



UEFA
**WOMEN'S
UNDER-19
CHAMPIONSHIP**
NORTHERN IRELAND 2017

Northern Ireland 2017

8-20 August
Official Programme

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UNLOCK AGILITY

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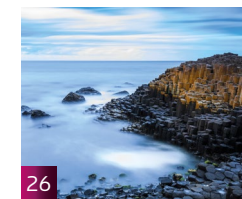
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Editor Michael Harrold
 Design Daniel Nutter, Oliver Meikle
 Contributors John Atkin, Mark Chaplin, Noémie Beney,
 Laure James, Elodie Masson, Paolo Menicucci,
 Paul Murphy, Sean O'Flaherty, Alex O'Henley,
 Anthony Naughton, Santi Retortillo, Phil Röber,
 Berend Scholten

Production manager Aleksandra Sersniova
 Production assistant Emily Meikle
 Photography Getty Images, UEFA, DFB,
 The FA, FIGC, FFF, IFA, KNVB, RFEF, SFA

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Tournament mascot Sweet Caroline



TOBACCO-FREE TOURNAMENT

A no-smoking policy is in operation across all internal and external areas of each venue. This brings health benefits and lowers exposure to second-hand smoke. Please respect the no-smoking policy and enjoy the game.

MAKING A SPLASH



The France players celebrate on the wet turf in Senec, Slovakia, after beating Spain 2-1 to win the 2016 UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship, though they were made to wait before enjoying their triumph. France were 1-0 up courtesy of Grace Geyoro's 36th-minute strike when the heavens opened and a torrential rain storm delayed the start of the second half by two hours. When play finally resumed, France goalkeeper Mylène Chavas saved a penalty from Nahikari García and Spain were made to pay when

Marie-Antoinette Katoto pounced on a back-pass before scoring her tournament-high sixth goal into an empty net. Lucía García did pull one back for Spain late on, but France held on to claim their fourth title at this level, consigning Spain to their third final defeat in a row. "I am very, very happy," Katoto said. "The team did a great job. It was very hard but we are so happy now. We were very motivated [during the rain delay], we kept our focus. We could have waited longer or played extra time – we would have won anyway."



NO TO RACISM

UEFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to Northern Ireland for the final tournament of the 2016/17 UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship. France were the winners when the men's Under-19 finals took place here in 2005, and we now look forward to discovering the women's champions in Belfast on 20 August.

It is the first time that a UEFA women's youth tournament has been held in Northern Ireland, and it will be the icing on the cake of an exciting season for the female game. While UEFA Women's EURO 2017 set the standard for the young players here to aspire to, the game's

grassroots are thriving as well, with UEFA's We Play Strong campaign encouraging participation, whatever one's age or ability.

This tournament will provide an important stepping stone for many of these players. It is here that they will learn about the intensity of tournament football as they continue their development. We wish them the best of luck.

I would like to thank Irish Football Association president David Martin and everyone at the association for hosting this event, which I expect will offer an outstanding example of the spirit of respect and fair play.

ALEKSANDER ČEFERIN
UEFA PRESIDENT



Thanks to all of our Tournament Partners



UEFA WOMEN'S UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP NORTHERN IRELAND 2017

WELCOME TO NORTHERN IRELAND

On behalf of the Irish Football Association (IFA) it gives me great pleasure to welcome to Northern Ireland UEFA officials, together with the delegations of all the competing countries in the 2017 UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship final tournament.

Congratulations to all seven visiting countries on qualifying for these final stages of the competition and I hope everyone enjoys the participation in the various games. This competition affords players the opportunity to compete for the top UEFA team award in their age group and also a pathway

to 'A' team football at international level for their respective countries.

Such competitions also give young players the opportunity to engage with other cultures. The teams are based in Belfast, the capital city of Northern Ireland with many attractions such as the City Hall, Titanic centre and the Ulster Folk Museum. A visit to the world-renowned Giant's Causeway is also recommended.

There is a fantastic Northern Ireland welcome awaiting all our visitors and I hope everyone enjoys their time spent here.

DAVID MARTIN
IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Nadine Kessler meeting young players in Slovakia at last summer's tournament (left) and lifting the UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship trophy in 2007 (above)

'GO OUT AND ENJOY IT!'

Former FIFA Women's World Player of the Year Nadine Kessler says that fun should come first for the youngsters aiming high in Northern Ireland

Nadine Kessler knows all about the sacrifices needed to reach the top. Twice a UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship winner with Germany, she later went on to help her country win UEFA Women's EURO 2013. Ask Kessler, though, what advice she would give to the young players here in Northern Ireland and her answer is simple: "Enjoy it. It's the best age of your life – and you should enjoy playing football."

Kessler certainly did. She played a key role in Germany's WU19 triumphs in 2006 and 2007, and credits those tournaments with preparing her for life with the seniors.

"I have so many positive memories," she says. "The first one in Switzerland was my first real trophy. I was really very proud. That tournament was the first really tough competition in my life, taking the next step in my career, becoming more mature and realising that you have to give up things if you want to make it to the top. Especially at this phase – at the Under-19s – as a player, you really have to make a decision where you want to go, because if you are not focused enough, or your willingness to work hard is not there, it is really, really hard to take the next step."

"At the same time, it is great to have such an important challenge for yourself and your team. You need to start believing in yourself and your dreams. I also learned during those years how important teamwork is, and this is also really important advice for young players, that it should be about the team and not individuals. Then you have a good chance to be successful."

For Kessler the sacrifices, the hard work, the long hours on the training field, all paid off on 28 July 2013 with Germany's victory against Norway in Stockholm in the 2013 UEFA Women's EURO final. "It was my dream, the biggest highlight in my career," Kessler recalls. "It was worth more than any kind of individual award, because that is what you are seeking if you are a young girl – that moment of satisfaction after a game when you are tired and you have been working hard, and all that effort has paid off. It was a long way to get there and, finally, I was happy to make it happen."

The 2014 FIFA Women's World Player of the Year and UEFA Best Women's Player in Europe was an inspiration during her playing days, and a role model for young girls everywhere. Although injury forced her into an early retirement aged just 28 in 2016, Kessler was eager to carry on inspiring the next generation away from the pitch, and joined UEFA as a women's football adviser in March.

"It means a lot to me, because it reflects what I was fighting for as a player on a daily basis," says the three-time UEFA Women's Champions League winner, as she lends her support to UEFA's efforts to strengthen and develop the women's game. "It reflects how important our sport is in general. I'm very proud and happy to be playing this role and fulfilling these duties, and being able to give something back."

UEFA's Women's Football Development Programme began in 2010/11, and is a key pillar in supporting the European game, investing significant funds to increase opportunities for female players. Player ambassadors including Camille Abily, Laura Georges, Stephanie Houghton and Verónica Boquete provide important examples of what girls can achieve if they aim high, while grassroots projects, public relations campaigns and new women's leagues and competitions have all changed the landscape. Across the board, from youth competitions to the UEFA Women's EURO and UEFA Women's Champions League, the quality of women's football is rising, and Kessler is happy to be helping improve standards still further.

"The most important thing is to keep believing. Never lose your confidence and always carry that dream with you"

"I'm delighted to help and support my sport on every level of the women's football pyramid," she says. "It's crucial that everybody who cares about this sport sees the potential in joining our efforts and moving forward together. It's different in every country, but overall, women's football has developed hugely in the quality of the game, and especially in the athletic and technical abilities of the players. And it will get even better. There's a lot of potential to develop our sport in different ways."

Above all, Kessler hopes to see more and more young girls pursue their passion for football. "My advice is that they should always do what they love, no matter how hard it is, no matter what hurdles they have to overcome. If you live for something and you love something, it's always worth giving everything you have for it. The most important thing is to keep believing – you should never lose your self-confidence, and always carry that dream with you."



Nadine Kessler (left) in action for Germany at UEFA Women's EURO 2013



#GameChangers don't follow the game, they lead it

Right now, there are women and girls in every club and community who are all playing their part to improve the game for Northern Ireland's next generation of football stars.

We hope that through our support, and yours, together we can make the path to greatness even smoother for those game changers and tomorrow's.

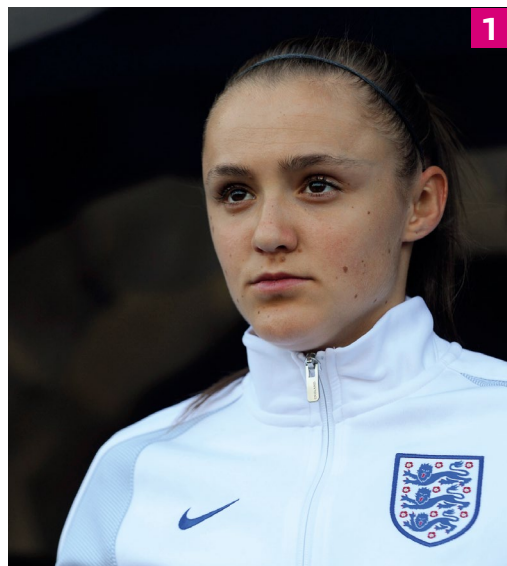
#GameChangers

**electric
Ireland**

Smarter Living

RISING STARS

We take our pick of eight top prospects who could make all the difference over the next fortnight



1

5

LOUISE MCDANIEL
Northern Ireland

Midfielder McDaniel captained Northern Ireland WU17s last season and though still only 17, she has already moved up a level. A lively winger full of tricks, McDaniel loves to run at players and is always looking for the ball. She had just turned 14 when she made her Linfield FC debut in June 2014.

6

ARIANNA CARUSO
Italy

Caruso is just 17 and combines hard work, technique and creativity. "I like the football intelligence of Francesco Totti, the grit of Radja Nainggolan and the pace of Cristiano Ronaldo," the versatile AS Roma midfielder said. "But if I have to choose one player I would go for Alessandro Florenzi. He can play any role, like me."

7

LUCÍA GARCÍA
Spain

García was top scorer in qualifying with 11 goals and appears on a mission to follow up the WU17 title she won in 2015 with WU19 gold this summer. The Athletic Club player, who struck in the 2-1 loss to France in the 2016 WU19 final, made her UEFA Women's Champions League debut this season.

8

CHELSEA CORNET
Scotland

The 19-year-old Hibernian LFC midfielder is a dynamic player with quick feet and a good eye for spotting opportunities. She played every minute for Scotland en route to Northern Ireland and scored in their final 5-0 win against Ukraine, her third goal of the campaign.

1

GEORGIA STANWAY
England

Stanway is a precocious striker who hit the headlines aged 16 with 35 goals in 15 games for Blackburn Rovers LFC to earn a move to Manchester City Women's FC. The 18-year-old, who is a technical player with an eye for the spectacular, has been similarly prolific at youth level for England.

2

LINA BOUSSAHA
France

The talented midfielder recently signed her first professional contract with Paris Saint-Germain and was an unused substitute for their UEFA Women's Champions League final defeat by Olympique Lyonnais in Cardiff on 1 June. Still only 18, she scored twice in three qualifying matches.

3

JOËLLE SMITS
Netherlands

Smits started the season with the Dutch WU17s but after scoring ten times in three qualifiers – including seven in a single game against Bulgaria – she was quickly promoted. The skilful striker took the step up in her stride, scoring five in the WU19s elite round, including a hat-trick against Slovenia.

4

LAURA FREIGANG
Germany

The most experienced player and prolific scorer in Germany's squad, Freigang will be key to her side's chances. The 19-year-old Penn State forward is comfortable as an attacking midfielder or supporting striker, and rounded off Germany's elite round campaign with a hat-trick in victory against Poland.



4



5



6



2



3



7



8




NORTHERN IRELAND



FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES **0**
BEST PERFORMANCE **ELITE ROUND FIVE TIMES**



 Coach Alfie Wylie had to pinch himself after the draw pitted Northern Ireland against two of the competition's powerhouses, as well as fellow home nations side, Scotland. "Unbelievable!" he said. "It makes you realise when you're in the pot with seven other teams, all of such calibre, that you're actually in these finals. You always see them in the qualifiers, but you're in with several others and the big hitters are kept apart. Now we're surrounded by them."

COACH Alfie Wylie
DATE OF BIRTH 06/01/1957

Wylie is one of the IFA's longest-serving coaches and has been in charge of the WU19s and seniors since September 2005. He is also in his 13th year as part of the coaching team at Linfield FC.



Northern Ireland are competing in their first final tournament and it will be a huge learning curve for Wylie's side. But who better to learn from than Germany and Spain, who have won the title five times between them? "That's really different for us," Wylie said. "That's needed for our girls. Germany, wow. They're one of the most powerful and successful teams. We've also got a home nations derby with Scotland which is huge for us."

Northern Ireland are packed with potential. Captain Emma McMaster and midfielder Brenna McPartlan have both been capped at senior level, Louise McDaniel provides the creative spark, while forward Abbie Magee has a taste for the big occasion after scoring in the Irish Women's Challenge Cup final for Linfield Ladies last year. Rebecca Bassett, meanwhile, has looked sharp in front of goal, scoring four in two matches against Turkey in February. Most of the players have come through the Irish Football Association's (IFA) Girls Regional Excellence Programme, their progress through the WU15 and WU17 squads highlighting the success of the IFA's Player Pathway project.

PLAYER STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Caps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Caoimhe Callaghan	21/07/1999	6	0	Cliftonville Ladies
Beth Hopwood	16/09/2000	3	0	Linlithgow Rose CFC
Kirsty McCaughtry	23/01/1998	6	0	Crusaders Strikers WFC
Lauren Perry	05/04/2001	1	0	Linfield Ladies
Defenders				
Kelsie Burrows	22/02/2001	0	0	Linfield Ladies
Teresa Burns	06/06/1998	16	2	Sion Swifts FC
Izzy Coppel	11/09/1999	8	0	Essex Centre of Excellence
Courtney Moore	01/10/1998	19	0	Crusaders Strikers WFC
Lauren Robson	22/08/1999	11	0	Linfield Ladies
Yasmin White	07/07/2000	10	0	Glentoran Ladies
Midfielders				
Megan Beattie	19/02/1999	6	0	Crusaders Strikers WFC
Megan Bell	17/04/2001	2	0	Linfield Ladies
Louise McDaniel	24/05/2000	6	1	Linfield Ladies
Emma McMaster	09/03/1999	11	5	Cliftonville Ladies
Brenna McPartlan	01/09/1999	6	1	Manchester City WFC
Chloe Orr	17/06/1999	10	1	Mid-Ulster Ladies
Megan Reilly	12/02/1999	6	1	Challenge SC
Forwards				
Rebecca Bassett	01/04/1999	10	7	Mid-Ulster Ladies
Morganne Beggs	27/09/2000	3	0	Crusaders Strikers WFC
Abbie Magee	15/11/2000	11	0	Linfield Ladies
Leyla McFarland	20/08/2000	2	1	Eastlake High School
Emily Wilson	26/08/2001	1	1	Crusaders Strikers WFC

GO FIGURE

1

Northern Ireland are looking for their first win against Scotland in this competition, having lost qualifying matches against them in 2002 (3-0) and 2009 (2-0).

Megan Reilly (right) in action against Slovakia in June



No1

Forward Rebecca Bassett took part in the video for the official tournament song, Days Like These, which was performed by Triona and filmed at the childhood home of George Best and the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park.

FRIENDLY RESULTS

24/07/2017 Northern Ireland 4-0 Wales	23/10/2016 Northern Ireland 0-3 USA
22/07/2017 Northern Ireland 3-1 Wales	20/10/2016 Northern Ireland 0-5 England
16/06/2017 Northern Ireland 1-1 Slovakia	18/10/2016 Northern Ireland 0-4 France
14/06/2017 Northern Ireland 1-3 Slovakia	11/08/2016 Northern Ireland 4-2 Cyprus
16/02/2017 Northern Ireland 1-1 Turkey	09/08/2016 Northern Ireland 4-0 Cyprus
14/02/2017 Northern Ireland 1-0 Turkey	



GERMANY



FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES **13**
 BEST PERFORMANCE **WINNERS 2002, 2006, 2007, 2011**



QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Leonie Doege	20/02/1999	0	0	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
Vanessa Fischer	18/04/1998	3	0	1. FFC Turbine Potsdam
Lena Pauels	02/02/1998	0	0	SV Werder Bremen
Defenders				
Janina Hechler	28/01/1999	0	0	1. FFC Frankfurt
Sophia Kleinherne	12/04/2000	3	0	FSV Gütersloh 2009
Sarai Linder	26/10/1999	3	0	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim
Dina Orschmann	08/01/1998	3	0	1. FC Union Berlin
Katja Orschmann	08/01/1998	0	0	1. FC Union Berlin
Lisa Schöppel	11/01/2000	0	0	VfL Wolfsburg
Caroline Siems	09/05/1999	3	1	1. FFC Turbine Potsdam
Midfielders				
Kim Fellhauer	21/01/1998	3	1	SC Freiburg
Anna Gerhardt	17/04/1998	3	0	FC Bayern München
Luca Maria Graf	19/03/1999	2	0	FF USV Jena
Giulia Gwinn	02/07/1999	3	4	SC Freiburg
Giovanna Hoffmann	20/09/1998	1	0	SV Werder Bremen
Janina Minge	11/06/1999	3	1	SC Freiburg
Tanja Pawollek	18/01/1999	2	0	1. FFC Frankfurt
Forwards				
Klara Bühl	07/12/2000	3	1	SC Freiburg
Laura Freigang	01/02/1998	3	4	Penn State University
Kristin Kögel	21/09/1999	2	0	VfL Sindelfingen
Ereleta Memeti	30/06/1999	1	0	VfL Sindelfingen


GO FIGURE

4-2

Germany beat Spain 4-2 in the 2000 final to lift the trophy for the first time when it was still a WU18 competition, but lost the 2004 final 2-1 to their Group A rivals.

2

The Gerhardt family has two German internationals on duty this summer; Anna's brother Yannick played every minute of Germany's Under-21 triumph in Poland.

 From the WU17s through to senior level, Germany have long been the dominant force in women's football whatever the age group. At WU19 level, however, their grasp on the trophy has slipped. Germany may have won four titles – a record shared with France – but it is six years since they were last crowned European champions. Maren Meinert's side arrive in Northern Ireland determined to get back on top.

After receiving a bye through the qualifying round, they quickly moved up through the gears in the elite round – beating Iceland 4-0 and Switzerland 2-0 before brushing Poland aside 7-1. If Germany's final pass and finishing had looked rusty at the start of the mini-tournament, by the end of it they were in the zone – as Poland discovered to their cost. "We will always find something to improve, but for now we are just relieved to be at the final tournament," Meinert said.

Having overcome the first hurdle, the aim now is to live up to some high expectations. "When you enter the tournament as a German team, you are always the favourite," Meinert added. "Our form on the day will play a big part in deciding the outcome. It is going to be hard work." Hard work perhaps, but with technically-gifted midfielders such as Laura Freigang and Janina Minge dictating play, Germany should be easy on the eye. Minge, 18, is already a tournament veteran having helped Germany win the 2016 UEFA European Women's Under-17 Championship last summer.

COACH Maren Meinert
DATE OF BIRTH 05/08/1973

Richly experienced, Meinert won the FIFA Women's World Cup once and the UEFA European Women's Championship three times as a player and has led Germany to three WU19 titles and the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup twice as a coach.



Germany forward Ereleta Memeti

QUALIFYING RESULTS



Germany received a bye to the elite round

Elite round Group 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany*	3	3	0	0	13	1	9
Poland	3	1	1	1	3	8	4
Switzerland	3	0	1	2	2	4	2
Iceland	3	0	2	1	3	8	1

*Hosts

GER 4-0 ISL, SUI 0-0 POL, GER 2-0 SUI, POL 2-1 ISL, ISL 2-2 SUI, POL 1-7 GER




SCOTLAND



FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES **4**
 BEST PERFORMANCE **GROUP STAGE 2005, 2008, 2010, 2014**



 After finishing runners-up to Serbia in the qualifying round, Scotland secured their passage to the final tournament with three elite round victories in Limerick, Republic of Ireland, at the beginning of April. Their toughest game came in the opening encounter against the hosts and required a penalty in the seventh minute of stoppage time from captain Erin Cuthbert to seal a 2-1 win, her second goal of the game. Victories over Finland (2-1)

and Ukraine (5-0) – with Cuthbert again on target in each – secured Scotland's place in Northern Ireland.

The Chelsea LFC midfielder's efforts were suitably rewarded with a call-up to the senior Scotland squad for UEFA Women's EURO 2017 in the Netherlands, increasing the responsibility on Chelsea Cornet and Carla Boyce, who scored five times in qualifying, to provide Scotland's creativity and goals in Northern Ireland.

It is the first time since 2014 that Scotland have reached the final tournament and fifth in all, and coach Gareth Evans is excited by the challenge ahead. "It is a tremendous honour to lead the Scotland Under-19 women's national team to qualification for the UEFA Women's Under-19 Championship," he said. "Their success is testament to their ability, desire and work rate, as well as the quality of talent that the women's game in Scotland is developing. We now look forward to the start of the finals and testing ourselves against the best Europe has to offer."

COACH Gareth Evans

DATE OF BIRTH 14/01/1967

Englishman Evans has been Scotland's WU19 coach since 2013, following short spells as a caretaker manager at men's sides Hibernian FC and Livingston FC. As a player he spent nine seasons at Hibs, lifting the Scottish League Cup in 1991.



QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Rebecca Flaherty	06/03/1998	5	0	Liverpool Ladies FC
Erin Clachers	20/06/1999	0	0	Glasgow City FC
Eartha Cumings	11/06/1999	0	0	Spartans FC
Defenders				
Ellis Dalgliesh	10/05/1999	4	0	Celtic FC
Lauren Doran-Barr	29/09/1999	1	0	Rangers LFC
Jordan McLintock	13/12/1998	2	0	Rangers LFC
Donna Paterson	20/11/1998	5	0	Aberdeen FC
Courtney Whyte	27/05/1998	5	2	Celtic FC
Midfielders				
Claire Adams	16/09/1998	5	1	Rangers LFC
Chantelle Brown	02/10/1998	2	1	Rangers LFC
Chelsea Cornet	19/04/1998	5	3	Hibernian Ladies FC
Erin Cuthbert	19/07/1998	5	10	Chelsea LFC
Amy Gallacher	15/12/1998	4	2	Hibernian Ladies FC
Brogan Hay	01/03/1999	3	0	Glasgow City FC
Samantha Kerr	17/04/1999	4	2	Glasgow City FC
Cailin Michie	02/02/1998	5	0	Hibernian Ladies FC
Ellis Notely	02/02/1999	3	0	Hibernian Ladies FC
Forwards				
Carla Boyce	29/12/1998	5	5	Glasgow City FC
Kirsty Hanson	17/04/1998	3	2	Doncaster Rovers Belles LFC
Shannon McGregor	07/12/1999	4	0	Aberdeen FC

GO FIGURE

10

Erin Cuthbert was the second highest scorer in qualifying overall with ten goals, one fewer than Spain's Lucía García.



Kirsty Hanson holds off an Albanian challenge

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying round Group 4								Elite round Group 4							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia	3	3	0	0	15	0	9	Scotland	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Scotland	3	2	0	1	19	3	6	Finland	3	2	0	1	9	3	6
Albania*	3	1	0	2	2	20	3	Republic of Ireland*	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Cyprus	3	0	0	3	0	13	0	Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	12	0
*Hosts								*Hosts							
CYP 0-3 SRB, SCO 11-0 ALB, SCO 8-0 CYP, SRB 9-0 ALB, ALB 2-0 CYP, SRB 3-0(f) SCO (f=match forfeited)								FIN 5-0 UKR, SCO 2-1 IRL, FIN 1-2 SCO, IRL 2-0 UKR, IRL 1-3 FIN, UKR 0-5 SCO							

2-0

Scotland have won once in 12 final tournament matches, 2-0 against Belgium in their opening game in 2014.



FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES **11**
BEST PERFORMANCE **WINNERS 2004**



It is 13 years since Spain's sole title at this level but a second is on the horizon – they have finished runners-up in each of the past three seasons, and in four of the last five. The sole triumph came in 2004 when a side containing Verónica Boquete beat Germany 2-1, Spain women's first European title.

This Spain squad, though, know what it takes to win, with many of the players veterans of the 2015 UEFA European Women's Under-17 Championship success. Striker Lucía García in particular will look back to that tournament with satisfaction, having scored a hat-trick in Spain's 4-0 group stage win against Germany.

COACH Pedro López
DATE OF BIRTH 06/05/1979
López was in charge of the Spain side that lost the WU19 final to France last year, having previously led a team comprising many of his current squad to his WU17 title in 2015.



Pedro López was the winning coach then, and he has stuck with the team in the step up to WU19 level. He will have been delighted with what he saw in qualifying when Spain won all six of their matches, scoring 39 times and conceding just twice. Spain have scorers all over the pitch, with defender Andrea Sierra hitting three, midfielder Aitana Bonmati five and García a qualifying-high 11.

"I'm very happy because three of the female national sides in 2017 – the first team, the under-19s and the under-17s – have all qualified for their respective EUROS," López said. "Qualifying for this tournament is very important. It is a key step in the players' development. It's a bonus to play our first game against hosts Northern Ireland. Germany are always strong and hugely motivated, while Scotland are very competitive with very strong players."

"Qualifying for this tournament is very important. It is a key step in the players' development"

QUALIFYING STATISTICS

Goalkeepers	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Noelia Ramos	10/02/1999	2	0	Levante UD
María Rodríguez	22/07/1999	2	0	Club Atlético de Madrid
María Sampalo	05/12/1999	2	0	EDF Logroño

Defenders	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Ona Battle	10/06/1999	3	0	Madrid CFF
Laura Bravo	02/03/1998	2	0	Club Atlético de Madrid
Cinta Del Mar Rodríguez Costa	11/07/1999	1	0	Sporting Club de Huelva
Carolina Hernández	19/07/1998	1	0	Madrid CFF
Carmen Menayo	14/04/1998	6	2	Club Atlético de Madrid
Silvia Mérida	14/01/1998	2	1	RC Deportivo de La Coruña
Cintia Montagut	16/04/1998	2	1	Valencia CF
Natalia Ramos	10/02/1999	2	1	Levante UD
Lucía Rodríguez	24/05/1999	3	0	CD Tacón
Andrea Sierra	15/05/1998	6	3	Athletic Club

Midfielders	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Yolanda Albalat	14/07/1998	2	0	Club Atlético de Madrid
Ainoa López Anitua	08/01/1999	2	0	AEM Seccio Esportiva
Aitana Bonmati	18/01/1998	6	5	FC Barcelona
Damaris Egurola	26/08/1999	3	1	Athletic Club
Patricia Guijarro	17/05/1998	6	4	FC Barcelona
Maite Oroz	25/03/1998	6	4	Athletic Club
Laura María Pérez	15/06/1998	2	0	Granada CF
Sara Rubio	30/06/1998	2	0	Club Atlético de Madrid

Forwards	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Ane Azkona	15/07/1998	3	2	Athletic Club
Lucía García	14/07/1998	6	11	Athletic Club
Marta Peiró Giménez	14/04/1998	1	0	Valencia CF
Natalia Montilla	18/10/1998	3	1	AD El Naranjo
Ana Marcos Moral	09/07/2000	2	1	Club Atlético de Madrid
Macarena Portales	02/08/1998	3	1	Zaragoza CFF

GO FIGURE

6

Germany beat Spain 7-0 in the last round of group games in 2004 but tables were turned in the final just six days later as Spain triumphed 2-1.

18-0

Spain recorded their highest score in the competition against Latvia, with Lucía García (four), Maite Oroz and Aitana Bonmati all hitting hat-tricks.

Patricia Guijarro on the ball during last year's final against France



QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying round Group 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	30	0	9
Ukraine	3	2	0	1	7	8	6
Azerbaijan*	3	1	0	2	5	9	3
Latvia	3	0	0	3	2	27	0

*Hosts

ESP 18-0 LVA, AZE 1-2 UKR, ESP 7-0 AZE, UKR 5-2 LVA, UKR 0-5 ESP, LVA 0-4 AZE

Elite round Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Belgium	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Hungary*	3	1	0	2	1	6	3
Russia	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

*Hosts

HUN 0-3 BEL, ESP 3-1 RUS, BEL 3-0 RUS, ESP 3-0 HUN, RUS 0-1 HUN, BEL 1-3 ESP

VENUES



Four stadiums will host matches during the tournament, with the final to be played at the home of Northern Irish football

NATIONAL FOOTBALL STADIUM AT WINDSOR PARK

Belfast

Tournament capacity 18,416

Home club Linfield FC

Matches SCO v GER, NIR v ESP, ITA v FRA, NED v ENG, both semi-finals, final

Windsor Park has a distinguished history as the home ground of the Northern Ireland national team and the venue of the Irish Cup final. Opened in 1905, it has hosted the likes of Northern Ireland greats George Best, Pat Jennings and Derek Dougan, and has undergone a major rebuilding programme in recent years.

SHAMROCK PARK

Portadown

Tournament capacity 2,434

Home club Portadown FC

Matches GER v ESP, NED v ITA

Portadown were managed by Ronnie McFall for 30 years between 1986 to 2016, making him the longest-serving coach in European football at the time. The club enjoyed their greatest success under McFall, winning the Irish League for the first time in 1990 and three times subsequently in 1991, 1996 and 2002.

MOURNEVIEW PARK

Lurgan

Tournament capacity 3,306

Home club Glenavon FC

Matches ITA v ENG, NIR v SCO, ESP v SCO

Mourneview Park was opened in 1895, when it was possible to see the Mourne Mountains from the stands. Urban development has since obscured the view of Northern Ireland's tallest mountain range. Lurgan lies 25 miles south-west of Belfast, and is the birthplace of former Celtic FC manager Neil Lennon.

BALLYMENA SHOWGROUNDS

Ballymena

Tournament capacity 3,686

Home club Ballymena United FC

Matches FRA v NED, GER v NIR, ENG v FRA, FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup play-off (if required)

AS Roma and RSC Anderlecht were famous visitors to the Ballymena Showgrounds in the European Cup Winners' Cup in the 1980s, though the ground has undergone a considerable refit since then. During the summer, stock car racing also takes place at the Raceway, as the Showgrounds are known by motorsport fans.

Match schedule

Follow the action on UEFA.com and on the @UEFAcom Twitter account #WU19EURO



GROUP STAGE

TUESDAY 8 AUGUST

GROUP A

15:00 National Football Stadium, Belfast Scotland v Germany

19:00 National Football Stadium, Belfast Northern Ireland v Spain

GROUP B

15:00 Mourneview Park, Lurgan Italy v England

15:00 Ballymena Showgrounds, Ballymena France v Netherlands

FRIDAY 11 AUGUST

GROUP A

15:00 Shamrock Park, Portadown Germany v Spain

19:00 Mourneview Park, Lurgan Northern Ireland v Scotland

GROUP B

15:00 National Football Stadium, Belfast Italy v France

19:00 National Football Stadium, Belfast Netherlands v England

MONDAY 14 AUGUST

GROUP B

15:00 Shamrock Park, Portadown Netherlands v Italy

15:00 Ballymena Showgrounds, Ballymena England v France

GROUP A

19:00 Ballymena Showgrounds, Ballymena Germany v Northern Ireland

19:00 Mourneview Park, Lurgan Spain v Scotland

SEMI-FINALS

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST

15:00 National Football Stadium, Belfast v

19:00 National Football Stadium, Belfast v

FIFA U-20 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP PLAY-OFF (IF REQUIRED*)

15:00 Ballymena Showgrounds, Ballymena v

FINAL

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

19:30 National Football Stadium, Belfast v

GROUP A

NORTHERN IRELAND

GERMANY

SCOTLAND

SPAIN

GROUP B

ITALY

NETHERLANDS

FRANCE

ENGLAND

*2018 FIFA U-20 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Europe has four berths in the tournament to be played in France from 7 to 28 August next year, with the hosts already assured of a place. The four semi-finalists all qualify; if France are among that number there will be a play-off between the two third-place teams in Ballymena on 17 August.

Players are eligible to play in the competition if they were born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2001.



THERE MIGHT BE GIANTS

From Belfast to the Giant's Causeway, UEFA.com's Northern Ireland correspondent Laure James gives her top tips on what to visit

The stunning Giant's Causeway is less than 100km from Belfast

We've been expecting you! If this is your first time here, you're in for a treat. Home to around 1.7 million people and known for its friendly, warm hospitality, lately Northern Ireland has put itself on the global map of culture, arts and, of course, sport.

If you hear us say, "She was alright when she left!" we're not talking about the dodgy car we borrowed from our mate. That's a taste of our dry humour, and is a reference to the Titanic, which was built in the Belfast shipyards before setting sail on its fateful maiden voyage. Visit the Titanic Belfast museum and slipway to walk the decks of the last remaining White Star vessel, SS Nomadic, for an authentic maritime experience.

Nestled in the beautiful Botanic Gardens, you'll find the Ulster Museum, bursting with exhibitions over five floors, covering fine and modern art, archaeology, science and nature as well as the paintings of renowned local portrait artist, Colin Davidson. Don't miss the Belfast Self-Portraits

Project, snapshots of people from Belfast which offers an intriguing perspective on the city. Turn up the heat in the Palm House, which is opposite the museum and home to hundreds of tropical plant species.

If you fancy a break from Belfast, the coastal route to the Giant's Causeway is one of the most unforgettable journeys you can make by car. Winding roads take you through County Antrim to the north coast where on a clear day you can see the western tip of Scotland – and plenty of wildlife, including seals! A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Giant's Causeway is an astonishing group of interlocking hexagonal basalt columns that have to be seen to be believed.

Carrickfergus Castle is also in County Antrim on the north shore of Belfast Lough, a 15-minute drive from the city, and is packed with interactive games, puzzles and tours. For more than 800 years, the castle has been an imposing monument on our landscape, and remains

one of the most well-preserved medieval structures in Ireland.

While you're up there, keep an eye open for some stars of the small screen – some of the blockbuster TV series, Game of Thrones, was filmed here as well as in some of Northern Ireland's other beautiful locations. Discover the real Westeros and Essos on one of our popular tours; though we know them as Cushendun and the picturesque coastal village of Carnlough.

By now you'll have worked up an appetite! Belfast has become a true foodie's paradise, boasting Michelin stars and proper comfort food, in good portions! Try Mourne Seafood Bar for the catch of the day, and pop into Kelly's Cellars next door for the best Irish stew. Something to wash it down? We're hoping for good weather in August, but if it's cold, try a hot toddy (our leading cold remedy) in the Crown Liquor Saloon, a Grade A listed building with stunning features.

WHERE THE ACTION'S AT





Come Play.

Find football near you at WePlayStrong.org

FACTS AND FIGURES

The key numbers from this season and beyond

8,000

Hosts FYR Macedonia's group stage game against Spain in Skopje in 2010 drew a competition record crowd.

6

There are six former winners in the final tournament: Germany (4 titles), France (4), England (1), Italy (1), Netherlands (1) and Spain (1).

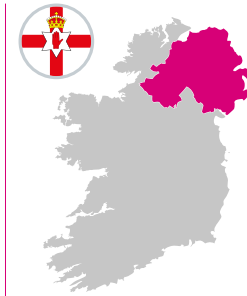


9

Russia's Elena Danilova holds the record for most goals scored in a final tournament – nine in 2005 – and most final tournament goals overall, 17.

7

France are the only team to have appeared in seven finals, winning four and losing three.



29

Northern Ireland will be the 29th nation represented in a WU19 EURO final tournament.

14

This is Germany's 14th WU19 final tournament appearance – a competition record.

ROLL OF HONOUR

- 2016 France
- 2015 Sweden
- 2014 Netherlands
- 2013 France
- 2012 Sweden
- 2011 Germany
- 2010 France
- 2009 England
- 2008 Italy
- 2007 Germany
- 2006 Germany
- 2005 Russia
- 2004 Spain
- 2003 France
- 2002 Germany



11

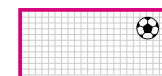
Spain's Lucía García was top scorer in qualifying with 11 goals.

8-1

Germany hold the record for the biggest winning margin in a final – 8-1 against Norway in 2011.

39

Spain scored the most goals (39 in qualifying) at an average of 6.5 a game.



0

The Netherlands and England got through qualifying without conceding a goal.



ITALY



FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES **5**
BEST PERFORMANCE **WINNERS 2008**



QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Alessia Piazza	23/03/1998	5	0	FF Lugano 1976
Nicole Lauria	24/12/1999	1	0	ASD Bologna FC 1909 Femminile
Defenders				
Matilda Abramo	17/09/1998	1	0	FC Rosengård
Sara Mella	14/04/1998	6	0	Vittorio Veneto CF
Beatrice Merlo	23/02/1999	6	0	ASD Femminile Inter Milano
Tecla Pettenuzzo	30/11/1999	1	0	UC Femminile Padova
Erika Santoro	03/09/1999	3	1	USD San Zaccaria
Alice Tortelli	22/01/1998	5	0	Fiorentina Women's FC
Midfielders				
Martina Brustia	04/07/1998	1	0	ASD Femminile Inter Milano
Arianna Caruso	06/11/1999	6	2	ASD Res Roma
Federica Cavicchia	08/11/1998	5	0	FC Zürich Frauen
Laura Ghisi	25/07/1998	1	0	ACF Brescia Calcio Femminile
Martina Lenzini	23/07/1998	5	0	ACF Brescia Calcio Femminile
Marta Mascarello	15/10/1998	6	1	ASD Cuneo CF
Alice Regazzoli	15/03/1999	6	0	ASD Femminile Inter Milano
Annamaria Serturini	13/05/1998	6	2	ACF Brescia Calcio Femminile
Forwards				
Sofia Cantore	30/09/1999	5	1	ASD Fiammamonza 1910
Benedetta Glionna	26/07/1999	6	2	ASD Fiammamonza 1910
Gloria Marinelli	12/03/1998	3	0	ASD CF Chieti
Sofia Del Stabile	23/07/1998	6	5	UPC Tavagnacco

GO FIGURE

3-1

Italy have never played the Netherlands in the final tournament but have met England and France twice each, losing three. Their sole victory, 3-1 against France in the 2008 group stage, came in the year they lifted the trophy.

2

The Azzurrine are the only side at the final tournament to have lost twice in qualifying.

It is six years since Italy last featured in the final tournament so simply reaching Northern Ireland is an achievement. But for a nation that lifted the trophy in 2008, getting back among the elite could be a taste of greater things to come.

Certainly, coach Enrico Sbardella already has reason to celebrate after his side were pushed to the limit in a tough

elite round group and emerged victorious. Beating Serbia in their opening game put the Azzurrine in a strong position going into their match against Sweden, but a 2-0 defeat then had them on the ropes and their chances of advancing looked slim when they fell behind early on against Norway. Benedetta Glionna levelled with 12 minutes to play before substitute Marta Mascarello held her nerve to score a penalty in added time which, combined with Serbia beating Sweden, meant Italy were through.

"The girls were simply amazing," said Sbardella. "They kept believing until the final whistle of the last game and they gave us incredible joy. Qualifying is reward for the hard work and planning by [senior Italy coach] Antonio Cabrini alongside experienced coaches such as Rita Guarino and Massimo Migliorini."

A strong defence led by captain Sara Mella, the versatility of midfielder Arianna Caruso and forward Glionna's goals are among Italy's key assets, as well as that never-say-die attitude. "Wearing your national team's jersey and representing your country is the best feeling," Caruso said. "Playing at international level made me grow."

COACH Enrico Sbardella
DATE OF BIRTH 18/01/1975
Sbardella has been working for the Italian Football Federation since he was 22. He was appointed coach of the WU19s after leading the WU17s to third place at both the 2014 UEFA European Women's Under-17 Championship and the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.



Alice Parisi (left) and Sara Gama lift the trophy following Italy's triumph in 2008

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying round Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Republic of Ireland	3	3	0	0	14	0	9
Italy	3	2	0	1	10	2	6
Wales	3	1	0	2	2	8	3
FYR Macedonia*	3	0	0	3	0	16	0

*Hosts

WAL 0-6 ITA, IRL 10-0 MKD, ITA 4-0 MKD, IRL 2-0 WAL, ITA 0-2 IRL, MKD 0-2 WAL

Elite round Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Norway*	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Sweden	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Serbia	3	1	0	2	2	5	3

*Hosts

SRB 0-3 ITA, NOR 2-2 SWE, SWE 2-0 ITA, SRB 0-2 NOR, SWE 0-2 SRB, ITA 2-1 NOR



NETHERLANDS



FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES **6**
BEST PERFORMANCE **WINNERS 2014**

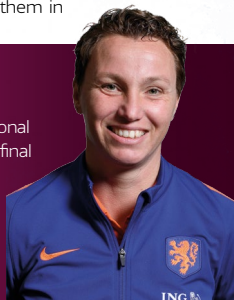


The Netherlands have reached the semi-finals three times in seven years and lifted the trophy in 2014. Vivianne Miedema scored the winner in a 1-0 victory against Spain that day, and she provides the perfect inspiration for the current crop after leading the Dutch attack at UEFA Women's EURO 2017.

Spain exacted a measure of revenge by beating the Dutch 4-3 in the semi-finals last season, but Jessica Torny's side put that disappointment behind them in

COACH Jessica Torny
DATE OF BIRTH 30/09/1980

The former Netherlands international has led the Oranje to the WU19 final tournament for the second year in a row. She coached the sc Heerenveen women's team from 2012 to 2015 before taking on her current role.



emphatic style in qualifying. The Netherlands dropped just two points, keeping clean sheets in all six games and scoring 21 goals.

Quinty Sabajo and Joëlle Smits led the charge with five apiece, while Nadine Noordam got the ball rolling with a first-half hat-trick in the opening 6-0 victory against Bulgaria. Fittingly, it was defensive solidity that ultimately made the difference after a goalless draw with four-time champions France in their final elite round game sealed a finals spot (holders France ultimately joined them as best runners-up).

Torny's side plays in the traditional Dutch 4-3-3 system, with goalkeeper Lize Kop and defenders Jamie Altelaar and Vera ten Westeneind strong at the back. Sabajo and Noordam provide creativity and striker Smits is a goal-hungry target. This team is also experienced, with Kop, Ten Westeneind, Noordam, Ashleigh Weerden, Kay-Lee de Sanders and Nurija van Schoonhoven all veterans of the run to the semi-finals last summer.

"I am very proud we made it to the final tournament again," Torny said. "This is a huge opportunity for my players."

QUALIFYING STATISTICS

Goalkeepers	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Lize Kop	17/03/1998	5	0	CTO Amsterdam Talent Team
Jacintha Weimar	11/06/1998	1	0	FC Bayern München

Defenders	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Jamie Altelaar	06/04/1999	6	0	CTO Amsterdam Talent Team
Caitlin Dijkstra	30/01/1999	5	0	CTO Eindhoven Talent Team
Aniek Nouwen	09/03/1999	1	0	PSV Eindhoven
Kay-Lee de Sanders	06/01/1998	4	1	CTO Amsterdam Talent Team
Noah Waterham	09/04/1999	5	0	CTO Amsterdam Talent Team
Vera ten Westeneind	20/03/1998	6	0	CTO Eindhoven Talent Team
Daniqne Ypema	20/11/1999	3	0	CTO Amsterdam Talent Team

Midfielders	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Eva van Deursen	21/01/1999	5	1	CTO Eindhoven Talent Team
Kayleigh van Dooren	31/07/1999	3	1	CTO Eindhoven Talent Team
Victoria Pelova	03/06/1999	3	0	ADO Den Haag
Silvie van der Plas	19/04/1998	3	0	CTO Amsterdam Talent Team
Quinty Sabajo	01/08/1999	6	5	CTO Amsterdam Talent Team
Nurija van Schoonhoven	08/02/1998	4	0	PEC Zwolle

Forwards	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Rebecca Doejaaren	29/01/1999	5	1	PEC Zwolle
Chelsea Kenton	02/09/1999	3	1	CTO Amsterdam Talent Team
Bente Jansen	28/08/1999	2	0	FC Twente
Nadine Noordam	29/07/1998	6	3	ADO Den Haag
Joëlle Smits	07/02/2000	3	5	CTO Eindhoven Talent Team
Ashleigh Weerden	07/06/1999	5	3	CTO Amsterdam Talent Team

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying round Group 10	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	3	3	0	0	11	0	9
Turkey	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Bulgaria*	3	1	0	2	1	9	3
Moldova	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

*Hosts
NED 6-0 BUL, MDA 0-1 TUR, NED 4-0 MDA, TUR 3-0 BUL, BUL 1-0 MDA, TUR 0-1 NED

Elite round Group 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands*	3	2	1	0	10	0	7
France	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Portugal	3	0	1	2	2	9	1
Slovenia	3	0	1	2	1	10	1

*Hosts
FRA 3-1 POR, SVN 0-5 NED, FRA 4-0 SVN, NED 5-0 POR, POR 1-1 SVN, NED 0-0 FRA

GO FIGURE

2-1

Group B opponents France beat the Netherlands 2-1 in the group stage last season before going on to lift the trophy.

Joëlle Smits (left) scored twice against Portugal in qualifying



10

The Netherlands' goal difference would have been a lot greater with more luck on their side; Jessica Torny's team hit the woodwork a competition-high ten times in qualifying.




FRANCE

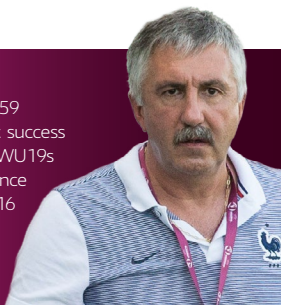


FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES **12**
 BEST PERFORMANCE **WINNERS 2003, 2010, 2013, 2016**



 Holders France are the competition's joint-most successful team after their 2-1 victory against Spain in last year's final took them level with Germany on four titles apiece. Their return to the tournament this summer, however, has not all been plain sailing. They only qualified as the best runners-up after being held to a goalless draw by the Netherlands in their final elite round Group 3 game.

COACH Gilles Eyquem
DATE OF BIRTH 30/05/1959
 Eyquem has enjoyed terrific success since taking charge of the WU19s in August 2012, leading France to the title in 2013 and 2016 and then on to the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup final last December.



That was a small blip on what has otherwise been an outstanding period for the WU19 side and French women's football in general. At club level, for the first time this season, the UEFA Women's Champions League final was contested by two French sides, with holders Olympique Lyonnais retaining the trophy following victory against Paris Saint-Germain on penalties in Cardiff. On the international stage, France reached the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup final with a squad including many of the players that had lifted the WU19 title four months earlier.

As well winning the title four times, since 2005 France have finished runners-up once (against Germany in 2006) and reached the semi-finals on three other occasions (2007, 2009 and 2015) so expect them to go far again. Coach Gilles Eyquem, however, is advising caution, pointing out that of the players involved in qualifying this season only Mylène Chavas, Jade Lebastard and Julie Thibaud were in France's winning squad in Slovakia last year. "This is an opportunity for this group to acquire more experience, learn and mature quickly," he said.

QUALIFYING STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Mylène Chavas	07/01/1998	2	0	AS Saint-Étienne
Jade Lebastard	03/05/1998	1	0	EA Guingamp
Defenders				
Élisa De Almeida	11/01/1998	3	1	FCF Juvisy Essonne
Pauline Dechilly	07/04/1998	2	0	FC Metz
Maevane Drozo	21/06/1999	2	0	EA Guingamp
Sarah Galera	03/01/1998	1	0	Toulouse FC
Agathe Ollivier	02/04/1998	2	0	EA Guingamp
Julie Piga	12/01/1998	3	0	Grenoble Foot 38
Midfielders				
Lina Boussaha	16/01/1999	3	2	Paris Saint-Germain
Sana Daoudi	12/05/1998	2	0	Paris Saint-Germain
Hélène Fercocq	27/08/1998	2	1	Stade de Reims
Christy Gavory	05/05/1998	3	0	FC Metz
Julie Thibaud	20/04/1998	2	0	ASJ Soyaux
Forwards				
Cindy Caputo	07/02/1999	3	0	Olympique de Marseille
Aimy Diop	07/09/1998	2	1	Montpellier HSC
Catherine Karadjov	19/06/1998	2	0	FCF Juvisy Essonne
Emelyne Laurent	04/11/1998	3	0	FC Girondins de Bordeaux
Chloé Pierel	27/03/1999	3	2	FCF Juvisy Essonne

GO FIGURE

2

Two of France's four final triumphs have come against Group B rivals England – 2-1 in 2010 and 2-0 after extra time in 2013.

Sana Daoudi (right) in action during France's 0-0 draw with the Netherlands



QUALIFYING RESULTS



France received a bye to the elite round

Elite round Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands*	3	2	1	0	10	0	7
France	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Portugal	3	0	1	2	2	9	1
Slovenia	3	0	1	2	1	10	1

*Hosts

FRA 3-1 POR, SVN 0-5 NED, FRA 4-0 SVN, NED 5-0 POR, POR 1-1 SVN, NED 0-0 FRA

3

Since 2010 France have qualified for four final tournaments, winning three (in 2010, 2013 and 2016) and reaching the semi-finals in 2015.




ENGLAND



FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES **11**
BEST PERFORMANCE **WINNERS 2009**



 There has been a marked upturn in the fortunes of the senior women's England team over the past decade and that improvement has at the very least a trace of a Liverpool accent, supplied by long-term WU19 manager Mo Marley. Northern Ireland marks the 11th final tournament for the former England defender, who has been at the helm since 2001. It would have been 12 but she did not travel to the 2014 finals, preparing for the

COACH Mo Marley
DATE OF BIRTH 31/01/1967
Marley has led England to four WU19 finals and two semi-finals since taking charge of the WU19s in 2001. She combined the role with coaching Everton LFC, who she captained as player, for a decade between 2002 and 2012.



FIFA Women's U-20 World Cup instead. Most of the current senior squad had their first taste of tournament football under her – six members of the side that won the WU19 title in 2009 alone were at UEFA Women's EURO 2017.

There was a rare summer off last year but, spearheaded by Georgia Stanway, England are shaping up nicely for a tilt at a second title. Given a bye for the first stage, elite round victories over Turkey and Denmark saw the Young Lionesses book the short trip to Northern Ireland with a match to spare. They rounded off by putting seven past the Czech Republic, Aston Villa FC midfielder Mollie Rouse hitting a hat-trick. Perhaps the real markers for these finals came in La Manga in March, however, when England met all three Group B rivals. They drew with France, before Stanway helped inspire commanding victories over the Netherlands (5-0) and Italy (4-0).

"We've had a great season, with some fantastic results and performances, but that counts for nothing if you don't turn it on when it matters," says Marley. "We haven't been at the very top in this age group for a while; it's important we stay there."

QUALIFYING STATISTICS

Goalkeepers	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Sandy MacIver	18/06/1998	2	0	Clemson University
Ellie Roebuck	23/09/1999	1	0	Manchester City WFC
Sian Rogers	28/06/1998	0	0	Arsenal LFC

Defenders	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Megan Finnigan	02/04/1998	3	1	Everton LFC
Grace Fisk	05/01/1998	2	0	Penn State University
Taylor Hinds	25/04/1999	3	0	Arsenal LFC
Sian Johnson	05/01/1998	0	0	Birmingham City LFC
Mayumi Pacheco	25/08/1998	2	0	Doncaster Rovers Belles
Lucy Parker	18/11/1998	0	0	Arsenal LFC
Anna Patten	20/04/1999	2	0	Arsenal LFC
Sam Tierney	08/10/1998	1	0	Doncaster Rovers Belles

Midfielders	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Georgia Allen	16/06/1998	2	0	East Tennessee State University
Niamh Charles	21/06/1999	0	0	Liverpool LFC
Zoe Cross	06/02/1998	2	2	Chelsea LFC
Rianna Dean	21/10/1998	2	2	Arsenal LFC
Charlie Devlin	23/02/1998	0	0	Arsenal LFC
Chloe Peplow	03/12/1998	2	0	Birmingham City LFC
Mollie Rouse	27/11/1998	3	3	Aston Villa FC
Alessia Russo	08/02/1999	2	0	Chelsea LFC

Forwards	Date of birth	Apps	Goals	Club
Rinsola Babajide	17/06/1998	2	0	Millwall Lionesses
Ellie Brazil	10/01/1999	2	1	Birmingham City LFC
Chloe Kelly	15/01/1998	2	0	Arsenal LFC
Georgia Stanway	03/01/1999	3	3	Manchester City WFC

GO FIGURE

0

England and Group B rivals the Netherlands were the only two teams to qualify without conceding a goal.

4

England have reached the final four times, beating Sweden 2-0 in 2009, losing to Germany in 2007 and France in 2010 and 2013.

England defender
Mayumi Pacheco



QUALIFYING RESULTS



England received a bye to the elite round

Elite round Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	12	0	9
Denmark	3	2	1	0	10	2	6
Turkey*	3	0	2	1	2	10	1
Czech Republic	3	0	1	2	2	14	1

*Hosts

ENG 3-0 TUR, DEN 5-0 CZE, ENG 2-0 DEN, CZE 2-2 TUR, CZE 0-7 ENG, TUR 0-5 DEN



‘WORK HARD, DREAM BIG’

Tournament ambassador Marissa Callaghan shares the excitement as Northern Ireland’s historymakers prepare for their first final tournament

Marissa Callaghan has been hooked on football for as long as she can remember. Captain of the senior side, when the Cliftonville Ladies midfielder isn't playing the game she is busy promoting it and encouraging girls and women to try it for themselves. The Northern Ireland Women's Football Personality of the Year is also part of under-19 coach Alfie Wylie's backroom staff and will be doing everything she can to ensure her team – and the tournament's – success.

How much are you looking forward to this championship?

The countdown is well and truly on, and you can feel both the tension and excitement are building up among the staff and the players. Honestly, we can't wait for it.

We got a taste of how passionate the Northern Ireland fans are at UEFA EURO 2016 in France. Can we expect more of the same?

I hope so, the girls have worked extremely hard over the past year to get ready for the tournament. They deserve the support from the Northern Ireland fans and I hope people come along to see the girls in green. It's an amazing opportunity for the girls and will be a great experience for the fans to see what the female game is all about in Europe.

What will hosting this tournament mean for women's football in Northern Ireland?

We hope to get more girls wanting to play football, the Irish FA's plan is to double the number of girls participating in football over the next few years. Gone are the days that football is just for boys. We hope we can get that message out there to parents and girls. We hope to inspire the younger generation to get involved in football, to work hard and dream big. There are amazing opportunities to play for your country, travel and maybe even become professional.

Do you think hosting the tournament will help get young girls playing the game?

I think so, yes, the awareness around the tournament within social media, newspapers and radio interviews has really helped promote the players and girls football in Northern Ireland. The tournament will be the icing on the cake.

Describe what it was like for you to pull on the Northern Ireland jersey for the first time ...

That feeling is very hard to put into words, it's an immense emotion which totally takes over your body. Nervousness, excitement and pride, all generating this rollercoaster of emotions.

How did you get into football?

Football was something I picked up at a very young age, I used to play from morning to night in the street. There weren't any teams in my area for girls but my youth club used to enter us into a few five-a-side competitions during the year. It wasn't until I was 13 I joined my first girls team in North Belfast [Newington Girls, now known as Cliftonville Ladies], and the rest is history.

Was it always a dream to play for your country?

Yes, I always wanted to play at the highest level and knew if I worked hard enough I could earn a starting XI place.

Who were your role models growing up?

Ann Gourley who was my first coach at Cliftonville Ladies. She really looked after me and always believed in my ability. She worked so hard to make sure we got opportunities to play for NI at youth level and helped me get to America on a football scholarship. Another would be Louise Irvine, she's my best friend. She helped start my journey on becoming a coach, I would not be where I am today without her. My big sister, Francine Callaghan, is the strongest person I know and I admire her for it.

“Gone are the days that football is just for boys. We hope we can get that message out there”



“The younger generations now have role models to aspire to, and I think this is very important as well”

The leagues are becoming more competitive. The coverage through social media is growing and has a big part to play in the awareness of women's football in Northern Ireland. The IFA are investing more in the women's game. This tournament will hopefully leave a legacy to keep growing women's football, inspiring more girls to play and more girls wanting to put on the green shirt.

The spotlight now is on the WU19s. How bright is the next generation in Northern Ireland?

The future is very bright for the girls in green. We have great youth coming through our player development programmes which will only strengthen our senior squad in the coming years. The younger generations now have role models to aspire to, and I think this is very important as well. The experience from the tournament will help prepare the girls to work towards getting a place in the senior squad in the future.

This will be the first Northern Ireland women's team at any level to compete in a final tournament. How does playing in a tournament like this help a player's development?

The experience alone will be nothing they have ever experienced, playing against the top countries and best players in a European tournament at U19 level. This will test them in every aspect of their game. It will give them an insight into how the best teams play, compare themselves to the teams and individual players and hopefully reflect and realise what they need to do to become an elite player at the highest level. That will prepare them for senior international football.

What do you remember about playing for the WU19s?

Playing U19 was a very important stage in my development as a player. Playing through the youth age groups internationally is a stepping stone to becoming a senior player. It's where you gain experience and personal confidence in your ability.

What advice would you give to the players this summer?

I would tell them to go out and give it everything they have, have confidence in their own ability, their team and also their coaches. Take everything in, work hard and most important enjoy the experience. They are already historymakers!

How different is it now for a girl wanting to get involved in football compared to when you were starting out?

Massively different. When I was young, I didn't get any coaching until I was 13 because there were no clubs in my area. We played football on the streets with friends. There are fantastic opportunities for girls now, most areas of Northern Ireland have club teams developing players and creating pathways for young girls.

The IFA are now also creating a Player Development Pathway for girls as young as nine years old, with sessions being led by professional coaches all year round.

When involved in the excellence and international set-up, players are getting gym programmes, strength-and-conditioning coaches, gymnastics and nutrition guidance.

You were presented with the first Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Women's Personality Award in May. Has women's football in Northern Ireland grown in recent years, and is there a greater awareness?

Yes I was, that was a surprise. It was a very proud moment for me! Women's football has grown greatly within the past few years, clubs are starting to grow and develop players.



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PENALTY SHOOT-OUT EXPERIMENT

Trial to continue in Northern Ireland

UEFA youth tournaments throughout this summer are being used to test a number of experiments with the rules and the 2017 UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship final tournament is no exception.

The trials have been sanctioned by football's lawmakers, the International Football Association Board (IFAB). At the WU19 finals, a new order of kicks for penalty shoot-outs – the so-called ABBA system – will be trialed, to see whether the advantage for the team taking the first penalty in a pair of spot kicks in a shoot-out could be reduced.

In the trial, the team taking the first

penalty in a pair of spot kicks will alternate, rather than keeping the same order (ABAB system) throughout the shoot-out.

UEFA will also continue with the trial of a fourth substitution in extra time. The aim is to establish whether there is a player-welfare benefit, whether the fourth substitute is used tactically or genuinely for player welfare, and whether the potential use of all four substitutes during extra time has an unfair impact.

Yellow and red cards will also be used for team officials in the technical area during the tournament, to clarify when a player or official is officially warned or dismissed from the technical area.



Blindsiding views



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Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Co. Antrim

WIN A MATCHBALL

For a chance to win a signed official 2017 UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship final tournament ball, keep your eyes on the @UEFA.com Twitter

account on 19 August, the day before the final. As well as details of how to win the adidas Krasava ball, @UEFAcom has all the latest news throughout the tournament.



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UEFA
ROUTE DE GENÈVE 46
CH-1260 NYON 2
SWITZERLAND
TELEPHONE: +41 848 00 27 27
TELEFAX: +41 848 01 27 27
UEFA.com

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