance: 1154

Red Cards: Scotland: Liam Burt (80+5)

Yellow cards: Greece - Spyros Natsos (45), Stefanos Evangelou (58); Scotland - Regan Hendry (21), Glenn Middleton (75), Ross McCrorie (78), Mark Hill (79)

Referee: Paweł Raczkowski (POL)

Assistant referees: Rejdi Avdo (ALB), Erik Arevshatyan (ARM)

Fourth official: Tsvetan Krastev (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Wednesday 13 May 2015

Sozopol Stadium - Sozopol 13/05/2015 - 16:00CET (17:00 local time)



France

1-0

Greece



Rambaud 80+4

France: Luca Zidane; Christ-Emmanuel Maouassa, Mamadou Doucoure (C), Issa Samba, Bradley Danger; Jean-Victor Makengo, Nicolas Janvier, Jean Ruiz; Maxime Pelican (Jordan Rambaud 78), Nanitamo Ikone (Dayot Upamecano 62), Jeff Reine Adélaïde (Bilal Boutobba 57).

Greece: Marios Siampanis; Alexandros Katranis, Stefanos Evangelou, Dimitris Nikolaou, Panagiotis Retsos; Stathis Lamprou, Theodoros Mingos, Vangelis Pavlidis, Kostas Chatzidimpas (Stergios Dodontsakis 54); Dimitris Limnios (C) (Antonios Fouasis 79), Ioannis Tsingos (Kostas Kirtzialidis 54).

Attendance: 983

Yellow cards: France - Jeff Reine Adélaïde (30), Jean-Victor Makengo (44); Greece - Theodoros Mingos (29), Stefanos Evangelou (66)

Referee: Adrien Jaccottet (SUI)

Assistant referees: Oleg Maslyanko (BLR), Mehmet Culum (SWE)

Fourth official: Ivaylo Stoyanov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Wednesday 13 May 2015

Hadzhi Dimitar - Sliven 13/05/2015 - 16:00CET (17:00 local time)



Russia

2-0

Scotland



Denisov 52

Pletnev 65

Russia: Aleksandr Maksimenko; Konstantin Kotov, Nikita Kalugin, Aleksei Tataev, Aleksandr Lomovitski, Amir Gavrilov; Ivan Galanin (Mikhail Lysov 41), Georgi Makhatadze (C), Artem Selyukov (Vladislav Bragin 41), Dmitri Pletnev; Yegor Denisov.

Scotland: Ross Doohan; Mark Finlayson (Jack Aitchison 71), Ross McCrorie (C), Tom McIntyre, Daniel Harvie; Mark Hill, Frank Ross, Iain Wilson, Regan Hendry (Zak Rudden 79), Glenn Middleton; Calvin Miller (Lewis Morrison 57).

Attendance: 885

Red Cards: Russia: Aleksandr Lomovitski (60)

Yellow cards: Russia - Aleksandr Lomovitski (47), Nikita Kalugin (49), Aleksandr Lomovitski (60), Georgi Makhatadze (64), Dmitri Pletnev (68); Scotland - Daniel Harvie (21)

Referee: Dumitri Muntean (MDA)

Assistant referees: Sten Klaasen (EST), Nuno Pereira (POR)

Fourth official: Tsvetan Krastev (BUL)

Group D

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	3	1	2	7
Italy	3	1	1	1	3	2	1	4
Netherlands	3	0	3	0	2	2	0	3
Republic of Ireland	3	0	1	2	0	3	-3	1

Legend:

P: Played W: Won D: Drawn L: Lost F: For A: Against +/-: Goal difference

Final tournament - Group stage - Thursday 7 May 2015

Sozopol Stadium - Sozopol 07/05/2015 - 12:00CET (13:00 local time)



**Republic of
Ireland**

0-0

Netherlands



Republic of Ireland: Caoimhin Kelleher; Conor Masterson (C), Shane Hanney; Jonathan Lunney, Darragh Leahy, Marcus Agyei-Tabi, Zachary Elbouzedi, Conor Levingston (Anthony Scully 56), Connor Ronan; Joshua Barrett (Jamie Aherne 70), Trevor Clarke.

Netherlands: Justin Bijlow; Giovanni Troupée, Timothy Fosu-Mensah (C), Rick van Drongelen, Carel Eiting, Matthijs de Ligt; Dani De Wit, Mink Peeters (Teun Bijeleveld 60); Rashaan Fernandes (Jay-Roy Grot 70), Nigel Robertha (Donyell Malen 60), Javairo Dilrosun.

Attendance: 1500

Yellow cards: Republic of Ireland - Darragh Leahy (62)

Referee: Dumitri Muntean (MDA)

Assistant referees: Erik Arevshatyan (ARM), Romans Platonovs (LVA)

Fourth official: Ivaylo Stoyanov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Thursday 7 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 07/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



Italy

0-1

England

Edwards 47



Italy: Gianluigi Donnarumma; Giuseppe Scalera, Federico Giraud, Alessandro Mattioli, Andres Llamas (C); Manuel Locatelli, Mattia El Hilali (Edoardo Degl'Innocenti 71), Alessandro Eleuteri (Simone Lo Faso 54); Luca Matarese (Luca Cocco 46), Patrick Cutrone, Simone Mazzocchi.

England: Paul Woolston; James Yates, Jay DaSilva, Reece Oxford (C), Danny Collinge; Tom Davies (Trent Arnold 75), Nathan Holland, Herbie Kane; Chris Willock, Stephy Mavididi (Ike Ugbo 65), Layton Ndukwu (Marcus Edwards 41).

Attendance: 2530

Yellow cards: Italy - Alessandro Mattioli (36), Manuel Locatelli (41), Mattia El Hilali (68); England - Tom Davies (32), James Yates (53)

Referee: Adrien Jaccottet (SUI)

Assistant referees: Rejdi Avdo (ALB), Mehmet Culum (SWE)

Fourth official: Nikola Popov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Sunday 10 May 2015

Beroe - Stara Zagora 10/05/2015 - 15:00CET (16:00 local time)



**Republic of
Ireland**

0-2

Italy

Lo Faso 9

Mazzocchi 56



Republic of Ireland: Caoimhin Kelleher; Corey O'Keeffe, Conor Masterson (C); Jonathan Lunney, Darragh Leahy, Marcus Agyei-Tabi, Zachary Elbouzedi (Joshua Barrett 49), Conor Levingston, Connor Ronan; Trevor Clarke (Anthony Scully 41), Jamie Aherne (Luke Wade-Slater 72).

Italy: Gianluigi Donnarumma; Giuseppe Scalera, Federico Giraud, Alessandro Mattioli, Andres Llamas (C); Filippo Melegoni, Manuel Locatelli, Mattia El Hilali, Simone Lo Faso (Edoardo Degl'Innocenti 70); Patrick Cutrone (Luca Matarese 80+1), Gianluca Scamacca (Simone Mazzocchi 53).

Attendance: 573

Yellow cards: Republic of Ireland - Connor Ronan (21), Jonathan Lunney (57)

Referee: Roi Reinschreiber (ISR)

Assistant referees: Sten Klaasen (EST), Oleg Maslyanko (BLR)

Fourth official: Georgi Kabakov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Sunday 10 May 2015

Beroe - Stara Zagora 10/05/2015 - 19:00CET (20:00 local time)



Netherlands

Boultam 56 (P)

1-1

England

Fosu-Mensah 18 (og)



Netherlands: Justin Bijlow; Giovanni Troupée (Donyell Malen 25), Timothy Fosu-Mensah (C), Mats Knoester, Rick van Drongelen, Carel Eiting; Reda Boultam (Sherel Floranus 79), Teun Bijevelde, Dani De Wit; Javairo Dilrosun (Rashaan Fernandes 62), Jay-Roy Grot.

England: Paul Woolston; James Yates, Jay DaSilva, Reece Oxford (C), Danny Collinge, Tayo Edun (Daniel Wright 77); Marcus Edwards (Layton Ndukwu 63), Trent Arnold, Herbie Kane; Chris Willock, Stephy Mavididi (Ike Ugbo 55).

Attendance: 1063

Yellow cards: Netherlands - Carel Eiting (60), Reda Boultam (77); England - Reece Oxford (66)

Referee: Erik Lambrechts (BEL)

Assistant referees: Nuno Pereira (POR), Dovydas Sužiedėlis (LTU)

Fourth official: Nikola Popov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Wednesday 13 May 2015

Beroe - Stara Zagora 13/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



England

Edwards 71

1-0

Republic of Ireland



England: Paul Woolston; James Yates, Jay DaSilva, Reece Oxford (C), Danny Collinge (Easah Suliman 49); Nathan Holland, Daniel Wright, Marcus Edwards, Herbie Kane; Ike Ugbo (Stephy Mavididi 72), Layton Ndukwu (Chris Willock 41).

Republic of Ireland: Caoimhin Kelleher; Corey O'Keeffe, Conor Masterson (C), Luke Wade-Slater (Anthony Scully 34); Jonathan Lunney, Darragh Leahy, Marcus Agyei-Tabi, Conor Levingston (Zachary Elbouzedi 58), Connor Ronan, Robert McCourt; Joshua Barrett (Jamie Aherne 75).

Attendance: 974

Yellow cards: Republic of Ireland - Conor Levingston (37), Corey O'Keeffe (55)

Referee: Paweł Raczkowski (POL)

Assistant referees: Ville Koskiniemi (FIN), Namik Huseynov (AZE)

Fourth official: Nikola Popov (BUL)

Final tournament - Group stage - Wednesday 13 May 2015

Lazur - Burgas 13/05/2015 - 18:00CET (19:00 local time)



Netherlands

Giraudo 63 (og)

1-1

Italy

Cutrone 6



Netherlands: Justin Bijlow; Giovanni Troupée, Timothy Fosu-Mensah (C), Mats Knoester, Rick van Drongelen (Sherel Floranus 41); Reda Boultam (Matthijs de Ligt 46), Teun Bijleveld (Donyell Malen 63), Dani De Wit; Rashaan Fernandes, Javairo Dilrosun, Jay-Roy Grot.

Italy: Gianluigi Donnarumma; Giuseppe Scalera, Federico Giraudo, Alessandro Mattioli, Andres Llamas (C); Filippo Melegoni, Manuel Locatelli, Mattia El Hilali, Simone Lo Faso (Edoardo Degl'Innocenti 58); Patrick Cutrone (Gianluca Scamacca 70), Simone Mazzocchi (Andrea Malberti 79).

Attendance: 1258

Yellow cards: Netherlands - Jay-Roy Grot (52), Timothy Fosu-Mensah (61), Dani De Wit (65), Sherel Floranus (80+3); Italy - Edoardo Degl'Innocenti (69), Gianluca Scamacca (74)

Referee: Mads-Kristoffer Kristoffersen (DEN)

Assistant referees: Gareth Wyn Jones (WAL), Erik Weiss (SVK)

Fourth official: Georgi Kabakov (BUL)

Match officials

Name	Country	Date of birth	FIFA
Referees			
Marius Avram	Romania	09/08/1979	2010
Danilo Grujić	Serbia	03/03/1980	2012
Adrien Jaccottet	Switzerland	19/07/1983	2012
Mads-Kristoffer Kristoffersen	Denmark	24/05/1983	2013
Erik Lambrechts	Belgium	17/09/1984	2014
Dumitri Muntean	Moldova	10/04/1985	2013
Paweł Raczkowski	Poland	10/05/1983	2013
Roi Reinshreiber	Israel	28/06/1980	2014
Alan Mario Sant	Malta	16/08/1980	2010
Assistant referees			
Erik Arevshatyan	Armenia	27/01/1983	2009
Rejdi Avdo	Albania	06/07/1987	
Mehmet Culum	Sweden	01/01/1983	2013
Nuno Pereira	Portugal	23/03/1977	2012
Namik Huseynov	Azerbaijan	05/09/1987	2012
Gareth Wyn Jones	Wales	30/05/1985	2013
Sten Klaasen	Estonia	09/05/1982	2012
Ville Koskinemi	Finland	26/03/1979	2013
Oleg Maslyanko	Belarus	23/06/1982	2012
Romans Platonovs	Latvia	11/02/1978	2013
Dovydas Sužiedėlis	Lithuania	31/07/1988	2012
Erik Weiss	Slovakia	05/02/1979	2009
Fourth officials			
Georgi Kabakov	Bulgaria	22/02/1986	2013
Tsvetan Krastev	Bulgaria	03/12/1978	
Nikola Popov	Bulgaria	01/02/1983	2011
Ivaylo Stoyanov	Bulgaria	28/03/1981	2012

Fair play rankings

Pos.	Team	Points	Matches played
1	 Belgium	8.85	5
2	 France	8.667	6
3	 England	8.6	5
4	 Republic of Ireland	8.5	3
5	 Bulgaria	8.467	3
6	 Austria	8.417	3
7	 Germany	8.417	6
8	 Slovenia	8.417	3
9	 Netherlands	8.167	3
10	 Italy	8.1	5
11	 Croatia	8.1	5
12	 Greece	8.083	3
13	 Scotland	8.083	3
14	 Russia	8	5
15	 Spain	7.9	5
16	 Czech Republic	7.683	3