

Final preparations



The UEFA 2010 Futsal European Championship Final Trophy arrived to Budapest, and along with UEFA we decided to help fuelling public interest by a „Trophy Tour” in Hungary. The attractive Trophy can be inspected first at weekends in one of Budapest’s most popular shopping malls, Aréna Pláza until the 20th of December. Debrecen, the other host city is preparing as well.



Until the Trophy arrives there, Debrecen Pláza - the main city mall - sets Futsal European Championship

stands up at the weekends to raise awareness among the Hungarian fans. They present short futsal films, offer flyers, and organize freestyle shows every hour. We are proud of the successful reception these actions already gained from the public.

UEFA have been coming on regular site-visits to the two host cities, and together we feel confident that all venues and facilities connected to the tournament are in perfect shape to welcome the teams and their fans in January!

We are looking forward
to meet You soon!



Márton Esterházy
Chairman
HUN Futsal Committee



Ferenc Ragadics
Member
UEFA Futsal Committee

Qualifying round

As there are only a month left to the Finals we would like to introduce the participant teams and their successful „Road to Hungary”. These teams qualified in exciting matches between 19-21 March 2009.



The results from the seven qualifying rounds are listed here. The seven group winners and the four best runners up advanced to the final stage.

Group 1	Pts	GF-GA
Ukraine	7	10-5
Romania	5	9-8
Netherlands	3	11-9
Andorra	1	6-14

Group 2	Pts	GF-GA
Spain	9	18-0
Slovakia	6	11-9
Kazakhstan	1	5-14
Moldova	1	2-13

Group 3	Pts	GF-GA
Czech Republic	7	9-6
Croatia	6	7-5
Latvia	3	2-4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1	6-9

Group 4	Pts	GF-GA
Italy	9	19-1
Belarus	6	8-3
Georgia	3	5-12
Lithuania	0	0-16

Group 5	Pts	GF-GA
Belgium	9	14-4
Serbia	6	11-8
Greece	1	5-11
F.Y.R. Macedonia	1	4-11

Group 6	Pts	GF-GA
Portugal	7	13-5
Azerbaijan	7	12-7
Finland	3	7-7
Poland	0	4-17

Group 7	Pts	GF-GA
Russia	9	11-1
Slovenia	6	10-5
Montenegro	3	8-18
France	0	6-11

Participants: Group A

The 12 teams are expected to perform a sharp competition for the substantial trophy during the tournament. We are intended to present a short introduction about these competing participants, and their latest results in the preparation period, starting in order with Group A, hosted by Budapest.



Azerbaijan qualified for the first time in UEFA Futsal Championship history, though the sport of mini-football, similar to futsal is popular in the country. Their experienced coach, Alesio - former Player of the Year in Spain (with Barcelona) – guides the team that qualified unbeaten from Group 6.

Qualification top scorers:

Thiago Rodrigues Paz (6 goals), Nilson Dos Santos, Sergio Luis (2-2 goals)

Coach: Alesio (Brazilian, 41)

Latest friendlies: -

Czech Republic is an experienced top class side, former Czechoslovakia were among the earliest nations to play futsal competitively. They earned their fifth qualification in row by winning Group 3, in 2003 they already managed to advance to the Semi-finals.

Qualification top scorers:

Martin Dlouhý (4 goals), Lukáš Rešetár (2 goals)

Coach: Tomáš Neumann (Czech, 39)

Latest friendlies: 4-4 vs. Netherlands (28/10/2009), 4-4 vs. Netherlands (27/10/2009)

Hungary qualified for the Group stage once, in 2005, but now the presence of domestic supporters can boost the team in critical moments for even bigger successes. Zoltán Balázs is a top-class goalkeeper while Zsolt Gyurcsányi and Tamás Lódi are the leading players in the Hungarian league.

Qualification top scorers: -

Coach: Mihály Kozma (Hungarian, 53)

Latest friendlies: 1-9 vs. Brazil (16/11/2009), 0-6 vs. Brazil (15/11/2009), 2-1 vs. Greece (29/10/2009), 3-1 vs. Greece (28/10/2009)

Participants: Group B

Group B - hosted by Debrecen – promises extremely close encounters.



Belgium is one of the longest-serving futsal nations, in 1996 at the first UEFA Futsal European Championship they even earned a Bronze Medal with the golden goal of their current coach, Benny Meurs. Belgium won qualification Group 5 in an impressive style thus arrives to the Finals after a seven-year exile with a great dash.

Qualification top scorers:

Karim Chaibai (6 goals), Karim Bachar, Marco Ferriani, Zico (2-2 goals)

Coach: Benny Meurs (Belgian, 45)

Latest friendlies: 2-1 vs. Slovenia (25/10/2009),

3-2 vs. Slovenia (24/10/2009)

Italy is an elite team in futsal as well. In 2003 they won the European Championship Finals as a hosting

team by beating Ukraine 1-0, in 1999 and 2005 they also managed to earn Bronze Medals. Numbers speak for themselves: they scored the most goals during the qualifications (19, an average of 6,3/match) while conceding only 1.

Qualification top scorers:

Clayton Baptistella (6 goals), Saad Assis, Edgar Bertoni, Marco Ercolessi, Assad Fabiano, Patrick Nora (2-2 goals)

Coach: Roberto Menichelli (Italian, 46)

Latest friendlies: 3-2 vs. Poland (18/11/2009),

2-0 vs. Poland (17/11/2009)

Ukraine had to fight hard for the qualification in Group 1, but finally they showed their skills as they did many times before. Ukraine is one of the hungriest teams for final success: they ended as Runners-up two times in Futsal European Championship history, in 2001 against Spain, and in 2003 against Italy.

Qualification top scorers:

Yevgen Rogachov (3 goals), Dmytro Ivanov, Mykhaylo Romanov (2-2 goals)

Coach: Gennadiy Lysenchuk (Ukrainian, 62)

Latest friendlies: 1-2 vs. Romania

(27/11/2009), 7-5 vs. Romania (26/11/2009)

(To be continued...)

First ticket purchased by local hero

Tickets for every UEFA Futsal Championship matches are available and can be purchased at www.futsaleurotickets.com since they went on sale on 16 November.



The **first customer** was truly a prominent one: Debrecen VSC striker hero **Gergely Rudolf** logged on right after sales launched to book his seat for the finals in January. Rudolf (24), capped ten times by Hungary and scorer of two goals in Debrecen's debut UEFA Champions League campaign this season, said:

"I like technical football and futsal is a sport where you really need those skills. I don't want to miss the EURO, especially as most of the games will be in Debrecen. It is a really exciting time

for the city with Debrecen playing in the UEFA Champions League and then, in January, the chance to see another major UEFA event live." Debrecen - already in a football-fever - will host Group B and Group D, as well as two Quarter-finals, the two Semi-finals, the Third-place match and the Final.

