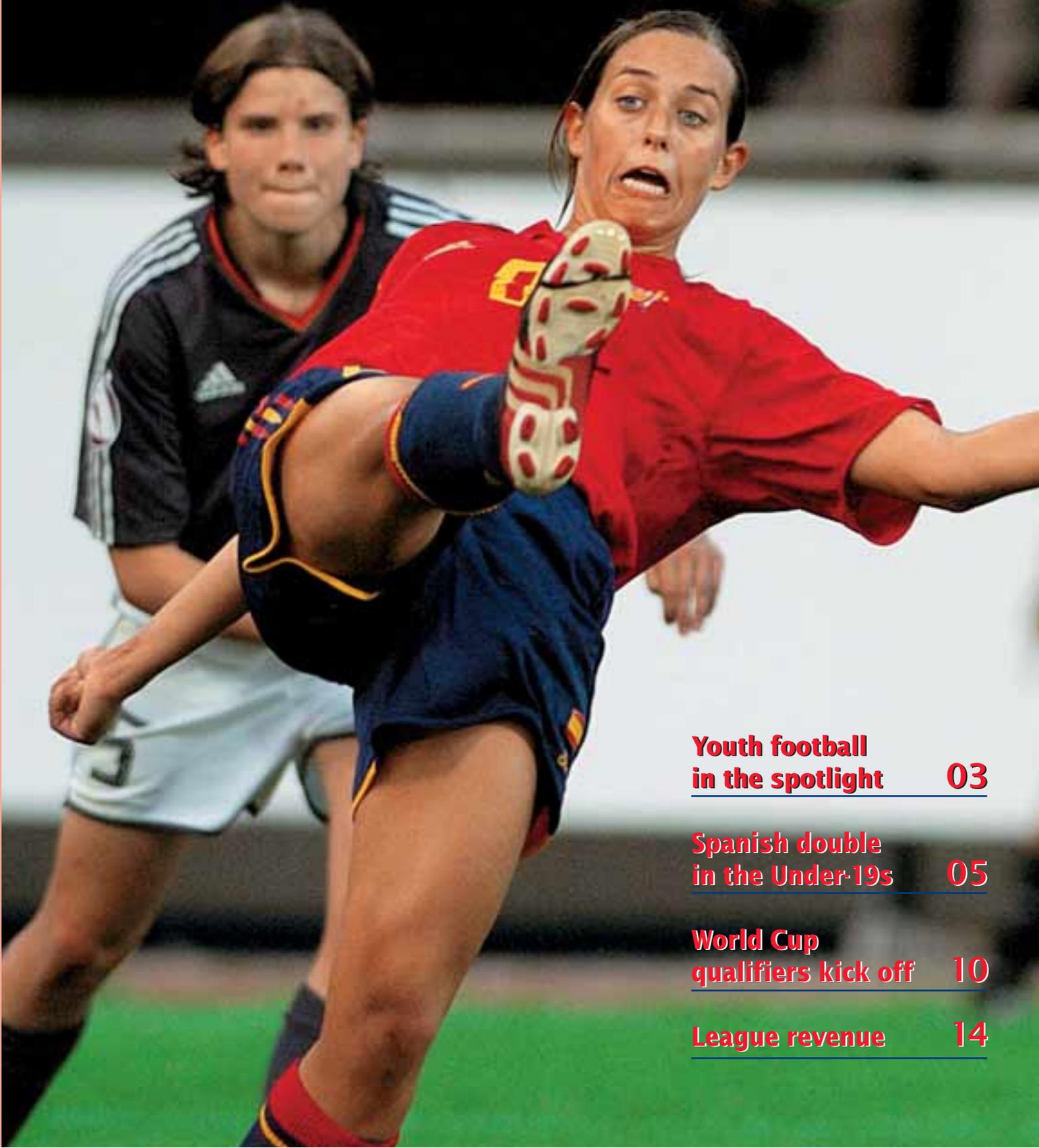


9.04

uefa**direct**



**Youth football
in the spotlight** **03**

**Spanish double
in the Under-19s** **05**

**World Cup
qualifiers kick off** **10**

League revenue **14**

COVER

Spain (Nuria) won their first European Women's Under-19 title within weeks of their male counterparts celebrating their third victory in the same category.

PHOTO: J. ESKOLA

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Editorial

A special moment

The history of football reflects predominantly the finals of the big competitions and the tournaments in which those competitions culminate, events which attract a far wider audience than just the supporters of the participating teams and stir up excitement in the world of football as a whole.

There is, however, another moment in the season when a different kind of shiver runs through the football world. It is the moment when the new season commences and when the teams get ready to embark on a new adventure which awakens all sorts of speculation and dreams, and when everyone can nurture the wildest of hopes. There is no doubt that it is a special time, even though it is often followed by a rapid and brutal return to reality.



As the new season gets under way, the way in which last season ended, both in the UEFA club competitions and EURO 2004, makes all those dreams all the more justifiable. If the favourites were knocked out last season, why not this year too? If the "underdogs" believe that anything is possible, they will have greater confidence in their ability and we will see other surprises, as we already did at the beginning of August when Spain beat favourites Germany in the final of the European Women's Under-19 Championship in Finland.

The competition organisers do not mind the surprises either; after all it keeps interest in their competitions alive.

However, this abundance of surprises also raises questions. What is it that is causing the long-established hierarchy to be challenged? Are the top players victims of a choked-up calendar which takes the wind out of their sails at the end of the season? Or are we seeing a gradual levelling out of the game? And if it is a question of the game becoming more even, is that because of the advances and quality of coaching throughout Europe, or is it furthered by the inter-mixing of players and the clubs losing their national identity?

We will have to take a serious look at all of these questions, and more besides, since they affect the future of our game.

But, for the time being, they do not stop us from savouring the first action of the new season!

Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive

The clubs involved in the qualifying rounds embarked on their UEFA campaigns in July/August already (SL Benfica - RSC Anderlecht).

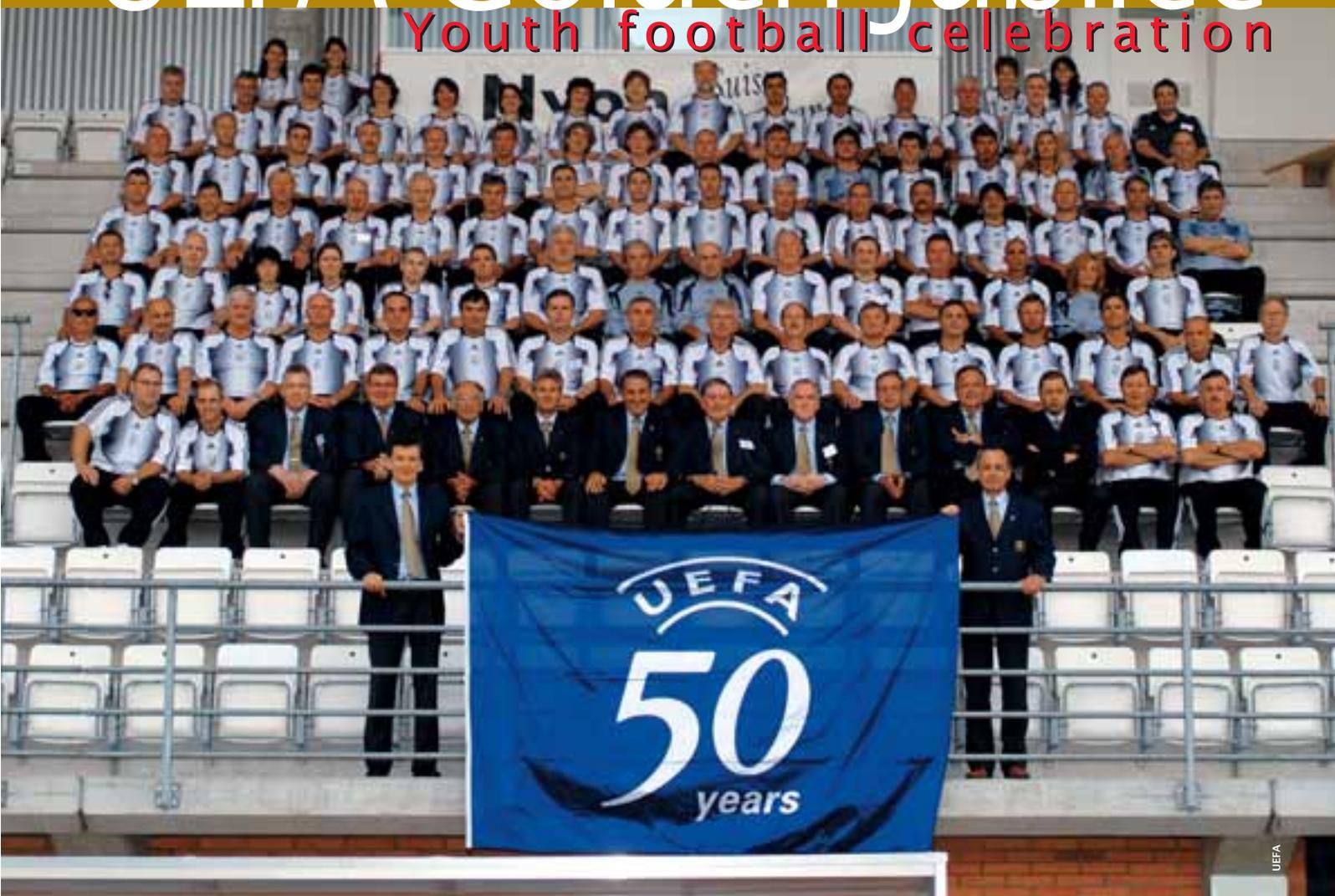
PHOTONEWS

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



UEFA Golden Jubilee

Youth football celebration



THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL WAS THE VENUE FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF YOUTH FOOTBALL ON 23 AND 24 JULY, AS UEFA COMBINED THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A LOOK INTO THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE YOUTH GAME ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

National youth coaches and experts from throughout Europe attended the conference organised by UEFA's Football Development Division under Technical Director Andy Roxburgh.

The seminar began on Friday 23 with a look back at the beginnings of youth football in Europe during the 1950s under the influence of Sir Stanley Rous, when matches were played as friendlies and at a time when the players did not even wear their own national team jerseys.

A history of youth football revealed the development of the youth game in Europe from the 1960s, which included talents such as Beckenbauer, Cruyff, Voronin and Facchetti, through the 1970s and the 1980s to the 1990s, when the French Under-18 team that won the 1996 European Under-18 Championship included stars such as Henry, Trezeguet, Gallas and Anelka, amongst others.

In the afternoon's session, after a break for a practical training session at Nyon's Colovray stadium and lunch, the participants listened

to a review of the current status of youth football in a presentation entitled "The Way We Are" by the Chairman of the UEFA Youth and Amateur Football Committee, Jim Boyce.

In examining youth football today, Boyce paid particular attention to the education today's young players are getting from experienced ex-players who have played at the highest level. Boyce said the combination of better education, further financial investment, closer cooperation between football and local authorities and improved conditions for training meant that today's players were showing an increased maturity at an earlier age. "Europe's youngest footballers are doing very well indeed," said Boyce. "Recent matches in Portugal (at EURO 2004) confirmed this - there



The seminar participants got some exercise as well.



The only goal in the Under-19 final.

were some very good examples of youth talents. There are also many more gifted young players available at this point in time to make sure that European football remains on top of the football pyramid."

Boyce also paid particular tribute to the work being undertaken by UEFA in the area of youth football. "UEFA's commitment and attitude to youth football are tremendous," he said. "Without that investment, we could not do what we are doing today."

The session on Friday finished with the seminar splitting into different language group workshops to tackle some of the most topical issues in youth football, including, reducing the number of youth tournaments back from the current under-17 and under-19 to a single under-18 competition only, seeing how to further develop Europe's youth talents and looking at what further areas could be improved upon to raise European youth football to a higher level.

Saturday commenced with feedback from Friday's working groups. All the working groups were unanimous in their view that UEFA should not revert back to one simple under-18 youth category tournament, as a way of streamlining the number of competitions and matches the youth are playing. The problem of the release of some players for the UEFA Under-19 competition by their clubs

was felt to be outweighed by the benefits of a proper organised tournament and the help that this tournament gave players in stepping up to under-21 level and then to the full national A team.

Many of the players who shone at EURO 2004 in Portugal, including Wayne Rooney of England, Johan Vonlanthen of Switzerland and Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal, are all the products of youth schemes and have been nurtured carefully.

In addition, the seminar asked UEFA to further expand its involvement in the youth area, with continuing financial support through the HatTrick programme, through further exchanges with other continents (e.g. Meridian Cup), via assistance in coach education through the UEFA Coaching Convention, and with a view to looking at a specialised youth coaching licence.

The main problem areas were seen to be the involvement of player agents and their way of handling young talent, the lack of facilities in some countries, and in particular, the difficulty for young players to break into club first teams as a result of the number of foreign players being recruited by the clubs in the post-Bosman era. This led to clear support for UEFA's recent proposal on some form of minimum number of home-

grown players per club being implemented. This would allow and encourage youth players to stay with their club and receive continuous and proper training from the club's youth coaching staff, enabling the player to mature, not only as a player on the pitch, but also mentally.

This was in line with the overall view expressed by the speakers at the seminar that youth is a precious talent to be developed and nurtured and not exploited. "All of us have a challenge to develop our young talents," said UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh. "The contributions to this can come from all sorts of sources – the clubs, coaches, parents, administrators. In 50 years, when UEFA comes to celebrate its centenary, let's hope that the football leaders of the time praise the officials, administrators and coaches of our generation as visionaries."

A short question and answer session held on Saturday with former players who had passed through their respective youth systems right to the top involved Sergei Aleinikov, Zvonimir Boban, Gabriel Calderon, Horst Hrubesch, Richard Bate and Michal Globisz.

Perhaps the words of Andy Roxburgh and his colleagues are already coming true. As the participants in the youth conference sat in the Colovray stadium in Nyon on Saturday evening, watching the final of the European Under-19 Championship between Spain and Turkey, it was a piece of individual skill in the 90th minute that unlocked the game as Spain's No. 8, Borja Valero, chipped the Turkish goalkeeper from the edge of the penalty area to score. Tomorrow's talents are already on their way.



PHOTOS: UEFA



France pose a threat in front of the Italian goal.



The UEFA president presents the trophy to Spain's captain, Iraia.

Under-19 Championships

Double for Spain



FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN'S COMPETITION IN 1997/98, THE EUROPEAN UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BOTH THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN WON BY THE SAME ASSOCIATION, SPAIN.

Against the odds, Spain beat favourites Germany 2-1 in the final of the European Women's Under-19 Championship played on 8 August in the Pohjola Stadium in Vantaa outside Helsinki and won their first title in the competition.

It was not the first time that Germany and Spain had met in the final. But in 2000, when the competition was still an under-18 championship, Germany were the stronger side and won the concluding match 4-2. In the 2001 competition, the two sides met again in the semi-finals, with Germany eliminating Spain 2-0. Since the competition has been classed as an under-19 event, Spain have always qualified for the final tournament, but were knocked out in the group stages in both 2002 and 2003.

Clear-cut affair in Group A

In the final round in Finland, Spain and Germany started the tournament in Group A, alongside Switzerland and the host nation. Both teams got off to a good start, with Germany beating Finland 4-0 and Spain defeating Switzerland 3-1. In their next matches, both secured 4-0 wins, Spain against Finland and Germany against Switzerland. So even before coming head to head in the last group match, both teams had already secured their place in the semi-finals. Spain did not field their first team, giving Germany free reign to win the match convincingly, which they did by a margin of 7-0. In their direct encounter, Switzerland

beat Finland 2-1 to finish third in the table. The host nation went out of the tournament by scoring their first and only goal in their last group match.

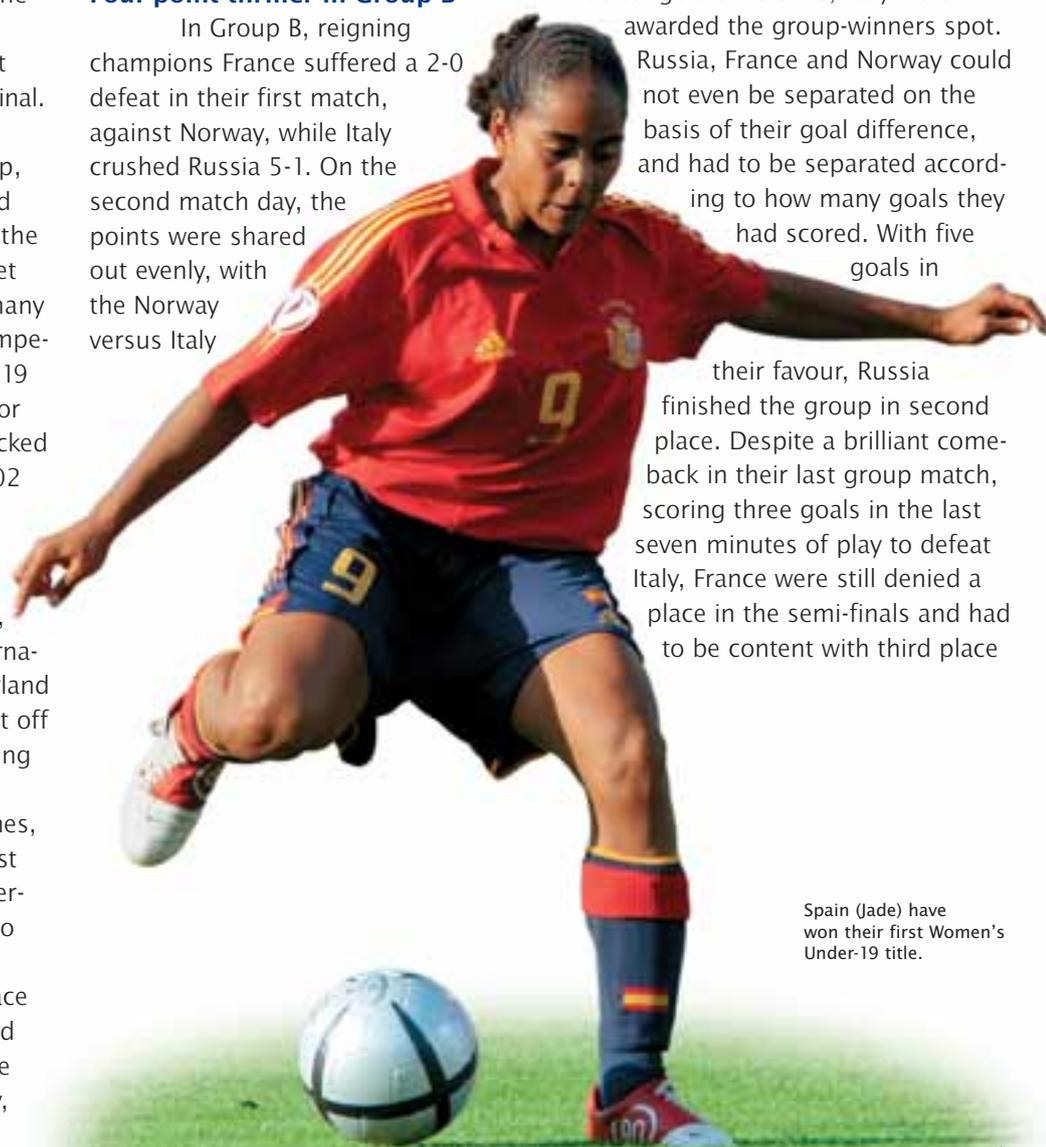
Four-point thriller in Group B

In Group B, reigning champions France suffered a 2-0 defeat in their first match, against Norway, while Italy crushed Russia 5-1. On the second match day, the points were shared out evenly, with the Norway versus Italy

match ending goalless and France and Russia drawing 1-1. Everything was therefore still to play for on the last match day, which ended with all four teams on four points. Thanks to their better goal difference, Italy were

awarded the group-winners spot. Russia, France and Norway could not even be separated on the basis of their goal difference, and had to be separated according to how many goals they had scored. With five goals in

their favour, Russia finished the group in second place. Despite a brilliant comeback in their last group match, scoring three goals in the last seven minutes of play to defeat Italy, France were still denied a place in the semi-finals and had to be content with third place



Spain (Jade) have won their first Women's Under-19 title.



An enthusiastic following, despite Finland's early departure.



Switzerland's Manuela Derungs confronts Finland's Essi Sainio (No. 7).



Volunteers, the cornerstone of the competition

Finland have taken part in the final round of the UEFA Women's Under-19 Championship for the first time, as host nation. The tournament venues were Hyvinkää, Hämeenlinna, Kauniainen, Loviisa and Vantaa. Once again, the local organisers, clubs and volunteers alike showed their strength and love of football. Roughly 800 people worked selflessly to secure the best possible facilities for Europe's best young women players.

Although Finland did not qualify for the semi-finals, the players gained a lot of experience – as did Finnish women's football. Competing with the seven top countries showed where the Finnish game is at, and where it should go in the future. Despite the hosts' exit after the group stage, the Finnish media followed the event widely. All three national TV channels were involved at some stage, and local and national press covered all of the tournament matches.

"This tournament was extremely important for Finnish women's football. Not only was it a great learning experience, but we also received an extra "kick" for the women's game. A big thanks for this goes to the organisers, who were proud to be hosts and made everything possible," said Jarmo Matikainen, coach of the Finnish team.

Sami Terävä

in the group. Norway, who put two goals past France in their only win of the tournament, brought up the rear in Group B.

Germany beat the records

The semi-finals were distinguished by Germany's 8-0 win against Russia, a record score in the knockout stages of any UEFA final round. At the same time, they broke another record, by scoring 24 goals in five matches and scoring more goals than any other national team in any UEFA final round, men's and women's competitions alike.

German players also topped the goal-scoring table, led by striker Anja Mittag (six goals), followed by her teammates Annike Krahn (defender) and Simone Laudehr (striker), with four goals apiece.

Adverse weather conditions

The organisers, and in particular those responsible for the upkeep of the fields, had their work cut out during the group-match stage, when it rained non-stop. But thanks to the

tireless and professional efforts of the groundsmen, who were sometimes already hard at work at four in the morning, the fields were always fit for play.

The field in Loviisa had already been a cause for concern before the tournament even got under way. The home club barely played there, let alone used it for



Norway's Ruud Reksten (No. 20) challenges Russia's Liubov Bukashkina.

Date	Venue	Match	Result
Group A			
28.07.04	Loviisa	Spain – Switzerland	3-1
28.07.04	Hyvinkää	Finland – Germany	0-4
30.07.04	Kauniainen	Finland – Spain	0-4
30.07.04	Kauniainen	Germany – Switzerland	4-0
02.08.04	Loviisa	Switzerland – Finland	2-1
02.08.04	Hyvinkää	Germany – Spain	7-0
Group B			
28.07.04	Hyvinkää	Norway – France	2-0
28.07.04	Loviisa	Italy – Russia	5-1
30.07.04	Hämeenlinna	Norway – Italy	0-0
30.07.04	Hämeenlinna	France – Russia	1-1
02.08.04	Loviisa	Russia – Norway	3-0
02.08.04	Hyvinkää	France – Italy	3-2
Semi-finals			
05.08.04	Hämeenlinna	Germany – Russia	8-0
05.08.04	Hämeenlinna	Italy – Spain	0-1
Final			
08.08.04	Vantaa	Germany – Spain	1-2



A close men's semi-final between Ukraine and Spain.



Italy and Switzerland could only manage a draw.

training, to ensure that the grass was in as good a condition as possible for the tournament at the end of July. The ground in Vantaa had been in an even worse state, after it had been treated in spring with herbicide instead of fertiliser, killing much of the grass. But when the final kicked off on 8 August, not even the keenest eye could have detected any remaining trace of this mishap.

With heart and soul

Hosts Finland did themselves proud in organising the final round of

the 3rd European Women's Under-19 Championship, which ran from 28 July to 8 August, proving to be extremely capable, professional and committed hosts. The teams were more than happy with the organisation of the matches, training possibilities, accommodation and care.

The tournament also attracted a good following from the public, with 2,600 spectators attending the final, as well as close coverage on TV and in the press.

This European championship also determined which four nations would take part in the FIFA Under-19 Women's World Championship in Thailand from 10 to 27 November. That honour is reserved for the four semi-finalists, i.e. Spain, Germany, Italy and Russia, who have been drawn into the following groups:

A: Thailand, Germany, Australia, Canada

B: African representative, People's Republic of China, Italy, Brazil

C: Republic of Korea, USA, Russia, Spain

So the European champions find themselves in the same group as the USA, reigning world champions.

A last minute victory

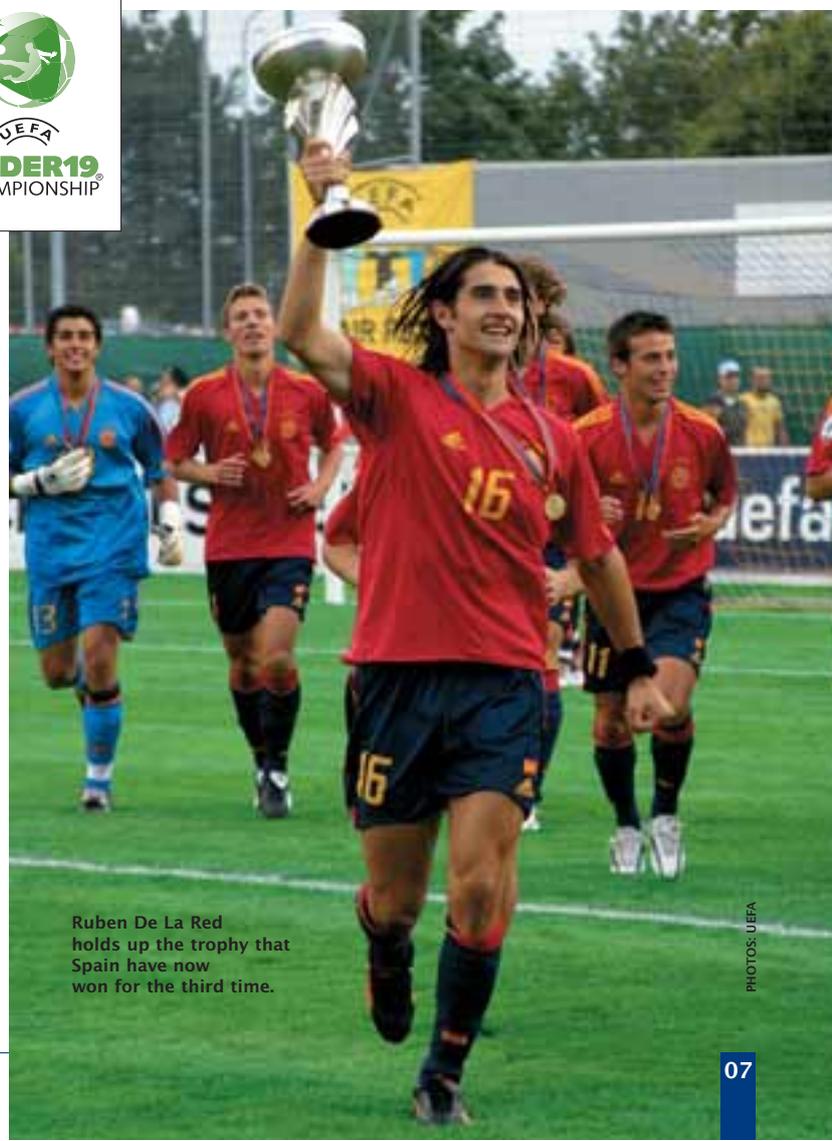
AFTER THE EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP AND EURO 2004, THE EUROPEAN UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP COMPLETED A BUSY SUMMER OF INTERNATIONAL MEN'S TOURNAMENTS.

The third edition of the Under-19 Championship was held in Switzerland from 13 to 24 July and saw the Spanish team defeat Turkey in the final, thanks to a goal scored in the final moments of the match.

Several nations that had become accustomed to participating in the major youth competitions were absent on this occasion. These included France, who recently won the Under-17 title, Portugal and England. Conversely, other countries are emerging onto the scene, including Ukraine, Turkey and Switzerland, who all did surprisingly well alongside Spain. Below is an account of this eight-team Under-19 final tournament.

Group A : the Swiss at the top

The Swiss hosts were drawn in Group A, battling with Ukraine, Italy and Belgium for a place in the semi-finals. The Swiss team, comprising players who had won the European Under-17 Championship in 2002, began the tournament well with a solid performance against Italy in the opening match (1-1). Pierre-André Schürmann's youngsters then bagged three points with a 2-0 win over Belgium, followed by a draw against Ukraine, which secured top spot in the group. However, in the semi-final against Turkey, Switzerland were too ambitious and lost 3-2 after extra time despite the support of an enthusiastic



Ruben De La Red holds up the trophy that Spain have now won for the third time.

PHOTOS: UEFA



Swiss supporters at the semi-final at the St Léonard Stadium in Fribourg.



crowd. Nevertheless, the Swiss demonstrated enough solidarity and team spirit throughout the competition to suggest that they have a promising future ahead of them.

Ukraine were another surprise packet of the tournament. They did not concede a single goal in the group phase. By drawing with Switzerland (0-0) in their third game, they kept the Italians at bay and booked their ticket for the semi-finals, where they faced Spain. However, against the Spaniards, Pavlo Yakovenko's men were harshly defeated on penalty kicks (1-4), following an extremely high-tempo encounter.

Meanwhile, Italy, the title-holders and the only one of the eight teams to have participated in the 2003 final tournament, were understandably the favourites this

time round. However, they fell into the Ukrainian trap, losing 1-0 in their second group match, which deprived them of a semi-final place despite a 4-0 win over Belgium in their final game.

For the Belgians, even though they finished bottom of Group A, this tournament was a great experience, providing the launching pad for the international careers of the men coached by Marc Van Geersom, who was optimistic about the future.

Spanish supremacy in Group B

For their part, José Armando Ufarte's Spanish team contained the best individual players. Spain scored 13 goals during this final round, more than any of their rivals. However, although they secured first place in their group with some

degree of comfort, the semi-final and final were both hotly contested encounters.

Against the Ukrainians, José Armando Ufarte's team had to endure extra time and penalties before coming out on top. The final against Turkey was a defensive affair, with neither team willing to give their opponents the slightest goal-scoring chance. The Spanish showed patience and great tenacity, which was rewarded with a magnificent goal scored right at the end of the match, in the third minute of added time. Spain thus recorded another tournament victory and demonstrated that they remain a force to be reckoned with in European youth football.

The Turkish team were particularly disappointed following their defeat in the final against Spain because they had already lost to the Spaniards in the group phase, when they had also conceded in the third minute of added time. Gündüz' men could nevertheless be proud of their overall performance. Reaching the final of such a fiercely contested tournament is no mean feat. Turkey's young players are improving, with the Under-17s involved in the 2004 final tournament in France. Turkey has also qualified for the 2005 Meridian Cup, which it will host.

Poland, meanwhile, finished bottom of Group B. However, they only lost 4-3 to Turkey in their opening match, which shows once again that no games were easy. However, Andrzej Zamilski was pleased: "We have done some excellent work with the youngsters over the past two years. I hope that we will soon see many of these players in the senior team."

With four points from the group phase, the Germans had the Group B runners-up spot snatched away from them by Turkey, who had a better goal difference. However,

Fair play prizes for Germany and Italy

The UEFA youth competitions award fair play prizes to remind the participants of the importance of playing correctly, in a sporting manner, and respecting the Laws of the Game, the opposition and the referees.

In the European Women's Under-19 Championship, the fair play prize went to Germany, who earned themselves 8.428 fair play points, ahead of Spain (8.214) and France (8.071).

In the men's competition, Italy were the fair play winners, topping the table on 8.547 points, ahead of Poland (8.476) and Switzerland (8.196).





No luck for Turkey's Burak Yilmaz in the final against Spain.



A powerful spring by Germany's Marvin-Job Matip in the match against Spain.

PHOTOS: UEFA

Dieter Eilts' men achieved their objective, since they were aiming for third place at least, which assured them of a place in the FIFA World Youth Championship to be held in the Netherlands from 10 June to 2 July 2005.

Six places in the Netherlands were up for grabs, allocated to the top three in each group. The European representatives in that tournament will therefore be Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine, along with the Netherlands, who qualify automatically as hosts.

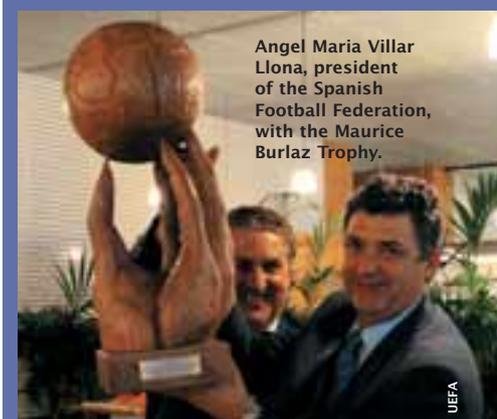
Large crowd

This tournament was very successful in more than one respect, with the matches attracting good crowds. The organisers had hoped that attendances would average 2,000 per match. A total of 43,170 spectators watched the games, with a top crowd of 9,800 for the semi-final between Switzerland and Turkey in Fribourg. An average of 2,878 per match was therefore achieved.

Finally, from a sporting point of view, the players displayed a high level of football. Although they still have a lot to learn in terms of tactics, from a technical point of view they are on a par with their senior international counterparts. There is no doubt that several of the players who took part in this Under-19 Championship will be given the opportunity to play at a higher level in the near future, maybe even returning to Switzerland in 2008 for the next senior European Championship.

Maurice Burlaz Trophy for Spain

Since 1990, UEFA has presented a trophy to the national association which has achieved the best results in the previous two seasons' men's youth competitions (Under-19s and Under-17s). The Maurice Burlaz Trophy is named in recognition of the tremendous work carried out in the youth sector by this former vice-chairman of the UEFA Youth Football Committee.



Angel Maria Villar Llona, president of the Spanish Football Federation, with the Maurice Burlaz Trophy.

The trophy for the 2002/03 and 2003/04 season has just been awarded to Spain, who finished one point ahead of Portugal in the corresponding rankings, followed by Austria in third place, and England and Italy in fourth place. The rankings are compiled on the basis of points given to the teams which take part in the final rounds in question, with the championship winners rewarded with eight points in each case.

Spain are used to displaying this trophy in their cabinet, having previously won it in 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2002.

Date	Venue	Match	Result
Group A			
13.07.04	Kriens	Belgium - Ukraine	0-0
13.07.04	Aarau	Switzerland - Italy	1-1
15.07.04	Kriens	Italy - Ukraine	0-1
15.07.04	Aarau	Switzerland - Belgium	2-0
18.07.04	Kriens	Ukraine - Switzerland	0-0
18.07.04	Aarau	Italy - Belgium	4-0
Group B			
13.07.04	Fribourg	Germany - Spain	0-3
13.07.04	Lausanne	Poland - Turkey	3-4
15.07.04	Fribourg	Germany - Poland	3-1
15.07.04	Lausanne	Spain - Turkey	3-2
18.07.04	Fribourg	Turkey - Germany	1-1
18.07.04	Lausanne	Spain - Poland	4-1
Semi-finals			
21.07.04	Fribourg	Switzerland - Turkey	2-3 *
21.07.04	Lausanne	Spain - Ukraine	2-2 **
Final			
24.07.04	Nyon	Turkey - Spain	0-1

* after extra time ** after penalty kicks

Raymond Domenech: A fresh start for France.



Marco van Basten: Let the spectacle commence!

PRO SHOTS / S. KONTHA



Jürgen Klinsmann: Two years in which to prepare Germany for the place to which it aspires.

WITTERS

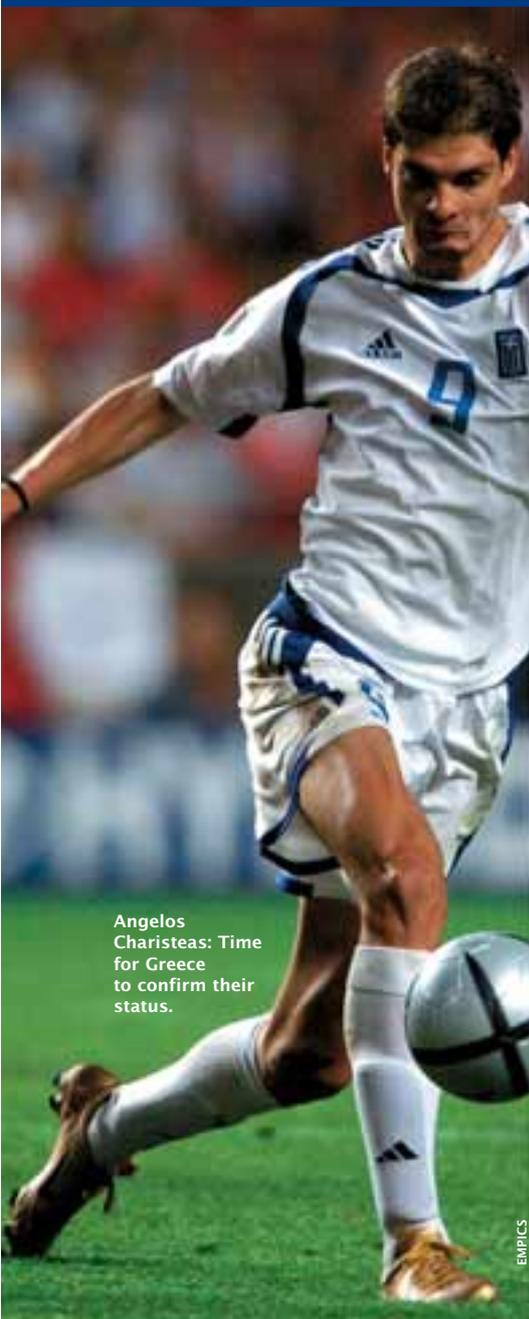


AFP/HERTZOG

2006 World Cup

Thirteen tickets for Germany

EURO 2004 TURNED WHAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE A WELL-ESTABLISHED HIERARCHY ON ITS HEAD. MEDIOCRE PERFORMANCES BY SEVERAL OF THE FAVOURITES LED NOT ONLY TO THE RESIGNATION OF THEIR COACHES, BUT ALSO TO A DISCUSSION OF HOW TO PROTECT THE DEVELOPMENT AND THUS THE FUTURE OF THEIR NATIONAL TEAMS.



Angelos Charisteas: Time for Greece to confirm their status.

EMPICS

Although this debate is also a matter of concern for UEFA, in the shorter term the game must go on. The stakes are enormous: a place at the 2006 World Cup. Of UEFA's 52 member associations, only Germany (now coached by Jürgen Klinsmann in place of Rudi Völler), who qualify automatically as hosts, are sure of their place in the finals. The other 51 will battle it out for the 13 available places. The eight group winners and the two best second-placed sides will qualify directly for the finals. The other six runners-up will face each other in a play-off round. Mind your backs!

Group 1: We'll meet again...

Despite steering his team to the semi-finals in Portugal, Dutch coach Dick Advocaat resigned. The job of renewing the team (Overmars, Stam and de Boer have retired) has been entrusted to Marco van Basten, one of the world's most elegant strikers in his day, but with little coaching experience. The "Heron" has promised entertaining football and has called up some ten novices for the friendly against Sweden on 18 August.

The Netherlands will again face the Czech Republic, who finished

ahead of them in the qualifying round for EURO 2004 and then beat them in the finals. In 2000, on the other hand, the Czechs were beaten by the Dutch. The battle between the two European Championship semi-finalists should not, however, overshadow Romania's chances. Finland and FYR Macedonia will also be trying to cause a surprise.

Group 2: Champions seek confirmation

Europe was astounded by the Greeks' defensive solidity, team-work, mental toughness and technical ability on the counter-attack. As unexpected European champions, Greece must now prove they are worthy of their title. And it will not be an easy task. Denmark, for example, the surprise winners of EURO 92, failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup. Ironically, the Scandinavian side, quarter-finalists in Portugal, stand in the way of the EURO 2004 victors. They are joined by Turkey, who finished third in the last World Cup and will be keen to forget their failure to reach EURO 2004, and Ukraine, who will be desperate to reach the final round of a major tournament for the first time in their history. This group also includes Kazakhstan, whose senior team will be participating for the first time in an official UEFA competition.



Marcello Lippi: Talented youngsters with whom to build a new team.

EMPICS



Hristo Stoichkov: A strong character to lead Bulgaria.

EMPICS



Luis Aragones: Experience for a competitive team.

EMPICS

Group 3: Three EURO participants

Finalists on home soil at EURO 2004, Portugal will be favourites to win this group, which features two other teams that reached the European Championship finals. The inconsistent Russians are not short of talented young players and, despite being eliminated in the first round, were the only team to beat Greece in Portugal. Latvia gave a good account of themselves, but the high average age of their squad suggests that they might struggle to remain at the highest level. Slovakia also lie in wait.

Group 4: French revival

Under Raymond Domenech, long-standing coach of the Under-21 team, France are hoping to begin a new era following their disappointing performances at the 2002 World Cup and EURO 2004. They have to find successors for Zidane, Desailly, Thuram and Lizarazu, who have all announced their retirement from the national team.

Clear group favourites, the French will nevertheless need to be careful of the Swiss, who caused them problems in Portugal, and the Republic of Ireland. The Irish were beaten twice by Switzerland in the qualifying competition for EURO 2004. Israel, cleared to play on home territory again, will be trying to throw a spanner in the works.

Group 5: Italy the favourites

Despite clocking up five points in their group, Italy failed to reach the quarter-finals in Portugal – a first in the competition’s history! Let down by their stars Del Piero, Totti and Vieri, the “Squadra Azzurra” is now coached by Marcello Lippi. The former Juventus coach will be able to call on some high-quality young players, as demonstrated by the Italians’ success at the European Under-21 Championship. While Italy are the favourites, the fight for second place is likely to be closely

fought, with Norway, Scotland and Slovenia all involved. Even Belarus or Moldova might cause an upset or two.

Group 6: A British affair?

Three of the five British associations have been drawn in this group, with England starting as favourites. Despite being knocked out in the quarter-finals, they made a positive impression in Portugal, where young striker Wayne Rooney was one of the revelations of the tournament. Wales, who narrowly missed out on a place in the finals, should be a tough opponent, probably more so than Northern Ireland, who are having enormous problems scoring goals. The group is completed by Poland, who reached the last World Cup finals, and Austria, who will be hoping to play at the highest level again before co-hosting EURO 2008.

Group 7: Spain in pole position

A certain defensive frailty, over-ambition in front of their opponents’ goal and the lack of form of their most talented player, Raul, cost Spain their place in the EURO 2004 quarter-finals and Inaki Saez his job as national coach. His successor, Luis Aragones, the elder statesman of Spanish coaches (aged 66), will

nevertheless be able to select a decent team. Belgium, who did not make it to Portugal, will be the Spaniards’ main challengers, having qualified for six consecutive World Cups. Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina will also harbour their own legitimate ambitions.

Group 8: Three-way battle

Three teams in this group qualified for Portugal. Of these, quarter-finalists Sweden appear to have the best chance. Despite the departure of Tommy Söderberg (who will coach the Under-21s), continuity will be provided by his fellow joint coach, Lars Lagerbäck. Bulgaria was the only team to fail to win a point at EURO 2004. Hristo Stoichkov, the best Bulgarian player of all time and successor of Plamen Markov as national team coach, will have the difficult task of controlling a group of players who are not lacking in talent. The unpredictable Croatians also have a new coach, with Zlatko Kranjcar replacing Otto Baric. Up against this trio, Hungary, under the leadership of Lothar Matthäus, will be hoping for a return to their glory days of old.

Emanuele Saraceno



Portugal (Cristiano Ronaldo, in red) and England (Owen Hargreaves) should play an interesting role in this competition as well.

EMPICS



Keeping tabs on yellow cards

Onus on the clubs

IN THE UEFA COMPETITIONS, IT IS THE PLAYERS, ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS THEMSELVES

WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING THE YELLOW-CARD SITUATION AND KNOWING UEFA'S SUSPENSION RULES, AS THE FOLLOWING DECISION OF THE UEFA APPEALS BODY CONFIRMS.

In the UEFA Futsal Cup, a player received a first caution in a match played on 13 October 2002, followed by a second in a match played on 19 March 2003.

According to the competition regulations (par. 18.02): *"In the case of repeated cautions in different matches, the offending player is suspended for one match in the same competition as from the second and fourth caution, as well as following any subsequent caution."*

Victory for the opposing team

The UEFA administration duly notified the club of the player's suspension, yet he still played in a UEFA Futsal Cup match on 24 March 2003, which his team won 11-3.

On 27 March 2003, the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body decided to award the match to the opposing team by default (3-0). The penalised club appealed against this decision, claiming that notification of the suspension had been sent to the club's offices in Spain while its team and administrative staff were in Belgium taking part in the tournament in question, and that none of the UEFA delegates in Belgium had told the club officials about the suspension. The club also referred to paragraph 18.03 of the competition regulations, which authorises the Control and Disciplinary Body to

cancel a yellow card on completion of a qualifying round.

On 3 April 2003, the UEFA Appeals Body rejected the appeal on the following grounds:

a) According to article 52 of the UEFA Statutes and article 8 of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations: *"Disciplinary measures may be imposed for unsportsmanlike conduct, violations of the Laws of the Game, and contravention of UEFA's Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives..."* Moreover, the rule regarding yellow-card suspensions is clearly set down in paragraph 18.02 of the competition regulations.

b) In the case in hand, the Appeals Body had no reason to question the legal conclusions of the Control and Disciplinary Body. There was no doubt that the player in question had received his second yellow card of the competition in the match played on 19 March 2003. The following day, UEFA sent notification of the player's

suspension by fax to the club's offices and its national association.

The wording of article

18.02 is crystal clear: a player who is cautioned twice in different matches in the same competition is automatically suspended for one match in the same competition.

The fact that there was no one in the club's offices when UEFA's notification arrived is irrelevant: the club and the player are still responsible for keeping a record of the number of yellow cards issued and realising when a player is automatically suspended. In this respect, the disciplinary lists provided by UEFA from time to time – at a club's request – amount to an additional service and have only a declarative value. The appellant cannot therefore exploit this service in its defence.

Furthermore, the appellant's argument that it can be deduced from article 18.03 that yellow cards may be cancelled is completely aleatory.



It is obvious that it is only a possibility and, what is more, the Control and Disciplinary Body never authorised the cancellation of a yellow card. Consequently, the club was punishable for fielding a suspended player.

Appropriate or not?

On this basis, the only question that needs to be examined is that of whether the Control and Disciplinary Body abused its discretionary power by deciding to award the match by default, or whether the punishment was appropriate.

Article 17 of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations stipulates that: *“The disciplinary bodies determine the type and extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed, according to the objective and subjective elements, under consideration of incriminating and exonerating factors.”* Moreover, according to general legal principles, the disciplinary sanction must be fixed in accordance with the degree of fault and the reputation of the party concerned. And apart from its repressive aspect, the sanction must also serve as a preventive and educational measure.

The appellant claimed that the decision was inappropriate and the club representatives also claimed that the involvement of the suspended player had no impact on the result of the match, given that their team was by far the better side.

The case enquiry concluded that the appellant was a highly reputed and professional club belonging to one of the major Futsal leagues in Europe. It also concluded that the appellant had made its

own interpretation of the rules, which resulted in its officials allowing the player to take part in the match. In doing so, the officials were guilty of gross culpable negligence at the very least. They could easily have clarified the disciplinary situation of their team and their own interpretation regarding the cancellation of yellow cards by contacting UEFA before the tournament in Belgium. By failing to do so, the officials of the club in question contributed to the irregularity of the match. It has long been the practice of the UEFA disciplinary bodies to award a match by default for the fielding of an ineligible or suspended player. It goes without saying that matches should be decided on the field of play and not in the courtroom, but if a competition is to run smoothly, the rules regarding player eligibility have to be strictly applied. One of the basic principles

of sport, and of football in particular, is that a team must be able to have total faith in the eligibility of the players of the opposing team.

Consequently, the Appeals Body decided that it was appropriate to award the match by default, bearing in mind the particular circumstances of the case, i.e. the irregularity of the match in question, caused by gross culpable negligence on the part of one of the participating clubs. The sanction ensures that sporting equity is restored. Therefore, the Control and Disciplinary Body did not abuse or exceed its discretionary power; on the contrary, its decision respected the principles of legality and proportionality. The disciplinary sanction imposed also serves the objectives of inducing the club to mend its ways and not to make the same mistake again.





Youth football is also a winner, since it receives some of the revenue from the UEFA Champions League.

UEFA Champions League

Leagues' share

ONE ADVANTAGE OF THE CENTRALISED MARKETING OF TV AND COMMERCIAL RIGHTS IS THAT REVENUE FROM A COMPETITION CAN BE REDISTRIBUTED ON A GREATER SCALE THAN JUST TO THE PARTICIPANTS.

This principle is applied in the UEFA Champions League, where income from the sale of television and commercial rights is redistributed for the benefit of European football as a whole.

Naturally, the participating clubs receive the majority of the funds: they have already been allocated CHF 631 million from the 2003/04 competition (cf. *uefadirect* No. 27, July 2004). The national associations and other clubs that took part in the European competitions also benefited from the distribution of income.

The leagues also benefit and, in accordance with the regulations, are split into two categories:

- those represented by one or more clubs in the UEFA Champions League (see table I); and
- those which are not represented (table II).

In both cases, the amount allocated varies according to the value

of the national market, with a minimum payment of CHF 272,700.

This payment is also dependent on certain conditions:

- only clubs which did not participate in the UEFA Champions League (apart from the qualifying phase) are taken into account when the league distributes the funds;
- the clubs should have their own youth training programme. From this year onwards, the final recipients of these funds must be clubs which, at the very least, operate an approved youth training programme in accordance with the relevant UEFA-approved national club licensing manual.

It is up to the leagues to decide whether the funds should be distributed to all league clubs which meet the aforementioned conditions or whether they should only be distributed to those in the top division. The leagues can also decide – and inform UEFA – whether the money should be distributed equally between the clubs or in accordance with the quality of their youth training programmes.

Finally, the national associations which do not have their own league distribute the funds themselves to their top clubs in accordance with the same criteria.

UEFA has paid around CHF 226 million to the leagues over the past four seasons (1999/2000 to 2002/03).

Over the first four years in which these solidarity payments have been made, several hundred professional clubs and their young players from all over Europe have benefited



I. Amounts to the leagues with participants

England	CHF 9,561,000
Spain	CHF 5,253,000
Italy	CHF 4,854,000
France	CHF 4,582,000
Germany	CHF 4,023,000
Netherlands	CHF 2,164,000
Scotland	CHF 1,782,000
Greece	CHF 1,655,000
Turkey	CHF 1,320,000
Belgium	CHF 1,096,000
Portugal	CHF 1,039,000
Russia	CHF 911,000
Ukraine	CHF 780,000
Serbia & Montenegro	CHF 743,000
Czech Republic	CHF 737,000
Total	CHF 40,500,000

II. Amounts to the leagues without participants

Denmark	CHF 671,400
Norway	CHF 550,600
Poland	CHF 474,100
Switzerland	CHF 440,700
Austria	CHF 421,700
Sweden	CHF 409,600
Republic of Ireland	CHF 357,300
Israel	CHF 333,100
Hungary	CHF 333,100
Finland	CHF 326,700
Romania	CHF 317,000
Cyprus	CHF 309,800
Croatia	CHF 300,900
Bulgaria	CHF 288,800
Slovakia	CHF 287,200
Albania	CHF 284,800
Bosnia & Herzegovina	CHF 282,800
Georgia	CHF 282,800
Malta	CHF 282,000
Slovenia	CHF 280,800
Iceland	CHF 279,900
FYR Macedonia	CHF 278,700
Belarus	CHF 276,700
Lithuania	CHF 273,100
Estonia	CHF 273,100
Latvia	CHF 273,100
Kazakhstan	CHF 273,100
Moldova	CHF 272,700
Armenia	CHF 272,700
Northern Ireland	CHF 272,700
Wales	CHF 272,700
Faroe Islands	CHF 272,700
Luxembourg	CHF 272,700
Azerbaijan	CHF 272,700
Liechtenstein	CHF 272,700
Andorra	CHF 272,700
San Marino	CHF 272,700
TOTAL	CHF 11,889,900



The Futsal Cup draw in Nyon.

UEFA/ARAY



Report from Brussels

Although the new Treaty will not come into force until 2006 at the earliest, the European Commission has already begun thinking about how Article 182 might function in practice.

Article 182 will create a new Council of EU Sports Ministers. Although the Council will not meet formally until 2006, the Commission is already preparing a 'rolling agenda' for these ministerial meetings. UEFA has seen the first draft of this agenda, which includes the following issues:

- financial management of professional clubs;
- public (state) aid to professional sport;
- fight against doping;
- supporting educational systems in professional clubs;
- bridging the gap between big and small sporting countries;
- major sports events: competition or coordination?
- sport and the new media: the need for balance;
- sport as an instrument to promote a healthy lifestyle.

At this stage, it is extremely difficult to predict what sort of measures the EU might try to introduce. UEFA must follow the new political debates very closely over the coming months, and, where necessary, influence them.

The arrival of Article 182 is an important moment for UEFA. Thanks to the good work of the Executive Committee and the Administration, as well as our cooperation with the IOC and other sports federations, we have achieved a satisfactory result so far.

We must now focus our attention on the new political debate that will emerge, and ensure that our interests are well served inside all the institutions of the EU, above all the European Commission, the European Parliament and member state governments.

Competitions and other activities

Second stage of the Women's Cup

THE FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND IN THE 4TH UEFA WOMEN'S CUP TOOK PLACE AT THE END OF JULY, TAKING NINE TEAMS THROUGH TO THE SECOND ROUND, WHERE THEY WILL BE JOINED BY ANOTHER EIGHT.



The second qualifying round will be played in the form of mini-tournaments organised between 13 and 19 September in the following groups:

Group 1: Umea IK (Sweden), ZFK Masinac-Classic Nis (Serbia and Montenegro), ZNK Krka Novo Mesto (Slovenia), FC Bobruichanka (Belarus).

Group 2: Djurgardens/Älvsjö (Sweden), Arsenal LFC (England), AE Aegina (Greece), Athletic Club (Spain).

Group 3: 1.FFC Turbine Potsdam (Germany), Torres Terra Sarda (Italy), Montpellier HSC (France), AZS Wroclaw (Poland).

Group 4: SK Trondheim-Ørn (Norway), Brøndby IF (Denmark), Alma KTZH (Kazakhstan), FC Energy Voronezh (Russia).

The tournaments are being hosted in Serbia and Montenegro, Sweden, Germany and Denmark respectively.

The group winners and runners-up will then contest the quarter-finals in October/November.

UEFA Futsal Cup

The draw for the 4th UEFA Futsal Cup was made in Nyon in early July.



The first matches in the competition will take place in September, when England plays hosts to a mini-tournament involving

Sheffield Hallam (England), SK Tirana (Albania) and MAG Varna (Bulgaria). The winners and runners-up from that tournament go through to the first

Reception in Bern

To mark FIFA's centenary and UEFA's golden jubilee, the Swiss authorities hosted a special dinner for representatives of these two sports organisations, based in Zurich and Nyon respectively.

On 7 August, federal councillor Samuel Schmid, responsible for the sports department, welcomed a FIFA delegation headed by the FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, and a UEFA delegation led by its president, Lennart Johansson.



U. LIECHTI



The Fun Football schools were part of the celebrations marking the reopening of the Mostar bridge.



Putting theory into practice during the referees' course in Ethiopia.

qualifying round, scheduled between 4 and 10 October, in which another 30 teams will also be taking part in matches in eight groups. The group winners will then take part in the second qualifying round - in two groups - in March next year.

Building bridges through football

Some 230 children from Mostar West, Mostar East and Nervesine (Croats, Muslims and Serbs) attended Open Fun Football Schools from 2 to 6 August.

The closing ceremony was staged in conjunction with the reopening of the old Ottoman bridge in Mostar, which was destroyed during the war and has been rebuilt with assistance from the European Community. *"The bridge is part of our specific identity in Mostar,"* said school director Mensud Durakovic. *"Today it is a bridge between the divided societies of Mostar and a symbol of reunification."*

To mark the occasion, the city of Mostar organised an international cultural festival throughout the month of August under the theme "Meeting Place". The school closing ceremony on 6 August was one of the highlights of the festival.

"The football schools have been an important event during the festival. It has been a concrete activity which has brought children from the different communities together for the first time since the war. It has been a week during which football has acted as a bridge between the difference Mostar communities. We have had Croat, Muslim and Serb children playing football together. We've had disabled children playing football, orphans, displaced people and children from other vulnerable groups. We've demonstrated that football is a fantastic way to bring people together. But it's only a start," Mensud Durakovic added. *"We're going to follow up with smaller events and matches, so that the children can stay in touch."*

This summer, 120 football schools were organised for 25,000 boys

and girls between 8 and 12 years of age in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, FYR Macedonia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Open Fun Football Schools are part of UEFA's

charity portfolio and are designed to promote grassroots football and to use football as a bridge between children, coaches, leaders and clubs from divided societies.



Meridian Project

Emphasis on training

THE DIRECT AID BEING PROVIDED BY UEFA TO TWO NATIONAL AFRICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS - CURRENTLY THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND ETHIOPIA - WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MERIDIAN PROJECT HAS BEEN FOCUSING ON TRAINING.

Two instructor training courses were held in Bangui, in the Central African Republic, from 5 to 10 July.

The first involved 25 youth coaches, while the second brought together 25 referees who officiate youth matches at the various levels. The courses were run by UEFA instructors Jacques Devisme and Michel Vautrot respectively.

In Ethiopia, three courses were organised from 23 to 30 July, one for coaches, one for referees and the third on sports medicine. Material (kits) was also distributed.

In both countries, the courses were a resounding success with the participants, who demon-

strated their keen interest by their active participation and exemplary punctuality.

"Despite the immense needs of our countries in the sports sector, we believe that assistance should be directed mainly at training first of all, since it's a matter of helping young people to move with the times and of preventing the gap that currently separates them from the well-to-do countries from widening," says FIFA/CAF instructor Siegfried Honga. *"We are therefore keen for Meridian Project support to needy football associations to concentrate on training instructors for young sportsmen and women."*



Course in the Central African Republic.



ARMENIA
Khoren Hovhannisyan receives his award from the president of his football association, Ruben Hayrapetyan.

MELIK BAGHDASARYAN



BELARUS
Marios Lefkaritis (centre) with Eva Pasquer at the official ceremony.

BFF

News from member associations

ARMENIA



An honourable reward

On 21 July, when Armenian champions FC Pyunik played Pobeda, champions of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the enthusiastic crowd in the Republican Stadium were treated to another important event, when Khoren Hovhannisyan, current president of FC Pyunik and former USSR international, was presented with a special gold UEFA pin by the president of the Football Federation of Armenia, Ruben Hayrapetyan, in recognition of his inclusion in UEFA's Jubilee list of 50 Golden Players. Afterwards, radio commentary from a very important match between Ararat and Chernomorets in 1982, in which Khoren Hovhannisyan scored a vital and beautiful goal, was played to the rapturous crowd.

Arayik Manukian

BELARUS



Historic day for Belarus football

Belarus football marked a milestone in its history on 9 July, when the foundation stone of the Belarus Football Federation's new office building was laid.

Crystal balls containing soil from all the regional football associations and the Minsk City Football Federation, as well as from UEFA and FIFA, were laid into the foundations.

UEFA Executive member Marios Lefkaritis, UEFA Assistance Programmes manager Bruno Wolfisberg, FIFA Programmes Coordinator Eva Pasquer, Belarus Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Drazhin and other officials attended the ceremony.

The new offices of the BFF are therefore being symbolically built not only on the soil of all BFF members, but on that of FIFA and UEFA as well, as a reminder that Belarus football is a full member of the European and world football families.

If all goes according to plan, the building will take ten months to complete.

In honour of its Golden Jubilee, UEFA has presented the BFF with an artificial mini-pitch, which has been installed next to the football arena and which blends well with the complex of football fields belonging to the children's and youth football club. The mini-pitch, which measures 13m

x 20m, is multifunctional and can be used for basketball and volleyball as well as football. Its installation is the first step in the joint programme of the BFF and UEFA. By the end of the year there will be a few more mini-pitches in Belarus.

On the competition front, the first round of the 4th UEFA Women's Cup took place in Minsk from 20 to 24 July. Winning all their matches, the Belarus representative, Bobruichanka, qualified for the second round of the competition.

At the UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Lisbon at the end of June, three representatives from Belarus were appointed to different UEFA committees and panels for terms running until 2006. Yevgeni Shuntov, Honorary President of the BFF, was elected to the Youth and Amateur Football Committee, Sergei Ilyich, Head of the International and Legal Department, joins the External Legal Experts Panel, and our famous player Sergei Aleinikov becomes a member of the Players Panel.

Alexander Tomin

BELGIUM



New resolutions for a new season

On 2 August, at the initiative of national coach Aimé Anthuenis, a meeting between the coaches and referees from the national

first division (Jupiler League) was held at the FA headquarters in Brussels. The main purpose of the meeting was to help the participants get to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere. It was also a chance for the referees to emphasise certain points (rules, priorities, etc.).

Before the start of the new season, the National Referees' Committee (CCA) presented the new directives for referees and the latest amendments to the rules. These concern unsporting conduct (players who remove their shirt, lift it over their head or climb on the railings while celebrating a goal will receive a yellow card). The participants were also reminded that smoking is now banned in the technical area. The CCA also issued its instructions to the referees, urging them to devote greater attention to certain aspects: violent conduct, prevention of a goalscoring opportunity, respect for the 9.15 metre rule, simulation, cheating, back-passes, protection of goalkeepers, respect for referees, time-wasting, goal celebrations and the wearing of jewellery.

At the end of the meeting, at the initiative of national coach Aimé Anthuenis, the coaches and referees present signed a declaration of intent, worded as follows: "The undersigned coaches and referees hereby declare that, as far as possible, they will do their best not to criticise one another in the media. Mutual respect should prevail. They should be able to resolve any misunderstandings between themselves."

This meeting was aimed at improving communication and enabled those present to begin the season with excellent intentions.

François Vantomme



ENGLAND
Portuguese youngsters sporting England baseball caps.

THE FA



BELGIUM
Meeting of the coaches and referees.

PHOTO NEWS



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
NK Osijek won the Zenica tournament.

F. KRIVAVAC

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



New meeting of old friends

Although just three tournaments have been organised in memory of NK Celik player Jasmin Hajduk, they have all met the expectations of the players and fans. This is the most highly-regarded tournament played in the territory of ex-Yugoslavia during the summer break. Bosnia and Herzegovina Premier League club NK Celik invited FK Partizan from Belgrade, participants in last season's UEFA Champions League, and two teams from Croatia, NK Rijeka and NK Osijek, to take part. Teams from Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro participated in the two previous tournaments.

Although all four teams are already preparing for the new season, and FK Partizan and NK Rijeka are playing in the second qualifying round of the UEFA Cup, spectators at the Bilino Polje Stadium in Zenica were treated to good performances from these clubs. However, most importantly, the tournament was an opportunity for old friends who used to play in the same league to get together again. Some had not seen each other for 15 years and are now looking forward to being invited to take part in future tournaments.

The winner of this latest tournament were NK Osijek, who beat FK Partizan with a goal from Primorac. Third place went to NK Rijeka after a penalty shoot-out, the consolation match having stood at 1-1 at the end of normal playing time.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
The final between NK Osijek and FK Partizan.

F. KRIVAVAC

Nenad Brnovic of FK Partizan was voted Player of the Tournament, and top scorer was Karlo Primorac of NK Osijek.

Stjepan Cordas, head coach of NK Osijek, said afterwards: "We won this attractive tournament fairly, and, football aside, we enjoyed meeting up with some long-lost friends."

A disappointed Vladimir Vermezovic, head coach of FK Partizan, said: "We are disappointed that we didn't win this very important and renowned tournament. I thank FK Celik for the invitation and we hope to be back next year."

Elvis Scoria, head coach of NK Rijeka, declared that: "This tournament had been a great warm-up for the start of the Croatian championship and UEFA Cup. We played against a strong FK Partizan. It was a pleasure to meet up with our old friends here in Zenica."

And Husnija Arapovic, head coach of NK Celik, praised the fact that: "Once more, footballers showed that they can transcend misunderstandings more easily than politicians. It's been a great tournament, and next year's will be even better."

Fuad Kravac

ENGLAND



Extending the hand of friendship

Outside of England's participation in EURO 2004, The FA reciprocated the friendship shown by their Portuguese hosts by making a number of goodwill visits.

Sir Trevor Brooking was guest of honour at a community fund-raising event at St Julian's School in the district of Carcavelos, close to the team's hotel on the outskirts of Lisbon. Organised by the British Community Council and the Lisbon Casuals Sports Club, the sports day raised funds for the Cooperativa São Pedro - Barcarena, a centre for children and youngsters with severe learning disabilities.

FA staff accompanied HM Ambassador to Portugal, Dame Glynne Evans, on a visit to Lisbon's poorest community, Famões, playing football with the children and giving out gifts, while England midfielder Nicky Butt accompanied Brooking and FA Executive Director David Davies on a visit to a children's cancer hospital in Coimbre ahead of England's game against Switzerland.

We were keen to make the most of our stay in Portugal. As well as the goodwill visits, the FA also supported a number of fan-led initiatives to promote good relations between English and Portuguese fans which were extremely successful.

Jane Bateman

ESTONIA



Valdas Martinkenas - in memoriam

Valdemaras Martinkenas, the Lithuanian goalkeeping coach of the Estonian national team and of domestic champion club FC Flora, died in Slovenia on the eve of the FC Flora Tallinn versus ND Gorica UEFA Champions League match. He was just 39. He lost his life in the cold waters of the Soca mountain river. He was buried in his hometown of Alytus in southeast Lithuania.

Valdemaras Martinkenas played for a number of clubs in his home Lithuania as well as in the former Soviet Union, Ukraine (including FC Dynamo Kyiv, with whom he played in the UEFA Champions League), Switzerland, Estonia, Finland and Russia. Twice - in 1989 and 1992 - he was voted player of the year in Lithuania. He earned 18 caps with the Lithuanian national team. One of his most memorable internationals was the goalless qualifier in 1992 against Denmark in their first match as European champions.

The former goalkeeper of the Lithuanian national team came to work as a coach in Estonia in 2000. His work remains unfinished... He will be sorely missed.

Mart Tarmak

HUNGARY



Countering racism through football

The Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) sponsored Anti-Racism Day in Budapest, when many Hungarian artists and footballers tried to make the Hungarian people realise the importance of tolerance.

Anti-Racism Day - which was also supported by the Hungarian police, the Ministry For Home Affairs and the Sports Ministry - was held at the football ground of Ferencváros (at the Úllői úti Stadium) on 26 June. It was the second time that the MLSZ Anti-Racism Committee had organised the day-long event, and the organisers intend to make it an annual fixture every summer.

On the football field, many Hungarian youth and regional Gypsy and non-Gypsy teams played each other and against police teams. The biggest game of the day was the match between the Hungarian Gypsy selection and the Slovenian minority selection. The day ended with music concerts and a party.

Another important item on this summer's agenda has been the youth



ESTONIA
Valdas
Martinkenas.

IFA



NORTHERN IRELAND
Young people are taking part in anti-racism programmes.

IFA



NORTHERN IRELAND
Integrating refugees through football.

IFA

training camps for Hungarian youth players held in Zánka (next to Lake Balaton).

The selection of the talents started nationwide in the villages and towns. A few months later every Hungarian county held a tournament to select the best and, finally, in the month-long camp in Zánka many children from all parts of Hungary played matches in front of experts from the MLSZ's coach education and technical centres. The players were also put through a fitness test.

The event ended with the youth coaches meeting to sum up the most important experiences.

Márton Dinnyés

LIECHTENSTEIN



220 years of football

Some 220 years of football, enthusiasm and fair play are being celebrated this year. FIFA, world football's governing body, is celebrating its centenary. The Liechtenstein Football Association is celebrating its 70th anniversary, while the European confederation, UEFA, is celebrating its Golden Jubilee.

We are planning to mark and celebrate these anniversaries at a ceremony to be held on 9 September in the wine cellars of the Prince of Liechtenstein in Vaduz. The president of the Liechtenstein FA, Reinhard Walser, is delighted that the following guests of honour will be in attendance: FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter, UEFA Treasurer Mathieu Sprengers and the head of the Liechtenstein Government, Otmar Hasler. Our neighbouring associations the SFV (Switzerland), ÖFB (Austria) and DFB (Germany) should also be represented, while all former presidents of the Liechtenstein FA are also expected to attend. Our General Secretary, Oliver Gerstgrasser, will honour Liechtenstein's Golden Player, Rainer Hasler, and present the FIFA Order of Merit to the President of the Liechtenstein Olympic Association, Leo Kranz.

Roland Ospelt

LITHUANIA



Mini-pitch inaugurated

Lithuania has been celebrating UEFA's Golden Jubilee on a wide scale.

One of the most memorable moments of the celebrations has been the inauguration of an artificial mini-pitch (prototype) at the capital's Emilija Pliateryte secondary school. This UEFA gift is special to the citizens of the largest district of Vilnius city, Zirmunai, and will be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

Honorary guests from the Vilnius authorities, the Minister of Sport and others with an interest in football attended the official opening ceremony.

The Lithuanian Football Federation was proud to show its project "Let's bring children back to the stadium" to UEFA guests who visited on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee. UEFA vice-president Geoffrey Thompson, meeting children at the EZIO summer football school, said how pleased he was to see children being encouraged to play football. He hoped that the project would continue next year, since the obvious pleasure on the children's faces showed that it was more than a worthwhile undertaking.

Vaiva Zizaitė

MALTA



Domestic success for Sliema Wanderers FC

Sliema Wanderers is a household name in Maltese football. That popularity tag has been earned on the strength of the many domestic honours they have won throughout the years.

They left their imprint on the Maltese game again last season, when they won the championship title and then went on to clinch the 'double' after landing the FA Trophy, Malta's cup competition. They claim that the Cup, won last May, was the 100th honour in the history of the club, which was founded in 1909.

They had earlier equalled the record of 25 league triumphs established in 1993 by Floriana, another eminent name in Maltese football circles. But Sliema's success in the Cup helped them inscribe their name as winners of this competition for the 19th time, more than any other team on the island. That made it a high-flying finale to the 2003/04 season for the side coached by Edward Aquilina, an ex-Sliema Wanderers and Malta player.

Right from the beginning of the season, the outlook looked bright for the 'Blues', as they are familiarly known. They lifted off in glossy fashion when winning their first silverware, the 'Super-Five Cup', a mini knock-out competition reserved for the top four teams in the final league standings of the previous season.

That success was heralded by a fine win over the Latvian Champions, Skonto Riga, in the UEFA Champions League preliminary round, amounting to the fourth time in the Wanderers' history that they had managed to survive the opening stages of a European competition. Proceeding to the next round at the expense of a team representing a country which shook the established order by qualifying for the EURO 2004 finals in

Portugal was a prestigious feat for Sliema.

In doing so, Sliema Wanderers had to renounce their participation in the 'Lowenbrau Cup', another domestic prize contested by the three teams representing Malta in European competitions. The clash in dates between their UEFA Champions League commitments and the domestic matches in the 'Lowenbrau Cup' made it impossible for the team to take part in the home competition. Had they won that honour, it would have been a clean slate for Sliema in 2003/04.

Nevertheless, Sliema's successes on the home front made it a memorable year for them, also highlighted by the 'Footballer of the Year' award won by their midfielder Stefan Giglio, a Malta international, who has also had a good playing stint with Bulgaria's top-division teams CSKA Sofia and Lokomotiv.

On the administrative side, UEFA Executive Committee member Joseph Mifsud was re-elected for another three-year term as Malta FA president, after winning a ballot against Joe Caruana Curran, who until two years ago was at the helm of Valletta FC, the most successful Maltese club in recent decades. It was the first time that Dr Mifsud had been challenged for the top job in Maltese football, a post he will have occupied for a record 15 years when his new term expires in 2007. The result means that the Malta FA has opted for continuity in the way football in the country is run.

Alex Vella



AFP/STOLLARZ

HUNGARY Hungary (Laszlo Bodnar, in red, against Germany) are looking to the future with their talent scouting programme.



LITHUANIA
Geoffrey Thompson cuts the ribbon and officially opens the mini-pitch.



NORTHERN IRELAND



Innovative video/DVD training resource

The Irish Football Association (IFA) will be 125 years old next year, but is still at the front line with regards to promoting football as a universal medium for celebrating diversity. With support from the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council, Belfast City Council and UEFA, the IFA is releasing three creative, innovative and ground-breaking Football For All video/DVD training resources which highlight how the sport of football can be utilised to celebrate diversity, challenge racism and challenge sectarianism. These training resources will be used in IFA coach education programmes as a compulsory module for all B Licence coaches starting in 2005.

Sectarianism and racism are global problems, and Northern Ireland is still facing up to its own unique situation. The IFA is playing its part in contributing to society to ensure that difference is celebrated and respected through the IFA's Football For All project, which is managed by the IFA's Director of Community Relations, Michael Boyd.

The Football For All project is all about working in partnership with key groups, such as supporters, to make the sport of football more inclusive. It is also proactive in its approach to challenging the problems of racism, sexism and sectarianism. Our DVD training resource will target coaches, football clubs and community groups who wish to learn how to use football to celebrate diversity. It is for people and organisations who want to go that extra mile to ensure they are being inclusive in their practice and promotion of the sport of football.

● The first DVD/video is called "Giving Bigotry the Boot". This resource highlights the IFA's work in partnership with supporters to combat sectarian chants at international games and promote a family-orientated atmosphere. This was an area of work that was thrust into the public domain in 2001 when Celtic FC and Northern Ireland star Neil Lennon was forced into retirement after a sectarian death threat. The DVD reflects on the innovative and courageous work of the IFA and supporters to combat sectarianism and create an inclusive and more family-orientated atmosphere at international games. It also promotes the importance of workshops, facilitation and training when dealing with issues concerning racism and sectarianism. The IFA's promotion of football for people and groups from ethnic minorities is also highlighted in this DVD/video. This is of particular note at a time when race hate crimes have risen considerably in Northern Ireland.

● The second DVD/video is called "Promoting Disability Football". This training resource highlights the IFA's excellent development work in the promotion of football to all people regardless of ability. In particular it acts as an awareness raiser of good practice for coaches working with people with physical, sensory or learning disabilities.

● The third and final DVD/video is called "Promoting Women's Football". This training resource highlights the IFA's excellent development work in the promotion of women's football, challenging negative stereotypes and perceptions concerning this area of development.

The IFA hope to have these DVD/video training resources ready and in use in all IFA coach education and development work by January 2005.

Michael Boyd

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



Unpredictability of players' fitness

With the first of his 2006 World Cup qualifiers rapidly approaching, Republic of Ireland manager Brian Kerr is experiencing the unpredictability of players' fitness.

Already the Irish senior manager has had a sample of all that is good and bad in the business of trying to have all his best players available for a major competition.

For Kerr, this forthcoming series of qualifying matches for the World Cup will be the most important period in his young term as manager of the Irish squad.

In control of the seniors now for just about eighteen months, Kerr will be starting off these qualifiers from a level playing pitch, unlike the situation he walked into when he was appointed manager in January 2003.

At that time the Republic had already lost the first two matches of their 2004 European Championship qualifiers during the time when the previous manager Mick McCarthy was in charge.

Kerr thus had to try and retrieve the ground lost from a position of six points down – a task he narrowly failed to achieve.

This time the Republic, like all other nations in the group, will be starting off from scratch, all teams being equal with no points from no matches played.

So it will be important for Kerr to start off on the right foot with good results in the first of his two qualifiers, against Cyprus in Dublin and against Switzerland (away), before he faces the strength of the mighty French in Paris in early October.

And in this context Kerr has already seen the good and bad side of life as a manager. Two of Kerr's prime names in his squad, Damien Duff (Chelsea) and Robbie Keane (Tottenham Hotspur) are having diverse fortunes in terms of fitness.

Duff, who missed much of last season for his club because of a shoulder injury, has now fully recovered and was declared fit enough to travel with Chelsea on their pre-season tour to America.

Keane, the vital goalscoring hope in the Irish front line, took a severe injury in a pre-season friendly against Rangers FC and is a major doubt for the early World Cup campaign. Keane severely damaged ligaments in his right ankle against the Scottish club and is likely to be out of football for at least six weeks.

Naturally Kerr will be keeping his fingers crossed that Keane, normally a quick healer, will be ready to face the Cypriots and the Swiss, but the odds, at this stage, look to be against the player.

Ireland's big game against the mighty French in Paris on 9 October looks a more realistic possibility.

Brendan McKenna

ROMANIA



Women's football in Romania

The women's football movement in Romania began to take off in 1990, when Romanian society as a whole was given a new lease of life.

It was Rodica Siclovan, a former star of Romanian women's volleyball, who took the first steps to organise women's football in our country.

The first few seasons of women's football in Romania were eno-



MALTA A profitable season for Sliema Wanderers, who won their 25th league title.



WALES
The Millennium Stadium is likely to be sold out for World Cup qualifying matches.



ROMANIA
The women's under-18 team.

mously successful, with 40 teams participating in the first edition of the women's championship (1990/91): 12 in the first division and 28 in the second division, split into three groups. The following season (1991/92), there were 41 teams, although since then the number of clubs involved in the women's championship has plummeted to just six.

The national team began with high hopes of becoming one of Europe's strongest sides, but expectations were tempered somewhat after it crossed swords with some of the giants of international football.

In the European women's football hierarchy, the current Romanian team is in the second category. The 2004 team, coached by Gheorghe Staicu and Maria Delicoiu, is playing in Group 5 in the second category of the 2003-2005 European Women's Championship and is knocking on the door of the top European division, with a good chance of winning the qualifying group and entering the play-offs for a place among the elite.

One highlight for women's football in Romania was the mini-tournament organised in Cluj in July 2004 by the Romanian champions Clujana Cluj, which counted towards the UEFA Women's Cup. It was the third time (in four editions) a Romanian team had participated in this club competition and Clujana became the first Romanian team to record a victory.

The presence of Romanian women's football on the international stage is nevertheless impressive. Cristina Ionescu is one of FIFA's top female referees and has officiated at the final of the Women's World Cup in the USA in 2003, as well as a UEFA Women's Cup final. She will also referee at the women's football tournament at the Athens Olympic Games. On the last day of the 2003/04 season, she became the first woman to referee a men's first division match in Romania.

The president of the Women's Football Committee of the Romanian Football Federation, Liana Stoicescu, has also been a member of the FIFA Committee for Women's Football since 1998 and a UEFA official delegate. She has outstanding experience of international women's football. Ms Stoicescu hopes that "the international recognition of our referees and administrators will contribute to the success of Romanian women's football. I hope that everyone, not only Romanians, will help to achieve this goal. In this way, success will surely be guaranteed."

Dan Cristea

SCOTLAND



Indoor stadium plans for Scotland

A network of indoor football stadiums is to be built in Scotland as part of a CHF 500 million nationwide investment in sports facilities.

Scotland's first full-size indoor football pitches will be built in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Ravenscraig and Falkirk, built by local authorities but backed by the Scottish government. Other sports will also benefit from the ambitious programme to build a new sporting infrastructure.

David Taylor, SFA Chief Executive, said: "This is an exciting start to a programme that will make a crucial contribution to the development of Scottish sporting talent. For many years now we have expected our sportsmen and women to compete at a world level whilst tolerating poor quality training facilities. From football's perspective, the modernisation of facilities in Scotland is an essential component in our ten year plan to increase the number of players in Scotland and raise standards at all levels of the game."

Completion of the centres is expected within five years.

Andy Mitchell

SLOVENIA



Women's football gains ground

Women's football club ZNK Krka from Novo Mesto has made its fans very happy by winning Group A4 in the first qualifying round for the 2004/05 UEFA Women's Cup.

ZNK Krka won the group against respectable teams from countries with a much longer tradition in this sport, teams like Ter Leede from the Netherlands, KR from Iceland and Malmin Palloseura from Finland. Despite the tough opposition, the girls from Slovenia, supported by their loyal fans, won their ticket for the second qualifying round in the third leg of the tournament.

Despite losing against Ter Leede in the second round, having beaten Malmin Palloseura 2-1 in the first round, ZNK Krka played their best match against Iceland in the decisive last match. KR needed just one point to qualify for the next round, but ZNK Krka, coached by Branko Cvirn, thwarted the Icelandic team's hopes by winning 2-1.

So while we still await the first major success of women's football at the level of the national teams, Slovenia's women's champions are already taking

their first big steps in Europe. Krka Novo Mesto will play the next round of competition between 13 and 19 September, happy in the knowledge that they are already among the 16 best women's club teams in Europe.

Mladen Cicmir

SPAIN



"Phoenix", an ambitious project

With a view to improving service and communication with its components, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) recently launched "Phoenix", one of its most ambitious projects ever.

The project consists in simplifying and standardising the administrative tasks of the regional associations and of the RFEF itself, as well as accelerating the flow of information, by communicating all procedures and information on line.

Presenting the project to his regional counterparts, RFEF General Secretary Jorge Pérez explained that the project was designed, among other things, to meet the challenges of the future and improve the administration of Spanish football through a process of modernisation. In its initial phase, which introduces on-line registration, the project will revolutionise the player licensing system and raise the number of registered players closer to the number who actually play.

The General Secretaries of the regional associations, the Professional Football League (LFP), the National Futsal League (LNFS) and the RFEF have since met again to move the project forward, and a permanent working group has been set up in which all of the parties are represented, the RFEF, LFP, LNFS and the regions of Andalusia, Asturias, Castille-León, Catalonia, Madrid, the Basque region, Valencia, Extremadura and the Canary Islands.



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND A fresh start for Brian Kerr.



TURKEY
The new president of the Turkish Football Federation, Levent Biçakçi, with the executive committee.



UKRAINE
Grigoriy Surkis (centre), president of the football association, inaugurates a mini-pitch.

The regional associations issue a total of 600,000 licences every season, each according to their own system. The Phoenix project will standardise the criteria for issuing licences. The particularities of the regional systems will be respected for the transitional season of 2004/05, then the standardised procedure will come fully into force in 2006.

Implementing such a project is no easy task and takes organisation, resources, personnel, time and dedication. Keen to take such a qualitative step, the RFEF has no doubt, however, about the merits of the whole project and that it will reach its objectives in the long term.

Miguel Angel López

TURKEY



Levent Biçakçi elected president

Levent Biçakçi was elected president of the Turkish Football Association at the TFA Ordinary General Assembly which was held in Ankara on 22 July. Dr Biçakçi and former sports minister Mehmet Ali Yılmaz were running for the presidency, for which Haluk Ulusoy, in charge for seven years, was not a candidate. By winning the votes of 109 delegates out of 192, Dr Biçakçi becomes TFA president for a term of four years.

Born in 1953, Levent Biçakçi is a graduate of the Istanbul University Law School. He is a legal consultant for several local and foreign companies. He has been General Coordinator of the Turkish First Super League Football Clubs Union and a FIBA member. He was a member of UEFA Appeals Body from 1988 to 2002 and is currently its vice-chairman.

The first TFA Executive Committee meeting of the new term was held on 27 July with the participation of the following members:

Levent Biçakçi (President), Hasan Dogan (Vice-President), Sekip Mosturoglu (Vice-President), Asim Atmaz, Cemil Kazanci, Davut Disli, Erdal Atalay, Erdogan

Turgut, Mahmut Özgener, Mehmet Baykan, Osman Cagalikoc, Rifat Besceli, Serdar Güzelaydin, Ufuk Özerten, Zekeriya Alp.

On the pitch, the Turkish youth teams, who qualified for the final rounds of both the European Under-17 and Under-19 Championships, performed well in both tournaments and gave positive signals for the future of Turkish football. All the experts agreed that Turkey, who won the Under-18 Championship in 1992 and the Under-16 Championship in 1994, were one of the strongest candidates in both competitions.

Despite losing to Spain in additional time and having to be content with the runners-up spot, Turkey's Under-19s still have the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship in the Netherlands to look forward to, confident that they will represent their continent with success. We were also very pleased to see Turkish youth players Ali Öztürk and Sezer Öztürk picked out by uefa.com as two of the names to note from the tournament.

Encouraged by these results, the TFA remains committed to its aim to invest in the future of the football, to place its confidence in youth football and to support UEFA's Grassroots Project to seek out future talents.

Mustafa Kemal Artalan

UKRAINE



New period in the life of Ukrainian football

The sixth FFU Ordinary Congress was held in Kyiv on 16 July, attended by 125 delegates, guests and journalists. Also in attendance was UEFA Executive Committee member Marios N. Lefkaritis, who greeted the assembly on behalf of the UEFA president. Addresses by the President and by the Prime Minister of Ukraine were read out too.

Items on the agenda included the FFU activity report (16 August 2000 - 16 July 2004), elections for the offices of president, vice-presidents and executive committee members for a term of four years, admission of members, alterations and amendments to the FFU statutes, report of the internal audit panel for the reporting period, and information on the XXVIII Ordinary UEFA Congress and 54th Ordinary FIFA Congress. In the elections, Grygoriy Surkis was unanimously voted in as FFU president.

On the occasion of FIFA's centenary jubilee, Mr Surkis presented the FIFA Order of Merit to Oleg Blokhin, head coach of the Ukrainian national team.

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the programme defining the

strategy and tactics for the development of football in Ukraine from 2004 to 2008. This is the second state programme to provide financial support for the wide development of mass and children's/youth football. Projects being implemented at national level include the "Our Future" programme. Within the framework of UEFA's HatTrick assistance programme, the national federation will provide each region of Ukraine with several artificial mini-pitches.

Valeriy Nykonenko

WALES



Busy summer in Wales

As the new domestic season approaches, we can look back on a busy summer in Wales, particularly in preparation for the forthcoming FIFA World Cup qualifying matches, which begin in September.

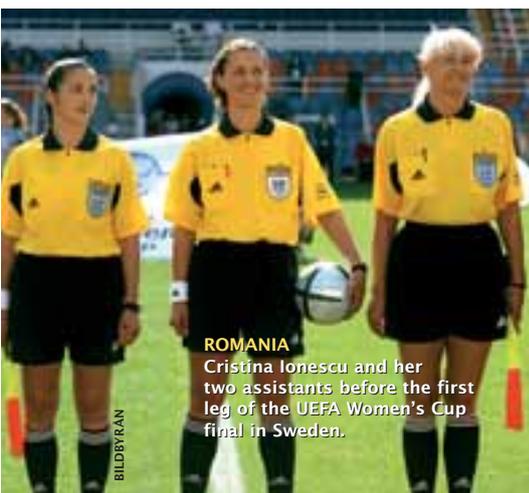
A ticket package for all five home games went on sale to those on the supporter's database on 1 June, and the 20,000 tickets allocated to this initiative were quickly snapped up. Interest in these matches has been unprecedented, and the association is well on course for sell-out crowds in the 72,000-plus Millennium Stadium for all five matches, beginning with the fixture against Northern Ireland on 8 September.

On 25 June, the Welsh Premier League (First Division) announced a new sponsor for the forthcoming season. The competition will be backed by Vauxhall MasterFit, which, as well as making a significant monetary contribution to the league, has also made lease cars accessible at very advantageous rates to clubs, league staff and directors as well as referees and assistant referees on the league's list of officials.

In South Wales, the Welsh Football League (National Second Division South) celebrated its centenary in July. The league was formed on 18 July 1904. The celebrations culminated with a centenary dinner at Cardiff Castle on 28 July, when the guest of honour was His Royal Highness, Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, who proposed the toast to the league. This memorable occasion was attended by many other dignitaries, including First Minister Rhodri Morgan.

The only disappointing aspect of the summer has been the elimination of all three Welsh representatives at the first qualifying stage of UEFA's club competitions, which has again stimulated debate about the benefits of moving towards a domestic summer season, a change which has been so beneficial in the Republic of Ireland.

John Deakin



ROMANIA
Cristina Ionescu and her two assistants before the first leg of the UEFA Women's Cup final in Sweden.



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Cornelis De Bruin (Netherlands), member of the Match Delegates Panel, will be 75 on 22 September. On 28 September, Michel Girard (France), member of the Referee Observers Panel, celebrates his 60th birthday. On the first day of the month, Manuel Diaz Vega (Spain), who is also a member of the Referee Observers Panel, reaches the half-century mark, followed, on 3 September, by David R. Elleray (England), member of the Referee Instructors Panel.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Gerhard Aigner (Germany, 1.9)
- Vassilis Gagatsis (Greece, 1.9)
- Helle Handler Petersen (Denmark, 1.9)
- Marco Brunelli (Italy, 2.9)
- Lucien Schmidlin (Switzerland, 3.9)
- Emanuel Desira (Malta, 3.9)
- Gérard Houllier (France, 3.9)
- Merab Jordania (Georgia, 3.9)
- Rudolf Bata (Czech Republic, 4.9)
- Wilfried Kindermann (Germany, 4.9)
- Victor Mintoff (Malta, 4.9)
- Grigoriy Surkis (Ukraine, 4.9)
- Nikol Misis (Serbia and Montenegro, 5.9)
- Vassilios Chatziapostolou (Greece, 5.9)
- Bernd Stöber (Germany, 6.9)
- György Mezey (Hungary, 7.9)
- David Dein (England, 7.9)
- Werner Helsen (Belgium, 7.9)
- Reidar P. Bjørnstad (Norway, 9.9)
- Geir Thorsteinsson (Iceland, 9.9)
- Karoly Palotai (Hungary, 11.9)
- Stanislaw Speczik (Poland, 13.9)
- Ingrid Jonsson (Sweden, 13.9)
- Karl-Heinz Tritschler (Germany, 16.9)
- Kelly Simmons (England, 16.9)
- Antero Silva Resende (Portugal, 18.9)
- Senes Erzik (Turkey, 18.9)
- Marco Guidi (San Marino, 18.9)
- Wolfgang Gramann (Austria, 19.9)
- Gaiosz Darsadze (Georgia, 19.9)
- Marino Faccioli (France, 20.9)
- Wolfgang Möbius (Germany, 20.9)
- Jack Baumann (Switzerland, 22.9)
- Goetz Eilers (Germany, 23.9)
- Giangiorgio Spiess (Switzerland, 24.9)
- Eugen Strigel (Germany, 24.9)
- Ionel Piscanu (Romania, 24.8)
- Raffaele Ranucci (Italy, 24.9)
- Hans Reitinger (Austria, 25.9)
- Mogens Kreutzfeldt (Denmark, 25.9)

- Paul Krähenbühl (Switzerland, 25.9)
- Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Germany, 25.9)
- Stephen Lodge (England, 26.9)
- Ion Craciunescu (Romania, 27.9)
- Adrian Porumboiu (Romania, 27.9)
- Mariano Delogu (Italy, 28.9)
- Prof. W. Stewart Hillis (Scotland, 28.9)
- Michael van Praag (Netherlands, 28.9)
- Karel Bohunek (Czech Republic, 28.9)
- Vassilios Nikakis (Greece, 28.9)
- Roland Beck (Liechtenstein, 28.9)
- Miguel Angel Marin Lopez (Spain, 29.9)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

1.9.2004, Nyon

Elite referees' workshop

1-2.9.2004, Nyon

Elite assistant referees' workshop

3.9.2004, Nyon

6th Elite Club Coaches' Forum

9-10.9.2004, Nyon

European Club Forum

16-17.09.2004, Sofia

Executive Committee

20-22.9.2004, Stockholm

6th European National Coaches' Conference

22.9.2004, Ostrava (Czech Republic)

Draw for the final round of the European Futsal Championship

28.9.2004, Nyon

Professional Football Committee

30.9.2004, Nyon

Futsal Committee

COMPETITIONS

14-15.9.2004

UEFA Champions League: group matches (match day 1)

16.9.2004

UEFA Cup: first round (first legs)

28-29.9.2004

UEFA Champions League: group matches (match day 2)

30.9.2004

UEFA Cup: first round (return legs)

Notices

■ The FA of Serbia and Montenegro has a new General Secretary: Zoran Damjanovic.

■ The Polish FA has a new telephone number: +48 22 55 12 200 and fax number: +48 22 55 12 240.

■ In September, uefa.com continues its UEFA Golden Jubilee features with the national associations of the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland and Portugal.

Player agents

The Licensed Match Agents Panel has accepted four new applications and awarded match agent licences, valid for five years in each case, to:

Frederik de Jong

FDJ Consultancy Services Ltd
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Mobile: +44 7785 230441
Fax: +44 1787 312857
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Gaël Mahé

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CH-1204 Geneva
Tel.: +41 79 60 46 007
Email: gael.mahe@sportgm.com

The panel has also renewed the licence of **Jon Smith** (England) for eight years.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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