

BELARUS - ITALY

MATCH PRESS KIT

Olympia, Helsingborg

Tuesday 23 June 2009 - 20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Group A - Matchday 3



Contents

1 - Match background	6 - Head coach
2 - Team facts	7 - Competition facts
3 - Squad list	8 - Competition information
4 - Group statistics	9 - Tournament schedule
5 - Match officials	10 - Legend

Match background

Belarus will look to turn back the clock five years in their decisive final Group A fixture with leaders Italy in Helsingborg.

- Yuri Kurnenin's men enter the match bottom of the section yet knowing a victory could still earn them a semi-final place. The odds may favour the Azzurrini, but Belarus can take heart from having achieved the feat once before, when recording a surprise 2-1 win over Italy at the 2004 finals in Germany.
- Italy are strongly placed to reach the semi-finals, with four points to their name following a draw with Serbia and victory over Sweden. A win against Belarus would tie up first place for Pierluigi Casiraghi's side and they would even qualify with a low-scoring defeat – by two goals or less – if the group's other game between Serbia and Sweden ended in a draw.
- After losing to Sweden and drawing with Serbia, Belarus have no such luxury – it is win or bust for the eastern European side.
- If they beat Italy, Belarus would be guaranteed a semi-final place on the head-to-head rule so long as there was a winner in the Serbia-Sweden game. In the event of a Sweden-Serbia draw, they must beat Italy by three clear goals, given that this would leave them level with the Italians and Swedes on four points with head-to-head results, then goal difference the first two deciding factors.
- This is the countries' sixth competitive meeting at Under-21 level. The five previous encounters have produced three wins for Italy, one for Belarus and one draw.

- The full breakdown of past matches is:

2006 Qualifying Group 5

12.10.04 Italy 2-1 Belarus, Mantova

06.09.05 Belarus 1-1 Italy, Borisov

2004 Final tournament Group A

27.05.04 Italy 1-2 Belarus, Bochum

2000 Qualifying Group 1

31.03.99 Italy 4-1 Belarus, Giulianova

08.10.99 Belarus 1-2 Italy, Borisov

- Belarus produced a big upset when the two sides met at the Ruhrstadion in Bochum in their opening Group A fixture at the 2004 finals. Goals from Roman Kirenkin and Aleksandr Hleb put Belarus 2-0 up by half-time and though Alberto Gilardino pulled one back for Italy on 58 minutes Belarus, helped by the added-time dismissal of Daniele Bonera, held on.
- The two sides have met four times in qualifying, twice for the 2000 tournament and twice for the 2006 event.
- Eventual champions Italy won seven of their eight games in qualifying for the 2000 competition, including both group encounters with Belarus, who did not reach the finals. Andrea Pirlo scored twice in Italy's 4-1 win in Giulianova on 31 March 1999 before the Azzurrini won the return in Borisov 2-1 on 8 October 1999.



- History repeated itself in qualifying for the 2006 tournament when Italy again finished top of their group with Belarus eliminated. Alberto Aquilani scored the winner in Italy's 2-1 victory over the Belarussians in Mantova on 12 October 2004, before the sides played out a 1-1 draw in Borisov on 6 September 2005.
- Dmitriy Komarovski and Leonid Kovel were in the Belarus side beaten 4-1 by Italy in the UEFA European Under-19 Championship Elite round in May 2004. Pavel Chesnovski was an unused substitute.
- Oleg Veretilo and Mikhail Sivakov have enjoyed success in a final tournament against Italy before, appearing in the Belarus side which won 1-0 against these opponents in the 2005 European U17 Championship group stage.
- Italy's Juventus-based trio of Paolo De Ceglie, Sebastian Giovinco and Claudio Marchisio will know better than to underestimate Belarussian opposition. They were in the Juve side held at home and away by an FC BATE Borisov side featuring Sergei Krivets, Sivakov and Aleksandr Volodko in the UEFA Champions League group stage last season.
- Krivets scored BATE's opening goal against Juventus in the teams' 2-2 draw in Minsk on 30 September 2008 – BATE led 2-0 that night before a fightback by the Italian side. The clubs subsequently played out a goalless draw in Turin in December.
- After playing against Juventus in the UEFA Champions League, Sivakov moved to Italy in January, signing for Cagliari Calcio. His team-mates there include Francesco Pisano and Robert Acquafresca, although he has yet to make his first-team debut.
- As a player, Italy coach Casiraghi appeared in S.S. Lazio's 4-1 aggregate win over Belarussian club FC Dinamo Minsk in the UEFA Cup first round in 1994/95.

Squad news

Belarus

- Belarus kept their hopes alive when they recovered from a 5-1 opening-day loss to Sweden to draw 0-0 with Serbia on Friday.
- "It was very difficult to lift ourselves after what happened against Sweden, but we managed to overcome the blow to our confidence. I have to give my players huge credit for this," coach Kurnenin said. "We showed we are men and that we deserve to be playing in this championship."
- Belarus made three changes to their starting XI for the Serbia game: left-back Maksim Bordachov, midfield anchor Sivakov and striker Vladimir Yurchenko coming in for Aleksandr Martynovich, Volodko and Komarovski.
- The Belarussians go into their final Group A game against Italy with a clean bill of health. Martynovich suffered a knock in training and goalkeeper Pavel Chesnovski injured his chin against Serbia, but both have participated fully in preparations for the match at the Olympia.
- Igor Shitov, Leonid Kovel, Andrei Chukhlei and Bordachov were booked against Serbia, joining Krivets and Martynovich on the list of players who will receive a one-game suspension if cautioned again.
- Mikhail Afanasiev made a national-record 40th U21 appearance against Italy, having matched Yuri Zhevnov's previous best of 39 against the Swedes.
- The 5-1 defeat by Sweden was Belarus's heaviest in a final tournament and equalled their worst competitive result at this level. They lost to Norway by the same scoreline on 5 June 2001 in qualifying for the 2002 UEFA European U21 Championship.
- Kurnenin returned to the bench against Serbia, having been replaced by assistant coach Georgi Kondratiev for the Sweden game when he served a one-match ban.

Italy

- Mario Balotelli misses the game in Helsingborg through suspension after being shown a straight red card in the 38th minute of the Azzurrini's victory over Sweden on Friday. He had scored the opening goal 15 minutes before – his fourth strike in five U21 competitive matches.
- Andrea Consigli and Marco Motta were also booked at the Olympia and, along with Marchisio and Francesco Pisano, are one caution away from a single-match suspension.

- Italy coach Casiraghi had named an unchanged XI from the goalless Group A opener against Serbia the previous Tuesday. Sweden began brightly but Italy gained more possession once Giovinco, starting on the right of a three-man attack, dropped into a deeper, more central position behind Balotelli and Acquafresca.
- It was Giovinco's pass that led to Balotelli's breakthrough goal. The Juventus forward also crossed for Acquafresca to head in the second on 53 minutes. "I think that role in the hole is the one that suits me best," he said. "I'm happy, but the most important thing is we won."
- Acquafresca was Italy's five-goal top scorer in qualifying and has now netted six times in eleven competitive U21 outings. "A goal is always important for a striker, and this one was because it helped us win a difficult game with ten men," he said. "It's a pity about Mario's sending-off, but we proved we are not dependent on him."
- Italy finished the game with a 5-4-0 formation, playing without a striker after both Giovinco and Acquafresca were substituted in the second half.
- Goalkeeper Consigli won the Carlsberg Man of the Match award for his performance, which included excellent saves from deflected shots by Rasmus Elm and substitute Martin Olsson. "This is my last opportunity to play at a European Under-21 Championship and receiving this award is a great thrill," the Atalanta BC player said. "However, I hope this is just a first trophy before the big one at the end of the tournament."
- Italy had a light training session on Saturday before stepping up the intensity on Sunday. They had no new injuries to report, although Marchisio received treatment for a knock sustained to the lower back against Sweden.
- The players had a walk through Helsingborg on Sunday, later reconvening at their base at the Hotel Elite Marina Plaza to watch the senior Italy side's FIFA Confederations Cup match against Brazil.

Team facts

Belarus

This is Belarus's second appearance in a UEFA European Under-21 Championship final tournament, their first coming in 2004. Midfielder Aleksandr Hleb, then with VfB Stuttgart, was the star of that side and he scored the winner as Belarus defeated eventual winners Italy 2-1 in their opening match of the group stage. Yuri Puntus's charges then drew 1-1 with a Croatia team boasting Darijo Srna, Eduardo da Silva, Niko Kranjčar and Danijel Pranjić, but a 2-1 reverse in their final game against Serbia and Montenegro – a match which Belarus finished with nine men following the dismissals of Hleb and Timofei Kalachev – ended their challenge.

Tournament record

Winners: –

Semi-finalists: –

Final tournament appearances: 2004, 2009

2009 qualifying

P10 W6 D2 L2 F17 A6

Top scorer: Dmitri Komarovski, 4 goals

Most appearances: 10 Nikolai Osipovich, Dmitri Komarovski, Sergei Kryvets, Igor Shitov

Biggest win: 6-0 v San Marino (H) 16.11.2007

Biggest defeat: 1-3 v Serbia (A) 08.09.2007

Youngest player: Vladimir Yurchenko (26.01.1989)

Oldest player: Aleksandr Sachivko (05.01.1986)

Red cards: Pavel Chesnovski

Friendly results since qualifying

31.03.2009 Germany 1-1 Belarus

05.06.2009 Finland 1-0 Belarus

Capped at senior level: Dmitri Verkhovtsov, Igor Shitov, Sergei Kryvets, Nikolai Osipovich, Leonid Kovel, Anton Putilo, Andrei Chukhlei, Maksim Bordachov

Players with previous U21 final tournaments experience: None

Most capped player

All-time: 40 Mikhail Afanasiev

Current: 40 Mikhail Afanasiev

Leading scorer

All-time: 11 Mikhail Afanasiev

Current: 11 Mikhail Afanasiev

Biggest wins

Final tournament: 2-1 Belarus v Italy 27.05.04

2004 group stage, Ruhrstadion, Bochum

Qualifying: 6-0 Belarus v San Marino 16.11.07

2009 qualifying group stage, Central sport complex, Vitebsk

Heaviest defeats

Final tournament: 5-1 Sweden v Belarus 16.06.09

2009 group stage, Malmö New Stadium, Malmö

Qualifying: 5-1 Norway v Belarus 05.06.2001

2002 qualifying group stage, Marienlyst Stadium, Drammen

4-0 Norway v Belarus 08.09.1994

1996 qualifying group stage, Hønefoss Stadium, Hønefoss

Italy

Italy are the Under-21 championship's most successful side, having lifted the trophy five times in the last nine editions. After finishing runners-up in 1986, when Azeglio Vicini's team – featuring the likes of Roberto Mancini, Giuseppe Giannini, Roberto Donadoni, Walter Zenga and Gianluca Vialli – were pipped to the title by Spain on penalties, the Azzurrini won the tournament three times in succession, in 1992, 1994 and 1996.

In the first of those triumphs a side led by Demetrio Albertini beat Sweden in the final, while two years later Portugal's 'golden generation' were overcome by a team boasting Fabio Cannavaro, Christian Panucci, Christian Vieri and Filippo Inzaghi. In 1996, Italy avenged their 1986 defeat by beating Spain on penalties with Francesco Totti and Alessandro Nesta in an already talented squad; Andrea Pirlo was the star four years later when the Azzurrini saw off the Czech Republic. The midfielder was part of the senior squad that claimed the 2006 FIFA World Cup, as were Andrea Barzagli, Marco Amelia, Daniele De Rossi, Cristian Zaccardo and Alberto Gilardino, who all helped Italy to their fifth U21 crown in 2004.

Tournament record

Winners: 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004

Runners-up: 1986

Semi-finalists: 1984, 1990, 2002

Quarter-finalists: 1978, 1980, 1982, 1988

Final tournament appearances: 1994, 1996, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009

2009 qualifying

P12 W8 D4 L0 F24 A6

Top scorer: Robert Acquafresca, 5 goals

Most appearances: 12 Andrea Consigli, Marco Motta

Biggest win: 5-0 v Azerbaijan (H) 16.11.2007

Biggest defeat: n/a

Youngest player: Mario Balotelli (17 years, 2 months, 11 days v Albania on 23.10.2007)

Oldest player: Pablo Osvaldo (12.01.1986)

Red cards: Fabiano Santacroce

Friendly results since qualifying

18.11.2008 Germany 1-0 Italy

11.02.2009 Italy 1-1 Sweden

31.03.2009 Netherlands 1-1 Italy

09.06.2009 Denmark 0-4 Italy

Italy U21s capped at senior level: None

Players with previous U21 final tournament experience

Netherlands 2007: Luca Cigarini, Daniele Dessena, Marco Motta, Marco Andreolli, Andrea Consigli, Domenico Criscito

Most capped player

All-time: 46 Andrea Pirlo

BELARUS - ITALY

MATCH PRESS KIT

Tuesday 23 June 2009 - 20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Olympia, Helsingborg

Current: 34 Marco Motta

Leading scorer

All-time: 19 Alberto Gilardino

Current: 6 Robert Acquafresca

Biggest wins

Final tournament: 3-0 Italy v Serbia and Montenegro 08.06.2004
2004 final, Ruhrstadion, Bochum

Qualifying: 8-1 Italy v Wales 05.09.2003
2004 qualifying group stage, Stadio Pietro Fortunati, Pavia

7-0 Italy v Estonia 23.03.1995
1996 qualifying group stage, Stadio Catanzaro, Catanzaro

Heaviest defeats

Final tournament: 3-2 Czech Republic v Italy* 29.05.2002
2002 semi-finals, Hardturm, Zurich

*Of their four defeats in final tournaments Italy have never been beaten by more than one goal

Qualifying: 6-0 Norway v Italy 05.06.1991
1992 qualifying group stage, Viking Stadium, Stavanger

Squad list

Belarus

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				Overall U21	
						a Qual.	Gls	a FT	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Pavel Chesnovski	04.03.1986	23	FC Vitebsk	-	8	-	2	-	10	-
12	Artyom Gornelko	08.12.1989	19	FC Lokomotiv Moskva	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Anton Kovalevski	02.02.1986	23	FC Naftan Novopolotsk	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
Defenders											
2	Nikolai Osipovich	29.05.1986	23	FC MTZ-RIPO Minsk	-	9	-	2	-	11	-
3	Aleksandr Martynovich	26.08.1987	21	FC Dinamo Minsk	*	8	-	1	-	9	-
4	Igor Shitov	24.10.1986	22	FC BATE Borisov	*	9	1	2	-	11	1
5	Maksim Bordachov	18.05.1986	23	FC BATE Borisov	*	1	-	1	-	2	-
16	Oleg Veretilo	10.07.1988	20	FC Dinamo Minsk	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
18	Dmitri Verkhovtsov	10.10.1986	22	FC Naftan Novopolotsk	-	3	1	2	-	5	1
19	Aleksei Yanushkevich	15.01.1986	23	FC Shakhtyor Soligorsk	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Midfielders											
6	Sergei Balanovich	29.08.1987	21	FC Shakhtyor Soligorsk	-	3	-	-	-	3	-
7	Sergei Krivets	08.06.1986	23	FC BATE Borisov	*	9	3	2	-	11	3
8	Aleksandr Volodko	18.06.1986	23	FC BATE Borisov	-	8	-	2	-	10	-
11	Mikhail Afanasiev	04.11.1986	22	FC Amkar Perm	-	7	1	2	-	17	6
13	Aleksandr Sachivko	05.01.1986	23	FC Minsk	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
15	Sergei Kislyak	06.08.1987	21	FC Dinamo Minsk	-	8	1	2	1	12	2
17	Sergei Gigevich	26.01.1987	22	FC Dinamo Minsk	-	3	-	-	-	3	-
21	Mikhail Sivakov	16.01.1988	21	Cagliari Calcio	-	1	1	1	-	2	1
23	Andrei Chukhlei	02.10.1987	21	FC Dinamo Minsk	*	1	-	2	-	3	-
Forwards											
9	Leonid Kovel	29.07.1986	22	FC Saturn Moskovskaya Oblast	*	7	3	2	-	18	6
10	Dmitri Komarovski	10.10.1986	22	FC Naftan Novopolotsk	-	9	4	1	-	14	4
14	Anton Putilo	23.06.1987	21	FC Dinamo Minsk	-	6	1	2	-	8	1
20	Vladimir Yurchenko	26.01.1989	20	FC Saturn Moskovskaya Oblast	-	2	-	2	-	4	-
Coach											
-	Yury Kurnenin	14.06.1954	55	BLR	-	10	-	1	-	13	-

Key: Squad list is ordered by position and then numerically

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

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

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

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

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

BELARUS - ITALY

MATCH PRESS KIT

Tuesday 23 June 2009 - 20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Olympia, Helsingborg

Italy

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	BL	Current season				Overall U21	
						a Qual.		a FT		Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Andrea Consigli	27.01.1987	22	Atalanta BC	*	12	-	2	-	14	-
12	Salvatore Sirigu	12.01.1987	22	Ancona Calcio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Andrea Seculin	14.07.1990	18	ACF Fiorentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders											
2	Marco Motta	14.05.1986	23	AS Roma	*	12	1	2	-	21	1
3	Marco Andreolli	10.06.1986	23	US Sassuolo Calcio	-	3	-	2	-	13	-
4	Domenico Criscito	30.12.1986	22	Genoa Cricket and Football Club	-	11	1	2	-	16	1
6	Lino Marzoratti	12.10.1986	22	Empoli FC	-	9	-	-	-	9	-
13	Andrea Ranocchia	16.02.1988	21	AS Bari	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
14	Francesco Pisano	29.04.1986	23	Cagliari Calcio	*	5	-	1	-	7	-
15	Salvatore Bocchetti	30.11.1986	22	Genoa Cricket and Football Club	-	3	-	2	-	5	-
Midfielders											
5	Piermario Morosini	05.07.1986	22	Vicenza Calcio	-	10	-	-	-	11	-
7	Ignazio Abate	12.11.1986	22	Torino FC	-	2	1	2	-	4	1
8	Claudio Marchisio	19.01.1986	23	Juventus	*	8	-	2	-	10	-
11	Paolo De Ceglie	17.09.1986	22	Juventus	-	7	-	2	-	9	-
16	Antonio Candreva	28.02.1987	22	AS Livorno Calcio	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
17	Andrea Poli	29.09.1989	19	US Sassuolo Calcio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Luca Cigarini	20.06.1986	23	Atalanta BC	-	11	1	2	-	14	1
23	Daniele Dessena	10.05.1987	22	UC Sampdoria	-	10	3	1	-	12	3
Forwards											
9	Robert Acquafresca	11.09.1987	21	Cagliari Calcio	-	8	5	2	1	10	6
10	Sebastian Giovinco	26.01.1987	22	Juventus	-	11	-	2	-	13	-
18	Alessio Cerci	23.07.1987	21	Atalanta BC	-	2	1	-	-	2	1
19	Alberto Paloschi	04.01.1990	19	Parma FC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Mario Balotelli	12.08.1990	18	FC Internazionale Milano	S	3	3	2	1	5	4
Coach											
-	Pierluigi Casiraghi	04.03.1969	40	ITA	-	12	-	2	-	22	-

Key: Squad list is ordered by position and then numerically

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

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

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

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

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

Match-by-match lineups - Group A

	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Italy	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Sweden	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Serbia	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Belarus	2	0	1	1	1	5	1

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
16.06.2009	Sweden - Belarus	5-1	Malmö New Stadium, Malmö
Goals: 0-1 Kislyak 33, 1-1 Martynovich 34 (o.g.) , 2-1 Berg 38, 3-1 Berg 44, 4-1 Berg 81, 5-1 Svensson 89			
Sweden: Dahlin, Lustig, Bjärnsmyr, R.Bengtsson, Johansson, Toivonen (Harbuzi 84), Berg, Svensson (Landgren 89), Elm, Wernbloom, Bajrami (Molins 71)			
Belarus: Chesnovski, Osipovich, Martynovich, Shitov, Krivets (Yurchenko 78), Volodko, Kovel, Komarovski (Putilo 53), Afanasiev (Chukhlei 53), Kislyak, Verkhovtsov			
16.06.2009	Italy - Serbia	0-0	Olympia, Helsingborg
Goals: -			
Italy: Consigli, Motta (Pisano 78), Andreolli, Criscito, Marchisio, Acquafresca, Giovinco, De Ceglie, Bocchetti, Balotelli (Abate 67), Cigarini			
Serbia: Brkić, Fejsa, Kačar, Petković, Smiljanić, Sulejmani, Z. Tošić, Tomović, Pejčinović, Vuković, Matić (Tomić 85)			
19.06.2009	Sweden - Italy	1-2	Olympia, Helsingborg
Goals: 0-1 Balotelli 23, 0-2 Acquafresca 53, 1-2 Toivonen 89			
Sweden: Dahlin, Lustig, Bjärnsmyr, R.Bengtsson, Johansson, Toivonen, Berg, Svensson (Harbuzi 66), Elm, Wernbloom, Bajrami (Olsson 66)			
Italy: Consigli, Motta, Andreolli, Criscito, Marchisio (Dessena 89), Acquafresca (Ranocchia 76), Giovinco (Abate 62), De Ceglie, Bocchetti, Balotelli, Cigarini			
19.06.2009	Belarus - Serbia	0-0	Malmö New Stadium, Malmö
Goals: -			
Belarus: Chesnovski, Osipovich, Shitov, Bordachov, Krivets, Kovel, Afanasiev (Chukhlei 69), Kislyak (Volodko 82), Verkhovtsov, Yurchenko (Putilo 76), Sivakov			
Serbia: Brkić, Fejsa (Veljović 82), Kačar, Petković (Tomić 63), Smiljanić, Sulejmani, Z. Tošić, Tomović, Pejčinović, Vuković, Milinković (Obradović 46)			
23.06.2009	Serbia - Sweden	-	Malmö New Stadium, Malmö
23.06.2009	Belarus - Italy	-	Olympia, Helsingborg

Match officials

Referee	Claudio Circhetta (SUI)
Assistant referees	Joël De Bruyn (BEL), Emil Ubias (CZE)
Fourth official	Markus Strömbergsson (SWE)
UEFA Delegate	Adonis Procopiou (CYP)
UEFA Referee observer	Bo Karlsson (SWE)

Referees

Name	Nat.	Date of birth	U21	UEFA
Claudio Circhetta	SUI	18.11.1970	3	15

Claudio Circhetta

• Based in Reinach, Switzerland, Claudio Circhetta made his debut as a UEFA Champions League referee on Matchday 6 of the 2008/09 competition, although he has been a regular in UEFA competition since August 2000. Born on 18 November 1970, Circhetta began his refereeing career in 1988 and, by the time he was awarded his FIFA badge in 2005, had already established himself as one of Europe's most promising match officials.

• Circhetta was fourth official at two UEFA Cup matches in summer 2000 and became a familiar figure in that role in the competition over the next few years, also filling the same position in three games at the 2004 UEFA European Under-19 Championship in his homeland. Refereeing appointments then began to come his way and in 2007 he was back at the U19 tournament when he took charge of Spain's 1-0 win against Greece in the final in Linz, Austria.

• By then, he had already made his debut as a referee in the UEFA Cup proper in the first-round tie between FK Crvena Zvezda and FC Slovan Liberec in September 2006. Circhetta – who counts dancing and cooking among his hobbies – has continued to combine his refereeing duties with work as a fourth official, a position he held in the 2007/08 UEFA Champions League semi-final first leg between FC Barcelona and eventual winners Manchester United FC.

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

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res.	Venue
16.06.2009	U21	GS - FT	Sweden - Belarus	5-1	Malmö

Head coach

Belarus: Yuri Kurnenin

Date of birth: 14 June 1954

Playing career: FC Dinamo Moskva (1971-75), FC Dinamo Minsk (1976-87)

Coaching career: KIM Vitebsk (1989-90), FC Dinamo Brest (1991-92), Samotlor XXI Nizhnevartovsk (1993-94), Syria (1995-96), Al-Ahli Oman (1997), FC Dinamo Minsk (1999-2000), FC Chernomorets Novorossiysk (2000-2001), FC Shakhtar Soligorsk (2002), FC Dinamo Minsk (2003), Belarus (assistant coach 2003), Belarus Under-21s (February 2006 to present)

Despite taking Belarus to the 2009 UEFA European Under-21 Championship, Yuri Kurnenin is still best known in his homeland for his success as a player. He began at FC Dinamo Moskva but made his name with FC Dinamo Minsk between 1976 and his retirement in 1987. A member of the Dinamo side that became the only Belarussian club to win the Soviet title in 1982, Kurnenin initially played in midfield, but switched to wing-back, where his attacking instincts brought a famous hat-trick in a victory against FC Kairat Almaty during the title-winning season. Kurnenin entered the record books by scoring Belarus's first goal in UEFA competition when his free-kick against Grasshopper-Club earned Dinamo a 1-0 first-round victory in the European Champion Clubs' Cup in September 1983.

His coaching career began with KIM Vitebsk in the minor Soviet leagues in 1989 before a move to FC Dinamo Brest, whom he led to third place in the inaugural Belarus championship in 1992, still the club's best finish. Kurnenin went on to coach in Russia, Syria and Oman, notably leading the Syrian national side to the 1996 AFC Asian Cup finals.

He returned to Belarus, and Dinamo, in 1999 but was unable to emulate his playing success and was sacked midway through the 2000 season. Spells at FC Chernomorets Novorossiysk and FC Shakhtar Soligorsk followed before another brief stint at Dinamo in 2003. He then teamed up with former Dinamo Moskva and Dinamo Minsk team-mate Anatoliy Baidachniy as assistant coach of the Belarus national side before taking over the U21s in February 2006.

Italy: Pierluigi Casiraghi

Date of birth: 4 March 1969

Playing career: Monza Calcio, Juventus, S.S. Lazio, Chelsea FC, Italy (44 caps, 13 goals)

Coaching career: AC Monza Brianza youth team (2002), AC Legnano (2003-04), AC Monza Brianza youth team (2005) Italy Under-21s (since 2006)

It came as some surprise when Pierluigi Casiraghi was chosen to succeed Claudio Gentile as Italy coach after the 2006 UEFA European Under-21 Championship. The 39-year-old had little experience and needed to learn on the job during the Azzurrini's next qualifying campaign. The former Juventus and S.S. Lazio striker rose to the occasion, much as he did throughout a successful playing career for both club and country before his injury-enforced retirement in 1998.

After breaking through at Monza Calcio, Casiraghi signed for Juventus in 1989. He scored 20 times in 98 Serie A appearances for the Bianconeri, winning the UEFA Cup twice and the Coppa Italia. During his four-year spell in Turin he was capped by Italy, making his debut in February 1991 and going on to score 13 times in 44 appearances for the national side. He represented his country at the 1994 FIFA World Cup and EURO '96™. 'Gigi' moved to Lazio in 1993 and celebrated another Coppa Italia victory before joining Chelsea for €8m in 1998, but his move to London proved ill-fated. After just one goal in ten appearances, he suffered the cruciate ligament injury that, after numerous operations, brought an untimely end to his playing days.

Casiraghi returned to Monza where he took charge of the youth team before becoming coach of fourth division side AC Legnano in 2003. His lack of experience at the highest level did not prevent former Italy team-mate Demetrio Albertini, now vice-president of the Italian Football Federation, appointing him to the U21 role, and Casiraghi quickly took to the job, guiding the Azzurrini to the 2007 finals and earning a spot for the 2009 tournament in Sweden. He also led Italy to the quarter-finals at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Competition facts

Sweden are striving to become only the second team to win the competition on home territory since the switch to a new format from a two-legged final in 1994. Until the Netherlands triumphed last time out, Spain had come closest to ending that streak when they lost the 1996 showpiece on penalties to Italy.

Previous winners (hosts)

2007 Netherlands (Netherlands)*
2006 Netherlands (Portugal) *
2004 Italy (Germany) *
2002 Czech Republic (Switzerland) *
2000 Italy (Slovakia)
1998 Spain (Romania)
1996 Italy (Spain)
1994 Italy (France)
1992 Italy
1990 USSR
1988 France
1986 Spain
1984 England
1982 England
1980 USSR
1978 Yugoslavia
*Current format

Leading scorers (competitive matches)

All-time

15 Lampros Choutos (Greece)
14 Roy Makaay (Netherlands), Klaas Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands)
12 Francis Jeffers (England), Imre Szabics (Hungary), Steffen Iversen (Norway), Óscar García (Spain)
11 Andrea Pirlo (Italy), Alberto Gilardino (Italy), Hélder Postiga (Portugal), Hugo Almeida (Portugal), Spartak Gogniev (Russia), Ricardo Cabanas (Switzerland)

In a final tournament since 2000

4 Andrea Pirlo (Italy, 2000), Alberto Gilardino (Italy, 2004), Klaas Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands, 2006), Maceo Rigters (Netherlands, 2007), Johan Elmander (Sweden, 2004)
3 Thomas Kahlenberg (Denmark, 2006), Leroy Lita (England, 2007), Massimo Maccarone (Italy, 2002), Giorgio Chiellini (Italy, 2007), Nicky Hofs (Netherlands, 2006), Hugo Almeida (Portugal, 2004), Markus Rosenberg (Sweden, 2004)

Per U21 campaign (qualifying to final) since 2000

2007: 4 Theo Walcott (England), Maceo Rigters (Netherlands), Igor Denisov (Russia), Nikita Bazhenov (Russia), Dragan Mrdja (Serbia)
2006: 14 Klaas Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands)
2004: 11 Alberto Gilardino (Italy)
2002: 9 Ricardo Cabanas (Switzerland)
2000: 15 Lampros Choutos (Greece)

Biggest wins

All-time

14-0: Spain v San Marino, 08.02.2005
2006 qualifying group stage, Estadio Santo Domingo, El Ejido

Final tournament

6-0: England v Turkey, 29.05.2000
2000 final tournament group stage, Tehelné Pole Stadium, Bratislava

Final

4-1: Netherlands v Serbia, 23.06.2007
2007 Euroborg, Groningen, Netherlands

Most goals in a game

All-time

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

Final tournament

7: Czech Republic 4-3 Croatia, 01.06.2000

2000 group stage, Mestský Stadium, Trenčín, Slovakia

Final

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

Record attendance

All-time

42,000: Turkey 1-1 Germany, 18.11.2003

2004 qualifying play-off, Sükrü Saraçoğlu Stadium, Istanbul

Final tournament

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

1996 final, Olímpico de Montjuïc, Barcelona

Final

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

Competition information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tournament schedule

Final tournament

Date		Home	Res.	Away	Venue
15.06.2009	Grp B	England	2 - 1	Finland	Halmstad
15.06.2009	Grp B	Spain	0 - 0	Germany	Gothenburg
16.06.2009	Grp A	Sweden	5 - 1	Belarus	Malmo
16.06.2009	Grp A	Italy	0 - 0	Serbia	Helsingborg
18.06.2009	Grp B	Germany	2 - 0	Finland	Halmstad
18.06.2009	Grp B	Spain	0 - 2	England	Gothenburg
19.06.2009	Grp A	Sweden	1 - 2	Italy	Helsingborg
19.06.2009	Grp A	Belarus	0 - 0	Serbia	Malmo
22.06.2009	Grp B	Finland	20.45	Spain	Gothenburg
22.06.2009	Grp B	Germany	20.45	England	Halmstad
23.06.2009	Grp A	Serbia	20.45	Sweden	Malmo
23.06.2009	Grp A	Belarus	20.45	Italy	Helsingborg

Group A

Pos.	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Italy	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
2	Sweden	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
3	Serbia	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
4	Belarus	2	0	1	1	1	5	1

Group B

Pos.	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	England	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
2	Germany	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
3	Spain	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
4	Finland	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Top scorers - Final tournament

- 3** - Marcus Berg (SWE)
- 1** - Ola Toivonen (SWE)
- 1** - Gustav Svensson (SWE)
- 1** - Sergei Kislyak (BLR)
- 1** - James Milner (ENG)
- 1** - Fraizer Campbell (ENG)
- 1** - Lee Cattermole (ENG)
- 1** - Micah Richards (ENG)
- 1** - Tim Sparv (FIN)
- 1** - Ashkan Dejagah (GER)

Legend

:: Squad list

No: number
DoB: date of birth
Qual: qualifying
FT: final tournament
Pld: played
Gls: goals
Overall U21: final tournament only

:: Match officials

Nat: nationality
DoB: date of birth

Under-21: Total matches officiated in the UEFA European U21 Championship including all qualifying round matches. Matches as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

UEFA: Total matches officiated in all UEFA competitions including all qualifying round matches. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

:: Group statistics/Tournament schedule

Pos: position
Pld: played
W: won
D: drawn
L: lost
GF: goals for
GA: goals against
Pts: points

:: NOTE: All-time statistics

Goals totals include the outcome of disciplinary decisions (eg. match forfeits when a 3-0 result is determined). Goals totals do not include goals scored from the penalty mark during a penalty shoot-out.

:: Competitions

Club competitions

ECCC: European Champions Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League
UCUP: UEFA Cup • **UCWC:** UEFA Cup Winners' Cup
SCUP: UEFA Super Cup • **UIC:** UEFA Intertoto Cup
ICF: Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

National team competitions

EURO: UEFA European Football Championship
WC: FIFA World Cup • **CONFCUP:** Confederation Cup
FRIE: Friendly internationals • **U21FRIE:** Under-21 friendly internationals
U21: UEFA European Under-21 Championship
U17: UEFA Under-17 Championship • **U16:** UEFA European Under-16 Championship
U19: UEFA Under-19 Championship • **U18:** UEFA European Under-18 Championship

:: Competition stages

F: Final	QR3: Third qualifying round
GS: Group stage	R1: First round
GS1: First group stage	R2: Second round
GS2: Second group stage	R3: Third round
KO1: First knockout round	R4: Fourth round
PR: Preliminary round	SF: Semi-finals
QF: Quarter-finals	1/8: Eighth-finals
QR: Qualifying round	1/16: Sixteenth-finals
QR1: First qualifying round	1st: first leg
QR2: Second qualifying round	2nd: second leg
FT: Final tournament	P-O: Play-off

:: Statistics

(-) : Denotes player substituted

(*) : Denotes player dismissed/sent off

(+) : Denotes player introduced

(+/-) : Denotes player introduced and substituted

:: Disclaimer: Although UEFA has taken all reasonable care that the information contained within this document is accurate at the time of publication, no representation or guarantee (including liability towards third parties), expressed or implied, is made as to its accuracy, reliability or completeness. Therefore, UEFA assumes no liability for the use or interpretation of information contained herein. More information can be found in the competition regulations available on www.uefa.com.