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CHAMPIONSHIP



UEFA European Under-17 Championship
Final round - Serbia 2011

INTRODUCTION

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The 10th European Under-17 Championship final round was the first to be staged in Serbia and involved only three of the national associations which had qualified in 2010. Group matches were staged in four venues linked by the River Danube: Belgrade, Indjija, Novi Sad and Smederevo. When the group phase had been completed, the action was centred on Novi Sad, where the final was staged, preceded, three days earlier, by semi-finals played in the same stadium on the same day. The cumulative attendance for the final tournament was 29,739 and nine matches were made available to a pan-European TV audience via coverage by Eurosport.

As the Under-17 finals represent the first experience of an international event for most of the participants, briefings on doping controls and the perils of match fixing were written into the teams' agendas and all eight finalists were happy to participate in a Together Stronger project staged under the banner of UEFA's Respect campaign. Groups of children were invited to join the teams at training sessions during the event.

The final round in Serbia also served to decide Europe's representatives at the imminent FIFA Under-17 World Cup, with the top three teams in each group earning the trip to Mexico. The tournament, which had threatened to produce an all-time-low goal tally, ended with a final that broke youth tournament records in the men's game by offering the public seven goals, with the Netherlands becoming the first team to score five in a final. Apart from winning the title for the first time, the Dutch received only three cautions during the tournament and topped the fair play rankings.

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ROUTE TO THE FINAL



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An opening day on which 13 goals were scored was the prelude to a decline in scoring rates during a group phase where the final matchday yielded only five goals and five teams failed to score. Going into those final games, the Danes and the Dutch had already secured top place in Groups A and B respectively and were able to demonstrate strength in depth by making seven changes to their starting line-ups without losing or conceding a goal. But they were the only two teams to have a clear view of their future before the final whistles were blown on the third matchday. The other six all kicked off their last matches with ambitions of reaching the semi-finals or claiming third place in their group to secure a trip to the FIFA World Cup.

In Group A, Denmark – in the finals for the first time in eight years – came from 1-0 down against Serbia to lead 2-1. But, as Danish coach Thomas Frank said, once the hosts had come back to 2-2, “Either team could easily have won.” In the event, the Danes went into their second fixture on the back of a 3-2 win and an impressive first-half display allowed them to secure a semi-final place with a 2-0 victory against an off-colour England, who had started their title defence with a 2-2 draw against France.

After two games, the Danes were the only Group A team to have recorded a victory. Behind them, two draws had put France at the head of the pursuers, while England and Serbia, with a point apiece, could only hope that Patrick Gonfalone’s team would not beat a much-changed Danish side. John Peacock’s team raced into an unassailable first-half lead against the hosts, while the French, despite carving scoring chances, failed to activate the scoreboard and were beaten by a spectacular second-half goal. “We’ve had the ups and downs of youth football,” commented England’s coach, John Peacock, “but I’m absolutely delighted to qualify for the semi-finals.”

Denmark’s attacking midfielder Viktor Fischer bursts past Milan Savić to shoot at goal during his team’s 3-2 opening-day win.

Their opponents were the Dutch team that had dominated Group B. Albert Stuivenberg’s team served notice by beating Germany 2-0 in an opening game which was tilted in their favour by a headed goal from a corner. An early goal gave them three more points against a Romanian side which operated a defend-and-counter strategy. And the Dutch, like the Danes, made extensive changes for a third matchday which mirrored Group A’s. Nobody else had won a game, but the Czechs, with two draws, were a point ahead of Germany and Romania.

The Germans had come back from the brink with a last-minute equaliser against the Czechs, having had two penalties saved earlier in the game by Lukas Zima – the keeper who also made a string of crucial saves against the Dutch. A solitary goal against the resolute Romanians consigned the debutants to fourth place and earned Steffen Freund’s side a date with Denmark. But victory had a price. Yellow cards against Romania sent Germany into the semi-final with four absences and the second keeper prepared to play as an outfielder. After working hard to contain the Danes, they snatched victory when two second-half free-kicks were diverted into the Danish net.

In the other semi-final, injury-hit England also struggled to cope with the Dutch team’s fluent combinations and, indeed, the scoreline could have been heavier than the 1-0 which gave John Peacock’s side motives to fight to the last. The outcome, however, was a tournament which ended as it had started – with an encounter between the Dutch and the Germans.



THE FINAL

Tonny T's triumph



Striker Samed Yesil, who scored in every game he played, holds off a challenge by Dutch defender Terence Kongolo to shoot Germany into a 1-0 lead in the final

Dutch Under-17 coach Albert Stuivenberg was on a mission: to avoid déjà vu and a repeat of the 2-1 defeat by Germany in the final two years previously. On that occasion Germany were the hosts and, in front of 24,000 home fans in Magdeburg, the young DFB squad produced the winning goal with four minutes of extra time remaining. This time the contest was played out in Novi Sad, Serbia, with 4,200 locals in attendance and weather conditions

resembling the inside of a warm oven. It didn't take long for Albert to feel the heat in more ways than one.

With only eight minutes gone, Samed Yesil went on a slalom run into the heart of the Dutch defence and the well-rested Leverkusen striker (he had missed two final round matches through suspension) swept the ball into the net for the opening goal of the match. The football truism that goals change games came into play and the German team, which had tried to take the initiative, switched to their previous mode of contain and counter. The Netherlands were faced with a side defending deep, with three banks of players lined up as 4-2-3, plus the lone striker. The Dutch, on the other hand, pursued their usual

progressive possession play with the passing angles afforded by their 4-2-3-1 system.

German efficiency and hard work was proving an effective antidote to Dutch probing. Indeed, their only threat in the early stages was from two long throw-ins by full-back Jetro Willems – the Sparta Rotterdam youngster showing the deceptive upper body strength of someone like local tennis hero Novak Djoković. But suddenly the door was opened by an impressive piece of improvisation involving Anass Achahbar and Tonny Trindade de Vilhena. The latter started and finished the move, with the former producing a brilliant back-heeler as the last touch in the 1-2 combination. With 23 minutes on the clock, Albert was breathing easier, although he was unaware that the respite would only last ten minutes.

While the Netherlands flowed upfield with collective ease, the Germans were proving adept at interceptions and powerful running with the ball through midfield. Without warning, Germany's left-winger Okan Aydin cut inside and, from outside the penalty box, smashed the ball into the top right-hand corner of the net to re-establish his team's advantage. Just as Albert was suffering the anticipated pangs of déjà vu, German goalkeeper Odisseas Vlachodimos spilled a cross from Memphis Depay, whose team-mate Tonny Trindade de Vilhena nipped in to restore parity. German dominance had only lasted two minutes and with half-time fast approaching, the game was in perfect balance.



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During the break, Albert Stuivenberg re-energised and refocused his Jong Oranje. But for Steffen Freund, Germany's coach, there was no opportunity to communicate with his young charges, as he was enduring a suspension resulting from his dismissal in the semi-final match against Denmark. The former Dortmund and Tottenham favourite had to leave the words of advice to his assistant, Henry Rehnisch.

Before some people had returned to their seats, the Netherlands had snatched the lead and turned the tide in their favour. Following a switch of play from left to right, Dutch winger Memphis Depay cut in from the right and single-handedly created and completed the goalscoring opportunity. The PSV Eindhoven flank player is not Lionel Messi, but he did a very respectable impersonation of the Barça man with his close control and refusal to be stopped in his tracks.

With German defender Nico Perrey locking boots with Tonny Trindade, Dutch striker Anass Achahbar is able to latch on to the ball

While the Germans sought to increase the tempo, the Dutch played with collective confidence and, following a corner from the right, Terence Kongolo prodded the ball home from close range to give the Netherlands a 4-2 lead with less than 30 minutes to go. Captain Emre Can encouraged his team-mates to rally and new blood was introduced from the bench. But the Germans were facing a team who hadn't lost a goal in the tournament until the final and who were determined not to add to their first-half lapses. Midfielder Kyle Ebecilio had been outstanding for the Netherlands, filling in at the back when necessary and driving forward when possible. It was therefore appropriate that the final goal of the match, with three minutes remaining, was scored by the young Arsenal player. Combining beautifully with striker Anass Achahbar, the Dutch No. 6 smashed the ball into the top left-hand corner of the net to put his team into an unassailable 5-2 lead. To Germany's credit, they fought until the end, driven by a sense of pride and a culture which prizes a winning mentality.

When the final whistle blew, the Dutch formed two huddles – one for the staff and one for the players. Both circles danced for joy, fuelled by the adrenaline rush that comes from success on a European stage. The German boys remained motionless, exhausted and lost in their own dark disappointment. For Albert Stuivenberg the mission was complete. The new challenge was to prepare his young players for the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Mexico. Of course, the long term is always more important than the short term when developing players, but the Dutch coaching staff could be forgiven for ignoring that, at least for a few moments, on a special day for them in Novi Sad, Serbia.

Andy Roxburgh
UEFA Technical Director



TECHNICAL TOPICS

The Spanish team was conspicuous by its absence but, it could be argued, was a spiritual presence at the final round in Serbia. Spain's successes in youth development competitions, at EURO 2008 and at the 2010 FIFA World Cup may have laid the foundations of a trend towards their favoured 4-2-3-1 formation. And whereas previous final rounds had produced greater variety, seven of this year's eight Under-17 finalists in 2011 adopted this structure – the exception to the rule being the Czech side which deployed Nikolas Salašović as a single screening midfielder. In their decisive group game against England, the Serbian hosts also kicked off in a 4-1-2-3 formation with Uroš Radaković in the screening role but, trailing 3-0 at the interval, they then switched to 4-3-3 and 4-4-2 structures during a second half in which their performance improved. This type of tactical flexibility was a rarity. Teams generally adhered to the same formula throughout the 80 minutes with, this time, the Germans providing an exception to the general rule by switching to three-man defending when chasing the second-half deficit against the Dutch in the final.

GOALS TALK

It can genuinely be said that the Germany v Netherlands final in Novi Sad distorted the overall picture of a tournament which had seemed likely to set a new record. After an opening day which had yielded 13 goals, scoring rates declined steadily to seven and then five on the ensuing two matchdays in the group phase. Three goals in the two



Czech keeper Lukáš Zima makes an unorthodox save against Dutch striker Michael Chacon – one of the keeper's many successful defensive moves in 1 v 1 situations

semi-finals left the total five short of the previous low of 33 in 2009. The seven-goal final provided statistical salvation but could not obscure the fact that the previous 14 matches had produced 28 goals at a modest average per match which doesn't require a calculator. Debate was fuelled by a simple question: why?

This report features a talking point which raises questions about the theory that the struggle for FIFA World Cup places had injected risk-management factors into the tournament equation. The technical observers in Serbia were impressed by the defensive qualities of the eight finalists, who unanimously operated zonal back fours. They were generally extremely well-organised, disciplined and resolutely committed to causes. They were also afforded varying degrees of additional protection by the two screening midfielders who contributed to compact defensive blocks of six. With members of the line of three also aiding and abetting, there was a clear onus on coaches to offer guidance to their players on how best to 'unlock defensive doors'.

Danish keeper Oliver Korch is aghast as a free-kick bent in from his left is deflected into his net to clinch Germany's 2-0 win in the semi-final





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HOW THE GOALS WERE SCORED

In Serbia, combination moves proved more effective than more direct forms of attacking or counter-attacking. As Spanish coach Ginés Meléndez, a member of UEFA's technical team at the tournament, commented: "One of the lessons to be learned at this level is that possession is important and that you can effectively 'defend with the ball'. If you opt to play long passes from the back, your defenders need to be aware that they can expect the ball back in three seconds." Ginés was among those most impressed by a Danish team which, he admitted, "could have been Spanish" in terms of fluent, attractive combination play and confident ball skills. Czech coach Josef Csaplár was among those who encouraged his team to build via rapid passing moves – and was frustrated when his players reacted to intense pressure by reverting to a more direct style. "We are trying to change a philosophy which was based more on results and league tables than on education and development," he said.

In Serbia, 11 of the 35 goals (40% of the goals scored in open play) were the result of combination moves, 8 came from direct shots at goal (not preceded by a structured approach), 4 were solo efforts and only 4 originated in crosses or cutbacks. Set plays produced 7 goals (4 corners, 2 indirect free-kicks and 1 direct free-kick), with an own goal accounting for the other one.

Czech defender Michael Lüftner watches Romanian striker Fabian Himcinschi bring the ball down neatly during their teams' 1-1 draw in Belgrade

WHEN THE GOALS WERE SCORED

Patterns differed substantially in relation to previous Under-17 finals, in which matches tended to start cautiously with little or no work for the scoreboard operator during the opening minutes. This trend was reversed in Serbia, where 23% of the goals were scored in the first quarter-hour of play.

Theories that fatigue is conducive to flurries of late goals were also confounded by the fact that only 43% of the goals were scored during the second half. In terms of fitness levels, teams were well-equipped to cope with 80 minutes of high-tempo play, yet scoring patterns provided conflicting evidence. One third of the tournament's goals were scored in the closing minutes of each half, semi-finalists England only scored goals during the first half and, by contrast, Germany scored exclusively after the half-time interval during their run to the Novi Sad final, where they then scored both of their goals during the first half.

Minutes	Goals	%
1-10	5	14
11-20	4	11
21-30	4	11
31-40	6	17
40+	1	3
41-50	3	9
51-60	4	11
61-70	3	9
71-80	5	14

Decimal points account for the missing 1%

A CLEAN PAIR OF GLOVES

Although the tournament statistics reveal an average of nine on-target goal attempts per match, the technical observers found certain difficulties in evaluating standards of goalkeeping – and selecting the best of the tournament. The statistics, incidentally, were undoubtedly influenced by one game in which, until the last minute, the Germans



TECHNICAL TOPICS

were 1-0 down to the Czechs and out of both the European Championship and the World Cup. The eventual silver medallists had 25 goal attempts, 13 of them on target, and it was in this match that the Czech keeper Lukáš Zima showcased his abilities – not least by saving two penalties. He went on to successfully resolve five one-on-one situations during the final group game against the Dutch. Romania's Constantin Brancu, already wearing the Juventus shirt in Italy, also made creditable contributions and provided rapid, direct deliveries to striker Fabian Himcinschi, the side's top scorer in the qualifying campaign that had earned the Romanians their first final round appearance. However, the technical observers felt that some of the other goalkeepers, although displaying their competence in distributing the ball with their feet, had not been seriously tested. This was sometimes due to good positional play, as illustrated by Dutch keeper Boy de Jong, who remained unbeaten for his first 247 minutes of the tournament.

MIDDLE-TO-FRONT

The trend towards a 4-2-3-1 formation raises open questions about the roles of the front four – to the extent that, when UEFA's technical team made its selection of players who had most impressed during the tournament, it was not always easy to adhere to traditional demarcations of 'midfielders' and 'attackers', due to the subtleties attached to the roles, game by game, of the three 'support attackers'.

Starting at the apex of the attack, most teams fielded a solitary striker. It's interesting to note that, of the six players who scored more than once in Serbia, only three were strikers. What's more, the two No. 9s who started the final were not, by



Surging forward from a midfield screening position, Kyle Ebecilio hits the Dutch goal that beat England in the semi-final

any stretch of the imagination, traditional 'target men'. Germany's Samed Yesil, who scored in the three games he played, was a finisher in the Gerd Müller mode, with a low centre of gravity which helped him to pivot past defenders. His Dutch counterpart, Anass Achahbar, was not dissimilar in stature. Despite some creditable attempts during the final, he ended the tournament goalless but his ability to hold up the ball and to supply delicately weighted passes – many of them back-heeled – to advancing midfielders made him the best supplier of assists, allowing Tonny Trindade and Kyle Ebecilio to join Denmark's Viktor Fischer among the top six scorers.

Fischer, whose move to AFC Ajax was announced during the tournament, illustrated the type of middle-to-front player who can shape the personality of the team. Although a 'midfielder' in the line of three supporting target striker Kenneth Zohore, his vocation was unquestionably attacking

without allowing the 'winger' label to be too closely attached. Other teams filled the wide positions with midfielders to form compact defend-in-depth units, while genuine wingers were not seen in abundance and the Dutch left-footer Nick de Bondt was one of the few who persistently sought to reach the byline and deliver crosses. England's title defence was negatively affected by the fitness problems suffered by wide attackers Raheem Sterling and Nathan Redmond, while many of Germany's most dangerous penetrations on the flanks were attributable to their hard-running right-back Mitchell Weiser.

In other words, one school of thought was that the shortage of goals could be partially attributed to the varying degrees of support offered to the solitary strikers who, in Serbia, were made to work hard for rewards.



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A HEAD FOR HEIGHTS

One of the salient features of the final round was that none of the open-play goals were headers. Discounting the two deflected free-kicks which gave Germany their 2-0 semi-final win against the Danes, only two goals went directly from head to net, with Dutch central defender Karim Rekik heading home a corner in the opener against Germany and Germany's Samed Yesil heading in another corner for the winner against Romania. It's all too easy to signal a lack of quality crosses as the main reason for the lack of headed goals – but a lack of crosses can be derived from the type of players deployed in the wide positions in the middle-to-front line of three. It was also noticeable that, when crosses were supplied from advanced wide areas, they tended to be whipped in low rather than lofted. An associated debating point stemmed from the way high crosses were dealt with by the attacking team, one thesis being that a shift of emphasis towards combination moves may have a negative influence on aerial ability. To spark off discussion, is it legitimate to allege that heading technique is no longer a major priority on the training agenda for young attackers?

PLAYING THE PLAYMAKERS

Where was the flair? Where was the 'wow factor'? In a tournament where no team was notoriously superior to the others, the emphasis was on well-organised defensive structures, leaving the romantics to ask questions about playmaking, creativity and players who were willing and able to look for the 1 v 1 against opponents. One of the pertinent enquiries was about where the most talented individuals were fielded – and the answer was frequently 'as one of the two screening midfielders' rather than in the central position among the line of three middle-to-front players. Germany's coach, Steffen Freund, initially opted to field his captain, Emre Can, in this role

but, in the latter stages of the tournament, pushed him forward into the middle-to-front position where his skills could inflict more damage on opposing defences. The switch highlighted a potential dilemma for coaches in terms of deploying the best players in the most influential positions. Is it positive to play them in screening roles where risk management factors can inhibit creativity?

Answers could be found in the Dutch side, where screening midfielder Kyle Ebecilio emerged as one of the tournament's most influential figures and contributed three goals to the Dutch triumph by surging forward with purpose and conviction. To underpin this adventurous approach, Albert Stuivenberg had successfully resolved one of the coach's other challenges – that of achieving the right balance between the two screening midfielders. The industry, skill and positional awareness of Yassine Ayoub provided the foundations on which adventurous attacking moves could be built.

Two influential No. 8s. German captain Emre Can is pursued by Dutch screening midfielder Yassine Ayoub during the group match in Smederevo

A DISCIPLINED APPROACH

The 2011 finals were in line with the previous year in terms of yellow cards, but represented a marked improvement in terms of red cards. In 2010 the number of cautions had risen 38% to 52 and in Serbia the yellow card was shown 53 times at an average of 3.53 times per match. In 2010, six players had been dismissed; in 2011, it was only one (plus the German coach, Steffen Freund). Only two penalties were awarded during the 15 games, both in favour of Germany and both saved by the Czech keeper. The finalists provided a sharp contrast, with the Dutch coming through the group phase without any cautions. The Germans, on the other hand, received ten yellow cards, with the result that they had four players missing from the semi-final against Denmark due to suspensions and, with only three on the bench, the reserve goalkeeper, Cedric Wilmes, was assigned the No. 7 shirt and authorised to appear as an outfield player if necessary. The Dutch, apart from winning the title, also topped the tournament's fair play rankings.



TALKING POINTS

What a wonderful world?

The teams in the 2010/11 campaign were, to stretch a point, playing two competitions at the same time. The evident objective was to gain valuable international experience and steepen their learning curve by competing with top-level opposition at the final round of the European Under-17 Championship. But there was a subplot. The action in Serbia also served to determine which six national associations would be sending teams to represent Europe at the FIFA Under-17 World Cup scheduled to kick off in Mexico 34 days after the final whistle in Novi Sad.

During the low-scoring group phase in Serbia, one of the most debated topics was the possibility that the World Cup was exerting a tactical influence on the European Championship. The discussion focused on Group B, where the six matches yielded eight goals at a miserly average of 1.33 per game. Were teams setting out to avoid fourth place rather than making more adventurous bids for berths in the semi-finals? Was it a coincidence that the lowest ever goalscoring figure in the Under-17 tournament had been registered in 2009 – the previous World Cup year?

Adrian Vasai, the coach of the Romanian side which was making its debut in the Under-17 finals, provided an interesting viewpoint. His team had been 1-0 ahead until three minutes from the end of the opening game against the Czech Republic. Conceding the late equaliser, he admitted, had been a blow to morale. But on the same day in the other Group B fixture, Germany had been beaten 2-0 by the Dutch. After eight minutes of the second game against the Netherlands, Romania fell 1-0 behind. This created an interesting dilemma – a conflict between the instinctive desire to equalise and a more calculated approach. The Romanians realised that an adverse 1-0 scoreline would keep options open, whereas conceding again could leave them at a disadvantage if the group placings were to be decided by goal difference. As a coach, how would you react to this situation?

Adrian Vasai opted for a pragmatic approach that frustrated the Dutch. "We thought that the early goal would encourage them to push forward and give some space to our attackers," commented the Netherlands coach, Albert Stuivenberg, "but that didn't happen." For the Romanians, the positive aspect



Claudiu Bumba, under pressure from Dutch skipper Daan Disveld, looks for a telling pass during a game that Romania were not entirely unhappy to lose 1-0

of the 1-0 defeat was a one-goal advantage over the Germans. On the eve of the final group match against Steffen Freund's side, Adrian Vasai said: "Our goal is unchanged – to reach the World Cup. We are fighting for this objective in this last game and a draw

against Germany would be sufficient." In the event, Romania were beaten by a solitary goal while, in the other Group B game, the Czech Republic – needing a win to reach the semi-finals – played out their third draw in as many games against a much-changed Dutch side to

The eight finalists in Serbia were happy to be associated with the hosts' well-supported Stronger Together campaign





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secure third place and a trip to Mexico. "I'm very happy to be in Mexico," said the Czech coach, Josef Csaplár, after the final whistle. "This was our first target and we achieved it. It means a lot for Czech football to be playing another three difficult games against difficult opponents and different countries."

In other words, the tournament in Serbia was not an end in itself but rather a vehicle towards longer-term objectives. In player development terms, the value of meeting opposition from other continents at a FIFA World Cup is beyond question. But, as a debating point, how far should this affect the approach to a European Championship?

A metaphoric toast to absent friends allowed discussions to take on a further dimension. Spain, who have played 13 finals at Under-16 and Under-17 levels – and won 8 of them – were not in Serbia. In the draw for the elite round, the 2010 finalists, England and Spain, had been drawn into the same group. It evidently meant that one of the previous season's medallists would miss out on the final tournament in 2011 and would therefore have no chance of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup. A 2-1 defeat in the final elite round fixture in Belgium meant that Spain drew this particular short straw.

The talking points to emerge were, firstly, whether (even though the current system theoretically gives opportunities for a wider range of countries to qualify) some sort of seeding should be applied to the elite round draw in order to keep the previous year's finalists apart? Secondly, is it fair that the loser of a 'summit game' such as England v Spain should automatically be deprived of a place among UEFA's representatives at a World Cup (where Europe has provided only 3 of the 13 U17 champions)? Extending these questions to the extreme, is it appropriate that details like goal difference, a missed penalty or a deflected free-kick in a group match should have such huge implications? The ultimate question is whether the European Championship finals should be used to determine World Cup qualifiers?

SOONER OR LATER?

One of the curiosities at the tournament in Serbia was that the final was a repeat of the 2009 showdown between Germany and the Netherlands – and that kick-off was at the same time as it had been

two years previously in Magdeburg: 11.00. As Andy Roxburgh reports in his appraisal of the final in Novi Sad, heat and humidity created 'oven-like' conditions. In Magdeburg, the school-friendly kick-off time on a Monday was a platform for a record attendance of well over 20,000 and a big-game environment which enhanced the players' learning curves. In Novi Sad, the attendance was approximately a fifth of the 2009 figure. For the coach, one of the challenges is to adjust biorhythms to the unusual timetable and to find the best nutritional response to a situation where the habitual pre-match intake of chicken and pasta is hardly appropriate for a breakfast-time meal. Albert Stuivenberg and Steffen Freund both opted to train at match time on the eve of the final in order to give the players a taste of what was to come. The debating point is to what extent TV schedules and marketing considerations should be allowed to influence kick-off times?

PHYSIQUE OR SKILL?

One of the perennial talking points at Under-17 level is the percentage of players drawn from the top of the age bracket. In 2009 a peak was reached when 41% of the players had been born in January or February. In Serbia, this period accounted for 43 of the 146 players. In other words, 28% had been born in 16% of the calendar year. Interestingly, the Dutch champion squad featured three of the six players at the tournament to have been born in 1995. They and the Danes – widely acclaimed as the best ball-playing teams in the tournament – fielded back fours who were not especially high on physical stature but who were high in positional expertise, anticipation and the technical ability required to build moves from the back. In terms of player development, to what extent should selection processes be influenced by physical stature at this level?

Danish midfielder Patrick Olsen tries to clip the ball over the outstretched leg of Serbian defender Milan Savić during the opening game in Novi Sad



WINNING COACH

Stuivenberg steers students to success

Albert Stuivenberg did his fair share of celebrating with his staff and happily allowed his players to throw him into the Serbian air when the final whistle was blown at the Karadjorje Stadium in Novi Sad and the Dutch squad prepared to climb into the stand to receive gold medals and the trophy for the first time. A couple of hours later, Albert was back in an unassuming, reflective mood, stretched across an armchair in the hotel lobby, albeit with an expression that hinted at deep inner satisfaction. Coming after two silver medals, the 'third time lucky' cliché might be applied to the Dutch achievement. But luck was not the decisive factor. Success in Novi Sad was the result of the persistent pursuit of a playing philosophy.

As every coach knows, reality is often the enemy of philosophy. Albert's preparations for the final round were pared down to the minimum, with most of his players engaged in championship matches on the Thursday. They then assembled on Saturday to travel to Serbia and prepare for Tuesday's opening match against Germany, having lost both right-wingers through injury and been obliged to experiment with a player who was more midfielder than outright winger. Time for fine-tuning

was minimal and much depended on the longer-term work undertaken by Albert since he returned from the Middle East to assume his current role in 2006.

This was just months after the Dutch had reached the Under-17 final for the first time (Ruud Keizer's team losing 2-0 to Turkey). With Albert at the helm, the team then came within a whisker of reaching the 2008 final (they were beaten by the eventual champions, Spain, during extra time in the semi-finals) and went on to lose the 2009 final in extra time against the tournament hosts, Germany. After so many barren years, the Dutch were suddenly qualifying for major youth development tournaments and making an impact in the finals.

Yet Albert is reluctant to pin recent successes to a radical change of philosophy. "What we've done," he says, "is to learn

how to coach development teams. We've also learned how valuable it is to promote cooperation between the Dutch FA and the clubs – because it is at the clubs that most of the development work is done."

His style of coaching is not based on issuing instructions. "I would describe it more as guidance," he said. "You encourage them to be aware of certain things, to learn and to take their own decisions." During the final against Germany, the guidance he offered at half-time proved crucial. "We did very well in the second half what we did not do well in the first half. We defended well, the transition was very good. We went ahead and did not give any more big chances away. We played a very mature game. The team improved during the season in understanding what it takes to win games; how, when you are in front, you need to keep the ball in possession and not let the opponents come back into the game again. We deserved this title this time. We were very close two years ago and this is our revenge."



Amid his jubilant players, Albert Stuivenberg triumphantly raises the Netherlands' first ever Under-17 trophy



THE UEFA TECHNICAL TEAM



At the final tournament in Serbia, UEFA fielded a two-man team of technical observers, reinforced by the presence of technical director Andy Roxburgh for the closing stages in Novi Sad.

Ross Mathie from Scotland completed a hat-trick of Under-17 final tournaments in Serbia, having also been a member of the technical teams in 2009 and 2010. Ross has been at the Scottish FA since 1981 and has led Scotland's Under-18, Under-16 and Under-15 sides in addition to the Under-17 team he took to the European Championship finals in Turkey in 2008.

Ginés Meléndez enjoyed the Under-17 finals in an unusual capacity. Normally he's there to coach the Spanish squads which have been dominant forces in recent years. Regarded by his colleagues as a youth development 'guru', Ginés



Ginés Meléndez (left), Ross Mathie and UEFA's Andy Roxburgh line up for the technical team photo

has led Spain to various European and world finals and, at the Spanish national association since 2002, he combines the

roles of Under-17 coach and director of the national coaching school, while also acting as a UEFA and FIFA coaching instructor.

TOURNAMENT SELECT SQUAD

No.	Name	Country
Goalkeepers		
1	Boy DE JONG	Netherlands
16	Lukas ZIMA	Czech Republic
Defenders		
2	Mads AAQUIST	Denmark
6	Nathaniel CHALOBDAH	England
4	Nicolai JOHANNESSEN	Denmark
3	Terence KONGOLO	Netherlands
3	Frederik HOLST	Denmark
3	Benjamin MENDY	France
2	Mitchell WEISER	Germany
5	Jetro WILLEMS	Netherlands
Midfielders		
8	Yassine AYOUB	Netherlands
8	Emre CAN	Germany
6	Kyle EBECILIO	Netherlands
4	John LUNDSTRAM	England
8	Soualiho MEITE	France
6	Patrick OLSEN	Denmark
Attackers		
9	Anass ACHAHBAR	Netherlands
11	Memphis DEPAY	Netherlands
10	Viktor FISCHER	Denmark
10	Tonny TRINDADE	Netherlands
10	Abdallah YAISIEN	France
9	Samed YESIL	Germany

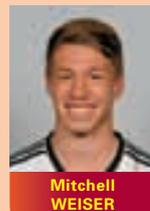
Goalkeepers



Defenders



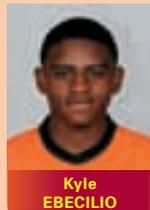
Defenders



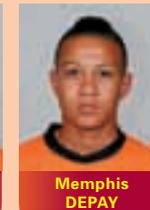
Midfielders



Midfielders



Attackers



Attackers





CZECH REPUBLIC



COACH

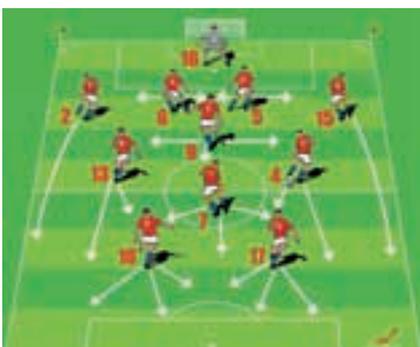
Joseph CSAPLÁR
29/10/1962



“
Three games, three points. The tournament was a success because we qualified for the World Cup and the team showed character and the right mentality. But I was disappointed with some performances and we have to acknowledge that the German and Dutch players were at a higher level. There is now a lot of work to be done in training, developing and educating players to attain that level. This is the challenge for the future.
”

No.	Player	Born	Pos.	ROM	GER	NED	G	Club
1	Patrik MACEJ	11.06.1994	GK					FC Banik Ostrava
2	Ondřej KARAFÍAT	01.12.1994	DF	80	80	80		AC Sparta Praha
3	Jan FILIP	06.03.1994	DF		24	80		FK Teplice
4	Petr NERAD	06.02.1994	MF	26	56	I		Bohemians 1905
5	Luboš ADAMEC	27.04.1994	DF	80	80	80		Juventus (ITA)
6	Michael LÜFTNER	14.03.1994	DF	80	80	80		FK Teplice
7	Ales CERMAK	01.10.1994	MF	S	80	80		AC Sparta Praha
8	Jindrich KADULA	10.06.1994	MF			80		SK České Budejovice
9	Nikolas SALASOVIC	20.09.1994	MF	80	80	80	1	SK Slavia Praha
10	Lukás JULIS	02.12.1994	FW	34	78	53	1	AC Sparta Praha
11	Patrik SVOBODA	13.04.1994	FW	80	33	46		FK Dukla Praha
12	Zdeněk LINHART	05.03.1994	FW	46	2	27		SK České Budejovice
13	Patrik KUNDRATEK	15.02.1994	MF	62	80			FC Banik Ostrava
14	Michal HOLUB	06.03.1994	FW	54				SK Sigma Olomouc
15	Jan STERBA	08.07.1994	DF	80	74	S		SK Sigma Olomouc
16	Lukas ZIMA	09.01.1994	GK	80	80	80		SK Slavia Praha
17	Dominik MASEK	10.07.1995	MF	80	47	80		FK Příbram
18	Lukas STRATIL	29.01.1994	FW	18		34		FC Banik Ostrava

Pos. = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill



- Variations on 4-4-2, mostly with one screen and midfield diamond
- Compact, well-organised defending by zonal back four
- Excellent goalkeeping by 16, Zima, a morale-boosting factor
- Emphasis on combination play – but mixed with direct supply to front men
- Good levels of technique; skilful in 1 v 1 situations
- Fluent off-the-ball movement in wide areas, giving passing options
- Good pace in attack with midfielders pushing forward to support



DENMARK



COACH

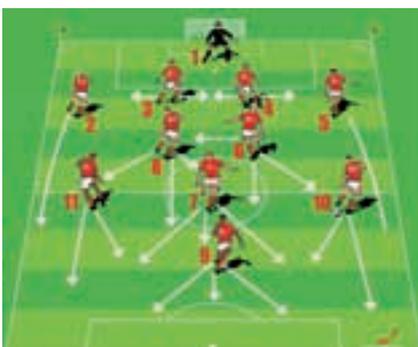
Thomas FRANK
09/10/1973



Happiness and joy are major parts of our philosophy. You have to smile, be happy and show how much you love football. That's one of the five values we have in this team. We also need desire, respect and responsibility, along with the conviction that we must stick together. Off the pitch you have to be a 24-hour professional. You can enjoy it but you must eat, drink and rest properly; you must behave with respect; and you must be a team. If we have joy and happiness, we have the skills to perform well. Now we have to focus on our chances of winning the World Cup!

No.	Player	Born	Pos.	SRB	ENG	FRA	GER	G	Club
1	Oliver KORCH	18.06.1994	GK	80	80		80		FC Midtjylland
2	Mads AAQUIST	31.12.1994	DF	80	80	80	S		FC København
3	Frederik HOLST	24.09.1994	DF	80	80		80		Brøndby IF
4	Nicolai JOHANNESSEN	22.05.1994	DF	80	80	80	80	1	Lyngby BK
5	Riza DURMISI	08.01.1994	DF	80	80	40*	80		Brøndby IF
6	Patrick OLSEN	23.04.1994	MF	80	79		80		Brøndby IF
7	Christian NØRGAARD	10.03.1994	MF	80	80	23	80	1	Lyngby BK
8	Lasse VIGEN	15.08.1994	MF	40*	80	57	60		Esbjerg fB
9	Kenneth ZOHORE	31.01.1994	FW	80	70	13	80	1	FC København
10	Viktor FISCHER	09.06.1994	FW	78	70	40+	80	2	FC Midtjylland
11	Danny AMANKWAA	31.01.1994	FW	63+	80		69		FC København
12	Patrick JENSEN	04.04.1994	DF			80	11		Vejle BK
13	Pierre Emil HØBJERG	05.08.1995	MF	40+	1	80			Brøndby IF
14	Derrick ASHOYA	29.03.1994	DF			80	69		Vejle BK
15	Lee SØRENSEN	30.04.1994	MF		10	67			HB Køge
16	Christian SCHULTZ	13.05.1994	GK			80			Silkeborg IF
17	Yussuf YURARY Poulsen	15.06.1994	FW	2	10	80	11		Lyngby BK
18	Lucas ANDERSEN	13.09.1994	FW	17*		80	20		Aalborg BK

Pos. = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill
1 goal was an own goal by Serbia's Bojan Nastic



- 4-2-3-1 with attacking vocation based on building from the back
- Well-organised and disciplined with strong team ethic
- Fluent positional switches in midfield (6, 7 and 8) without loss of balance
- Good use of width with adventurous full-backs, diagonal passing
- High-quality attacking in numbers with fast, well-supported counter-attacks
- Technically equipped with composure on ball, especially in midfield
- Excellent defensive mechanisms in covering, intercepting, reading situations



ENGLAND



COACH

John PEACOCK
27/03/1956



The general picture is that we came through some tough qualifying groups and the players acquitted themselves very well in the final round. We've experienced the ups and downs of youth football, but to finish in the top four in Europe is a great achievement. And one of the biggest experiences these lads can get in a lifetime is coming at the World Cup. For their football education, it represents a massive learning curve to compete with the best in Europe and then with teams from South America and other parts of the world. It's an opportunity that doesn't come too often.

No.	Player	Born	Pos.	FRA	DEN	SRB	NED	G	Club
1	Jordan PICKFORD	07.03.1994	GK	80	80	80	80		Sunderland AFC
2	Jordan COUSINS	06.03.1994	DF	80	80	80	80		Charlton Athletic FC
3	Bradley SMITH	09.04.1994	DF	80	80	80	80	1	Liverpool FC
4	John LUNDSTRAM	18.08.1994	MF	80	80	80	80		Everton FC
5	Adam JACKSON	18.05.1994	DF	80			50		Middlesbrough FC
6	Nathaniel CHALOBAH	12.12.1994	DF	S	80	80	80		Chelsea FC
7	Raheem STERLING ¹	08.12.1994	MF		38*	I	I		Liverpool FC
8	Nicholas POWELL	23.03.1994	MF	71	80	40*	I	1	Crewe Alexandra FC
9	Hallam HOPE	17.03.1994	FW	80	66	65	80	3	Everton FC
10	Max CLAYTON	09.08.1994	FW	9	42+	40+	14		Crewe Alexandra FC
11	Jake CASKEY	25.04.1994	MF			80	66		Brighton & Hove Albion FC
12	Courtney MEPPEN	02.08.1994	DF						Manchester City FC
13	Ben GARRATT	25.04.1994	GK						Crewe Alexandra FC
14	Adam MORGAN	21.04.1994	FW	9	14	15	30		Liverpool FC
15	Samuel MAGRI	30.03.1994	DF	80	80	80	80		Portsmouth FC
16	Alex HENSHALL	15.02.1994	FW	71	25	80	50		Manchester City FC
17	Nathan REDMOND	06.03.1994	MF	80	55	6	30		Birmingham City FC
18	Blair TURGOTT	22.05.1994	MF	80	80	74	80		West Ham United FC
19	Jack DUNN ¹	19.11.1994	MF	-	-	-			Liverpool FC

Pos. = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill
¹ Replaced by Dunn after group phase due to injury



- 4-2-3-1 with midfield triangle and wingers (16, 17/18)
- Good width and pace on both flanks; adventurous full-backs
- Emphasis on building passing moves from the back
- Options offered to ball carrier by good movement in front areas
- Zonal marking at corners; well-organised when defending set plays
- Rapid transition with direct supply to striker and wingers
- 4, Lundstram, influential catalyst in launching attacking moves

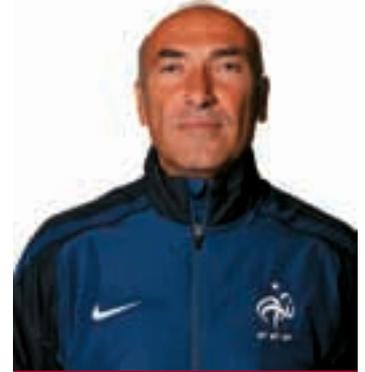


FRANCE



COACH

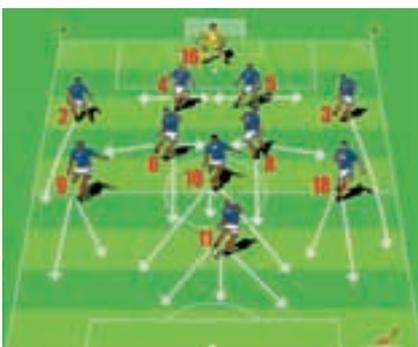
Patrick GONFALONE
02/11/1955



It's good to compete against teams who, like us, have high-quality players in several positions. It helps to boost the level of European youth football. But, when we lost to Denmark in a fixture that we had to win, I had to say that we had good players but not a good team. We played in a way that makes it difficult to be winners, if not impossible. All the players seemed to be playing for themselves and Denmark gave us a demonstration that football is a team game.

No.	Player	Born	Pos.	ENG	SRB	DEN	G	Club
1	Quentin BEUNARDEAU	27.02.1994	GK	80				Le Mans UC 72
2	Jordan IKOKO	03.02.1994	DF	80		80		Paris Saint-Germain FC
3	Benjamin MENDY	17.07.1994	DF	80	80	80		Le Havre AC
4	Raphaël CALVET	07.02.1994	DF	80	80	80		AJ Auxerre
5	Kurt ZOUMA	27.10.1994	DF	80		80		AS Saint-Etienne
6	Adrian TAMEZE AOUTSA	04.02.1994	MF	80	80	80		AS Nancy-Lorraine
7	Adam N'KUSU	29.01.1994	FW		12	22		Le Havre AC
8	Soualiho MEITE	17.03.1994	MF	80	80	80	1	AJ Auxerre
9	Lenny NANGIS	24.03.1994	FW	56	36	70		SM Caen
10	Abdallah YAISIEN	23.04.1994	FW	80	80	80		Paris Saint-Germain FC
11	Sébastien HALLER	22.06.1994	FW	80	68	58	2	AJ Auxerre
12	Antoine CONTE	29.01.1994	DF		80			Paris Saint-Germain FC
13	Aymeric LAPORTE	27.05.1994	DF		80	10		Athletic Club Bilbao (ESP)
14	Kharl MADIANGA	30.01.1994	MF	56				Le Mans UC 72
15	Abdoulaye TOURE	03.03.1994	MF		44			AS Nancy-Lorraine
16	Lionel MPASI NZAU	01.08.1994	GK		80	80		Paris Saint-Germain FC
17	Jordan VERCLEYEN	07.02.1994	MF	24	56	34		Le Havre AC
18	Gaëtan LABORDE	03.05.1994	FW	24	24	46		FC Girondins de Bordeaux

Pos. = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill



- 4-2-3-1 with hard-working midfield and pace in attack
- Strong back four with overlapping full-backs, especially Mendy on left
- Good technique; attacks based on quick, short inter-passing
- 8, Meite, an influential figure as support striker or screening midfielder
- Excellent balance in midfield; fluent approach play
- Willing to take on opponents, even if solo runs resulted in loss of possession
- Periods of intense high pressure, but successes not matched by finishing power



GERMANY



COACH

Steffen FREUND
19/01/1970



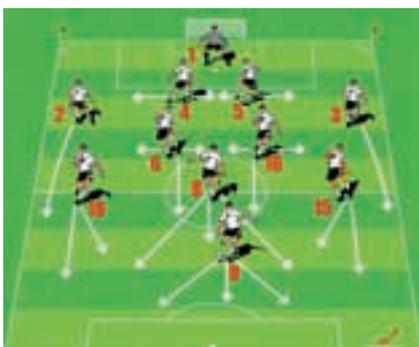
Our philosophy in Germany is to go forward and try to score goals. But during the group stage it was obvious that we lacked the killer instinct. Against the Czechs we had 21 chances and two penalties and drew 1-1. At that point, I was surprised to stay in the tournament as I thought the Czechs would beat the Dutch and send us home. But German squads have a tradition of being there when they have to perform and one thing that is such an important factor is hunger. To reach the final was a success but we were hungry for the trophy.

No.	Player	Born	Pos.	NED	CZE	ROU	DEN	NED	G	Club
1	Odisseas VLACHODIMOS	26.04.1994	GK	80	80	80	80	80		VfB Stuttgart
2	Mitchell WEISER	21.04.1994	DF	80	80	80	S	80		1. FC Köln
3	Cimo RÖCKER	21.01.1994	DF	80	80	80	80	65		SV Werder Bremen
4	Koray GÜNTER	16.08.1994	DF	S	80	80	80	80		BV Borussia Dortmund
5	Nico PERREY	02.02.1994	DF	80	80	80	S	73		DSC Arminia Bielefeld
6	Robin YALCIN	25.01.1994	MF	80	80	80	80	80		VfB Stuttgart
8	Emre CAN	12.01.1994	MF	80	80	80	80	80		FC Bayern München
9	Samed YESIL	25.05.1994	FW	S	80	80	S	80	3	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
10	Levent AYCICEK ¹	14.02.1994	MF	80	78	I	I	I		SV Werder Bremen
11	Patrick WEIHRAUCH	03.03.1994	FW	80	2		1	7		FC Bayern München
12	Cedric WILMES ²	13.01.1994	GK							BV Borussia Dortmund
13	Kaan AYHAN	10.11.1994	DF	80		1	80		1	FC Schalke 04
14	Nils QUASCHNER	22.04.1994	FW	62			79		1	FC Hansa Rostock
15	Okan AYDIN	08.05.1994	FW	66	80	72	80	80	1	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
16	Sven MENDE	18.01.1994	MF			80	80	57		VfB Stuttgart
17	Jeremy TOLJAN ¹	08.08.1994	DF	-	-	-	8	15		VfB Stuttgart
18	Fabian SCHNELLHARDT	12.01.1994	MF	18	80	79	S	80		1. FC Köln
21	Erich BERKO	06.09.1994	FW	14		8	72	23		VfB Stuttgart
22	Koray KAÇINOĞLU	20.07.1994	DF				80			MSV Duisburg

Pos. = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

¹ Replaced by Toljan after group phase due to injury

² Also registered as outfield player with shirt no. 7 for semi-final



- 4-2-3-1 with fluent positional interchanges between 6, 8, 10 in midfield
- Attacking philosophy based on high-tempo combination moves
- Good use of width with play effectively switched from one flank to the other
- Good technique throughout the team and high levels of fitness
- Well-structured, resolute unit with discipline and team spirit
- Fast counterattacks a major weapon in the team's armoury
- 8, Can, influential in launching moves, pushing forward to support attacks



NETHERLANDS



COACH

Albert STUIVENBERG
05/08/1970



“ We didn’t defend in depth but, defensively, we did a good job. And we created a lot of chances in every match. We have our own philosophy and we stuck to it. We made mistakes, of course, but they are young players. I must compliment them for the way they worked together and their willingness to learn. After our second game against Romania, for example, we had already qualified for the semi-finals. But there were no happy faces when the whistle was blown. The players realised that they hadn’t always found the right answers to the Romanians’ strategy. That’s the way you learn – which is the most important thing at this level. ”

No.	Player	Born	Pos.	GER	ROU	CZE	ENG	GER	G	Club
1	Boy DE JONG	10.04.1994	GK	80	80		80	80		Feyenoord
2	Daan DISVELD	20.01.1994	DF	80	80	80	80	80		NEC Nijmegen
3	Terence KONGOLO	14.02.1994	DF	80	80		80	80	1	Feyenoord
4	Karim REKIK	02.12.1994	DF	80	80	80	80	80	1	Feyenoord
5	Jetro WILLEMS	30.03.1994	DF	80	80	31	80	80		Sparta Rotterdam
6	Kyle EBECILIO	17.02.1994	MF	80	80	5	80	80	3	Arsenal FC (ENG)
7	Michael CHACON	11.04.1994	FW			80				RJO Heerenveen/Emmen
8	Yassine AYOUB	06.03.1994	MF	80	80	49	80	80		FC Utrecht
9	Anass ACHAHBAR	13.01.1994	FW	80	80		77	80		Feyenoord
10	Tonny TRINDADE	03.01.1995	MF	80	80		80	80	3	Feyenoord
11	Memphis DEPAY	13.02.1994	FW	75	80	40*	40*	71	1	PSV Eindhoven
12	Danzell GRAVENBURCH	13.01.1994	FW	5		80	40+	9		AFC Ajax
13	Thom HAYE	09.02.1995	DF			80	3			AZ Alkmaar
14	Joris VAN OVEREEM	01.06.1994	MF			75				AZ Alkmaar
15	Nathan AKE	18.02.1995	DF	18		80	12	16		Feyenoord
16	Peter LEEUWENBURGH	23.03.1994	GK							AFC Ajax
17	Menno KOCH	02.07.1994	DF			80				PSV Eindhoven
18	Nick DE BONDT	21.04.1994	FW	62	80	40+	68	64		BV Vitesse

Pos. = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill



- 4-2-3-1 with emphasis on ball possession and combination play
- Effective back four; good in air; overlapping full-backs
- Willing to adopt a high defensive line and press in opposition territory
- Effective penetration on flanks with 11, 18 ready to switch sides
- Technically strong midfield triangle, usually 6, 8 and 10
- Excellent combinations, diagonal passing, especially 5 from left to right
- Well-rehearsed set plays; effective corners; long throws by 5 from left



ROMANIA



COACH

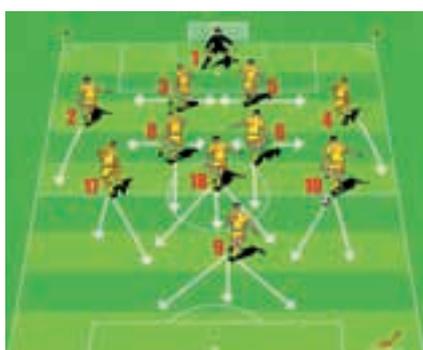
Adrian VASAI
09/09/1964



“
We had never been in the final round before, so I was proud of the way they played and responded to the challenge. The players learned and improved, even though an important factor was that we didn't hang on to our lead in the first game. The late Czech equaliser was a blow to our morale. I didn't instruct them to retreat and to defend the 1-0 lead – the players simply decided it was appropriate to be more defensive. Even though our concentration could sometimes have been better, I liked the commitment they displayed throughout the tournament.
”

No.	Player	Born	Pos.	CZE	NED	GER	G	Club
1	Constantin BRANESCU	30.03.1994	GK	80	80	80		Juventus (ITA)
2	Ionut MISU	19.09.1994	DF	69		80		FC Universitatea Craiova
3	Eduard SCHULLER	19.03.1994	DF	80	80	80		FC Unirea Alba Iulia
4	Bogdan MITACHE	01.01.1994	DF	80	80	80		FC Viitorul Constanta
5	Adrian PUTANU	09.01.1994	DF	80	80	80		FC Viitorul Constanta
6	Andrei VASTAG	21.03.1994	MF	80	76			LPS Banatul Timisoara
7	Steliano FILIP	15.05.1994	MF	S	80	80		LPS Banatul Timisoara
8	Bogdan TIRU	15.03.1994	MF	80	80	80		FC Viitorul Constanta
9	Fabian HIMCINSCHI	12.05.1994	FVW	71	62	80	1	FC Unirea Alba Iulia
10	Claudiu BUMBA	05.01.1994	MF	80	80	56		FC Baia Mare
11	Darius BUIA	30.04.1994	FVW	9	18	33		LPS Banatul Timisoara
12	George SERBAN	31.01.1994	GK					FC Viitorul Constanta
13	Ioan NEAG	18.02.1994	DF					FC Universitatea Cluj
14	Daniel BIRAU	21.03.1994	MF	11				LPS Banatul Timisoara
15	Daniel Cristian PAIUS	24.09.1994	FVW	29	4	13		FC Viitorul Constanta
16	Alin ROMAN	27.01.1994	MF			24		LPS Banatul Timisoara
17	Ioan PETRESC	27.04.1994	MF	51	80	47		CS Mure ul Deva
18	Iulian ROSU	30.05.1994	MF	80	80	67		FC Steaua Bucuresti

Pos. = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill



- 4-2-3-1 structure built on foundations of deep 4-1-4-1 defending
- High levels of concentration; positional and tactical discipline
- Strong collective sense with readiness to work and cover for each other
- Compact unit; quick transitions from attack to defence and vice versa
- Extensive use of long ball from keeper to striker, 9, Himcinschi
- Emphasis on rapid retreat and then pressure in own half of the pitch
- Quick counters based on direct running through central area



SERBIA



COACH

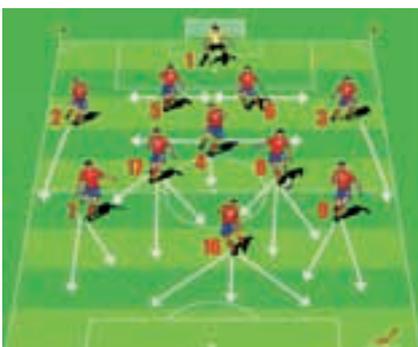
Miloval DJORIĆ
06/08/1943



“ If there is blame for fourth place, then I am to blame for everything. I cannot say anything bad about my players. After all, I am finishing my career and they are just starting theirs. Not having to play qualifying games may have counted against us and we also had to bear the burden of playing in front of expectant crowds. Experience counts – and when we conceded three early goals in the last game against England, I saw that some players started to panic. They really didn't know how to react. But in the second half we showed that we have good, talented players who can go on to compete at Under-19 level. **”**

No.	Player	Born	Pos.	DEN	FRA	ENG	G	Club
1	Nikola STOSIC	15.03.1994	GK	80				FK Crvena zvezda
2	Nemanja JAKŠIĆ	11.07.1995	DF	80	80	80		FK Crvena zvezda
3	Bojan NASTIĆ	06.07.1994	DF	47	80	80		FK Vojvodina
4	Uroš RADAKOVIĆ	31.03.1994	MF	80	80	80		FK Crvena zvezda
5	Milan SAVIĆ	04.04.1994	DF	80		34*		FK Partizan
6	Marko MARINKOVIĆ	06.01.1994	DF	80	80	80		FK Crvena zvezda
7	Lazar MARKOVIC	02.03.1994	FW	80	13	80		FK Partizan
8	Dejan MELEG	01.10.1994	MF	80	80	80		FK Vojvodina
9	Vojno JEŠIĆ	04.03.1994	FW	80		40*	1	1. FC Köln (GER)
11	Ognjen POPADIĆ	10.02.1994	MF	62	80			FK Crvena zvezda
12	Nemanja LATINOVIĆ	21.02.1994	GK		80	80		FK Hajduk Kula
14	Dobrosav KOSTIĆ	04.09.1994	DF	33				TSG 1899 Hoffenheim (GER)
15	Nikola TODORIĆ	11.05.1994	DF		63			FK Rad
16	Luka STOJANOVIĆ	04.01.1994	MF	40*	17	80		FK Partizan
17	Aleksandar FILIPOVIĆ	20.12.1994	MF	18	80	80		FK Jagodina
18	Nikola NINKOVIĆ	19.12.1994	MF		40*	40+		FK Partizan
19	Nikola MANDIC	15.01.1994	FW		67	46+	1	FK Partizan
20	Ognjen OŽEGOVIĆ	09.06.1994	FW	40+	40+		1	FK Crvena zvezda

Pos. = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill



- Flexible system with variations on 4-3-3 and 4-4-2
- Physically strong defenders in zonal back four
- Patient build-ups through midfield, sometimes over-elaborate
- Dangerous in wide areas with variation of deliveries to wingers
- Quality high crosses, especially from right
- 9, Ješić, the attacking inspiration and target man
- Committed, hard-working; team ethic strengthened by preparation time (as hosts)

RESULTS

GROUP A

3 May 2011

France – England 2-2 (1-2)

0-1 Hallam Hope (8) 1-1 Sébastien Haller (15) 1-2 Nicholas Powell (28)
2-2 Sébastien Haller (65)

Attendance: 2,100 at City Stadium, Indjija; KO 15.00

Yellow cards: FRA: Benjamin Mendy (46) / ENG: Blair Turgott (80)

Referees: Liany (ISR) / **A:** Kolev (BUL); Çokaj (ALB) / **O:** Tritsonis (GRE)

Serbia – Denmark 2-3 (1-2)

1-0 Vojno Ješić (31) 1-1 Nicolai Johannessen (33) 1-2 Bojan Nastić (39-own goal)
2-2 Ognjen Ožegović (54) 2-3 Viktor Fischer (76)

Attendance: 6,000 at Karadjordje Stadium, Novi Sad; KO 15.00

Yellow cards: SRB: Bojan Nastić (45) / DEN: Christian Nørgaard (48),
Frederick Holst (56), Nicolai Johannessen (67), Mads Aaquist (80+4)

Referees: McLean (SCO) / **A:** Chladek (SVK); Hovhannisyann (ARM) /
O: Delferiere (BEL)

6 May 2011

Serbia – France 1-1 (1-1)

1-0 Nikola Mandić (39) 1-1 Soualiho Meite (40+1)

Attendance: 3,500 at City Stadium, Indjija; KO 15.00

Yellow cards: SRB: Dejan Meleg (35), Ognjen Popadić (46) /

FRA: Soualiho Meite (60), Raphaël Calvet (76), Aymeric Laporte (80)

Referees: Tritsonis (GRE) / **A:** Toth (HUN); Seskus (LTU) / **O:** Tohver (EST)

Denmark – England 2-0 (2-0)

1-0 Viktor Fischer (13) 2-0 Kenneth Zohore (21)

Attendance: 1,082 at Karadjordje Stadium, Novi Sad; KO 15.00

Yellow cards: DEN: Patrick Olsen (34), Riza Durmisi (80+4)

Referees: Delferiere (BEL) / **A:** Cabañero (ESP); Kruashvili (GEO) /

O: Ribeiro (POR)

9 May 2011

Denmark – France 1-0 (0-0)

1-0 Christian Nørgaard (65)

Attendance: 1,280 at Karadjordje Stadium, Novi Sad; KO 17.15

Yellow cards: DEN: Mads Aaquist (26), Derrick Ashoya (70)

Referees: Ribeiro (POR) / **A:** Kruashvili (GEO), Seskus (LTU) / **O:** McLean (SCO)

England – Serbia 3-0 (3-0)

1-0 Bradley Smith (7) 2-0 Hallam Hope (9) 3-0 Hallam Hope (18)

Attendance: 3,950 at City Stadium, Indjija; KO 17.15

Yellow cards: ENG: Bradley Smith (63), Jake Caskey (79) /

SRB: Nikola Ninković (50), Nikola Mandić (52), Lazar Marković (80+2)

Referees: Tohver (EST) / **A:** Cabañero (ESP), Kolev (BUL) / **O:** Liany (ISR)

GROUP STANDINGS

Pos.	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Denmark	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
2	England	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
3	France	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
4	Serbia	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

GROUP B

3 May 2011

Czech Republic – Romania 1-1 (0-0)

0-1 Fabian Himcinschi (52) 1-1 Nikolas Salasovic (77)

Attendance: 250 at FK Obilic Stadium, Belgrade; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: CZE: Patrik Kundratak (22), Lubos Adamec (64), Lukas Stratil (68), Ondrej Karafiat (73) / ROU: Bogdan Mitache (33), Fabian Himcinschi (52), Ionut Misu (57), Andrei Vastag (65)

Referees: Tohver (EST) / **A:** Seskus (LTU); Kruashvili (GEO) / **O:** Glodovic (SRB)

Germany – Netherlands 0-2 (0-0)

0-1 Karim Rekik (50) 0-2 Kyle Ebencilio (76)

Attendance: 1,009 at FK Smederevo Stadium, Smederevo; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: GER: Erich Berko (67)

Referees: Ribeiro (POR) / **A:** Cabañero (ESP); Toth (HUN) / **O:** Jovanetic (SRB)

6 May 2011

Germany – Czech Republic 1-1 (0-1)

0-1 Lukáš Juliš (12) 1-1 Samed Yesil (80)

Attendance: 881 at FK Smederevo Stadium, Smederevo; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: GER: Mitchell Weiser (48), Samed Yesil (58), Nico Perrey (79), Fabian Schnellhardt (80+3) / CZE: Lukas Zima (75)

Red card: CZE: Jan Sterba (74)

Referees: McLean (SCO) / **A:** Hovhannisyann (ARM); Çokaj (ALB) /
O: Glodovic (SRB)

Netherlands – Romania 1-0 (1-0)

1-0 Tonny Trindade (8)

Attendance: 913 at FK Obilic Stadium, Belgrade; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: ROM: Ioan Petresc (68), Darius Buia (75)

Referees: Liany (ISR) / **A:** Chladek (SVK); Kolev (BUL) / **O:** Jovanetic (SRB)

9 May 2011

Romania – Germany 0-1 (0-0)

0-1 Samed Yesil (42)

Attendance: 504 at FK Smederevo Stadium, Smederevo; KO 13.00

Yellow cards: ROU: Bogdan Tiru (22), Constantin Branesco (74), Eduard Schuller (80+5) / GER: Mitchell Weiser (41), Nico Perrey (62), Fabian Schnellhardt (65), Samed Yesil (74), Emre Can (78)

Referees: Tritsonis (GRE) / **A:** Çokaj (ALB), Toth (HUN) / **O:** Jovanetic (SRB)

Netherlands – Czech Republic 0-0

Attendance: 450 at FK Obilic Stadium, Belgrade; KO 13.00

Yellow card: None

Referees: Delferiere (BEL) / **A:** Chladek (SVK), Hovhannisyann (ARM) / **O:** Glodovic (SRB)

GROUP STANDINGS

Pos.	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Netherlands	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
2	Germany	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
3	Czech Republic	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
4	Romania	3	0	1	2	1	3	1



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SEMI-FINALS

12 May 2011

Netherlands - England 1-0 (1-0)

1-0 Kyle Ebecilio (26)

Attendance: 921 at Karadjordje Stadium, Novi Sad; KO 11.30

Yellow cards: NED: Karim Rekik (56), Daan Disveld (78)

Referees: Ribeiro (POR) / **A:** Toth (HUN), Kruashvili (GEO) / **O:** Tohver (EST)

Denmark – Germany 0-2 (0-0)

0-1 Kaan Ayhan (58) 0-2 Nils Quaschner (70)

Attendance: 2,638 at Karadjordje Stadium, Novi Sad; KO 16.30

Yellow cards: GER: Emre Can (25), Erich Berko (67), Koray Günter (80+2) / DEN: Riza Durmisi (48)

Red card: German coach Steffen Freund

Referees: McLean (SCO) / **A:** Cabañero (ESP), Chladek (SVK) / **O:** Delferiere (BEL)

FINAL

15 May 2011

Germany – Netherlands 2-5 (2-2)

1-0 Samed Yesil (8) 1-1 Tonny Trindade (23) 2-1 Okan Aydin (32)

2-2 Tonny Trindade (34) 2-3 Memphis Depay (43) 2-4 Terence Kongolo (53)

2-5 Kyle Ebecilio (77)

Germany: Odiseas Vlachodimos; Mitchell Weiser, Koray Günter, Nico Perrey (Patrick Wehrauch 73), Cimo Röcker (Jeremy Toljan 65); Robin Yalcin, Sven Mende (Erich Berko 57); Fabian Schnellhardt, Emre Can (capt.), Okan Aydin; Samed Yesil.

Netherlands: Boy de Jong; Daan Disveld (capt.), Terence Kongolo, Karim Rekik, Jetro Willems; Kyle Ebecilio, Yassine Ayoub; Memphis Depay (Danzell Gravenburch 71), Tonny Trindade de Vilhena, Nick de Bondt, Nathan Ake (64); Anass Achahbar.

Attendance: 4,261 at Karadjordje Stadium, Novi Sad; KO 11.00

Yellow cards: GER: Okan Aydin (33) / NED: Jetro Willems (36)

Referees: Tohver (EST) / **A:** Toth (HUN), Kruashvili (GEO) / **O:** Delferiere (BEL)

TOP SCORERS

Goals	Player	Country
3	Kyle EBECILIO	Netherlands
	Hallam HOPE	England
	Tonny TRINDADE	Netherlands
	Samed YESIL	Germany
2	Viktor FISCHER	Denmark
	Sébastien HALLER	France

FAIR PLAY RANKINGS

Pos.	Team	Score	Matches played
1	Netherlands	8.514	5
2	England	8.357	4
3	France	8.19	3
4	Serbia	7.833	3
5	Denmark	7.785	4
6	Czech Republic	7.523	3
7	Germany	7.257	5
8	Romania	7.238	3

MATCH OFFICIALS

Name	Country	Date of Birth	FIFA
Referees			
Sébastien DELFERIERE	Belgium	02.07.1981	2010
Liran LIANY	Israel	24.05.1977	2010
Steven McLEAN	Scotland	01.04.1981	2010
Artur RIBEIRO	Portugal	14.07.1979	2010
Kristo TOHVER	Estonia	11.06.1981	2010
Stavros TRITSONIS	Greece	30.11.1977	2010
Assistant Referees			
Raúl CABAÑERO	Spain	29.08.1981	2010
Peter CHLÁDEK	Slovakia	29.05.1978	2010
Ridiger ÇOKAJ	Albania	23.10.1984	2011
Zaven HOVHANNISYAN	Armenia	01.07.1980	2006
Ivo KOLEV	Bulgaria	25.06.1979	2010
Giorgi KRUSHVILI	Georgia	29.05.1986	2010
Arunas ŠEŠKUS	Lithuania	28.11.1979	2005
Vencel TÓTH	Hungary	24.03.1978	2008
Fourth Officials			
Vlado GLODOVIC	Serbia	08.11.1976	2010
Boško JOVANETIĆ	Serbia	30.08.1973	2008



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